

Film fest fun coming up

International children's fest ready to roll next weekend

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Why is old Albertsons still vacant?

Legal issues over lease holding up getting new tenant

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Danville WEEKLY

Mailed free to homes in Danville, Blackhawk, Diablo and Alamo

Getting ready for the big one

Danville mandates shut-off valves in \$10,000 remodels

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Motherhood

It's a challenge, whether she stays home or continues to work

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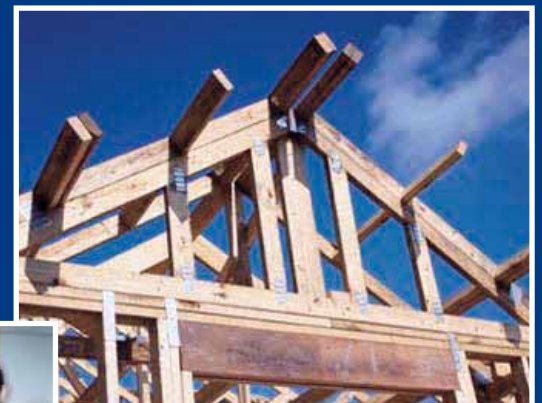
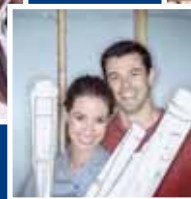
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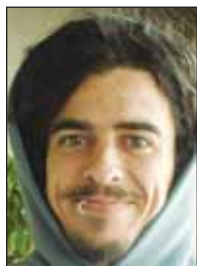


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Q: What's the best film you've seen lately?



I don't watch that many movies, but I saw the one about Johnny Cash with Joaquin Phoenix, "Walk the Line." It's nice when actors and actresses portray real life figures. I found out that he and Reese Witherspoon both really sang in it. They were acting with pulps of their own personalities—real aspects of themselves.

Tim Callahan

student, freelance writer



"Magnolia." I like the way the story intertwined and the symbolism. It also has a soundtrack by Aimee Mann that fit the mood of the scenes. All the people who acted in it really gave themselves to the part. Tom Cruise played a ridiculous character but it was believable and John C. Reilly was great as the insecure cop.

Michael Scott

UPS worker, musician



We saw "Babel." It made me think we're all so much alike even though our circumstances may be different. We all have the same feelings — the same needs. It was beautiful, intense and fast-moving.

Marcy Trimbell

retired, homemaker and mom



I saw the animated version of "Charlotte's Web" and it was very nostalgic for me. It brought back memories because I hadn't seen it since I was a kid. It came out in the '70s, but I remembered some of the scenes so vividly. They were indelibly marked.

Eric Hayes

actor, director



It was called "Black Book" and it was about the Dutch resistance in World War II, how they helped the Jews escape. It was a little gory but very well done. I like history and it was like a history lesson.

Gay Scott

retired

compiled by Natalie O'Neill

ABOUT THE COVER

Danville mom Kelly Sueksdorf enjoys being a stay-at-home mom with her sons (l-r) Brian, Kenny, Alex, neighbor Andy Poppa and Kevin. Photo by Christina Straw. Cover design by Ben Ho.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“It almost put me
in the hospital.”

—Tim Gunn, fashion consultant of hit TV show “Project Runway,” about the travails of writing his book, “Tim Gunn: A Guide to Quality, Taste & Style.” See story, page 6.

Council welcomes back Marine

Evan Vigil of the U.S. Marine Corps was recognized by the Danville Town Council as part of the Sentinels of Freedom Program—Operation Welcome Home at its May 1 meeting. About 25 veterans showed up to honor Vigil.

The council recognizes individuals from the community who have served our country upon their return from active duty or graduated military academy to thank them for their service and sacrifice. The program began in 2004, and 38 men and women have been honored. For more information, call Rochelle Flotten at 314-3328.

‘Kids Play the Darndest Things’

The Pro Arte Symphony Orchestra will present “Kids Play the Darndest Things,” at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 12. The contest features musical wizards ages 8 to 18 in competition at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church.

Michael Pengm, 11, from San Ramon, won first place in qualifying rounds in two categories: Best Russian Composition and Classical Era. Two Danville residents also competed: Chase Lim, 12, placed second in Modern Era; and Stacey Hsi, 16, won honorable mention.

KDFC’s Dianne Nicolini will interview the young pianists before they perform. Tickets for adults are \$12, or \$15 at the door; youths through 18 are \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door. Call 943-2496 to reserve.

There’s a new spa in town

A new Danville business, Angel Face Esthetics, is holding a grand opening reception at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 15, at 169 Front St., which has been refurbished. Owner Stephanie Braga has been an esthetician for 10 years and worked at Valeria Day Spa in Danville for six.

“Ever since I was a very young girl, I have loved to beautify people,” she said. “It brings me joy.”

Those who attend the grand opening will receive a voucher for 20 percent off toward the service of their choice, said Braga.

A toast to the toastmasters

Toastmaster District 57 is hosting a spring conference all day Saturday, May 12, to celebrate communications and leadership achievement. It will include great speeches, a chance to meet new people, and 12 workshops with experts. The most accomplished speakers in the district will also battle each other to advance to regional competition in June. The event takes place at Diablo Valley College. For more information, call (800) 464-8657 or visit www.toastmastersd57.com.

A Friday Night Showcase at Chevron in Bishop Ranch will present the Speakers Edge with Craig Valentine, a chance for anyone to deliver a speech and be coached by the champ. Admission is \$10 at the door; doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the hour-and-a-half program starts at 7 p.m.

CCCTA needs committee member

The Danville Town Council is seeking candidates for a representative on the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority Accessible Services Committee. The term is for two years and begins June 1. The committee reviews, analyzes and advises on issues and policies related to accessible services and communicates concerns to the CCCTA Board of Directors.

For more information, call the CCTA staff liaison at 676-1976, ext. 204. For an application, call the town clerk at 314-3401 or go to www.ci.danville.ca.us. Applications are due May 25.



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Hanging tuff

Hal Redsun, 79, at right, who has had two hip replacements, prepares to play in the Bob Vincent Tennis Challenge, the annual senior Tuffs vs. Teens contest, which was held last Thursday at San Ramon Valley High School. Above, (l-r) SRV tennis coach Andy Lutz, varsity team captain Chris Parent, and event organizer John Schnittker prepare to play by admiring the Tuff's symbol, tennis rackets equipped with cane handles.

Play was approximately 20 matches, with 19 Tuffs and 30 teens, and the youths won about 60 percent of the games, said Schnittker. The event was begun by the late Bob Vincent, San Ramon Valley's first tennis coach, as well as a math and science teacher, and founder of the Tuffs.

"Bob Vincent is a legend," said Schnittker. "He was just a beloved man." After the matches, the two generational groups mingled and ate sandwiches. Players each donated \$5 to help finance the high school tennis team.



JORDAN M. DORONILIA

Old supermarket site may stay vacant for awhile

11-year Albertsons lease is being disputed

by Natalie O'Neill

The large vacant space in Green Valley Center on Diablo Road, where Albertsons once stood, won't be filled anytime soon.

A lawsuit between the property owner Bill Tribolet and Cerberus, the giant corporation that bought out Albertson's in January 2006, is in the works, town officials and leasing agents said last week.

"There's a dispute over who controls the lease on the building," Town Manager Joe Calabrigo said at the informal mayor's coffee.

Representatives for Terranomics, the company in charge of leasing that space, said efforts to put in a new store are now on hold.

"It's pending due to litigation," said Annie Janbuka, a Terranomics marketing representative.

Several phone calls to both Tribolet and Cerberus spokesman Peter Duda were not returned by

press time to comment on the litigation. Duda, who does media relations for the corporation, based out of New York City, said initially he was not aware of a lawsuit.

But Calabrigo and Janbuka indicated the conflict was over whether Albertsons, kept under the same name but now owned by Cerberus, should be able to continue the same leasing agreement. The company still has 11 years left on the lease.

The space has been empty since last June, when surrounding business owners in Green Valley Center said they hoped the space would be filled quickly by another grocery store. Albertsons previously served as the major draw to the Green Valley Center, merchants said.

"What makes sense for the property owner makes sense for the town but there are big bucks at stake," Calabrigo said.

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YMCA kicks off community campaign

Goal is to raise \$4.1 million to build new 28,000-foot facility in Alamo off Danville Boulevard

A country picnic on Sunday last week included a hayride and a mock barn-raising as the Mt. Diablo Regional YMCA launched the community phase of its campaign to raise money for its new facility in Alamo. The event included tours of the 12-acre site on the Danville border, which had the outline marked of future facilities.

"We gave people a sense of how big it's going to be," said Kathy Chiverton, executive director of the San Ramon Valley YMCA.

The total cost for the new 28,000-foot facility is \$11 million, and \$2 million of that has already been spent, said Chiverton. The goal now is to raise \$4.1 million.

"Our intention is to start our road widening and bridge construction

and grading late summer, early fall," Chiverton said.

At the picnic, the site was accessed through Hap Magee Ranch Park but when it is open, the entry will be off Danville Boulevard via Lewis Lane.

"It's something that once we build it, the community will just love it," said Chiverton. "It will have something for every member

of the family."

Facilities will include a health and wellness center, an indoor warm water therapeutic pool, an outdoor family splash park and lap pool, new aerobics and multi-purpose rooms, and acres of land for family fun and exploration.

"We love to talk about the multi-generational aspect," Chiverton added. "Teens and seniors will feel

comfortable at the same place."

About 175 people attended the picnic. De La Salle football coach Bob Ladouceur was the keynote speaker at the event, and he emphasized the importance of nurturing the next generation.

Developer Sid Corrie, the lead donor up to this point, was also

► Continued on page 8

Danville mandates shut-off valves for \$10,000 remodels

Council decides not to include home resales in ordinance

by Geoff Gillette

Concerns over a major earthquake striking the Tri-Valley area in the next 25 years prompted members of the Danville Town Council to approve a new ordinance aimed at reducing the collateral damage from such a disaster.

Following up on a discussion from a meeting last month, council members at their May 1 meeting held a public hearing over a proposed ordinance that would require homeowners engaged in any home remodeling projects over \$15,000 to install either a seismic gas shut-

off device or an excess flow shut-off device. Both mechanisms are designed to automatically shut off the gas supply to a building in the event of a disaster. Installing the devices is expected to lessen the chances of explosions and fire after an earthquake.

At their April 3 meeting, members of the council were largely in agreement that the ordinance should be put into place; however, there was additional discussion over expanding the ordinance to include change of ownership as well as building permits. Because it was an amendment, the council had to continue the issue to May in order to give any opponents time to weigh in with their arguments.

Danville Chief Building Official Mike Leontiades addressed the council, explaining that adding the

transfer of ownership to the ordinance would increase the number of homes required to add the shut-off valves.

"Total transfers of ownership is a lot more than building permits," he said.

While the council was basically in agreement over the need for installing the devices, there was some division among them regarding the specifics of the plan.

Councilman Newell Arnerich said he felt the excess flow shut-off valves were not sensitive enough to register a change in gas pressure before an accident could occur.

"There's equal concerns of valves getting tripped without a quake," explained Leontiades.

He added that it could take

► Continued on page 7



JORDAN M. DORONILIA

Starting the morning with a salute

Fourth-graders Jared Leong (left) and Jonathan Adams salute the American and California flags at Greenbrook Elementary School last week on Thursday. Students, parents and Scouts at Greenbrook joined people across the country to celebrate the National Day of Prayer, which is the first Thursday in May. The service included raising the American flag by Cub Scouts of Pack 815 and local Girl Scouts, the Pledge of Allegiance, songs and a moment of silence. "I like the message it sends," said Bob Riley, religious coordinator for the Cub Scout Pack. "We can come together as a multi-denominational community."

Designers create prom dresses to benefit Princess Project

by Jordan M. Doronila

Here's \$100. Now go make a prom dress and be ready to model it in seven weeks.

Young fashion designers from

San Francisco wove silvery sheets, purple colors and silk embroidery into prom dresses and featured them on a black stage in front of 250 people at "Project FiveFour07" in Danville last week.

"You made it work," said keynote speaker Tim Gunn, who is fashion consultant on the hit Bravo TV show, "Project Runway."

"I'm thrilled to be in Danville," Gunn said. "I love this whole area. I've never been in this part of this country."

Rakestraw Books held the fashion show Friday evening, May 4, to raise money for the Princess Project, which provides free prom dresses and accessories to high school girls who cannot afford them.

Around 11 designers from San Francisco Institute of Design and Merchandising participated in the prom dress competition. Models wore the dresses and strutted on a runway in a white tent put up in the parking lot near the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. Editors from Diablo Magazine and Splendor.com served as judges.

They voted Carol Chen as the designer of the best dress. She wore her own dress on the runway and said she colored it purple inspired by her own personal tastes. Other contestants said they enjoyed showcasing their creations.

"It was really fun," said designer Kaelyn Pagenkopp. "It was really personal."

"It helped me understand the industry more," said Timothy Thelin. "It was a little nerve-rack-

ing."

Also, Rakestraw Books sold tickets for drawings to members of the audience. Prizes included a gift basket, makeup, spa trips, and a diamond necklace from Christe James Fine Jewelry in Danville. The show raised \$5,000 for the Princess Project.

After the prom dress exhibit finished, Gunn talked about his experiences in the fashion industry in New York City.

"I'm very moved by the whole spirit of the event," said Gunn, now chief creative officer at Liz Claiborne. "It's great to see a community give back."

He also discussed the difficulties of writing his book, "Tim Gunn: A Guide to Quality, Taste & Style."

"It almost put me in the hospital," Gunn said. "I hope they (readers) really enjoy it."

"It evolved from the basic insecurities I had," he added.

The main message of the book, Gunn noted, is focusing on what works with each individual person. Fashion expresses historical, cultural and philosophical ideas, he said.

"I'm for resonating with the thing that you love," he said. "But people can be really delusional. I'm all for appropriateness."

"We are really fashion therapists," he added. "We accept you for who you are. We just want to make you better. We want to have dialogue."



JORDAN M. DORONILA

Rakestraw Books owner Michael Barnard addresses the crowd at the fashion Show.

Gunn then answered questions from the audience. He had been working as head of the Parson New School of Design before accepting the position with Claiborne. He also mentioned that he enjoys shopping at Banana Republic, Hugo Boss and Saks Fifth Avenue, but their items are too expensive to buy at times.

"The clothes you wear are how you want to be perceived," he said. "You can have a great style with something old. It's how you walk in them. It's about owning your look." ■

Enthusiastic about fashion? Admire Tim Gunn? Tell us about it on Town Square at DanvilleWeekly.com

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Weather delays Alamo traffic fixes

Two weeks more before Stone Valley Road project complete

by Natalie O'Neill

The completion date for a project to ease congestion on Stone Valley Road has been extended two weeks due to weather and electrical issues.

"It was delayed a little because construction workers were trying to pull power from the signals at Stone Valley Road to the flashing lights at Jackson Way," County Civil Engineer Chris Lau said Tuesday.

Flashing crosswalk lights at

Jackson Way needed a higher electric voltage, which had to be taken from the signal at Stone Valley Road, slowing the completion of both locations. This required some trenching—cutting into the pavement to lay down electrical wires—which took longer to complete when rain was added into the equation.

The project will add two turn signals from Danville Boulevard onto Stone Valley Road, remove cement island "pork chops," and put in curbs compliant with the American Disabilities Act. In late April it was set to be finished by May 15 but has now been extended to May 28 at the latest, Lau said.

"That took a little more time than

expected. Weather played a part," Lau said.

The pork chops have already been removed, both left turn lights are ready to go, and ramps should be done by the end of this week, Lau said.

After that, asphalt will be laid and then re-striping will be the final stage. When drivers in Alamo see striping paint come out, that means it won't be much longer, Lau said.

"To say we're doing everything in our power to alleviate congestion is an understatement," said Alamo Deputy Elmer Glasser, who is working with the Public Works Road Division Supervisor to speed the project along. ■

Valve

► Continued from page 5

PG&E from two to nine days to get the gas valves turned back on.

"The excess flow valve only activates if there is a break in the line," Leontiades said. He advocated giving homeowners a choice between the two valves.

"I think they're dangerous," Arnerich said. "I think it's a false sense of security."

He said that as an architect he would not incorporate excess flow valves into a building he was designing.

Arnerich again questioned whether it made sense for the provision to include change of ownership of properties.

"How can we put the real estate industry in as our enforcement?" Arnerich asked. "We would have no authority."

Town Attorney Rob Ewing said he felt that once the real estate community became aware of the ordinance, it would lead to a higher rate of compliance.

Bielle Moore, Governmental Affairs Director for the Contra Costa Association of Realtors, disagreed. Moore said the burden of making sure the valves were installed would fall on the owners, not the Realtors. This could lead to dangerous situations.

"Everyone is assuming that it's being done at point of sale and it's being done well, but that is an illusion," Moore said.

Moore spoke of an incident where a valve was placed at point of sale

and done incorrectly. It was months before the residents realized their new home had a slow gas leak.

Councilman Mike Doyle said if the point of sale requirement is kept, that Realtors could easily recommend a contractor to get the job done.

"I don't know a Realtor who doesn't have a number in his hip pocket of a roofer, a cement guy," he said.

"Our attorney has recommended to us that we should not recommend a contractor for an earthquake valve," Moore responded.

She explained that the possibility of something going wrong would create too great of a liability risk.

After several more minutes of discussion, Arnerich moved that the ordinance be approved without the point of sale provision. He also called for the minimum amount of the home project being lowered to \$10,000 and suggested waiving the fee for two years. Council members called for a proactive education program.

Mayor Mike Shimansky opposed leaving out the point of sale.

"Why wouldn't anyone want this ordinance enacted?" Shimansky asked.

He pointed to a letter he had received from the California Professional Firefighters, which stated that numerous accidents and injuries could be prevented each year by using the shut-off valves.

"By doing what has been proposed we'll never get to the point when houses will have pressure

valves," he said. "We'll be pussy-footing around for the next couple of years."

When the vote was taken, the amended ordinance was approved 3-1 with Mayor Shimansky casting the lone no vote. ■

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Albertsons

► Continued from page 5

An existing Albertsons is located on San Ramon Valley Boulevard, which now only competes with Lunardi's and Trader Joe's for grocery shoppers in the downtown Danville area.

Cerberus, a corporation that keeps a low profile, owns companies that currently generate about \$60 billion in annual revenues—more than Disney, McDonalds, or Apple Inc.

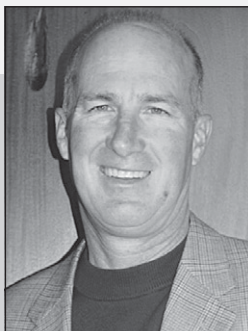
"Their position is they control the lease," Calabrigo said. ■

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Council OKs preschool at Gatetree Baptist, with conditions

Town of Danville will revisit use permit in three years

by Geoff Gillette

The ongoing battle between residents on Gatetree drive and the Gatetree Baptist Church settled into an uneasy truce after members of the Danville Town Council gave their approval May 1 to the church's request to open a preschool facility.

"Our congregation is very excited to move forward with this," said the Rev. Tom Holland, pastor of Gatetree Baptist Church.

He explained the plan had been in the works for three years and he is looking forward to seeing it come to fruition.

"I regret that our application has been appealed, but I can tell you we are excited to get started," he added.

At their May 1 meeting, council members were asked to consider a land use permit request

from the church that would allow them to convert part of their building into a faith-based preschool. The Planning Commission had approved the request but residents appealed that decision to the Town Council.

The school is expected to have two sessions of 60 children each. With staff members, that would mean traffic would be arriving and leaving at intervals between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. each day.

At the heart of the matter is the amount of traffic the facility is expected to generate in the quiet neighborhood just off busy Camino Tassajara. Residents claimed that the influx of staff members and parents would create a hazardous situation on the street, as well as increasing the noise levels of the neighborhood and devaluing nearby properties.

Residents attended Planning

Commission meetings in 2006 and early 2007, calling for additional traffic studies and further stipulations, but the land use permit was approved and sent on to the council. An appeal was filed and a public hearing was held at the May 1 meeting.

Associate Planner Catarina Kidd summarized the situation for the council, stating that the traffic study done for the project was valid. She said that although data taken for the study was from 2005, traffic numbers for nearby intersections had not changed significantly enough to warrant an entirely new study.

Councilman Newell Arnerich asked Holland why the two sides in the dispute hadn't met to try to work out their differences.

"We were frankly taken aback by the tone of the opposition," Holland

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YMCA

► Continued from page 5

recognized.

"My family donation to the Y is the third largest gift I have ever made to any nonprofit group, but this community has given me much and I want to give back to an organization that will have a positive impact on the children of the Valley for generations to come," said Corrie.

If the Y can reach its fundraising goals, the doors will open in spring 2009. Meanwhile the San Ramon Valley YMCA is working from offices in Hap Magee Ranch Park. For information about making donations, call 831-1100.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli



Danville Mayor Mike Shimansky (second from left) and others do a mock barn raising near the site of the future San Ramon Valley YMCA facilities in Alamo as the Y kicks off the community phase of its fundraising campaign.

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Making new friends

Joan London of Danville (in the middle) and Glenna Carter, another member of a delegation from Take One Ukrainian Child's Hand, or TOUCH, share the Danville Weekly with children from an orphanage in Uzhgorod, Ukraine.

Take Us Along on your travels and send photos to Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com or 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville 94526.

Gatetree

▶ Continued from page 8

said. "We didn't think they'd ever go along with it, so there was no viable reason to meet with them."

Chief among the opponents is Jerry Glenn who, with his wife Barbara, has been attending meetings since the project was first announced. They were the ones to file the appeal after the Planning Commission gave its approval.

Glenn said having the school come into their neighborhood would affect their quality of life, and take away the "small town atmosphere" the residents currently enjoy.

Glenn stated that he was disappointed with the Planning Commission's handling of the situation.

"I felt pleased that the Planning Commission found the flaws and asked for three items to be taken care of before it could be approved," he said. "Seven months later, only one had been addressed. It was a great disappointment to us when six members of the Planning Commission rewarded this disregard for the tasks they were given by approving it."

Glenn again called for a separate traffic study, one that took current counts plus took the counts while school was in session. He also asked that the council delay giving its approval until such time as it had additional data.

He then asked that if the council should approve the plan that it include certain stipulations including:

- Reduce the program hours to 8:45 a.m. dropoff and 4 p.m. pickup;
- Install a Right Turn Only sign at

the exit of the parking lot;

- A three-year term of approval to allow the town to revisit the land use permit; and
- Consider an indentation to allow parents to pull off the road to drop off their kids.

Chuck Krauss, who lives directly across from the church, said he feels the situation will provide some serious concerns for his family.

"Even if its only 50 cars, it is going to be a safety issue for me to back out of my driveway," he said.

Other concerns from residents included an increase in the noise level, which could cause problems for one family that has a parent who works a night shift. Also, there were concerns voiced that the increased traffic and noise would devalue residential properties while enhancing the value of the church property.

Council members discussed the traffic issues at great length and determined that the use would not create an undue hazard in the area. This did not preclude them from taking into account the stipulations suggested by Glenn.

"As much as I would like to say no, this is an allowable use. I think the obligation here is to be a better neighbor. Let's see how many of these we can incorporate," said Councilman Arnerich.

All of the council members bemoaned the lack of communication between the church and the neighborhood.

"I'm really disappointed," Arnerich told Pastor Holland. "It's surprising with your background and congregation that you wouldn't sit down and discuss that."

The land use was unanimously approved with several of the changes suggested by Glenn. The program hours were reduced, the right turn sign was approved, a sign will be posted in the neighborhood declaring "No Through Traffic" and the permit will be up for review in three years.

After the meeting, Glenn and the other residents in attendance said that while it was not an unqualified success they were pleased with the council's actions.

"We were impressed with how they listened," said Glenn. "They were more empathetic to our concerns."

He added that having the three-year window to revisit the situation gives them something to fall back on.

"We'll be watching. We'll be monitoring their compliance," he said. ■

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Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Betty's affair with the world



When Danville resident Betty Overhoff tells people she's with the World Affairs Council, either they are captivated or their eyes glaze over. She became fascinated with world affairs while filming the council's high profile speakers.

When her youngest graduated from Carondelet High School and went off to college, Betty decided to finish her degree in business. She took a television course as an elective at Diablo Valley College and was hooked—she changed her major to broadcasting. After her second semester, she landed an internship at the Lucas Ranch in Marin where she worked with the surround sound equipment. A highlight was its Halloween party, where she dressed as a Star Trek officer and her husband Tom was Indiana Jones.

When Betty graduated from San Francisco State in 1997, the World Affairs Council of Northern California in downtown San Francisco offered her the job of producing its television show plus about 10-15 other programs. After three exciting years, she decided to move on, and in 2001, became chairwoman for the East Bay Chapter.

In this position, Betty books its monthly programs on international issues. She has learned what is a draw and what to avoid.

"Subjects I get nervous about are Africa, Canada and Mexico," she said. She recalled that when George Schultz became Secretary of State, his first trips were to our neighbors on the north and the south, which made sense to him. But, he reported, the news media was critical, telling him Americans aren't interested in reading about those countries.

"The Middle East has more intrigue to it," Betty said. And that was true even before Sept. 11. Europe is "sort of a crap shoot," she added.

We were members of the World Affairs Council in San Francisco years ago, and I remember its impressive speakers, which have included Nancy Pelosi; Lech Walesa; Desmond Tutu; former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak; Paul Wolfowitz; and former National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski. Betty said for the East Bay, she tries to find experts who are also first-rate speakers. She avoids ambassadors, who just want to tout their country's virtues, and said authors are usually good, even if their main objective is selling books. She is working on programs for the fall on Iran, and on Russia and China. "The professors at Berkeley who do the Russian specialties are outstanding," she said.

Speakers on Asia are popular, she noted, especially anything

to do with politics or finance. Immigration and border control are hot topics, both with Mexico and Canada, which recently began to turn away American visitors who had marijuana convictions from the 1970s. Betty has had immigration lawyers speak, on concerns with Mexico as well as with the Philippines when the United States tightened its immigration policy and affected the nursing shortage.

The East Bay presentations are usually held at an auditorium in the PMI building, next to the Pleasant Hill BART station. They cost \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members, and begin with light snacks and a chance to meet the speaker from 6:30-7 p.m. The lecture is from 7-7:30 followed by a question-and-answer period until 8. Then the board goes out to dinner with the speaker. Betty said the evenings are fascinating, with the Q&A often better than the speech, and the dinner conversation the best of all. She clearly revels in her job.

The April program was unusual because it featured a nonprofit group, the Clarence Foundation, whose speakers had just returned after 10 days in Kenya. There are two reasons Americans only give a small percentage of their charitable donations to foreign countries, said director Marc Ross Manashil: The needs are overwhelming and they aren't sure the money will actually reach those in need. His "giving circle" team goes directly to developing countries to see the situation firsthand, hooks up with people with viable plans to help alleviate a specific problem, and issues grants. Questions from the audience were pointed: With all the needs in Africa, how did they pick Kenya? What exactly happens to the money after they collect it? The presentation was filmed by www.fora.tv for its Web site.

Next on the agenda of the East Bay Chapter will be its Summer Wine program, on Patagonia with travel writer Dr. Wayne Bernhardson, from 4-6 p.m., Sunday, June 24, at the Danville Meeting Hall. Betty predicted "lots and lots of food, people and fun." For reservations, call (415) 293-4600 or e-mail registration@wacs.org. You'll also enjoy meeting Betty.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli
can be e-mailed at editor@
DanvilleWeekly.com.

It's your world

The nonpartisan World Affairs Council of Northern California, which is devoted to public education on international issues, was founded in 1947 from the interest raised by the founding of the United Nations in San Francisco in 1945. It now has three chapters: East Bay, Peninsula and Marin. Membership is \$95 per individual; \$125 per household. Visit www.ItsYourWorld.org

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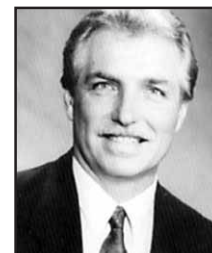
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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

Burger King protects assaulted teen

Three young males allegedly threw rocks and punches at a juvenile late Friday evening on Railroad Avenue in Danville, said Police Sgt. Troy Craig.

Following the incident, police found and arrested two of the suspects on charges of assault with a deadly weapon.

"We are currently having this case reviewed by the District Attorney for prosecution," Craig said.

Three male youths chased a minor on foot at 11:30 p.m., Friday, May 4, on Railroad Avenue near Iron Horse Plaza. The suspects and the victim were all headed to the same party outside of Danville, according to reports. The three had been threatening the victim, who was trying to avoid confrontation. The anger escalated and prompted them to physically harm him, police said.

Two of the suspects, juveniles, were from Danville and Alamo. The third, 18, was from Pittsburg, Craig said.

"They got involved in a verbal confrontation," he said. "They did

not like each other for whatever reasons."

The three punched and hurled rocks at the victim. They also wanted to take his wallet. The victim ran, tripping and falling, to the Burger King on Front Street and told the restaurant manager he was in trouble. The manager took him in and locked him inside the building, police said. The manager then called the victim's parents, who called the police about the incident the following day.

The suspects fled the scene but still hovered in the area, Craig said. Police Officer Mike Ireland saw them ducking in the bushes, made contact and took down their information.

Police officers Ian Hebert and Ireland made the connection with the assault and contacted the 18-year-old, who was taken to the Martinez Detention Facility, and one of the suspected minors, who was taken to Juvenile Hall. Police are still trying to locate the other youth who was allegedly involved, Craig said.

—Jordan M. Doronila

POLICE LOG

The Danville Police Department made the following information available from its incident summary report:

Tuesday, May 1

- Interfering with public officer on La Gonda Way at 9:52 a.m.
- Vandalism on Fostoria Cir. at 10:28 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. and I-680 south-bound off ramp at 12:39 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, on Railroad Ave. at 1:41 p.m.
- Vandalism on Love Ln. at 4:46 p.m.
- Trespassing on Peters Ranch Rd. at 5:14 p.m.

Wednesday, May 2

- Vandalism on Brookside Dr. at 8:09 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on La Gonda Way at 9:36 a.m.
- Petty theft from building on Stone Valley Rd. at 9:50 a.m.
- Petty theft on Piedmont Ln. at 10:25 a.m.
- Misdemeanor battery on Love Ln. at 10:44 a.m.
- Petty theft on Piedmont Ln. at 11:20 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Del Amigo Rd. and Glen Rd. at 12:55 p.m.
- Battery on Buckeye Ln. at 12:59 p.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Greenbrook Dr. at 1:07 p.m.

- Warrant on La Gonda Way at 4:12 p.m.
- Battery on Stone Valley Rd. at 5:23 p.m.

Thursday, May 3

- Petty theft on El Pintado Rd. at 6:46 a.m.
- Vandalism on Harlan Dr. at 7:52 a.m.
- Drugs violation on Del Amigo Rd. at 9:43 a.m.
- Forgery of fraudulent documents on Diablo Rd. at 12:48 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Railroad Ave. at 1:07 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara at 1:07 p.m.
- Petty theft on Silver Lake Dr. at 1:44 p.m.
- Public nuisance on Bobbie Dr. at 3:10 p.m.
- Identity theft on Kimberley Pl. at 3:42 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Danville Blvd. and El Portal at 5:29 p.m.
- Fight disturbance on Camino Ramon at 11:25 p.m.

Friday, May 4

- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Woodranch Dr. at 12:04 a.m.
- Commercial burglary on Del Amigo Rd. at 7:24 a.m.
- Vandalism on Brookside Dr. at 7:39 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. and Via Hermosa at 8:00 a.m.

- Petty theft from building on Stone Valley Rd. at 8:14 a.m.
- Commercial burglary on Stone Valley Rd. at 9:32 a.m.
- Warrant on Rancho Verde Cir. West at 11:27 a.m.
- Auto burglary on El Pintado Rd. at 12:35 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. at 2:18 p.m.
- Vandalism on Hartz Ave. at 2:32 p.m.
- Petty theft on Stone Valley Rd. at 4:52 p.m.
- Petty theft on Hartz Ave. and W. Prospect Ave. at 5:17 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Cross Bridge Pl. at 5:28 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Sycamore Valley Rd. W. at 5:30 p.m.
- Drunk in public on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 8:13 p.m.
- Drunk in public on Sycamore Valley Rd. W. at 8:24 p.m.
- Party disturbance on Merano St. at 8:34 p.m.
- Petty theft on Hartz Ave. at 10:23 p.m.

Saturday, May 5

- Strongarm robbery on Railroad Ave. at 9:23 a.m.
- Petty theft on Fostoria Way at 2:23 p.m.
- Music disturbance on Clear Creek Pl. N. at 9:29 p.m.
- Party disturbance on Mont Blanc Ct. at 11:06 p.m.



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Transitions

OBITUARIES • BIRTHS • WEDDINGS

ANNIVERSARY

Barbara and Harold Hubinger

Barbara and Harold Hubinger celebrated their 50th anniversary with their family on a trip to Sydney, Australia, in November 2006.

Barbara graduated from Wayne State, and Harold graduated from the University of Washington. Harold entered the Navy and became a pilot, then worked at IBM where Barbara was also employed. They were married May 11, 1957, in Michigan and honeymooned in Niagara Falls.

The couple has lived in Danville for 38 years. They have also lived in Walnut Creek and in Lansing, Mich. They have two children, Chris Hubinger Peters of Pleasanton and John Hubinger of Orinda; and four grandchildren, Casey Peters, Ian Peters, Evan Hubinger and Jeremy Hubinger.

Barbara has held a variety of volunteer positions including past president of the Museum of San Ramon Valley and with the Danville Police Department, which named her Volunteer of the Year in 2006.

Harold has also held many volunteer positions; he



currently holds a regional level position with SIRS and is working on his second travel book. They travel extensively, have been to 111 countries on six different continents, and helped establish a medical missionary clinic in Nepal.

OBITUARIES

Rudolph F. Heede

Danville resident Rudolph F. Heede, 85, passed away in Walnut Creek on April 5.

He was born July 15, 1921, in Oakland, grew up in Berkeley and served in the Army during World War II. He worked in the automotive industry at various dealerships for 42 years, living in Walnut Creek and later Danville.

He was the beloved husband of Lu Heede of Danville; and the loving brother of Matthias O. Heede (Meg) of Sacramento. He is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. A graveside service was held at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Lafayette on April 12. Those wishing to may send memorial contributions in his name to the John Muir Foundation, 1400 Treat Blvd., Walnut Creek 94597.

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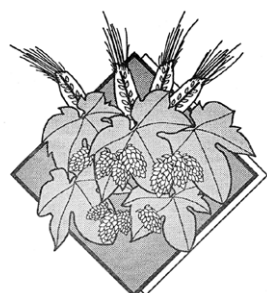


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Perspective

EDITORIALS • LETTERS • OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

There are seniors—and there are seniors

A very good point was brought up at the recent meeting to discuss results from the Danville senior survey: There's a big difference between people who are 55 and those who are 85. What people are looking for in terms of recreation, a senior center and classes may differ vastly depending on their age due to their amount of free time, interests, mobility or health issues.

Why are people clumped into the category of "seniors" as early as age 50? With so many folks now living to the age of 100, this could mean spending half their lives as seniors. The American Association for Retired Persons, or AARP, sends people an invitation to join just before their 50th birthdays, but how many actually retire at 50? Many that age are at the height of their careers and enjoying every minute. Of course AARP wants as many members as possible to lobby on senior issues. And, at 50 one can begin to foresee that old age is a possibility.

The Danville senior survey, conducted by BW Research Partnership, included about 500 people interviewed on the telephone, beginning at age 55. It would be interesting to see results from a survey of older seniors. The survey came about after seniors complained that the Town of Danville did not do enough for its seniors and it apparently was not 55-year-olds making the complaints.

The Town of Danville is beginning its study sessions to determine next year's budget, and Town Manager Joe Calabrigo says one of the top priorities is to fund and develop the senior program. You can bet that seniors will be watching the situation closely—and these are older seniors who are retired and would like a place to eat lunch and socialize. Senior discounts usually begin at age 62 or 65. Maybe that should be the age to begin calling people seniors.

Why are people clumped into the category of "seniors" as early as age 50? With so many folks now living to the age of 100, this could mean spending half their lives as seniors.

LETTERS

Town budget time

Dear Editor:

It's May, and therefore budget time in our county and the Town of Danville. On Tuesday, May Day, the County Board of Supervisors, chaired by our local District 3 Supervisor, Mary N. Piepho, passed a \$1.3 billion budget for the coming year on a record early date, in a marathon five-hour meeting.

One might expect the budget would have occupied most of that time. No, four of the supervisors (Federal Glover kept quiet) proved the "Inconvenient Truth" that global warming is man-made, by inhaling oxygen; exhaling carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, in what could be described as a "marathon filibuster" designed to get people to leave, change channels from CCTV, or fall asleep, while only the last few minutes were devoted to a bipartisan move unanimously passing this boondoggle.

I'm sure we can expect much better from our five Danville council members and staff. For the next four weeks, beginning May 8, in three-hour Tuesday study sessions from 9 a.m. to noon, they will be deliberating our town's budget for next year. Sessions will be held in the town offices; the public is invited.

Ralph Hoffmann, Danville

Appreciates the hand

Dear Editor:

I want to thank the Lend a Hand group that came to my house on a recent Saturday: Chris Maybrey, the young man who works at 24 Hour Fitness in Alamo, the generous man who went home and got his leaf blower, and two boys from Volunteers. I'm sorry I don't know their names but they were a lifesaver for me.

My yard is perfect now because of their hard work. I look forward to next year.

Gladys Weitzner, Danville

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This week's online poll:

A survey shows that only 37 percent of Danville teenagers communicate well with their families. Does this surprise you?

Results from last week:

Were you inconvenienced by the freeway detours near the Bay Bridge?

No: 71.43%

Yes: 28.57%

Total responses: 7

Danville
WEEKLY.COM

Wolves edge Mustangs on home track

Cross-town rivals have run neck-in-neck all season

by Rachel McMurdie

The Wolves chalked up another East Bay Athletic League win at last Thursday's dual meet, beating local rival Monte Vista on the San Ramon Valley home track.

In girl's varsity, San Ramon's distance runners fueled their 77, 59 win over the Mustangs. Led by Alexis Nordine, who took home two first-place wins in the 1,600-meter sprint (5:26.73) and the 800-meter sprint (2:30.01), the Wolves dominated the track events with the exception of the 400-meter dash.

San Ramon senior Kelly Fogarty finished first in the 100-meter dash (12.42) and the 300-meter hurdles (36.01). Teammate Sarah Beyers took first in the 3,200-meter sprint (12:28.31), and Laura Charbonneau earned first place in the 100-meter hurdles (16.4).

In boys varsity, San Ramon Valley's sprinters scooped up wins in the 110 meter hurdles, 400-meter dash, 200-meter dash, 800-meter sprint, 300-meter hurdles and the long jump. Monte Vista grabbed wins in the field events shot put, discus throw, triple jump and high jump. The relays were the clincher the Wolves needed in the 85.5, 50.5 win. The SRV boys took the 400-meter relay win in 42.30 seconds and the 1,600-meter relay win in 3:27.26 seconds.

The two schools have been close all season. One only has to look back



Alexis Nordine of San Ramon Valley High took home two first-place wins against Monte Vista last week.

as far as the April 21 Phillips/McCain Invitational to see just how close the competition has been. In that meet, first place in four events was decided by just thousandths of a second, or a couple of inches. Three of those four wins went to the Mustangs including the boys varsity 4x800 relay. The Mustang all-junior relay team, Dustin Harris, Danny Bartz, Donald Morgenson and Vinnie Butera, set a new meet record that day, edging out San Ramon Valley in 8 minutes, 10 seconds (a 2:02.5 average).

Boys lacrosse

Matt Hartman delivered five goals in Monte Vista's 14-0 roll over Livermore on the lacrosse field. The Mustang was one of seven teammates to score. With the win Monte Vista improves their record to 15-3, 9-1 EBAL; Livermore's record stands at 0-11 EBAL.

San Ramon Valley, still undefeated in league play, had four players with two goals each in their 13-3 win over California. Cameron Girox, Thomas Reyda, John Brereton and Tyler Blair each scored two goals. SRV goalie Patrick Lancaster held the Grizzlies to three points with 16 saves.

Boys volleyball

Monte Vista boys defeated Livermore in volleyball Thursday night 26-24, 25-18, 25-13. With the win, Monte Vista improves to 7-9, 4-8 EBAL. Livermore has yet to win a league match.

In another league game Thursday, San Ramon defeated California, 25-17, 29-27, 25-21. The Wolves improve their EBAL record to 9-3 while the Grizzlies slip to 7-5. ■

E-mail photos to Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com.

PREP SCHEDULE

Friday, May 11

Baseball: Monte Vista at Granada, 3:45 p.m.; San Ramon Valley at Cal High, 3:45 p.m.

Swimming and Diving: EBAL Trials at Amador

Boy's Lacrosse: Monte Vista at San Ramon Valley, 7 p.m.

Girl's Lacrosse: San Ramon Valley at Monte Vista, 7 p.m.

Friday-Saturday, May 11-12

Swimming and Diving: EBAL at Amador, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Saturday, May 12

Swimming and Diving: EBAL Finals at Amador

Boy's Tennis: NCS Team Championships

Track and Field: EBAL Championships at Amador

Monday, May 14

Girl's Golf: NCS Tournament

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JEFFREY WEIL



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

'Tis the season for Little League

Nick Morales slides safely into home plate, for a Yankees victory, 12-4, at the Giants vs. Yankees Little League Game. Bottom, Little league AA Division Orioles Michael Anderson, a Danville resident, throws his whole body into his pitch against the Giants, at a game at Stone Valley Middle School.



Lisa Sawires and her son Blake, 5, share an Eskimo kiss. She balances her family life with four children and teaching science four days a week.

Motherhood

It's a challenge, whether she stays home or continues to work

story and photos by Christina Straw

Whether they spend their days in an office or behind the wheel of a mini van, mothers are always working.

Raising children is one of the most important and challenging jobs parents have. Regardless of whether they work out of the home or not, finding the balance as caregiver and provider is a struggle that women face every day.

For moms with other professions, companies have come a long way in terms of emphasizing the importance of work-life balance; some offer on-site child care, job sharing and work-at-home opportunities. These work scenarios provide a mother more time to spend with her children and help provide a better symmetry with all the different tasks mom juggles between her professional and personal life.

For stay-at-home moms, more and more women are not letting society or the media dictate what they should be doing when it comes to raising their kids. Women are saying, "This is where I want to be." When it comes to managing the household and driving to and from school and sports activities, stay-at-home moms are finding support through mother's groups, friends and family.

The stay-at-home mom

"I really like staying home with the kids. I enjoy it," says Kelly Sueksdorf, Danville resident and

mother of four boys ranging in ages from 10 to 15. "I always thought I would work. After I had Brian (the oldest), I was planning on going back to school to get my nursing degree. But then I had the twins, Kevin and Alex (now 12).

"With all the costs of childcare, just trying to work seemed ridiculous, and then we had the fourth one, Kenny (now 10), so staying home just made more sense.

"My husband Mark always wanted me to stay home with the kids," she continues. "When I was talking about working, he kept saying, 'You don't need to.'"

Sueksdorf says that jumping from one child to three when the twins were born was overwhelming.

"I wasn't getting any sleep," she recalls. "My mom would come up and help out, but she worked. It was exhausting and time consuming. It was like having a daycare. There was no baby bonding with the twins. It was feeding and changing. You could comfort and take care of them, but there wasn't enough time to sit and coo at one baby, like you did when you had just one."

With a busy household, Sueksdorf says her laid-back attitude helps her manage the kids as well as a marriage.

"Don't get me wrong, I do get mad and can yell, but maybe it was the way we were raised?" she

says. "Mark was raised that you do timeouts and discuss what the problem was; we didn't spank. I've always been easygoing, even when I was a kid. Nothing really bothered me."

Both of Sueksdorf's parents worked when she was growing up, her mother returning to work after her parents divorced when she was 9.

"It was hard," she says. "Mom was always gone. When I came home from school, I was almost always alone as my older brother and sister were off doing their own thing."

Did the fact that her mother worked influence her to stay home? Sueksdorf says, without hesitation, "Definitely."

"You always hear how important it is to be home when kids are in junior high and high school and I think that's true," she says. "When I was home alone, I was bored. We certainly had the opportunities to get in trouble."

When the boys have problems they need help with, they go to mom. They'll wait to do homework with their dad. Plus he takes them fishing, camping and hiking. They do talk about personal things with Mark, but come to Kelly more with the day-to-day issues and questions that kids face. She thinks this may change as they get older.

"I've had conversations with the boys where I tell them to ask their dad," Sueksdorf says.

"I really like being a stay-at-home mom," she



Stay-at-home mom Kelly Sueksdorf enjoys a

sums up. "I want my kids to be happy and love themselves, not to be lost and make choices."

What's it all worth?

If one were to pay a stay-at-home mom, her annual salary would be \$134,120, according to compensation experts, Salary.com, in a recent study.

How did they come up with this number? Salary.com consulted with both stay-at-home and working moms and determined the 10 roles that make up a mom's job description. The study found titles that best fit a stay-at-home mom's definition of her work, listed in order of hours spent per week, to be: housekeeper, daycare teacher, cook, computer operator, laundry operator, janitor, facilities manager, CEO and psychologist.

"People recognize that both stay-at-home and working moms carry a heavy load of responsibility and work long hours," said Lisa Sawires, senior vice president of compensation at Salary.com. "It is an eye-opener for many people when they see the real market value of the work they perform."

Both working and stay-at-home moms face the same types of challenges and sacrifices to keep their children happy and on track at school, keep the house clean, and manage their own schedules. Working moms give up their sleep and exercise. Stay-at-home moms give up working out of the house, career advancement and a salary.

A 2006 U.S. Census poll found there were 5.5 million "stay-at-home" moms in the last year—5.4 million moms and 100,000 fathers. Obviously, full-time parenting is significantly female territory.

According to the U.S. census bureau, 67 percent of mothers of infants are in the workforce, a jump from 49 percent worked for pay.

Ulf Lundberg, a professor of biology at the University of Stockholm, found that education and occupational level don't make much difference in terms of women's total workload. Without children, men and women both work about 60 hours a week.

"As soon as there is a child in the house, the workload increases rapidly for women," Lundberg said. "In a family with three or more children, women typically spend 90 hours a week on unpaid work."

The working mom

Danville resident Lisa Sawires and her husband Sam have four boys ranging in ages from 5 to 15. She works four days a week at Danville Elementary in San Ramon, teaching science.



peaceful moment while her four sons are at school.

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grades 2-5. Sam is a technical engineer.

"I was staying at home with them for a long time but needed to go back to work for benefits," says Lisa Sawires. "The science lab position seemed perfect because I could do all the activities with the kids but not have my own classroom. Hands-on activities were a good transition back into the field."

Sawires returned to work three years ago.

"My husband worked from home the first year I went back and we didn't have any child care," she says. "It was great because he could be home but he had a tough time trying to work and give the kids the attention they needed."

"The second year we had a nanny come in, and Matthew, the oldest, had a tough time because he felt he was too old for a nanny."

"The year I went back to work was the hardest transition ever," she adds. "I wanted to be home with the boys and felt I was burning the candle at both ends. We didn't see our friends as much. It was work, come home, take care of the kids, and catch up on the weekends. It wasn't easy and is still challenging."

"It's a hard thing to do," she says. "You want to be home with them. Sam and I make up for it by spending as much time with them as we can. We all chip in together as a family on the weekends and we spend a lot of time together."



Lisa Sawires with three of her four sons, (l-r) Joseph, Matthew and Colton. She returned to work three years ago, and says the transition was difficult.

Sawires also talks about what it was like growing up with a working mother.

"My mom worked as a teacher and was with us during the summer, and I had a great childhood," she says, "but in the back of my mind I always wondered how things would be different if she had stayed home."

"Teaching is a great job with kids because we're home at the same time, I have summers off, set hours, no after-hours work. On the days I have off, I can volunteer in the kids' classroom, which is really important."

Advice from the experts

Carol Wood, a San Ramon-based marriage and family therapist, sees stress regardless of whether the woman is working or staying at home.

"It's not so much whether these mothers are working or not working; it's more about whether or not they feel valuable, valued and if their connections are good," Wood says.

"Many times it reflects in relationships. These women may say that their relationships aren't going as well because they're at work all the time or 'I'm a stay at home mom and burnt out,' but it's about the relationships with themselves and their people closest to them (spouses and children)."

She goes on to say people spend too much time worrying about keeping up with others and not enough time focused on what's inside.

"People have to look inside of themselves and decide, 'What is it that makes my life a success?' and 'How am I connected?' A working mom can be just as connected to her children as a mom who is home all day," Wood says.

"It's not about measuring up to someone else's standards or measuring up by what you have, it's about how you feel inside and how that impacts your relationship with your children and your spouse. You can't have it all. You have to be able to say what's most important 'to me.'"

Wood says that stress in women is all too common when they're trying to focus on too many others.

"I do see stress in women who are trying to please, and they are trying to please too many different 'masters' (i.e. their husbands, children, peers, community), and the person they forget to try to please is themselves," she notes. "If you have a passion for being at home with your kids, go for it. I think a lot of women are terrified for standing up for themselves."

"The model of a stay-at-home mom and a working mom can both be very, very positive," she adds. "It's not about what you do, it's about who you are. How you're connected to yourself and how you handle relationships. If you're connected to yourself in a healthy way, you connect in your relationships in a healthy way." ■

Ain't no sunshine when she's gone

Today I had to take a deep breath. One of many I've taken since the winter of 2002 to try not to cry. This day in particular I was standing at a makeup counter in Nordstrom picking out lipstick, when I selected a tube that was my mother's favorite color—a frosty pink gloss that became her trademark.

I miss her more than ever.

I was in Amsterdam on business for less than five hours when I checked my voicemail. There was a garbled message from Bernadette, one of my mother's best friends. When I reached her, Bernadette told me my mother had died of a heart attack. I was 26 years old.

My world became a blur. It was like I was looking at an out-of-focus picture of my life. I felt like I had been told to pack and that I was being dropped off in a place I had never heard of.

My mother, Kathleen Connelly, was born in Quincy, Mass., to William, a police officer, and Nancy, a schoolteacher. She and her brother enjoyed skating on frozen ponds in the winter and spending summers at the Cape with extended family in the summer. My mother studied art at Emmanuel, an all-female college outside Boston. While teaching high-school drawing and painting, she met my father, Robert Lynch, a native San Franciscan, as he was in business school at Harvard. They married and moved to San Francisco where I was born in 1975 and my brother Matthew, in 1978.

When I think of my childhood, I remember the sun always shining. I remember spending days at sandy parks, my mother smiling at us, wearing her signature, oversized tortoise shell glasses, and of course, her mauvy-pink lipstick. We ran around in Osh-Kosh overalls, danced with sparklers in the back yard at the Cape on the 4th of July, ate Mexican food and laughed until we cried. We spent long summer nights on the deck in Tahoe, talking to our parents while we swatted mosquitoes; the smell of Coppertone mixed with Cutter bug spray filling the air. We celebrated birthdays and holidays, but more than anything, we celebrated our lives.

When I heard Bernadette utter those awful words, in an instant, the color photograph of my childhood became black and white.

My mom used to say she and my father raised us "by hand." That meant being involved in all aspects of our lives, from driving us to our games and activities, staying up late to make cookies for our classes, sewing Halloween costumes, teaching us how to draw, reading us stories, rubbing our backs to help us fall asleep, helping write papers, being the shoulder to cry on when we broke up with boyfriends and girlfriends, and teaching us the importance of thank you notes and good manners. They taught us how to cook, warned us of the dangers of the world and how to tackle obstacles that came our way. They helped us with college applications, taught us how to parallel park, and how to have faith in ourselves and never give up.

They were proud, they were fun, they were fair, they could be silly and serious, they were loving and supportive, and then they were both gone.

When I was 22, my father, suffering from terrible depression, made the decision to take his own life. I found him at our house one night in February 1998. He was 57 years old.

After my father died, the three of us became our own little gang. The darkness of his depression had loomed like a cloud for a few years, but we began to see the light again. My mom and I traveled; she and my brother became even closer. She was painting watercolors of flowers and showing her work, baking her signature frosted sugar cookies, and having quiet dinners with friends. Then our rebuilt life came crashing down again when I lost my mother.

I had only been dating Matt, now my husband, for four months when she died. It was such an awkward feeling. Here I was—shaking uncontrollably, unable to eat, crying throughout the days that followed her death and, unexpectedly, in the months to follow. Throughout the whole experience, he stood by me, held my hand, hugged me when I needed it, and knew exactly what to say, or what not to say, when I sought a shoulder to cry on. In a way, I think my mom left this world knowing I would be taken care of.

This past fall was particularly difficult for me. Matt and I were talking about starting a family and that familiar ache, that burn inside like I have a hole in my soul, was back. Knowing my mother wouldn't be here to finger paint with my children and help them make scrambled eggs was more than I could bear.

Today, I see my mother in the beauty of simple, everyday things: a child's smile, a beautiful flower, a perfect photograph captured as the sun goes down. And I grin when I find myself seeking out the familiar shade of lipstick that will forever remind me of her.

—Christina Straw

Roll the reels

Danville International Children's Film Festival offers movies for kids, by kids and about kids

by Jordan M. Doronila

Turn on the projector and roll the reels! The Danville International Children's Film Festival—films for children and by children—is coming next week.

The event, which is in its fourth year, will showcase 50 films from May 18-20 at the Village Theatre and Danville Town Meeting Hall on Front Street. Festival judges have nominated films for prizes in the categories of animation, documentary and short film. And within each of those categories, awards will be given to young filmmakers (5-12), teenagers and adults.

"It's a good annual event for the community," said festival co-founder Derek Zemrak, 41, an accountant who is also a director of low budget films.

Among the pictures being shown are animated features "Bibi," "Blast off!" and "Creepers," plus the short, "The Little Gorilla." Some of the films were made by Canadian, Irish and Spanish producers.

David Mickey Evans, director of the 1993 blockbuster hit "The Sandlot," will be attending his film's screening at the festival's opening night at the Village Theatre, 6:30 p.m., Friday, May 18. Zemrak said he is looking forward to Evans' appearance. There will be a question-and-answer period with Evans, who also directed the "Beethoven" films.

"We wanted to pick a director that did a lot of children's films," Zemrak said.

Joey Travolta, John Travolta's brother, and Alyson Stoner, who appeared in "Cheaper by the Dozen," will also be attending the festival.

"I think the festival is unique because it pertains to family and children," Zemrak said. "We want to make the best for children. We want Danville to be on the map."

contest for middle school students. The competition was sponsored by Street Smarts, a public education campaign to educate people about traffic safety and responsibility.

Zemrak said last year's festival went well. "Each year the attendance gets more and more," he noted.



COURTESY DEREK ZEMRAK

Danville International Children's Film Festival movies will be screened at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., and the Town Meeting Hall next door.

The festival encourages creative students from the area to be a part of the festival and submit their work. The festival allows young filmmakers to receive constructive criticism from a combination of peers and professionals, which will help them improve their skills while giving them valuable real-life experience.

"There is a tremendous amount of learning that goes into film," Zemrak said. "Film (incorporates) all subjects in school—writing, camera angles, creative, organizational skills, math"

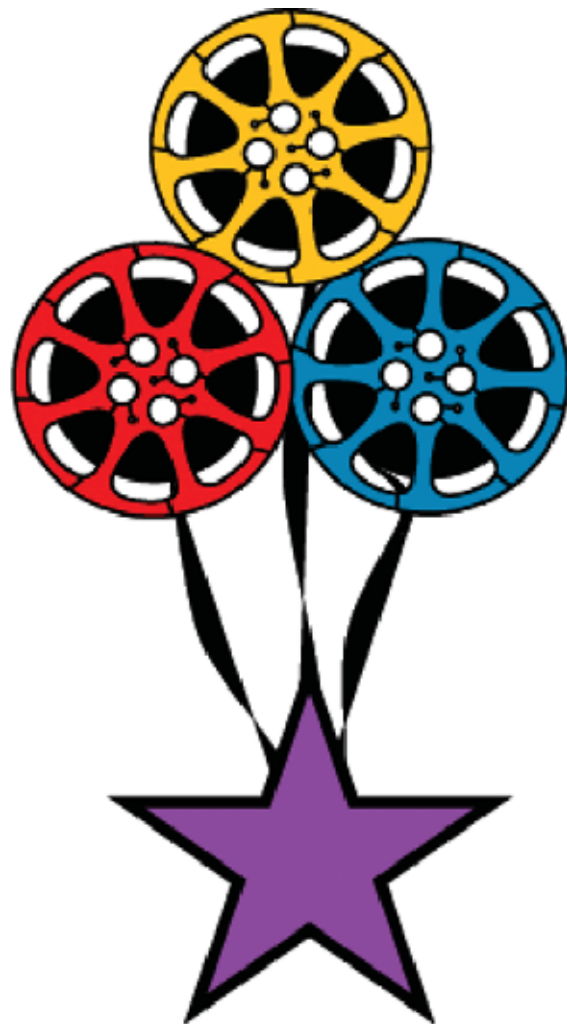
Past year's special guests include Roseanne Barr, Paul Peterson, Jon Provost, Kathy Garver, Carolyn Lawrence, Bob Gale, Bob Bergen, Dylan McLaughlin, Grace Leer and Stanley Livingston.

The Danville International Children's Film Festival is the only one of its kind in the western United States and is presented by the California Independent Film Festival Association and the Town of Danville.

Zemrak and Pirkle, who also head up the California Independent Film Festival, said there needed to be a festival geared toward families and children.

The California Independent Film Festival has been going on for eight years, said Zemrak. He said first his friends rented a hall in Pleasanton and showcased 35 films. They also tried the Pleasanton Hilton, a place in Berkeley and were at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek a couple of years before successfully settling on the Livermore wineries as a venue.

During this time, Pirkle heard about requests to hold a film festival in Danville from Councilwoman Millie Greenberg, whom he knew from his attempts to get involved in the town Planning Commission.



Danville International Children's Film Festival

Pirkle said Danville is a nice walking environment and people from around the country attend the festival. He would like to see more people attend.

Zemrak said he decided long ago to do low budget moviemaking. He wrote, directed and produced a feature entitled "Ice Scream," which the L.A. Times called the "best of the worst" movies made in November 1998. He followed that up with "Bikini Planet" in 2002. He also has worked on a feature length children's animated film entitled "Bongee Bear and the Kingdom of Rhythm."

He said he is working on a new film he wrote that is a coming-of-age story about two young boys and their relationships with fathers in separate families.

The Children's Film Fest will draw to a close May 20 with a presentation of awards at 5 p.m. in the Village Theatre.

All-day passes are \$8 for kids and \$12 for adults, and they can be purchased at the Village Theatre. For more information, call Christine Mabry at 314-3475. The complete schedule is available at www.DanvilleWeekly.com. ■



David Mickey Evans, director of the 1993 blockbuster hit "The Sandlot," will be screening his film at the festival's opening night at 6:30 p.m., Friday, May 18, the Village Theatre.



Actor Ricky Dean Logan, from the "Back to the Future" films, and Daryl Sabara of "Spy Kids" movies at the Danville International Children's Film Festival.

This annual festival—co-founded by Zemrak and Danville attorney Leonard Pirkle—has attracted thousands of enthusiasts to the festival to view screenings of independent films in two locations, with special events, autograph sessions, seminars for filmmakers and actors, and an awards ceremony. This year, the festival received 100 submissions, and its organizers selected 50 to show.

Also, the event will screen videos made by finalists in the "Be Smart, Be Safe, Be Reel"



BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

Seasoning essentials: garlic and ginger

by Jacqui Love Marshall

Garlic and Ginger are my favorite everyday spices. I think of them as a professional dance team—each bringing its unique style and together offering a delightful set of culinary moves. They provide basic seasoning flavor but are quite versatile across a wide range of culinary tastes and cuisines.

Garlic is an ancient spice, used by Greeks, Romans, Asians and Africans since the earliest of times. Garlic grows as a bulb, made up of individual cloves, which are separated for use. A cousin to the onion, shallot and leek, it offers a pungent flavor to foods, intense or mild depending on how it is used. Because of its strong odor, it is sometimes called the “stinking rose.” And if you’ve ever attended the annual Garlic Festival in Gilroy (“The Garlic Capital of the World”), you wouldn’t doubt my word on this.

Besides repelling werewolves and vampires, garlic is reported to have many medicinal benefits. According to the Garlic Information Centre, www.garlic.mistral.co.uk, its qualities are as a cardio-protective, anti-oxidant, antibacterial and antifungal and aiding blood pressure, cholesterol, circulation, impotence, pregnancy, diabetes, coughs and colds, stomach conditions, cancer, pets and synergistic effect with other health food supplements. Frankly, I’m impressed.

Garlic bulbs generally contain 10-20 cloves of garlic. Cloves have a fine pink/purple papery skin and the bunch of cloves is covered with a thin white outer skin. Skins should be discarded and not eaten. Fresh garlic heads are firm with dry outer skins. Avoid heads that are sprouting, soggy or crumble with slight finger pressure.

To prepare garlic: Strip away some of the outer skin and remove as many cloves as desired. Garlic

cloves come in a variety of sizes and shapes so the more you cook with garlic cloves, the better you’ll gauge how many cloves of a particular size to use. With garlic, the finer the pieces, the stronger the taste. Crushed garlic has the strongest taste while cooked whole garlic has a milder, sweeter taste. Garlic added later in the cooking process produces a stronger taste than garlic added earlier.

Crushed garlic: Crushing fresh garlic by hand is a cultivated, useful skill. Place one unpeeled clove flat on a cutting board. Place a wide-blade knife over the clove and press strongly and flatly with the palm of your hand, avoiding the sharp edge of the blade. This will remove the skin from the mildly crushed clove. Discard the skin and work a little salt onto the board to soak up any garlic juices. Now, chip the clove into rough pieces. Position the knife flatly over one end of the chopped pieces and press down with the sharp edge. Move the knife along the pile of garlic, pressing and crushing as you go. The salt also helps to keep the garlic pieces in place as you press. Repeat the pressing until the garlic is the consistency you desire. Scrape the crushed garlic and juices off the board and set aside for use.

Garlic mashed potatoes: For a mild, slightly sweet version, peel a couple of cloves of garlic. Before boiling the potatoes, add the garlic to the water and boil with the potatoes. After draining, mash the garlic into the potatoes. For really garlicky potatoes, boil the potatoes as normal. After draining them, crush a couple of cloves of garlic and mash them into the potatoes along with the milk/butter/cream you normally use.

Ginger is native to China but has been adopted throughout Asia, India, West Africa and the Caribbean. Like garlic, its pungent flavor is used in many different

cuisines as a flavorful seasoning for foods. Ginger is pickled, candied or crystalized, is used in sweets, and is the main ingredient for ginger ale and ginger beer drinks.

Studies of ginger’s medicinal benefits are less substantial than those regarding garlic but ginger is widely used for nausea, motion and morning sickness, as an anti-inflammatory and, for many people, as a regular dietary supplement.

Ginger adds an aromatic and fiery flavor to foods. It has a “kick” factor that enhances mild dishes without overpowering the food’s taste. Many vegetarian dishes include ginger for the seasoning factor as well as the digestive benefits. Fresh ginger is essential to Asian and Indian cookery. It is used in pickles, chutneys and curry pastes and the ground dried root is a constituent of many curry powders.

Cooking ginger is almost always used fresh—then minced, crushed or sliced. Fresh ginger can be kept for several weeks in the salad drawer of the refrigerator. For the freshest ginger, select pieces that have a smooth, taut skin and are firm but not woody, moist but not soggy. Run a vegetable peeler or a teaspoon along the outside edges to remove the skin. To chop or mince, use a sharp knife; to grate, use a porcelain grater; to slice, cut lengthwise across the grain. If you don’t plan to use your ginger right away, cover it tightly with saran wrap and freeze it up to 6 months. When ready to use, grate, chop or slice it frozen to make it easier to handle.

For a great starter to a dinner gathering, serve the Lime-Ginger Coolers and the Shrimp Toasts!

Garlic. Ginger. Don’t leave home without them.

—Jacqui Love Marshall lives in Danville with her pug, Nina Simone, and volumes of cookbooks and recipes. Her column runs every other week. E-mail her at jlovemarshall@yahoo.com.

RECIPES

Lime-Ginger Coolers

(makes 6)

Small ice cubes
12 dashes bitters
1 cup concentrated lime juice (preferably Rose’s)
6 slices peeled fresh ginger
Fill 6- 8 oz. glasses with ice. Add 2 dashes bitters and 2-3 Tbsp. lime juice to each glass. Top with 1/2 cup seltzer. Add ginger and serve.

Shrimp Toasts

(18-24 pieces)

This recipe uses both garlic and ginger and is a delight with cocktails or as an appetizer.

1 large egg white
1 Tbsp. rice wine

1 Tbsp. cornstarch
1/2 lb. raw shrimp, peeled and deveined
2 slices raw bacon, cut into small pieces
1 slice fresh gingerroot, 1-1/2-inch thick
2 scallions trimmed to 1-inch green plus white part
3-inch piece celery rib
2 Tbsp. fresh cilantro leaves, chopped
3 large garlic cloves
2 tsp. dark sesame oil
1 tsp. dark soy sauce
5-6 slices quality white bread, each slice cut into 4 triangles
2 cups peanut oil
1. Combine cornstarch and wine in small bowl. Stir well; set aside. Beat egg white until light and frothy, set

aside.
2. In a food processor, combine bacon and shrimp and puree until smooth. Add garlic, scallions, celery, cilantro and ginger. Pulse until vegetables are finely chopped. Transfer mixture to a mixing bowl and add soy sauce, sesame oil, egg white and cornstarch/wine.
3. Spread 1 Tbsp. of paste onto each triangle. Chill, up to 4 hours, until ready to fry.
4. Heat peanut oil in a wok to 360 degrees (or until a piece of bread turns brown when added). Turning often, fry triangles a few at a time until they are golden brown on both sides, up to 2 minutes. Drain on paper towels and serve immediately. Note: The toasts may be prepared ahead and re-heated but are best right out of the wok.

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Creative Writing	7/16-7/20	7/30-8/3
Presentation Skills	7/23-7/27	8/6-8/10
Computer Booster	7/30-8/3	8/13-8/17

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The 411



BY KATHARINE O'HARA

'AP can change your life'—for the better?

As Advanced Placement test time approaches and the nerves of AP course-takers quickly build up in anticipation of their impending exams, it seems necessary to examine the AP "culture" that has swept overwhelmed high school students off their feet all over the world.

The current generation of students applying to selective colleges has been forced into the AP scene, as college admissions officers—those who determine the fate of competitive college-hopefuls—advise students to take the most rigorous schedule their high school has to offer. At local high schools, this means students are expected to enroll in several AP, honors or advanced courses if they want any chance at getting into selective schools.

The College Board, which offers 37 AP courses and exams across 22 subject areas, boldly announces on its Web site: "AP can change your life," emphasizing that AP courses open students to a "universe of knowledge that might otherwise remain unexplored in high school" and to an opportunity to "earn credit

or advanced standing at most of the nation's colleges and universities."

"The only requirements," the board adds, "are a strong curiosity about the subject (students) plan to study and the willingness to work hard."

While AP courses do offer students a great deal of knowledge they could not get in a general education class, I fear that this notion of taking an AP course due to a "strong curiosity" in the subject has been lost among today's high school students.

Instead, I often find that many of my peers enroll in numerous AP classes, regardless of interest or plans to further study the subject in college, or even whether the course is appropriate for the student in question; after all, these are college-level courses. Instead of choosing courses based on these important factors, students select AP classes based on raising their GPA with weighted grades; what they think will get them an acceptance letter to an elite college; or what will allow them to opt out of certain lower level courses in college due to credit earned by receiving a certain score on an AP exam.

"I chose to take the AP U.S. History class and exam in order to get out of a history course I would otherwise have to take in college, as these courses will only cost more money and time in college," said Joseph Carozza, a junior at San Ramon Valley High School and prospective science major, who has little interest in U.S. history.

Though he did not take the course out of love for the subject, Carozza does address some important points. Taking an AP exam in a subject a student doesn't have a particular interest in, but may be part of a required core curriculum in college, allows that student to get that course out of the way, so they can focus more attention on the subjects they actually enjoy or plan to study. Carozza's statement also points out two factors, all-important to today's generation: time and money.

Currently, a significant portion of students are able to graduate college in less than four years due to the credit they accrued in high school from AP exams. This is not only appealing to students, but to their parents: One less year of school means one less year of ever-increasing tuition. However, I can't imagine this goes over well with the colleges and universities, who are losing money due to declining enrollment time per student.

Students enrolled in AP courses are not required to take the respective AP exam, though many might

ask, why take the class if you're not going to get recognized credit for it?

"Students should still take AP classes even if they don't take the exams because the courses challenge them to get ready for the next level of studying," said Marah Deininger, who is currently enrolled in two AP classes, but declined to take the exams in these subjects. "You might go through torture during the year, but it will certainly prepare you for college."

As AP test dates approach, I am beginning to feel increasing guilt about opting not to take the AP U.S. History exam, despite being in the class all year. Even though I am taking AP tests in three other subject areas, I can't help but kick myself over the fact that I have put hours of work into a college-level history class, yet voluntarily decided not to get credit for it by not taking the AP exam.

However, when I stop and think about it longer, I am led to question my dilemma and the warped system I have fallen victim to. Whatever happened to learning for the sake of learning? I selected the AP courses I am taking because I have a genuine interest in the subjects and because I enjoy being in an environment with students who aren't in class because they have to be, but because they want to be—because they want to learn.

When it comes to AP courses and exams, there are obviously a number of strategies and factors for parents and students to consider. Students should most definitely take rigorous courses, but within reason. When it finally comes time to decide whether or not to take AP tests, it is important to keep in mind that colleges are continuously raising the bar for what exam scores will qualify for students to earn college credit. As each exam costs \$100 (up from \$90 last year), and is accompanied by a great deal of stress and anxiety, it is definitely worth considering the likelihood of passing. Regardless, no student should ever feel shame about his or her personal decision. Each student's situation is different from the others, and thus requires thoughtful consideration in the best interest of the individual when making important academic decisions. And amid the stress and studying, it is ever important to remember the joy of learning, in addition to the grades, credit or prestige.

The 411 offers information and insight on the teen scene by Katharine O'Hara, a junior at San Ramon Valley High School who spends her free time going to concerts, enjoying her friends, and playing the piano. E-mail her at ohara5@comcast.net.

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Round Hill opens with a torch

Round Hill Country Club was dedicated by torching a gold plated chain in 1960. Pictured (l-r) are Art Honegger, Mel Whalen, Harlan Geldermann, Buck Connors, County Supervisor Mel Nielsen (with the torch), Joe Silva, Joseph H. Dwilla, John Sparrowk, with Bill Hockins in back with the bow tie. John Sparrowk and Harlan Geldermann developed the club, buying rolling ranch lands owned by the Mott sisters and Grover Squier. In 1961, club memberships cost \$1,700.

OF NOTE



Tony Carnemolla, Marge and Lee Halverson, and Exchange Club President Karen Stepper man an information station about child abuse prevention at Lunardi's Market.

Exchange Club activities

Members of the Exchange Club of San Ramon Valley participated in a "Believe in the Blue" National Exchange Club Child Abuse Prevention Project on Saturday, April 21, by manning stations at Lunardi's Market and the Farmers Market in Danville, and at Safeways in Alamo and Blackhawk. The Danville Police Department volunteers offered fingerprinting for children at two of the stations.

The Exchange Club will be dedicating Freedom Shrines at three San Ramon Valley middle schools on May 16, made possible by grants from AT&T, PG&E, Sharon Dare and Pacific Rim Recycling. The

Freedom Shrines project is a partnership between the Exchange Club of San Ramon Valley and the All Wars Memorial Foundation. The Shrines have copies of 34 of our country's most significant documents, including the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution to the JFK Inaugural and Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a Dream" speech. The middle schools are Los Cerros, Iron Horse and Windemere Ranch.

Alamo looks cleaner

Members of Alamo Rotary pitched in and picked up trash on the main roads of Alamo on a recent Saturday. The workday cleaned up Danville Boulevard between Hemme Avenue and Rudge Road as well as Stone Valley and Livorna roads between Danville Boulevard and I-680.

About 25 people participated in the cleanup, which resulted in two truckloads of trash. This is their way of giving back to the community, said Alamo Rotary members who participated.



Alamo Rotarians Elmer Glasser, Bill Humphrey and Diane Barley are part of the cleanup of Danville Boulevard.

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A movie review of what's

NOW SHOWING

by Jeanne Aufmuth

Movie review: Spider-Man 3

★★★

Rating: PG-13 for intensity and violence

Run Time: 2 hours, 17 minutes



Despite an overwhelming sensation of been-there, done-that, Tobey Maguire and company inject enough fresh material into Spider-Man's third outing to keep both fans and converts happy. Or happy enough.

It's business as usual for Peter Parker (Maguire) and lady love Mary Jane Watson (Kirsten Dunst). The duo is in a good space - Parker with plans of popping the question, and Mary Jane finally nailing down her thespian dream job. Even the city is happily enjoying a newfound crackdown on crime, thanks to it's favorite arachnid superhero.

That's all the goodwill to be had before the inevitable onset of doom and gloom. A beautiful star-gazing evening for Parker and Mary Jane turns "War of the Worlds" when a flashy meteor smashes to earth and oozes a slithery black slime that's clearly up to no good.

Across town, the hardened criminal who murdered Parker's uncle (Thomas Haden Church as Flint Marko) escapes from prison and, in one of the film's more arresting set pieces, has an unfortunate run-in with a scientific de-molecularizer that renders him rather, um, granular. Goodbye Mr. Marko, hello Sandman!

On a more personal note, Parker's best buddy Harry Osborn (James Franco) has a beef of his own, still hanging on to the belief that Parker was responsible for his father's death. A bump on the head, courtesy of a dumbed-down superhero conflict, erases Harry's memory and turns him into an amnesiac pussycat who's nothing but sunshine and light.

Like all comic films worth their salt, Parker gets a brand-new nemesis in hotshot Daily Bugle photographer Eddie Brock (Topher Grace), whose fall from grace at Parker's hands means revenge is just a special effects unit away.

There are moments, in particular those involving the aforementioned black slime (actually an evil symbiote that bonds to a host for survival), that work like a charm. Parker gets up close and personal with the sticky stuff, which produces an unnaturally aggressive Spider-Man and Parker as an egocentric chick-magnet with Saturday Night Fever swagger. The effect is priceless, offering Maguire a chance to strut his stuff both literally and figuratively.

Dunst isn't so blessed, stuck with a one-note role that she phones in with little pizzazz and a surplus of female anxiety.

How far to go to ensure that "Spider-Man" can hang onto its blockbuster cache yet retain its core values and keep the diehard fan boys happy? That's the predicament facing "3" - an overly-ambitious mishmash of styles and concepts that ebb and flow and try—too hard—to please everyone.

Yet the concept of dark-side duality is well-crafted, both the Parker/Spider-Man struggle and Parker's tangled relationships with friends and family. This very human element is critical in offsetting some silly superhero battles and an over-the-top finale that leaves lingering languor in its wake. Oh, what a tangled web we weave.

—Jeanne Aufmuth

For more movie reviews or local show times,
go to www.DanvilleWeekly.com

Eight girls headed for Tech Trek

The Danville-Alamo Branch of the American Association of University Women has selected eight girls in the seventh grade to attend the 2007 Tech Trek at Mills College from June 24-30:

- Stone Valley Middle School: Mackenzie Bailey, Erica Bender, Eleanor Ross
- Diablo Vista: Kyla Aiuto, Adde (Austin) Carrington
- Charlotte Wood: Nisha Dalvie
- Los Cerros: Nicole Rideout, Samantha Scizak
- Alternate, from Diablo Vista: Danielle Yee

Tech Trek is a weeklong summer math and science camp for middle school girls who have completed seventh grade that features hands-on activities in math, science and related fields. Instructors include credentialed middle school teachers and women currently engaged professionally in science, math and technology fields.

Campers attend core classes and mini-labs during the day, and evening programs in fields such as astronomy, engineering, marine biology and environmental studies. Highlighting the activities will be a field trip to the Chabot Space and Science Center.

AAUW California has supported Tech Trek Camps since the first camp at Stanford University in 1998. There are now six camps in California, including the Mills College campus camp, sponsored by the Danville-Alamo Branch.

Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Author Visit

Children's Author Day The Polka Dot Attic will host "Children's Author Day" with seven children's authors, including Elisa Kleven from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, May 12, at the Polka Dot Attic, 411 Hartz Ave., Danville. Call 838-8004 or visit www.thepolkadotattic.com.

Classes

Focus on Investment Fundamentals Learn how to use stocks, bonds and mutual funds to achieve your investment goals from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, May 17, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Cost is \$25. Call 314-3400 or visit <http://econnect.ci.danville.ca.us>.

Clubs

Alamo Women's Club This club will host their yearly scholarship tea honoring deserving students from Monte Vista and San Ramon high schools, as well as a returning student from DVC at noon, Wednesday, May 23, at the Clubhouse, 1401 Danville Blvd., Alamo. This event is free. Call 878-5200.

Amador Valley Quilters Silent Auction This annual fundraising event allows members to bring home "gently used" tools, books and notions, or rebuild their fabric stash from 1:30-3:30

New museum exhibit opens tomorrow

Join your friends and neighbors for lemonade and cookies from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. tomorrow, May 12, and see what has been found in the Museum of the San Ramon Valley's Attic. Historic clothing, photographs, tools, and documents will be on display during this exhibit of rare items from the Museum's collections through May 31. The museum is located at 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. Call 837-3750 or go to www.museumsv.org.

p.m., Saturday, May 12, at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Visit www.amadorvalleyquilters.org.

Diablo Bonsai Club This club will meet for a lecture and workshop on planting and raising bonsai trees from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 16, at Heather Farms Garden Center, Upper Room, 1540 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. Call 736-9157.

Leads Group for True B2B Business Developers B2B Power Exchange is a leads group for people who sell to corporate decision makers and will meet from 8-10:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 15, at Marie Calendar's, 1101 S California Blvd., Walnut Creek and on Thursday, May 17, at Mimi's Cafe, 4775 Hacienda Dr., Dublin. Cost is \$35 for nonmembers, including breakfast; prepay by Friday, May 11. Call 201-3410.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 75 The organization meets every second Thursday of the month at Danville Veteran's Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. For information, call Post Commander Mac McCuskey at 837-2740 or visit www.vfw.org.

Concerts

Diablo Symphony Orchestra Brazzissimo, a Bay Area brass ensemble, Joyce Johnson Hamilton and the Diablo Symphony will be in concert at 2 p.m., Saturday, May 12, at the Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$12, \$20, \$22. Call 943-7469 or visit www.leshercenter.org.

Events

'Ferrari' Blackhawk Museum presents "Ferrari" with Ed Gilbertson and Patrick Ottis from 10:15 a.m.-noon, Saturday, May 12, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors and children under six and active military personnel or free. Call 736-2280 or visit www.blackhawkmuseum.org.

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CALENDAR

Art and Craft Show from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday-Saturday, May 11-12 and from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, May 13, at Alamo Plaza Shopping Center, 3157 Danville Blvd., Alamo.

Create New Works at Danville Estate of Playwright O'Neill Bay Area artists are invited to create new works 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., October 3-6, at the Tao House. Cost is \$5 per day. Reservations are required, call Bill Carmel at 820-1818 or visit www.eugeneoneill.org.

Fourth Annual Antique Road Show Blackhawk Museum Guild presents the fourth annual Antique Road Show from noon-4 p.m., Sunday, May 20, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Items will be verbally appraised for a donation of \$15 per item. Proceeds will benefit the Museum's Children's Education and Transportation Fund. Call 736-2280.

Fourth Annual Muscle Car, Hot Rods and Art Fair Hats Off America

will host the fourth annual Muscle Car, Hot Rods and Art Fair from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, May 19-20, at the grass field at Bollinger Canyon and Camino Ramon, San Ramon. Children are welcome, but no pets. Call 855-1950 or visit www.hatsoff-america.us.

LIVE! at the Livery Danville Livery, Forbes Mill Steakhouse, Luna Loca, Patrick David's Restaurant and Ristorante Piatti will host "LIVE! at the Livery" from 5-8 p.m., Thursdays in May, at Danville Livery & Mercantile, Sycamore Valley Rd. West & San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Cost is \$5, including a free souvenir wine glass. Proceeds benefit the Discover Danville Association. Visit www.danvillelivery.com.

Sheep Shearing Day San Ramon Historic Foundation will host a Sheep Shearing Day from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, May 12, at Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Enjoy the kids craft area, the farm and

a turn around the May Pole. Food will be available for purchase. Admission is \$3. Call 973-3281.

Fundraisers

17th Annual Blackhawk Food, Wine and Film Festival Danville/Sycamore Valley Rotary will host the 17th annual Blackhawk Food, Wine and Film Festival beginning at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, May 17, at the Blackhawk Auto Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. This festival is the Rotary's way of saying thank you to donors. Proceeds will fund the Rotary's projects. Call 831-0544.

A Walk to Remember Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa will host "A Walk to Remember" from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, May 19, at the John Muir Amphitheatre, 115 Tarantino Dr., Martinez. Cost is \$25 tax-deductible donation. Proceeds benefit the patients and families in care of Hospice.

Personal Sanctuaries Garden Tour Personal Sanctuaries will host the second annual Garden Tour from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday-Saturday, May 18-19, in the Danville and Alamo areas. Advance tickets are \$25, \$30 at the door. Proceeds will benefit UCSF Breast Cancer Research. The event will include a silent auction and tea party, and there will be a book signing with Susan Vreeland at 2 p.m., Saturday, May 19. Visit www.personal-sanctuaries.blogspot.com.

Seventh Annual Danville-Alamo AAUW Garden Tour AAUW will host their seventh annual Danville-Alamo Garden Tour including eight different gardens from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Friday-Saturday, May 11-12. No children under 12 please. Cost is \$25 if post-marked by May 5th, \$30 thereafter. For questions or tickets after May 5th, call 837-0826 or visit www.aauw-da.org.

Thrift Shop Promotions Assistance League of Diablo Valley's primary fundraiser will feature Men's Aloha Shirts, (May 11-12), Vintage Hats, Purses and Clothing (May 15-19), Bathing Suits and Bridal Wear (May 22-29), at The Way Side Inn Thrift Shop & Costume Rental, 3521 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette. The shop hours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 838-0075.

Lectures

Publicity 101 The Danville Weekly and Pleasanton Weekly will host




Join us for brunch or dinner on Sunday, May 13th. Celebrate Mother's Day while enjoying an elegant meal in our beautiful dining room.

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CALENDAR

"Publicity 101" from 5:30-7 p.m., Monday, May 14, at the Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100. Reservations are required, call 600-0840.

Live Music

Annual Spring Concert Young Artists Symphony Orchestra presents an afternoon of Gershwin, Brahms and more from 2:30-5 p.m., Sunday, May 13, at San Ramon Valley High School Performing Arts Center, 140 Love Lane, Danville. This event is free. Call 381-9581.

Miscellaneous

Host Families Needed Edu-Culture International (ECI) is looking for host families for students from France and Spain this summer from June 29-July 29 and July 7-July 31. Host families provide room, board and a loving environment. Students are fully insured and bring their own spending money. For information, e-mail Dawn at garlieb@sbcglobal.net.

On Stage

'Eugene O'Neill Playwrights' Theater Performances Eugene O'Neill Playwrights' Theater at Tao House presents "Now I Ask You" at 3 p.m., Sunday, May 20, at the Old Barn at Tao House. Call 820-1818.

Sondheim's 'Putting It Together' Role Players Ensemble Theatre presents "Putting It Together" at 8 p.m., Thursdays-Saturdays and 2 p.m., Sundays through May 12, at Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$18-24, \$15 for groups more than 10. To purchase tickets call 314-3400, visit www.villagetheatre-shows.com or the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St.

Political Notes

Iraq Peace Forum Seven diverse speakers headline a Peace Forum, sponsored by Resolution Peace, with guest speaker, Scott MacDougall from 1-4 p.m., Saturday, May 12, at IBEW Meeting Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. This event is free. Call 831-8355 or visit www.ResolutionPeace.org.

Recreation

Beginner and Intermediate Bike Ride Mel Corcoran will host a ride to Borgess Ranch and loop back via Shell Ridge from 9-10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 12, meeting at Macedo Ranch Staging Area, north end of Green Valley Rd., Alamo. Rain cancels. Call 820-9737 or email melcorcoran@yahoo.com.

Chaparral Spring - Heritage Tree Join Burt and Julie for this 3-4 hour loop, especially if you are interested in adopting or visiting a heritage tree or grove on Sunday, May 13. Bring your kids. Rain cancels. Email smdinfo@savermountdiablo.org.

Falls Loop Trail Join Sharon Walters to celebrate spring with a beautiful hike to the waterfalls of Mt. Diablo from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, May 12, meeting at MDSP Donner Creek and Back Creek, Clayton. Carpool will meet at 8:15 a.m., at Green Valley Elementary, Green Valley Rd., Danville. Heavy rain cancels. Call 820-3102.

Spiritual

Mother's Day Retreat San Damiano Retreat invites mothers to the annual Mother's Day Retreat from 4 p.m.-11 a.m., the weekend of May 11-13, at San Damiano Retreat, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. The theme is "Lessons & Graces of Motherhood." Cost is \$190 private room, \$160 shared room. Call 837-9141 or visit www.sandamiano.org.



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Pleasanton, Community-wide 2255 Segundo Ct, May 19, 8am-3pm
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Real Estate

803 Duplex
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805 Homes for Rent
 Dublin, 1 BR/1 BA - \$1,300.00
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Danville, 4 BR/2.5 BA
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Danville, 4 BR/3 BA - \$1,199,950

Pleasanton, 2 BR/1.5 BA - \$409,000

Pleasanton, 3 BR/2.5 BA
 Go to www.5328brookside.com to "see and hear" a 39-photo interactive slide tour of this incredible, fully-remodeled townhome in Pleasanton's premier town-home community. You can also download a detailed pdf-formatted sales flyer at that web page. Open Sat-Sun, 1-4 PM. Perfect location next to trails, greenbelt, close to HOA pools & tennis courts. Large private yard. Call Jackie at (925) 846-1234 for information & assistance.

Pleasanton, 4 BR/4+ BA
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San Ramon, 1 BR/1 BA - \$369000

San Ramon, 4 BR/3 BA - \$1,129,900

San Ramon, 4 BR/3 BA - \$1,129,900

San Ramon, 5+ BR/4+ BA - \$1275000



Santa Cruz, 5+ BR/4+ BA
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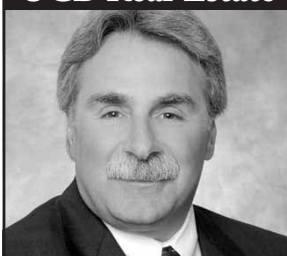
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Group Exercise Going Strong at Fitness Center Designed for Women

San Ramon - Pleasanton



You've got to check this out! Whether your looking for that calorie burnin', adrenaline charging, high level workout or the serenity of yoga and pilates, this is without question the "hottest spot" in the Valley for women's group exercise programs. Butterfly Life is where you will find the best professionally trained and nationally certified instructors. "We are different from other clubs, because we solely design our workouts to cater to helping a women's body. We understand want women want and what women need. Best of all we know how to have fun!" says Robin Weiss, Director of Group Exercise for these two clubs.

Butterfly Life offers a wide variety of classes designed to provide women the best in cardiovascular conditioning, strength training, and flexibility. With over 80 live classes offered between the San Ramon and Pleasanton locations, there is always something available to meet your taste in group exercise. "I love this club, the group classes and instructors are exceptional, and the best part is that the classes are included in the membership" says Maggie a member who drives over 15 miles to attend this

gym. "There is nothing like it anywhere else, I'd drive further if I had to".

Here is a unique twist, if you attend the gym at a time when live classes are not in session, Butterfly Life has a unique Life Vision System that allows you to take any class via there huge 80" high definition screen.

"All of our classes are designed for women of all fitness levels. We strive to provide a fun, safe, welcoming and non-competitive environment for all participants. Changes and enhancements are based on member feedback and the latest in exercise science research. Between the motivating music, camaraderie of participants, dynamic workout styles and incredible results, you'll get hooked on exercise at Butterfly Life" promises Robin.

"It is amazing that we have this type of gym in our area, I feel very fortunate, I've moved a lot in the past twenty years, and this is the first time I have been a member of a gym that makes me feel special, a gym where the owner calls you to see how things are going and she even sent me a birthday gift this year." says

Doreen, a regular attending member from Pleasanton.

The other great by-product of the Butterfly Life group exercise experience is that it is a wonderful way to make new friends. "You can't help but make new friends, the great thing about the women at Butterfly Life is that there is no self pretense here, women here are friendly and supportive of each other" says Kathy, owner of Butterfly Life. "I just love our instructors, I personally take many classes during the week, so I can get a great workout and meet our members" Kathy adds.

Another area that makes this fitness experience unique, is the education opportunity it provides to it's members. Through an innovative approach, Butterfly Life brings to its members, seminars on Nutrition, Health, and Fitness. They bring this information to its members through Life Vision. Life Vision is a presentation tool that allows the members to educate themselves about the various topics important to women. The other way members can get educated and motivated at the same time is through the extensive team of certified personal trainers. The trainers at Butterfly Life are trained specifically to deal

with fitness as it relates to women. The best way to put it is, "its women helping women".

Exercising is not a chore at Butterfly Life, its fun. "It is amazing how time flies while I'm here" says member Heidi Scott, "whether I'm taking a class or just working out, there are plenty of things that will make the time go by" In the cardio area you will find TV's with a variety of programs as well as the Butterfly Life seminars playing around the clock, you can even check out a book on tape to help you pass the time.

"We want our members to have a high quality workout experience. We want to help pass on valuable information but most of all we want them to feel comfortable and enjoy their experience so that they want to come back." says Kathy

Samples of classes being offered today are: Yoga, Pilates, Step, Kickboot, Body Sculpting, Line Dancing, Hip-Hop, Dance, Kickboxing, Power Pump, Fit Mix, Abs, Ball Sculpt, Ball Pilates, Boot Camp, Cycle and more.

So get up and get moving at a Butterfly Life Group Exercise Class Today!

Women Helping Other Women

Personal Training

What makes us unique is that we understand a women's body and the needs of women. Our training is specifically targeted towards the needs of women. "Our staff of trainers are truly passionate about women's health" says Marianne, long time trainer at Butterfly's San Ramon location. "It is knowing that we can make a difference in a clients life that gives us our greatest satisfaction." she adds.

Women have specific needs, they face issues specific to women. The training programs at Butterfly Life are targeted with these very issues in mind. Whether you just had a baby, dealing with menopause or osteoporosis, our certified trainers will design a program that is specific to your needs.

"My clients all have different needs, from training for a triathlon to just wanting to lose a few pounds and tone their body for that next special event such as a wedding or vacation. We are there to help them meet their needs in fitness and make them feel better about themselves." says Tina a long time trainer.

"A couple of the great benefits for us as trainers is that we are helping women lead healthier lives, and that many of our clients become great friends," says Marianne.

All of the trainers at Butterfly Life are nationally certified and have a significant amount of experience training women.



Marianne, Personal Trainer in San Ramon works with client on form

San Ramon

2410 San Ramon Valley Blvd

Pleasanton

3170 Santa Rita Road



Kathy Barney - Owner

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SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during April 2007

Alamo	Danville	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 3	Total sales reported: 11	Total sales reported: 16
Lowest sale reported: \$1,350,000	Lowest sale reported: \$515,000	Lowest sale reported: \$365,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,600,000	Highest sale reported: \$2,722,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,190,000
Average sales reported: \$1,436,000	Average sales reported: \$1,270,000	Average sales reported: \$673,344

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during April 2007

Alamo

14 Emmons Canyon Court
R. & L. McGee to M. & B. Finney for \$1,350,000

3159 Lunada Lane R.
Hutton to Keighran Trust for \$1,358,000

61 Vista Lane RDB
Investments to K. & S. Kinney for \$1,600,000

Danville

254 Ashley Circle C. Adams to E. & M. Go for \$515,000

2115 Carmenere Street
Lennar Homes to N. Beltran-Barrinuevo for \$980,500

20 Chestnut Place J. & A.
Lane to S. Yun for \$2,050,000

236 Gamay Court KB Homes to J. Choi for \$909,000

800 Luz Court S. Aitken to M. Justice for \$655,000

2459 Marsanne Street Lennar Homes to R. & P. Jain for \$1,296,500

3113 Martingale Drive
Ponderosa Homes to S. Chu for \$1,203,000

3119 Martingale Drive
Ponderosa Homes to K. & R. Dilworth for \$1,359,000

4 Ohlson Lane Blair Trust to Lathrop Trust for \$2,722,000

820 Orange Blossom Way
Beasley Trust to P. & M. Kruglinski for \$1,300,000

170 Westwich Street Conley Trust to R. & K. Kumnick for \$980,000

Walnut Creek

857 Autumn Drive Ruhter Trust to R. Chuarta for \$900,000

5913 Horsemans Canyon Drive #1C C. Reng to Rose Trust for \$499,000

2636 Jones Road #B
R. Nerona to A. Taylor for \$433,000

2356 Lariat Lane Kreps Trust to GMAC Global Relocation for \$932,000

3141 Lippizaner Lane Griffin Trust to D. & J. Wright for \$695,000

256 Los Banos Avenue C.
Kinney to G. & M. Lunsford for \$710,000

345 Masters Court #1
Fairways 340 Limited to D. Zook for \$375,000

357 Masters Court #1
Fairways 340 Limited to J. Serna for \$399,500

2597 Oak Road #F N. Cruz to C. & V. Pelletier for \$365,000

3476 Peachwillow Lane
Wagenet Trust to G. Smith for \$757,000

2725 Pontiac Drive Rhody Trust to D. Kaye for \$1,190,000

2721 Ptarmigan Drive #2
D. Meyer to Gallo Trust for \$640,000

1550 Stanley Dollar Drive #1A Hoots Trust to A. & C. Weinhold for \$549,000

4713 Terra Granada Drive #4A Bryce Trust to L. Carey for \$485,000

4377 Walnut Boulevard
Vanlaanen Trust to K. Herzinger for \$1,185,000

200 Whitney Court Pawley Trust to K. Siu for \$659,000

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DANVILLE WEEKLY

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

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DANVILLE

3 Bedrooms		
162 Lawnview Cir.	\$559,950	
Sun 1-4	J. Rockcliff Realtors	855-4118
263 W. El Pintado	\$849,950	
Sun 1-4	J. Rockcliff Realtors	977-8965

4 Bedrooms		
309 Greenbrook Dr.	\$1,059,000	
Sun 1-4	Assist 2 Sell	339-3500
1054 Hill Meadow Pl.	\$1,099,500	
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel	968-1452
718 St. George Rd.	\$1,375,000	
Sun 1-4	J. Rockcliff Realtors	451-7287
718 St. George Rd.	\$1,375,000	
Sun 1-4	J. Rockcliff Realtors	451-7287
5950 Bruce Rd.	\$3,998,000	
Sun 1:30-4:30	Alain Pinel	209-3451
269 Jasmine Wy.	\$995,000	
Sat/Sun 1-4	J. Rockcliff Realtors	788-6155

5 Bedrooms		
881 El Pintado Rd.	\$2,675,000	
Sun 1-4	J. Rockcliff Realtors	855-4115
29 Meadow Lake Dr.	\$2,998,000	
Sun 1:30-4:30	Alain Pinel	209-3451

2540 Caballo Ranchero	\$3,998,000	
Sun 1:30-4:30	Alain Pinel	209-3451
1901 Peters Ranch Rd.	\$5,998,000	
Sun 1:30-4:30	Alain Pinel	209-3451
315 Tuscany Ct.	\$1,649,000	
Sat 1-4	Empire Realty	217-3109

SAN RAMON

3 Bedrooms		
3032 Bernard Ave.	\$699,000	
Sun 1-4	J. Rockcliff Realtors	330-0579
6622 Aberdale Cir.	\$744,000	
Sun 1-4	J. Rockcliff Realtors	735-7653

5 Bedrooms		
650 Karina Ct.	\$1,275,000	
Sat/Sun 1-4	Re/Max	699-9099

WALNUT CREEK

2 Bedrooms		
48 Iron Horse Ln.	\$569,900	
Sat/Sun 1-4	J. Rockcliff Realtors	487-2629

3 Bedrooms		
2206 Gladwin Dr.	\$880,000	
Sun 1-4	Magbitang Realty	818-7070

DUBLIN

2 Bedrooms		
7456 Oxford Cr.	\$539,950	
Sat 1-4	Re/Max Accord	577-2600

3 Bedrooms		
7310 Croy Ln.	\$579,900	
Sun 1-4	J. Rockcliff Realtors	735-7653
5 Bedrooms		
5836 Turnberry Dr.	\$1,950,000	
Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel	583-1121

PLEASANTON

3 Bedrooms		
7425 Stonedale Dr.	\$589,000	
Sat 1-4	Ed, Hometown GMAC	455-7045

4 Bedrooms		
4269 Garibaldi Pl.	\$745,000	
Sun 1-4	Hometown GMAC	922-9822

LIVERMORE

3 Bedrooms		
376 Lee Ave.	\$569,950	
Sat/Sun 1-4	Alain Pinel	339-3077
1548 Calle Del Rey	\$639,950	
Sat/Sun 1-4	Assist 2 Sell	200-2602

4 Bedrooms		
5348 Hillflower Dr.	\$640,000	
Sat 1-4	Re/Max	828-7799
575 Brookfield Dr.	\$679,950	
Sat 1-4	Hometown GMAC	455-7020

5 Bedrooms		
3041 Talinga Dr.	\$1,299,000	
Sat 2-5	Alain Pinel	583-1121
2150 Calibria Ct.	\$1,400,000	
Sat 1-4	Prudential CA	417-2250
5581 Oakmont Cir.	\$615,000	
Sat 1-4	J. Rockcliff Realtors	735-7653

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E-mail: Vickie@VickieCarano.com
www.VickieCarano.com

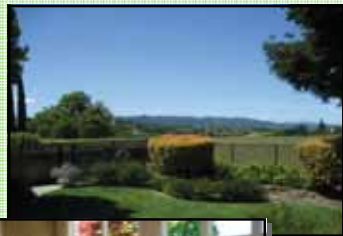


I won't just meet your expectations... I'll exceed them!

Just Listed!

44 Tennis Club Drive

Danville



"Tennis Villas of Blackhawk"

A must see! Elegant & stunning, over 3,000 sq ft, semi-custom home. Remodeled from top to bottom w/ top of the line materials including: Gourmet kitchen w/ custom cabinetry, slab granite counter tops & top-line appliances. "Andersen" windows & doors. Enclosed courtyard w/ Tuscan inspired, hand painted mural & tile flooring. 126 Bottle custom wine closet. Spectacular master suite features: Vaulted ceilings, custom cherry wood cabinetry, travertine counter tops w/ dual sinks, "Grohe" fixtures, heated tile floor & huge walk-in closet. Premium lot w/ breathtaking views, slate patio & built in Bar-b-que center w/ side burner & refrigerator. So much more!



Offered at \$1,369,000

Kathy McNichols
(925) 200-7200
kathymcnichols@mindspring.com

**Don't make a move
without us!!**

**For additional photos and virtual tour, visit
www.1team4u.com**

5 Jay Court

Pleasanton



Just Listed!

"Walk to Downtown Pleasanton"

Largest Town Square model, approximately 1,973 sq. ft. Spacious newer 4 bedroom, two story, detached home. Walking distance to charming downtown. Brand new plush neutral carpeting throughout. Fresh two-tone paint throughout. Inside upstairs laundry room. Spacious kitchen/family room combination. Pleasant custom covered patio, planters and fountain in good sized rear yard. Tot playground across the street. Former model features tile flooring, solid Corian counters, wood blinds & much more!!

Offered at \$849,950

Tom Ivarson
(925) 200-3600
tivarson@earthlink.net



J. Rockcliff



REALTORS

THE EAST BAY'S PREMIER
REAL ESTATE COMPANY.



BLACKHAWK

Elegant Mediterranean Gated Estate \$4,750,000

One of Blackhawk's largest lots: 1.8+/-acres. Perfect for entertaining w/dramatic entry, 5bd, 5.5ba, separate guest apt w/great room & FP. \$500K in upgrades.

Andrea Marcoulis

925.830.3999



BLACKHAWK

Breathtaking Storybook Home \$3,600,000

Extensive limestone detail. Master suite down plus 5bds upstairs. Volume ceilings, game room, library, dramatic kitchen, wine cellar. Circular driveway, 4-car, pool, spa

Mike Fay

925.838.2239



DANVILLE

Majestic Mount Diablo Views \$3,475,000

Exquisite creekside estate on a park-like one acre setting. This home boasts 7 bedrooms, 7.5 bathrooms, library, au pair/guest suite and more.

Mary Bonham & Chris Campbell

925.997.1787



BLACKHAWK

Gorgeous Blackhawk Estate! \$2,295,000

Spacious floor plan with large kitchen-family room combo, big enough for a pool table. Very large, open foyer. 4 large bedrooms plus library. Pool, spa, built-in BBQ.

Julie Whitmer

925.997.5120



ALAMO

Secluded Single Story \$1,449,950

3bd, 2ba, remodeled kitchen & baths w/high end quality features on over one-half acre. Extra out building being used as office. Gorgeous grounds w/pool & spa.

Dennis Harvey & Ju Dee Bell

925.855.4059



BLACKHAWK

Great Home - Great Value! \$1,299,800

Wonderful floor plan with 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, gourmet kitchen, newer windows, 3-car garage. Great location and overlooking the gold course.

Carol Erbert

925.736.1666



DANVILLE

Private Westside \$1,249,950

Mostly single story on over one-half acre. 4bd, 3ba, 3133+/-sf, kitchen remodeled with Corian/granite/newer appliances. Huge remodeled master suite. Views & pool.

Ju Dee Bell & Dennis Harvey

925.855.4022



DANVILLE

Vista Tassajara \$1,249,000

Largest floor plan in Vista Tassajara with 5 bedrooms, 3 baths and 3491+/-sf. 5th bedroom can be used as a bonus room. Large, premium lot, over one-half acre.

Karlyn Hunt

925.876.7089



DANVILLE

Beautiful Family Home w/Pool \$1,050,000

5bd, 3ba on level one-third+/-acre lot with newer carpet, paint, doors. 1bd/1ba down. Side yard access for boat/RV. An excellent value.

Pam Gaya

925.855.4049

Walnut Creek
1700 N. Main St.
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
925.280.8500

Orinda
89 Davis Rd., Ste. 100
Orinda, CA 94563
925.253.7000

Danville
15 Railroad Ave.
Danville, CA 94526
925.855.4000

Blackhawk
4105 Blackhawk Plaza Circle
Danville, CA 94506
925.648.5300

Pleasanton
5075 Hopyard Rd., #110
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925.251.2500

J. Rockcliff

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WWW.ROCKCLIFF.COM

