

Lights, camera, action

Bringing a bit of Hollywood closer to home > **page 15**

Vol. III, Number 47 • March 28, 2008

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Information please

New service up and running in Danville

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Danville

W E E K L Y

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

Teen marijuana use is up

Survey shows some risk for high schoolers

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It's not too soon to sign up for summer fun

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Summertime





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Streetwise

ASKED AT DANVILLE SQUARE

Q: What April Fool's Day joke do you remember?



My old recording contract for my band—The Slicks—said you get your own private jet when you go overseas. But we weren't really going overseas, we were only going down south—in a van.

Sean Barnett
sound engineer, singer



In Kentucky where I worked we had this stuff when you trash the car, foam comes out, like an airbag. We set up my car and went out and one guy got drunk. (We had a designated driver.) We suddenly stopped the car and yelled, "Crash!" and set off the foam, scaring the guy.

Michael Perussina
Army, air assault



I just remember old-school things, like stacking three or four rolls of toilet paper on top of the doorway so when you opened the door they'd fall down on your head. I played this trick on my brothers.

Stephanie Jackson
barista



We rent instruments, and sometimes employees call and pretend to be a customer and say things like they rented a saxophone and they drove over it and it's broken into a billion bits and they need it for a concert the next night. They totally change their voice.

Greg Kennedy
owner, Danville Music



At work, we stuck Post-its all over the walls and ceiling. It was at the old store. Then we had to take them all down. But it was pretty funny.

Greg Day
manager, Danville Music

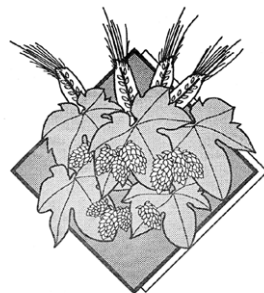
COMPILED BY DANVILLE WEEKLY STAFF

ABOUT THE COVER

San Ramon Valley Little League players celebrate opening day for the season, which runs through spring and the summer with postseason games. File photo by Chris Scott/www.calsportsphoto.com. Cover design by Manuel Valenzuela.

Vol. III, Number 47

The Danville Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville, CA 94526; (925) 837-8300. Application to Mail at Periodicals Postage Rates is Pending at Danville CA. The Danville Weekly is mailed free to homes and apartments in Danville, Blackhawk, Diablo and Alamo. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from local residents. Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50 per year. © 2007 by Embarcadero Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.



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the thought of...'

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ Hopefully we'll make
it better for the
next generation. ”

—Dr. Cyndi Atherton, an atmospheric scientist speaking
about alternate energy sources. See story, page 7.

Friday Morning with the Mayor

Danville Mayor Candace Andersen will be hosting her monthly Morning with the Mayor on Friday, April 4. This is an informal opportunity for residents to share their thoughts about town issues and receive a brief update about what is happening in Danville. The free event is held from 7:30-8:30 a.m. at Father Nature's Restaurant, 172 E. Prospect Ave.

Spring into art gallery on Hartz

The Alamo Danville Artists' Society (ADAS) is hosting its 31st annual Spring Gala Art Show tomorrow, Saturday, March 29, with a public reception from 4-7 p.m. at its Pioneer Art Gallery. The gala has juried in 79 talented artists, representing 134 works of art. The exhibit runs through April 26.

The group is also celebrating because it has received permission to stay in its gallery at 524 Hartz Ave. through at least June 30, until Brad Blake Ventures is ready to develop the property. The new gallery has been open five months and artwork sales are over \$15,000, part of which goes to school art programs.

Recycle electronics tomorrow

Universal Waste Management Inc. is holding a free electronics recycling event this weekend at Danville Park and Ride at the corner of Sycamore Valley Road and Camino Ramon. Hours will be 9 a.m.-3 p.m. both Saturday, March 29, and Sunday, March 30. It is open to all California residents and businesses.

Items accepted will be televisions, computers, monitors and printers, VCRs and DVDs, cell phones, telephone equipment, fax machines, toner cartridges and MP3 players. Microwaves will be charged a \$5 recycling fee.

Museum features farmer's daughter

Mildred Freitas, daughter of a local farmer, who graduated from San Ramon Valley High School in 1936, will be at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley tomorrow morning to talk to folks about living here when it was an agricultural community. Freitas just donated her grandfather's saddle from the 1890s to the Museum.

The event, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., is part of the current exhibit, "Agriculture, For a Century, the Business of the Valley," which runs through May 10. The Museum is located at 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. Call 837-3750.

Danville offers summer employment

The Town of Danville is recruiting for a variety of part-time staff positions in the areas of Youth Development and Aquatics. Many summer employees are able to come back year after year, and gain valuable experience and skills. Call the Jobs Hotline at 314-3379.

'Lend a Hand' to help out neighbors

The Town of Danville and Community Presbyterian Church will "Lend a Hand" from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, April 26, to neighbors in need. The event is now in its fifth year and usually has about 200 volunteers who provide no-cost yard cleanup and minor home repairs for seniors and families with limited resources.

To receive help, or to volunteer for a work crew, contact Jenn Overmoe at 314-3491. Forms also are on the town's Web site and at the Veterans' Memorial Building, 400 Hartz Ave. Return applications to Overmoe by April 7.

Corrections The story March 14 on candidates for Assembly District 15 competing in the June 3 primary should have listed Republicans Scott Kamena of Livermore, Judy Lloyd of Danville, Robert Rao of Livermore and H. Abram Wilson of San Ramon. Democrats are Joan Buchanan of Alamo and Theodore Ford of Walnut Creek.



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Life After Prostate Cancer

Free Educational Seminar



The Prostate Cancer Support Group at San Ramon Regional Medical Center invites the community to learn about issues related to life after prostate cancer. Many men experience urinary incontinence and impotence following prostate cancer treatment. Our board-certified urologist, Parminder Sethi, M.D., will discuss surgical and non-surgical treatments of these side-effects. Family risk is another concern. Dr. Sethi will discuss the risk of prostate cancer in sons, brothers and other close relatives. He will explain when male relatives should seek screening and testing for the cancer. The physician will be prepared to answer questions on other medical topics related to life after prostate cancer. Partners and family members are invited and encouraged to attend. The Prostate Cancer Support Group meets the second Tuesday of the month from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., and the community is welcome to attend at no charge.

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Pot more popular with 11th-graders

Local students below state average in drug usage—until the junior year

by Geoff Gillette

While an annual survey on the usage of alcohol and drugs in the school district shows a downward trend, 11th-grade marijuana use is up.

Members of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District Board were presented with the annual California Healthy Kids report at their meeting last week.

“Any school that receives tobacco prevention funds is required to give a survey of usage,” said Scott Gerbert, district Program and Grant Coordinator. “This district since 1999 has made the decision to give that survey every year.”

The Healthy Kids survey is done annually in compliance with Title IV Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities funding, said Gerbert. The survey gathers data from several different school levels on physical activity, nutrition and usage of alcohol, tobacco and drugs.

The survey was given to students in the fifth, seventh, ninth and 11th grades this year, and Gerbert said annual numbers continue to show a downward trend in usage of alcohol and drugs, even while the number of respondents has increased. Surveyed were 1,381 fifth-graders; 1,572 seventh-graders; 1,367 ninth-graders; and 1,408 11th-graders. Students were asked a wide variety of questions regarding their habits.

Gerbert said the three younger age groups are well below the state averages both for lifetime usage and what the students did in the past 30 days. Those two benchmarks are included to show the percentage of students who are just now beginning to experiment with these substances as opposed to those who have been using or exposed to them for a longer period of time.

Seventh-graders in particular were well below state averages.

“In almost every area, seventh-graders are 50 percent below the state average,” said Gerbert.

Eleventh-graders, on the other hand, seemed to be an area of concern. Survey results showed that almost across the board, 11th-graders are at or above state averages for lifetime usage of tobacco, alcohol and marijuana. And in the last-30-days category, marijuana usage showed a significant increase over the fall 2005 figures.

In 2005, 19 percent of respondents said they had tried marijuana in the past 30 days, while in fall 2007, that number was 24 percent.

School Board Vice President Joan Buchanan said she thinks this may be an indicator that prevention programs are not proving to be as effective as hoped.

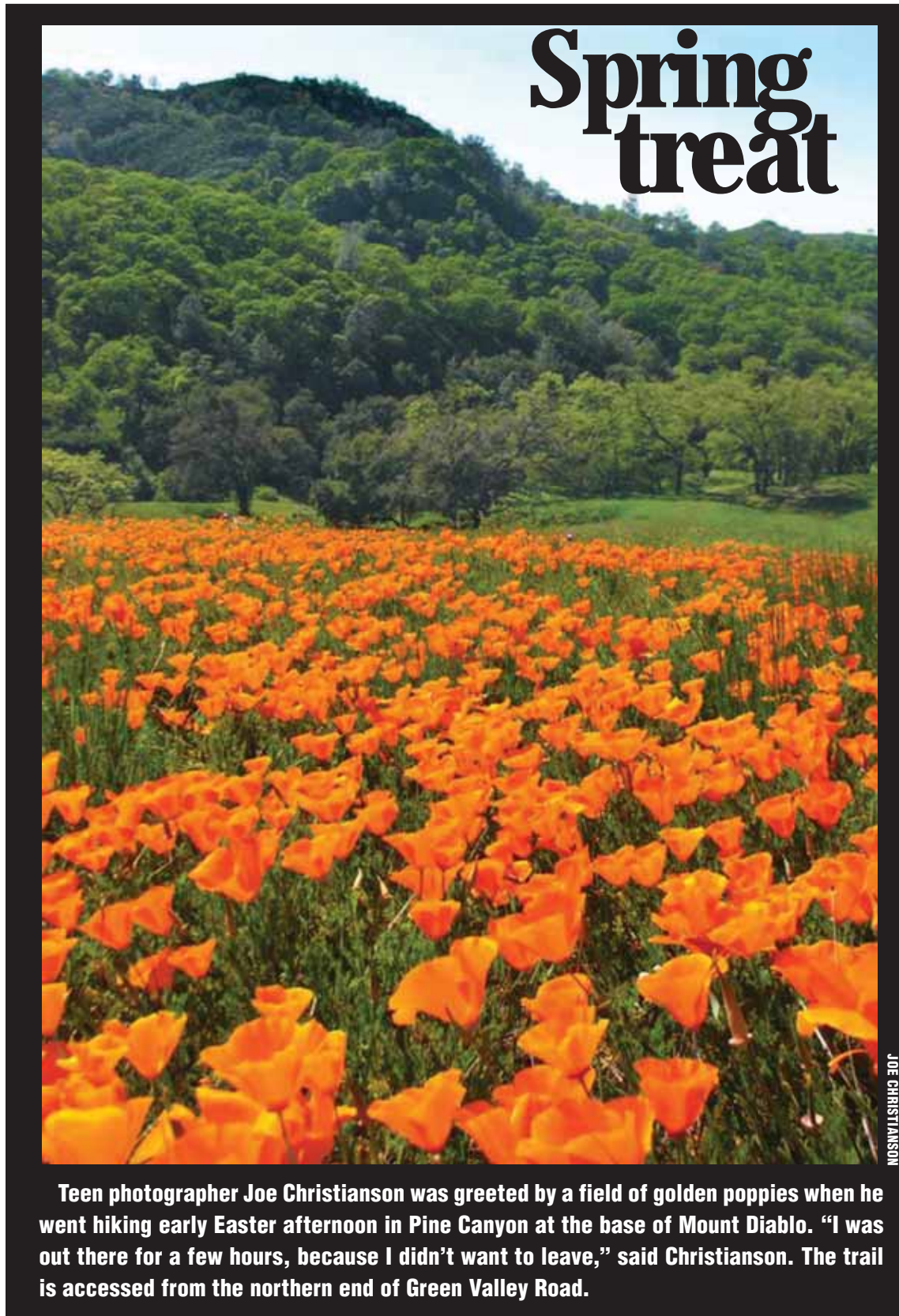
“Our kids are in a lot more sheltered environment than a lot of kids. What I’ve seen is that by the 11th grade, kids are at the average,” she said. “Clearly the long term impact of the programs is not there. That’s the general conclusion you can draw from this.”

Gerbert said he feels environmental factors also play into these figures.

“They have transportation, they are expanding their influence as to what they can get to,” he said about 11th-graders. “A lot of adults see them as young adults; they have a lot of the same pressures as adults. Kids are starting to experiment a bit more, they’re getting out more. I’d like to see us doing some more support things at the 11th and 12th grade level. I’m not sure where to do that, but I’d like to see it happen.”

Trustee Rachel Hurd said that programs have changed, but the long term effects remain to be seen

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Teen photographer Joe Christianson was greeted by a field of golden poppies when he went hiking early Easter afternoon in Pine Canyon at the base of Mount Diablo. “I was out there for a few hours, because I didn’t want to leave,” said Christianson. The trail is accessed from the northern end of Green Valley Road.

JOE CHRISTIANSON

Broken streetlights can be tricky in Alamo

Responsibility falls to county, PG&E or homeowners groups

by Natalie O’Neill

It’s tough to get broken streetlights fixed in Alamo, agree residents and officials.

Two out of five broken streetlights on Stone Valley Road near the intersection of High Eagle Drive were just fixed—after more than a year of being out. But three still remain out and residents say it’s unacceptable on the busy street.

“As far as I’m concerned, it’s a safety issue,” said Alamo resident Nadeem Tahir. In the winter, the stretch of road is dark during morning and evening rush hour, he said.

There’s a reason the lights have taken a long time to be fixed. In the unincorporated area, repairing street lights could be the responsibility of one of three different groups: PG&E, the county or nearby homeowners associations.

It’s tricky finding out which lights belong to whom. As the system is set up, the only way to track down who is responsible for a light is to obtain a serial number from the light post. Residents with complaints must do this before the county—or anyone else—can solve the problem. The pole numbers are in the form of white stickers and are roughly 8 feet off the ground. “The key is to get that number,”

said Tomi Van de Brooke, Chief of Staff for District 3 Supervisor Mary N. Piepho.

Light poles are not organized geographically or kept track of by community groups.

“It’s not that clean,” Van de Brooke said.

The two lights that were recently fixed were the county’s turf. County staff worked with PG&E to get the lights back on, according

to District 3 South County Field Representative Gina Ferretti.

The remaining three burnt out lights belong to the Alamo Highlands Homeowners Association, Ferretti said, which governs a group of houses about half a mile from the intersection of Danville Boulevard on Stone Valley Road.

Property manager for the HOA

► Continued on page 6

Need information? Dial 211

Non-crisis helpline saves 911 for real emergencies

by Meghan Neal

Town Council members got the "211" on a new phone service for Contra Costa County at a recent meeting.

Residents throughout the county can call toll-free 211 for information about community social services, Danville Emergency Services Manager Greg Gilbert told the council. The service launched last month.

"I think when it is fully activated, and the public is comfortable with the system, it's going to be a tremendous asset for the residents in the county," said Gilbert.

The idea is to encourage people to dial 211 instead of 911 for non-emergency issues like healthcare assistance, locating homeless shelters or senior programs.

When people misdial 911 it can be both life-threatening and an economic threat to the population, said county 211 director James Matyas. Every minute a 911 dispatcher is tied up with a misdial call, time is taken away from quick response to potential emergency situations.

Moreover, studies show that implementing 211 saved \$4.5 million to \$10 million in counties

comparable in size to Contra Costa, by reducing the time and resources spent on misdirected calls.

The time and resources are substantial: Studies also show that people looking for social services will call seven to eight wrong numbers before finding the right one—that is, unless they give up altogether.

"We link, guide and connect people to what they need," Matyas said.

Gilbert called the 211 program "another piece in the puzzle" for getting information to the public.

The service is also intended to play a crucial role in disaster recov-

Other N11 numbers

411: Directory assistance
511: Traffic information
611: Telco customer service
711: TDD relay for the deaf
811: Telco business office

ery by providing people with a central, simple number to call for help—rather than flooding 911 or digging up hard-to-remember 800 numbers. It was able to handle a multitude of calls in Connecticut when the World Trade Center was bombed on Sept. 11, 2001.

Contra Costa's 211 officially launched Feb. 12 but has been running in test mode since 2006, answering about 1,500 calls per month. Currently 41 states in the

U.S. have implemented the service.

The funding for 211 comes from private foundations, and the program is not completely supported for the future, said Matyas. Right now volunteers work the night and weekend shifts, but the goal is to secure enough funds for a fully trained staff 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

In other states, local governments have pitched in to keep the program up and running—something Matyas said he hopes will happen here as well.

"There's a gap in funding and we're trying to look for support from the county and the cities in Contra Costa," he said.

At the council meeting, Town Manager Joe Calabrigo said 211 may be the kind of program that the town would consider providing additional funding for, if it seems worthwhile. ■

Showcasing talents

Brody Luebke and Lauren Chouinard, juniors at Monte Vista High School, study a twin office building designed by Julian Lee to show "progress and harmony." It was one of hundreds of student projects created by high school students in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District and showcased at the annual Student Recognition Project Open House on Thursday afternoon at Oak Hill Park Community Center.

Projects were completed in 21 categories, both within and outside the curriculum. The efforts were judged by professionals in the business community with expertise in each category. The program is coordinated by the San Ramon Valley Business and Education Roundtable, to create collaboration among students, educators and the business community and to prepare students for the business world.

Categories included acting, applied design, architecture, automotive sciences, computer aided drafting, community service, computer science, creative writing, dance, entrepreneur, financial planning/investment, home economics, journalism, instrumental music, vocal music, photography, science and technology, video production, visual arts and Web design.



DOLORES FOX CARDELL

Streetlights

► Continued from page 5

did not return calls by press time to comment on whether they plan to fix the remaining lights.

It doesn't make sense for an HOA to be responsible for lights on a major street, Tahir said.

"I am totally amazed and find this completely ridiculous," he wrote in a recent letter to the county. "This is an abdication by the county of its responsibilities."

Alicia Watson, Alamo Landscape and Lighting Committee chairwoman, said she wasn't aware of the lights being out. No residents have showed up at the meetings to voice concerns about the street being too dark, she said.

The Alamo Landscape and Lighting Committee meets once a month at 12:30 p.m. at Hap Magee Ranch Park. Meeting schedules are available at www.alamore.org. Issues like this are the group's territory.

But Tahir noted that community

meeting times in the middle of the day aren't convenient for Alamo residents. Work kept him from voicing frustration at the meeting, he said.

"If you're not retired, a kid or a housewife you can't go to the meeting," he said.

Tahir moved to Alamo from Maryland about a year ago and noticed the lights out back then. He contacted the county and was upset to find it was his responsibility to get the numbers on the light posts in order to file a complaint.

"As a citizen, it's not my job," he said. "We are paying a lot of money in taxes. I don't know where it's going."

Once the number is obtained, in most cases, the streetlights can be fixed pretty easily, Van de Brooke said.

Residents with a pole number can report a broken or burnt out streetlight on the PG&E Web site by visiting <http://www.pge.com/myhome/customerservice/contact/streetlight/single>. ■

Two of a kind

Send us your mother-daughter look-alikes

With Mother's Day coming up, the Danville Weekly is holding a mother-daughter look-alike contest. If you and your daughter have a strong resemblance, send a digital photo, no larger than 1 MB, to editor@DanvilleWeekly.com by Monday, April 21.

The staff at the Weekly will choose the finalists, and readers will be able to vote online for which mother and daughter in the Danville-Alamo area look most alike. Prizes will be awarded for the first- and second-place winners. Photos of the winners will be published in the May 9 edition of the Danville Weekly for a happy Mother's Day.



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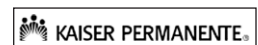
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Gore team member addresses climate change

Lab speaker notes dangers of low Sierra snow pack on water supply

by Meghan Neal

It's getting warmer, and not just because it's spring. Greenhouse gases are causing temperatures all over the globe to rise, and the repercussions are daunting, even locally.

Dr. Cyndi Atherton, an atmospheric scientist who participated in the group that shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore, spoke about climate change last week at the Shadow Hills Cabana in Danville.

"Most of you are probably more aware of climate change than anyone in the past," Atherton told the full house, members of the Danville-Alamo branch of the American Association of University Women.

She joked that half of them probably drove a Prius. Ever since the former vice president's documentary "An Inconvenient Truth," climate change has saturated public consciousness. It prompted an enormous "green" movement and a super-heightened environmental awareness.

Atherton spoke about the causes and consequences of climate change—a term she prefers over global warming since its effects go beyond rising temperatures.

For example, it can cause floods, droughts, changes in rain patterns and even cooling. However, scientists have found that the overall global temperature is rising, and will continue to rise.

"Even if we do everything we can right now we're still faced with almost a 1 degree Celsius increase

by 2100," Atherton said.

That's about 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit, and that number is modest. In certain regions the temperature increase would be much higher.

The biggest driver of climate change is the greenhouse effect, when gases in the atmosphere trap energy from the sun, warming the Earth's surface.

Carbon dioxide is the greenhouse gas that gets the most attention, Atherton said, hence all the buzz about CO2 emissions and reducing your carbon footprint.

But there are other greenhouse gasses contributing to the problem, too, such as tropospheric ozone, methane and nitrous oxide. There are some very tangible effects of the warming Earth. Glaciers are melting at an accelerated rate, causing ocean levels to rise.

Closer to home, there's the issue of the Sierra snow pack, which provides much of California's water during the dry season. If more water falls as rain rather than snow, the dwindling snow pack could pose serious problems for the state's water supply.

Also, scientists say that melting ice in the Northwest Passage—a shortcut between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans through the Canadian Arctic—may cause the shipping route to be fully navigable within a few years.

"Which brings about one of the things about climate change: It's not bad for everyone," Atherton said.

For instance, a farmer in Canada probably isn't going to be upset that it's a few degrees warmer outside, she said. "The fine line is, what is good and what is bad? And who decides?"

After bestowing a wealth of information on climate change on the women at the meeting, Atherton turned the focus to "what can we do about it."

"I think solar (power) is becoming more and more attractive to people," she said. "As they make that cheaper and cheaper we really owe it to ourselves to invest in that."

Wind energy is also gaining momentum, as are hybrid cars, compact fluorescent light bulbs, geothermal power, and alternative fuels like biodiesel and ethanol.

Still, only 7 percent of the energy in the U.S. comes from renewable sources, leaving lots of room for improvement, Atherton said.

"There's a lot of good minds doing a lot of thinking on this, and hopefully we'll make it better for the next generation," she said.

Atherton's studies contributed to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The group shared the Nobel Prize with Al Gore—whom she calls Albert—for its efforts to spread knowledge about climate change and identify the measures needed to counteract it.

More information on the topic can be found at the group's Web site, www.ipcc.ch. ■

Pot popular

► Continued from page 5

at the high school level.

"We replaced D.A.R.E. with Character Counts. But we haven't seen those kids come through yet," Hurd said.

Board President Greg Marvel asked if Gerbert could do some research into programs at other high schools to determine if there is a way to increase awareness and cut those numbers down at the upper levels as well as continuing

to keep those figures down in the lower grades.

Gerbert said that despite the trend at the 11th grade, he feels the results they are seeing are fairly positive.

"In general we do really well," he said. "Our kids feel safe on our campuses."

He added they can look at other programs as well as examine expanding the questions asked in the survey in order to get a clearer picture of issues affecting the student population.

In other action, board members gave the go ahead to district staff to

begin negotiations with Chartwells Dining Services to provide Food Consulting Services to the district.

Earlier this year, the district sent out for bids from providers for food services; two bids were received, one from current provider Sodexo and one from Chartwells. A committee of district personnel and parents examined the two proposals and came back with an endorsement of the Chartwells proposal.

Board members authorized Assistant Superintendent Mike Bush to begin talks with Chartwells for its services. ■

TAKE US ALONG

Touring Turkey

Phelps and Jane Eule reported they spent three wonderful weeks in Turkey last May with their Danville Weekly, as evidenced by this photo in front of the Blue Mosque in Istanbul taken at the beginning of the trip.

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Tiger, tiger, burning bright

My favorite cats are striped, and over the years, I've owned several. Of course no one ever truly "owns" a cat. I merely feed them, brush them and take them to the vet. And provide affection, strictly on their terms needless to say.

But zoos own tigers, don't they? We all had our tiger-consciousness raised following the Christmas Day tragedy at the San Francisco Zoo, when a tiger killed a man and was, herself, killed in return. People began to point fingers, noting that the tiger had acted out before, or that perhaps the young man and his friends were taunting the tiger. But one thing is known for sure: If there were no such thing as zoos, the man would still be alive. As would a magnificent tiger.

What a thrill it must have been to visit a zoo a century ago to see the animals only otherwise known through descriptions or drawings. Amazing creatures from Africa and Asia—elephants, giraffes, tigers, lions, hippos and more. Then—perhaps—zoos had a place in our world. But today, with all these creatures at our fingertips through excellent photos and films, is there really a need to keep animals displayed in cages? And what about animal acts such as Siegfried & Roy? It's wonderful that they have worked to preserve the rare Snow White Tiger, but what were the animals doing on a stage in Vegas, a place designed to discombobulate even humans?

I had a chance to play with some tiger cubs when I was living in Bangkok a few years back. I was writing a story about a woman who had an animal sanctuary in her back yard, mostly for gibbons that had been rescued from irresponsible owners, often outdoor bars. If they were young or severely traumatized, she often put a diaper on them and let them indoors. My story focused on six baby orangutans that were being smuggled through Thailand en route from Indonesia to Belgrade. Airport officials were suspicious that the crates seemed too heavy for the birds they allegedly held, so they investigated and found the little orangutans each curled in his own little compartment. By the time I saw them they were swinging happily on a gym set in the woman's yard, and they were quite affectionate, one wrapping his long arms around my neck as I held him like a baby. He had a



My husband cherishes his memory of wrestling with tiger cubs.

wonderful, sweet smell.

The woman also was temporarily giving shelter to three tiger cubs, playful little things that were also intercepted being passed illegally through Bangkok on their way to a zoo. They were little but even so I didn't get too close—their nails were long and their teeth looked sharp. I told my family about the tiger cubs and we made plans to return, but unfortunately we didn't go back until a month later. By then—guess what!—the tigers had grown, and so had their nails and their teeth. They were still playful as kittens but a tiger bite is a tiger bite whether it's delivered mischievously or because the tiger thinks you're a snack.

My daughter and I steered clear of the tigers; she even got into an empty monkey enclosure for protection. But my husband Jim bent down to play with them and ended up on the ground wrestling. The tiger cubs loved their jungle Jim. They were all over him, rolling on the ground, jumping and feinting, and trying to hold him with their paws. They began to bite harder and harder so Jim called it quits. At this point, his arms were all bloody and his shirt was lashed in several places. At home, we put antiseptic on the scratches and threw out the shirt. Perhaps there had been a danger there but nothing bad happened. And now he has the wonderful memory of wrestling with baby tigers, motherless, homeless cubs, but beautiful wild creatures nonetheless.

And that's the glory of housecats. They slink, they pounce, they pounce. They are like little tigers. But they are domesticated. They need us—and we need them. And they don't need to be behind bars.

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

POLICE LOG

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

Sunday, March 16

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on El Cerro Blvd. and Turrini Dr. at 12:37 a.m.
- Battery on Diablo Rd. at 3:23 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Railroad Ave. at 11:07 a.m.
- Petty theft on Serene Ct. at 12:32 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on El Capitan Dr. and Greenbrook Dr. at 12:44 p.m.
- Vandalism on Barringer Dr. at 4:29 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Danville Blvd. and Hartz Ave. at 10:02 p.m.

Monday, March 17

- Grand theft on Hansen Lane and Orange Blossom Way at 8:14 a.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Lawrence Rd. at 9:21 a.m.
- Drunk in public on Front St. at 10:58 a.m.
- Identity theft on Soda Place at 11:19 a.m.
- Grand theft on Sherburne Ct. at 11:20 a.m.
- Trespassing on Pulido Ct. at 2:06 p.m.
- Identity theft on New Boston Ct. at 8:49 p.m.
- Outside assist, arrest, on Danville Blvd. and Del Amigo Rd. at

10:44 p.m.

Tuesday, March 18

- Residential burglary on Sycamore Cir. at 9:01 a.m.
- Grand theft on Camino Tassajara and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 4:32 p.m.
- Petty theft on Sycamore Cir. at 6:03 p.m.
- Vandalism on Highland Dr. at 7:38 p.m.

Wednesday, March 19

- Accident, property damage, on La Questa Dr. and Via Hermosa at 8:26 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Tassajara Ranch Dr. at 12:06 p.m.
- Petty theft on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 1:53 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on northbound I-680 off ramp and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 3:31 p.m.
- Identity theft on Robyn Dr. at 4:16 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Kenwood Lane and La Gonda Way at 11:57 p.m.

Thursday, March 20

- Credit card fraud on Westridge Ave. at 12:04 p.m.
- Petty theft on Joaquin Dr. and Velasco Ct. at 12:10 p.m.
- Identity theft on Crow Canyon Rd. at 12:37 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on La Gonda Way at 2:54 p.m.
- Court order violation on Leonard Ct.

at 4:24 p.m.

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Ramon and El Capitan Dr. at 8:54 p.m.
- Vandalism on Gold Creek Ct. at 11:29 p.m.

Friday, March 21

- Auto burglary on Camino Amigo at 8:16 a.m.
- Identity theft on La Gonda Way at 10:16 a.m.
- Identity theft on Tuscany Way at 10:26 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 2:55 p.m.

Saturday, March 22

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on southbound I-680 and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 1:59 a.m.
- Vandalism on La Gonda Way at 8:26 a.m.
- Vandalism on Summerfield St. at 8:49 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. at 12:02 p.m.
- Defrauding innkeeper on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 1:18 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Brookside Dr. at 5:20 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on 3400 block of Camino Tassajara at 6:56 p.m.
- Vandalism on Estates Dr. at 10:34 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Charles John McQuade

Danville resident Charles John McQuade passed away Feb. 7 at the age of 95.

Born July 2, 1912, in St. Charles, Mo., he spent much of his life in Tulsa, Okla., working for the Corps of Engineers and raising a family with his wife, Mary Claudia. He served in the Naval Air Corps for three years as a Naval Air Instructor. He was honorably discharged in 1945 at the rank of Lt. Commander. He loved flying, learning at a very young age, and was flying Ultra Lights at the age of 70. He was an accomplished commercial photographer, loved carpentry, woodworking and small scale farming.

He was predeceased by Mary, his wife of 73 years. He is survived by two sons, William C. of Vero Beach, Fla., and John P. of Dallas; two daughters, Dr. Marilyn Miller of Toronto, Ontario, and Kathleen Beard of Danville.

A memorial service was held Feb. 26 at Wilson & Kratzer. Contributions may be made to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., Suite 100, Dublin 94568.

Robert Henry Engelken

Robert Henry Engelken died peacefully in his Alamo home Feb. 14 at the age of 86.

Born in Baltimore, Md.,

in 1921, he spent much of his youth in the South Bronx of New York. In Spanish Harlem he met Rosemarie Ramirez, from Puerto Rico. They married in 1942 and were married for 58 years and raised four daughters. She passed away in 2001.

He was a World War II veteran who served in the U.S. Marine Corps in ground and flight crew forces of the Third Marine Air Wing in the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre. He was honorably discharged in 1946.

He trained in nuclear physics at the Brookhaven National Laboratory and went on to teach at Princeton University. He worked most of his life at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and was instrumental in locating a division of it to the West Coast.

His projects and love for travel brought him to all the corners of the U.S. and the earth, including Antarctica and Lebanon.

He was a member of Castlewood Country Club and had a passion for golf. He had a keen sense of humor and was loved and respected by all who knew him.

He is survived by his daughters, Lorna Gelderman of Alamo, Susan Kilber of Arcadia, Roberta Morales of Tracy and Daphne Engelken of Salinas; his brother John Engelken and sister Dorothy Hetherington, both of New York.

Memorial services were pending; call Hull's Walnut Creek Chapel for information.

LaVern J. Morris

LaVern J. Morris, a resident of Danville, passed away Feb. 17 at the age of 91 after a long illness.

He was born in Hayward on Dec. 4, 1916, to Joseph and Florence Morris. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and served in World War II in the African and European theaters ending with the Battle of the Bulge.

Except for his four years in the Army, he spent his entire life around Hayward and Danville. He worked for the Postal Service for 36 years, retiring as the Post Master in Danville.

After retirement he and his wife traveled extensively.

He is survived by loving wife Ruby; two daughters, Janet Wiedrich (George) of Rock Springs, Wyo., and Vernetta Thompson (Scott) of San Ramon; son Steve (Evon) of Sunnyside, Wash.; step-daughter Yvette Supriano of Roseville.; step-son Ken Sandy (Dorothy) of Danville; 11 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

No services were held, per his request. Donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation.

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The Danville Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville, CA 94526; (925) 837-8300.

Mailed at Standard Postage Rate. The Danville Weekly is mailed free to homes and apartments in Danville, Blackhawk, Diablo and Alamo. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from local residents.

Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50/year.

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EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Learning lessons

The recent ruling in Southern California about parents homeschooling their children has sparked a state-wide debate over whether parents should be required to hold teaching credentials in order to instruct their own children. Hopefully more education would always make a person a better teacher but to evaluate whether a credential would improve a parent's teaching ability, we must consider its purpose.

Credential programs prepare teachers for work in a classroom. Students in credential programs for elementary school teachers learn how to instruct many children in many subjects, in classrooms where each child has his or her individual learning style. They are reminded repeatedly to consider that each child comes from a different home situation. Student teaching is an important part of the program, observing a teacher in action, working alongside the teacher, then taking over the teaching responsibilities under her tutelage. Credential programs prepare teachers to manage a classroom and, increasingly, how to deal with a multitude of cultures and languages.

Are these lessons necessary for homeschooling parents? Teaching a few children—especially when they are your own—requires an entirely different skill set. Here in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, homeschooling parents work with the district to make sure their children are following the curriculum.

To be admitted into credential programs requires an undergraduate degree and classes in specific subjects such as health and special education; usually 30 hours of classroom observation; plus passing the California Subject Examinations for Teachers. CSET tests writing skills and basic knowledge in reading, language, literature, history and social sciences, as well as science, mathematics, physical education, human development and visual and performing arts. Perhaps homeschooling parents could be required to pass the CSET to show they have good general knowledge and aptitude in reading and writing, but there seems to be no reason for them to learn skills to teach a varied population in a classroom.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Changes in policing

Dear Editor:

If anyone is qualified to rebut Mr. Fredricks (Letters, March 21) about the Danville police volunteers, it is me. I have lived in Danville for 50 years, and am a retired Contra Costa County Sheriff's sergeant who worked in Danville before incorporation and later when Danville formed its own department. We had no volunteer organization, but we certainly had a need for one.

I live two blocks from the Police Department on a quiet street and have been the victim of four thefts

was the equivalent of the Danville Weekly. In those days these thefts were usually done by local kids who were bored, not the case anymore.

Mr. Fredricks' statement about using "the Scouts" for parade duty would be excellent; however, with the civil liability issues today, we would still need volunteer adults to supervise.

In closing, regarding the remark that Alamo should be careful what they wish for with incorporation, we went through the same criticism during Danville's incorporation. Local control and decision making has turned Danville into the "gem" it is today. Alamo is a very nice little community, but it can become even nicer with more local control.

Tim MacHugh, Danville

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Parent photographers

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CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

That's my foot you're stomping Monte Vista High School junior varsity lacrosse player No. 25 Jarret Hassfeld pushes aside California High's No. 31 in a "clean hit" after getting his foot smashed in a game last Friday at Monte Vista that the Mustangs won, 13-0. Monte Vista varsity also prevailed, 9-1. See more photos at www.DanvilleWeekly.com.



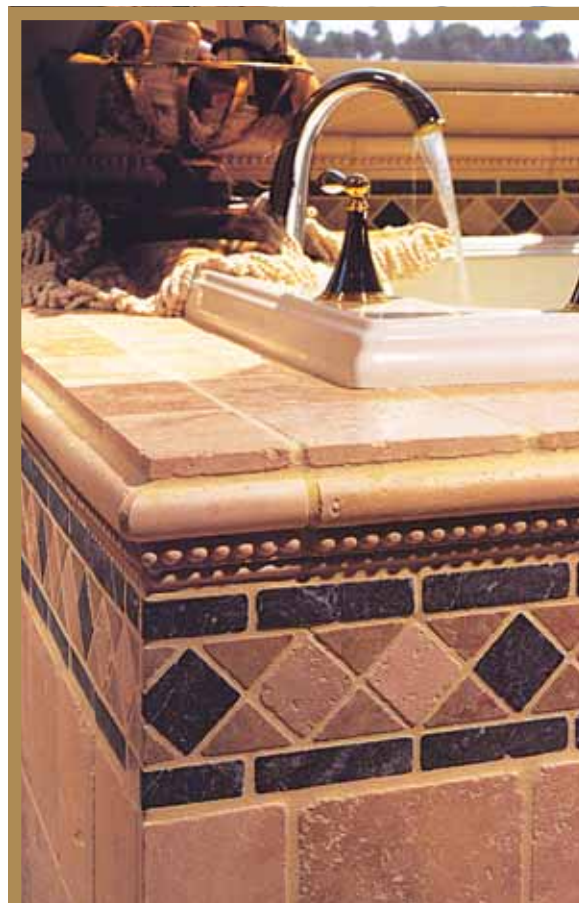
JEFFREY S. WEIL

Beginning at bat

Sandrina Conci-Valvassori, 5, of the Red Hot Chili Peppers is honing her softball skills in preparation for the season. The team is part of the San Ramon Valley Girls' Athletic League, a nonprofit organization formed in 1974 to provide a quality softball program for girls ages 5 to 18. The typical season sees 1,500 players in 120 teams with 240 coaches, playing almost a thousand regular and post season games.

PREP SCHEDULE

March 27-29	Tournament	p.m. at Crow Canyon
Men's Lacrosse Langkammer Invitational at St. Ignatius. San Ramon Valley at Powaway	Friday, March 28	Women's Lacrosse Monte Vista at Livermore, 7 p.m.
March 27-29	Baseball SLO Tournament Finals	San Ramon Valley vs. Cal High, 7 p.m.
Softball San Ramon Valley at Antioch Tournament. Monte Vista at Livermore Stampede	Monday, March 31	Men's Lacrosse Monte Vista vs. Livermore, 7 p.m. San Ramon Valley at Cal High, 7 p.m.
	Golf Liberty Tourney at Discovery Bay	Men's Volleyball Monte Vista at Granada, 6 p.m.
	Tuesday, April 1	
	Golf Monte Vista at San Ramon, 3	



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by Meghan Neal

Summertime

It's not too soon to sign up for summer fun

photos by Chris Scott
www.calsportsphoto.com

There's always sports and swim teams, but there's also chess, robots, musical theater and paintball.

With Danville, Alamo and the San Ramon Valley YMCA all offering a diversity of summer camps and classes, there should be no trouble finding one to suit almost any child's interests.

"I think we have a wide variety of opportunities for kids of all ages to participate," said Michelle Lacy, recreation services manager for the Town of Danville. "To learn new skills, meet new friends, get out and be active."

Danville gets kids out and about

Each summer the town offers a host of camps ranging from sports to theater to community service, for ages 3 through 18.

Most of the camps take place outside, in various parks throughout the area. Lacy said it's a great way to keep a "nature deprived" generation of youth engaged with the outdoors.

One of the most popular camps for children under 5 is the Little Peanuts Camp, which offers crafts, games and songs. At the Danville Day Camp—a classic favorite for elementary schoolers—kids do outdoor activities and, of course, spend time at the pool.

"Summer camp experiences give kids an opportunity to try new things in a safe envi-

ronment," Lacy said. "It keeps them busy—and out of trouble."

And speaking of trouble, there's a new camp this year specifically for teenagers, which Lacy said is unique.

"There's not a lot of opportunity for camps for teens," she said. "That's about the time you find kids not wanting to participate, and parents leaving kids at home, and (kids) trying out some of those boundaries and getting themselves in trouble."

The DesTEENation camp gives teens the chance to go to amusement parks, the aquarium, the zoo, on a safari, rock climbing, sailing, whitewater rafting, play paintball, fly on a trapeze and other adventures.

For those who want something a bit more philanthropic, there's the Summer of Service camp. High schoolers work on projects like beach cleanup and trail repair—plus team building activities and field trips.

"We have a number of kids in our area who really want to give back to our community," Lacy said, adding the camp is also a good way for teens to learn job skills before entering the "real world."

Education in the parks

Alamo Parks and Recreation's summer classes run the gamut. Sports fans can learn soccer, dance and gymnastics. Minds are kept fresh with French and Spanish language classes.

"Our program works with all ages, every-

where from preschool all the way up to (high school) seniors," said Victoria Skerritt, Alamo's recreation provider.

She said Alamo's Parks and Recreation committee tries to come up with unique angles for the classes it offers—like organization and finance classes for adults 25 and up.

"What we try to do is not duplicate what Danville is doing," Skerritt said. "This is kind of a newer program so we're just trying to find things that the community wants that maybe are not offered."

The classes are held at Hap Magee Ranch Park, Stone Valley Middle School and the Alamo Elementary School field.

"Participants enjoy the opportunity to take in the beautiful surroundings at Hap Magee Ranch Park as they socialize and learn new skills in their classes," Skerritt said.

Alamo Parks and Recreation will also be hosting its popular Summer Concert Series this year with bands playing free shows at Livorna Park. Danville offers its Music in the Park series at Oak Hill Park.

It's fun to play at the YMCA

The YMCA San Ramon Valley offers half-day specialty camps at Rancho Romero and Alamo elementary schools.

Camps are a great way for kids to meet people and create a sense of community, said executive director Kathy Chiverton.

Many of the camps have an educational aspect to them, like popular Lego camps,

which are taught by engineers.

The chess camp is a longtime favorite, too; this is the sixth year it's being offered. The camp is taught by Berkeley Chess School.

This summer the YMCA is offering a new Lego camp focused on "green" power. Kids can design and build machines powered by alternative energy sources.

Campers will race solar cars, build a wind-powered electrical generation facility, and invent a machine powered by stored elastic strain energy.

"Kids get to play with every Lego they could possibly imagine," Chiverton said. "They learn to build different structures and machines."

The Mad Machines and Robots camp is new this year, too. After designing and building machines with pulleys, wedges, screws and levers, the campers will also build a robot that they can keep.

"We want kids to stay active and healthy and learning all through the summer," said Chiverton. "There are lots of reasons to go to camp." ■

For complete camp schedule

Danville: Go to the Recreation Services page of the town Web site, www.ci.danville.ca.us/ or call 314-3400

Alamo: Call 876-0147, e-mail alamo@pw.cccounty.us or visit alamore.org

YMCA: Visit mdrymca.org or call 831-1100



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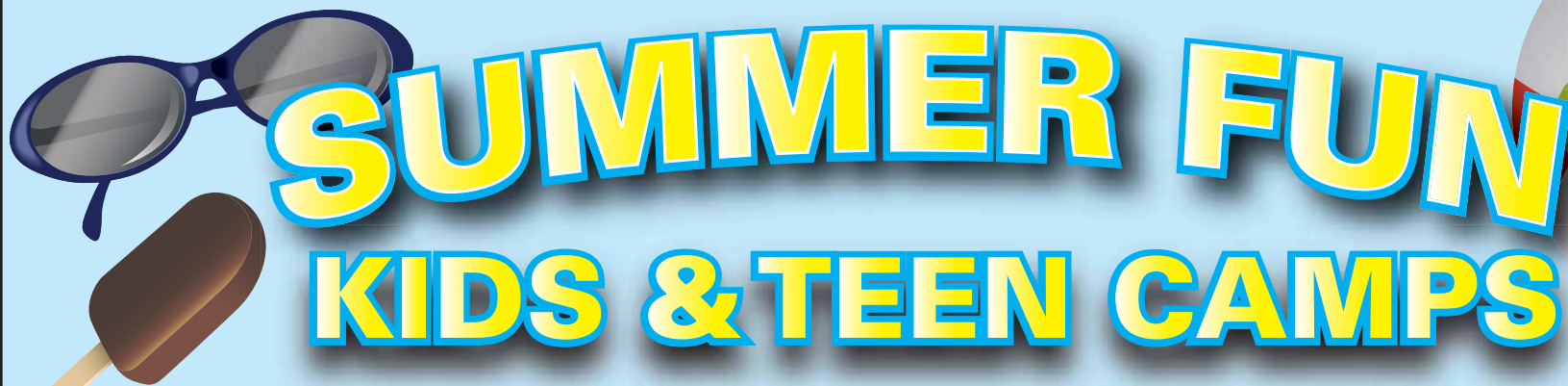
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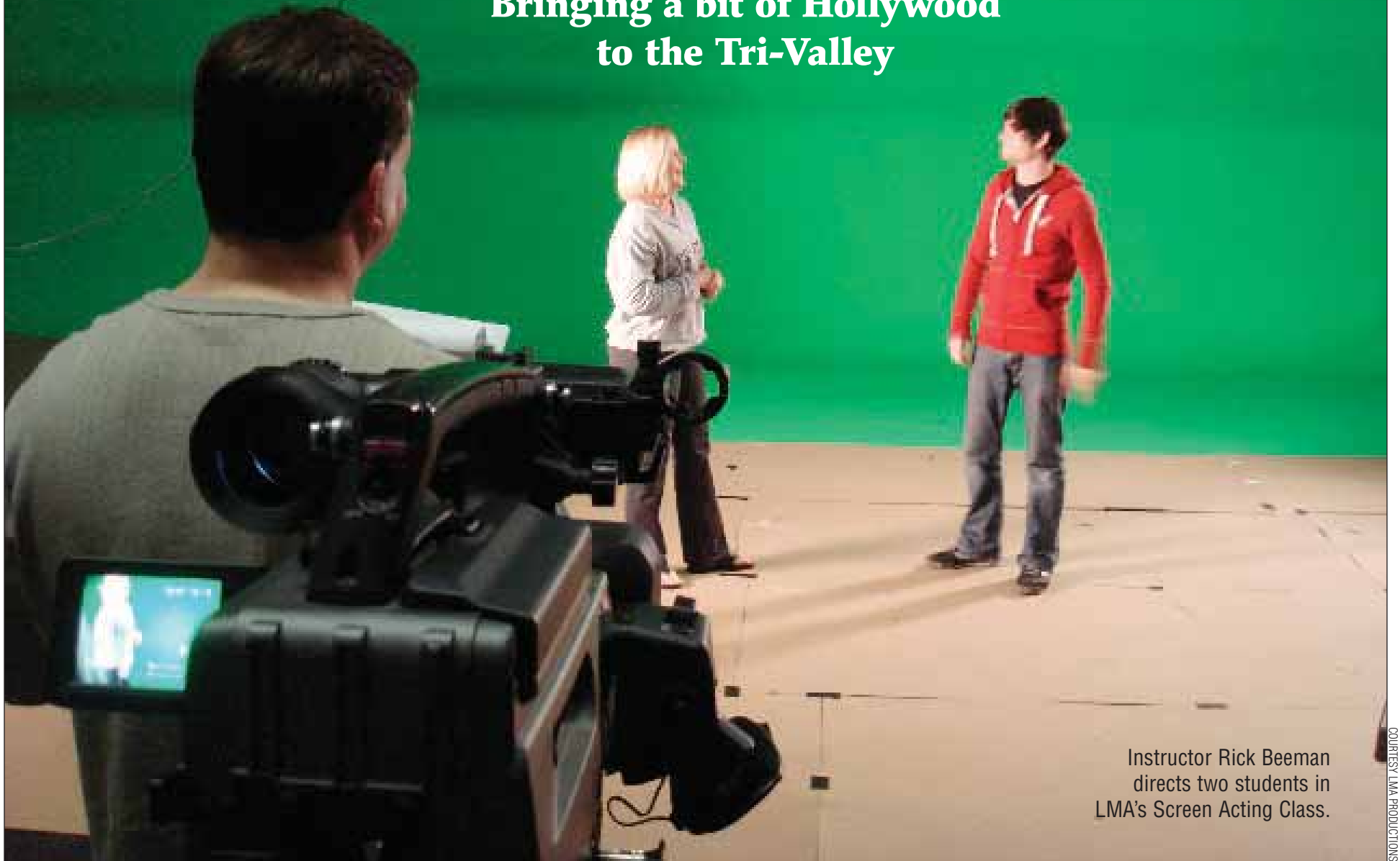
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LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

Bringing a bit of Hollywood
to the Tri-Valley



Instructor Rick Beeman directs two students in LMA's Screen Acting Class.

COURTESY LMA PRODUCTIONS

by Meghan Neal

It may not be Los Angeles, but the San Ramon Valley apparently has a hidden underbelly of talented actors.

LMA Productions is offering screen acting classes to the Tri-Valley area. The first wave sold out quicker than anyone expected, so they just added three more sessions beginning April 1.

The classes meet once a week for 10 weeks. Students perform monologues, improvisations and do scene work.

"There's a lot of talent that's untapped, and at the same time we're also trying to bring a little bit of Hollywood up to this area," said Rick Beeman, the instructor.

Beeman himself is a bit of Hollywood that's migrated to the East Bay. He's a veteran film and television director and has been teaching acting classes for years.

"Rick is like a little Hollywood director on steroids," said Danville resident Dr. Carmen Taran, one of the students in the class.

The students are a mix of seasoned professionals, intermediate level actors and people who just want to try it out. There are

classes for children, teens and adults.

Taran is a managing partner of Rexi Media, a company that helps people improve their presentation skills. She said she took the class because acting and presentation go hand in hand.

They both involve learning about body language, vocal variety, selecting the right words, and being comfortable with impromptu speaking, she said.

She likes making things up on the fly—the improvisation exercises are her favorite part of the class. She said it can be challenging, because you have to let your guard down and attempt to let a piece of you show.

"I think there's some vulnerability you have to show through in front of others," she explained. "You just have to get used to it. And of course that comes with practice."

Beeman teaches his students variations of "Method" acting, a difficult approach to teach and to learn. Actors are encouraged to explore their own emotions from their past and use them to bring realistic depth to their characters.

"It's quite effective," Beeman said. "The students just are eating it up."

Not only are the students reaching into their deepest emotions and displaying them in front of classmates, their performances are being videotaped, too.

Students watch the videotapes the following week for constructive criticism. They can see where their flaws are and where they can improve, Beeman said.

"It is scary," he conceded. "That's part of being an actor—facing and overcoming your fears."

He said a lot of students even find the classes therapeutic.

"You have to bring up past experiences, both pleasant and unpleasant. By bringing it out in front of an audience—there's something very freeing about that," Beeman said. "I had one student tell me last night, 'This is really cheap therapy.'"

The class' acting has already greatly improved since the beginning of the session, he said. But Taran pointed out that it's not just about learning. It's fun.

"In addition to cheap therapy it's cheap entertainment, too," she said. "I would recommend it to everyone who wants to stand out rather than fit in."

At the end of the 10-week session the actors will have their work showcased in an open house for friends and family. They'll also be given a DVD of their performances.

"We have so much talent in this area," said LMA Managing Partner Thaddeus Coberg. "There's no reason this area can't become more like Los Angeles or New York." ■

Learn to act

What: Screen acting classes from LMA Productions

Who: Kids, teens and adult classes available

Where: 1067 Serpentine Lane in Pleasanton

When: Beginning April 1, once a week for 10 weeks

Cost: \$500 for a 10-week session

Register: Call 417-1420 or visit www.LMAdigital.com

Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE

Dan Inman, Danville's founder

(Part 2)

Daniel and Josephine Inman began a family within a year of their 1863 wedding and eventually had seven children. Inman's life during the 19th century exemplifies many of the challenges and accomplishments of California's pioneer leaders. He farmed and experimented with different crops, was known as a generous friend, helped begin the Livermore Presbyterian Church, supported the Grange movement, opposed the state's railroad monopoly, and ran for office.

The Inmans moved to Livermore in 1865, splitting their Danville properties with brother Andrew by 1866. Dan's friend Jesse Bowles moved to the Livermore area in the 1860s, joining his brother-in-law William "Phil" Mendenhall. Mendenhall had once farmed in the Sycamore Valley and was another good Inman friend.

The Inmans soon settled in, buying 325 acres of farmland and becoming leaders in this new community. They later added 316 more acres and ran a diversified farm with stock grazing, wheat and vine-

yards. Less than a mile north of their homestead, the Inman District School was built in 1870 on land they donated for the purpose.

From 1867 to 1868 Dan Inman served on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. He next was elected to the state Assembly in the fall of 1869. According to J.M. Guinn's "History of California," he won "in spite of the fact that at the time the district was strongly Republican. However, his excellent record as a supervisor won him many votes from his friends among the Republicans of the district and he received a fair Majority."

He was no friend of the railroad monopoly which had such power in the state and, because of this, lost in subsequent efforts to return to the Legislature. In 1878 he was elected a delegate to the California Constitutional Convention which famously worked to defuse the railroad's power. A major goal of Granges throughout California was to control what they viewed as usurious charges by the railroads.

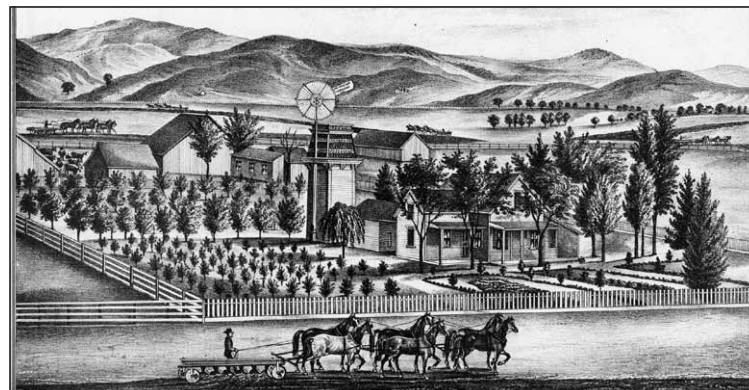
In 1874, Inman met with Danville friends R.O. Baldwin, Charles Wood and W.W. Camron to discuss constructing a narrow gauge railroad from Martinez to Livermore.

Indeed, Inman's political activities were mirrored by several Danville leaders. His brother Andrew Inman, Charles Wood and David Sherburne from Sycamore Valley, and teacher A.J. Young were all elected to the state Assembly. Sherburne also served as Contra Costa County Supervisor for many years.

After the California State Grange was organized, Inman became the first Worthy Master of the Livermore Grange No. 91 in 1874. He was active in the Grange for many years in many different capacities, including as president and manager of the State Grangers' Association and its store in San Francisco (1878-79).

His wife's family had helped found the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Alamo. The First Presbyterian Church of Livermore was organized on Feb. 12, 1871, with Jesse Bowles and Daniel Inman serving as two of the first five trustees. Funds were raised, and the first church was dedicated in 1874. Also in 1871, a Masonic Lodge, the Pleasanton Lodge, No. 218, F. and A.M. was organized. Inman was a proud member of this fraternal order all his life.

Inman was known for his community spirit and his willingness to



Residence and farm of Daniel Inman, Esq., Livermore, Alameda County, California; "New Historical Atlas of Alameda Co.," California, Illustrated, Thompson & West, 1878. p. 106

lend funds to friends, which sometimes led to problems. He signed a promissory note for the Farmers Union of Livermore, a Grange-related cooperative, and ended up liable for its debts when the Union went bankrupt in 1892. He faithfully paid off these and all other debts.

When Inman died in 1908, the Livermore Herald said his large funeral testified "to the great respect and esteem in which the deceased was held in the community. The expressions of regret over the demise of this worthy pioneer are universal. He represented the highest type of sturdy American manhood and held the confidence of the community to a degree

attained by few men in this age."

Sources: Rick Dressen, "Daniel Inman, Namesake of Danville," 1993; J. M. Guinn, "History of the State of California," 1904; William Halley, "Centennial Yearbook of Alameda County," 1876 (p. 400); The Livermore Herald, Nov. 7, 1908; James D. Smith, "Recollections," 1995; J. P. Munro-Fraser, "History of Contra Costa County," 1882, Museum of the SRV archives

Beverly Lane, a longtime Danville resident, is curator of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley and co-author of "San Ramon Valley: Alamo, Danville, and San Ramon."

OF NOTE



Monte Vista French 4 and 5 students competed against other students from throughout the East Bay at Amis de la Culture Francaise; shown are (l-r) second-place winner Ali Doroudchi; finalist Tuhin Roy; finalist Alex Starr; and finalist Diane Fazli.



Girl Scout Cookies for the troops

Super cookie sellers at the age of 7 are (back, l-r) Caitlyn Russell; Kali Wiseman; Gina Sinclair; Katharyn Wahleithner; Shaina Zins; (front) Emily Ayers; Sophia DeGracia, Kaitlyn Trainer, Kristen Lucasey. The girls, from Blackhawk's Brownie Troop No. 2426, sold 1,455 boxes of cookies during one month. They are especially proud that they are sending more than 500 boxes to American soldiers overseas. Cookie patrons were able to buy the treats to be sent to the American troops overseas to bring them a little piece of home. The Blue Star Moms picked up the cookies last week to mail to the troops.

Bonjour, Monte Vista

Monte Vista High School students and teachers played their own role during the international week of the French language, March 17-21. Ten students from French 4 and 5 took part in the contest of the "Amis de la Culture Francaise" (Friends of the French Culture). Ali Doroudchi, Pamela Peters, Alex Starr, Ariana Luna, Trenton Szewczyk, Jessica Crossley, Tuhin Roy, Diane Fazli, Mike Domalewski and Becky Miller all went to Berkeley and competed against students from many East Bay high schools. Diane, Tuhin, Alex, and Ali went to the final round where they had to speak on current events. Ali won second place in the French 4 division.

On Monday, March 17, all of the French 3 and AP French Literature students participated in the National French Exam organized by the American Association of Teachers of French. This is the first time in at least 20 years that Monte Vista has taken part in this contest, where students are ranked nationally and can win fabulous prizes like a trip to France.

The French 4 students are doing some podcasting, recording MP3s telling about their first encounter with the French language, in yet another contest, sponsored by the French Consulate in San Francisco. Also, French students from all levels wore their famous French T-shirts to school.

A movie review of what's AT THE MOVIES

Run Fatboy Run

★★★

Rating: PG-13 for language and mature themes
Run Time: 1 hour, 39 minutes

David Schwimmer of "Friends" fame helms this hit-and-miss affair that trots out comic chestnuts with good-humored glee.

Simon Pegg is lovable loser Dennis, a classic commitment-phobe who walks out on heavily pregnant fiancé Libby (Thandie Newton) on their wedding day.

Five years later Dennis is pulling dead-end hours as a security guard and sleeping in a seedy North London basement apartment. Libby has moved on to bigger and better things, most notably rich and handsome financier Whit (Hank Azaria).

Tired of being a nearly-man and determined to impress Libby and their son Jake, Dennis vows to run in the same 26-mile charity marathon for which Whit is training obsessively. Feel the burn!

Naturally Dennis is hopelessly unfit (though not exactly the fatboy the title suggests) and seemingly incapable of completing even the simplest of menial tasks. Altogether trite but true to the kind of comic roots that include the timeless workout montage, clash of the male egos, and heartstring-tugging finish line drama.

Not a surprise in sight, just predictable losers-are-people-too jesting raised a notch by the quality work of consummate professionals who are better than their mediocre material.

Pegg and Azaria come closest to generating real laughs, their macho posturing the source of some genuine wit. Newton lends class where it's desperately needed; beauty and the beast et al. Pop tune soundtrack is effervescent and feel-good finale ends on a rose-colored note.

—Jeanne Aufmuth

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

The Wine Guy



BY GREGORY PEEBLES

A commanding bouquet

**2005 Mitchell Katz at Ruby Hill
"Clark's Corner" Cabernet
Sauvignon**

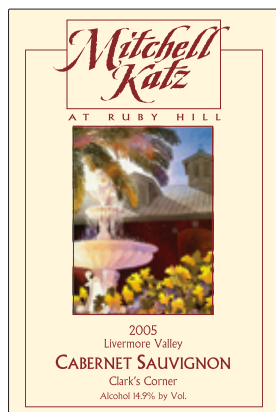
Livermore Valley

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East Bay residents, take pride! Our very own wine country has a history every bit as substantial as the more renowned valley to the north. Robert Livermore's first commercial vine plantings over 160 years ago laid the foundation for today's renaissance. Livermore Valley now plays host to nearly 40 wineries ranging from the classic, venerable names of Concannon and Wentz to new, small-production properties like Mitchell Katz at Ruby Hill.

Mitchell Katz at Ruby Hill proudly stands upon the bright red soil where Ruby Hill Winery once stood. On Nov. 8, 1889, the original winery structure, dating back to the late 1880s, burned under suspect circumstances. A local winemaking region combining a rich history and modern-day intrigue: a fascinating blend.

Winemaker Mitchell Katz's dream is to produce handcrafted, affordable wines of quality. I imagine "Clark's



Corner" satisfies his dream.

Muted purple is the core color. Traces of red and ruby on the outer rim frame the nearly opaque center. An overall dusky intensity appears to indicate minimal filtration and fining. Wines finished in such a manner usually exhibit much more character and longevity compared to those which are heavily "processed." In viticulture and winemaking, often less is much, much more.

Aromas range from tart plum, perky black cherry and cassis. With time, pleasant dried fruit, tawny-like characters evolve, too. Sweet herb notes best describe the com-

manding bouquet due to 24 months in 100 percent American oak.

As for the palate, this Cabernet Sauvignon (100 percent varietal) provides medium body weight, immediate approachability and youthful fleshiness. Soft tannins complete the picture.

Overall, it's indeed an affordable and pleasing effort worthy of a try. Just 350 cases were bottled.

Pop the cork and appreciate Mitchell Katz's Cabernet with family and friends gathered around platters of gourmet burgers. Thankfully, barbecue season will soon return in all its glory!

Picture this: a medium rare, double-decker ground sirloin masterpiece topped with pungent blue cheese, sweet Walla Walla onion, lettuce, vine-ripened "Supersteak" tomato and snappy kosher dill pickle. Everything is jammed into a fresh, artisan bun dripping with your favorite condiments...my, oh my! Hey, don't forget the potato salad...

Let your palate be the judge...

Have comments or questions about wine? Gregory Peebles, wine industry professional and East Bay resident, can be contacted at caledoniawine@sbcglobal.net.

The Pet Vet says...



BY DR. HEIDI STRAND

'Surrendering' a pet

Q. We are moving and are not able to take our cat. Can we give her to the SPCA to find a new home for her? Also, can the SPCA come investigate our neighbor who leaves his dog in the yard alone all day?

A. SPCA stands for Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. There are several regional SPCAs in the Bay Area—they are not one organization. Any nonprofit group can have SPCA in its name, as well as Humane Society, Animal Rescue, etc. These types of animal welfare organizations usually have animals available for adoption and offer educational services to the public. Some of them do take "surrendered" pets that people do not want, but your county animal services agency is the one that definitely takes animals whose owners cannot keep them. The county agencies also pick up

stray animals, and investigate reports of possible animal cruelty and animal bites. Animal control officers are government employees who are specially trained in this field. They can investigate situations such as animals left chained. They do not respond to noise complaints, or dogs left alone in the yard. However many cities have ordinances for noise related to barking dogs, so you would want to contact your local police department non-emergency number if you have that kind of problem.

—Dr. Heidi Strand is a veterinarian for the East Bay SPCA in Dublin. She has lived in the Tri-Valley for 10 years with her family and an assortment of four-legged friends. Questions can be mailed to 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville 94526

'My friend gave me a heads up on this...'

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www.pascalcafe.com

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Amici's East Coast Pizzeria

720 Camino Ramon, (in the Rose Garden), Danville, 925-837-9800. Amici's offers authentic, thin, crisp-crust Pizza and a casual Italian menu of freshly made Pastas and Salads, all available for takeout and delivery as well as dine-in at this new Danville location. Check out the menu or order online at www.amicis.com

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Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY • POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT WWW.DANVILLEWEEKLY.COM

Art

31st Annual Spring Gala Art Show Alamo Danville Artists' Society (ADAS) will host the 31st annual Spring Gala Art Show reception from 4-7 p.m., Saturday, March 29, at the Pioneer Art Gallery, 524 Hartz Ave., Danville. 79 talented artists representing work of art (2D and 3D) will be present. Artwork is available for purchase from 3-7 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday and 1-5 p.m., Sunday, until April 26. Visit www.adas4art.org.

Art in the Park The 10th annual Art in the Park will be held Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 4-5, at Front Street Park, in front of the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Artist booth spaces are 10x10 and cost \$70 for ADAS members, \$85 for non-members, plus 10% commission for the Art in the Schools fund. Deadline for space is April 1. Applications for booth space are now available at www.adas4art.org; call 828-9170 or e-mail normawebb@comcast.net.

Author Visit

David and Nic Sheff Rakestraw Books will host David Sheff, author of "Beautiful Boy: A Father's Journey Through His Son's Meth Addiction," and his son, Nic Sheff, author of "Tweak: Growing Up on Methamphetamines" at 9:45 a.m., Thursday, April 3, at The Athenian School, 2100 Mount Diablo Scenic Blvd., Danville. This event will be open to the public by reservation, call 837-7337.

Rakestraw Books Rakestraw Books will host numerous authors in April including: Thomas Cahill, author of "Mysteries of the Middle Ages," at 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 1; Virginia Ironside, author of "No, I Don't Want to Join a Book Club: Diary of a Sixtieth Year," at 7 p.m., Monday, April 7; John Flanagan, author of "The Ranger's Apprentice: The Battle for Skandia," at 7 p.m., Friday, April 11; Jane Smiley, author of "Ten Days in the Hills," at 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 23, all at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. Reservations are recommended; call 837-7337.

Civic Meetings

Morning with the Mayor Danville Mayor Candance Anderson will host her monthly "Morning with the Mayor" from 7:30-8:30 a.m., Friday, April 4, at Father Nature's Restaurant, 172 E. Prospect Ave., Danville. Fresh fruit and a cup of coffee or hot chocolate will be served for free.

Clubs

Alamo-Danville Newcomers Club This club is open to new and long-time residents of the surrounding areas. If you are interested in making new friends, learning more about the area or getting involved in various activities, call 775-3233 or visit www.alamodanvillenewcomers.com.

Danville AM Toastmasters Club The club meets from 7-8:30 a.m., every Tuesday, at Father Nature's, 178 E. Prospect Ave. Guests are welcome. For more information, contact Dave Miklasevich at 899-1543 or dmik210@yahoo.com or www.danvilleamtoastmasters.org.

Danville Lions Club This club meets at 7 p.m., on the first and third Wednesday of every month, at the Brass Door, San Ramon. For information, call Tom Jackson at 984-1541.

Danville Rotary The Danville Rotary meets at noon every Monday at the Brass Door, 2154 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. For information, visit www.danvillerotary.org.

Danville-Alamo Garden Club The next monthly meeting of the Danville-Alamo Garden Club will be at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, April 10, at the Alamo Women's Club, 1401 Danville Blvd. Navlet's Buzz Bertolero will speak on plants and products for spring. This meeting is free. Call 837-4904.

Diablo Bonsai Club This club will host a lecture and workshop on "Cascade Style," with individual attention given to those interested in the art of bonsai, from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 16, at Heather Farms Garden Center, upper room, 1540 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. Call 937-4216.

Gold Star Mom Speaks Out

TriValley Democratic Club will host Karen Meredith, a member of Gold Star Families Speak Out, from 7-9 p.m., Monday, April 21, at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. Refreshments will be served; wheelchair accessible. Call 831-8355 or visit www.trivalleydems.com.

Grandmother's Club Grandmothers of all ages meet for lunch at 11 a.m., on the second Friday of every month, at the Brass Door, 2154 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. If interested, contact Fran Britt at 743-4026.

Porsche Club of America, Diablo Region This club is for owners and enthusiasts of all Porsches. It meets at 8 a.m. every Saturday for breakfast at Marie Callendar's, 1101 S. California Blvd., Walnut Creek. Visit www.pca.org/dia.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 75 The organization meets at 7:30 p.m., every second Thursday of the month (except December), at Danville Veteran's Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. For information, call Post Commander Tony Carnemolla at 932-4042 or visit www.vfw.org.

Concerts

'Songs for a New World' Diablo Light Opera Company presents "Songs for a New World" at 8 p.m., April 3-5, 10-12 and at 2 p.m., April 6 and 13, at the Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St., Lafayette. Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$25 for seniors and \$15 for students. Visit www.dloc.org.

Blackhawk Dinner Concert Danville Community Band will host a dinner concert featuring music from Bach to the Beatles at 5:30 p.m., Sunday, April 13, at the Blackhawk Country Club, Lakeside Ballroom, 599 Blackhawk Club Dr., Danville. No host bar starts at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50, including dinner and the concert. For reservations, call 736-6500, ext. 0.

Don Lewis and Young Expressions Professional musician and synthesizer pioneer, Don Lewis and musicians from Pleasanton high schools will perform from 8-10 p.m., Saturday, March 29, at Amador

WEEKEND PREVIEW



Come enjoy a Spring Gala Art Show

Alamo Danville Artists' Society (ADAS) will host a free public reception for its 31st annual Spring Gala Art Show from 4-7 p.m., Saturday, March 29, at the Pioneer Art Gallery, 524 Hartz Ave., Danville. Seventy-nine talented artists will be represented. The show runs until April 26. Visit www.adas4art.org.

Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$10, \$14 and \$18 for adults; \$6, \$10 and \$14 for children and students. Call 931-5361 or visit www.civcartstickets.org.

Steve Seskin Recording artist Steve Seskin is one of the most successful writers in Nashville today. He will perform at 7 p.m., Friday, April 4, at the Front Row Theatre, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$14 for adults, \$9 for youth and seniors. Call 973-3372 or visit www.sanramonperformingarts.com.

formance, Harry Potter Magic Show, slide presentation, face painter and henna artist. This event is free. Call 837-4889.

Goodguys 26th All American Get-Together The Goodguys 26th All American Get-Together is a two-day automotive festival from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, March 29-30, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton. Admission is \$15. Call 838-9876 or visit www.good-guys.com.

Highlights of the Valley's 100 Years of Agricultural History Danville Library and Museum of the San Ramon Valley will host a slide show presentation "Highlighting the Valley's 100 Years of Agriculture History" from 4-5 p.m., Saturday, April 5, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. This event is free. Call 837-3750 or visit www.museumsvr.org.

Poetry, Prose and Arts Festival Come and enjoy the Visual Arts Exhibit from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, April 5-6, at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton. Call 931-5350 or visit www.pleasantonarts.org.

Spring Plant Sale Ruth Bancroft Garden will host a Spring Plant Sale from 9-11 a.m. for members only and open to the public from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., April 5-12, at the Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1500 Bancroft Rd., Walnut Creek. Visit www.ruthbancroftgarden.org.

Events

Danville Library Grand Re-opening Celebration Danville Library will host its Grand Re-opening Celebration from 1-5 p.m., Saturday, April 5, at 400 Front St., Danville. Celebrate the completion of renovations and enjoy refreshments, a steel drum band per-

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Vacation Discounters, Inc.

www.Vacation-Discounters.com

Fundraisers

'A Glamorous Feast for the Senses' Youth Homes will host its annual Fashion Show and Luncheon at 11 a.m., Saturday, April 12, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Tickets are \$40, including lunch. Proceeds benefit Youth Homes. Deadline for reservations is April 4; call 938-4148 or e-mail lmarty@netzero.com.

'A Taste of 94507' Come and enjoy "A Taste of 94507" gala with wine and food tasting at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, May 3, at a private residence in Alamo. Tickets are \$75. Proceeds benefit the Alamo Community Foundation for costs for the one-time State-required studies of feasibility of Alamo incorporation. For reservations, call 838-1277.

American Girl Fashion Show Golden View Elementary presents an American Girl Fashion Show at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, April 5-6, at Castlewood Country Club, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$45. Proceeds benefit Golden View Elementary. Call (800) 299-0972 or visit www.eastbayfashionshow.com.

Annual Kitchen and Garden Tour Baldwin and Greenbrook elementary schools are hosting their annual Kitchen and Garden Tour from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, May 18. Enjoy catered foods from local restaurants and a silent auction at the end of the tour. Cost is \$30 in advance, \$35 on the day of the event. Proceeds support both PTAs. For reservations, call 838-7722.

Make a Bid for Peace Spring Benefit Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center and Grandparents for Peace will present "Make a Bid for Peace" spring benefit at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, April 13, at the Fireside Room, Gateway Center, Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Call 933-7850 or visit www.mtdpc.org.

Spring Basket Event Home Builders Association of Northern California Women's Council will host their seventh annual Spring Basket Event from 5:30-8 p.m., Thursday, April 10, at The Bridges Golf Club, 9000 South Gate Ridge Rd., San Ramon. Baskets filled with household supplies, personal care items and other themed gifts will be donated to Shepherd's Gate. Tickets are \$50 for HBANC members; \$75 for non-members. Call 820-7626.

Tassajara Hills Foundation Online Auction Tassajara Hills Foundation will host an online auction from April 3-9 at <http://tassajara.auctionanything.com>. Proceeds benefit Tassajara Hills Elementary School.

Health

Colon Cancer: Curable if Caught Early John Muir Cancer Institute will present a free community lecture for men and women to raise awareness about colon cancer from 6:30-8 p.m., Monday, March 31, at John Muir Women's Health Center, 1656 N. California Blvd., Walnut Creek. Call 941-7900, option 3 or visit www.johnmuirhealth.com.

Life After Prostate Cancer Community Seminar Learn about issues related to life after prostate cancer, including incontinence and impotence, from 7:30-9 p.m., Tuesday, April 8, at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, south conference room, south building, 7777 Norris Canyon Rd. A urologist will discuss surgical and non-surgical treatments, and will answer questions about the disease, treatment and after care issues. This event is free. Call 275-8230 or visit www.sanramonmedctr.com.

Spring Immunization Clinics for Children Free immunization clinics are open to all Tri-Valley families who are low income or uninsured from 9-11:30 a.m., Saturday, April 5, at Axis Community Health Clinic, 4361 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Parents should bring child's immunization records and information about family income and medical insurance. Call 462-1755.

Kids and Teens

Job's Daughters at the Sixth Annual CASA Community Faire Job's Daughters will be at the sixth annual CASA Community Faire from 6-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 2, at Iron Horse Middle School, San Ramon. Young girls ages 10 and older will enjoy dances, sleepovers, parties, social events, snow trips, ice skating, camping, traveling and other fun activities. Come get more information on membership. Call 829-8505.

KidsReads 2008 Danville, Dougherty Station and San Ramon Libraries are participating in the second annual KidsReads by offering "Hooray, a Pinata" by Elisa Kleven free to children. To kick off this event, enjoy a Colibri Musical Event at 4 p.m., Tuesday, April 8, at the Danville Library, Children's Reading Room, 400 Front St. Call 837-4889.

Mt. Diablo Junior Rangers Program The Junior Rangers Program is for children ages 7-12 years old held from 1-4 p.m., Saturdays, May 3-June 7, at Mt. Diablo State Park. Learn about wildlife, plants and geology; hikes each week. Awards for each stage of completion. Cost is park admission. Advance registration required. Call 362-8697 or visit www.mdia.org.

Princeton Review SAT Strategy Session Princeton Review will host a SAT Strategy Session for high school students from 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday, April 10, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. This workshop is free, but registration is required by April 9; call 837-4889.

When Mom or Dad Has Cancer A program for families with school-age children when a parent has cancer. Each workshop has an activity-based group for children where they identify feelings and learn coping skills, a support group for teens, and a group for parents from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturdays, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 933-0107.

YMCA Activities The San Ramon Valley YMCA hosts a number of activities including Adventure Guides/Princesses, Adventure Trailblazers, Youth Basketball, Youth Lacrosse and Youth Soccer for children of all ages. For information, call 831-1100 or visit www.mdrymca.org.

Lectures/ Workshops

Infant Signing Jessica Salaam will host a workshop on infant signing from noon-1:30 p.m., Thursday, April 10, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. She will discuss the benefits of signing for parents and infants as well as demonstrate the signing techniques. This workshop is free, but registration is required by April 9; call 837-4889.

Kayaking the World with Beth Rypins East Bay World Affairs Council will host Beth Rypins, a Whitewater World Champion, at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 10, at Lafayette Public Library, 952 Morgan Rd. This event is free. Call (415) 293-4600 or visit www.itsy-ourworld.org.

Lebed Method: Focus on Healing This six-week series is fun, total body exercise set to music that will help you regain and maintain range of motion, relieve pain and reduce the risk of lymphedema from any kind of cancer. The workshop is from 9:30-10:30 a.m., Thursdays, April 3-May 8, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 933-0107.

Life After Prostate Cancer San Ramon Regional Medical Center will host a seminar on "Life After Prostate Cancer" from 7:30-9 p.m., Tuesday, April 8, at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, south conference room, 7777 Norris Canyon Rd. This event is free, but reservations are required by calling (800) 284-2878.

Managing Symptoms and Side Effects Learn what you can do to feel better during cancer treatment

from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, March 29, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Learn ways to cope with the side effects of chemotherapy and radiation such as fatigue, nausea and other symptoms. Call 933-0107.

Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer Group This 12-week workshop is for women who have just been diagnosed and are either in treatment or starting treatment from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., every Tuesday, April 1-July 15, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This series will help them address the emotional and physical issues that surface after diagnosis. Call 933-0107.

Resources that Support Families and Aging Parents Eldercare Services will host a workshop on the resources to fortify families' knowledge, care and skills regarding aging parents from 7-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 8, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. This workshop is free. Call 837-4889.

Literary Events

CalShakes and Cahill at Rakestraw Join Jonathan Moscone, Ron Campbell, Nancy Carlin and historian Thomas Cahill from 6-9 p.m., Tuesday, April 1, at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. Moscone will discuss the upcoming season, Campbell and Carlin will present a scene from "An Ideal Husband," and

Cahill will read from his new book, "Mysterries of the Middle Ages." Cost is \$15. Call 837-7337 or visit www.rakestrawbooks.com.

First Wednesday Program Friends of the Danville Library will host the First Wednesday Program featuring Art and Nature at the di Rosa Preserve in Napa at 1 p.m., Wednesday, April 2, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. Kathleen Gaines, public relations manager for the di Rosa Preserve, will speak at this free event. Call 837-4889.

Miscellaneous

Global Warming Contest Synergy Institute is hosting a bicycle contest for children that write a one page essay or discussing five reasons why the global warming scare is wrong. Entries should be received by April 20. Information is available by writing to the Synergy Institute, P.O. Box 561, San Ramon, CA 94583.

Host Families Needed Host families in Danville are needed for exchange students that are coming from France April 11-23. Students are ages 14-18 and are coming with their teachers who are responsible for the group. The group is properly insured in personal liability and health insurance. To volunteer, e-mail Martine Casusse at casussef@wanadoo.fr.

New Adoption Event Tri-Valley Animal Rescue has a new adoption

event from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., on the second, third and fourth Saturdays of every month, at Pet Food Express, 609 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Call 803-7043 or visit www.tvr.org.

On Stage

'Sound of Music' Charlotte Wood Middle School presents "The Sound of Music" at 7 p.m., Thursday-Friday, April 10-11 and at 2:30 p.m., Saturday, April 12, at Charlotte Wood Middle School, 600 El Capitan Dr., Danville. Tickets are \$7.50. Call 820-3513 or e-mail megrossman@aol.com.

'Wigged Out!' Hair on Stage presents "Wigged Out!" playing until June 21, at Hair on Stage, 520 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. The box office is open from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Saturday. Call 855-SHOW (855-7469) or visit www.wiggedout.org.




Political Notes

Blackhawk Republican Women Blackhawk Republican Women will host Evan Sayet, political satirist, who will speak on "Hating What's Right: How Liberals End Up on the Wrong Side of Every Issue" from 5:30-7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 3, at Blackhawk Country Club, 599 Blackhawk Club Dr., Danville. Cost is \$20; reservations are due by noon on April 1. Call 820-6452 or visit www.blackhawkrcwf.com.

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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210 Garage/Estate Sales

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Pleasanton, Deer Creek Ct., April 6, 2008 9am

Pleasanton, 3605 Chelsea Ct., Saturday, March 29 7-2
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Pleasanton, 4694 Sutter Gate Ave, March 29 7-12pm

Pleasanton, 5254 Ridgevale Way, March 29, 8 am to 1 pm

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245 Miscellaneous

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Dublin, 3 BR/3.5 BA - \$749000

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Blackhawk 2007 Year in Review

Blackhawk Real Estate sales during 2007 showed continuing but somewhat moderating rates of decline. Unit sales of single family detached homes actually increased, while condo sales and land sales were relatively unchanged.

Homes Today



BY JOE COMBS

tered market sector is settling gently upon the bottom. Food for thought: The 2007 Danville multi unit average sold price was \$589,951 compared to \$799,000 for Blackhawk. That is a significant (35 percent) average price differential. To the extent that Blackhawk multi unit properties compete with Danville multi unit properties, an over abundance of competing properties in Danville may serve to drag the Blackhawk prices down further still.

Compared to other parts of the East Bay, single family detached homes in Blackhawk fared pretty relatively well last year. Unit sales were UP about 6 percent from the 84 reported sales in 2006 to 89 in 2007 hinting faintly, perhaps, that the bottom has been reached. Average unit sales for the past five years is 127 homes, so Blackhawk home sales are down 30 percent from their five-year average and 51 percent below 2004, the five-year high, during which 180 Blackhawk homes sold.

The price story is not quite so positive. Average price paid for a single family home in Blackhawk during 2006 was \$1,639,998 while the average price paid in 2007 was \$1,569,439 for a notable (4.4 percent) price decline. Median price also dropped by nearly the same margin (4.2 percent) from \$1,460,000 to \$1,400,000 during the same time period. In 2006 the highest price paid for a home was \$3,498,000 while in 2007 the highest reported sales price was \$3,500,000. The lowest price paid for a single family home in 2007 was \$865,000, somewhat less (4 percent) than the \$900,000 low price for 2006. Average price paid per square foot declined from \$451 to \$440 from '06 to '07, for a slight (2.5 percent) decline, and this change reflects an ever so slight decrease over the \$442 per square foot price paid in 2005. This may be the most compelling argument for calling a market bottom in the Blackhawk market.

Blackhawk has a very small market for duets, condos and town homes, so there isn't a large quantity of data to review. A total of five units sold in 2007, down from seven in 2006. This represents a 29 percent drop in unit sales from the previous year which is, interestingly enough, only one unit sale less than in 2005 when a total of six units sold. Since the three-year market average stands at six sales per year, this may indicate that the bottom is at hand. Average sold price in 2007 was \$799,000 compared to an \$862,000 average in 2006, for a significant 7 percent decline in price. That sales price declined far less sharply than unit sales may be a subtle indication that this bat-

Beneath it all there is the land, so let's take a look at undeveloped land sales in Blackhawk. A total of two parcels sold in 2006 at an average price of \$1,295,000. In 2007, two parcels also sold but at a notably higher average price of \$1,693,750. At first glance this appears to be a most encouraging sign; however, two sales don't provide adequate data to formulate a strong opinion. A more, but not perfect, apples-to-apples comparison of the square foot land price shows a much less rosy picture as average price paid per square foot in 2006 was \$74, while land sold in 2007 fetched a mere \$60 per square foot or 9 percent less than a year ago.

The most compelling argument that can be made from a review of the 2007 Blackhawk data is that single family home sales are up slightly from the previous year and prices are not dropping like a rock. That said, little in the data suggests that prices in the near term will turn around and move briskly upward. In previous columns we have noted that the Danville and Alamo markets appear to be at the bottom or on a slight upswing. Why a similar picture cannot be seen in the Blackhawk Market Review remains a mystery. Location may perhaps play a role or possibly the community's nearness to vast quantities of new construction may be responsible for the difference. At any rate, Blackhawk is a market we will continue to watch throughout the year.

Data presented in this column is based in whole or in part on data supplied by the Contra Costa and Alameda Multiple Listing Service and other quoted sources. Joe and Nancy Combs, Remax and the MLS Service do not guarantee the accuracy of this information. To receive a copy of the annual Blackhawk Market Review, send an e-mail to joecombs@thecombsteam.com with Blackhawk Market Review in the subject line. Or call 989-6086 to arrange delivery.

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

Alamo	\$1,120,000	1949 Highridge Court H. McArthur to R. Christoi for \$750,000
17 Cumorah Lane L. Ramon to R. Covi for \$1,550,000		36 Howard Court J. Cantwell to J. & E. Wagner for \$687,500
989 Danville Boulevard E. & K. Miller to B. Fosi for \$760,000		50 Kevin Court Babin Trust to T. Broome for \$1,025,000
2399 Ironwood Place Beedle Trust to S. & C. Allington for \$1,940,000		1266 Oakshire Court US Bank to Y. & E. Manevich for \$650,000
Danville		1621 Ptarmigan Drive #6B Goins Trust to J. Summers for \$175,000
1151 Blue Spur Circle Shapell Homes to T. & M. Gort for \$1,225,000		2603 Saklan Indian Drive #4 B. Canepa to Moeller Trust for \$675,000
115 Bridgeside Circle Mathews Trust to Schneider Trust for \$610,000		2705 Saklan Indian Drive #5 Eidex Trust to Phillips Trust for \$332,000
26 Cambridge Court M. & S. Ahern to Johnson Trust for \$1,662,500		2705 Saklan Indian Drive #8 Saylor-Coons Trust to Noble Trust for \$598,000
58 Deer Meadow Lane Macmahon Trust to J. & M. Serino for \$1,080,000		1752 Stanley Dollar Drive #1B Lichty Trust to C. & L. Denarvaez for \$500,000
3030 East Griffon Street Shapell Industries to F. Habib for \$1,025,500		1988 Suenen Court J. & M. Dowd to H. Cao for \$785,000
743 El Pintado Road Egbert Trust to LTJ1 Limited for		
39 Green Gables Court Paragon Relocation to Christensen Trust for \$1,830,000		
11 Hunters Terrace J. & G. Hastings to Stedman Trust for \$1,840,000		
394 Ilo Lane #105 CitiBank to D. Tara for \$319,000		
3149 Martingale Street Ponderosa Homes to L. Seever for \$1,121,000		
4012 Sugar Maple Drive GMAC Global Relocation to M. & S. Ahern for \$1,190,000		
Diablo		
1655 Calle Arroyo Schmidt Trust to K. & A. Engberg for \$2,450,000.00		
Walnut Creek		
1724 Carriage Drive Frank Trust to J. & S. Yee for \$580,000		
1732 Countrywood Court Mckinney Trust to Kelso Trust for \$425,000		

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during February 2008

Alamo	Highest sale reported: \$1,840,000	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 3	Average sales reported: \$1,183,909	Total sales reported: 12
Lowest sale reported: \$760,000		Lowest sale reported: \$175,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,940,000	Diablo	Highest sale reported: \$1,025,000
Average sales reported: \$1,416,667	Total sales reported: 1	Average sales reported: \$598,542
Danville	Lowest sale reported: \$2,450,000	
Total sales reported: 11	Highest sale reported: \$2,450,000	
Lowest sale reported: \$319,000	Average sales reported: \$2,450,000	

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

ALAMO

4 Bedrooms	
1490 Pine Tree Dr. \$1,375,000	
Sun 1-4 ReMax 915-1100	

BLACKHAWK

4 Bedrooms	
44 Tennis Club Dr. \$1,199,000	
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 200-7200	

DANVILLE

3 Bedrooms	
3659 Deer Trail Dr. \$1,349,000	
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883	

421 Garden Creek Pl. \$490,000	
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883	

1948 St. George Rd. \$742,950	
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883	

253 Promenade Ln. \$769,950	
Sun 1:30-4:30 Intero 831-2929	

4 Bedrooms	
18 Rio Del Ct. \$1,074,950	
Sun 1-4 Pacific Union 997-3966	

842 Matadera Cir. \$1,099,000	
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-2508	

134 Santa Clara Dr. \$1,125,000	
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 785-4959	

410 Bridgeside Cir. \$699,000	
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883	

SAN RAMON

3 Bedrooms	
2601 Fountainhead Dr. \$425,000	
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3800	

331 La Paz Ct. \$519,950	
Sun 1-4 Pacific Union 997-3966	

2238 S. Donovan Wy. \$659,000	
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883	

4 Bedrooms	
8024 Briar Oaks Dr. \$839,000	
Sun 1-4 Prudential Ca 734-5000	

9693 Thunderbird Dr. \$849,950	
Sun 1-4 Empire 217-3108	

2 Bedrooms	
2185-3 Arroyo Ct. \$328,000	
Sat 11-2 Keller Williams 924-0444	

3937 Vine St. \$482,500	
Sat 12-4 Remax Accord-Rebecca Bruner 577-8802	

2163 Goldcrest \$570,000	
Sun 1-4 Remax Accord-Rebecca Bruner 577-8802	

2341 Oakland Ave. \$617,900	
Sun 1-4 ReMax / Accord 997-8001	

5128 Rappolla Ct. \$649,950	
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 337-2989	

3 Bedrooms	
343 Amador Ct. \$490,000	
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3800	

4064 Silver St. \$669,000	
Sun 1-4 ReMax/Accord Jeff Clyma 918-3395	

4844 Funston Gate Ct. \$875,000	
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883	

4 Bedrooms	
2226 Kamp Ct. \$1,170,000	
Sat 2-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 398-6706	

844 Division St. \$1,195,000	
Sat/Sun 1-4 Investment RE 963-0569	

7828 Meadow Brook Ct. \$1,250,000	
Sat/Sun 12-4 Re/Max 200-6916	

3107 East Ruby Hill Dr. \$2,599,000	
Sun 1-4 Colleen McKean - Re/Max 847-8880	

6227 Gibson Ct. \$620,000	
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436	

4630 Herrin Wy. \$717,750	
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436	

1809 Paseo Del Cajon \$750,000	
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams - Lydonna Walker 997-8267	

3645 Dunsmuir Cir. \$889,000	
Sun 1:30-4 Alain Pinel 998-9747	

5 Bedrooms	
205 Heritage Ln. \$1,595,000	
Sun 1-4 Henderson Properties-Judy Winter 699-7900	

7914 Paragon Cir. \$1,899,000	
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500	

DUBLIN

3 Bedrooms	
6943 Darian Ct. \$589,000	
Sun 1-4 Colleen McKean - Re/Max 847-8880	

5781 Hillbrook Pl. \$749,000	
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883	

4 Bedrooms	
7795 Bloomfield Ter. \$1,299,999	
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 963-8800	

LIVERMORE

3 Bedrooms	
1135 Aberdeen \$405,000	
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3882	

356 Rincon Ave. \$565,000	
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 487-1427	

943 Waverly Cmn. \$575,000	
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC - Sherry Faux 980-3938	

2447 Marbury Rd. \$689,000	
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 200-2457	

2552 Regent Rd. \$749,950	
Sat 1-4 Prudential Ca 734-5000	

4 Bedrooms	
575 Brookfield Dr. \$609,000	
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 455-7020	

5 Bedrooms	
838 Hazel St. \$629,000	
Sun 1-4 Re/Max Accord 577-2600	

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