

Danville Weekly

Making those job connections: Danville group helps the unemployed find opportunity PAGE 16

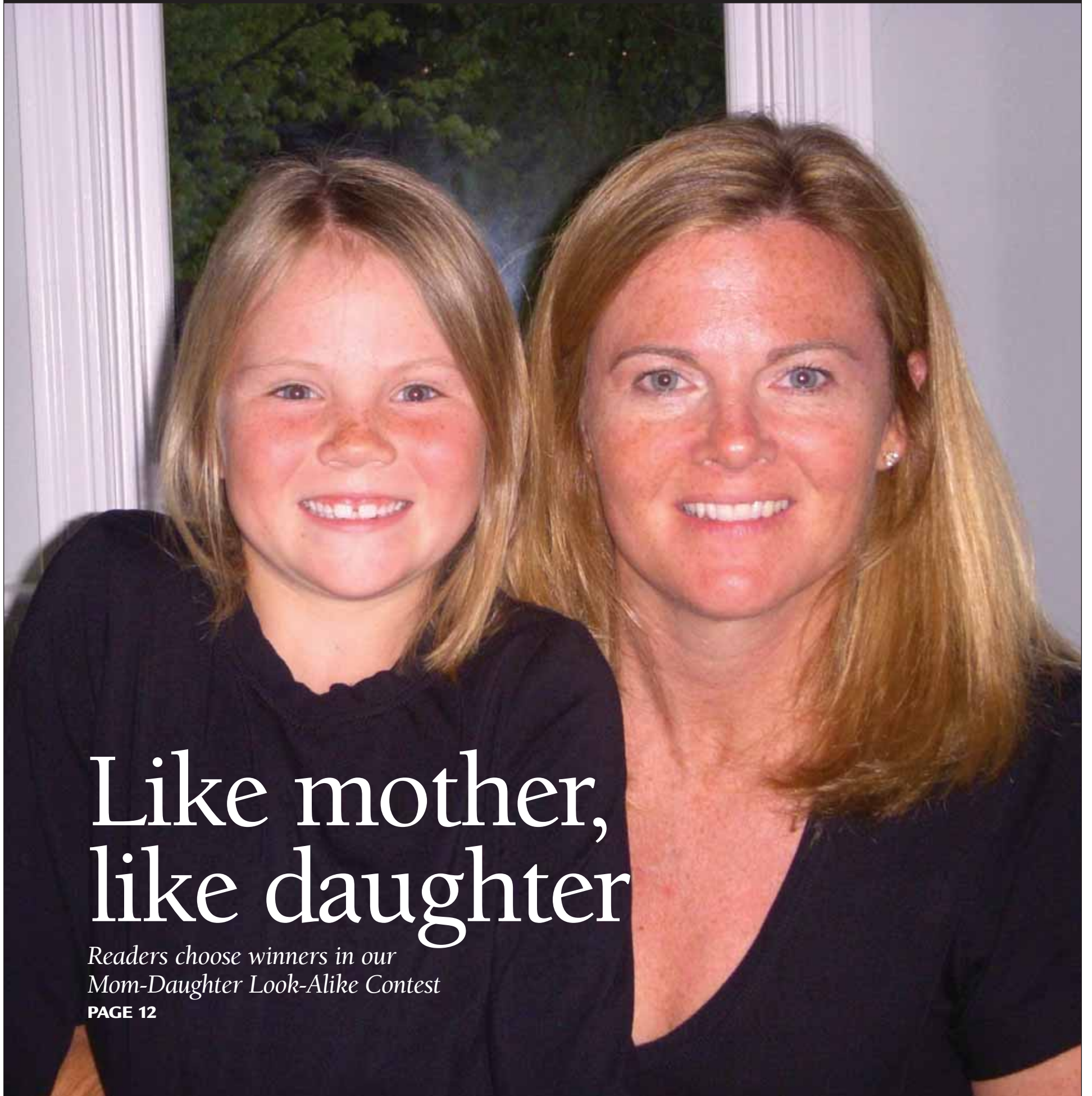
Thumbs up for Measure C: Parcel tax will help with \$\$\$\$ pains in School District PAGE 5

INSIDE

Vol. V, Number 2 • May 8, 2009

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

www.DanvilleWeekly.com



Like mother, like daughter

*Readers choose winners in our
Mom-Daughter Look-Alike Contest*

PAGE 12

dabble's history

The creators of **Dabble** were new Mom's in desperate need of a makeover. One day, while shopping at the newly renovated **Blackhawk Plaza**, the girls realized that something was missing... the one thing that every girl needs... Make-up!! Thus, the concept was born!

who we are

Dabble is a fun and sexy cosmetics boutique including skin care and accessories. Featuring all the top brands and exclusive lines that will be sure to satisfy all of your skin care and beauty needs! Make an appointment with one of our fabulous **Dabble Dolls** for your new look. A little **Dabble** do ya!!

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tip of the month

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Streetwise

ASKED AT DANVILLE VETERAN'S HALL SENIOR CENTER

What do you remember most about your mother?



Bill Iles

telephone company retiree

Unfortunately, I didn't know her long enough, as she died when I was 3 years old. All I have is a picture of a green-eyed lady. My grandmother and aunts shifted me around between them. My grandmother, an uneducated American Indian, was famous for her sayings for almost everything.

Bette Bennett

volunteer of the year

I loved my mother dearly, but I was raised by my grandmother. She taught me everything, including helping people, loving people, and a good work ethic. When I was 3 or 4 years old I was helping at the church, where it was instilled in me to always help out.



Ted Kai

language teacher

She was an artist. She would put her easel along the river Rhine in Bonn, where I was raised as a teenager. Within an hour, she would have a beautiful painting showing the hills of the valley as background with the Rhine flowing through. She would sell her paintings right off the easels to passing admirers.

Diane Morgan

WWII war bride

I remember my mom back home in England with a big smile and loving life. She was always singing. During the war, she would keep a stiff upper lip, especially when she was escorting us down in the dugout during the bombing raids.



Fran Britt

volunteer, Culture to Culture Foundation

Back in New York, I was a middle child and my mother's favorite. She died after I got married and was living overseas in China. She was Chinese and didn't speak much English, but she was the best shopper and would get the best things at the lowest prices—a real haggler. She taught me to be honest and thrifty. I miss her.

— *Compiled by Stan Wharton*

Have a Streetwise question? E-mail editor@DanvilleWeekly.com

About the Cover

Kaleigh and Katie Olla are the winners of the Danville Weekly 2009 Mother-Daughter Look-Alike contest. "They call her a 'mini-me,'" reported Katie.

Vol. V, Number 2

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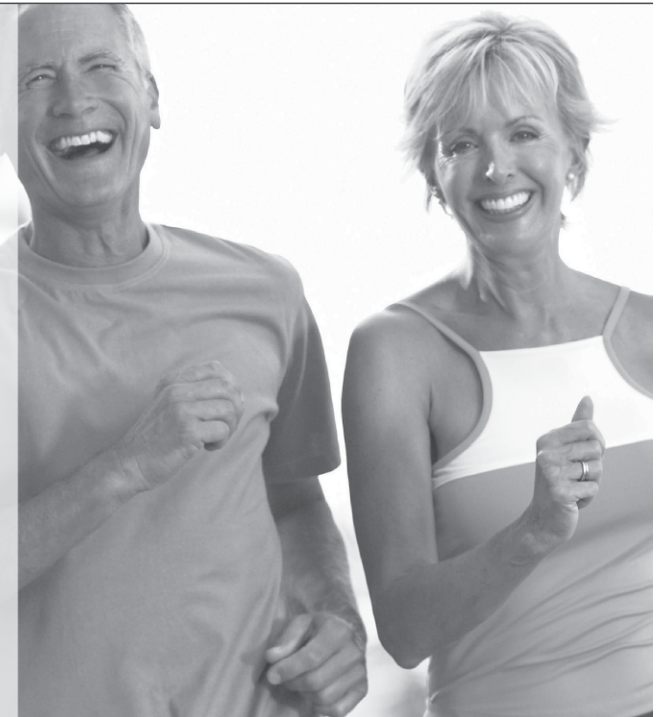
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John Vu, M.D.
Cardiologist

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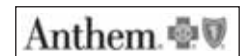
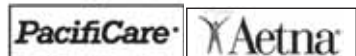
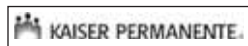
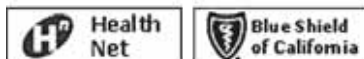
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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

**“We want this building to be
designed so that people are instantly,
instantly in love with it.”**

Danville Mayor Newell Arnerich,
about the redesigned Veterans Memorial Building.
See story, Page 6.

NEWS DIGEST

Children's Film Fest in Danville next weekend

The sixth annual Danville International Children's Film Festival will be held Friday-Sunday, May 15-17, with a blend of youth-produced, film-student and professional movies shown throughout the weekend in Danville's Village Theatre, 233 Front St. Nearly 40 films will be screened at the three-day event, chosen from 120 entries, and the festival will also feature a series of educational seminars for children and parents.

“What I like about the festival is the friendly atmosphere of the town,” said Promotions Director Beau Behan. “It gives you that homey experience, that warm feeling, and at the end you've gotten something out of it. It's really fulfilling.”

The festival is a co-production of the California Independent Film Festival Association and the Town of Danville. This sixth anniversary of the festival celebrates diversity, human rights and freedom of expression through dramatic and comedic films, shorts and moving documentaries.

An opening night reception is scheduled for 6-7 p.m. Friday, a meet-and-greet to welcome Emmy Award-winning actress Nancy Cartwright, who is best known as the voice of spike-headed underachiever Bart Simpson. From 7-9 p.m. she will be presented the 2009 Humanitarian Award and there will be a screening of “The Simpsons Movie” from 2007. Cost of the evening is \$10.

The 2009 Rising Star Award will be given to 15-year-old actress Raini Rodriguez on May 16. She is perhaps best known for her role as Maya Blart in “Paul Blart Mall Cop.”

For a complete list of events, go to www.caindiefilmfest.org.

Garden tour will help women's education

The Danville-Alamo Branch of AAUW placed second in California out of 152 branches for its monetary contributions to the AAUW Educational Foundation, it was announced at the state convention April 25. The foundation is the world's largest source of funding exclusively for graduate women, awarding \$4.5 million to 267 outstanding applicants for this year's fellowships and grants programs. It supports scholars around the globe, teachers and activists in local communities, women at critical stages of their careers, and those pursuing professions where women are underrepresented.

The Danville-Alamo branch raised \$19,770, most of which was proceeds from its annual Garden Tour and individual contributions. The ninth annual Garden Tour takes place from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., May 8-9, with eight featured gardens. Tickets are \$35 (\$25 for seniors 65 and older) and can be purchased at the East Bay Flower Co. in the Danville Livery.

Guided walks begin through historic Danville

For a walking tour of historic downtown Danville, meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow, May 9, in front of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave. An experienced docent will lead an informative stroll to numerous sites that played important roles in the town's history. Saturday morning tours take place on the second Saturday of each month through October.

A Friday evening walking tour will take place May 15, led by museum docent and Danville Councilwoman Karen Stepper. Friday evening tours, held on the third Friday of each month, begin in front of the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., at 6:15 p.m.

Tours costs \$3 per person. Call 837-3750 or go to www.museumsvr.org for more information.

Danville Wine Stroll is Thursday

Discover Danville is holding its Spring Wine Stroll from 6-9 p.m., Thursday, May 14. Select businesses will remain open late and offer tastes from California wineries. A trolley will travel between downtown and the Livery.

Purchase a glass and register for \$25, online at www.discoverdanvilleca.com, at La Buena Vida in the Livery, or at Cottage Jewel, 125-D Railroad Ave.

Corrections

The Weekly desires to correct all significant errors. To request a correction, call the editor at (925) 837-8300 or e-mail: editor@DanvilleWeekly.com

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GEOFF GILLETTE

Greenbrook Elementary School Principal Tom Ladouceur shows off a plaque commemorating the passage of Measure C to students during the school's weekly assembly Wednesday morning. Ladouceur complimented students, parents and teachers for their community-wide effort in getting the parcel tax passed.

Thumbs up for Measure C

Organizers credit community effort for 73 percent victory

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

Months of campaigning came to an end Tuesday night as supporters of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District's Measure C parcel tax initiative pulled in more than 72.5 percent of the ballots giving a go-ahead to the funding measure. Polls closed at 8 p.m., and by 8:30 p.m. Contra Costa County Election officials had called the race with 28,494 Yes votes and 10,777 No votes.

Proponents of Measure C gathered to watch the returns at The Bridges Country Club. More than 200 people were on hand as the precincts were quickly counted and the lead held by the pro-C forces steadily grew until the final result was announced and the room burst out into ecstatic applause.

"It was a big celebration," a smiling SRVUSD Superintendent Steve Enoch said. "There were cheers and there were tears. It was a wonderful moment." Enoch said that he has been through a number of similar votes during his time in education but the victory Tuesday was one of the sweetest. "This may be a highlight in my career," he said.

The ballot measure approved will charge each residence within the San Ramon Valley Unified School District \$144 per year. It replaces the current \$90 per year parcel tax that expires June 30. Officials said the new tax will bring in an estimated \$7 million per year to the district. It is set to expire in seven years. The funds are expected to help offset an estimated \$16 million in cuts in state funding for education.

One of the leaders of the Mea-



School Superintendent Steve Enoch is all smiles as he is congratulated on the passage of Measure C at the victory party at The Bridges on Tuesday night.

sure C movement was school board member Rachel Hurd. Elated over the victory, she attributed the win to the campaign run by proponents and community-wide effort to see the issue pass.

"From start to finish we ran a good campaign. We set a goal that our advisors indicated would work, we staffed a team, and this time people really stepped up," she said, adding, "Overall it was an engaged group of hundreds of people, the enthusiasm was there, and we pulled it off."

Last year, the district placed a similar initiative, Measure D, on the ballot, which failed by only 2 percent. In the May 5 election, the Yes votes went up by over 8 percent. Hurd said what she thinks helped to make the difference was the level of volunteer involvement. "Last year's volunteer

effort was a little thin. This time, we had more people involved and they were engaged."

Opponents of the ballot initiative were out during the day Tuesday, keeping a watchful eye on the two ballot drop-off locations. The most vocal opponent was Mike Arata. Arata said that while he did see some things at the drop-offs that he felt were questionable, the number of ballots involved would not have affected the outcome.

"The difference is far too large for any challenge," he explained. He said that the final result did not come as a shock. "I'm disappointed but I'm not surprised. The district and the Measure C tax promoters employed their customary tactics."

Arata added, "I wish more people paid attention to school district finances. To them this is a small enough amount that they wouldn't want to spend more time on it."

While the victory Tuesday is a vital component to the district's plans to maintain funding of teachers and programs, proponents are also keeping a wary eye on the next piece of the funding puzzle. Rachel Hurd said that the school board is meeting Wednesday to discuss possible scenarios as they move ahead in the wake of the parcel tax passage, but they will not be able to fully plan for another two weeks.

"There's still a huge unknown with what happens with the May 19 ballot. We can't make any solid decisions before that May 19 election," she stated.

Superintendent Enoch agreed. "If See **MEASURE C** on Page 6

EBMUD reduces water restrictions, raises fees

Rationing to be voluntary starting July 1

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

It's the classic good news/bad news situation as members of the East Bay Municipal Utility District's Board of Directors last week voted in favor of easing water restrictions, while at the same are looking at approving a two-year 15 percent increase in water fees.

EBMUD District 2 Director John Coleman said that water conservation by East Bay residents coupled with a decent snowpack in the Sierra led the EBMUD directors to vote last week in favor of easing back on water restrictions and moving them from a mandatory to a voluntary status. The change will take effect July 1, the start of the new fiscal year for the utility authority.

Coleman said they have seen residents from throughout the area do a phenomenal job of cutting back on their water usage.

"Our customers did a great job. We asked for single family homeowners to cut back 19 percent, and we achieved a goal of 13 percent overall," he stated.

Two years ago, EBMUD was selling 200 million gallons of water per day. This year that number

has dropped down to 165 million gallons per day. While this has greatly helped in conserving water in the reservoirs, it has also created some issues for EBMUD.

"It actually created a financial situation for our district," he explained. "Our revenue is generated by how much water we sell and what it's priced at."

Coleman said in February the board members met to discuss their revenue issues and determined that there were two primary causes for projected shortfalls. First was the drop in usage, which represented a significant loss of incoming capital. Second was the loss of design work the district normally does.

"We have a lot of engineers who do design work for our service area. The building crisis has imploded this year and the number of people who've approached us for design work is way down," he said.

EBMUD Finance Director Gary Breaux said that revenue estimates show that water sales in the district are down by \$12 million from last year and connection fees

See **EBMUD** on Page 9



TOM LOARIE

Firefighters work at the accident on Blackhawk Road on Tuesday morning. A Monte Vista High student apparently lost control of his 1998 Acura while en route to school at 7:50 a.m.

Teen crashes on Blackhawk Road

Injured MVHS student conscious on ride to hospital

A 16-year-old male Monte Vista student crashed his 1998 Acura into a tree on Blackhawk Road at 7:50 a.m. Tuesday morning about two miles north of the Camino Tassajara junction in Blackhawk.

The Danville teen lost control of the car, swerved to the right, came back to the left and hit the tree, reported Officer Steve Creel of the California Highway patrol. The teen was taken to the hospital with broken ribs and lacerated internal organs, Creel said.

Firefighters from the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District extricated the student, and

paramedics treated him en route to John Muir Medical Center, with lights flashing and sirens on.

"He was conscious and talking to the paramedics," said Battalion Chief Jack Barton.

There was one witness to the accident, said Creel, and CHP is waiting to hear from any other witnesses.

No charges have been filed at this time, said Creel; the accident is still under investigation.

The teen was the sole occupant of the car. No information was available on the teen's condition. ■

MEASURE C

Continued from Page 5

the ballot measures go down on May 19, it will offset our victory here tonight. More than offset it."

In the meantime, 228 school district teachers remain in limbo. Those teachers received pink slips in March, provisional layoff notices that must either be rescinded or finalized by May 15. Hurd said that at this point they are not planning to rescind those notices until they have the result of the statewide election.

She said that there is legislation currently being considered that may allow school districts in simi-

lar situations to postpone making that decision until June 15.

Enoch said he expects those lay-off notices to be finalized within the next several days. "I've assured people that these may not be final, it's just by law they have to be given out by May 15. Unfortunately that's the reality you're going to find in almost every school district right now. We're prepared to give those notices out and then rescind them as soon as we can."

He said, however, that concerns about the upcoming vote should not take away from the effort of the community and the victory at hand. "It is celebration tonight ... and we will see how the 19th goes." ■

Vets ponder going 'green'

Architects present environmentally friendly plans for building

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

In the weeks leading up to a full blown design plan for the renovated Veterans Memorial Building in downtown Danville, members of the committee working on the redesign were given several options designed to make the revamped structure more energy efficient and "green" friendly. Last Monday, members of the Veterans Building Steering Committee heard from architectural consultants ARG regarding the modifications that could be built into the structure.

ARG Senior Associate Deborah Cooper led the discussion, explaining that the idea was for the renovation to incorporate enough green elements to allow the building to be certified through the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program.

LEED is an internationally recognized certification system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council that measures how well a building performs across several different strata including Energy Savings, Water Efficiency, Carbon Emission Reduction and Stewardship of Resources.

There are four levels of certification: platinum, gold, silver and standard. Cooper suggested methods by which the building could receive the silver rating through additions to the fledgling plan.

She explained to the committee

that each area of the building is examined and points are awarded for the level of green initiatives employed. The point total determines the level of certification and ARG is aiming for silver.

"Why are we going for silver? Why not gold or platinum?" asked committee member Bob Combs.

"It has more to do with costs," Cooper responded. "We've found when working with a historic building that gold or platinum are doable but it is costly."

"When we are integrating sustainability in historic buildings we try to do it without compromising their character," she added.

Some basic areas where the building will be able to get points are:

- Installation of low flow toilets and sinks
- Water efficient landscaping
- Reduction of light pollution
- Proximity to public transportation

Cooper said they could also look at alternative power supplies such as solar panels and wind systems. Natural ventilation is also a possibility, although it would have to be supplemented by an air conditioning system during the hottest months of summer.

A LEED engineer working with ARG spoke briefly regarding heating and cooling for the structure. Pius Kao of Affiliated Engineers talked

about such elements as geothermal cooling and a European design called Chilled Beam cooling.

Mayor Newell Arnerich, who heads the committee, expressed appreciation for the wide range of choices but said that some of the more exotic suggestions would not work on a structure the size of the Vets Hall. Arnerich added that he appreciated the enthusiasm and creativity coming forth but he wanted to make sure the architects are able to incorporate the green plans without taking away from the charm of the building.

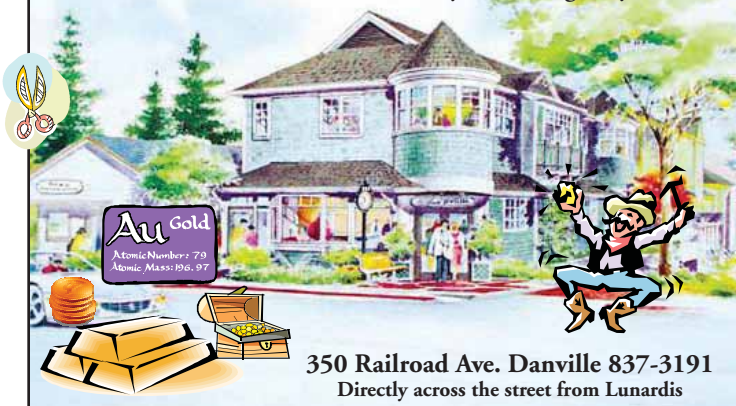
"What we're looking for here are opportunities that are cost effective but that also fit with the program and the building," Arnerich said. "These systems all need to be integrated in and not look like a high tech building. We want this building to be designed so that people are instantly, instantly in love with it."

ARG will now take the ideas generated from the LEED discussion and begin incorporating them into the plans currently taking shape. Committee members are expected to get their first look at the new schematics at their May 11 meeting.

The next meeting of the Veterans Building Steering Committee will take place at 6:30 p.m., Monday, May 11, at the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St., Danville. Meetings are open to the public.

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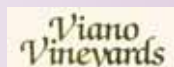
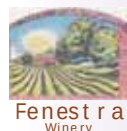
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ABC meets with Danville residents

Program sends news team to towns throughout Bay Area

By GEOFF GILLETTE

There were no cameras rolling and no one was planning for a closeup, but a dozen Danville residents turned out last week to meet with officials from KGO-TV, the local ABC affiliate.

News Director Kevin Keeshan addressed the residents at the Danville Town offices Wednesday evening and explained that they were visiting towns throughout the Bay Area as part of ABC Listens. The 6-year-old program is aimed at giving local residents a conduit for getting story ideas to the newsroom at KGO.

"One of the complaints we get is that you never come to our town unless something bad happens," Keeshan explained. "With this initiative, we're trying to get to every town in the Bay Area."

Keeshan said that so far they have visited at least 60 towns throughout the 10 counties that comprise

"We're trying to get to every town in the Bay Area."

Devin Keeshan,
KGO-TV news director

their viewing area.

"We call them the 10 Balkan states," he joked.

Keeshan and other newsroom staffers speak with area residents, get their ideas for what might constitute a good local news story and exchange contact information.

"We always get a better feel for the towns that we're covering if we get a chance to visit them," he stated.

Security guards monitored the proceedings and escorted the news reporters back out to their cars

afterward. Keeshan said they bring security with them for crowd control as much as to safeguard the TV personalities.

"Depending on the community, we can get 40 or 50 people at these meetings," he said. Security guards help to maintain order and keep the meetings moving.

He added that because they are on television they do get devotees who follow them from town meeting to town meeting, so having the security on hand provides a level of protection from any overzealous fans.

All was quiet in Danville, although Keeshan said he enjoyed the byplay with those who spoke up.

"We got great feedback," he said, "we'll go back and talk about the ideas we were given and see what we come up with."

He added, "We have to find the stories that are broad enough to be interesting to everyone." ■

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School reopens earlier than planned

Coyote Creek gets clean bill of health

By GEOFF GILLETTE

Students were back in class Wednesday at Coyote Creek Elementary School, only two days into an expected weeklong closure. The school and its attached day care facility were closed down after two students were diagnosed as "probable" cases of the H1N1 swine flu.

The district dispatched a sanitizing crew to Coyote Creek on Monday and Tuesday to spend two full days sanitizing and disinfecting the school following the school's closure. Once the cleaning was finished and the school was checked out, health officials advised reopening Wednesday.

"We can't wait to welcome back all of our students and staff members several days earlier than expected," said Marsha Tokuyoshi, principal at Coyote Creek Elementary. "Obviously, we will still remain vigilant regarding students who may feel ill, but we are excited to get back to the business of teaching and learning."

The School District is still recommending that any student who exhibits flu-like symptoms stay home until they have been symptom-free for at least 24 hours, and advising families to see their physician if members of the household exhibit symptoms.

State and local officials continue to monitor the spread of the H1N1 virus, which has now caused the closure of 14 schools in the Bay Area.

District spokesman Terry Koehne said use of the term "probable" means they have not been confirmed through the state health department, but there is high confidence that the cases will be found to be swine flu. "I have heard of one case coming back with a negative result, but mostly 'probable' means 90-95 percent that it will come back confirmed," he explained.

Koehne said the district has posted information and Frequently Asked Questions about H1N1 and what to do in the case of school closings on its Web site: www.srvusd.net. ■

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TAKE US ALONG



Weekly enjoys the Olympics: Randy Coyner was greeted by these young Chinese greeters at the 2008 Olympics in China, at the Beijing Airport last July.

EBMUD

Continued from Page 5

are down by \$17 million.

In order to deal with the expected shortfalls, the board looked at a possible increase of as much as 21 percent. Coleman said rather than push that out onto area residents, the board instead instituted a hiring freeze, announced drastic cutbacks on travel and sponsorships and trimmed an additional \$20 million off the budget.

Even with the belt tightening, customers can expect to see some fee increase coming their way in the new budget year.

"We had two choices this year," said Coleman. "We could go for an increase of 12 percent this year and 2 percent the following year; or we could have a 7.5 percent increase this year and a 7.5 percent increase next year. I felt 7.5 percent was more appropriate because we're in a

fiscal crisis."

The board chose to go with the second option, which has been factored into its annual budget. Board members will vote on the budget at their June 9 meeting.

Coleman said if approved, the increase would be mitigated by the fact that the 10 percent drought surcharge will go away at the start of the new water year, July 1. With the surcharge removed, residents will see a slight decrease in their water bills in the coming year with an increase in the second year.

Residents are still being asked to be frugal with their water usage.

"We're in much better shape than we were last year, but we need to acknowledge that we're still in a drought to a degree," Colman said, adding, "We're still asking people to conserve but we are saying that if you started showering every other day, you can shower every day." ■

DIABLO VIEWS

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

My backyard will soon see return of the natives

Rain was coming down in a light spray Sunday but that didn't dampen my spirits. My husband and I went on the fifth annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour. What a fine idea, to go au naturel in one's garden. We want to bring back the natives after years of trying to coax our imported Kentucky blue grass through every summer—feeding it, watering it, even begging it to grow. Last summer when water rationing began, we admitted that our environment isn't hospitable to lawns and there must be a better way.

The self-guided tour featured 49 gardens throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties. These gardens not only conserve water, they are also a habitat for birds and butterflies, according to the thick, informative guide we were mailed free on request. Visit www.BringingBackTheNatives.net.

The drizzly weather was fine for checking out the gardens and seeing the different plants and learning what works where. The homeowners were friendly and ready to share their experiences about going native in their gardens. Even the people on tour wanted to talk about their love of native plants. Everyone walked around in their rain slickers and sturdy shoes with their notepads, cheerfully jotting down the names of different plants, helpfully posted on little sticks.

Many of the locations featured garden talks, and we stopped to hear a designer speak on "Creating a new native garden." He started out by extolling the virtues of going native—they need little water and no pesticides—but he didn't really need to because we were already there for that reason. As my mind wandered and I looked around at the crowd it occurred to me that this might be a good place for a single person to meet a like-minded partner. A woman, for instance, could keep her eye open for a guy without a wedding ring who looked about the right age, and how easy it would be to strike up a conversation about natural habitats and native species and California ecosys-

tems. It might even lead to planning a garden together, which of course would encourage the birds and the bees. If the relationship ended, you'd still have a great garden.

We went to three homes—two in Walnut Creek and one in Pleasanton. There were not any in Danville, Alamo or San Ramon. My main concern was that everything looked so gosh darn pretty wet and under a gray sky. I kept trying to imagine what might happen to the pretty green leaves and delicate blossoms under the searing sun of July and August. Our yard gets challenged every summer and parts of it fail.

We landscaped our back yard seven years ago and the plants around the perimeter of the lawn are doing well. Correction: The plants the deer don't like are doing well. The others are gone. Nevertheless the deer keep checking back to see if we've replanted or just in case the old plants have decided to send up new sprouts. Which makes the deer either very optimistic or very hungry. Or maybe our yard is just part of their itinerary. After all they didn't eat the garden in one season. First they ate their favorites, then their second favorites, and on and on for seven years. What is left is "deer resistant." I know better than to say "deer proof."

Anyway the plants around the edge of our grass are fine. It's the grass itself that screams for help. So, we thought, why not put replace the grass with native plants? Once we began to research the project, our neighbors' beautiful lawns—and our sparse one—began to look unnatural and wasteful, and going native seemed like a no-brainer.

A consultant at the Pleasanton site explained that our yard has a chaparral climate and showed us a chapter in her book that explained what to plant and how to care for it. She told us that chaparral plants like to grow on mounds of soil for proper drainage. I can see it already—the struggling lawn in our back yard replaced by graceful little hills with hardy, low maintenance native plants that will thrive, rain or shine. Perky little birds and graceful butterflies will hover. And perhaps someday we'll be part of the tour.

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

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Recommendations for May 19 special election

All six special propositions on the May 19 ballot are the result of a flawed Sacramento budget and policy-making process. The causes include term-limits, the two-thirds super-majority requirement, a distorted initiative process, insulated legislative districts and a Governor who has proven to be ineffective.

These forces and Republican legislators who refused to accept any tax increases (despite the fact that no reasonable solution was possible without them) combined to produce a weeks-long stalemate to begin 2009. The deadlock continued as the State's budget deficit crept beyond \$40 billion. The impasse was barely bridged by a few Republicans in each

house who broke ranks to support the compromise that included budget cuts and the voters deciding on Measures 1A-1F.

The propositions are:

1A Sends a portion of state revenues to a "rainy day" fund for use in lean years. The percentage set aside for economic downturns increases from 5 to 12-1/2 percent of the State's General Fund. Spending is capped at a 10-year average of state revenue, adjusted for population growth and inflation. Revenue above that average goes into reserves, requiring the State in most years to put a projected 3 percent of its general fund revenues in the reserve fund, which could only be used for budget shortfalls, bond repayments and emergencies such as natural disasters or if the Governor declares a fiscal emergency. Extends 1 percent state sales tax increase for one year,

and extends vehicle license fee increase and top income bracket increase for two years, generating some \$16 billion in revenue. This measure also authorizes the Governor to make midyear spending reductions if the budget falls out of balance.

1B Beginning in 2011-12 requires additional payments to local school districts and community colleges to offset recent budget cuts. Payments come from the rainy day fund established in 1A and continue until total amount is repaid.

1C Makes changes to improve performance of state lottery and increase payouts and proceeds. Allows state to borrow \$5 billion to address current budget deficit against projected additional lottery proceeds.

1D Temporarily redirects \$600 million in funds from California Children and Families Act (1998 Proposition 10) to General Fund for support of health and human services children's programs. Additional diversion of \$268 million in years 2010-11 to 2013-14. Early childhood development programs funded by the Act would be cut.

1E Redirects \$230 million from Mental Health Services Act funds (2004 Proposition 63) for two years to existing health programs. Community mental health programs would be cut.

1F Prohibits legislators and state constitutional officers from receiving

pay raises when the State is running a deficit.

There are plenty of reasons for anyone from any part of the political spectrum to oppose these measures. 1A is the only proposition of the six that contains long-term structural reform of the budget process in an attempt to limit the revenue swings we have recently experienced. Its opponents on the left say it will deprive the state of essential revenue needed for important programs, yet some anti-tax groups oppose it because of its built-in taxes and perceived loopholes. This package moves revenues from voter initiative-established programs to the General Fund. Some say this thwarts the will of the voters and cuts these programs when such services are most needed. Others like that it moderates, if temporarily, our ad hoc initiative-based budgeting process.

The problem with defeating these measures is what might happen if they don't pass. The whole mess would go back to legislators and the Governor who are already likely facing a multi-billion dollar additional shortfall they must deal with, even if these measures pass. Hard-line anti-tax forces in the legislature would claim an even greater anti-tax mandate even though they don't have any other solutions. If these measures are defeated we wouldn't bet on a better resolution in round two than we have here. Which is why, painful as it may be, we recommend a Yes vote on all six propositions.

Danville Weekly

Serving the communities of Alamo, Blackhawk, Diablo and Danville

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POLICE BULLETIN

High speed pursuit ends in stolen vehicle arrest

High speeds and a sharp curve proved to be the undoing of a Bay Point car thief being pursued by Danville police officers. Sgt. Dan Hoffman said the pursuit occurred Thursday evening at 10 p.m. when Officer Mike Ireland spotted a vehicle speeding on San Ramon Valley Boulevard near Town and Country Drive.

Ireland tried to pull the vehicle over, but the driver, identified as Juan Garcia, 20, increased speed and tried to escape. Dispatchers informed Ireland that the vehicle was reported stolen out of Bay Point earlier in the day.

The pursuit only lasted a few minutes and reached speeds of 90 miles per hour on San Ramon Valley Boulevard before Garcia failed to negotiate the curve in the roadway just south of Fostoria Way and slid across traffic, over the curb and into the vegetation bordering I-680.

Garcia fled the vehicle on foot. Police set up a perimeter around the area, and Garcia was apprehended a short time later. He was treated at the scene for minor injuries from the car crash and then transported to the Martinez Detention Center.

Police charged Garcia with possession of stolen property, driving a stolen vehicle, felony evading, resisting arrest and felony probation violation. Due to the probation violation, Garcia is being held with no bond.

—Geoff Gillette

OBITUARIES

Joyce Mary Noia Uznay

Joyce Mary Noia Uznay, a former resident of Danville, died April 2 in Seattle at the age of 87.

She was born Dec. 30, 1921, in Alameda. She was the granddaughter of early Danville ranchers Francisco and Maria Noia, daughter of Antone and Isabel Bernice Halnan Noia.

She moved to a ranch overlooking Hayward after completing grammar school in San Ramon. Her first job after graduating from Hayward High School was with the Bank of Italy in Hayward, which became the Bank of America.

She was predeceased by her husband Walter in 1971. She is survived by her son William, and many Noia relatives. There will be a celebration of her life at Oak Hill Park at 2 p.m., Saturday, May 9. Memorial remembrances may be made to the American Cancer Society.

POLICE REPORT

The following information is provided by the Danville Police Department.

Sunday, April 26

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Camino Tassajara and Tassajara Lane at 12:43 a.m.
- Auto burglary on 1100 block of Camino Tassajara at 12:12 p.m.
- Promiscuous shooting on Diablo Rd. at 6:15 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Alamos Dr. and Diablo Rd. at 7:24 p.m.

Monday, April 27

- Auto burglary on Emerald Dr. at 6:55 a.m.
- Commercial burglary on 200 block of Hartz Ave. at 9:15 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. and Front St. at 3:32 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Brookside Dr. at 5:05 p.m. and 5:47 p.m.
- Suspicious subject, arrest, on Camino Amigo Ct. at 10:07 p.m.
- Drunk in public on 300 block of Hartz Ave. at 11:41 p.m.

Tuesday, April 28

- Accident, property damage, on Fontaine Dr. and Old Blackhawk Rd. at 8:42 a.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on St. Charles Ct. at 1:56 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Danville Blvd. at 3:16 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Alamo Springs Pl. at 4:30 p.m.
- Warrant, arrest, on Silverwood Ct. at 6:54 p.m.
- Drunk in public on Boone Ct. at 9:48 p.m.

Wednesday, April 29

- Auto burglary on Verona Ave. at 2:21 a.m.
- Grand theft on La Gonda Way at 8:11 a.m.
- Residential burglary on El Cerro Blvd. at 4:16 p.m.

Thursday, April 30

- Petty theft on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 8:56 a.m.
- Battery on Brookside Dr. at 5:51 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Harlan Dr. and Meese Ct. at 6:44 p.m.
- Suspicious subject, arrest, on Laurel Dr. at 7:45 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 10 p.m.

Friday, May 1

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Midland Way and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 2:16 a.m.
- Commercial burglary on Crow Canyon Rd. at 10:42 a.m.
- Grand theft on Ashley Cir. at 1:39 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Woodranch Cir. at 4:30 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Rubicon Cir. at 5:48 p.m.

Saturday, May 2

- Vandalism on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 2:49 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Boone Ct. and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 11:39 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Diablo Rd. and Hartz Ave. at 1:21 p.m.
- Suspicious subject, arrest, on Paraiso Dr. at 7:01 p.m.
- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 11:25 p.m.

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Like 1

Readers choo

To celebrate Mother's annual Mother-Daughter rowed down the cho online at www.DanvilleWeekly.com decide.

The votes are in and the and her daughter Kaleigh, 7 elementary School.

"My daughter and I get stop how we look alike," said Katie da, and people also notice t



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Bonnie and Cherie Lee Banaga



Tara Bateman and Megan Paige



Holly and Kaylee Burrill



Kristy and Shannon Desrosiers

mother, like daughter

se the winners in our Mom-Daughter Look-Alike Contest

Day this year, we held our second annual Look-Alike Contest. Our staff narrowed the choices to eight entries, which were posted on www.danvilleweekly.com. Then it was up to our readers to vote.

The winners are Danville residents Katie Olla and her daughter, who is a first-grader at Greenbrook Elementary.

Katie has freckles and people comment about them all the time and people comment about her. She also has a 9-year-old daughter, Amanda, who has the same resemblance there. But since Katie and

Kaleigh share the freckles and excitement over the contest, they entered.

Husband Joe took the photo. "It was one of those things we had on our mind and the night before the deadline, I said, 'You'd better take our picture,'" recalled Katie. "Then we didn't even know we were finalists until a friend told me she voted for us."

The Ollas will receive a \$100 gift certificate to Bridges restaurant.

Second place goes to Alison and Brooke Osborn, age 3-1/2, who also live in Danville. They will receive a \$50 certificate to Strizzi's. A close third were Lori and Janelle Webb.

Thanks to everyone who sent in their pictures. And a Happy Mother's Day to all—whether your children look like you or not. ■



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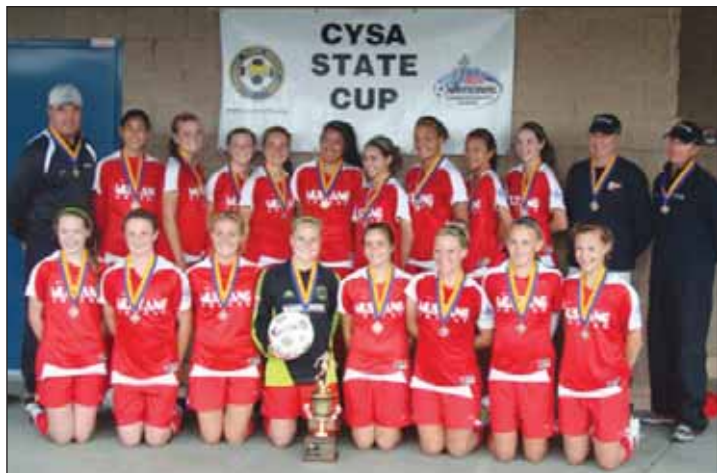
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CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

Lacrosse competition continues

Monte Vista 2006 grad Luke Langon, No. 12 for UC Berkeley, battles against Sonoma State at the Western Collegiate Lacrosse League playoffs at Novato High School in Marin County over the weekend. UC was top rated but did not make the finals in the playoffs. Many San Ramon Valley graduates have gone on to play college lacrosse, after SRVHS coach Pete Worstell arrived from the East Coast and put lacrosse players onto local fields.



Blasting to the top

The U14 Mustang Blast Girls are thrilled to bring home another CYSA State Cup Championship from State Cup played May 2 at the Morgan Hill Soccer Complex. After facing many tough and unrelenting opponents, the Blast faced Elk Grove Everton in a final game of drizzling sleet, bloody knees and non-stop action. While the first half was a touch-and-go battle with only one goal, the Blast was able to come back in the second half with four goals.

The Blast now looks forward to Regionals in Lancaster and hopes to represent all of the Northern California teams with energy and pride. Team members are (top, l-r) Assistant Coach Rob Vandevanter, Rachel Hamilton, Hannah Koski, Kerianne Hunt, Alyssa Alarab, Kim Low, Reilly Parker, Angie Johnson, Amy Harioka, Stephanie Amack, Head Coach Doug Norvelle, Head Trainer Carl Edwards, Alexa Vandevanter, Morgan Idso, Shelby Cota, Beth Ritter, Rachel Feldman, Katelyn Rader and Lynsey Hromatko.



St. Joan fifth-graders division champs

St. Joan fifth-grade boys defeated Catholic Community of Pleasanton for the National Division championship at San Ramon Valley High School, winning 36-33. Team players were (top, l-r) Assistant Coach Howard Paul, Head Coach John Reiss, Assistant Coach Tom Mangan, (middle) Cristian Benedetto, Daniel Cavalieri, Joey Dionisio, Brian Mangan, (front) Alex Cole, Will Paul, Ryan Bowman, Jackson Reiss, and Jushan Samra. Nicholas Escobar was not pictured.



Danville Crushers 11U are Champions

The Danville Crushers 11U pulled off a dramatic victory in the championship game by beating the Livermore Dirtbags, 4-3, in the April 18-19 Nation's Baseball Spring Slugfest in Sunnyvale. On their way to a perfect 5 win and 0 loss tournament, the Crushers defeated the Los Altos-Mountain View Titans 10-2; the Dirtbags 5-2; and the Half Moon Bay Pirates 10-2. In the playoffs the Crushers once again beat the Titans, 21, before defeating the Dirtbags in the finals.

The Crushers gave up only 10 runs in five games and yielding three errors in the whole tournament. Nick Graditi led the way on the mound picking up two wins including the championship game. Dawson Vasconi, Arman Mogharei and Tate Alley played stellar defense behind the plate, while Mogharei also picked up two saves. Kevin Velo, Connor Bruce and Gordon Faust also were victorious on the mound. Davis Bender, Will Dennis, Dante Peretti and Tyler Larson each paved the way with their bats, with Dennis picking up the one-run save in the semifinals. Trip McComas was a machine at shortstop making 15 consecutive plays. Connor Binning and Chase Geertsens had key contributions in the field and at the plate. The Crushers are coached by Matt Crudale.

PREP SCHEDULE

Friday, May 8

SWIMMING

EBAL Trials

BASEBALL

Monte Vista vs. De La Salle, 3:45 p.m.

San Ramon Valley vs. Foothill, 4 p.m.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Monte Vista vs. San Ramon Valley, 7 p.m.

MEN'S LACROSSE

Monte Vista at San Ramon Valley, 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 9

SWIMMING

EBAL Finals

Monday, May 11

GOLF

NCS Tournament

Tuesday, May 12

SOFTBALL

Monte Vista at Amador, 4 p.m.

San Ramon Valley at Carondelet, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, May 13

BASEBALL

Monte Vista at Amador, 3:45 p.m.

San Ramon Valley at De La Salle, 4 p.m.

Thursday, May 14

SOFTBALL

Monte Vista at San Ramon Valley, 4 p.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

EBAL Trails at Granada, 4 p.m.

By GEOFF GILLETTE

They say that when one door closes another one opens. If that's the case, then Job Connections and Executive Director Dean Tracy thrive on finding and opening those doors for East Bay residents impacted by recent job loss.

California's workforce has suffered heavy casualties in the current economic crises, and the East Bay in particular has seen serious growth in the number of individuals out of work.

Contra Costa County's unemployment rate has climbed to 9.8 percent. Estimates from the state Employment Development Department indicate the rate for Danville is around 5.2 percent, with 1,200 Danville residents unemployed.

Many have turned to Job Connections, one of the largest networking groups in the area, to get help in finding that next job. The organization is based out of Community Presbyterian Church in Danville, funded by a donation from the church, and staffed by volunteers.

"The program has been around since the early '80s but had a totally different look and feel," explained Tracy. "I restarted it in 2002 with its current configuration."

Job Connections brings the unemployed—and those who want a job change—into weekly sessions where they talk about the changing job market, finding new job opportunities and working their way through the interview process. Primarily, it allows members to meet with other people going through the same issues.

Issues that Tracy understands, having gone through his own job loss.

"For me it was a real awakening," he said while declining to give details. "Losing my job had nothing to do with performance. It was out of my hands and it was a business decision."

He tries to impart this to those at the sessions.

"Part of the program is to help people manage that process because unemployment has a big impact on many aspects of our individual lives. It impacts community, family and relationships," he said.

This can be especially difficult in the current economic climate, where people are employed at a job on an average of three to five years.

Tracy said losing his own job gave him the impetus to become more involved in helping others find their next opportunity.

"It's more than a concept or a cause, it was really personal for me," he stated.

Job Connections is what its name implies, a method for people going through the experience to get together and network.

"It's not a therapy session," Tracy said. "We're there to be a resource, to offer hope and encouragement to the community of unemployed and underemployed seeking new opportunities."

The group, which started out with only eight members has grown to more than 3,000, with each CPC Saturday session drawing around 270. Tracy said in the past several months he's seen a spike in attendance. "We were getting an average of 40 to 45 first-time visitors each week. January is when we really saw the influx of people. One weekend we had 86 new people."

First-timers go through an orientation that consists of an overview of Job Connections and how the program functions. Then the newbies join the larger group, where discussions will be held on unemployment, job seeking and other aspects of finding that next job.

After the group session ends, they take a 30-minute break to allow members to talk and network. Tracy said this allows people to share their experiences in the job market and get ideas of where they might seek work.

After the break, a speaker will discuss



COURTESY OF JOB CONNECTION

Sheila Murray Bethel addresses attendees at the 2008 Northern California Leadership and Career Summit at the Community Presbyterian Church on "Leadership that makes a difference." The annual free summit is put on through Job Connection as a way for unemployed or underemployed residents to network, hear dynamic speakers, and meet with hiring officials from area companies.

MOVING ON

Danville group helps the unemployed find opportunity



COURTESY OF JOB CONNECTION

Dean Tracy described the annual leadership summit as being a lot like Job Connection's weekly meetings at CPC but much more involved—and on a larger scale. Over 600 of Job Connection's 3,000 registered members packed CPC during the 2008 summit. This year they already have 850 members registered for the May 31 event.

some aspect of the post-employment transition, offering advice and encouragement in getting back into the workforce.

"We've had athletes come and speak, life coaches, people who speak on living to your potential," Tracy said.

For some at Job Connections, the loss of a job has opened the way to new possibilities. Jim Conway, 52, had worked 23 years for the Sheet Metal Contractors Association when he suddenly found himself unemployed.

"It's really a shock," the Danville resident said, "a shock to the system when you've been at an organization for that period of time. I had the impression that I was going to be working my way through the organization."

Conway's position was lost in a company-wide reorganization. Rather than harbor any grudges, he's used that setback to start out in a new direction.

"I'm trying to make a shift into health care marketing, building on the strengths and skills

from my previous career," he explained.

Conway started attending Job Connections after hearing about it through another job agency. When he learned that it was based in his hometown, he stopped in.

"It's a really dynamic and uplifting group of people," he said. "They're a group with a great sense of humor about where they're going. We laugh a lot and share stories."

The strong emotional support he's received from his wife Mary and from Job Connections have allowed him to keep moving in his new career path.

"The whole job search and reinvention has been a struggle. Mary's been a great support and very understanding. She's been invaluable to me," he said.

While Conway's new opportunity has not arrived yet, he said he's had some positive interviews and is confident that he's going to find the job he's been wanting his entire life.

In addition to its weekly sessions, Job Connections holds an annual Northern California Career and Leadership Summit. Scheduled for May 31 at Community Presbyterian Church in Danville, this year's free event will feature Olympic Medalist Paul Kingsman and other guest speakers and is designed to help attendees develop leadership and communication skills. It also provides a forum for professionals to network with each other and recruiters, as well as meeting representatives from hiring companies. Find information and register online at www.jobconnections.org.

EPICURE



By JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

Celebrate your grandmother with a tea

This Mother's Day, let's hear it for grandmothers ... and Grammys, Nanas, Grand-mères, Memas, Grans and YaYas, too!

Yes, as a Nana myself, I may be a bit biased but I think grandmothers need to be celebrated more. After all, aren't we the ones who graciously agree to babysit or take carpool at a moment's notice, buy clothes for the grandkids instead of ourselves, laugh with glee over our grandchild's latest antics, eagerly sit through a four-hour holiday school program just to see 30 seconds of a grandchild dressed as a lamb, and gently soothe a skinned knee or bruised ego? Aren't we the ones who refrain ourselves from second-guessing our own children's parenting techniques? And the ones who plaster our refrigerator doors with photos of every stage of growth in our grandchild's life? (Well, maybe some of those!)

In case you've forgotten how very special your grandmother is,

here's a short list to consider:

14 ways nanas are great

1. They know lots of good stories and aren't hesitant to share them.
2. They know interesting things about your parents, even embarrassing details.
3. They are a cheering audience for your new drawings, sports wins, dances, words, school achievements, etc.
4. They go on trips, send you postcards and bring you back neat stuff.
5. They are patient, take time to explain things and talk about how to be good.
6. They aren't afraid to be silly, un-cool or get down on the floor to play.
7. They send care packages when they think about you or when you are away at camp, college, etc.
8. They cook special dishes for you and are willing to let you cook and mess up the kitchen.
9. When you are mad at your parents, they offer another way of looking at things.
10. They are never too tired to talk to you.
11. They are not uptight; they sometimes let you do things your parents wouldn't.

See **EPICURE** on Page 18

Search a complete Restaurant Listing on DanvilleWeekly.com

Forks Corks & More

AMERICAN

Bridges Restaurant & Bar

44 Church Street, Danville, (925) 820-7200. Bridges in downtown Danville is the ideal venue for lunch or dinner. Enjoy cozy, alfresco dining on our vine-covered patio, or experience the warm ambience of our main dining room. The sleek, contemporary bar/lounge area is ideal for meeting friends after work, offering a delicious "small bites" menu and specialty cocktails. Executive chef Kevin Gin creates an inspired seasonal menu featuring California cuisine with European and Asian influences. Lunch Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Dinner nightly. Complimentary valet parking. www.bridgesdanville.com

PIZZA

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

WINE - RETAIL/TASTING

Bella Vino

3450 Camino Tassajara, Danville, 94506, 925-648-1300. Taste a variety of wines at leisure or grab a bottle to go! Tasting Tuesday - Sunday. Special tasting events every Thursday and Live Jazz on Fridays. 5/8 - Live Music - Sue Lukito 7:30-9:30 p.m. 5/8 - Jazz Cellars - Tasting 7-9 p.m. 5/14 - BBQ Wines - Get ready for Memorial Day weekend! 5/15 - Live Music - Chris Ahlman 7:30-10:30 p.m. 5/19 - VINO Vixens V2 Networking - \$6 wines by the glass 5/21 - Damian Roe Winery will be at Bella Vino 6:30-9 p.m. Check us out online on our events page for current upcoming events at www.bvino.com

The Vine at Bridges

480 Hartz Avenue, Downtown Danville. 820-7210. Wine shop open Tues-Sat from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays 4-9 p.m. Sunday 1-6 p.m. Wine Bar open Tuesday through Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoon. 30 wines are available to taste at the wine bar and 260 different wines are available for purchase in the wine shop. 5/9 - In Store Educational Tasting 1-4 p.m. 5/16 - In Store Educational Tasting 1-4 p.m. 5/19 - Frank Family Dinner at Bridges Restaurant 6-9 p.m. For more information about events please visit www.thevineatbridges.com



Mother's Day Brunch

May 10th 10-2:30
3 course Prix Fixe Brunch
Starting at \$25

Mother's Day Dinner

A la Carte Menu
5:00 - 8:00 pm

Frank Family
Wine Dinner
May 19th



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EPICURE

Continued from Page 17

12. They know lots of cool songs and don't hesitate to sing them, even if they don't have a great singing voice.

13. They are proud of anything you do and will brag about you to everyone they meet.

14. They are calm during crises, don't call you stupid and always have ways to solve your problems.

So this year, whether you are 12 or 32, whether your grandmother is 51 or 95, devote some one-on-one time to sit, share, talk, sip, munch and enjoy each other's company. Food is a universal way to commune and an afternoon of

tea and refreshments is an ideal way to spend time with your elder.

An informal tea with your grandmother(s) or your child's grandmother(s) need not be elaborate. A pot of her favorite tea, fresh fruit and one sweet offering is sufficient to generate great conversation and loving exchanges. If you can't find time to bake one of the simple cakes noted here, select a few special treats from your local grocer, based on her tastes.

Pssst ... here's the secret ingredient: Time is the most important element for a grandmother. Taking time—even an hour—from your busy, stressful life to spend exclusively and unhurriedly with her will create memories that you will both cherish in the years to come. And don't forget to bring the camera!

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

Recipe

Black Russian Cake (serves 12-16)

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1 (3-1/2 oz.) box instant chocolate pudding mix
- 1 cup oil
- 1/4 cup vodka
- 1/4 cup Kahlua
- 3/4 cup pre-made coffee
- 4 eggs

For glaze:

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 tsp each Kahlua, vodka and coffee

1. Preheat one to 350 degrees. Spray Bundt pan with cooking spray.

2. Combine all the cake ingredients and beat 4 min.; pour into Bundt pan.

3. Bake 50-60 minutes; cool in pan until cake is just barely warm.

4. Turn cake onto plate; poke hole in warm cake with straw or knife.

5. Mix glaze ingredients; stir to dissolve sugar. Pour over cake.

More recipes at www.DanvilleWeekly.com

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Raspberries • Spinach • Strawberries

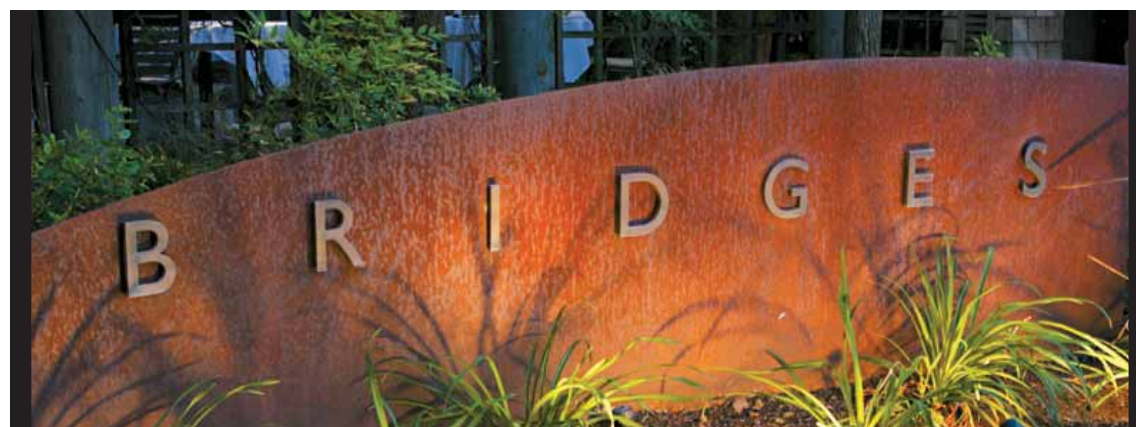
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Mother's Day Dinner
A la Carte Menu
5:00 - 8:00pm

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Calendar

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

Auditions

'TOUGH LOVE' AUDITIONS J & L Center Stage Inc. will host auditions for "Tough Love" from 6-9 p.m., Monday, May 11, in Danville. Rehearsals begin early June. Contact the director Eric Hayes at efhayes65@yahoo.com or (312) 286-9224.

Clubs

CATHOLICS@WORK This group will host guest speaker Dominic Jala, SDB, at 7 a.m. (Mass is offered at 6:30 a.m.), Tuesday, May 12, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Cost is \$20 for members; \$25 for non-members. Visit www.catholicsatwork.org.

EXCHANGE CLUB OF SAN RAMON VALLEY The club will host Mark Curtis at its next meeting from noon-1 p.m., Wednesday, May 13, at Faz Restaurant, 600 Hartz Ave., Danville. Cost is \$16 for members; \$20 for guests. Call 275-2412.

Concerts

'THE NIGHTINGALE' AND 'THE THREE CORNERED HAT' Diablo Symphony and Contra Costa Children's Chorus present "The Nightingale" and "The Three Cornered Hat" at 2 p.m., Sunday, May 10, at the Leshner Center for

the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$15 for seniors; and \$10 for children. Call 943-7469.

Events

ALAMO JEWELRY, FINE ART AND CRAFT SHOW The annual Alamo Jewelry, Fine Art and Craft Show will be held from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, May 9-10. Admission is free. Visit www.jhfestivals.com.

COMMUNITY BIKE RODEO Come to the San Ramon Valley Community Bike Rodeo from 4-7 p.m., Wednesday, May 13, at Iron Horse Middle School, 12701 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon. Admission is free. Call 973-2700 or visit www.sanramon.ca.gov.

DANVILLE INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL The sixth annual Danville International Children's Film Festival will take place Friday-

Sunday, May 15-17, at various locations in Danville. Forty films will be screened as well as a series of educational seminars for children and parents. Tickets can be purchased at the Village Theater, 233 Front St., Danville. Call 314-3400 or visit www.caindiefilmfest.org.

SPRING WINE STROLL Danville Livery and the Town of Danville will host the Danville Spring Wine Stroll from 6-9 p.m., Thursday, May 14, in downtown Danville and the Livery. Cost is \$25. Call 838-7070.

Fundraisers

SPRING TO SUCCESS LUNCHEON Wardrobe for Opportunity will host its annual Spring to Success Luncheon from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Friday, May 15, at the San Ramon Marriott, 2600 Bishop Dr. Tickets are \$80 per person; \$720 for a table of 10. Proceeds benefit Wardrobe for Opportunity. Visit www.wardrobe.org.

Kids and Teens Political Notes

'THANKS MOM' Blackhawk Plaza will host a children's chalk garden, at which children will have the opportunity to draw or write special "thank you" messages to their moms from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, May 9, at Blackhawk Plaza. Children will also be able to decorate a flower pot and create a flower as a special gift for Mom; crafts available while supplies last. This event is free. Call 736-2751.

On Stage

'THREE TALL WOMEN' Role Players presents "Three Tall Women" at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 8-9, at Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$22-25, \$15 for students with ID. For tickets, call 314-3400 or visit www.village-theatreshows.com.

Spiritual

WISE WOMEN'S RETREAT San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church invites women 50 years and older to attend a one-day retreat from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday, May 12, at Westminster Retreat Center, 512 Hemme Ave., Alamo. Cost is \$53, including lunch, snacks and drinks. Call 837-5243 or visit www.srvumc.org.

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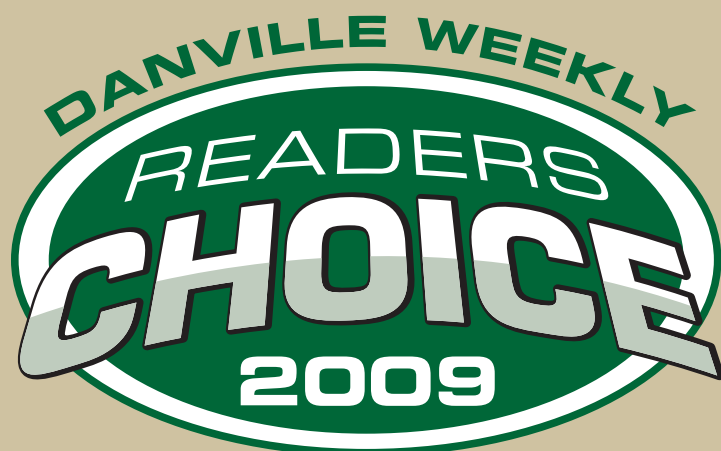
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Be part of Danville Weekly's 2009 Readers Choice

The Danville Weekly is once again asking you to vote for the best places to eat, drink, shop and spend time in Danville, Diablo, Blackhawk and Alamo.

Voters can go online to www.DanvilleWeekly.com through May 25 to cast votes. The winners will be published in the June 19 edition of the Danville Weekly.

VOTE ONLINE

www.DanvilleWeekly.com

Around town

Best auto dealership
Best car repair
Best car wash
Best Danville Area real estate office/Realtor
Best financial planner
Best golf course
Best mortgage broker/brokerage
Best pet groomer
Best pet sitter
Best place to get a traffic ticket
Best place to have a first date
Best place to people watch
Best swim school
Best tire store/service center
Best travel planner
Best tutoring school
Best veterinarian

Specialty retail

Best art gallery
Best athletic apparel store
Best bicycle shop
Best bookstore
Best children's clothing store
Best discount store
Best florist
Best grocery store
Best hobby/craft store
Best home accessory store
Best jewelry store
Best maternity store
Best men's clothing store
Best pet store

Best place to buy a gift
Best shoe store
Best wine store
Best women's clothing store

Personal care and pampering

Best day spa
Best hair salon for women
Best hair salon for men
Best manicure/pedicure
Best medical spa

Epicure

Best American food restaurant
Best bakery
Best breakfast
Best burger
Best California cuisine/innovative dining
Best Chinese restaurant
Best deli
Best dessert
Best French restaurant
Best fresh produce
Best ice cream/yogurt shop
Best independent coffee house
Best Italian restaurant
Best Mediterranean/Middle Eastern restaurant
Best Mexican restaurant
Best outdoor dining
Best personal chef
Best pizza
Best place for a business lunch

Best romantic restaurant
Best salad
Best sushi/Japanese restaurant
Best takeout
Best Thai restaurant
Best wine bar

Let's Get Physical

Best bike or walking trail
Best fitness club
Best martial arts studio
Best personal trainer
Best place to jog
Best place to walk a dog

At home

Best antiques store
Best computer repair
Best home consignment shop
Best flooring store
Best hardware store
Best home furnishings
Best kitchen/bath remodeler
Best landscaper/designer
Best interior designer
Best remodeling contractor

Stepping Out

Best happy hour
Best place for a picnic
Best place for dancing
Best place to get together with friends
Best public event

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HOMES TODAY



By JOE COMBS

'80 Days'—Is this the bottom?

As a kid, I read the book "Around the World in 80 Days" and was amazed at what could be accomplished in such a short span of time. With almost a full quarter of 2009 behind us, as of March 21, 2009, or 80 days into the year, we wanted to examine this year's data for each of our important markets, including Alamo, Blackhawk and Danville. This "80 Day" Review will include all properties sold between Jan. 1 and March 21 for both 2008 and 2009. Homes that transferred hands without a reported purchase price are included in the unit sales counts but are excluded from statistical analysis.

There are currently 147 homes listed as active pending and sold in Alamo. One hundred seventeen homes are listed as active and, encouragingly, 12 homes are listed as pending. Significantly more Alamo homes sold in 2009 than sold in the same time period in 2008. Sixteen homes sold in 2008 compared to 18 in 2009 for a 12.5 percent increase in unit sales. Average sales price increased 10 percent in the same year-to-year comparison moving up from \$1,592,401 in '08 to \$1,608,058 in '09. Price paid per square foot however did not follow suit and fell from \$443 in '08 to \$413 in the same '09 time period for a -7 percent decline. Alamo's current median price for sold listings stands at \$1,245,000. (See chart below.)

There are currently 89 homes listed as active pending and sold in Blackhawk. Seventy-five are listed as active and five are pending sale. Unit sales in Blackhawk remained unchanged at nine homes sold. Average price declined significantly in 2009 slipping from \$1,261,891 in 2008 to \$1,118,500 in 2009 for a -13 percent average price decline. Average price paid per square foot for a Blackhawk home dropped

from \$394 per square foot from '08 to \$332 paid in '09 for a -16 percent decline. Blackhawks' current median price for sold listings stands at \$1,130,000, about 9 percent below Alamo's current median price.

Unit sales of homes in Danville decreased most significantly from 69 in 2008 to 60 in '09 for a -15 percent decline in unit sales. Average price declines were notably more for Danville than for either the Alamo or Blackhawk markets. Average price declined -14 percent falling from \$946,534 in 2008 to \$810,081 in 2009. Price paid per square foot declined from \$393 paid per square foot in 2008 to \$333 per square foot in 2009 for -13 percent drop in price. Danville's current median price for sold listings stands at \$742,500. An explanation for the difference between Danville and Alamo/Blackhawk would be the higher percentage of Condo and Townhome sales, which push the average prices lower.

On balance the start in 2009 seems to suggest a marked slowing in market declines if not the bottom and beginning of a turnaround. Unit sales numbers suggest a positive momentum, and Alamo's positive price gains could be the harbinger of better days ahead for our local housing market. Please keep reading our column and we will discover together what the future may have in store.

If you would like to receive a copy of our "80 Day Review" including the raw data, e-mail joecombs@thecombsteam.com with "80 Day Review" in the subject line. We've started a Web Blog and are including timely market data not elsewhere available on it. To access the blog type <http://thecombsteam.blogspot.com/> into your Web browser and become blogging buddies with me.

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.

Home Sales January 1-March 21, 2009

	Alamo	Blackhawk	Danville
Unit Sales 2008	16	9	69
Unit Sales 2009	18	9	60
% Change	12.5%	0%	-15%
Average Price 2008	\$ 1,592,401	\$ 1,261,891	\$ 946,534
Average Price 2009	\$ 1,608,058	\$ 1,118,500	\$ 810,081
% Change	10%	-13%	-14%
\$ Per Sq. Ft. 2008	\$ 443	\$ 394	\$ 393
\$Per Sq. Ft. 2009	\$ 413	\$ 332	\$ 333
% Change	-7%	-16%	-13%

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Pleasanton

4 BEDROOMS

1608 Cindy Way \$1,179,000
Sat/Sun 1-5 Alain Pinel Realtors 785-7777

1624 Cindy Way \$1,329,000
Sat/Sun 1-5 Alain Pinel Realtors 785-7777

1640 Cindy Way \$1,349,000
Sat/Sun 1-5 Alain Pinel Realtors 785-7777

836 Piemonte Drive \$1,599,000
Sat 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 980-0273

7837 Marigold Court \$790,000
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA Realty 548-8775

506 Trebbiano Place \$999,000
Sat 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 462-7653

5 BEDROOMS

7152 Moss Tree Way \$1,128,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 397-4244

1632 Cindy Way \$1,449,000
Sat/Sun 1-5 Alain Pinel Realtors 785-7777

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during March 2009

Alamo

33 Treetop Terrace Court Davidon Homes to C. & T. Eberling for \$2,670,000

Danville

647 Doral Drive Perkins Trust to L. & D. Proc for \$510,000

4448 Fleetwood Road Harborview Mortgage to Poumandan Trust for \$795,000

116 Franciscan Drive Fisher Trust to R. & B. Judson for \$687,500

1035 Glasgow Place S. Seeger to L. & M. Hickey for \$783,000

1 Heartland Court Wimmell Trust to C. & J. Moreno for \$1,050,000

1068 Lehigh Valley Circle A. & M. Gasparini to M. Martin for \$650,000

23 Portland Court K. & M. Evans to T. & Z. Foster for \$940,000

60 Rhett Place Clarum Hansen Lane Limited to M. Trentini for \$1,500,000

1061 San Ramon Valley Boulevard Deutsche Bank to W. & S. Kokorelis for \$280,000

1963 West Rancho Verde Circle Scott Trust to R. & D. Worthington for \$490,000

Walnut Creek

1601 Alvarado Avenue Baltazor Trust to Jin Trust for \$685,000

50 Alwin Road Securitized Asset to J. Senior for \$474,500

147 Brandywine Way Heffernan Trust to P. Kurochka for \$749,000

3084 Burlington Way K. & C. Lum to E. & K. Singleton for \$780,000

2307 Chesterton Drive J. & S. Sanford to G. Hopkins for \$835,500

1111 Civic Drive #310 Civic Drive Limited to Eng Trust for \$426,500

131 El Dorado Road Ainsworth Trust to S. Davis for \$539,000

2882 Fyne Drive Dietz Trust to J. Fink for \$615,000

1560 Gilboa Drive R. Kramer to Friedli Trust for \$534,000

460 North Civic Drive #103 JP Morgan Chase Bank to C. Wacinski for \$135,000

2738 Oak Road #172 B. Sons to E. Parkhurst for \$183,000

2178 Overlook Drive C. Bransford to W. Schott for \$375,000

20 Serena Gardens Kumpf Trust to M. & B. Gamble for \$550,000

4032 Terra Granada Drive #2 Sinnott Trust to Simon Trust for \$384,000

2564 Walnut Boulevard #128 JWI Secured Fund to L. Noia for \$280,000

Source: California REsource

For an online version of open homes with mapping
or to list your open home go to: www.DanvilleWeekly.com/real_estate

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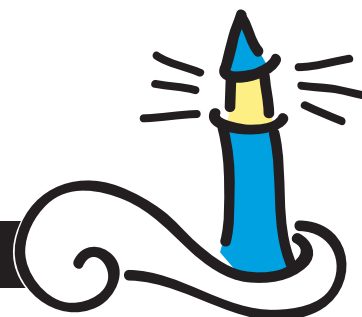


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210 Garage/Estate Sales

Livermore, 980 Cromwell St, May 24 7-12

PA: Citywide Yard Sale 6/6, 8-1
Join the Palo Alto Citywide Yard Sale! Addresses and maps will be listed in the June 5 Palo Alto Weekly. Brought to you by Palo Alto Zero Waste Program, 650/496-5910. www.zerowastepaloalto.org/yardsale

Pleasanton, 1454 Santa Rita Rd., May 16th, 8-4

Alisal Elementary School PTA is hosting a Rummage Sale Fundraiser on May 16th from 8-4. Come shop for toys, clothing, housewares, sporting goods and more to support our students!

Pleasanton, 4433 - 4499 Fairlands Dr., May 17, 8-3

Huge Multi-Families Garage Sale, too many to list. Everything must go.

Pleasanton, 4433 - 4499 Fairlands Dr., May 17, 8-3

Pleasanton, 6897 Calle Altamira, May 9th 8am to 3pm
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CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH



PET OF THE WEEK

Mad for Madison

Pick me! Pick me! That's what this senior Chihuahua/Jack Russell Terrier mix named Madison is saying with her eyes. Madison is about 10 years old and she needs a loving place to live out her golden years. She loves treats and going for leisurely walks. She would benefit from a trip to the veterinarian to have her teeth cleaned. Madison gets along well with other dogs and cats. She has a sweet disposition and is anxious to find a new home of her own. Visit Madison at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040.



Shane Andersen
R.R.T.
Respiratory Therapy



Janet Katz
L.V.N., WCC
Wound & Ostomy



Barbara Reis
R.D., CDE
*Diabetes Management
Caregiver of the Year*



Mariya Butenko
Housekeeping



Julie Klingel
R.N., BSN
Intensive Care Unit



Michael Nixon
*Blood Conservation
Tenet Hero
Hall of Fame Winner*

celebrating

EXTRAORDINARY CARE



Rosalie Shaw
C.L.S.
Clinical Laboratory



Debra Witters
R.N., IBCLC
*Family Birthing Center
Florence Nightingale Award*



Ronaldo Tauro
Housekeeping



Claudia Vahabzadeh
R.N.
Medical Surgical Unit



Natalie Mitchell
R.N., BSN, CLE
*Family Birthing Center
Employee of the Year*



James Ward
Emergency

As we celebrate National Nurses Week and National Hospital & Healthcare Week, we take a moment to recognize those employees who make both San Ramon Regional Medical Center and our community such a remarkable place. They exemplify the commitment, skill and compassionate care we offer. This recognition begins with our special employees honored this year: **Michael Nixon**, Blood Conservation Manager, installed into the Tenet Healthcare Heroes Hall of Fame; **Natalie Mitchell, R.N.**, Family Birthing Center, voted Employee of the Year; **Barbara Reis, R.D.**, Certified Diabetes Educator, named Caregiver of the Year; and **Debra Witters, R.N.**, Family Birthing Center, winning the Florence Nightingale Award for Nursing. From the emergency room, to the operating room, to the patient room, we're here for you.



SAN RAMON
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

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800.284.2878

www.sanramonmedctr.com