

## Play review

Dark Ages serve up dark comedy in 'Incorruptible'

> page 20

Vol. II, Number 39 • January 26, 2007

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## Taking the plunge

Alamo debates giving funds to Aquatic Center

> page 5

# Danville

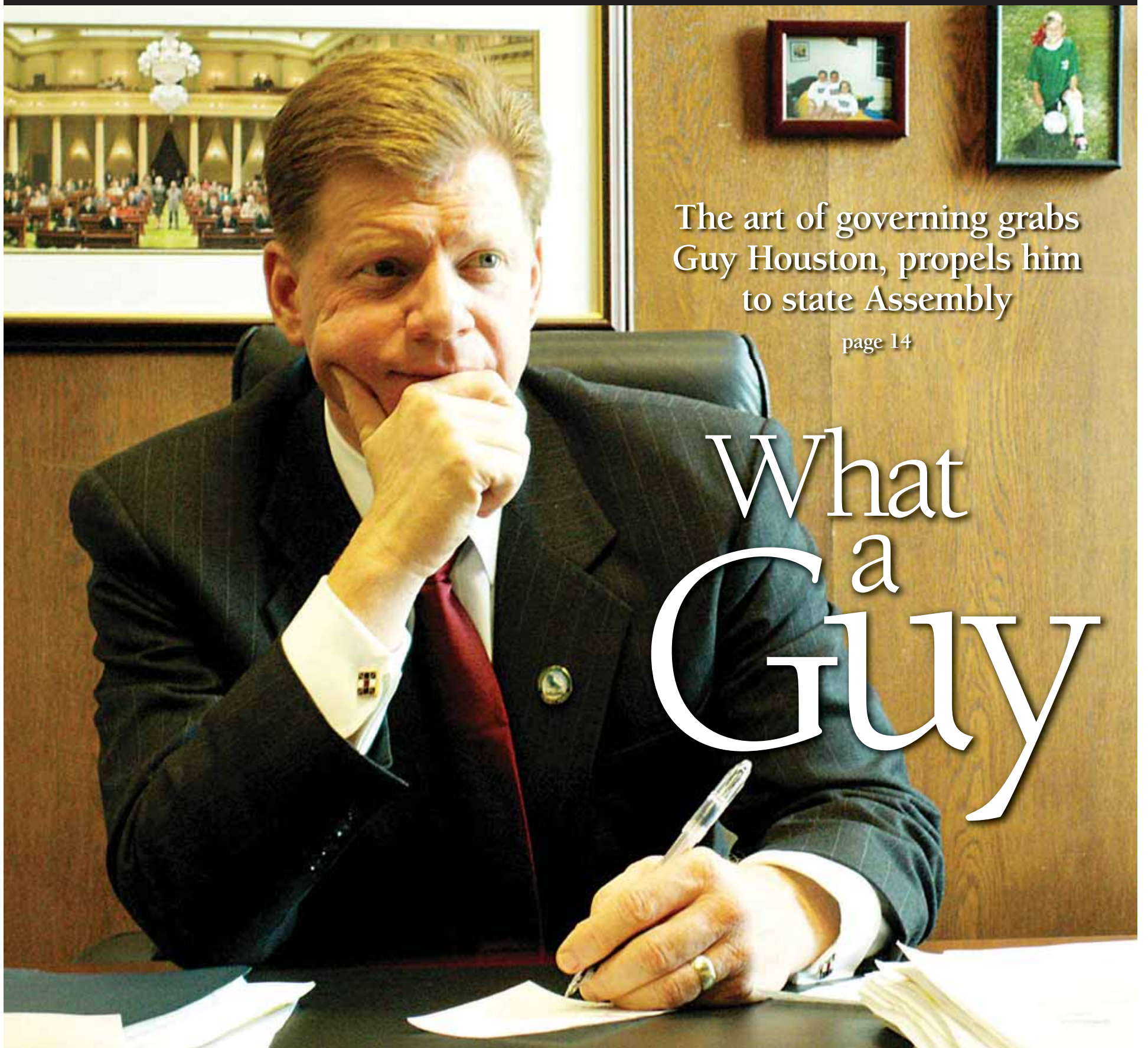
## W E E K L Y

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

## Project pending

Apartment plans depend on change in zoning

> page 5



The art of governing grabs Guy Houston, propels him to state Assembly

page 14

# What a GUY





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## Q: As a culture, why are we fascinated by notorious celebrities?



You mean why does my wife read Perez Hilton (celebrity gossip columnist) every 15 minutes? That's a good question. Because America is bored. People have nothing better to do.

**Tommy Pierson**  
*manager of a loan company*



It's because people are influenced by what they do and what they think is cool. They want to know about the stupid things celebrities do so they can laugh at them and feel better about themselves. It's like the whole Janet Jackson thing.

**Shivani Deb**  
*freshman at San Ramon Valley High School*



Because they don't want to have to think about their own drama. They get caught up in the action just like reality TV.

**Sahar Hejazi**  
*assistant at a loan company*



I don't know because I'm not interested in that. I don't want to read about other people, I'd prefer to read a book. It's possible that they use it to escape.

**Robin Gai**  
*stay-at-home mom*



They want to think that famous people are just like us. Every movie star messes up.

**Amanda Crook**  
*freshman at San Ramon Valley High School.*

COMPILED BY NATALIE O'NEILL

### ABOUT THE COVER

Assemblyman Guy Houston (R., San Ramon) talks to a lobbyist in his Sacramento office. Photo by Jordan M. Doronila. Cover design by Ben Ho.

Vol. II, Number 39

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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ We said we wanted to see community support and there doesn't seem to be one person here who is not for the pool. ”

—Steve Mick, R-7A Alamo Parks and Recreation Committee member, about putting some funds toward the Danville Aquatic Center. See story, page 5.

**Spinach back on the menu**

The San Ramon Valley Unified School District is once again including raw, fresh spinach in its lunch program after a temporary ban on the vegetable was recently lifted.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a consumer alert in September advising consumers not to eat bagged spinach and some related products in the wake of reported incidents involving E. coli bacteria. Sodexo School Services, the district's food services provider, immediately banned fresh spinach to all the schools it serves throughout the country. Based on the recommendation from the FDA and its own Food Safety Team, Sodexo recently lifted the ban.

“Spinach provides lots of vitamins and minerals and we are happy to bring back this healthy vegetable to our students,” said Luis Batiza, district food service consultant. “We are confident that it is perfectly safe to bring back spinach at this time.”

**Calling all business books**

The Danville Area Chamber of Commerce recently received 20 business books from a local entrepreneur for its members to use, and it has invited the public to donate more.

Rick Johnson, a Danville financial planner and an owner of a home improvement business, donated 20 of his business books to the Chamber earlier this month. The titles include “The Great Game of Business: The Only Sensible Way to Run a Company” by Jack Stack; “Customer Intimacy” by Fred Wiersema; “Moving from Talk to Action” by Richard Whitley; and “How to Win Customers and Keep Them for Life” by Michael Le Boeuf.

“It could grow,” said Melony Newman, Chamber president, about the book collection. “We're hoping it can grow into more.” Chamber members are welcome to borrow the books.

She also noted that the Chamber is sponsoring an Entrepreneur Expo at the San Ramon Community Center from 4-7 p.m., Thursday, March 15.

**Apply for county boards, commissions**

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors is seeking applicants for the following:

- Diablo Municipal Advisory Board; Diablo residents
- County Service Area P-5 Citizens Advisory Committee regarding police protection; Round Hill residents
- Arts and Culture Commission; District 3 seat
- Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board; District 3 seat
- First 5, Contra Costa Children and Families Commission; alternate seat
- Emergency Medical Care Committee; District 3 seat

Interested residents should visit [www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/maddybook/](http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/maddybook/) for an application.

Supervisor Mary N. Piepho is also looking for applicants for the Iron Horse Corridor Management Program Advisory Committee for the District 3 at-large seat and the Alamo seat. This nine-member committee meets five or six times a year to help the county manage and improve the Iron Horse Corridor. Call 820-8683 for more information.

All applications are due by 5 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 31.



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## Apartment project on track for approval

*Council postpones decision to learn more about easement issues*

by Geoff Gillette

The light industrial corridor on the south end of Danville near the San Ramon border may be diminishing, after members of the Town Council gave their tacit approval of a rezoning request that will pave the way for a new multi-unit housing project.

The Town Council held a public hearing at its Jan. 16 meeting over a proposed project that would bring 34 apartments to the property on Fostoria Way at the crossing with

the Iron Horse Trail.

Danville Senior Planner Jill Bergman explained to the council that the request from Blacksmith Homes calls for amending the land use designation of the 1.76-acre site from Commercial-Controlled Manufacturing to Residential Multiple Family, and would rezone the property from Light Industrial to Planned Unit Development. This would allow Blacksmith to construct four buildings containing the housing units.

Bergman said the initial intent

would be to have the units be rental properties, but somewhere down the line they could be converted to condominium use and sold.

Council members asked whether anything was being done to mitigate noise between the adjacent light industrial businesses and the new project. Bergman stated that initially a sound wall was proposed, but current plans call for trees to be placed along the outside of the property as a buffer.

Representatives of those busi-

nesses say that will not be enough. Mark Fernwood, the owner of the adjacent property on Fostoria, reminded the council of what occurred just two months ago when Puppy Playland attempted to move its operations to Fernwood's building. Nearby property owners came forward to complain about the potential noise, which led to the council voting it down.

"I feel it's very inappropriate for this area," Fernwood said. "The new condo owners will not sit there and say, 'I understand that these

commercial uses came before us.' It will be a constant source of conflict. It will diminish the usability of my property, which I believe is an unfair taking of my property."

Fernwood also questioned plans for an emergency vehicle access that he claimed would take away five parking spaces from his property.

The assertion sparked questions from the council about the legality of the easement and whether there would indeed be a loss of

► Continued on page 7

## Popular bistro closes

*Property owner, restaurateur disagree on reasons*

by Natalie O'Neill

Lisa B's, a popular restaurant located in the old Danville Hotel on Hartz Avenue, closed its doors for good last Thursday for reasons that are still being disputed.

Owner Lisa Burton said Castle Companies, which owns the downtown Danville property, pressured her out of the location in order to make more money leasing to a monthly tenant.

"They strong-armed me out of there. It's all about making money to them, they don't care about what the community wants," Burton said.

But Thomas Baldacci, who owns the property through Castle Companies, said the restaurant will close because Burton didn't pay rent for the last eight months.

"She was \$25,000 in arrears," Baldacci said.

Discrepancy over how much rent was owed arose between Burton and



Diners enjoy their last meal at Lisa B's, a Bistro, on Jan. 11, when the popular restaurant in the old Danville Hotel closed its doors for good.

► Continued on page 8

## Alamo parks committee gets input on aquatic center

*Recreation funds may be used for swim facility at high school*

by Natalie O'Neill

More than 50 people packed into the Swain House at Hap Magee Ranch Park last week to convince the R-7A Alamo Parks and Recreation Committee that Alamo property taxes should be used to partially fund an aquatic center at San Ramon Valley High School.

The Danville Aquatic Center Steering Committee requested \$300,000 over a period of five years from R-7A's anticipated \$700,000 annual budget to help build a second pool and locker room facility for aquatic recreation.

The facility would be used for community aquatic recreation like swim teams and water aerobics, along with high school water sports and club water polo teams for Danville and Alamo residents. The R-7A budget is largely used for recreation programs and park maintenance in Alamo.

At a previous meeting, R-7A committee members voiced that they were not convinced Alamo taxpayers would support funding an aquatic center located in Danville. But an overwhelming turnout by residents and community officials may have convinced them otherwise.

"We said we wanted to see community support and there doesn't seem to be one person here who is not for the pool," said committee member Steve Mick.

Mick added that he had received more than 70 e-mails in support of the aquatic center since funding was proposed at a meeting in October.

Still, other R-7A members said many of the people who showed up in support of the aquatic center were not from the R-7A area.

"We want to make sure we represent everybody in the R-7A area," said committee member Marie-Jeanne Parsons.

Danville officials and recreation staff members, however, supported funding for the aquatic center, stat-

► Continued on page 6

## Danville contractor couple face charges of fraud

*High-end cabinet scheme netted thousands of dollars*

by Jordan M. Doronila

Peace officers arrested a Danville couple on suspicion of bilking 10 customers out of more than \$100,000 in a cabinetry scheme earlier this month.

Rick Alvin Powers and his wife Cathy were arrested Friday, Jan. 12, for allegedly receiving thousands of dollars from customers to build high-end cabinets but then doing little or no work at all, according to an investigation performed by the

Contractors State License Board, Franchise Tax Board and Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office.

Peace officers from the License Board made the arrest.

"Many of these con artists are smooth talkers and their only goal is to get money out of you," said Steve Sands, the Contractors State License Board Registrar. "This case highlights the importance of checking out references and actually seeing contractors' work before hiring them."

The couple could face more than one dozen felony charges that include grand theft, elder financial abuse and failing to file income

tax returns. Both were booked into County Jail in Martinez but are out now, said Rick Lopes, License Board spokesman.

"The investigation is still continuing," said Pamela Mares, public information officer for the License Board. She added there are also complaints from customers in the Sacramento area about the Poworses.

"More charges may be pending as the Contractors Board is continuing its investigation," she said.

The charges stem from eight formal consumer complaints to the License Board that the couple would take huge down payments,

as much as 62 percent, for high-end cabinets. However, they would not complete the work that was promised.

They would then allegedly con the consumers into believing the cabinets were about to be finished but say additional money would be needed.

"It's a red flag warning when a contractor asks more than 10 percent down, even to order materials," said Sands.

Additionally, the couple has allegedly failed to pay suppliers, other vendors, employees and taxes, according to board documents. Also, they have had a long complaint history with the License

Board on violations of contractor's license law, including receiving excessive payments.

Rick Powers had two contractor licenses revoked, board documents noted. Cathy Powers had one license revoked. Due to the license revocations and convictions, the couple are prohibited from having a contractor's license or acting as an officer, director, associate, partner or qualifying individual for a licensed contractor.

The Franchise Tax Board played a role in the investigations. Its work led to three felony charges, on charges of failing to file their

► Continued on page 9





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**Aquatics**

► Continued from page 5

ing it would be an asset for both Alamo and Danville.

Danville Councilman Newell Arnerich said that he feels strongly that there is need for an aquatic center at the high school.

"It's not just for Danville, it's for the whole valley," he said, prompting the room to erupt in applause.

Recreation planners agreed the facility would unite the community and provide recreational use for residents of all ages.

"You have my whole-hearted support," said Kathy Chiverton, executive director of the Mt. Diablo Region YMCA.

Residents who advocated funding the pool piled in during the meeting, one after another, to state personal reasons why the center would benefit Alamo.

One Alamo mother said she had to wait in line at 4:30 a.m. to get her child on a recreational swim team. Another resident said the pool would add to the desirability of the area and others said that it would keep Alamo from becoming a "private-club-only community."

Sam Finlayson, who plays water polo and is a senior at San Ramon Valley High School, detailed why the tiny shallow pool can't facilitate the school, let alone the community.

"We sometimes have practice until 10 p.m. and then start again at 5 a.m.," he said. "I was a sickly kid and swimming taught me so much about life. It's important to me to see other kids grow that way."

Other residents pointed out the pool was built in the 1950s, when the population of Alamo and Danville together was less than 6,000.

"That little old pool just doesn't fit in," one Alamo woman said.

"We still have this tiny anti-

**"We still have this tiny antiquated pool and it is way over subscribed."**

—Grant Finlayson,  
Danville Aquatic Center  
Steering Committee

quated pool and it is way over subscribed," said Grant Finlayson of the Danville Aquatic Center Steering Committee.

To date the Steering Committee has raised \$1.4 million for the project but will need to raise \$2.4 million in total. The Town of Danville has committed \$750,000 and independent contributors have donated \$630,000, including \$100,000 from Round Hill Swim Club.

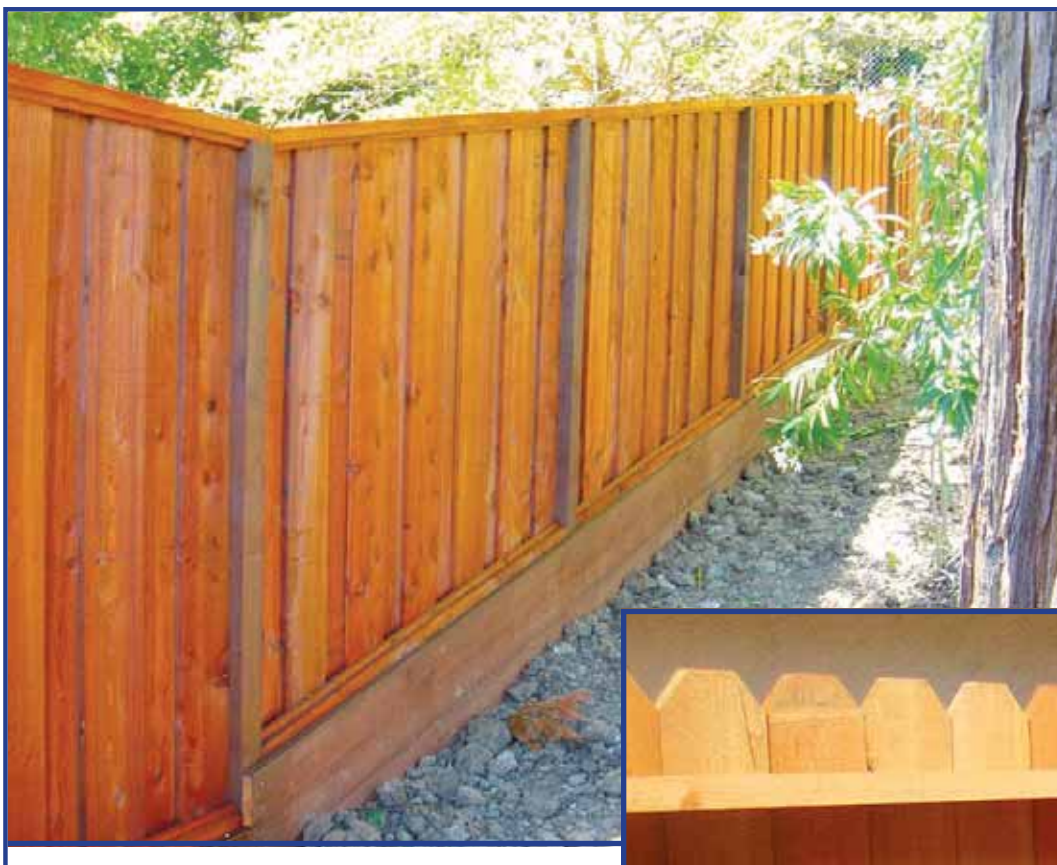
Committee members asked questions about the number of Alamo residents who attend San Ramon Valley High School, how much current open swim time is available at Monte Vista High School and San Ramon Valley High School, along with possible names for the center.

Committee member Tom Matthews said 19 percent of the San Ramon Valley High students are Alamo residents. Town officials responded that open swim time for the community is very limited.

When contacted after the meeting, R-7A members said they couldn't comment yet on if they have room in their budget for partially funding the center.

The R-7A committee will vote on the item at the next meeting, which is scheduled for 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 21. ■

E-mail Natalie O'Neill  
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### Highlighting the Hispanic era

Exhibit leader Kate Elliott arranges a vestment from Mission San Jose circa 1850 as she assembles the Sword and the Cross display at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. Above, metal stirrups were used when riding horses during the Hispanic era in California. The exhibit opened Tuesday and runs through May 5. The museum, at 205 Railroad Ave., is open 1-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday.

MAYALE ONELLI

### Project

► Continued from page 5

parking for the adjacent landowner. Bergman explained the issue stemmed from when the property was sold and lot lines were rearranged. Blacksmith Homes officials claim they have the easement.

Council members were nearly unanimous in their support for the housing development. Councilman Mike Doyle stated he felt there

should be more affordable housing in Danville.

"It's a shame we don't have a bunch more for our teachers, firemen, policemen who can't afford to live in this town," Doyle said. "I think this is an ideal place to do it. I really truly do."

The 34 apartments would be built in four freestanding buildings, and each unit would have a one- or two-car garage. The plans include a common area courtyard for use by all occupants, and a tot lot and barbecue area is also being proposed.

Mayor Mike Shimansky said he could not support the project.

"I don't believe any housing should go there," he said. "We have few lots that are zoned light industrial. We have a lot of land that is zoned for housing."

Since there was no solid information on the easement question and the effect on parking, council members voted 4-1 in favor of continuing the issue to their Feb. 6 meeting for the sole purpose of getting the easement question resolved. It is expected to be approved at the Feb. 6 meeting. ■

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Danville residents Pamela Mullen (left) and Patti Kussman enjoy their Weekly while visiting the Palace of Versailles on a trip to Spain and France sponsored by Notre Dame High School in San Jose, where Patti teaches French.

Take Us Along on your travels and send photos to Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com or 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville 94596.

**Lisa**

► Continued from page 5

Castle Companies this summer when the bistro was closed temporarily due to burst pipes. Burton blamed Castle Companies for shutting the restaurant and killing her customer base.

"My attorney advised me not to pay rent during that time period, for the loss of goodwill. I lost my customer base," Burton said.

An insurance company paid Burton for rent during the time the bistro was closed but Castle Companies never saw that money, Baldacci said. Burton said her insurance company had nothing to do with the situation.

"They were unwilling to negotiate with me. They don't care about small businesses," she said.

Burton said the company had been trying to get her out of that space for months. As the date for remodeling the old Danville Hotel approaches, she said Baldacci and the Town of Danville hope to put big name tenants where Lisa B's, a Bistro, once stood.

"It's intentional, they have their own plans for that space," she said.

She believes that Castle Companies hopes to bring a pricey upscale restaurant with specialty wines to the location.

"They are trying to make it like Walnut Creek, but Danville people don't want that," she said.

Baldacci, along with members of the Danville Planning Commission, did say they hope to bring in new tenants to increase revenue for the town. But Baldacci said he is just looking for a reliable restaurant tenant that would serve the same purpose as Lisa B's.

Castle Companies currently has no intention of changing the venue to fine dining or to raise the rent significantly, he said.

"We're looking for a similar lunch cafe. It fits well as a restaurant," he said.

Although Burton says she has a strong case against Castle Companies, she doesn't plan to take them to court. It's too much time and effort and she has children to tend to, she said. Castle Companies, on the other hand, plans to sue her for the rent.

The most disheartening thing, Burton said, is that "whoever has the most money wins."

Recently the Town of Danville sent Burton several letters indicating restrictions on seating and land use of that location. Burton said she believed town officials were in cahoots with Castle Companies to pressure her out of the spot in an effort to bring in more revenue for the town.

"It's been one thing after another," she said.

Danville Chief of Planning Kevin Gailey said Burton hadn't responded in more than three years to the town's request to limit the amount of seats outside. He said the Planning Commission had been considering revoking her outdoor seating. Every restaurant in Danville must follow the same seating regulations, he added.

"Anyone who cheats on outdoor seating cheats on parking. We have to keep the playing field level," Gailey said.

Despite a complicated year, Burton said she is looking forward to retiring and spending more time with her kids, and will miss her customers and their support. ■

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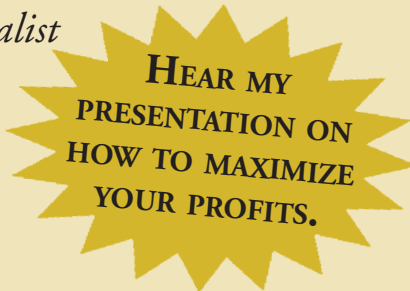


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# Kiwanis looking for grant applicants

\$40,000 to be awarded to nonprofit groups during the coming year

The Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley is urging community nonprofit organizations throughout the area to apply for more than \$40,000 in grants to be awarded during 2007. The deadline to apply is March 12.

The Kiwanis grants range from \$500 to \$3,000 and are designed to support programs and projects that help both specific groups and the broader community. Priority is given to programs that focus on children, the infirm or the elderly and provide solace.

Last year, grants went to 34 separate nonprofit organizations,

including the Discovery Counseling Center, Taylor Family Foundation, Loaves and Fishes, Hospice and Palliative Care, Museum of the San Ramon Valley, the Down Syndrome Connection, the Danville Community Band and the Bay Area Crisis Nursery.

Kiwanis makes a single grant to the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation for distribution to individual schools.

Grants chairman John Lineweaver said the bulk of the grants will be awarded in May, holding additional moneys in reserve for emergency grants and community service projects.

They also support the three local high school Key Clubs and Grad Nights. This direct support will exceed \$20,000 this year, making the total amount of Kiwanis community funding more than \$60,000 for 2007.

Kiwanis has several fundraising projects, including a golf tournament each April at Round Hill Country Club and the Danville Fourth of July Parade.

For an application, visit [www.kiwanis-srv.org](http://www.kiwanis-srv.org) or call Lineweaver at 837-3665. Grant winners will be announced at a luncheon May 24.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

## Contractor

► Continued from page 5

personal state income tax returns in 2001, 2002 and 2003. The couple allegedly earned more than \$580,000 in taxable income during this period.

"The joint task force is sending a message that businesses like this not only cheat its clients but also the honest taxpayers of California," said John Barrett, Tax Board spokesman. "The victims in this case include the honest taxpayers and businesses."

The License Board operates under the umbrella of the California Department of Consumer Affairs. The board licenses and regulates the state's 305,000 contractors and investigates more than 20,000 complaints against contractors annually.

For more information about hiring any contractor, homeowners can visit the board's Web site at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov) or call the board's automated phone system at (800) 321-2752. Information



Peace officers from the Contractors State License Board arrest Rick Alvin Powers and his wife Cathy on suspicion of bilking 10 customers in a cabinetry scheme.

includes a contractor's valid license, workers compensation, liability insurance and complaint history.

"We strongly encourage peo-

ple who have contact or problems with Powers to contact us," Mares said. ■

Contact Jordan M. Daronila at [jdaronila@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:jdaronila@DanvilleWeekly.com)

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# Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



## Having lunch with Annie

Annie Potts and I had lunch together in downtown Danville last week. OK, there were about a dozen others there as well to break bread with the delightful, high energy star of "Designing Women" and other TV series and movies.

The fairly intimate lunch was hosted by Jerry Hettinger in the designers' work area of his business, J. Hettinger Interiors, at Hartz Avenue and Linda Mesa. One of the designers, Robineve Cole, who also designs clothing, is an old friend of Annie's. When "Designing Women" with Annie as Mary Jo Shively began in the mid-1980s, she didn't think her assigned wardrobe was right for her character so she asked Robineve for help. Since they were the same size, Robineve went to her closet, chose about six outfits she'd designed for herself, and sent them to her. A week later, there were her outfits, walking across the TV screen.

Annie, 54, was in town to perform in the play "Love Letters" for one night at the Dean Leshner Center for the Performing Arts in Walnut Creek. When she first arrived at J. Hettinger Interiors, Robineve helped her find appropriate furnishings for the two-person play, in which a woman and a man read letters they have written to each other throughout their lifetimes. Annie said she's performed



the play many times but never with this co-star so they arrived in town early to rehearse.

When we sat down to the delicious catered lunch, Annie shared her excitement at having completed a two-and-a-half-year remodel of a hacienda in Tarzana, built in 1932. She suddenly jumped up to run out to her car to get her laptop to show us photos of her renovated home. What a delightful place—colorfully brought back to its original glory and then some. It was the home of Robert Young for many years; later Robert Wagner lived there.

Annie's design skills were evident in the colorful hacienda, and she has a real hands-on approach. She'd asked the bricklayer to lay a walkway helter skelter to look as though it had been assembled from the odds and ends of stones and had shifted over the last 80 years. He listened politely then proceeded to lay the stones in perfect order. She took over herself—and the walkway is now perfectly imperfect, she reported. But, she added ruefully, she broke every last fingernail plus she couldn't stand up straight for a week.

During the remodel, she used the home's outdoor barbecue and burner for all her cooking, and even made pies for Christmas using the barbecue. Her pictures showed outdoor wicker chairs at a table. She'd moved them in temporarily, she said, then found she liked them. She also has a pool table in the cavernous living room, left by the previous owners, who didn't want to trouble to move it. She said no one ever went into the living room in their last home, but the current one is well used by her sons, ages 26, 14 and 11. She is married to TV producer and director James Hayman, who had just won a Golden Globe Award for best comedy TV series for "Ugly Betty."

I couldn't resist asking about her role in the film "Ghostbusters" as Janine Melnitz, the Ghostbusters' bored receptionist. If I come across this movie on TV, I can't resist watching. She said she has no trouble turning it off because when her sons where young they watched it again and again—and again. She said she played her jaded New York character as it had been scripted, unlike some of the other actors. "I don't know if Bill Murray ever even looked at the script," she noted wryly.

The designers were interested in her views of the new television shows featuring remodels and room redesign that are currently popular. They felt a little discouraged at the idea being propagated that with one day and a few hundred dollars, a home can be remade into a show-place. Annie agreed but said her favorite design shows are those that aim to help people having problems by improving their surroundings. It can cheer up a person considerably to have their room painted yellow, she noted.

And it can make a person happy to have lunch with the charming Annie Potts.

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

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**EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY**

**The year of raises**

At the end of last year all three of our elected bodies gave themselves raises and in one case it was a bit mind-boggling: The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors raised itself by 59 percent.

It is true the school board of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District raised itself 100 percent when it went from \$200 a month to \$400. But given the amount of information trustees must process, their meetings, and the number of schools under their purview, \$400 each seems a fair allocation of district funds. Indeed, with the phenomenal growth in the district, it is a bargain.

The Danville Town Council raised itself from \$563 per month to \$675, effective Jan. 1. This also seems in line with the members' responsibilities and the number of hours involved in making decisions for Danville plus performing on regional committees.

The county supervisors voted themselves an annual increase of \$35,600, going from \$59,916 to \$95,568, saying this puts their salaries in line with supervisors in the other eight Bay Area counties. They also noted their board had gone 20 years without a salary review, although they did receive a slight bump in 2001, based on a fixed percentage. Granted the supervisors work long hours, including Mary N. Piepho of District 3, which covers a large geographic area. They also appear at many public functions, although this could be considered campaigning as well as a part of their supervisory duties.

But the county's credit rating has been affected by a \$43 million deficit, and as a result last year the supervisors cut millions of dollars from health and human services. Their own raise should have been in keeping with that of other county employees, who have received 11 percent since 2001.

In private industry, raises are based partly on performance. The "bosses" of elected officials are their constituents, who speak when they vote. The good news is that \$95,568 may attract well qualified candidates.

The county supervisors' own raise should have been in keeping with that of other county employees, who have received 11 percent since 2001.

**YOUR TURN**

The Danville Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or on issues of local interest. Deadline is 5 p.m. Monday for that week's edition; please limit letters to 250 words, and provide your name, street address and daytime telephone number. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length and style and for factual errors known to us.

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**LETTERS**

**Danville's soul in danger**

Dear Editor:

Has anyone besides me noticed the closing of all the art galleries in Danville? Art is the soul of a culture. Apparently Danville no longer has one. The kids call Danville "The Bubble." Has the bubble burst? How can kids today have a counter-culture when there is no culture left to counter?

The town can afford not one but two useless, hideous, information kiosks (one by the library and one by Starbucks) at a cost of \$90,000. According to Town Manager Joe Calabrigo, the artists themselves are supposed to raise the funds for a gallery. Well, I have an idea for all of you artists and art lovers out there: Let's sue the town for the cost of just one of those useless, hideous kiosks. That \$45,000 will pay the rent for a small gallery for a year and a half.

As an artist growing up in New York, I found artists would go into the low rent slum areas and clean them up. Then restaurants would go in, coffee shops and lofts, etc. It's called gentrification. I guess what we have here in Danville is a kind of reverse gentrification. The art galleries are fleeing Danville and taking their culture with them.

Long live the nouveau riche and the bourgeoisie. Enjoy your Thomas Kinkade posters and your hot summer nights cultural event. (How much does that cost the town in police protection alone?) Maybe a benefactor will step in and save the arts in Danville? After all someone did it for the Devil Mountain Run, another highly cultural event. Where is Carmine DeVivi, Danville's original Father Christmas and cultural icon? Where are the Dean Leshers of the world, now that we need them?

*Philip Hellsten, aka Starman,  
Danville*

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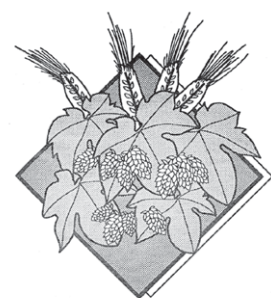
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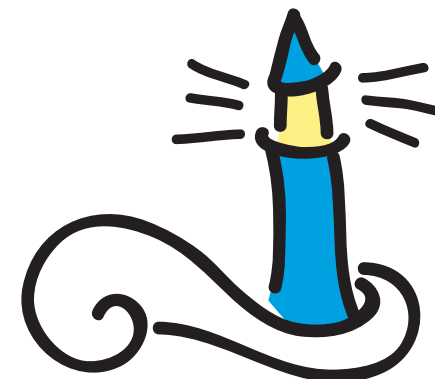
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# Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Learn about Danville policing

The Danville Police Department is offering a session of its Citizen's Police Academy beginning Wednesday, March 14.

The academy, which runs for 10 weeks from 6-9 p.m. Wednesdays, is offered to Danville residents and employees who want to learn more about their Police Department.

The academy is not intended to give students marketable police job skills but rather to create a better understanding of the police's relationship to the community in crime prevention and detec-

tion. Students will have the option to apply for the department's Volunteers in Policing program upon completion of the academy.

Sessions are limited to 20 participants. Applicants must be at least 18 years old with no misdemeanor convictions within one year of applications and no felony convictions. A minimum background check will be conducted.

For more information, telephone Community Service Officer Shawn Desmond at 314-3410 or e-mail sdesmond@ci.danville.ca.us.

## OBITUARIES

### Helen Maxine Peterson

Helen Maxine Peterson, a former resident of Illinois, California and Arizona, passed away in her sleep Jan. 7 in Provo, Utah, at the age of 87.

She was born Aug. 10, 1919, and grew up in Decatur, Ill. She moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1944 when she married Robert "Pete" Peterson. They raised three children, enjoyed fishing trips, golfing and traveling together. Her hobbies also included oil painting, gardening, pottery, reading, sewing, and spending time with her family.

She is survived by her three children, Joyce Ann Jarrard Bruce and Douglas Peterson of Danville, and Judith Lynn Peel of Provo; 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by Robert, her husband of 60 years.

Services were held Jan. 13 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Danville.

### Charles Alvin Patterson

Danville resident Charles Alvin Patterson passed away Jan. 7 at the age of 76 after a two-year struggle with Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS).

He was born Oct. 24, 1931, in Los Angeles and spent his boyhood in Santa Rosa. He joined the U.S. Naval Reserve at 16, then the National Guard, and finally the U.S. Army when he was 17. He participated in active combat in the Korean War and was a proud member of the 1st Cavalry Division.

He was employed by Pacific Bell for 39 years, starting as a craftsman and working his way up to a district manager position. He was self-taught in many areas, and had a fun sense of humor. He loved the High Sierra, fishing and hiking, especially along the Yuba River.

He is survived by his wife Patricia Patterson; and his children Cap Patterson (Norma), Teri Rose (Grant) and Karen Gunari (Ken). He was also the beloved son-in-law of Allen and Alice Jennings, and the grandfather of 13 grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Jan. 12 at the Community Presbyterian Church in Danville with a gathering afterward at the Patterson home. Donations may be made to UCSF ALS Clinic, 400 Parnassus Ave., 8th floor, San Francisco 94143.

### Deaths, Weddings and Births

are a free editorial service. Information should be submitted, typewritten or e-mailed no later than Monday at 5 p.m. Send to:

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Please include a contact name and telephone number. Forms can be found on the Weekly's web site: www.DanvilleWeekly.com. Photographs are welcomed, print copy or e-mailed jpeg.

## POLICE LOG

The Danville Police Department made the following information available. Under the law, those charged with offenses are considered innocent until convicted.

### Sunday, Jan. 14

- Prowler heard on Millbrook Ct. at 6:43 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Danville Blvd. and El Cerro Blvd. at 7:42 a.m.

### Monday, Jan. 15

- Suspicious circumstances on Sycamore Valley Rd. W. at 7:48 a.m.
- Vandalism on Harlan Dr. at 10:46 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Crow Canyon Rd. at 11:24 a.m.
- Petty theft on Lomitas Dr. at 2:22 p.m.
- Vandalism on Tunbridge Rd. at 4:44 p.m.
- Grand theft on Railroad Ave. at 7:15 p.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 7:34 p.m.

### Tuesday, Jan. 16

- Other miscellaneous on La Gonda Way at 2:11 a.m.
- Petty theft from building on Love Ln. at 11:15 a.m.
- Grand theft on Love Ln. at 1:39 p.m.
- Trespassing on Camino Tassajara and Mansfield Dr. at 1:37 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Railroad Ave. at 2:17 p.m.
- Identity theft on Westfield Cir. at 2:29 p.m.
- Petty theft from building on Love Ln. at 3:11 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 3:31 p.m.
- Forgery of fraudulent documents on Lamont Way at 3:48 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Hartz Ave. at 7:23 p.m.

### Wednesday, Jan. 17

- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Woodranch Dr. at 8:09 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Glasgow Dr. at 8:12 a.m.
- Identity theft on Still Creek Rd. at 3:18 p.m.

- Accident, property damage, on Sycamore Valley Rd. W. at 4:30 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 6:01 p.m.
- Promiscuous shooting on Calvalry Ct. at 8:19 p.m.

### Thursday, Jan. 18

- Fraud on El Alamo Ct. at 11:11 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. and McCauley Rd. at 11:42 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on William Ct. at 2:21 p.m. and at 3:31 p.m.
- Petty theft on Jonathan Ridge Dr. at 3:31 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Rutherford Dr. at 4:48 p.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Hartz Ave. and W. Prospect Ave. at 5:48 p.m.
- Accident on Railroad Ave. at 5:52 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Garden Creek Pl. at 7:10 p.m.

### Friday, Jan. 19

- Accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. and Green Valley Rd. at 7:10 a.m.
- Vandalism on Hartz Ave. at 8:04 a.m.
- Petty theft on Love Ln. at 8:45 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Love Ln. at 1:06 p.m.
- Theft of access card on Hill Meadow Pl. at 7:30 p.m.
- Fight disturbance on Hartz Ave. at 9:35 p.m.
- Vandalism on Jonathan Ridge Dr. at 11:13 p.m.

### Saturday, Jan. 20

- Drunk in public on Hartz Ave. at 1:11 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Paraiso Dr. and Paraiso Ct. at 10:00 a.m.
- Petty theft on Diablo Rd. at 3:36 p.m.
- Warrant service on Lawrence Rd. at 9:03 p.m.
- Promiscuous shooting on Rainbow Cir. at 10:19 p.m.
- Petty theft on Elsie Dr. at 11:53 p.m.

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## Monte Vista girls' header gives 'stangs edge over San Ramon Valley

Boys soccer ties at 2-2 in crosstown rivalry match

by Rachel McMurdie

A header by Courtney Jones in the 72nd minute of play gave the Monte Vista girls a 1-0 win over hometown rivals San Ramon Valley on Thursday last week. It was San Ramon Valley's first league loss.

Tied 0-0 at the half, the Mustangs (9-3-5, 3-1-2 EBAL) fended off first-place Wolves (10-3-2, 4-1-1 EBAL), who controlled the ball early in the second half. San Ramon Valley's Grace Leer made a break for the Mustang goal at the 60th minute but was met by Mustang's Jen Buich, who gained control and cleared the ball to midfield.

The Mustang goal came shortly after. Monte Vista Midfielder Katelyn Mogannam chipped the ball to Jones, who headed past San Ramon Valley defenders.

San Ramon Valley attacked the goal a few more times but was unable to deliver.

The teams will face each other again Feb. 9 in their last regular league game of the season.

### Boys soccer

San Ramon Valley boys answered Monte Vista's back-to-back goals to tie the league soccer match, Thursday, Jan. 11. The Wolves (12-3-2, 2-2-2 EBAL) opened the 2-2 game at San Ramon Valley with a quick score by Brett Harada, assist-



Monte Vista's Rachel Kahn (left) and Gabby Parisella of San Ramon Valley High battle for the soccer ball at the cross-town rivalry game last week.

ed by Antone Ugarte, in the first minute. It was the only score of the first half. Then the Mustangs (12-0-5, 3-0-3 EBAL) lead an offensive charge down the field.

In minute 53, Morgan Oliver-Allen drove in a goal, assisted by Andre Cuadra, to tie the game. Four minutes later, David Miller-Hershon scored an unassisted goal for the Mustangs to take the lead.

San Ramon Valley's Ugarte answered, scoring off an assist by

Tyler Bell in the 65th minute of play. San Ramon Valley's keeper Tommy Comer recorded five saves. Monte Vista's keeper Zack Lynch recorded six. ■

E-mail photos to Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com.

### Correction

Last week's story about the Monte Vista girls soccer game against Livermore should have stated that Taylor Gonzales was the Monte Vista goalie.



## Blasting the Winter Turf

The girls U12 Mustang Blast team won the Mustang Winter Turf Invitational played in Danville on Jan. 5-7. The team clinched the championships in the final game, winning 2-1 in double overtime and penalty kicks. Team members are (front, 1-r) Katie Tao, Serena Lee, Beth Ritter, Reilly Parker, Hailey Mamizuka, Alyssa Alarab, Kerianne Hunt, Rachel Feldman; (back) Lynsey Hromatko, Shelby Cota, Amy Harioka, Melissa Clore, Hannah Koski, Kim Low, Rachel Hamilton, Alexa Vandevanter. Not pictured is Hannah Clark. Coaches are Rob Vandevanter, Doug Norvelle, Lance Feldman.

CHRIS SCOTT/CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

## Cole Pickavance, 15, wins Future Collegiate World Tour

Cole Pickavance, 15, a sophomore from San Ramon Valley High School, won the Future Collegiate World Tour's Teal Bend Open Golf Tournament at Teal Bend Golf Club in Sacramento held Jan. 14-16.

With a three-day total score of 226, he not only won his age division (13-15), but he also had the lowest tournament round for all age divisions. Pickavance birdied three of his last four holes to shoot a one-under par, 71, on the last day of the tournament beating the second-place finisher, Reid Martin from Washington State, by five strokes.

Pickavance was atop the leaderboard after his opening round of 77. At the end of round two, Martin had tied Pickavance with a two-day score of 155. As the two leaders set out Monday, joined by Bennett Lavin of Illinois, Pickavance was out to prove he could win. The three started the 10:30 shotgun on hole 14. Cole birdied the 15th to take the lead and Reid never caught up.

Cole went on to birdie holes 10, 11 and 13 for a final three day score of 226.

After a tie for fifth and seventh in previous FCWT events this season, Pickavance put himself in the winner's circle and earned an exemption to the National Championship in West Palm Beach, Florida Memorial Day weekend.

Cole regularly plays in both the FCWT and the American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) events throughout the year as well as on the boys' golf team at San Ramon Valley High. He took up the game of golf at age 12 and practices daily at the Bridges Golf Club in San Ramon. His father, Joey Pickavance, is his instructor. ■



### PREP SCHEDULE

#### Friday, Jan. 26

##### Boys Basketball

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

##### Girls Basketball

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

##### Boys Soccer

Monte Vista at Cal High, 5:45 p.m.

#### Saturday, Jan. 27

##### Girls Soccer

San Ramon Valley at Washington, 1 p.m.

#### Tuesday, Jan. 30

##### Girls Soccer

Monte Vista at Amador, 5:45 p.m.  
San Ramon Valley at Livermore, 5:45 p.m.

##### Boys Basketball

Monte Vista at Foothill, 7 p.m.  
San Ramon Valley vs. Granada, 7 p.m.

#### Wednesday, Jan. 31

##### Girls Basketball

Monte Vista vs. Foothill, 7 p.m.  
San Ramon Valley at Granada, 7 p.m.

##### Boys Soccer

Monte Vista vs. Amador, 5:45 p.m.  
San Ramon Valley vs. Livermore, 5:45 p.m.

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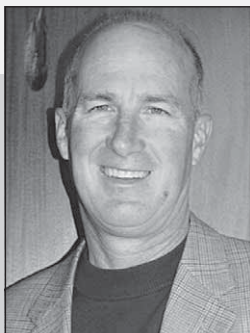


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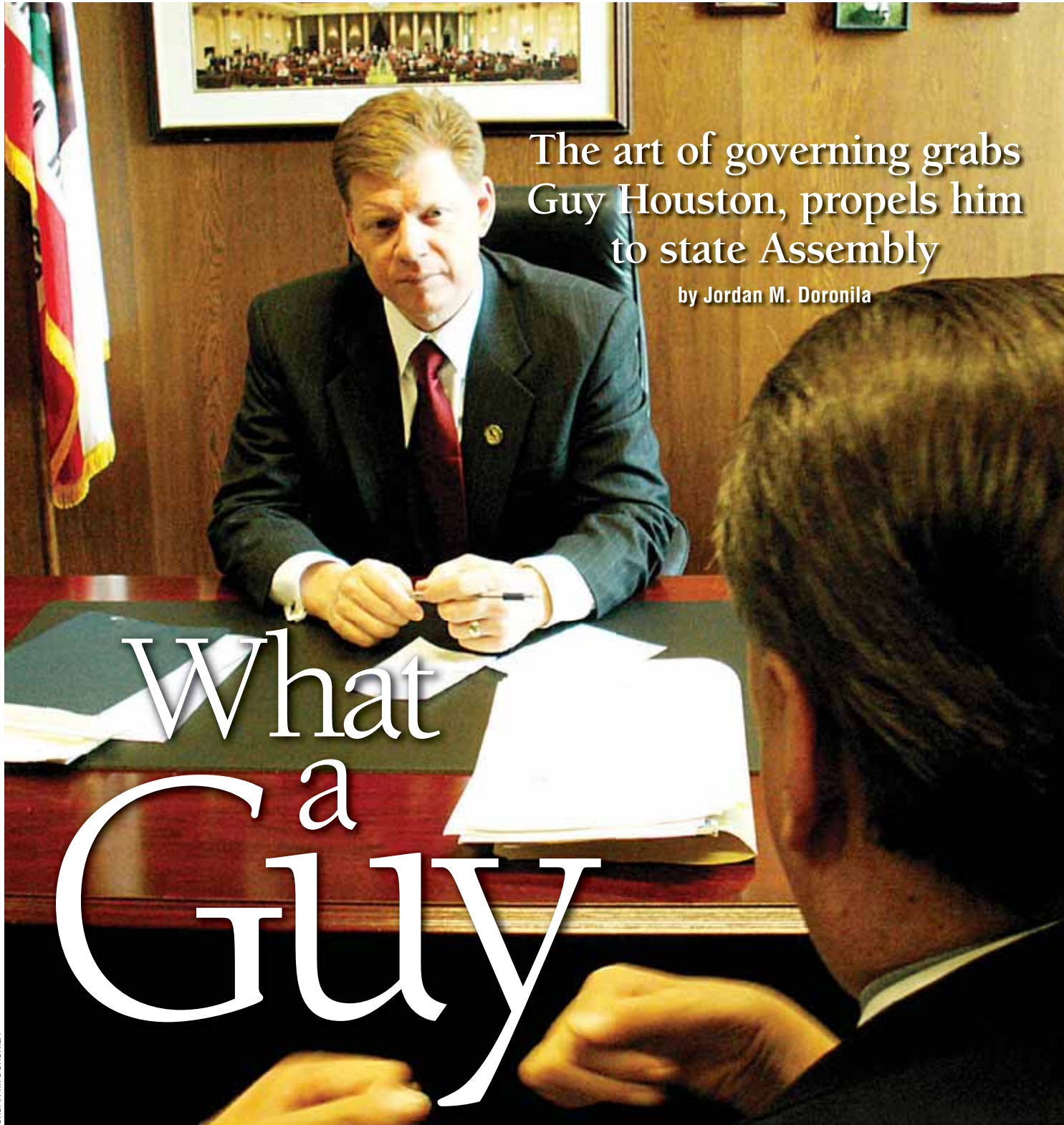


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## The art of governing grabs Guy Houston, propels him to state Assembly

by Jordan M. Doronila

# What a Guy

JORDAN M. DORONILA

**M**orning arrived in America when Ronald Reagan became president, so Republicans believe, with Guy Houston—now a California Assemblyman—being among the fervent enthusiasts.

Though scandals, tragedies and turmoil darkened the nation in the 1960s and 1970s, Reagan brought confidence and strength back to the United States, Houston said.

Inspired, he joined Reagan's U.S. Presidential Campaign in 1980 when he was studying at St. Mary's College in Moraga.

"Ronald Reagan for me is the man," said Houston, 46. "He made us feel good. His economic policy ushered in a long era of prosperity in this country."

Now, more than 26 years since his involvement in Reagan's campaign, Houston starts his third term as state Assemblyman for District 15, which includes Danville, San Ramon and Pleasanton. He coasted to his re-election victory by a margin of more than 10,000 votes, 54 percent, against Danville Democrat Terry Coleman in November.

This year, he plans to push a slew of new legislative bills in the Assembly, continuing to help bring equalization money to schools in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District and improving transportation in the San Ramon Valley.

"I found him very responsive," said Danville Town Councilwoman Candace Andersen, who has also been involved in Parent Teacher Association legislation in the school district. "I've appreciated some of the work he has done with the schools."

His new bills also include steroid testing for high school athletes, installing median barriers on Vasco Road in Brentwood and Livermore, and creating a market-based emissions system, which allows companies to buy and sell emissions credits.

"It's all about transportation and education," he said, about the needs in his district. "We have been focusing on these areas."

Moreover, he plans on submitting a bill to find

ways for more speech therapy slots and programs at colleges, which would help special education.

In addition to his legislative goals, he has his eye on running for the state Senate or U.S. Congress. And he is also dealing with a civil lawsuit involving an alleged pyramid scheme, which was filed against him and his father Fred more than two years ago.

### 'Howdy Doody' rides in from Pleasanton

"It's a term of endearment," Houston said of his nickname Howdy Doody, which came from his college years due to his red hair.

Houston was born in Walnut Creek and grew up in Pleasanton. He went to San Ramon Valley High School, where his father was football coach.

"It was a lot different in character," he said about Danville now and then. "The population wasn't there."

He played football as a quarterback in 1978 for the Wolves. By playing football under his dad, he learned about tradition, respect and pride, and especially about revering the institutions that govern the country, he said.

Houston has kept an article about the Wolves beating another high school 19 to 12, with a close-up of himself with a football helmet, and it is hanging on the wall at his Sacramento office.

He is also good friends with legendary Oakland Raiders coach John Madden and his sons. Houston said his father Fred and Madden enjoyed talking football with each other.

Upon graduating San Ramon, Houston entered St. Mary's College, and received his bachelors and masters in business administration.

"I enjoyed being close to home," he said. "It's a beautiful campus."

While he was at St. Mary's during the late 1970s, the nation was undergoing a tumultuous time after the Vietnam War, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, an economic downturn and the Watergate scandal, he said.

"We didn't feel good about being American," he said.

When former California Gov. Reagan ran for president, Houston said he saw a leader that made America feel proud.

"He spoke to you," Houston said. "He didn't waffle. He stood up. He made us feel good about being American."

"He stood for lower taxes," he added.

Houston became involved in Reagan's presidential campaign as well as several other Republican campaigns, such as the re-election bid of former U.S. Rep. Bill Baker, who represented District 10 until he was defeated by Ellen Tauscher.

"You latch onto somebody," Houston noted.

### Getting his start in Dublin

Houston went into the real estate business and moved to a house in Dublin because it only cost \$89,000, he said. There was affordable housing in Dublin, and he wanted to live close to his family in Pleasanton.

When he moved to Dublin, the City Council, city staff and county officials had plans to expand the community by attracting more businesses, to be part of the growth in the area in the early 1990s.

Houston became involved in Dublin politics when he pushed for an initiative to have the mayor be an elected position, as opposed to rotated among the City Council members.

The residents voted to approve the initiative, he said.

"I thought it was fair," he said. "I think it's a better system."

Shortly afterward, he was elected to the City Council and then was elected mayor in 1994.

His 12 years of experience working on political campaigns gave him the motivation and knowledge to run for an elected position.

"I knocked on doors and met people," he said. "I didn't try to sell them something or convert them."

"You gotta get your message out," he added.



"It's shoe leather walking to precincts."

He also said he was not afraid to ask for money from potential donors, whether it be residents or business, to fund his campaigns.

"I wasn't shy," he said. "If you don't ask people, you're not going to get any money."

When he became mayor, he said Dublin's agenda was to double the population with more jobs and economic development. Houston, the council and city staff worked together to accomplish this vision.

During Houston's tenure, the city created an economic development director position to entice companies.

"Dublin had been a bedroom community," said Dublin's current mayor, Janet Lockhart, a Democrat. "I could see that he had a wonderful vision. His vision was to see Dublin grow, to see business in our communities."

"It was easy to share in his vision," she added.

City Manager Richard Ambrose said Houston, along with the council and staff, brought in computer technologies, such as Sybase Inc., and retail outlets. Additionally, Houston was instrumental in building Dublin's new library.

"Guy was great to work with," Ambrose said. "He had the ability to see the big picture. He was able to look at all things going on."

Moreover, Houston helped convince the city and companies to donate several hundreds of thousands of dollars for new technology for the city's schools, Ambrose said.

"He's always been a really good communicator," said Lockhart.

She recalled Houston telling Sybase owner John Chen, "I'd offer you a key to the city, but we don't lock our doors."

"Guy has never been bashful to (fulfill his) desire to lead," she said. "He wanted to lead the community."

Not all Dublin residents were happy about Houston's mayoral style. Some said his pro-growth vision went too far at times and threatened areas designated for open space.

When Dublin Planning Commissioner and attorney Morgan D. King, David Bewley and John Anderson started authoring an initiative in 1998 to save open space in the Dublin's West Hills section, Houston did little to support the measure, said Bewley.

The initiative, Measure M, gave the residents the right to vote to approve or disapprove when the city decided to annex agricultural land for residential development, he said.

"Guy wasn't involved," Bewley said. "It wasn't his initiative. He wasn't active in our campaigns or the issues in the campaign."

"He certainly didn't help us," he said.

Measure M eventually received consensus. Residents and council members gave their support and approved it in 2000.

"Guy didn't get in the way of the process," Lockhart said. "He's just not the bad guy."

Houston said he had little recollection of the initiative.

"Frankly, it doesn't ring a bell," Houston said. "I don't recall the details."

Bewley mentioned another situation where Houston and the City Council in 2001 allowed a developer to build homes on two residential lots on Brittany Lane with 13-foot setbacks, which was contrary to the city's plan of developing housing with 20-foot setbacks.

The developer successfully built one house with a 13-foot setback; however, the City Council a couple of years later rescinded its decision, which put a halt in constructing the second home with a 13-foot setback, Bewley said. He said the council publicly apologized in 2003 for its decision.

"I'm not running him down," said Bewley, who resides on Brittany Lane. "There's good development and bad development. It's just a matter of how it was done."

### Onward to Sacramento

"He enjoys politics," Lockhart said. "He likes representing ideas and people. And it's an important part of his life."

Regarding Houston's run for the state

Assembly, she said, "He wanted to represent a larger constituency."

Originally, Houston wanted to run for Assemblywoman Lynn C. Leach's seat in 1996, but he said he felt the timing wasn't right because he was still occupied being mayor. But after the new millennium arrived, he set the wheels rolling forward in his bid for higher office.

"It's interesting to look at bigger policy," he said. "It was a natural progression."

When he ran for the Assembly in 2002, he raised \$500,000 from the Republican Party for his campaign.

He said the personal contact he enjoyed as mayor is not as prevalent representing thousands of people as an assemblyman.

"I rely on a survey instead of direct contact," he said.

Houston was elected assemblyman in November 2002, defeating Contra Costa County Supervisor Donna Gerber. In his first two-year term, he submitted 11 bills in 2003 and two of them were signed by the governor. In 2004, he pushed 15 but only one of them became a law.

One of Houston's first-term bills that passed allows the state to reimburse up to 100 percent of property damage caused by a disaster in the Delta.

The majority of his early bills died or failed to get passage.

"As mayor, it's fulfilling to have your finger on what's going on in the community," Houston said. "You're moving the Titanic very slowly in Sacramento."

He said his greatest accomplishment in his three terms in office was continuing the efforts of Leach and the school district in getting equalization funds to schools in the San Ramon Valley. He said he worked with Gov. Schwarzenegger on the funding.

"I gotta give Guy credit," said Joan Buchanan, trustee for the San Ramon Valley Unified Board of Education. "He also fought for us."

Houston said Los Angeles and San Francisco counties, which have large urban populations, received the majority of state school funds from equalization.

He noted the key to getting more funds is concentrating on increasing the amount of money that was due to his local school district and not touching the money allocated to the large urban counties.

He said he received thousands of letters from residents in the district requesting equalization money from the state. The district received \$2.6 million from the state this current school year, said Mike Bush, district assistant superintendent of business services.

"We piggybacked on Leach's work," Houston said. "It was a team effort."

Houston said he describes himself as neither a moderate nor a conservative.

"I never try to label myself," he said.

However, his voting record suggests otherwise.

In 2004, he voted "No" to legislation about raising the state minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour and voted against another bill in 2006 that sought to raise the minimum wage by \$1.25.

"I think that raising the minimum wage is not necessary," Houston said. "I see it as a job killer. It's a big cost increase." If the costs of businesses increase, they may go away or not hire people for jobs, he said.

In addition, he voted "No" on a bill that required companies with more than 10,000 California employees to spend 8 percent of their annual payroll costs on health care insurance for employees in 2006.

Houston said the legislative piece was singling out Wal-Mart.

"I don't believe you should put on a payroll tax," he said. "It's unfair to Wal-Mart."

If people decide to put a payroll tax on Wal-Mart, they should place the same type of fees on everybody else, he said.

And he voted against the state's new California Global Warming Solutions Act, which was signed into law by the governor last year to reduce emission of gases that contribute to global warming.

Houston said the law lacked a market approach, to make companies curb their gas emissions. He supported companies buying and selling emission credits. He noted that Japan, the European Union and other areas on the East Coast use a market approach in dealing with global warming.

"It's an intelligent way of doing it," he said.

"It's easier for businesses to comply, and a new commodity that could be exchanged and traded," said Aaron Bone, Houston's chief of staff.

Currently, Houston serves as vice-chairman for the Assembly Local Government Committee and is a member of the Banking and Finance as well as the Transportation committees.

### Lawsuits make the news

In 2004, Fremont Bank filed a lawsuit against Houston and his partner and brother Eric, in a bid to force them to repay a loan of more than \$200,000 to their father's bankrupt business.

The case has been settled, said Nancy King, a legal assistant associated with the lawyer who was involved with the people who filed the Fremont lawsuit.

But another lawsuit against Houston has not been settled.

A group of seniors filed a civil lawsuit in 2004 against Guy Houston and his father Fred. Their lawsuit claimed they were encouraged by the Houstons to invest thousands of dollars from their retirement funds; however, they claim, they never saw profits plus lost their original investment.

Plaintiffs Gerald Stefanski of Dublin, Samuel and Joann Story of Concord, and Carol Tomasa have filed the lawsuit against the Houstons. The lawsuit claimed they had invested money with Winning Action Investments, which contained other businesses called the Investment Partnership and the Houston Napa Development; and as a result, they have lost their money due to fraud and negligent representation, according to court documents.

Houstons allegedly have done the following, according to court documents:

- They diverted funds and other assets of the

Investment Partnership, to other than partnership uses, including funding Houston's other business entities; and

- They diverted assets from the Investment Partnerships to themselves and to other business entities to the detriment of their creditors, including the plaintiffs.

Subsequently, Guy Houston has submitted legal statements to refute the plaintiff's allegations. According to court documents, he has never had any conversations or solicited and received money from Tomasa.

Additionally, he said he has never been an agent, an employee or a partner of the Investment Partnership in regards to Plaintiff Tomasa. Additionally, Houston's lawyer wrote in court papers there are no documents linking him with the Investment Partnership, and he never took any money from it for his own purpose.

Nonetheless, some of the plaintiffs disagreed vehemently.

Gerald Stefanski, now in his 70s, said he got involved with the Investment Partnership when he walked by the establishment on Clark Avenue and Dublin Boulevard.

He said he talked to Fred Houston, and he was convinced to roll over his Individual Retirement Fund (IRA) to his company. He said he first invested \$18,000 into Houston's company in 1984.

He said his venture was earning \$85,000. Afterward, he invested approximately 10 times in the company. When Fred Houston filed for bankruptcy a couple of years ago, Stefanski lost around \$300,000.

Stefanski's wife Jean said Fred promised them that they would give them their money.

"We never got a penny," said Jean Stefanski, 75.

"Every time we turn around, they have an excuse," Gerald Stefanski said. "It makes me kinda sick to the stomach."

"I trusted Fred and Guy Houston," he added. "I thought they would never do anything like that."

► Continued on page 16



Assemblyman Guy Houston shakes hand with a supporter while walking the route of the 2005 Danville Fourth of July Parade. Far left, Houston listens to the concerns of Tom J. Bordonaro, assessor for San Luis Obispo County.

FILE PHOTO



## Houston

► Continued from page 15

Houston has declined to comment on the allegations. Last January, he submitted a summary of judgment, which gives him the opportunity to cut through the plaintiff's pleadings

and challenge the court, despite his allegations, whether the dispute is worth resolving in a trial.

His hearing on the judgment is tentatively scheduled on Feb. 15, said Morgan D. King, the attorney representing the plaintiffs. Houston has filed a civil motion, which grants him immunity from dealing

with anything that pertains to the case while the Assembly is in session, said King.

Houston can deal with the case when the Assembly is adjourned for at least 40 days, which will be next October or November, said King.

"The current status is that we are

still doing depositions and examining documents," said King. "He's trying to dismiss Mr. Stefanski's case and Tomasa's cases. I don't think he's going to be able to do it."

"When the case goes to trial is anyone's guess," King added.

"It took forever to get a deposition," said Jean Stefanski. "It's been going on for four years. He's waiting for us for to die off. He's delaying the time."

"I'm not answering any questions at all about the case," Houston said. "The readers will know when there is a conclusion. When it's done, they'll know."

"I am confident that this will be all resolved by the end of year," he added.

## Onward to 2009

Houston lives in San Ramon with Inge, his wife of 16 years, and their three children. He said he is considering his options, to run for the state Senate or for the congressional seat of U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (D., District 11) when it expires in two years.

Houston said he is going to meet Republican Party officials in Washington, D.C., in the next couple of weeks.

"It's too early to tell," he said. "We'll see in the next several months."

"He's well thought of in the Republican Party," said Contra Costa County Republican Chairman Tom Del Becarro.

"He's a team player," he said. "He's certainly the most prominent Republican in Contra Costa County."

"He's cultivated a lot of friends and relationships," he added. "He's a hard and steady worker when it comes for running for office. He doesn't seek undue attention to himself."

Danville Mayor Mike Shimansky said he has known Houston for 20 years.

"Guy helped me refinance my mortgage in my house," Shimansky said. "I appreciate that."

"In general, Guy's kind of a family guy even though he is busy in Sacramento," he added. "I think that's what this valley needs." ■



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## Give me a sign

Toddlers learn to communicate early with sign language

story and photos by Natalie O'Neill

At 11 months old most babies can't speak more than a word or two. But that's not stopping a group of Danville parents from communicating with their babies—without words.

Baby sign language classes at the Danville Community Center combine signing, singing and playing to teach 11-18-month-olds how to express themselves using simple hand movements.

You don't have to be deaf to use sign language, say class instructors Julie Corbett and Julie Burlingame, who are best friends and jokingly refer to themselves as "the Julies."

with frequent breaks for playing. Each class has a simple concept or theme behind it such as "outside," "feelings," or "birthday."

Instructors work with bubbles, plastic toys and a parachute to encourage signing. In a recent class, instructors used bubbles to prompt the babies to say "more," with their hands. Several toddlers signed to convey that they wanted instructors to blow a second round of bubbles.

"People are realizing babies can do more than we think," Burlingame said.

Parents say the social environment of the class is great and that signing helps decrease aggravation for both the baby and the parent. Instead of trying to guess why your pre-verbal child is crying or screaming, simple signs can help baby express that he or she is thirsty, hungry or needs a diaper change.

"It's phenomenal. The No. 1 thing I hear is that it reduces frustration," Corbett said.

The popularity of signing classes for babies has increased dramatically over the last five years, when it was introduced into the mainstream by television programs and movies like "Meet the Fockers," in which a non-deaf

infant character frequently communicates with sign language.

"It partly has to do with pop culture," Burlingame said, pointing out an increase in products from companies like Baby Einstein, which makes interactive toys, books and DVDs for babies and toddlers.

In this class, the young ones aren't the only ones learning. Part of the session is dedicated to teaching parents everyday tips on how to help their children develop socially and emotionally while the toddlers play. Last week instructors spoke briefly on the "attachment theory," stating that it's good for a child's development to let them explore away from their parents, while still having them in sight.

But while cultivating early communication and intellect is catching on,

Corbett and Burlingame say they still hear concerns about whether signing will hinder vocal communication.

"We hear, 'My mother-in-law says she'll never speak if she learns to sign first,'" Corbett said.

This is baloney, she says.

Twenty years worth of studies proves this isn't the case—that signing is a first step, like crawling before you walk. Just because your baby learns to crawl and sign first, doesn't mean he or she will only be able to crawl and sign into adulthood. In fact, it actually gives babies a head start with language skills, Corbett says.

Corbett and Burlingame both have education and professional experience in the field of child development along with being the mothers of young children themselves. Burlingame received a bachelor's degree in psychology from UCLA and a master's in developmental psychology from San Francisco State. Corbett has a bachelor's in psychology and has worked for several years with children who have developmental disorders.

To find out more about baby signing visit [www.babysignsbayarea.com](http://www.babysignsbayarea.com). ■

Jennifer and London Kochly practice signing together at the second class session of a Sign, Say and Play class at the Danville Community Center.



As instructors prompt the toddlers to ask for bubbles using sign language, Bertie Patterson helps Emma Patterson sign "more."



London Kochly, Hannah Schuh and Larry Schuh watch class instructors sign along to a good morning song.

Long before little ones are able to speak, they have the ability to understand and use signs to converse.

"It shows them that language is powerful at a very young age," said Corbett, instructor of the Sign, Say and Play classes, held in the East Bay.

Research proves that learning sign language as a baby or toddler promotes healthy social, cognitive and emotional growth. And it gears babies up for the communication skills necessary for life, Corbett and Burlingame say.

"Signing is a very intimate thing, there is a lot of eye contact and attention given to the child," Corbett said.

Classes in Danville start out with social time, followed by a session of signing to songs and reading aloud—



Dylan Burlingame and Hannah Schuh hold hands and socialize non-verbally during play time.



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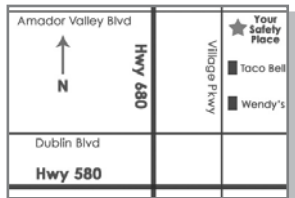
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## The Pet Vet says...



BY DR. HEIDI STRAND

**Q.** *My cat is getting long in the tooth. Over the past few weeks I have noticed that my cat's two top fangs are cutting into his chin. He looks very uncomfortable and I don't know what to do. He is approximately 15 years old.*

**A.** In the early days of animal husbandry (that is to say, before people actually took care of their animals), people believed that an animal's teeth continued to grow as they aged. Hence the phrase "long in the tooth" was coined, often referring to horses. We now know that as animals age their gums recede, which makes the teeth appear longer. What you are describing, however, sounds like a problem called supereruption, where the teeth actually are being pushed out of their normal position in the maxilla. This occurs frequently in older cats with periodontal disease. An infection in the roots of the teeth, or possibly even a tumor, could be pushing them outward. You should schedule an appointment with your veterinarian for an oral exam as soon as possible.

survive in soil in the right conditions for up to two years. They are also very sticky. People, usually children, can become infected by the hand-to-mouth route after playing in the contaminated area. The eggs hatch into larvae inside the human intestine and can cause a disease called larva migrans. The disease is easily treated. It is very uncommon in the U.S. and is more of a problem in developing nations where pets are not routinely dewormed. Nevertheless, it's always a good idea to wash hands after cleaning up after your dog or cat. Because the eggs take approximately five days to become infective, cleaning the litter box and the doggie doo frequently will prevent contamination. If raccoons defecate in your yard, clean it up regularly. It's also a good idea to wash hands and toys after playing at dog parks. These parasites are one of the reasons most playgrounds do not allow dogs any more. But stray cats can defecate in sandboxes so, again, have the kids wash their hands and toys.

If you haven't stopped reading by now, then you probably can stomach the following information about hookworms. These parasites of the *Ancylostoma* species can infect dogs, and the eggs can develop in damp soil into infective larvae. Hookworm larvae infect humans by penetrating the skin. They migrate under the skin and cause an itchy skin condition. Again, hookworm infection is easily treated and is much more common in the tropics and developing countries than in the U.S. Still, I don't recommend walking barefoot in any area where dogs defecate.

**Q.** *I found my 1-year-old daughter playing near our cat's litter box. I'm very worried that she may have eaten some of the contents. Is there anything I should be worried about? My cat goes outside quite a bit.*

**A.** I hear this question more often that you'd think. Children just can't resist playing with disgusting things. While it is extremely rare, children can be infected by coming in contact with eggs of certain parasites. With dogs and cats, the parasite of concern is a roundworm called *Toxocara*. Raccoons have a similar roundworm called *Baylisascaris*. When an animal infected with either one of these parasites defecates, the ground or litter box can become contaminated with eggs. Roundworm eggs can

The good news is that both hookworms and roundworms can be detected in a stool sample by your veterinarian. Since most infections are passed from mother to offspring, we routinely treat puppies and kittens with a broad-spectrum dewormer that gets rid of these parasites. Your veterinarian may recommend deworming adult dogs or cats on a yearly basis depending on their level of possible exposure. In addition, some monthly heartworm preventives also treat for intestinal parasites.

**Update:** The writer took her daughter to the pediatrician and was told there was nothing to worry about. Just to be on the safe side, she took the cat's stool to her veterinarian for a fecal exam. It was negative and she has moved the litter box.

—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; or e-mailed to [hstrand@eastbayspca.org](mailto:hstrand@eastbayspca.org). Her column runs every other week.

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Example	30 year	40 years
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2nd Year Max Monthly Payment	\$1,728	\$1,358
3rd Year Max Monthly Payment	\$1,857	\$1,460
4th Year Max Monthly Payment	\$1,996	\$1,569
5th Year Max Monthly Payment	\$2,145	\$1,686

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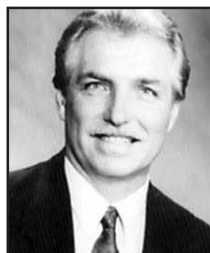
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# Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE

## The Spanish Frontier, Part 1

California and the San Ramon Valley changed forever when a Spanish expedition traveled north from Baja California in 1769. The Spanish wanted to protect Alta California from Russian intrusion, convert and civilize the large Indian population, and establish missions, forts and towns.

The first Europeans came to the San Ramon Valley in 1772. The Fages-Crespi expedition, led by Capt. Pedro Fages and accompanied by Father Juan Crespi was returning to Monterey after skirting the Bay in an unsuccessful search for a route across the Strait. This expedition is memorialized in a historical society plaque at the corner of El Portal and Danville Boulevard.

Crespi's diary for March 31, 1772, included this description:

"We entered a valley having the same characteristics as the first (well covered with grass, with good arroyos well grown with alders, cottonwood, laurels, roses and other trees) ... in the course of it we came to three villages with some little grass houses. As soon as the heathen caught sight of us they ran away, shouting and panic-stricken without knowing what had happened. From this valley we turn south, and halted in the same valley on the bank of an arroyo with plenty of running water ... This valley appeared to me to be a charming site for a settlement, with all the advantages that are required."

This was the first time the valley Indians had seen Europeans on horseback and they probably thought the soldiers and horses were some strange new creatures. Reports of the newcomers had evidently not penetrated the interior valleys.

Franciscan missions were Spain's main colonizing institutions and eventually four missions were established in the San Francisco Bay Area. Mission San Jose (1797) was the mission closest to the San Ramon Valley. Indians were drawn to the missions because of the unusual gifts, weapons and music as well as the desire to ally themselves with the powerful newcomers. For these and many other reasons Indians migrated to the missions but, once baptized, they could leave only with the missionaries' permission.

Almost immediately diseases for which the natives had no immunities killed them. An estimated 85 per-



The San Ramon Valley Historical Society plaque at the corner of El Portal and Danville Boulevard commemorates the Spanish expedition in 1772 led by Capt. Pedro Fages, accompanied by Franciscan missionary Juan Crespi, the first Europeans seen by local Indians.

cent of natives who came in contact with the Spanish died, with typhus, tuberculosis, syphilis, measles and smallpox taking their toll. The record of Bay Area Indian resistance to the new settlers is extensive but, in the end, disease decimated the population and traditional villages were no longer viable with so few people.

Mission San Jose was founded near to Santa Clara because of tribal hostility in the inland valleys, including documented resistance from the Saclan, Volvon and Suenen tribes. Eventually the mission flourished with up to 2000 Indian recruits living there. Its grazing land extended as far north as Concord and the mission proper had extensive vineyards, olive and fruit orchards, wheat fields and livestock. The mission was famous for its Indian orchestra and choir, and was blessed with two very capable Franciscan missionaries: Father Narciso Duran from 1803 to 1833 and Jose Gonzalez Rubio from 1833 to 1842.

There were many links between the mission and the San Ramon Valley. Soldier Pedro Amador helped site and build the first mission. His son Jose Maria Amador was the mission's administrator on and off for years. A mission Indian, Ramon, herded sheep in the San

Ramon Valley and, according to land testimony by Jose Amador in 1852, the creek and valley were named for him.

Mexican independence in 1821 transformed Spanish policies toward the Indians, the missions and land ownership. Californios (native-born Spanish settlers) who had served as soldiers were eager to receive land and, when the mission system ended in 1833, mission lands became available for land grants. The rancho era began.

Sources: *ND Land Case 287, Jose Maria Amador's "Recollections"; Randy Milliken's "Time of Little Choice"*

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."

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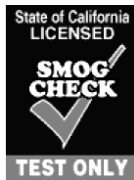
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# Dark Ages serve up dark comedy

*'Incorruptible' a hilarious look  
at religious ironies*

by Natalie O'Neill

At first glance, it would seem that playwright Michael Hollinger couldn't have picked worse characters or setting for an onstage comedy. Monks in the Dark Ages aren't exactly known for their hilarity. And it's tough to make a rundown monastery glitter with comedic opportunity.

But "Incorruptible," a dark and biting farce about the ironies of organized religion, spoofs piousness in ways that are hilarious, poignant and relevant today. Setting and characters are used as devices to help the audience distance themselves from religion—in order to have a laugh.

As the play begins, the audience learns that these 13th-century French monks are poor, hopeless and hungry—and to top it off they haven't had a miracle in years. Act One opens on an abbot kicking out an impoverished woman who has come to the monastery to pray.

"I haven't got a penny!" she pleads.

"Well," he snaps, "then you haven't got a prayer!"

Desperate times call for desperate measures and when the monks discover they can make quick money by passing the bones of cadavers off as the bones of saints, their corruption spirals into absurdity.

Poor people are robbed, cadavers are stashed, and the modern day equivalent of a hit man is hired—all in the pursuit of purity and faith. Eventually the Pope's arrival is promised, but only if the monks can produce an incorruptible (a dead person who is so holy he or she won't decay). This allows plenty of time for mistaken identity and slapstick humor.

The play's characters are reminiscent of the 1987 movie "The Princess Bride," a likely intentional move on the part of "Incorruptible" director Jerry Motta. The production holds archetypal but dramatically effective characters, like the "the shrewd and weasely antagonist," "the big, dumb giant," "the clown," "the ingEnue," and "the young love interest."

While the characters seem one-dimensional at times, that direction choice was wise for the purposes of pace and humor. If the audience, for example, felt too much empathy for the antagonist, laughs would have withered. And if the simple child-like "giant" would have evolved morally it would have just been no fun.

Role Players Ensemble actors created snappy comic timing and intriguing chemistry between characters—exceptional for small theater.



Jerry Motta and Randy Anger are 12th-century monks going into the business of marketing holy relics in Michael Hollinger's "Incorruptible."

Through the play, Hollinger uses situational comedy to illustrate how humans are capable of bending their beliefs in the name of a cause. The irony of these situations induce both laughter and ideas.

For example, anyone who has ever been hit up for money inappropriately at a religious congregation may recognize the show is flecked with funny but universal truths. And anyone who can appreciate smart sexual innuendo and word play will get a chuckle. In the bigger picture, one can even relate the notion of killing in the name of God to religious wars, past and present.

With heavy themes like this, the play has the potential to become preachy or offensive, but Role Players Ensemble succeeds in making the audience reflect without making them cringe.

The message isn't shoved down the audience's throat, but rather tossed up into the air, giving the viewer the chance to grasp the ideas or let them fall to the floor. Despite the sometimes morbid humor, the audience is granted a hopeful ending—what this reviewer was secretly wishing for.

Along with setting the stage for humor, the time period and characters allow the audience to separate themselves from religious affiliation and also to recognize pointed but slightly uncomfortable themes.

In life, monks might not be known for their humor and wit, but on stage in Danville this winter they are. ■

### Are you 'Incorruptible'?

**What:** "Incorruptible"

**Who:** Role Players Ensemble Theatre

**When:** 8 p.m. Jan. 25-27, Feb. 1-3, 8-10; 2 p.m. Jan. 21, 28 and Feb. 4

**Where:** Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville

**Tickets:** \$18-\$24

**For tickets:** Call 314-3463 or visit [www.danvilletheatre.com](http://www.danvilletheatre.com)

### NOW SHOWING

#### Letters From Iwo Jima ★★★★★

Rating: R for graphic war violence. In Japanese with English subtitles; 2 hours, 20 minutes.

The second of Clint Eastwood's World War II sagas is clearly superior to his flat companion piece, "Flags of Our Fathers." Unspooling from the perspective of the Japanese, the battle scenes against U.S. troops for control of the volcanic island are searing. And images are as caked with beauty as with blood.

The present-day discovery of a cache of letters triggers the flashback to 1944. Iris Yamashita's first script, developed from a story co-authored with "Million Dollar Baby" and "Crash" scribe Paul Haggis, quickly establishes Iwo Jima as part of Japan's sacred homeland and a key strategic position in the Pacific Theater. Embodying the honor and warrior code of the Imperial forces, Gen. Kuribayashi (Ken Watanabe of "The Last Samurai") plans a do-or-die defense. He and his troops write letters to loved ones at home, which serve as first-person accounts of the preparations and doomed attempt to stem the American attack in February of 1945.

A gunmetal-gray palette sets the somber tone, perfect for what will amount to a suicide mission inside the maze of caves and tunnels dug deep into the slopes of Mount Suribachi and its surrounding area. Typical of the war genre, the slice-of-life Imperial Army includes a smart and brave leader (the elegant Watanabe), a brutal officer who rules by the whip instead of the brain (Hiroshi Watanabe),

an upper-class celebrity (Tsuyoshi Ihara), and the lucky grunt Saigo (J-pop star Kazunari Ninomiya).

They face dysentery, claustrophobia, dwindling supplies and eventually the awareness that the Imperial government has deceived and abandoned them—as U.S. Marines storm the black-sand beach. Fear and grace under pressure define the men, giving this war drama its grave tone. Sporadic comic attempts to lighten the mood ring false.

Bursts of battle horror punctuate the austerity of Eastwood's vision. Palo Alto-born cinematographer Tom Stern replicates the chaos of combat with his handheld camera, often situating the viewer inside pillboxes unexpectedly torched by flames or tight passageways rocked by artillery and aerial bombardment.

War is hell.

Eastwood triumphs in making you understand and identify with the Japanese entrenched in a no-win situation, instead of caring more about those raising the flags of our fathers.

—Susan Tavernetti





# Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY • E-MAIL CALENDAR@DANVILLEWEEKLY.COM

## Art

### Art in the Park

Town of Danville and Alamo-Danville Artists' Society are looking for applicants for booth space for Art in the Park, being held Oct. 6. The different categories are: painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics and fine jewelry. Cost is \$70 for members, \$85 for non-members. For an application, contact Norma Webb at normawebb@comcast.net. Applications are due April 1.

### Eugene O'Neill Arts Program

Students are invited to apply for participation in "Student Days," which will take place March 7-8, 14-15, at O'Neill's Tao House estate, Danville. Applications are available by calling 820-1818 or visiting [www.eugeneoneill.org](http://www.eugeneoneill.org). Deadline is Feb. 3.

### Winter Exhibit

The California Watercolor Association will host its annual Members' Winter Exhibit from now until March 9, at Blackhawk Plaza, 3480 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Call 648-9113.

## Author Visits

### Rakestraw Books

Rakestraw Books will host the following authors: Eoin McNamee, author of "The Navigator" at 9:15 a.m., Monday, Feb. 12; Ayelet Waldman, author of "Love and Other Impossible Pursuits" at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 15; Peggy Orenstein, author of "Waiting for Daisy" at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 22; Nora Gallagher, at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Avenue, Danville. Reservations are essential. Call 837-7337.

### Teacher Rafe Esquith

Rakestraw Books presents an evening with award-winning teacher Rafe Esquith and the Hobart Shakespeareans at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 6, at Athenian School, 2100 Mt. Diablo Scenic Blvd., Danville. Tickets are \$10. Proceeds will benefit the teachers in the audience in the form of grants. Call 837-7337.

## Civic Meetings

### State of the Town Address

Town of Danville, Danville Area Chamber of Commerce and mayor Mike Shimansky will host the State of the Town Address luncheon starting at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, March 1, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Cost is \$25 by Feb. 20 or \$30 afterward. Call 837-4400 or visit [www.danvillechamber.com](http://www.danvillechamber.com).

## Clubs

### AAUW

Danville-Alamo American Association of University Women will host a luncheon with guest speaker Lois Davidson Gottlieb at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, March 24, at Diablo West Clubhouse, 750 Ynez Circle, Danville. Cost is \$20. Call 944-5173.

### Amador Valley Quilt Guild

Amador Valley Quilt Guild will meet at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 10, at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave., Pleasanton. Guest speaker will be Melody Crust. Call 454-1971.

### Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will host a workshop from part of their series "You Call This Jewish Food?" at 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 10, at Sugandh Indian Cuisine, 4515 Rosewood Dr., #700, Pleasanton. This workshop is a series of five monthly dining-out events. Cost is \$20, plus the cost of your dinner. Call 485-1049.

### Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 75

The organization meets every second Thursday of the month at Danville Veteran's Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. For information, call Post Commander Mac McCuskey at 837-2740 or visit [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

## Concerts

### California Symphony 20th Anniversary Series

California Symphony presents Michael Torke's Rapture: Drums and Woods, Leonard Bernstein's Age of Anxiety:

Symphony No. 2 for Piano and Orchestra and Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 at 4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 28, and at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 30, at Dean Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Call 943-7469 or visit [www.californiasymphony.org](http://www.californiasymphony.org).

### Instrumental Music Benefit Concert

San Ramon Valley High School will host its Instrumental Music Benefit Concert featuring San Jose Taiko at 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 10, at SRVHS Performing Arts Center, 140 Love Lane, Danville. Visit [www.community-concerts.com](http://www.community-concerts.com).

### Traditional Hymns and Classical Concert

Traditional Hymns and Classical Concert will feature Tom Lucia, Covenant Four, Danville Community Band, Salvation Army Band at 7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 26, at Rolling Hills Community Church, 1565 Green Valley Road, Danville. Tickets are \$15. Proceeds will benefit Outdoor Adventure Faire. Call 820-3874 or email [info@christkidsports.org](mailto:info@christkidsports.org).

### Winter Concert

Prometheus Symphony Orchestra with Zenas Hsu, Rosenkavalier Walzes will perform its Winter Concert at 3 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 28, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 114 Montecito, Oakland. This event is free, but donations are requested. Call (415) 864-2151.

## Events

### A Visit With John Muir

Museum on Main will host a family event "A Visit With John Muir" at 7

## WEEKEND PREVIEW



### Tonight at the Improv

San Ramon Valley High School will host a Benefit Improv at 7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 26, at the Performing Arts Centre, San Ramon Valley High School, 140 Love Lane, Danville. San Ramon's Improv Teams will participate in Zany games of Improvisation. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Proceeds will benefit the program. Call 552-3089.

p.m., Thursday, Feb. 15, at Museum on Main, 603 Main St., Pleasanton. Admission is \$5 for museum members, \$10 for non-members. Reservations are required. Call 462-2766.

### Black History Program

Diablo Black Men's Group will host a Poetry and Music Black History Program from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 25, at San Ramon Community Center,

12501 Alcosta Blvd. There will be performances, poetry readings, displays, music and refreshments. This event is free. Call Spencer Tyrus at (510) 714-7387.

### Butterflies, Beads and Baubles

Cottage Jewel will host Butterflies, Beads and Baubles from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Mondays in January, at 125-D Railroad Ave., Danville. Call 837-2664.

(continued on page 22)

## The Seven Hills School Annual Parenting Workshops Series hosts



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A workshop for parents, educators and community leaders. The public is welcome.

Rachel Simmons is the author of The New York Times bestseller *Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls*.

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Wednesday, Feb. 7 6:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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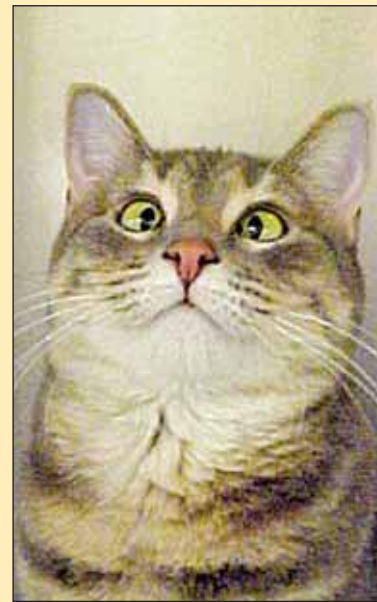


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PET OF THE WEEK



**Sprite up the day**

No, Sprite isn't looking at a bug on the end of her nose. She's just naturally cross-eyed! Sprite is a spayed female housecat approximately 2 years old. She has beautiful green eyes, soft gray fur and a rust-colored nose. Sprite is afraid of dogs and her ideal home would be as an only pet kept indoors. Sprite uses her scratching post and she enjoys attention. For more information about Sprite (pet # F67528), visit her at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive, Dublin, open 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. Call 803-7040.

**Cupid Pre-Dating**

Cupid.com presents "Cupid Pre-Dating for Single Professionals" from 6:30-10 p.m., Monday, Jan. 29, at Vic Stewart's, 850 S. Broadway, Walnut Creek. Cost is \$39. Visit [www.predating.com](http://www.predating.com).

**Summer Camp and Programs Fair**

Jewish Community Federation will host a Summer Camp and Programs Fair from 4-7 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 28, at Contra Costa Jewish Community Center, 2071 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. This event is free. Call Tali at (510) 839-2900, ext. 255.

host a Benefit Improv at 7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 26, at the Performing Arts Centre, San Ramon Valley High School, 140 Love Lane, Danville. San Ramon's Improv Teams will participate in Zany games of Improvisation. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Proceeds will benefit the program. Call 552-3089.

**Rotary Club Crab Feed**

The Rotary Club of Danville invites everyone to a crab feed at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 3, at St. Isidore's Church gym at 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. Tickets are \$40 each; call Victor Georgiou at 838-8721 or e-mail [victor20@pacbell.net](mailto:victor20@pacbell.net). Proceeds will be earmarked to benefit youth and community services, including the San Ramon Valley YMCA's capital campaign to build a full service Y on the Danville/Alamo border.

**Fundraisers**

**Benefit Improv**

San Ramon Valley High School will

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**Health**

**Weekly Marathon Training Program**

East Bay FIT (formerly Danville FIT) will host weekly marathon training at 8 a.m., starting Saturday, Jan. 27, at the Iron Horse Trail at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues, Danville. Members will receive discounts from many different athletic stores and advice from fitness professionals. Visit [www.danvillefit.com](http://www.danvillefit.com).

**Yoga and Meditation Workshop**

A workshop that combines Yoga and meditation with innovative breathing techniques will be held from 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 30, at Longs Drugs, 650 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. This event is free. Call 964-9228 or 858-6565.

**Holidays**

**Valentine's Day Comedy Show**

Johnny Steele and Pals will host a Valentine's Day Comedy Show at 8 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 14, at Village Theater, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$18. Call 314-3463 or visit [www.johnnsteele.com](http://www.johnnsteele.com).

**Kids & Teens**

**Beauty Resolution Workshops for Tweens**

Pure Girls will host a series of free beauty workshops from 4-5 p.m., every Wednesday in January, at Pure Girls, 660 Main St., Pleasanton. This event is for girls ages 10 and up. Call 485-4380.

**'The Little Race Car That Could'**

Blackhawk Museum will host "The Little Race Car That Could" from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 28, at the museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. This event is free with admission. Call 736-2277.



## Lectures/ Workshops

### Parenting Children with Special Health Problems

Lisa Greene, M.D., and co-founder of the popular training company, Love and Logic Inc., will host an all-day seminar on "Parenting Children with Special Health Problems" from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 27, at Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Dr., Dublin. Cost is \$69. Proceeds will benefit Cystic Fibrosis Research, Inc. Call (650) 404-9975 or visit [www.cfri.org](http://www.cfri.org).

### Spring Legal and Legislative Conference

Northern California Human Resource Association will host the 2007 Spring Legal and Legislative Conference from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 1, at Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional Street, Dublin. Cost is \$225 for NCHRA members, \$295 for non-members. Visit [www.nchra.org](http://www.nchra.org).

## Miscellaneous

### Blood Drive in Danville

The Red Cross will sponsor a Blood Drive from 11:45 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 2, at the Danville Grange Hall, 745 Diablo Road. To make an appointment, call (800) 448-3543 or visit [www.beadonor.com](http://www.beadonor.com).

### Blood Drive

Hats Off America will host their second annual American Red Cross Blood Drive from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 3, at Toyota Motor Sales, 2451 Bishop Drive, San Ramon. Donor identification is required. For an appointment, call 855-1950 or email [thebearflagrunner@yahoo.com](mailto:thebearflagrunner@yahoo.com).

### Host Families Needed

Host families are needed for French Students that will be visiting from Beziers, South of France from Feb. 9-23. Students will have daily activities. For information, contact Kevin at 984-7691 or [k.dimler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:k.dimler@sbcglobal.net).

## On Stage

### The Reduced Shakespeare Company

Center REPeratory Company presents The Reduced Shakespeare Company performing "The Complete History of America-Abridged" and "All The Great Books-Abridged" from Feb. 1-March 3, at The Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Call 943-7469.

### 'The Tale of Cinderella'

Diablo Ballet presents "The Tale of Cinderella" at 8 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 18, at Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, 2430 Bancroft Ave., Berkeley. Call (510) 642-9988 or visit <http://tickets.berkeley.edu>.

### 'The Wizard of Oz'

Monte Vista Theater Arts presents "The Wizard of Oz" at 7 p.m., Wednesday-Friday, Feb. 7-9, at Monte Vista High School Theater, 3131 Stone Valley Road, Danville. Tickets are \$10. Call 552-2878.

## Spiritual

### Bridging the Gap

San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church will host their last sermons in the "Bridging the Gap" series starting at 11:15 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 28, at 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Call 837-5243.

### Catholics@Work Breakfast Meeting

Catholics@Work will be hosting Chris Lowney at their next breakfast meeting from 6:45-8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 13, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Guest speaker will be Chris Lowney. Cost is \$25 for members, \$32 for non-members. Call 389-0704 or visit [www.catholicsatwork.org](http://www.catholicsatwork.org).

### Church Open House

Pathway Community Church will host an Open House starting at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 11, at the church, 3470 Fostoria Way, Danville. Call 830-

4722 or visit [www.pathwaycommunitychurch.org](http://www.pathwaycommunitychurch.org).

## Sports

### Danville Sea Devils Swim Team Registration

Danville Sea Devils Swim Team will be holding new swimmer registration from 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 8, at Danville Station clubhouse, located at the end of Zephyr Circle in Danville

Station. Participants should be between 8 and 18 years old. Call 831-8689 or visit [www.sea-devils.org](http://www.sea-devils.org).

### Sycamore Stingrays Swim Team

The Sycamore Stingrays Swim Team are back for the 2007 season with registration for residents on Monday, Feb. 12; returning families on Thursday, Feb. 15; and open registration on Wednesday, Feb. 21. Call 855-8272 or visit [www.sycamorestingrays.com](http://www.sycamorestingrays.com).

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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

**"NO MORE DIETING" CHALLENGE**  
For the Serious Minded Only! I am looking for 20 people to participate in a 12-week workshop for lifetime weight management. Must have 50+ pounds to lose. For details visit [www.nowville.com/barbarakelley](http://www.nowville.com/barbarakelley)

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The Pleasanton/Danville Weekly  
Classified Advertising  
deadline is:

### Tuesday 12 Noon

through the business office  
**925-600-0840 x12**

### Tuesday 11:59 PM

through Fogster.com

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Starts Feb 14th. 925-457-4587 [www.ContraCostaBootCamp.com](http://www.ContraCostaBootCamp.com)

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### 220 Computers/ Electronics

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DSL ROUTER ETC. - \$20  
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### 230 Freebies

**FREE Fill Dirt: 5+ cu. yds**  
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### 240 Furnishings/ Household items

10 1/2" taper Candles - \$8  
2 White patio chairs, 5 baskets - \$1-\$5  
8 1/2" Gold taper Candles - \$6  
Beautiful Wood Inlaid Bedroom set - \$1,800.

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Twin Bed and Nightstand - \$200  
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### 245 Miscellaneous

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Finches Need New Home - \$5.00

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**Danville WEEKLY**  
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- Pleasanton, 4 BR/3 BA - \$1,224,999
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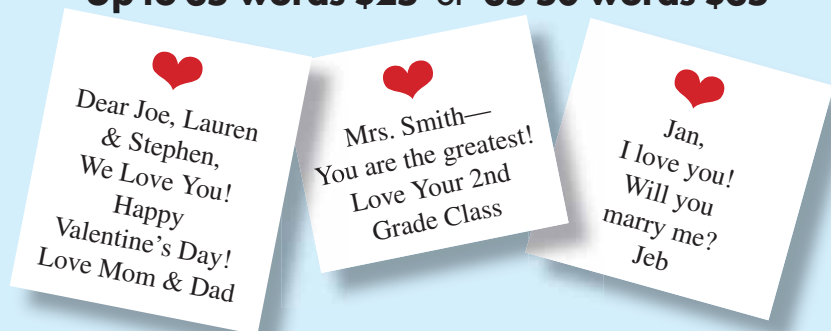
Surprise a special Valentine with a personal "Love Lines" in our February 9th issue of the Danville Weekly

**The deadline is noon February 5th**

Form your message and e-mail to [LoveLines@danvilleweekly.com](mailto:LoveLines@danvilleweekly.com) or fax 837-2278

Be sure to include your name and a daytime phone number so we may contact you for payment information.

**Up to 35 words \$25 or 35-50 words \$35**



For more information, call 837-8300

**Danville WEEKLY**

# Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

## SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during January 2007

Danville	Alamo	San Ramon	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 14	Total sales reported: 2	Total sales reported: 28	Total sales reported: 27
Lowest sale reported: \$592,000	Lowest sale reported: \$1,150,000	Lowest sale reported: \$286,000	Lowest sale reported: \$252,500
Highest sale reported: \$1,357,000	Highest sale reported: \$2,500,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,555,000	Highest sale reported: \$2,550,000
Average sales reported: \$935,821	Average sales reported: \$1,825,000	Average sales reported: \$794,554	Average sales reported: \$625,056

## HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

Danville	Alamo	San Ramon	Walnut Creek
<b>384 Borica Drive</b> S. & D. Währich to S. Bernstein for \$1,100,000	<b>133 Claremont Crest Court</b> S. & E. Gill to D. & S. Ching for \$780,000	<b>1229 Elmwood Drive</b> T. & D. Miller to B. & E. Stampa for \$919,000	
<b>1775 Cottswald Street</b> Lennar Homes to M. Zheng for \$916,000	<b>16 Connick Court</b> Relocation Advantage to A. & D. Prenot for \$1,127,500	<b>55 Harmony Lane</b> D. & J. Smithson to D. Ezell for \$725,000	
<b>130 Freesia Court</b> American International Relocation to B. & J. Coons for \$995,000	<b>411 Constantine Court</b> Richmond American Homes to T. & S. Wong for \$665,000	<b>568 High Eagle Court</b> Tozzi Trust to Burdick Trust for \$879,000	
<b>111 Gatetree Court</b> S. & M. Kahn to B. & K. Davis for \$1,279,000	<b>416 Constantine Court</b> Richmond American Homes to R. Cunningham for \$709,000	<b>2600 Jones Road #30</b> C. Kilbourn to R. & D. Jones for \$381,500	
<b>167 Heritage Park Drive</b> S. & K. Edmonds to G. Setia for \$650,000	<b>422 Constantine Court</b> Richmond American Homes to A. & A. Wu for \$750,000	<b>223 Masters Court #1</b> Fairways 340 Limited to V. Johnson for \$325,000	
<b>133 Lawnview Circle</b> Riggs Trust to J. Allen for \$592,000	<b>442 Constantine Court</b> Richmond American Homes to N. Tapata for \$650,000	<b>357 Masters Court #3</b> Fairways 340 Limited to H. Deshazo for \$386,000	
<b>1096 Lehigh Valley Circle</b> J. & L. Allen to N. & L. Pugh for \$830,000	<b>448 Constantine Court</b> Richmond American Homes to J. Fiel for \$785,000	<b>363 Masters Court #4</b> Fairways 340 Limited to C. Jones for \$385,000	
<b>533 Mantova Court</b> KB Homes to G. Spalasso for \$1,357,000	<b>450 Constantine Court</b> Richmond American Homes to R. & J. Nierras for \$741,500	<b>320 North Civic Drive #413</b> O. Kohn to M. McClellan for \$252,500	
<b>1423 Menton Street</b> Lennar Homes to E. Lim for \$1,078,000.00	<b>5340 East Lakeshore Drive</b> T. Engberg to B. Choy for \$744,000	<b>3715 Northgate Wood Court</b> Sullivan Trust to P. Blake for \$2,550,000	
<b>1024 Ocho Rios Drive</b> S. & D. Cone to A. & J. Rega for \$1,020,000	<b>117 Eastridge Drive</b> Pacifica 235 East Ridge to A. & T. Yuen for \$463,000	<b>2724 Oak Road #121</b> L. Wright to M. Lilly-Young for \$449,000	
<b>65 Plumeria Court</b> T. & L. Chung to S. & R. Lopes for \$830,000	<b>2136 Feathermint Drive</b> T. & T. Wright to G. Jung for \$1,555,000	<b>2550 Oak Road #219</b> Bridgeport Commons to Mcnicholas Trust for \$460,000	
<b>567 Rolling Hills Lane</b> Paeth Trust to J. Hober for \$615,000	<b>1353 Halifax Way</b> Lennar Homes to S. Phan for \$937,000	<b>1863 Olmo Way</b> Cadigan Trust to K. Cadigan for \$400,000	
<b>246 Stetson Drive</b> W. & S. Wiese to GMAC Global Relocation for \$869,500	<b>1361 Halifax Way</b> Lennar Homes to A. Appadurai for \$900,000	<b>127 Player Court #2</b> Fairways 340 Limited to R. Rubio for \$461,000	
<b>573 Zephyr Circle</b> Haines Trust to D. Lego-Wathen for \$970,000	<b>500 Levant Court</b> G. & S. Pang to P. & T. David for \$1,142,500	<b>1980 Pomar Way</b> L. Slocomb to K. Cadigan for \$490,000	
	<b>Alamo</b>	<b>2121 Ptarmigan Drive #1</b> Mcrae Trust to M. Adams for \$370,000	
	<b>219 Valley Oaks Drive</b> Murphy Trust to R. & M. Denisco for \$2,500,000	<b>2622 Quiet Place Drive</b> A. & E. Gibson to J. & S. Dearing for \$960,000	
	<b>155 Wilson Road</b> Morrill Trust to P. Tirman for \$1,150,000	<b>863 Savannah Circle</b> G. & P. Cooper to A. & I. Bernas for \$760,000	
	<b>San Ramon</b>	<b>189 Springside Road</b> Ballock Trust to M. Navvab for \$849,000	
	<b>1301 Amaryllis Circle</b> J. Phillipose to D. Thomas for \$625,000	<b>1836 Stanley Dollar Drive #2A</b> Benson Trust to Ecob Trust for \$540,000	
	<b>2517 Aranda Drive</b> R. & D. Hansen to J. & R. Morris for \$940,000	<b>800 Terra California Drive #2</b> Jensen Trust to Kaye Trust for \$560,000	
	<b>2172 Arlington Way</b> Brookfield Saville to F. Eriman for \$748,500	<b>5413 Terra Granada Drive #3A</b> Forsberg Trust to E. Hasel for \$640,000	
	<b>32 Bridlepath Court</b> Primacy Closing to M. & A. Cheeseman for \$760,000	<b>2302 Trotter Way</b> Rosen Trust to D. & V. Meek for \$815,000	
	<b>6350 Byron Lane</b> Centex Homes to E. & C. Braga for \$665,000	<b>2564 Walnut Boulevard #109</b> S. Anderson to S. Chang for \$415,000	
	<b>5036 Campion Drive</b> Shapell Industries to J. & C. Diramos for \$955,000	<b>2562 Walnut Boulevard #80</b> K. Brandon to K. Johnson for \$385,000	
	<b>1204 Cedarwood Loop</b> Shapell Industries to A. & L. Andrade for \$720,000	<b>1929 Whitecliff Court</b> N. Davis to I. Davis for \$300,000	
	<b>Walnut Creek</b>		
	<b>744 Autumn Drive</b> Ecob Trust to G. & B. Garland for \$770,000		
	<b>5951 Autumnwood Drive #6B</b> S. Hobbs to B. Troiano for \$449,500		

LIST YOUR OPEN HOME FOR FREE!

## OPEN HOME GUIDE FORM

LIST YOUR OPEN HOME HERE

City _____		
# of Bedrooms _____	Street Address _____	\$ Price of property _____
Day, Date & Time Open _____	Agent Name Real Estate Agency _____	Phone Number _____

**DEADLINE IS TUESDAY 10 A.M.**

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**OR E-MAIL TO :  
OpenHomes@DanvilleWeekly.com**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Space available only basis

**Danville WEEKLY**



# OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

To list your home in the Danville Weekly Open Home Guide, please email: [OpenHomes@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:OpenHomes@DanvilleWeekly.com)

## Alamo

### 3 Bedrooms

- 914 Ina Dr.** **\$1,448,000**  
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 209-3451
- 20 Kemline Ct.** **\$1,649,000**  
Sun 12-3 Intero 997-5120

### 4 Bedrooms

- 1525 Diablo Vista Rd.** **\$1,510,000**  
Sun 1-4 Empire 217-5017
- 46 Vista Ln.** **\$1,545,000**  
Sun 1:30-4 Intero 672-2499

## Blackhawk

### 4 Bedrooms

- 34 Magnolia Pl.** **\$1,995,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 736-1500

## Danville

### 2 Bedrooms

- 394 Ilo Ln., #106** **\$459,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4075
- 47 Rainbow Cir.** **\$629,900**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 998-5969
- 1946 St. George Rd.** **\$699,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 648-5345

### 3 Bedrooms

- 1954 S. Forest Hill Pl.** **\$699,000**  
Sun 1:30-4 Intero 830-3999
- 21 Tea Tree Ct.** **\$724,950**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4022
- 8 Ramon Ct.** **\$879,900**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 831-2929
- 29 La Gonda Ct.** **\$930,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 858-5400

### 4 Bedrooms

- 112 Quinterra Ln.** **\$1,089,000**  
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 362-2058
- 11 Jillian Wy.** **\$1,599,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 648-5342
- 112 Lawnview Cir.** **\$619,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4075
- 1193 River Rock Ln.** **\$849,900**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4049
- 192 Blackstone Dr.** **\$895,000**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 314-1111
- 389 Squirrel Ridge Wy.** **\$995,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 833-1822

### 5 Bedrooms

- 135 Merano St.** **\$1,189,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 683-9799
- 26 Bormio Ct.** **\$1,250,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 984-1945
- 112 Laurelwood Dr.** **\$1,999,950**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 977-8965
- 124 Victoria Pl.** **\$2,159,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Intero 785-1386
- 881 El Pintado** **\$2,795,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 699-3527

### 6 Bedrooms

- 251 Royal Palm Pl.** **\$1,099,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4096
- 265 Montego Dr.** **\$4,200,000**  
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 209-3451

## San Ramon

### 2 Bedrooms

- 423 Pine Ridge Dr.** **\$594,000**  
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 249-0301

### 3 Bedrooms

- 1984 Via Appia** **\$679,000**  
Sun 1:30-4:30 Intero 648-5336

- 775 Winterside Cir.** **\$680,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4110

- 43 Elmwood Dr.** **\$724,500**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4 Alain Pinel 998-9747

- 1026 Vista Pointe Cir.** **\$749,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4128

- 100 Canyon Green Pl.** **\$785,000**  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 510-410-6311

- 64 Foster Dr.** **\$950,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 997-0806

### 4 Bedrooms

- 3025 Ebano Dr.** **\$1,149,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 413-1068

- 23 Stow Ct.** **\$1,150,000**  
Sun 1:30-4 Alain Pinel 998-9747

- 3375 Camarones Pl.** **\$749,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 586-5456

- 745 Bridge Creek Dr.** **\$919,900**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 997-0842

### 5 Bedrooms

- 3825 Mandy Wy.** **\$1,375,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Intero 336-6399

- 16 Pine Valley Pl.** **\$1,399,000**  
Sun 1:30-4 Intero 487-6211

- 201 Pleasant Valley Ct.** **\$999,950**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 833-1822

### 6 Bedrooms

- 908 Regalo Wy.** **\$1,444,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 997-0806

## Dublin

### 2 Bedrooms

- 7623 Arbor Creek Cir.** **\$385,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 683-7709

- 6953 Stagecoach Rd., #F** **\$459,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 800-492-6365

### 4 Bedrooms

- 6162 Bay Hill Ct.** **\$2,125,000**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel - Kim Ott 583-1121

## Pleasanton

### 2 Bedrooms

- 3399 Norton Wy., #1** **\$379,000**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel - Davis and Barraclough 621-4085

### 3 Bedrooms

- 7204 Valley View Ct.** **\$579,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Wayside Park - Joe Crosslin 251-1709

- 7586 Stonedale** **\$614,900**  
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC - Sherry Faux 980-3938

### 4 Bedrooms

- 3108 Thistledown Ct.** **\$1,095,000**  
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC - Phyllis Weiner 872-1416

## Livermore

### 2 Bedrooms

- 6496 Forget Me Not** **\$460,000**  
Sat/Sun 2-5 Keller Williams - Farida Chapman 784-2524

- 266 Wood St., #405** **\$509,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Intero 785-7364

### 4 Bedrooms

- 431 Jillana** **\$622,000**  
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC - Louise Davis 426-3834

- 911 Venus Wy.** **\$780,000**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel - Kim Ott 583-1121

### 5 Bedrooms

- 1368 Capri Ct.** **\$1,299,000**  
Sun 1-4 Re/Max - Jan Stevenson 586-0356

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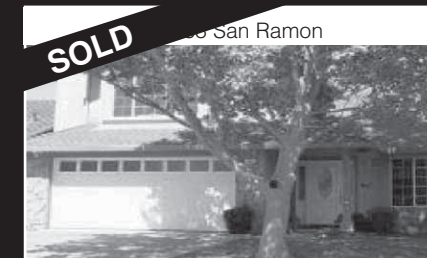
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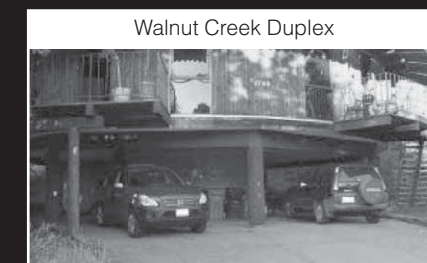
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### Walnut Creek Duplex

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**Incredible Showcase Estate!** **\$5,750,000**  
Absolutely stunning use of limestone & marble, intricate molding & trim work. 5bd suites, 2 powder rooms, library, 7350+/-sf, 6-car garage.  
**Sharon Dare & Pamela Schmidt** **925.855.4041**



### BLACKHAWK

**Magnificent Curb Appeal** **\$2,799,999**  
6bd, 5.5ba, complete au pair apartment plus separate guest house. Wrap around porch, newly painted exterior, new roof, massive kitchen, sparkling pool.  
**Bonnie King** **925.855.4072**



### ALAMO

**Westside Alamo Estate!** **\$2,699,000**  
Multi-dimensional property includes main house, 2 in-law units and a pool house. Gorgeous backyard with Mt. Diablo views, pool, waterfall.  
**Khrista Jarvis** **925.855.4065**



### DANVILLE

**Elegant Estate Home** **\$2,159,000**  
3892+/-sf home w/casita(452+/-sf). Only 7 years old! Resort-like living in this 5bd, 3.5ba, 3-car garage, putting green, swim pool/spa, sport court, vineyard.  
**Bill & Mimi** **925.785.1386**



### DANVILLE

**Northridge Estates Custom** **\$1,999,950**  
5bd, 4.5ba plus au pair and office, 4800+/-sf, 4-car garage. Ideal location, near walking paths, permanent open space and Mt. Diablo park  
**Brad Gothberg** **925.977.8965**



### DANVILLE

**Exceptional Value!** **\$1,599,000**  
Fabulous executive retreat in Diablo Woods! An entertainer's dream house, spacious rooms, walls of glass, gourmet kitchen. Gorgeous pool, spa, waterfalls.  
**Vance & Sue Smith** **925.648.5342**



### ALAMO

**Totally Remodeled-Westside** **\$1,545,000**  
4bd, 3ba, slab granite in kitchen, wood & travertine floors. Many French doors, all new windows, new master bath. Beautiful grounds.  
**The McDougall Team** **925.672.2499**



### DANVILLE

**Motivated Seller!** **\$1,250,000**  
5bd, 3.5ba in Hidden Valley, one of Danville's most desirable areas. Italian design, gourmet kitchen, 20' ceilings, light & bright.  
**Peggy Kissinger** **925.984.1945**



### DANVILLE

**Bettencourt Ranch Executive Home** **\$1,099,950**  
Like new inside and out! 4bd, one downstairs, 3ba, family room w/used brick fireplace, bar, morning sun breakfast area, huge master suite.  
**Chuck and Renee Lamb** **925.899.9651**

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