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a TOUGH MIND and
a TENDER HEART

Diablo's Elaine Taylor talks about establishing her foundation to help children as well as her love of rock 'n' roll

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Streetwise

ASKED ON HARTZ AVENUE IN DANVILLE

Q: The holiday season is just around the corner. What is your favorite holiday?



My favorite holiday is Thanksgiving. It's the only time when the family really feels like it needs to get together and connect. It's the start of the holiday season. I always cook the turkey and the sweet potato pie. We're from the South.

Gayle Roche
craftsperson



My favorite is Easter for spiritual reasons. Also, I like that time of the year with the greens and spring colors. I think my children have a better understanding of Easter than the other holidays. They love the Easter eggs. Each holiday I read my children a special book. We especially like "P.J. Funny Bunny." One of my favorite quotes from that book is, "It's not always easy being a bunny."

Kate Smith
marketing



Christmas is my favorite. It's fun, festive. I like all the decorations, the tree. I like to make cookies to leave out for Santa and Rudolph. Mom says she likes Valentine's Day because it's more an adult holiday that doesn't center around kids. The chocolate is good, too.

Virginia Purcell and mom Robin
stay-at-home mom and watercolor artist



Thanksgiving because it's a chance for family that we don't see all year to get together without all the gift-giving pressure. Christmas is a very busy time of year for me.

Bruce Stamp
wood carver



Actually, Christmas is my favorite, I just love everything about the season; the tree with all the decorations and lights; the music; food; and of course, the presents. It doesn't get any better than that. Also, I think everyone is just friendlier.

Maria Malki
retail sales

COMPILED BY JUDY STEINER

ABOUT THE COVER

Elaine Taylor, founder of the Taylor Family Foundation, was honored Sunday by the Dalai Lama as an "unsung hero of compassion." In this interview the Diablo resident talks about what inspired her to start Camp Arroyo for children with life-threatening and disabilities, and about other personal aspects of her life.

Vol. I, Number 28

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Some children live in abandoned buildings, with no running water and no warm clothes.”

—Vula Rushdoony, founder of Macedonian Outreach, which is holding the Candy Cane Boutique on Saturday to benefit the poverty stricken children of the Balkans. See story, page 18.

History book to be out soon

“San Ramon Valley: Alamo, Danville, and San Ramon” will be in bookstores by Nov. 28, produced by Arcadia Publishing. Its authors are Beverly Lane, curator of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, and photographer and museum docent Ralph Cozine.

The book is a collection of historic images depicting Danville, Alamo, San Ramon, Diablo, Blackhawk and Tassajara Valley. It includes the early schools, the electric railway between Alamo and Danville, the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, and the incorporation of Danville and San Ramon in the early 1980s. The 128-page book will sell for \$19.99.

'Aladdin' comes to Danville stage

The Danville Children's Musical Theater will be presenting “Aladdin Jr.” at the Village Theatre. The first show was scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 11, and the closing night will be Saturday, Nov. 19.

The musical, directed by Pam Greenan, includes 50 young people singing and dancing to the tunes of Disney's “Aladdin.” All of the familiar characters, including Jasmine, Aladdin and the magic carpet, will be part of the show.

The show will run through two weekends, with added Wednesday and Thursday night shows and matinees at 2 p.m. both Saturdays. Tickets for youths under 18 and seniors cost \$7.50; tickets for adults are \$9.50. To order advance tickets, call 314-3463 or go online at vtboxoffice@ci.danville.ca.us. The Village Theatre is located at 233 Front St.

Talking about the Constitution

American Legion Post 246 will be holding its annual High School Oratorical Competition on Jan. 4 at the Veteran's Hall.

The contest's purpose is for students to develop a greater appreciation for the U.S. Constitution. Students are required to give an eight to 10 minute speech on a phrase of the Constitution as well as speaking three to five minutes on a specific article or amendment.

Local winners will move on to the Area Finals on Feb. 19, followed by the State Finals on March 12. At the National Finals in Indianapolis, students will compete for an \$18,000 scholarship.

Students interested in competing should contact their high school speech teachers, or call committee chairman Ron Roe at 837-9428.

Veterans weekend

In conjunction with Veterans Day, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 75 is displaying a collection of military memorabilia and history at the Veterans Hall, 300 Hartz Ave., from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. through Sunday. Veterans were welcomed to loan their items, such as articles of clothing, medals or other memorabilia to the three-day exhibit.

Veterans will also be at the hall during these hours to share their military experiences with interested visitors. For more information, call Tony Carnemolla at 820-5750.

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

Appeal dropped to stop Alamo YMCA

Mt. Diablo Y plans to launch fundraising for new facility

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

A citizens group has dropped its appeal to stop the YMCA facility planned in Alamo adjacent to Hap Magee Ranch Park, to be accessed from Danville Boulevard.

"We made a proposal to withdraw the appeal," said Stuart Flashman, attorney for Citizens to Reduce Traffic, earlier this week. "The (state) Court of Appeal had signaled we were not going to have a sympathetic ear."

After Contra Costa County approved the YMCA project in October 2003, Citizens to Reduce Traffic retained Flashman, who filed a lawsuit saying the project was not consistent with the county General Plan. A Superior Court judge ruled in favor of the county in April, and the citizens group appealed that decision.

"This is a very bittersweet project overall," said Volney Spalding, head of the Citizens. "We've never had an issue with the Y... we felt it was not approved in the proper way and not at the right location. But we love the Y."

The problem was the expected increase in traffic when the facility opens. "It takes 10-15 minutes to get from Alamo to Danville now," said Spalding.

The preliminary permits were approved for the new San Ramon Valley YMCA in Alamo on June 28. Plans on the 12-1/2-acre site call for a collection of buildings with a rural theme. The largest would be a 10,800-square-foot air-nasium, an indoor-outdoor basketball and sports court open on the east side. Other facilities include

an aerobics room, family fitness, indoor pool, locker rooms, kids gym, a lounge, meeting room, multi-purpose room, administrative offices, and restrooms, maintenance and storage for a total of 40,300 square feet.

Meanwhile the Mt. Diablo YMCA issued a progress report Tuesday on its plans for the Alamo facility, the Delta Family YMCA in Oakley, and an expansion of the Irvin Deutscher Family YMCA in Pleasant Hill.

The Mt. Diablo YMCA serves 15,000 households and 30,000 individuals, which has doubled in the last 24 months. This fall there was a 25 percent enrollment increase in after-school and day-care programs, said Mike Erwin, president of the Mt. Diablo YMCA.

He said the fundraising campaign for the \$9.6 million San Ramon Valley YMCA in Alamo will begin soon. "Right now it's a call to action," he said. "We certainly have our volunteer boards ramping up right now, recruiting volunteers to get involved in the capital campaign."

"The majority of the funds we will raise will come through individual and foundation gifts," he added. "That's standard for YMCA campaigns."

Erwin said the bridge across San Ramon Creek to lead from Danville Boulevard to the site at Lewis Lane is currently under design as are the road improvements.

"All the site work would be in the first phase," he explained. ■



The first Californians

Alamo School fourth-graders (clockwise from middle) Klarissa Ramirez, Emily deBoislanç, Steven Waal, Claire Moore, Alex Janney, Niko Souza and Lucas Halstead listen intently as docent Carmen Curtis tells them about Native American Life in Danville. The students enjoyed learning how to throw spears through hoops and pretending to be hunters, and could be heard saying "ho" to each other, which means "thank you." Two fourth-grade teachers in the school district—Gail Faber and Michele Lasagne—researched the history of California Indians so local school children could learn about them rather than the Southwest and Plains Indians that had formerly been studied. The updated curriculum is called "Whispers from the First Californians." The Indian Life display at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley runs through Nov. 15; hours are 1-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday.

Alamo voters OK more money for parks

All 11 of Alamo's precincts were counted by Wednesday morning, and 67 percent of the 3,544 voters who went to the polls approved raising the appropriations for county service area R7A, Alamo Parks and Recreation.

This vote approves increasing

funding to \$990,000 per fiscal year, adjusting for changes in the cost-of-living and population. The increase will be effective for 2006-07 through 2009-10. Currently, the parks and recreation district is authorized to spend \$675,000.

Measure S did not involve a new

tax or a tax increase; the state requires that voters approve changing appropriations limits.

The increased funds will be used for amenities such as the Iron Horse Trail, Eastside Creek Trail, Alamo School Sports Park and Hap Magee Ranch Park.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Bus driver on campaign for children's safety

Folks speed and ignore stop sign, says crusader

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

What don't people understand about a red sign that says "Stop"? That's what school bus driver Russ Johnson wants to know.

"Last week I was crossing the kids in the street with my stop sign and a guy in a Jaguar on Blackhawk Drive went right past me," Johnson said. "He came back and told me, 'Excuse me, but I was on the phone.'" At least that man stopped, noted Johnson; most just speed away.

Johnson, a driver for the San

Ramon Valley Unified School District, is on a one-man campaign to get people to stop when the school bus comes to a halt with its lights flashing and to pay attention to their driving instead of their cell phones.

"Some cars stop behind me but the third or fourth will go and the rest will follow," Johnson said. "I almost got hit three or four times already this year. I keep asking, 'What's it going to take? Kids getting killed or hurt to get anything done?'"

He has called Blackhawk Police

Services, where his route is, the Danville police, and also talked to state Sen. Tom Torlakson (D., District 7).

"It's one of the more serious vehicle code violations," said Robert Oakes, press secretary for Torlakson. "If you don't stop when the vehicle lights are flashing, it's up to a \$1,000 fine and suspension of your driver's license for one year." Oakes said the office has been in touch with the Sheriff's Department and the school district,

► Continued on page 7



School bus driver Russ Johnson is fed up with drivers who speed by, ignoring the flashing lights on the bus as the children cross the street. If cited, a person can be fined \$1,000 and lose a driver's license for up to a year.

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The Danville Aquatic Center will include this swimming pool at San Ramon Valley High School, which is scheduled for renovation, and a new 35-meter pool.

Aquatic center funding considered

Town wants to ensure public can use pools as well as teams

by Casey Reivich

The Danville Aquatic Center committee met with town staff and members of the Town Council recently to discuss funding for a 35-meter swimming pool alongside the existing pool at San Ramon Valley High School.

The committee is asking the town for \$750,000; the Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation for \$1.8 million; and \$250,000 from Contra Costa County, Alamo special district R7A. Their original funding request to R7A was turned down but fundraisers are hopeful that the recently appointed R7A committee may be more receptive.

Some \$600,000 in pledges has been raised from more than 300 families, said Grant Finlayson, chairman of the committee to raise funds for the Danville Aquatic Center. In addition to the pledges, money was raised by Ken Harmon, a Danville man who swam the length of Lake Tahoe in August expressly to raise money for the project.

The total cost of the pool will be \$3.4 million, said Finlayson.

At the study session, council members were concerned mostly with ensuring that the community would benefit from the new pool, not just the high school. Finlayson said the students would get first use but that greater Danville and Alamo would also benefit.

Councilman Mike Shimansky brought up the joint venture between the town and the school district at the Monte Vista Community Pool at Monte Vista High School. The 25-meter pool, which was a concern for years but only built a few years ago, was a joint project between Danville, the school district and the county. Danville committed \$375,000, and the county contributed \$250,000. The purpose of the community pool for Danville was to find a space for its summer aquatic program.

Shimansky said he has heard several complaints from residents about being kicked out of the pool by student activities and team practices.

"We were given all kinds of assurances of how the school was going to work with the pool," said Shimansky. "As soon as they got

our money, the cooperation went down hill."

Mayor Mike Doyle echoed these concerns. He told of how his wife and her aquatic class were once "run out" of the pool at Monte Vista.

"If I had any inkling of that I wouldn't have given them 5 cents," said Doyle. "We need great assurances that this is going to be shared by the public."

Finlayson explained that Monte Vista only has one pool, whereas the Danville Aquatic Center will have two. Team practice could take place in one pool and aquatic classes in another.

Vice Mayor Karen Stepper suggested that a schedule be hammered out so the Town Council could see how much the community would get to use the pool.

While the design for the pool is being reviewed by the Division of the State Architect, fundraisers are busy raising the remaining \$2.8 million in funds to construct the pool. Committee members are also in the process of preparing their application to the Valley Foundation and expect to have it in by the end of this month.

The effort to build an additional pool for school and community use began in 2002. Finlayson said students, club swimmers, and adult swimmers needed a better facility.

"It will triple the available pool space at the school site," said Finlayson. "It should have ample room to accommodate all the needs of the town, school and community groups."

He noted that the \$600,000 in pledges are contingent upon the timely completion of the pool.

"People aren't going to throw money into a black hole," Finlayson explained. "We made their pledges contingent on the pool proceeding on a certain time table."

In order to break ground on the project in March, funding needs to be completed by February. If construction starts in March, organizers expect the pool to be up and running at the end of next summer, said Finlayson.

Town Council members were also concerned about who would be responsible for renovating the existing swimming pool at San

► Continued on page 8

Silver Streak keeps seniors updated on activities

Newsletter lets seniors know about trips, plays and strength training

by Kevin Zhou

The Silver Streak, a quarterly newsletter published by the Town of Danville, recently came out with its latest edition. The newsletter notifies seniors living in the area about upcoming activities.

The Silver Streak includes a multitude of activities for seniors to enjoy the benefits the town provides. Events in this quarter's edition range from "Buzz Sessions," an opportunity for seniors to learn how to get the most out of their Medicare, to "Functional Strength Training," an opportunity to increase muscle strength and bone mass.

"We want to try to get seniors active in the community," said Christine Mabry, adult and senior services program coordinator for Danville.

The newsletter has gone through a series of upgrades and was redesigned into a handier book form earlier this year. It now also has interactive features. There is a series of questionnaires for seniors to fill out so the town can receive feedback on what activities to provide the following year. A few possibilities include art classes, acting classes, book clubs and square dancing lessons.

"This is the first time that I've included the survey," said Mabry. "Since I mailed the newsletters out a week ago,

I've already received 15 responses. The feedback helps me identify future Senior Sneaker Trips, and helps me determine what senior programs to expand later on in the future."

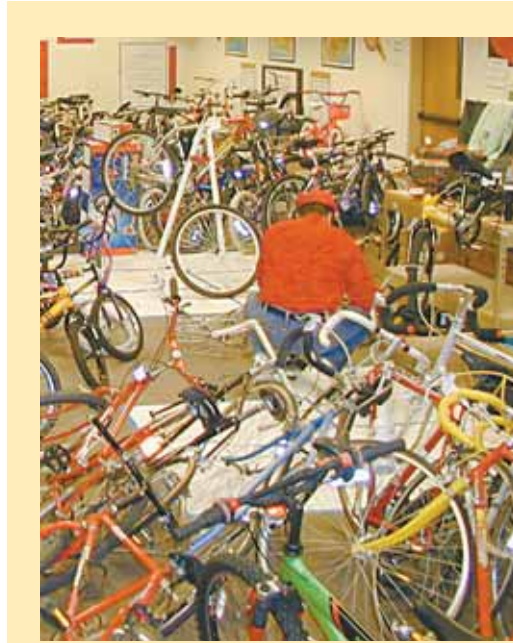
The first Silver Streak newsletter appeared in the winter of 1999. The newsletter was originally intended to update seniors on the Senior Sneaker Trips, a program that takes them on excursions to see "The Lion King" play, tour historic landmarks in Oakland, and visit the De Young Museum in San Francisco, among others.

"We usually don't have all the details and times ready for the activity guide, so the newsletter is a good way of letting seniors know about the trips," said Mabry.

However, in the past six months, the Silver Streak newsletter expanded to include other senior activities as well.

"The idea was to readily inform them of the resources that are available throughout the Town of Danville," said Mabry. The newsletter's expansion and upgrades have received a lot of positive feedback, she said.

The newsletter is issued four times a year. There are currently 350 people on the mailing list and copies are available at the Danville Library, Veteran's Hall and the Community Center. ■



Yikes! They need bikes

St. Timothy's Church in Danville in cooperation with Baldwin Elementary and Charlotte Wood Middle School is holding a bike drive to fill the wishes of families whose names are provided by Adopt-A-Family from the Monument Crisis Center in Concord. Many of these families need bikes to use as their primary form of transportation for both parents and children. The last two years the group has been able to donate more than 260 bikes given to them by the community then safety-checked and repaired by volunteers. Each bike goes out with a helmet and lock. Bikes in good working order can be dropped off at St. Timothy's Church, 1550 Diablo Road, from Saturday, Nov. 12, through Thursday, Dec. 1, on the front porch of the office. Dave Struck of Danville has headed up the repairs for the past two years, putting in many late nights and weekends, and volunteers are always needed to help. Donations are gladly accepted to defray the costs of parts, helmets and locks. Checks can be made out to St. Timothy's Church; reference Adopt-A-Family. Individuals or families can also be adopted. Direct questions to Tania Hanson-De Young at taniahd@sbc-global.net or 838-7896, ext. 12.

Children's safety

► Continued from page 5

looking for ways to deal with the problem.

Neighbors in the Shadow Creek Drive area who were seeing their children onto the bus Monday morning agreed with Johnson.

"One guy just flew right by," said Ken Mauch, who had just seen his third-grader safely onto the bus. "We see it everyday."

Lt. Alan Johnson of Blackhawk Police Services said they are working with the school district to address the problem.

"There are several solutions," he said. "One is public education. We are working on that com-

ponent and at the same time I also referred Mr. Johnson to the Blackhawk Homeowners Association, which controls all the signs."

He said the police try to make their presence known when school buses are coming through the Blackhawk community.

"Children's safety is one of our top priorities," he said. "Clearly there's an issue and we're going to address it."

Russ Johnson said Tuesday that the California Highway Patrol called that morning to say it would have an officer in the Shadow Creek area when he is driving his bus routes. Johnson, who has four grown children of his own, hopes this will help.

"The main thing is to keep the children safe," he said. ■



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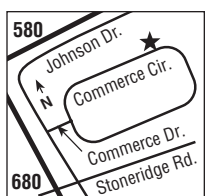


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Down Panama way

Nothing like a Danville Weekly for those slow moments when passing through the locks on the Panama Canal for (l-r) Sal and Carol Riele and Lorraine and George Silva. They sailed on the Sun Princess from San Francisco on Sept. 14 and docked in Florida on Sept. 29. Take Us Along on your travels and send photos to Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com or 315 Diablo Road, Danville 94596.

Aquatic center

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Ramon Valley High. The estimated cost for renovations is \$600,000, according to the aquatic center committee. The school district has given an oral agreement to renovate the pool, said Finlayson. Nothing, however, has been put in writing.

Councilman Newell Arnerich admonished the school district for not allocating enough of its Measure A funds to San Ramon Valley High.

"San Ramon Valley High School got a raindrop," Arnerich said. "The school district should step up and renovate the pool. Our oldest school site hasn't gotten its fair share."

Councilwoman Candace Andersen asked if the town could get assurances of mutual benefit in writing.

A written agreement is an attainable goal, said Marcia Somers of the Danville Facilities

Department, in an interview after the meeting. She noted that Danville has a long history of joint projects with the school district and said she is now talking with school site staff, coaches and administrators to come up with a schedule for the pool.

One goal for Danville, said Somers, is to provide year-round programming for adult swimmers. "We haven't had the ability to have year-round programming," she said. "People who are in masters swimming and water aerobics want a consistent program."

Sommers estimated that there would be another study session on the Danville Aquatic Center because the council members had so many questions. After the next study session, the allocation request will go before the Town Council.

Finlayson said he feels optimistic about the aquatic center's prospects. He believes the school district and Danville are enthusiastic about the project and that all recognize the need for an expanded pool facility. ■

'Tis the season

Danville and Alamo trees to twinkle with holiday joy

Oak trees in the area will soon be alight with a holiday message of merriment, the joy of the season and remembrances of loved ones.

The first tree in Danville-Alamo to let there be light will be the Old Oak Tree on Diablo Road. The Danville Area Chamber of Commerce sponsors this popular event, which is scheduled for 5:15-8:30 p.m., with the lighting ceremony at 6:15 p.m., the day after Thanksgiving, Nov. 25.

"It's magical," said Chamber president Melony Newman. "If you've never spent time with the Snow Angel and Father Christmas, then you've missed out." They begin the evening on a balcony next to the big oak. After the tree is lit, they join the crowd and stroll toward Hartz Avenue, where the party continues with music, entertainment and refreshments throughout downtown.

"It's so much fun to watch the children come up and tug on the angel's skirt and give Father Christmas their wish list and have their pictures taken with him," said Newman. "I wouldn't miss it, it's so much fun."

Hospice of Contra Costa Foundation invites everyone to participate in its 19th annual Tree of Lights ceremonies, which it is holding in 16 cities. Each light symbolizes a life and will shine in honor or memory of a friend or family member. To reserve a symbolic light, call the foundation at 887-5676. The suggested donation is \$20 per light, and last year more than \$93,000 was raised to assure that Hospice and Palliative

Care of Contra Costa can care for all patients, regardless of their ability to pay.

The local Hospice tree lightings are as follows:

- 4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 27—Railroad Avenue at Hartz
- 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 2—Blackhawk Road at Blackhawk Drive
- 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 4—Alamo Women's Club, 1401 Danville Blvd.

The Hospice commemorative ceremonies will include music, poetry, talks by dignitaries and, of course, that special moment when the tree is lit.

Also on Dec. 4, although an hour earlier, the Alamo Merchant & Professional Association will sponsor an exciting program at Andrew H. Young Park on Danville Boulevard and Jackson Way. Mark Curtis, morning news co-anchor at KTVU-TV Fox 2 will emcee the event, which will highlight music students from local schools performing holiday programs under the huge lighted oak tree and surrounded by lighted candy canes, snowmen and giant snowflakes.

The celebration will include cider, coffee and hot chocolate along with desserts as well as a visit by Santa Claus. The Sheriff's Department will have a collection bin for its annual Holiday Toy Drive, so people can donate new unwrapped toys at the Tree Lighting to go to needy children in the county.

Danville Boulevard will remain open during the Alamo tree lighting, although Diablo Road will be closed for the lighting Nov. 25.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

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Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



When moms mobilize

The Blue Star Moms were out in force Saturday at the Veteran's Hall in Danville collecting goodies for holiday packages to send to our armed forces serving overseas. Our armed forces are their sons and daughters. I'd seen the Blue Star Moms from a distance when they marched in the Fourth of July parade, each holding a photograph of her child, in an incredibly touching display of pride and caring. Up close and personal they were as warm and genuine as I'd expected. They share a special burden, with their children in harms way serving our country. But they handle it with love and pride—and by taking action.

There is something about a mom. "I've heard it said that dads suffer silently, and moms are more vocal," said Tami Jenkins, who was in charge of Saturday's collection along with Patty Harris. She noted that when a soldier is deployed the whole family suffers, including brothers and sisters and wives and children. The Blue Stars Moms have been in existence since World War II, and the San Francisco East Bay Area founding Moms first came together after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Tami said she became aware of the group when her son Isaac, now 21, was deployed to Afghanistan. She said her experience collecting from the public has shown that whether people support the war in Iraq or not, they are generous in their support of the troops. Although most of them now have access to a PX, she said, the boxes sent by the Blue Star Moms come with love and appreciation from the entire community, which can be reassuring. She told about one young man who was afraid to get off the plane when he arrived back in the U.S. after serving in Iraq: "He didn't know what his reception would be."

Patty Harris was wearing a photo of her handsome son Jeff, 23, on her Blue Star Moms sweatshirt. He is currently serving in Iraq and she reported having received a phone call that morning. At the corner the Moms had set up a big sign asking for people to show their support by honking, and honk they did. Firefighters drove by in a big fire engine and honked and waved, too. While I was there, a woman pulled to the curb with two little kids secured in their car seats and said she was on her way to the store and what did they need? This is quite common at the Danville collections, the Moms said. They told the woman they really need razors, although Tami and Patty said this collection was for fun items, such as handheld games, paddle balls, yo-yos, DVDs, candy and the like

because they wanted these care boxes to be special holiday treats.

Along the side of the Vet Hall, volunteers were sorting items from bins into plastic bags as they were donated. These were to be packed with goodies for four into 12-inch by 12-inch by 8-inch boxes. A

She said her experience collecting from the public has shown that whether people support the war in Iraq or not, they are generous in their support of the troops.

table was set up for people to donate money to help with shipping costs and to write postcards to the troops. A \$5 contribution was rewarded with a car magnet. A dad sitting at the table told me that his son had called that morning, too, to say he was near Baghdad. He said the calls mean so much to him and his wife that they don't want to leave their house for fear they

might miss one. Another woman whose son had been a sniper in the first deployment said how she wished she could have received a telephone call during that difficult time. She said that through the organization she has met other women who truly understand her situation and they have become friends.

A large thank you board displayed letters from the recipients of the Moms' care packages and photos. "I don't think you left out one thing," read one letter. "From cookies and chips to the shampoo and toilet paper." A letter in a distinctly feminine handwriting expressed gratitude for scented lotions. "It was such a hit with the girls," she wrote. "Some of the males grabbed some of the soap when they thought no one was looking." Another young woman also liked receiving scented lotion, saying it was a real treat after other packages had just contained basic hygiene products.

The Moms are hoping the troops will receive these boxes by the second week in December to help them enjoy the holiday season. It's not too late to make a contribution although they are being mailed in the next day or two. Contact the Moms through www.bluestarmoms.org, or call Patty at 989-2960. It's not too late to show you care. Our armed forces are our sons and daughters. ■

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Perspective

EDITORIALS • OPINIONS

EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Our lethal weapons

We say we love our children. We take pride in the fact that our community is touted as a good place for families. But for too many of us, this love does not translate into our daily lives when we get behind the wheels of our cars. We drive fast because we are in a hurry, and we talk on our cell phones so we don't waste any time. Both of these habits are an accident waiting to happen, and school children could be the victims. While we wait for the laws to catch up to the danger, we must apply peer pressure to these selfish drivers who seem to forget that their cars could quickly become lethal weapons.

A bus driver for the San Ramon Valley Unified School District is trying to call attention to the fact that the students under his care are in danger. People are ignoring his stop sign when he accompanies children out of the bus and holds the sign for them to safely cross the street. And they drive around the bus even when its lights are flashing, although by law they must stop. He emphasizes that many drivers are going too fast plus have one hand occupied holding a cell phone to their ear.

California legislators have discussed passing a law prohibiting handheld cell phones while driving. But why wait for the law? Common sense tells us that it is best to have both hands free to drive a car through residential neighborhoods and that drivers must concentrate on the task at hand—getting safely from Point A to Point B—not talking on the phone.

Remember when no one wore a seatbelt? Remember when everyone smoked? People can change their bad habits. Let's not wait for the accidents that will force the laws against cell phones to be passed. Let's take action on our own to show we are responsible people who will do what is right. Let's put down our cell phones while driving on city streets and, for the children's sake, slow down.

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

Night clerk netted for felony embezzlement

A call for help during what appeared to be a robbery at the Marshall's store on Fostoria Way ended with the arrest of a store employee on charges of burglary and embezzlement. Police reports say officers from Danville and San Ramon responded to a call to the store at 11:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 4.

On arrival, officers were informed by a young woman that her mother, an employee of the store, had been seen being escorted back inside by two unidentified men. The officers said they learned the two men were members of Marshall's loss prevention office and that the employee, 48-year-old Cynthia Washington-Fuller of Oakland, was being questioned in regards to ongoing thefts from the establishment.

Washington-Fuller admitted under questioning that she had been manipulating merchandise at the store to allow her to leave with it when she closed up in the evening, police said. According to the report, she had been engaged in the activity at the store for four-and-a-half of the six years she had been an employee.

Following the investigation, officers placed Washington-Fuller under arrest on charges of felony embezzlement and second-degree burglary, according to reports. She was taken to the Martinez Detention Facility and has since been released. —Geoff Gillette

POLICE LOG

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

Nov. 1

- Stolen vehicle: Arrest on I-680 northbound and Sycamore Valley Rd., at 3:38 a.m.
- Accident-injury: Accident investigation on Alta Vista Wy. and Camino Tassajara at 7:04 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances: on Bridgeside Cr., at 9:29 a.m.
- Accident-property damage: Accident investigation on Danville Bl. and Del Amigo Rd., at 10:01 a.m.
- Petty theft-from building: on Love Ln., at 3:23 p.m.

Nov. 2

- Misdemeanor-other: Citation issued on Love Ln., at 1:30 p.m.
- Receiving stolen property: Arrest on Lawrence Rd. and Meadowlake Dr. at 11:34 p.m.

Nov. 3

- Burglary-auto: on Millbrook Ct., at 5:02 a.m.
- Burglary-residential: on Garden Creek Pl., at 6:24 a.m.
- Petty theft-from vehicle: on Adobe Dr., at 7:21 a.m.
- Forgery-fraudulent documents: on San Ramon Valley Bl., at 10:24 a.m.
- Hit & Run-misdemeanor: Accident investigation on Camino Ramon, at 12:18 p.m.
- Malicious mischief: on Front St., at 2:20 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances: on Greenlawn Dr., at 2:32 p.m.
- Hit & run-misdemeanor: on Laurel Dr., at 8:19 p.m.

Nov. 4

- Accident-property damage: on Linda Mesa Av., and Macomber Rd., at 5:22 a.m.
- Hit & run-misdemeanor: Accident investigation on Danville Bl. and El Portal, at 7:22 a.m.
- Littering: on Valley Creek Ln., at 9:15 a.m.
- Drunk in public: Arrest on Front St., at 11:24 a.m.
- Embezzlement-felony: Arrest on Fostoria Wy., at 11:29 p.m.

Nov. 5

- Driving under the influence (DUI)-misdemeanor: Arrest on Diablo Rd. and Hartz Ave., at 1:53 a.m.
- Hit & run-misdemeanor: on Maiden

- Ln., at 2:32 a.m.
- Burglary-residential: on Udayakavi Ln., at 9:10 a.m.
- Accident-property damage: on Brookside Dr. and Sycamore Valley Rd., at 10:18 a.m.
- Accident-property damage: on Church St. and Railroad Av., at 12:29 p.m.
- Misdemeanor-other: Citation issues on Highland Dr., at 1:37 p.m.
- Burglary-auto: on Squirrel Ridge Wy., at 2:02 p.m.
- Burglary-commercial: on Diablo Rd., at 3:53 p.m.
- Accident-property damage: Accident investigation on San Ramon Valley Bl., at 7:43 p.m.
- DUI-misdemeanor: Arrest on San Ramon Valley Bl., at 8:04 p.m.
- Accident-property damage: on El Pintado Rd. and El Pinto, at 8:53 p.m.
- Possession of dangerous drugs: Arrest on Front St. and Hartz Wy., at 11:16 p.m.

Nov. 6

- Burglary-auto: on Jillian Wy., at 11:53 p.m.
- Malicious mischief: on Ambience Wy., at 12:05 p.m.
- Burglary-commercial: Arrest on Love Ln., at 9:32 p.m.

The Office of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department's Valley Station in Alamo made the following information available.

ALAMO

- Oct. 31
- Malicious mischief: on Via Bonita.
- Malicious mischief: on Marks Rd.
- Forgery-fraudulent documents: on Alamo Plaza

Nov. 2

- Battery-misdemeanor: on Miranda Ave.
- Theft-identity: on La Colina Dr.

Nov. 5

- Petty theft-all other: on Danville Bl.
- Disturbance: on Kensington Ct.

DANVILLE

Nov. 2

- Burglary-residential: on Feather River St.
- Petty theft-from vehicle: on Coolspring Ct.
- Malicious mischief: on Coolspring Ct.

OBITUARIES

Keith Edward Allen

Keith Edward Allen, born May 17, 1959, passed away Saturday, Oct. 22. He was the senior pastor at the Valley Vineyard Christian Fellowship in San Ramon for the past 10 years where he served faithfully with the utmost character and integrity; his church will miss him profoundly. He was a beloved and devoted husband, father, son, brother, uncle, pastor and friend.

He is survived by Martha, his wife of 27 years; his three sons Steven, David and Christopher; and his daughter-in-law, Rachael Allen, all of San Ramon. He is also survived by his mother, Mary Allen; brother, Bob (Linda) Allen; sister, Sherry Purcell, (all of Connersville, Ind.); John Allen of Vandalia, Ohio; sister, Donni (Bob) Bueno of Phoenix, Ariz.; brother, Pat (Jerena) Allen, of Connersville, Ind.; brother, Jeff (Beth) Allen of Ashville, Ohio; brother-in-law, Bill Ammerman, of Connersville, Ind.; and 19 nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held Oct. 26 at the Valley Vineyard Christian Fellowship in San Ramon. Donations may be sent to the Keith Allen Memorial Fund, c/o Varenchik Accountancy, 50 Oak Court, Suite 110, Danville 94526.

Amy Irene Werner

Amy Irene Werner, a native of Chicago, Ill., was born Aug. 6, 1911, and passed away in Danville on Oct. 27 at the age of 94.

She retired from GTE-Lenkurt in 1976. She was also accomplished in needlework art and quilting.

She is survived by three children, Sally Powers (Tom) of San Ramon; James T. McCabe (Peggy) of Camp Verde, Ariz.; and Irene Cobeen (Barney) of Chico; 14 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

There was a vigil last Sunday at Graham-Hitch Mortuary in Pleasanton and burial is at St. Michael's Cemetery, in Livermore.

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Sports

A LOOK AT THE LOCAL SPORTS SCENE

Lady Mustang golfers win NorCal championship

Monte Vista girls now headed for state finals

by Mike L. Mc Colgan

The Lady Mustangs were victorious for the second straight year in the Northern California Girls Golf Championship held at Green Tree Golf Club in Vacaville on Monday. The team score of 421 was seven strokes better than second place Oak Ridge. Jordan Ontiveros led the Mustangs with a score of 79. The team will now advance to the State Championship to be held at Oak Valley, home of the Southern California PGA in Beaumont, on Nov. 16.

The week before, Oct. 31, the Lady Mustangs posted the low score, 439, of the NCS Tournament of Champions at Baywood Country Club in Arcata. Amador Valley was second at 466. The Mustangs were lead by Jane Lee, Ontiveros and Michelle Hatsushi, who shot 82, 85 and 87, respectively. San Ramon's Jennifer Cohen also participated in the Tournament of Champions as an individual golfer and shot a score of 91.

Football

Monte Vista continued its perfect football season last week, beating Amador Valley 30-27 to go 9-0 and became East Bay Athletic League champions. The win also assured the Mustangs of an automatic berth into the 4A playoffs. Running back Peter Geurts led the Mustangs rushing 33 times for 174 yards and one touchdown.

The Wolves upset California (7-2) 31-26 to keep their 3A playoff hopes alive and go 5-4. They stopped California on the 2-yard line as time expired.

Monte Vista and San Ramon were scheduled to face off in the Battle of Danville last night, Nov. 10, after press time with the game starting at 7 p.m.

Tennis

The Monte Vista girls defeated San Ramon 7-2 to go undefeated for the second straight year on the tennis courts. Star Mia Giovanetti posted a win over Katie Mulloy in the battle of No. 1 seeds.

The Lady Wolves finished third in the EBAL behind Monte Vista and Foothill. They have been invited to the upcoming NCS playoffs and are seeded fifth.

Volleyball

Monte Vista beat Granada in volleyball on Nov. 1 to tighten up the EBAL volleyball standings. The final matches concluded the EBAL season this week with Foothill leading with an 8-2 record and Granada 7-3, Amador Valley 7-2, and Monte Vista close behind at 6-3. Amador Valley beat San Ramon, making the Wolves 3-7 in the EBAL.

Boys Water Polo

San Ramon boys water polo lost to De la Salle 12-8 on Nov. 1. Sam Finlayson and Taylor Herman led the Wolves with three goals each. In the NCS opening playoff game Nov. 5, the ninth-seeded Wolves beat eighth-seeded Las Lomas 13-12. Finlayson led the Wolves with four goals.

Cross Country

In the EBAL Cross Country Championships at Oak Hill Park on Nov. 5, the Lady Mustangs finished in first place.

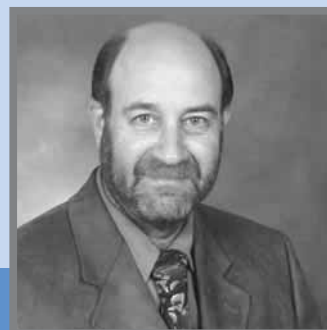
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Parent photographers

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Hoop kings

The Spartans, a group of Danville players, won the 2005 MVP Basketball Fall League championship for the Sixth Grade Power Division. The league, based in Walnut Creek, draws teams from all over the Bay Area. The Spartans finished their season with a 10-2 mark, and won their two play-off games, 51-35 and 43-25, clinching the title against MVP Elite. These boys will be staying together as a team, playing for St. Isidore in the upcoming CYO season. The team includes (back row, l-r) Joey Viscuglia, Michael Hernbroth, Will Gordon; (front) Brody Lee, Blake Walker, Sean O'Dea, Shane Ertz, Nate Gonzalez, Head Coach Joe Viscuglia (not pictured: Assistant Coach Doug Ertz).



Taking the tournament by storm

The Mustang Storm Girls U14 Division 3 team won the Davis Lily Nison Memorial Soccer Tournament held Oct. 29-30 in Davis, beating a field of eight teams from Northern California. The team includes (front row, l-r) Bridgette Larin, Madeline Call, Rosie Garcia, Amanda Crook, and Alex Sherwood; (second row) Janelle Cates, Alex King, Jolene Liljeberg, Aimee Crocker, Morgan McGrath and Makayla Cates; (back row) Coach John Garcia, Aimee Dewan, Morgan Chace, Erin Coldren, Devon Bridges, Rachel Robinson and Coach Jim Crocker.

PREP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Nov. 12
Girls Water Polo: NCS varsity tournament
Boys Water Polo: NCS championship

Tuesday, Nov. 15
Girls Volleyball: NCS championship (Nov. 15-19)
Girls Tennis: Singles/Doubles NCS (Nov. 15-17)

Friday, Nov. 18
Football: NCS Playoffs, 7 p.m.
Girls Tennis: Nor-cal championship (Nov. 18-19)

Saturday, Nov. 19
Cross Country: NCS championship at Hayward High School

Monday, Nov. 21
Girls Basketball: Monte Vista at the San Ramon Tournament (Nov. 21-25)

Wednesday, Nov. 23
Boys Soccer: Monte Vista vs. Serra, 3 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 28
Boys Soccer: Monte Vista vs. Bishop O'Dowd, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 30
Boys Soccer: Monte Vista vs. Liberty, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 1
Boys Basketball: Monte Vista at the Montgomery Tournament (Dec. 1-3)
Girls Basketball: Monte Vista at the Alhambra Tournament (Dec. 1-3)

Wednesday, Dec. 2
Boys Soccer: Monte Vista vs. Freedom, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 5
Boys Soccer: Monte Vista at Washington, 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 6
Boys Basketball: Monte Vista at Serra, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 8
Girls Basketball: Monte Vista at the Fortuna Tournament (Dec. 8-10)

Saturday, Dec. 10
Boys Basketball: Monte Vista at Washington, 7:30 p.m.

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Back Row: Allison, Erin, Laura, Michelle, Rachel, Sami, Brooke, Rosie, Whitney Middle Row: Kim, Stephanie, Casey, Candy, Kristiana (seated) Front Row: Linsy, Alex



a TOUGH M

by Kathy Cordova

Diablo's Elaine Taylor talks about establishing her foundation to help children, as well as her love of rock 'n' roll

Martin Luther King once said that we must combine the toughness of the serpent and the softness of a dove, a tough mind and a tender heart.

He could have been talking about Elaine Taylor. For 15 years Taylor, has been the heart and the mind of The Taylor Family Foundation (TTF), which she founded with her husband, Barry, in 1991. The Foundation is best known for establishing Camp Arroyo, a 138-acre facility in Livermore that provides a variety of programs benefiting children living with life-threatening illnesses and disabilities. She was honored Sunday by the Dalai Lama at the Unsung Heroes of Compassion 2005 event in San Francisco.

Although she's as charming as a new puppy, Taylor's relentless drive, passion, and marketing savvy have propelled the Foundation to raise more than \$12 million, with about a million coming directly from the Taylors, demonstrating that business acumen and a caring nature need not be as incompatible as doves and serpents.

Kathy Cordova, a writer for the Danville Weekly, visited Taylor at her home in Diablo where she lives with her husband and their daughter Katie, a senior at the Athenian School. Their house is perched on a hillside, surrounded by lush landscaping, featuring Taylor's own prized garden in the back yard. The endless views, custom details, and big open spaces are luxurious, yet the house has a warm, lived-in feeling that stretches from the homemade photo frame in Taylor's office to the homegrown tomatoes stewing on the stove.

Taylor, 52, exudes the same comfy feeling, dressed in blue jeans with her hair pulled back into a casual ponytail. Her easy laugh and smile, which can only be described as infectious, make you feel like you could ask her anything. So we did.

DW: How did you meet your husband?

ET: I was a manufacturer's rep for a copier company and Barry was a dealer, so we knew each other. He was always polite, but he never gave me the time of day because he didn't want to get involved with anyone in business.

DW: But you were struck by him immediately?

ET: Oh, yeah! The first time I saw him was at an office convention. I kept hearing about how incredible Taylor Made Office Systems was. I was so enamored hearing about how he was the most successful dealer west of the Mississippi, and he had an exclusive dealership, which doesn't happen in the industry. And, of course, he's very, very handsome!

DW: Not to mention rich!

ET: Not really then. He was living well, but he had not sold his business yet, so he was working all the time. Barry came from very humble beginnings. He was very poor as a child. His dad died when he was 5 and his mom remarried to a man who became an abusive stepfather, so Barry was out of the house by 16. He bought a car and lived in it. He is really a self-made man—the American dream.

DW: How did you finally get together?

ET: We were on a manufacturer's trip to Greece and I said, "OK, this is it. If he's not interested in me, I'm never flirting with him again."

One night we all went out to dinner. There was this great Greek barbeque and dancing and we drank some ouzo and that was it, we never looked back. The way he tells it we went out and danced and he knew he was going to marry me then. Six months later we were engaged and I moved up to Northern California.

DW: At the time you were a single working mom with a great career (Taylor was the top sales rep in the nation for her company), and you had just bought a house in Southern California. Did that seem like a risky move?

ET: The manufacturer did not like me dating a dealer. (The move necessitated her resignation.) They told me that if I quit, there was no re-hire. It was a very impulsive move and I'm not an impulsive person at all, but I was madly in love. Barry's totally the love of my life. And here we are celebrating our 19th anniversary!

DW: So you were a hardworking single mom

and then you marry a guy who's doing pretty well financially. Were you tempted to spend your days having lunch and golfing?

ET: No! It was a huge, hard transition for me. I had always been responsible for me. From 15 years old on I had a job and it's just the way I was. It's how I am. I still have trouble with it.

So when I got up here it was really uncomfortable for me in the beginning. Since I had been a working mom, I would see my son when he was getting his bath at night and he would be asleep when I got to work in the morning. The thing that Barry did, which was great, was to remind me that my son had two years until he went to kindergarten, and he said, "Why don't you take advantage and just be at home with him?"

And if I have ever been given a gift in my life, it was that gift. It was such an opportunity.

DW: Then you gave birth to Katie, your daughter together?

ET: Then I had Katie and we started the foundation when she was 2 years old.

DW: Why did you start the foundation?

ET: Barry was involved in (and contributing a lot of money to) a national fundraising group, and I said I'd rather see us start our own foundation. That way we know where the money's going and we keep it in Northern California and people who are donating can see their money used in their communities.

Barry was totally for it, and we had our first event in our back yard. We never at that time thought we would be talking about our 15th annual (held in August of this year). Honestly, when we were cleaning up that event we said to each other, "Well, should we do it next year? It was hard, but it was fun." We thought we raised a lot of money.

DW: How much did you raise that first year?

ET: We raised \$56,000.

DW: And how much did you raise this year?

ET: \$1,375,000.

DW: Wow!

ET: That was after years and years of and community support. We had better this year, and we had more attendees had more food and more wine, but it's who we serve—that's what raises the

DW: Your foundation started by serving children with AIDS. Fifteen years ago that has been more than a little controversial.

ET: Nobody wanted to talk about it. I barely get "HIV" out of their mouths without stumbling on it.

DW: So why did you get involved with AIDS? Was there a personal connection?

ET: No, not at all. (The foundation's original statement was to preserve the well-being of children. One group we were interested in was the least amount of resources was channeled into AIDS. Here were kids and families who were struggling—barely a BART ticket to get to work.) I had read Elizabeth Glaser's book "Absence of Angels," and I thought it was an upper-class family, and because of a donation, she ended up with tainted blood. Her baby got it, and they had to have the baby before they found out.

To see the hostility they faced and how they were treated and how they were supported. I thought if that's a really successful and they're having trouble—like I couldn't go to birthday parties or school—think of people who have no support.

We wanted to try to get a face on the community at large would embrace it. It was great—a good public awareness campaign. We learned so much. Our community embraced it.

DW: How?

ET: All the kids are involved—some are involved because we said you need to

MIND and a TENDER HEART



this, and now because they want to come do it.

It's pretty awesome to see their respect for, No. 1, how blessed their lives are and, No. 2, how much they should be involved in making people's lives better.

I remember when Katie was 5 years old and she was face painting at one of the parties and she was the only Caucasian child in the room and she really integrated herself. She was so at peace with those kids. It's one of those things, you jump in and you befriend and they befriend you and you become part of their extended family.

DW: How big is your family?

ET: We have six kids—four of his, one of mine, and one together. We're a huge ol' Brady Bunch family. Katie is the only one still at home—she's 17-1/2 and a senior in high school.

DW: And you have six grandchildren. What kind of a grandmother are you?

ET: Well, I don't babysit much. I'm still "momming"! All the grandkids are wonderful kids. They're beautiful, creative, fun. They love to go on Target runs with me.

DW: Target? What do you buy at Target?

ET: Everything! It's my favorite store on the planet! I'm the first one to get in a Target outfit and say, "Hey, this is great!"

I'm not really a "couture" shopper. I have one black cocktail dress that I wear to every event and then just put a different shawl with it and hope nobody notices.

DW: How do you find balance in your life?

ET: Traveling. Barry and I like to hike and bike. We do a lot of traveling together and we do a lot of family travel where we do a bike trip with the kids or we do a hiking trip with the kids.

DW: A lot has been written about you. What is one thing that most people don't know about Elaine Taylor?

ET: That I really wish I could work in the rock 'n' roll industry! Not that I am so enamored with the entertainers, but I just love that world. I love the music.

DW: You're a closet groupie.

ET: I am, but not like Penny Lane.

DW: Who's your favorite group?

ET: It would have to be the Rolling Stones.

DW: What do you consider your biggest accomplishment? Camp Arroyo?

ET: My kids. They are really good human beings. They have so much spirit and they are loved by so many and they are their own people and they have their own interests and I really admire them for it.

In my business and philanthropic life, it would be the camp—without a doubt.

DW: How would you like to be remembered?

ET: As someone who cared. ■

The Taylor Family Foundation and Camp Arroyo

The Taylor Family Foundation (TTF), a private nonprofit organization formed in 1991 by Barry and Elaine Taylor, raises money to support programs for children in Northern California with life-threatening illnesses and disabilities. The foundation has helped thousands of children who suffer from severe skin disorders, heart disease, Crohn's, autism, HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening diseases by providing medical care, psychological support and summer camp experiences. In 1998, the Foundation partnered with East Bay Regional Park District, which provided the land for Camp Arroyo, and in 2002, the YMCA of the East Bay joined the Foundation as camp operators. For more information, visit www.ttff.org or call 455-5118.

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Operation Welcome Home

*Danville thanks and honors
those who served in Iraq*

by **Cathy Jetter**



Military men and women honored

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Noel Camara, Army
Thomas McGredy, Army
Shane Sposito, Army
Jesse Stallknecht, Army
Christian Valenti, Army
Blake Roberts, Army
Mrs. Vikas Patel, Army
Brendan Sandmann, Army
Geof Steichen, Army
Douglas Carrington, USMC
Matthew Harrison, USMC
Edward Sullivan, Army
Brendan Foran, Army

Michele Kane, USMC
Timothy J. Barrett, USMC
Christopher Borzone, USMCR
Jason Choate, USN
Barron Flanders, Army
Matthew Geldermann, Army
Elizabeth Gold, USN
Ronald L. Lowe, Army
Jeff Shikany, USN
Michael R. Nereu, USMC
Robert Klingel, USMC
James T. Harris, USMC
Brian Pittson, USMC
Halaeualu F. Helu, Army
Alan R. Kalin, Army Reserve

If you know of any Danville residents who are returning military service members, please contact Rochelle Flotten at 314-3328 or rflotten@ci.danville.ca.us.



Pfc. Casey Conklin, 75th Ranger Regiment FT, the youngest of the three Conklin boys serving in the Army, upon his graduation at Fort Benning, Ga. Below, at home with his parents, Peggy and Mike Conklin, the founder of Operation Welcome Home. PHOTOS COURTESY CONKLIN FAMILY

In spite of the headlines, the photos and the daily news coverage of the ongoing battles in Iraq, it is quite easy for most of us to go about the business of our lives without giving a lot of thought to the men and women who are serving overseas, working and fighting on behalf of the United States of America.

But there is a group of Danville residents, community and business leaders who are making sure that when the dedicated military men and women of Danville return home from their time overseas, they are greeted with the welcome and warmth they deserve.

Mike Conklin, a Danville resident whose three sons have devoted their lives and careers to serving their country, founded the Sentinels of Freedom Program—Operation Welcome Home in response to the memories of a not-so-distant time when soldiers returning from Vietnam were greeted with disdain and disrespect.

“When my brothers came home from fighting in Vietnam, there was no recognition of what they had done for our country,” Conklin recalled. “Nothing good was said when they left, nothing good was said when they came home. But we have learned something since Vietnam. These young people are

important, and deserve our respect and assistance. Operation Welcome Home makes sure that happens.”

Mayor Mike Doyle has been a huge fan of the program since it was formally launched in March of 2004.

“We have learned something since Vietnam. These young people are important, and deserve our respect and assistance.

Operation Welcome Home makes sure that happens.”

—Mike Conklin, Danville parent with three sons in the military

“The support for this program is out of sight; it has been extremely well received by the community,” said Doyle. “The veterans groups, the business community, the Town Council and many residents have all come together to build a program that truly benefits the brave men and

women who represent our nation.”

Operation Welcome Home began as a formal, organized method to acknowledge the contributions and sacrifices made by the young men and women of the community who chose to join the armed forces in defense of our nation, an important choice that is often overshadowed by more conventional accomplishments.

“We acknowledge academic achievement and athletic achievement at high school graduation, but too often we forget to acknowledge those who have chosen to commit themselves to this highest level of community service,” said Conklin.

Not anymore. When a serviceperson returns home, on leave or after completing a tour of duty, a proclamation is issued thanking them for their contribution to society, which is then presented in a formal ceremony.

“We want these people to know that what they do matters to us,” Conklin said. “They can use the proclamation as a part of their resume. They can point to the proclamation and say, ‘This is what my community says about me.’”

In just 18 months, the Sentinels of Freedom Program has grown from an

► Continued on page 18

For children in the Balkans

Boutique hopes to meet challenge, getting matching funds

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Vula Rushdoony knows what it means to be hungry and cold.

"I was 15 when I came by myself on the boat—15 days on the boat, one week on the train—to my mother's elderly sister I'd never met before," said Rushdoony, a Danville resident for the last 21 years.

She was born in Macedonia during the Greek civil war, and her husband Haig Rushdoony is the son of Armenian refugees so they both understand the suffering of people in war-torn lands. In 1990, they were retired—she as a Del Monte executive and he as a university professor—and their four children were raised.

"We realized we were still healthy and had a lot of time on our hands we didn't want to waste," she recalled. "We prayed about it and I went to my native Greece, for the second time in 32 years."

The poverty and the need of the little children in the Balkans spoke to her and she returned to Danville determined to do something to help. The result is the Macedonian Outreach, named for the angel that visited Paul in the Bible, telling him to go to Macedonia.

Now 15 years later, the Christian nonprofit organization sends 35,000 pounds a year of clothing to help children in Greece, Romania, Serbia, Macedonia (in former Yugoslavia), Bulgaria and Albania. It also brings children with life-threatening medical problems to the United States or Europe for treatment, and works to provide education as well as spiritual guidance.

"In every country we have people working there, in one case a girl from the Peace Corps. And we live there for four months every year, from May to September," Vula said. What they see often tears at their



Vula Rushdoony met this little girl two years ago in a village in Bulgaria and found out she lived in a barn. She typifies the children helped by Macedonian Outreach.

heartstrings. "Some children live in abandoned buildings, with no running water and no warm clothes."

The Rushdoonys have a room in their Danville home for contributed clothing, and every weekend mothers and daughters from the National Charity League come to sort the donations and pack them for shipping; other volunteers come during the week.

Tomorrow is the group's big annual fundraiser, the Candy Cane Boutique, being held at Creekside Community Church in Alamo. They spend \$70,000 per year on shipping costs alone so depend on proceeds from the boutique.

"The first one raised \$2,000, out of my dining room," said Vula. "Last year we grossed \$22,000."

But now she has a new goal. "This year a wonderful man is challenging us. If we gross \$25,000, he'll match it," she said. When he met her, he said he'd heard that she helps Gypsies and that his wife's grandmother was a Gypsy. "Out of that came the wonderful challenge," she said, also noting that now Gypsies

prefer to be called Romanis.

The Candy Cane Boutique offers crystal and fine china, new and collectibles, and an abundance of Greek and Swedish baked goods as well as drawings for prizes from a week in Sun Valley, Idaho, to a day of sailing on the bay.

If anyone wants to donate items for the children, they are especially in need of shoes. "Nothing expensive, just something to protect their feet," Vula said. "We have plenty of clothes now but no shoes. And we can really use warm clothes for the kids."

"It's a joint venture between the people here in the whole valley, with God leading us—we're all in this together," said Vula. "And thank God for America. It saved my life and hopefully we can save a few others out there." ■



The Candy Cane Boutique features a wide selection of crystal, as well as holiday ornaments, baked goods and other wonderful donations.

Shopping to keep children warm

What: Candy Cane Boutique

Specialties: Crystal and baked goods

Who: The Macedonian Outreach

Where: Creekside Community Church, 1350 Danville Blvd., Alamo

When: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 12

Information: www.MacedonianOutreach.org or telephone 820-4107



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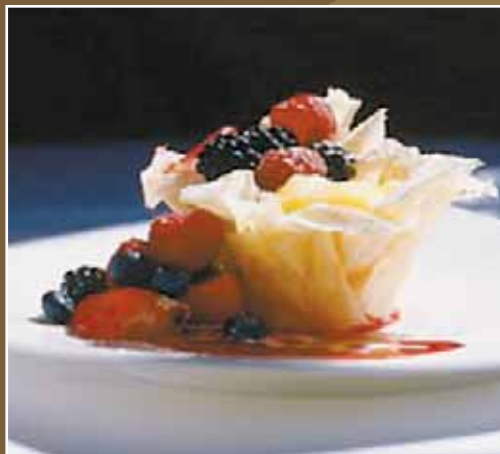
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Century 14 Walnut Creek: 1201 Locust St., Walnut Creek (937-7025)
Blackhawk Movie 7: 4175 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville (736-0368)
Crow Canyon 6: 2525 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon (820-4831)
Hacienda Crossings 20/ Regal Imax Theater: 5000 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin (560-9600)
Internet address: For show times, visit the Danville Weekly Online Edition at <http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com/>

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

Bee Season (PG-13)	CinéArts: Fri-Tues 11:55 a.m., 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:50 p.m.
Capote (R)	Century 14: Fri-Mon 11:40 a.m., 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55 p.m., Tues 11:40 a.m., 2:15, 10:20 p.m. CinéArts: Fri-Tues 12:25, 3:50, 7, 9:45 p.m.
Chicken Little (G)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 1:30, 1:45, 3:35, 3:50, 5:40, 5:55, 7:45, 8, 9:50, 10:05 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:50, 10:05 p.m. Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:25 a.m., 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 10:50 a.m., 12:45, 2:40, 4:40, 7:15, 9:15 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:15 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11 a.m., 12:15, 12:45, 1:15, 2:30, 3, 3:30, 4:45, 5:15, 5:45, 7, 7:30, 8, 9:15, 9:45, 10:15 p.m.
Derailed ()	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2:10, 4:50, 7:35, 10:15 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 10:15 p.m. Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:50 a.m., 2:35, 5:15, 7:50, 10:25 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 11:20 a.m., 1:50, 4:15, 7, 9:45 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:45 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:05 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:05 p.m.
Dreamer: Inspired by a True Story (PG)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2:20, 5:10, 7:50, 10:20 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 10:20 p.m. Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 1:55, 4:35, 7:10, 9:35 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:15 a.m., 2, 4:40, 7:15, 9:55 p.m.
Elizabethtown (PG-13)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 1:40, 7:05 p.m.
Flightplan (PG-13)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:10 a.m., 4:35, 10 p.m.
Get Rich or Die Tryin' (R)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 1, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15 p.m.
Good Night, and Good Luck (PG)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 12:40, 3, 5:20, 7:45, 10:15 p.m. CinéArts: Fri-Tues 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:55 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 2:10, 4:55, 7:25, 10:10 p.m.
Jarhead (R)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 1:15, 4:05, 7, 9:50, 10:30 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 11 a.m., 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50 p.m., Sun-Tues 9:50 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11 a.m., 11:30, 1:50, 2:20, 4:40, 5:10, 7:30, 8, 10:20, 10:50 p.m.
Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang (R)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:35 a.m., 2:10, 4:50, 7:35, 10:25 p.m.
North Country (R)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:35 a.m., 2:20 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 12:50, 3:40, 6:40, 9:30 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:30 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 9:25 p.m.
Paradise Now (PG-13)	CinéArts: Fri-Tues 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 10 p.m.
Pride & Prejudice (PG)	CinéArts: Fri-Tues 12:40, 3:35, 6:45, 9:35 p.m.
Prime (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:30 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 11:10 a.m., 1:45, 4:10, 6:50, 9:20 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:10 a.m., 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45 p.m.
Saw II (R)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 5, 7:05, 9:20 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:20 a.m., 12:45, 1:35, 3:15, 4:25, 5:45, 6:45, 8:15, 9:20, 10:45 p.m.
Shopgirl (R)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:05 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:15 a.m., 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50 p.m.
The Legend of Zorro (PG)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 1:25, 4:20, 7:15, 10:10 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 10:10 p.m. Century 14: Fri-Tues 12:50, 4:10, 7, 10 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 1, 3:50, 6:45, 9:40 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:40 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11 a.m., 12:50, 1:55, 3:50, 4:50, 6:50, 7:45, 9:50, 10:50 p.m.
The Weather Man (R)	Century 14: Fri-Tues noon, 12:45, 5:05, 7:35, 10:10 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 12:05, 2:45, 5:25, 8:05, 10:45 p.m.
Wallace & Grommit (G)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 12:15, 2:50, 4:55, 7:25 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:05 a.m., 1:30, 4:10, 6:40 p.m.
Zathura (PG)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10 p.m. Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:45 a.m., 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:45 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:20 a.m., 11:55, 1:55, 2:30, 4:35, 5:10, 7:15, 7:50, 9:55, 10:30 p.m.

Home

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organized method of appreciation to a comprehensive support system for those who return from their duties in need of assistance. This system was recently at work in Washington, D.C., when Mayor Doyle traveled to the capitol as a representative of the Sentinels of Freedom. The mayor was part of an entourage escorting 25-year-old Sgt. Manuel Mendoza from Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital to his new home, in San Ramon. Mendoza, a veteran of Project Iraqi Freedom, lost both of his legs in October 2004 when an improvised explosive device hit his armored personnel carrier.

“The veterans groups, the business community, the Town Council and many residents have all come together to build a program that truly benefits the brave men and women who represent our nation.”

—Danville Mayor Mike Doyle

“After many months of rehabilitation, Sgt. Mendoza was ready to come home,” said Doyle. “Thanks to the efforts of many volunteers, we had one prepared for him.”

Following a ceremony at the Pentagon’s Hall of Heroes where Mendoza was honored for his courage in battle and his heroic recovery efforts, Doyle and Mendoza headed to San Ramon. There Mendoza was introduced to his new life.

“Because of the generosity of the many people who recognize the great sacrifice this young man made for his country, we are able to assist Sgt. Mendoza as he takes on new challenges,” Doyle said. “Shapell Homes has donated an apartment, SBC has offered him a job in project management, and the Ross Perot Foundation has provided a customized van.”

The mayor added that Mendoza plans to attend college and major in international business or international affairs.

Of course, Mendoza is one of many individuals whose lives have been forever changed in the course of performing their duties on behalf of our country. The Sentinels of Freedom Program sees a time when each and every one of them will receive the same support and recognition offered to Mendoza.

“We are already working to help another young soldier on Nov. 14, and we have a few more in the pipeline,” said Doyle. “But what we really want is to see this program picked up across the U.S. We want more businesses, more leaders, more people involved in every community, in every state. Many people have already done so much, but these kids have sacrificed everything. They should not be forgotten.” ■

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BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

The apple of my pie!

"When I won first prize with my bakin', every woman asked for my pecan pie recipe and every man asked for my home address."

—Princess Pamela's Soul Food Cookbook

If you've ever spent an autumn in the East or Midwest, you know that, in those regions, the fall season is practically synonymous with apples—picking them, eating them and converting them to other treats. When the kids were young, our family would spend a brisk autumn Saturday driving through the Missouri countryside to find a rural apple farm. We'd hop on a tractor-drawn load of hay and get dropped off in the middle of a vast apple orchard. With buckets and baskets in hand, we'd pick apples from the trees and grounds, checking to make sure we weren't bringing home the worms that were as plentiful as the apples. After picking, we'd fill our tummies with mill-pressed cider and fresh-baked donuts



to garner enough energy to load the overflowing baskets into the car. We'd drive home with the smell of apples wafting from our clothes, barely staying awake. It was always a tiring yet memorable day and everyone, including the dog, slept soundly that night.

In Northern California, you're more likely to find walnut, peach and olive groves than apple orchards. And you're more likely to drive to pick-your-own strawberry, fig and cherry farms in these parts. If you're a die-hard apple lover, you'll not be daunted by the two-hour drive to the Sierra Foothills to visit Apple Hill, a partnership of 50 independent apple ranches that offer apples, pies and fresh-squeezed juices from Labor Day to Christmas. Located off Highway 50, just east of Placerville, there are wineries, micro breweries, pony rides, cut-your-own Christmas trees and more to add to the fun. For more information: www.applehill.com

Not up to the drive this year? Then, thanks to the portability and longevity of apples, there's great picking to be done in a nearby grocery store, farmers market or neighbor's back yard. Crabapples are the only apples native to North America but we have cultivated apples in regions of the U.S. that satisfy our every need. Those needs appear to be great, as the Washington Apple Commission reports that the average U.S. consumer ate 17 pounds of apples in 2004! Did we really???

Apples of all varieties and tastes are abundant this time of year but the most popular imports to this region include Delicious, Granny Smith, Fuji, Braeburn and Gala. My favorite snacking apples are Pink Lady and Fuji but you can't beat the combined flavors of Golden Delicious, McIntosh or Granny Smith for making tasty apple pies. The week following our apple-picking outing, the kids and I spent after-school hours peeling, coring, slicing and prepping apples for our annual pie-making fest. They'd prep the apples while I rolled the piecrusts and, with assembly-line efficiency, we'd put together a dozen or more pies every season. It helped that we had an old freezer chest that I'd found at a used appliance store. Its chipped, yellowing

white and slightly rusty exterior did not affect its ability to store foods through the winter and supply us with homemade apple pies from Labor Day to Easter.

What a treat to pull a frozen pie from the freezer on the snowiest stay-at-home day, when friends landed unexpectedly on our doorstep or for a holiday dessert. If popped in the oven just before dinner was served, the pie was ready for slicing and topping with a large scoop of ice cream right after the dinner dishes were loaded in the dishwasher. I'd like to think some mother decades ago followed this same yearly ritual with her children. Maybe that's the true origin of "motherhood and apple pie!"

Some years after our first pie-making activity, as time grew more precious and ease became the hallmark of my cooking and baking, I developed an idea for multiple pie-making—using frozen pie shells and masking tape. That simple action cut my assembly time in half and I've been a true believer ever since. See my recipe below for the details of that little culinary tip.

It doesn't take the genius of Einstein to know what pleases the soul and body. Apple pie is comfort food of the first degree. Served a la mode, you double the pleasure. It's a formula for epicurean happiness I've come to cherish. So, make at least one hot apple pie for (or with) your family this season. Better yet, if you've got the time, try my "Batches of Apples" recipe, based on multiple pies. Bake one, give one away and freeze the rest for a winter-full season of hot-from-the oven apple pies!

Since apples are so nutritious, good for keeping the doctor away and generally popular with even the pickiest eaters in the family, I've included easy recipes for applesauce and baked apples at www.DanvilleWeekly.com. Both make great side dishes with chicken, lamb or pork for dinner or as breakfast complements. And, the recipes are simple enough for your school-age kids to create instantly apple-tizing results. Enjoy!

Jacqui Love Marshall lives in Danville with her vintage-car-loving husband, two pugs and binders of recipes.

Big Moma's Apple Pie Recipe: one pie

For pie pastry:
2 cups pastry or regular flour
1 tsp. salt
2/3 cup vegetable shortening, preferably Crisco
1/4 cup ice-cold water

For filling:
6 tart apples, pared, cored

and sliced
1/2 cup brown or white sugar (or sugar substitute)
1/4 tsp. cinnamon
1/4 tsp. nutmeg, ground from nut
1 tsp. lemon juice
1/4 tsp. grated lemon rind
1 Tbsp. butter

- Sift flour and salt into mixing bowl. Cut in the shortening with a pastry blender, fork or fingers. Sprinkle the water, 1 Tbsp. at a time, over the flour, molding just enough to moisten. Pat the dough into a ball, divide dough into two parts and wrap each in kitchen wrap and chill for at least 15 minutes.

- Line pie plate bottom with 1/2 of pastry dough. Fill with the apples.

- Combine the dry ingredi-

ents and mix with the lemon juice and rind. Sprinkle over the apples. Dot apples with butter.

- Cover with the top crust. Moisten your fingers with water and press two crusts together. Flute and trim pastry edges and prick top with fork (or cut slits with knife). Brush the top crust with a bit of milk to help it brown nice and evenly.

- Bake in pre-heated oven at 450 degrees for 40-45 minutes or until fruit is cooked.

Jacqui's 'Batches of Apples' Pie Recipe: multiple pies

6 apples per pie, your favorite variety (I prefer combinations of Golden Delicious and Granny Smith)
2 frozen deep-dish pie shells per pie
1 tsp. lemon juice per pie

Determine how many pies you wish to make at one session and gather sufficient ingredients for that quantity of pies. Measure out the lemon juice and compile the pie seasoning mixture based on your pie number. Follow this sequence in steps or, if you have helpers, create an assembly line:

- Peel, core, slice the apples; transfer to large bowl and mix in the lemon juice to coat apples.
- Lay out the pie shells and spray each quickly with butter-substitute spray.
- Fill each shell generously with apples to overfill the deep-dish space.
- Sprinkle 1/2 cup of the seasoning mix evenly over the apples. (Over time you'll determine how much mixture per pie you prefer and how to tweak the seasoning mixture to suit your taste.)

For the pie seasoning mixture:
1/2 cup sugar or Splenda per pie
1/4 tsp. cinnamon per pie
1/4 tsp. nutmeg per pie
1 Tbsp. cornstarch per pie

- Place a second pie shell on top of the one with the apples, press the lips of the tins together to create an air-tight connection between the crusts.

- For those pies you are not eating: using a roll of masking tape, tape the two aluminum pie shells together to keep out all moisture. Freeze immediately.

- When baking the frozen pies later, rip off the masking tape and lift the top tin from the pie. With a fork or knife (that's been warmed with hot running water), prick or cut the top crust to ventilate. Bake the pie in a 425-degree preheated oven for 45-50 minutes or until done.

- Remove pie from oven and cool briefly. Serve warm with milk, coffee, tea or ice cream!

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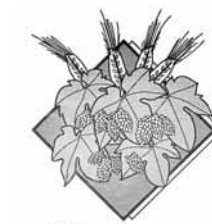
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Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Art

Alamo Artist, Elinor Berke

Elinor Berke is the featured artist for the month of November, at the Contra Costa Jewish Community Center, 2071 Tice Valley Boulevard, Walnut Creek, during the Jewish Book Festival. Berke paints still life and landscapes as well as a variety of flowers. For information, call 938-7800.

Impressionist and Expressionist Art

Artist Sandra L. Mortimore will display her oil paintings from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, mid-September to mid-November, at the Danville Town offices, 510 La Gonda Way.

Author Visits

Authors Meet the Public

California Writers Club, Mt. Diablo Branch and Barnes and Noble, Pleasant Hill, are sponsoring an authors signing and meeting the public from 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 26, at Barnes and Noble, 562 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill. The CWC is raising money from sales of their books for the club's Young Writers Contest.

Children's Author Day

The Polka Dot Attic is hosting a Children's Author Day from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 3, at 411 Hartz Ave. (yellow house behind Papyrus). Come and meet over 12 authors of children's books and get autographs. For information, call 838-8004 or visit www.thepolkadotattic.com.

Classes

Do It For Less! Parties

Author Denise Vivaldo will teach you how to organize spectacular parties on short notice, apply professional catering techniques to your own event, cook delicious food on a budget, and much more. Learn tricks of the trade from a professional caterer's kitchen from 6:30-9 p.m., Monday, Nov. 14, at Andronico's Market, 345 Railroad Ave. Cost is \$69. Class ID (D-1032). Call 314-4362 for reservations.

Entertainment Extravaganza

Curtain Up Productions and Mt. Diablo Region YMCA presents "An Entertainment Extravaganza." Come put on a show with "The Great Pretenders" (children's theater - ages 6-16); work on your theater skills with "It's All Just an Act!" (ages 8-13); or "Movie Magic" (ages 10-16), at the San Ramon Valley YMCA, 1029 La Gonda Way, in Hap Magee Park. For detailed information, call 978-2300 or 831-1100.

New Computer Classes for Fall

The town of Danville presents computer classes for everyone. There's a Hands-on Microsoft Word for Windows class from 6:30-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 16, at Hap Magee Ranch Park, 1029 La Gonda Way, Swain House. The cost is \$25 for Danville residents and \$30 non-residents. There's a \$20 lab fee, payable to the instructor at class. To register, contact the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St., call 314-3400, or visit www.ci-danville.ca.us.

Clubs

Danville Women's Club

Danville Women's Club monthly luncheon is at noon, Thursday, Nov. 17, at the Clubhouse, 242 Linda Mesa. A representative from Edward Jones Company will discuss senior women's investments. Guests are welcome. For information or reservations, call 837-7528.

Danville-Alamo Garden Club Tour

The Danville-Alamo Garden Club will be touring Magic Gardens, Smith & Hawkins, and the Dry Garden nurseries, on Tuesday, Nov. 15, in Berkeley. For reservations and information, call Sandy at 736-2989.

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Luncheon

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club invites members and guests to its monthly luncheon at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 17, at Mudds Restaurant in San Ramon. The guest speaker will be Heather Brown from Interiors Den. For information, call Mickey at 803-2918.

Events

Annual Shellie Awards

The 27th annual Shellie Awards, sponsored by a generous donation from the Diablo Regional Arts Association, will be at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets are available at the Center Ticket Office for \$25, which includes a post ceremony reception.

WEEKEND PREVIEW



Jazz at Peace Lutheran Church

Gerry Grosz Duo brings fine jazz to Peace Lutheran Church in Danville to continue its "Jazz at Peace" series, based upon the Jazz Vespers series founded in New York City in 1961 at St. Peters Lutheran Church. The service is at 5 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 11, at 3201 Camino Tassajara. The public is invited; there is no charge.

For information, call Scott at 295-1400 or e-mail dlrca@dlrca.org.

Dispelling Adoption Myths

Join the Las Madres Adoptive Families Group for "The Adoption Option," from noon-3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 13, at the Good Samaritan Hospital Auditorium (basement level), at 2425 Samaritan Drive, San Jose. The event is free. The speaker event addresses international and domestic adoption, costs, time lines, open adoption and much more. There will be a panel of Las Madres adoptive parents to share their personal experiences. For information, call Cynthia at (408) 850-3045.

New American Cooking

The Blackhawk Museum's Guild presents, in affiliation with the Smithsonian, author Joan Nathan, who will conduct a presentation on our current wildly diverse national culinary character, at

7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Blackhawk Museum. There will also be a book signing and reception. Admission is free.

Red T-shirt 10K Run

Hats Off America, a nonprofit foundation raising money for the families of soldiers who died in Afghanistan and Iraq, is sponsoring a 10K red T-shirt run at 1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 19, at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Drive. The cost to participate is \$35 per person, which includes a T-shirt and BBQ at Sycamore Park after the run. Volunteers are needed. For information, contact Sparky at 855-1950 or e-mail thebearflagrunner@yahoo.com.

Save Mount Diablo Speaker

The Mount Diablo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is hosting a luncheon meeting at

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11:45 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Hillside Clubhouse in Rossmoor with guest speaker Seth Adams, director of land programs for Save Mount Diablo. The luncheon fee is \$25. For reservations, call Barbara at 837-8551.

Scouting for Food

Rancho Romero School is supporting the Cub Scouts of Pack 800, in a food drive for the Contra Costa Food Bank. Bring your donations of non-perishable food items to the after school pick-up, at 12:10 p.m., Thursday and Friday, Nov. 17-18 at Rancho Romero School, 180 Hemme Ave., Alamo. For more information, visit www.goodturn-foramerica.org.

Fundraisers

Giving Through Music and Dance

Local youth from Danville, Alamo and Walnut Creek are presenting a charity fundraiser concert to raise funds for hurricane victims in the gulf states. The concert is at 1 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 13, at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. Tickets can be obtained at the box office or by visiting www.dlrca.org or calling 943-7469.

Jewelry Extravaganza Benefiting Parkinson's

Luna Designs will host a jewelry extravaganza benefiting the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, from 4:30 p.m.-7 p.m., Monday, Nov. 14, at Scott's Seafood Grill and Bar, 1333 N. California Boulevard, Walnut Creek. The event is free, although donations are accepted. For information, call 648-3942 or visit www.beadsbagsbowsbelts.com.

Health

Vaccination Season

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has added a new group to those who need flu shots - people with respiratory problems, any condition that makes it hard to breathe or swallow, such as brain injury or disease, spinal cord injuries, seizure or muscle disorders. Flu shots are \$25 and pneumonia shots are \$35 at flu shot clinics, with no charge for those covered by Medicare Part B. To find a nearby clinic, call (800) 500-2400 or visit www.suttervna.org.

Yoga Classes

The Diablo Yoga Center offers community classes (taught by student teachers), from 4-5 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays, at the Diablo Yoga Ceter, 125A Town and Country Drive, for \$8 per class. For information, call Lauren at 838-7878 or visit www.diabloyogacenter.com.

Holiday

Annual Artful Living Home Tour

The Junior League of Oakland-East Bay, Inc. will host their second annual Artful Living Home Tour benefiting Children at Risk. In partnership with

Diablo Magazine, the JLOEB will offer a special tour of six beautiful residences built or remodeled by leading architects, contractors, and designers in Alamo, Diablo and Danville. The kick-off party is from 6-9 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 1, at the Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette. Tickets are \$45 in advance or \$50 at the door. The home tours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday, Dec. 2 and Saturday, Dec. 3. Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 on tour days. For information and tickets, call 284-3740 or visit <http://jloeb.org>. Beginning Nov. 1, tickets can also be purchased at Empire Realty Associates, 380 Diablo Road.

Holiday Home Tour

Danville-Alamo Branch of the American Association of University Women is sponsoring a Holiday Home Tour from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Dec. 2-3, in the Danville and Alamo area. Tour six exquisitely and professionally decorated homes for \$20, if postmarked by Nov. 25, and \$25 thereafter. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your check payable to Danville-Alamo AAUW, to P.O. Box 996, Alamo 94507. Tickets also available at Design Concepts, 3235 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Proceeds go toward AAUW's Local Scholarships and Tech Trek science camp for middle school girls at Mills College. Call Cheryl at 820-6158 with questions.

Lectures/ Workshops

Free Investment Forum

Local investors are invited to hear keynote speaker Bob White, founder of Real Capital Analytics, discuss why California investors are moving their investments out of state. This is an interactive forum, from 9-11 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 17. Space is limited, so call Adria at 838-8619 to reserve a seat.

Identity Theft Presentation

Alliance Title and Diablo Funding Blackhawk present Identity Theft: Protect Yourself, Your Clients, and Your Business! The presentation will be given by Mari J. Frank from 9 a.m.-noon, Wednesday, Nov. 16, at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel, San Ramon. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. and the cost is \$50, which includes a copy of her latest book, "Safeguard Your Identity."

Miscellaneous

Autumn in Asia

UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley presents Autumn in Asia, from 10 a.m.-noon, Sunday, Nov. 13, at 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley. Experience a guided tour of the UC Botanical Garden and the many hues of fall. Elaine Sedlack, horticulturist and Asian plant expert, will lead the tour. Cost is \$12 (\$8 for members). Registration required. Register early, class space is limited.

Autumn on the Mountain

Save Mt. Diablo publishes upcoming hikes and events on and around Mount Diablo to raise public awareness, appreciation and support to preserve open spaces on and around the mountain. For a schedule of autumn events, call Julie at 947-3535, e-mail jseelen@savemountdiablo.org or visit www.savemountdiablo.org.

B2B Power Exchange

B2B Power Exchange presents "Leads Group for True B2B Business Developers" from 7:45-10 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 17, at Mimi's Cafe, 4775 Hacienda Drive, Dublin. The cost is \$35 for non-members, which includes breakfast, and free for members. For information, visit www.b2bpowerexchange.com/application.asp or call 201-3410.

On Stage

Disney's Aladdin Jr.

The Danville Children's Musical Theater, co-sponsored by the Town of Danville, presents Disney's "Aladdin Jr.," at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 11-12, Nov. 16-19, and 2 p.m., Nov. 12 and Nov. 19, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St. There aren't any shows Nov. 13-15. Tickets are \$7.50 for children to age 18 and seniors. Adults are \$9.50. Box office opens one hour before shows, or order advance tickets by calling 314-3463 or visit www.village theatreshows.com.

Night At The Improv

Join the newest graduates of Improv U for a fun and interactive evening of improvisational comedy at 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 19, at the Front Row Theater, Dougherty Station Community Center, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon. Admission is free. For information, call 973-3200 or e-mail ImprovU@aol.com.

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Seniors

Senior Sneakers Fall Festival
Danville's Senior Sneakers program is a great way for seniors to make new friends and get out and around the greater Bay Area. Interested seniors may pick up a copy of the Silver Streak newsletter for trip details and a registration form at the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St., or call 314-3476. A few of the trips being planned are Ghost Walk at Old Monterey, Oct. 27; Jewels of Stockton, Nov. 8; Dessert and Disney, Nov. 18; Senior Holiday Luncheon, Dec. 2; Alameda Holiday Home Tour, Dec. 10; and The Colors of Christmas, Dec. 13.

Spiritual

Possibilities for Interfaith Dialogue
The Danville Congregational Church and Beth Chaim Congregation will co-host a talk and discussion by Dr. James A. Donahue, president of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. His talk, "Putting Boats Back in the Water: The Possibilities for Interfaith Dialogue," will be at 7 p.m., Monday, Nov. 14, at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. For information, call 968-1237.

Sports

AAU Pacific District Cross Country Championships
The Athenian Athletics is hosting the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Pacific District Cross Country Championships on Saturday, Nov. 19, at Sunset Park (next to Sunset Elementary School), in Livermore. The first race is at noon and the fee is \$15. All athletes must be current members of AAU at the start of their age groups race. For more information or to register, call Coach Rik Richardson at 862-0855 or 518-9356. You can also email Mike@AthenianAthletics.com or visit www.TriValleyTrack.com.

Support Groups

Cancer Support Groups
Free support, education and stress management for cancer patients and their loved ones, including general support groups for all types of cancer patients as well as cancer specific groups for breast cancer, colorectal cancer, ovarian cancer, lung cancer, prostate cancer, brain tumor, support groups for caregivers and life after cancer. Groups meet at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. For times and days, call 933-0107.

ClutterLess (CL) Self Help Group
Is clutter stressing you out? Cluttering is a psychological issue, not just an organizing issue. Meetings are from 7-8:30 p.m., Mondays (except holidays), at the Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, Room 7, 4300 Mirador Drive, Pleasanton. For information, call 426-5311.

Danville TOPS
The Danville chapter of Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) meets at 9 a.m., every Tuesday at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 1550 Diablo Road. Call Bob Blendow at 935-9344 or Rosemarie at 838-7870

Fibromyalgia/Pain
The San Ramon Valley Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain Support Group meets from 7-9 p.m., every other Monday in Danville. Call Denise for location and information at 837-0510.

Hospice Offers Support
Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa offers a variety of support groups and classes for people experiencing grief and loss after the death of a loved one. Individual counseling for Hospice families is also available. Groups are offered from 7-9 p.m., Friday evenings at the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church in Alamo. All groups and classes are offered without fee and require preregistration. For a schedule of groups in the Pleasant Hill area or additional information, contact Lee Ann Morgan, Bereavement Program Manager at 855-9317.

Overeaters Anonymous
The group offers a 12-step approach to issues around food, overeating, anorexia and bulimia. It meets from 7-8 p.m., every Tuesday at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. No fees. Call Susie at 275-1391.

PFLAG
The Danville/San Ramon Valley Chapter of Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is a support group that meets at 7:30 p.m., every third Monday at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Call 831-8172.

Volunteering

Alzheimer's Association
The Alzheimer's Association of Northern California, East Bay branch, seeks volunteers to facilitate support groups, staff the help line, and perform a variety of office support at its office in Lafayette. Call (800) 660-1993.

Assistance League of Diablo Valley
This chapter of the National Assistance League seeks new volunteer members to help with a wide range of philanthropic service projects in many Contra Costa communities. These include vision screening in elementary schools, distributing clothing to school children in need, daily reassurance phone calls to homebound elderly and handicapped clients, and staffing the chapter's Lafayette thrift shop. Call 934-0901 or visit http://diablovalley.assistanceleague.org.

Blackhawk Museum Docent Training
If you are interested in becoming a much appreciated part of the Blackhawk Museum family while contributing to your community, making new friends, learning new things, and having fun, become a docent! Training is from 10 a.m.-noon, Mondays, Nov. 7- mid-June 2006, at the Blackhawk Museum. For information, contact Norma at 736-2277 ext. 238.

Care for Wildlife and the Earth
The Lindsay Wildlife Museum offers classes providing information on the work of the museum and how you can help wildlife. The orientation is free, but preregistration is suggested. You must be at least 18 years old. Classes are from 6:30-8 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 8, and Wednesday, Jan. 11, and from 3-4:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 10. For more information, call 935-1978 or visit www.wildlife-museum.org.

Child Abuse Prevention Council
The Contra Costa County Child Abuse Prevention Council needs volunteer speakers for the community education program. Volunteers must complete a mandatory 24-hour speaker's training course. For information, call 946-9961.

Contra Costa Academy of Fine Art
The academy seeks new volunteers and members to help with tasks ranging from bookkeeping to recruiting instructors. The group meets noon-1 p.m., the second Friday of the month at Richard's Art & Craft Store, 225 Alamo Plaza, Alamo. Call Beth Batchelor at 837-5654.

Help Hospice Patients
Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa (HPPCC) has three volunteer opportunities available in East Contra Costa County: certified massage therapists, patient support volunteers, and bereavement volunteers. Annual training is provided and begins Jan. 25. For information or to schedule an interview, call 887-5678 or e-mail volunteers@hospicecc.org.

Search and Rescue
The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team needs volunteer members to respond to missing person incidents, disasters and other critical incidents. Team members are on call 24/7 year round. The program provides required training including wilderness traveling, first aid, map and compass, tracking disaster response and search skills, and may additionally include special training for canine, equestrian, technical, mountain bike or other rescue skills. For information and applications, visit www.contracostasar.org or call 646-4461.

Trails Maintenance
East Bay Trail Dogs is an all-volunteer group that has built, repaired and helped maintain single-track trails in the East Bay Regional Park District, the Mt. Diablo State Park, and Walnut Creek open space. Volunteers meet the fourth Saturday and one weekday each month. To participate, call Harry at 443-3925.



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Christmas Gift Items, Fine China, Crystal, Collectibles, Jewelry, Linens, Gift Baskets, Dolls, Toys, Plants, Baked Delicacies, and much more...

GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES!!!

Creskide Community Church
1350 Danville Boulevard
Alamo, CA

Saturday, November 12, 2005
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

All proceeds will be donated to The Macedonian Outreach, a non-profit Christian organization founded with the purpose of helping the children of the Balkans through the love of Christ and His people.

Thank you and God bless you!

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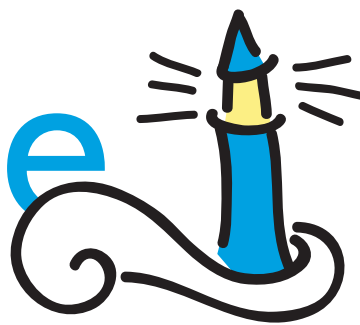
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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

* DEADLINE *

The Pleasanton/Danville Weekly Classified Advertising deadline is:

Tuesday 12 noon
through the Business Office
925-600-0840

Tuesday 11:59 PM
through Fogster.com

- Avoid the last-minute rush -
Place your ad early!

10k run/walk Nov 19 05 - \$35

CRAFTY MOMS HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Sat Nov 12, 9am-2pm
2396 Tanager Dr, Pleasanton

Don't Miss Kidz Blitz Live! - FREE

Free E-Waste Recycling Event

Recycle for Breast Cancer

More information at www.recycleforbreastcancer.org

Date: November 19th & 20th

HOLLY DAY BOUTIQUE

Nov. 11, 12, & 13
Fri. 3pm - 6pm

Sat. & Sun. 10am- 3pm
5532 San Juan Way
(Off Sunol Blvd.)

Refreshments & Door Prize!

Nov 4-5 Holiday Fair

Pregnant?

THINKING ADOPTION? Talk with caring people specializing in matching birthmothers with loving families nationwide. Expenses Paid. Toll free 24/7 One True Gift Adoptions. 1-866-921-0565. (Cal-SCAN)

Starbucks Now Hiring

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120 Auctions

* Land Auction* 200 Properties must be sold! Low down/E-Z Financing. Free catalog. 800-536-9154. www.LandAuction.com (Cal-SCAN)

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Nov 12th in Pleasanton 484-4925

SAT PREP - 250

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SIGNING SMART BABY SIGN LANGUAGE

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133 Music Lessons

Australian Piano Method!!

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Call Benneta Heaton
(925) 820-1169
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Piano Lessons - \$25/half h

135 Group Activities

Diwali Dhamaka 2005

140 Lost & Found

* FOUND * Brown & White Bunny corner of Case Ave & Bernal next to Civic Square Apts. Delivered to Pleasanton Police Dept

150 Volunteers

Volunteer for Seniors

155 Pets

Cocker Spaniel Puppies - \$550

Dog ramp for SUV - \$15.00

Vinyl sliding door doggie door - \$30.00

For Sale

201

Autos/Trucks/Parts

lexus 1996 es300 - \$7,000 obo

1994 Jeep Wrangler
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PLEASANTON

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8 AM-6 PM
SATURDAY 8 AM-5PM
CLOSED SUNDAY

210 Garage/Estate Sales

Pleasanton, 2020 Martin Ave, Nov. 12, 8am - 1pm
(cross street Mohr) Garage Sale: Baby Furniture, Bedroom Furniture, misc. items.

215 Collectibles & Antiques

BOWED FRONT BUFFET 925-846-4299 - \$195

PRINCESS CRYSTAL 925/846-4299

QUILT RACK/SEW. BOX 925/846-4299

220 Computers/Electronics

CDRW EXTERNAL COMBO For Sale - \$40

Sony Camcorder- TRV67 - \$300.00

230 Freebies

FREE SECTIONAL SOFA - FREE

240 Furnishings/Household items

1943 arcade classic - \$300 obo

2 Oak Bar Stools - \$50/set

Amana Bottom Freezer - \$400

Bedroom furnishings

8 piece Queen size bedrm set.

Two sets of mirrored sliding closet doors

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Bedroom Furniture - \$175.00

Cherry Dining Room Set

Solid cherry dining room set. Seats at least 10 with leafs. Comes with six matching charis, china cabinet and server. \$3000.00 o

Cherry Entertainment Center - \$3200

COFFEE & END TABLE 925/846-4299 - \$195

dining room set - \$300

Ethan Allen 6 Dining Chairs - \$ 500

FOR SALE

Brand New automatic hospital bed w/side rails (925)426-1411

\$1000.00/OBO

haier wine chiller - \$250 obo

HANGING SHELVES 925/846-4299 - \$39

large electric dryer - \$150

LauraAshleyQueenSet&Acces - \$99-10pcs.

Mattress/Full/Sealy - \$175.00

Mattress/Full/Sealy - \$175.00

MOVING SALE

Living Room, Dining Room, Bedroom Sets and lots more!

426-1220 or 510-368-2825(c)

OFFICE DESK & CHAIR 925/846-4299 - \$95

PINE BOOKCASE 925/846-4299 - \$35

REDECORATING FURNITURE SALE - Items like new!

4 Ralph Lauren Spanish-style dining chairs, \$2500. Italian crystal chandelier w/ scones, \$2400. 2 Restoration Hardware Leigh club chairs w/ottomans, \$1800. Lillian August Chesterfield sofa, \$1850. Ethan Allen tufted ottoman, \$475.

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SELF-CLEANING DOUBLE OVEN

Great condition! \$75

Call 925-837-8852

Side-by-side refrigerator - \$350

Sleeper-sofa - large - \$80

TV Stand/ Entertainment Center - \$ 100.00

Two couches for sale

One leather and one cloth. Like brand new. \$offer

UNIQUE COFFEE TABLE 925/846-4299 - \$95

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245 Miscellaneous

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Child Care Wanted

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Kids Mystery Book - \$7.95

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Full time position. The award-winning Palo Alto Weekly is seeking a talented, experienced journalist to cover land-use and neighborhood issues in one of the most dynamic cities in the Bay Area. The land use/neighborhoods reporter will be expected to write about breaking news as well as trends in developments, neighborhood quality-of-life issues, economics, City Hall activities and more. Our twice-weekly newspaper (circulation 43,000) specializes in articles that are analytical and insightful in addition to breaking news. Attendance at some night meetings required. The reporter will be responsible for developing several stories a week, in addition to an in-depth piece every six weeks on an issue pertaining to land use, development or zoning issues relating to those subjects. Candidates should have at least two years of beat coverage experience, preferably in city government and community coverage. Strong writing and grammatical skills essential.

Qualified candidates should submit a cover letter, resume & three clips to: **Managing Editor, Marc Burkhardt Palo Alto Weekly, 703 High St., Palo Alto, CA 94302** or e-mail: **mburkhardt@pawebly.com**

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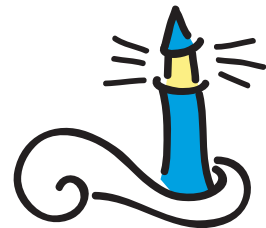
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Pet of the Week



Catherine Hansen Rush

Awaiting a home of their own

Meet "Bernard" and "Lala." These two 6-month-old,
shorthair house kitties are enjoying a room with a view at
the Tri-Valley SPCA while awaiting a home of their own.
Bernard, coal black with pumpkin colored eyes, is
described by SPCA staff as "the best little guy." He is
super friendly and playful. Black and white Lala is friend-
ly and mellow. She enjoys catnaps and cuddling. For
more information about Bernard and Lala, visit the Tri-
Valley SPCA, 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open 1-8
p.m., Wednesday-Thursday and Friday-Sunday 11 a.m.-
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Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

HOME SALE OF THE WEEK DANVILLE



792 Pradera San Ramon

Stunning upgrades, backing to open space. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, custom paint, travertine floors, upgraded carpet and pad, crown molding, wall sconces, niches, 6 ceiling speakers, cherry wood cabinets.

Sold for \$1,035,000
by Jackie George
Intero Real Estate

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during October 2005

Danville	Alamo	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 24	Total sales reported: 3	Total sales reported: 30
Lowest sale reported: \$499,000	Lowest sale reported: \$890,000	Lowest sale reported: \$255,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,800,000	Highest sale reported: \$2,742,500	Highest sale reported: \$1,390,000
Average sales reported: \$1,086,020	Average sales reported: \$1,677,500	Average sales reported: \$673,816

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

Danville

- 258 Ashley Circle** A. & L. Tabarsi to S. Surjanto for \$499,000
- 56 Baja Loma Court** L. & N. Heller to S. & S. Rodriguez for \$950,000
- 5138 Blackhawk Drive** P. & A. Feldman to R. & K. Endries for \$1,578,000
- 106 Blackstone Drive** R. & S. Barbee to D. Rogelstad for \$985,000
- 704 Brookside Drive** J. Chapman to W. & L. Yates for \$1,195,000
- 3444 Claridge Drive** J. Sheehy to A. Packard for \$988,000
- 62 Corte Nogal** P. & D. Davidson to E. Koopmans for \$1,470,000
- 3819 Cottonwood Drive** G. & S. Fosburgh to D. Yakita for \$1,425,000
- 2215 Creekview Place** Shapell Industries to J. & S. Park for \$1,080,000
- 48 Emerald Drive** M. & A. Hunter to G. & K. Koutz for \$1,225,000
- 2088 Fostoria Circle** H. Hunt to L. Butler for \$549,000
- 124 Garden Creek Place** Thiel Trust to J. & M. Frantz for \$565,000
- 635 Glasgow Circle** L. Stadelhofer to M. & J. Hochstatter for \$905,000
- 210 Glen Meadow Court** K. Jethani to S. & K. Mangels for \$1,050,000
- 374 Inman Court** T. & W. Luo to G. Scott for \$770,000
- 888 La Gonda Way** Roscommon Properties to C. & W. Broschinsky for \$1,800,000
- 299 Laurel Drive** Heffel Trust to A. & C. Osborn for \$924,500
- 561 Morninghome Road** L. & P. Andersen to D. & S. Defesi for \$685,000

Alamo

- 307 Mountain Ridge Drive** B. Wells to P. & I. Benn for \$940,000
- 13 Narcissus Court** C. Chiang to A. & M. Son for \$1,086,000
- 226 Nottingham Place** Espiritu Trust to N. Totah for \$1,385,000
- 4311 Quail Run Court** Eychner Trust to Gates Trust for \$1,675,000
- 16 Sky Terrace** M. Mattingly to S. & J. Whitmer for \$1,550,000
- 648 St. George Road** B. Blasquez to R. Sessa for \$785,000

Walnut Creek

- 11 Brookdale Court** D. & K. Miller to B. Dias for \$890,000
- 75 Lark Place** Lark Place Development to W. & S. Hwang for \$2,742,500
- 31 Woodland Drive** Johnson Trust to C. & S. Foxworthy for \$1,400,000

Danville

- 6404 Horsemans Canyon Drive** B. Dannenberg to R. & J. Richter for \$1,390,000
- 210 Ivywood Drive** Tolmanov-Uzmanova Trust to C. Hoffmann for \$749,000
- 1421 Marchbanks Drive #2** L. Rulon to M. Reid for \$325,000
- 3157 McNutt Avenue** P. & J. Jung to B. Falkenstein for \$765,000
- 330 North Civic Drive #306** R. Barbieri to J. Bennice for \$255,000
- 310 North Civic Drive #309** Gourkani Trust to P. Tsouzmer for \$455,000
- 2704 Ptarmigan Drive #1** L. Boehm to Gannon Trust for \$529,500
- 1916 Ptarmigan Drive #2** Lyster Trust to Gray Trust for \$661,000
- 2516 Ptarmigan Drive #2** J. Fiss to L. & P. Ringen for \$560,000
- 3112 Ptarmigan Drive #3** S. Mo to Holzinger Trust for \$544,000
- 695 Rockcreek Court** R. & E. Reynolds to Valla Trust for \$1,100,000
- 4615 Terra Granada Drive #1A** Bloom Trust to T. & H. Hunt for \$625,000
- 3258 Terra Granada Drive #1B** Stewart Trust to Du Trust for \$800,000
- 5349 Terra Granada Drive #2B** Friel Trust to M. Cavallo for \$600,000
- 4033 Terra Granada Drive #7B** Obien Trust to D. O'Brien for \$475,000
- 1860 Tice Creek Drive #1403** Peterson Trust to R. & H. Gee for \$680,000
- 1840 Tice Creek Drive #2223** Steinbach Trust to I. Morrison for \$600,000
- 2890 Treat Boulevard #42** B. Powell to S. Hernandez for \$315,000

Open Sat & Sun 1-4



437 Sycamore Circle, Danville

Beautiful Danville Town Home.

Very light and cheery with new paint and excellent decor. Featuring 2 large bedrooms & 1.5 baths. Master bedroom includes scenic bay window, sitting area and a large closet. 1.5 baths (full bath upstairs, one half bath downstairs). Cozy kitchen with breakfast bar and adjacent dining area. Spacious living room features large bay window with custom window coverings, wood burning fire place with custom mantel and tile hearth. Quality carpeting throughout. Separate laundry room (washer/dryer and refrigerator included in sale). Extra large and private patio, decking and gardens lead to single car garage. Lots of additional storage. Easy guest parking. Walk to downtown. It's a must see! Offered at \$534,950



2155 Danville Blvd., Alamo

Private gated lane in Alamo

Custom Mediterranean featuring 5 bedrooms & 3.5 baths. 15 ft ceilings, gleaming Maple hardwood and custom marble and stone accents through-out. Open kitchen, entertaining family room, formal dining room, and an oversized master bedroom add to the experience of this beautiful Resort-Style home. Situated on a half acre with stately palms, fountains and expansive travertine patios. Offered at \$1,949,000.



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OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

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Danville

2 BedroomsTownhouse

437 Sycamore Cir. **\$534,950**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Better Homes 915-1100

2 Bedrooms

394 Ilo Ln., #303 **\$459,950**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4072

113 Midland Wy. **\$514,950**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 648-5336

118 Westfield Cir. **\$589,950**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 963-6300

3 Bedrooms

99 Serene Ct. **\$699,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4152

1833 N. Forest Hill Pl. **\$699,999**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Century 21 Heritage 846-7997

701 Senca Ct. **\$799,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4047

109 Bountiful Ct. **\$924,900**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Assist 2 Sell 339-3500

426 Woodbine Ln. **\$979,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 838-4300

4 Bedrooms

21 Volterra Ct. **\$1,249,950**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4046

23 Shadow Tree Ct. **\$1,299,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 325-9215

345 Remington Loop **\$1,299,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 325-9215

404 Plata Ct. **\$1,349,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4087

106 Windover Dr. **\$1,599,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 736-1666

2000 Camino Ramon Pl. **\$756,900**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4030

5 Bedrooms

414 Stoneybrook Ct. **\$1,100,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4046

6 Bedrooms

10 Creeklodge Ct. **\$1,999,999**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 683-9799

Alamo

4 Bedrooms

110 Paseo Del Sol **\$1,100,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 977-8965

131 Valley Oaks **\$1,574,950**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4022

522 Tara Jean Ln. **\$899,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 648-5331

5 Bedrooms

950 Forest Ln. **\$2,995,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 838-4300

Blackhawk

4 Bedrooms

3127 Deer Meadow Dr. **\$1,249,000**

Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 787-0448
4307 Quail Run Pl. **\$1,474,950**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 998-3808

5 Bedrooms

4250 Golden Oak Ct. **\$1,775,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 787-0448

16 Blackhills Pl. **\$1,995,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 683-9799

2742 Deer Meadow **\$2,125,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 648-5319

16 East Ridge Ct. **\$3,485,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 672-2499

Diablo

4 Bedrooms

2065 Diablo Rd. **\$1,499,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4159

San Ramon

2 Bedrooms

6964 Wisteria St. **\$510,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4102

700-2 Lakemont Pl. **\$599,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 787-8205

3 Bedrooms

9530 Velvet Leaf Cir. **\$1,489,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 785-4546

504 Destiny Ln. **\$599,900**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Better Homes Realty 791-4263

141 Rosario Ct. **\$645,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 785-8369

1130 Vista Pointe Cir. **\$699,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 788-6155

10006 Foxboro Cir. **\$709,900**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 599-000

2440 Millstream Ln. **\$819,900**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 251-2521

1022 Vista Point Cir. **\$829,900**

Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4128
6020 Lakeview Cir. **\$995,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4110

4 Bedrooms

711 Pradera Wy. **\$1,029,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 997-0806

2234 Dewberry Rd. **\$1,274,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 640-6717

2963 Cheyenne Ave. **\$729,900**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Better Homes Realty 791-4263

2741 Morgan Dr. **\$819,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Century 21 Heritage 846-7997

820 Springbrook Dr. **\$949,950**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Hometown GMAC 426-3824

109 Pebble Pl. **\$959,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 785-8369

401 Sunnyside Pl. **\$979,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 997-0806

5 Bedrooms

3302 Rutherglen Rd. **\$1,282,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4033

9515 Velvet Leaf **\$1,889,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4068

142 Lyndhurst **\$2,075,975**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 251-2532

212 Sun Ridge Dr. **\$969,990**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4046

Walnut Creek

1 Bedrooms

1413 Marchbanks Dr., #3 **\$320,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4075

2 Bedrooms

1340 Las Juntas Wy. **\$474,500**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 997-9057

2590 Oak Rd., #148 **\$555,000**
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 977-8965

35 Iron Horse Ln. **\$679,900**
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 487-2629

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Gorgeous Magee Ranch \$1,599,000
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Carol Erbert 925.736.1666



ALAMO

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SAN RAMON

San Ramon Heights Cutie \$1,459,000
4bd, 3.5ba, 3503+/-sf, 6-years new, gourmet granite kitchen, Toll-Brothers semi-custom, backs to 100+ acres of Circle E Ranch open space.
L'oreal Northcraft 925.899.SOLD(7653)



DANVILLE

Large Westside Ranch \$1,299,000
Immaculate single story with 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 3-car garage, volume ceilings, large lot (14,337+/-sf), close to everything.
Bonnie King 925.855.4072



SAN RAMON

Exceptional Value \$1,274,000
4bd, 3ba, soaring ceilings, granite kitchen with center island, designer staircase, shutters, large side patio with vegetable garden.
Paula Knapp 925.648.5331



DUBLIN

One Of A Kind Property \$1,249,950
Breathtaking Dublin Ranch home backing to open space. Spectacular views of golf course. Murals featured in Sunset magazine. Upgrades galore.
Valerie Betts 925.368.8667



DANVILLE

Quiet Court ~ Private Lot \$1,100,000
One of Shadow Creek's finest locations. 5bd, 3ba, 3355+/-sf, 3-car garage, 5th bd can be an office, new carpet and baseboards, custom paint. It's a beauty!
Lisa and Greg Doyle 925.855.4046



SAN RAMON

Thomas Ranch Beauty! \$1,029,000
4bd, 2.5ba, 2356+/-sf, new light fixtures, slab granite counters, stainless appliances. Hardwood, marble, carpet floors. Great backyard for entertaining.
Jackie George 925.997.0806

**Danville
Blackhawk**

**15 Railroad Avenue
4105 Blackhawk Plaza Circle**

**925.855.4000
925.648.5300**

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