

Mega-mansion saga continues in Bryan Ranch

Duffields scale back house plans; homeowners downsize square footage allowed > page 5

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Running competition

Primo's Run, big Bay Area race choose same date next October

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Danville

W E E K L Y

Chiseling art

Sculptor helps students express themselves in stone

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Q: What was the best Christmas or Hanukkah gift you ever received?



Probably a mini-motorcycle. It's just like a real one; you start it with a key and everything. It's really fun to ride on the street by my house. When I grow up I want a big motorcycle.

Maddy Serpa, 7
Green Valley Elementary



My favorite gift was a CD player. It plays good songs. My Jesse McCartney CD is my favorite. He sings rock.

Mackenzie Sutter, 8
Golden View Elementary



My favorite was a Barbie Prom Queen. She has a beautiful purple gown and her own crown. I like to play with dolls very much.

Sofie Sheldon, 7
Green Valley Elementary



Last year I got a Magna Mountain bike; it was my second real bike. It has gears. I saw it when I was in Target with my mom. It was very cool. On Christmas morning I looked downstairs and saw it under the tree. At first I thought it might be a bike for my little sister, but it was for me. I like to ride it on the dirt path by my house; except right now it has a flat tire.

Reed Ocheltree, 8
Green Valley Elementary



The best gift I ever got was last year I got a Bionicle. It's like an action figure and robot. It does all kinds of neat things. It's fun because I can do battle with the other stuff in my room.

Neil Kimble, 10
John Baldwin Elementary

COMPILED BY JUDY STEINER

ABOUT THE COVER

The Beigel triplets, (l-r) Paige, Olivia and Joshua, are triple the fun as they enjoy their bath, one simple activity that can get slippery when the parents are outnumbered. Photo by Cheri Eplin Molnar.

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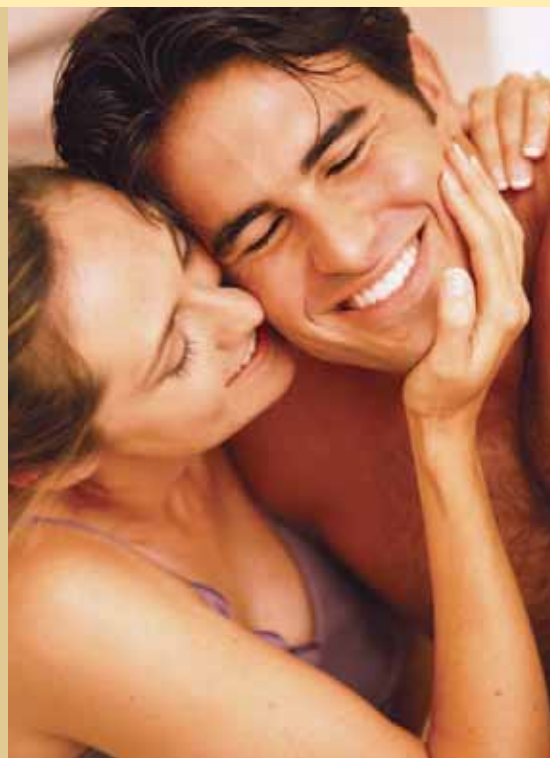
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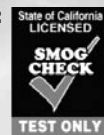
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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ Meghan has incredible versatility paired with incredible intelligence and an insatiable competitive desire. ”

—San Ramon Valley High coach Hans Delannoy commenting on Meghan Yetman who just made the 1,000th point in her basketball career. See story, page 15.

Bringing holiday joy

Two hundred teenage girls and their mothers woke up early Sunday to do their Christmas shopping at the Target store in San Ramon. The only difference was that it wasn't for themselves; it was for a group of underprivileged families living in Contra Costa County.

Organized by the National Charity League, a nationwide mother-daughter philanthropic organization, the event was intended to give some holiday joy to less fortunate individuals. The families selected to participate in the event were identified by Shelter Inc. as being in danger of becoming homeless this winter.

Teenage NCL members were allowed to enter the store before it was opened to the public to select presents. Each family member received a practical gift, such as a sweater or a jacket, as well as a "fun gift."

The Diablo Valley, Vista Oak and Rolling Hills chapters all participated in the event. The Diablo Valley Chapter, the oldest of the three, includes members from Alamo, Danville and San Ramon.

"This is the first event we have ever sponsored with our sister chapters in National Charity League," said Laurie Wolf, president of the Diablo Valley Chapter. "We are thrilled to be working with the other chapters and excited that 175 girls and moms will be showing up to help."

Cracking down on the roadways

The California Highway Patrol is launching a major strike force this holiday season to reduce the number of DUI, speeding, and seatbelt violations.

The dispatch, which is known as Operation STAR, begins at 6 p.m. tonight and runs through midnight on Monday, Jan. 2.

Eighty percent of all CHP officers will be on patrol, and Air Operations will be in full force throughout the state. When a similar deployment was used last year, there was a 25.5 percent drop in deaths. "We hope to continue that trend," said CHP Commander Capt. Jim Cahoon.

This year's Operation STAR comes as a response to the spike in fatalities over the Thanksgiving holiday.

"We're determined to reverse those numbers for the Christmas holiday season," said Cahoon. "But we need the public's help."

Free flu shots for older adults

San Ramon Regional Medical Center will provide flu shots free of charge to people 65 and older, and adults with chronic illnesses, from 9 a.m. to noon, Tuesday, Dec. 20. The vaccines will be given while supplies last in the South Conference Room in the South Building, located at 7777 Norris Canyon Road in San Ramon. Parking is available near the South Conference Room. No reservations are needed. For driving directions, call 275-8230.

Corrections The story in the Dec. 9 issue on Prime Time, a non-denominational fellowship program held Tuesday mornings at Community Presbyterian Church, should have said Ruth Ann Thompson is program director.

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Duffields reduce home plans but by how much?

Homeowners change covenants, conditions and restrictions in Bryan Ranch to limit houses to 10,000 square feet

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Bryan Ranch residents continue to struggle with the welcome mat for David and Cheryl Duffield and their six children as they revise their plans for a mega-mansion in Alamo's Bryan Ranch, which was developed to make the most of its natural setting.

A Duffield spokesman recently announced they had scaled back plans for their home from the 72,000 square feet originally planned. Plus they moved the location of the home to a lower, more

secluded portion of the property, and deleted the automobile garage and the stables.

"We have downsized the home to approximately 17,000 square feet (exclusive of the garage and basement), a reduction of approximately 75 percent from the home originally proposed for the 22-acre site," said Jim Dugdale of Nevada Pacific Consulting, project manager for the Duffields, in an e-mail earlier this week. Bryan Ranch neighbors pointed out that the basement in the original plans was 32,000 square feet.

Meanwhile, the Bryan Ranch Home Owners Association amended its covenants, conditions and restrictions in late November after 75 percent of the membership voted in favor of limiting house sizes to 10,000 square feet.

"We're not opposed to the Duffields as neighbors," said Elizabeth Pelletier, who would be their closest neighbor on Country Oak Lane. "We still welcome them here but they would have to conform to the CC&Rs like everyone else."

Rich Bedayn, another neighbor

on Country Oak Lane, noted that when the CC&Rs were changed, the Duffield application had been withdrawn, but added that the new rules would have still applied to it. "They could still do a guest home and garages and barn," Bedayn said.

Mary Barron, another Country Oak neighbor, noted that the CC&R change was not aimed at the Duffields. "It's a qualification of our CC&R standards," she said. "It's not a statement on this issue but rather something we want for this community."

In a Dec. 9 letter to the Bryan Ranch neighbors, Dugdale stated that as soon as the revised plans were completed, all 321 members of the Bryan Ranch community would receive a copy.

He went on to say a small group of opponents to the project have been acting in secrecy circulating a petition and attempting to change the community's CC&Rs without notice or an opportunity for a hearing.

"The secrecy, misrepresentations, and general abuse of power

► Continued on page 8

Second Chance for Alamo thrift shop

Hospice Foundation takes over operations from Danny Foundation

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Second Chance in Alamo is getting a new lease on life as Hospice of Contra Costa Foundation takes over the thrift shop that formerly benefited the Danny Foundation.

"I'm happy they're turning it over to someone else who cares about kids as much as we do," said store manager Amani Chapdelaine. She started as a volunteer at the store, which is in the Stone Valley Shopping Center, then was hired about a year ago to manage it. Now she says she will stay on as a volunteer again.

"We get a lot of nice, nice things," Chapdelaine said, looking over a floor-length royal blue sequined evening gown. "Clothes that are almost new or very slight-

ly used." She said clothes and furniture have been the main money-makers.

"I'm happy they're turning it over to someone else who cares about kids as much as we do."

—Amani Chapdelaine, store manager

The Danny Foundation ran Second Chance for nearly 20 years to finance its efforts to improve crib safety. The foundation was started after 23-month-old Danny Lineweaver of Alamo was severely injured in 1984 when his shirt became entangled on the corner post of his crib. He died in 1993 after

► Continued on page 10



Chuck Sanders buys a basket from Second Chance thrift shop manager Amani Chapdelaine. He said he shops there once a week to make impulse buys, and he will continue to do so after it becomes the Hospice Thrift Shoppe next month.

DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Popular Primo's Run hits snag with scheduling

San Jose's Rock and Roll Half Marathon planned for same day as local fundraiser

by Jordan M. Doronila

Primo's Run organizers fear that another Bay Area marathon may take runners away from next year's event.

The Rock and Roll Half Marathon in San Jose will run the same date as Primo's Run, the popular premier fundraiser for the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation. Both events are scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 8.

More than 4,000 runners and walkers participate in Primo's Run. Nearly \$100,000 was raised in October, and \$85,000 was raised in

2004, said Gary Ware, foundation board member.

Proceeds from Primo's Run give grants to teachers in the district for projects and materials that they could not otherwise afford.

"It's going to hurt us," Ware said, about the half marathon in San Jose. "We're concerned. Primo's Run is a big event for us."

"We're trying to figure out what we're going to do," he added.

Primo's Run has been scheduled for the second Sunday of October since the 1980s, said Terry Koehne, San Ramon Valley Education Foundation board member and

community relations coordinator for the school district.

"We're concerned. Primo's Run is a big event for us."

—Gary Ware, board member of the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation

Koehne said having the run on the same day every year provides a

consistency that makes it easier for people to attend. He said the Rotary Club of San Ramon sponsors a carbo load—where runners eat pasta to build endurance for the race—the day before the run.

Ware said some who have been involved in the Primo's Run have written letters complaining about the schedule conflict to officials in San Jose and at Elite Racing, a sports management firm based in San Diego that manages marathons.

But despite the letters, the San Jose marathon will continue as scheduled.

San Jose officials said the Rock and Roll Half Marathon attracts 50,000 people to the city and that coordinating events at the appropriate time is usually a challenge.

"The Rock and Roll Half Marathon is a great event for the entire Bay Area," said David Bossbrink, communication director for San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales.

"There's always going to be conflicts in schedules," he said, adding that the city will not reschedule the marathon. "I'm sure there is plenty of room for both races."

► Continued on page 9

Buy smart

Items raise funds for safety campaign

by Jordan M. Doronila

Street Smarts members are selling mugs, bags and shirts starting this week to spread the importance of safety in the community.

The local organization aims at heightening traffic safety, and the products have pictures that symbolize safety. The sale started Wednesday and will continue throughout 2006.

Local students made the designs that decorate the mugs, tote bags and T-shirts during a poster contest last May, said Tai Williams, Danville Transportation Director and marketing coordinator for Street Smarts items.

Residents can buy the Street Smarts products at the Danville Police Department on La Gonda Way; Danville Community Center on Front Street; San Ramon City Offices on Camino Ramon; and the San Ramon Community Center on Alcosta Boulevard.

"Traffic Safety is important in the community," said Williams.

She said the organization has 200 mugs, 200 tote bags and between 200 and 300 T-shirts, and she hopes they sell three-quarters of the merchandise within a year.

All proceeds will go back to Street Smarts.

Street Smarts was launched by Bob and Carmen Pack after their children, Troy and Alana, were killed by a drunken driver two years ago in Danville. The program's purpose is to educate children on the importance of traffic safety. The group encourages people to always wear helmets while riding their bicycles and to remain vigilant while crossing the street.

The agency has worked with students in elementary, middle and high schools. It has coordinated several hands-on projects, including actual demonstrations of car accidents and the effects of drunken driving.

Street Smarts is in the midst of defining its middle school program but will continue to focus on education. For the past year, the program focused mainly on elementary school children. Last year, Street Smarts reached out to them through a poster contest. Students submitted posters with traffic safety themes and were eligible to win prizes ranging from portable DVD players to Marine World passes.

The multi-agency effort includes the town of Danville, city of San Ramon, Contra Costa County and the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, as well as the Danville Area and San Ramon chambers of commerce. ■

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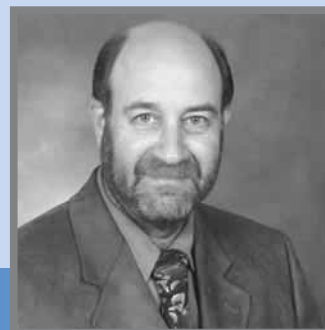
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Firefighter tells of duty in Mississippi

Lessons learned on preparing for emergencies can be used locally

by Dolores Fox Giardelli

Jackson County, Miss., had a great emergency plan worked out. But when Hurricane Katrina left it devastated in late August, no one could find it, said Chris Suter, deputy fire chief of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District.

Suter spoke recently to the Rotary Club of Danville about his recent trip to Jackson County as a member of an Incident Management Team, part of a state-to-state effort. He said that before Katrina, California was kept busy with its own fires and earthquakes, and the state was known as the "Disneyland of emergencies." But when Katrina wreaked devastation in Louisiana and Mississippi, California joined the nationwide effort for emergency personnel to lend their expertise.

"We were requested to provide coordination," Suter said. "The public and private agencies were all acting independently."

The deputy fire chief was called at his Alamo home at 11 a.m. Sept. 14 and was en route with another response team member on a commercial flight soon after midnight. The rest of the 16-member group flew on a charter the afternoon of the 15th with equipment for everyone.

"We had to come with our own support or we would have become part of the problem," Suter explained.

The public safety infrastructure



Chris Suter, deputy fire chief of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, spoke to the Danville Rotary about his experiences as a member of a team to help start the recovery in Jackson County, Miss., after Hurricane Katrina.

was damaged, he noted, partly because the government employees who were depended upon to help were among the victims. Jackson County had a population of 133,000, and included four cities, including a large coastal community. Of that, 4,382 residences were destroyed; 14,650 were uninhabitable; and there were at least 180 fatalities.

When Suter's team arrived, the first response effort was over and it was time to start the recovery. This included debris removal.

"One million 300,000 cubic yards of debris had been removed by the Corps of Engineers by the time we left," Suter said. "They estimated that they had moved 12 percent of the debris."

The conditions he described

"Not only did people lose everything they had, but it was all carried away. To say houses were destroyed — 'destroyed' is not even an accurate word."

—Deputy Fire Chief Chris Suter, who helped out the recovery effort in Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina

were mind-boggling. They had to work with different policies for each immediate location, depending on whether it was public or private property. There were no street signs.

"Not only did people lose everything they had, but it was all carried away," he said. At least in a fire or earthquake, the rubble stays in place, he explained. With this hurricane, a 32-foot high wall of water went inland a mile, sweeping everything before it. "To say houses were destroyed - 'destroyed' is not even an accurate word," he said.

He showed a photograph of a boat in the middle of nowhere, noting that he guessed it was "finders keepers" although the house of the yard where it landed was not in livable condition.

His team used a high school for a base camp and developed an action plan.

"We had goals for every day, 32 elements," he explained. They had to provide food, water and sanitation for 50,000 people.

"Hundreds of trailers were waiting to be installed but we had to clear the debris and get hookups," he recalled. "Three-quarters of the cars didn't work because of salt water intrusion." Beware of any

used cars that are for sale from that area, he warned.

Suter also found out that it can be difficult to work in the Deep South, due to cultural and climate differences. The dark green tents did not work well with 95 percent humidity, he said.

He said he had previously been skeptical when people requested monetary donations rather than clothing but he saw what can happen to goods that were donated with the best intentions.

"When the stuff comes, if it isn't sorted by gender or size or isn't clean, they couldn't accept it. The truckers got mad so they dumped it at the corner. It rains every day so now you have a health hazard," he said. "So, much as I didn't like it, money is best. They can buy what they want and it helps the economy."

He said the faith-based groups did an enormous amount of good. "They cleaned out houses that were moldy to stop the deterioration," he said.

When they finally located the emergency plan for Jackson County, it was a pretty good plan, said Suter. He brought this lesson back home with him and many more. ■

Blue ribbon for Alamo

Alamo Elementary School will celebrate its National Blue Ribbon recognition Wednesday, Dec. 21. The event will start at 10:55 a.m. at the school's Amphitheatre.

The U.S. Department of Education recently named Alamo Elementary School—for the third time—as a National Blue Ribbon School. Alamo is one of only 34 elementary schools in California, and one of only 294 nationwide to be selected for this honor.

"This is a great honor," said Principal Beverly Tom. "Students, staff members and parents alike deserve a tremendous amount of credit for this distinction. They are all doing a great job in helping our students meet and exceed standards."

The No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private K-12 schools that are either academically superior in their states or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. For more information, call 938-0448. ■

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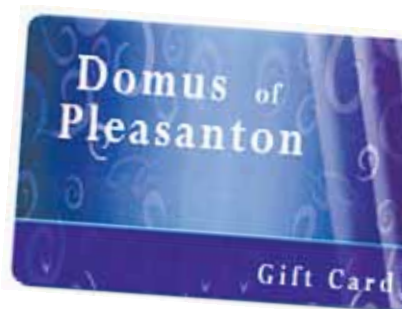
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Visiting boot camp

The Danville Weekly traveled to Fort Jackson, S.C., for David Lopes' graduation from National Guard boot camp Nov. 10. David, shown here with dad Fernando Lopes, will stay at Fort Jackson for another 13 weeks to finish his advanced individual training as a paralegal specialist. Take Us Along on your travels and send photos to Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com or 315 Diablo Road, Danville 94596.

Duffield

► Continued from page 5

and process by this small group have been dismaying," wrote Dugdale to the homeowners.

Pelletier reacted to that statement in amazement. "There were 29 Bryan Ranch neighbors pounding the streets day and night" getting signatures, she recalled, and the effort was very much out in the open.

She also noted that the homeowners association has four lawyers who specialize in CC&Rs who spent a month drawing up the amendment and advised them on every step of the process including how they proceeded to get signatures.

In response to Dugdale's letter dated Dec. 9, representatives of Save Bryan Ranch, a group formed to share information about the Duffield plans, sent out their own letter to the neighbors.

"The letter contains so many unsubstantiated opinions that to respond to each one would be like trying to sort a snowflake in a blizzard,"

—Save Bryan Ranch

It noted that Dugdale's letter ignores three critical facts:

- More than 75 percent of Bryan

Ranch voted to amend its CC&Rs, specifying that house sizes will be from 1,700 to 10,000 square feet. This change was recorded with Contra Costa County on Nov. 28.

- This amendment clarifies previous CC&R standards and is a statement of how the overwhelming majority of Bryan Ranch homeowners want them interpreted by the Architectural Committee.
- The original Duffield application and plans were withdrawn, not suspended.

"The letter contains so many unsubstantiated opinions that to respond to each one would be like trying to sort a snowflake in a blizzard."

The homeowners letter also rebutted accusations that their processes were flawed.

"We expect Mr. Duffield will submit a new application and trust that he will adapt his project to the Bryan Ranch community's laws, including their CC&Rs, just as all other homeowners are required to do," the letter concluded. "We are still hopeful that Bryan Ranch will eventually be able to welcome the Duffield family to this unique and beautiful neighborhood that attracted them here in the first place."

Dugdale, too, ended his letter on a positive note.

"We look forward to working on a compromise acceptable to all of the Bryan Ranch community, and hopefully you do, too," he said. ■



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Porta-wreath

Decorating at the Varco home is all-inclusive as Sandi did what she could to make life festive for the construction crew doing extensive renovations on their home on Glendora Circle that are lasting through the holiday season and beyond.

New Hospice program to help with loss

Hospice's Center for Grief and Loss is once again offering the Footsteps support group for children ages 7 through 18 who have experienced the death of a parent, grandparent, sibling or friend. It will run Feb. 29-April 4.

"Footsteps is an expressive arts program designed to assist children and their caregivers to navigate through the process of grief," said Lee Ann Morgan, bereavement program manager for the Center for Grief and Loss.

During the program, children meet in one room and their parents or guardians meet in another room. They follow the same agenda and complete the same art projects and

hear the same stories.

"For the first time since my husband died last fall, my daughter realized that she wasn't alone," said a mother who attended the last session. "She was comforted by the knowledge that there were other children experiencing the same sad, lonely feelings that she was experiencing."

The Footsteps program is made possible by a grant from the Children's Support League of the East Bay. For more information, call 887-5678. Preregistration is required and there is a fee.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Primos

► Continued from page 5

The San Jose Half Marathon is a for-profit event. It will bring around \$10 million to \$15 million in hotel and sales taxes to the city, said Elizabeth O'Brien, Elite Racing general manager of the Rock and Roll Half Marathon.

"We've seen the letters," said O'Brien. "We've been trying not to step on the toes of bigger races."

"We do the best we can to develop major events," she added.

Primo's Run is a half marathon that runs through commercial and residential streets in Danville. Runners and walkers go through hilly areas near Contada Circle and Thornhill Road. Then they pass south to San Ramon, covering nearly three miles before entering Bishop Ranch.

The San Ramon Valley Educational Foundation is a non-profit organization that organizes fundraisers to help provide monies to schools in the district. The Primo's Run is its biggest fundraiser.

"We're going to run anyway," said Ware. "We're trying to figure out what we're going to do." ■

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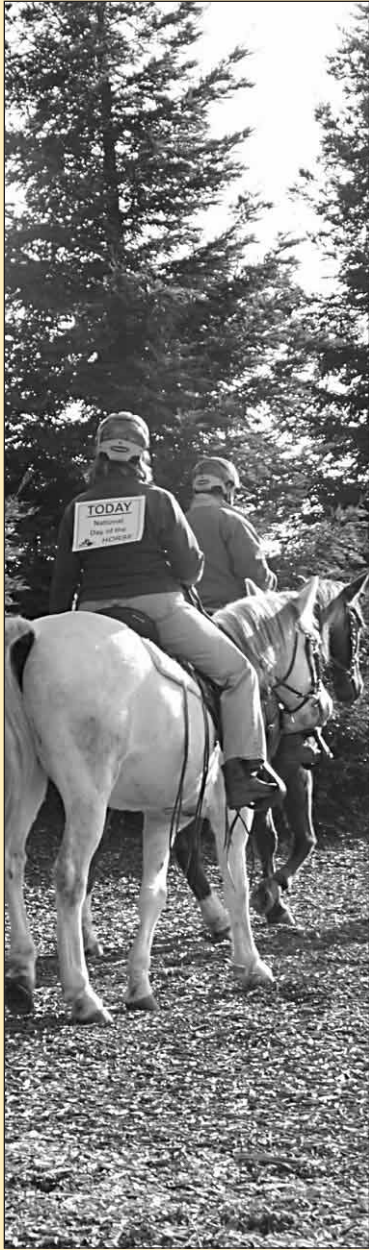
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JORDAN M. DORONILA

This heyday is a neigh-day

Danville resident Janet Shaw and her horse Dolly observe the Day of the Horse, which was recognized by the U.S. Senate as a special day, along with the San Ramon Valley Horsemen and other community members at the Iron Horse Trail near Sycamore Valley Road on Dec. 13. Around ten to 20 riders showed up at the event. At left, Mary Mahin of Alamo, wearing a sign declaring the Day of the Horse, rides toward the trail.



DOLPHES FOX CARDELLI

Second Chance thrift shop is trying to liquidate its merchandize before Hospice takes over after Dec. 26. The real bargains will come at the end, noted the manager.

Thrift

► Continued from page 5

nine years of home care.

The board of directors voted in September to dissolve the Danny Foundation effective Dec. 31, announcing that deaths caused by unsafe cribs had gone from 100 per year when the foundation began to fewer than 16 today.

"A crib purchased in 2005 is largely unrecognizable when compared to the crib that took our son's life," said John Lineweaver, head of the foundation.

Second Chance will remain open through Dec. 23 and reopen as Hospice Thrift Shoppe on Jan. 2. All proceeds from the shop will benefit Comfort for Kids, a program of Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa that provides in-home

care for young patients with life-limiting illnesses so they can stay in the comfort of their own homes.

Hospice owns four other thrift shops in the county, including in Walnut Creek, Concord, Antioch and in Danville at 444 Diablo Road. They are known for the high quality of their merchandize.

The volunteers at Second Chance said they plan to get the inventory down as far as they can before the shop changes hands. This should make it easier for Hospice, said manager Chapdelaine, because it plans to replace the carpeting.

"We're trying to liquidate," said Chapdelaine, noting that the real bargains will come toward the end.

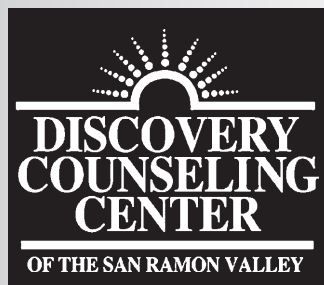
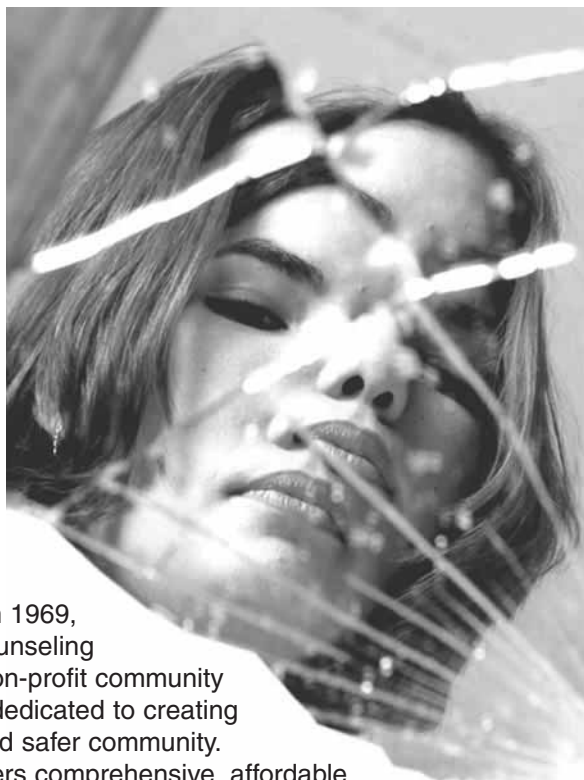
The current volunteers said they are all planning to stay on and volunteer for the Hospice Thrift Shoppe. ■

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Santa Paws gets pets in holiday spirit

Christmas photos are a tradition—usually tykes in holiday togs perched on Santa's lap. So when I heard about an event last Saturday at Bishop Ranch Veterinary Center to photograph pets for Christmas, I couldn't resist checking it out with my little Mickey. She's a miniature American Eskimo who's looking quite fluffy since the weather turned cold.

The Santa Paws happening began at 11 a.m. and we arrived shortly after that. I paid the \$18, of which \$5 goes to animal rescue groups, and filled out information for having the photo mailed. Then Mickey and I waited our turn. There were coffee and cookies, and all the dog owners admired each other's pets and chatted among themselves.

The Harris family was just leaving with 7-month-old Blazer, a Labradoodle, which is a charming mix between a Labrador retriever and a poodle. The golden poodle had

just had his first trim, they informed me, and he was wearing a frilly Christmas collar. Ken and Pam said they had posed Blazer with their son Brett, 9, a student at San Ramon Valley Christian Academy.

Dusty Dennis was there with her lab husky mix. Twelve-year-old Katie is a cancer survivor, Dusty told me, and was just given a clean bill of health by her doggie oncologist after months of chemotherapy. After Katie's portrait was finished, Dusty stopped to tell me the photographers had made it a positive experience. She said when she had first adopted Katie from an animal shelter she had taken her for a photo with Santa. She recalled Katie's resistance and said when she finally settled stiffly on Santa's knee, her expression said, "You can take me back to the pound, just get me off this guy's lap."

Marti and Gene Stoegbaner waited with their stately golden retriever named Bentley, 6 months old. He had been at obedience class at

the veterinary center and they proudly said he'd just advanced to Level II. Good news for the photographer!

Debbie and Paul Eyres soon arrived with their two little white Westies, short for West Highland terriers. Maggie, 4, was sedate with her freshly groomed tresses. But Bailey, only 8 months old, was jumping around with excitement. Debbie said they always get holiday photos to send to relatives in England and in New Jersey.

Soon my number was called and I met Lisa Hermes, a portrait photographer who specializes in dogs, children and families in natural settings. For this occasion she had a big supply of Christmas props, from Santa hats to scarves to baskets, bells and bows. She noted that it takes a pretty mellow dog to wear a Santa hat.

Lisa and her assistant Judith Peale and I decided on a very feminine green and red chiffon collar. Mickey immediately bonded with Judith, who was feeding her minis-

cule treats. They had set up a big canopy enclosed on two sides for a dark background and to control the light. Lisa said she usually works in late afternoon or evening, and bright daylight was a challenge. Judith placed Mickey on a little red armchair, and removed her collar and leash after I optimistically assured her Mickey knows how to "sit" and "stay." Lisa can edit out leashes on the computer but it's easier to take them off beforehand.

Mickey sat, mesmerized by the treat held high in Judith's fingers while Lisa crouched behind her camera waiting for the right moment. "Mickey, stay. Mickey, stay," Judith murmured soothingly as she backed away. But Mickey did not stay—she jumped off the little chair to run to Judith for the treat.

Judith patiently placed Mickey back on the chair and slowly backed away again. "Good girl," she said softly. "Good girl." Mickey stared at Judith, then glanced at Lisa and—snap!—Lisa got the perfect shot. Judith quickly removed the props, put Mickey's leash back on, and we were ready to go. Lisa told me they

had decided to do the Christmas portraits as a way to celebrate the season and to do good for animal rescue groups. The pet owners sure got a bargain: This was no quick Polaroid shot but a session with a professional portrait photographer. Lisa's work is displayed throughout the veterinary clinic—dogs sniffing flowers, a puppy peeking out of a bucket, another one running freely.

Now it was Maggie and Bailey's turn. After some discussion Judith wrapped matching red and white knitted scarves around their necks. Maggie sat placidly but Bailey was too excited to sit still, keeping everyone laughing until the Westies finally settled side-by-side just long enough for Lisa to snap the photo.

Next came a woman holding a cat carrier. Lisa and Judith both peeked inside making cooing noises. I decided a cat would be enough of a challenge without Mickey in the vicinity so we left. I know dogs aren't children but nonetheless I think I've started a new tradition in our family—a Christmas pet photo...at least until we have grandchildren. ■



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EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Can we afford junk food in schools?

You are what you eat. Californians seem to buy this idea, which is why we have a reputation for healthy living. So why are our kids being sold junk food in our schools? Apparently it's the same reason given for so many problems: money. School food programs must pay for themselves so the cafeterias have to sell what the kids will buy. And this is junk food, say those in charge.

It could be worse. In the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, the food program must pay for itself. Some school districts expect the food program to pay for other programs so the pressure to push junk food is intense. The Los Angeles Unified School District banned sodas in 2003 and junk food last year, which originally caused it to lose funds

needed for after-school activities and sports equipment. But officials stuck to their guns and in June the district signed a contract with Pepsico to sell its water products, juices and sports drinks in return for \$2 million back to the schools.

It was with great fanfare that Gov. Schwarzenegger signed a bill in September to set a new nutritional standard for snacks in vending machines and to require school meals to include more fruits and vegetables. When passing the law, legislators noted that obesity is becoming more of a threat than tobacco use for causing deaths in the state. California was the first state in the country to ban the sale of sodas in elementary and middle schools two years ago, and the new law will expand that to the high schools beginning July 2007.

Our school district is working with Sodexo Food Services, a food consulting firm, to provide fare that the students like and is more nutritious. Together they design menus and lunch packages. This sounds good, so why are they selling doughnuts? Why would a potato chip even be considered for sale or a soda? Why should SRVUSD offer junk food at all?

The job of the schools is educating our students and we want them to leave with fit minds and fit bodies. We can't teach about nutrition and obesity and then serve the students junk food. The double standard in the interest of money is unbelievably shortsighted. We'll pay now or we'll pay later in higher medical costs. Just say no! Get the junk food off campus now.

Cafeterias have to sell what the kids will buy. And this is junk food, say those in charge.

YOUR TURN

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vandal should be made to repair damage

Dear Editor:

It was with great sadness that I read your article about the vandalism in our community. We live in such a wonderful small town and to read about so many cases of what I thought was more a big city problem was eye opening.

One question that crossed my mind in reading the article concerning the vandalism was why was the community being asked to pay to fix what this young vandal did to the Museum of San Ramon Valley? Why is this vandal and his family not being made financially responsible for the damage he inflicted? I'm sure some hard physical work on the young man's part to repair the damage would stick in his mind the next time he had thoughts of vandalizing for the fun of it.

As parents we can't be everywhere with our children but we are still responsible for them and their actions. Maybe if more parents were put on the line for their children's deeds they might be a little more mindful of where they are and what they are doing.

Mimi Valenti, Danville

Not for us to judge others' patriotism

Dear Editor:

This is in response to Ralph Hoffmann's letter Dec. 2 entitled "Defining patriotism." Webster says patriotism is: "love for or devotion to one's country." A feeling many of us share, many of whom were excluded by Hoffmann's letter.

The letter's narrow definition of patriotic military service implied that only defenders of our borders from acts of war need consider themselves patriots. It has excluded

the vast majority of past and present U.S. armed forces. Many have made the ultimate sacrifice for this country. These brave individuals deserve our appreciation on any day of the year. You can express your gratitude personally at treats-fortroops.com.

Donating blood is an admirable act. Selfless acts of kindness do not necessarily equate to acts of patriotism. I do agree they should be encouraged; a little goes a long way into making this world a better place.

No one can look into the heart and mind of someone who is waving a flag or places one on their automobile. Patriotism by its nature defies any specific label. Patriotism has nothing to do with your socioeconomic status, your religion, your race or your political affiliation.

In closing I believe that Hoffmann's letter was politically motivated. The editorial seemed eager to judge others who express their patriotism in a way that made the writer uncomfortable. I believe that evidence of patriotism exists everywhere, only an individual knows for sure and it is not for the rest of us to judge. I believe most Americans are patriotic but I am biased. I find it hard to imagine how the average American could not love this country. I believe Mr. Hoffmann is probably a patriot, too.

Joe Hackman, Danville

Alamo can celebrate

Dear Editor:

The residents of Alamo need to thank the Board of Supervisors and District 3 for warning Alamo about their obvious intent to impose a unilateral rule by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors in all the county's unincorporated com-

munities. The tyranny of such political power is obvious in the intent to make uniform the constitution, appointment and structure of Municipal Advisory Councils (MACs).

As a result, current efforts by various Alamo community groups to cooperate in creation of an Alamo MAC will not be supported by the majority of Alamo residents. Alamo will now be motivated to use its very substantial corporate, federal, state and regional power to create a contract-services municipality as a general law city to protect the community's neighborhoods from county unilateral planning and development.

Alamo must thank the CCC-BOS and District 3 for exposing their agenda.

Let us celebrate.

Hal Bailey, Alamo

Who are the Duffields?

Dear Editor:

Who are David and Cheryl Duffield? The Duffields are ostensibly compassionate about animals; their contributions to animal causes landed them in the No. 35 spot in Business Week's 2005 ranking of the 50 most charitable people in America. Will they demonstrate compassion for the horses which will have to be boarded away from their loving owners for several years while their new home is built? Will they show consideration for the dogs and cats and other animals living in Bryan Ranch and White Gate, as many trucks ferry crews and supplies up and down our road?

Who are David & Cheryl Duffield? The Duffields ostensibly value privacy and nature; they reportedly paid \$10 million for the 22 acres property (approximately \$454,545 per acre) at the base of

Mount Diablo. Will they respect Mount Diablo and the wildlife living at the base of the mountain? Or will they ignore the calming beauty of Mount Diablo's Wall Point, as they are driven up the road to their home? And spare no expense to build their dream McMansion up on top at the end of the road? Will they consider my privacy and my neighbor's privacy as they position their security teams on our street seven days a week, 24 hours a day, and direct the many project teams through our streets for the next several years as the Duffields and their children continue to live cloistered in their Blackhawk home several miles away?

Who are David & Cheryl

Duffield? Their PR/Marketing machine claims the Duffields have listened to their neighbors. Did they not hear the loud affirmation that followed the statement that "if they come back with a plan that is 30,000 to 40,000 square feet, that will still be five times too large" at the October Bryan Ranch Home Owners Association meeting? A few of the Duffield's paid supporters attended the meeting and the meeting was tape recorded. Were they not listening?

Who are David & Cheryl Duffield? I am sure I do not know but I do hope they decide to not proceed with their plans to build their estate in Bryan Ranch.

Glorya Anderson-Weber, Alamo

THE POINT OF THE PEN



Code of ethics

The Danville Weekly seeks to adhere to the highest level of ethical standards in journalism, including the Code of Ethics adopted Sept. 21, 1996, by the Society of Professional Journalists. To review the text of the Code, please visit our web site at www.DanvilleWeekly.com

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

Stockton couple charged with drugs, probation violation

A pair of Stockton residents was arrested after being pulled over for a routine traffic stop last week. Danville police said the incident occurred at 10:48 a.m. Dec. 7 near the intersection of Hillview Drive and Viewpoint Road.

While on patrol in the neighborhood, an officer stopped a 1986 Jeep pickup truck driving through the area without vehicle registration tags. The driver, identified as Renee Bell, 27, of Stockton, informed the officer she did not have any identification and she was driving on a suspended license. A passenger in the back of the truck, identified as Jefferson Stillwell, 39, of Stockton, reportedly left the vehicle and tried to talk to the police officer.

Another unidentified passenger left the car and went up to one of the houses before returning to speak with the officer. All three confirmed that they were on probation, with Stillwell and Bell being on probation out of San Joaquin County.

The officer then decided to search the three individuals as well as the auto, according to police reports. Stillwell was found to be carrying a knife, as well as a glass pipe and a small quantity of methamphetamine, said police. A search of the auto turned up a jacket with a syringe in the pocket and a small amount of marijuana on the floor of the vehicle. The driver, Bell, claimed that the marijuana and syringe belonged to her, police said.

Stillwell and Bell were taken into custody. Bell was charged with possession of a dangerous drug, possession of a syringe, possession of marijuana and probation violation. Stillwell was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana and probation violation. Both were transported to the Martinez Detention Facility. They have been released pending formal proceedings.

POLICE LOG

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

Dec. 5

- Violation of court order: on Camino Encanto at 9:54 a.m.
- False ID to purchase alcohol: on Brookside Pl., at 10:53 a.m.
- Accident-property damage: Accident investigation on San Ramon Valley and Sycamore Valley Rd., at 3:07 p.m.

Dec. 6

- Suspicious circumstances: on Stone Valley Rd., at 12:17 p.m.
- Petty theft-bicycle: on Love Ln., at 3:51 p.m.
- Accident-injury: Accident investigation on Blackstone Dr., at 11:07 p.m.
- Peeking into inhabited building: Arrest on Casablanca St., at 11:33 p.m.

Dec. 7

- Petty theft-from vehicle: on Charles Ln., at 9:44 a.m.
- Possession of dangerous drugs: Arrest on Hillview Dr. and Viewpoint Dr., at 10:48 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances: on Podva Rd., at 2:16 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances: on La Gonda Wy., at 3:19 p.m.
- Driving under the influence (DUI)-misdemeanor: Arrest on Danville Bl. and Del Amigo Rd., at 9:45 p.m.
- Unlicensed driver: Arrest on La Gonda Wy., at 5:21 p.m.

Dec. 8

- Grand theft: on El Pintado Rd., at 1:05 p.m.
- Petty theft from building: on Diablo Rd., at 3:36 p.m.
- Accident-property damage: Accident investigation on San Ramon Valley Bl., at 5:50 p.m.
- Vandalism-felony: on Tunbridge Rd., at 6:50 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances: on Shady Creek Pl., at 9:22 p.m.
- Patrol request: Citizen contact on Tunbridge Rd., at 11:49 p.m.

Dec. 9

- Accident-property damage: Accident investigation on Stone Valley Rd., at 6:36 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances: on Camino Tassajara and Tassajara Ranch, at 9:50 a.m.
- Arrest: on Fostoria Wy., at 11:44 a.m.
- Petty theft: on Blemer Rd., at 11:51 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances: on Boone Ct., at 5:35 p.m.
- Stolen vehicle: on Hilferd Wy., at 6:47 p.m.
- Accident-injury: on Camino Ramon and Sycamore Valley Rd., at 8:05 p.m.

Dec. 10

- DUI-misdemeanor: Arrest on Greenbrook Dr. and Salem Town Ct., at 1:34 a.m.
- Arrest: on Valley Creek Ln., at 3:24 a.m.
- Stolen vehicle: on Monte Carlo Wy., at 7:46 a.m.

- Accident-property damage: Accident investigation on Blackhawk Plaza and Camino Tassajara at 8:52 a.m.
- Petty theft-from vehicle: on Park Hill Rd., at 2:12 p.m.
- Petty theft-from vehicle: on Morninghome Rd., at 4:53 p.m.
- Stolen vehicle: on Fostoria Cr., at 1:52 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances: on Charles Ln., at 10:40 p.m.

Dec. 11

- Hit & run-misdemeanor: Accident investigation on El Dorado Av., at 11:01 a.m.
- Burglary-commercial: Arrest on Fostoria Wy., at 2:47 p.m.

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

ALAMO

Dec. 5

- Petty theft-from vehicle: on south Ave.
- Disturbance: on Via Don Jose

Dec. 10

- Disturbance: in Alamo Plaza

DANVILLE

Dec. 8

- Disturbance-domestic: on Fleetwood Rd.

DIABLO

Dec. 6

- Forgery-fraudulent documents: on Alameda Diablo

ROUNDHILL

- Malicious mischief: on St. Paul Dr.

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PREP SCHEDULE

Today

Girls Basketball

Monte Vista vs. College Park, 7 p.m.

Girls Soccer

Monte Vista at Amador Valley, 5:30 pm

Boys Soccer

Monte Vista at Livermore, 5:30 p.m.

San Ramon vs. Granada, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday

Boys Basketball

Monte Vista vs. Bellarmine, 7 p.m.

Girls Basketball

Monte Vista at Fremont, 7 p.m.

Boys Soccer

San Ramon vs. Alameda, 3 p.m.

Monday

Boys Soccer

Monte Vista at Alameda, 7:30 p.m.

San Ramon vs. Castro Valley, 7:30 pm

Tuesday

Boys Basketball

Monte Vista vs. Del Campon, 7 p.m.

San Ramon at Acalanes, 7 p.m.

Girls Basketball

San Ramon vs. Liberty, 7:30 p.m.

Girls Soccer

Monte Vista vs. Ursuline Academy (Texas), 4 p.m.

San Ramon at the Tri-Valley Classic

Boys Soccer

Monte Vista at Northgate, 5:30 p.m.

San Ramon vs. Piedmont, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Girls Soccer

Monte Vista vs. Esperanza (Anaheim), 9:45 a.m.

Girls Soccer

Monte Vista vs. Bishop O'Dowd, 6:30 p.m.

Boys Soccer

Monte Vista at Los Lomas, 7:30 p.m.

San Ramon vs. Pittsburg, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday

Boys Basketball

Monte Vista at San Leandro, 7 p.m.

San Ramon vs. Mount Diablo, 7 p.m.

Girls Basketball

San Ramon at American, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 23

Boys Soccer

Monte Vista at the Winter Soccer Classic Game

Monday, Dec. 26

Boys Basketball

Monte Vista at the National Prep Tournament

Tuesday, Dec. 27

Girls Soccer

Monte Vista and San Ramon at the Excalibur Tournament (Dec. 27-30)

Girls Basketball

San Ramon at Costa Mesa Tournament (Dec. 27-30)

Wednesday, Dec. 28

Girls Basketball

Monte Vista at the Newark Memorial Tournament

Boys Basketball

San Ramon at the St. Francis Tournament (Dec. 28-30)

Lady Wolf makes basketball history

Yetman breaks 1,000-point mark, leads San Ramon to victory over Mission San Jose

by Mike L. Mc Colgan

Meghan Yetman led the Wolves to their third victory against Mission San Jose on Dec. 6 and scored 18 points by halftime to cross the 1,000-point mark in her successful basketball career.

Yetman needed only 14 points to achieve this milestone, a first for San Ramon Valley High School girl basketball player. She finished the game with 21 points to lead San Ramon to a 61-39 win.

"Meghan has been playing since third grade. Her greatest basketball assets are her incredible speed and tremendous endurance," said Coach Hans Delannoy. "Meghan plays any position I want her to. Meghan has incredible versatility paired with incredible intelligence and an insatiable competitive desire."

Yetman also plays soccer and softball, he said, and she hopes to attend Occidental College.

On Dec. 9 the Lady Wolves won their fourth game of the season, beating Aragon-San Mateo, 54-43. Ashley Cheung led the Wolves with 13 points.

The Lady Mustangs lost a close

game in the finals of the Lady Bulldog Classic 49-47 against Alhambra on Dec. 3. This was the first loss for the Mustangs, who then went 2-1. They were led by Carlyn Raphael, who scored 14 points. They rebounded with a victory Dec. 8 in Fortuna, Calif., beating Anderson 64-39 for their third win of the season. Raphael led the Mustangs to victory with 12 points. On Dec. 10, Monte Vista edged Fortuna 49-48 for their fourth win of the season.

Soccer

The Lady Wolves opened up their EBAL soccer season with a 2-1 victory over California. Jillian Armstrong scored the winning goal for the Wolves. On Dec. 10, they won their second game against Livermore to go 2-0 in the EBAL. The Lady Mustangs beat Berkeley 4-0 in a non-league game to go 1-1.

The San Ramon boys team lost to De La Salle, 2-1. Ross Wamlos had six saves for the Wolves. ■

E-mail or fax your results to sports@DanvilleWeekly.com or 837-8454.

Parent photographers

Send a jpeg to Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com of the best action shot from your child's game for consideration for our Sports page. Remember to include caption information: who, what, when, where—and the score.



PHOTO BY BOB CHACE

Mustangs Storm to victory at District Cup

Rosie Garcia controls the ball during tournament play against the San Ramon Flash with Madeline Call backing her up as the Mustang Storm U14 Girls Division 3 soccer team takes first place in the recent District Cup. The Mustang Storm took on the Mustang Stampede during the championship game Sunday afternoon and defeated the Stampede 2-0. The Storm scored a total of nine goals in the tournament yielding only one goal in the four games. Rosie Garcia had five goals while Makalya Cates, Erin Coldren, Janelle Cates and Morgan McGrath each scored for the Storm. The Storm defense was led by goalkeeper Alex King, Aimee Dewan, Alex Sherwood and Janelle Cates.



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the power of 3

Life with triplets is demanding and full of delight

Story and photos by Cheri Eplin Molnar



one by one, they descend the stairs until the entire clan is up and about. The imaginary whistle blows around 7:30 a.m. each morning and it's time to perform the magic of the daily routine at the Beigel household.

Soon 14-month-old triplets Paige, Olivia and Joshua are settled into their highchairs in a semi-circle, creating a carousel for sibling-gazing, grazing and giggling. Each munches waffles and cheerios until it is his or her turn to be fed fruit and yogurt. It's the start of a new day.

Patty and Jerry Beigel's experience raising triplets may be different from the parenting activity of other families in Danville, but some challenges are universal.

"I know the first few years will be the toughest," Patty says.

"But it will get easier," Jerry adds.

"From the beginning, they each had their unique personalities," Jerry notes.

This day is no different. Paige smiles into the camera lens, sharing her inner diva and striking red-carpet poses.

Olivia is the daredevil. "She's like the Tasmanian devil," her dad says.

Then there's Joshua, who peers Zen-like into the eyes of a visitor, as if he could see one's inner soul. After getting acquainted, he may grace someone with the gift of a smile.

"We're pretty organized," Patty says as she scribbles notes on a spreadsheet under each child's name.

"It got to be a lot with both of us working full-time. We were getting worn out," Jerry explains. But even with so much on their plates, when asked what the worst part is, Patty replies, "There is no worst."

With high profile jobs—he at Sun Microsystems and she as a vice president at a large Bay Area retailer—they decided to join other families who have nannies. They hired two young au pairs from Romania.

"It was important to us that two people be with the children during the day when we worked, since they're so active," Patty says.

"They each get their individual time," Jerry adds.

As soon as Patty and Jerry arrive home from their busy schedules at work, they take over. They also have full responsibility on weekends, although they might take an occasional night out for just the two of them.

As a family, they load up in the SUV and do "real life things." There are hikes with jogger strollers, the zoo, and farmers market. Last summer they went to San Diego, and there have been half-day trips to Half Moon Bay and Sonoma.

Friends who also have children under the age of 2 come to visit and barbecue. "It's a big kid fest," Patty says.

In the summer, they play in the pool in their back yard.

"We also spend a lot of time in the park to let them run around!" Patty adds.

Going to the doctor is a challenge.

"It's better to have them go together since they usually feel a bit under the weather after shots," Patty says. Two adults must go to help hold them, while the nurse lends a hand with the third.

"The truth is, we're outnumbered!" Patty says. "It's like we're playing defense." The Beigels met at a Cal/Stanford football game three years ago, so that approach is logical.

As with many couples that deliver "multiples," Jerry and Patty received a little help from medical science. They were still shocked during the first ultrasound. "The doctor told us to count on 'twins,' but to not hold out much hope for the third, since the outlook wasn't promising," Jerry recalls. "But they feel that Baby Joshua was a miracle."

The Beigels say they get a lot of support from friends and family, as well as from a group called Triple Play for families of triplets. Once a month they attend a fun event sponsored by the group. It also has a Moms Night out every other month that Patty enjoys. "We go out to eat, see a movie and just unwind and share about our families," Patty says.

In early December, the Beigels attended Triple Play holiday gathering, held at the Pleasanton Rec Center. The children were dressed in a myriad of red and green. Paige was chased after knee-high multiples that resembled each other, and the three little Beigels caroused with other triplet families in a roped-off area with bouncy balls. Olivia sat on a bouncer and only to fly backwards and roar with laughter. Joshua was held Mommy with his eyes, and Paige chased after the balloon that Dad was holding.

Finally, they made a triple effort and visited the home of a friend—Santa. Dana Young, another mom of triplets and one of the event's organizers, waited to put her three girls down in mini-Mrs. Claus red suits on Santa's lap.

"We have a ton of triplet families stretching from Walnut Creek to Tracy," said Dana. "It's nice to meet other families and get support and have fun under the same circumstances."

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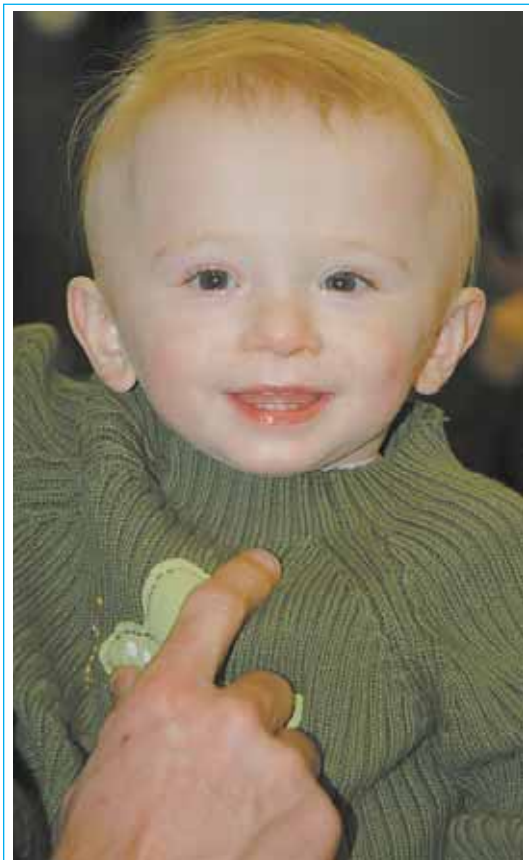
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Patty and Jerry Beigel conduct their lives with triplets like a tango—the basic steps are perfected but creativity and improvisation are essential. Clockwise from top are Olivia, known as the daredevil of the three; Joshua, who peers Zen-like into a visitor's soul; and Paige, who smiles into the camera lens, sharing her inner diva.



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"This group has been an amazing support," Patty added. Patty balanced Paige on one hip, Joshua on the other, and Daddy held Olivia as the Beigel family left the party to head home and begin their nighttime routine.

Supper is a repeat of the morning highchair plan, only this time it's one piece of ham in a mouth and one for the floor. Joshua watches his sisters engage in an entertaining game of tug-of-war over a Tupperware lid.

The conveyer belt of bedtime begins. Clothes and diapers stripped, each child is placed in the bath where Olivia begins to splash immediately, proud of her freestyle stroke. Paige joins in and Joshua blinks as each droplet hits his face. He looks at himself in the reflection of the waterspout and Olivia giggles furiously.

Mom pulls out a pink pig puppet and all three children are enchanted. Faces are washed in protest and Mom washes hair with lightning speed. The assembly line whips into gear. Mom and Dad wrap the children in animal towels, dry and dress, kiss and sing, and they all laugh with wild abandon.

After more play, the three little ones are placed in bouncy seats, bottles in hand, and begin to snooze to the sound of Mozart on one of their favorite Baby Einstein tapes.

Patty and Jerry Beigel have successfully made it through another hectic day—their series of steps perfected like the flamboyant and fun Tango, where creativity and improvisation are essential.

Finally! a chance to sit down and take a breath. Patty smiles and says, "God never gives you more than you can handle." In this case, He also seems to have a good sense of humor. ■

Fueling the imagination

Sculptor helps students express themselves in stone

Story and photos by Jordan M. Doronila



Lynsay Hromatko, Jackie Lamb, Phoebe Killick and Giana Gambardella shape little pieces of stone into beautiful pieces of art at Green Valley Elementary.

Beyond the world of matter lies the realm of imagination. Enter here, open your heart, and let go - and you will find that any dream is possible. Just ask Jill McKinnon-Endicott and her class at Green Valley Elementary School in Danville.

By sculpting jagged stone into polished art, her students are inspired to imagine ways to do it that free their minds so they discover their true selves, she said.

"I think we need to fuel their imaginations so their spirits can soar," McKinnon-Endicott said. "We need to nurture that creative spirit that brings them to an understanding of themselves."

Since early November, 15 students from the fourth and fifth grades at Green Valley have been chiseling a

large piece of stone into a "window of the future." Michael Rizza, a professional sculptor, has donated his time to teach them how to sculpt and the finished product will be auctioned off at a fundraiser Feb. 25.

Green Valley Elementary will hold its fundraiser at the Round Hill Country Club in Alamo. Each class creates a work of art for the auction, 25 projects in all. Last year, the auction made \$175,000. All funds will go to the Green Valley Learning Fund, which helps pay for computers, art programs, music instructors and librarians.

"It's fun for me to teach people the art of carving stone," Rizza said. "It's great because these kids are pretty bright."

"They're very into it," he added. Recently, wearing plastic goggles,

paper facemasks and thick gloves, the students took their turn chiseling stone—with Rizza's help—in the schoolyard. Meanwhile, inside the classroom, students carved little pieces of rock while listening to the echoing melodies of a Native American Flute.

Rizza continued to instruct the kids while helping them develop the stone.

Their final creation should be finished by the beginning of February, McKinnon-Endicott said.

Students said they enjoyed sculpting and working with Rizza. Their teacher agreed, saying, "My students love him."

"It's everything that I always wanted," said fifth-grader Jackie Lamb. "I finally get a chance to design what I want and where I

want. There are no guidelines and no rules. You can do anything you want."

"It's a wonderful experience," said fifth-grader Giana Gambardella. "It's so cool that Rizza donates everything."

"I always wanted to do something like this," said Lynsey Hromatko, another fifth-grader in McKinnon-Endicott's class. "It's really fun doing this with your friends."

McKinnon-Endicott said art is very important, and she hopes her students find new ways to define success.

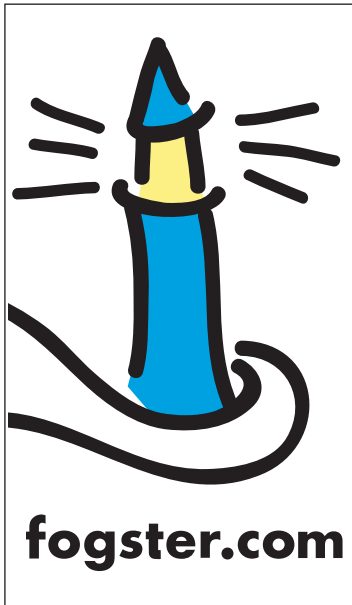
"These kids grow up in a box," she said. "At a young age, they already have determined if they're bad or good at art."

► Continued on page 20

AT THE MOVIES

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

Aeon Flux (PG-13)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:50 am, 4:50 pm Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:50 am, 2:30, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15 pm
Brokeback Mountain (R)	CinéArts: Fri-Tues 11:40 am, 1:10, 2:40, 4:10, 5:40, 7:10, 8:40, 10:10 pm
Capote (R)	CinéArts: Fri-Tues 2:50, 7:50 pm
Chicken Little (G)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 10:50 am, 1, 3:05, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30 pm, Sun-Tues no show 9:30 pm, Mon-Tues no show 10:50 am Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10 am, 12:05, 2:25, 4:45 pm
Chronicles of Narina (PG)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Sun 10:45 am, 1:50, 4:55, 8, 11 pm, Fri no show 10:45 am, Sun no show 11 pm, Mon-Tues 1:35, 4:40, 7:45 pm Century 14: Fri-Tues 10:15, 11:15 am, 12:15, 1:25, 2:30, 3:30, 4:40, 5:45, 6:45, 7:55, 9, 10 pm, Mon-Tues no show 10:15 Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 10 am, 12:50, 3:40, 6:50, 9:50 pm, Sun-Tues no show 9:50 pm, Mon-Tues no show 10 am Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10, 10:30 am, 12:05, 12:35, 1:15, 1:45, 3:20, 3:50, 4:30, 5, 6:40, 7:05, 7:40, 8:10, 9:45, 10:15, 10:45, 11:10 pm, Sun-Tues no show 11:10 pm Vine Cinema: Fri-Sun 11:10 am, 2, 5, 8 pm, Fri no show 11:10 am, Mon-Tues 11:15 am, 2, 4:55, 7:45 pm
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Sun 10:30 am, 1:45, 5:10, 8:30 pm, Mon-Tues 12:30, 3:50, 7:10 pm Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:30 am, 3:10, 6:30, 9:55 pm Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:45 am, 3:05, 6:30, 10:05, Fri-Sat Open Captioned 11:45 am, Sun Open Captioned 11:45 am, 10:05 pm, Mon Open Captioned 11:45 am, 6:30 pm Regal Imax Theaters: Fri-Tues 7:30, 10:45 pm
Just Friends (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 10:35 am, 12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 7:55, 10:15 pm, Sun-Tues no show 10:15 pm, Mon-Tues no show 10:35 am Century 14: Fri-Tues 2:20, 7:05, 9:35 pm Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:55 am, 1:30, 4:15, 6:55, 9:25 pm
King Kong (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Sun 11 am, 2:50, 6:40, 10:30 pm, Sun no show 10:30 pm, Mon-Tues 11:30 am, 3:15, 7 pm Century 14: Fri-Tues 10, 11:40 am, 12:40, 1:50, 3:35, 4:35, 5:50, 7:30, 8:30, 9:45 pm, Mon-Tues no show 10 am Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 11, 11:40 am, 2:45, 3:30, 6:45, 7:30, 10:30 pm, Sun-Tues no show 10:30 pm Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10, 10:30, 11:10, 11:30 am, noon, 2, 2:30, 3:05, 3:30, 4, 6, 6:30, 7, 7:30, 8, 9:55, 10:30, 10:55, 11:15, midnight, Sat-Sun no show midnight, Sun no show 11:15 pm Vine Cinema: Fri-Sun 12:20, 4:15, 8:15 pm, Mon-Tues 12:30, 4:15, 8 pm
Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang (R)	CinéArts: Fri-Tues 11:55, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:50 pm
Memoirs of a Geisha (PG-13)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 11 am, 12:30, 2:15, 3:55, 5:25, 7:10, 8:45, 10:25 pm Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues noon, 12:30, 3:20, 3:50, 6:50, 7:20, 10:10, 10:40 pm
Pride & Prejudice (PG)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:10 am, 2, 4:45, 7:35, 10:15 pm CinéArts: Fri-Tues 12:05, 3, 6:45, 9:35 pm Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 10:10 am, 1, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30 pm, Sun-Tues no show 9:30 pm, Mon-Tues no show 10:10 am Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:05 am, 1:05, 4:05, 7:15, 10:20 pm
Shoppgirl (R)	CinéArts: Fri-Tues 12:35, 5:10, 9:40 pm
Syriana (R)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 10:40 am, 1:35, 4:25, 7:15, 10:05 pm, Mon-Tues no show 10:40 am Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 10:30 am, 1:15, 4, 7:10, 10:10 pm, Sun-Tues no show 10:10 pm, Mon-Tues no show 10:30 am Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10 am, 12:50, 4:20, 7:05, 7:35, 10:20, 10:50 pm, Tues Open Captioned 7:05 pm
The Family Stone (PG-13)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:55 am, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10 pm Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 11:10 am, 1:40, 4:10, 7:10, 9:40 pm, Sun-Tues no show 9:40 pm Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:50 am, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50 pm
The Polar Express (G)	Regal Imax Theaters: Fri-Tues 10:30 am, 12:45, 3, 5:15 pm
Walk the Line (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 10:55 am, 1:55, 4:50, 7:50, 10:50 pm, Sun-Tues no show 10:50 pm, Mon-Tues no show 10:55 am Century 14: Fri-Tues noon, 3:40, 6:55, 9:50 pm Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 12:45, 3:55, 7:25, 10:30 pm
Yours, Mine and Ours (PG)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 10:40 am, 12:50, 3, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 pm, Sun-Tues no show 9:45 pm, Mon-Tues no show 10:40 am Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10 am, 12:25, 2:45, 5:05, 7:35, 10 pm



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Sculptor

► Continued from page 18

"They need to be the ones to look at something in a different way," she added. "This generation is going to need to think outside the box."

Like McKinnon-Endicott, other teachers and even therapists have incorporated art in their curriculum. The important role of art in life is to enable people to see the world and the human condition differently, wrote Thomas E. Cronin, a Stanford University graduate and president of Whitman College in Washington.

"The world of imagination is boundless," Cronin wrote. "Creating is a form of play. It is a sensing of the possibilities; it is a free speculation—a learning to be ourselves."

McKinnon-Endicott said Sharon Eidler, a class mother, met Rizza at an art gallery in Blackhawk five months ago and asked him about teaching the kids about sculpting. Rizza said teaching was something he had wanted to do for quite some time.

"People told me that I should teach," Rizza said.

"We had to show that we would completely be absorbed in what he was teaching," said McKinnon-Endicott. "To get this opportunity at this age I believe is a gift. Most adults don't get the opportunity to sculpt, to paint, to draw."

Rizza—an Italian-American—was born in 1927 in New York City and lived there for 34 years. He said his brother Angelo was originally seen as the artistic one, not him. Angelo received a scholarship from an art school near the Empire State Building in Manhattan, and Rizza accompanied him to make sure he arrived safely.

But a teacher at the school saw talent in Rizza. And so Rizza developed his skills.

Rizza attended the High School of Music and Art in Manhattan and studied at the Pratt Institute after graduation. His brother, meanwhile, joined the U.S. Navy and became a salesman.

Later on, Rizza left Manhattan because he said he felt too much pressure from his big family. "A big family expects you to do something you don't want to do," he said. "I wanted to feel free." He moved southwest and eventually headed to San Francisco in



Michael Rizza, a professional sculptor, teaches students at Green Valley Elementary how to sculpt.

1963. He worked with architectural firms, and he developed a device made from rubber to hold debris created by earthquakes.

As an artist, he has created bronze and stone sculptors and has showcased and sold them in galleries.

He is also a Yankees fan and has four children and eight grandchildren from his first marriage. His first wife passed away; he is currently married to Anita and they live in Clayton.

Rizza said everyone has talent, and what is important is not how much talent a person has but that they develop it.

"If you don't use your talent, it dwindles," he said. ■



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Operation School Bell continues to ring true

Volunteers from Shell Oil Co. celebrate the success of their venture with Assistance League of Diablo Valley in Operation School Bell, which provides new jeans, sweatshirts, shirts, jackets, undergarments, socks, backpacks, shoe voucher cards and grooming kits to children in need in Contra Costa County. Joan Siltanen, Assistance League of Diablo Valley volunteer coordinator, scheduled a Dec. 1 date for volunteers from the company to clothe children from two Martinez elementary schools.



BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

Christmas cookies for Ethan

I grew up in family kitchens and honed my best cooking skills there. As soon as Big Moma, my grandmother, placed the cake pan in the oven, I began licking the mixing bowl of her famous pound cake. It actually took a pound of butter and a half dozen eggs so she baked it only for special occasions. My sister Bea made fantastic ambrosia, and her conch fritters tasted like “she put her foot in them.” (That’s Southern talk for “they were cooked with her very soul.”) My godmother’s Bread Pudding with Bourbon Sauce could light a flame in your heart as well as on the table. Slices of my mother’s infamous sweet potato pies were requested by friends whenever I went home for visits

but it was her can’t-eat-just-one chocolate chip cookies her grandchildren will always remember. When my own kids were young, they enjoyed helping me make carrot cakes, meringues and glazed pecans for holiday gifts. The kitchen has been family-central for at least three generations.

Therefore, it was a natural wish—as the children evolved to adults—to become a grandmother someday and assume that role cooking treats for and with my grandchildren. Now, as “Nana” to toddler Ethan and infant Shane, baking cookies has taken on a newfound degree of satisfaction.

When you are separated by thousands of miles, something as simple as homemade cookies can

mean the difference between being remembered or not. The box of pumpkin-shaped peanut butter cookies I mailed to Ethan at Halloween were a big hit. Such a big hit, they had to eventually hide the box from him. To add delight to our mutual satisfaction, Ethan’s mother called a few weeks ago to say: “Ethan wants to say something to Nana.” Listening intently, I heard a tiny voice on the other end: “Nana, I want COOKIE!” My daughter-in-law recounted the story of how he had gone to a photo of me, pointed and said, “Nana...cookie!” She called to let him put in his request personally. Let’s just say it made Nana’s day!

So, guess who’s making Christmas cookies for Ethan?

Nana is, of course. While I’ll use my 20-year-old sugar cookie and royal icing recipes to make angels and trees and snowmen, I’ve been collecting new recipes over the last year in anticipation of the holidays. A box of Christmas cookies from grandma should be as exciting as the wonderful cookie tin they’ll travel in. And, knowing the short attention span of a 15-month old, a variety of cookies is a must for sustaining a child’s wonder. If you’ve got a “special someone” to make cookies for this Christmas—grandchild, friend, niece in college, son in the military, aunt in a senior home—here is a delightful collection of cookies and treats to “put your foot in” and send with love:

Basic Sugar Cookie Recipe:

makes 2-3 dozen cookies

2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
3/4 tsp salt
1-1/2 sticks (3/4 cup) unsalted butter, softened
3/4 cup sugar
1 large egg
1 tsp pure vanilla extract

1. Blend flour and salt in small bowl; set aside.
2. Beat butter and sugar in large bowl with an electric mixer at medium-high speed until light and fluffy.
3. Beat in egg and vanilla. Reduce speed to low and add dry mixture until just combined.
4. Form dough into 2 balls and flatten each into a 6-inch disk. Wrap disks in plastic wrap and chill until firm, at least 1 hour (or up to 3 days). Put oven rack in middle position and preheat oven to 350 degrees.
5. On a well floured surface, roll out 1 disk of dough into a 1/4-inch thick round. Cut out as many cookies as possible and transfer to ungreased large baking sheets, with cookies about 1 inch apart. (As necessary, rewrap dough and chill until firm again before continuing.)
6. Bake cookies, one sheet at a time, until edges are golden—10-12 minutes. Transfer to racks to cool completely.
7. Make more cookies with remaining dough and bake on cooled baking sheets.
8. Ice and decorate. Store in airtight container up to a week.

Royal Icing:

makes about 3 cups

This thick icing holds its own with the best of cookies!

1 (1-lb) box confectioners sugar
4 tsp powdered egg whites
1/3 cup water
1 Tbsp fresh lemon juice
1 tsp. pure vanilla extract

1. Beat together all ingredients in a large bowl with an electric mixer at medium speed, until just combined.
2. Increase speed and continue to beat until icing holds stiff peaks. If not using immediately, cover surface with damp paper towel, then cover with plastic wrap and chill.
3. When decorating cookies, transfer 1/4 cup icing to small bowls for each color and tint. Spoon each color into a sealable bag, press out excess air and snip a 1/8 opening in 1 bottom corner of bag.
4. Twist bag firmly just above icing and pipe icing onto cookie. Let icing dry completely, about 1 hour.

(In lieu of royal icing, you can use the recently-released “Food Doodlers” or other brands of food coloring pens. Doodlers are available at Sur la Table and local cooking stores.)



More recipes can be found at www.DanvilleWeekly.com under the Dec. 16 Epicure:

Pistachio Buttercreams: makes about 30 sandwich cookies

Dark Chocolate Truffles (A Ghiradelli Chocolate recipe—easy!)

Lime Snowballs: makes about 30 cookies

Florentines (a Real Butter recipe): makes 4 dozen cookies

Icebox Pinwheels: makes about 56 spirals

Doggie Biscuits (for your four-legged friends!): makes about 5 dozen biscuits

P.S. If you’re mailing off the cookies to a faraway place amid volumes of holiday mail, here are a few tips to help your cookies arrive safe and sound:

- If the cookies are large and shaped, wrap each cookie in a paper towel or parchment paper. If small and round, wrap small batches in paper towels or parchment paper.
- Stack the wrapped cookies in a cookie tin or airtight container; stuff all open areas with paper towels or parchment paper.
- Place the cookie tin in a box with limited movement; stuff all open areas with tissue or newspaper to create a tight package with no “giggling.”
- Mark the box “fragile, please hand stamp” to catch the attention of caring mail carriers. (Last year, I gave a box of the cookies to my postman as I handed him my to-be-mailed boxes. Needless to say, they got special care on this end.)

P.P.S. Surprise! I just discovered an easy way to expand my cookie collection. Costco’s selling a double-box of 7-Layer Bars, complete with condensed milk, chocolate & butterscotch chips, coconut and nuts. Add two sticks of butter/margarine to mix up a 48-bar batch in minutes. They’re a tasty addition to the real homemade ones!

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



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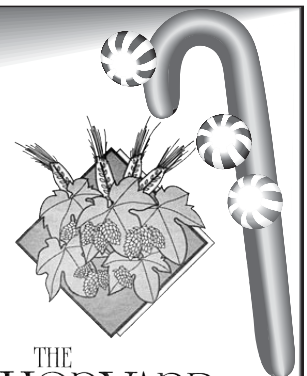
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Art

Art Exhibits, Gayle Muchring

Gayle Muchring will display her paintings from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., weekdays, starting mid-November to mid-January, at the Muir Primary Family Care Center, 1455 Montego, Walnut creek.

Art Exhibits, Mary Claire Statler

Mary Claire Statler will display her oil paintings from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., weekdays, starting mid-November to mid-January, at the Danville Town Offices, 510 La Gonda Way.

Classes

Pencil Sketching

Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., offers a Pencil Sketching class from 10 a.m.-noon, Tuesdays, for beginners-intermediates. Michael Yen is the instructor. Classes are ongoing. Fee is \$84 for four weeks. For information, call 838-1959.

People, Pets and Wildlife Portraits Classes

Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., offers a People, Pets and Wildlife Portraits class on Thursdays for all levels. Beth Batchelor is the instructor. Classes are ongoing. Fee is \$30 per class or \$100 for four weeks. For information, call Beth at 837-5654.

The Art of Drawing

Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., offers the Art of Drawing class from 6-8 p.m., Fridays, for all levels. Ron Norman is the instructor. Classes are ongoing. Fee is \$140 for eight weeks. For start dates, call 838-1959.

Watercolor

Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., offers a Watercolor class from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursdays, for all levels. Karen Mason is the instructor. Classes are ongoing. Fee is \$84 for four weeks. For information, call 838-1959.

Watercolor

Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front Street, offers a Watercolor class from 7-9 p.m., Tuesdays, for all levels. Marilyn MacDougall is the instructor. Classes

WEEKEND PREVIEW



Holiday Moods

Diane Giffether will direct the Blackhawk Chorus in Holiday Moods, presented by the Diablo Symphony Orchestra at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 20, at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$22; \$20 for seniors; \$12 for 17 and under. Call 943-7469.

are ongoing. Fee is \$80 for four weeks. For information, call 838-1959.

Danville AM Toastmasters Club

The club meets from 7-8:30 a.m., every Tuesday, at Father Nature's, 178 E. Prospect Ave. Guests are welcome. Call Marge, 831-3802.

Danville Lions Club

The Danville Lions Club meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Alamo Creek Restaurant, 3206 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Join us and learn about the good work Lions do around the world. For information, call President Doug Babcock at 743-4076 or 683-5311.

Danville PM Toastmasters Club #1785

The club meets from 7:30-9 p.m., every Wednesday, at DVC, San Ramon Campus, Room 215, 3150 Crow Canyon Place, San Ramon. Guests are welcome. For information call Debra Elmore at 934-3113.

Danville Women's Club

The Danville Women's Club meets for lunch and a program at noon the third Thursday of each month from September to June at the Clubhouse, 242 Linda Mesa. For information, call 837-7528.

Diablo Singles Dance Club

Diablo Singles Dance Club dances regularly the last Wednesday of the month from 7:30-10:30 p.m., at the Arts Education Building, corner of Ygnacio Valley Road and Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek. The cost is \$7 for members and \$9 for non-members. All are welcome.

Diablo Valley Single Parents

This group meets at 6:30 p.m., on various days each month, and at different locations in the valley. Contact Rich at abersr@toast.net or 838-9487.

Kiwanis San Ramon Valley

The San Ramon Valley Kiwanis meets from noon-1:30 p.m. every Thursday, at Mudds Restaurant in San Ramon. Meeting includes a guest speaker and lunch. For information, visit its Web site at www.kiwanis-srv.org.

Model RC Boaters Association

The Danville Model RC Boaters Association seeks new members. To learn more, call president Rich Mahan at 785-0421.

Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society

The society meets from 1:15-3 p.m., the third Thursday of every month except August, at the California Savings Building, Rossmoor Shopping Center, Tice Valley Blvd. and Rossmoor Parkway, Walnut Creek. Guest speakers are at each meeting.



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FINAL CHANCE TO SHOP Saturday Dec. 17

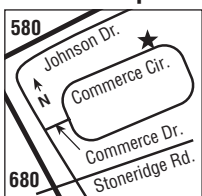
We will be closed after December 17th for the remainder of the year

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Porsche Club of America, Diablo Region

This club is for owners and enthusiasts of all Porsches. It meets at 8 a.m., every Saturday for breakfast at Denny's, 803 Camino Ramon, Danville. For information, visit www.pca.org/dia.

San Ramon Valley Exchange Club

The San Ramon Valley Exchange Club invites you to join them at noon, the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, at Faz, 600 Hartz Ave., (sign in at 11:45 a.m.). Lunch is \$16. RSVP 275-2412.

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

The society meets at 10 a.m., every third Tuesday of the month, except August and December, at the LDS Church, 2449 Stone Valley Road. Guest speaker at every meeting. All welcome. For information, call Ed at 299-0881.

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club Hikes

The San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club Hiking Group invites prospective members to join as they explore East Bay Regional Parks. The group meets at 8:30 a.m., every Friday. Hikes are usually two hours and within 30 minutes of San Ramon. For information, call Sharon at 735-8960.

San Ramon Valley Rotary Club

This club meets for dinner at 7 p.m., each Wednesday, at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Guests are welcome. The club offers a great way to make new friends while making a difference in your community. Call Bill at 838-9110.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 75

The organization will NOT meet in December. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 12, 2006, at the Danville Veterans Hall, 400 Hartz Ave.

For information, call Post Commander Mac McCuskey at 837-2740.

Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley

Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley meet the first Thursday of every month, at 6 p.m., at Luna Loca's Restaurant, 500 Sycamore Valley Road, West. The general business meeting begins at 6:30 p.m., and is open to all members and visitors. For information, call Bob Franco at 736-5272 or visit the Web site at www.vnvdv.com.

the Center Ticket Office for \$25, which includes a post ceremony reception. For information, call Scott at 295-1400 or e-mail dlrca@dlrca.org.

New Year's Eve Casino Classic Celebration 2005

Blackhawk Museum and BHEI Inc. invite you to the New Year's Eve Casino Classic Celebration 2005, from 7:30 p.m.-1 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 31, at the Blackhawk Museum. Enjoy an evening of champagne, hors d'oeuvres, casino gaming and prizes, San Francisco quintet, gourmet dinner stations (Scott's catering), dancing, etc. Cost is \$135 per person inclusive, black tie optional. Reserve early - deadline Dec. 24. Must be 21 years old and no refunds after Dec. 24. Telephone reservations only at 736-2277, ext. 653.

Ski Apparel Promotion

Assistance League of Diablo Valley is promoting Ski Apparel, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, and 11 a.m.-

3 p.m. Saturday, beginning Tuesday, Dec. 13, at the Way Side Inn Thrift Shop & Costume Rental, 3521 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette. Take advantage of tremendous savings while inventory lasts.

Super Bowl Crab Feed

Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley is hosting its second annual Super Bowl Crab Feed at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 5, at the Veterans Memorial Building, 400 Hartz Ave. The cost is \$35 per person (crab feed), and \$15 for children 13 years and under (pasta, salads and garlic bread). There will be TVs set up for viewing the game, drawings, prizes, a silent auction and photo opportunities with the Oakland Raiderettes. To secure reservations, make check payable to Viet Nam Veterans of Diablo Valley and send to VNVDV, P.O. Box 2079, Danville 94526-2079. For information, call Mr. Estes at 288-0084 or (510) 985-2437 or visit www.vnvdv.com.

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

Worship with us this holiday season



**Join Us In Worship
This Christmas Season**

Sunday, December 18th, 9 am

4th Sunday in Advent,

5 pm Children's Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 21st, 7:30 pm

Advent Evening Prayer-Wardrobe

Thursday, December 22nd, 7:30 pm

Thursday Evening Eucharist

Saturday, December 24th

7:30 pm Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols

10:30 pm Christmas Eve Eucharist & Vigil

Sunday, December 25th, 9 am

Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

Thursday, December 29th, 7:30 pm

Thursday Evening Eucharist

Sunday, January 1st, 9 am

Feast of the Circumcision & Naming of Jesus

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**Christmas Eve
Community Presbyterian Church**

3:30 PM

5:00 PM

Services for Families with Young Children



6:30 PM

8:00 PM

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9:30 & 11:00 PM Classic Candlelight Services

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8:00* & 9:30 p.m.

- Instrumental Prelude begins 7:45 & 9:15 p.m.
- Traditional Christmas Eve Service

11:00 p.m.

- Traditional Candlelight Service
- Processionals & Carol Singing
- Holy Communion - Open to Everyone

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St. Isidore's Church



Invites you...

To join us in celebrating the birth of our Lord and to find the true joy of the season!

Saturday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

- 4:00 PM Family Liturgy for Children (Children's Choir)
- 4:15 PM Family Liturgy for Family (Rettig Activities Center)
- 6:00 PM Family Liturgy for Youth (Teen Choir)
- 7:30 PM Christmas Carols with Canticle Choir
- 8:00 PM Vigil Mass (Canticle Choir)
- 11:15 PM Christmas Carols with Choir & Orchestra
- 12:00 AM Midnight Mass (Chamber Choir and Orchestra)

Sunday, December 25th - Christmas Day

- 7:30 AM Christmas Music
- 9:00 AM Children's Choir
- 10:30 AM Chamber Choir
- 12:15 PM Teen Choir

(No evening Mass on Christmas Day)

Saturday/Sunday, December 31st/January 1st

- New Years Eve 4:00 PM & 6:00 PM
- New Years Day 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM \$ 12:15 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)

Saturday, December 17th 7:45-8:15 AM
& 4:45 to 5:30 PM (Every Saturday)

Thursday, December 22nd 6:00-7:00 PM

Friday December 23rd 7:30-8:00 AM

Saturday, December 24th 7:45-8:15 AM & 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

St. Isidore's Church

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St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

1550 Diablo Road, Danville,
(925) 837-4993

www.sainttimothysdanville.org

Christmas Eve Services

- 4:00 p.m. Festal Holy Communion with Children's Choir
Come and See: Children's Interactive Story
- 7:00 p.m. Music of the Season
- 7:30 p.m. Festal Holy Communion with Contemporary Music
- 10:00 p.m. Music of the Season
- 10:30 p.m. Festal Holy Communion with Traditional Music

Christmas Day - Sunday, December 25:

One Service Only at 10:00 a.m. with Organ and Brass

Sunday Services at St. Timothy's

- 7:30 a.m. Holy Communion (no music)
- 9:00 a.m. Holy Communion (contemporary music)
- 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion (traditional music)

All are Welcome!



**Celebrate Christmas
at Creekside
Christmas Eve Services**

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Tour of the Blackhawk Museum
Blackhawk Museum sponsors a docent-led tour of the museum's Renowned Exhibitions at 2 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. The tour is free with admission. For information, call 736-2280.

Exhibits

All Aboard 2005!
The European Train Enthusiasts has returned to the Blackhawk Museum for the holiday season with its collection of model trains, exotic layout of track, and a wealth of knowledge on European railroading. Silly Strings, a group of young violinists, will perform in conjunction with the train exhibit. All Aboard 2005! runs through Jan. 8.

Health

Magic by Alex

Award winning magician Alex Gonzalez will delight children of all ages with his magic skills, at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 24, in the Children's Reading Room at the Danville Library, 400 Front Street.

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 Center, 125A Town and Country Drive, for \$8 per class. For information, call Lauren at 838-7878 or visit www.diabloyogacenter.com.

range from \$28-\$38 with many discounts available. For details on ticket prices and performance times, call 943-7469, visit the Center Ticket Office, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek or go online to www.dlrca.org.

Christmas Memories at the Museum

Christmas Memories at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave., will continue through Jan. 7. The Museum is open from 1-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturdays. The exhibit includes Christmas trees, toys and cards from eras past. Gingerbread houses replicating historic buildings from the area will also be on display. Admission is free but donations are encouraged. For information, call 837-3750 or visit www.museumsv.org.

Counties Care Community Food Drive

The office of Supervisor Mary N. Piepho, District 3, is participating in the Counties Care Community Food Drive benefiting the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties until Dec. 16. Food donation barrels are located at the office at 309 Diablo Road. Also, mini barrels are available for spare change and small bills. Checks for a larger amount can also be donated, payable to The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties. For information, call 820-8683.

Holiday Moods

Diablo Symphony Orchestra, featuring the Blackhawk Chorus, will present Holiday Moods at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 20, at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. For tickets, call 943-7469.

Mazotti Team's Holiday Fundraiser

Mazotti Team's annual fundraiser is from 2-5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 18, at Tucker Associates Real Estate Services, 4185 Blackhawk Plaza Circle (behind the Blackhawk Grille). There will be sweets, holiday drinks, and activities for kids. Proceeds will benefit Shepherds Gate and the Tri-Valley Animal Rescue. Items of clothing, money, unwrapped toys and personal items like toothbrushes, soap and shampoo will be greatly appreciated. For the animals, treats, food and Petco/Petsmart gift cards are also appreciated. For information, call 580-2777.

Menorah-Lighting Celebration

Beth Chaim Congregation's annual menorah-lighting celebration will be at 7 p.m. each evening from Monday, Dec. 26, to Sunday, Jan. 1, at the Blackhawk Plaza. The first public lighting on Dec. 26 will be a special celebration with music, dancing and

tis the season...

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Holidays

Chanukah Menorah Lighting

Chabad of Contra Costa presents Chanukah Menorah Lighting, from 4-6 p.m., Monday, Dec. 26, at the Broadway Plaza Promenade Fountain, Walnut Creek. There will be live music, Chanukah gelt, Contra Costa's largest menorah, and the event is free for the whole family. For information, call 937-4101.

Chanukah on Ice

Chanukah on Ice is a Jewish celebration for the first night of Chanukah, from 6-8 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 25, at the downtown Walnut Creek Ice Rink, at the corner of Civic and Broadway. There will be Jewish music, food concessions and more. Advance tickets (including skate rental) are \$10 for an individual and \$32 for a family pack of four. Tickets at the event are \$12. For information, call 937-4101.

Christmas Carol

Center REPeritory Company presents "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. The show opens at 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 10, and closes at 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 18. Tickets

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treats. There will be a special interfaith lighting ceremony and celebration on Friday, Dec. 30. The public is invited.

Toys for Tots

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage is joining forces with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in its local Toys for Tots campaign. Residents who want to contribute may drop a new, unwrapped toy at the Danville Coldwell Banker, 600 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville, from now until Dec. 16. For information, call 837-4100. Alain Pinel is also collecting Toys for Tots and needs the toys in its collection boxes by Dec. 6 at 588 San Ramon Valley Boulevard and 4145 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Suite 101.

Kids & Teens

Adventure Guides

The San Ramon Valley YMCA offers three programs for fathers and their children. Formerly Indian Princesses and Guides, the Adventure Guides are Junior Explorers (pre-school to kindergarten), Guides and Princesses (kindergarten-3rd grade), and Trail Blazers (4th-8th grade). Fathers spend special times with their sons and daughters, camping, rafting, at sports events, bowling and much more. For more information, call 831-1100.

Mother Goose Time

Bring your 0-3-year-olds to Mother Goose Time and enjoy storytime, finger play, songs and nursery rhymes, at 10:15 a.m., Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and 11:15 a.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 30-March 15, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. Registration is required and begins at 10 a.m., Monday, Jan. 9. To register, call 837-4889 or visit www.ccclib.org.

Preschool Storytime

Bring your 3-6-year-olds to Preschool Storytime at 11:15 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, Jan. 30-March 15, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. Caregivers must attend with child. Registration is required and begins at 10 a.m., Monday, Jan. 9. To register, call 837-4889 or visit www.ccclib.org.

Working on the Railroad!

This hands-on family funshop is from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 8, at the Blackhawk Museum. This program features imaginative and interactive activities such as building track and blasting tunnels, all while listening to your favorite train stories and enjoying refreshments. For more informa-

tion, call 736-2277 or visit www.blackhawkmuseum.org.

Lectures/ Workshops

Restorative Yoga and Reiki Workshop

Danett Rose is teaching a workshop on restorative Yoga and Reiki, from 4-6 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 18, at the Diablo Yoga Center, 125A Town & Country Drive. Experience the deep relaxation and stress relief that comes when restorative Yoga poses are combined with Reiki energy healing. The fee is \$20 in advance or \$30 at the door. For information, call 838-7878.

Literary Events

First Wednesday Programs

The Friends of the Danville Library and Tri-Valley Community Foundation sponsor First Wednesday programs in the Mt. Diablo Room of the Danville Library at 1 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month, October through May, with the exception of January. Subjects include art lectures and slide shows, music programs, and book and author programs. The program is free and everyone is welcome to attend. For information, call 938-7323.

Miscellaneous

Adopt a New Best Friend

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) offers wonderful animals for adoption every Saturday and Sunday, excluding most holidays. On Saturday, from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., dogs and cats are available at the Pleasanton Farmers Market at West Angela and First Street. Dogs and cats are also available at Petco, San Ramon; PetSmart, Dublin; Pet Foot Express, Dublin; Pet Food Express, Livermore and Pet Extreme, Livermore. For dates and times and other information, call TVAR at 803-7043 or visit its Web site at www.tvlar.org.

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.

Concerto Competition

The Prometheus Symphony Orchestra is sponsoring a concerto competition for East Bay string, wind and percussion players, ages 18 years or younger. The competition will be at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 17, at Zion Lutheran Church, Piedmont. The winner will perform with the orchestra on Sunday, March 26, and will receive a \$200 award. Application deadline is Jan. 6; applications are available by calling 447-3659 or visit www.prometheussympphony.org.

Mt. Diablo Macintosh Users Group

Get questions answered, solutions to problems, share experiences and explore new Mac developments. Meets at 7:30 p.m., third Monday of every month at Alamo Safeway community room. Call 837-1111 or 829-5501, for information.

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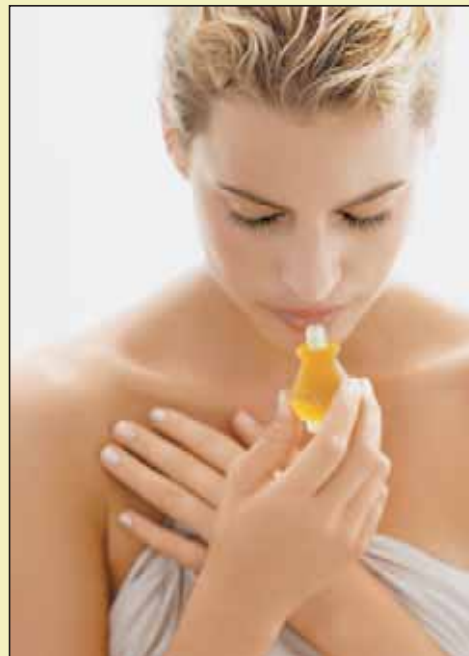
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Walnut Creek Christian Academy Open House

Walnut Creek Christian Academy, a biblically based private school educating preschoolers through eighth grade, will hold its annual open house for prospective families from 9-11 a.m., and 6-7:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 26. This will be a casual come-and-go forum where parents may tour the campus, visit classrooms, meet teachers and administrative staff, preview curriculum, learn about before and after-school programs, etc. Refreshments will be served.

On Stage

'Dames at Sea'

Stars 2000 Teen Theatre, sponsored by Diablo Light Opera Company, presents "Dames at Sea," a musical gem full of comedy, tap dancing, and torch songs. This full-scale Broadway musical will open Thursday, Dec. 29, and close Saturday, Jan. 7. Evening performances are at 8 p.m. and matinee performances are at 2 p.m., at the Danville Village Theatre, 233 Front St. Tickets range from \$12-\$14 and can be purchased by calling 314-3463.

Role Players Ensemble Theatre
Season tickets are now available for "Wrong Turn at Lungfish" (story of a blind and bitter college professor and his encounter with a saucy, street-wise young woman who volunteers to read to him in the hospital), Jan. 20-Feb. 11; and "Gun-Shy" (no-holds-barred comedy about marriage, divorce, infidelity, incompatibility, eternal love, etc.), April 21-May 13. Performances are at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St. For information and ticket purchases, call 820-1278.

Wigged Out

Victoria's Hair on Stage in downtown Danville presents the outrageous musical comedy "Wigged Out!" most Saturday nights at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. through June 2006, at Victoria's Hair on Stage, 520 San Ramon Valley

Blvd. Wigged Out, voted "Best of the Best" in the Tri-Valley for two years running, is produced by Shelly Award winner, Jeff Seaberg. Tickets are \$38 and can be purchased at Victoria's Hair on Stage Box Office, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Saturday or by calling 855-7469.

Seniors

Bridge

Seniors meet to play bridge from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. every Friday at the Danville Veteran's Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave. Cost is \$1. Reservations are required. Call Jerri Kaldem at 837-6283.

Danville Senior Citizens Club

The club meets from 9:45 a.m.-2 p.m., every Monday at the Danville Veterans' Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., for line dancing exercise, bingo, mah jong and more. Membership is just \$9 a year. Call Fran Britt at 743-4026.

Prime Time

Prime Time, a non-denominational gathering of "seasoned citizens," meets from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. every Tuesday at the Community Presbyterian Church, 222 W. El Pintado. Various activities are offered in addition to educational speakers and day trips. A home-cooked meal is served at noon for \$3. Feel free to drop in or call Ruth Ann at 820-6387 for information or to be added to the mailing list. Need transportation? Call Gloria at 837-5229. "There are no strangers, just friends you've yet to meet."

Prime Time for 'Seasoned Citizens'

Prime Time for "seasoned citizens" meets from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. every Tuesday at the Community Presbyterian Church, 222 W. El Pintado. Homecooked lunch is \$3. For transportation, call 837-5229. Call 820-6387 with questions.

St. Isidore's Young at Heart

The Young at Heart meet from 11:15

a.m.-2 p.m., every third Tuesday at St. Isidore Church, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. Mass at 11:15 a.m. is optional. Lunch is served at 11:45 a.m. at no charge. Nonprofit bingo follows. Reservations appreciated. Call Joan Singer at 820-4447.

Walking Buddies

Morning hiking walks geared toward seniors meet in the lobby of the Walnut Creek Senior's Club at Civic Park, 1375 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Meet at 8 a.m. Tuesdays for walks on paved trails lasting 1 to 1-1/2 hours or Thursdays (same time) for 2-3 hour walks usually on unpaved trails. Group carpool to area locations for the more challenging outings. Call Maureen at 256-0690.

Sports

Indoor Soccer for Boys and Girls

The Town of Danville is bringing soccer indoors this winter for youths ages 3-7. "Mix It Up" is an introduction to soccer, with footwork and proper skill development emphasized in a fun and supportive atmosphere. Classes are on Sundays from Feb. 5-Mar. 26 at Los Cerros Community Gymnasium, 968 Blemer Road. There are several classes for ages 3-5 and 6-7. The cost is \$65 for Danville residents and \$73 for non-residents. For class times and to register, go online to www.ci.danville.ca.us, visit the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St., or call 314-3400.

San Ramon Valley Tennis Club

San Ramon Valley Tennis Club is looking for new members. We offer league play for women throughout the year for both A and B players. Games are played on weekdays, during the day, in the East Bay. Membership fee is \$30 per year. For information, call Laurie at 820-0695.

San Ramon Valley YMCA Sports

The San Ramon Valley YMCA is registering students for Flag Football (2-3 grades and 4-5 grades), starting Saturday, Nov. 6, for seven weeks; Floor Hockey (pre-school-5th grade), starting Sunday, Nov. 5, for seven weeks; and Basketball (Pre-K, K-1, 2-3, 4-5 and 6-8 grades), starting Saturday, Jan. 21, for eight weeks. For reservations and information, call 831-1100 or visit www.mdrymca.org.

Walnut Creek Tennis Club

WCTC is a free, co-ed tennis group for single adults of all ages and levels (primarily 2.5-3.5). It plays drop-in tennis from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturdays and Sundays at Las Lomas High School in Walnut Creek (S. Main). See information at <http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/wctc/>.

Support Groups

American Chronic Pain Association

The ACPA group meets from 11a.m.-1p.m. every second and fourth Monday at the Community Presbyterian Church Library at 222 W. El Pintado Road.

Bipolar Support Group

The Tri-Valley Support Group provides free peer support for people with mood disorders. It meets from 7:15-8:45 p.m., every Wednesday at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Call 560-0842.

Breast Cancer Support Group

This is a staff-facilitated support group for women with breast cancer. It meets at 6:30 p.m., the first Wednesday of each month at the San Ramon Regional Medical Center, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, in the West Day Room of the South Building. Call Lisa Peguese at 275-8414.

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 workshops for people experiencing grief and loss after the death of a loved one. Individual grief 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 workshops are offered without fee and require preregistration. For a schedule of groups in the Pleasant Hill area, for additional information and/or to register, call 887-5678

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.

American Red Cross Blood Services

The American Red Cross Blood Services is holding a volunteer orientation from 10 a.m.-noon, on Wednesday, Jan. 4 and 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 6230 Claremont Ave., Oakland. For information, call (510) 594-5165.

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 (HPCCC) 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.

Lindsay Wildlife Museum

Docents are needed to lead class tours, teaching children and others about our important connection with wildlife and the world we share. Call 935-1978 or visit www.wildlife-museum.org.

Literacy Tutor Training

Project Second Chance (PSC), the Contra Costa County Library adult literacy program will train volunteers to become literacy tutors. Training is from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 18, and continues from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 21 and 28, at the PSC office, 75 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill. Volunteers needed in East and Central Contra Costa County. For more information, call 927-3250 or e-mail pcs@ccilib.org.

Red Cross Volunteer Orientations

American Red Cross Blood Services is holding a volunteer orientation from 10 a.m.-noon, Wednesday, Dec. 7, and 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 20, at 6230 Claremont Ave., Oakland. Volunteers are needed to support monthly blood drives in the East Bay. For information, call 510 594-5165.

Regional Medical Center

The Contra Costa Regional Medical Center needs volunteers to work in patient services, gift shop or at the information desk. For an application or information, call Julie Kelley, Volunteer Coordinator, at 370-5441.

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.contra-costasar.org or call 646-4461.

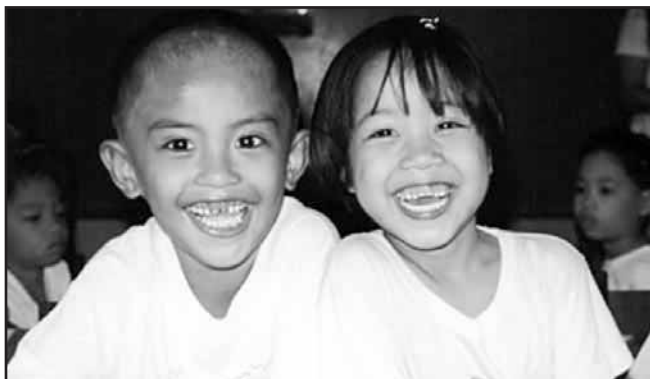
Trails Maintenance

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.

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) offers volunteer orientations from 1-2:30 p.m., the second Saturday of each month at East County Animal Shelter (ECAS) in Dublin. Contact Noella Hartshorn at 846-0745 or e-mail noellehartshorn@comcast.net for information.

There just seems to be so many people who need help in the world...



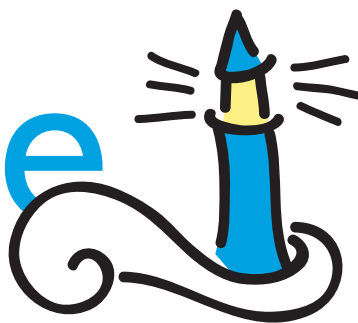
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345

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350

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355 Items for Sale

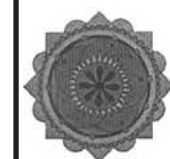
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Danville WEEKLY
You Can Find It Here!

Pet of the Week



Catherine Hansen Rush

A talking dog?
Say "Hello" to Rex because he's a real talker, and he may even answer you! Rex is a 2-year-old, neutered male Husky with a friendly disposition and a beautiful smile. He has a blue eye and a brown eye, beautiful fur and one ear that droops at the tip. Isn't he a handsome boy? This gentle dog weighs 96 pounds and SPCA staff members say he walks well on a leash. Rex loves his squeaky toys and he doesn't mind sharing them with you. If you would like more information about Rex, visit him and his friends at the Tri-Valley SPCA, 4651 Gleason Dr. in Dublin, open Wednesday and Thursday, 1-8 p.m. and Friday-Sunday 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Call 479-9670.

LOVELY ROSSMOOR CONDO



Enter through a picturesque garden patio visible from the living room. This sought after Mendocino level-in one bedroom condo is located away from the street in a very peaceful location! New carpet and paint throughout. Must See!
Offered for \$244,000

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Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

HOME SALE OF THE WEEK DANVILLE



**440 Bolla Place,
Alamo**

Flat Half-Acre Lot on a quiet cul-de-sac, this lovely ranch-style home boasts 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, over 2800sq.ft. Family room with hardwood flooring, wet bar, wall of windows.

Sold for \$1,395,000
by Dave Bauer of
Intero Real Estate

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during November 2005

Danville	Alamo	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 16	Total sales reported: 3	Total sales reported: 24
Lowest sale reported: \$685,000	Lowest sale reported: \$700,000	Lowest sale reported: \$397,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,545,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,250,000	Highest sale reported: \$930,000
Average sales reported: \$1,268,281	Average sales reported: \$1,016,666	Average sales reported: \$676,708

LIST YOUR OPEN HOME FOR FREE!

OPEN HOME GUIDE FORM LIST YOUR OPEN HOME HERE

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

DEADLINE IS TUESDAY 10 A.M.

FAX TO: (925) 600-9559

**OR E-MAIL TO :
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Name: _____

Daytime Phone Number: _____

Space available
only basis

Danville
W E E K L Y

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

Danville	Alamo	Walnut Creek
616 Birchwood Court Lai Trust to J. & J. Morgan for \$1,339,000	26 Shandelin Court Seeborg Trust to S. & D. Turner for \$1,250,000	117 Lakewood Road B. Scherrer to M. Fetzer for \$869,000
5223 Blackhawk Drive Sirva Relocation to J. & L. Wahleithner for \$1,800,000	2124 Stone Valley Road S. Shrum to E. Wolske for \$700,000	563 Matterhorn Drive C. Lo to W. & S. McGrath for \$695,000
5 Brooktree Drive Diablo Ranch Development to D. Gavin for \$2,545,000	231 Sydney Drive R. & P. Youmans to G. Gallagher for \$1,100,000	288 Nob Hill Drive B. Fuller to L. & A. Baldacci for \$930,000
54 Cameron Court #7 Knapp Trust to P. & P. Silva for \$1,550,000	1221 Avenida Sevilla #1C Blacket Trust to Daigle Trust for \$554,000	470 North Civic Drive #307 E. Jesfeld to M. Pyne for \$405,000
62 East Leeds Court R. Story to L. Lemanczyk for \$685,000	33 Bai Gorry Place N. Pinzon to M. & M. Devera for \$900,000	1911 Olmo Way G. & M. Rose to C. Dsouza for \$409,000
251 Fairway Drive Sirva Relocation to G. & D. Schramm for \$1,325,000	1305 Boulevard Way #314 M. McGivney to B. Watson for \$397,000	2127 Overlook Drive T. & S. Shetterly to J. Pecci for \$800,000
4100 Fox Creek Court Cendant Mobility Financial to W. Every-Burns for \$1,200,000	2301 Chesterton Drive Ciardella Trust to B. Yang for \$843,000	2733 San Benito Drive S. Tran to L. & M. Jacobson for \$830,000
1643 Harlan Drive Tomeo Trust to J. & H. Davis for \$960,000	2193 Dapplegray Lane S. & L. Kinsey to A. Haughey for \$605,000	1864 Shuey Avenue J. Carrico to Littman Trust for \$705,000
224 Madeline Lane Shapell Industries to M. Yu for \$1,414,000	2480 Encinal Drive Wilson Trust to D. Shin for \$640,000	1941 Skycrest Drive #7 R. & R. Fox to J. & F. Rosenberg for \$525,000
232 Madeline Lane Shapell Industries to R. Desai for \$1,331,500	3128 Hambletonian Lane M. Ruiz to J. Cassano for \$745,000	1550 Stanley Dollar Drive #1A McGaffey Trust to Hoots Trust for \$590,000
143 Parkhaven Drive G. & C. Molinaro to R. & K. Sandlin for \$1,255,000	204 Hamlin Loop Citrus Walk Limited to M. & M. Taft for \$737,000	1542 Sunny Court R. & J. Pickett to M. & C. Hermoso for \$770,000
1224 Robyn Drive M. & S. Cavanaugh to R. Story for \$1,075,000	3157 Hudson Avenue Smith Trust to R. & S. Saul for \$585,000	1306 Walden Road #270 D. Wellington to L. Depp for \$504,000
32 Sage Hill Court J. Liou to T. Gaipa for \$799,000	1002 Juanita Drive J. Campbell to B. Berkowitz for \$830,000	640 Whippoorwill Court Chen Trust to C. Liu for \$770,000
2000 Scarlet Oak Place E. Wolske to Stelly Trust for \$1,349,000	263 Kingston Way G. & Y. Moncher to M. Brown for \$579,000	
584 Silver Lake Drive R. & C. Hopkinson to J. & E. Blankmeyer for \$720,000		
15 Windsor Court Nuti Trust to J. Kerhig for \$945,000		

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

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

Danville

2 Bedrooms

407 Oneida Ct. \$665,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire Realty 984-1787

3 Bedrooms

2186 Shoshone Cir. \$710,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire Realty 984-1787

110 Boyd Ct. \$788,000
Sat/Sun 1-4;2-4 p.m. Bruce Lee Realty 580-5205

63 Woodvalley \$792,900
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 251-2556

110 Lehigh Valley Pl. \$814,999
Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel 934-1111

109 Bountiful Ct. \$899,990
Sun 1-4 p.m. Assist 2 Sell 339-3500

4 Bedrooms

4204 Knollview Dr. \$1,179,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 209-6616

23 Shadow Tree Ct. \$1,289,000
Sun Noon-4:30 p.m. Intero 451-7287

106 Windover Dr. \$1,585,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 736-1666

153 Gerald Dr. \$1,750,000
Sat 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4172

5 Bedrooms

230 Lyon Ct. \$1,499,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel 846-6500

35 Hidden Hills Pl. \$2,750,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA Realty 314-2414

Alamo

4 Bedrooms

522 Tara Jean Ln. \$899,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 510-507-4115

Diablo

4 Bedrooms

2065 Diablo Rd. \$1,499,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 785-6219

Dublin

2 Bedrooms

11813 Newbridge Wy. \$489,995
Sun 1:30-4 p.m. Blackhawk Real Estate 736-4155

4139 Carinbridge Cir. \$550,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential 819-7653

3275 Dublin Blvd., #406 \$564,900
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 251-2545

4159 Clarinbridge Cir. \$596,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams 855-6410

3 Bedrooms

11693 Regio Dr. \$738,500
Sun 1-4 p.m. Remax Accord 577-2600

Livermore

3 Bedrooms

1541 Buttercup Ct. \$510,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams 398-0234

104 Tamalpais Ave. \$565,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams Realty 292-7653

4117 Bristlecone Wy. \$565,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Assist 2 Sell 998-0605

498 Colusa Wy. \$585,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 251-2541

1390 Calle De Las Granvas \$639,500
Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel 846-6500

1242 Glenwood \$647,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Realty World Estates 784-5502

1524 Murdell Ln. \$649,990
Sun 1-4 p.m. Assist 2 Sell 339-3500

Livermore

5 Bedrooms

2988 Lusitana Ct. \$1,499,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams Realty 292-7653

Pleasanton

2 Bedrooms

843A Division St. \$419,900
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 251-2556

843C Division St. \$419,900
Sat 1-4 p.m. Intero 251-2556

3 Bedrooms

3022 Yuma Wy. \$479,950
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Help-U-Sell Tri-Valley 200-2602

507 Rose Ave. \$565,000
Sat 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker 548-7112

4343 Diavila Rd. \$799,950
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Golden Pacific 216-4799

4 Bedrooms

3329 Prairie Dr. \$1,319,000
Sat 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel 846-6500

5711 Ohana Pl. \$2,650,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker 847-7355

3025 Yuma Wy. \$549,950
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Help-U-Sell Tri-Valley 200-2602

3337 Hadsell Ct. \$867,500
Sat 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams 398-0234

6 Bedrooms

4574 Gatetree Cir. \$980,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams 397-4300

San Ramon

3 Bedrooms

10006 Foxboro Cir. \$709,900
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 989-1748

10006 Foxboro Cir. \$709,900
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 989-1748

3019 Sombbrero Cir. \$795,000
Sun 1:30-4 p.m. Blackhawk Real Estate 736-4155

9732 Belladonna Dr. \$798,000
Sat/Sun 1-4;2-4 p.m. Bruce Lee Realty 580-5205

2440 Millstream Ln. \$804,900
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 251-2521

4 Bedrooms

57 Longwood Ct. \$1,090,000
Sat/Sun 1-5 p.m. Alain Pinel 968-1452

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

670 Greylyn Dr. \$810,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams 397-4300

109 Pebble Pl. \$939,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 251-2559

164 Victory Cir. \$ Upon Request
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire Realty 217-5044

5 Bedrooms

121 Woodland Valley Dr. \$1,055,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 216-7092

3059 Hastings Wy. \$1,273,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4179

4035 Lilac Ridge Rd. \$1,499,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Re/Max Accord 242-8971

142 Lyndhurst Pl. \$2,075,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 251-2532

Sunol

3 Bedrooms

10832 Foothill Rd. \$1,499,000
Sat/Sun 1-5 p.m. Realty Experts 510-305-6820

Walnut Creek

2 Bedrooms

1919 Ygnacio Valley Rd. #36 \$385,000
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 648-5354

Absolutely Stunning!



112 Rassani Dr., Danville 94526

4 bedrooms • 3 fireplaces • Approx. 2700 sq. ft. • 11,000 sq. ft. lot
New gourmet kitchen boasts state-of-the-art appliances
Sub-zero, Miele, etc. • Cherry cabinetry, granite countertops
Extensive hardwood flooring • 2 1/2 car garage • **Only \$1,125,000**

Mark Fiala

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BLACKHAWK

Gorgeous Remodeled Estate \$3,299,000
New slab granite kitchen with stainless appliances, cherry cabinets. New carpet, paint, landscaping. 4-car garage, pool, spa. Immaculate!
Bonnie King 925.855.4072



BLACKHAWK

Stunning, Private and Secluded \$1,775,000
Gorgeous grounds with 50' redwood trees, pool, hot tub, sports court, decks and gardens. Slab granite kitchen, nook, new appliances.
Khrista Jarvis 925.855.4065



DANVILLE

Garden Home Retreat \$1,750,000
Lends itself to Old World charm nestled among shady redwoods and park-like setting in much sought after neighborhood in Westside Danville.
Jim Kolins and Tammy Bergstad 925.855.4172



DIABLO

Lowest Priced Home in Diablo \$1,499,000
Completely remodeled from the frame up. 4bd, 2ba, large bonus room. For the buyer looking for a turn key house and a country club lifestyle.
Dale Schroeder 925.785.6219



SAN RAMON

Sought-After Skybridge Model \$1,294,950
Gourmet kitchen with island. Very bright, neutral interior. 1bd, 1ba down. Immaculate. Premium oversized lot at end of cul-de-sac. Beautifully landscaped.
Bonnie King 925.855.4072



SAN RAMON

Come for Holiday Cheer! \$1,273,000
Open Sunday 1-4 with special holiday festivities. Gorgeous, including custom granite entry, master bath and much more.
**3059 Hastings Way
Judy Bradley & Bob Gibbs 925.855.4179/925.984.3992**



DANVILLE

Premier Court Location \$1,289,000
12,000+/-sf lot with view of the hills from the front, and no backyard neighbors. 4bd, 3ba plus loft. New interior paint, carpet and lighting.
Sharon Dare 925.855.4041



SAN RAMON

Model-Perfect in Windemere \$1,239,000
4bd, office, 3ba with upgrades. Gourmet granite kitchen, stunning maple and granite flooring, maple cabinetry throughout, and a huge master suite.
Julie Whitmer 925.855.4033



SAN RAMON

Quiet Court Location \$1,055,000
Open and spacious floor plan. 5bd plus office, 3ba, 2912+/-sf, 1bd/1ba down, completely remodeled and updated kitchen.
Lisa and Greg Doyle 925.855.4046

**Danville
Blackhawk**

**15 Railroad Avenue
4105 Blackhawk Plaza Circle**

**925.855.4000
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