

Fresh produce

Danville to add Thursday night farmers market from April to October

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I resolve. . .

Some people have given up on making New Year's resolutions

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Vol. I, Number 35 • December 30, 2005

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Danville WEEKLY

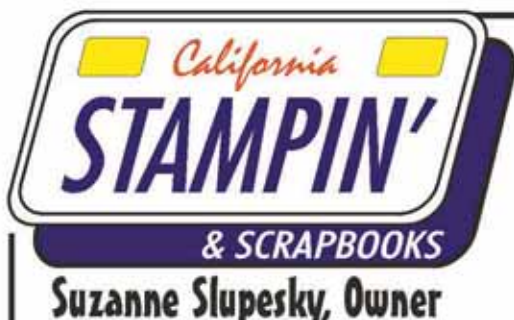
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A song with your coffee

Young woman leaves international life to explore her roots in Danville

➤ page 5





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Streetwise

ASKED AT DIABLO LODGE

Q: What were the best years of your life?



I would have to say the happiest years of my life were the years when I was bringing up my two girls. They were 12 years apart. I owned my own accounting business; I did taxes. I married my husband in 1929, and we moved from Michigan to California in 1950.

Betty Kendall, 97
businesswoman



The best time of my life was when I was first married. My husband and I married in 1947 and lived in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We had such a great time there; it was a fun place to live. We eventually moved to California and worked in the wine industry.

Shirley Aronson, 79
secretary



The best years of my life were the 27 years I spent in the Navy. I was the commanding officer of a ship and went through three wars—WWII, Korea and Vietnam. I'm lucky to be here. My ship was the Landing Craft Infantry 18 (LCI 18). Our job was to land the troops on shore. My wife and I and our three daughters lived all over the world, which we enjoyed very much.

Gerald (Jerry) Lemmon
retired U.S. Navy



My happiest years were when I still had my husband with me. When he returned from the war he was in very poor health. After he died, I needed to stay active so I started my own business. I owned two dress shops. I was always very active in clubs, but my favorite was the Soroptimist. But, I always missed my husband and still do.

Mary Wilson, 80
businesswoman



I really enjoyed the time I spent traveling around the world with my husband after he retired. We traveled by cruise ship, which we loved, and air. We saw seven continents. My favorite destinations were Australia and New Zealand. We went to Europe, but I did not enjoy Paris—I thought it was overdone and everything was so expensive.

Sadie Canning, 88
house engineer

COMPILED BY JUDY STEINER

ABOUT THE COVER

The year 2005 had a lot of local news and excitement, reflected in the Danville Weekly cover images since the newspaper began to publish in May. Cover design by Jason Lind.

Vol. I, Number 35

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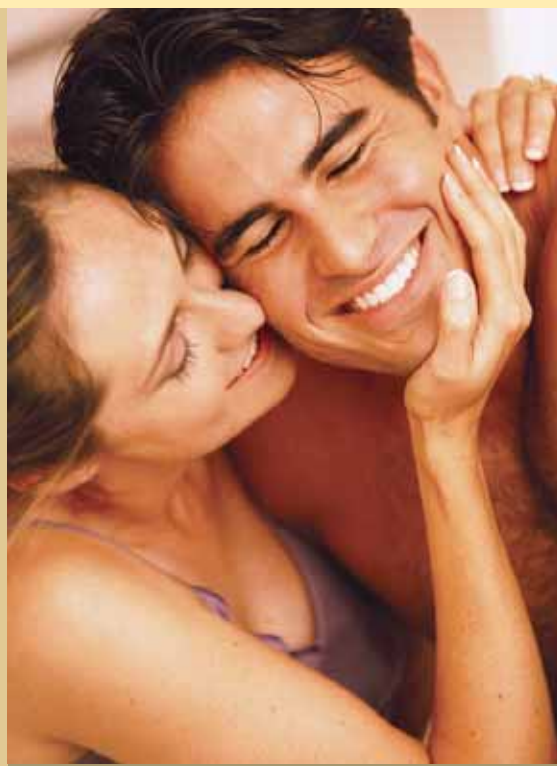
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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ Every year I have had the same resolution and every year I fail. ”

—Danville resident Colleen Marchese, who has given up making New Year's resolutions. See story, page 16.

Flag Football tourney set

Kid's Country, which provides before- and after-school care for students at 11 elementary schools in the San Ramon Valley, is holding its Flag Football Tournament of Champions from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 4.

The competition will include individual punt, pass and kick contests as well as team scrimmages for boys and girls from all Kid's Country sites who have participated in its intramural after-school programs this fall. There will also be a hot dog barbecue for participants and spectators.

"This annual tournament is a wonderful opportunity for the kids to show their athletic prowess and compete against their friends who attend other schools in the district," says Kid's Country Executive Director Leonard Heid. "It's a day of football, fun and friends for everyone and an event we look forward to each winter during holiday vacation."

The competition will take place at Central Park, on Alcosta Boulevard at Bollinger Canyon Road in San Ramon. For more information, contact Sports Coordinator Chris Murrell at 575-1750. Rain postpones the event to Jan. 27.

Celebrating freedom

The Rev. Dr. Tschenu and Mudzunga Farisani with choir Vukani Mawethu will lead a celebration of 10 years of freedom in South Africa, beginning at 3 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 15, at Peace Lutheran Church. Guest speakers will talk on the struggles, liberation and reconciliation in South Africa, as well as the progress that has been made.

Tschenu was speaker of the Limpopo Provincial Government and also served as a minister of Parliament at the request of Nelson Mandela. During the struggle against apartheid, South African politician Pik Botha named Tschenu as "one of two clergy to be feared in South Africa." He survived assassination plots, imprisonment, torture and exile with his family. Farisani was a spiritual leader who confronted the atrocities of apartheid and helped bring healing to its victims. She also was banished into exile with her family and came to the Bay Area. Together Tschenu and Farisani initiated the Partnership Ministry with Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara.

For more information, call 648-7000 or visit www.peace-journey.org.

Basketball for adults

Time is running out to sign up for Danville's Adult 5 on 5 Basketball League, which is designed for ages 18 and older. Participants say the league is a great way to increase your metabolism, get in shape and meet new people.

The eight-week program begins Thursday, Jan. 12, and continues each Thursday through March 2 at the Los Cerros Community Gymnasium at Los Cerros Middle School, 968 Blemer Road. The league runs seven weeks, followed by playoffs.

Fees are \$330 for Danville residents; \$396 for non-residents. The team is considered non-resident if one player lives outside Danville. For more league information or a roster, call 314-3482 or visit www.ci.danville.ca.us.

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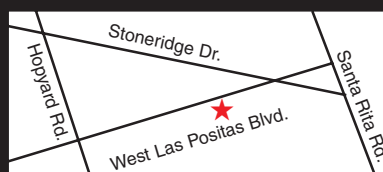
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JORDAN M. DORONILA

Alamo Elementary students celebrate last week because their school was named a National Blue Ribbon School.

A blue ribbon day for Alamo School

Student body celebrates national honor for third time

by Jordan M. Doronila

Teachers, parents and more than 300 students from Alamo Elementary School rejoiced being recognized as a Blue Ribbon school by singing cheerful songs, reciting poems and laughing together.

Alamo Elementary School was recently named by the U.S. Department of Education as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2005. The school is one of 34 elementary schools in California and one of only 294 nationwide to be selected for the prestigious award, according to San Ramon Valley Unified School District officials.

The entire school gathered together at the school's amphitheatre Dec. 21 to celebrate its distinction. School board members Joan Buchanan and Greg Marvel attended the event. This is the third time Alamo was named as a Blue Ribbon School.

"The Blue Ribbon is a symbol of excellence," said Principal Beverly Tom at the ceremony. "Alamo

Elementary has been recognized for its academic excellence. Such an honor is not the result of a single individual's effort; but rather it is the result of a community working together as a team."

"It is students striving for their personal best; teachers fostering the love of learning, while maintaining high expectations; and teachers and parents forging a strong partnership to nurture the emotional, social and academic growth of our children," she added.

The ceremony started off with a speech from Tom, then students sang songs entitled "Champions," "Alamo," and "Don't Laugh at Me."

"It's such a special school," said Susan Galindo, a parent from Walnut Creek. "We're proud of them."

"It's an incredible place," said Liane Swanson, an Alamo parent. "Everybody is looking out for everybody."

The No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools program honors public and private K-12 schools

"Such an honor is not the result of a single individual's effort; but rather it is the result of a community working together as a team."

—Principal Beverly Tom

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Singing barista looking for 'normal' life

John May's granddaughter returns to town after international upbringing

by Jordan M. Doronila

While parents enjoy cups of java at the Yellow Wood coffee house in Alamo, their little children gather around a young woman in her 20s who entertains them with Christmas carols in a loud operatic voice in between making lattes and cappuccinos. The parents, too, are enchanted and wonder: Who is this talented barista?

Little do people know that Margaret Ogden mingled with children of diplomats and studied acting at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in New York City. When working as a caterer at the home of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, she delivered a message to him brought by a Green Beret that

Saddam Hussein finally had been caught. She recalls covering her eyes when Rumsfeld received the message in his underwear.

But Ogden grew tired of living like a gypsy.

Though she enjoyed traveling, big cities and hobnobbing with power brokers, she recently came to Danville looking to live a normal life and spend time with her grandmother, Margaret May—the wife of former Danville Mayor John May.

"It's a beautiful place," Ogden about the town. "I'm looking for a bit of a normal life. It's a real family world here."

She also currently teaches children at SCORE Educational Center in Alamo, in addition to working at Yellow Wood, and plans to go back to opera singing shortly. During Christmas, she spent time with her mother, aunts and cousins eating steamed chocolate pudding and turkey.

Margaret was born in 1977 in

D.C. to Christopher and Diana Deedy Ogden. Her father was a journalist for Time and Fortune magazines and has written several books, including a biography of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Her mother Diana is a painter, and her older brother Michael is also a writer.

In 1981, the family moved to Chicago when Christopher Ogden was promoted to Time bureau chief in Illinois. Then in 1985, they moved to Great Britain when he became bureau chief in London during the time Ronald Reagan, Mikhail Gorbachev and Margaret Thatcher were in power.

"It was a great experience to grow up in," Ogden said. "It was so international. There were a lot of interesting people coming into my life."

During Christmas of 1986, her family went on vacation to South Africa. Ogden said the country was wonderful.

► Continued on page 10



JORDAN M. DORONILA

Margaret Ogden, Yellow Wood barista and opera singer, has come home to Danville to reconnect with family members.

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Thursday night farmers market gets another shot

*Market will run
April through October
in museum parking lot*

by Geoff Gillette

Vendors again will be setting up their booths during the week; the Thursday night farmers market plan has been given the go-ahead by the Danville Town Council, despite a rocky start in 2005.

Council members last discussed the potential fate of the weeknight farmers market at their Nov. 1 meeting. At that time, the council laid out several issues it felt needed to be addressed prior to approval of continuing the event in 2006. At the

Dec. 20 meeting, Economic Development Coordinator Bonnie Guttman updated the council on how the situation could be improved in order to allow a better chance for success in the coming year.

Acting on the council's input, Guttman suggested two major changes to the planning for the farmers markets. The first would be to hold the market from April through October. Guttman explained this timeframe would sync with daylight savings time, allowing shoppers to come to the market while it is still light. One of the complaints from the 2005 event

was that it was being held after dark, which may have kept some customers from attending. It would also be held earlier in the growing season, giving merchants a greater selection of produce.

In addition, Guttman said the town would need to commit to holding the market every Thursday instead of preempting it if other events were scheduled in the downtown. This would allow residents to get used to the idea of having the second option for a farmers

market besides Saturday and would allow business owners a stable schedule to plan subsidiary events to take advantage of the influx of customers.

The second major change would be to move the farmers market from

its current location on Hartz Avenue to the Railroad Avenue Municipal Parking Lot next to the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, where the Saturday farmers market is held.

"This eliminates the need for street closures and allows the market to operate at a venue that is familiar to both the vendors and the potential customers," explained Guttman.

She said she has been involved in discussions with both the Chamber of Commerce and the Pacific Coast Farmer's Market

"This eliminates the need for street closures and allows the market to operate at a venue that is familiar to both the vendors and the potential customers."

—Economic Development Coordinator Bonnie Guttman

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Monte Vista High School lineman Mike Costanzo is awarded the Danville Rotary's Peter Villa Award based on his performance on and off the field by Rotarian Bob Beaton.

Rotary presents award to lineman Mike Costanzo

Monte Vista football player adds one more trophy to his collection

by Kevin Zhou

Monte Vista High School football lineman Mike Costanzo was named the winner of the Danville Rotary's ninth annual Peter Villa Award earlier this month. He was one of nine finalists nominated for the award from San Ramon Valley, Monte Vista and California high schools.

"Mike Costanzo was a unanimous choice," said Victor Georgiou, president of the Danville Rotary.

The announcement and award presentation were made at the Danville Rotary's Dec. 12 meeting. All of the finalists were in attendance, along with their parents, coaches and school principals.

Costanzo, who helped lead the Mustangs to an undefeated regular season, was presented with a certificate to honor his efforts. Monte Vista received the traveling trophy with Costanzo's name newly engraved onto it, and each of the three schools was given a \$750 grant for their athletic programs.

The judging panel consisted of a committee of Danville Rotary members. While they looked close-

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Danville WEEKLY

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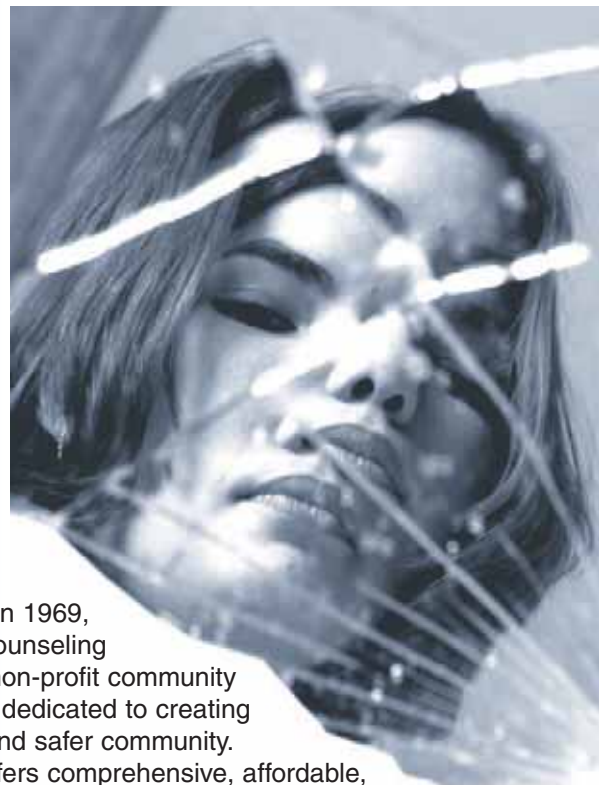
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Cuddly fundraiser

Whitney Mazotti hugs the two kittens she adopted at the holiday fundraiser run by her mother Melisa Mazotti, vice president of Tucker Associates Real Estate Services, to benefit Shepherd's Gate and the Tri-Valley Animal Shelter. Shepherd's Gate has been providing housing and services for battered and homeless women and children since 1984, with a shelter in Livermore and thrift stores in Livermore and in Dublin. The fundraiser was a big success, reported Mazotti.

Football

► Continued from page 7

ly at the players performance on the field, they also based their decision on performance off the field. Finalists were judged on leadership qualities, athletic abilities and achievement, citizenship and number and quality of football scholarships received.

These attributes were what distinguished Costanzo.

"It's more than just football. The guy's got to be an upstanding young man as well," said Georgiou.

"A player of Costanzo's ability would have to be awarded even if he didn't play up to his full potential," said Bob Beaton, one of the judges. "He is a special kid who we may see on Sunday someday."

Costanzo, who was recruited by the University of Nebraska and the University of Southern California, is set to play football at UC Berkeley next fall.

The Monte Vista lineman joins an elite group of players who have received the honor. Three years ago, Monte Vista quarterback Kyle Wright and San Ramon Valley quarterback Sam Keller were selected as co-winners. Wright is now the starting quarterback for the Miami Hurricanes, and Keller is the quarterback for the Arizona State Sun Devils. Both are NCAA Division I-A teams.

Costanzo is the first lineman to be recipient of the Peter Villa Award.

"It is a rarity for a lineman to win; usually it's the skilled positions," said Beaton.

The Danville Rotary went to

coaches and school administrators in the district at the end of the season with a request for player nominations. Similar to a request for an academic scholarship nomination, the form included categories that asked the nominating person to describe the individual.

The other finalists included San Ramon Valley lineman Sheldon Gruendl, tight end Andrew Leach and linebacker Kyle Kirst; California quarterback James Slagle, running back Jordan Meeks and wide receiver Dylan Tonneson; and Monte Vista lineman David Rudberg and running back Peter Guerts.

"They're all great kids," said Beaton. "Just to be selected as a finalist is an honor in itself since it means that either your coach or principal thought that highly of you. This is hopefully the highlight of their athletic careers." ■

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Danville
WEEKLY

Alamo

► Continued from page 5

that are either academically superior in their states or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

Jack O'Connell, state superintendent of Public Instruction, nominated the schools in November 2004 for the federal recognition program. The schools went through a rigorous application process, district officials said.

The results rested overwhelmingly on test scores pertaining to growth, and achievement in reading and math over three years.

The winners were honored Nov. 10-11 at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The selection is the third cycle of the redesigned National Blue Ribbon Schools program. Schools must now fit one of the two categories.

One, schools must have a student body comprised of at least 40 percent disadvantaged students and show dramatic improvement, with students performing at or above the 60th percentile in reading and math.

Two, schools must be among the top 10 percent of the schools in the state with students scoring at or above the 90th percentile in

the highest grade tested in reading and math. Schools were selected based on growth over a three-year period.

All the schools met the federal 2005 Adequate Yearly Progress criteria. All public schools were either California Distinguished Schools or, at minimum, met the qualifications required to apply for that state awards program. Alamo Elementary was recognized as a California State Distinguished School in 2004, said Terry Koehne, school district community relations director.

For more information about the National Blue Ribbon Award, visit www.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/awards.html. ■

Singer

► Continued from page 5

"The world must be a beautiful place," she said she thought after visiting South Africa.

But after their trip, her family faced strains in their relationships, which Ogden said were difficult. They were stunned when her mother left her father for another woman. Shortly after, her father found another woman, too.

"It wasn't a good time," Ogden said. She feels a lack of honesty

and the tensions of their surrounding environment contributed to pulling her family apart and that her own honesty and truthfulness helped her get through the problems.

Moving forward, Ogden went back to Washington and studied at Northwestern University, majoring in opera and theater. She performed at the John F. Kennedy Center and also in Arkansas.

Later, she traveled again—to New York City. She received a full scholarship to the Lee Strasberg Institute of Theatre and Film from a recommendation. But though

she was doing well in Manhattan, she felt burned out.

So, she decided to move to Danville to slow down and meet her unknown family members.

At the present moment, she doesn't miss New York City or D.C. And she said she's enjoying being with her grandmother, 87, and her cousins.

She said she may get the itch to move again. But meanwhile she's enjoying mixing the coffee drinks, and belting out a song to the young admirers who gather around her at Yellow Wood. ■

Council

► Continued from page 6

Association, and both groups said they were in support of holding the farmers markets on Thursday nights.

Councilman Mike Shimansky, who had questioned the wisdom of continuing with the Thursday nights at the November meeting, continued his opposition to the plan.

"How many towns have a week-day and a weekend farmers market?" he asked members of the Farmer's Market Association.

Association spokesman Alan Moyes said he did not have exact figures but did know there are towns that have two events.

"We could do some research on this," said Moyes. "Typically with a population base of this size, we don't see any problems doing that. Thursday to Saturday is pretty typical. Most towns do Wednesday to Saturday, split down the middle."

Shimansky said while he supports the concept of having the Thursday farmers market, he still has grave doubts as to whether there is a need for it.

"I'm not against the concept," Shimansky said. "As I said in November, we tried it, it didn't work." He also expressed concerns about traffic and parking, especially during large scale summer events like Hot Summer Nights.

Both Mayor Karen Stepper and

Councilwoman Candace Andersen argued the point.

"The Merchants Association has said that as long as the streets weren't closed they would be fine with the farmers market," said Stepper.

"The police chief said during discussions that he didn't think it would affect security during Hot Summer Nights," added Andersen. "I think we need to give it a shot for the whole summer."

With little further discussion, Stepper put it to a vote, which was 3-1 in favor of approving an updated permit for the Farmer's Market Association to hold the markets on Thursdays from April to October. Shimansky voted against the motion; Councilman Newell Arnerich was absent. ■

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TAKE US ALONG



Waiting for the bulls

Danville residents Monte and Nancy Meyerdirk and Erik Heth read their Danville Weekly while waiting for the bullfights to begin in Seville on their recent tour of the Costa del Sol in Spain.



Alhambra reading

Nancy and Rich Jan enjoy hometown reading while visiting the Alhambra in Granada, Spain, in October. They reported having a great trip, with beautiful weather and wonderful tapas.



By the sea, by the sea

Karlene Paufler reads her Danville Weekly while visiting the community of Seaside, Fla., with her husband.

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



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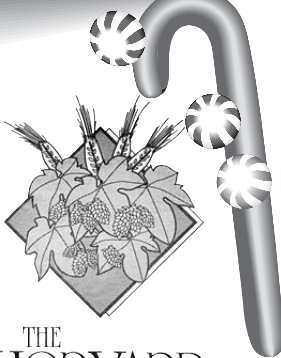
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Perspective

EDITORIALS • LETTERS • OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Regretting the error

It's a real sinking feeling when the newspaper comes out in print to see an error, knowing it is at that very moment in the mail to thousands of households. We correct errors in the original stories in our online edition so it is as though the mistake never took place. However, in the printed newspaper the only choice is to run a correction in a subsequent issue.

A Web site called www.regrettheerror.com highlights media errors and corrections, and it concluded that 2005 was a very bad year, even with serious consequences. "It was the year that Newsweek's Koran error played a role in deadly riots ... a Fox News commentator's error caused a family to be terrorized by its neighbors ... the New York Times' reputation took a beating over its failure to accurately report on WMDs in Iraq." Most mistakes give out more innocuous misinformation but we still regret them.

Sometimes mistakes can be humorous. The typo of the year went to a Reuters story about the recall of "beef panties." The first runner-up was from the Dallas Morning News and the correction read: "Norma Adams-Wade's June 15 column incorrectly called Mary Ann Thompson-Frenk a socialist. She is a socialite." The best Numerical Error of the Year also went to Reuters in a mistake that gave a whole new perspective to the Second World War: "Please read in paragraph nine: 'about 27 million Soviet citizens died' ... instead of ... 'more than 27 Soviet citizens died.'"

The Strange Bedfellows Award went to the Guardian. The Web site notes it "managed to make two people roll over in their graves with just one error." It reads: "In our ... cover story about Hunter S Thompson yesterday we mistakenly attributed to Richard Nixon the view that Thompson represented 'that dark, venal and incurably violent side of the American character.' On the contrary, it was what Thompson said of Nixon."

The Best Delayed Correction was from the New York Times, correcting a 1993 obituary that stated a man died of liver cancer when in fact it was colon cancer. Our 2006 pledge is to be more timely than the New York Times with our corrections.

THE POINT OF THE PEN



LETTERS

Too much fast food

Dear Editor:

I'm glad others are wondering when the San Ramon Valley Unified School District is going to change the nutrition standards at our schools (Dec. 9-16). As a concerned parent I have asked the school district the same question. You, however, got an answer they were not willing to give me—that it is a cost issue. I have checked out the food programs at Sycamore Valley Elementary and Charlotte Wood Middle School, and I have to say the salad bar at Sycamore Valley has improved over the past few years but there is still room for more choices. In addition, the main entrées are kid-friendly fast foods but they do not include kid-friendly fresh foods. The salad bar at Charlotte Wood offers a nice selection of choices and tasty prepared salads as well. The variety of food is good, too; it's just that the choices include too much fast food.

I reported to the food director my findings at the schools, and I also e-mailed Charlotte Wood about a fitness program called Live It sponsored by the Coca-Cola Co. This program would be a wonderful addition to the middle school fitness and nutrition program because it offers achievable and memorable rewards to the children. The exercise that the kids have to do is "stepping." It is counted on a pedometer. This program can be viewed at www.liveit-program.com. I would be happy to see our middle schools incorporate this program or a similar one into their existing P.E. classes because it will give all the children an opportunity to be rewarded for their hard work while continuing to be educated on nutrition.

Agnes Mulloy, Danville

YOUR TURN

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

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

OBITUARIES

Douglas Grimsley Allen Sr.

Douglas Grimsley Allen Sr. passed away Dec. 20 at the age of 90. He was a native Californian, who was raised in Lemoore and graduated from UC Berkeley. He lived in Danville for the last two-and-a-half years and before that in San Mateo for 50 years.

He enjoyed an interesting career as a special agent with the FBI from 1941 to his retirement in 1976. At Cal he was a member of Delta Upsilon fraternity and played junior varsity football.

His special love was his family. He was preceded in

death by his beloved wife of 50 years, Joan, who died in 1994 and his grandson, Tim Allen, who died in 2001. He is survived by sons Rich and daughter-in-law Jill; Steve and daughter-in-law Joanne; and Doug Jr. and daughter-in-law Claudia; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren and a niece and nephew.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 14, at Wilson & Kratzer Chapel of San Ramon Valley, 825 Hartz Way. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to Special Olympics Northern California, 1325 G Street, NW, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20005-3104 in memory of Douglas Allen.

POLICE LOG

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

Dec. 19

- Disturbing the peace: Arrest on Ramona Rd. at 1:44 a.m.
- Burglary-auto: on San Ramon Valley Blvd., at 7:07 a.m.
- Accident-property damage: Accident investigation on Camino Tassajara and Sherburne Hills Rd., at 7:29 a.m.
- Burglary-commercial: on Silver Lake Dr., at 7:32 a.m.
- Burglary-residential: on Fairway Dr., at 11:15 a.m.
- Burglary-auto: on Leonard Ct., at 12:25 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances: Arrest on Rassani Dr., at 1:18 p.m.
- Petty theft: on Diablo Rd., at 3:13 p.m.
- Petty theft: on Zagora Dr., at 3:33 p.m.
- Receiving stolen property: Arrest on Diablo Rd., at 2:21 p.m.
- Driving under the influence (DUI)-misdemeanor: Arrest on Woodside Dr., at 10:58 p.m.

Dec. 20

- Accident-injury: Accident investigation on Hartz Ave., at 4:54 p.m.
- Accident-property damage: Accident investigation on Camino Tassajara and Woodside Dr., at 11:55 p.m.
- DUI-misdemeanor: Arrest on Camino Tassajara and Woodside Dr., at 11:39 p.m.

Dec. 21

- Malicious mischief: on Tunbridge Rd., at 6:19 a.m.
- Identity theft: on Hill Meadow Pl., at 8:51 a.m.
- Malicious telephone calls: on Derbyshire Pl., at 10:36 a.m.
- Accident-property damage: Accident investigation on San Ramon valley Blvd. and Westfield Cr., at 5:13 p.m.
- Accident-property damage: on Hartz Ave., at 9:58 p.m.

Dec. 22

- Burglary-miscellaneous: on Love Ln., at 8:46 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances: on Diablo Rd., at 9:30 a.m.
- Illegal fireworks: on El Capital Dr., at 3:51 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances: on San

- Ramon Valley Blvd., at 3:26 p.m.
- Accident-property damage: Accident investigation on Camino Tassajara and Crow Canyon Rd., at 7:49 p.m.

Dec. 23

- Malicious mischief: on Glasgow Dr., at 10:21 a.m.
- Accident-property damage: Accident investigation on Diablo Rd. and Green Valley Rd., at 5:18 p.m.
- DUI-misdemeanor: Arrest on W. El Pintado Rd., and Weller Ln., at 11:40 p.m.
- DUI-misdemeanor: Arrest on Princeton Ct., at 11:56 p.m.

Dec. 24

- Possession of dangerous drugs: Arrest on W. Prospect Ave. and Railroad Ave., at 2:24 a.m.
- DUI-misdemeanor: Arrest on Railroad Ave. and San Ramon Valley Blvd., at 3:44 a.m.
- Drunk in public: Arrest on Diablo Rd. and Hartz Ave., at 4:29 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances: on Ashley Cr., at 9:43 a.m.
- Burglary-auto: on Remington Lp., at 12:04 p.m.

Dec. 25

- Accident-property damage: Accident investigation on St. Norbert Dr., at 9:55 p.m.

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

ALAMO

Dec. 19

- Petty theft-from vehicle: on Guess Ct.

Dec. 20

- Petty theft-from building: on Danville Blvd.

Dec. 22

- Disturbance: on Hemme Ave.
- Malicious mischief: on Danville Blvd.

Dec. 23

- Battery-misdemeanor: at Alamo Plaza.
- Disturbance: on Crest Ave.
- Burglary-residential: on Crest Ave.

Dec. 24

- Forgery-fraudulent documents: on Danville Blvd.

DANVILLE

Dec. 24

- Battery-misdemeanor: on Sheffield Cr.

- Disturbance-domestic: on Portola Dr.

DIABLO

Dec. 21

- Petty theft-from vehicle: on Caballo Ranchero Dr.

ROUNDHILL

Dec. 21

- Disturbance-domestic: on Chanticleer Ln.

Dec. 25

- Burglary-auto: on Tracy Ct.
- Petty theft-from vehicle: on St. Andrews Pl.



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When we planned to open the Danville Weekly, people said, “Nothing ever happens in Danville or Alamo.” But we’ve discovered that’s not true—a lot has happened here every single week. Following is some of the 2005 news we have highlighted since we began publishing May 6.

2005 Goodbye

From the All Wars
to mega-mansion
Alamo, what a year



May

- Danville hosts its second annual International Children's Film Festival.
- Old Coco's Restaurant on Diablo Road is torn down to make way for Diablo Valley Bank headquarters.
- Danville Town Council honors Mustang Rampage Under 11 Girls Soccer Team for winning CYSA State Cup Championship.
- FedEx airplane makes unexpected delivery as it loses pieces of metal over Danville; nonetheless the cargo plane flies safely from Oakland to Dallas-Fort Worth.
- The Town of Danville OKs purchase of portable classrooms for after-school programs at Charlotte Wood, Los Cerros and Diablo Vista middle schools.
- Venture School's Ron Houston is named Teacher of the Year by the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.
- Art Mijares of Oakley tries to change name of Mount Diablo, disturbed by the evil connotation.
- Danville continues plans to add 50 parking spaces at the Clocktower and 81 spots on Front Street.
- Monte Vista High student Stephanie Schafer breaks school's high jump record of 5 feet 5 inches.
- All Wars Memorial at Oak Hill Community Park is dedicated on Memorial Day after years of fundraising and planning.

June

- Construction workers discover Native American bones while renovating the former Country Waffles to become Mountain Mike's pizza.
- Blackhawk Chorus performs at the Vatican.
- San Ramon Valley High School boys volleyball team has perfect season, wins North Coast Section championship.
- Neighbors of Humphrey Ranch development proposed on Stone Valley Road across from Monte Vista High School oppose student parking lot to be built behind their homes.
- Monte Vista High girls softball team crowned 2005 East Bay Athletic League champions.
- Father Daniel Cardelli retires after 27 years as pastor of St. Isidore Parish in Danville.
- Discover Danville offers series of Thursday night events, from Doggie Night to Wine Tasting to Sports Night besides its four popular Hot Summer Nights Car Shows.

July

- Renovations begin on Shuey Podva house on School Street and Hartz Avenue to become main office for Branagh Development.
- County OKs design for Alamo YMCA off Danville Boulevard, north of Hap Magee Ranch Park.
- Fourth of July parade is bigger and better than ever with more bands and music.
- A scrub jay found at intersection of Diablo and Green Valley roads tests positive for West Nile Virus.
- Construction begins on Prospector Square, a 12,524-square-foot office and retail development, on East Prospect Avenue.
- Focus groups are held to find out why people do or do not shop in Danville, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, Discover Danville, the Shops at the Livery, the Museum of the San Ramon Valley and the Town of Danville.
- Greenbrook and John Baldwin elementary schools are demolished so the schools can be rebuilt, using Measure A funds.
- Astronaut Leroy Chiao reminisces about growing up in Danville.

August

- District 3 County Supervisor Mary N. Piepho presents her plans for a Municipal Advisory Committee for Alamo at a town hall meeting.
- Museum of the San Ramon Valley receives \$20,000 grant from Leshner Foundation to provide timelines of Valley history to every third and fourth grade in the school district.
- Douglas Wood, Alamo resident taken hostage in Iraq, is freed by American and Iraqi forces.
- Mustang U16 United Gold Team captures first place at U.S. Club Soccer Nationals in Florida.
- County Board of Supervisors goes along with Supervisor Piepho and terminates members of Alamo county service district committees, R7A, Parks and Recreation; and Zone 36, Landscaping and Lighting.
- The Town of Danville, which uses an average of 7,000 gallons of gasoline every six weeks, works on curbing fuel consumption as gas prices continue to rise.

September

- Danville man Ken Harmon, 45, swims the length of Lake Tahoe to raise money for proposed Danville Aquatic Center.
- Eugene O'Neill Foundation unveils its commemorative artwork in Front Street Park, across from the library, to celebrate the Pulitzer prize-winning playwright who lived in Danville during his most productive years.
- Results from 2004-05 California High School Exit Exam and the 2005 Standardized Testing and Reporting program shows school district students continue to excel.
- Blackhawk residents approve Measure D with 67 percent of the mail-in vote to increase their parcel tax from \$178 to \$280 per year to help restore police services in their community.
- Residents mobilize to help victims of Hurricane Katrina, collecting clothing and other necessities, with monetary donations, fundraisers and going in person to help out.
- Danny Foundation announces it will close its doors, saying it has reached its goal after 20 years of lobbying for crib safety.
- Danville hosts farmers markets each Thursday evening of the month as a trial.
- East Bay Regional Park District dedicates the 700-acre Sycamore Valley Open Space Regional Preserve off Camino Tassajara.

October

- Danville extends plans for patrons at Clocktower.
- PeopleSoft founder Duffield announces build 72,000-square-foot in Bryan Ranch in Danville, bringing national attention to the little enclave.
- Danville resident Steve Filson throws ring for U.S. Rep. Pombo's 11th District campaign.
- County Supervisor gives green light to Humphrey Ranch development.
- Federal government proposal to change Mount Diablo.
- Primo's Run for Education Oct. 9 draws a record 1,000 registered participants to approximately \$80,000.
- Danville plans to renovate 30-year-old structure at Park on Stone Valley to new 6,000-square-foot community building that will include ballroom, classroom, inside and out, a kitchen and decks.

05

Memorial plans in it's been

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli



November

- Willow Commons, a 22-unit affordable housing apartment complex, opens at the eastern end of Hartz Way.
- Duffields take their plans back to the drawing board after neighbors object to their plans for a mega-mansion.
- Monte Vista girls tennis team clinches East Bay Athletic League title.
- Blue Star Moms collect items for Holiday Care Package Mailing at Danville Vets Hall.
- Alamo residents approve Measure S to change appropriations limit for its parks and recreation county service district, R7A.
- Alamo citizens group drops appeal to stop YMCA facility off Danville Boulevard.
- Supervisor Piepho appoints new committee members for R7A and Zone 36, turning down all the terminated members who reapplied.
- Lady Mustang golfers win NorCal Championship.

December

- Karen Stepper becomes mayor as Mike Doyle steps down in Danville Town Council rotation. Councilman Mike Shimansky becomes vice mayor.
- Home Depot buys Yardbirds, causing anxiety for loyal patrons of the Alamo hardware store.
- Duffields reduce plans for home to 17,000 square feet, excluding garage and basement.
- Danny Foundation thrift shop in Alamo, Second Chance, gets its own second chance as Hospice takes it over.
- San Ramon Valley High's Meghan Yetman crosses 1,000-point mark in her basketball career.
- Danville decides to hold Thursday night farmers markets in 2006 at parking lot behind the museum on Railroad Avenue from April through October.

Photos from 2005 show (l-r) gas prices continued to rise through the summer although by late December they had gone back down a dollar; Colman Deaton, 4, and brother Carter, 3, of Danville wait on the Fourth of July parade route on Hartz Avenue for the fun to begin; Louis Palacios and his son Louie of Cecchini and Cecchini display their asparagus for sale at the Danville Farmers Market; Douglas Wood appreciates the yellow ribbon tied to the mailbox at his Alamo home while he was held hostage by terrorists in Iraq for 47 days; Fatima Sequeira hugs Montair Elementary students at a memorial service for her husband, Agostinho Sequeira, who was a well-loved custodian at the school for eight years before he died of cancer in June; new Mayor Karen Stepper takes the reins of Danville at the well-attended 24th annual Mayor's Installation and Community Service Awards program Dec. 6.



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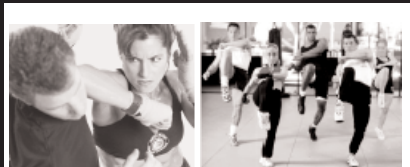
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My New Year's resolution is...

Tradition shows the holiday makes us all optimistic

Dec. 31, 2004: The year 2005 is going to be about going to the gym. I'm going every day after work. By the end of the year, I will be a lean, mean working-out-machine.

Jan. 1, 2005: This year I am going to the gym more, but it's raining and the Rose Parade is on. Besides, I have a headache. I pay for that membership every month; I'm using it tomorrow.

Jan. 5: Made it to the gym twice in five days. I'm so sore. I didn't know I had muscles between my ribs until I took that Pilates class. I forgot my shoes today and that is the only reason I skipped.

Jan. 10: Had to leave town for an emergency business trip. Haven't been to the gym in four days. I'll start back tomorrow.

April 12: I haven't been to the gym since January. Work is out of control and I can't seem to leave for home before 7 p.m. Once I get my taxes filed, I'm working out again. Bathing suit season is just two months away and I think I've gained 3 pounds.

Sept. 23: I didn't put on my bathing suit all summer because I was stuck in my office or in the car, commuting. Now it's soccer season and the kids are running me ragged. But I'm back at the gym tomorrow to lose this extra 5 pounds before the holidays.

Dec. 31: The year 2006 is going to be about going to the gym....

by Julie Nostrand

A New Year's Resolution Journal, written by an anonymous Danville resident.

If these journal entries could be yours, you aren't alone. Because if over indulging is a tradition at Christmas for most Americans, then making resolutions is the ritual that helps us ring in the New Year. In fact, people have been making New Year's resolutions longer than Dick Clark has been presiding over the ball drop in Times Square. And while everyone has tried to make changes that coincide with the turning of the calendar, the vast majority of the promises of self-improvement fail.

The reasons for this lack of success are many. It could be a result of promises made in haste or simply a lack of commitment to change. But if the goal is a common one, such as weight loss and better overall fitness, then the beginning of the year seems the ideal time for success. January, devoid of tempting holidays with lavish feasts, stretches in front of us with its vacation-less workweeks and miserable weather; it practically begs local residents to lead a puritan life filled with low fat meals and sweat-drenched evenings at the gym.

But too often, those pledges made at midnight Dec. 31 are long forgotten by Jan. 10 when old routines and a new season of reality TV beckon many back to the couch of complacency. In fact, some are so frustrated with their inability to follow through on resolutions, they have resolved never to make such promises of change again.

Colleen Marchese of Danville is one of those people. Frustrated with resolutions that are hard to follow, she has decided this is one tradition that isn't worth her time. "Every

year I have had the same resolution and every year I fail," she said. So now she skips the frustration and simply enjoys changing her calendar promising to change her life.

Despite the number of people who swear they don't make vows of transformation in January, local gym owners tell a different story. Most gyms report booming business during the first three months of the year.

"Everyone comes crawling back in January," said Lorrie Sullenberger, owner of ShapeXpress Fitness for Ladies in Alamo. "For retail, it's fourth quarter, but for gym's, first quarter is the biggest quarter."

Sullenberger believes that it's the all or nothing "American Way" that drives people to binge in December and sweat it off in January. While she understands that busy lives and the excitement of Christmas are the reasons for the haphazard approach to a wellness routine late in the year, she encourages her clients to take a more proactive approach year round.

"We encourage women to do the opposite of New Year's resolutions and resolve every month to make changes," said Sullenberger.

While everyone from fitness experts to a favorite hairstylist will say that it is important to make small changes all year long, busy lifestyles and competing priorities often cut into the time we spend on betterment, making it easy to slip into bad habits and a quart of ice cream every night. Then all too quickly, the holidays, cold weather and the need for comfort foods hit. Overnight, our favorite jeans are more

than a little too tight. And the January resolution cycle begins again.

Even if we resolve to make changes in the New Year, actually executing those plans is another matter all together. Just ask Kathy DeFronzo, clinic program manager at Discovery Counseling Center in Danville. She sees people with failed resolutions all the time and has a lot to say about what is wrong with making promises of self-improvement this time of year.

DeFronzo says that most New Year's resolutions are a setup for failure. "Wanting to make a change isn't about the new year," said DeFronzo. "People who make New Year's resolutions do it because they feel they should, not because they are ready for change."

"You need to give the change 'consciousness' to be successful," she added. That means serious resolvers need to think long and hard about a resolution before committing to make them.

But with the crunch of holiday crazies, finding the time to give serious thought to change is a challenge in itself. And maybe that is OK, because maybe the change that needs to be made is in how we approach New Year's resolutions.

Perhaps it is time to recognize the true New Year tradition is not about turning a new leaf and making a fresh start. The true tradition of the New Year is the optimism that the holiday inspires. With the beginning of 2006, any change is once again possible—even if it doesn't happen this year. ■

A year-end dinner for two

For every epicurean out there, here's a sure-fire way to add extra sparkle to your winter season. Somewhere between the hustle-bustle of the holiday season and the arrival of 2006, reserve one evening for an unrushed dinner at home with an "SO" (significant other). It could be a hubby or wife, your girlfriend or boyfriend, a partner in crime, your best friend or a parent...someone who made a significant difference in your year or who promises to bring special meaning to the year ahead. Make time to share a quiet (even romantic) evening over a meal, with time to talk and reflect. It could turn out to be the highlight of your holidays.

Every December, I have this inner debate with myself. A part of me wants to dress to the nines, meet up with friends in order to boogie out the old and salsa in the New Year, to heartily celebrate the blessings, challenges and insights of the outgoing year. Another part of me—perhaps the more introspective part—wants to avoid the craziness of the maddening crowds and just be still at home as the clock ticks over to the next year...content with being healthy and loved, ready to launch the New Year in a calm, intentional way. Lately, the more reflective side has been winning. But it's possible to have a bit of both when you plan a fanciful dinner for two. You can create a private gala in your own dining room with someone you love.

Now, to truly enjoy the evening's meal as much as your dinner mate, you've got to do a little extra prepping, with an emphasis on elegant simplicity. After all,

you don't want to wind up racing back and forth between the kitchen and the dinner table all night, serving (and panting) while your only guest eats and ponders alone. That would defeat the purpose. The trick is to minimize the during-meal work in order to maximize the enjoyment for you both. And as you enjoy your meal together, casually share your most honest thoughts about what this year has revealed, what you'd like to achieve in 2006 or why you are grateful for the person with whom you are sharing this moment.

Since my husband and I intend to spend New Year's Eve home alone this year, I've done some serious prepping for that two-some dinner, with the idea of doing most of the work in advance. Because I came across so many great recipes and pairings in my research, I'm sharing two invented menus with you. Recipes that are underlined can be found on the Danville Weekly Web site under the Dec. 30 issue: www.danvilleweekly.com. Hopefully, you'll find—no, make—time to try one of these menus, borrow from them or design your own. If time and effort are a premium, buy the dishes you don't have time to cook. Or, order your favorite takeout and invite someone to share an evening of calm joy and quiet reflection anyway. That someone will thank you for your thoughtfulness and, hopefully, will show their gratitude in some extraordinarily creative way.

To Epicure readers, I wish you...a happy and prosperous New Year!

Year-End Dinner for Two: Menu A

Champagne Toast for Two
Curry Carrot Soup
Apple and Avocado on a bed of Frisee
Crusted Veal Chops (wine)
Saffron Lemon Rice with Peas
Bananas Foster & Ice Cream
Coffee, Tea or Amaretto

Prep Notes:

1. Generate a shopping list for needed ingredients and beverages; purchase all at least one day in advance.
2. One day before: Prepare soup as directed; arrange small bouquet of flowers for table
3. Morning of (or three hours before):
 - Prepare salad dressing; apple and avocado slices
 - Prep veal chops and marinate
4. Two hours before:
 - Set table with best flatware and linens, add candles or votives
 - Select and stack dishes, glasses, cups for each course
 - Set coffee pot up for later start-up
 - Prepare bananas; chill
5. 30-60 minutes before:
 - Grill veal chops to just below preferred readiness level, cool
 - Cook rice as directed
 - Open wine for entrée and let breathe
6. 5-10 minutes before:
 - Prepare bed of frisee for salad
 - Transfer soup to pot for re-heating; maintain on low heat
 - Prepare two plates of veal chops and rice; cover
7. After first course: Ladle soup and serve
8. After soup: Microwave or reheat entrée plates
9. As your dinner mate clears table from entrée:
 - Re-heat bananas on low; start coffee
 - Arrange ice cream in bowls
 - Ignite bananas and top with ice cream
10. After dinner, persuade your dinner mate to help with the dishes (then or later!)

Year-End Dinner for Two: Menu B

Poinsettia Toast
Fingerlings with Caviar & Smoked Salmon
Arugula, Pear and Walnut Salad
Beef Tenderloin Medallions with Blue Cheese Drizzle (wine)
Julienned Vegetables over Grilled Polenta
Ghiradelli Truffles & Port
Coffee, Tea or Bailey's Irish Cream

Prep Notes:

1. Generate a shopping list for needed ingredients and beverages; purchase all at least one day in advance.
2. One day before:
 - Prepare julienned vegetables and truffles as directed; refrigerate
3. Morning of (or three hours before):
 - Roast fingerlings and prep for later
 - Prepare polenta
4. Two hours before:
 - Set table with best flatware and linens, add candles or votives
 - Select and stack dishes, glasses, cups for each course
 - Set coffee pot up for later start-up
5. 30-60 minutes before:
 - Make salad and dressing
 - Arrange fingerlings with toppings; chill
6. 5-10 minutes before:
 - Prepare entrée plates as directed
7. After first course: Arrange salad on plates
8. After salad: Reheat entrée plates
9. As your dinner mate clears table from entrée:
 - Start coffee
 - Arrange truffles on small plate to share; pour port
10. After dinner, persuade your dinner mate to help with the dishes in the morning!

See Jacqui Love Marshall recipes at www.DanvilleWeekly.com or e-mail her at Epicure@DanvilleWeekly.com.

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AT THE MOVIES

CinéArts @ Pleasant Hill: 2314 Monument Blvd., Pleasant Hill (687-1100)
Century 14 Walnut Creek: 1201 Locust St., Walnut Creek (937-7025)
Blackhawk Movie 7: 4175 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville (736-0368)
Crow Canyon 6: 2525 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon (820-4831)
Hacienda Crossings 20/ Regal Imax Theater: 5000 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin (560-9600)
Vine Cinema: Corner of First and South O streets, Livermore (447-2545)
Internet address: For show times, visit the Danville Weekly Online Edition at <http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com/>

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

Breakfast on Pluto (R)	CinéArts: Fri-Tues 11:45 a.m., 4:40, 9:45 p.m.
Brokeback Mountain (R)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 12:20, 4, 7, 10:05 p.m. CinéArts: Fri-Tues 11:40 a.m., 1:10, 2:40, 4:10, 5:40, 7:10, 8:40, 10:10 p.m. Hacienda: Fr-Tu 10:05 a.m., 1, 4:05, 7:15, 10:30 p.m.
Capote (R)	CinéArts: Fri-Tues 2:20, 7:15 p.m.
Casanova (R)	Century 14: Fri-Tu 11:20 a.m., 2, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55 pm
Cheaper by the Dozen 2 (PG)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:40 p.m. Century 14: Fri-Tues noon, 2:30, 5, 7:40, 10 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:40, 11:10 a.m., 1:30, 2, 4:20, 4:50, 7:10, 7:45, 9:50 p.m., Mon no show 9:50 p.m.
Chicken Little (G)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 3:45 p.m.
Chronicles of Narnia (PG)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tu. 1, 4:05, 7:10, 10:15 pm Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:15 a.m., 12:15, 2:25, 3:20, 6:45, 9:40 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 12:10, 3:20, 6:40, 9:40 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10, 10:30 a.m., 12:35, 1:15, 1:45, 3:50, 4:30, 7:05, 7:40, 9, 10:15, 10:45 p.m., (Fri-Sat Open Captioned 10 a.m., Sun Open Captioned 10 a.m., 10:45 p.m., Mon Open Captioned 4:30 p.m.) Vine Cinema: Fri-Sun 11:10 a.m., 2, 4:55, 7:45 p.m., Sat 12:30 a.m., Mon-Tues 2:15, 5, 7:45 p.m.
Fun With Dick and Jane (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 12:25, 2:50, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35 p.m. Century 14: Fri-Tues 11 a.m., 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8, 10:20 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:05 a.m., 12:40, 2:30, 3:15, 5:50, 7:30, 8:25, 10:50 p.m.
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 2, 7:35 p.m. Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 3, 6:30, 9:45 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 12:15, 6:05 p.m. Regal Imax Theaters: Fri-Tues 3:30, 7, 10:15 p.m.
King Kong (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 3:15, 7, 10:45 p.m. Century 14: Fr-Tu 11:40 am, 3:35, 5:35, 7:30, 9:30 pm Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 3:30, 7:30 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10, 11:10, 11:30 a.m., 2, 3:05, 3:30, 5, 6, 7, 7:30, 9:55, 10:30, 10:55 p.m., (Tues Open Captioned 7:30 p.m.) Vine Cinema: Fri-Sun 12:20, 4:15, 8 p.m., Sat mid-night, Mon-Tues 3:45, 7:30 p.m.
Memoirs of a Geisha (PG-13)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 12:30, 3:50, 7:10, 10:25 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 11:45 a.m., 3, 6:50, 10 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:55 a.m., 12:30, 3:55, 6:50, 7:20, 10:40 p.m.
Munich (R)	CinéArts: Fri-Tues 12:45, 2:30, 4:15, 6, 7:45, 9:30 pm Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:20 a.m., 3:20, 7:10, 10:50 p.m.
Pride & Prejudice (PG)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 11 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, 7:25, 10:15 p.m.
Rumor Has It (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues noon, 2:25, 4:45, 7:05, 9:30 p.m. Century 14: Fri-Tues 11:25 a.m., 1:55, 4:35, 7:05, 9:35 p.m. Crow Canyon 6: Fr-Tu 11:15 a.m., 1:40, 4, 7, 9:30 pm Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11, 11:40 a.m., 1:35, 4:15, 4:45, 7, 9:40, 10:15 p.m.
Syriana (R)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 1:35, 4:25, 7:15, 10:10 p.m. Hacienda: Fr-Tu 11:40 a.m., 3:35, 7:20, 10:40 p.m.
The Family Stone (PG-13)	Century 14: Fr-Tu 11:55am, 2:45, 5:15, 7:50, 10:30 pm Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 11:20 a.m., 1:45, 4:10, 7:20, 9:45 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:50 a.m., 1:40, 4:25, 7:15, 9:55 p.m., Mon no show 7:15 p.m.
The Polar Express (G)	Regal Imax Theaters: Fri-Tues 10:30 a.m., 12:55 p.m.
The Producers (PG-13)	Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues noon, 3:10, 6:45, 9:50 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:15 a.m., 1:20, 4:30, 7:45, 10:55 p.m.
The Ringer (PG-13)	Blackhawk: Fri-Tues 12:20, 2:40, 5, 7:25, 9:50 p.m. Hacienda: Fr-Tu 11:50 am, 2:25, 5:05, 7:50, 10:35 pm
Walk the Line (PG-13)	Century 14: Fri-Tues 12:10, 3:40, 6:55, 9:50 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 3:25, 10:10 p.m.
Wedding Crashers (R)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Mon Special Event 8 p.m.
Yours, Mine and Ours (PG)	Blackhawk: Fri-Tues 11:45 a.m., 5:25, 10:50 p.m. Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 10:05 a.m., 9:35 pm



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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.

Comets U10



Earthquakes U10



Blast U10



District Cup champs

Three Danville Under 10 Mustang soccer teams prevailed at the recent District Cup finals held in Pleasanton. The boys final was between the Comets and the Earthquakes. The score was 0-0 when they went into overtime, but after four periods of OT, the score was still 0-0, which meant both teams shared the title of champion. The girls final faced off the Danville Blast against the Livermore Hurricanes, which the Hurricanes won 2-0.

PHOTOS BY YVONNE GILCHRIST

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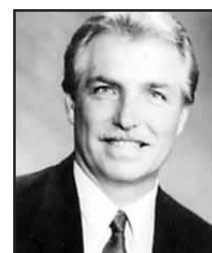
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Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

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.

Arts Walk and Festival at Windemere

The San Ramon Arts Foundation will begin planning for the 2006 Arts Walk and Festival at Windemere. There will be an information meeting at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 11, at the Front Row Theater, Dougherty Station Community Center, San Ramon. Come hear about the new plans and find out about volunteering at this event. For information, call 336-0267 or visit sanramonarts.org.

Plein Air Style Paintings from Photos

The Alamo-Danville Artists' Society will host an artist's demonstration and lecture presented by Monterey peninsula artist Christine Crozier. Christine will demonstrate techniques for keeping your work fresh and exciting even when painting in the studio and from photos. Join Christine at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 10, at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. The session is free. For information, call Ginger at 837-6414. The A.D.A.S. Web site is www.adas4art.org.

Author Visits

History Book Signing

Beverly Lane, curator of the Museum of San Ramon Valley, and Ralph Cozine, docent, have written a book, "San Ramon Valley: Alamo, Danville and San Ramon." There will be an author's discussion and book signing from 2-4 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 14, at Bay Books in San Ramon.

How to Live to Be 100

The Commonwealth Club of California presents Dr. Walter Bortz, Clinical

Associate Professor of Medicine at Stanford University, discussing and signing his book, "How to Live to Be 100 and Truly Live Each Year," at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 18, at the new Lafayette Veteran's Memorial Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Tickets are \$15 members, \$25 non-members. This fee does not include the book. Book sales provided by Lafayette Bookstore.

San Ramon Valley: A Historical Perspective

Beverly Lane, curator of the Museum of San Ramon Valley and Ralph Cozine, docent, have, written a book, "San Ramon Valley: Alamo, Danville and San Ramon." There will be an author's discussion, slide show and book signing, at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 26, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. For information, call 837-4889.

Classes

Clay Character Modeling for Kids

Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., offers a Clay Character Modeling for Kids class from 10-11:30 a.m., Saturdays, for ages 6-13. Michael Yen is the instructor. Classes are ongoing. Fee is \$86 for four weeks plus \$15 for materials. For information, call 838-1959.

Mixed Media Fun for Kids

Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., offers a Mixed Media Fun for Kids class from 3-4:30 p.m., Wednesdays, for ages 6-13. Marilyn MacDougall is the instructor. Classes are ongoing. Fee is \$78 for five weeks, plus \$8 for materials. For information, call 838-1959.

Oil and Acrylic Painting Class

Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., offers an Oil and Acrylic Painting class from 10 a.m.-noon, Mondays, and from 7-9 p.m., Wednesdays. Charles White is the instructor. Classes are ongoing and for all levels. Fee is \$84 for four weeks. For information, call 838-1959.

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.

Clubs

Alamo Cribbage Club

The club plays cribbage for fun. It meets at 6:15 p.m. every Wednesday at the Safeway conference room, 200 Alamo Plaza, Alamo. Call 935-3325.

Alamo Merchants and Professional Association

AMPA meets the second Tuesday of each month for its business luncheon, at 11:30 a.m. for networking, and noon for lunch, including a guest speaker, at Round Hill Country Club, 3169 Round Hill Road, Alamo. AMPA also holds a mixer the fourth Wednesday of each month. For information regarding the luncheons and mixers, call Barbara Malan at 831-3329 or visit www.alamobusiness.com.

Alamo Rotary

The Alamo Rotary meets at noon every Wednesday at Roundhill Country Club, 3169 Roundhill Road. Call Mark Kahn at 837-3262.

Alamo Women's Club Federated

The club meets on most Wednesdays at its clubhouse, 1401 Danville Blvd. It holds a business meeting and tea the second Wednesday at noon; meets for Mah Jong at 10:30 a.m. the third Wednesday; and holds a luncheon with program at noon the fourth Wednesday. For information, call Jean Stringfellow at 552-9733.

Alamo-Danville Newcomers' Club

This club is open to new and long-time residents of Alamo and Danville interested in making new friends while learning more about the area. Many activities are available. A prospective member coffee is held the fourth Thursday of the month, and a monthly luncheon on the second Tuesday. Call 775-3233 or visit www.alamodanvillenewcomers.com.

Bay Area Single Christians

BASC club is a free, large, online group with event listings for Christian single adults around the S.F. Bay Area. See information at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/basc-singles/>.

Blackhawk Republican Women

The Blackhawk Republican Women will host speaker Lynn Leach, former State Legislator, at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 19, at the Blackhawk Country Club. The cost is \$12 and reservations are required for this no host bar event. Make your reservations by Jan. 13 by calling Barbara at 837-7679 or e-mail baduffy@juno.com.

Blue Star Moms California

Blue Star Moms is a support group for families of members of the U.S.

WEEKEND PREVIEW



Danville teens performing in Dames at Sea

STARS 2000, a teen theater group from the Diablo Light Opera Company in Pleasant Hill will be presenting the musical Dames at Sea, evenings at 8 p.m. and matinees at 2 p.m., from Thursday, Dec. 29-Saturday, Jan. 7, at the Danville Village Theatre. Tickets range from \$12-\$14 and can be purchased by calling 314-3463. Danville teens performing in the show include (l-r) Kaitlyn Daubenmire, Megan McDermott, Madi Kay and Lindsey Scanlon.

Armed Forces. It meets at 7 p.m., the second Wednesday of the month, at the Danville Veterans Hall, 400 Hartz Ave. Call Peggy at 866-7035 or Patty at 838-9096 or visit www.bluestar-moms.org.

Business Development Network

BDN is a group of professionals that share resources and develops business through relationships. It meets 7:45-9 a.m., the second and fourth Thursday of each month at Denny's, 807 Camino Ramon, Danville. Call Bonnie at 648-0222.

Business Network International

The Danville Chapter of Business Network International, a world-wide networking organization that focuses on helping local businesses grow through building strong networking relationships, meets at 7 a.m. every Friday at Denny's Restaurant on Camino Ramon. For information, call Glenn at 831-3372.

California Writers Club, Mt. Diablo Branch

The California Writers Club, Mt. Diablo Branch invites you to lunch with plot specialist Martha Alderson, at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Hungry Hunter, 3201 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Martha will discuss plotting techniques that work. The cost is \$17 CWC members and \$20 non-members. Contact Camille for required reservations no later than Wednesday, Jan. 11, at (510) 881-8929 or e-mail camille@minichino.com.

Danville AM Toastmasters Club

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

Danville Business Network International (BNI)

The Danville Business Network International (BNI) meets at 7 a.m., every Friday, at the Marriott Residence Inn, 1071 Market Place, San Ramon. Guests are welcome. Call Susanne Olsen, 937-5055.

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 Mid-day Referral Group, BNI

Danville Mid-day Referral Group, a chapter of Business Network International, meets from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., every Wednesday, at Louka's, 267 Hartz in Danville. Call Fran Bates at 363-4327 or e-mail franbates@marykay.com.

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 Rotary

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

Danville 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 Quilters' Guild

The Diablo Valley Quilters' Guild meets at 7 p.m., the third Wednesday of each month at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Guests are welcome. Annual membership fee is \$30 (\$20 for seniors 65+). For information, call Dianne at 837-1863.

Diablo Valley Quilters' Guild Guest Speaker

The Diablo Valley Quilters' Guild presents award winning applique artist Linda Schmidt, who will be showing

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her beautiful quilts and talking about "Quilting for Those with Short Attention Spans," at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 18, at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Guests are welcome. For information, call Dianne at 837-1863.

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.

Diablo View Toastmasters

This chapter meets from 7:55-9 a.m., every Tuesday, at the San Ramon Community Center, 12501 Alcosta Blvd. Novice and veteran speakers meet to develop speaking skills. Guests are welcome. Call Josh Taves at 791-2233.

eWomen Network Accelerated Networking Luncheon

The eWomen Network holds its monthly accelerated networking luncheon from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., the second Thursday, at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Contact Claire at 648-3105 or clairesheperdson@ewomennet-work.com.

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.

Mt. Diablo Macintosh Users Group

Get questions answered, solutions for problems, share experiences and explore new Mac developments. Club meets at 7:30 p.m., the third Monday of every month, at the Alamo Safeway Community Room. For information, call 837-1111 or 829-5501.

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 meets at 7 p.m., the second Thursday of each month, 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 will meet at 6 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 5, at the Outpost Casino, 2251 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. The cost is \$25, (includes dinner) and is open to all. For information, call Bob Franco at 736-5272 or visit the Web site at www.vnvdv.com.

Events

Annual Hats Off America Casino Night

The second annual Hats Off America Casino Night will be from 6-midnight, Saturday, Jan. 21, at Club Sport, 350 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon. Proceeds from the Casino Night benefits Hats Off America, a nonprofit organization created to provide financial support to the families of military personnel killed in the line of duty while serving the U.S. in Iraq and Afghanistan. Tickets are \$75 per person. For reservations, sponsorship and volunteer opportunities, contact Sparky George at 855-1950 or e-mail thebearflagrunner@yahoo.com. For additional information, visit www.hatsoffamerica.us.

Annual Shellie Awards

The 27th annual Shellie Awards, sponsored by a generous donation from the Diablo Regional Arts Association, will be at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets are available at the Center Ticket Office for \$25, which includes a post ceremony reception. For information, call Scott at 295-1400 or e-mail dlrca@dlrca.org.

Farmers Market

The Danville Farmers Market is open from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., every Saturday, at the Railroad Avenue Municipal Parking Lot, at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues. Call 825-9090 or visit www.pcfma.com.

Jazz at Peace Series

Dave Rocha Quartet comes to Peace Lutheran Church continuing its Jazz at Peace series, at 5 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 8, at 3201 Camino Tassajara. Jazz at Peace is based on the Jazz Vespers series founded in New York City in 1961 at St. Peters Lutheran Church. The event is free and parking is also free.

O'Neill Foundation Awards Dinner

The Eugene O'Neill Foundation is accepting reservations for its annual awards dinner at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 18, at the Crow Canyon Country Club. Tickets are \$65 per person and may be obtained from the foundation at 820-1818 or by mailing the foundation at P.O. Box 402, Danville 94526.

Pet Adoptions

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue offers cats and dogs for adoption noon-4 p.m., Sundays, at Petco, 2005 Crow Canyon Place, San Ramon. Call TVAR at 803-7043 or visit www.tvvar.org.

Special Two-Hour Yoga Class

The public is invited to kick off the New Year by participating in a special Yoga class (all levels welcome), from 10 a.m.-noon, Sunday, Jan. 1, at World Yoga, 1530 South Main St, Walnut Creek. Cost is whatever you want to donate, to benefit STAND! Against Domestic Violence. For information, call 274-9642 or visit www.world-yoga.com.

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.

Fundraisers

Climb Against the Odds-Mt. Shasta 2006

Breast Cancer Fund's seventh major mountaineering expedition, "Climb against the Odds-Mt. Shasta," will take place July 7-13 at Mount Shasta. The cost and registration is \$1,750, cost of week's climb. For information, visit www.breastcancerfund.org, e-mail connie@breastcancerfund.org or call (415) 346-8223, ext. 30.

Make Our Garden Grow

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church presents a cabaret-style concert, "Make Our Garden Grow," at 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Dec. 30-31, at St. Timothy's Church, Parish Hall, 1550 Diablo Road. Directed by Pat Parr, the show features six talented singers performing Broadway and other contemporary tunes. Tickets are \$25 (includes refreshments) and proceeds will support the Meditation Garden and the St. Timothy's concert series. To reserve table seating, call Pat at 837-4993, ext. 15.

Health

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Hats Off America/American Red Cross Blood Drive, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 7, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Cultural Hall, 5025 Crow Canyon Road, San Ramon. To register for a specific time to donate, visit www.beadonor.com and click on registration. The sponsor code is HOA.

American Red Cross Blood Services

The American Red Cross will be conducting a Community Blood Drive, from 11:45 a.m.-5:45 p.m., Friday, Jan. 13, at Grange Hall, 743 Diablo Road. All donors will be entered into a drawing for a Hawaiian trip for two. To schedule an appointment, call Patty at 837-4399 or visit www.beadonor.com (code: DANVILLE).

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.

Yoga Classes

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

Holidays

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.museumsvr.org.

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 treats. There will be a special interfaith lighting ceremony and cele

bration on Friday, Dec. 30. The public is invited.

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.

Street Smarts Skate Nights is back

San Ramon and the Golden Skate are co-sponsoring Street Smarts Skate Nights, from 6:30-9 p.m., the third Wednesday of each month starting Sept. 21 and ending May 17 at the Golden Skate, 2701 Hooper Drive, San Ramon. Come and start a season of fun, prizes and learn about traffic safety. For information, call Darlene Amaral at 973-2655.

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

Literary Events

Great Books Weekend at Asilomar

All book lovers are welcome to the San Francisco Great Books Council's spring event weekend, April 7-9, at the Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove. "Madame Bovary," "Democracy in America," "The Price" and selected poetry are on the agenda. The event includes six meals, reading materials, and two parties. Rates are \$227-\$368 per person. To sign up, visit www.greatbooks-sf.com or call Jimmie Harvey at (415) 383-1319.

Library Book Discussions

The Book Discussion Group has chosen books for December and 2006. The discussion group meets at 11 a.m. the second Thursday of every month from September through May at the Mt. Diablo room of the library. Everyone is welcome.

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.tvr.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.prometheussymphony.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.

Save Mount Diablo

Save Mount 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 information, visit www.savemountdiablo.org.

Walnut Creek Christian Academy Open House

Walnut Creek Christian Academy, a biblically based private school educat-

ing 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."

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.

Sports

Adult 5 on 5 Basketball League

Sign up for the Town of Danville Adult 5 on 5 Basketball League for adults 18 years and up. The eight-week program takes place on Thursdays from Jan. 12 to March 2, at Los Cerros Community Gymnasium, Los Cerros Middle School, 968 Blemer Road. The league runs seven weeks, followed by playoffs. The fees are \$330 for Danville residents and \$396 for non-residents. Teams are considered non-resident if they have one player that lives outside Danville. For information or a roster, call 314-3482 or visit www.ci.danville.ca.us.

Adult Open Gym Basketball

Danville Parks and Recreation Department holds drop-in basketball year-round at the Los Cerros Middle School, 968 Blemer Road, for ages 18 and over. Drop-in times are 7:30-9 a.m., Saturdays. Bring your own ball. Cost is \$3 for residents, \$5 for non-residents. Call 314-3400.

Adult Softball

Adult Softball plays pickup softball at 9:30 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays year-round. New members welcome. Call Bob Randall at 855-4646 for more information.

Danville Tennis Club

The Danville Tennis Club meets 6:30-9 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; and 9-11 a.m., Saturdays for drop-in tennis at San Ramon Valley High School. This free co-ed club provides play for 4.0 to 5.0 and very strong 3.5 level players. See information at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/danville_tennisclub.

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.

Learn Tennis, Get Free Racquet

Learn to play tennis in six hours and receive a free Dunlop Tennis Racquet. Sponsored by the United States Tennis Association, new classes start the first Monday of each month, from 6:30-8 p.m., at San Ramon Valley High School. The cost of six hours of group lessons is \$100 per player.

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Roller Hockey Teams

The Golden Skate Roller Hockey League is forming its Winter Season teams now. The season is from Jan. 9-Mar. 21. The leagues include the Mites (6-9 years old); Squirts (10-13 years old) and the Juniors (14-19 years old). Register before Dec. 7 to avoid late fee, at www.TheGoldenSkate.com/hockey.html.

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.mdymca.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@cclib.org.

Make a Difference

Reutlinger Community for Jewish Living (RCJL) in Danville provides assisted living, Alzheimer's and skilled nursing care in a community our residents call home. Volunteers play a key role at RCJL and opportunities are available for students and adults. For information, call Volunteer Coordinator Irma at 964-2098.

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.contracostasar.org or call 646-4461.

Trails Maintenance

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

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.

Volunteer Interpreters

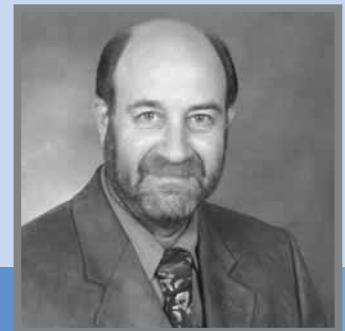
The California Medical Association seeks community volunteer interpreters for Contra Costa County to assist physicians when other interpretation resources are not an option. If you possess a proficiency in any foreign language and experience interpreting in a health care setting, you are encouraged to apply. Contact CMA at (866) 241-4262, or e-mail communityvip@cmanet.org.

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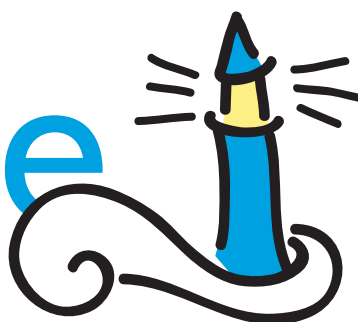
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115 Announcements

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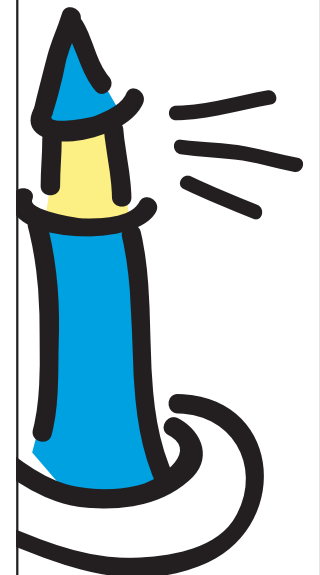
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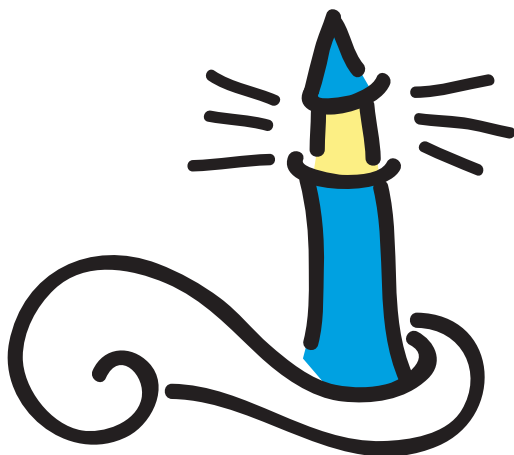
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SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during December 2005

Danville

Total sales reported: 9
Lowest sale reported: \$560,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,600,000
Average sales reported: \$1,083,444

Alamo

Total sales reported: 4
Lowest sale reported: \$556,500
Highest sale reported: \$1,550,000
Average sales reported: \$1,150,375

Walnut Creek

Total sales reported: 28
Lowest sale reported: \$250,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,175,000
Average sales reported: \$585,250

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

Danville

847 El Cerro Boulevard T. & A. Vollertsen to D. & T. Wolkenhauer for \$949,000
208 Garden Creek Place D. Haven to C. Jones for \$560,000
523 Honey Lake Court D. & A. Tierney to M. Riley for \$1,200,000
247 Madeline Lane Shapell Industries to R. & N. Spence for \$1,310,000
519 Messian Place D. & D. Hulet to J. & L. Ajer for \$1,462,500
24 Sierra Vista Place Shimamura Inc. to L. Schneider for \$995,000
1900 St. George Road S. & L. Dortch to J. & S. Lyman for \$737,500
265 Stetson Drive B. Sattley to N. Faryabi for \$937,000
147 Sunhaven Road NEI Global Relocation to M. & D. Parkey for \$1,600,000
Alamo
324 Alamo Square Drive McGill Trust to Johnson Trust for \$556,500
440 Bolla Place G. & S. Willson to S. & C. Clark for \$1,395,000
1460 Livorna Road B. & A. Banoczky to Rocha Trust for \$1,100,000
1594 Via Romero L. & C. Rembrandt to E. & T. Dopkins for \$1,550,000

Walnut Creek

10 Aleman Court Milanfar Trust to P. Schlehr for \$692,500
1315 Alma Avenue #113 Alpine of Alma Development to R. Saveh for \$542,000
1315 Alma Avenue #145 Alpine of Alma Development to B. Epstein for \$343,000
1315 Alma Avenue #211 Alpine of Alma Development to M. Khristo for \$489,000
1315 Alma Avenue #231 Alpine of Alma Development to J. & T. Warren for \$354,000
1315 Alma Avenue #262 Alpine of Alma Development to C. Colebourn for \$361,000
1315 Alma Avenue #366 Alpine of Alma Development to D. & S. Lutz for \$526,000
1315 Alma Avenue #414 Alpine of Alma Development to S. Campbell for \$387,000
1315 Alma Avenue #466 Alpine of Alma Development to R. Hoyle for \$535,000
1315 Alma Avenue Alpine of Alma Development to C. Cosce for \$345,000
3553 Eris Court G. & C. Mooney to T. & A. Weibert for \$1,175,000
1803 Geary Road Trost Trust to P. & B. Rosselli for \$400,000
106 Hamlin Loop Citrus Walk Limited to J. Hong for \$359,000
200 Hamlin Loop Citrus Walk Limited to B. & M. Yuen for \$743,000

202 Hamlin Loop Citrus Walk Limited to A. & R. Bautista for \$744,500
3208 Hudson Avenue T. & A. Phelps to J. Fritsch for \$690,000
203 Ludell Drive E. Armstrong to R. Baldoza for \$749,000
942 Monet Circle S. & D. Turner to R. & K. Veloso for \$909,000
410 North Civic Drive #108 Palmer Trust to B. Schlenker for \$340,000
123 North Villa Way N. & B. Brooks to A. Sellar for \$376,000
1106 Olivia Street Cendant Mobility Financial to H. Bertagnolli for \$950,000
421 Pimlico Drive Rubin Trust to F. Garcia for \$660,000
182 Pioneer Avenue A. & E. Kalmanson to M. Milshtein for \$1,095,000
1201 Skycrest Drive #1 W. Campbell to M. Cravotto for \$250,000
612 Terra California Drive #3 Mahler Trust to R. & D. Weber for \$625,000
4431 Terra Granada Drive #2A Barnett Trust to B. Rabinowitz for \$575,000
5593 Terra Granada Drive #2B M. Cummins to D. & P. Conklin for \$610,000
101 Ygnacio Court M. & M. Zakerin to N. Pandelis for \$562,000



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