

# The 'imperfect' cook

As 2006 dawns, the Epicure learns to love her limitations

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Vol. 1, Number 36 • January 6, 2006

www.DanvilleWeekly.com

## Storm damage

Danville repair estimates up to \$1.5 million

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# Danville

## W E E K L Y

## Smoking ban

County targets parks, outside businesses

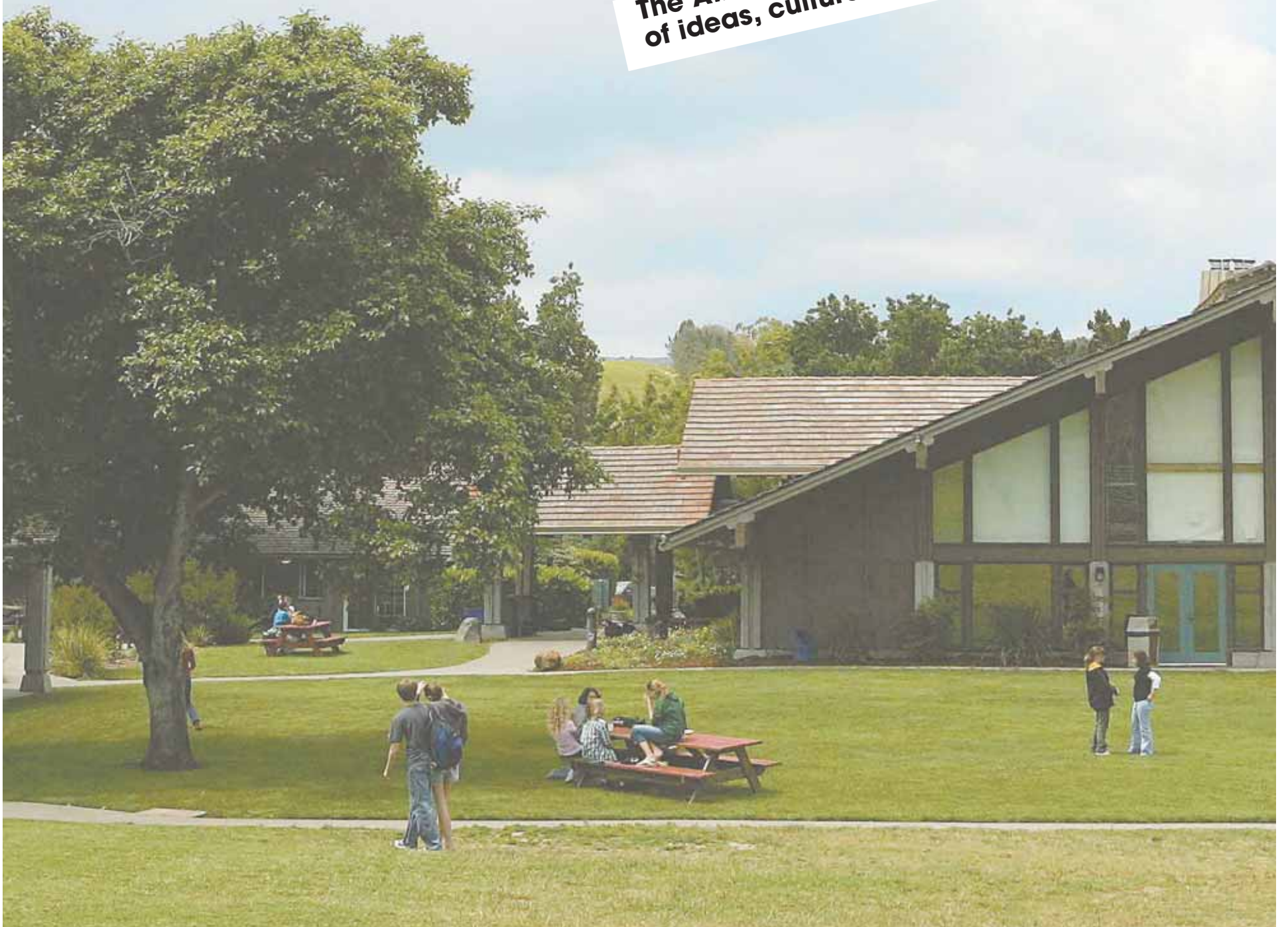
> page 7

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page 14



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## Q: What are you looking forward to in the New Year?



I have a lot of things to look forward to in the coming year. My wife and I will be having our fourth child. We will be moving to Myrtle Beach and opening a new store. We are in the cabinet business. And we will be taking a Caribbean cruise with my brother-in-law. But, mostly I just look forward to watching my kids grow and develop.

**Aaron Brock**  
cabinet distributor



I'm working on an animation project that I hope to complete and launch in 2006. I write children's music and lyrics and am working on a DVD and book that will pair my music with animation. The singers are Danville children. I'm hoping Scholastic Books might pick it up. I'm very excited about it. I've completed two CD's that are in Tower Records now.

**Sandi Hunt**  
songwriter



I hope to buy a new RV and travel throughout the western states. I'm really looking forward to that.

**Larry Petersen**  
salesman



We recently moved to Alamo from New Orleans so I'm looking forward to meeting people, making new friends and getting involved in the community. I'm eager to set down roots in our new town. My husband's job brought us to California. We left New Orleans before the storm, so we were fortunate, but we have a lot of friends and family who have suffered terribly.

**Susan St. Laurent**  
mom



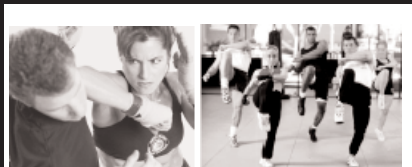
I feel very blessed and I just hope for continued good health and fortune. I look forward to helping others.

**George Bailey**  
sales associate, U.S. Postal Service

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### ABOUT THE COVER

The Athenian School on 75 acres at the foot of Mount Diablo nurtures each student as a "whole person" to help them recognize their unique talents and use them to serve themselves and others. Photo courtesy of the Athenian School.

Vol. 1, Number 36

The Danville Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville, CA 94526; (925) 837-8300. Mailed at Standard Postage Rate. The Danville Weekly is mailed free to homes and apartments in Danville, Blackhawk, Diablo and Alamo. Voluntary subscriptions at \$25 per year (\$40 for two years) are welcome from local residents. Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$40 per year. © 2005 by Embarcadero Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The dog went in and bit him, and the guy decided he'd had enough and surrendered.”

—Sgt. Ron Bradley of the Danville Police Department about how a member of the K-9 Corps helped arrest a burglary suspect who hid in the trunk of a car. See story, page 5.

## New driving laws now in effect

Several new driving laws went into effect Jan. 1. One bans new drivers under the age of 18 from carrying passengers under 20 for the first year of the new driver's license; previously it was six months. Also, they are prohibited from driving between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.; before they could not drive after midnight. These new laws also apply to teens who already had their licenses before Jan. 1.

Another change helps police officers in their pursuits by increasing the penalties for motorists who do not stop when so directed. Beginning Jan. 1, the penalty for intentionally evading or fleeing a peace officer, a misdemeanor, has increased from six months in County Jail to up to one year. If in fleeing, a person causes serious bodily injury or death, it is a felony, and the penalty is increased from a maximum of five years in state prison to 10 years.

Another new law increases the penalty for drag racing that results in bodily injury, increasing jail time from 24 hours-90 days to 30 days-six months. If serious injury results, the new law mandates 30 days to one year in County Jail or state prison.

Also beginning Jan. 1, the manufacturers of "pocket bikes" must affix a sticker disclosing that operation is prohibited on a highway, sidewalk, roadway, bikeway, equestrian trail, hiking trail or public lands open to off-highway motor vehicle use. If someone operates a pocket bike on one of these locations, the bike will be subject to seizure.

## Everyday economics

Students in Pam Jarvis' seventh-grade class at Diablo Vista Middle School were the first to implement a new program called Economics for Success. It was recently developed by Junior Achievement and sponsored by Allstate Foundation, to focus on personal finance skills as well as to introduce students to the field of economics.

"My students learned quite a bit about their future in the working world and what is involved in financial decision-making," said Jarvis.

For the program, a volunteer visits the classroom once a week for six weeks to teach fun, practical, hands-on lessons.

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

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## Storms strike Danville to tune of \$1.5 million

Roads, hills and homes suffer flooding, erosion and slippage

by Jordan M. Doronila

The swirling and splashing storms that hit Northern California last weekend caused \$1.5 million in damages in Danville according to preliminary estimates, said Town Manager Joe Calabrigo.

There has been flooding, erosion and slippage in several local areas, Calabrigo said. Storms left other Northern California communities with damages that topped \$200 million and killed two people, convincing Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to declare 23 counties as disaster areas.

Calabrigo said there is private property damage as well as erosion and slippage on a slope adjacent to El Cerro Boulevard. He also said there was flooding on San Ramon Valley Boulevard, south of Sycamore Valley Road, caused by an accumulation of debris after drains became clogged.

Additionally, he said a flood damaged a car in the Fountain Springs area plus debris clogged



catch basins on the west side of town so the water overflowed toward private property, causing damage.

There were four pages of calls about flooding to the town maintenance department, Calabrigo said.

"When you compare what's happening in the news, we escaped relatively unscathed," he added.

Some Danville homes were impacted by the drenching storms.

Brenda Tobian's hillside home on Town and Country Drive suffered flood damage. Tobian said her heating ducts filled with water

and she had to remove carpeting from three bedrooms.

"The heating ducts are all full of water," said Tobian. "I have no heating. There was 4 feet of water in my house."

Other homes on the hill adjacent to Tobian's property were also affected by the storms. Debris clogged the catch basin and drainage gutter, which caused the water to collect and flow toward their homes.

"It's the concentration of water that created the flow problem," said Gary Tobian, Brenda's father-in-law and a former contractor. He



Brenda Tobian reveals damage in her closet caused by storms over the weekend. Her next-door neighbor's swimming pool is covered in brown water caused by clogged debris.

PHOTOS COURTESY BRENDA TOBIAN

added that the catch basin drop is dangerous for children, who could fall inside and get hurt.

"We're mentally affected by the storms," said neighbor Dave Fowler, who saw water flowing from Tobian's home to his. "It was tough to not know what was going to happen."

The storms brought ferocious winds and pelting rain to Northern California, as well as high tides in the Delta, flooding towns along the North Coast and in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Officials noted more than 40

episodes of erosion, the Associated Press reported. In Southern California, rain marred the Rose Parade for the first time in 51 years.

The series of storms is blamed for two deaths, one in Siskiyou County where a teenager fell into a creek and one in Lake County where a man drowned, according to the state Office of Emergency Services.

Now Tobian said she is watching closely to see what's going to happen next.

"I'm going to be watching the Weather Channel every day," she said. ■

## Homeowner foils early morning burglary

Police dog helps entice suspect from car trunk hiding place

by Geoff Gillette

Several police officers, police dogs and a helicopter were called out in the early morning hours Tuesday after a homeowner surprised a burglar in his home. The incident occurred shortly after 2 a.m. in the 1000 block of El Capitan, according to early reports from the Danville Police Department.

Sgt. Ron Bradley said apparently the burglar, identified as Braden Nichols, 21, of no fixed address, was discovered by the owner inside the garage. A scuffle ensued between the burglar, the homeowner and his two sons. Bradley said Nichols escaped from the trio and ran outdoors, jumping fences and cutting through yards in the neighborhood.

Police officers from Danville, San Ramon and the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office responded to the disturbance call and set up a perimeter in the neighborhood. Police dogs as well as a helicopter were brought in to track Nichols.

Bradley said the dogs caught the scent of the fleeing suspect and fol-

lowed him to a garage in the 1600 block of Harlan. Initially, a search of the garage did not reveal Nichols.

"They walk into the garage and don't see anything, then one of the sheriff's deputies sees the gas flap on the car is open," Bradley said. The homeowner indicated it had not been left in that condition so the deputy used the latch to pop open the trunk, revealing the hiding Nichols.

After spying the suspect, the deputy closed the lid on the trunk again and called for additional officers. Once they had arrived, the lid was opened again. Nichols refused to leave the trunk, holding police at bay with a screwdriver, police said. The standoff lasted a few minutes before a police dog was given the order to attack.

"The dog went in and bit him, and the guy decided he'd had enough and surrendered," said Bradley.

Police expect Nichols to be charged with armed robbery and first-degree burglary. In addition the man is wanted on three warrants out of Contra Costa County, for possession of stolen property/possession of a firearm by an ex-felon; reckless driving; and illegal weapons. He is currently being held at the Martinez Detention Center. ■

## Crunches for money

Lindsey Vencill crunches to raise money while her friend Yvonne Yip urges her on while eating a slice of pizza. Both are juniors at San Ramon Valley High School, which held its second annual Crunch-A-Thon in its gymnasium just before winter break. The event was held in honor of Erick J. Hodges, an alumnus of San Ramon who served in Iraq and lost his life. The gym was filled with yoga students doing sit-ups to raise money for a computer, a trip to Monterey Bay Aquarium and the Blue Star Moms.



JORDAN M. DORONILA

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## Douse that cigarette

County aims to end smoking outdoors, citing harm in secondhand smoke

by **Jordan M. Doronila**

A new county law may be ready in 90 days to end outdoor smoking in Alamo, Diablo and Blackhawk, county officials said, so those areas can reduce secondhand smoking.

Last month the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors ordered the Health Services Department to develop a model ordinance to stop smoking in unincorporated areas. If the ordinance is passed, it aims to prohibit smoking in outdoor areas such as parks or outside businesses.

Alamo, Diablo and Blackhawk are three unincorporated areas in the county.

**"The county should now look for new ways to expand smoke-free living and working."**

—Supervisor Mark DeSaulnier

"We're going to closely watch this item as it progresses," said Supervisor Mary N. Piepho, who voted for the measure but said it was a low priority on her list.

"It's the cause of all sorts of problems for children," said Greg Bardad, chief of staff for Supervisor Mark DeSaulnier, the main sponsor of the bill.

County Health Services will develop a list of the best methods to stop secondhand smoking. The board will then decide on the most efficient method to curb the action.

Officials said it would take 90 days for anything to develop.

"My key concern is cost," said Piepho.

The California Environmental Protection Agency released a study in October 2005 containing new, stronger evidence linking secondhand tobacco smoke to a wide variety of adverse health effects, officials said. Some of these include cancer, heart disease and respiratory ailments, as well as increased incidences of breast cancer in non-smoking premenopausal women.

Several local residents believe that secondhand smoking should be stopped.

"There needs to be a place for smokers," said Molly Lafayette, an Alamo resident. "But I can choose not go to a designated smoking area."

"I would agree with the ordinance if it goes through," she said.

Ken Jones, another Alamo resident, said smoking anywhere impacts people. "It's not a good thing."

"Whether you smoke in the park or in the parking lot, it's bad," he added.

"Smoking causes cancer," said Joe Ireland, a Morgan Hill resident who was running errands in Alamo on Tuesday. "It's not good for you."

Historically, Contra Costa County has addressed secondhand

smoking issues. In 1984, the board of supervisors and all 18 city councils became the first multi-jurisdictional region in the nation to adopt uniform legislation restricting smoking in the workplace and public spaces.

In 1991, the Board of Supervisors adopted a clean indoor air ordinance banning smoking in workplaces and restaurants, with exceptions for bar areas, and restricting smoking in bowling alleys and bingo parlors.

Also, the county spends \$228 million annually to treat smoking related illnesses. Research shows that prohibiting smoking in workplaces and public areas supports the efforts of smoker to break the habit, officials said.

"The county historically has been a strong advocate in his regard," said Piepho.

The state in 1998 enacted a law prohibiting smoking in most enclosed workplaces. A number of state laws and regulations have extended secondhand smoke protections in public playgrounds, school campuses and outdoor areas of government buildings.

"Contra Costa County has taken the lead in this area and should now look for new ways to expand smoke-free living and working," said Supervisor DeSaulnier. ■

## Reading in the Outback

Jack and Linda Thompson of Alamo enjoy their Danville Weekly on a November trip to Australia while visiting Uluru, previously known as Ayers Rock, which is a sandstone outcrop in the middle of the Outback.

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



## Danville woman dies in crash outside Healdsburg

Fatality occurs before 2 a.m. Tuesday on two-lane road

by **Jordan M. Doronila**

A Danville woman died early Tuesday morning when the Land Rover she was driving went off a two-lane road just east of Healdsburg and crashed into a tree, said California Highway Patrol Officer Gavin Graham.

Kelly Jean Bianchi, 38, was identified as the driver of the black 2000 Land Rover Discovery that officers believe veered off Bailhache Avenue east of Village Avenue about two miles east of the Healdsburg city limits sometime before 2 a.m., according to reports.

The accident spot is on a two-lane road that goes through dense woods; it appeared the vehicle failed to

negotiate a sharp right turn and went off the roadway, officials said. It wasn't certain Tuesday how long the Land Rover had been there before police were called about 2 a.m., police said.

Heather Liautaud of Redwood City, who rode on the Land Rover's passenger's side, sustained major injuries in the accident including broken ribs, lacerations and abrasions. She was taken to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital for treatment. She is believed to be Bianchi's mother, officers said.

Both Bianchi and Liautaud were wearing their seatbelts, police said.

This is the first fatality for the CHP for the new year, said officials, and they are investigating if the accident was caused by alcohol or speeding. ■

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# Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

## Being flexible



**D**iet and exercise. Diet and exercise. I'm getting mighty tired of that mantra. Isn't there an easier way to stay healthy? A friend tells me that often when celebrities on TV are asked their secret to looking great, the answer is: yoga. So I decided to check out the Diablo Yoga Center to learn more about this form of—what? Exercise? Relaxation?

The center is tucked away on Town and Country Drive behind the McCaulou's shopping center. It was a pleasant walk through the gardens from the parking lot, and shoes were randomly arranged on the deck by the door, signaling it was no longer a real estate office. A class had just ended but the students had stayed to look at the wares of a feng shui lady, who laid out assorted bracelets and crystals. A few feet away, I sat on a mat with director Lauren Davis, who pointed out crystals in each corner of the room to improve its feng shui, or flow of energy. The large room did indeed have a good feel, with a fountain in one corner and the end wall made of stone.

Lauren said yoga is hard to describe because it is different for each person. For some, it's a stress reliever; others use it to lower their blood pressure; while another person's goal may be to improve flexibility, balance and strength. "It's physical yet mental," Lauren explained. She also noted that each person works at his or her own level; beginning and advanced students can take a class together, using different variations. "The teacher tells

you everything," she said. "When to sit, when to stand." A class starts off physical then becomes mental. She gracefully arced her hand over her head and held it in place. This is easy, she said, but after you hold the position for a few seconds, then a few more, and yet a few more, you begin to focus on it and your increasing discomfort, which gets you out of your head. She also said that at each class, you end up working the spine in all directions—the hips and back—almost like a self-massage. Yoga can balance other activities, she added, such as improving someone's golf swing or limbering them up for tennis.

Lauren opened Diablo Yoga Center in 1996 with two partners who have since moved on. She said there are misconceptions about yoga. People fear they are not flexible enough, having seen photos of practitioners twisted into extreme positions. Others think it is "too spiritual." Lauren leaves that side of it up to each student, saying, "I'm not a swami." The Yoga Center offers an array of teachers and classes, and Lauren recommends finding the teacher whose methods appeal to you. The Diablo Yoga Center is a "hatha yoga" studio in the "Iyengar" tradition, which emphasizes alignment of the body as poses are practiced. Lauren said that with the use of bolsters and blankets, the body automatically starts to relax. "It's about letting go," she said, "in a safe environment."

Newcomers are welcome to drop into any class. The schedule is available at the center or on the Web site:

www.diabloyogacenter.com. Lauren recommends starting with the beginning yoga class, from 7:15-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, which she teaches. "You will definitely feel OK in that class. I make everyone feel welcome," she said. People feel results right away and often get excited because afterwards they have a good night's sleep for the first time in ages. All classes cost \$16; also cards are available for five, 10 or 15 classes, which works out to \$14 per class. "Community" classes, led by new teachers, are \$8. The center has a workshop planned later this month on Carpal Tunnel Syndrome and Repetitive Stress Injuries. And Lauren will lead a Reluctant Husband Workshop in April. She is also considering classes for plus sizes and for babies and moms.

Lauren, who also lives in Danville, said her students come from all walks of life and income levels. Four years ago, when the center was in financial trouble, she sent out letters to all her students calling for a meeting, and 60 people showed up and offered financial support and business expertise. They formed a board of directors and helped get the yoga center back in the black.

Yoga is not exercise, Lauren told me; it's a practice and its goal is to maintain health. She said sometimes students will drag themselves in after a hard day at work and although they had no expectations, that can turn out to be their best class. I can visualize that scenario—I think I'm ready to commit some time to yoga. ■

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Circulation e-mail:  
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The Danville Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville, CA 94526; (925) 837-8300.

Mailed at Standard Postage Rate. The Danville Weekly is mailed free to homes and apartments in Danville, Blackhawk, Diablo and Alamo. Voluntary subscriptions at \$25 per year (\$40 for two years) are welcome from local residents.

Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$40/year.

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# Perspective

EDITORIALS • LETTERS • OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

## EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### Fresh produce

Kudos to the Danville Town Council for pushing ahead to schedule a season of Thursday evening farmers markets, which will take place from April through October.

The Saturday morning farmers market is a popular staple in town. Residents from Danville and the surrounding communities patronize it for seasonal produce, advice from farmers on preparation tips, and various fresh-baked goods.

But the town wanted to explore a second weekly market for several reasons:

- Not everyone is available Saturday mornings to attend the market;
- A weekday event would draw more people to downtown Danville; and
- Providing a second farmers market would be a service to residents who are fans of the open-market shopping experience.

The trial run on five Thursday evenings in September on Hartz Avenue clarified some issues, and its shortcomings have been addressed.

First, the new Thursday market will be held in the parking lot adjacent to Andronico's, behind the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, where the Saturday market takes place so patrons are familiar with the location. Also, moving the market away from Hartz allows it to co-exist with other downtown activities, perhaps even creating synergies, and the market in the parking lot does not necessitate closing a street.

Second, the evening market will begin in the spring, when each lovely day seems longer than the one before and people want to be outdoors. By fall, the new farmers market should be well established.

These issues were addressed by the town's Economic Vitality Committee, Discover Danville and the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce, groups dedicated to tweaking the weekday farmers market to make it a success. If a Thursday evening farmers market ultimately does not thrive, no one will be able to say they did not explore every option. Congratulations to the town for its commitment to making a Thursday evening farmers market happen.

## THE POINT OF THE PEN

NEWSPAPER HEADLINES WE WON'T BE SEEING IN 2006:

DANVILLE PARKING PROBLEMS ELIMINATED

DUFF FIELD BACKS OUT OF ALAMO  
DECIDES TO BUILD TEN STOCK-TON INSTEAD

NEWS PG&E CUTS RATES AS A GOODWILL GESTURE

RAIDERS & 49ERS MAKE PLAYOFFS

Next Week - Headlines We Won't See in '07

## LETTERS

### More about patriotism

Dear Editor:

I feel obligated to set the record straight after reading Joe Hackman's Dec. 16 response to my letter of Dec. 2. Mr. Hackman stated, "I believe that Mr. Hoffmann's letter was politically motivated." Let me state, in complete honesty, that every letter I write on the subject of politics is clearly politically motivated, just in case anyone wasn't sure. I have run for public office three times, another patriotic act I didn't mention in my previous letter. What I write, however, is not always to gain popularity or votes, but to stimulate thought. To "go along to get along" is not patriotism.

As our Founding Fathers did, I have pledged my life, my fortune and my sacred honor to the cause of Freedom. One does not have to die or be wounded on the battlefield to preserve our Freedoms.

My right to define patriotism is preserved by the first of the Bill of Rights granting to all Americans Freedom of Speech and Press. I commend Mr. Hackman for exercising that right, as I did, in expressing his views on patriotism.

Mr. Hackman makes a good point writing, "No one can look into the heart and mind of someone who is waving a flag or places one on their automobile." What better cover for a terrorist! It is that uncertainty of motivation that makes me uncomfortable.

Ralph Hoffmann, Danville

### Quit blasting volunteers

Dear Editor:

Accuse and avoid. A new low of accusation by the District 3 County Supervisor Mary N. Piepho was reached on Nov. 25 in the Letters to the Editor. Again the supervisor slammed former Zone 36 and R7A volunteers and continued to avoid answering their substantive questions of accountability, county staff inefficiency and incomplete projects in Alamo. In the first six weeks following her termination action of all members, there were nine! accusatory articles in three newspapers put forth by the supervisor before committee members finally, with restraint, responded. More supervisor articles have followed, each with more weird accusations of the members including "malicious name calling, being nuisances to the community, playing nasty politics, etc." We were volunteers, for goodness sake!

It is time to take a higher road, Supervisor Piepho. Quit blasting volunteers, apologize, give truthful answers and do the projects for Alamo: That should be the role of a county supervisor.

Nancy Dommes, Alamo

## Art

### 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](http://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](http://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.

## Classes

### 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.

## Clubs

### 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.alamodanville newcomers.com](http://www.alamodanville newcomers.com).

### 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](mailto:baduffy@juno.com).

### 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](mailto:camille@minichino.com).

### Diablo Valley Quilters' Guild Guest Speaker

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

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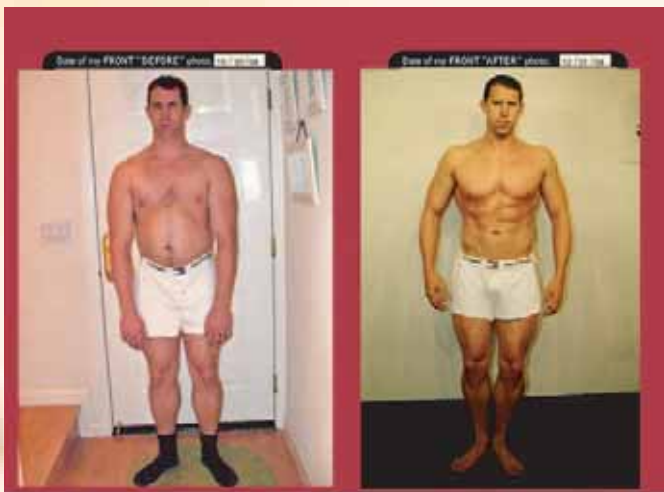
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**San Ramon Valley Exchange Club**  
 The San Ramon Valley Exchange Club invites you to join them at noon, the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, at Faz, 600 Hartz Ave., (sign in at 11:45 a.m.). Speaker, Jean Hart, Deputy Director, Alameda County Congestion Management Agency will discuss "Hot Lanes-Hov Lanes," on Jan. 11. Lunch is \$16. RSVP 275-2412.

**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.

## Concerts

**Traditional Hymns & Classical Music**  
 Rolling Hills Community Church presents a Traditional Hymns & Classical Music Concert, featuring Tom Lucia, Covenant Four Quartet, Salvation Army Band, and other performers, at 7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 13, at Rolling Hills Community Church, 1565 Green Valley Road. The cost is \$10-\$15, and proceeds support the Outdoor Adventure Faire, a children's fishing and sporting expo. For information, call 820-3874.

## Events

**Alamo Women's Club Luncheon**  
 The Alamo Women's Club presents inspiration speaker Susan Taylor, feng shui consultant, at noon, Wednesday, Jan. 25, at the Alamo Women's Club, 1401 Danville Blvd., Alamo. The cost is \$15. Call Barbara Stevens for reservations at 837-2171.

**Night**  
 The second annual Hats Off America Casino Night will be from 6 p.m.-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 dlrc@dlrc.org.

**Danville Rotary Crab Feed**  
 The Danville Rotary International is sponsoring a Crab Feed at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 4, at St. Isidore Church, Small Gym, 440 LaGonda Way. Proceeds will benefit the proposed SRVHS Aquatic Center and other community activities. The cost is \$40 which includes salad, crab, pasta and a prize drawing ticket. For tickets, call Mike at 837-2027 or Victor at 838-8721.

**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.

## 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. All Aboard 2005! runs through Jan. 8.

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

## Health

**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).

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## Kids & Teens Sports

### 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](http://www.blackhawkmuseum.org).

## 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.

### 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.

### 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](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us), visit the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St., or call 314-3400.

## 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.

### 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.

## Volunteering

### 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](mailto:volunteers@hospicecc.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](mailto:pcs@cclib.org).

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# Learning together

The Athenian School prides itself on diversity—of ideas, culture and defining success

by Kathy Cordova

**Despite** its hefty price tag and reputation for academic excellence, the Athenian School is not just a fancy prep school for rich white kids.

In fact, the private school in Danville for grades six through 12 prides itself on diversity. Administrators value the concept so greatly that they've created a special position—Dean of Diversity and Inclusion—dedicated to it. Student statistics are proof of this commitment: 37 percent are people “of color”; 10 percent are international, from a dozen countries; 20 percent receive financial aid.

But the school's diversity and inclusion go beyond ethnicity and geography. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the parking lot where gleaming Mercedes SUVs and Lexus convertibles are parked beside dusty Toyota hybrids with bumper stickers proclaiming, “The Best Things in Life Aren't Things,” and “Treehugging Dirt Worshipper.”

There is, however, one thing that nearly all the students have in common. Almost 100 percent of them will attend four-year colleges and universities. Many of the graduates will have their pick among prestigious institutions such as Harvard, Stanford and Yale.

Athenian alumni can be found in the executive offices at Nike, on the federal court bench, leading activist organizations like MoveOn.org, and working in the nation's capital to eradicate hunger.

“Our graduates are very successful but success isn't only measured by financial gain,” says Eleanor Dase, Head of School since 1992. “Success is measured by satisfaction and doing something meaningful and giving back.”

That simple statement illustrates the difference between Athenian and other renowned college preparatory schools. More than the pursuit of achievement, grades and Ivy League diplomas, Athenian's purpose is to nurture the student as a “whole person,” to help each child recognize his or her own passions and unique talents and to use them to serve themselves and others.

“We are obliged not just to develop intellectual fitness,” says Dase, “but for each one to discover who they are and what they love doing and what they're going to love doing for the rest of their lives.”

The Athenian School was founded by Dyke Brown, a graduate of Yale Law School and former executive of the Ford Foundation, 40 years ago with the goals of Periclean Athens—educating the minds, bodies, hearts and spirits of future leaders. Brown, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday, grew up in a privileged family in the East Bay, but his passions for civic responsibility, service and education were ignited during a year's exchange program in Europe when he was a young man. Inspired to create a school that would have the same impact on other students, Brown traveled the country raising money from his influential contacts to buy the land and build the school on 75 acres at the foot of Mount Diablo.

Athenian attracts talented students from down the street in Danville, across the Bay in San Francisco, and beyond oceans and cultures in cities like Moscow and New Delhi for a variety of reasons as diverse as the school itself.

Anne Harechmak lives in Pleasanton, which is

known for its excellent public schools. But every day she makes two 30-plus mile roundtrips so that her sixth-grade son, Robby, can attend Athenian because they prefer the intimacy of the small school.

“The public schools are so crowded,” says Harechmak. “At Athenian the kids know the teachers and the teachers know the kids. It's more like a small town.”

Athenian is a very small town, with a student body of about 450 and an average class size of 15. More than 20 faculty members live on campus and actively participate in student life—holding classes in rooms adjacent to their homes and helping out on community service projects on Saturdays.

“Our ratio is so small, (10 to 1, student to faculty) so you know your child cannot get lost,” says Dase. “Teachers care enough about them that they know when to push, push, push and challenge. But they also know when to listen and they know when to nurture and support and provide extra help. (Parents) are sending their child to a community of learners, rather than just a school.”

The types of educational activities are also influenced by the small class sizes.

“It's a different kind of learning,” says Harechmak. “You can't do the same kinds of things when there are 30 kids in the class as you can do with 15.”

One example is the middle school's “Focus Fridays.” Monday through Thursday, the students attend regular classes, but Fridays are devoted to participatory learning in unique and fun ways—from holding a mock session of Congress to the popular experiential science project, “Rotten Log Day.”

“The learn  
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ning is exciting instead of drudgery," says "When I drop Robby off, he's happy to go, and him up he's smiling."

ne, a seventh-grader from Alamo, discovered when he tagged along to an open house two years ago her who was checking out schools for her niece.

Laurie Bodine didn't think her son was paying attention, so she was surprised when Jack told her, "I want to go to school here.

This is the place for me." With wisdom and maturity beyond his 10 years of age at the time, Jack told his mother that he wanted a

he could be his best authentic.

now evangelistic school. "I have seen for Jack," she says. have to masquerade s in middle school doesn't have to be tenth-grade boy. He self."

the Bodines' attraction Athenian were the "are" IDEALS that is founded upon. re is a consortium e schools around at work together the same goals: ism, Democracy, t, Adventure,

and Service. "Everything ves around those pillars, and they really resonat-says Bodine.

ian Wilderness Experience, or AWE, is a unique ation program that fulfills the goals of Adventure ent. AWE, which has roots in the Outward Bound graduation requirement for all students who must s backpacking in the wilderness, working as a team, confidence, strength and an appreciation for nature. ents, the most impressive quality of Athenian may ceeds in providing the thing that is the most impor-llenging in the awkward adolescent

se of belonging. d of sixth grade, Jack he thought it was real- every single kid was or who he is and what unique," says Bodine. es how kids who, personality quirks or earances would be mis- typical middle school embraced and recognized ke math wizardry that in s might relegate them to nerd category. s like he contributes every s respected," Bodine says. a model of how the world Other parents describe "Utopian" and "the most place I've ever seen."

s an idealistic place in the sense ant our graduates going into the ng, "How can I make it a better place?" says Beeson, director of Admission and Financial Aid. rned with the kind of people we're graduating—their their perspectives on themselves and the world. We be world citizens equipped to make a positive differ- world around them."

Those ideals appealed to the Lassigs, who discovered Athenian while living in Germany and doing research on schools in anticipation of their return to the U.S. "Athenian popped out because of the international flavor and the philosophy of educating the whole person and the community service," says Julie Lassig.

First the Lassigs moved to Pleasanton, and they decided to give the public schools a try. "They were good schools and good teachers, but philosophically, it was not as good a fit for us."

They enrolled their daughters, seventh-grader Briana and ninth-grader Michaela, in Athenian, and moved to Danville, even though it added half an hour to their father Steve's commute to his job in Fremont. Michaela graduated in 2004 and Briana is a senior this year.

Julie Lassig is especially impressed with the community service aspect of the school. "My kids have worked for Habitat for Humanity, the Taylor Family Foundation summer camp, and a place that sold things to help battered women's organizations. They've handed out sandwiches in People's Park. Brianna is going to Louisiana over spring break to work on the rebuild."

Lassig also likes the variety of course offerings at the school. "They are very academic," she says, "but students can take existentialism and meditation as well as classics and Shakespeare."

Athenian's global perspective played a big part in Brendan Okechukwu's decision to go there. Okechukwu, a junior from East Oakland, is on partial scholarship.

"My favorite part is I get to see a lot of different people and see things I wouldn't get at other schools," he says. "There's diversity, but it's not just race or religion, but people from all over the world. I got to go to Thailand and Australia on exchange programs and it was one of the best experiences of my life."

By definition, the ultimate test of a college preparatory school may be how it prepares a student for college. Some parents worry that Athenian's small size and nurturing environment may make a transition to a larger institution difficult. Dase has heard that concern but says alumni tell her they feel very well-prepared for the challenges of college because they have learned to be resourceful and assert themselves.

"What happens here is students find their voice and their confidence and their motivation and their independence and that helps them succeed in both small college environments and very large college and professional environments," Beeson says.

Bill Ames of Lafayette, whose daughter Sarah has just completed her first semester at Vassar, agrees. "I'm in the process of writing them a thank you note," he says.

One comes away from Athenian entranced into believing it's a rare place where ideas often thought mutually exclusive—material success and social responsibility, independence and collaboration, authenticity and fitting in with a larger group—cannot only peacefully coexist, but thrive. ■



## School info

Athenian School  
Diablo Scenic Blvd.  
CA 94506  
athenian.org

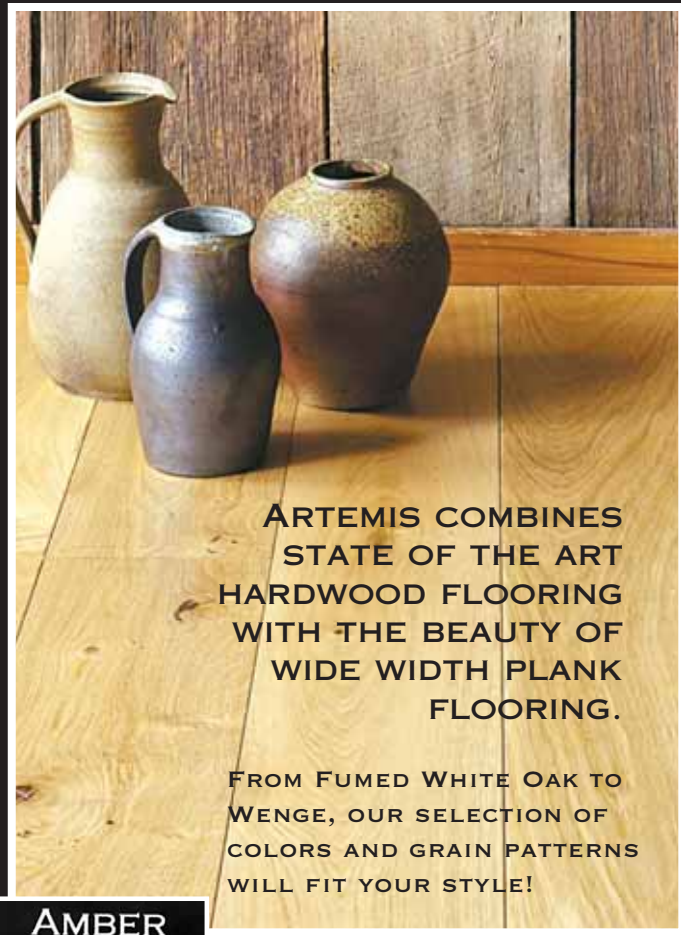
### Open House for fall 2006 enrollment:

Middle School (6-8)  
1-3 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 7  
Upper School (9-12)  
1-4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 8

Tuition:  
Middle School \$17,515  
Upper School Day \$23,202  
Boarding \$36,846  
International Program \$39,704

Eleanor Dase, Head of School at the Athenian since 1992, says the school develops intellectual fitness in its students but also helps them discover who they are and what they love doing.

PHOTOS COURTESY THE ATHENIAN SCHOOL



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story and photos by Jordan M. Doronila

**D**anville resident Diane Michaelson loves all children—but especially her adopted daughter Sophie. She loves her children unconditionally, she said, even though they are not biologically hers.



## Growing a family through loveline instead of bloodline *Danville couple adopts kids*



Diane Michaelson carries her foster son Anthony in her arms. Above, she cuddles her adopted daughter Sophie on the couch.

“I would give my life for my children,” said Michaelson. “We’re a complete family.”

Diane, 47, and her husband Timothy Michaelson, 46, adopted their 5-year-old daughter Sophie in 2000. And in October, they became foster parents to 2-year-old Anthony through the Contra Costa County Human Services Department.

Diane was 35 when she married Timothy Michaelson. The two wanted to have children to love and to see them grow into mature adults, she said. They knew they wanted to adopt so they soon began the lengthy process.

“Adoption is pretty common,” she said.

A person who wants to adopt a child must first decide whether to adopt a domestic or an international child, she explained. A prospective adopter may use the services of a lawyer who handles adoptions or may go through an agency, such as Human Services of Contra Costa County.

Sophie was born July 31, 2000, at the Stanford University Medical Center. Her heritage is Italian, Puerto Rican, Portuguese and Irish. Michaelson said the adop-

tion cost them \$30,000, which a lawyer distributed to Sophie’s mother.

“Sophie loves to be outside,” Diane Michaelson said. “She’s a very active kid.” She also takes tennis, piano and Mandarin classes.

Diane and Timothy began to foster Anthony just three months ago through the foster care agency at county Human Services. Diane said that Anthony, who is Puerto Rican and Caucasian, was exposed to drug use but he is healthy.

“He’s very bright,” she said, and “he wants his own way” very often.

“Both are very strong-willed kids,” she noted with a loving smile.

Anthony also likes to play outside, the same as his sister. He enjoys riding his tricycle and scooter.

Overall, her children “play pretty well together,” she said.

Diane Michaelson grew up in Los Angeles and lived there for 30 years before moving to Sacramento. She graduated from Arizona State University and majored in health sciences, specializing in environmental health.

She works for the California Environmental Protection Agency.

She said her move to Sacramento was beneficial. “I could buy a home as a single person,” she said.

Timothy went to State University of New York-Buffalo and majored in environmental studies. When he returned to California, he found it difficult to find a job in that field. He became a chef and opened several restaurants in Los Angeles.

The two met through a friend when they both lived in Southern California. When Diane moved to Sacramento, they kept in touch by phone. And in their mid-30s they married.

After their marriage, Timothy got his law degree at McGeorge Law School from the University of the Pacific and worked at the same time.

Now the four of them have enjoyed their first holidays as a new family.

“I always knew I would adopt my children,” Diane Michaelson said. “There are kids around the world who need a home,” she said. “Why not adopt?” ■



BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

## The imperfect cook

“One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.”

—Virginia Woolf

by Jacquie Love Marshall

This first column of 2006 is not dedicated to the “Naked Chef,” the “Galloping Gourmet,” the “Domestic Goddess” or the “Barefoot Contessa.” It is not an ode to the “Bam” guy or “Yan Can” guy. It is not to give homage to Julia, Paul, Mario or Wolfgang. Instead, it is dedicated to “the imperfect cook.” I hope this is a concept you will fully embrace in 2006, if you don’t already.

Years before I derived pleasure from cooking and entertaining, I was a “closet” cook. Even though I had grown up assisting and learning from wonderful home-based cooks and knew my way around a kitchen, I was in awe of those who could effortlessly pull together a dinner party for eight or a cocktail party for 20. Yes, I could make homemade jellies and pies of all kinds but I admired (no, envied) the “real” epicureans of the world—those who knew how to prepare a crown roast to perfection or had their own recipes for beignets. I secretly yearned to let my inner epicurean emerge but instead I coveted others who could. I fed my hunger for “perfect” cooking by enjoying the epicurean artistry of others. Culinarily-speaking, I was not even a karaoke singer; I didn’t dare sing aloud. I longed to be a perfect cook one day and only perfection would do!

As I took a more intense interest in the art of cooking, I became a “spectator” cook. During these years, as a wannabe cook, I subscribed to multiple magazines and read everything I could about food, wine and entertaining. I absorbed every piece of cooking knowledge I could—how to carve a turkey, what spices were used for what, how to identify different carvings of meats, how to set a sparkling table, the name of every kitchen utensil—but I rarely ventured out to the edge to test these bits of epicurean data. I visited the best restaurants I could afford, marveling over the talents of professional chefs. I collected wonderful recipes but was hesitant to try them. I took few risks in the kitchen, fearful of epicurean embarrassment, of not living up to standards set by the famous cooks we know on a first-name basis. I stayed in a comfort zone, where my meals were predictable and my dishes had been tested by multiple generations of family. When I did have the grit to try a recipe, it was usually one way over my head, which only made me reticent to try again. I was happy watching the epicurean parade from the sidelines but didn’t march in it.

In time, I went through a period I will call my “experimental” cook phase. Let’s just say, be glad you didn’t know me then. No telling what you’d be served when you came to my house. I tended to go overboard—altering my tried-and-true recipes in ways so you wouldn’t recognize them ... or want to eat them. Casseroles—unidentifiable ones—were my middle name. When I experimented at the gourmet level, I tried recipes I had no business making—without the proper equipment, ingredients or planning. I was fearless but not in a comfortable way. I thought impatience and reckless effort could make up for my lost years and achievements in the kitchen. Alas, I was finally an active participant and even learned a lot; but mostly what not to do. The good news is that all members of my family survived this phase.

Following my radical period, I evolved into a “reformed” cook. Although I continued my travels through the world of epicurean delights, I played it fairly safe, careful not to break the rules or offend any epicurean sensibilities. I satisfied myself with a narrow range of cooking—those dishes that got good reviews and the occasional new ones I adopted from others. I was hung up on that perception of perfection—make it perfect or not at all. Against that measure, it was mostly not at all.

So, where am I now? Now, I believe I have reached a satisfying position in my world of cooking and enter-

taining. I know *my comfort zone*—a repertoire of proven recipes and dishes of which to be proud—and *my bold zone*—a culinary self-confidence to try new, untested recipes by knowing when, where and how to apply my cooking skills. But imperfection works for me—a chocolate soufflé that sinks to one side is enjoyed by my family just as well; blueberry pancakes with a few burned edges go down just as easily; and Nana’s cookies with runny icing taste perfect to my grandson.

I still subscribe to those magazines and clip every recipe that piques my interest but I’m smart enough not to try every one I save. I’m as comfortable whipping up a 30-year-old recipe for macaroni and cheese as I am a new recipe just clipped out of Bon Appetit. But, if it doesn’t come out great, I’m just as comfortable dumping the batch, starting over with my own modifications or abandoning the recipe altogether. I trust myself to know when I can risk substituting milk for whipping cream to reduce the calories or live with one less egg in a quiche because I ran out ... and living with the imperfection of that. I am content to build a party around 50 percent Costco treats and 50 percent home cooking—or 60/40—if it reduces my stress and increases my fun. I rarely make a pie crust when I can buy one ready-made and focus on its contents. If it enhances the likelihood of making the pie at all, why not? Imperfection gets it done.

“When I experimented at the gourmet level, I tried recipes I had no business making—without the proper equipment, ingredients or planning.”

I finally know myself as a cook: that I don’t always want to or have to cook; that I can be as content eating out or getting take-out but that I can willingly make a three-course meal to serve to a queen ... or at least to my husband. There are days when simple is the driving principle—a few eggs and a couple potatoes get transformed into a frittata for dinner. Then there are days when intense is the word—and only organic beef short ribs marinated overnight with apricots and honey and slow braised for four hours will do. What’s key is me—cooking with ease and joy as long as I enjoy the process and am driven by my own imperfect standard for myself.

I have become the “imperfect” cook—and I like it here just fine for now. Who knows, over time I may evolve to some new place. Heck, I may even try one of those cooking services for awhile. I might learn some new tricks. In the meantime, imperfect cooking seems like the right place to be. It allows me to enjoy the art of cooking without beating myself up or feeling guilty about the occasional disasters. Besides, you can get hurt trying to live on a pedestal.

By now you’ve figured out that much of this writing has been tongue-in-cheek—a chance to poke fun at myself during my early years of cooking. What’s totally honest and real, though, is this: I finally came to understand and know firsthand the true joy of cooking. And that, as Martha Stewart would say: “...is a very good thing.”

To all of us imperfect cooks out there, let’s make 2006 our best cooking year yet. Imperfection is our road to travel and joy of cooking is our vehicle. Happy New Year! ■

Jacquie Love Marshall lives in Danville with her vintage-car-loving husband, two pugs and binders of recipes. E-mail her at [Epicure@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:Epicure@DanvilleWeekly.com).

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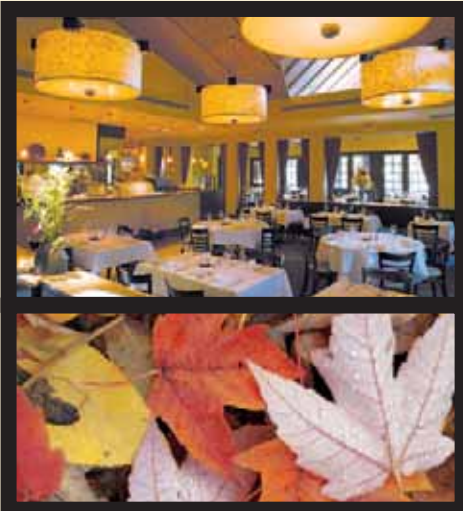


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## AT THE MOVIES

**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.

<b>Brokeback Mountain (R)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 12:15, 4, 7, 10 p.m. <b>CinéArts:</b> Fri-Tues 11:55 a.m., 1:10, 2:50, 4:05, 5:45, 7, 8:40, 9:55 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 1, 4:05, 7:15, 10:30 p.m.
<b>Casanova (R)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:25 a.m., 2, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 10:40 a.m., 1:35, 4:20, 7:30, 10:20 p.m.
<b>Cheaper by the Dozen 2 (PG)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues noon, 2:20, 5:20, 7:40, 9:55 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 10:40 a.m., 1:30, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50 p.m., Open Captioned Tues 1:30, 9:50 p.m.
<b>Chronicles of Narnia (PG)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 12:20, 3:20, 6:45, 9:40 p.m. <b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tues 12:10, 3:15, 6:40, 9:40 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:40 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 12:35, 1:15, 3:50, 4:30, 7:05, 7:40, 10:20, 10:45 p.m., Sat no show 7:05 p.m. <b>Vine Cinema:</b> Fri-Sun 11:30 a.m., 2:20, 5:10, 8 p.m., Mon-Tues 2:30, 5:15, 8 p.m.
<b>Fun With Dick and Jane (PG-13)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:50 a.m., 2:40, 5:10, 7:55, 10:10 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11:40 a.m., 2:15, 4:50, 5:50, 7:25, 8:25, 9:50, 10:55 p.m.
<b>Glory Road (PG)</b>	<b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Sat 7:30 p.m.
<b>Grandma's Boy (R)</b>	<b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 12:20, 2:50, 5:25, 8, 10:45 p.m.
<b>Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (PG-13)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:45 a.m., 3:10 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 10:50 a.m., 2:20 p.m. <b>Regal Imax Theaters:</b> Fri-Tues 3:30, 7, 10:15 p.m.
<b>Hostel (R)</b>	<b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:35 p.m.
<b>King Kong (PG-13)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:40 a.m., 3:35, 7:30 p.m. <b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tues 11:50 a.m., 3:40, 7:30 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 10:30, 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 3:30, 6:30, 7:30, 10:15 p.m., Fri-Sun Open Captioned 11:30 a.m., Mon Open Captioned 11:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m. <b>Vine Cinema:</b> Fri-Tues noon, 3:45, 7:30 p.m., Mon-Tues no show noon
<b>Match Point (R)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 2:15, 5, 7:45, 10:30 p.m. <b>CinéArts:</b> Fri-Tues 12:20, 3:30, 6:45, 9:45 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 1, 4:05, 7:10, 10:15 p.m.
<b>Memoirs of a Geisha (PG-13)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 12:30, 3:50, 7:10, 10:25 p.m. <b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tues 12:15, 3:30, 6:50, 10 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 10 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 12:30, 3:55, 7:20, 10:40 p.m.
<b>Munich (R)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 12:05, 3:30, 6:55, 10:20 p.m. <b>CinéArts:</b> Fri-Tues 12:45, 2:30, 4:15, 6, 7:45, 9:30 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11:20 a.m., 3:20, 7:10, 10:50 p.m.
<b>Pride &amp; Prejudice (PG)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 12:25, 4:30, 7:25, 10:15 p.m.
<b>Rumor Has It (PG-13)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:35 a.m., 1:55, 4:35, 7:05, 9:30 p.m. <b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tues 12:50, 4, 7, 9:30 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:30 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11 a.m., 1:35, 4:15, 7, 9:40 p.m.
<b>Syriana (R)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 7:15, 10:05 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11:10 a.m., 3:05, 6:50, 10 p.m.
<b>The Family Stone (PG-13)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:55 a.m., 2:25, 4:50, 7:50, 10:30 p.m. <b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tues 12:40, 4:10, 7:15, 9:45 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 10:50 a.m., 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55 p.m.
<b>The Polar Express (G)</b>	<b>Regal Imax Theaters:</b> Fri-Tues 10:30 a.m., 12:55 p.m.
<b>The Producers (PG-13)</b>	<b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tues noon, 3:10, 6:45, 9:50 p.m., Sun-Tues no show 9:50 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 10:35 a.m., 1:40, 4:40, 7:50, 10:50 p.m.
<b>The Ringer (PG-13)</b>	<b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11:50 a.m., 2:25, 5:05, 7:55, 10:35 p.m.
<b>Walk the Line (PG-13)</b>	<b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 12:10, 3:40, 6:50, 9:45 p.m. <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 12:25, 3:35, 6:45, 9:55 p.m.

Blackhawk Movie 7 listings were not available at press time.

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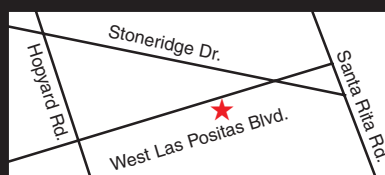
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## POLICE LOG

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

**Dec. 25**  
• Accident-property damage: on St. Norbert Dr., at 9:55 p.m.

**Dec. 26**  
• Burglary-miscellaneous: on Love Ln., at 8:34 a.m.  
• Suspicious circumstances: on Railroad Ave., at 10:03 a.m.  
• Petty theft-from vehicle: on Clover Hill Ct., at 3:34 p.m.  
• Hit & run-misdemeanor: on Glasgow Cr., at 8:23 p.m.  
• Driving under the influence (DUI)-misdemeanor: Arrest on Hartz Ave and W. Prospect Ave., at 11:13 p.m.

**Dec. 27**  
• Malicious mischief: on Hartz Wy. and Railroad Ave., at 3:46 a.m.  
• Identity theft: on Paraiso Ct., at 3:05 p.m.  
• Identity theft: on Camino Tassajara, at 3:16 p.m.

**Dec. 28**  
• Hit & run-misdemeanor: Accident investigation on Glasgow Cr., at 5:57 a.m.

• Accident-property damage: Accident investigation on Hartz Ave, at 12:02 p.m.  
• Suspicious circumstances: on Chadbourne Dr., at 2:26 p.m.  
• DUI-misdemeanor: Arrest on Front St. and E. Prospect Ave. at 10:40 p.m.

**Dec. 29**  
• Accident-property damage: Accident investigation on El Capital Dr. and Silver Lake Dr., at 10:37 a.m.  
• Suspicious circumstances: on Diablo Rd., at 4:34 p.m.  
• Accident-property damage: Accident investigation on Front St. at 9:56 p.m.  
• Suspicious circumstances: on El Pinto at 11:57 p.m.

**Dec. 30**  
• DUI-misdemeanor: Arrest on San Paulo Ct., at 12:57 a.m.  
• Assault with deadly weapon: on Borel Ln., at 1:36 a.m.  
• Hit & run-felony: Accident investigation on San Paulo Ct., at 2:55 a.m.  
• Malicious mischief: on Highbridge Ln., at 11:06 a.m.  
• Abandoned vehicle on roadway: on Rassani Dr., at 1:39 p.m.  
• Accident-property damage: Accident investigation on Camino Tassajara and Sycamore Valley Rd., at 3:19 p.m.  
• Warrant arrest: Arrest on Dunhill Ct. and Dunhill Dr., at 3:53 p.m.

**Dec. 31**  
• Malicious mischief: on Diablo Rd., at 10:25 a.m.

• Recovered vehicle: on El Cajon Dr., at 9:34 p.m.

**Jan. 1**  
• Recovered vehicle: on El Cajon Dr., at 12:41 a.m.  
• Disturbing the peace: on Hartz ave., at 12:24 a.m.  
• Burglary-residential: on Jewel Terrace, at 12:52 a.m.  
• Vandalism-felony: Arrest on Amigo Rd. and Diablo Rd., at 6:32 a.m.  
• Malicious mischief: on Brightwood Cr., at 9:48 a.m.  
• DUI-misdemeanor: Arrest on Center Wy. and Crow Canyon Rd., at 2:22 p.m.

**Jan. 2**  
• Suspicious circumstances: on Silver Lake Dr., at 7:41 a.m.  
• Throwing substance at vehicle-misdemeanor: on Camino Tassajara and Sycamore Valley at 10:41 p.m.  
• Unlicensed driver: Citation issued at Blackhawk Plaza and Camino Tassajara, at 1:07 p.m.

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

### ALAMO

**Dec. 28**  
• Forgery-fraudulent documents: at Alamo Plaza.

**Dec. 30**  
• forgery-fraudulent documents: on Via Larga.

### BLACKHAWK

**Dec. 26**  
• Theft-identity: on Sequoia Terrace

**Dec. 27**  
• Malicious mischief: on Sugar Pine Ln.

**Dec. 28**  
• Burglary-commercial: on Blackhawk Plaza Cr.

**Jan. 1**  
• Burglary-residential: on Pheasant Run Dr.

### DANVILLE

**Jan. 1**  
• Malicious mischief: on Walnut Creek Ct.

### DIABLO

**Jan. 1**  
• Burglary-residential: on Caballo Ranchero Dr.

### ROUNDHILL

**Dec. 26**  
• Grand theft-from vehicle: on Mott Dr.

**Dec. 27**  
• Petty theft-all other: on Bolla Pl.

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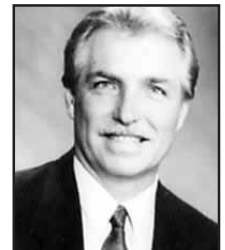
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2nd Year Max Monthly Payment	\$1,822	\$1,483
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# Sports

A LOOK AT THE LOCAL SPORTS SCENE

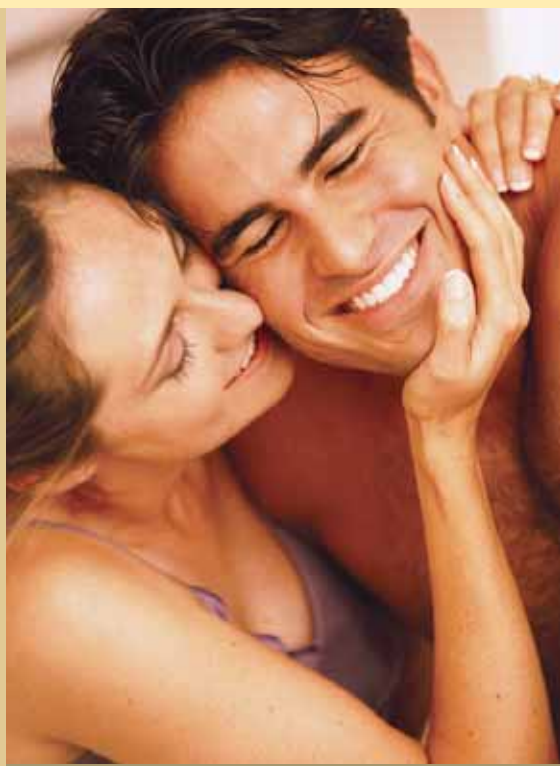


## Earthquakes shake things up at District Cup

The Mustang Earthquake U13 Girls Division 3 soccer team took first place in the recent District Cup held in Fremont. The Earthquakes first game during the district tournament was against the league's first-place team, the Livermore Huskies, which they won 2-0. Then they conquered Pleasanton Rage, 3-1; and Fremont United, 4-0. The Earthquakes took on the Newark Magic during the championship game Sunday afternoon, defeated them 1-0 with the winning goal by Taylor Haisley. Aftershocks were felt as the Mustangs proudly walked off with their huge first place trophies. The Earthquakes team members are (front row, l-r) Liana Egan, Danielle Chazin, Franchesca Gines, Taylor Haisley, Rachelle Merlo, Nicole Haworth; (back row) Leah Tremblay-Adams, Coach Jim Branman, Samantha Branman, Coach Darryl Bolognesi, Taylor Fazio, Jacquie Grundl, Nicole Walden, Natalie Roveto, Julia Bolognesi, Kaylie Williams, Hanna Gil and Head Coach Keith Haisley. Not pictured: Morgan Klimmek. Hold on to your seats ... the Earthquakes are going to the Association Cup.

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### PREP SCHEDULE

#### Saturday

##### Boys Soccer

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

##### Girls Soccer

Monte Vista vs. Washington, 12 p.m.

##### Girls Basketball

Monte Vista at Windsor, 5 p.m.

#### Tuesday

##### Girls Basketball

San Ramon vs. Foothill, 7 p.m.

Monte Vista vs. Cal High, 7 p.m.

##### Girls Soccer

Monte Vista vs. Foothill, 5:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday

##### Boys Basketball

San Ramon at Foothill, 7 p.m.

Monte Vista at Cal High, 7 p.m.

##### Boys Soccer

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

#### Thursday

##### Girls Soccer

San Ramon vs. Amador Valley, 5:30 pm

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

#### Friday, Jan. 13

##### Girls Basketball

San Ramon at Granada, 7 p.m.

Monte Vista vs. Livermore, 7 p.m.

##### Boys Basketball

San Ramon vs. Granada, 7 p.m.

Monte Vista at Livermore, 7 p.m.

##### Boys Soccer

San Ramon at Amador Valley, 5:30 pm

Monte Vista vs. Granada, 5:30 p.m.



## TOTO TOILETS

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Mercer



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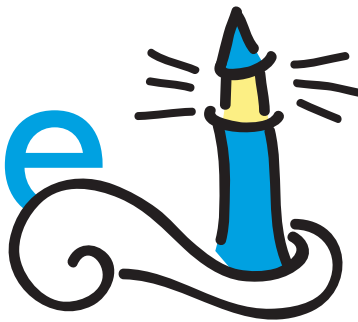


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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

\* DEADLINE \*

The Pleasanton/Danville Weekly Classified Advertising deadline is:

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**Tuesday 11:59 PM**  
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# Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

## SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during December 2005

Danville	Alamo	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 16	Total sales reported: 1	Total sales reported: 35
Lowest sale reported: \$435,000	Lowest sale reported: \$1,313,000	Lowest sale reported: \$220,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,050,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,313,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,074,000
Average sales reported: \$1,058,125	Average sales reported: \$1,313,000	Average sales reported: \$587,185

## HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

Danville	Walnut Creek	
<b>61 Blackhills Place A.</b> Johnson to E. & G. Licup for \$1,825,000	<b>1925 2nd Avenue</b> T. & N. Jess to C. Chapple for \$870,000	<b>104 Hamlin Loop</b> Citrus Walk Limited to T. Yan for \$745,000
<b>54 Casablanca Street</b> S. Pal to M. Johansson for \$960,000	<b>1315 Alma Avenue #122</b> Alma Development to A. Rodesney for \$335,000	<b>15 Holcomb Court</b> R. & Y. Holcomb to B. & C. Barry for \$950,000
<b>10 Creeklodge Court</b> Place Trust to C. & J. Chamberlin for \$1,900,000	<b>1315 Alma Avenue #131</b> Alma Development to Conn Trust for \$382,000	<b>1813 Holland Drive</b> G. Manings to R. Berg for \$540,000
<b>614 Dolphin Drive</b> J. & K. Wood to M. & K. McCarron for \$885,000	<b>1315 Alma Avenue #142</b> Alma Development to C. Koenig for \$360,000	<b>1241 Homestead Avenue #184</b> Fornengo Trust to B. Torres for \$393,000
<b>1926 East Rancho Verde Circle</b> R. & D. Springer to G. & R. Natali for \$655,000	<b>1315 Alma Avenue #256</b> Alma Development to L. Lenches for \$568,000	<b>101 Kinross Drive #19 T.</b> Harrington to J. Blackford for \$300,000
<b>222 El Pinto Road</b> Affinity Land to M. & A. Bonanno for \$435,000	<b>1315 Alma Avenue #323</b> Alma Development to R. & P. Dieterle for \$426,000	<b>141 Murwood Court</b> Patterson Trust to S. Gray for \$972,000
<b>394 Ilo Lane #101</b> K. Sandor to M. & E. Chaffey for \$460,000	<b>1315 Alma Avenue #331</b> Alma Development to W. & D. Cunningham for \$391,000	<b>490 North Civic Drive #209</b> M. Debene to B. Rule for \$339,000
<b>1641 Lawrence Road</b> M. Taylor to I. & D. Chin for \$1,470,000	<b>1315 Alma Avenue #411</b> Alma Development to R. Mann for \$489,000	<b>2720 Oak Road #137</b> M. & C. Fetzer to N. Davi for \$457,000
<b>9 Leonard Court</b> B. & C. Goodwin to E. Eusebio for \$825,000	<b>1315 Alma Avenue #423</b> Alma Development to R. Chism for \$438,000	<b>2742 Oak Road #185 B.</b> Brown to J. Burnett for \$315,000
<b>241 Madeline Lane</b> Shapell Industries to J. Kwong for \$1,150,000	<b>1315 Alma Avenue #444</b> Alma Development to L. Marasco for \$370,000	<b>1501 Ptarmigan Drive #1B</b> Jones Trust to S. & S. Davi for \$220,000
<b>142 Pepperwood Court</b> J. & J. Lisansky to L. & H. Stretch for \$2,050,000	<b>2100 Belford Drive</b> A. & P. Tanoto to J. Silva for \$965,000	<b>150 Sharene Lane #106 C.</b> Pocklington to M. & A. Dumay for \$322,500
<b>84 Plumeria Court</b> Groman Trust to T. Runk for \$930,000	<b>1587 Candelero Drive</b> A. & A. Pogrebnaya to J. & E. Shankle for \$580,000	<b>1452 Sonoma Court</b> Ebbert Trust to D. Stjohn for \$935,000
<b>120 Rassani Drive</b> C. Stinson to K. Tan for \$1,095,000	<b>1310 Conejo Way</b> S. Gray to M. Warehouse for \$785,000	<b>850 Stonehaven Drive</b> R. Wallace to J. Corr for \$839,000
<b>1188 River Rock Lane</b> P. Zeh to J. & L. Cambier for \$760,000	<b>1812 Coulter Pine Court</b> V. Bowles to A. Infante for \$1,074,000	<b>3629 Trintel Court</b> Holmes Trust to R. Raheja for \$629,000
<b>3813 Sheffield Circle</b> Olinger Trust to C. Lee for \$950,000	<b>1780 Crescent Drive</b> G. & M. Hamilton to S. Klein for \$799,000	<b>1414 Via Loma</b> P. Satcher to Bowen Trust for \$610,000
<b>118 Westfield Circle</b> Fryer Trust to R. & L. Mazur for \$580,000	<b>2766 Grande Camino</b> F. Khoujinian to C. Cardinalle for \$900,000	<b>1350 Walden Road</b> R. John to D. Brennan for \$485,000
	<b>Alamo</b>	<b>1246 Walker Avenue #304</b> M. & P. Santillan to A. Laorenza for \$345,000
	<b>80 High Eagle Road</b> K. & K. Etherington to D. & J. Roe for \$1,313,000	<b>3183 Wayside Plaza #112 A.</b> Teng to Holmes Trust for \$451,000
	<b>2189 Hadden Road</b> Devenport Trust to S. & D. Nagy for \$972,000	

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## OPEN HOME GUIDE FORM

LIST YOUR OPEN HOME HERE

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

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# OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

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## Danville

### 3 Bedrooms

**8201 Mallard St.** \$649,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire Realty 217-5008

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

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

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

**40 Casablanca St.** \$925,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel 209-7498

### 4 Bedrooms

**533 Knollwood Ct.** \$1,175,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Re/Max Accord 487-1996

**1 Dover Ct.** \$889,888  
Sun 1:30-4:30 p.m. Empire Realty 217-5008

## Alamo

### 4 Bedrooms

**222 Stone Valley Wy.** \$1,379,000  
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Pacific Union GMAC 487-1194

**522 Tara Jean Ln.** \$879,000  
Sat/Sun 1-4:30 p.m. Intero 648-5331

### 5 Bedrooms

**1537 Serafix Rd.** \$2,250,000  
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams 683-7696

## Blackhawk

### 3 Bedrooms

**3342 Quail Walk Pl.** \$1,399,999  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel 209-7498

### 4 Bedrooms

**529 Kingswood Pl.** \$1,549,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel 209-7498

### 5 Bedrooms

**10 Pepperwood Ln.** \$2,139,000  
Sun 1:30-4 p.m. Blackhawk Real Estate 736-4155

## Livermore

### 3+ Bedrooms

**1042 Padua Wy.** \$1,034,000  
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. For Sale By Owner 243-9930

### 3 Bedrooms

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

**2928 Kennedy St.** \$595,000  
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Century 21 339-3077

**1415 Fifth St.** \$649,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Star Realty 846-1106

**1958 Helsinki Wy.** \$754,888  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Better Homes Realty 209-4340

### 4 Bedrooms

**414 Beverly Ct.** \$879,950  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker 371-2100

## 5 Bedrooms

**5561 Maybeck Ln.** \$1,155,000  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 p.m. Alain Pinel 519-9099

## Pleasanton

### 2 Bedrooms

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

**116 Mission Dr.** \$469,950  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA Realty 734-5057

### 3 Bedrooms

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

**2709 Milani Ave.** \$759,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams 398-0234

**247 Tomas Wy.** \$789,950  
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Help-U-Sell Tri-Valley 383-4036

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

**4719 Golden Rd.** \$890,000  
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Help-U-Sell Tri-Valley 200-2602

### 4 Bedrooms

**1083 Harvest Cir.** \$1,000,000  
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Hometown GMAC 426-3833

**4444 First St.** \$1,200,000  
Sat/Sun 10-1 Sat; 1-4 Hometown GMAC 413-1912

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

**3232 Verde Ct.** \$714,950  
1-4 p.m. Help-U-Sell Tri-Valley 200-2602

**7014 Corte del Mar** \$819,950  
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Prudential CA Realty 734-5061

## 5 Bedrooms

**4353 W. Ruby Hill Dr.** \$1,950,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams 989-4123

**2908 Ruby Hill Dr.** \$4,200,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Taylor Properties 650-322-4433

## San Ramon

### 2 Bedrooms

**9085 Alcosta Blvd. #360** \$380,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Re/Max Accord 918-0799

### 3 Bedrooms

**105 Lansdowne Loop** \$764,900  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel 209-7498

**516 Treyburn Cir.** \$789,950  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Better Homes Realty 791-2749

**1443 Asterbell Dr.** \$995,000  
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. United CA Brokers 855-2000

### 4 Bedrooms

**57 Longwood Ct.** \$1,090,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel 968-1452

**219 Latera Ct.** \$935,000  
Sun 1:30-4:30 p.m. Empire Realty 217-3112

**164 Victory Cir.** \$992,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire Realty 217-5044

**711 Pradera Wy.** \$999,900  
Sun 1-4:30 p.m. Empire Realty 324-9700

### 5+ Bedrooms

**2567 Craneford Wy.** \$1,494,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker 831-3326



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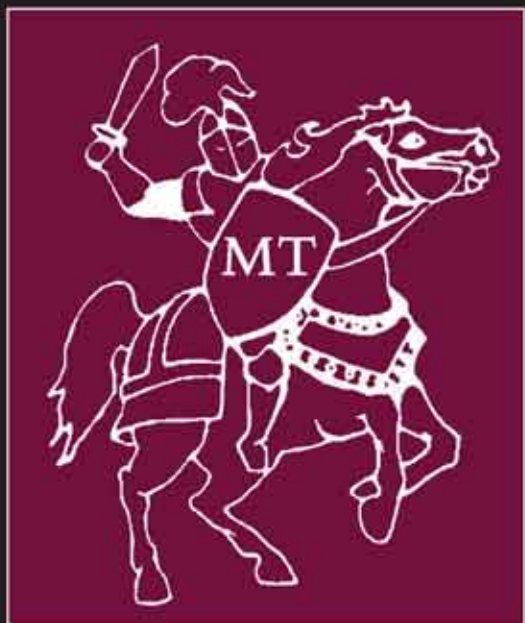
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- 2005 President, Bay East Association of Realtors®
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- 2004 President—Elect, Bay East Association of Realtors®
- 2003 Treasurer, Bay East Association of Realtors®
- 2002 President, Bay East Assoc. of Realtors® Foundation
- 2003 CRS of The Year Award
- 2003 Northern California CRS Chapter, President
- 2002 Northern California CRS Chapter President—Elect
- 00-01 Northern California CRS Chapter Treasurer
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**Over 7200sf on 1+/-Acre with Pool \$3,485,000**  
Includes casita with full kitchen, sport court, newly renovated, granite kitchen, large office, family room and much more.  
**Sandy McDougall 925.672.2499**



### BLACKHAWK

**Phenomenal Pepperwood Estate \$2,799,000**  
Private end of court, surrounded by open space. Large granite and stainless kitchen, downstairs master and office, pool, spa, outdoor kitchen and much more.  
**Bonnie King 925.855.4072**



### ALAMO

**Spectacular Custom with Privacy \$2,099,000**  
Westside, backing to Las Trampas Wildlife Refuge on private road. Martin Perri interior designed home. Black bottom pool and more.  
**Dennis Harvey & JuDee Bell 925.855.4059/925.855.4022**



### DANVILLE

**Gorgeous Magee Ranch \$1,585,000**  
Lovely lot, backing to open space. 4 bedrooms plus library, 3.5 baths, loaded with upgrades, granite kitchen. Sparkling pool.  
**Carol Erbert 925.736.1666**



### ALAMO

**Completely Remodeled \$1,550,000**  
Beautiful Westside Alamo home. Complete remodel! Cherry cabinets and floors, granite, stone. Everything new! Large, flat lot. 2500+/-sf, 3bd + office, 3ba.  
**Joyce Papas and Glen Landrum 925.855.4075**



### SAN RAMON

**Coming Soon! \$1,549,000**  
Golf course setting. Premium lot. 1bd, 1.5ba down plus office with outside entrance. 3bd plus loft upstairs. 3800+/-sf of living space. No neighbors front or back.  
**Bonnie King 925.855.4072**



### BLACKHAWK

**Wow! Don't Miss This One! \$1,359,950**  
Updated kitchen with stainless steel appliances. Pool and spa. 4bd, 3ba, master suite porch overlooking the hills.  
**Mary Cleland 925.998.3808**



### DANVILLE

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



### SAN RAMON

**Brand New in Windemere! \$1,273,000**  
Gorgeous, brand new home in Windemere with many upgrades including custom granite entry, master bath and much more. 5bd, 4ba.  
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