

## Pocket park

Alamo resident wants to open her property to trail users > **page 5**

Vol. 1, Number 52 • April 28, 2006

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## Art of bonsai

Master will give demonstrations this weekend

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# Danville

W E E K L Y

and Alamo

## Help!

Officials plan disaster preparedness for region

> **page 5**

# Up Close

with Terry McMillan

*Author taking on new creative endeavors—still with her old wit and sass* page 14



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## Q: What titles do you think should be in every home video library?



I like a good movie, but I've watched more children's videos. I enjoy watching them with my grandchildren.

**Jan Sargent**

*retired administrative assistant*



Basically every Miss Marple and Sherlock Holmes mystery. They are set in England and are really smart mysteries. A lot of thinking is required and there is a lot of character development. It's not just blood and gore. It requires you to use your brain.

**Leslie Townsend**

*college educator*



"Blade Runner." I like action movies. I'm not that into Schwarzenegger, but I like "Total Recall." I like both movies because they are screen adaptations of good science fiction novels.

**Louis Phillips**

*retired teacher*



I like "Gone with the Wind." It has history, a good love story, and a lot to be learned.

**Laurie Mizera**

*self-employed*



The "Pink Panther" was good. It was really funny, and Steve Martin was really good. I liked the old "Pink Panther," and was surprised by how good this one was. It's a remake of a classic.

**Kathleen Nagle**

*stay-at-home mom*

COMPILED BY KEVIN ZHOU

### ABOUT THE COVER

Terry McMillan talks about her writing, living in Danville, and her new career as the self-proclaimed African-American Martha Stewart. Photo by Lani Allen. Cover design by Ben Ho.

Vol. 1, Number 52

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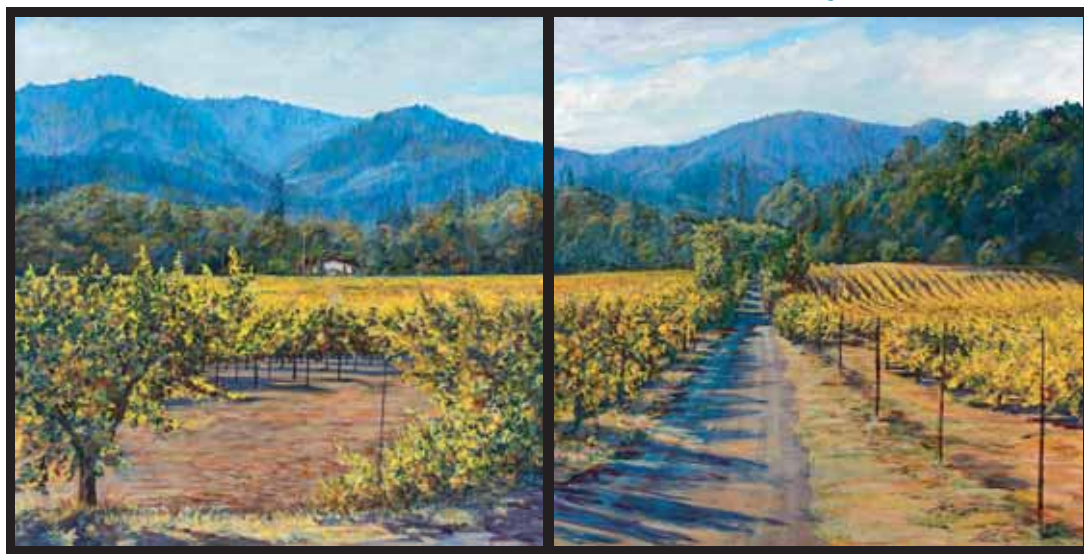
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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ If you owned a beautiful piece of art, wouldn't you want to share it? ”

—Alamo resident Sara Markley, who wants to make part of her property a pocket park on the Iron Horse Trail.  
See story, page 5.

## On stage at the Old Barn

The Eugene O'Neill Foundation in partnership with the National Park Service is celebrating its 11th season of Playwrights Theatre at the Old Barn at Tao House, the Danville estate where O'Neill wrote his last six plays.

On May 7, the Pear Avenue Theatre in Mountain View will present "Pear Slices 2006," staged readings of a group of eight short plays by area playwrights. Eight actors portray 24 characters.

"The plays are rich and diverse: witty, touching, surprising—and captivating," said Dan Cawthon, the foundation's artistic director. "This will be a delightful, if not sometimes wacky, kick-off for our 2006 season."

On May 21, the Encore Theatre Company of San Francisco will present "The Typographer's Dream," a comedy by Adam Bock. Cawthon said Bock is a playwright to watch, "insightful and hilarious at the same time."

The plays begin at 3 p.m. on both dates. Tickets are \$20 for each event or \$35 for both, which includes transportation to Tao House. Call 820-1818.

## Awards for three Danville schools

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell announced the winners of the 2006 California Distinguished School Awards, calling the principals personally Monday to give them the good news. Four schools from the San Ramon Valley Unified School District were chosen: Greenbrook, Montair and Tassajara Hills elementary schools of Danville and Bollinger Canyon Elementary of San Ramon.

"This is an incredible honor for our entire community," said Tom Ladouceur, principal at Greenbrook. "It affirms the hard work of our staff and student body, and the incredible support we receive from our parent community."

The award is considered the state's greatest recognition of a school's total educational program, including high expectations for all its students, the implementation of state-adopted standards, and visionary and collaborative leadership. Schools that applied were evaluated by teams of educators under the direction of the California Department of Education. The 377 elementary schools named as 2006 Distinguished Schools will be honored in May at an awards ceremony in Anaheim.

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## Danville passes updated disaster plan

*Working with neighboring communities is key*

by Jordan M. Doronila

If maniacal terrorists bombard the highways with explosives, a storm unleashes a furious flood, or a thunderous earthquake leaves helpless children trapped in crumbling buildings, the town of Danville will be ready.

Last week, the Town Council approved an updated plan that prepares Danville to handle disasters and emergencies while working together with neighboring communities, Mayor Karen Stepper said.

“Let’s learn from the problems around the country so we are ready,” she said.

With Hurricane Katrina drowning New Orleans, jets pummeling into the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, and the possibility of a disastrous earthquake in the Bay Area, officials said it was necessary that Danville develop a clear plan.

“It’s an initiative to cover broadly all other cities,” said Stepper. “We share the geography with other cities. We are sharing ideas instead of competing with each other for the same resources.”

“It’s a real benefit,” she added.

The town of Danville, the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, the San Ramon Valley Unified School District and the city of San Ramon have worked together in developing the safety initiatives.

Stepper said the town would also work with communities in the Tri-Valley—Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore.

New additions to the plan include making the Fire Protection District headquarters on Bollinger Canyon Road the center where Danville and San Ramon can work together. Also local officials hired former Danville police Officer Bruce Olsen as the town’s coordinator, and San Ramon administrators hired former Police Chief Brian Lindblom as their emergency facilitator, Stepper said.

Other improvements in the plan involve making sure people have enough care and health resources, and tracking town expenditures to receive state or national reimbursement. The plan also has a check-

► Continued on page 8



JORDAN M. DORONILA

### Saving man’s best friend

Firefighter Marty Rossen demonstrates with Otis how he could be saved using the new specially designed pet oxygen masks. Officials from the Valley Humane Society and the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District introduced “Daisey’s Gift of Life,” a program that provides resuscitation masks for pets rescued from home fires, at the San Ramon fire station on Alcosta Boulevard on Tuesday. The pet masks come in small, medium and mastiff and are designed to fit over a dog’s snout or cat whiskers.

### Devil Mountain Run needs volunteers

The Workday Devil Mountain Run benefiting Children’s Hospital & Research Center Oakland is looking for volunteers for the Danville event next Sunday, May 7. Volunteers are needed from 2-5 p.m. Saturday to help stuff goodie bags. On Sunday morning, people are needed to hand out water, monitor the course, distribute refreshments after the race, help out at the finish line, and many more fun jobs, from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. Volunteers will receive an official crew T-shirt and a goodie bag. E-mail [nancy@rhodyco.com](mailto:nancy@rhodyco.com) or call (415) 759-2690.

Those who prefer to run or walk may register at [childrenshospitaloakland.org](http://childrenshospitaloakland.org); in person from 2-5 p.m. Saturday; or on the morning of the race 6:30-7:45 a.m. at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley.



NATALIE O’NEILL

Sara Markley points out aesthetic plans for the plants and vegetation in her proposed pocket park.

## Alamo resident offers pocket park in her yard for Iron Horse Trail

*County weighing pros and cons of quarter-acre proposal*

by Natalie O’Neill

In an affluent area like Alamo, where many residents live in fenced or gated neighborhoods, it’s easy to feel physically cut off from the larger community at times. Alamo’s Sara Markley is working to eliminate that feeling.

Markley stirred things up at the R-7A parks and recreation meeting last week when she presented plans to turn a quarter acre of her property into a pocket park along the Iron Horse Trail. The 115-foot by 25-foot strip would be used as a place for people to gather, take water breaks and socialize, she said.

“If you walk up and down the trail, what you see is a community that has a tendency to

be fenced off,” she said. “It gives the impression we don’t want to be connected.”

She told the committee she is willing to grant a permanent easement to the public, to pay the annual property tax and to water the land. Her goal is to turn the unused land into a place people enjoy, she said.

“If you owned a beautiful piece of art, wouldn’t you want to share it?” she asked.

Granting the easement is something she’s pleased to do, as long as she has a hand in the park’s design and upkeep, she said.

“It would be the kind of place where people sit with dogs. I want it to have benches, mazes and plants,” she said.

Public Works representatives and R-7A said they would look into her proposal, but several members voiced concerns. Eric Wan, Public Works senior civil engineer, pointed out possible legal complications.

“Are you willing to accept liability for having the public on your property?” Wan asked.

Markley said she has already begun looking into acquiring more homeowner’s insurance. She also noted that people who use the trail are generally socially responsible and don’t leave litter or make excessive amounts of noise.

“I understand the legal ramifications,” she said. “I’d say issues can be resolved.”

But Lisa Carnahan of Public Works said she has seen situations like this become difficult in the past, for other reasons. Owners might be happy to grant use of their land, but when the property is sold, the new owners may feel differently.

“We’ve done it before and it can be a real hassle,” Carnahan said.

Public Works previously encountered a problem when landowners, who had just moved in, didn’t want to accept responsibility for watering costs. Several members of R-7A agreed the idea sounds good now but could pose a problem in

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## Don't miss the onstage chaos of 'Noises Off'

High school production presenting British farce this weekend

by Natalie O'Neill

When it comes to theater, Chuck Perryman says he doesn't do anything "halfway." One minute into the first act of Michael Frayn's "Noises Off"—the British farce he's directing at San Ramon Valley High School—it's clear he's not kidding.

The quality of the \$3,000 set alone rivals that of a college theater production, the script is mature in content, and the actors have an unusually seasoned grasp on comic timing for their age. The show is full of irony, sexual innuendo and physical comedy and will run from April 27-30.

"It's exciting to be doing the show on this level. A lot of schools

do it, but I don't think they do it like this," Perryman said at a dress rehearsal Monday.

The play was chosen to be part of a series of productions, in order to let students experience a wide range of genres. The plot centers on a struggling theater troupe as it attempts to pull its act together, just hours before the big show.

"It's a celebration of the business of theater," Perryman said.

Since "Noises Off" is the last play before summer break, actors were chosen from auditions throughout the school year. It is also a chance for the seniors to get the recognition they deserve, Perryman said.

"They've all really mastered this comedy. I look for these actors all year long," he said.

Students nominated Perryman, who teaches theater at SRVHS, to receive a grant from Prudential, which was awarded to him earlier this year. The theater group was also selected to attend the American High School Theater Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland, which only one high school per state can attend.

Parent donations and fundraisers are also what keep the department alive, Perryman said.

"I'm the type of teacher who believes you should do whatever you have to for funding, whether it's applying for grants, getting help from parents or sponsorship from local business," he said.

Audience turnout is really what makes the program strong, he said. Perryman says the play is appropriate and enjoyable for family audiences and he encourages the community to support the high school's theater program by seeing the play.

"We're really working on build-



Dotty, played by Katie Wolfman, gets encouragement from Lloyd, played by Sam Kikes, on the eve of the troupe's debut.

ing our audience," he said.

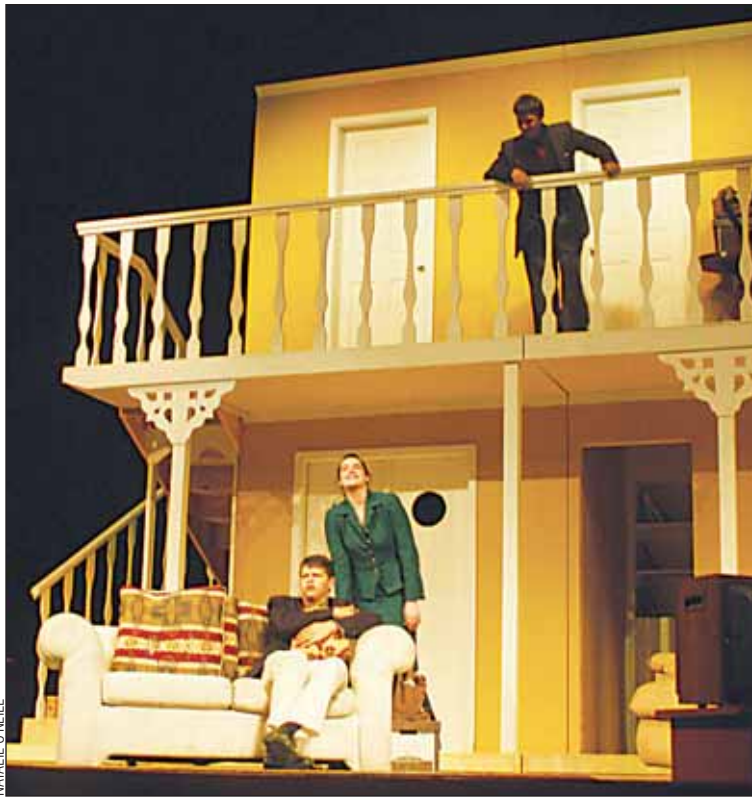
A small amount of provocative language was edited, but the innuendo was kept because the department found it more clever than crass. It's subtle and smart enough not to be edited out, Perryman said.

Onstage chaos is used as a comedic tool in "Noises Off," so perfecting "blocking" has been the biggest challenge, he said. Timed exits, entrances and pace are generally what make farces difficult to stage.

"It's particularly tricky at the midpoint, because there are two plays going on," Perryman said.

The cast for "Noises Off" includes Katie Wolfram as Dotty/Mrs. Clackett, Sam Kikes as Lloyd/Director, Trevor Nelson as Garry/Roger, Michelle Haskins as Brooke/Vickie, Zoelle Egner as Poppy/Assistant Stage Manager, Dan Newell as Fredrick/Philip, Britt Lauer as Belinda/Flavia, Mike Otte as Tim/Stage manager, and Dane Wostenberg as Selsdon/Burglar.

The show will be held at the Performing Arts Center at San Ramon Valley High School on Danville Boulevard and Love Lane; tickets are \$8 or \$7 in advance. It begins at 7 p.m., Thursday-Friday, April 27-28; and at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, April 29-30. ■

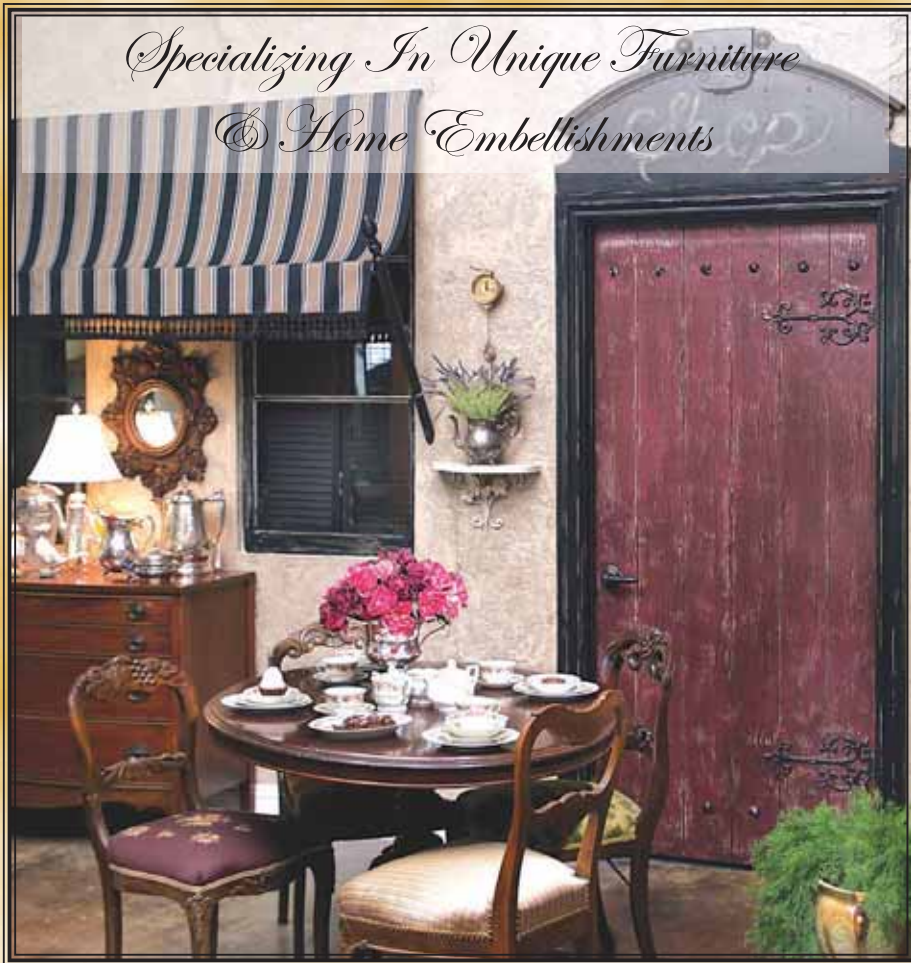


Philip and Flavia, played by Dan Newell and Britt Lauer, arrive home from Spain, as Roger, played by Trevor Nelson, looks on from upstairs.

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NATALIE O'NEILL

Sara Markley and her husband Dale Markley enjoy an afternoon along the Iron Horse Trail, in front of the land that may eventually become a pocket park.

## Trail

► Continued from page 5

the future.

"What happens 25 years from now?" one member said.

Markley, who is a partner at Empire Reality and Associates, is a long-time Alamo resident and doesn't plan to leave anytime soon, she said. She and her husband Dale have been tentatively planning and discussing the park for three years.

"I want decisions to be made with quality, not cost in mind," she said.

She presented R-7A with a map of the trail as it meets her land and photographs of the location.

Planting roses in the pocket park to honor her grandmother Rose, who was a breast cancer survivor in the 1960s, was another idea she had for the park. Her grandmother was a major source of inspiration for Markley while she struggled with breast cancer herself.

"When I did positive visioning, she was one thing I had in my mind," she said.

But the park does not necessarily have to be dedicated to her grandmother, she

added.

"I'm doing it for her whether we name it after her or not," she said.

Markley said she trained for the breast cancer walk on the Iron Horse Trail and was happy to see such an eclectic mix of people use the trail. The 21-mile trail stretches from Dublin to Concord and is used for biking, walking, jogging and skating. People of all ages and sizes use the trail and are generally very friendly, she said.

"On the trail, people smile and wave. This is where you really see Alamo," she said.

The committee is currently "weighing the pros and cons" of the proposal. Research on what has previously been done, along with information on where the county stands, will be addressed at the meeting next month.

"I want to know every single legal ramification," said Marianne Sasso of R-7A.

Markley said her biggest incentive for creating the pocket park is getting to share something she loves. She said she hopes other people in the area will follow her lead and make similar contributions to the community. ■



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## TAKE US ALONG



## Surf, sun and the Weekly

Kiana Morales, 10, takes a break to catch up on hometown news while stopping at the Island of Labadee in the Bahamas on a Caribbean cruise in October.

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

## Disaster

► Continued from page 5

list for town departments to follow when they encounter a disastrous situation, Stepper said.

Members of the community said the town's new initiatives could save lives.

"It's important to consolidate our resources," said Kathy Chiverton, executive director of the San Ramon Valley/Diablo Valley YMCA and former chief of staff to county Supervisor Millie Greenberg. "You can deploy people as you need them, and it's a more efficient way of using resources."

"It's very exciting," said Terry Koehne, spokesman for the school district. "We've got all the public agencies working together in coordinating a response plan. When an earthquake does hit, we'll be right there in the hub."

The development of the plan started late last year and continued to grow during the town's Community Emergency Response Team workshops in late February and early March.

"Everybody was put on notice after the Loma Prieta earthquake," said Stepper. "We are teaching our staff to take leadership roles so they can provide that help. We have a lot of things we haven't looked at. We're continuing to improve."

She said communication was key in letting all the agencies work together.

And she added that by working with other communities, Danville receives a larger pool of resources. The town may receive military assistance from Camp Parks in Dublin and help from the business community at Bishop Ranch in San Ramon.

Still, residents need to be self-sufficient, have enough supplies, create a point for family members to each check in, and keep a list of emergency numbers.

Stepper said the plan is a loose leaf document, and residents can view it at the town offices, 510 La Gonda Way.

Nevertheless, people can only do so much to prepare for disasters, officials said.

"You wouldn't live in California if you worried about that stuff, but we do have a huge responsibility for citizens so we are prepared to help them," Stepper said. ■

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# Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

## Let's talk TV



Turn off my TV? No way! Just kidding. I often turn off my TV—but I don't like to be told to do it as happens during National TV-Turnoff Week, April 24-28. When my kids were young it was great to settle them in front of Sesame Street or the Brady Bunch while I cooked dinner. After dinner, my husband and I would leave them in the family room, either playing or again turning on the TV, while we enjoyed a cup of tea and adult conversation in the living room. But we didn't overdo it.

A quick phone survey of the nine public elementary schools in our readership area showed that none is doing a school-wide activity for TV-Turnoff Week. I was working for a newspaper that covered Benicia about 10 years ago when one elementary school really went on the offensive. The students and families were directed to take part in wholesome family activities that entire week, and some of them were held at the school. The students had to fill out forms to tell, hour by hour, what their families had done that week instead of watching TV. That was nice to hold activities at the school—it's always fun to see Mom and Dad in the multipurpose room in the evening. But one mother strenuously objected that she would decide what her daughter could watch on TV and when and the school should butt out. I knew this family and they were very active and creative and

I doubt that they even watched much TV.

The event can be hard on an individual family. What if the parents are going through a rough time and need to park the kids in front of the TV for an hour so they can talk? What if a child is sick and has to lie still for days at a time and the parents have other children to care for? What if it's been pouring rain for weeks on end and the parents are going crazy plus there is something really good on? I am sure that people in Danville and Alamo know there

12 inches, with two knobs—one for on and off, and the other with numbers 1 to 13 to tune in our channels, which were 4, 5 and 7. Behind those knobs were bands for fine-tuning. My father would buy Cracker Jacks by the case, and the neighborhood kids would gather at our house on Saturday morning to watch Roy Rogers and his cowboy adventures on the little screen. In 1955 we increased our family viewing with Gunsmoke on Saturday night and Ed Sullivan on Sunday.

I understand the reasoning behind TV-Turnoff Week: The "average" American watches more than four hours a day; it undermines family time; it harms academic performance; sedentary activity is not healthy; and of course there is the violence. I have a friend a few years younger than me whose parents let her watch all the TV she wanted but made her pay 25 cents for each half hour out of her \$1 allowance. This taught her both the value of money and to be discriminating in her viewing.

For folks who'd like to break the habit, I propose turning on our TVs for a week. If we had a TV-Turn-On Week, the reverse psychology might work. It would be like "Clockwork Orange" where they saturated an antisocial sadist with images of violence to cure him. If you had to have your TV on—very loud, no muting of commercials allowed—for 24 hours a day, it just might make you toss it out the window. ■

If we had a TV-Turn-On Week, the reverse psychology might work.

is more to life than watching TV. Family dynamics are unique so how dare anyone give the blanket order: Turn off your TV. Although a family might decide to do so on its own if its TV watching were becoming a habit—that is, they found themselves watching it out of boredom rather than for entertainment or learning.

When I was 3 or 4, my family got one of the first televisions on the block. It had a big wooden cabinet and a little rectangular screen with rounded corners, about

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# Perspective

EDITORIALS • LETTERS • OPINIONS

## EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### Choosing words carefully

Words, words, words. Each one appears to have a meaning but, actually, words and phrases are often interpreted differently by different people.

At the Danville Town Council meeting last week, the council members worked to craft a motion to direct town staff to prune the old oak tree on El Pintado at Victorian Lane—and, hopefully, not to prune it to death. The goal was to alleviate the danger from the part of the tree that extends above the roadway. Drivers could swerve to avoid the tree and cause an accident, which, of course, no one wants. Also the town, well aware of the dangers posed by the tree, could be liable. The easiest way to eliminate the liability would be to eliminate the tree altogether. But it was agreed that killing a 100-year-old tree was too extreme a measure.

One resident told the council members they were talking about the tree as though it were a person. How does one talk about a tree? It's not a person but it has been alive and growing for an estimated 100 years, before most of us were here.

All seemed to agree they just wanted to eliminate the offending part of the tree but how to give direction? If the motion read to "eliminate the liability issues," that could have been interpreted to mean cut down the entire tree. The desire was to just trim the tree enough to clear the passageway. An arborist estimated it would be necessary to trim the tree by 80 percent to eliminate the danger, although others estimated it would be more like 50 percent.

The council, after consulting with the town attorney, settled on giving direction to eliminate the liability in regards to vertical clearance. Hopefully this will be interpreted as intended—to prune the part of the tree that poses a danger to passing vehicles.

All seemed to agree they just wanted to eliminate the offending part of the tree but how to give direction?

## 7 Deadly mistakes that will cost you thousands when selling your home this summer.

A new report has just been released which reveals seven costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a nine-step system that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of home sellers don't get what they want for their home and become disillusioned and – worse – financially disadvantaged when they put their home on the market.

As this report uncovers, most home sellers make

seven deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable.

In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled The 9 Step System To Get Your Home Sold Fast And For Top Dollar.

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## YOUR TURN

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Taxation without representation**

Dear Editor:

The community of Alamo is being asked to increase a parcel tax for beautification and lighting without the right or opportunity to decide the usage of such taxes. A 481 percent parcel tax increase, plus consumer price index adjustment, is being proposed for Zone 36 beautification and lighting special district as a county agency managed and controlled by Contra Costa District 3 and Public Works supervision and staff. There is no opportunity for an interactive exchange for Alamo neighborhoods in gaining compliance to interests, needs and advisory among committee members specifically selected for their lack of relationship with Alamo community, neighborhood and service groups.

The issues for Alamo are greater than the increase. Alamo residents need to decide how appropriate the plans, as yet undefined, are for our community. Do we want our parcel taxes used as:

- Part of roadway projects that will invite increased foreign traffic to Danville Boulevard and Stone Valley Road?
- Enhancement of private property in the community business district, Round Hill Country Club, SRVUSD schools and subdivision entrances?
- Part of Public Works Department personnel costs and expenses?
- Part of the funding of general election costs and expenses?

When your mail-in ballot arrives this weekend, please consider your vote carefully.

*Hal Bailey, Alamo*

**How can we get a pool?**

Dear Editor:

I'm a little confused by the latest article (April 14) regarding the proposed Danville Aquatic Center (DAC). What exactly does the community need to do to get a new pool at San Ramon Valley High?

First of all, thank you to the DAC committee members for their planning and fundraising efforts. Their plan has been on a Web site for over a year, and many changes have been made to satisfy town and school district requests, such as keeping the old pool for community use.

I find it hard to believe Mayor Karen Stepper wants to "be supportive" of this project yet demands the old pool be renovated before the town agrees to help fund a new, larger pool. Without funding, the project can't get started. As far as parking issues, if students can deal with it, so can people using the community pool.

Also, who will pay for the (inevitable) lawsuit when a child gets injured or sick from the lack of a good filtration system? One swimmer needed stitches last month after slicing her foot on the coping. And when the Health Department shuts down our pool, do we start paying for pool time at Acalanes, Campolindo, Las Lomas and Monte Vista like the club teams do now?

It's a shame that in a school district that turns out some of the best swimmers and water polo players in the country, the town can't back up a facility to support them. I regret this isn't a soccer field issue—then it would have been resolved long ago!

*Angie Roudnev, Disappointed Danville resident*



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# Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

**POLICE BULLETIN**

**Forgers go on spending spree**

Check forgers used a bank account number of a CEO of a financial company in Blackhawk Plaza to spend nearly \$1,000 at Best Buy, Home Depot, Raley's and Longs Drugs.

The victim, who banks in Diablo Valley Bank, reported the incidents at 4:25 p.m. April 17 to the Danville Police Department, said Sgt. Ron Bradley. The forgers created checks, copied the victim's account number on them, and presented them to the retail outlets.

The forgers made purchases of \$595, \$111, \$107, \$19 and \$5, Bradley said. They purchased two items at Best Buy and made single purchases at the other stores.

Employees at Diablo Valley Bank saw that the names and numbers of the checks did not match when they were processing the account. They notified the victim who, in turn, notified the Police Department. Diablo Valley Bank placed the victim's account on hold.

Police said they are investigating how the culprits were able to get a copy of the victim's account number. Bradley said the victim does not use the Internet or his mailbox to do business transactions.

"Make sure you remove mail from streetside mailboxes promptly," Bradley said. "When you are paying bills, take bills to the post office. Be protective of your information."

—Jordan M. Doronila

**POLICE LOG**

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

**Monday, April 17**

- Drunk in public, arrest, on Hartz Ave. at 12:10 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Park Hill Rd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 8:28 a.m.
- Identity theft on Railroad Ave. at 4:25 p.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on Danville Blvd. and El Cerro Blvd. at 9:47 p.m.
- Warrant arrest on Summerside Cir. at 10:32 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 18**

- Petty theft from vehicle on Everett Dr. at 6:40 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Everett Dr. at 9:40 a.m.
- Evade public transportation fare on

- Greenbrook Dr. at 12:19 p.m.
- Petty theft from building on Stone Valley Rd. at 2:24 p.m.
- Petty theft from building on Everett Dr. at 4:20 p.m.
- Grand theft from vehicle on Everett Dr. at 5:20 p.m.
- Injury accident on Diablo Rd. and Hartz Ave. at 7:34 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 19**

- Vandalism on Kendall Ln. at 3:07 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on Sierra Ridge Ct. at 9:19 a.m.
- Petty theft from building on Stone Valley Rd. at 10:46 a.m.
- Residential burglary on Sunset Ct. at 11:28 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Church St. and Hartz Ave. at 1:35 p.m.
- Petty theft from building on Stone Valley Rd. at 2:02 p.m.

**Thursday, April 20**

- DUI, arrest, on Diablo Rd. and W. El Pintado Rd at 1:21 a.m.
- Vandalism on Lawrence Rd. at 3:26 a.m.
- Grand theft from building on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 10:32 a.m.
- Misdemeanor, other, on Del Amigo Rd. at 10:46 a.m.
- Misdemeanor, other, on Stone Valley Rd. at 11:03 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Diablo Rd. at 3:05 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Town and Country at 11:47 p.m.

**Friday, April 21**

- Petty theft from building on Stone Valley Rd. at 12:45 p.m.
- Stolen vehicle on El Pintado Rd. at 1:31 p.m.
- Petty theft, all other, on Holbrook Dr. at 1:44 p.m.
- Vandalism on Van Patten Dr. at 6:24 p.m.
- Misdemeanor under the influence of drugs, arrest, on Diablo Rd. at 9:47 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Diablo Rd. at 10:10 p.m.

**Saturday, April 22**

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Sheri Ct. at 2:01 a.m.
- Vandalism, felony, on Lawrence Rd. at 3:10 a.m.
- Vandalism, felony, on Romae Ct. at 6:30 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on north-

- bound I-680 and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 12:23 p.m.
- Drunk in public on Hartz Ave. at 6:41 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplifting, arrest, on Camino Tassajara at 6:59 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplifting, arrest, on Camino Tassajara at 9:58 p.m.

**Sunday, April 23**

- DUI, arrest, on Iron Horse Trail and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 2:09 a.m.
- Commercial burglary on W. Sycamore Valley Rd. at 7:16 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Rassini Dr. at 2:48 p.m.
- Vandalism, felony, on Railroad Ave. at 5:11 p.m.

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

**ALAMO**

**Tuesday, April 18**

- Misdemeanor battery on Megan Ct.
- Residential burglary on Merlin Ct.

**Wednesday, April 19**

- Auto burglary on Glenwood Ct. and Stone Valley Rd.

**Friday, April 21**

- Commercial burglary on Via Del Gato
- Grand theft from vehicle on Via Copla
- Grand theft from building on Danville Blvd.

**Saturday, April 22**

- Grand theft from building on Danville Blvd.

**Sunday, April 23**

- Vandalism on Cedar Ln.

**BLACKHAWK**

**Wednesday, April 19**

- Residential burglary on Deer Hollow Dr.

**DANVILLE**

**Thursday, April 20**

- Vandalism, felony, on Ariel Dr. and Casablanca St.

**DIABLO**

**Saturday, April 22**

- Auto burglary on Diablo Rd. and Mt. Diablo Scenic Blvd.

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## Easter Baseball Invitational for frosh is a big hit

Monte Vista captures title at second spring event

by Mike L. Mc Colgan

After battling wind, rain and cold at the Crown Dublin Easter Baseball Invitational from April 8-15, the San Ramon Valley and Monte Vista freshmen met each other in the championship game, and the Mustangs prevailed, defeating the Wolves 7 to 1.

Drew Bradshaw, Christian Jones and Steven Swift held the Wolves to 4 hits while Brian Barbour and Christian Jones led the offense for the Mustangs each with 2 RBIs. Joe Southwick led the Wolves with 2 hits and 1 RBI.

Ten Bay Area high school freshmen teams competed in this second annual tournament, organized by Roger Varon, head coach at San Ramon Valley, and coach Chuck Barnett of Monte Vista.

"The tournament is a fundraiser for both schools, and the kids love the competition," Varon said. Crown Dublin and Total Sports were two major sponsors.

The teams that participated this year were San Ramon, Monte Vista, Deer Valley, Logan, Las Lomas, Heritage, Clayton, Liberty, Bishop O'Dowd and California. All of the games were played at San Ramon Valley High School.

Stellar pitching and strong offense for San Ramon Valley car-



San Ramon Valley shortstop Nick Russo picks off Sean Kellejian of Monte Vista at second base during the championship game at the Crown Dublin Easter Baseball Invitational.

ried them to three straight victories during the week.

Wolves pitchers Kyle Lapin, Chad McCormack and Scott Griggs were firing lots of strikes, holding the opposition to only three runs scored against them.

Nick Russo's two homeruns and 4 RBIs against Bishop O'Dowd ignited San Ramon. Clutch hitting from Tony Hernandez (6), Chris Overstreet (5), Nick Russo (5) and Joe Southwick (5) helped carry the Wolves to the championship game.

The Monte Vista Mustangs

sailed through the playoffs during the week. Outstanding pitching by Mark Appel, Patrick Garvin, Christian Jones, Steven Swift and Joey Wagman led the Mustangs to two shutouts with only one run scored against them.

Strong offense complemented strong pitching with Drew Bradshaw, Ray Roach, Grant Saunders and Steven Swift contributing to the Mustang's victories. ■

E-mail your results to [sports@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:sports@DanvilleWeekly.com) or fax 837-8454.

### PREP SCHEDULE

#### Friday, April 28

**Baseball:** Monte Vista vs. Amador Valley, 3:45 p.m.

San Ramon at Foothill, 3:45 p.m.

**Swimming:** Monte Vista vs. Clayton Valley

San Ramon at Cal High

**Girls lacrosse:** San Ramon at

Foothill, 5:30 p.m.

#### Tuesday

**Boys Volleyball:** Monte Vista vs. Granada, 6 p.m.

San Ramon at Amador Valley, 6 p.m.

**Softball:** San Ramon at Amador Valley, 4 p.m.

#### Wednesday

**Baseball:** Monte Vista vs. Granada, 3:45 p.m.

San Ramon at Amador Valley, 3:45 p.m.

**Girls lacrosse:** San Ramon vs. St. Ignatious, 7 p.m.

### Free throw champ

Mark Tollefsen, a seventh-grader at Charlotte Wood Middle School, won the title of State Champion Free Throw Shooter for age 13 at the state contest held in Fresno on March 25. He first won the local Knights of Columbus contest, then went on to win the Council contest and next the Regional contest. In the state championship, Mark competed against 13 other boys, with each contestant shooting 25 baskets. Mark made 24 out of the 25.



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LAMI ALLEN

# Up Close

with Terry McMillan

*Author taking on new creative endeavors—  
still with her old wit and sass*

by Julie Nostrand

A customer scans the racks of casual fashions in Forget Me Not, a Danville boutique. She pulls out the new spring dresses, and she holds the latest jeans in front of her. At first glance she is just another shopper, cooing over the newest styles, asking for advice and yakking it up with shop owner, Janice Glazier. On closer inspection, she looks familiar. Hasn't she been on Oprah a few times?

That customer is Danville resident and best selling author Terry McMillan. She loves the fashions sold at Forget Me Not and one recent rainy morning found her perusing fashionable threads, sipping coffee and laughing with friends.

"How long have I been coming here?" McMillan calls out to friend Glazier while she checks out the new arrivals. The shop owner shrugs her shoulders in answer. Both agree, the writer's been a regular for years.

The woman who put her voice into best selling novels, "Waiting to Exhale" and "How Stella Got Her Groove Back," McMillan likes many things about her home in Danville and is frequently spotted dining downtown, cruising the aisles of Safeway, or waiting at Lawrence's Walnut Creek Meats counter in Alamo.

She fell in love with Northern California dur-

soon as she turned 18 and began at Los Angeles City College.

Once in college, she took an American Literature and discovered a love of color such as Richard Wright, Hurston, Jean Toomer and Arna Bontemps, whom she transferred to UC Berkeley for her first fiction-writing class and then in journalism.

After graduating from Cal in 1980, she headed east to pursue a master's degree in writing at Columbia. According to her, she dropped out of the program because of the environment in the early 1980s.

Her study plans changed, but her love of writing did not waver. She joined the Writers' Guild and went to artist residencies in Yaddo in upstate New York, and in New Hampshire, to hone her craft.

She stayed in New York City for a while and she had her share of struggles with addiction and endured the end of a relationship that left her raising two children.

Despite the hardship, she continued to write. She woke early every morning, wrote for a couple of hours, and then readied herself for the day. At 36, with a young son, she published her first book, "Waiting to Exhale," which was published.

"In most of the places I go, I'm just **part of the**  
Like **a piece of furniture**

ing her college days at UC Berkeley in the '70s. She moved to Danville in 1990 when her son Solomon was 6. McMillan said she remembered choosing the area for its many amenities, but the real reason she relocated her family to the San Ramon Valley is simpler.

"I moved here for my son," said McMillan. "I wanted him to enjoy being a kid, and he had a great childhood here."

When she first came to town, she rented a house in the Shadow Creek development. Eventually, she bought a place in Blackhawk. Over time, McMillan developed a good support system locally. Everyone had children the same age. She was able to blend into the community as there are many people "of note" in the area and, importantly, residents respected her privacy.

"People recognize me all the time," said McMillan. "But in most of the places I go, I'm just part of the scene. Like a piece of furniture or something."

McMillan's son Solomon led an idyllic life in the shadows of Mount Diablo. He played local sports, waded in the local creek with friends, and rode in go-carts on the street in front of their house with kids from the neighborhood.

"Christmas mornings were the best. All the kids out playing in front of the house, it just made me glad to watch," recalled McMillan.

For McMillan, life in Danville couldn't be more different than her life growing up in the hardscrabble town of Port Huron, Mich. She was the oldest of five children, raised by a single mom who divorced her alcoholic and abusive dad. Books weren't big in her home, and it took a job at the local library shelving books to introduce McMillan to literature greats like Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson. She moved to Los Angeles as

Dissatisfied with the lack of publishing opportunities, she took the matter into her own hands and sent letters to different African American publishers and bookstores around the country. Her aggressive marketing strategy worked and "Mama" was published six weeks after its release.

Since her first novel hit bookshelves, she has published five other novels, two of which were made into movies. She also wrote a screenplay adaptation for her book "Waiting to Exhale" and "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" with Academy Award winner Halle Berry. Her credits include "Rainman" and "The Joy Luck Club" by Amy Tan's "The Joy Luck Club."

"Ron is brilliant," McMillan said. "His input in helping organize the screenplay was invaluable for both 'Exhale' and 'How Stella Got Her Groove Back'."

McMillan is different from other authors who are categorized in African American literature. Her work only lightly deals with race and is known in the publishing world for its mainstream appeal. Her fiction has reached praise and the content of her writing is regularly compared to Toni Morrison and Alice Walker.

A self-avowed morning person, she writes early everyday. For years, she would write, then it was the only quiet time she had. Writing is just part of her daily routine.

"Writing is like brushing my teeth. It's just something I do. When I don't do it, I miss it," she said.

She spends about four hours a day writing character-driven stories. She says she knows her characters and says that her stories are the stories she writes. She often



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...how her books are going to end until she gets there.

The characters in her book also tell something about how McMillan views herself and the world around her: “They are all flawed, because we are all flawed.”

Danville frequently steals its way into her writing. In her latest work, “The Interruption of Everything,” the protagonist was inspired by some of the women she sees in Danville, who

Author Terry McMillan, a self-proclaimed Martha Stewart, enjoys creating lamp shades so much, she’s turning it into a business, with the name Light Shades Away. Her bedding includes custom-dyed and hand-painted sheets (above) and is labeled Excitement in Bed.

...own list of tips for students ranging from “see the world” to “don’t listen to your parents.” She even printed a pamphlet for the graduates and their families. She received so many requests for copies that she decided to turn it into a book. Her newest book may not be her longest, but it’s filled with McMillan’s classic wit and sass.

With her career taking on new dimensions, her marriage to Jonathan Plummer ending in a high-profile divorce, and her son graduating from Stanford this spring, McMillan isn’t sure how long she will remain in the area. When she moved here 15 years ago, the area was largely agricultural and perfect for her son. Now that he is grown, she is ready for something new.

She’s been looking around but is shell-shocked by the price of Bay Area real estate and marvels at the number of homes in the area selling for more than a million dollars. Of the inflated costs and the hot market, she remarks to fellow shoppers at Forget Me Not, “I want to know what

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sacrifice their own identity for their family. And smaller details such as the chandeliers sold in Forget Me Not become part of the story’s rich sub-plots.

McMillan’s alter ego takes over and governs the rest of her day. Unknown to many, Terry is the self-proclaimed African American Martha Stewart. She specializes in custom dyed and hand-painted linens and lampshades. She also paints jeans, purses and shoes. She shudders when she mentions how much she spends at Richard’s Arts, Crafts and Framing in Alamo.

“I spend thousands there. I spend so much they help me to my truck,” said McMillan with a laugh.

The avid crafter fills her garage and spare bedrooms in her home with her labors of love. In fact, she hasn’t been able to park in her garage for most of the last year and a half.

“I have given away enough sheets and lampshades to fill a hotel and hand-painted jeans to fill a rack at BCBG,” said McMillan.

This creative outlet is offering McMillan a chance to spread her artistic wings and soar into a new venture: She is set to launch her own brand of housewares, T.M.’s Kaleidoscope Designs, either late this year or early next year. She plans to start with two product lines: the custom linens will be sold under the name “Excitement in Bed,” and lampshades will be sold as “Light Shades Away.”

And this new undertaking hasn’t slowed down her writing career; her latest release, “It’s OK if You’re Clueless and 23 More Tips for the College Bound” hit book stores this week. It’s based on the commencement speech she gave at her son’s high school graduation in 2002.

Wanting a unique approach to the traditional advice given graduates, McMillan compiled her

### Books by Terry McMillan

#### Fiction:

- “Mama” (1987) Follows the life of Mildred Peacock and her five children.
- “Disappearing Acts” (1989) Explores the love affair of Zora Banks, a teacher, and Franklin Swift, a frequently unemployed construction worker.
- “Waiting to Exhale” (1992) Chronicles the lives of four educated African American women living in Phoenix, Arizona.
- “How Stella Got Her Groove Back” (1996) Charts the experience of a business executive who travels to Jamaica to escape life and finds love.
- “A Day Late and A Dollar Short” (2001) Traces the story of an African American family with all its ups and downs.
- “The Interruption of Everything” (2005) Finds a middle-aged woman redefining her life when her children leave home.

#### Non-Fiction:

- “It’s OK if You’re Clueless and 23 More Tips for the College Bound” (2006) Advice on life for teens graduating from high school.

#### Anthology:

- “Breaking Ice: An Anthology of Contemporary African American Fiction” (1990) edited by McMillan

these people do for a living.”

The patrons chuckle and nod in agreement: It is hard to believe so many people are still able to afford homes in the area. But when the fashions are good, the coffee hot and the laughter flowing, it’s hard to worry too much about that and easier to see if that cute blouse with the floral stitching comes in the right size. ■

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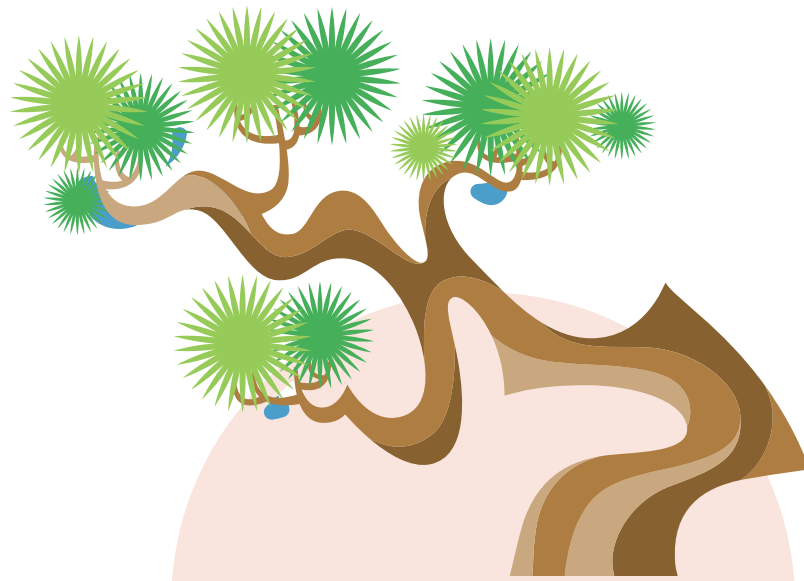
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## the art of bonsai

*Master spreads his knowledge about the ancient plant form to the community*

**by Kevin Zhou**

**T**he art of making a bonsai is more than just a hobby for Kunitoshi Akabane. It's a way of life.

Akabane, who founded the Tassajara Nursery in 1979, has been crafting bonsai for almost 50 years. Bonsai are artfully dwarfed trees that can be formed into many different shapes, including upright, canyons, windswept and cascades.

The small trees are supposed to be microcosms of nature, noted Dimitri Koovshinoff, another local bonsai enthusiast. Crafters attempt to recreate something that would be seen in nature that has been affected by wind, sun or rain.

"The whole idea is to give the impression of something that is very old," said Koovshinoff.

Bonsai vary in size from about four inches to four feet. They are typically made from juniper, maple, evergreen, cypress or pine trees. Thanks to California's temperate climate, a tree's lifespan can sometimes last for several decades.

"We have four seasons," said Akabane. "In the dormant winter season, it is just cold enough. In the summer, the trees hold the moisture because of the heat. That's good for the plants."

Bonsai originated in China, but when it was brought to Japan, the art form was refined. Growing up in Japan, Akabane was introduced to bonsai at a very young age and has been hooked ever since.

"Twice a month, there were street sales with small bonsai nurseries," said Akabane. "As young children, we were interested by such nice

shapes. Just picking it up was such a good opportunity."

Making a bonsai requires a lot of dedication. For beginners, a pair of narrow scissors is used to cut the inside of the main branch to ensure that it is smooth. For experts, more than 12 different tools are used to shape each branch and twig until it is the image they want. The pruning then continues to keep the shape.

While the trees may seem young, it sometimes takes more than 10 years for an artistic shape to finally emerge. Close attention must be paid in order to properly fertilize the soil and water the plant.

*"You shape, wait for the tree to grow, shape again, and so on."*

*—Kunitoshi Akabane*

Even for a bonsai master like Akabane, there's no use trying to cut corners.

"It's a lifetime project," he said. "It takes much longer than just two to three weeks. You shape, wait for the tree to grow, shape again, and so on. You also have to change the soil after many years."

In 1981, Akabane founded the Diablo Bonsai Club. He hoped to spread the passion he felt for his hobby to others in the community.

Every month, the 25-member club meets to learn basic bonsai-making techniques from Akabane. Members have already learned more than half a dozen designs, and the fundamentals of potting the trees and soiling them.

"The format is pretty clear," said Koovshinoff, who is a club member. "He will give a lecture on some aspect of the design and the care of the trees, and then the remaining part of the meeting he will go around to each individual person who has brought a tree or two or three and will critique the tree."

"He has an immense knowledge behind him," Koovshinoff added. "He feels very strongly about it; it's his life."

Akabane believes that everyone has the potential to become a bonsai master like himself. However, it's important to first have the right attitude.

"Every single person has a sense of art," Akabane said. "But first, you must like plants. If you don't, then you can't do it. You must have serious commitment, patience. You don't need 24 hours; just five minutes a day is enough to get to know the plant. Once you know the basics, it's common sense."

The Diablo Bonsai Club will be holding its 23rd annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Danville Community Center from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, April 29 and 30. Bonsai made by club members will be sold and won in drawings, and Akabane will perform a live demonstration. Admission is free. ■



Bonsai master Kunitoshi Akabane says it sometimes takes more than 10 years of pruning and trimming before an artistic shape emerges in a dwarfed tree.

## 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 Blvd., Dublin (560-9600)  
**Vine Cinema:** Corner of Regal and South O streets, Livermore (447-2545)  
**Internet address:** For show times, visit the Danville Weekly Online Edition at [www.DanvilleWeekly.com/](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com/)

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Akeelah and the Bee (PG)</b>      | <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:20 a.m., 1:55, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40 p.m.<br><b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:15 p.m.   |
| <b>American Dreamz (PG-13)</b>       | <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11:20 a.m., 2:15, 4:50, 7:45, 10:30 p.m.  |
| <b>Benchwarmers (PG-13)</b>          | <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 12:20, 2:35, 4:45, 7:15, 9:35 p.m.<br><b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11:50 a.m., 2:05, 4:35, 6:55, 9:20 p.m.   |
| <b>Brick (R)</b>                     | <b>CinéArts:</b> Fri-Tues 1, 5:15, 9:30 p.m.  |
| <b>Deep Sea (NR)</b>                 | <b>Regal Imax Theaters:</b> Fri-Tues 10:30, 11:35 a.m., 12:40 p.m.  |
| <b>Failure to Launch (PG-13)</b>     | <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 10:40 a.m., 3:10, 5:30, 8:05 p.m.   |
| <b>Friends With Money (R)</b>        | <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:15 a.m., 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8, 10:10 p.m.<br><b>CinéArts:</b> Fri-Tues 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7, 9:25 p.m.<br><b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 10:30 a.m., 12:55, 3:05, 5:25, 7:55, 10:10 p.m.   |
| <b>Hard Candy (R)</b>                | <b>CinéArts:</b> Fri-Tues 11:40 a.m., 2, 4:20, 6:45, 9:10 p.m.  |
| <b>Ice Age 2 (G)</b>                 | <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:35 a.m., 1:45, 4:15, 6:50, 9:20 p.m.<br><b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tues 1:20, 4:10, 6:50, 9:10 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 9:10 p.m.<br><b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11:15 a.m., 1:45, 4:10, 6:45, 9:10 p.m.<br><b>Vine Cinema:</b> Fri-Sun noon, 2:15, 4:20, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.; No show Fri noon; Mon-Tues 3:20, 5:10, 7:20 p.m. |
| <b>Inside Man (R)</b>                | <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:55 a.m., 4, 7:10, 10 p.m.<br><b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 12:20, 3:25, 6:40, 9:40 p.m.  |
| <b>Lucky Number Slevin (R)</b>       | <b>CinéArts:</b> Fri-Tues 11:50 a.m., 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45 p.m.   |
| <b>RV (PG)</b>                       | <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m., 12:15, 2, 2:45, 4:25, 5:15, 7, 7:45, 9:30, 10:15 p.m.<br><b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tues 1:50, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 9:50 p.m.<br><b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11, 11:40 a.m., 1:40, 2:20, 4:20, 5, 7, 7:40, 9:30, 10:10 p.m.   |
| <b>Scary Movie 4 (PG-13)</b>         | <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:45 a.m., 1:50, 4:10, 6:15, 8:20, 10:30 p.m.<br><b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tues 1:40, 4:15, 7:10, 9:20 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 9:20 p.m.<br><b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 10:35 a.m., 12:40, 1, 2:50, 5:10, 7:25, 9:50, 10:20 p.m.  |
| <b>Silent Hill (R)</b>               | <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 12:05, 3:05, 6:55, 9:55 p.m.<br><b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tues 1, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 9:30 p.m.<br><b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11 a.m., 12:50, 2, 3:50, 5, 6:50, 8, 9:45, 10:45 p.m.  |
| <b>Stick It (PG-13)</b>              | <b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11:15 a.m., 2, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50 p.m.<br><b>Vine Cinema:</b> Fri-Sun 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:30, 7, 9:15 p.m.; No show Fri 11:30 a.m.; Mon-Tues 3:10, 5:20, 7:30 p.m.   |
| <b>Take the Lead (PG-13)</b>         | <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues noon, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25 p.m.<br><b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 10:35 a.m., 1:15, 4:05, 7:05, 10 p.m.   |
| <b>Thank You for Smoking (R)</b>     | <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 12:10, 2:25, 5, 7:25, 9:45 p.m.<br><b>CinéArts:</b> Fri-Tues noon, 2:30, 4:55, 7:10, 9:35 p.m.<br><b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 12:25, 2:55, 5:35, 8:10, 10:35 p.m.   |
| <b>The Notorious Bettie Page (R)</b> | <b>CinéArts:</b> Fri-Tues 3:15, 7:30 p.m.   |
| <b>The Sentinel (PG-13)</b>          | <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:50 a.m., 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50 p.m.<br><b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tues 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10 p.m. No show Sun-Tues 10 p.m.<br><b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 10:55, 11:25 a.m., 1:40, 2:10, 4:25, 4:55, 7:15, 7:45, 9:55, 10:25 p.m.   |
| <b>The Wild (G)</b>                  | <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:25 a.m., 1:40, 3:50, 6, 8:10, 10:20 p.m.<br><b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 11:45 a.m., 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:35 p.m.  |
| <b>United 93 (R)</b>                 | <b>Century 14:</b> Fri-Tues 11:40 a.m., 2:15, 4:55, 7:30, 10:05 p.m.<br><b>Crow Canyon 6:</b> Fri-Tues 1:10, 4, 7, 9:40 p.m.; No show Sun-Tues 9:40 p.m.<br><b>Hacienda Crossing 20:</b> Fri-Tues 10:30, 11:20 a.m., 1:20, 2:10, 4:10, 4:50, 7:10, 7:50, 10, 10:40 p.m.   |
| <b>V for Vendetta (R)</b>            | <b>Regal Imax Theaters:</b> Fri-Tues 2, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15 p.m.  |

Blackhawk movie listings were unavailable at press time.

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# Epicure

BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL



## Calling all vegans!

A reader recently requested information and recipes on veganism and I am pleased to focus on this topic. Having lived both as a vegan and a vegetarian, I respect both lifestyle choices. The decision to become a vegan or vegetarian is often based on pro-environment and anti-animal-cruelty concerns while others opt for the dietary regimen mainly for the health advantages; for many, it's a combination of factors.

So, what's a vegan? A vegetarian? Many mistakenly use the words interchangeably. While neither group eats meat, vegetarians may allow themselves some dairy and egg products whereas vegans do not eat eggs and dairy. Members of both groups restrict themselves from any animal-based products like honey and gelatin (made from the hooves of horses). The word vegan, coined in 1944 as the Vegan Society was formed, is made up from the beginning and end of the word vegetarian. According to the Vegan Society, "A vegan eats a plant-based diet free from all animal products, including milk, eggs and honey." In contrast, the Vegetarian Society's Web site posts this definition: "A vegetarian is someone living on a diet of grains, nuts, pulses, seeds, vegetables and fruits with or without the use of dairy products and eggs." Long-term vegans and vegetarians make up their own rules—as you transition into either lifestyle and are immersed in it, you are faced with making dietary decisions that work best for your health and personal needs.

When you do not consume milk, you must concern yourself with getting a sufficient supply

of protein and nutrition for your body. A vegan or vegetarian's main food sources include fresh cereals/grains, legumes (peas/beans), nuts, seeds, fruit, vegetables, dairy or soy products, vegetable oils and vitamin supplements. One cooking technique I used frequently as a vegetarian is "protein complementation."

Without getting too technical, here's how it works: We all need protein in our diets. Specifically, each of us needs amino acids in a specific ratio to each other. Given healthy eating, our bodies can make many of the amino acids we need but there are eight amino acids we can't make on our own. Protein complementation is combining plant protein sources to achieve a better amino acid balance than either would have alone. Because of differences in amino acid makeup, when certain plant sources are combined, the strengths of one make up for the deficiencies in another. One example is beans and grains—beans offering high lysine content and grains offering high content of the sulfur-containing amino acids. By combining them or eating them close together, they can complement one another, creating a complete protein. Lucky for us, many ethnic dishes combine complementary proteins—Mexican rice and beans, Middle Eastern Tabouli, California Rolls with rice and seaweed, etc. You might try the tasty protein-complemented M'judra, a Middle Eastern recipe below.

One of the biggest challenges in being a vegan or vegetarian is not about feeling like an outsider to mainstream meals, or feeling deprived of consumer-popular

foods but the extra time and effort it takes to find, buy and prepare meals. Because vegans try to buy the freshest, most whole-grain and organic products possible, food shopping and preparation can take two to four times longer than the average meat-and-potato meal. Just consider the difference in cooking time between white and brown rice or between juicing your own drinks and pouring pre-squeezed juice from a carton. Also, non-meat-eaters must pay close attention to their protein intake and be sure they are eating balanced meals over time. However, for a happy vegetarian or vegan, the benefits of good health, extra energy and weight control seem to offset the extra efforts.

Even if you don't consider yourself a true vegan or vegetarian, there's a benefit to us all in appreciating these lifestyles and eating healthier, sometimes borrowing from vegan or vegetarian cookbooks. All of the recipes included here and on today's issue at [www.DanvilleWeekly.com](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com) are tasty and none would do harm to a meat-eater's diet. Have you ever tried Morningstar Farms' Breakfast Patties or Soyrizo, both available at Safeway stores? "Foodies" and Epicure readers should value those who choose these dietary lifestyles. In many ways, they make alternative foods and nutritious ingredients available to us as our health needs, dietary interests and eating curiosities evolve. If you can't be a vegan, at least love one!

*Jacqui 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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ATTN: Vanessa, RE: Mother's Day

### M'judra (makes 3-4 cups)

1 cup dried lentils  
1 cup brown rice  
5 cups water  
1 onion, chopped  
Salt or herbs to taste  
1/2 cup plain yogurt or sliced cheese (optional)

1. Combine all ingredients in a saucepan and simmer for one hour.
2. During the simmering time, sauté the onion until brown. Mix half of the onion into the lentil/rice mix and use the other half for garnish.
3. Top each serving with yogurt or cheese slices as desired.

Note: This dish freezes well and can be made in multiples.

### Chilled Cantaloupe Soup (serves 6)

6 cups cantaloupe, cut into 1/2-inch cubes  
1/2 cup orange juice  
3 Tbl. lemon juice  
1 cup plain soy yogurt  
2 Tbl. brown rice syrup  
Thin slices of melon or edible flowers (optional garnish)

1. In a blender or food processor, combine the cantaloupe, orange juice, and lemon juice, and blend well to form a smooth puree.
2. Transfer the mixture to a glass bowl and whisk in the soy yogurt and brown rice syrup. Cover and chill for several hours.
3. Pour into individual bowls; garnish as desired.

### Types of Vegetarians:

- Lacto-ovo-vegetarians—eat both dairy products and eggs; the most common type of vegetarian
- Lacto: Eats dairy products but not eggs.
- Vegan: Does not eat dairy products, eggs, or any other animal product.
- Fruitarian: A type of vegan diet where very few processed or cooked foods are eaten.
- Macrobiotic: A diet followed for spiritual and philosophical reasons; aims to maintain a balance between foods seen as ying (+) or yang (-).

Source: *The Vegetarian Society*, [www.vegsoc.org](http://www.vegsoc.org)

# Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE



RAMONA PARK NEAR DANVILLE SAN RAMON VALLEY CAL.

IMAGE FROM "SAN RAMON VALLEY—ALAMO, DANVILLE, SAN RAMON" BY BEVERLY LANE AND RALPH COZINE

## Popular Ramona Park

The Martinez Daily Gazette in 1906 assured readers that Ramona Park "will undoubtedly be recognized in a short while as the first of California's many parks for pleasure seekers." Run on temperance principles, the park included large shade trees, a dance pavilion and a lake. The day it opened, a special train left San Francisco at 8 a.m., stopped at intervening stations and returned from the park at 5 p.m.

### OF NOTE

The following Troop 36 Eagles were honored April 23:

#### Bret Menicke

Bret Menicke, 18, is a Danville resident, the son of Cash and Gale Menicke, and a senior at Monte Vista High School.

His Eagle Scout project was to restore a section of Mt. Diablo State Park to its natural condition by tearing down and removing a half mile of old barbed wire fence. This required removing more than 200 wood and steel posts, connected by seven-strand barbed wire, and recycling all material from the park. Menicke completed the project with the assistance of 24 volunteers and logged a total of 188 man-hours in labor. The project will benefit the community, the wildlife in the area and visitors to the state park for generations to come by eliminating hazards to wildlife and humans.

Menicke will attend Arizona State University in the fall.

#### Nathaniel Padgett

Nathaniel Padgett, 18, the son of David and Nola Padgett, lives in Danville and is a senior at Monte Vista High.

For his project, Padgett collected 13,640 items to put in care packages intended for U.S. troops serving in the Middle East, working in conjunction with the Blue Star Moms. The project took 152 man-hours to complete and involved the help of 30 people, primarily fellow Scouts. This effort showed support for the troops and helped the Blue Star Moms, who normally do care package collections on their own.

Padgett will attend either UC San Diego or UC Santa Barbara.

#### Alex Topor

Alex Topor, 17, lives in Danville and is a senior at Monte Vista High. He is the son of Steve and Beth Topor.

For his Eagle Scout project,

Topor organized the removal of a half mile of fencing in Mt. Diablo State Park, with the help of many Scout friends. The project required the removal of more than 2,000 feet of five-strand barbed wire, more than 200 fence posts, and then carrying the debris off the mountain. The project was completed over four days, utilizing 300 man-hours of work. It helped beautify the park as well as making the environment safe for people and animals.

Topor will attend Loyola Marymount University in the fall.

#### Bryan Workman

Bryan Workman, 18, is an Alamo resident, the son of Peter Workman and Mimi Tapper and a senior at Monte Vista High.

His Eagle Scout project involved the construction and installation of four owl habitat boxes for Brushy Peak Regional Park Preserve in Livermore. The project provided a habitat for barn owls in the area to replace their previous habitat, a barn that was to be torn down. To complete the project, Bryan enlisted the help of 25 Scouts and volunteers; it required 250 man-hours of labor.

Workman will attend the University of Oregon.

#### Chris Boardman

Chris Boardman, 18, the son of Paul and Suzanne Boardman, is a senior at Monte Vista High.

For his project, Boardman collected 650 coats and clothing items for people in need during the holidays. It benefited Full Gospel Church in Concord, which hosted Christmas for Everybody, a free shopping spree for people who cannot afford gifts on Christmas. Boardman was helped in this effort by 52 Scouts and 71 adults and other volunteers contributing a total of 196 man-hours.

Boardman will attend either Arizona State University or Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in the fall.

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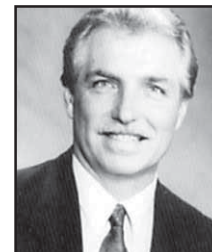
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|------------------------------|-----------|----------|
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| 5th Year Max Monthly Payment | \$2,264   | \$1,842  |

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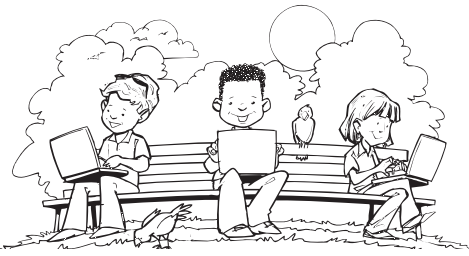
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# Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

## Concerts

### The Blackhawk Chorus

"Broadway Hits from the Past 100 Years" concert featuring Special Blend, Relativity and the Blackhawk Barbershoppers will benefit the Resurrection Lutheran Church. This concert will start at 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 12, at the church, 7557 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Advance tickets are \$15. Call 828-1580 or visit [www.resluthdublin.org](http://www.resluthdublin.org).

### The Murasake Ensemble

The Murasake Ensemble is a musical experience of sounds unlike any other, which "reaches into the inner spirit." It will perform at 5 p.m., Sunday, May 14, at Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville. This event is free. Call 648-7000 or visit [www.peacejourney.org/Jazz](http://www.peacejourney.org/Jazz).

## Events

### 16th Annual Blackhawk Food, Wine and Film Festival

Danville-Sycamore Valley Rotary presents the 16th annual Blackhawk Food, Wine and Film Festival starting at 5 p.m., Thursday, May 18, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle. \$40 per person minimum foundation donation; all proceeds support community service. Call 314-8141.

### Girls Love a Makeover 2006

Healing Place Church Women will be hosting a live makeover event with special guest and gold star mom, Marina Beyer from 12:20-2:30 p.m., Saturday, May 6, at the Danville Grange, 743 Diablo Road. A special hair stylist from Louisiana will be the emcee. Tickets are \$20. Call 831-9123 or visit [www.healingplacechurch.org](http://www.healingplacechurch.org).

### Red Cross Blood Drive

Kevin Valla, a junior at Monte Vista High School and member of Boy Scout Troup 36, will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive for his Eagle Scout Project, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, April 29, at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 1550 Diablo Road, Danville. Call 837-2975 to set up an appointment or visit [www.beadonor.com](http://www.beadonor.com) and use sponsor code: Kevin.

### Small-Fry Shoppe is Turning 5!

The Small-Fry Shoppe in downtown Danville will be celebrating its fifth birthday and rewarding its customers with 20 percent off spring and summer apparel Monday-Friday, May 1-5. The store is located at 155 Railroad Ave. Call 838-8885.

### Spring Cleaning

Terry McDaniel Team and 1-800-Got-Junk? will be sponsoring a spring

cleaning event, "Give to Shepherd's Gate... and Dump Your Junk in our Dumpsters Free!" to benefit Shepherd's Gate Battered Women's Shelter, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, April 29, at San Ramon Valley High School's Main Parking Lot, 140 Love Lane, Danville. Junk and e-waste may be discarded for free, and good items such as clothing, food, personal hygiene products and cleaning supplies will be collected for Shepherd's Gate. Call 838-4300.

## Exhibits

### 1906 Great Earthquake Exhibit

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley will be displaying newspapers, books, post cards and stereoptican slides on the 1906 earthquake's impacts on Danville during the month of April. The museum is open 1-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday; 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturdays. There is no charge for admission but donations are encouraged. Call 837-3750 or visit [www.museumsv.org](http://www.museumsv.org).

### Quilting Through the Years Exhibit

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley in partnership with The Quilter's Inn will be showing a collection of historic and contemporary quilts created by talented local quilters, from April 29-May 27. The museum is open Tuesday-Friday, 1-4 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., in the old Depot, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. Admission is free, but donations are encouraged. Call 837-3750 or visit [www.museumsv.org](http://www.museumsv.org).

### Tao House Arts Program Exhibit and Performances

Work by students who were inspired by the Arts Program at O'Neill's Tao House will be on exhibit and performed at 3 p.m., Saturday, April 29, at the Danville Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St. Students will perform scenes from O'Neill's "Ah Wilderness." Refreshments will be served. The exhibit will be moved to the Visitors' Center at Tao House through May.

## Fundraisers

### 18th Annual Charity Auction

Pleasanton North Rotary will be hosting this charity event to benefit Danville's Wheelchair Foundation with a cocktail reception, silent and live auctions, dinner and dancing starting at 5 p.m., Saturday, May 6, at the Pleasanton Hilton, 7050 Johnson Drive. For information, tickets or questions contact Ron Hyde at 846-2757, [shundahai@comcast.net](mailto:shundahai@comcast.net) or [www.pnr-rotary.org](http://www.pnr-rotary.org).

### 'Blossom Into Spring' Fashions

GFWC/Danville Women's Club is hosting a fashion show, "Blossom Into Spring," to benefit Friends of Hospice San Ramon Valley, at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, April 29, Crow Canyon Country Club. Tickets are a donation of \$35 and must be purchased before April 20 by calling Barbara Chavez at 828-0347 or 837-1165.

### Building a Future, Road to Hope G

Mt. Diablo Habitat for Humanity will hold its annual fundraiser, "Building a Future, Road to Hope Gala," at 6 p.m., Saturday, May 13, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle. The evening will include food and wine, entertainment by Bob Athayde and the Surefire Band, and a silent and live auction. Tickets are \$200 per person. Call 288-0112, ext. 19, or visit [www.mtdiablohabitat.org](http://www.mtdiablohabitat.org).

### Children's Film Festival

The California Independent Film Festival Association and the Town of Danville will be hosting the third annual Children's Film Festival, Friday-Sunday, May 19-21. This event will give film enthusiasts a chance to enjoy screenings of three independent films,

plus attend special events, autograph sessions, seminars for filmmakers and actors and an awards ceremony. Tickets are on sale. Call 314-3463 or visit [www.dicff.org](http://www.dicff.org).

### Devil Mountain Run

The 29th annual Devil Mountain Run will begin with sign-in at 8 a.m., 5K, 10K and Kids Fun Run! all starting at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, May 7, in Downtown Danville on Railroad Avenue at Prospect. The day will end with awards, refreshments and live music by Christopher Ford Band. Registration can be done online (through noon, Friday, May 6) and through the mail (until Friday, April 28). Early fee is \$28 (\$13 for Kids Run ages 3-8); Race Weekend Fee is \$35 (\$15 for Kids Run) at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley parking lot. For information, contact RhodyCo at (415) 759-2690, [www.childrenshospitaloakland.org](http://www.childrenshospitaloakland.org) or [www.rhodyco.com](http://www.rhodyco.com).

### Fourth Annual 'Stars and Cars' Dream Gala

Barry Sims, from the Oakland Raiders, and Foster a Dream will hold its fourth annual "Stars and Cars" Dream Gala to raise funds for Bay Area foster children. This event begins with a wine tasting for VIP ticket holders at 5:30 p.m., dinner, a comedy show and an auction at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, May 6, at the Blackhawk Auto Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. The rest of the night will include auctions, celebrity impersonators and other star guests. Tickets are \$150 per person. Contact Vanessa Kinney at (707) 747-0100 or [vanessa@fosteradream.org](mailto:vanessa@fosteradream.org).

### Fourth Annual Tri-Valley Youth Food Drive

Youth groups from all over the Tri-Valley will be collecting nonperishable items for local food pantries, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, April 29. About 1,000 youth volunteers will be going door-to-door around the Tri-Valley area to collect donations. For information, contact David Bahr at 998-6513 or visit [www.youthfooddrive.com](http://www.youthfooddrive.com).

### Hidden Gardens of the Valley Tour

A benefit for the Valley Humane Society Adoption Center will be hosting a self-driven garden tour, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, May 7. There will be 10 gardens included in the tour; a map and brochure will be provided at the first garden. Tickets are \$35 and may be purchased at Valley Humane Society Adoption Center, 273 Spring St., Pleasanton, or by calling Charli Hyden at 918-0799.

### Home Garden Tour

Danville Alamo Branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW) will be hosting a Home Garden Tour from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday, May 12, and Saturday, May 13. Tickets are \$25. All proceeds benefit AAUW's Educational Foundation which supports aspiring female scholars. For information contact Tena Gallagher at 837-0826 or [gardentour@aauw-da.org](mailto:gardentour@aauw-da.org).

### Simayof Monte Carlo Carnavale

Simayof will be proudly sponsoring the Monte Carlo Carnavale benefiting the Special Olympics with a night of good food and cocktails, silent and live auctions and dancing starting at 6 p.m., Saturday, April 29, at Round Hill Country Club in Alamo. Tickets are \$175 per person; \$1,750 for a table of 10; \$2,500 for table sponsors including a celebrity guest seated at your table. For information, call Heather Jones at 944-8801, ext. 232.

### Spring Boutique Sale

The MOMS Club and Children's Film Festival will be hosting a Spring Boutique Sale from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, May 6, at the Veteran's Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. This event will benefit a national charity, Mother to Mother Fund. Free refreshments will be provided, with drawing prizes and entertainment for the kids. For information, contact Cori at 803-8083.

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WEEKEND PREVIEW



**Spring Fest**

Join the Danville police and the town of Danville to celebrate spring with lots of fun activities from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, May 6, at the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St. This event will include carnival games, face painting, family games, health and wellness information, fingerprinting services, a barbeque and much more. Kids: Bring your bike to decorate and race! For information, call 314-3400.

and students. For information, call Vicki Stadelhofer at 552-2878.

**'Footloose'**

St. Joan of Arc LIGHT Youth Ministry will open the Broadway musical "Footloose," at 8 p.m., Thursday-Saturday, May 4-6; Friday-Saturday, May 12-13 and at 6 p.m., Sunday, May 7 and 14, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at the church or online at www.sjasr.org.

**'Noises Off'**

San Ramon Valley High School will present a funny comedy, "Noises Off," at 2:30 and 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday, April 28-29, and at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, April 30, in the schools' Performing Arts Center. Advance tickets are \$7; tickets sold at the door are \$8. Call 552-3089 or email cperymann@srvhs.org.

**Role Players present 'Gun Shy'**

The Role Players Ensemble Theatre is presenting "Gun Shy," a funny story about marriage, divorce, infidelity, infertility, eternal love and diets no one should try. "Gun Shy" will be starting at 8 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings; and at 2 p.m. for Sunday matinees, from April 21-May 13, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$13-\$22. For tickets call 314-3463 or visit www.villagetheatreshows.com.

from 7-9 p.m., Tuesdays evenings, May 2-June 20; "Footsteps: A Support Group for Children" meets 5:15-6:30 p.m., Tuesday evenings, May 2-June 6. For information and/or to register, call 887-5678.

**Jouraling Through Cancer**

Beverly Kirkhart, a breast cancer survivor, inspirational speaker and co-author of "Chicken Soup for the Surviving Soul," will be holding a journaling workshop for cancer patients, their families and friends from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, May 2, at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free, but reservations are required. Call 933-0107.

(DVLC) is looking for volunteers to help non-English speaking adults learn how to read, write and speak English. There will be three tutoring workshops held: Saturday, May 6; Tuesday, May 9; and Saturday, May 13, at DVLC, 4000 Clayton Road, Concord. There is a non-refundable \$15 registration fee. For information or to register, call Jane at 938-0139.

**Project Second Chance**

Help an adult to read, write or spell better with Project Second Chance (PSC) and the Contra Costa Country Library adult literacy program. Training will begin from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 3 and will continue from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., May 6 and 13, at the PSC office, 75 Santa Barbara Rd., Pleasant Hill. For information, call 927-3250 or e-mail psc@cclib.org.

**Volunteering**

**Diablo Valley Literacy Council**  
The Diablo Valley Literacy Council

**Sycamore Valley Elementary School Auction and Fundraiser**

Sycamore Valley Elementary will be holding its annual parent-teacher social fundraiser from 6:30-11 p.m., Friday, April 28, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. The night will consist of hors d'oeuvres, dinner, silent and live auctions and dancing. Tickets are \$75. Contact Pam Clemmons at P2Clemmons@aol.com or visit www.ses.srvusd.k12.ca.us/paris2006.

**Way Side Inn Thrift Shop Sale**

The Way Side Inn Thrift Shop and Costume Rental in Lafayette is hosting its principal fundraiser to benefit Assistance League of Diablo Valley with tons of sales! Vintage hats, gloves and purses will be on sale Tuesday, May 2. Bathing suits for the family will be the super buy Tuesday, May 9. Bridal wear will be flying off the racks Tuesday, May 16. Store hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday. Call 934-0901.

exhibit at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor at 1 p.m., Wednesday, May 3, in the Mt. Diablo Room, Danville Library, 400 Front St. This event is free.

**Real Estate Investment Expo**

GeoPoint Research Systems will present a workshop, "Real Estate Investment Expo: How to Buy With 20 Percent Instant Equity," from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, May 6, at San Ramon Marriot, 2600 Bishop Drive. This event is free, but registration is required; visit www.nwbuexpo.com/location.html.

**Straight Talk: 'In God We Trust'**

Brad Dacus, President of Pacific Justice Institute, will be speaking at the next Straight Talk meeting to discuss the controversy over the rights of religious expression, from 7-8:15 a.m., Friday, April 28, at the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St., Danville. Cost is \$20, including breakfast. Sign up at www.acteva.com/go/valleystraighttalk.

**Support Groups**

**Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa Offers Support Groups**

Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa is offering different support groups; individual grief counseling for Hospice families is also available. "Widow and Widower's Support Group" meets from 6-8 p.m., Wednesday evening, May 3-June 21, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill; "Adults Who Have Lost a Parent Support Group" meets

**Holidays**

**Mother's Day Hike**

Jennifer House of Save Mount Diablo will lead a Mother's Day hike at 8 a.m., Sunday, May 14, meeting at the Macedo Ranch Staging Area, north end of Green Valley Road, Alamo. The hike will take you to one of the few places where you can see three rare endemic plants within a few feet of each other and beautiful views of the Bay Area. Rain cancels. Call 947-3535.

**Miscellaneous**

**Nominations Needed for California History Teacher of the Year**

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is seeking nominations for the California History Teacher of the Year award. The winner will receive a \$1,000 honorarium, a core archive of history books, and materials for their school library. The deadline is Monday, May 15. For information, contact Jack Bareilles at (707) 839-6492 or humboldtcountyhistory@hotmail.com.

**Lectures/ Workshops**

**Communicate With Your Baby Before Your Baby Can Talk**

"Sign, Say & Play," a six-week class presented by Baby Signs and ASL-trained instructors, will teach parents and babies basic sign language in a fun environment, meeting every Tuesday, May 2-June 13 (No class Tuesday, May 13) at the Town Hall Meeting Room, 201 Front St., Danville. The "Walkers" class, ages 13-24 months meets from 9:30-10:15 a.m., and the "Pre-Walkers" class, ages 5-12 months meets from 10:30-11:15 a.m. Preregistration is required and the class cost \$135. (Registration is \$85 and Sign, Say & Play Starter Kit is \$50.) For information, visit www.baby-signsbayarea.com.

**Creating a Loving Relationship With Your Body**

Are you constantly striving to change yourself into the "ideal" woman? Constance Smith will talk on rediscovering a loving relationship with yourself from 9:30-11:30 a.m., Thursday, May 11, at Blackhawk Country Club's Terrace Room, 599 Blackhawk Club Drive. Cost is \$25 per person, continental breakfast included. Contact Constance at constance.smith@sbc-global.net to reserve your spot.

**Monet in Normandy**

Kay Payne will present a slide show and talk on the Monet in Normandy

**On Stage**

**'Alice in Wonderland'**

Monte Vista High School Theater will present "Alice in Wonderland" with high-tech light shows and hand-made costumes, Wednesday-Friday, May 24-26, in the school's Al Gentile Theater, 3131 Stone Valley Road, Danville. Tickets are \$8; \$5 for children

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**Beasley Insurance Services**

**925-803-9799**

www.beasleyinsurance.com



| Shield Spectrum PPO Plan 5000 | Age Range | Current Rates |
|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Single                        | 19-29     | \$53          |
|                               | 30-34     | \$74          |
|                               | 35-39     | \$81          |
|                               | 40-44     | \$115         |
|                               | 45-49     | \$137         |
|                               | 50-54     | \$191         |
| Family                        | 55-59     | \$232         |
|                               | 60-64     | \$277         |
|                               | Under 30  | \$170         |
|                               | 30-34     | \$224         |
|                               | 35-39     | \$244         |
|                               | 40-44     | \$321         |
|                               | 45-49     | \$350         |
|                               | 50-54     | \$448         |
|                               | 55-59     | \$503         |
|                               | 60-64     | \$582         |

Health Coverage Rates Effective 2/1/06. Rates apply for Contra Costa, Alameda & Santa Clara Counties.

Authorized Independent Agent



**Blue Shield of California**

An Independent Member of the Blue Shield Association

The rates shown are for people in good health. Rates based on age of younger application. Other rates may apply. Shield Spectrum PPO Plans are not available to individuals 65 or older.

**Incredible Real Estate Opportunities in Selective Areas Nationwide, with 100% Financing FREE SEMINAR**

The "Bubble" didn't burst. People are still making tons of money investing in real estate. With mortgage companies getting more creative by the day, you can start investing with virtually nothing. Even first time homebuyers make 30K to 70K per home purchase. Learn about areas where you can put no money down and earn a positive cash flow.

**Forbes and Money magazines pick of the top 5 areas for the next 5 years.**

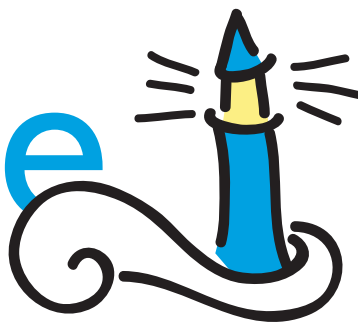
- "Atlanta sees annual appreciation 29.4%!" (CNN Money)
- "Florida is one of the top five fastest growing states." (Now Public)
- "Alabama sees annual price increase of 30.33%" (CNN Money)

Date: May 11<sup>th</sup> / Time: 6:30pm — 8:30pm  
Cost: FREE!

Location: Four Points Sheraton Hotel  
5115 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, CA 94588

RSVP: (888) 708-6804 ext. 8610  
or (925) 226-2056 or jmessina@1stmetro.net

Licensed by CA Department of corporations under the Residential Mortgage Lending Act.



TO RESPOND TO ADS WITHOUT PHONE NUMBERS GO TO **FOGSTER.COM**

## PLACE AN AD

- ONLINE**  
fogster.com
- E-MAIL**  
ads@fogster.com
- PHONE**  
(925) 600-0840

Fogster.com is a unique Web site offering FREE postings from communities throughout the Bay Area and an opportunity for your ad to appear in the Pleasanton/Danville Weekly.

Now you can log on to fogster.com, day or night and get your ad started immediately online. Most listings are free print ad in our Peninsula newspapers with the option of photos and additional lines. Exempt are Business Services and Employment ads, which include a web listing charge. Home services and Mind & Body Services, require contact with a Customer Sales Representative.

So, the next time you have an item to sell, barter, give away or buy, get the perfect combination: print ads in your local newspapers, reaching more than 35,000 readers, and unlimited free Web postings reaching hundreds of thousands additional people!

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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

Chronic Pain Support Group

### \* DEADLINE \*

The Pleasanton/Danville Weekly Classified Advertising deadline is:

**Tuesday 12 Noon**  
through the business office  
**925-600-0840 x12**

**Tuesday 11:59 PM**  
through Fogster.com

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

Local Artist at CustomDogArt.com

### Prenant?

Considering Adoption? Talk with caring people specializing in matching birthmothers with families nationwide. Expenses Paid. Toll free 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions 1-866-413-6292 (Cal-SCAN)

Taylor Family Walkathon

### 120 Auctions

### 130 Classes & Instruction

#### A career in medical

Assisting can be yours with training from UEI. 6 convenient locations. Call now to start training for your new career. 1-877-354-2031. www.uei4you.com (Cal-SCAN)

#### A massage therapy career

UEI. El Monte, Huntington Park, Los Angeles, Ontario, San Bernardino, Van Nuys. Not all programs available at all campuses. 1-877-354-2031; www.uei4you.com (Cal-SCAN)

#### A medical, dental,

Business or Computer Career can be yours with training from UEI. 6 Convenient Locations. Call now! 1-877-354-2031. www.uei4you.com (Cal-SCAN)

#### AUSTRALIAN PIANO METHOD

**Quality College Culinary**  
Careers. AOS in Culinary Arts. www.FresnoChef.com 1-866-373-Chef. Low tuition. Low housing. Culinary Chef Certs. Programs Accredited by ACF. (Cal-SCAN)

#### Something Fun is Cooking Up!

Would your child like to learn how to cook but you lack the time or knowledge? Chef Michelle, an east bay food writer and home cook extraordinaire, can help your child learn to cook everything from good ole mac and cheese to a French soufflé. Learning to cook is a great way for picky eaters to become curious about food. Your child will also improve their reading and math skills and learn about kitchen safety and culinary basics, all taught by a gentle and fun teacher. For more info (ask about cupcake parties!) email funandcupcakes@yahoo.com

### 133 Music Lessons

#### HARP LESSONS

for all ages  
*Try something new for Spring!*  
**Call Benneta Heaton**  
**(925) 820-1169**  
~ located in Danville ~

Private Piano Lessons - \$25/half h

### 135 Group Activities

Come knit with us!

Fibromyalgia Arthritis Support

### 150 Volunteers

Taylor Family Walkathon

### 155 Pets

Dog walking, sitting & more

Flea Meds. healthfulpets.com



### 201 Autos/Trucks /Parts

Campion 2004 Explorer 552 - \$23,900

Ford F250 Camper Shell 1999 F250 Supercab - 250 obo

## Harry's Auto Repair

183-A Wyoming St  
Pleasanton CA 94566  
**925-462-3237**

**SPECIAL SMOG INSPECTION**  
**\$25 + \$8.25 CERT**  
with coupon

#### Isuzu 1999 Trooper

\$8500. Looks and runs great. Very low mileage - only 58,000. Automatic, 4WD, towing pkg. Call 484-5549

Jeep 1996 Grand Cherokee Limited - \$4,900

Jeep 96 Cherokee Limited 4x4 - \$6950

Mitsubishi 2004 Galant - 12,850

**Selling a car?**  
Advertise for FREE

List it on **fogster.com**

no minimum lines,  
no minimum dollars  
include photos



#### Suzuki 2005 GSXR 600

Perfect conditions, like new clear title. I am very meticulous in caring for this bike even down to how I clean it. I washed this bike with alot of water, car wash/wax and a baby diaper. I dry it off with compressed air, so that it perfectly dries with no water or swirl marks. This bike has also been garage kept and covered from the time I purchased it. Have only 4100 miles on it, 2005 year model ready to go. Contact for details. \$ 4900

**OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK**

**BOSCH**  
ACDelco GM

**Motorcraft** Ford

**SHOCK ABSORBERS**

**Truck & Auto Parts**  
Domestic & Import  
(925)  
**846-1030**

32 California Ave (1 Blk Off Stanley)  
PLEASANTON

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

No phone number in the ad?  
GO TO  
**fogster.com**  
for contact information

### 210 Garage/Estate Sales

**ANNUAL FLEA MARKET**  
Saturday, May 6, 9am-2pm  
Ridge View Commons Senior Complex  
5200 Case Ave  
Many misc items and food!  
All sales benefit Activities Fund for Seniors.

Pleasanton, 2140 Tanager Ct. (near Santa Rita & Mohr), Sat. April 29, 8-4  
**GIANT 2 FAMILY GARAGE SALE** - Furniture, Bikes, Air Hockey, Kitchen, Tools, Crafts, Clothes, Jewelry, Christmas, Holiday, Linens, Decor, Toys, Electronics, Appliances, Sports, Books & much more.

Pleasanton, 3263 Vineyard Ave. #199, 4/29 & 30, 9-4

Pleasanton, 3806 Cheshire Court, April 29, 8-1  
Camping and Back Packing Equipment;Fifth Wheel Trailer Accessories;Boat Rack;Stationary Exercise Bicycle

### 215 Collectibles & Antiques

LP's - \$5.00 each

### 220 Computers/ Electronics

Dell Laptop - Great Condition - \$285.00  
IPOD, PLAYSTATION

### 230 Freebies

**PATIO TABLE & CHAIRS**  
41" round black iron mesh patio table with four matching chairs. Good condition. You haul. 925-846-9443. FREE

### 240 Furnishings/ Household items

Art Deco Chifferobe Cabinet - \$815.00

Chrystal Chandelier - 900.00

Designer Love Seat - Free - must pick up

Drop Leaf Table - \$800

Hartmann Luggage - Brand New - \$395.00

Washer and Dryer - \$150.00

### 245 Miscellaneous

1851 Seaswirl Striper W/A - \$24000.00

**A POWER WHEELCHAIR**  
at little or NO COST TO YOU!! \$0 Call (800) 350-7033

Big Birdcage - \$175.00

HEALTH RIDER - \$40.00

**Hunt Elk, Red Stag,**  
Buffalo, Whitetail. Guaranteed License \$5.00. Season 8/25/06-03/31/07. We have a No Game-No Pay policy. Book now! Days 1-314-209-9800, Evenings 1-314-293-0610. (Cal-SCAN)

ipod shuffle 1GB - \$85.00

Local Artist at CustomDogArt.com

**Miscellaneous for sale**  
stumped? Need A Special Gift for under \$20? Find it at www.3CarrotRing.com It's fun! It's unique! It's gorgeous and your lady will love it! 1-661-607-4457. (Cal-SCAN)

PartyTime 69 - Swinger Resources

### SMALL BUSINESS

Small Vitamins/Sport Supplements store. In business for 9 years. Established clientele, latest and most innovating supplements in the industry. Needs to sell due to personal reasons. Will consider any offer.

Spring Boutique - MOMS Club

### Steel Buildings.

FACTORY Deals. Save \$\$\$ 40x60' to 100x200'. Example: 50x100x12' = \$3,60/sq ft. 1-800-658-2885 www.RigidBuilding.com (Cal-SCAN)

Stork Rental - Baby Announcement - \$69

Swing LifeStyle

**SMOG INSPECTION**  
Special **\$25 + \$8.25 CERT** (with coupon)

**EPPS TEST ONLY CENTER**  
**925-462-1097**

No Appointments Necessary!

**183-B Wyoming St., Pleasanton • Mon-Sat 9-5**

**ALAMEDA COUNTY**

# AUCTION

THIS PRODUCT OR SERVICE HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED OR ENDORSED BY ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY AND THIS OFFER IS NOT BEING MADE BY AN AGENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT

## The Premier Vehicle Auction

300+ Luxury and Economy Automobiles

**Auction Date**  
**Saturday, May 6th**  
**9am Sharp!**

**Preview**  
**Fri. May 5th - 10am to 4pm**  
**Sat. May 6th - 7:30am to 9am**



Dealer # 20667  
10% Buyer Fee  
\*On approval of credit. Call early.  
925 829-2421

**www.auction.com 6438 Sierra Court, Dublin 925 829-5999**

**250 Musical Instruments**

Groove Percussion Drum Set - \$155.00

**Yamaha Clavinova Piano**  
1998 model #CLP810S: Full 88-key keyboard, compact rosewood grain cabinet/bench, one voice & one variation/digital reverb, MIDI, headphone jacks, beautiful sound, excellent condition. (925)461-5356 \$1000. OBO

**260 Sports & Exercise Equipment**

EASTON bats - \$65 / \$20

HEALTH RIDER - \$50.00 (OB)

K2 Rollerblades - Brand New - \$65.00

Stomach Exerciser - \$45.00

**Kid's Stuff**

**330 Child Care Offered**

Do U Need Afterschool Childcare? - \$10/hr

Great Mom-Nanny avail - \$15 +

P/T Summer Childcare Offered

Tanis Daycare 426-5025

**340 Child Care Wanted**

P/T Nanny (morn/after school) - \$15-18/hr

**345 Tutoring/Lessons**

FRENCH, SPANISH TUTORING

**One On One Soccer Coaching**  
Looking to improve your child's soccer skills?  
Former college soccer player and coach looking to help kids improve their skills, technique and overall understanding of the game while still having fun.  
Local Dad, Father of 3 and Local Team Coach  
Please call me at 925-699-9314 \$40/hour

Online Coaching

**Tutor/Study Partner**

After school tutor needed to help Pleasanton 9th grader prepare for tests and stay on top of homework. Our home, Mondays-Thursdays, 3:30-5pm. Ideal for college student. \$25/day.

**350 Preschools/Schools/Camps**

ADVENTURES SUMMER MUSIC CAMP

Hacienda School

Writing Camp in PA & Pleasanton

**355 Items for Sale**

Baseball Bats - \$65 / \$20

Counterfeit Det. Kids Mystery - \$7.95

Graco Travel System Stroller - \$50.00

**Great Investment:**

Convenience Store, Liquor, Lotto, 12 RV spaces, 2 homes, for the price of a home/Tulelake, CA. \$347,500. Call Jolene 1-530-640-2139; www.KlamathFallsHallmarkRealty.com (Cal-SCAN)

NEW MEDELA ADVANCED BREAST PUMPS - \$265.00

**Furry Friends**  
Pet Sitting Services  
Trained professional, daily visits, basic home care, reliable & caring.  
- Serving Pleasanton / Livermore Only -  
Call **Monika Harris 417-0424**  
Registered Veterinary Nurse

Accommodating  
Healthy and  
Special Needs  
Pets

**Jobs**

**500 Help Wanted**

**\$5,500 Weekly Goal!**

Potential! If someone did it, so can you! 2-3 confirmed appointments daily! Benefits Available. Call Catherine McFarland 1-888-543-1788. (Cal-SCAN)

**Attn: Driver/O/Ops:**

Many Choices, Many Rewards, One Name: MARTEN! Marten Transport has excellent opportunities open now! Great Pay, Excellent Benefits, Weekly home-time! OTR & Regional Runs Available! Class A-CDL req. 1-800-395-3331 www.Marten.com (Cal-SCAN)

**Cardio Fitness Trainer**

Are you a fitness enthusiast looking for a great opportunity? Sound of the Wind is a unique, fun personal training facility located in San Ramon. Our cardio fitness trainer position is an entry-level part-time position. If you are interested, please contact Michelle at soundofthewind@yahoo.com.

**Construction**

Specialty Termite has immediate openings for Lead Contractors in all phases of home repair and remodel. Must have truck and basic hand tools. e-mail resume jhemus@specialtytermite.com

**DENTAL RECEPTIONIST**

Dental, ortho full-time receptionist. Bilingual Spanish helpful. Willing to train. Call (925) 846-8889

**Detention Office:**

Phoenix, Arizona, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. \$14.99/hr. Excellent benefits. No Experience Necessary. Contact 602-307-5245. 1-877-352-6276, or www.MCSO.org 400 vacancies, including civilian positions. (Cal-SCAN)

**DO YOU ENJOY MEETING PEOPLE?**

Welcome new residents to Pleasanton or Dublin. This is a P/T fun job. Evenings and/or weekends. Please call 925-944-0488 for more information.

**DRIVERS - OPEN HOUSE Mon-Thurs (April 24-27) 8am-6pm or by appt anytime.**

Located at: 2256 Claremont Ct., Hayward CA 94545. Grow with Central Transport. Combo Road/Dock Drivers Needed. CT/JWA have dedicated road positions: Hayward. Dedicated routes/schedules/excellent income. Home Daily/No Weekends! \$500 Sign-on Bonus! Top Drivers Earning Up to \$1100+/wk. \$17/hr to start for dock work, \$20.50 top pay! Vacation / Holiday Pay! Health & 401K Benefits! Class A w/Hazmat/Doubles. 12 mos exp req. What are you waiting for? Call Recruiting: 800-331-1176 or email: jwacorp@yahoo.com

**DRIVERS: \$1000 Bonus!**

Just for hauling your FIRST flatbed load. Call Werner Enterprises for this and More! 800-346-2818, x135

**Earn Money While Doing Something Important**

Growing, progressive non-profit supported living agency is looking for open-minded, positive, responsible, and energetic persons for individuals living in the Tri-Valley area.

All training paid, \$11-12.05/hr, excel benefits, traditional & flexible schedules avail.

Please send cover letter and resume to:

eastbayinnovationsjobs@yahoo.com or fax (510) 618-1570 attn: SLS

Elementary Teacher

**Financial company looking**

Financial company looking for an assistant. We are offering outsourcing full-time and part-time positions. No experience is needed. Must be reliable and have great customer service skills. Competitive wages and benefits. More info: http://idelivery.org/vacancies.php or info@idelivery.org

**HOUSECLEANERS NEEDED**

Good Wages - Weekly Pay  
Ideal Hours - Paid Mileage  
Car, CDL & insurance are necessary  
Call Merry Maids / Pleasanton (925) 462-0991

**JOB COACH**

Progressive East Bay Innovations non-profit is seeking Job Coaches in Alameda County on-the-job training & support to individuals w/disabilities. Must have exp working with adults w/disabilities, reliable car & auto insurance. \$12/hr & excel benefits. Send resume & cl to Lori via email at: ebiemployment@yahoo.com or fax to (510) 618-1570

**NANNIES NEEDED!!!**

Awesome Positions! No Fee!  
\$13-18/hr  
A Nanny Connection  
925-743-0587  
www.nannyconnection.com

**NANNY POSITIONS-see ad for Angelic Faces**

**Package Processing Assistant**

Are you employed? Or are you looking for the job? Our company looking for freelance workers. Easy! Process the correspondence from our clients and earn up to 3k/month. Info: http://globaltransmanagement.com/line/vacancies

**Personal Fitness Trainer**

Are you a fitness enthusiast looking for a great opportunity? Sound of the Wind is a unique, fun personal training facility located in San Ramon. Our personal fitness trainer positions are part-time and full-time. The personal fitness trainer follows and implements fitness programs written specifically for the clients of Sound of the Wind. If you are interested, please contact Michelle at soundofthewind@yahoo.com.

**A Nanny Connection, Inc.** www.nannyconnection.com  
925-743-0587  
Dedicated to finding you a perfect nanny!  
Placing full and part-time nannies, serving all over the East Bay!  
No fee until nanny is placed!

**Joy of Cats**  
Catsitting  
Joy Furtado  
Caring for your kitties in your home  
925.846.4956 • joyfurtado@hotmail.com  
your kitty's well being is precious to me...  
Daily Visits • Licensed • Bonded

**SOCIAL SERVICES -**

1. Case Mgr & Lead Case Mgr for shelter. Homeless & DV exp req. BA, 1 yr exp. \$15-\$18/hr.

2. Dir DV Services. Full time. MS/MSW req/license helpful. Mgmt of shelter and services. Sal \$39,520-\$47,840.  
3. Volunteer Coord to recruit/train vol. BA & 1 yr exp req. \$14-\$16/hr. EOE. Spanish helpful. Resume to TVH, 3663 Pacific Ave, Livermore, CA. 94550 or FAX (925) 449-2684

**Warehouse/Inventory Control.**

No exp. necessary. We train. Heavy lifting and good health req'd. Max age 34. H.S. Grads. Call 1-800-345-6289. (Cal-SCAN)

**550 Business Opportunities**

**#1 All cash business.**

Turn Key Vending Business. Inv. \$5995. Earn up to \$2100/mo. Customer & Equipment Provided. 1-888-605-0156. (Cal-SCAN)

**Advertise your home,**

Property or Business for sale in 125 community newspapers in California. Reach over 3 million readers for only \$1,500. Call this participating newspaper and ask about the Statewide Display ad program, or visit www.cal-scan.com (Cal-SCAN)

**Advertise your job**

opening 200+ newspapers in California. Reach over 6 million readers for only \$500. Call this participating newspaper and ask about the Statewide Classified Ad program or visit www.cal-scan.com (Cal-SCAN)

No phone number in the ad?  
GO TO  
**fogster.com**  
for contact information

**All cash candy route.**

Do you earn \$800 in a day? Your own local candy route. Includes 30 machines and candy. All for \$9,995. MultiVend, LLC 880 Grand Blvd., Deer Park, NY 11729. 1-888-625-2405. (Cal-SCAN)

**Are you making \$1,710**

per week? All cash vending routes with prime locations available now! Under \$9,000 investment required. Call Toll Free (247) 1-888-333-2254. (Cal-SCAN)

**Receive Potential Checks**

of \$3,200 - \$4,800/ month, in 60-90 days. A 20-40 year earning on your \$40,000 investment. Oil & Gas. Equity Capital Investments. 1-888-722-5790. (Cal-SCAN)

**St art your own**

Landscape Curbing Business- High Demand. Low Overheads. High Profit. Training Available. Priced from \$12,000. 1-800-667-5372. www.EdgeMaster.net (Cal-SCAN)

**560 Employment Information**

**Driver -**

Experienced & Trainees needed. Earn up to \$40k+ next year. No experience required. \$0 down CDL Training available. Central Refrigerated 1-800-521-9277 x4779. (Cal-SCAN)

**Driver: Take better care**

of your Family. Join ours. Swift offers excellent miles, compensation, CDL training. OTR, regional, dedicated runs. www.SwiftTruckingJobs.com 1-866-333-8801. Ref#163. EOE. (Cal-SCAN)

**Driver: Tuition paid training!**

CDL-A in 3 1/2 weeks! Great New Pay Package! Tuition reimbursement for recent school graduates! Must be 21. Drive CRST. wgreen@crst.com 1-800-781-2778. (Cal-SCAN)

**SUPPLEMENT YOUR INCOME**

Real Estate / Loans, FT/PT, Prepare For, or Licensed. Also need Team Captains, Telemarketers, Training. Danville or Concord location. Call Sylvia 925-285-1801

**Business Services**

**601 Accounting/Bookkeeping**

**NEED HELP WITH QUICKBOOKS?**

Over 18 years experience in all aspects of bookkeeping. No job too big or too small! Call Linda at 925-918-2233

**604 Adult Care Offered**

**Sylvie (RN) and Rebecca** will find the professional caregiver who matches your needs.

We will help YOU stay in YOUR home with maximum independence.

❖ R-S PROCARE ❖  
HOME HEALTH SERVICES  
Rebecca (925) 788-2503  
Sylvie (925) 890-7424

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"A Labor of Love"  
**Antique Furniture Restoration & Repair**  
925-462-0383  
Impeccable Quality & Integrity of Workmanship

**615 Computers**

APPLE-MAC SPECIALIST  
Repair | Upgrade | Network  
Cable/DSL Internet Setup  
Digital Audio/Video/Photography  
Call Justin (925) 487-8933

**Angelic Faces**  
"Placing Nannies and Families Together"  
Angelic Faces provides you with pre-screened qualified Nanny candidates matched to your family's needs. We provide Full-Time, Part-Time, Live-In or Live-Out Nannies. Tailored to fit your budget. Nanny Trustline Registration and Drug testing are included in our fees.  
We welcome both Nanny & Parent applications.  
**M-F 9am to 5pm (925) 242-2550**  
Please visit our website for additional information.  
**www.angelicfaces.com**  
2603 Camino Ramon, Suite 200 San Ramon, CA 94583

**Pet of the Week**  
**Surprise!**  
That's how brother Logan and sister Leila react to meeting a camera. These 9-month-old siblings have grown up together and Valley Humane Society's goal is to keep them together when they join a new family. Logan is very lovable and likes to be held. Leila is a little shy and needs more time to warm up to strangers. Both kitties are beautiful gray tabbies with very soft fur and they enjoy being petted. Leila is especially fond of sitting in the laundry tub at the Humane Society (they call it "hot tubbing") and Logan likes to give kisses. Visit Logan and Leila at the Valley Humane Society, 273 Spring St. in downtown Pleasanton, open Tuesday-Friday from 1-5 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday from noon-4 p.m. Call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumanesociety.org.

Catherine Hansen Rush



**Computer Help**  
**Tri-Valley PC MEDIC**  
**Ken Cook**  
*"I Make House Calls!"*  
M-F 8am-8pm/Wknds & Hols 9am-6pm  
Tune-up/Repair/Upgrade/Training  
More info/rates: <http://come.to/pc-medic>  
Lic #011068  
Member: PCC, PDA & BBB  
**Call 485-9040 or 989-7722**

**624 Financial**  
**\* Get Cash \***  
For your Settlement, Annuity Payments, Inheritance. 1-800-836-0479 (Cal-SCAN)

**645 Office/Home Business Services**  
**Office Space-Pleasanton**  
To Buy, Sell, Lease or Sublease commercial real estate visit:  
[WWW.Trivalleyoffices.com](http://WWW.Trivalleyoffices.com)

**659 Sewing/Tailoring**  
**Custom Designed Sewing Work**  
Alterations, Draperies, Bedding, Pillows, Cushions, Embroidery and More! References available.  
**Contact Lina, 925-249-1298**

**Home Services**

**715 Cleaning Services**  
**ALWAYS CLEANING**  
Residential and Commercial  
~ Free estimates ~  
Call (510) 557-0398

**Andreas Cleaning Service**  
Personalized Cleaning  
~ Home & Office ~  
Quality work, dependable and affordable  
Weekly, Biweekly, Monthly - as you need!  
Refs Avail / Free Estimates  
**Call 925-339-2461**

**BETTYS OFFICE CLEANING**  
Affordable ~ Reliable  
17 Yrs Experience  
Cleaning schedule as you require!  
**925-497-8369**  
Licensed & Bonded  
Lic# 5002770

**CS HOUSECLEANING SERVICE**  
"Professional Service with the Personal Touch"  
**COMPLETE CLEANING**  
Weekly \* Bi-Weekly \* Monthly  
\$10 off w/first cleaning  
**(925) 785-1967**

**E.C. CLEANING SERVICE**  
Honest / Dependable / Thorough  
Move In/Out, Weekly/Bi-Weekly  
~Licensed-Insured-Exc Refs  
**925-339-6411 or 640-3845**

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Specializing in One Time Cleanings, Move In, Move Outs & Construction Clean Ups  
~ 14 Years Experience ~  
[www.impeccableinteriors.com](http://www.impeccableinteriors.com)  
**925-736-9600**

**ISABEL'S HOUSECLEANING**  
Local business since 1980  
Residential is our specialty  
**925-846-9603**

**MARTHAS CLEANING SERVICE**  
- All Types of Cleaning -  
Move In/Out Our Specialty!  
10 Yrs Exp ~ Dependable, Quality Service  
**925-997-4669**

**MERRY MAIDS**  
One Less Thing To Worry About  
We are insured, bonded & tailored to meet your needs  
**925-462-0991**

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Specializing In  
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## SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during March 2006

| Alamo                               | Danville                            | Walnut Creek                       |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Total sales reported: 3             | Total sales reported: 20            | Total sales reported: 22           |
| Lowest sale reported: \$800,000     | Lowest sale reported: \$215,500     | Lowest sale reported: \$240,000    |
| Highest sale reported: \$1,349,000  | Highest sale reported: \$2,200,000  | Highest sale reported: \$1,660,000 |
| Average sales reported: \$1,074,666 | Average sales reported: \$1,166,075 | Average sales reported: \$764,681  |

## HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

| Danville   | Alamo   | Walnut Creek  |
|--|---|---|
| <b>266 Ashley Circle #37 A.</b> Danilovich to J. & B. Gibson for \$585,000     | <b>8 Mariposa Court W.</b> Depaschalis to R. & D. Gibbs for \$1,099,000             | <b>1747 Holland Circle</b> Thompson Trust to G. & L. Ikeda for \$547,000                  |
| <b>563 Blackhawk Club Drive C.</b> Anderson to A. & L. Lawlor for \$1,500,000  | <b>795 Tunbridge Road</b> Sherwood Trust to S. Schiff for \$1,275,000               | <b>1908 Lakeshire Drive</b> Hall Trust to D. & M. Stearns for \$1,126,000                 |
| <b>5275 Blackhawk Drive D.</b> & E. Paiva to P. Doscher for \$2,200,000        | <b>33 Turrini Circle</b> Victor Trust to J. & P. Wilkinson for \$825,000            | <b>1917 Lakeshire Drive</b> Carter Trust to Samuels Trust for \$1,100,000                 |
| <b>664 Blue Spruce Drive</b> Hansen Trust to D. & G. Armas for \$1,300,000     | <b>106 Windover Drive</b> J. & J. Schmidt to M. & P. Rush for \$1,500,000           | <b>2482 Lariat Lane</b> R. & P. Skeehan to S. Modrall for \$905,000                       |
| <b>43 Danville Oak Place</b> Barberini Trust to C. Skinner for \$699,000       | <b>442 Woodbine Lane</b> C. & L. Durand to R. & P. Shtaklef for \$1,000,000         | <b>1172 Mt. View Boulevard</b> Voorhis Trust to T. & A. Bierly for \$875,000              |
| <b>3745 Deer Trail Court</b> E. & E. Brennan to D. & V. Thomas for \$1,540,000 | <b>1536 Alamo Way</b> R. & M. Wallach to S. & R. Martin for \$1,075,000             | <b>1286 Mt. View Boulevard</b> J. Pratt to D. Danilovich for \$1,399,000                  |
| <b>30 Devonshire Court</b> G. & C. Nemetz to R. & N. Salas for \$1,212,000     | <b>2851 Danville Boulevard</b> Nelson Trust to M. Scranton for \$800,000            | <b>460 North Civic Drive #302</b> M. Kinsey to R. Tompkins for \$400,000                  |
| <b>35 Devonshire Court</b> A. & L. Lawlor to P. Towfighi for \$1,050,000       | <b>49 Hagen Oaks Court</b> A. Miciak to Mcneil Trust for \$1,349,000                | <b>430 North Civic Drive #306</b> A. Luna to K. Kaufenberg for \$240,000                  |
| <b>216 Dolcita Court</b> Matucha Trust to A. Fung for \$870,000                | <b>1044 Alfred Avenue</b> C. & J. Schreiber to R. Balatti for \$895,000             | <b>203 Northcreek Circle</b> Farrer Trust to M. & S. Schmuecker for \$570,000             |
| <b>224 El Pinto</b> Affinity Land & Construction to K. Southern for \$215,500  | <b>1315 Alma Avenue #364</b> Alpine of Alma Development to J. Giacomi for \$575,000 | <b>2550 Oak Road #218 C.</b> Bridgeport to B. Lewerenz for \$487,000                      |
| <b>318 Elati Court</b> Mowry Trust to C. & E. Cavanagh for \$1,442,000         | <b>1315 Alma Avenue #434</b> Alpine of Alma Development to E. Gough for \$515,000   | <b>2734 Oak Road #66</b> M. Ausk to V. Chaykovskiy for \$306,000                          |
| <b>31 Glen Valley Circle</b> S. Champion to C. Holt for \$549,000              | <b>1525 Arbutus Drive</b> L. & C. Ures to D. & M. Ruxin for \$879,000               | <b>2724 Oak Road #87</b> R. & M. Solomon to Liran Limited for \$400,000                   |
| <b>275 Jasmine Way</b> Corrie Development to I. Ley for \$1,000,000            | <b>1935 Cactus Court #2</b> S. Bernard to B. Bowles for \$500,000                   | <b>303 Peppertree Road</b> T. Ducharme to M. & V. Dennison for \$1,080,000                |
| <b>529 Kingswood Place</b> Smeyne Trust to A. & D. Landro for \$1,460,000      | <b>1935 Fallen Oak Court</b> S. & A. Wolfert to R. & V. Oehler for \$955,000        | <b>2705 Saklan Indian Drive #7</b> Cragholm Trust to C. Cragholm for \$610,000            |
| <b>1622 Lawrence Road</b> D. & M. Henrie to C. & L. Durand for \$2,000,000     | <b>3114 Hackney Lane</b> C. Gale to C. Stoops for \$799,000                         | <b>471 Silver Hollow Drive</b> Silva Relocation Credit to S. & M. Leshner for \$1,660,000 |

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# OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

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## Danville

### 2 Bedrooms

- 1081 San Ramon Valley Blvd.** \$499,950  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4075
- 604 Hartley Dr.** \$574,990  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 457-6960
- 2198 Shoshone Cir.** \$700,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire Realty 984-1787

### 3 Bedrooms

- 1 Hardy Ct.** \$1,045,000  
Sat/Sun 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Century 21 456-5063
- 216 Jewel Ter.** \$674,950  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire Realty 200-0525
- 4 Danville Oak Pl.** \$689,000  
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 413-1068
- 812 Luz Ct.** \$779,000  
Sun 1:30-4:30 p.m. Pacific Union GMAC 314-4803
- 1061 River Rock Ln.** \$789,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 250-4599

- 434 Winfield Ln.** \$829,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire Realty 217-5050
- 1030 Glasgow Pl.** \$845,000  
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire Realty 997-9348
- 208 Promenade** \$853,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 699-3527
- 42 Casablanca St.** \$859,000  
Sat 1-4 p.m. Intero 833-1822
- 42 Casablanca St.** \$859,000  
Sun 1:30-4:30 p.m. Intero 855-4072
- 1611 Harlan Dr.** \$949,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 586-5456
- 4 Hardy Ct.** \$965,000  
Sat/Sun 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Century 21 456-5063
- 2 Hardy Ct.** \$985,000  
Sat/Sun 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Century 21 456-5063
- 3 Hardy Ct.** \$985,000  
Sat/Sun 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Century 21 456-5063
- 5 Hardy Ct.** \$995,000  
Sat/Sun 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Century 21 456-5063

### 4 Bedrooms

- 605 Ambience Wy.** \$1,079,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel 323-6735
- 269 Jasmine Wy.** \$1,125,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire 217-5017
- 795 Brookside Dr.** \$1,199,000  
Sat/Sun 1-5 p.m. Intero 855-4155
- 13 Meadowlark Ct.** \$1,224,950  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4022
- 403 Laurel Dr.** \$1,375,000  
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4049
- 36 Haskins Ranch Cir.** \$935,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Re/Max Accord 719-0972
- 605 Glasgow Cir.** \$960,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 519-6838
- 108 St. Edwards Ct.** \$979,000  
Sun 1:30-4:30 p.m. Alain Pinel 323-6735
- 504 Honey Lake Ct.** \$Upon Request  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams 855-6456

### 5 Bedrooms

- 37 Lily Ct.** \$1,048,888  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 586-5456
- 45 Vicenza Ct.** \$1,249,999  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 963-2043
- 1085 Yorkshire Pl.** \$1,329,000  
Sat 1-5 p.m. Intero 286-7087
- 1085 Yorkshire Pl.** \$1,329,000  
Sun 2-5 p.m. Intero 286-7087
- 742 Danville Blvd.** \$1,399,000  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4 p.m. Alain Pinel 998-9747
- 1124 Blue Spur Cir.** \$1,485,000  
Sat 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Intero 716-1666
- 15 Discovery Ct.** \$1,625,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Re/Max Accord 838-4100
- 132 Alta Vista Wy.** \$1,669,950  
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Assist 2 Sell 998-0605
- 6 Maplewood Ct.** \$1,699,000  
Sun 2-5 p.m. Intero 855-4072

- 1120 Finley Rd.** \$2,975,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. UCB Real Estate 216-7554
- 37 Lily Ct.** \$999,999  
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4072

### 6 Bedrooms

- 265 Montego Dr.** \$4,600,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker 831-3329

### 3 Bedrooms Townhouse

- 147 Heritage Park Dr.** \$750,000  
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Keller Williams 381-3660

## Diablo

### 4 Bedrooms

- 21 Calle Del Casraille** \$1,895,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Coldwell Banker 984-3060

## Alamo

### 2 Bedrooms

- 1571 Ridgewood Rd.** \$1,199,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 838-4300

### 3 Bedrooms

- 1491 Laurenita Wy.** \$1,249,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 838-4300
- 12 Miranda Ct.** \$1,295,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 838-4300

### 4 Bedrooms

- 30 Vernal Ct.** \$1,725,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire 217-5017
- 1182 Danville Blvd.** \$2,750,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 838-4300

### 5 Bedrooms

- 94 Park Meadow Ct.** \$1,395,000  
Sun 1-5 p.m. Intero 855-4152

## Blackhawk

### 3 Bedrooms

- 11 Deer Meadow Ct.** \$1,298,000  
Sun 1:30-4 p.m. Blackhawk Real Estate 736-4155
- 887 Redwood Dr.** \$Upon Request  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 672-2499

### 4 Bedrooms

- 3894 Cottonwood Dr.** \$1,299,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 577-4165
- 18 Silver Birch Ln.** \$1,448,000  
Sun 1:30-4 p.m. Blackhawk Real Estate 200-0426

## Walnut Creek

### 1 Bedrooms

- 1431 Marchbanks Dr., #4** \$299,950  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4075

### 2 Bedrooms

- 1919 Ygnacio Valley Rd., #36** \$379,950  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 648-5354

### 3 Bedrooms

- 72 Iron Horse Ln.** \$769,900  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 p.m. Intero 487-2629
- 78 Las Juntas Wy.** \$809,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Empire Realty 217-5044
- 1940 San Luis Rd.** \$824,800  
Sat/Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 457-4551
- 475 Le Jean Wy.** \$849,000  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Intero 855-4105

### 4 Bedrooms

- 1942 Highridge Ct.** \$859,990  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Assist 2 Sell 339-3500

Marilee Headen Presents...



**1924 Alameda Diablo, Diablo**  
Historic property in lower Diablo. Four bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, Spanish style home on 1.53 park-like level acres with pool, corral and three stall barn. \$3,495,000



**2298 Alameda Diablo, Diablo**  
Absolutely charming Cape Cod in Diablo. Four bedrooms, three and a half bathrooms plus den/bonus room. Beautifully landscaped yard, Viking range, three fireplaces, large family room and walking distance to the club. \$2,295,000

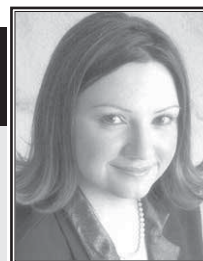


**7 Donner Creek Court, Clayton**  
Nicely updated, single level town house in Clayton. This home features three bedrooms, two baths, vaulted ceilings, wood burning fireplace, attached two car garage and two private patios. A great investment opportunity! \$495,000

For More Information Call

Marilee Headen  
925~743~1225

[www.MarileeHeaden.com](http://www.MarileeHeaden.com)  
[MarileeHeaden@aol.com](mailto:MarileeHeaden@aol.com)



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### DANVILLE

**Magee Ranch** **\$1,699,000**  
End of cul-de-sac location, backing to open space. 5bd, 3.5ba. Great floor plan has formal library with built-ins adjacent to living room with soaring ceilings.  
**Dave Bauer** **925.855.4040**



### BLACKHAWK

**Entertainer's Dream Home** **\$1,569,000**  
Remodeled 4bd, 3ba home with gourmet granite slab kitchen. Sits high above the 6th fairway of the Blackhawk Falls Course. Views from valley to Mt. Diablo.  
**Michael Kwiatkowski** **510.612.8008**



### DANVILLE

**Wonderful Westside Danville** **\$1,499,000**  
Gorgeous .53+/-acre lot with views of Mt. Diablo. 2 separate yards, one with pool/patio, the other with large grass area. 4bd, 3ba, remodeled kitchen and more.  
**Brad Gothberg** **800.492.6365 X 3062**



### DANVILLE

**Exquisite Showcase Home** **\$1,489,000**  
Decorator perfect throughout, 5bd, 5ba, 5th bd is office w/o closet, gourmet granite/stainless kitchen, luxurious master, loaded with upgrades.  
**Carol Erbert/925.736.1666 Steve apHugh/925.736.0717**



### DANVILLE

**Imagine A Perfect Location** **\$1,425,000**  
4bd, 3ba, decorated to a "T", tree-lined lot, view of hills, quiet court, club house, pool, trails to parks and Blackhawk Plaza.  
**Holly Fitzsimmons** **925.997.1001**



### DANVILLE

**Perfect Spot for a Vineyard** **\$1,375,000**  
Nice 3bd, 2ba home with bonus room and detached 2-car garage, large carport. Home is in good condition, ready for you to customize to your taste.  
**Mike Weber** **925.648.5346**



### DANVILLE

**Coming Soon** **\$1,199,000**  
Don't miss this one! Gorgeous traditional brick rancher with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, updated, huge rear yard with pool.  
**John Lopes** **925.855.4155**



### DANVILLE

**Absolutely Stunning!!** **\$1,174,950**  
Upgrades throughout this gorgeous 5bd, 3ba home. 1bd/1ba on main level. New gourmet kitchen, new lighting, new flooring. Amazing views.  
**Lisa and Greg Doyle** **925.855.4046**



### DANVILLE

**Former Model Home** **\$999,999**  
Immaculate 5bd, 2.5ba, slab granite kitchen with center island, tile floors, numerous upgrades. Expanded family room with built-ins. Great views!  
**Bonnie King/925.855.4072 Catherine Kaufer/925.586.5456**

**Danville**  
**Blackhawk**

**15 Railroad Avenue**  
**4105 Blackhawk Plaza Circle**

**925.855.4000**  
**925.648.5300**

