

# Catering to all

Danville woman has found the recipe for success > **page 20**

Vol. II, Number 33 • December 15, 2006

www.DanvilleWeekly.com

## Salary update

Supervisors raise own pay by 59 percent

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# Danville WEEKLY

## Victory for swim team

Sycamore residents vote to change rules

> **page 5**

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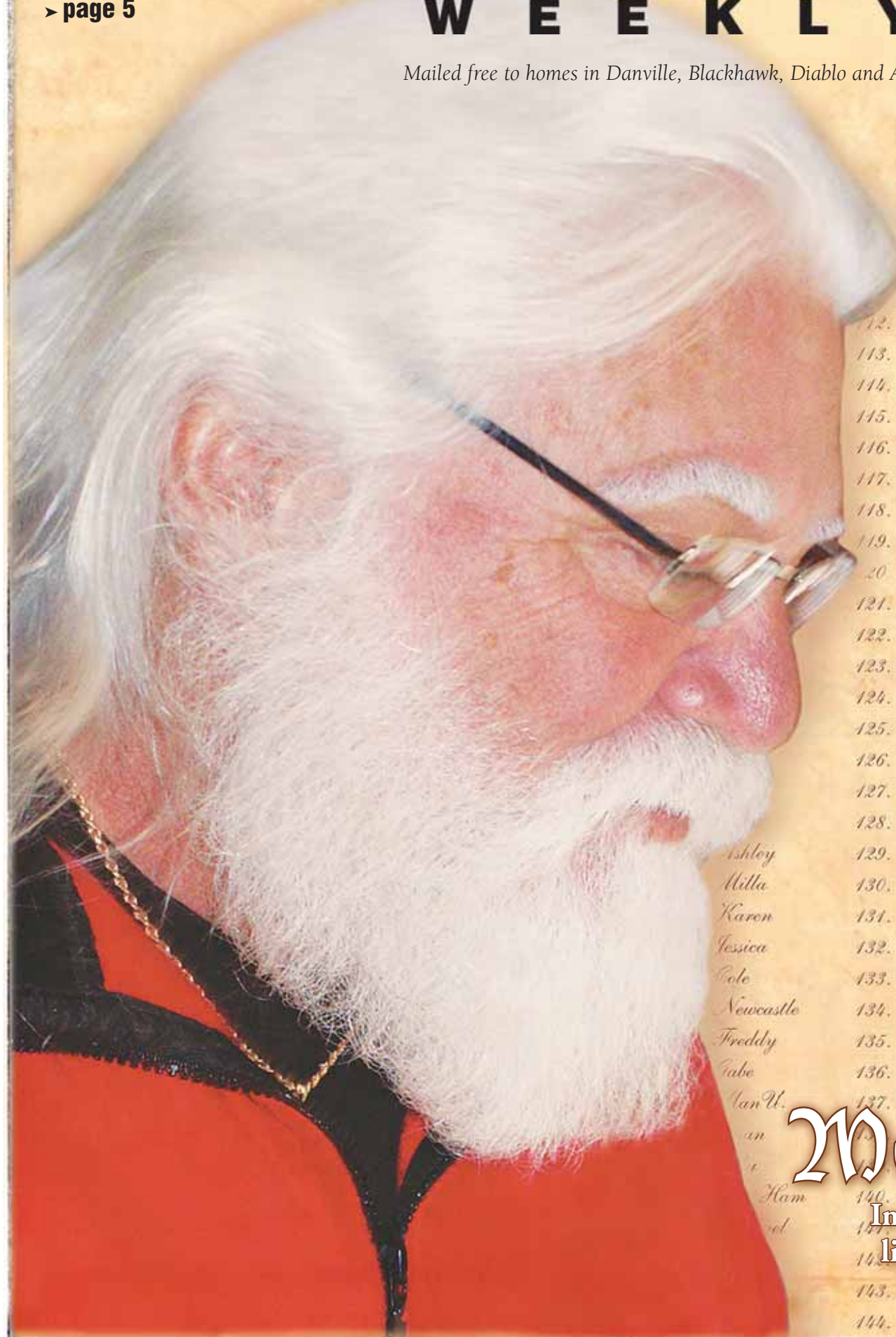
## Santa's List Names

James	145. Elizabeth	180. Ma
112. Benjamin	146. Samuel	181. Nea
113. Shannon	147. Corey	182. Bas
114. Trina	148. Erin	183. Sier
115. Dolores	149. Robb	184. Guan
116. Christopher	150. Katy	185. Fat
117. Veneta	151. Rosemary	186. Mod
118. Esmeralda	152. Ryan	187. Sky
119. Amory	154. Marina	188. Pyn
120. Jordan	155. Robin	189. Jose
121. Natalie	156. Wynn	190. Jame
122. Lisa	157. Ran	191. Glen
123. Kate	158. Jeff	192. Mac
124. Steven	159. Jean	193. Scott
125. Cathy	160. Becky	194. Germ
126. Emily	161. Kent	195. Spar
127. Janet	162. Noel	196. Lour
128. Rebecca	163. Christine	197. Josu
129. Terry	164. Zander	198. Wels
130. Susan	165. Rory	199. Mag
131. Sandy	166. Stephen	200. Dr.
132. Gina	167. Karen	201. Cyle
133. Jeb	168. Sarah	202. Baln
134. Mary	169. Skol	203. Joke
135. Frank	170. Katie	204. Erav
136. Chip	171. Jay	205. Tray
137. Jason	172. Lauren	206. Lind
138. Al	173. Al	207. Virg
139. Al	174. Al	208. West
140. Jerry	175. John	209. Scott
141. Eben	176. Susan	210. Gugg
142. Al	177. Al	211. Chris
143. Maggie	178. Nina	212. Way
144. Tottenham	179. Joel	213. Ric

## Meet Santa

In the off-season, St. Nick lives incognito in Alamo

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# Christmas Sale



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## Q: What is your favorite holiday song?



I like Bing Crosby. "White Christmas" is a great one. I like the classics because as kids those were the songs we grew up with.

—**Joe Cosidine**  
*business owner*



I always love "Silent Night." It's been a tradition at our hospital to have an end-of-the-year celebration for the patients who have graduated pulmonary rehabilitation. In the past, we had one lady who sang "Silent Night" in German and it was just beautiful. The song always reminds me of what an incredible time of year it is.

—**Lana Hilling and Pumpkin**  
*Lung Health Service coordinator at John Muir*



"Feliz Navidad." It's a lively song that's just a little bit different from what we grew up with.

—**Tim Kennedy**  
*packaging engineer for Clorox Pleasanton*



"Jingle Bell Rock." It's jazzy, zippy and fun. I have lots of Christmas CDs and they're always on during the holidays. I love Christmas music. I even have Christmas songs in Latin, European languages, and reggae.

—**Maria Kennedy**  
*volunteer, American Cancer Society*



I've always liked "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer." It's lighthearted, puts me in a good mood, and evokes the spirit of Christmas.

—**Larry Myers**  
*banker*

COMPILED BY RACHEL MCMURDIE

### ABOUT THE COVER

Santa Claus, aka Alamo resident Bill Quintel, is preparing for Christmas by talking to children at the Livery about their wishes. Photo by Natalie O'Neill. Cover design by Jason Lind.

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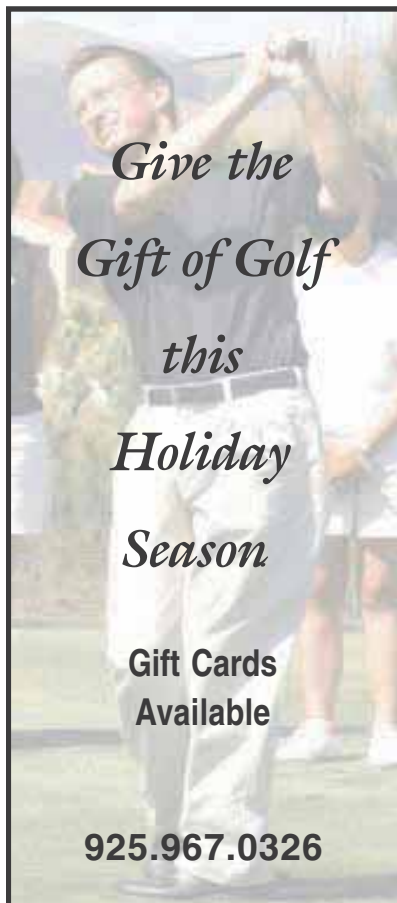
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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ We as a society are desperately in need of values of love and peace. ”

—Rabbi Dan Goldblatt, explaining how religion can bring people together. See story, page 11.

## New school trustees sworn in

School Superintendent Rob Kessler swore in trustees Joan Buchanan, Bill Clarkson and Rachel Hurd to serve on the board of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, at its meeting last week. Incumbents Clarkson and Buchanan and newcomer Hurd won election to the board last month.

At the Dec. 4 meeting, the new board members took oaths to uphold the U.S. and state constitutions. Also that night, the board approved the nomination of Trustee Paul Gardner to become board president. Additionally, trustees signed onto liaison assignments, including the Danville Town Council, San Ramon City Council, Response to Intervention Committee and special education.

## Danville now has First Republic Bank

Bank of Walnut Creek signs were taken down and replaced with First Republic Bank signs on Hartz Avenue late last month, following a merger May 22. Now that First Republic has officially set up shop, it is celebrating this week by offering free Otis Spunkmeyer cookies, hot cider and doggie treats to customers in Danville.

Local customers can expect the same staff with more trust, wealth and loan services, said Greg Berardi, spokesman for First Republic Bank.

“We chose the Bank of Walnut Creek because of the high quality of their staff,” Berardi said.

Danville residents specifically may be interested in investment management and managing liquid assets, he said.

## Fair gets recognition

The International Association of Fairs and Expositions gave four awards to the 2006 Alameda County Fair, which takes place in Pleasanton and draws attendance from throughout the Tri-Valley. The awards received were for the best television commercial, e-newsletter, Web site and use of the Fair's theme in competitive exhibits.

The theme was “Jump Start Your Summer,” based on the movie “Cars,” a product of Pixar Studios in Alameda County that opened right before the Fair did in June. The TV spot featured four of the Fair's most recognized mascots—the horse, pig, cow and rooster—cruising in their '57 convertible on their way to the Fair.

The 2007 Fair dates are June 22-July 8 and its theme and new Web site will be announced after the New Year.

## Police warn about gift cards

The Danville police are warning residents to be careful when purchasing gift cards, which are available near the cashier in supermarkets, drug stores and specialty stores. Thieves have found a way to steal the gift card balance and store employees are not trained to protect customers.

Criminals sometimes write down card PIN numbers, call a few days later to find out the balance on the cards, and then spend it online. Or they may scratch off the coating and obtain the security code.

Police advise residents: Only purchase cards directly from the store it is for; examine both side of the cards, keeping an eye out for signs of tampering or PINs exposed; don't buy cards online; after buying a card, ask a cashier to scan it to ensure it is valid and has the proper amount.

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## Sycamore says 'yes' to swim team

Residents vote to change neighborhood CC&Rs

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

The residents of Sycamore Homes have spoken 330-124 in favoring of keeping their neighborhood swim team by voting Yes to a change in their Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions to clarify the issue.

"This vote was to make it very clear that having a swim team is allowed under the CC&Rs," said Mark Thornton, president of the Stingrays swim team. "We knew all

along that we had the support of the community."

Neighbors in the 649-home neighborhood were mailed two ballots that were due back Dec. 11:

- Proposal A, a ballot by swim team supporters to change the CC&Rs to spell out the swim team's right to exist and allow non-residents; and
- Proposal B, put on the ballot by four of the seven members of the Sycamore Homes Association board, which asked about use of the facilities but omitted mention of the team.

Proposal A needed 325 votes to pass. An independent accounting office tallied the votes Tuesday,

Dec. 12, and the results from the 454 eligible ballots cast were: 330 votes for Proposal A and 124 against it; and 62 votes for Proposal B and 372 against it.

"The great thing is the community finally came together and paid attention to the issue," said board member Lisa Knebel, a swim team supporter. She also said credit is due to those who worked hard behind the scenes to make the election—and the outcome—happen.

The swim team has been in existence since the homes were built more than 30 years ago. It

► Continued on page 11



Sycamore Homes Proposal A ballot supporters stand at the corner of Sycamore Valley Road and Old Orchard Road on Dec. 2 to urge a Yes vote to change the neighborhood CC&Rs to definitely allow the swim team to continue.



JORDAN M. DORONILA

Construction is under way for the Rose Garden on Camino Ramon in Danville. The center—scheduled to open toward the end of next summer—will have specialty retail outlets, office space and an apartment building.

## Design board OKs master sign for Rose Garden

Development on Camino Ramon to open in late summer

by Jordan M. Doronila

The Danville Design Review Board approved the blueprints for the master sign of the Rose Garden, which will be a

center with retail restaurants, specialty stores, office space and residences when it opens next year.

The board gave its blessing for a permit to build a master sign for the future tenants in the center. The designs were presented by Walnut Creek Architect Michael Hollman and developer Tom Baldacci at the Nov. 30 meeting at the Danville town offices.

The meeting was part of an

extensive and detailed process that has been going on for more than four years to develop the Rose Garden, which will be anchored by Navlet's nursery.

"It's an important part of the process," said Kevin Gailey, Danville Chief of Planning.

The Rose Garden is a mixed-use lifestyle center containing retail

► Continued on page 6

## Supervisors raise their salaries to \$95,568

Increase puts them in line with Bay Area average

by Natalie O'Neill

Contra Costa County supervisors are gearing up to give themselves a raise of about \$35,600 annually, or 59 percent, after having gone 20 years without a salary review.

The ordinance will increase their salaries from \$59,916 to \$95,568, which hikes them up to the average amount supervisors are paid in the other eight Bay Area counties.

"Twenty years ago gas was a dollar a gallon. It is painful and uncomfortable, but it's time for a salary adjustment," said District 3 Supervisor Mary N. Piepho, who represents Alamo and Danville.

A review of Bay Area supervisors' salaries, presented by County Administrator John Cullen at last week's meeting, showed that Contra Costa supervisors received the lowest salary of all other Bay Area counties. The last time supervisors were granted a raise, it was bumped up by a small fixed percentage in 2001.

Alameda and Santa Clara counties are the highest; both pay their supervisors approximately \$120,500. The second lowest, after Contra Costa, is Napa County at \$71,000.

"There's no arguing we are substantially underpaid compared to our Bay Area colleagues," said John Gioia, chairman of the board, at its Dec. 5 meeting.

The four supervisors at the meeting vocalized support for the

increase in last week's discussion, while recognizing they would get heat from the public.

"It's a bitter pill to swallow and the timing is never going to be good," Piepho said.

But the question isn't whether supervisor salaries are low in comparison to other counties, said Rollie Katz, who is the union business manager for the county. It is whether a raise is reasonable for this county—and by what percentage.



Mary Piepho

"Salaries for county general employees have been raised 11 percent since 2001. That might be a more appropriate figure for the board to consider," he said.

County funding for supervisors' salaries will come out of expected additional revenue and will not affect any Contra Costa programs or services, Piepho said. The total county budget is \$1.5 billion annually.

Supervisors are full time employees but many work unpaid overtime and spend hours in the car on a daily basis getting to meetings. They will also receive an annual auto allowance of \$7,200 and reimbursement for mileage.

"I have a 10-hour workday and that doesn't include mandatory evenings, weekends and holidays," she said.

Active members of the Danville and Alamo community and vocal residents, however, say a raise of that magnitude should have been done over a longer period of time.

"My jaw dropped. It seems like a huge jump when they're

► Continued on page 11

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# Identity theft becoming prevalent

*Alamo residents targeted for their money and good credit*

by **Natalie O'Neill**

A stolen car can be replaced. A burglarized home can be repaired. But what do you do when someone steals your identity?

Several Alamo residents have been forced to ask themselves this perplexing question, as identity theft and subsequent credit card fraud cases are becoming more prevalent in the area.

"Criminals are aware that people in Alamo have money and good credit," said Deputy Elmer Glasser, who patrols Alamo and has seen growing reports of identity theft.

Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in California, with the Internet granting easier access to personal information and providing thieves the anonymity it takes to

get away with the crime.

"It's one of the hardest crimes to prevent," Glasser said.

Alamo resident Mary Nelson, who recently had her identity used to make a purchase of about \$1,000 from Nordstrom, said the person used her credit card to buy clothes online. He or she then had the package delivered to Nelson's home and picked it up when she wasn't there.

Her husband Bill Nelson, who advises on the Alamo Police Services Advisory Committee, said he thinks someone was able to charge the items by stealing their personal information through the mail. He said his wife was the only one who uses the specified credit card and that it was in her possession at all times.

"People in Alamo have mailboxes that are fairly easy to get to and they aren't home during the day," Nelson said.

Bank statements, bills and anything with a Social Security numbers or credit card information can

provide a clever thief the information they need to "become you"—and hold you financially responsible for their purchases.

Nelson said his neighbors across Cervato Circle also suffered from someone charging \$40,000 to their credit card over a longer period of time. He said they told him a woman came to pick up a package when they were away but their child was home.

The woman told the child her package had been sent to the wrong address and she needed to get it back. That's when they caught on.

Investing in simple items like a lockable mailbox or a paper shredder can help prevent these things from happening, Glasser said.

Along with that, checking your credit report frequently and viewing purchases through online banking regularly can help victims prevent thousands of dollars from being stolen. Some banks even make it possible for patrons to require a

password before using a credit card to make purchases.

And make sure to destroy all mail with important information before throwing it away, Glasser said. Residents don't consider that the people who commit these crimes often go through their victims' trash to gather personal identification numbers, addresses and bank statements, he said.

Generally the purchases start small and infrequently. As the thief gets away with billing items to the card, he or she may begin to take more risks and use the card more frequently for larger amounts.

"Once they do that a couple times, then they hit you with the big one," Glasser said.

Victims of identity theft can make reports to the Federal Trade Commission, the Social Security Administration, local police departments and credit card companies. Acting quickly can minimize damages. ■

## Rose Garden

► Continued from page 5

outlets, offices and living units on Camino Ramon, near I-680 and across the street from Denny's.

The center will have a 55-unit apartment building: 51 units with two bedrooms and two bathrooms; and four units with one bedroom and one bath.

"I think it's a well-designed project," said Tom Moran, Design Review Board member and planning commissioner. "I think its location is excellent. I think it's going to be an asset."

"It's a well thoughtout project," he added.

Also, Hollman and Baldacci presented a design for lighting in the center. They will come back to the board with more details, Gailey said.

Having already received the go-ahead from the Town Council, construction has begun on the center and it is scheduled to open in August or September 2007, Baldacci said. The Rose Garden is designed to be 42,750 square feet of specialty retail space and 26,000 square feet of office space.

Retail space is available from



The sign on the construction site for the Rose Garden gives leasing information.

1,200 to 11,439 square feet. Baldacci estimated the project costs at \$40 million.

Blake Hunt Ventures and Baldacci's Castle Companies are the developers of the Rose Garden project. Navlet's Inc., which previously operated a nursery on part of the site, is the property owner. Hollman Bologna Architecture and Planning of Walnut Creek designed the apartment building.

Both Hollman and Baldacci had been working with the Design Review Board and the Planning Commission in moving the Rose

Garden development forward.

"Input is part of the process," said Baldacci, a Danville resident. "It made the project better. It's important to have a consensus that everyone has a same perspective."

"I'm very excited about it," he said.

Blake Hunt Ventures is the leasing agent. The firm's owner Brad Blake had been in negotiation with Navlet's and the town for eight years to develop the site on Camino Ramon, said Baldacci. Baldacci came onboard as an equity partner and to help with construction four years ago.

He said the community wanted a first-class development.

"It's a give and take process," he said about the Design Review Board process. "It's an open forum where challenges and ideas are refined."

Utilities, curb gutters, sidewalks and paving on the site will be finished by mid January, he said. Construction on the rest of the center will start in January and finish late in the summer.

"It's a wonderful asset to the community," Baldacci said. "This was not a commercial project that was done hastily." ■

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## Gardening starts young

The Sloat Garden Center has put student gardeners from Green Valley Elementary School in its 2007 calendar, along with those from other schools in the Bay Area. Right, second-grade student Ava Schulte sorts tomatoes from Green Valley's garden. Below right, fourth-grader Kevin Velo shovels woodchips into a barrel for Green Valley's "work-in-progress" garden, which contains vegetables and flowers.

Green Valley students in grades one to five work in its two gardens: one for native plants and another for cultivating plants to attract pollination. The native garden was planned and planted 10 years ago; next came the larger working garden; and several years ago, the school added a composting program. Throughout the years, students, parents, Scouts and the Parent Teachers Association have contributed to the gardens through donated materials and money, and their labor. The garden borders the back of Green Valley's parking lot.

"I wanted it to look like a kid's garden," said teacher John Lukas, who has been instrumental in the project.

The Green Valley gardens highlight the month of March in the Sloat Garden Center calendar. The garden center started on Sloat Boulevard in San Francisco in 1958 and bought the Danville location at the corner of El Cerro Boulevard and Diablo Road seven years ago.



JORDAN M. DORONILIA



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## Interfaith groups to light Menorah

*Candle-lighting builds bridges between religions*

by Jordan M. Doronila

Several faith groups in the San Ramon Valley will gather together and participate in an interfaith Menorah lighting in Blackhawk next week.

Members of Beth Chaim Congregation in Danville have invited several faith groups to join them in the seventh annual Menorah lighting—in celebration of Hanukkah—at Blackhawk Plaza at 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 21.

Beth Chaim's Rabbi Dan Goldblatt said the event builds bridges with other religions. It will take place near the plaza's fountain past the rotunda.

"We celebrate our religious freedom that we are blessed to have here in America and here in the Valley," said Goldblatt.

Groups attending will include members from Peace Lutheran Church, Danville Congregational

Church, San Ramon Islamic Center, the Baha'i Faith, the Christian Science Church and St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Danville.

Goldblatt said other faith groups were invited, too.

He said he first organized the event seven years ago.

"We have been gathering for so many years and learning about one another," he said. "It's a celebration of freedom for everyone."

He added that religion has often been viewed as a source of divisiveness and conflict, which is true to a certain degree. At times, people dismiss it as a source of contention.

However, he said that religion gives individuals and communities a deep spiritual understanding and brings them all together.

"We as a society are desperately in need of values of love and peace," he said.

"It's so symbolic for our hope for peace in the world," said Laura Barnes, a reverend at Danville Congregational Church. ■

## Sycamore

► Continued from page 5

was opened to non-residents 15 years ago in order to have enough swimmers to compete in the Valley Swim Association.

Last year, four of the board members began to interpret the CC&Rs to change swim team membership rules, saying that since only residents pay dues, team membership should be restricted. Now, after this election, the CC&Rs will be amended to resolve the issue of guests using the facilities.

Members of the Stingrays fought to keep the team running during the

2006 season, then put Proposal A to the voters to ensure its continuity.

"We have been working toward the 2007 season already," said Thornton.

On Thursday, Dec. 14, the swim team was to ask the Sycamore Homes Association board to OK its 2007 contract. Thornton said that board member Doug Allen has said he will follow the desires of the majority of the homeowners regarding the swim team.

"Now that there's a clear mandate, I have faith that he will do the right thing," said Thornton.

Board president Mark Raitz did not return telephone calls by press time. ■

## Salaries

► Continued from page 5

already having a budget crisis," said Danville Town Councilwoman Candace Andersen.

In contrast, the Danville Town Council members, who work part time, received a raise in late November from \$6,700 to \$8,100 annually. Most of the council uses the funds for extra driving and reimbursement expenses, Andersen said.

Supervisor salaries were not slowly adjusted over the years because raising one's own salary is a difficult issue—territory where past supervisors haven't wanted to tread, Piepho said.

County administrator Cullen said the raises may be necessary to "remain competitive" in today's labor market. But some questioned if that business-minded theory should apply to elected officials.

"As far as I can see, we don't have a retention and recruitment problem," Katz said, adding that the county would not have trouble finding people to fill supervisor positions.

But Piepho, who is required to reside within District 3 boundaries, said she disagrees. Housing and property values in her district are among the highest in the Bay Area and a salary of about \$60,000 won't attract the best and brightest to the position, she said. It is difficult to raise a family in the Bay Area on just that income alone, supervisors said.

In the past, previous supervisors felt that adopting salary raises for themselves would bring them negative attention, said District 5 Supervisor Federal Glover, who has been on the board since the small raise in 2001. Politicians in the past didn't want to draw that kind of negative public opinion, he remembered.

"The process is intended to be awkward and visible," said Gayle B. Uilkema, supervisor for District 2.

The ordinance, which was voted on this week after a lengthy discussion last week, will be finalized at the Dec. 19 meeting. Susan Bonilla will fill the District 4 supervisor seat in January since former Supervisor Mark DeSaulnier was elected to the State Assembly in November. ■

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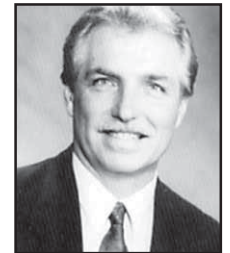
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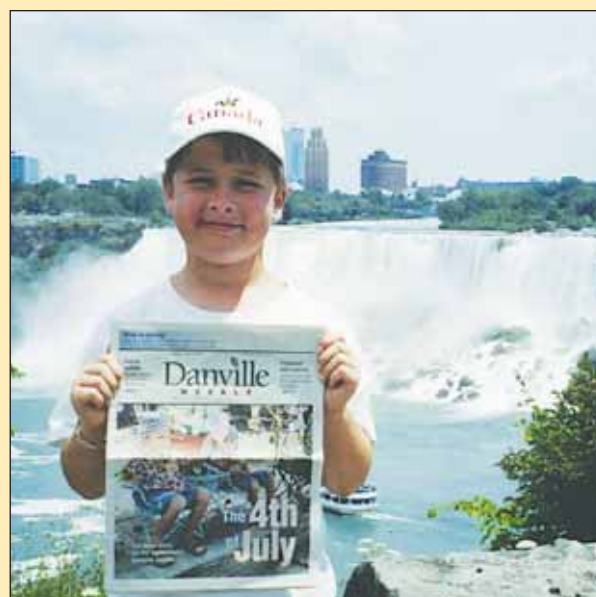
### News in the national park

The Damerons and the Cristianis included the Weekly on their family vacation to Yosemite.



### Among the canals

Riley, Davis, Drew, Zoe and Sarah Kusnick enjoy their Danville Weekly in Venice, Italy, where they visited Doges Palace in St. Marks Square.

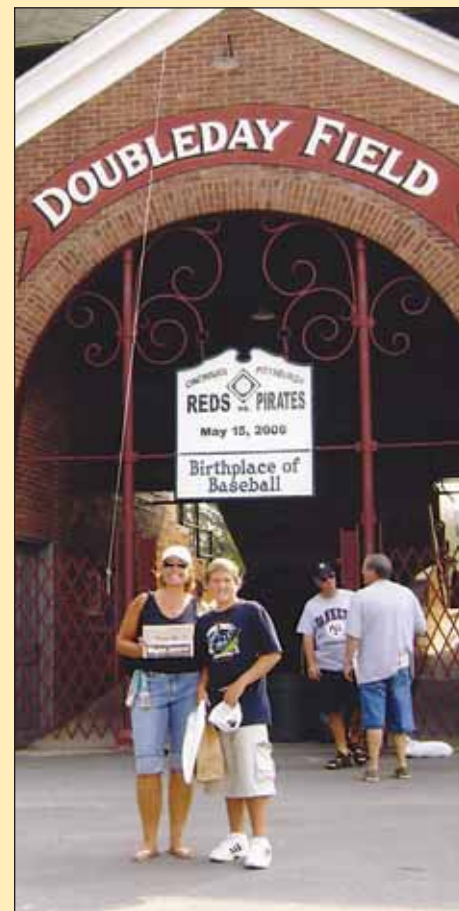


### Reading in the mist

Mackenzie Anderson brought the weekly to read at Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. In the distance the American Falls rush behind him.

### Weekly scores a homerun

When Maria and Alex Bizzack visited DoubleDay Field in Cooperstown, N.Y., they remembered their local paper. They stopped by the Baseball Hall of Fame and had a chance to meet Baltimore Orioles third-baseman Brooks Robinson.



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# Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



## Going postal

Last Monday morning I went to the Danville post office near Trader Joe's to mail a baby present. The line was long and as I waited, I wondered, "Just what are all these folks doing here?" I returned Friday with reporter pad and pen to find out.

The little post office is such a friendly place. A man in the lobby was sorting through a month's advertising fliers from his post office box after returning from a vacation abroad. "I want to make sure there's not a check in here," he said with a smile.

It wasn't too crowded when I arrived at 11 a.m. and the line was moving quickly. I introduced myself to each person and asked what they were mailing.

"Not Christmas stuff," said the woman at the front of the line, holding up a large envelope. "It's pictures and stuff."

The next woman told me unhappily she had a post office box that was inexplicably locked. She assured me she had paid the bill. Now she had to wait to talk to a clerk and find out why the box was locked and how to get into it.

"I'm buying Christmas stamps," the next person told me. She said she lives in El Cerrito but works in Danville so she frequents post offices here, there and everywhere in between. "I like Orinda best," she said. "The clerks are really friendly."

The two clerks on duty in Danville also looked friendly as they watched me go about my interviews. I wanted to talk to them, too, but was afraid there might be a revolt if I held up the line, which was growing.

The people in line then started talking to each other, and one advised the others that the post office tucked away in Diablo is never crowded. Of course it would be a half hour there and back, plus there's a good chance of getting lost on the winding roads.

The next woman, who lives on Love Lane in Danville, was mailing a box of candy to her money manager. "I send him something every year for his good work," she told me.

Behind her, a young woman held out a handful of Christmas cards. "I've gotten about 15 cards already so I'm late," she said. She was accompanied by her 4-year-old son, who was marching around in a great pair of bright green rain boots.

The woman behind her was mailing cards, too. They were headed for Europe so she needed advice on the postage.

Next a man waited with a delivery slip notifying him he had received

something that wouldn't fit in his P.O. box. Was he expecting a package? He hoped it was a package, he said, and not a really big bill.

The next woman, a Danville resident, had two purposes: She was mailing her taxes and returning a necklace to QVC, the home shopping channel. "It's a great necklace but the clasp is really chintzy," she said.

The woman behind her told me she was happy to be in line only for stamps to mail out the newsletter for the Newcomers Club. She said she'd already brought 10 big boxes to the post office to mail out, explaining, "Everyone I know lives on the East Coast." I guess that is why she is in the Newcomers Club.

The two clerks on duty in Danville looked friendly as they watched me go about my interviews. I wanted to talk to them, but was afraid there might be a revolt if I held up the line, which was growing.

The next man was mailing his property taxes, too. "Come in April if you want to see a line," he told me.

Another man waited to buy stamps and said he couldn't use the stamp machine in the lobby because they were for his office so he had to pay by check.

A woman was mailing a Christmas present to Australia—two DVDs and a CD. Another man told me he had directions on his "honey do" list to buy "pretty Christmas stamps."

One woman said she'd slowly driven by this post office before deciding whether to drive on to the one in Alamo. She was mailing a package to her family in New York.

A young man was waiting with his big-as-a-minute Yorkshire Terrier named Daisy to mail a present.

On my way out the door, I ran into one of the women I'd talked to earlier. She was coming back in. "I've decided to insure my package," she told me. "At this time of year, you never know."

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli  
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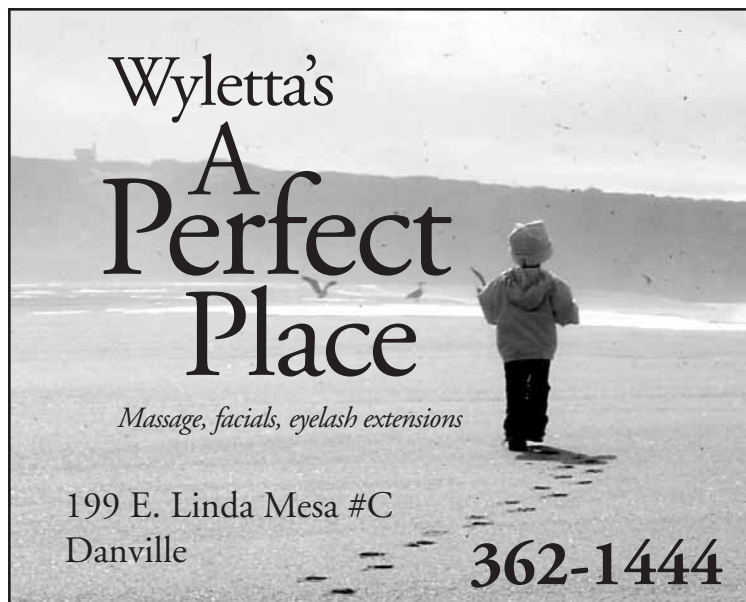
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**Perspective**

EDITORIALS • LETTERS • OPINIONS

**EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY**

## Being the mayor

Congratulations to Danville's new Mayor Mike Shimansky. Last week he was both sworn in for a new term as councilman and named mayor for the next year.

Although the mayor is not separately elected in Danville, the position can entail more than ribbon-cuttings. Kudos are due to outgoing Mayor Karen Stepper for keeping the promise she made to involve Danville in the greater region. She stated at her inauguration that she felt it was important to be involved outside the borders of Danville, which would bring other people and business inside the town lines.

When she attended the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Washington, D.C., in January, she went as part of a team of Tri-Valley mayors, which included San Ramon, Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore. In October, she campaigned with the other Tri-Valley mayors to urge voters to reject Proposition 90 that would have affected eminent domain actions by state and local governments. She has also worked with these mayors and regional groups toward improving traffic on the freeways and on disaster preparedness.

Just before Stepper's term as mayor was completed, Danville formed its Tourism Business Improvement District and was accepted into the Tri-Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau. So Stepper came through on her promise made a year ago.

Shimansky last week said he will focus on communication with residents. This appears to be his strong suit: He certainly communicated well with a majority of the voters who re-elected him to his fifth term on the Town Council.

Shimansky said he often heard while campaigning that people wanted to learn town plans when there was still time to give their input, not when "it's too late." To this end, he plans to be available for coffee at 7:30 a.m. the first Friday of the month at Father Nature's. We commend him for this effort.

Stepper was a professional, well-informed mayor and set the standard high. We trust Shimansky also will do us proud.

Mayor Stepper came through on her promise made a year ago to be involved outside the Danville borders.

**YOUR TURN**

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

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# HOLIDAY SPARKLE 'tis the season

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# Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

## POLICE LOG

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

### Sunday, Dec. 3

- Identity theft on Royal Palm Pl. at 7:40 a.m. and 8:40 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Clipper Hill Rd. at 10:35 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Hartz Ave. and W. Prospect Ave. at 12:36 p.m.
- Battery on Ramon Ct. at 12:38 p.m.
- Public nuisance on Sycamore Hill Ct. at 1:09 p.m.
- Fireworks disturbance on Jewel Terrace and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 1:58 p.m.
- Alcohol-intoxicated subject on Hartz Ave. and Railroad Ave. at 3:02 p.m.

### Monday, Dec. 4

- Vandalism on Brookside Dr. at 9:08 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Camino Amigo at 9:44 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on La Gonda Way at 10:28 a.m.
- Identity theft on Stetson Dr. at 11:29 a.m. and 12:43 p.m.
- Threats disturbance on Alamo Springs Dr. at 1:10 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 2:05 p.m.

- Commercial burglary on Blemer Rd.
- Suspicious circumstances on St. Mark Ct. at 6:51 p.m.
- Petty theft on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 8:48 p.m.

### Tuesday, Dec. 5

- Unwanted guest disturbance on Antelope Ridge Way at 5:31 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Love Ln. at 10:47 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on El Cerro Blvd. and La Gonda Way at 11:40 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Paraiso Dr. at 12:01 p.m.
- Littering on Diablo Rd. and Green Valley Rd. at 12:20 p.m.
- Public nuisance on Marques Ct. at 12:42 p.m.
- Fight disturbance on Railroad Ave. at 1:38 p.m.
- Vandalism on Cameo Dr. at 2:06 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Boone Ct. and San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 3:04 p.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on Love Ln. at 5:21 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Camino Tassajara at 5:53 p.m.
- Vandalism on El Dorado Ave. at 6:25 p.m.

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Sleeping it off in the wrong spot

Danville police arrested a 26-year-old man from Tracy on suspicion of driving under the influence on the El Cerro Boulevard onramp of northbound I-680 last week.

Danville police Officer Tom Henderson found Sergio Ruque sleeping on the driver's side in his car at 11:52 p.m., Monday, Dec. 4, on the onramp with traffic passing by, said Sgt. Troy Craig.

Henderson evaluated Ruque and found him intoxicated with alcohol, Craig said. He was then arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence.

—Jordan M. Doronila

### Wednesday, Dec. 6

- Accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. and El Cerro Blvd. at 6:41 a.m.
- Disturbance on Love Ln. at 8:14 a.m.
- Suspicious circumstances on St. Mark Ct. at 9:50 a.m.
- Petty theft on Adobe Dr. at 11:06 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Calistoga Ct. at 11:55 a.m.

## OBITUARIES

### Andrew S. Yuen

Andrew S. Yuen, a resident of Danville, passed away peacefully on Thanksgiving day, Nov. 23.

He was born Dec. 4, 1911, and raised in Canton, China. He came to the United States and obtained his bachelors of Architectural Engineering from Chicago Technical College in 1935 and returned to China to work for the Public Works Department of Canton. After the Japanese invasion in 1939, he returned to America and obtained his masters of Architecture and Allied Arts degree from NYU in 1941. He remained in the U.S., living in Pennsylvania, Michigan, New York, Maryland, Connecticut and California, settling in Danville 20 years ago.

As a member of the American

Institute of Architects, he designed numerous projects in Washington, D.C., Virginia, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Although he almost lived to be 95, he was young at heart, enjoyed life and never considered himself to be "retired." He was always working on a project at his drafting table in his home office and also enjoyed painting, gardening and traveling.

He was preceded in death by Evelyn Yuen, his wife of more than 60 years. He is survived by his sister, and many children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was laid to rest at Oakmont Cemetery in Lafayette. Donations in his memory may be made to Children's Hospital Foundation, 747 52nd St., Oakland 94609.

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## Lightning Bolts strike big time

U13 boys Mustang Bolts capture District 3 Cup Championship

It was an exciting weekend for the U13 District 3 Boys Mustang Lightning Bolts as they captured the District Cup Championship with a 3-1 win over Livermore Inferno on Dec. 3. The Bolts, who struggled all year with injuries, went into the tournament seeded sixth. They had to defeat both the No. 1 and the No. 2-seeded teams on Saturday in order to make it into the Sunday finals, and they did so with impressive wins over Fremont 2-1, and Pleasanton 2-0.

Last year, the Bolts made it to the finals only to lose a 1-0 heartbreaker to a team from Dublin. This year, however, the Bolts persevered, led by a strong defense, which had been a challenge for the Bolts all season and Coach Joe Lawton and Assistant Coach Dave Depolo. But the team worked hard during the later part of the season on defensive techniques and strategy, and this paid off in the tournament finals.

Key to the tournament victory were the strong defensive efforts of midfielder Mike Engle, stopper Dane Depolo and sweeper William Lohr, as well as the special one-on-one work by midfielders Ian Lawton and Conner Lafayette, both charged at times with the difficult task of shutting down key players for the opposition. The offensive production was led by center



U13 Lightning Bolts boys cherish the trophies awarded for capturing the recent District 3 Cup Championship.

striker Daniel Cuadra who scored at least two goals in every game.

"He often had two or three defenders hanging on," said Coach Lawton.

Cuadra has been the team's leading scorer all season, and his success as an exceptional striker allowed the team to focus more strategically on defense and counterattack.

The game was not without controversy. With the game scoreless, the center referee called an end to the first half three minutes early, a disappointment to the Bolts who were attacking with a strong wind at their backs. Three minutes were added, play resumed

and the Bolts scored, only to have the goal called back as it had occurred 10 seconds after the three minutes of added time had run, despite no whistle signaling the end of time. The Bolts, energized during halftime by the disappointment and the impassioned words of their coaches, came back strong in the second half scoring all three goals.

The Bolts will try to end their season with a similar result in the Association Cup Tournament to be held in January. ■

*E-mail results to Sports@DanvilleWeekly.com; e-mail photos to Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com*

### PREP SCHEDULE

**Thursday-Friday, Dec. 14-15**

**Boys Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley Holiday Classic

**Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 14-16**

**Boys Basketball**  
San Leandro Tournament  
**Girls Basketball**  
Washington Tournament

**Friday, Dec. 15**

**Girls Soccer**  
Monte Vista vs. Amador, 5:45 p.m.  
San Ramon Valley vs. Livermore, 5:45 p.m.

**Boys Basketball**  
Monte Vista at Bellarmine, 7 p.m.

**Girls Basketball**  
Monte Vista vs. Dublin, 7:30 p.m.

**Boys Soccer**  
Monte Vista at Amador, 5:45 p.m.  
San Ramon Valley

**Saturday, Dec. 16**

**Girls Basketball**  
Monte Vista vs. Windsor, 3 p.m.

**Monday-Thursday, Dec. 18-21**

**Girls Basketball**  
Las Vegas Tournament

**Monday, Dec. 18**

**Boys Soccer**  
Monte Vista vs. Clayton, 6 p.m.

## Wolves net third place at Northgate Basketball Tournament

Vai Schierholz earns all-tournament honors

by Rachel McMurdie

San Ramon Valley's Vai Schierholz led the Wolves to a third place win at the Northgate Basketball Tournament last weekend. The senior guard posted 11 points and four rebounds during the Wolves 62-52 consolation game win over Clayton Valley, earning all-tournament honors.

Clayton Valley's lead scorer, Christian Rojas, posted 26-points, 15 from beyond the arch, and also earned all-tournament honors.

Clayton Valley trailed by two after the first quarter, but San Ramon (4-2) pushed the gap to 19 by the end of the first half. The Wolves maintained the lead for the win. Leading the Wolves effort was Dan Davies, who pulled down seven rebounds and scored 18 points. Teammate Thomas Brenton contributed five rebounds and 12 points.

The Wolves had lost the previous game to Walnut Creek's Las Lomas

High School (2-0) 64-52, which went on to beat Northgate 58-51 in the tournament championship.

**Mustangs shut out Pinole Valley**

The Mustang boys soccer team headed into this week's three-game league opener with the confidence of a 4-0 win behind them. The Mustangs (3-1-1) shut out Pinole Valley last Saturday. Mustang goals came from Nolan Batalha, Jack Griffin, Cole White and Curtis Wong, who each had one.

Monte Vista league games this week included Foothill High on Monday, California High on Wednesday, and Amador High on Friday (scores unavailable by press time).

San Ramon Valley boys also headed into league play this week with a home game today at 5:45 p.m. against Livermore High. The Wolves (4-0) took a 7-1 win over Brentwood's Liberty High (0-2-1) last Saturday. ■

*E-mail results to Sports@DanvilleWeekly.com; e-mail photos to Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com.*

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# Meet Santa

In the off-season, St. Nick lives incognito in Alamo

story by Natalie O'Neill

*To you, his name is Bill. To every kid who stays up past bedtime anticipating the sound of reindeer hooves on the roof top, his name is Santa.*

Up until 13 years ago, Bill Quintel was a typical middle-aged guy. He lived in Alamo, worked for AT&T, and drove a Harley-Davidson motorcycle when the weather was warm. Then at church one morning he caught the eye of Janet Brennan.

Brennan, who managed the Danville Livery at the time, noticed him pull up on his motorcycle, hop off and kiss his wife. There was something familiar about him, she said. His deep belly laugh, the twinkle in his eye, his short white beard.

Introducing herself, she had to ask. It was uncanny.

"Do people ever tell you that you look like Santa Claus?" she inquired.

Being the lazy autumn morning it was, the question seemed a little out of the blue.

"Nope, can't say they have," he answered.

Despite his initial hesitation, Brennan began to coax him into playing Santa at the Danville Livery—a role he was a bit resistant to take.

"I'd never worked with kids before, but this just clicked in to place," he said.

## *Santa in the spring, summer and fall*

Flash forward to today and he is not such a typical guy. To kids in Danville, he's larger than life. A celebrity of sorts.

"They run toward me with open arms," he said.

Quintel, who has rosy cheeks and pristine white locks like Santa himself, plays the part both on and off the job. He's been approached and asked about the resemblance so many times that he has begun carrying a pouch of candy canes with him everywhere he goes.

No matter what month of the year it is or what place—in a shopping mall or a quiet coffee shop—he hears both kids and adults pick him out of the crowd. They point, smile and say things like, "Hey, where's Mrs. Claus?"

But what can he expect? Having embraced the role wholeheartedly, Quintel spends six months of the year growing out his beard. And in the weeks before Christmas, he only wears red coats and shirts.

Being Santa's double does have its perks, he said. After all, how many people are granted a child's immediate trust? Or the ability to spread joy just by giving a mischievous wink?

"I feel so blessed to look like this," he said. "When I was 17, I found my first gray hair. By the time I was in my 20s, I was salt and pepper."

Of course now, in his early 60s, it's all salt.

## *Diaries of the doppelganger*

Imagine being regularly called over to take photos with strangers or knowing intimate personal things about families, told to you by children. These are just a couple of the responsibilities that come with role of looking like one of the world's most benevolent characters.

"I had a boy come in by himself one year and tell me the only thing he wanted for Christmas was to see his dad more," Quintel said.

Situations like this are delicate, he said. But he did approach the mother and let her know what her child had asked, in a gentle way. He said it was difficult for him because she started to cry and walked away.

Being around children, he encounters a lot of situations that need to be dealt with delicately. And he approaches them the way one would imagine that Santa would himself.

For example, one year he donned his full costume and visited a young girl with cancer. Although she was severely ill and couldn't speak, her face lit up when she saw him. The other kids, who were a little older, asked him why he couldn't make her healthy for Christmas.

"They said, 'Santa, can't you make her better?' It just killed me. I had to tell them it's out of Santa's hands, it's in the lord's hands," he said.

Luckily other entries in Santa's diaries aren't as painful. He's had a lot of laughs and good times playing the part. Parents have come up to him at restaurants to tell him their kids spotted him, think he's Santa and have never been so well behaved.

"He has so much love in his heart, and he embraces the Christmas spirit year round," Brennan said.

Quintel also told the story of having sausages with good friends and their daughter one hot night in August. The young daughter had always known Bill as Bill—not as Santa. But that night he said she watched him very closely while they were eating, studying him intently.

"On the way home she said, 'Daddy I think Santa disguises himself as Bill in the summertime,'" Quintel said.

## *An elephant for Christmas*

On the job, Quintel has perfected answers to the requests and questions that kids fire at him. What is Santa supposed to say when a child asks for a helicopter or an elephant to be delivered Christmas morning? Quintel can tell you.

"If they ask for something a little pricey or outlandish I'll glance over at the parents and they'll give me a nod or shake their heads," he said.

He said he tries not to guarantee anything without getting a subtle OK from one of the parents.

"If it's a popular toy or there aren't many in stock I say I'll see what I can do, we've got so many orders of those," he said.

He also has some convincing answers devised for the cynics out there, as kids over 10 years old start to question the reality of a man who keeps track of every kid in the world.

"I tell them the elves do it by computer," he chuckled. "That we have a naughty and a nice list."

Ask him how he gets around the world in one night or how he gets into a house with no chimney and he's got answers, too. He says the time change helps him get to all the houses before morning, and that it's easy for him to get in through the window if there's no chimney. And when he gets the question, "Where's your sleigh?" he tells kids about how he drops his reindeer off with a local rancher.

Looking back on all of the kids he has seen in the 13 years of playing Santa, he said he has only encountered one child who told him he was naughty and didn't deserve any toys.

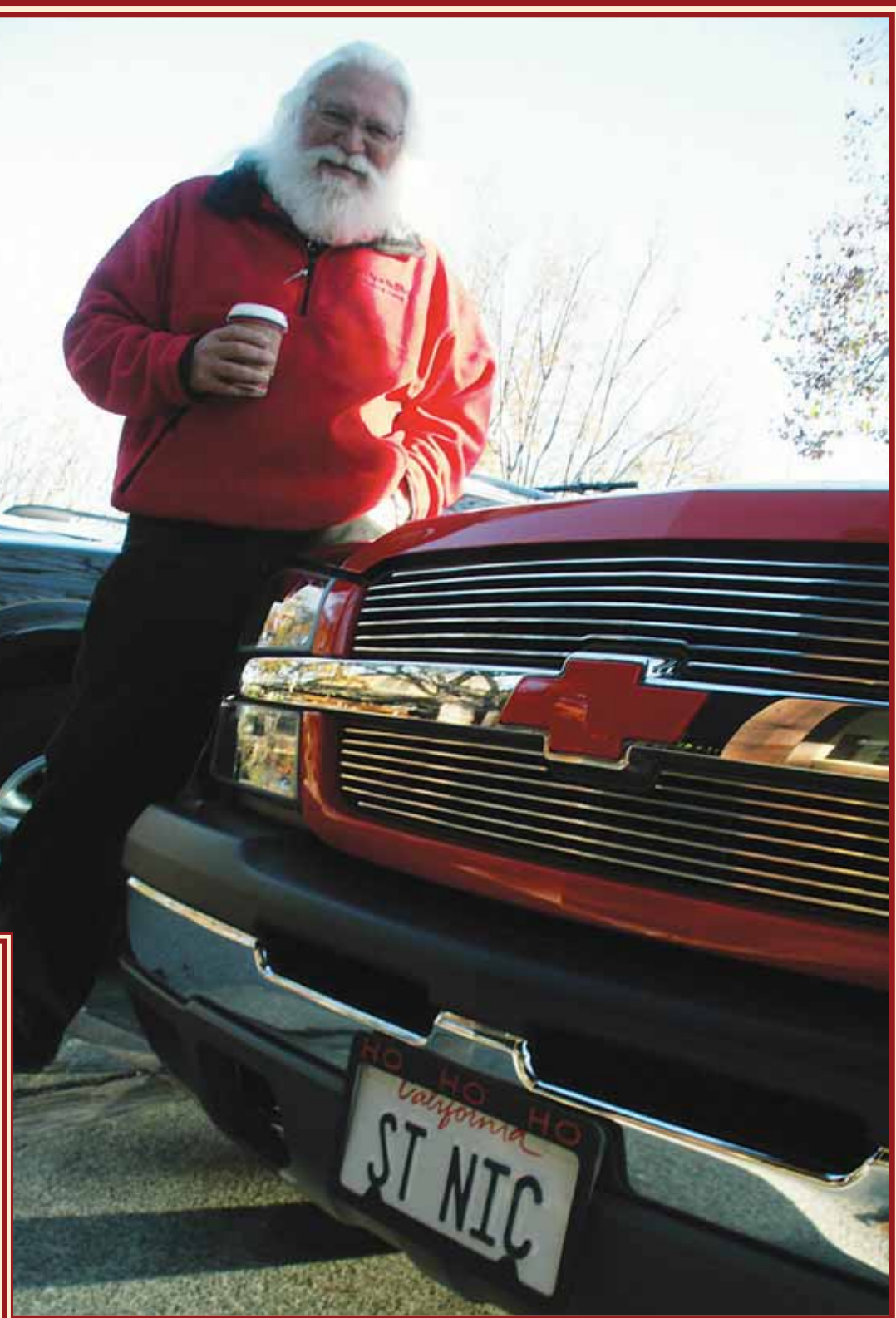
"I said if he promised to be good next year I would bring him something anyway. I told him I admired his honesty," he recalled.

In Hayward where he grew up, Quintel's family couldn't really go all out for Christmas. They didn't have a lot of money, and one year he remembers his parents telling him that Santa spent his money on his sister's wedding. But every year his family did manage to get him something, to make the holiday special for him, and to take him to see Santa in Oakland.

Now that he is the local face of Christmas, he celebrates the holiday in a different way. Going back over some old photographs of himself with children over the years, he reflected on his time spent being Danville's resident Santa.

"There is even more joy there than I thought," he said. ■





NATALIE O'NEILL

Bill Quintel has adopted the role of playing Santa in his everyday life, so wearing red, growing out his beard and changing his car's license plates is more connected to his personality than his job. At left: Ethan Louie, 4, of Danville tells Santa (aka Bill Quintel) his wishes, at the Livery.

## Meet Santa

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## La dolce vita

This Danville caterer has found the recipe for success

Story and photos by Christina Straw

It's 4 p.m. at the Kohl Mansion in Burlingame and the place is buzzing. Tuxedoed waiters gracefully move across the floor toward party guests with trays full of hors d'oeuvres and flutes of champagne. A harpist begins to play as the wedding party moves outside to have its pictures taken. Behind the scenes, a chef is artfully putting together the salad plates for 100-plus guests.

It may sound like organized chaos, but like any big production, the players all know their roles and places before the performance begins. For Danville resident Teri Menchini, owner of La Bocca Fina catering and in charge of tonight's reception, it's a well-orchestrated process that, even after 25 years, she still finds exciting and rewarding.

"I enjoy families and relationships, and with weddings you get that," Menchini said. "It's great to be a part of a couple's wonderful day and when you work with a family planning a wedding for six months to sometimes a year-and-a-half, you become a part of that family."

### Friends, family and a future in food

For Menchini, growing up Italian in Hayward meant that she grew up cooking all the time. A typical Sunday dinner for the whole family—including great aunts and uncles—meant spending the entire day preparing the meal.

"I grew up with Italian parents. My mother and grandmothers were and are amazing in the kitchen," Menchini said. "Cooking was a part of our daily life. Entire days were spent in the gardens and kitchen. My grandfather owned a



produce store in his younger years. He cooked and gardened professionally as I was growing up."

Menchini's grandfather was a cook at the Columbo Club in Oakland, a society for Italian-Americans, and he would sometimes take 12-year-old Teri and her brother Michael along with him.

"I spent several Saturdays a year cooking with him from 8 in the morning until midnight," Menchini said. "It was great training for the long hours of a chef's life."

As well as a love for cooking, Menchini had a passion for veterinary medicine, which she studied at UC Berkeley. But after her third year, she realized that cooking school was the dream she wanted to pursue.

After almost four years of college, Menchini left to attend the California Culinary Academy for a professional degree. As part of her training program, she worked in a few restaurants, but she knew she wanted to focus on catering.

"My first wedding was at a beautiful home in Danville," Menchini said. "Just a few years ago I was able to work with the family again for their parent's 50th wedding anniversary. That's the amazing joy of weddings. They bring about lifetime friendships along the way. That first wedding was over 24 years ago."

### A star is born

Menchini, along with some friends from culinary school, got together and started cooking using Teri's family recipes, as well as inventing a few others along the way. For the first 10 years, they catered parties in her grandfather's basement using fresh ingredients from his garden.

"In 1982, when I started my catering company, my grandfather

actually cooked behind the scenes with me for quite a few years," Menchini said. "My first 10 years in business, he kept his garden growing herbs, citrus and vegetables for us to use. We were so spoiled."

When it came time to pick a name for the company, Menchini was asking her father for suggestions, telling him she wanted something very Italian and very feminine. He threw out "La Bocca Fina" (the finicky eater) on his third try and Teri thought the name was perfect.

### A full calendar

Today, Teri works with a staff of 50. She handles no more than two events per day with 12-20 people per team per event. She is the lead coordinator to ensure the event runs smoothly and she also provides personal service to the client. La Bocca Fina focuses on event design, personalized menus, seamless coordination, and stunning presentation that creatively reflects the couple's personal style. Learn more at [www.laboccafina.com](http://www.laboccafina.com).

"Most people in life always achieve to grow their business," Menchini said. "That's never been a goal of mine. It's important for me to enjoy the relationship and make the experience one where they want to come back and work with you again."

Next summer, La Bocca Fina will turn 25, and Menchini has no plans to retire from the business anytime soon.

"I really enjoy being a part of this profession," Teri said. "I have developed a great community of friends who are very talented chefs, floral designers, musicians, photographers over the years, so I am quite happy with the path I have taken." ■



Caterer Teri Menchini works with her La Bocca Fina staff of 50 to handle no more than two events a day and has no interest in growing larger; she just wants to enjoy the business she has built up over 25 years. Top: A chef creatively assembles the salads for a wedding. Center: Menchini makes sure the bride and groom get a bite to eat before the reception begins. Bottom: The staff checks to make sure everything is perfect before the wedding guests arrive.



The chefs and staff of La Bocca Fina pay meticulous attention to details.





## Planning a Christmas potluck

I love potluck dinners—for the variety of dishes (and the cooks' accompanying culinary memories), for the collective love and care woven into every dish, for the patchwork of family, friends and acquaintances who might otherwise never come together in one place for a meal. Thanksgiving and Christmas are the ideal holidays for bringing people together via a potluck meal.

Given the wide range of cooking skills and effort, the multiple households and distance between them and the high potential for disasters, potlucks can feel like tricky business. I've seen the best and worst of them over the years but this I know for sure: Despite a few mishaps here and missteps there, in the end, things always seem to work out for the good. Still, a little planning by hosts and guests can go a long way toward ensuring a wonderfully memorable meal. Epicure offers some helpful hints for the host, guests and all attendees.

- It's a chorus, not a solo ... don't try to do it all yourself! Trust the potluck process.
- It's best when the host provides the main meat so it doesn't have to travel ... or delay the meal.
- Ask about any eating restrictions, then accommodate them with a special dish or two.
- Count: Use the capacity of your home or likely-to-show guests, plus or minus five for no-shows and extras.
- Establish some menu essentials so you can offer dish suggestions to guests.

- Give first dish choices to early responders; assign still-needed items to late responders.
- Create a schedule for the oven, microwave, etc.
- If you want to prepare a family favorite or specialty dish, let the host know early on.
- Honor your commitment to come and bring food. Inform your host ASAP if your plans change.
- Clue the host into what and how much you're bringing plus last minute prep needed.
- Don't arrive too early or too late. If you expect to arrive late, offer to bring non-essentials.
- Be a good guest. Help any child or senior get served first.
- No Scrooges, please! Immerse yourself in the camaraderie, food and managed chaos ... and join the fun.
- FLEX ... no one gets turned away ... even if they have to sit on the floor!
- Everyone who eats or drinks helps clean up.
- Drive home safely ... and send a thank you note to the host.

Give a lasting gift this Christmas and plan a potluck to remember. Build a simple potluck menu with a meat entree and the champagne lemon-drop punch and green beans recipes below. Then invite guests to bring the other side dishes, bread and desserts to round out the pleasure.

Happy Holidays!

*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.*

### RECIPES

#### Green Beans with Ginger Butter (serves 8-10)

2 pounds haricots vert or other green beans, trimmed  
1 piece fresh ginger, about 3 inches long  
3 Tbsp. unsalted butter  
Zest from 1/2 lemon, finely grated  
1/2 tsp. salt

1. Cook beans in an 8-quart pot of boiling salted water, uncovered, until just tender, 5 to 9 minutes (depending on thickness). Drain beans in a colander and transfer to a large bowl of ice and cold water to stop cooking. Drain beans again and pat dry.
  2. Peel ginger and halve crosswise, then thinly slice lengthwise and cut into very thin matchsticks.
  3. Heat butter in a 12-inch nonstick skillet over moderate heat until foam subsides, then cook ginger, stirring, until golden, about 3 minutes.
  4. Add beans and cook, stirring, until just heated through, about 2 minutes. Remove from heat and add zest and salt, tossing to combine.
- Note: Beans can be boiled one

day ahead and chilled, wrapped in paper towels in a sealed plastic bag. Continue recipe at Step 2.

#### Champagne Lemon-Drop Punch (serves 10-12)

6-7 lemons (at room temperature)  
1 cup sugar plus 1 cup water  
1-1/2 cup high-quality vodka, chilled  
2 bottles Champagne, chilled  
8 oz. candied lemon peels (optional)

1. With a vegetable peeler, remove zest from lemons in a continuous spiral. Juice lemons and strain pulp to generate 1-1/2 cups juice. Set juice aside.
2. Over medium heat, heat water and sugar in a small saucepan, stirring until dissolved. Bring to boil. Remove from heat and add lemon zest. Let zest infuse into syrup for about two hours and until cooled.
3. Mix vodka, Champagne, lemon syrup and lemon juice in a punch bowl and stir. Serve in punch glasses, with candied peel garnish if desired.

Note: This recipe can easily be doubled or tripled.

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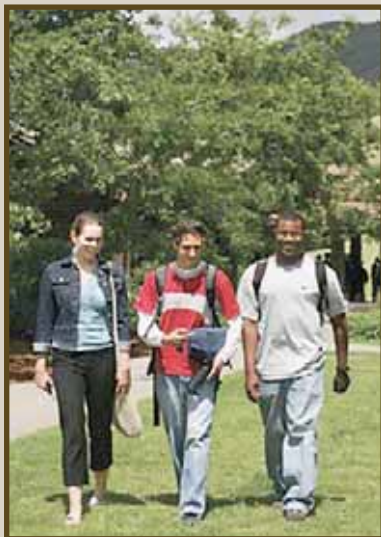
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# Presenting the Past

BY ROXANNE WIEDERMANN LINDSAY

## Christmas in the San Ramon Valley

Picture a Valley with a few small towns and many farms spread throughout. The days are getting shorter, and a smoky haze fills the air. The fall colors have faded and there is the promise of Christmas coming. Some residents of this wonderful Valley have warm, cherished memories of those days.

Ardith (Osborn) Steger tells how the Osborn Family would sit around the Christmas tree playing a game of "guess which ornament I'm thinking of," a version of 20 questions. Their tree had many different precious ornaments purchased over the years, each special in its memory. An excursion to Oakland for Christmas shopping was eagerly anticipated.

Millie Freitas remembers the huge Christmas tree in the center of the stage at what is now known as the Village Theatre, but at that time was the Grange Hall. Santa Claus would come and all the local kids would get hard candy, an apple and an orange.



This tree representing the 1890s is currently on exhibit at the museum's Christmas Memories display.

Norma (Humburg) Anderson have a particularly moving gift given to them in 1935 by Phil Harris in the form of a motion picture. The family was gathered in their Alamo home on Christmas morning when Phil came by to take moving pictures of their mother, father and other relatives who are gone now, but that wonderful film lives on as a video. Betty remembers her mother's carrot pudding with rum sauce, little shades on the Christmas tree lights and two turkeys, one at each end of the table, to be carved. In January 1937, there was a lot of snow.

Claudia (Mauzy) Nemir's family gathered at her Grandmother Mauzy's on Christmas Eve. She remembers making ornaments, paper doll chains, paper chains, popcorn and cranberry chains for decorations. The Grandmothers Mauzy and Glass would play the piano and Uncle Toney sang. The men and women played double cribbage all night. So music and cards were an integral part of the celebration.

Los (Kamp) Gompertz remembers how important the Sunday School Christmas play was at the first Presbyterian Church in Danville. It was the highlight of the season and Mr. Stuchell was the minister. The Kamps' big dinner and gift opening was on Christmas Eve. The children prepared a performance of some kind, music, skit, reading, etc., to do before the gifts. Each one received one special gift. Lois remembers getting a bridle she had wanted so much.

I hope these memories stir your own special recollections of celebrations past.

Merry Christmas! ■

Sources: This column was written in 1990 and appeared in the Newsletter of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley.

### Santa would come to hand out Christmas stockings made by the Mother's Club, then everyone sang carols.

I notice many people recalled the luxury of oranges at Christmas. It was a rare and special treat. At the Wood Ranch, Don Wood remembers his family getting a case of oranges at Christmas time.

Another glowing memory was tinsel and the way it sparkled on the tree. In the Tassajara Valley, Rose (Bettencourt) Ferreira's family always had a pine tree with tinsel. The kids would get oranges and toys. And, yes, occasionally snow around Christmas.

Jane Ashworth and many of us from San Ramon remember how the San Ramon Hall was decorated with a tree, and a school Christmas play would be put on by the kids well into the 1950s. Santa would come to hand out Christmas stockings made by the Mother's Club, then everyone sang carols. This festivity was attended by most of the people in San Ramon.

Early Christmas trees on the Wiedemann Ranch were bay trees as they were so plentiful. Howard and Doris Wiedemann had a 12th night tree burning for many years to close the season. As you can imagine, this was pretty spectacular with a lot of pine trees.

Betty (Humburg) Dunlap and

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## OF NOTE



## Quilt winner

Deidre Henry of Roundhill (left) displays the Star Bright quilt she won at the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Holiday Home Tour and Boutique recently. The quilt was made by Mary Mix of Danville (right), who has been quilting for 22 years. AAUW raised more than \$9,000 at the event; it will be donated to Tech Trek, a week-long summer science camp for eight middle-school girls and also for local scholarships for women completing their education.

## 25 years of checkmate

The Berkeley Chess School, which offers chess at Danville schools and runs a chess summer camp in Danville and Alamo, celebrated its 25th anniversary Dec. 9. The club has introduced generations of Bay Area children to the joy of chess and is currently supporting the First Moves Program for young bilingual children in low-income Richmond schools.

The scholastic chess program is the largest in California and was named by Diablo Magazine as the best after-school program in the East Bay. The Berkeley club also has been selected to partner with the United States Chess Federation to promote chess nationally. It offers eight regional chess tournaments, including two all-girls' tournaments.

## Congratulations to educators

Many teachers in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District received honors at the end of the school year and the district recently added its congrats. Those from schools in Danville and Alamo include:

- Alamo Rotary Outstanding Educator: Nicki Scott, Alamo Elementary, kindergarten; Patty Tillotson, Rancho Romero, physical education; Cece Kohl, Stone Valley Middle School, speech therapy; Chuck Herndon, San Ramon Valley High, photography, history, fine arts; Michael Huntsman, Monte Vista High, architectural design
- The Prudential Education Foundation Outstanding Educator: Kathy Donovan, Montair Elementary, second grade; Deborah Christmas, Montair, fifth grade; Wayne Sutton, Montair, fourth grade; Jane Roskelley, Vista Grande Elementary, second grade; Karen Dautel, Rancho Romero, first grade; Betsi Jamison, Charlotte Wood Middle School, eighth grade English; Teri Musiel, Stone Valley Middle School, instrumental music; Michael Huntsman, Monte Vista, architecture; Chuck Perryman, San Ramon Valley High, drama; Ken Abrams, San Ramon Valley High, vocal music
- Grand Champion Award and Best Salad & Best Presentation prizes at Sodexo's "Culinary Celebrations" Competition: Janice Stuhmacher, Mona Randal, Robin Townsend, Lisa Gunn and Deepa Kamath, District Culinary Team from Child Nutrition Department
- North Coast Section Coach of the Year: Hans DeLannoy, San Ramon Valley High, women's basketball coach
- Grants by Toyota Motor Co. and SRV Education Foundation to add Biotech Unit to Biology Research Academy: Tracy Gilchrist, Monte Vista, biology and English
- County Regional Occupational Program (ROP) Teacher of the Year: Julie Mello, Monte Vista High, ROP sports medicine
- 2006 Educator of the Year by the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce: Ken Abrams, San Ramon Valley High, vocal music
- 2006 SRVUSD and Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year: Patty Carothers, Monte Vista High, science
- Contra Costa Times Coach of the Year: Tim Stevens, San Ramon Valley High, social studies and track coach

- Published "Women of the Westward Movement: A Lesson About Interdependence" in Social Studies Review: Sharon Brockman, program supervisor in Special Programs Department
- Published "Women in History" work in Social Studies Review: Susan Threath, Monte Vista, history and geography
- Administrative Leadership Award by California School Library Association: Lisa Ward, Los Cerros Middle School principal
- Prudential Education Foundation 2005-06 Outstanding Educator: Cheryl Yee Glass, San Ramon Valley High, instrumental music

## Good morning, shoppers

Some 200 teenage girls and their moms gave up the chance to sleep in on Sunday, Dec. 3, and instead gathered at 7:30 a.m. at Target in San Ramon to choose gifts for families they have adopted for the holidays. Each person received one practical gift and one fun gift. The families, who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless, were chosen by Shelter Inc.

"For the second year, we are joining with our sister chapters in National Charity League to shop for a good cause," said Peggy Barker of Danville, president of the Diablo Valley Chapter, which represents Alamo and Danville. National Charity League is a mother and daughter philanthropic organization with girls in grades seven through 12.

## Thanking the band

Mayor Karen Stepper, on behalf of the Danville Town Council, awarded a proclamation to Dr. Lawrence E. Anderson and the Danville Community Concert Band at its Christmas Concert held Dec. 6, thanking the members for their valuable contribution to the community.

"This band has exceeded my wildest expectations from when we began in 2001," said director Anderson. "They are a real success story, not only by their growth and their fine musicianship, in such a short time, but also their dedication to the group and their desire to entertain the community."

Their next concert takes place at 2 p.m., Sunday, March 4, at the Blackhawk Museum. For more information, visit [www.danvilleband.org](http://www.danvilleband.org) or call 736-1673.



Mayor Karen Stepper presents Danville Community Band Director Dr. Lawrence E. Anderson with a proclamation of appreciation from the town.

## Realtors ranked tops

Peggy Cortez of the Alain Pinel Realtors Blackhawk office was ranked as the 13th agent in the nation with a sales volume of \$129 million. Rita Khillon from the Danville office had a sales volume last year of \$71 million, making her 64th.

"We are extremely proud of these individuals for what they have accomplished in their careers and now for this recognition and national rankings," said Larry Knapp, president of Alain Pinel.



## New Eagle Scout in Danville

Garrett Mason, the son of Jeff and Diana Mason, has earned his Boy Scouts of America Eagle Award. His project was to plan and lead members of his troop in the restoration of a donor board located in the historic Borges Ranch in Walnut Creek. This donor board gives recognition to all the individuals and organizations who have given their time, effort or donations to the upkeep of the ranch and Walnut Creek open space.

Mason, 18, is a resident of Alamo and a senior at Monte Vista High School. His award will be presented Saturday, Dec. 16.



## NOW SHOWING



## Casino Royale ★★★1/2

**Rated: PG-13 for violent action, torture and some nudity. 2 hours, 24 minutes.**

The verdict is in: The deliciously brooding Daniel Craig is an edgy and eclectic James Bond, deftly grabbing the reins from uber-Bond Sean Connery.

No gimmicky nuclear warheads, extreme heli-skiing or Pierce Brosnan's namby-pambies. This 007 is all business: hungry, raw and willing to lay it down for queen and country.

This go-around, James is tackling the money man for the world's most notorious terrorists. Le Chiffre (Mads Mikkelsen) is a criminal mastermind with an unquenchable thirst for hard currency. A series of explosive events lead Bond and the creepy Le Chiffre to face off in a high-rollers poker showdown at the luxurious Casino Royale in posh Montenegro.

Aiding Bond in his quest to vanquish evil is British treasury agent Vesper Lynd (Eva Green), a brainy beauty who will shape Bond's heart and his future with calculated charm.

The action kicks off with a chase sequence during which Bond acrobatically pursues a mad suicide bomber through the industrialized construction of Madagascar to the Nambutu Embassy, wielding his weapon with dexterous masculinity. From Africa to Lake Como, Prague to the Bahamas, the beat is positively heart-pounding.

Craig is a glove fit for the iconic M16 agent, darker and more fallible than his predecessors. Charismatic and resourceful, the pugilist-faced, sculpted-bodied Craig goes from swimwear to tuxedo to a bullet between the eyes with sultry versatility.

Craig's chemistry with Green is intriguing, more playful than sexy. The real sparks fly between Craig and Judi Dench, who reprises her role as 007's steely superior M. Their anxious exchanges are razor-sharp, verbal foreplay at its most fluid. Dench is gifted with screenplay writer Paul Haggis' plump lines, a clever volley of bloody cheek and high-minded rebukes.

The body count is high, courtesy of Bond's overdeveloped trigger finger and overextended ego. Sexual liaisons are kept at a minimum in order to fully develop 007's fundamental penchant for women as disposable pleasures rather than meaningful pursuits.

In the film's only serious misstep, James and Vesper turn to a tenuous love affair that feels insincere and meticulously manufactured.

But Craig is so thoroughly bad-ass, so sociopathically tenacious that his every move is box-office gold. "Casino" is pure testosterone pleasure.

—Jeanne Aufmuth

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# Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

## Art

### Alamo-Danville Artists' Society

This society will present a group showing of art work until Jan. 16, at the Danville Town offices, 510 La Gonda Way. The offices are open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

## Author Visits

### Laurie Fitzgerald

Laurie Fitzgerald author of "My Dog Loves Shoes and Her Name is Maggie Mae" will visit and sign her book from noon-4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16, at Nordstrom Broadway Plaza Shoe Department, Walnut Creek. Proceeds from the book sales will benefit Shoes That Fit. Call 930-7959.

### Rakestraw Hosting Authors

Rakestraw Books will host numerous authors throughout the beginning of the new year including: John Schinnerer, author of "A Guide to Self," at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 18; Eoin McNamee, author of "The Navigator," at 10 a.m., Monday, Feb. 12; Peggy Orenstein, author of "Waiting for Daisy: A Tale of Two Continents," at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 20; Alison Weir, author of "Innocent Traitor," at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 17, all at the bookstore, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. For reservations, call 837-7337.

## Classes

### Clay Character Modeling for Kids

Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., offers a Clay Character Modeling

for Kids class from 10-11:30 a.m., Saturdays, for ages 6-13. Michael Yen is the instructor. Classes are ongoing. Fee is \$86 for four weeks plus \$15 for materials. For information, call 838-1959.

### Divorce and Raising Kids

Community Presbyterian Church will host two classes for adults on "Moving Forward After Divorce" from 7-9 p.m., Wednesdays, for 12 weeks starting Jan. 10 and "Got Kids? For Parents Who Want to Raise Great Kids" from 7-9 p.m., Wednesdays, for five weeks starting Jan. 10, at the church, 222 W. El Pintado Road, Danville. The classes and childcare are free. Call 837-5525, ext. 319, e-mail mike@cpccdandville.org or visit www.cpccdandville.org.

### Mixed Media Fun for Kids

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

### Oil and Acrylic Painting Class

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

### Pencil Sketching

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

### People, Pets and Wildlife Portraits Classes

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

### The Art of Drawing

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

### Watercolor

Danville Fine Arts Gallery, 233 Front St., offers a Watercolor class from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursdays, for all levels. Karen Mason is the instructor. Fee is \$84 for four weeks. They also offer a Tuesday night class from 7-9 p.m., Tuesdays, for all levels. Fee is \$80 for four weeks. Classes are ongoing. For information, call 838-1959.

## Clubs

### Danville Rotary

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

### Danville-Sycamore Valley Rotary

The Danville-Sycamore Valley Rotary Club meets for breakfast at 7 a.m. every Tuesday at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Join them for great fellowship and make a difference in your community and the world. Call Scott at 743-8449.

### Diablo Bonsai Club

This club will host a lecture and workshop on planting and raising Bonsai Trees, from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 20, at Heather Farm Garden Center, Upper Room, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek. Call 736-9157.

### Diablo Diggers Dance Club

The Diablo Diggers Dance Club meets five times a year for dinner and dancing with a live band in the Danville or Walnut Creek area. The club is looking for a few new members, couples only. For information, call 938-0316.

### Diablo Singles Dance Club

Diablo Singles Dance Club dances regularly the last Wednesday of the month from 7:30-10:30 p.m., at the Arts Education Building, corner of Ygnacio Valley Road and Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek. The cost is \$7 for members and \$9 for non-members. All are welcome. Call 837-2851.

### Diablo Valley Fly Fisherman

This club meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at Heather Farm Lakeside Room, 301 N. San Carlos, Walnut Creek. Guests are welcome. For information, visit www.diablovalleyflyfish.org.

### Diablo Valley Quilters' Guild

The Diablo Valley Quilters' Guild meets at 7 p.m., the third Wednesday of each month at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Guests are welcome (\$2 donation). Annual membership fee is \$30 (\$20 for seniors 65+). For information, call Dianne at 837-1863.

### Diablo Valley Single Parents

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

### Diablo View Toastmasters

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

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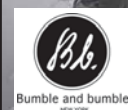
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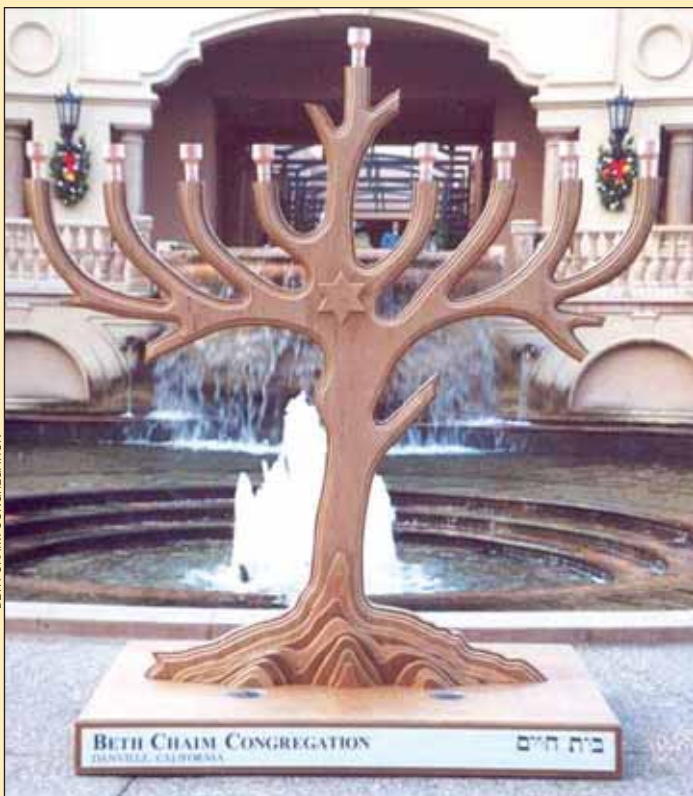
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WEEKEND PREVIEW



BETH CHAIM CONGREGATION

**Menorah Lighting**

Blackhawk Plaza will host the Beth Chaim Congregation's Menorah lighting at 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 15 and Thursday, Dec. 21, at the plaza, 3480 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Call 736-2751 or visit [www.theshopsatblackhawk.com](http://www.theshopsatblackhawk.com).

call 837-1111 or 829-5501.

**Pleasanton DeMolay**  
This Pleasanton chapter of DeMolay is an organization for young men between the ages of 12-21. They meet at 7:30 p.m., the first and third Tuesdays of every month at the Pleasanton Masonic Center, 3370 Hopyard Road. For information, contact Ken Varallo at 455-8586 or [raptors2@comcast.net](mailto:raptors2@comcast.net).

**Porsche Club of America, Diablo Region**  
This club is for owners and enthusiasts of all Porsches. It meets at 8 a.m., every Saturday for breakfast at Denny's, 803 Camino Ramon, Danville. For information, visit [www.pca.org/dia](http://www.pca.org/dia).

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

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

**Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated**  
This club will host a dinner meeting with guest speaker Ward Connerly at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 11, at Pleasanton Hotel (formerly Wyndham Garden Hotel), 5990 Stoneridge Mall Road. New members and visitors are welcome. For reservations, call Marilyn at 485-9869.

**Tri-Valley Writers**  
Join the Tri-Valley Writers to discuss "The Art of Storytelling" by storytellers Bobbie Kinkead and Jean Ellisen from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16, at Girasole Grille, 3180 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Call is \$18 for members, \$25 for non-members. Contact Fred at [frorman300@aol.com](mailto:frorman300@aol.com).

another concert at 5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 17, at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 7557 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Call 828-1580 for ticket information. Call 648-7000.

**Golden Bough Holiday Concert**  
Community Concerts at the Wesley Center presents "Golden Bough Holiday Concert" at 7:15 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16, at the Wesley Center, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Tickets are \$22 for adults, \$20 for seniors and children. Call 229-2710 or visit [www.communityconcerts.com](http://www.communityconcerts.com).

**'Walking to Bethlehem'**  
San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church will present its annual Christmas concert, "Walking to Bethlehem," at 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 17, at the church, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. The public is invited. Call 837-5243 or visit [www.srvumc.org](http://www.srvumc.org).

**Events**

**Coffee, Music and Shopping**  
Yellow Wood will host the San Ramon Valley School Choir at 10 a.m., Saturdays, Dec. 16, at the shop, 215 Alamo Plaza, Suite E, Alamo. Call 837-1175.

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

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

**Valley Parent Preschool Open House**  
Valley Parent Preschool will host an open house with a tour of the school and a chance to meet the director and staff from noon-2 p.m., Friday, Jan. 19, at 935 Camino Ramon, Danville. Call 837-5401 or visit [www.valleyparent.org](http://www.valleyparent.org).

**Concerts**

**Blackhawk Chorus**  
Come and see the 130-voice Blackhawk Chorus perform "Rejoice Greatly!" at 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 15, at Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Tickets are a suggested donation of \$20. There is also

**Exhibits**

**Anatomy of a Hot Rod**  
Bedford Gallery presents Anatomy of a Hot Rod, which will run until Feb. 11, at the gallery, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut

► Continued on page 26

**LeTip** Professional Business Leads Exchange Seeks New Members in Tri-Valley

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**eWomen Network Accelerated Networking Luncheon**  
The eWomen Network holds its monthly accelerated networking luncheon from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., the second Thursday of each month, at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Contact Claire at 648-3105 or [claireshepherdson@ewomen-network.com](mailto:claireshepherdson@ewomen-network.com).

**Exchange Club of San Ramon Valley**  
This club meets at noon, every second Wednesday of the month, at Faz, 600 Hartz Avenue, Danville. The program features speakers and business networking. Guests are welcome. call 275-2412 or visit [www.srvexchangeclub.org](http://www.srvexchangeclub.org).

**Food and Wine Book Group**  
This group will begin to discuss Brian Doyle's "The Grail: A Year Ambling & Shambling Through an Oregon Vineyard in Pursuit of the Best Pinot Noir in the World" at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 23, at the Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. For reservations, call 837-7337.

**Friends of the Danville Library**  
Friends of the Danville Library are renewing annual memberships and recruiting new members to help support, raise funds and sponsor programs for the Danville library. There are many benefits of being a Friend including merchant discounts, volunteer opportunities and preview of book sales. Dues and donations are tax deductible. Application forms are at the library, 400 Front St. Call 837-4455.

**Homeowner/Homebuyer Book Club**  
The Homeowner/Homebuyer Book Club is a place to learn, share and discuss. It meets at 6 p.m. the first Monday of each month, at 3223 Crow Canyon Road, second floor Conference room, San Ramon. Call 397-2093.

**Julie's Book Clubs**  
Julie's morning and evening book clubs will not meet during the month of December. The morning book club will meet to discuss Sylvia Plath's "The Bell Jar" at 10:30 a.m., Friday, Jan. 26, and the evening book club will meet to discuss Alison Lurie's "Truth and Consequences" at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 17, at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. call 837-7337.

**Kiwanis San Ramon Valley**  
The San Ramon Valley Kiwanis meets from noon-1:30 p.m. every Thursday, at Round Hill Country Club, 3169 Roundhill Road, Alamo. Meeting includes a guest speaker and lunch. For information, visit its Web site at [www.kiwanis-srv.org](http://www.kiwanis-srv.org).

**Leads Group for B2B Business Developers**  
This group meets from 7:45-10 a.m., every third Thursday at Mimi's Cafe, 4775 Hacienda Drive, Dublin. The cost for members is free, \$40 for non-members. Call 201-3410.

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

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

**Mt. Diablo Macintosh Users Group**  
Get questions answered, solutions for problems, share experiences and explore new Mac developments. Club meets at 7:30 p.m., the third Monday of every month, at the Alamo Safeway Community Room. For information,

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Creek. Gallery hours are noon-5 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday. Call 295-1417.

**Christmas Memories at the Museum**

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley will host "Christmas Memories" until Jan. 6, at the museum, corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues, Danville. Donations are encouraged for admission. The museum is open 1-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday. Call 837-3750.

**European Train Enthusiasts**

Blackhawk Museum presents the European Train Enthusiasts exhibit from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday, running until Jan. 7, at the museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. The exhibit will include 360' of track, 57 turn-outs, 35 working signals and more! Call 736-2277.

**Lindsay Wildlife Museum**

The museum will feature two new special exhibits: "Broken Wings: Portraits of Non-Releaseable Raptors" and "One

Man's Window" from now until Dec. 31, at the museum, 1931 First Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 935-1978 or visit [www.wildlife-museum.org](http://www.wildlife-museum.org).

**Fundraisers**

**Claws for Paws**

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue will host Claws for Paws second annual Crab Feed from 6-10 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 27. Cost is \$40 before Jan. 10 and \$45 after. To purchase tickets, visit [www.tvr.org](http://www.tvr.org), email [events@tvr.org](mailto:events@tvr.org) or send a check to TVAR, P.O. Box 11143, Pleasanton.

**One Warm Coat**

Celebrate the 11th anniversary of "Protection from the Cold" with San Ramon Valley Rotary Club and donate a coat, sweater or blanket until Dec. 16. There are various drop off locations in Danville including: Heritage

Bank, 310 Hartz Ave.; Pascal's Cafe, 155 Railroad Ave.; or ReMax Accord, 313 Sycamore Valley Drive West. For information, call Larry at 200-7640 or Dany at 838-9110.

**Toys for Tots**

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Danville will host a collection site for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots until Friday, Dec. 15, at 600 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Toys should be new and unwrapped. Call 837-4100.

**Health**

**The Wellness Community**

The Wellness Community offers different support groups for cancer patients and their family and friends including: Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer Workshop meets from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wednesdays, Jan.

10-April 25; Kids Circle & Teen Talk meets from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 13; Reiki I and II from 3-5 p.m., Tuesdays, Jan. 16, 30 and Feb. 13 and 27; African Drumming Circle from 5:30-6:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 18; Integrating Spirituality and the Cancer Experience from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Jan. 20; Mindful Chi Kung from 3:30-5 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 25; and an Update on Breast Cancer Treatment from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Jan. 27, all at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 933-0107.

**Holidays**

**Celebration of Christmas**

To celebrate the Christmas season, come and enjoy performances by the Monte Vista High School Chamber Singers, San Ramon Valley High Chamber Singers, Charlotte Wood

Choir and Danville Stake Choir from 7-8:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 17, at Danville Stake Center of the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter-day Saints, 655 Old Orchard Road. Refreshments will be served.

**Christmas in Danville**

Community Presbyterian Church will host "Christmas in Danville" at 9 and 10:30 a.m., Sundays, Dec. 17 and 24, at the church, 222 W. El Pintado Road, Danville and at 9:30 a.m., Sundays, Dec. 17 and 24, at the Tassajara campus, Diablo Vista Middle School, 41 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Call 837-5525 or email [info@cpcdanville.org](mailto:info@cpcdanville.org).

**Community Chanukah Party**

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will host a family Chanukah Party from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 17, at the Bothwell Center, 2466 Eighth St., Livermore. Bring a brunch potluck item and a potato to make latkes. The party will include the game of "ganeff"; if you wish to participate, bring a gift not more than \$10. Call 485-1049 or e-mail [culturaljews@aol.com](mailto:culturaljews@aol.com).

**Contra Costa Grand Menorah Lighting**

Chabad of Contra Costa and The Broadway Plaza will host a Grand Menorah Lighting from 3-6 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 17, in Broadway Plaza, Promenade Fountain (across the street from Nordstrom) and a community night skate "Chanukah on Ice" from 7:30-10 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 19, at the downtown Walnut Creek Ice Rink in Civic Park. Call 937-4101 or visit [www.jewishcontracosta.com](http://www.jewishcontracosta.com).

**Here Comes Santa Claus!**

Here Comes Santa Claus...Right Down Sycamore Valley Lane! Santa will visit with children on selected dates until Christmas for parents to take their own photos. Call 838-7070 or visit [www.danvillelivery.com](http://www.danvillelivery.com).

**Holiday Performances, Santa and Pet Photos**

Blackhawk Plaza will host holiday performances by local area school choirs and jazz bands, and Santa Claus will be at the plaza to pose for pictures through Dec. 24. The plaza is located at 3480 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. For information, call 736-2751 or visit [www.theshopsat-blackhawk.com](http://www.theshopsat-blackhawk.com).

**Menorah Lighting Ceremonies**

Blackhawk Plaza will host the Beth Chaim Congregation's Menorah lighting at 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 15, and Thursday, Dec. 21, at the plaza, 3480 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Call 736-2751 or visit [www.theshopsat-blackhawk.com](http://www.theshopsat-blackhawk.com).

**New Year's Eve Casino Classic Celebration**

Blackhawk Museum and BHEI Inc. will host their New Year's Eve Casino Classic Celebration from 7:30 p.m.-1 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 31, at the museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Tickets are \$135; deadline to reserve your seat is Sunday, Dec. 24. Black tie optional. Call 736-2277, ext. 653, or visit [www.blackhawkmuseum.org](http://www.blackhawkmuseum.org).

**New Year's Eve Party**

USS Hornet invites you to its ultimate New Year's Eve party from 8 p.m.-1 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 31, aboard the ship, Pier 3, Alameda Point, Alameda. Tickets are \$48 for general admission, \$65 for reserved seating and \$95 for premium reserved. Call (510) 521-8448, ext. 282, or visit [www.hornet-event.com](http://www.hornet-event.com).

**Santa Claus at the Danville Train Depot**

Santa Claus is coming to the Danville Train Depot from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16, at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. There is no charge for admission, but donations are encouraged. Call 837-3750.

**The Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show**

Pleasanton Civic Arts will host Will Durst and friends in "The Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show" starting at 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 29, at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Advance tickets are \$15, \$20 and \$25; call 931-3444.

**Toys for the Troops' Kids**

The 2006 Christmas Toy Drive "Toys for the Troops' Kids" is taking place

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from now until Saturday, Dec. 23. The drop off locations are open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, at Placer Title Co., 101 Sycamore Valley Road West and 4000 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Visit [www.toysfortheroopskids.org](http://www.toysfortheroopskids.org).

## Kids & Teens

### Bethlehem Breakfast

Creekside Community Church will host a festive breakfast and crafts for children K-5 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16, at the church, 1350 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Cost is \$10 per child. Registration is required by visiting [www.creeksidechurch.com](http://www.creeksidechurch.com). For information, call 820-9031.

### Free Online Tutoring Available

Contra Costa County Library is offering free homework help from expert

online tutors to students grade 4-12 and beginning college from 1-10 p.m., Monday-Friday, at <http://ccclib.org>.

## On Stage

### 'A Christmas Carol'

Center Rep Company presents "A Christmas Carol" until Dec. 17, at Dean Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$14-38. Call 943-7469.

### 'Death of a Salesman'

San Ramon Valley High School Theatre Arts presents "Death of a Salesman" at 7 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Dec. 15-16, and at 2:30 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 16-17, at the school, 140 Love Lane, Danville. Advance tickets are \$8, \$10 at the door. Call 989-4402 or visit [www.srvhsdrama.org](http://www.srvhsdrama.org).

### 'Wigged Out!'

Victoria's Hair on Stage has opened its doors for "Wigged Out!" and will host a champagne reception at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16, at Victoria's Hair on Stage, 520 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Cost for the champagne reception is \$40. The Wigged Out season runs from November-June. All seats for regular shows are \$38. Call 855-SHOW (855-7469).

## Seniors

### Bridge

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

► Continued on page 28

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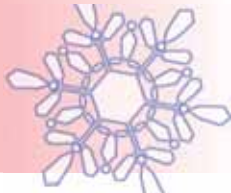
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### Buzz Sessions

Town of Danville presents Buzz Sessions for seniors from 1-2:30 p.m., each fourth Tuesday of the month, at Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. These events are free, but register to reserve your place by calling 314-3400.

### Danville Senior Citizens Club

The club meets from 9:45 a.m.-2 p.m., every Monday at the Danville Veterans' Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., for line dancing exercise, bingo, mah jong and more. Membership is just \$10 a year. Call Fran Britt at 743-4026.

### HICAP Appointments

The Health Insurance Counseling Advocacy Program (HICAP) offers its

services free to anyone on Medicare or at least 60 years old with questions about health insurance coverage. Appointments are available the second Wednesday and the fourth Tuesday of every month by appointment; call 314-3400.

### Laugh Club

Research has shown increased levels of endorphins, neurotransmitters, immune system cells, and decreased levels of stress hormones. This club meets at 10:30 a.m., every Tuesday, at San Ramon Senior Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd. This event is free and open to the public. Call Fred Turner at 216-4590.

### Prime Time

Join this club for a nondenominational gathering of "seasoned citizens" from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesdays, at the Community Presbyterian Church, 222 W. El Pintado, Danville. A home-cooked lunch is served at noon for \$3. Call Ruth Ann at 820-6387.

### Senior Sneaker Trips

Town of Danville will host Senior Sneaker Trips to different attractions throughout the area. For a list of dates, go to the Danville Community Center at 420 Front St., call 314-3400 or visit [www.ci.danville.ca.us](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us).

### St. Isidore's 'Young at Heart'

Join this group for a meeting from 11:15 a.m.-2 p.m., the third Tuesday of every month at St. Isidore's Ministries Center, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. Optional Mass starts at 11:15 a.m.; lunch starts at 11:45 a.m. Nonprofit bingo follows. This event is free, but reservations are appreciated by calling 820-4447.

### Valley Oak Respite Center Activities for Seniors

Valley Oak Respite provides an interactive program for frail seniors and those afflicted with Alzheimer's or related dementias and physical disabilities, from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 1936 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. The cost is \$25 per session, which includes a morning snack and beverage; participants should bring a bag lunch. For information or an application, call Carmen McCarthy at 945-8040.

## Spiritual

### Catholics@Work Breakfast Meeting

Catholics@Work will be hosting a breakfast series with an opportunity to network with people who are looking for a purpose and leadership in their lives, from 6:45-8:30 a.m., every second Tuesday of the month, Sept.-Dec., at Crow Canyon Country Club, Danville. Call 389-0704 or visit [www.catholicsatwork.org](http://www.catholicsatwork.org).

► Continued on page 30

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## Join Us In Worship This Christmas Season

**Wednesday, December 20th, 7:30 pm**  
 Advent Evening Prayer

**Saturday, December 23rd, 5:00 pm**  
 Children's Christmas Program

**Sunday, December 24th**  
 9:00 am Fourth Sunday in Advent  
 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols  
 10:30 pm Christmas Eve Eucharist & Candle Light Vigil

**Monday, December 25th, 9:00 am**  
 Feast of the Nativity

**Sunday, December 31st, 9:00 am**  
 Eve of the Name of Jesus

**Messiah Lutheran Church**  
 2305 Camino Tassajara, Danville, CA 94526  
 925-736-2270  
[www.messiahlutherandanville.com](http://www.messiahlutherandanville.com)

# Worship with us this holiday season



Community Presbyterian Church  
[www.cpcdanville.org](http://www.cpcdanville.org)

## Christmas Eve

**Evening Services**  
 6:30, 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 pm  
 Downtown Campus

**Child-Friendly Services**  
 3:30 and 5:00 pm Downtown Campus  
 7:00 pm Tassajara Campus

Downtown Danville: 222 W. El Pintado Road 925-837-5525  
 Tassajara Campus: Diablo Vista Middle School, Danville

**SAN RAMON VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**10:00 a.m.** - Sunday Morning Traditional Worship - "Rejoice!"  
**4:00\* & 5:30\* p.m.**  
 • Family Friendly • Informal Traditional Service  
**8:00\* & 9:30 p.m.**  
 • Organ Prelude begins 7:45 & 9:15 p.m.  
 • Traditional Christmas Eve Service  
**11:00 p.m.**  
 • Traditional Candlelight Service  
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## Sports

### Adult Open Gym Basketball

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

### Adult Softball

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

### Danville Tennis Club

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

### San Ramon Valley Tennis Club

This women's league is year round for both A and B players meeting for practice weekday mornings. Membership is \$30 annually. For information, call Patty at 820-8131 or Laurie at 820-0695.

### Walnut Creek Tennis Club

WCTC is a free, co-ed tennis group for single adults of all ages and levels (primarily 2.5-3.5). It plays drop-in ten-

nis from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturdays and Sundays at Las Lomas High School in Walnut Creek (S. Main). See information at <http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/wctc/>.

staffing the chapter's Lafayette thrift shop. Call 934-0901 or visit <http://diablovalley.assistanceleague.org>.

### Bedford Gallery Guild

The Bedford Gallery Guild is looking for volunteers to donate time at the art gallery in the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts. No prior art knowledge required. Contact Susan Helms at 837-0716 or [sjhelms1@prodigy.net](mailto:sjhelms1@prodigy.net).

### Blackhawk Museum Docent Training

If you are interested in becoming a much appreciated part of the Blackhawk Museum family while contributing to your community, making new friends, learning new things, and having fun, become a docent! Call 736-2280, ext. 238.

### CCI Volunteer Puppy Raising Program

Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) are looking for special volunteers interested in raising a CCI puppy for 15-18 months and are now accepting applications. For information, call 1-800-572-BARK (2275) or visit [www.cci.org](http://www.cci.org).

### Child Abuse Prevention Council

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

### Contra Costa Academy of Fine Art

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

### Diablo Valley Literacy Council

Diablo Valley Literacy Council (DVLC) is looking for volunteers to help non-English speaking adults learn to read, write and speak English. Tutor-training workshops will be held Friday, Feb. 24; Monday, Feb. 27; and Friday, March 3, at DVLC, 4000 Clayton Road, Concord. Cost is \$15 for registration. Call 685-3881.

### Friends of Discovery

Discovery Counseling Center has received more than \$5 million, thanks to Friends of Discovery. The organization is looking for volunteers who can commit eight hours per month in the Thrift Station, 486 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Call Le Anne, 837-7998.

## Support Groups

### Cancer Support Groups

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

### ClutterLess Self Help Group

Is clutter stressing you out? This group meets from 7-8:30 p.m., every Monday (except on a holiday) at Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, Room 7, 4300 Mirador Drive. Call 297-9246 or 426-5311.

### Danville TOPS

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

### Food Addicts in Recovery

Are you having trouble controlling the way you eat? There is a solution to weight and diet obsession. This effective 12-step program has proven results. There are no dues, fees or weigh-ins. This group meets from 7-8:30 p.m., every Wednesday, at Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. For a complete listing of East Bay meetings, call 600-6028 or visit [www.foodaddicts.org](http://www.foodaddicts.org).

## Volunteering

### Assistance League of Diablo Valley

This chapter of the National Assistance League seeks new volunteer members to help with a wide range of philanthropic service projects in many Contra Costa communities. These include vision screening in elementary schools, distributing clothing to school children in need, daily re-assurance phone calls to homebound elderly and handicapped clients, and

## Tools for Building

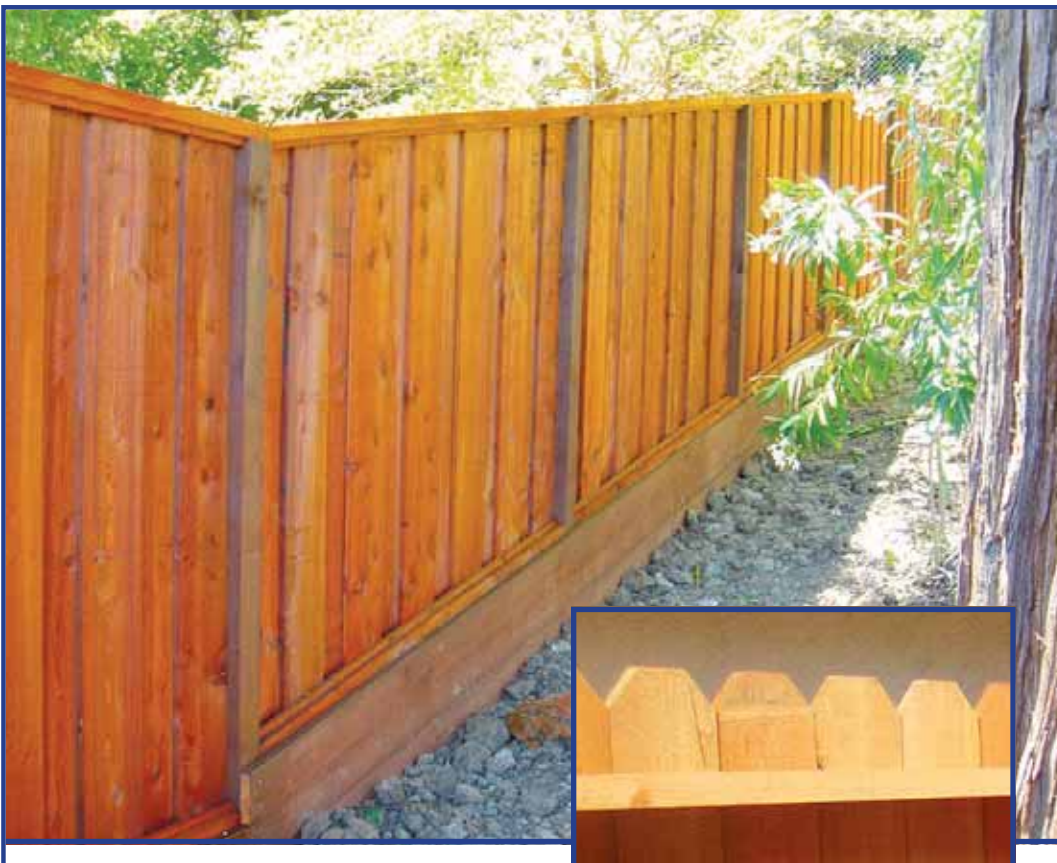
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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

Bay Area Restaurant Reviews  
Christmas light setup - \$30

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### 210 Garage/Estate Sales

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### 215 Collectibles & Antiques

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Hand Stitched Pillow - \$3  
Royal Doulton Bunnykins Mug and - \$10

### 220 Computers/Electronics

Clareblend Ultrablend Electrolys - \$995.00  
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Stereo Equipment - Best Offer

### 230 Freebies

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2 White patio chairs, 5 baskets - \$1-\$5  
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Bedroom Suite - \$400

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Thomasville Dining Room Set - \$2,200

White Full Metal Head/footboard - \$200

### 245 Miscellaneous

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Pleasanton, 2BR/ BA - \$1250

San Ramon, 3 BR/2 BA - \$1800/mo

**803 Duplex**

Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$1300

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Livermore, 4BR/2.5BA - \$2595

Livermore, 3BR/2BA

Livermore, 5+BR/4+BA - \$3500

Pleasanton Homes, 3BR/2BA

Pleasanton, 3BR/2.5BA - \$2300

San Ramon, 3BR/2BA - 2495

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for Sale**

Dublin 1 Year Hoa Paid, 3 BR/2.5 BA  
- 589,888

Dublin, 3 BR/2.5 BA - 589,888

Dublin, 3BR/2BA

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Livermore, 3 BR/2 BA - \$540000

Livermore, 3BR/2BA - 585000

Livermore, 3BR/2BA - \$605000

Livermore, 4BR/2BA

Pleasanton, 4 BR/2.5 BA - \$799,000

Pleasanton, 4 BR/3 BA - \$1,224,999

Pleasanton, 4BR/2.5BA

San Ramon Home, 3BR/2BA

San Ramon, 4BR/2.5BA

San Ramon, 4BR/2BA



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36AC - \$59,900. Perfect for private  
retreat. Endless views, beautiful setting  
w/fresh mountain air. Abundant wildlife.  
Secluded with good access. Financing  
available. Call AZLR 1-877-301-5263.  
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**Gulf Front Lots \$595k.**  
Homes starting mid-\$300k. New master  
planned ocean front community on  
beautiful Mustang Island, near Corpus  
Christi, TX. [www.CinnamonShore.com](http://www.CinnamonShore.com)  
1-866-554-5758. (Cal-SCAN)

**850 Acreage/Lots/  
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**1st. Time Offered**

40 acres - \$39,900; 80 acres - \$69,900.  
Near Moses Lake, WA. 300 days of  
sunshine. Mix of rolling hills and rock  
outcroppings. Excellent views, private  
gravel roads, ground water and easy  
access! Financing available. Call WALR  
1-866-585-5687. (Cal-SCAN)

**A Dream Find**

20 Acres - Reduced \$59,900. Near  
Tehachapi. Fresh mountain air and pic-  
ture perfect views. Streams and oaks.  
Ideal for horses, country getaway, or  
to buy and hold. Financing. Call owner  
1-888-821-5253. (Cal-SCAN)

**Beach Front Land**

\$199,000. Opportunity of a lifetime.  
Build a beach house or hold for invest-  
ment. Crystal Beach, Texas. 1-877-983-  
6600. (Cal-SCAN)

**Colorado Fall Ranch**

Sale Starting At Only \$29,900!  
Spectacular views! Rolling fields. Elec/  
Tele included. Excellent financing. Call  
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**Last Chance To Own!**

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less than 2hrs Albuquerque. 20 acres  
- \$17,900. Old Farming & Mining  
Community. Incredible setting, includ-  
ing frequently running river, spring,  
views and diverse topography. Excellent  
financing. Few lots remain! Call NML&R,  
Inc. 1-888-370-5263 or visit [www.SantaRitaRanches.net](http://www.SantaRitaRanches.net) (Cal-SCAN)

**New Mexico**

FIRST Time Offer. Adjacent to Lake  
Sumner. 10 acres - \$15,900. Rare  
riverfront property in New Mexico.  
Incredible setting, including frequently  
running Pecos River, views and diverse  
topography. 5 minutes to Recreational  
Lake. Limited number of small ranch-  
es. Excellent financing. Call NML&R,  
Inc. 1-888-204-9760 or visit [www.RiverRanches.net](http://www.RiverRanches.net) (Cal-SCAN)

**So. Colorado Log Home**

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Rocky Mountain Views! County road  
access elec/ tele to property. Call Today!  
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**Western New Mexico.**

Spectacular 36 acres \$52,990. Trees,  
panoramic views, wildlife, borders State  
Land. Horseback riding, hiking, hunting.  
Perfect for ranch, getaway, or retire-  
ment. Diversify your portfolio. Electricity.  
100% financing. Call 1-866-365-4122.  
(Cal-SCAN)

**Wyoming Ranch Dispersal**

35 acres - \$49,900; 70 acres - \$89,900;  
110 acres - \$132,900. Snow-capped  
mountain views. Surrounded by gov't  
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Utah Ranches, LLC. 1-888-703-5263.  
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**Pet of the Week**

**A 'bewitching' feline**

Meet Tabitha, a spayed female Torbi  
housecat who has a beautiful mix of  
tabby stripes with brown and gold tor-  
toiseshell coloring. Tabitha is 2 years old,  
Felv/Fiv tested, vaccinated and yearning  
for a loving family of her very own.  
Tabitha gets along well with other cats  
and she is well-mannered in the house.  
She uses her scratching post faithfully.  
Tabitha likes to be around people and  
she enjoys attention. For more infor-  
mation about Tabitha, call Wanda, her  
Tri-Valley Animal Rescue foster mother,  
at 872-0589. Tri-Valley Animal Rescue  
holds cat adoption fairs every Saturday  
from noon to 4 p.m. and every Sunday  
from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Dublin Petsmart,  
6960 Amador Plaza Rd., Dublin. Also,  
TVAR cats are available for viewing in  
Dublin Petsmart adoption cages every  
day of the week! See [www.tvvar.org](http://www.tvvar.org) for  
a listing of all scheduled Tri-Valley Animal  
Rescue adoption events.



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# OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

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

## Blackhawk

### 3 Bedrooms

**11 Deer Meadow Ct.** **\$1,199,000**  
Sun 1:30-4 Blackhawk RE 736-4155

### 4 Bedrooms

**5400 Blackhawk Dr.** **\$2,350,000**  
Sun 1-4 Blackhawk RE 683-6058

## Danville

### 2 Bedrooms

**4032 Skylark Ln.** **\$534,500**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452

### 3 Bedrooms

**619 Contada Cir.** **\$1,025,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4134

**663 Sheri Ln.** **\$1,180,000**  
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 734-5076

**653 Doral Dr.** **\$749,000**  
Sun 1-4 ERA Golden Hills 519-5740

**42 Casablanca St.** **\$759,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4072

### 4 Bedrooms

**84 Stowbridge** **\$1,039,900**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 314-1111

**55 Paraiso Ct.** **\$1,095,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 831-3326

**11 Jillian Wy.** **\$1,699,900**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 818-4078

**307 Valle Vista** **\$924,000**  
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 831-3390

**21 Ocho Rios Pl.** **\$999,000**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 791-2513

### 5 Bedrooms

**124 Victoria Pl.** **\$2,219,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4112

## San Ramon

### 3 Bedrooms

**704 Fountainhead Ct.** **\$657,000**  
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 831-3390

### 4 Bedrooms

**11 Henry Ranch Dr.** **\$1,439,999**  
Sun 1-5 All CA Brokerage 699-7955

**120 Claremont Crest Ct.** **\$799,999**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 788-6155

**746 Birdwood Ct.** **\$874,900**  
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 831-3390

**2016 Maidenhair Wy.** **\$905,000**  
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 831-3390

**64 Foster Dr.** **\$950,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 997-0806

### 5 Bedrooms

**301 Adelaide Hills Ct.** **\$1,099,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 785-1386

**1424 Allannmere Dr.** **\$999,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Intero 785-1386

## Dublin

### 2 Bedrooms

**6953 Stagecoach Rd., #F** **\$469,950**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 800-492-6365

**7787 Chantilly Dr.** **\$524,500**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452

## Pleasanton

### 2 Bedrooms

**3399 Norton Wy., #1** **\$379,000**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 895-7253

**4101 Stanley Blvd.** **\$549,950**  
Sat 1-4 Assist 2 Sell 200-2602

### 3 Bedrooms

**7943 Kemper Ct.** **\$1,025,000**  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 397-4327

**4024 Fairlands Dr.** **\$620,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 251-1111

**1477 Trimmingham Dr.** **\$669,999**  
Sun 1-4 Prudential 918-3093

### 4 Bedrooms

**439 Cabonia Ct.** **\$1,224,999**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 397-4165

**2593 Gillian Ct.** **\$1,498,500**  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436

**6304 Jingle Tree Wy.** **\$749,950**  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436

**4642 Sierrawood Ln.** **\$829,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Re/Max 362-1645

**2717 Laramie Gate Cir.** **\$929,000**  
Sun 1-4 Assist 2 Sell 200-2602

### 5 Bedrooms

**576 Sycamore Creek Wy.** **\$1,869,000**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 846-6500

## Livermore

### 1 Bedrooms

**1099 Murrieta Blvd., #77** **\$249,950**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Assist 2 Sell 200-2602

### 3 Bedrooms

**5556 Mines Rd. (2 homes/1lot)** **\$1,299,995**  
Sat 1-4 Valley Properties 321-0468

**3995 California Wy.** **\$514,950**  
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 455-7008

**465 Cedar Dr.** **\$619,000**  
Sun 1-4 Valley Properties 321-0468

**1473 Fallen Leaf Dr.** **\$659,950**  
Sat 1-4 Hometown GMAC 455-7016

### 4 Bedrooms

**1431 Spring Valley Cm.** **\$440,000**  
Sat/Sun 12-3 Valley Properties 455-6048

**651 Geraldine St.** **\$675,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Windermere 846-1800

**5772 Arlene Wy.** **\$759,000**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 583-1121

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## BLACKHAWK

**Country French Chateau** **\$3,800,000**  
6bd, 2 offices, 5.5ba, granite, limestone, Viking range, massive windows take in the pool, spa, BBQ, gazebo and golf course beyond.  
**Mike Fay** **925.838.2239**



## BLACKHAWK

**Private Setting** **\$2,299,000**  
Updated kitchen, custom paint, new flooring. Downstairs master suite. Over one-half acre, flat, with stunning pool & outdoor kitchen.  
**Bonnie King** **925.855.4072**



## DANVILLE

**Northridge Estates Beauty!** **\$2,049,950**  
Desirable Northridge Estates. Custom built 4787+/-sf, 5bd, 4.5ba at an incredible value! 4-car garage, pool, spa. Separate office w/built-ins.  
**Brad Gothberg** **925.977.8965**



## ALAMO

**Offers Privacy & Location** **\$1,715,000**  
When you enter this home you see the absolutely stunning rear yard from the entry and living room. You will be delighted!  
**Constance Hughart** **925.648.5328**



## ALAMO

**Peaceful Lane on Westside** **\$1,595,000**  
4bd, 3ba, slab granite in kitchen, wood & travertine floors. Many French doors, all new windows, new master bath. Great grounds.  
**The McDougall Team** **925.672.2499**



## ALAMO

**Rancher w/Las Trampas Views** **\$1,399,000**  
Updated granite/travertine kitchen, 4bd, 3ba. Open family room w/granite wet bar, brick fireplace, wall of windows to the rear yard.  
**Dave Bauer** **925.855.4040**



## DANVILLE

**Spectacular Location! Stunning Views!** **\$1,286,000**  
Totally private, one of the most beautiful locations in Danville. Feels like Tahoe in the city. 4bd, 3ba, 3-car garage, hardwood floors, updated kitchen.  
**Lisa & Greg Doyle** **925.855.4046**



## DANVILLE

**New 40 Year Roof!** **\$1,059,000**  
Views of Las Trampas from this 4bd, 3ba at end of private cul-de-sac. New paint, updated kitchen, chestnut hardwood flooring.  
**Todd Weinberg** **925.855.4125**



## DANVILLE

**In The Heart of Diablo West** **\$1,025,000**  
Beautifully updated, lushly landscaped 3bd, 2ba single story w/3-car garage. Backyard pool/oasis will make you feel as if on vacation. Unfinished pool house.  
**Paul Harris** **925.855.4134**

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