

## Wild about wool

Knitting is a great way to unwind

> page 17

Vol. II, Number 35 • December 29, 2006

www.DanvilleWeekly.com

## Man's home is his castle

Alamo man makes his fantasy home a reality

> page 5

# Danville

## WEEKLY

## New energy policy

School district plans solar projects, efficient systems

> page 5

Mailed free to homes in Danville, Blackhawk, Diablo and Alamo



# FAREWELL TO 2006

LOOKING BACK MAKES IT CLEAR: IT HAS BEEN QUITE A YEAR

PAGE 12



# Finally! "A Full Service" Fitness Center Designed for Women

All 18,000 Sq. Feet Dedicated to  
Women's Fitness  
San Ramon - Pleasanton



## Women Helping Other Women

### Personal Training

What makes us unique is that we understand a women's body and the needs of women. Our training is specifically targeted towards the needs of women. "Our staff of trainers are truly passionate about women's health" says Marianne, long time trainer at Butterfly's San Ramon location. "It is knowing that we can make a difference in a clients life that gives us our greatest satisfaction." she adds.

Women have specific needs, they face issues specific to women. The training programs at Butterfly Life are targeted with these very issues in mind. Whether you just had a baby, dealing with menopause or osteoporosis, our certified trainers will design a program that is specific to your needs.

"My clients all have different needs, from training for a triathlon to just wanting to lose a few pounds and tone their body for that next special event such as a wedding or vacation. We are there to help them meet their needs in fitness and make them feel better about themselves." says Tina a long time trainer.

"One of the great benefits for us as trainers is that we are helping women lead healthier lives, and that many of our clients become great friends," says Marianne.

All of the trainers at Butterfly Life are nationally certified and have a significant amount of experience in training women.



Marianne, Personal Trainer in San Ramon works with client on form

**San Ramon, CA.**  
The new fitness craze sweeping the San Ramon Valley is the latest women's fitness facility, Butterfly Life. Butterfly Life is owned by Kathy Barney, a long time Danville resident. Kathy opened her two new fitness centers in San Ramon and Pleasanton during the summer of 2004.

These fitness centers are like no other "designed for women" fitness centers in the country. At Butterfly Life, the motto is "Healthy Living Solutions for Women". "We not only believe in exercise, but we want to provide an educational environment that deals with issues such as health, nutrition, and fitness. Combine all that with a first class facility that reaches out to women of all ages and all fitness levels and you have Butterfly Life" says Kathy.

"We have worked extremely hard to provide a high quality product that our members can be proud of. We have been so pleased with the response to our new fitness clubs. The women in our community have really supported us in a big way. Our membership numbers have exceeded our expectations." Kathy adds

That stands to reason since both Butterfly Life is the "perfect size". Once you are inside, you will find a very comfortable environment that is warm, a complete makeover". says Kathy. "With over 18,000 sq. feet At Butterfly Life, you really get the feeling of a local club for women, a place where you can get fit, socialize and make new friends.

Butterfly Life is unique from any other women's fitness center in that they are a full service fitness facility offering a state of the art 30-minute circuit, plus an extensive cardio area complete with treadmills, elliptical trainers, stairclimbers etc., a large aerobic Step, Dance, Body Sculpting and area for the over 80+ classes a whole lot more. The best part is weekly, free weights area, personal training area, childcare, executive locker rooms, complete with towel service and a host of amenities. The price of this high end women's fitness and health facility is the same or lower than most other women fitness clubs which feature primarily a 30-minute circuit.

Our target market is women of all ages and fitness levels. "Most women facilities are limited in what they offer and limit your progress. There is no reason to join anywhere else, we offer equipment, training and programs that allow you to progress, regardless of your fitness level or age." says Kathy.

Another area that makes this fitness experience unique, is the education opportunity it provides to it's members. Through an innovative approach, Butterfly Life brings to its members, seminars

on Nutrition, Health, and Fitness. They bring this information to its members through Life Vision. Life Vision is a presentation tool that allows the members to educate themselves about the various topics important to women. The other way members can get educated and motivated at the same time is through the extensive team of certified personal trainers and a certified nutritional consultant. The trainers at Butterfly Life are trained specifically to deal with fitness as it relates to women. The best way to put it is, "its women helping women".

Exercising is not a chore at Butterfly Life, its fun. "It is amazing how time flies while I'm here" says member Heidi Scott, "whether I'm taking a class or just working out, there are plenty of things that will make the time go by" In the cardio area you will find TV's with a variety of programs as well as the Butterfly Life seminars playing around the clock, you can even check out a book on tape to help you pass the time.

"We want our members to have a high quality workout experience. We want to help pass on valuable information but most of all we want them to feel comfortable and enjoy their experience so that they want to come back." says Kathy

Looking for a place to get away from the hustle and bustle, a place where other women share the same issues that you do, a place where you can take care of yourself while having fun? Looking for the absolute best value in women's fitness? Then go to Butterfly Life Fitness Club in San Ramon, located at 2410 San Ramon Valley Blvd. or 3170 Santa Rita Rd. in Pleasanton. It is truly the place to be.

A membership to Butterfly Life is a perfect gift for a friend. Call the following locations for more information.:

San Ramon 925-855-3855  
Pleasanton 925-426-0105

**Kathy Barney - Owner**

"I want to provide a place where women can come to work-out, make friends, have fun and be in a non-intimidating healthy atmosphere"

## Receive a Free Gift

Come In & Take a Club Tour by 1/15

**Pleasanton 426-0105** **San Ramon 855-3855**  
Two Great Locations

## New Year's Membership Special

### No Enrollment Fee!

No enrollment offer requires a two year membership. Other specials available on one year memberships.  
Offer Ends 1/15/07

## Experience

The Best 18,000 Sq.. Feet in Women's Fitness

The "Ultimate" Women's Fitness Club

## Weight Loss Express

**8 Week 16 Session Class Only \$149**

The Butterfly Life Weight Loss Express™ program is a combination of circuit training workouts, group exercise and nutritional education classes designed to show women positive results in less than 60 days.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

From Butterfly Life

# Streetwise

ASKED AT BLACKHAWK PLAZA

## Q: What's the best thing that happened to you in 2006?



I went on a trip back east to Boston, New York and Washington, D.C. I've never really been there and it was pretty cool especially when we went to a Yankees game.

**Zachary Goldblatt**  
*fifth grade*



My parents visited here for the first time from China. It was a really nice thing for me.

**Julia Abelmann**  
*Cold Stone Creamery employee*



My dog survived hemorrhagic gastroenteritis. I work at a vet hospital and I love my dog. It would have been a really sad Thanksgiving without him.

**Chree Angus**  
*veterinary technician*



I went to Washington, D.C. I went on a lot of tours and saw famous things like museums and memorials.

**Scott Munger**  
*sixth grade*



We moved into a new house on our 10th anniversary. It's a nice house and a big achievement for us.

**Malini Khanna**  
*self employed*

COMPILED BY RACHEL MCMURDIE

### ABOUT THE COVER

We say farewell to 2006 with a review of the stories covered during the year by the Danville Weekly. Cover design by Ben Ho.

Vol. II, Number 35

The Danville Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville, CA 94526; (925) 837-8300. Mailed at Standard Postage Rate. The Danville Weekly is mailed free to homes and apartments in Danville, Blackhawk, Diablo and Alamo. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from local residents. Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50 per year. © 2006 by Embarcadero Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

## Empowering Education that Opens Your World

Exciting and Engaging Curriculum Teaches Analytical Thinking

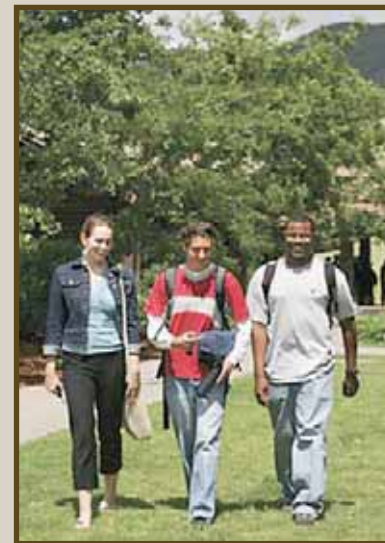
Classes Average 15 Students

Diverse International Programs and Community

Nearly 100% Admitted to Outstanding 4-Year Colleges

Extraordinary 75-Acre Campus

Transportation and Financial Aid Available



### ADMISSION OPEN HOUSES For fall 2007 Enrollment

Grades 6-8: January 6 @ 1pm  
Grades 9-12: January 7 @ 1pm

For more information call:

**(925) 362-7223**

[www.athenian.org](http://www.athenian.org)

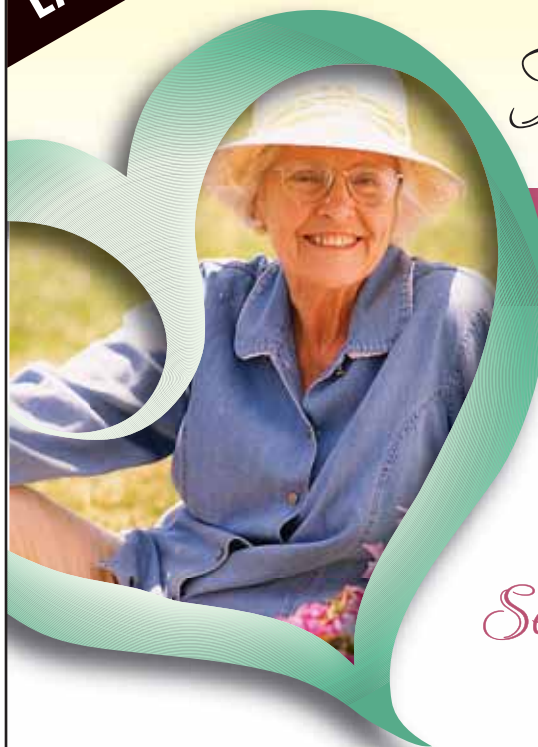
Danville



THE  
**ATHENIAN**  
SCHOOL

**LAST CHANCE**

## Senior Living Holiday Move-in Special



**MOVE IN DURING DECEMBER AND  
QUALIFY FOR OUR SPECIAL  
MONEY SAVING OFFER!**

**Free Month Rent  
No Move-in Community Fee**

**A Minimum Value of \$5,000!\***

*Senior Living with a Smile...  
We guarantee it!*

**CALL TODAY to schedule your FREE  
2 night stay at our beautiful Villa!**

**925-803-9100 x1101 • [www.VillaSanRamon.com](http://www.VillaSanRamon.com)**  
9199 FIRCREST LANE • SAN RAMON, CA 94583

\*Applies to market rate



Independent and Assisted Living  
License #071441092

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ He was a visionary thinker and a wonderful human being—warm, empathetic and articulate. ”

—Dick Bradford, dean of the upper school at Athenian, about founder Dyke Brown. See story, page 6.

## O'Neill Foundation to give awards

The Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House, will present awards at its dinner Jan. 24 to two individuals for supporting the legacy of the American playwright who spent his most productive years in Danville.

Edward Hastings, a founding member of the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco, has served on the board of the Eugene O'Neill Foundation and is now a director emeritus. He will receive the Tao House Award for distinguished service to the American theater.

Michael Cook will receive the Freeman Award, named after the O'Neills' chauffeur who facilitated their life at Tao House. This award honors volunteers who have given their time and talents to the O'Neill Foundation. Cook, for 30 years a Bay Area theatrical designer, writer, actor and director, assists in productions at Tao House.

The Foundation will also give Partnership Awards to the National Park Service, which manages the estate, and to the Contra Costa Times for its coverage.

The dinner will take place at Crow Canyon Country Club. For reservations, call 820-1818.

## Help others learn to read

Project Second Chance, the Contra Costa County Library adult literacy program, is starting a training session Jan. 17 for volunteers to help adults to read, write and spell better. "A candle which lights another candle does not lose its light," is the motto of the program, as well as "Read because you can—teach someone who can't." Tutors are needed in East and Central Contra Costa County.

The training will be held at the offices of Project Second Chance, 75 Santa Barbara Road in Pleasant Hill. Training is 6:30-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 17, and continues at 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturdays, Jan. 20 and Jan. 27. All 14 hours are required. For registration information, call 927-3250 or e-mail [psc@cclib.org](mailto:psc@cclib.org).

## Town starting teen volunteer program

Volunteer work doesn't have to be boring. Starting Jan. 20, VolunTEENS, a Danville program geared to students in grades 9-12, will perform community service projects one Saturday a month. Teens are encouraged to bring their friends and have fun, town teen coordinators say.

Projects will include assisting residents in need and engaging in habitat restoration efforts, trail maintenance and park cleanups. Participants will receive documentation of volunteer hours for school community service requirements. For more information or to sign up, go to [www.ci.danville.ca.us](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us) or contact Austin Teams at 314-3481.

## Library offers Rosetta Stone Online

The Contra Costs Library system is offering the Rosetta Stone Online Language Learning Center, which helps users develop everyday language proficiency by associating new words with real-life meanings. Rosetta Stone offers instruction in up to 30 different languages, including English, with activities for matching more than 10,000 voice, text and picture elements. The online resource requires learner response, indicating comprehension, and gives the learner immediate feedback and reinforcement.

Any Contra Costa County Library cardholder can access Rosetta Stone for free either at a library or from any remote computer through the library databases available from the library's Web site at <http://cclib.org/>.



## The UPS Store

Sycamore Square  
Danville, CA

Your Home Office Away From Home

Shipping

Mailbox Rentals

Color Copies

Business Services

Corporate Accounts

Notary Services

Packaging Services

Passport/ID Photos

Shredding Services

### Products and Service Guide

Inquire about our free monthly special offer

696 San Ramon Valley Blvd.  
Danville, CA 94526  
Phone: (925) 838-0052  
Fax: (925) 838-4630

## Smog King

Every two years...  
You just gotta' do it.

**\$20 OFF**  
In & out in  
20 minutes

All Smogs Including:

- DMV Renewal
- Test Only
- RV's
- Gross Polluters



3440-D  
Stanley Blvd.  
Pleasanton  
925-846-SMOG

19 Beta Ct.  
San Ramon  
925-820-5665

Hours: Mon-Sat 8-6

### LUMBER FOR BUILDING

DECKING • PLYWOOD • FENCING



ARCHITECTURAL HARDWARE

IN STOCK • GREAT PRICES



### LIGHTING

TRACK LIGHTS



## RESIDENTIAL PACIFIC MORTGAGE

### WEST NEAL BRANCH



Lori Smith  
925.461.6959



Darlene Crane  
925.461.2809



Linda Zaiss  
925.552.1185



Angela Aloise  
925.461.6955



Jill Mosser  
925.249.3434



Cheri  
Keefer-Gama  
925.548.8886



Monica Jones  
925.249.2437



Darlene Espinoza  
925.249.3436



Lynn Eskew  
925.249.3432



Norma Perkins  
925.846.8743

## Your Strategic Financing Group

### The Solution for Today's Changing Market

With interest rates on the rise, a lot of consumers are extremely troubled by the negative effects of increasing interest rates on their Adjustable Rate Mortgages.

We have the solution....call us today.

Our interest is your best interest.

30 W. Neal Street #105 Pleasanton, CA 94566



## This man's home is truly his castle

Neighbors debate the impact of living with one man's whimsy

By Natalie O'Neill

Alamo carpenter T.J. Baker was born 800 years too late.

Baker, who is converting his 1950s Alamo country home into an authentic looking 12th century medieval castle, says romance today is lost. And he wants to transport medieval aesthetics and values to the modern world.

"I want to bring a 12th century-type characteristic to society. Love is underrated in today's world," said Baker who is writing a book called "The Digital World and Mankind."

Working at Disneyland eight years ago, Baker caught a whimsical bug. Doing underground electric work on roller coasters for Henzel Philips, Baker admired the Disney castle from afar.

Today he need not look farther than his own front yard to find that light hearted romanticism. His castle on Hemme Avenue, which he hopes to finish in 2008, will be complete with a drawbridge, moat, and even decorative cannonballs.

To Baker, a house is more than a home—it's an artistic canvas.

"Some of the most beautiful artistic sculptures in the world are castles," said Baker, who said living in a castle was his dream as a kid. He lives with his "queen" Rebecca and his 19-year-old son T.J.

The converted home is getting much attention from curious Alamo residents, who both love and loathe the idea.

"There have been smatterings of conversation (about the castle) around Alamo," said Preston Taylor, president of Alamo

Improvement Association.

Residents in the upscale community take pride in their individuality—and in home improvement projects—but neighbors question just how far one should be able to push freedom of expression.

For some, that line is crossed when it bothers others. And others say live and let live.

"Unless you go out of your way to see it, it's not disturbing anybody," said Fernando Olivas, 70, a neighbor on Hemme. "He's living out his childhood dream and I think it's phenomenal."

But some active community members say the architecture is just bizarre enough to bring down neighboring property values.

Taylor, who advises the county on building approval, says he only foresees it negatively affecting property values in two instances: if it draws enough attention to increase traffic or disturbs the neighborhood ambiance.

"If it attracts boisterous traffic and neighbors are known as living three doors down from the 'Alamo Castle' then it could affect property values," he said.

The ambiance issue seems to be what's open to interpretation. Taylor, who has received two phone calls complaining about the house in two weeks, said AIA always strives to keep the houses cohesive in Alamo.

"We don't want a mishmash of different houses—or castles," he said.

And there's no arguing that a castle doesn't exactly fit easily into the Hemme neighborhood.

"You don't see too many other castles in

► Continued on page 9



T.J. Baker is turning his home into a castle after being bitten with the whimsy bug while doing electrical work at Disneyland.

NATALIE O'NEILL

## A caroling in Diablo

Community renews a holiday tradition

by Amanda Wight

Christmas season in Diablo includes all the classic holiday elements: eggnog by a crackling fire, stockings hung with care, milk and cookies for Santa. And caroling also makes the list. On Saturday, Dec. 23, around 35 carolers gathered on the main street, Alameda Diablo, for the singing of Christmas cheer.

In Diablo, caroling was always a tradition, but in recent years, it had stopped. Then last year marked the beginning of a resurgence of the practice. This December, plans circulated for a community event welcoming children and their families from Diablo and surrounding areas to once again share the Christmas spirit by caroling to the houses on Alameda Diablo.

"It was a grassroots project," Diablo resident Shannon Warburg said. "Caroling is a throw-back to a simpler time, and it connects us to generations of Christmases past. The best part about it is that it's really fun and it's free fun,



Residents of Diablo enjoy the tradition of carolers going door-to-door on its main avenue the night before Christmas Eve.

which is a nice contrast to some of the stuff this time of year, which can be expensive and too commercialized."

The carolers met for hot chocolate before setting off and were each given a song book containing 12 Christmas carols. There was something for everyone, from "Winter Wonderland" to "O Little Town of Bethlehem" to "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer." Children were encouraged to bring their own bells to jingle during the caroling.

Warburg called homes on Alameda Diablo

► Continued on page 9

## School district passes energy policy

Plan conserves energy as well as money

by Jordan M. Doronila

Board trustees approved a plan earlier this month to save energy and water in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

The school board unanimously passed a new policy for energy and water conservation at its meeting Tuesday, Dec. 5.

"Our board is taking a proactive look at all these efforts," said Thomas Jamison, district director of maintenance, operations, transportation and child nutrition.

"It's going to help us avoid unnecessary costs," said Mike Bush, assistant superintendent of business services. "Costs will continue to go up but not as high as they would if we did nothing."

The policy includes developing solar projects, low voltage energy sources and energy management systems, such as using efficient heating, venting and air conditioning units, to reduce the amount of power used in the district.

It also includes educational programs

for students and staff to help them understand the significance and methods of preserving power. Additionally, the district is working with the East Bay Municipal Utility District and the San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Program to bring in recycled water to eight schools.

"Costs will continue to go up but not as high as they would if we did nothing."

—Mike Bush, assistant superintendent of business services

Also, it is working with a system that manages water use through tracking humidity. The district has an irrigation apparatus that turns itself off during the rainy season, Jamison said.

He has been instrumental in finding

► Continued on page 9

# Athenian School founder dies at 91

*Commitment to health, truth and beauty lives on*

by **Natalie O'Neill**

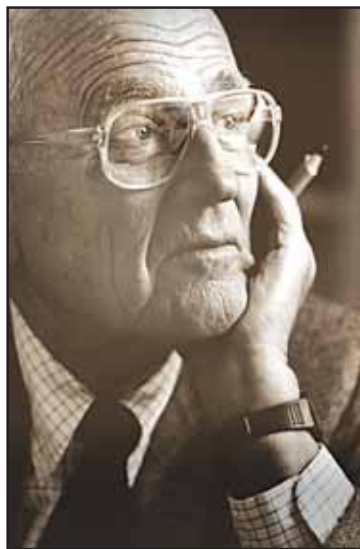
The founder of Danville's esteemed preparatory school Athenian passed away Dec. 16 but his educational philosophy lives on, friends and school staff members say.

Dyke Brown, who opened the Athenian School in 1965, founded it based on the Greek principle that one should be strong in body and belief and be committed to truth, beauty and the well being of a democratic society.

After traveling the world and being exposed to European educational ideals and regimes, he embraced the importance of community service, international understanding, diversity, and both social and intellectual challenges at Athenian. These philosophies are now taught to students in grades 6-12 at the school, which located at the base of Mount Diablo.

"He was a visionary thinker and a wonderful human being—warm, empathetic and articulate," said Dick Bradford, dean of the upper school, who taught Brown's children and had many conversations with him over the years.

He remembered that when Brown visited the school, students were



Courtesy Athenian School

Dyke Brown, the founder of Athenian School in 1965.

visibly exited to talk to him and be around him.

"Kids would flock to him, even the ones that didn't know him well," Bradford said.

Since students were on holiday break at the time of his passing, Bradford couldn't comment on his on students' reactions. But he said that when classes resume in January there will be an initial morning meeting to announce his death and to talk about it.

► Continued on page 9



COURTESY VFW

## It's an honor

VFW Post Commander Mac McCuskey presents the Firefighter of the Year award to Mike French as Fire Chief Craig Bowen looks on. The Veterans of Foreign Wars honored the police and fire department personnel at its annual Holiday Awards Dinner on Dec. 10 at the Brass Door Restaurant in San Ramon.

"They look after our health and welfare all year long and it's our way of saying thank you," said McCuskey.

Also honored were Fire Protection District Employee of the Year John Duggan; Danville Police Officer of the Year Detective Paul Murphy; and San Ramon Police Officer of the Year Detective Allan Shields. In attendance were Danville 2006 Mayor Karen Stepper, 2007 Mayor Mike Shimansky, Danville Police Chief Chris Wenzel, San Ramon Mayor H. Abram Wilson and San Ramon Police Chief Scott Holder.



## L A B E L S

- 7 FOR ALL MANKIND - PAUL FRANK - STITCH'S
- KOWBOYS - BUFFALO - PROPER FOOLS - BROWN
- LABEL - 7 DIAMONDS - MALIN+GOETZ - RETRO
- SPORT-PAPERDENIMANDCLOTH-BRAVE-HOVEN
- WILLIAM RAST - MODERN AMUSEMENT - 575
- DENIM-LOCALCELEBRITY-JOE'SJEANS-UNION-
- LO-FI-JOHNNY COTTON - CITIZENS OF HUMANITY



**A MEN'S STORE  
FEATURING:**

- PREMIUM  
DENIM BAR
- CLASSIC WOVENS
- NOVELTY TEES
- SPECIALTY  
MEN'S GROOMING  
PRODUCTS
- ACCESSORIES
- FREE ESPRESSO BAR



**SHOP FOR MEN**

"The store is AMAZING!!! Easily the best men's store I've seen open in the Bay Area in all of my time with Paul Frank."

-Tony Patella,  
Paul Frank Industries



**LOCATED AT**  
**175 PROSPECT AVENUE SUITE 150**  
**DOWNTOWN DANVILLE**  
**AT THE CORNER OF FRONT ST. & PROSPECT AVE.**

**TEL: 925-831-8500**

**E-MAIL:**  
**INFO@SHOP-EDGE.COM**

**WWW.SHOP-EDGE.COM**

# HOLIDAY SPARKLE 'tis the season

*Cattelan's*  *A Collective for Antiques & Home Accents*  
 French ✂ English ✂ American



Looking for quality dealers to participate in our well established business. Cattelan's has offered distinctive French antiques in Downtown Pleasanton for over 12 years.

719 Main Street  
 in Historic Downtown Pleasanton (since 1994) **925-485-1705**  
 French Antique Importer for over 25 Years

Handcrafted Frames from Colombia ...



**ACANTHUS**  
 FINE FRAMES & MIRRORS

Purveyors & Craftsmen  
 of  
 Fine Picture Frames  
 Custom Mirrors, Art Conservation  
 Frame Restorations, Mirror Antiquing  
 Carving, Gilding  
 &  
 Other Fine Things

MASTER CERTIFIED PICTURE FRAMER

**866-1144**  
 2005 CROW CANYON PLACE, SAN RAMON  
 NEXT TO MAX'S IN MAGNOLIA SQUARE  
 WWW.ACANTHUSONLINE.COM

... Exquisite!

Place Your Holiday Order Soon!



**Celebrating  
 Our 9th Year**

**We've Been Helping  
 Students Achieve  
 Academic Success for 9 Years.**

★

**We're Now in Pleasanton!**



**Proven Results!**



Register Online at  
[millcreekacademy.com](http://millcreekacademy.com)

- ★ Dynamic SAT I & SAT II Preps
  - ★ Writing & Math Classes for Middle & High School Students
  - ★ Small Classes Taught by Dedicated Teachers
  - ★ **Enrolling now for our Winter/Spring Session 2007**  
 Monday, February 5 to Thursday, May 10, 2007
- Call us at **925-469-6227 (MCAP)** for more information or email: [directors@millcreekacademy.com](mailto:directors@millcreekacademy.com)

**MILL CREEK**  
 A C A D E M Y , L L C

4473 Willow Road, Suite 150, Pleasanton, CA 94588 *Next to Hart Middle School*

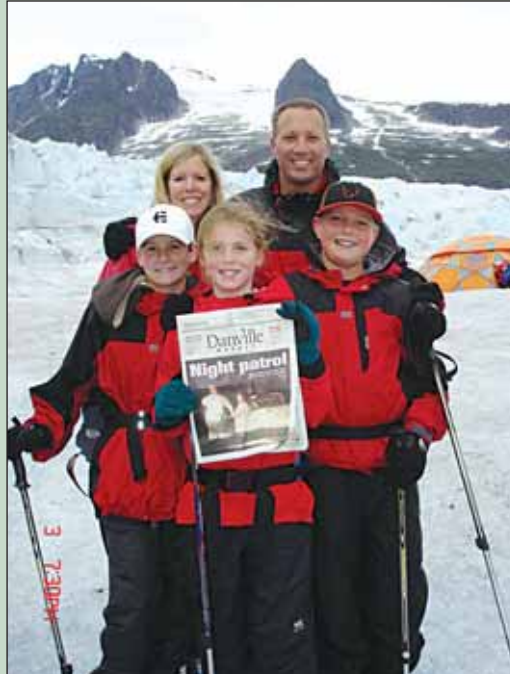
**High Standards • Excellence • Ethics • Results!**

TAKE US ALONG



**Weekly visits Africa**

Leslie Young, a 1996 graduate of San Ramon Valley high, catches up on hometown news while she vacations in the Seychelles in the Indian Ocean on vacation from her job at the U.N. World Food Programme in Nairobi, Kenya.



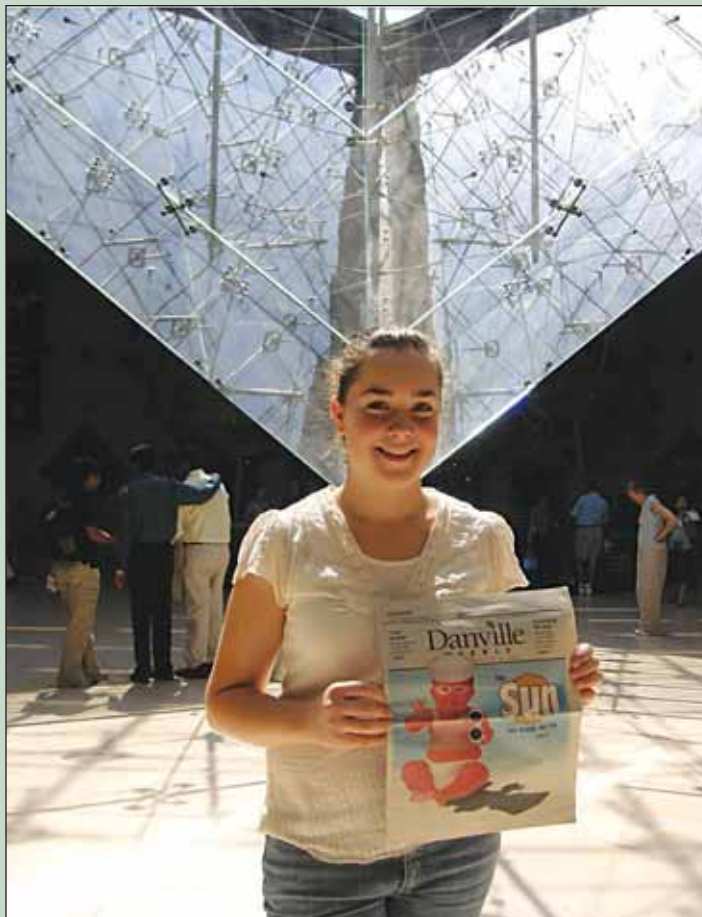
**This is summer?**

Thomas, Sarah, Chris, Cindy and Dan Schmid visit the Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau, Alaska, on Aug. 5—with, of course, their Weekly.



**Bora Bora bliss**

This group of Alamo residents remembered their hometown reading when traveling to Bora Bora in August. After a leisurely lunch at the famous Bloody Mary's Restaurant and Bar, they walked across the street for this photo; (l-r) Kevin and Shelley Clark, Jon and Nicole Gilmore, Steve and Tammy Herley, Greg and Jeanine Newman, and Cindy and Bob Norsworthy.



**Cracking the code**

Jenna Famular, a student at San Ramon Valley High, poses inside the Louvre's inverted pyramid made famous in "The Da Vinci Code." She was enjoying a trip to Paris with her parents Paul and Michelle—and the Danville Weekly—last summer.



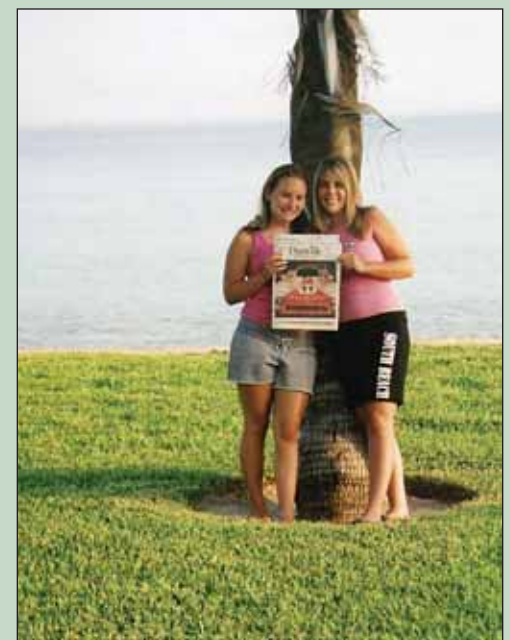
**Sailing in paradise**

Jeff, Jane and Brad Johnson and their Weekly at anchor in Great Harbour on Jost Van Dyke Island last summer while on a bareboat charter of a Moorings 403 in the British Virgin Islands.



**News in the ruins**

Jason and Alex Intravaia visit the remains of the ancient city of Corinth near Athens while touring Greece and four other European countries last summer.



**Where's Tommy?**

Mindy and Monica Marquardt enjoy their August vacation on the white sandy beaches and emerald green waters of the Grand Bahamas—with their Weekly—while their mom Caralee takes their photo.



**Totem time**

The Weekly makes a new friend in Ketchikan, Alaska, while on a cruise with Lee and Sharline Ginn.

## Castle

► Continued from page 5

Alamo," resident Alicia Watson said at a recent informal community meeting.

It may be different but that doesn't make it bad, Olivas said. And according to county regulations, Baker isn't breaking any rules.

"He's pursuing his individuality and isn't that the basis of American society?" Olivas said.

The castle is being constructed with white concrete and acrylic limestone and is surrounded by statues of Greek gods and columns about six feet in height.

"I can do what I like with my

garden, and you can do what you like with yours," Baker said.

There have been some vocal complaints but most residents don't want to publicly express that they aren't happy with it, Taylor said.

"No one really wants to come out and say anything (bad) about it," he said.

And since the concerns are mostly aesthetic, there isn't much that disapproving neighbors can do, according to county regulations. AIA got wind that one of his walls was exceeding an existing height limitation earlier this year and Baker responded by quickly complying with county regulations.

But while some Alamo residents aren't happy about the idea of a

castle being erected in their neighborhood, their kids sure are.

"Hey, I like your castle!" students shouted from Rancho Romero, the neighboring elementary school.

It's that child-like magical outlook Baker wishes more people had.

"All I can say is thank you but I want to go over there and hug them," he said.

In the future, Baker hopes his construction company, T.J. Construction, is commissioned for work on more medieval architecture. He said all he can do is hope that people embrace his offbeat taste.

"Hopefully people won't be upset but will just say, 'Here's a guy who is doing something a little bit bold,'" he said. ■

## Diablo

► Continued from page 5

beforehand to see if they had time to be serenaded by the carolers, and wound up with 12 homes to visit. The group set off around five o'clock, just as the sun was setting.

"It's a wonderful tradition," Betty Matthews said as the carolers walked down her driveway. "It reminds me of my teenage years when I'd get up at 4 a.m. to go caroling."

The protocol for Diablo caroling was simple. The group approached the home's front door, with the children often running down the driveway to arrive much before the adults. A child rang the door-

bell and as soon as everyone was ready, the group sang a pre-selected carol. Another child then asked the homeowner if they had a request from the list on the songbooks. After the requested song, the group would all sing, "We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

"It's a part of Diablo, it just is," said Anne Smith, whose house was the caroler's first stop. "The carolers bring back memories of Christmases past. It's just lovely."

As the carolers made their way down Alameda Diablo, they worked through most of the carols in the songbook. The overwhelmingly requested carol was "Rudolph," which delighted the children at first and then elicited a few groans by the fourth time. But everyone sang with gusto and lots of smiles. At

the end of each song, homeowners clapped enthusiastically for all the carolers.

"It's fun to sing," said 6-year-old Ciara Chow. "It's really, really exciting to go all around the neighborhood."

Caroling was a great event for all who joined in. Everyone had fun socializing and sharing Christmas cheer in the neighborhood. Diablo caroling looks to become a renewed tradition with the success of this year's festivities.

"I like caroling because it was fun to go to all the different houses to carol," said Jacob Wight, 8. "I liked the cookies that some of the houses gave us for singing, too."

His 5-year-old brother Gavin agreed.

"I liked singing all the songs, but Rudolph was my favorite," he said. ■

## Brown

► Continued from page 6

"He's definitely an icon for the school and we hope his message keeps burning bright," said Mandi Semple, Athenian alumni and public relations coordinator.

Born April 16, 1915, in San Francisco, Brown recognized the importance of education throughout his entire life. He attended public schools before getting accepted to UC Berkeley, where he studied philosophy, politics and economics. After graduating from college in the Bay Area, he went on to receive his B.A. and M.A. from Oxford University in England and then to earn a law degree from Yale.

While at Oxford, Brown took a trip to Florence, Italy, where he met Catherine Whiteley who eventually became his wife. On the brink of World War II, Brown chose to serve in the military and was on active duty in the Navy from 1942-45.

After the war, he practiced law until the early 1950s and then began to work for the Ford Foundation, going on to become vice president in New York. Brown took this opportunity to travel the world in connection with the foundation's work. Then in 1962, he left the Ford Foundation and began working to open Athenian School.

The school was originally opened as a boarding school, admitting only students in grades 9-12. When a middle school was added in 1979 and the demand for Athenian education expanded, it became a day school. Today, the school has grown to 457 students and is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, which validates the integrity of school programs.

Brown was predeceased by his wife Kate in 1996 after 56 years of marriage and is survived by his daughters Tish Campbell and Susan Nebesar and his son Chris Brown.

An evening of remembrance in his name will be held Friday, Jan. 12, at Athenian in the Kate and Dyke Brown Hall. ■

## Energy policy

► Continued from page 5

ways to conserve energy.

"It's a nice little challenge," Jamison said.

Bush said the district had been working to conserve energy in schools even before the new energy policy was passed. Last month, the board approved a measure to install solar cells in Greenbrook, Bollinger Canyon and Walt Disney elementary schools. PG&E had approved the district's application for a grant of approximately \$1.2 million to help finance the project.

Discussion of the energy policy began around September, Bush said, when the district was developing its solar projects. Board members made comments about how they wanted the policy to be formulated. Then he made revisions and submitted it for approval earlier this month.

"A number of board members have been interested in this area," Bush said, adding that he does not know yet how much money will be saved as a result of the policy. ■

We'll pick up where your natural good looks left off.



220-C1 Alamo Plaza, Alamo  
925.855.0886

to the left of Safeway

M-F 10-7 • Sat 9-6 • Sun 10-5

No appointment necessary

**Fantastic Sams**

**Adult Cut**  
**\$9<sup>95</sup>**

Reg. \$16.00

Offer valid at Alamo location only. One coupon per person. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 1/26/07

**Kid Cut**  
**\$7<sup>95</sup>**

Reg. \$10.00

Offer valid at Alamo location only. One coupon per person. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 1/26/07

Most salons independently owned and operated. ©2006 FS Concepts, Inc. www.fantasticsams.com



**FEEL AND LOOK GREAT IN 2007!!**

**Lose 10-30 lbs in 2 weeks**

**Tahara Detox Weight Loss Program leads YOU**

- To reduce/stop your current medications.
- To cleanse Body ( G.I tract, Liver)
- To lose more FAT
- To change eating habits

**Call for a FREE Consultation**

**(925) 249-9642**

4725 First Street #270

Downtown Pleasanton

**www.taharacenter.com**

## Computer Trouble?

Portable CIO quickly solves PC and Mac computer problems for small business and homeowners.



- Repairs • Upgrades • Virus/Spyware/Adware Removal • Networking • Internet/Email set-up • Backups •



**\$10 off**

your next service  
parts not included  
one coupon per customer

**925.552.7953**

www.ThePortableCIO.com

## Consignment goes upscale!

**SNICKERDOODLES**

CHILDREN'S & MATERNITY RESALE BOUTIQUE

Come discover our boutique where  
**RESALE IS ALWAYS UPSCALE!**

WOW! Try on our 7 for ALL MANKIND MATERNITY JEANS

Still accepting Snow Boots & Gear!  
Spring Consignment starts January 16, 2007

We will be closed Sun.-Wed.  
(12/31/06-1/3/07)

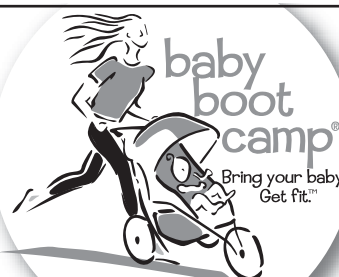
Happy New Year!  
442 Hartz Avenue  
in Downtown Danville  
Tuesday-Saturday 10-5  
**925.820.4956**

## First Class FREE!

- Jump start weight loss
- Make new friends
- Combat the baby blues
- Be with your child

FIND THE NEAREST CLASS AT:

**babybootcamp.com**





## GIVE YOUR DOG THE BEST GIFT OF ALL

 **Kennel Free Grooming**  
(STRESS FREE, One dog at a time,  
goes home when completed)

 **Kennel Free Pet Sitting**

 **Dog Walking**

 **On line shopping**

**925.831. DOGZ (3649)**  
**www.citydogz.com**



## Electrical Design & Construction

**Customized  
Plasma TV  
Installation**

**Home Theatre  
Installation**

**Outdoor Spa Hook-up  
Patio Lighting**

- Recessed lighting & ceiling fans
- Expert troubleshooting & repairs
- BBB - 6-year honor roll member
- Bonded & Insured  
CA Lic #673809
- Accept all major credit cards

**ALWAYS  
FREE  
ESTIMATES**

**BAY CITY  
ELECTRIC INC.**  
**925.606.8260**

www.baycityelectricinc.com

# Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



## All together now: I hereby resolve...

Time for New Year's resolutions, everyone. And I would like to propose that we all make the same resolution for the year 2007: to use our turn signals.

I don't need to make this resolution myself. I always use my blinker. OK, occasionally I decide against it when there is no other vehicle in sight but then I am plagued with guilt and wonder what a priest would say if I confessed it.

I think I passed this good habit on to my kids. (I just hope I wasn't so insistent that they now out of some form of rebellion refuse to signal.) And my husband also signals. But why, oh why, do so many otherwise perfectly nice people neglect this common courtesy? Because that's what it is. Letting other cars in the vicinity know your intention to make a turn allows them to make their turns rather than having to wait until you actually drive up to a corner to see—surprise!—you are turning, they didn't have to wait after all, heh, heh.

Of course some drivers are too busy talking on the phone to signal, or talking to others in their car. They are in their own little worlds, merrily driving along and chatting. What do they care that I am waiting patiently for them to pass? They turn sans signal with nary a glance at the other driver they have inconvenienced.

I'm pretty sure it's a law that a driver must signal but where are the police when you need them? Of course these scofflaws are often in the quiet residential neighborhoods where there are no traffic lights and everyone is, more or less, on the honor system to obey the laws. Perhaps this is where we should invoke the right of citizen's arrest. Or perhaps instead of an actual arrest, we could call in the incident to the police. They could keep tabs according to the license numbers of those who never bother to signal. Maybe 10 neglected-to-signals could equal one speeding ticket. Or, better yet, one murder. Because there really is no excuse for this lack of courtesy.

Are new drivers taught the old hand signals? For those too young to remember, in the old pre-blinker days the driver had to keep her window down and stick out her left arm. Bending the elbow and raising her arm straight up meant she was about to turn right. Holding the arm out straight meant she intended to turn left. Holding the arm down meant she was slowing down or stopping. Although I had to learn the signals, I was always blessed with cars that had built-in blink-

ers, thank goodness. Didn't drivers pre-blinkers get cold sticking their arms out all the time? Now that would be an excuse for neglecting to signal that I could accept.

I'm not alone in deploring the lack of people signaling—I have seen it on lists of pet peeves along with the sound of smacking gum, telemarketers, drawers left ajar and wobbly grocery cars. There is even a bumper sticker that says: "Forget World Peace—Visualize Using Your Turn Signals."

Letting other cars in the vicinity know your intention to make a turn allows them to make their turns rather than having to wait until you actually drive up to a corner to see—surprise!—you are turning, they didn't have to wait after all, heh, heh.

Aside from the nobility of the resolution, I also like the idea of everyone resolving the same thing. It would be a community bonding kind of thing, like when entire cities read a book at the same time. Last year residents in Danville and San Ramon joined in a program called "Two Cities, One Tale." Interested parties read "The Samurai's Garden" by Gail Tsukiyama during the same six-week period, and the libraries held events in conjunction with the reading. The program culminated in an appearance by the author at the Village Theatre in November. This year's book will be announced in the spring, said Danville librarian Seng Lovan.

Resolutions made with friends often work better as they encourage each other to exercise or whatever—it's more fun when it's shared. So if the entire community made a common resolution it might strengthen our resolve as we all go about doing the right thing, be it walking a mile a day or picking up any litter in sight or—never failing to use our turn signals.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli  
can be e-mailed at editor@  
DanvilleWeekly.com.

## Lower Your House Payment

with our "One Month ARM" (with Great New Pricing!)

- Minimum Payment at 1% (APR 5.830%)
- Vacation Homes also at 1%
- 40 Year Term Available for Really Low Payment
- "Lowest Margins"
- "Stated Income" at no extra cost
- Loan Amounts up to 7 Million
- Life Cap of 9.95%

Example	30 year	40 years
Loan Amount	\$500,000	
1st Year Monthly Payment	\$1,608	\$1,264
2nd Year Max Monthly Payment	\$1,728	\$1,358
3rd Year Max Monthly Payment	\$1,857	\$1,460
4th Year Max Monthly Payment	\$1,996	\$1,569
5th Year Max Monthly Payment	\$2,145	\$1,686

## \*Equity Lines to \$750,000\*

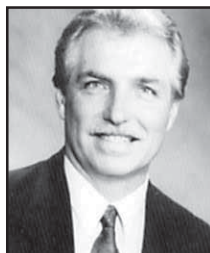
Perfect for consolidating your 1st and 2nd mortgages, remove PMI, Cash-out to pay off debts, college funds, or the purchase of a second home.



**Laura Ryan**  
925.225.7644  
laura.ryan@wamu.net



**Harry Osmus**  
925.225.7647  
harry.osmus@wamu.net



# Washington Mutual

5800 Stoneridge Mall Road • Pleasanton, CA 94588

Offer applies only to the 1-Month Option ARM. The interest rate/APR may increase after the first month. The interest rate may change more frequently than the minimum payment amount. The minimum payment is always the lowest payment that can be made each month. Making the minimum payment each month can result in negative amortization. All payment options are not available each month. In addition, on 15-year loans, only up to three payment options are available. Interest that accrues between the date of closing and the month preceding the month in which your first payment is due will be based on the higher of the start rates or the fully indexed rate. APR is effective 4/05/06. The APR and 1.000% start rate are available only to borrowers with FICO scores equal to or greater than 720. Different start rates and APRs may apply to borrowers with different credit profiles. The APR and 1.000% start rate are also only available on purchase money and non cash-out refinance loans secured by 1-2 unit owner-occupied properties with terms of 15 and 30 years, Loan-to-Value (LTV) ratios of up to 70% (purchase money and non cash out refinance) and loan amounts of up to \$1.5 million. Additional limitations and restrictions may apply. Higher rates may apply 1-Month Option ARMs with different parameters. Rates and terms are subject to change without notice. Alternative pricing options may be available. Ask a Washington Mutual loan consultant for details. Typical financing examples of a \$200,000 loan with an LTV of 70% and pre-paid finance charges of \$3,607.29, a starting interest rate of 1.000%, Index of 4.011%, a Margin of 1.875% and a fully Indexed Rate of 5.886%. On a 30-year loan the APR would be 5.982 and the 360 minimum monthly payments would vary from \$643.28 to \$1,374.20. On a 15-year loan the APR would be 6.052% and the 180 minimum monthly payments would vary from \$1,196.99 to \$1,891.35. Washington Mutual has loan offices and accepts application in: Washington Mutual Bank- many states; Washington Mutual Bank, doing business as Washington Mutual Bank, FA- many states; and Washington Mutual Banks fsb- ID, MT, UT.



**PUBLISHER**  
Gina Channell-Allen

**EDITORIAL**  
**Editor**  
Dolores Fox Ciardelli

**Staff Reporters**  
Jordan M. Doronila  
Natalie O'Neill

**Sports Writer**  
Rachel McMurdie

**Contributors**  
Cheri Eplin  
Geoff Gillette  
B. Lynn Goodwin  
Beverly Lane  
Jacqui Love Marshall  
Katharine O'Hara  
Christina Straw

**ART & PRODUCTION**  
**Art Director/**  
**Operations Manager**  
Shannon Corey  
**Assistant Design Director**  
Ben Ho  
**Designers**  
Steve Bruzenak  
Trina Cannon  
James Greenfield

**ADVERTISING**  
**Advertising Manager**  
Mary Hantos  
**Advertising**  
**Account Executives**  
Terry Bertolini  
Susan Sterling  
**Classified Advertising**  
Sandy Lee  
Susan Thomas

**BUSINESS**  
**Office Manager**  
Amory Foreman  
**Ad Services**  
Veneta Roberts, Manager  
Susan Thomas

**Business Associate**  
Lisa Oefelein  
**Circulation Manager**  
Bob Lampkin

**How to reach the Weekly**

315 Diablo Road, Suite 100  
Danville, CA 94526  
Phone: (925) 837-8300  
Fax: (925) 837-2278  
Editorial e-mail:  
Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com  
Calendar@DanvilleWeekly.com  
Display Sales e-mail:  
sales@PleasantonWeekly.com  
Classifieds Sales e-mail:  
Ads@DanvilleWeekly.com  
Circulation e-mail:  
circulation@DanvilleWeekly.com

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

Mailed at Standard Postage Rate. The Danville Weekly is mailed free to homes and apartments in Danville, Blackhawk, Diablo and Alamo. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from local residents.

Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50/year. © 2006 by Embarcadero Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

**EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY**

**The nature of the beast**

Do we make mistakes? It's hard to believe but probably so since this is the nature of the newspaper business. And there is nothing so demoralizing as knowing that mistakes are in print forever and may even make their way into history books to confound future generations.

The only way newspapers can deal with this dilemma is to print corrections. To honor this noble tradition of corrections, a Web site called [www.regrettheerror.com](http://www.regrettheerror.com) reports on corrections, retractions, clarifications and their trends, as the media strives to be accurate, honest and fair.

Although we hate mistakes in our publication, this "Best Delayed Correction" of Nov. 20 this year from the New York Times gives us some comfort:

"An obituary on Monday and in some copies on Sunday about Isadore Barmash, a retired business reporter for The New York Times, rendered incorrectly the name of a department store that he wrote about frequently. It was Gimbels, not Gimbel's. Gimbels, which closed in 1986, has been referred to correctly in The Times more than 500 times since 1980 and incorrectly more than 120 times; this is the first time the error has been corrected."

The Wall Street Journal when writing about the canceled O.J. Simpson book, instead of referring to the planned book as 'If I Did it,' called it 'Why I Did It.'

The Guardian recently ran this correction: "Sir Colin Figures, whose obituary we carried on page 31, yesterday, died on December 8 this year, 2006. It appeared as 2007. Apologies."

And the Wall Street Journal when writing about the canceled O.J. Simpson book, instead of referring to the planned book as "If I Did it," called it "Why I Did It."

Our own Eugene O'Neill was confused with playwright Neil Simon by a theater editor at The Stranger, a Seattle weekly. The paper called it a "moment of lifelong shame" and had the editor create a theater quiz about the two playwrights to atone for his mistake. (Find it at [www.thestranger.com](http://www.thestranger.com).)

And of course by running recipes in Epicure, we leave ourselves open to recipe errors, the bane of any cook. The Daily Press of Newport News, Va., accidentally combined a recipe for French coconut pie with one for vanilla extract. The result was a pie recipe calling for one pint of vodka.

When you catch errors in the Danville Weekly, be sure to e-mail [editor@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:editor@DanvilleWeekly.com) or call 837-8300, ext. 29. And Happy New Year.

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

**Tired of Overcrowded Gyms?**  
We Offer an Exclusive One-on-One  
Personal Training Facility

- STRENGTH & POWER DEVELOPMENT
- LIFESTYLE & WEIGHT MANAGEMENT
- BOXING FITNESS WORKOUTS
- CARDIOVASCULAR FITNESS
- SPORT-SPECIFIC TRAINING
- PERSONAL DEFENSE TRAINING

**Barry E. Anderson**, Fitness Director  
NSCA Certified Strength and  
Conditioning Specialist  
B.A. Degree from Harvard University  
ACE Certified Personal Trainer

**925-867-3488**

3120-D Crow Canyon Road  
[HealthandFitnessPlus.net](http://HealthandFitnessPlus.net)



*Elegant and Relaxing  
Personalized Professional  
Nail Care*



Walnut Creek location

*Bollinger  
Nail Salon*

**BOLLINGER NAIL SALON LOCATIONS**

- San Ramon - Bollinger Canyon Road**  
18080 San Ramon Valley Blvd . . . (925) 830-9700  
**San Ramon - Crow Canyon Road**  
2441 San Ramon Valley Blvd . . . . (925) 838-6300  
**Pleasant Hill**  
1420 Contra Costa Blvd . . . . . (925) 680 8600  
**Walnut Creek**  
1661 Mt. Diablo Blvd. . . . . (925) 938-2500

*Host a Party—For birthdays, bridal showers  
or friends who want to have a unique  
and fun get together, arrange a private  
party at Bollinger Nail Salon.*

# FAREWELL TO 2006

by the Danville Weekly staff

*The old year is ending, giving way to the new  
In Danville, Alamo and Diablo, too*

*In Danville there's been much reason for song:  
New stores have opened; the planning goes on.*

*The shops behind Danville Hotel are rundown  
Please renovate soon, help our precious downtown.*

*Last year several bank robbers took some leeway  
And picked on poor Danville, so close  
to the freeway.*

*Meanwhile in Alamo, residents were grim.  
They lost their dear YardBirds; no one else has  
moved in.*

*A water main broke, causing floods on Livorna  
This was not good for folks, flora or fauna.*

*David Duffield kept planning his Bryan Ranch home  
It's tough when a billionaire has nowhere to roam.*

*A heat wave in July made transformers go crazy  
Thousands lost power, and called PG&E lazy.*

*Our favorite news story was in mid-November  
A dead deer lay decaying for five days  
to remember.*

*Farewell to dear old '06, we now sing.  
Hello to the New Year and all it will bring.*



Capt. Bruno Spani of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District fought a two-alarm fire on Joaquin Drive in Danville in the wee hours of Jan. 26.

## JANUARY

- Storms strike Danville to the tune of \$1.5 million in damage.
- Diablo 14-and-under Girls Water Polo team wins the Speedo Cup National Championship.
- Danville Heritage Resource Commission passes policy of one marker for each historic site.
- District 3 Supervisor Mary N. Piepho and some Danville and Alamo residents speak out at supervisors meeting against a resolution to bring the California National Guard back to the state.

## FEBRUARY



Mount Diablo was covered with snow in February when temperatures were in the 30s.

- Fire district purchases land on Danville Boulevard at the corner of Hemme Avenue to build a new station.
- Danville OKs new community center at Oak Hill Park.
- Veterinarians warn about dogs eating slug and snail bait.
- Town Council directs town staff to save old oak tree on El Pintado.
- County removes trees from in front of YardBirds, infuriating Alamo residents, especially those who worked on Boulevard of Trees.
- Planning Commission postpones discussion of Weber Property on Feb. 14 due to needing more information about red-legged frogs in the vicinity. Folks who ignored Valentine's Day to attend are upset.

## MARCH

- David Duffield's proposed scaled down 17,000-square-foot home heads for mediation.
- Danville residents take part in Food Waste Recycling Pilot Program.
- Eugene O'Neill's great-granddaughter Kiera Chaplin visits Tao House for the first time and attends a documentary on the playwright presented by the Eugene O'Neill Foundation.
- San Ramon Valley High Lady Wolves win North Coast Section basketball championship.
- Expansion is planned for All-Wars Memorial at Oak Hill Park to add two quotations by Abraham Lincoln.
- Danville Town Council votes to allow liquor in designated areas at Danville Area Chamber of Commerce street fairs.
- Valerie Matlock is named Alamo Parks and Recreation coordinator.
- San Ramon Valley Unified School District OKs plans for Measure A projects at Green Valley and Rancho Romero elementary schools.
- School district students ace high school exit exam.
- Danville Police Department welcomes K-9 Donna to the force.

## APRIL

- Volunteers from the Umbrella of Churches headed up by the Community Presbyterian Church in Danville travel to McComb, Miss., to help build houses for victims of Hurricane Katrina.
- David Duffield steps forward to sponsor the Devil Mountain Run after Andronico's pulls out.
- Guy Greco named chairman of Danville Area Chamber of Commerce for the second time.
- Museum of the San Ramon Valley displays local artifacts from the Earthquake of 1906 in a centennial recognition.
- SonRise Equestrian Foundation pairs troubled youths and horses for mutual rehabilitation.
- The San Ramon Valley High School choir directed by Ken Abrams travels to hurricane-ravaged New Orleans to help out and to entertain.
- Bryan Ranch residents vote to limit house sizes in their neighborhood to 10,000 square feet.
- Danville Town Council approves an updated disaster plan.

## MAY



There were signs on every street corner of Alamo in May when YardBirds was liquidating.

- Gottschalks closes its Blackhawk store; Draeger's Market announces its plans for the space.
- County Public Works Department cracks down on violations of the right of way on the Iron Horse Trail by residents who live on the trail.
- YardBirds liquidates its inventory and closes Alamo store, much to the disappointment of locals.
- Andrew H. Young Park is dedicated on Danville Boulevard at Jackson Way to honor Young for his years of dedication to recreation and parks in Alamo.

## JUNE

- An overhaul begins on sewers on Prospect Avenue to take all summer, with work done at nighttime.
- Alamo voters reject increased property tax in mail-in vote.
- Carmen and Bob Pack, whose children Troy and Alana were killed by a hit-and-run driver in 2003, have a healthy baby girl they name Noelle Corinne.
- Work begins on auxiliary lanes on I-680 in Danville.
- Diablo Scorpion Lacrosse Club concludes its second undefeated season and wins the 7A championship.
- Caltrans repairs hillside on I-680 near Livorna Road to prevent slippage the following winter.
- Albertsons closes grocery store on Diablo Road in Danville.
- Mt. Diablo State Park closes Summit Road for repairs.
- Andrew Maute, an incoming senior at Monte Vista High School, is killed when he crashes into a tree on his way home from a party.

## JULY

- Newly arrived Jayme and Joey Bozik are stars

## LOOKING BACK MAKES IT CLEAR: IT HAS BEEN QUITE A YEAR



CARRIE GRIMWEL PHOTO

This Danville squirrel lay spread-eagled in the Grime family yard, hoping for relief during the summer heat wave.

in the Danville Fourth of July Parade. They are being sponsored by the Sentinels of Freedom to make a life for themselves in Danville as Joey continues to recover from injuries sustained in the Iraq War.

- Mt. Diablo Region YMCA and the Willows Theatre Company of Concord agree to partner to complete the theater at La Gonda Way and El Cerro Boulevard in Danville.
- Danville and Alamo suffer a series of power outages as temperatures stay in the 100s for days at a time.
- Diablo Ballet Company closes due to rising rents at its location in Alamo Plaza.
- Danville Town Council OKs study to amend general plan to allow higher density when developing corner at Diablo Road and El Cerro Boulevard.
- A 40-year-old woman robs the U.S. Bank on San Ramon Valley Boulevard, the third bank robbery in Danville this year.
- A water main breaks in Alamo at Danville Boulevard and Livorna Road, leaving 140 homes without water and shutting down Livorna Road.

### AUGUST

- Home Depot meets with Alamo residents to outline plans for former YardBirds location.
- Old Tassajara School has stable rebuilt and restrooms added by Shapell Homes.
- Valley Swim Association Championship ends with two winners: the Blackhawk Hox and the Crow Canyon Sea Lions. Roundhill is a strong third.
- Danville Public Library on Front Street celebrates turning 10.
- New student parking lot across Stone Valley Road from Monte Vista High School is completed in time for the start of school.
- New maps of downtown Danville are developed for LPGA tournament in September.

### SEPTEMBER

- Danville Town Council approves a motion to support fundraising efforts for a new Veterans Memorial Building.
- Artists co-op finds space in downtown Danville above Leku Eder on Prospect Street.
- Andronico's sells Danville store on Railroad Avenue to Lunardi's, another upscale grocer.
- Veterans and other civic groups hold Sept. 11 remembrance at Oak Hill Park to honor the victims of five years ago.
- Danville Seniors' Club turns 35 and holds a bash at the Veterans Hall, where



The Danville Seniors' club celebrated turning 35 in September with a Hawaiian-themed party at the Veterans Hall.

it meets.

- Longs Drugs Challenge LPGA Tour takes place at Blackhawk Country Club for the first time.
- Monte Vista science teacher Patti Carothers is named Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year.



Monte Vista High science teacher Patti Carothers showed joy and surprise when she was announced Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year in September.

### OCTOBER

- Diablo women's 2.5 tennis team goes to Nationals in Palm Springs and comes in fourth.
- Vally Medlyn's, oldtime café in downtown Danville, is sold.
- Sunset Magazine idea house in Alamo is open to all before being put up for sale.
- Zone 36 county service district landscaping and lighting committee decides to meet without county personnel to save money.
- Prospector Square in downtown Danville opens for business with Flaunt and Christina's Fine Women's Clothing as its first tenants.

### NOVEMBER

- Beth Chaim Congregation breaks ground for synagogue on Camino Tassajara.
- Danville voters choose incumbents Karen Stepper and Mike Shimansky over Robert Storer for Town Council; trustees Joan Buchanan and Bill Clarkson and newcomer Rachel Hurd are chosen for the school board over Jim McVay.
- Danville boy, 16, arrested for bludgeoning his mother to death in their home near Blackhawk.
- Charlotte Wood Middle School Symphonic Band is chosen to attention prestigious convention in Southern California.
- Police officers begin to carry maps of Alamo school campuses to use in case of emergency.
- Los Cerros Middle School again holds its Basket Brigade to fill 340 baskets to be given out for the Thanksgiving holiday.
- High school football regular season ends with a cross-town showdown, at which San Ramon Valley High beats Monte Vista, 34-7.

### DECEMBER

- Sycamore Homeowners vote to change CC&Rs to allow its swim team to be open to non-residents.
- School district approves measure that allows three schools to install solar cells.
- Danville Town Council names Mike Shimansky mayor.
- Bryan Ranch homeowners in Alamo remove amendment to CC&Rs to limit house sizes to 10,000 square feet. ■

## Hand Made for the Holidays

Gift Baskets to Order  
Designer Jewelry  
Seasonal Decor  
Outdoor Decorations  
Holiday Ornaments  
Festive Linens

Open for your  
shopping  
pleasure!

Hand Works  
An Artisan's Showplace

155A Railroad Avenue  
Danville  
925-820-3645  
www.hand-works.net

## BRINGING LEARNING TO LIFE



### The Seven Hills School

PRESCHOOL • ELEMENTARY • MIDDLE SCHOOL



Application Deadline January 31, 2007



exploring  
& imagining



The Seven Hills School

975 North San Carlos Drive, CA 94598  
tel 925.933.0666

www.sevenhillsschool.org

## San Ramon Valley quarterback Corbin Louks in the spotlight

Rotarians honor outstanding football players

by Rachel McMurdie

San Ramon Valley High School quarterback Corbin Louks is the recipient of Danville Rotary's 10th annual Peter Villa Award. Louks was one of nine outstanding football players nominated by coaches and administrators from Monte Vista, San Ramon Valley and California high schools.

"Corbin's just had a great season," said Rotarian Bob Beaton, who helped sift through the nominees. "First of all, San Ramon Valley won league. Secondly, he was voted first team all-league quarterback, and third, he's an outstanding kid and a great leader. He's really developed a lot between his junior and senior years."

Judging is based on athletic ability and performance, leadership on and off the field, citizenship, and the number and quality of football scholarships offered, Beaton said.

Louks, who received recruiting calls from Utah State, Nevada, New Hampshire and Idaho, established himself as one of the premier dual-threat quarterbacks in the East Bay this season, throwing for 2,033 yards and 23 touchdowns in leading the Wolves to a 9-1 regular season record.

The 6-foot-1, 175-pound senior has orally committed to continue his football career at Utah State, becoming the second SRV quarterback to go to an NCAA Division 1-A school in four years.

Other nominees included first runner up Roy Helu Jr. of San Ramon Valley, second runner up Ryan Whalen of Monte Vista, Zach Madonick of San Ramon Valley, Drew McCallister and Brandon Sweeny of Monte Vista, Nick Rosato, Nick Salliero and Brandon Catley Thompson of California High.

The award is named after Peter Villa, a former Danville Rotarian and founder of Danville T-Birds youth football program. Villa coached the Thunderbirds for 13 seasons. He and his wife, now

Brentwood residents, were at the presentation.

"The great thing is that the luncheon brings together not only kids from different high schools but parents, coaches and principals," Beaton said. "About the only other time the coaches see each other is on the opposite sides of the field."

As part of the award program, Danville Rotary presented each of the three schools a \$500 grant for athletic programs.

### Boys soccer

Still undefeated after eight pre-season match-ups, the San Ramon Valley boys soccer team (1-0-0 EBAL, 9-0-0 overall) will play Pleasanton's Amador Valley High on Jan. 9. The Wolves have scored 32 goals so far this year, holding their opponents to just three goals.

Monte Vista boys soccer team (3-0-0 EBAL, 8-0-3 overall) will play at Granada High on Jan. 10.

### Girls soccer

Last weekend's Tri-Valley Classic brought Northern California's best

high school girls soccer teams to the local fields. San Ramon had a 0-1 loss to De La Salle and a 5-0 shutout win over the Bishop's School, putting them second with 18 points in their sub-bracket. San Ramon Valley girls had one 3-0 win over Hockaday School and a 0-1 loss to Mayfair rounding out a mid-pack standing in their sub-bracket, with 10 points. Last year San Ramon Valley won the overall invitational bracket.

### Boys basketball

San Ramon Valley boys basketball team took a 14-point win over Acalanes last week on Tuesday night in a game that went 70-56 in the Wolves favor. The Wolves, 6-4 in preseason play, will hit the road Jan. 8 for their first regular season game against Granada at 7 p.m. Monte Vista boys, meanwhile, continue to dominate the pre-season. The Mustangs (7-1) beat Fair Oaks' Del Campo last week 57-50. They'll host Foothill High on Jan. 8.

### Girls basketball

Still undefeated after beating Las Vegas' Rancho High 53-39, the Monte Vista girls basketball team will play its first regular season game at Foothill High on Jan. 8. The Mustangs (10-0 overall) will



COURTESY DANVILLE ROTARY

San Ramon Valley High School quarterback Corbin Louks received the Danville Rotary's 10th annual Peter Villa Award.

be looking to top last year's league champions San Ramon Valley. Last year the Mustangs (18-9-0 overall) came in second. This year, the Wolves (2-6) have struggled in pre-season, losing their most recent game 33-46 against Fremont's Washington High. They'll host Granada, in their first season match-up Jan. 8. ■

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

## HOLIDAY SPARKLE 'tis the season

### Pet Allergy Center

820-2287

Plaza Pet Hospital & Surgery Center

120 E. Alamo Plaza Alamo



**\$25 OFF**  
Allergy  
Testing

**\$35 OFF**  
Dental Care

*New Grooming Services*  
*Boarding with 3x/day walks*  
*Training Consultations*  
*Orthopedic Surgeries*  
*Arthritis Relief*

*The only Alamo hospital*  
*with a Board Certified*  
*Veterinary Specialist!*

(We're tucked behind B of A  
in the Safeway Shopping Center next  
to Alamo Medical Center)

Email for website & directions Plazapet@aol.com



### Mustang U12 girls Blast way to victory

The girls U12 Mustang Blast recently won the prestigious NorCal Cup tournament, which is played over several weekends against the top teams in Northern California. The Mustang Blast captured the Champion title in the Premier bracket by winning both the semi-final and final games with a 4-0 score. Team members are (front row l-r) Kim Low; (middle) Reilly Parker, Hannah Clark, Serena Lee, Beth Ritter, Rachel Feldman, Katie Tao, Hailey Mamizuka; (back) Alexa Vandevanter, Lynsey Hromatko, Amy Harioka, Alyssa Alarab, Rachel Hamilton, Kerianne Hunt, Shelby Cota, Melissa Clore, Hannah Koski, Coach Lance Feldman; (far back) Coach Rob Vandevanter, Coach Doug Norvelle.

### PREP SCHEDULE

<b>Tuesday-Friday, Dec. 26-29</b>	<b>Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 28-30</b>
<b>Boys Basketball:</b> Torrey Pines Tournament	<b>Girls Basketball:</b> Newark Memorial Tournament
<b>Wednesday-Friday, Dec. 27-29</b>	<b>Boys Basketball:</b> St. Frances Tournament, Mountain View
<b>Girls Soccer:</b> Excalibur Tournament at Santa Ana, CA	
<b>Wednesday-Saturday, Dec. 27-30</b>	<b>Wednesday, Jan. 3</b>
<b>Girls Basketball:</b> Costa Mesa Tournament	<b>Girls Basketball:</b> Monte Vista vs. Fremont, 7 p.m.

# HOLIDAY SPARKLE 'tis the season



## Mōda Mi

Apparel - Accessories - Gifts

### Year End Clearance Sale!

All Fall Merchandise  
**40-60% Off**

**SPECIAL HOURS**  
Tuesday-Saturday 11-6  
Sunday 12-5  
Thursdays 'til 7:00 PM

140 E. Prospect Ave • Danville, CA 94526 • Phone: 925-837-1407

## CYCLISTS!

Happy Holidays from



Cyclepath is your complete bicycle equipment and fitness headquarters.

In addition to bicycles from  
**LOOK • COLNAGO • SCOTT  
FELT • CANNONDALE**

— we offer —  
Cardiovascular Analysis  
Complete Bicycle Fittings  
Foot Alignment  
VO<sub>2</sub> Analysis



**GOT A CYCLIST ON YOUR GIFT LIST?**  
Let our friendly and knowledgeable staff help you with your last minute holiday gifts

**SIDI Genius 5**  
reg \$229.99  
sale \$189.99  
Patented non-slip velcro closures  
Engineered for comfort

**MAVIC**  
Ksyrium ES \$999.99  
1485 g—Ltd. edition  
Complete w/ Ti skewers

Outdoor award-winning Suunto HR monitors  
\$99.99 to \$499.99

## JANUARY SALE

We've blown the lid off 2006 prices. Selected items from every department  
~ Additional markdowns taken each week ~

**UP TO 50% OFF**  
**DINNERWARE & GLASSWARE**  
• Plates • Bowls  
• Serving Pieces  
• Wine  
• Martini  
• Beverage

**UP TO 50% OFF**  
**COOKWARE & KITCHENWARE**  
• Caphalon  
• Swiss Diamond  
• Pots & Pans  
• Mugs  
• Flatware

**UP TO 50% OFF**  
**GARDEN**  
• Baskets  
• Vases  
• Fall/Winter Flowers  
• Garden Pots

**UP TO 50% OFF**  
**LINENS**  
• Place Mats  
• Napkins  
• Tablecloths

**UP TO 50% OFF**  
**STATIONERY**  
• Paper Goods  
• Gift Wrap  
• Box Stationery  
• Note Pads  
• Frames

**UP TO 50% OFF**  
**SEASONAL**  
• Ornaments  
• Boxed Cards  
• Roll Wraps  
• Halloween  
• Calendars  
• Candles  
• Candle Accessories

**Domus**  
of  
Pleasanton

**Your Home Kitchen**  
Sale runs through January 31 or while supplies last  
652 Main Street . Downtown Pleasanton . 925 485 3077  
HOURS: Mon-Th 10am-7pm Fri-Sat 10am-9pm & Sundays 10am-6pm

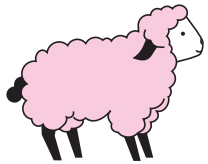


**GIFT CARDS**  
in any amount



Located in  
**Downtown Pleasanton**  
at 337-B Main Street  
in the B of A building

Entrance is in rear of building facing the parking lot  
**925-485-3218 / www.cyclepath.com**



# Wild about wool

*Knitting makes a comeback as a great way to unwind*

by Cheri Eplin

It used to be when you went to the local park, you would see a mother simply sitting on the bench, watching her little one play in the sandbox. Now, the moms in Danville knit away as they chat about the latest happenings and keep an eye on the kids. And it's not just happening on the park bench. You see them gathering in Peet's Coffee Shop, sit next to them in PTA meetings, and wait with them at your doctor's office.

Knitting isn't just for Grandma anymore. It's cool to be knitting. From individuals to sewing circles to an Internet knitting group called the Happy Hookers, today's knitters are wild about their wool.

There's Betty Crocker, Betty Boop and Bette Smith, "knitting guru" of the knitting classes held at the Danville Community Center.

"She's the best and makes knitting so easy to learn. She is so patient and inspiring," said Cheryl Edwards, a Danville resident with twin teenagers. "I began three years ago and haven't stopped since. I first wanted to make a baby blanket for my sister-in-law because I wanted to make her something special and from my heart."

Smith's classes are so popular that she's booked through March.

Cookie Allred, another Danville resident and mother of five, also started three years ago after she saw friends making "those cool scarves with fun fabric." She's included washcloths and purses in her repertoire and can't seem to put down the needles.

"I love to make unique purses for my friends and it's just a relaxing way to spend time," Allred said.

The craft dates back thousands of years, and knitted socks have been dated back to the third century. It wasn't until the 16th century that knitting became an industrialized art. And now one can open any fashion magazine and the knitted clothes and accessories jump out at you.

Though knitting has come full circle, it remains a mostly female sport. Scheduled knitting groups, similar to book clubs, are popping up all over the place. The Thursday Night Group and Charity Knitting Group out of That Yarn Store in Dublin have individuals making anything from scarves to knitted caps to send to troops in Iraq.

"Knitting is a great way to make friends as it is both a social and casual learning atmosphere," said Jamelle Lampkin, owner of That Yarn Store. "It's time for you that can't be interrupted, and that's why it's so valuable. It's like the old quilting bees." Class schedules can be found at [www.knitmke.com](http://www.knitmke.com). Call 828-1327.

At Fashion-knit, a knitting store in Walnut Creek, owner Jeanine Johnson promises that a beginner can learn to knit in 20 minutes. Johnson, an American Airlines flight attendant, opened her store to fuel the fire of her passion to knit.

"I began to knit after 9/11 and believe others started as well to keep closer to home—to return to the basic pleasures—and to be creative," she said.

Johnson said women often stop by the store just to knit together.

"From the beginning knitter to the more advanced, I encourage customers to stop by for any troubleshooting needs," she said. "Also, there are amazing and fashionable pieces that can be knitted, not just scarves."

In her store, hundreds of different kinds of yarn can be purchased. Classes at Fashion-knit will begin in January, and schedules will be posted on its Web site, [www.fashion-knit.net](http://www.fashion-knit.net). Call 943-3994.

Knitting can be done alone in front of the fire or the TV but it is also a great opportunity for socializing. The hands can work on creating but the ability to share and listen to stories is a natural part of the art. Knitting has become the ultimate way to unwind. ■



Cookie Allred finds knitting the perfect way to relax as she knits scarves, purses and more for her friends and relatives.

CHERI EPLIN



## Closing out the year with a sip of scotch



I don't know about you but for me this has been a most trying year, filled with more than its share of challenges and opportunities. So, it is very fitting that my last column of 2006 is devoted to Scotch. On Jan. 31, I intend to sit quietly with a crystal tumbler filled with ice and a generous amount of my husband's most coveted single-malt. I'll toast to the many blessings of life, especially to having made it through the last 365 days with my health and spirit intact.

This intended plan of mine led me to ponder about Scotch—what exactly is it, how it is produced, and why single-malt is considered the king of all Scotch whiskeys. While I have a preference for wines, I am increasingly intrigued by the passion Scotch lovers have for this spirit. Hearing folks describe “good” scotch as “rich ... complex ... strong but smooth going down ... smoky with a lingering finish, it sounds pretty close to a description of my year, and therefore, an appropriate way to bring it to a close. After reading this column, perhaps you will join me in celebrating the end of 2006 and welcoming the beginning of a new year ... with a taste of scotch yourself.

### History or legend?

According to [www.scotchwhiskey.com](http://www.scotchwhiskey.com): “The word ‘whisky’ derives from ‘uisge,’ which is an abbreviation of ‘uisge beatha,’ the Scots Gaelic for ‘Water of Life.’ It was first used in the 18th century.”

Much of the history of scotch is more legend than anything. According to legend, the secret of distilling was introduced to Scotland by the Irish, being brought there by St. Patrick in the 400s A.D. Distilling began in monasteries to produce medicine. Next, came domestic distilling. Many rural households brewed beer but they also distilled “uisge beatha,” particularly in the Highlands, to augment their household income and use their surplus grains.

### What is scotch?

Whiskey is a spirit made from malted (or sprouted) grain and aged in oak casks. Scotch is a form of whiskey, made always in Scotland, from sprouted barley and aged for a minimum of three years. There are four types of scotch whiskey: single malt, vatted (or “pure”) malt, blended and single grain. Single malt scotch is 100 percent malted barley made at a single distillery while vatted scotch is made by mixing single malt whiskeys from more than one distillery. Blended Scotch combines malt whiskey with other lesser flavored grain whiskey. Most scotch sold is actually the blended variety.

“The beauty of single malt scotch is the unique taste and character that comes from the barley grown in the same field of land and processed the same way at one distillery every year. It's akin to tasting the new releases of French Bordeaux wines each year,” said Mike Kohlmeier at BevMo! in Danville.

### How is Scotch made?

The production of whiskey starts with the malting of the barley; that is, steeping the barley in water, and then allowing it to begin germinating. Malting releases enzymes that break down the starches in the grain and converts them into sugars. When the barley has reached the optimal degree of germination, the malted barley is dried using smoke. Peat is often the fuel used to dry the grain, lending a naturally smoky flavor to the scotch. The malt is converted to “mash” then “wort” to which yeast is added and allowed to ferment, now becoming “wash back.” The “wash back” is distilled, creating a stronger, purer alcohol. Finally, the “new wine scotch” is placed into oak casks for maturation and aging, for up to 25 years.

The cool, northern climate of Scotland lends to the full maturation of the grain and the aging process, unlike any place else in the world, according to Scotch enthusiasts. Scotland is traditionally divided into four scotch-producing regions: The Highlands, Lowland, Islay and Campbeltown. However, more than half of the distilleries in Scotland fall within the boundaries of Speyside, a part of the Highlands. For example, the Balvenie, Glenfiddich, Glenlivet and Macallan distilleries fall within Speyside.

### What about the new “boutique” scotches?

Based on the centuries-old process for scotch production, which is highly regulated by the Scotch Whisky Association, scotch must conform to stringent laws and guidelines. But more and more consumers are looking for their favorite products to offer flexibility and personalization. We've seen the new-age liquors offer a variety of fruit and other infusions to liven up vodka, gin, rum, etc. but, until recently, scotch distillers were limited. Recently, though, scotch distillers have begun experimenting with new processes. Some are aging their whiskey in barrels previously used for aging wine and other spirits; others are blending whiskeys of different ages. Scotch devotees may not be happy about the newer scotches but keep your eye out for increasingly unique varieties of scotches and whiskeys.

One last thing to consider: Once you decide to try scotch, you've got to decide how to drink it. Don't let the purists intimidate you. There is no right answer, it's a matter of personal preference. You can drink it “neat”—by itself in a glass—or with water in it, or with a water chaser, or even with a little ice or coke. Whichever way tastes best to you is the right way.

Finally, I asked several people I know love scotch to name their favorites and below is the selection I compiled. Perhaps it will help in trying out a few samplers at home, bar or party during the holiday season so that you are ready for that New Year's Eve farewell toast to 2006. Salut and Happy New Year!

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

### All about scotch

Single malts	Years aged	Distinctions	Price range
Glenmorangie	10	Mild, creamy, popular among Scots	\$30-plus
Glenlivet	12	Best-selling U.S. single malt	\$40-plus
Balvenie	10	Slightly sweet, maple-cherry flavor	\$40-plus
Bruichladdich, Islay	10	Simple, succulent	\$50
Bruichladdich-31	varied	A new-age scotch made from 3 whiskeys of varying age	\$50-plus
Oban	14, 20	Classic, marine-like taste	\$60-plus
Dalwhinnie	15	Smoky, robust flavor	\$70-plus
Macallan, Fine Oak	15	Smooth sipping, matured in casks used for sherry or bourbon	\$70-plus
Edradour-Sauterne	10	From Scotland's smallest distillery, high alcohol content	\$90-plus
Talisker 175th Anniversary	10-30	A special release, aged in bourbon barrels, a mix of different aged malts	\$100



## Got Computer Problems?

Let us worry about that

(925) 939-8480

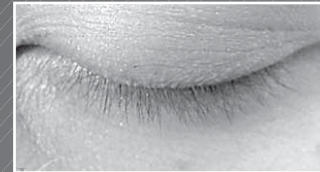
- ✓ Laptop/PC Repairs and upgrades
  - ✓ DSL, Email, Network setup
  - ✓ On-Site Services
  - ✓ Data Recovery
- NO DATA-NO CHARGE**



1601 North Main Street Walnut Creek, CA 94596 [www.cciathome.com](http://www.cciathome.com)

## Jerol Garden Day Spa

Transform your look in the “blink” of an eye



Before Magic Eye Lash Extension



After Magic Eye Lash Extension

*Magic eye* Eyelash Extension

Extensions of the Hollywood stars

301 Hartz Avenue  
Downtown Danville

**820.6044**

**Susan Schrimpf, Aesthetician**

Specializing in make up consultation & application, post surgical camouflage, facials, waxing and tinting.

As Featured in Diablo Magazine

## Wyletta's A Perfect Place

Massage, facials, eyelash extensions

199 E. Linda Mesa #C  
Danville

**362-1444**

## Facing Changes to Your Health Insurance? Need a new Primary Care Provider?



**Stephen Pratt, MD**  
is accepting new patients at  
**Oak Tree Internal Medicine**

We are a Participating Provider with most major insurance plans, including PPO's, HMO's, and Medicare

### Oak Tree Internal Medicine offers:

- 🌳 Board-Certified Internal Medicine Physician
- 🌳 Primary and Preventive Care Medicine for Adults and Teens
- 🌳 Courteous, Friendly Staff in a Calm, Relaxing Atmosphere
- 🌳 Online Access to Office and Physician
- 🌳 Convenient Location with Ample Parking



Bishop Ranch 11  
2301 Camino Ramon, Suite 290, San Ramon

**925.866.7090**

[www.oaktreeinternalmedicine.com](http://www.oaktreeinternalmedicine.com)



REGISTER NOW  
FOR WINTER CLASSES  
[www.alamore.org](http://www.alamore.org)



*Alamo Parks  
& Recreation*

Recreation Classes  
for All Ages!

50% Discount  
for CSA R-7A Residents

See the January issue of *Alamo Today*  
for the *Alamo Activities Guide*

For more information call (925) 451-9176  
or email [alamorec@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alamorec@sbcglobal.net)

## The tale of 300 stockings

Two Danville sisters spearheaded a campaign to make and fill 300 Christmas stockings for children being helped by Shelter Inc. Kristen and Stephanie Glass, who are in the 10th and ninth grade, committed to Shelter Inc. for the stockings earlier this year after having worked on similar projects.

"Remembering the excitement of opening stockings on Christmas morning, we decided to provide stockings for the children whose families are unable to afford to buy them gifts during the holiday season," wrote Kristen and Stephanie in an e-mail. "As sisters, we cut out stockings and worked with others to sew, decorate and fill them out with gifts."

They first held a fundraiser at their school, Bentley High School in Lafayette, and raised enough money to buy the materials. Richards Arts and Crafts in Alamo gave them a discount, too.

They spent the summer cutting out the felt according to a pattern while looking for others to help them sew and stuff the stockings.



Stephanie (left) and Kristen Glass deliver the 300 stockings they made with some help by their friends to bring Christmas cheer to the children at Shelter Inc.

Each volunteer was given a zip lock bag with instructions. They ended up drafting teens from throughout Danville and Alamo—friends from their tennis team, neighbors, anyone they could find to help out—and did much of the work themselves.

"We were sewing like crazy here, day after day," said their mother Karen. "They'd committed to 300 and didn't want to fall short."

Shelter Inc. provided the names, ages, and sex of the children who would be receiving

the stockings so each was personalized. Then two weeks before Christmas, Kristen and Stephanie delivered the stockings to the happy recipients, who ranged in age from newborns to 17.

Karen Glass remarked on the need at Shelter Inc., noting three more families had arrived the day they went with the stockings. Shelter Inc. was created by the Board of Supervisors in 1986 to alleviate the homeless crisis in the county. To learn more, call 335-0698.



**Tassajara  
Learning  
Center**

Preschool Grand Opening  
**January 8, 2007**

Ages 2-5 Teacher/Child Ratio 1:8  
Potty Training Assistance Available

Nestled on more than an acre, the brand new 8,200 sq. ft. preschool has been designed with 5 State of the Art classrooms and an enormous outdoor play space which includes a 67 ft. pirate ship sunk in tot turf and a 24 ft. train structure. For more information, please visit our website at [www.tassajaralearningcenter.com](http://www.tassajaralearningcenter.com).



1899 Casablanca Street, Danville  
(925) 804-6101

## NOW SHOWING

### The Pursuit of Happyness

★★★

Rating: PG-13 for language  
1 hours, 57 minutes

Will Smith gives a surprisingly rich performance as a suburban dreamer who refuses to say die.

"You got a dream, you gotta protect it. If you want something, go get it. Period." Words of wisdom passed from struggling medical supply salesman Chris Gardner (Smith) to his 5-year-old son Christopher (real-life son Jaden Christopher Syre Smith). The sentiment bears heavy meaning considering the hardships Gardner faces. He's a suddenly single parent trying to break off a piece of the American dream by enrolling in a risky unpaid internship program with high-profile stockbroker Dean Witter.

San Francisco circa 1981 is a city ripe with potential if you know how to work it. And Gardner works like a madman to protect his boy and pull himself out of a perpetual hole. When it gets as hard-luck as it can—a dissatisfied wife (Thandie Newton) who abandons father and son, faulty bone-density scanners that won't sell, no rent for the apartment and the IRS nipping at his heels—Gardner somehow reaches into untapped reserves of tenacity and courage.

Inspirational? You betcha. It's based on the real-life struggles of self-made gazillionaire Chris Gardner. But the film is darker than Smith's standard fare, sidestepping easy comedy in favor of a jaggedly desperate narrative that makes you work for its climax if not its message. The despair runs deep, a striking complement to Smith's on-point



performance as a closet braniac anxious to unleash his inner genius.

"Pursuit" looks like a big slick Hollywood production, the kind generally trotted out at the holidays for maximum sentimental consumption. Unlike most box-office giants, though, this quasi-rags-to-riches tale only occasionally overplays its hand, edging close to maudlin and depressing but generally retreating on the cusp.

Smith has real chops as a dramatic actor, his talent running the gamut from facial expressions to timing to body language. The younger Smith—he of the mouthful moniker—is a pleasant surprise, hitting genuine notes where it would be simpler to ham it up kid-style. San Francisco is its glorious self with a hard-edge focus on the Tenderloin.

A real-life story that feels real—uncommonly refreshing.

—Jeanne Aufmuth

# Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE

## When 'dry' didn't refer to the weather

(part 1)

We lift a glass of champagne to the new year and casually accept bars as part of the restaurant scene. But in 19th-century Danville, setting up a saloon was no easy matter.

Like much of rural California, Danville had a group of strong temperance supporters. What we call substance abuse today was "demon rum" then. There was much national prohibition sentiment in the 19th century and, during the California Gold Rush, some of the miners were temperance thinkers. Although accounts of those years show that, in San Francisco and in the gold country, temperance principles made nary a dent.

Some of the organizations that opposed liquor consumption were the Sons of Temperance, Good Templars and Women's Temperance Alliances. In San Francisco, the Dashaway Association urged members to "dash away" any alcoholic drink offered to them.

In Contra Costa County during the 1870s, communities could vote on a local liquor option sale and, even though women could not vote, their opposition to sales was significant.

In November of 1891, five months after the Southern Pacific opened train service to the valley, the Contra Costa Gazette published an article headed "The Question of a License." It covered a dem-

onstration in Martinez opposing a Danville liquor license:

"When the San Ramon train arrived Monday morning it brought a delegation of 70 strong from Danville, many of them ladies, and all of them among the best class of people of that neighborhood. Each wore a bit of blue ribbon conspicuously displayed, and on landing marched up the street in couples. It was soon ascertained that they had an object in view, and that was to appear before the Board of Supervisors and protest against the issuance of a license to sell liquor to one Flagel, who is now the only person engaged in that business in Danville, and whose present license expires today, Nov. 4."

They presented a 157-signature petition and pointed out that, while most of them were not strictly temperance people, they regarded "a saloon ... as a menace to the well-being of the community." The reporter wrote, "Danville is noted as the center of a prosperous, highly cultivated and progressive neighborhood, and the moral tone is exceptionally high."

Mrs. A.J. Young, wife of a highly respected teacher and church leader in the valley, addressed the board "in the name of the wives and mothers there (and) fervently pleaded that the temptation should not be placed before husbands and sons to lure them to ruin."



This postcard shows an early 20th-century poster produced for the "Strengthen America" campaign during the struggle over Prohibition.

The Gazette covered Andrew Flagel's lengthy license hearing. Witnesses said he had "sold liquor to minors and that gambling had been practiced in the saloon." Each charge was answered and refuted. Finally, the board made

a unanimous decision "to revoke the license for violations of the conditions under which it was obtained."

After that success, opposition to saloons and liquor sales continued. The newspaper reported

on a county temperance convention held in July 1893, which was chaired by D.N. Sherburne of Sycamore Valley. Others from the San Ramon Valley included R.O. Baldwin, W.Z. Stone, A.B. Hoag, A.J. Young, Jo. O Boone, George Wood, David Glass, George McCamley and H.C. Hurst. Their goal was to restrict the saloon business in the county.

George McCauley was refused a liquor license at the new Danville Hotel in 1893. "This action was taken in defense to the almost unanimous sentiment existing in Danville against the presence of a public bar in that town." In this case there was no personal objection lodged against the applicant but "there is a deep feeling that a saloon however carefully conducted is an evil to the community with no redeeming features, and they protest against having one forced upon them."

Who knows what debates occurred over this topic? One columnist, Pomagadel, wrote "Danville deserves the thanks of the entire county, and I for one desire to accord it to her. For the first time in five years we have something resulting in our county in which we can take pride."

Saloons and liquor sales in the 20th century were a different matter. *To be continued next week.*

Sources: CC Gazette Nov. 4, 1891, Dec. 16, 1891, July 8, 1893; museum archives

*Beverly Lane, a longtime Danville resident, is curator of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley and co-author of "San Ramon Valley: Alamo, Danville, and San Ramon."*



Fences . Decks . Arbors  
Retaining Walls . Repairs

- ✓ Personal Service
- ✓ Same Day Estimates

**NEW YEAR SPECIAL**

**\$2.00 per ft. off**

(Expires 2-28-06)

- ✓ 10 Year Warranty on  
Kick Boards and Posts

**C & J FENCING**

Family owned and operated

**925.355.1380**

CA License #868917

## 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.

### Ann McMillan

Alamo-Danville Artists Society will host a demo with oil and pastel painter, Ann McMillan, at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 9, at Danville Congregational Church, Social Hall, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. This event is free. Dessert and refreshments will be served. Call 691-5030 or visit [www.adas4art.org](http://www.adas4art.org).

### Winter Exhibit

The California Watercolor Association will host its annual Members' Winter Exhibit from now until March 9, at Blackhawk Plaza, 3480 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Call 648-9113.

## Auditions

### High School Musical

Danville Children's Musical Theatre will hold open auditions for Disney's "High School Musical" from 4-6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 10, at Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Applicants should be ages 10-16 years old. Cost to participate is \$350. Call 355-8605.

### Ruthless! the Musical, Bus Stop and School for Scandal

Role Players Ensemble Theatre will hold auditions for "Ruthless!," "Bus Stop" and "School Scandal" by appointment only, at Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Actors should prepare a two-minute monologue, and singers should bring 16 bars of an up tempo number. Call (510) 865-4740.

## Author Visits

### 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

### Adult CPR

Town of Danville will host a CPR class for ages 12 and up from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 20, at Los Cerros Middle School Community Gym, 968 Blemer Road, Danville. Cost is \$45 for residents, \$53 for non-residents; plus \$18 for materials and certification. Register by visiting the Danville Community Center, 420 Front St. or visit [www.ci.danville.ca.us](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us).

### 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

**WEEKEND PREVIEW**

### All aboard!

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 includes 360 feet of track, 57 turn-outs, 35 working signals and more. The museum will be closed New Year's Day. For information, call 736-2277 or visit [www.blackhawkmuseum.org](http://www.blackhawkmuseum.org).



BLACKHAWK MUSEUM

and childcare are free. Call 837-5525, ext. 319, e-mail [mike@cpcdanville.org](mailto:mike@cpcdanville.org) or visit [www.cpcdanville.org](http://www.cpcdanville.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

### Blackhawk Republican Women

This club will host a cocktail party with guest speaker Dr. Bill Wattenburg, host of "The Open Line to the West Coast" on KGO, from 5:30-8 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 18, at the Blackhawk Country Club, in The Grill, 599 Blackhawk Club Drive, Danville. Cost is \$16; reservations are due by Jan. 15 by calling 820-6452.

### 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](http://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 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](http://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](mailto:abersr@toast.net) or 838-9487.

### Diablo View Toastmasters

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

### eWomen Network Accelerated Networking Luncheon

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

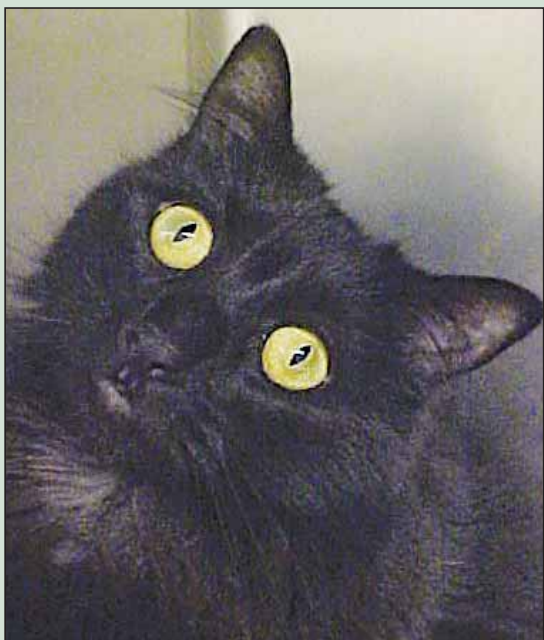
### Model RC Boaters Association

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.

## PET OF THE WEEK



CATHERINE ROUSH

## Star gazing

Meet "Star," a gorgeous female housecat. When you look into Star's cage at the East County Animal Shelter, all you see are huge gold eyes gazing back at you. Star's fur has that beautiful, shiny quality that resists matting even though she has medium-length fur and she loves to be brushed and pampered. Huge gold eyes and beautiful black fur are only two of Star's attributes. She is friendly, playful and affectionate. Star is searching for a loving home that will keep her as an indoor pet. Visit Star ( pet # 66923), and her many friends, at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open daily 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.. Call 803-7040 for more information.

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

## Concerts

**A Garden of Delights**  
Pacific Chamber Symphony presents "A Garden of Delights" featuring Beethoven, Brahms and the U.S. debut of Russian pianists at 3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 11, at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive. Tickets range in price; call 931-3444.

**Contemporary Music Concert**  
Civic Arts Education presents "Contemporary Music Concert" at 2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 14, at Shadelands Art Center, 111 N. Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek. Advance tickets are \$10; \$12 at the door. Proceeds will benefit CAE. Call 943-5846.

**Instrumental Music Benefit Concert**  
San Ramon Valley High School will host their Instrumental Music Benefit Concert featuring San Jose Taiko at 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 10, at SRVHS Performing Arts Center, 140 Love Lane, Danville. Visit [www.community-concerts.com](http://www.community-concerts.com).

## Events

**Eugene O'Neill Foundation Awards Ceremony**  
Eugene O'Neill Foundation will present awards during a special dinner on Wednesday, Jan. 24, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Call 820-1818.

**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).

**Street Smarts Skate Nights**  
City of San Ramon and Golden Skate present Street Smarts Skate Nights from 6:30-9 p.m., the third Wednesday of the month, at Golden Skate, 2701 Hooper Drive, San Ramon. Admission is \$8 including skates, \$4 for in-line skates and parents skate for free. Call 820-2520 or 973-2655.

**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).

**What is Friendship?**  
1st Thursday Salon will host a discussion about "What is Friendship?" at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 4, at 233 Front Street, Danville. This event is a potluck serving soup de Salon, crackers, cookies and more! Please bring finger food or a beverage to share. Call 216-4590.

## 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 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-Releasable 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).

**'Treadmill' Mural**  
Bedford Gallery and Walnut Creek Arts Commission present "Treadmill" by Josh Keys, which is a mural painting dedicated to Susan Booth, on the Locust Street Parking Garage, adjacent to the Dean Leshner Center for the Arts. Visit [www.bedfordgallery.org](http://www.bedfordgallery.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.

**Crab Feed and Silent Auction**  
Youth Homes Auxiliary will host its annual Crab Feed and Silent Auction at 6 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 13, at Shadelands Art Center, 111 N. Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek. Tickets are a \$40 donation, tables for eight are \$320; deadline to purchase tickets is Dec. 29. Proceeds will benefit Youth Homes Auxiliary. Call 938-4148 or e-mail [lmartyn0@netzero.com](mailto:lmartyn0@netzero.com).

**Music Flea Market**  
San Ramon Valley High School Band will host a Flea Market from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 20, at SRVHS Cafeteria, 140 Love Lane, Danville. Proceeds will benefit the band's tour. Call 552-5580.

**Traditional Hymns and Classical Concert**  
Traditional Hymns and Classical Concert will feature Tom Lucia, Covenant Four, Danville Community Band, Salvation Army Band at 7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 26, at Rolling Hills Community Church, 1565 Green Valley Road, Danville. Tickets are \$15. Proceeds will benefit Outdoor Adventure Faire. Call 820-3874 or email [info@christkidsports.org](mailto:info@christkidsports.org).

## Health

**Free Massage Seminars**  
World School of Massage will offer two free seminars: "Lymphatic Breast Health: Clothes-On Self-Massage Techniques for Men and Women" is from 2:30-4 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 11; and "My Feet Feel Great" from 4:30-6 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 25, both at

World School, 699 Peters Ave., Suite A, Pleasanton. Call 461-2533 or visit [www.worldschoolmassage.com](http://www.worldschoolmassage.com).

**'My Own Marathon'**  
Town of Danville will host "My Own Marathon" with participants completing 26.2 miles at their own pace from Jan. 1-May 5. The final mile will be walked May 5 during "A Safety and Wellness Community Event." Call 314-3400 or visit [www.ci.danville.ca.us](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us).

**Open Gym**  
Town of Danville is offering Adult Open Gym from 7:30-9:15 a.m., Saturdays, and High School Open Gym, 6-8 p.m., Sundays, both at Los Cerros Middle School Community Gym, 968 Blemer Road, Danville. Discounted pass cards are \$4 for residents, \$5 for non-residents. Call 314-3386.

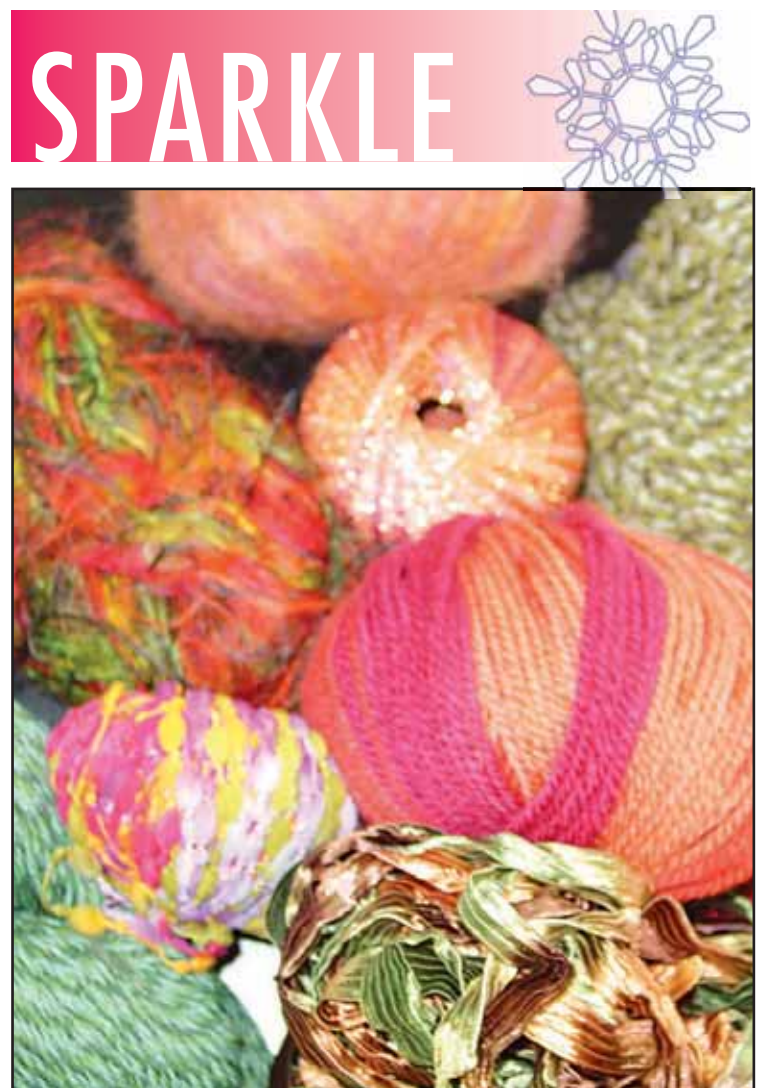
**The Wellness Community**  
The Wellness Community offers different support groups for cancer patients and their family and friends including: Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer Workshop meets from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wednesdays, Jan. 10-April 25; Kids Circle & Teen Talk meets from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, 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.

**Weekly Marathon Training Program**  
East Bay FIT (formerly Danville FIT) will host weekly marathon training at 8 a.m., starting Saturday, Jan. 27, at the Iron Horse Trail at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues, Danville. Visit [www.danvillefit.com](http://www.danvillefit.com).

**Yoga Classes**  
The Diablo Yoga Center offers community classes (taught by student teachers), from 4-5 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays, at the Diablo Yoga Center, 125A Town and Country Drive, for \$8 per class. For information, visit [www.diabloyogacenter.com](http://www.diabloyogacenter.com).

## Holidays

**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.



## THAT YARN STORE

7164 Regional Street, Dublin  
[tysdublin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tysdublin@sbcglobal.net)

925-828-1327  
Open Mon - Sat

## Joey Pickavance Golf Instruction

PGA Golf Professional  
G.S.E.M.  
1997 Southern California PGA  
"Teacher of the Year"

Individual Instruction  
Group Instruction  
Corporate Clinics  
Beginner Series  
Video Analysis



For rates and more information logon to  
[www.systemgolf.com](http://www.systemgolf.com)

The Bridges Golf Club • 9053 S. Gale Ridge Road • San Ramon

**AJ DESIGN**

*Agnes Gordon*

- HOME STAGING
- INTERIOR DESIGN
- REDESIGN & COLOR CONSULTATION

AGGIEG@SBCGLOBAL.NET

131 BENJAMIN LANE  
DANVILLE  
925-858-2365

*Give the  
Gift of Golf  
this  
Holiday  
Season*

Gift Cards  
Available

925.967.0326

# DANVILLE SMOG

**TEST ONLY CENTER** **76**  
**GAS STATION**

744 San Ramon Valley Blvd.  
(Corner of Sycamore)

Mention this ad and get  
**\$20 off smog check**



**925-743-1967**  
While-U-Wait or By Appt.  
Mon-Fri 8:00-6:00 • Sat 9:00-4:00

[www.danvillesmog.com](http://www.danvillesmog.com)

State of California LICENSED  
**SMOG CHECK**  
WE SMOG ALL VEHICLES TEST ONLY

**STONE & MASONRY**  
FLAGSTONE • RIVERROCK  
**Rock YARD**  
RICHERT LUMBER COMPANY

**LANDSCAPE MATERIALS**  
TOPSOIL • BARK • SOD  
**Rock YARD**  
RICHERT LUMBER COMPANY

**STONE FOR BUILDING**  
PAVERS • CONCRETE BLOCK  
**Rock YARD**  
RICHERT LUMBER COMPANY

## We need a graphic designer

The Pleasanton Weekly and the Danville Weekly is currently seeking a **Full-Time Graphic Designer** to help produce our Tri-Valley community newspapers.

Responsibilities will include both editorial and advertising design. Must have Mac experience, basic production skills and a good design portfolio. InDesign, Photoshop knowledge is required, Web/Flash experience a bonus. Candidate should be able to work under tight deadlines in a busy environment with attention to detail. Guaranteed to work hard—but also have fun in a small office with a dedicated staff.

This full-time position offers health and dental benefits and a 401(k) plan—plus the distinction of working for an award-winning and ever-growing hometown newspaper.

Please e-mail your resume to Shannon Corey, Art Director: [scorey@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:scorey@pleasantonweekly.com)



**DOORS**  
INTERIOR • CLOSET • ENTRY  
**RICHERT**  
LUMBER & HARDWARE

**HARDWOOD FLOORING**  
SOLID • HANDSCAPED • EXOTIC  
**RICHERT**  
LUMBER & HARDWARE

**TOTO TOILETS**  
IN STOCK • GREAT PRICES  
**RICHERT**  
LUMBER & HARDWARE



**THE HOP YARD**  
AMERICAN ALE-HOUSE & GRILL  
*Neighborhood Brewpub*

**Holiday Beers on Tap - Gift Cards Available-**

**San Ramon**  
(925) 277-9600  
470 Market Place

**Pleasanton**  
(925) 426-9600  
3015-H Hopyard Rd.



[www.hopyard.com](http://www.hopyard.com)

## Thinking about a new sales career? Let's talk.

The Pleasanton Weekly and the Danville Weekly continue to expand with opportunities, so we're always looking to strike up conversations with talented sales professionals. If you have experience in newspaper sales, or a strong sales background in a similar field, we'd like to speak with you. Exceptional communication skills, proficient computer skills, and attention to detail are a must. We're a deadline-oriented company, so the ability to work accurately and efficiently is highly valued. If you possess these qualities, we're open to explore new possibilities with you.

For future consideration, please email your resume, with cover letter, to:

**Gina Allen**  
President/Publisher  
Pleasanton Weekly & Danville Weekly  
[gallen@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:gallen@pleasantonweekly.com)

- No phone calls, please -  
The Pleasanton Weekly is an equal-opportunity employer.



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).

**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.

## Kids & Teens

**Beauty Resolution Workshops for Tweens**  
Pure Girls will host a series of free beauty workshops from 4-5 p.m., every Wednesday in January, at Pure Girls, 660 Main Street, Pleasanton. This event is for girls ages 10 and up. Call 485-4380.

**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>.

**Spanish for Preschoolers**  
Town of Danville will host a new class, "Spanish for Preschoolers," for children ages 3-5 years old meeting from 9-11 a.m. on Tuesdays, Jan. 9-March 6, at Veteran's Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. The cost for Danville residents is \$222, \$266 for non-residents. An additional \$20 materials fee will be due on the first day of class. Call 314-3400 or visit [www.ci.danville.ca.us](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us).

**'The Little Race Car That Could'**  
Blackhawk Museum will host "The Little Race Car That Could" from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 28, at the museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. This event is free with admission. Call 736-2277.

**VIP Volleyball Clinics**  
Town of Danville will host VIP Volleyball Clinics for children ages 8-14 at 5:30 p.m., Saturdays, beginning Jan. 13, at Los Cerritos Middle School Community Gym, 968 Blemer Road, Danville. Cost is \$55 for residents, \$66 for non-residents. Call 314-3481 or visit [www.ci.danville.ca.us](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us).

**YMCA Activities**  
The San Ramon Valley YMCA hosts a number of activities including Adventure Guides/Princesses, Adventure Trailblazers, Youth Basketball, Youth Lacrosse and Youth Soccer for children of all ages. For information, call 831-1100 or visit [www.mdrymca.org](http://www.mdrymca.org).

## Lectures/Workshops

**Entering the Entrepreneurial World**  
Technology Ventures will host "Entering the Entrepreneurial World" from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 17, at Carr America Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton. This event is free, but registration is required by calling 960-1600.

**Getting the Banker to Yes**  
Contra Costa Small Business Development Center will host "Getting the Banker to Yes" from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 11, at the Concord Library, 2900 Salvio Street, Concord. This event is free, but registration is required by calling 646-5377.

**Historic Lecture Series**  
San Ramon Historic Foundation and San Ramon Valley Library Foundation will host a Historic Lecture Series of six programs. Each program will start at 7 p.m., Thursdays, at various different locations. The next lecture will be about Spanish/Mexican History by Dr. Gregorio Mora-Torres on Jan. 18. All programs are free, but donations are accepted. Call 973-3281.

**Spring Legal and Legislative Conference**  
Northern California Human Resource Association will host the 2007 Spring Legal and Legislative Conference from

9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 1, at Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional Street, Dublin. Cost is \$225 for NCHRA members, \$295 for non-members. Visit [www.nchra.org](http://www.nchra.org).

## Literary Events

**First Wednesday Programs**  
The Friends of the Danville Library and the Kiwanis Club of the San Ramon Valley sponsor First Wednesday programs in the Mt. Diablo Room of the Danville Library, 400 Front St., at 1 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month, October through May, with the exception of January. The next program will be about "Glorious Cotswold Villages" on Feb. 7. The program is free and everyone is welcome to attend. Call 938-7323.

**Library Book Discussions**  
The Book Discussion Group has chosen books for 2006. The discussion group meets at 11 a.m. the second Thursday of every month from September through May at the Mt. Diablo room of the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Everyone is welcome.

## Miscellaneous

**Adopt a New Best Friend**  
Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) offers wonderful animals for adoption every Saturday and Sunday, excluding most holidays. On Saturdays, from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., dogs and cats are available. For dates and times and other information, call TVAR at 803-7043 or visit its Web site at [www.tvlar.org](http://www.tvlar.org).

**Blood Drive**  
Hats Off America will host their second annual American Red Cross Blood Drive from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 3, at Toyota Motor Sales, 2451 Bishop Drive, San Ramon. Donor identification is required. Call 855-1950 or email [thebearflagrunner@yahoo.com](mailto:thebearflagrunner@yahoo.com).

**Climb for Breast Cancer Prevention**  
The Breast Cancer Fund is looking for applicants for "Climb for Breast Cancer Prevention" from July 8-14, at Mt. Shasta. Team members will start training in the winter and start raising funds. Call 760-8223 or visit [www.breastcancerfund.org/events](http://www.breastcancerfund.org/events).

**Free Computer Instruction**  
The Danville Library is offering free computer instruction on Word, Excel, Powerpoint or the Internet by appointment only. To make an appointment, visit the Danville Library Information Desk or call 837-4889.

**Free E-Waste Disposal and Recycling**  
Electronic Waste Management and Diablo Valley College will host a free E-Waste Disposal and Recycling event from noon-5 p.m., Friday, Jan. 5 and from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 6-7, at DVC, 321 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill. A list of accepted items can be found by visiting [www.noewaste.com](http://www.noewaste.com).

**Host Families Needed**  
Host families are needed for French Students that will be visiting from Beziers, South of France from Feb. 9-23. Students will have daily activities. For information, contact Kevin at 984-7691 or [k.dimler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:k.dimler@sbcglobal.net).

**Open House and Blood Drive**  
American Red Cross will host an open house from 9 a.m.-noon and a blood drive from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 6, at the Concord Office, 1300 Alberta Way. Call 603-7400.

## On Stage

**'Incorruptible'**  
Role Players Ensemble will host the production of "Incorruptible" from Jan. 19-Feb. 10, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Call 314-3463.

## 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.

**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 \$12 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.

**Sports**

**5 on 5 Basketball**

Town of Danville will host 5 on 5 Basketball starting Thursday, Jan. 18, at Los Cerros Middle School Community Gym, 968 Blemer Road, Danville. The deadline for registration is Thursday, Jan. 11. Cost is \$330 for residents, \$396 for non-residents. Call 314-3386.

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

that meets at 7:30 p.m., every third Monday at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Call 838-8632.

**San Ramon Valley Fibromyalgia, Chronic Fatigue and Chronic Pain Support**

A new and proactive group for FIBRO, CFS, CFIDS and Chronic Pain meets from 7-9 p.m. every other Monday in Danville. This group is positive, informative that meets to help each other to be better advocates. Call for location and information at 234-5621.

**SRV Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous**

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA) is a free 12-step recovery program for anyone suffering from food obsession, overeating, undereating and bulimia. This group meets from 7-8:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the Dougherty Station Community Center, West Meeting Room #202, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon. Call Gordon at 899-3117 or visit [www.foodaddicts.org](http://www.foodaddicts.org).

**Volunteering**

**Help Your Senior Neighbors**

A lot of Danville seniors need rides to their appointments, stores or to special events. The Seniors' Club at Veterans Memorial Hall is looking for volunteers to provide rides on an "as-needed basis" on one or more Mondays a month. Call Jenn Overmoor at 314-3476 for more information.

**Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa**

This organization is looking for volunteers to help serve in East Contra Costa County. Positions open are: men and women to provide companionship and practical support for terminally ill patients and families, licensed hair stylists and certified massage therapists. Free annual training will begin Jan. 17. Call 887-5678 or e-mail [volunteers@hospicecc.org](mailto:volunteers@hospicecc.org).

**Support Groups**

**Overeaters Anonymous**

The group offers a 12-step approach to issues around food, overeating, anorexia and bulimia. It meets from 7-8 p.m., every Tuesday at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. No fees. Call Susie at 275-1391.

**Parkinson's Support Group**

The Tri-Valley Parkinson's Network of Mount Diablo provides peer support from 10a.m.-noon, the second Saturday of every month, at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton. Call Norman at 831-9940 or Jackie at 244-1231.

**PFLAG**

The Danville/San Ramon Valley Chapter of Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is a support group

**Siena Tile & Stone**



SERVING WITH  
INTEGRITY  
DEDICATED  
TO YOUR  
OVERALL  
SATISFACTION



*Complimentary Design Consultation*

4175 First Street  
Livermore  
925.454.8583

2172 San Ramon Blvd., Ste. D  
San Ramon  
925.831.8685

**Superior Vision!**

**Catch the Wave!**

WAVEFRONT technology allows for truly customized laser vision correction for improved quality of vision.

All-laser LASIK and "no flap" Lasek also available.

*"I enjoy 20/15 vision after Lasik! Dr. Auker's reputation is built on excellence."*  
—Kevin G. Hart, M.D.

Dedicated to the long-term safety and health of your eyes. Your best choice!  
Ask your physician!  
Board Certified Ophthalmologist  
Oculoplastics and Refractive Surgery

**Laser Vision Correction  
Refractive Cataract Surgery  
All FDA Approved Lenses**

**AUKER EYE INSTITUTE**

WWW.DRAUKER.COM 925.931.1090

**12% Interest**

- Secured by Real Estate
- Interest Paid Monthly
- IRA, 401K Approved
- 1st and 2nd Mortgages
- Licensed Broker for 25 years



INVESTMENT & LOAN  
925-838-8313

Licensed by the California Department of Real Estate  
License Number 01485821

05-026

# HOLIDAY SPARKLE 'tis the season



**HUGE  
IN-STORE  
SALE**  
UP TO 60% OFF  
DEC 29TH THRU DEC 31ST

100 E. Prospect  
Downtown Daville  
925-837-2721

**Hospice and Palliative Work at  
Brunns House**

Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa Brunns House In-Patient Hospice is looking for volunteers to fill two- to four-hour shifts during the weekdays and weekends. For an application, call 887-5678 or e-mail volunteers@hospicecc.org.

**Lindsay Wildlife Museum**

Docents are needed to lead class tours, teaching children and others about our important connection with wildlife and the world we share. No experience needed. Call 627-2444 or visit www.wildlife-museum.org.

**Make a Difference**

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

**Project Second Chance**

Help an adult to read, write or spell better with Project Second Chance (PSC). Training is from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 17 and continues from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 20 and 27, at the PSC office, 75 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill. Call 927-3250 or email psc@ccclib.org.

**Rides for Seniors in Lafayette**

Rides for Seniors, based in Lafayette, is looking for volunteers (25 years and older) to allow seniors "to age in place" in their homes and be safe when transported to a doctor appointment or grocery shopping. If you are available for a couple of hours periodically, call 284-6699. Fingerprinting and DMV background check required.

**Search and Rescue**

The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team needs volunteer members to respond to missing person incidents, disasters and other critical incidents. Team members are on call 24/7 year round. The program provides required training including wilderness traveling, first aid, map and compass, tracking disaster response and search skills, and may additionally include special training for canine, equestrian, technical, mountain bike or other rescue skills. For information and applications, visit www.contracostasar.org or call 646-4461.

**Sheriff Seeks Senior Volunteers**

The Sheriff's Valley Station Office in Alamo is seeking people interested in assisting law enforcement in the community. Citizens should have a clean criminal history and would be responsible for one shift a week for four-and-a-half hours. Interested applicants should call James Hogan or Elmer Glasser at 837-2902.

**Trails Maintenance**

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

**Tri-Valley Animal Rescue**

TVAR is offering volunteer orientations from 1-2:30 p.m., the second Saturday and fourth Saturday of every month, at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive, Dublin. For information, contact Cathy at 426-2472 or calicocathy@yahoo.com.

**Valley Children's Museum Needs Volunteers**

If you are interested in working with kids, Valley Children's Museum is looking for you! For information about volunteer opportunities, call 461-6574, 3 # or e-mail Linda@valleychildrensmuseum.org.

**Volunteer Interpreters**

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

**GRAND OPENING**

**BODY & FACE RENEWAL**  
Med-Spa



*Crunch Inches by Skin Laser*

- LOSE WEIGHT without taking medication
- Botox/Restylane
- Nutritional Counseling
- Body Sculpting

As Seen on Oprah



FREE Laser Hair Reductions\*  
\*When you buy a larger area



Medically Supervised Non-Invasive Face Lifts with Nano Technology

**3 FREE**  
Jaw Lift or Inch Loss Sessions  
As seen on Oprah. (Reg \$450)  
When you purchase a series.  
Expires 2/02/07

**\$100 Off**  
Microabrasion  
When you purchase a series.  
Expires 2/02/07



4550 Dublin Blvd. Dublin 829-7722



**Jumpstart Your New Year**

Medical Weight Loss  
Physician-supervised and private  
Free initial consultation in January

How much do you want to lose?

**jumpstart**  
M E D I C I N E

925-277-1123 2301 Camino Ramon, Ste 290 San Ramon  
www.jumpstartmedicine.com Conrad Lai, MD

# Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Be warned: Don't drink and drive

The California Highway Patrol reported a 30 percent reduction in the number of traffic fatalities during the Thanksgiving holiday over the previous year and hopes to continue the trend during the Christmas and New Year's festivities.

"We are always looking for impaired drivers, but you just know that this time of year there is going to be an increase in the number of people having one or two drinks, including people who don't usually drink," said Capt. Jim Cahoon of the Contra Costa Area CHP office.

Last year, 39 people were killed in collisions

statewide over the Christmas weekend, and 44 died over the New Year's weekend. Over the course of the two weekends, CHP officers arrested more than 2,350 people for driving under the influence.

A Maximum Enforcement Period will take place beginning at 6 p.m., Friday, Dec. 29, and continuing through Monday, Jan. 1. The CHP will have up to 80 percent of all available uniformed officers out on the road during this time.

"Our officers are giving up a lot of holiday time with their families to help keep the roads safe," said Cahoon. "All we ask is that you do your part and drive responsibly."

## OBITUARIES

### Becky Gillette Dunn

Danville resident Becky Gillette Dunn, 54, passed away Dec. 6 after a six-and-a-half-year battle with breast cancer.

She was born on March 19, 1952, in Ephrata, Wash. She graduated from Washington State University, and moved to California in 1979 to continue her career in real estate relocation. She started her own company, Relocation Dimensions.

She met her husband Mark shortly after her move in 1982, which led to the creation of the "Danville Dunns." She maintained her business in the home, along with raising her family and contributing to her community. Her interests included sewing, crafts, baking and traveling, including

a yearly trip to France with girlfriends.

She is survived by her husband, Mark; her children Conor and Caitlin; her parents, Robert and Maida Gillette of Tigard, Ore.; and her brothers Doug, Bruce and Allen Gillette.

A celebration of her life was held Dec. 14 at St. Isidore's Church. Donations can be made to a charity of your choice or National Breast Cancer Coalition, 1101 17th St., NW, Suite 1300, Washington D.C., 20036.

### Frederica (Betty) Curtola

Frederica (Betty) Curtola, 85, passed away peacefully in her sleep at home in Danville on Dec. 7.

She was born Nov. 24, 1921, and

was a lifelong member of Diablo Country Club, an avid bridge player, a music lover and a concert level pianist. She also enjoyed reading, traveling, crossword puzzles and playing golf.

She was predeceased by her husband of 59 years, Laurence Curtola; she is survived by her daughters Cori Brett, Chris Negus and Connie Watson; grandchildren Wes Negus and Deja Aguilar; sons-in-law, Donald Negus and Joe Brett; and her faithful feline companion, Freida.

A memorial service was held Dec. 14 at Wilson & Kratzer Chapel of San Ramon Valley. Memorial contributions may be made to the John Muir Medical Center Women's Tioga Guild, 1601 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

### MOULDING

MEDALLIONS • MANTELS



### TOOLS FOR BUILDING

IN STOCK • GREAT PRICES



### DOORS

INTERIOR • CLOSET • ENTRY



### NAME BRAND PRODUCTS

IN STOCK • GREAT PRICES



### DECKING

TREX • TIMBER TECH



### STAINS & CLEANERS

PENOFIN • SUPERDECK



## AMBER BISTRO



Lunch ~ Dinner ~ Bar

Open New Years Eve serving a 4-Course Menu

\$60 per person

(925) 552-5238

500 Hartz Avenue, Danville

www.amberbistro.com

Experience our new specialty lunch menu

Monday - Friday 11:30 - 2:30pm



Upscale Resale • New Items Daily

Accepting Quality Furniture & Accessories • Free Preview

Pick Up and Delivery Available

Design Furniture Consignment

2 Convenient Locations

2415 San Ramon Valley Boulevard  
(Next to JoAnn's Fabrics & Bay Books)

San Ramon

6891 Village Parkway 925.855.1177  
(Next to Post Office)

Dublin  
925.829.1177



## Cafe Esin

LUNCH . DINNER

Chosen Best  
Place for Dessert  
by Diablo Magazine

Come experience  
our new menu and  
Chef Esin's Desserts

925.314.0974  
2416 San Ramon Valley Blvd.  
San Ramon

Open New Year's Eve with  
a Four Course Menu for \$59.99

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

## PLACE AN AD

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

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

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

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

## INDEX

- BULLETIN BOARD  
100-155
- FOR SALE  
200-270
- KIDS STUFF  
330-355
- JOBS  
510-585
- BUSINESS SERVICES  
600-690
- HOME SERVICES  
700-799
- FOR RENT/  
FOR SALE  
REAL ESTATE  
801-860

The publisher waives any and all claims or consequential damages due to errors. Embarcadero Publishing Co. cannot assume responsibility for the claims or performance of its advertisers. Embarcadero Publishing Co. reserves the right to refuse, edit or reclassify any ad solely at its discretion without prior notice.

## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

**\$22,000 - Love Pregnancy?**  
Become a Surrogate! Make dreams come true. Carry someone else's baby who can't without help. Professional agency to support your journey. www.SurrogateWeb.com 1-800-877-4438. (Cal-SCAN)

### \* DEADLINE \*

The Pleasanton/Danville Weekly Classified Advertising deadline is:

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

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

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

### 130 Classes & Instruction

ASHIATSU CLASSES! - CALL

Go or Chinese Lessons - \$15/\$20

### 133 Music Lessons

Guitar Lessons 417.0561 w/Brett - \$31.00

#### HARP LESSONS

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

MUSICAL THEATER CAMP SUMMER 2007

PIANO, VOICE, MUSIC INSTRUCTION.

Private Piano Lessons - \$25/half hr

### 155 Pets

Flea Meds, healthfulpets.com

## For Sale

### 201 Autos/Trucks/Parts

## Harry's Muffler & Brake

183 Wyoming St  
Pleasanton CA 94566

925-462-3237

Complete Exhaust Systems  
Catalytic Converters,  
Flowmaster Custom  
Exhaust Systems

**\$35 OFF LABOR**  
with coupon

### Cadillac 2002 Escalade

2002 Cadillac Escalade Black, excellent condition, 62k, 22 inch chrome rims. so fresh and so clean. \$24,000 obo (209)346-3600

Cadillac 2005 CTS-V - 38,000 OB

Chrysler 2003 PT Cruiser Limited - \$12,500

**Donate Vehicle,**  
running or not accepted! Free Towing. Tax Deductible. Noahs Arc - Support No Kill Shelters, Animal Rights, Research to Advance Veterinary Treatments/Cures. 1-866-912-GIVE. (Cal-SCAN)

**Donate Your Car**  
to the Original 1-800-Charity Cars! Fair market value deduction if we provide your car to a struggling family. Call 1-800-CHARITY. (1-800-242-7489) www.800CharityCars.org (Cal-SCAN)

Honda 1998 Civic EX - \$5100

Volvo 2004 XC90 2.5T AWD - \$29,750

### 202 Vehicles Wanted

**Triumph NortonBSA Honda Yamaha-1986/Older: Anything w/2 wheels & engine!**

Old MOTORCYCLES wanted, dead or alive! Running or not, with or without title, all makes and models will be considered - cash waiting! 415 785 7872 \$500+

### 215 Collectibles & Antiques

Hand Stitched Pillow - \$3

Royal Doulton Bunnykins Mug and - \$10

### 220 Computers/ Electronics

Computer Desk Krister - \$25

Rolling Briefcase - \$45.00 obo

### 230 Freebies

**Free used brick redwood decking**  
Free used brick and redwood decking. You pick up in Pleasanton and haul. Call Pete 925-580-7588 FREE

### GRATEFUL DREAD RADIO

Diverse sounds for open minds: The Internet radio station for musical adventurers presents its freeform, eclectic mix of rock, reggae, jamband, blues, americana, folk, country, roots music, worldbeat, ska & more... plus progressive news, talk, comedy and tons of peace & love. We're bringing groovy back... yeah! Tune in and turn on... GRATEFUL DREAD RADIO lives at http://gdreadradio.net FREE

### 240 Furnishings/ Household items

2 White patio chairs, 5 baskets - \$1 - \$5

Antique Drop Leaf Table - \$600

Bedroom Suite - \$400

Coffee Table - \$75

#### Couch

Couch (hide away bed) for sale. In good condition. Call 925 462-4755. \$75

Desk & Credenza - \$50

Drop Leaf Table - \$600

**FOLDING METAL PATIO BAR \$50**  
925-820-8433

### Foosball Table

Brand new Harvard Foosball Table. Never been used. \$100.00

Miniature House Collection - \$50/set moving sale, all less a year old - \$from \$1

### Whirlpool 30' white StoveTop \$95

7/2006 was brand new. Upgrading kitchen. Pick up only. \$95. Fotos

### WICKER DESK w/Glass Top & Chr \$75

### 245 Miscellaneous

6" joiner - \$150 or BO

Cute Conversation Piece - \$22.00

Plus Size Evening Dresses

Polaroid Joycam - \$8

**Power Wheelchairs and Scooters**  
at little or no cost to seniors/disabled with Medicare, MediCal or Insurance. Free Delivery, Training and Warranty. ProHealth Mobility. 1-877-740-4900. www.ProHealthMobility.com (Cal-SCAN)

### Sawmills From Only

\$2,990.00—Convert your Logs to Valuable Lumber with your own Norwood portable band sawmill. Log skidders also available. www.NorwoodIndustries.com - Free information: 1-800-578-1363 x300-N. (Cal-SCAN)

### Steel Building Clearance

Specials!... Manufacturer direct at substantially discounted prices. Withstand high wind and heavy snow. Limited quantities. For Specials, call Pioneer 1-800-668-5422 or www.PioneerSteel.com (Cal-SCAN)

### Steel Buildings.

End of Year Factory Specials. 40x60 to 200x300. Must clear out inventory. Rigid 1-800-658-2885. (Cal-SCAN)

### 260 Sports & Exercise Equipment

Lee Progressive 1000 - 125.

Ski Bag & Ski Boot Bag - \$10

Vitamaster Treadmill - \$100.

## Kid's Stuff

### 330 Child Care Offered

www.tanisfamily.com

### 340 Child Care Wanted

**CareSquare.com for great jobs**  
CareSquare.com is a free service, connecting caregivers directly with parents seeking help. Create a profile, post your availability, and connect with new jobs immediately. www.CareSquare.com

### 345 Tutoring/ Lessons

BlackhawkBallet.com

FRENCH, SPANISH TUTORING

PIANO LESSONS - \$25.00

PIANO, VOICE, AND MUSIC INSTRUCT

### Summer Theater Camp

**TUTORING- Elementary**  
Pleasanton teacher  
\$30/hr MF 4-7pm  
**925-462-6720**

www.YounglvvyAcademy.com

### 350 Preschools/ Schools/Camps

ABC Preschool/Childcare - 484-2554

### 355 Items for Sale

A box of 2 years old boy clothes - \$15

A box of baby boy's clothes etc. - \$10

booster & step, potty, potty seat - \$5-\$10

cribe stuffs & boy's clothes - \$5-\$15

Personalized Storks for Yard - \$75/\$45

## Mind & Body

### 415 Classes

Martial Arts Classes

### 440 Massage Therapy

Asian Massage Therapy - \$60/hr

### Best Asian Massage

Pleasanton 925-462-3698 \$60/hr

### 455 Personal Training

TriValleyTrainer.com (dublin/pleasanton/livermore)

## Jobs

### 500 Help Wanted

**A National Sport and Fashion**  
firm has immediate openings for sharp energetic people. Make great money and see the USA. Must be 18. Call 1-877-646-5050. (Cal-SCAN)

### GREETER - Work Your own Hours!

Represent the community & local business by welcoming newcomers to Pleasanton or Dublin. 10-15 hrs per wk @ \$10-18 per hr. Call Sarah or Betsy for more info: **925-944-0488**

## Pleasanton Guitar Studio

*Folk • Rock • Blues • Country  
Jazz • Celtic • Ragtime • Classic*

Beginners to Advanced Students  
~ Have fun playing songs or solo guitar pieces ~

(925) 570-0828  
experienced, professional guitarist / B.M. Berklee College of Music

*A Nanny Connection, Inc.* www.nannyconnection.com  
**925-743-0587**

**Dedicated to finding you a perfect nanny!**

**Placing full and part-time nannies,  
serving all over the East Bay!**

**No fee until nanny is placed!**

**SMOG INSPECTION**  
Special **\$35** + \$8.25 CERT (with coupon)

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

No Appointments Necessary!  
183-B Wyoming St., Pleasanton • Mon-Sat 9-5



**Driver:**  
TAKE CARE of your Family. Join ours. Consistent miles, regional and dedicated runs. Company paid Commercial Drivers License training. [www.SwiftTruckingJobs.com](http://www.SwiftTruckingJobs.com) 1-866-476-6828. EOE. (Cal-SCAN)

**Heavy Equipment Operator**  
Training. Bulldozer, Backhoe, Scraper, Cranes & More. National Certification. 3, 6, 9 or 12 week programs. Financial Assistance Available. Job Placement Assistance. 1-888-879-7040 or [www.Nahets.com](http://www.Nahets.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**Railroad Jobs:**  
Train in four to eight weeks to become a Conductor, Welder, Mechanical Locomotive, or Carmen. Average salaries \$63,000. Tuition loans available. 1-913-319-2603. [www.RailroadTraining.com](http://www.RailroadTraining.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**Business Services**

**604 Adult Care Offered**

**ELDERLY CAREGIVER**  
Live In / Out. Light house-keeping, meal preparation, errands and personal care.  
Call Kristi (925) 216-8718

**Sylvie (RN) and Rebecca**  
will find the professional caregiver who matches your needs.  
*We will help YOU stay in YOUR home with maximum independence.*  
❖❖ R-S PROCARE ❖❖  
**HOME HEALTH SERVICES**  
Rebecca (925) 788-2503  
Sylvie (925) 890-7424

**605 Antiques & Art Restoration**

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

**615 Computers**

Computer Help  
**Tri-Valley PC MEDIC**  
2006 Diablo Magazine "Best of the East Bay"  
**Ken Cook**  
*"I Make House Calls!"*  
Tune-up/Repair/Upgrade/Training  
More info/rates: <http://come.to/pc-medic>  
M-F 8a-8p / Wknds & Hols 9a-6p  
Lic #011068 - PCC, PDA & BBB  
Call 485-9040 or 989-7722

**624 Financial**

**Attention Homeowners.**  
Refinancing Eliminates Debt and Lowers Payments. No Mortgage payment for 3 months available. All credit grades handled. Mark Field, Clarion Mortgage. 1-800-695-3050 DRE#01245811. (Cal-SCAN)

**I Buy Mortgage Notes,**  
Trust Deeds, AITD'S, Land Contracts. Get all cash today. Top Dollar, no red tape. Call Mel. Days: 800-843-1111 Evenings: 323-936-2000. (Cal-SCAN)

**645 Office/Home Business Services**

**Advertise Cost-Effectively**  
in the California Statewide Display Ad Network newspapers. Print plus online. 140 print newspapers reaching 3 million Californians, and a 125/60 pixel ad on 30+ newspaper websites. Call (916) 288-6010; (916) 288-6019 [www.Cal-SCAN.com](http://www.Cal-SCAN.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**Advertise in**  
240 California newspapers one price classified \$550/25-words. Reach over 6 million Californians. Call (916) 288-6010; (916) 288-6019 [www.Cal-SCAN.com](http://www.Cal-SCAN.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**Advertising at its Best.**  
Your Property or Business for sale 3.75"x2" display ad in 140 community newspapers in California reaching over 3 million readers statewide for 1,800. Call (916) 288-6010; (916) 288-6019. [www.Cal-SCAN.com](http://www.Cal-SCAN.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**650 Pet Care/Grooming/Training**

**Fabulous Friends**  
A Pet Sitting Service  
Licensed & Bonded  
Serving Pleasanton/Dublin  
[sbnbart@comcast.net](mailto:sbnbart@comcast.net)  
Nicki Bartels  
925.989.4586

**659 Sewing/Tailoring**

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

**Home Services**

**715 Cleaning Services**

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

**Andrea's Cleaning Service**  
Personalized Cleaning Home & Apartments  
Quality Work, Dependable & Affordable  
Weekly, Biweekly, Monthly—as you need!  
\*Serving Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin\*  
Refs Avail / Free Estimates / 10 Yrs Exp  
Call 925-339-2461

**BETTY'S OFFICE CLEANING**  
Affordable ~ Reliable  
17 Yrs Experience  
Cleaning schedule as you require!  
925-497-8369  
Fax 925-429-3861  
Lic# 5002770 / Bonded

**COMPLETE CLEANING SERVICES**  
Professional cleaning to your request!  
Reliable, affordable, efficient, trustworthy.  
~ 18 Yrs Experience ~  
Call Kristi (925) 216-8718

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

**E.C. CLEANING SERVICE**  
Res/Com ~ 10 Yrs Local Exp  
Move In/Out, Weekly/Bi-Weekly  
Licensed-Insured-Exc. Refs  
"We do windows and power wash"  
925-339-6411 or 640-3845

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

**ED'S CLEANING SERVICE**  
Comm./Resid.-carpets, floors, upholstery, window cleaning - European Job  
American Price 925-609-7822

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

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

**719 Remodeling/ Additions**

**BAYWOOD CABINET INSTALLATION**  
Quality Craftsmen will install your kitchen/bath cabinets.  
Call 925 575-0425 for your Free Estimate  
CA Lic# 883922  
Bonded & Insured  
Contractors, over-booked?  
We can help you too!

**REMODELING CONTRACTOR**  
Additions, bathrooms, windows, doors, interior trim, whole house.  
A+ References ~ Insured  
Lic# 503716  
Dan (925) 575-1892

**726 Decor & Drapery**

**Changing spaces**  
One-Day Interior Redesign  
Color Consultation, Decorating and Staging  
925.998.7747 ■ [jilldenton.com](http://jilldenton.com)

DESIGN REMIX 925-964-9066  
[bareilless@comcast.net](mailto:bareilless@comcast.net)

**737 Fences & Gates**

**Borg Redwood Fences**  
Fences • Decks • Retaining Walls  
Arbors • Heritage Vinyl Fencing  
**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL**  
"Unsurpassed Quality at Reasonable Prices"  
Insurance Work  
426-9620  
[www.borgfence.com](http://www.borgfence.com)  
Fully insured PL & PD. • State Lic. #717163

**748 Gardening/Landscaping**

**COMPLETE YARD MAINTENANCE**  
Good Yrs Avail ~ 10 yrs Exp  
Reasonable rates / Free estimates  
\$70 2x mo ~ \$100 4x mo  
925-768-4528

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

**THOR LANDSCAPING**  
Cement, Brickwork, Sod & Sprinkler Installation, Fence & Deck Repair, Waterfalls and Fountains  
~ All driveways \$8 sq ft ~  
Call 510-329-5091  
licensed & bonded  
[www.thorlandscaping.com](http://www.thorlandscaping.com)

**754 Gutters**

**GUTTER & DOWNSPOUT CLEANING**  
Affordable Service  
~ Free Estimates ~  
510-502-2729 (c)

**757 Handyman/ Repairs**

**fogster.com**  
You Can Find It Here!

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

**PLEASANTON HOME REPAIR and MAINTENANCE**  
Full Service Residential/Commercial Repairs and Maintenance Dependable ~ 30 Yrs Exp Call 925-577-0542 \* Pleasanton Area Only \* LocalRef~City Lic#040421 email:ss1177@comcast.net

**759 Hauling**

**GABRIEL'S HAULING & CLEAN-UPS**  
Handyman Services and Creative Landscaping Available  
925-963-3907  
AFFORDABLE & RELIABLE  
One call does it all- no job too small!

**771 Painting/Wallpaper**

Quality Interior & Exterior  
**PAINTING**  
by CAMBRIDGE  
925-462-0655  
\* Winter Special - 10% off \*

**GABRIEL'S BUCKET and BRUSH PAINTING & POWERWASH**  
Residential and Commercial  
Interior/ Exterior - No Job too small!  
Reasonable rates / Exc. references  
Call (925) 963-3907

**775 Paving/Asphalt/Concrete**

**DANVILLE CONCRETE**  
Stamped Concrete, Patio, Sidewalk, Driveway, Pool Deck, Retaining Wall.  
Any concrete finishing  
(925) 736-8042

**783 Plumbing**

**PLUMBING SOLUTIONS**  
All Plumbing repairs, water heaters, copper repipes, sewer/gas lines. Lic#839285  
Call (925-895-8845

**790 Roofing**

**ATTENTION HOME OWNERS!**  
\* Are you 100% waterproof?  
\* Do you have dry rot?  
\* Are you in need of roof repair?  
We can save you  
**BIG MONEY - don't delay!**

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL  
32 Years Expert Roofing  
~ Family Owned & Operated ~  
FREE EST/ SENIOR DISCOUNTS  
**Real Estate Inspection \$150 until 06/2007**  
Leak Detection / Tile / Gutters  
Skylights / Fire-safe Wood  
Shingles & Shakes

**ALTAMONT ROOFING DESIGNS**  
925-460-0500  
925-339-4084  
Member BBB Lic# 360176

**Real Estate**

**801 Apartments/ Condos/Studios**

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

**803 Duplex**

Pleasanton, 3 BR/2.5 BA - \$2,400/Mon

**805 Homes for Rent**

**FREE REPORTS AND RESOURCES**  
For all the resources you need to make the correct financing decision - visit:  
**EastBayLoanTips.com**  
or call  
(800)-348-5780 Ext 2002  
(Free, 24 Hr Recorded Hotline)

**809 Shared Housing/ Rooms**

Danville/ Rm For Rent, 1 BR/1 BA room for rent 1400.00, 1/3 utilities and 200.00 deposit. long term please. contact me at 831-1717 \$1400.

**825 Homes/Condos for Sale**

**Buy Wholesale Direct!**  
Wholesale brokers of Quality Manufactured Homes. Save up to \$40,000 Guaranteed. Learn the secrets dealers don't want you to know. 1-800-242-0060. (Cal-SCAN)

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

Dublin, 3 BR/2.5 BA - 589,888

**FREE REPORTS AND RESOURCES**  
For all the resources you need to make the correct financing decision - visit:  
**EastBayLoanTips.com**  
or call  
(800)-348-5780 Ext 2002  
(Free, 24 Hr Recorded Hotline)

Livermore, 3 BR/1.5 BA - \$519000

Livermore, 3 BR/2 BA - \$605000

Livermore, 3 BR/2 BA - \$540000

Livermore, 4 BR/2 BA - \$578900

Pleasanton, 3 BR/2 BA - \$699000

**830 Commercial/ Income Property**

Livermore Office/Warehouses

**PLACE YOUR AD HERE!**

**840 Vacation Rentals/Time Shares**

After a great day of skiing you want a comfy condo! Here it is in Incline @ Lake Tahoe! 3bdr/2.5ba+loft. Fully equip. Close to many ski areas.  
(925)484-0316 or 963-8224

**845 Out of Area**

**Arizona's - Best Bargain!**  
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. (Cal-SCAN)

**Colorado Fall Ranch Sale**  
Starting At Only \$29,900! Spectacular views! Rolling fields. Elec/ Tele included. Excellent financing. Call Now. 1-866-696-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

**Gulf Front Lots**  
\$595k. Homes starting mid-\$300k. New master planned ocean front community on beautiful Mustang Island, near Corpus Christi, TX. [www.CinnamomShore.com](http://www.CinnamomShore.com) 1-866-554-5758. (Cal-SCAN)


**So. Colorado Log Home**  
Only \$169,900! 35 Acres Spectacular Rocky Mountain Views! County road access elec/ tele to property. Call Today! 1-866-696-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

**Wyoming Ranch Dispersal**  
35 acres - \$49,900; 75 acres - \$95,900. Snow-capped mountain views. Surrounded by gov't land. Abundant wildlife. Recreational paradise. Low taxes. EZ Terms. Call Utah Ranches, LLC. 1-888-703-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

**850 Acreage/Lots/ Storage**

**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)

**855 Real Estate Services**

**UCB Real Estate**  
  
**Ed Antenucci**  
owner/broker  
Buying, Selling or Investing?  
Let's Talk, I'll Listen!  
Real estate advisor with over 22 years experience & over 3,700 homes sold!  
(925) 351-8686  
[ed@homeinsider.com](mailto:ed@homeinsider.com)

**Bankruptcy or Credit Problems?**  
Think You Can't Get A Mortgage? Free Information 24 Hour Recorded Message 1-800-882-6240. "Get Mortgage Ready" Kit ext. 212. Raise Your Credit Score ext. 211 or [www.Reports4Borrowers.com](http://www.Reports4Borrowers.com) (Cal-SCAN)

Mobile Notary (925) 699-5794

Property Management BradyWalsh

San Ramon Real Estate Services

**860 Housesitting**

Housesitting/Girl Friday - \$neg

  
**fogster.com**

# Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

## SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during December 2006

Danville	Alamo	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported:12	Total sales reported:4	Total sales reported:23
Lowest sale reported: \$420,000	Lowest sale reported: \$1,170,000	Lowest sale reported: \$243,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,560,000	Highest sale reported: \$2,800,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,050,000
Average sales reported: \$976,417	Average sales reported: \$1,723,000	Average sales reported: \$615,217

## HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

Danville	Alamo	Walnut Creek
<b>101 Brookside Place</b> T. & M. Horner to L. & D. Arbach for \$1,255,000	Trust to B. Dark for \$739,000	<b>1301 Virginia Street D.</b> Mahnke to S. Welsh for \$1,222,000
<b>2109 Carmenera Street</b> Lennar Homes to S. & A. Bauer for \$1,123,000	<b>1171 San Ramon Valley Boulevard</b> Jones Trust to C. Johnson for \$470,000	<b>Walnut Creek</b>
<b>18 Discovery Court</b> R. & S. Lyon to D. & S. Nix for \$1,560,000	<b>108 Shadewell Drive</b> P. & J. Tabet to K. Kennedy for \$1,400,000	<b>248 Castle Glen Road S.</b> Wesner to E. & A. Martin for \$943,000
<b>3086 Fostoria Circle</b> M. & L. Arganbright to M. Ploscaru for \$420,000	<b>305 West Meadows Lane</b> Johnson Trust to K. Mangino for \$655,000	<b>2622 Chinook Drive</b> Snyder Trust to R. Weeks for \$1,050,000
<b>211 Laurelglenn Court</b> Wagoner Trust to A. Munoz for \$860,000	<b>136 Westfield Circle</b> D. Rose to D. Dearborn for \$535,000	<b>1147 Corrie Lane A.</b> Blanchard to M. Otbo for \$590,000
60 MacKenzie Place Malone Trust to M. & P. Lytle for \$1,500,000	<b>Alamo</b>	<b>1101 El Curtola Boulevard</b> J. & C. England to N. Harris for \$730,000
<b>4221 Nottingham Drive</b> W. Tidmarsh to L. & L. Ramirez for \$1,200,000	<b>265 Eagle Court</b> W. & S. Ayers to D. & D. Walsh for \$2,800,000	<b>2330 Gill Port Lane</b> S. Wilson to E. & K. Paul for \$775,000
<b>166 Ramona Road</b> Chaney	<b>18 Hagen Oaks Court</b> Epstein Trust to J. & M. Herr for \$1,170,000	<b>1879 Holland Drive</b> G. Campbell to R. & R. Shiveley for \$515,000
	<b>109 Lark Court</b> Bringel Trust to W. Wilkins for \$1,700,000	<b>43 Iron Horse Lane</b> Primacy Closing Corporation to K. Stern for \$573,000

## OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

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

Danville	San Ramon
<b>3 Bedrooms</b>	<b>4 Bedrooms</b>
<b>29 La Gonda Ct.</b> Sat 1-4 Hometown GMAC <b>\$960,000</b> 858-5400	<b>23 Stow Ct.</b> Sat/Sun 1:30-4 Alain Pinel <b>\$1,150,000</b> 998-9747



### ATTENTION EAST BAY REALTORS

Effective Jan. 1, 2007, The Pleasanton Weekly and The Danville Weekly will charge a \$20 fee for Open Home Guide listings from individuals and organizations not under a current 52- or 26-week contract with the publications. The fee will be incurred for each listing and must be prepaid.

Contact your Weekly real estate account executive for details.

<b>Terry Bertolini</b> Danville Weekly 925 837-8300 x24	<b>Chris Paterson</b> Pleasanton Weekly 925-600-0840 x10
---	--




FOR ALL YOUR MORTGAGE NEEDS...

# Kelly Tong

CREATING FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS



**925.963.2125**  
MORTGAGE CONSULTANT



185 Railroad Ave,  
DANVILLE, CA 94526  
REAL ESTATE LIC# 01721354