

## Pet Vet premieres

Ask Dr. Heidi Strand your cat and dog questions

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Vol. II, Number 37 • January 12, 2007

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### Bridging the gap

Imam to address  
what Islam,  
Christianity share

> page 10

# Danville

## W E E K L Y

### Home Depot promises

Alamo store to open  
in April with nuts,  
bolts and more

> page 9

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# FREEWAY FRUSTRATION

**I-680 NEIGHBORS  
SEARCH FOR SOLUTION  
TO CONSTANT NOISE** PAGE 14

# Love Lines

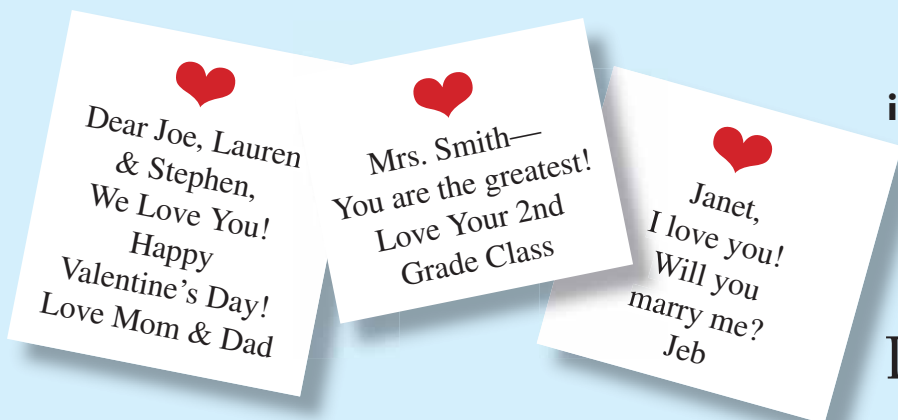
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## Q: Would you eat meat or dairy products from a cloned animal?



No. What God created is good enough. We don't need anything that man has tampered with. But I would get a pig heart if I needed a heart and couldn't get a human one.

**Frank Hanna**  
owner of telecom company



I'd have to say not yet. The long-term effects of any genetic modification worry me. If the FDA gives their final approval, they must mandate that cloned meat be marked as so. Frankly, even if they don't, concerned consumers will just buy from companies that voluntarily mark products like today's "organic" labeling does. It would be a concern for me that we even have cloned meat in the food stream.

**Jay Naganuma**  
IT director for international company



I would eat it or drink it. But I would probably eat or drink something that was uncloned first.

**Sandra Sibbring**  
student



Absolutely, if the controls and subjects were tested appropriately. If the majority are doing it, why not? I love cloned things.

**Jason Pauletich**  
gardener



I'm not gonna lie. I probably wouldn't because it's unnatural to clone. I don't think it's normal. If God wanted us to be cloned, he would have done it.

**Julia Ibarra**  
student at Las Positas College



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### ABOUT THE COVER

Joe Krutulis has trouble sleeping in early morning hours due to traffic noise from the freeway that begins before dawn. He supports a movement to lay rubberized asphalt on I-680 to decrease noise. Photos by Natalie O'Neill. Cover design by Ben Ho.

Vol. II, Number 37

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.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ The arts community is going through a crisis. ”

—Fred Turner, secretary for Danville Area Cultural Alliance (DACA), about the lack of volunteers and the closing of the Danville Art Gallery. See story, page 7



COURTESY JERRY MCNERNEY

U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (D., 11th) marks the beginning of his first term with a private swearing into office with wife Mary holding the Bible, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and family and friends. Earlier the Congressional oath of office was recited by the 435 members simultaneously at their official swearing in ceremony.

**Congressman McNerney sworn in**

Democrat Jerry McNerney was sworn into office in Washington, D.C., last week to represent the 11th Congressional District. McNerney said he will use his position on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to help address much needed transportation projects and improvements in the district. On Wednesday, McNerney secured a seat on the House Committee on Science and Technology.

He also plans to focus on reforming ethics rules in Washington; changing the way the country's energy policy is shaped, in part through a focus on renewable energy; as well as helping to find a new way forward in Iraq.

McNerney defeated incumbent Richard Pombo of Tracy in the November election, one of many GOP upsets across the nation.

**Monday is a school holiday**

Schools in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District will be closed on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which is Monday, Jan. 15.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a federal holiday honoring King, who was born Jan. 14, 1929. The day is on the third Monday in January, and it was first celebrated in 1986. King led the Civil Rights Movement, which led to social and legal reforms enacted to end racial discrimination against African-Americans and other minority groups.

**Do a l-o-o-o-n-g marathon**

The Town of Danville is holding a progressive marathon for those who find covering 26.2 miles at one time a bit too challenging. The progressive marathon will allow individuals to complete the distance at their own pace between Jan. 1 and May 5. It's a non-competitive event and will not be timed or scored. Participants track their own progress.

My Own Marathon will culminate at the Spring Fest: A Safety and Wellness Community Event at the Danville Community Center and the participants will walk their final mile together and celebrate.

Marathoners can register individually or as a group with friends, co-workers or classmates. To register, call 314-3400 or visit [www.ci.danville.ca.us](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us) and use class barcode 9638 for individuals. The cost is \$8 for Danville residents and \$10 for non-residents. After registering, go to the Community Center, 420 Front St., and pick up a goody bag with a pedometer, T-shirt and log book with fitness tips.

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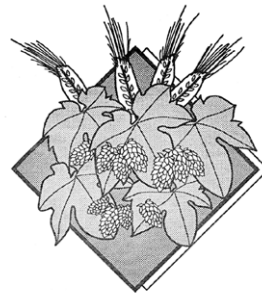
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5th Year Max Monthly Payment	\$2,145	\$1,686

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

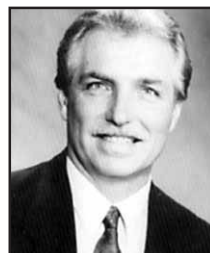
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## Keeping informed

Mayor holds first coffee to tell residents what's coming up

by Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Danville Mayor Mike Shimansky drew a couple of dozen people to his first informal coffee last Friday at Father Nature's on Prospect Avenue. Also in attendance were Town Manager Joe Calabrigo, Police Chief Chris Wenzel and Councilman Mike Doyle.

Shimansky opened the casual discussion by saying that when he was campaigning for re-election in November, folks kept telling him they didn't find out what was happening in town until it was too late.

"We don't do that on purpose," he said

with a chuckle. "We're here to talk about what's coming up." He also brought copies of the 2006 Annual Report and maps of downtown Danville to hand out.

First the mayor addressed the impact on Danville of the Dougherty Valley developments, which are being annexed by San Ramon. The new Dougherty Valley High School will open in September, which should alleviate some of the traffic currently caused by students commuting to school in Danville.

"This will be the worst time for traffic in that corridor," Shimansky said.

He reported that at the last Town Council



Mayor Mike Shimansky talks to Danville residents at his first monthly informal coffee.

covers businesses in the home, second stories, porches, accessories, garages and fencing and retaining walls. It was last updated in 1984.

"Danville is built out. We're talking about infill projects," he said.

He also updated the group on the study session in December on the Elworthy Property directly west of San Ramon Valley Boulevard in south Danville. The original development proposal was for 400 homes, he said, and the current proposal is for 84 units and a 12-unit apartment complex.

Residents at the coffee raised issues about speeding on Sycamore Valley Road, the dangers of crossing Front Street, rundown fences, litter, and light signal poles that need repainting. One woman urged that the

► Continued on page 10

## Caught white-handed

Police arrest Danville brothers for selling cocaine worth \$9,000

by Jordan M. Doronila

Danville police arrested two brothers on suspicion of selling cocaine near Blackhawk last week.

Officer Bryant Williams arrested 36-year-old Michael Dudley on suspicion of possessing cocaine for sale, on Thursday morning, Jan. 4. Danville police detectives and narcotics agents then arrested Dudley's brother Gary Scalarone, 35, on suspicion of possessing cocaine for sale in addition to other charges.

Scalarone, sometimes known as Gary Lane, was also charged with being an ex-felon carrying a firearm and holding it in public, according to police reports. He was taken from his home on Marigold Street, near Lawrence Road.

Police said Dudley carried 2 ounces of

cocaine, and Scalarone held 2 more ounces in his home. Police said the cocaine has a street value of \$9,000. Narcotic agents also found and seized \$6,200 in cash, a Rolex watch and a 2004 Dodge Ram pickup truck from Dudley's residence.

The brothers were taken to the Martinez Detention Facility. Bail was set for Dudley at \$30,000 and for Scalarone at \$75,000.

Danville Sgt. Troy Craig said the arrests were made after the Police Department received a call about a suspicious man from a Danville resident who saw Dudley carrying three duffle bags at Crow Canyon Road and Camino Ramon. Officer Williams stopped him and performed an investigation.

"We know the faces in our neighborhood," Craig said. "When you see someone unfamiliar, it makes you raise your eyebrows."

After investigating, Williams found that Dudley had an arrest warrant for driving while

► Continued on page 8

## Cops find stolen electronics

by Natalie O'Neill

A graveyard-shift sheriff's deputy at the Valley Station recently aided in the recovery of thousands of dollars of stolen electronics, Alamo Deputy Elmer Glasser said.

The deputy pulled over a vehicle for a separate charge and recovered several suspicious items during the vehicle inventory, some of which was property stolen from Alamo residents in the areas of Via Serena and Lunada Lane.

"The Valley Station was able to complete a search warrant based on the vehicle stop and ongoing criminal information," Glasser said.

During the search, a stolen Global Positioning System device, cell phone and other electronic goods were found and then returned to the Alamo residents.

Electronics theft is up in the Bay Area and some speculate it may be related to the abundance of iPods and laptop computers that were received as gifts during the holidays. In San Francisco, for example, electronic theft is up at Internet cafes and coffee shops that offer wireless Internet.

Now, in Alamo and around the country, property crimes and electronic theft is something people should be more aware of, Glasser said.

Keeping electronics with you, locking cars and garage doors, and closing shades are some of the ways to prevent being a victim of electronic property theft in Alamo, Glasser said.

"These simple things can greatly reduce crimes of opportunity. Don't be paranoid, just be careful," he said.

County Property Crimes Sgt. Kevin Daley said GPS devices are commonly stolen out of cars in affluent areas. Victims often have stuck the devices to their car dashboards to track where they are driving and then forgotten to bring them inside after parking, he said.

"Thieves will steal anything that's not locked down. They take them out of cars like candy," Daley said.

Since the technology is somewhat new and still pricey, most stolen systems have been reported in upscale areas, he said.

When reporting stolen items to police, it's important to have a record of the serial number of an electronic item and its make and model, Glasser said. This increases the likelihood that stolen property will be returned to you.

"I tell people to take a picture of their new electronics so they can provide an accurate description of it," Glasser said.

An Alamo resident who witnessed the property crime reported a description of the

► Continued on page 8



## Concrete solution

Foreman Eddie Molina pours concrete Monday morning on the sidewalk in front of Danville's new parking lot at 177 Front St. The Town of Danville was planning to open the new 81-space public parking lot sometime this week. Town Development Services Director and City Engineer Steve Lake said Monday the lot still needed to be striped and landscaped, which may be finished within one or two months. The sprinklers already have been installed. The lot will have 64 full-sized spaces, 13 parking spaces for compact-sized vehicles and four handicapped spaces. It will also have parking for bicycles. The new lot is situated between the historic Vecki House, now an office complex, and the Danville Town Meeting Hall. It backs up to the businesses of Sweet Magnolia, Forward Motion and Christie James Fine Jewelry Works. The project includes a pedestrian walkway to Hartz Avenue alongside Forward Motion and a pedestrian pathway to Prospect Avenue.



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# Danville Art Gallery closes

*Member cites lack of funds and town support as well as steep stairs*

by **Jordan M. Doronila**

The Danville Art Gallery has closed its doors. The public received notice earlier this week about the gallery's folding, which happened two months ago.

Members of the nonprofit Danville Area Cultural Alliance (DACA), the gallery operators, closed the venue in Danville's Village Theatre and Art Gallery building at 233 Front St. on Nov. 1.

The gallery's shortage of money and lack of town support contributed to its closing, said DACA secretary Fred Turner. He also noted the steep steps did not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

"We're out of money, and we're out of volunteers," Turner said. "We are having a (difficult) time getting up to the second floor."

However, Town Manager Joe Calabrigo said it was the group's responsibility to raise money for the arts—not Danville's. DACA was created to promote the arts and be a fundraising arm for the Danville Arts Commission, and it has deviated from its purpose, he said.

"I am not too keen in how they are doing this," Calabrigo said earlier this week. "I wasn't really aware the gallery had been closed."

"We haven't told them to close the gallery," he added. "It was their decision to close the gallery—not the town's."

Turner said DACA ran out of money to pay for the gallery's executive director. Additionally, the venue's steep steps made it difficult for people with disabilities to attend their classes, he said. As a result, the town allowed the group to hold classes at the Danville Community Center.

Turner said he wanted to use the Village Theatre's first floor to make it easier for the public to attend the gallery's functions. The first floor is occupied by the Role Players Ensemble Theatre and town staff members.

The monthly rent for the building is \$100 a month. DACA splits the cost with the Role Players.

Turner said it took a long time to notify the public of the gallery's closing because DACA was deliberating on its next step.

"We were just trying to figure it out," he said. "Some of the people who volunteer are retired. The arts community is going through a crisis."



DOLores FOX CHANDELL

The steep steps of the Danville Art Gallery made it difficult for people with disabilities to attend its functions.

"If this town is going to have an art gallery, the public has to make the Town Council aware," he added.

Calabrigo said the town has been working with DACA. Town Attorney Rob Ewing received notification that the group had recently reshuffled its board leadership a couple of months ago. Apparently, the new board members wanted to do things differently, Calabrigo said.

One of the original goals of DACA was to showcase artists in the local community, he said. But the new board wanted to display more work from artists who were affiliated with it.

Additionally, board members went to the town asking for financial support of \$10,000 to move forward, Calabrigo said.

"They're supposed to raise funds and not get the town to provide (money) for them," he noted.

The town is working to fulfill the needs of seniors and youths, Calabrigo said, and DACA may have to wait its turn for attention.

"It's going to behoove us to revisit what their charge is and whether or not the charge is being met," he said.

Also, he said the first floor of the building was designed for the theater, and it lacks wall space for art.

"It wouldn't work as a gallery," he said. ■

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## Cocaine

► Continued from page 5

intoxicated. He soon discovered that he carried 2 ounces of cocaine, which is a fistful size, said Craig.

The incident led police to his brother Scalorone, who had been holding, selling and packaging cocaine, according to the police report. Craig said Scalorone has held several jobs, which included a pool business, low level acting and producing.

When police and narcotics agents arrived at his house, they saw Scalorone outside on his driveway, armed with a loaded handgun. However, Scalorone did not fire the gun and no one was injured.

"He submitted on his own," Craig said. "It was a very clean arrest."

The investigation is continuing. ■

## Electronics

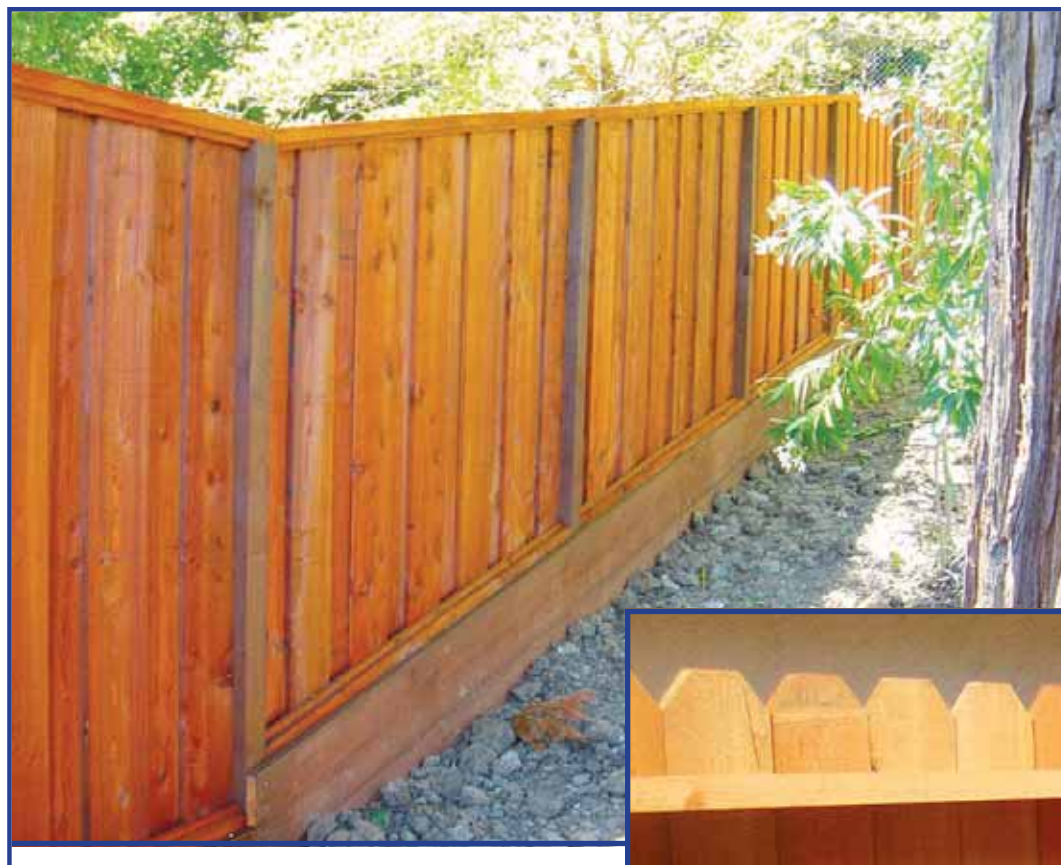
► Continued from page 8

vehicle to the county sheriff, which helped bring police closer to finding their neighbor's GPS devise.

Glasser encourages anyone who witnesses a property crime to be as detailed as possible when recounting descriptions of suspects and vehicles. He used the example of someone reporting a white car with its make and model; if the witness added that there was a missing hubcap it would make catching the suspect easier for officers.

"Start from the top down—look for what makes the physical description of a person or the vehicle stand out," Glasser said.

Overall, in Alamo in 2006 property crimes have gone down, thanks to the S.A.V.E.S. volunteer program, Glasser said. S.A.V.E.S. is a group of volunteers in Alamo who have circulated fliers to educate residents on how to think like a thief—in order to avoid being a victim of one. ■



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# Home Depot YardBirds schedules opening in April

*Store promises to carry the nuts and bolts of everyday life*

by **Natalie O'Neill**

When the winter starts to fade, gardening and home improvement projects won't have to be put on the back burner any longer.

YardBirds patrons who pine for the reopening of their neighborhood hardware store will have their shop back in time for spring, Home Depot West Coast spokeswoman Kathryn Gallagher said this week. The new Home Depot YardBirds is now planned to open April 19.

At an initial community meeting in July, Home Depot representative Tim Seymour set November 2007 as a likely opening date. But after an approval process with both Alamo Improvement Association and the county, Gallagher said it will open this spring.

"We're on target," Gallagher said. "The Alamo store is in the early stages of demolition and remodeling right now."

The store has been designed to meet the everyday home improvement needs of patrons as well as providing supplies for remodeling the interior of homes, she said. Small plumbing, electrical, wall patch and repair products, light bulbs and picture hooks will be

central to the store.

In past months Alamo residents have been concerned that the store will lack basic home maintenance needs and focus too much on fancy appliances and interior design. But Gallagher assured that the store will have a balance of tools and hardware items, citing door locks, nuts, bolts and fasteners as staples.

"We're seeking to capture the essence of the neighborhood hardware store that YardBirds was known for, accented with key attributes from Home Depot," she said.

The approval process between AIA and Home Depot went smoothly overall and hit only a couple of major bumps in the road, members of AIA said. One of those bumps was whether loading from the rear of the store should be permitted.

Alamo residents who live close to the store said loading trucks in the morning would cause noise too early. And some AIA members believed it would create a storage area even more unsightly than the disheveled old YardBirds area. This caused a point of tension between AIA and Home Depot.

"There was a bit of a debate going on between AIA and Home Depot," said AIA member Mike Gibson.

Contra Costa County officials came down on the side of the AIA recommendation, and residents who live along that portion of the

Iron Horse Trail breathed a sigh of relief. This will keep loading trucks and forklifts from dropping off goods along the Trail.

Meanwhile, frustrated merchants in Las Trampas Center said AIA was being too nitpicky with this and other requests. The merchants said they were upset with AIA for drawing the process out, and some also noted that their profits had gone down significantly without YardBirds as a major business draw.

AIA President Preston Taylor said his group had put in much time and effort and even had Saturday meetings to move the process forward.

"I was surprised," Gibson added, about the criticism. "We were putting a lot of time into it."

Other AIA members said issues like parking, signage and store aesthetics needed to be hammered out and couldn't be rushed. Merchant priorities, however, were simply to get it open quickly and resume the flow of customers into Las Trampas Center.

"We didn't think they would fold up their tent and go home just because they had to plant a few trees," Gibson said.

With the April 19 opening, customer service will also be a large point of focus, Gallagher said.

"It will provide a warm shopping environment," she said. ■

## Charlotte Wood Middle School sets up fund for Williams family

*Money will help with medical bills, funeral expenses*

by **Jordan M. Doronila**

Charlotte Wood Middle School has set up a fund to pay for the hospital bills for one of its teachers who was seriously injured in a car accident last month. The fund will also pay for the funeral of her 17-year-old daughter who died in the accident.

School officials have created the Williams Family Fund to pay for the medical expenses of science teacher Debra Williams, who is recovering from a car accident in December.

She was in critical condition, but she is now out of her coma. She is in the rehab wing of the John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek, said Terry Koehne, spokesman for the San Ramon Valley Unified

School District.

"She continues to improve on a daily basis," said Charlotte Wood Middle School Principal Sandy Budde. "She is breathing on her own. She is talking."

"Everyday is a little bit better," she said. "It's going to be a long road to recovery with physical therapy."

"She is not yet eating on her own," she added.

A funeral service was held for her daughter Danielle Williams last Friday, Jan. 5, at the Scottish Rite Temple in Oakland. Budde said the fund will pay for Danielle's funeral and burial.

"It's a very fitting tribute to a most wonderful lady," she said.

Early in December, Debra Williams was driving in her 2006 Ford Explorer in Yolo County with her daughter and her 17-year-old friend Allison Hom from San Ramon Valley High School.

She went off the road and hit an embankment, causing a crash and fatal injuries to Danielle.

Hom suffered serious back injuries.

They were taken to the UC Davis Medical Center by helicopter. Debra Williams suffered multiple facial injuries and trauma.

Hom had three broken vertebrae and underwent back surgery to repair the damage. School officials said Wednesday that her progress is good.

Now, Debra Williams' peers at Charlotte Wood believe she will persevere.

"Everyone's prayers have paid off," said Budde. "We are confident and hopeful."

To send money to the Williams Family Fund, make checks payable to: "Charger Fund, Williams" and send them to Charlotte Wood Middle School on 600 El Capitan Drive, Danville 94526. ■

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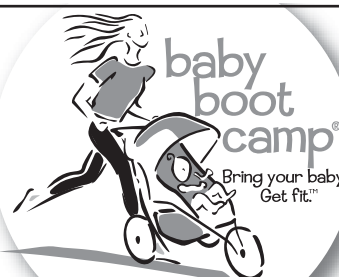
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## Church takes steps to bridge the gaps

*Imam addressing what Islam and Christianity have in common*

by Jordan M. Doronila

Building bridges between Islam and Christianity may help people from different faiths walk across a sea of differences and arrive on the shores of understanding, hope pastors at an Alamo church.

The San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church in Alamo will present a public dialogue about the commonalities between Christianity and Islam, at 11:15 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 14. The talk is part of a series of diverse January presentations called: "Bridging the Gap: Overcoming Our Cultural Divide."

Dr. Amer Salih Araim, an Imam from Concord and a professor at Diablo Valley College, is the keynote speaker at the event. Prior to the dialogue, the church will hold a sermon centered around the Christian and Islamic theme, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. and again from 10-11 a.m.

"I have been speaking to many churches since 9/11 to promote understanding between Muslims and Christians and to bring Muslims into the mainstream," Araim said. "We are part of society."

He will speak about the challenges of being a minority, and

connecting with different faiths and cultures in a multicultural society, said Pastor Heather Hammer, adding that 400 to 500 people attend the church's services each week.

Other issues that will be presented in January are the relationship between the economy and the environment, and concerns regarding science and religion. Last week, the church held a discussion about liberal and conservative issues.

**"I have been speaking to many churches since 9/11 to promote understanding between Muslims and Christians and to bring Muslims into the mainstream."**

—Dr. Amer Salih Araim, an Imam from Concord and a professor at Diablo Valley College

"We purposely were picking issues that often divide us, but we want to understand these issues," Hammer said. "The purpose is to

bridge the differences with people who are diverse."

"We certainly look forward to having dialogue," she added. "This is the first of its kind (at the church)."

Senior Pastor Ron Dunn and Hammer began to organize the dialogues in the fall.

"It's a response to the world as we presently see it," Dunn said. "The goal isn't to change each other's minds. The goal is to work together and build a community rather than tear it apart."

Hammer said the church's presentations will help bring better understanding of different cultures and enable people to work together.

"We need to focus on the commonality," Hammer said.

For more information about other dialogues in "Bridging the Gap: Overcoming Our Cultural Divide," call the church at 837-5243. ■

### Begin a dialogue

**What:** Bridging the Gap: Overcoming Our Cultural Divide

**When:** Christianity and Islam, 11:15 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 14

Between Economy and Environment; 11:15 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 21

Between Science and Religion; 11:15 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 28

**Where:** Wesley Center; San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo



Mayor Mike Shimansky drew a table full of residents at his informal coffee last week at Father Nature's.

## Mayor

► Continued from page 5

speed limit on Sycamore Valley be lowered to 35 mph, and that bicyclists be prevented from riding three abreast.

"Motorcycle units have worked there extensively," said Town Manager Calabrigo, to bring the traffic closer to 45 mph than 50 mph as it was before. "They've written twice as many tickets in the last few years."

The road was designed as a main arterial so the speed limit cannot be lowered, he added.

As for the cyclists, he said, "I wish we could legislate common sense."

A discussion was also held about "blinking" crosswalks such as are used in several downtown locations.

"We can only use them at certain spots," explained Calabrigo. The drivers can only see the lights if they are looking directly at them.

He also noted the downtown focus has shifted. At one time the goal was to get traffic through town efficiently. Now it is to make downtown a place to stop and shop. Drivers in a hurry are encouraged to use the freeway.

Shimansky also touted the 81 new parking places added this week to the downtown in the new Front Street parking lot.

Someone else asked about the position of mayor rotating among the council members as opposed to being individually elected.

"We've discussed this. As of right now, I like the way it is," said Shimansky, adding that this is the consensus on the council.

"Larger cities need elected mayors," he said. "Here we don't interfere with day-to-day operations; we give direction."

Shimansky said he was proud to have been on the December inaugural run of the new bus route 135 that goes from Bishop Ranch through Dougherty Valley to the Pleasanton BART, even though it departed shortly after 6 a.m.

"It was 26 degrees," he said. "It's a good thing the bus had a heater."

He recommended route 135 over the 121 bus that travels on and around Danville/San Ramon Valley Boulevard to the BART station in Pleasanton on the south end of the route and Walnut Creek BART on the north.

Shimansky said the next Town Council meeting, Tuesday, Jan. 16, will include a public hearing on a proposal to change the zoning on Fostoria Way from light commercial to residential, to allow townhouses on the vacant 1.76-acre lot east of Costco.

After more than an hour of discussions, the new mayor called his first informal coffee to a close. He urged everyone to stay longer if they wanted and to please come again and spread the word about the monthly coffees. The next one is scheduled for 7:30 a.m., Friday, Feb. 2, at Father Nature's, 172 E. Prospect Ave. ■

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# Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



## She's challenging us again

Get-in-shape guru Debbie Carmel is at it again. The Alamo resident is heading up the second annual Weight Loss Challenge for Alamo and Surrounding Areas to take place Jan. 13-March 10. She inspires everyone to challenge themselves to shed pounds with proper diet and exercise, offering the incentive of drawings at a grand finale luncheon to announce the "biggest loser." The winning loser receives fantastic prizes. But most importantly, the Challenge provides camaraderie.

Debbie, 47, is a supervisor for the city and county of San Francisco, and has a degree in recreation management from the University of Oregon. Last year she used her impressive management skills and endless enthusiasm to plan the Challenge with Fit Fitness Studio in Danville. She went to each event, plus solicited gifts from merchants for the luncheon prizes. She met her target of making the challenge successful but did not have time to focus on her own fitness goals. After stepping on the scales Jan. 1,

she decided to go for it again and this time challenge herself to lose weight. "My goal is to look trim and sexy," she said.

The winning loser receives fantastic prizes. But most importantly, the Challenge provides camaraderie.

Debbie is 5 feet 7 inches and for many years her weight was a steady 130-135. "And I thought that was fat at the time," she said with a laugh. She added pounds when she gave birth to her twins nine-and-a-half years ago, and her two-hour-plus commute didn't help. In July, she began an even more stressful job, as a supervisor in the San Francisco Retirement System, and said the added pressure resulted in gaining back some of last year's

lost pounds. Debbie gives a regular accounting of her weight challenges in the monthly Alamo Today publication but was chagrined to find that being in the public eye didn't make the weight melt off automatically. "I thought I'd be a beanpole by now but it doesn't work that way," she told me.

Bally's Total Fitness in the Town and Country Shopping Center in Danville is sponsoring the Challenge this year, offering eight weeks of free membership to participants and providing trainers to lead the walks. The only requirements are to weigh in at Bally's between noon and 3:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 13, to have a "before" photo taken, and to weigh in again at the end, wearing the same clothes. The group exercise sessions and other events are optional but they are the fun part. Last year's mission statement was "fun," "support" and "recognition," and the feedback was: Mission accomplished.

Three members from last year's Challenge—Marilyn Bailey, Linda Siino and Roxanne Claslin—will help organize and run the activities, to include walking, biking, a "be a kid again" skate night and a get-together at Fresh Choice. Roxanne will plan the awards luncheon at Round Hill Country Club on Sunday, March 11. Debbie's twins Samantha and Gregory, students at Rancho Romero Elementary, can't wait to visit the businesses with her again to ask for contributions. Her husband Chuck is happy to keep the home fires burning, and they all see it as a way to give back to the community.

Last year I didn't meet the group until its Biggest Loser luncheon. The event was so exciting that first thing I knew I was walking down the Iron Horse Trail with a bunch of very good walkers who had signed up for another eight weeks. I met Liz, who sits on an exercise ball at her desk to work out her abdominal muscles. I also met Robert, a Marine whose fitness took a nosedive after he was involved in a bad car accident. The miles flew by as we chatted about everything under the sun. After all the nutrition talk, I changed my breakfast to a protein drink.

Tomorrow everyone—men are also encouraged—can meet Debbie at Bally's and sign up for the Challenge. The studio is even providing healthy appetizers. Contact Debbie at [dmcarmel@yahoo.com](mailto:dmcarmel@yahoo.com) or 930-0243 to donate prizes for the luncheon. Tickets for the drawing are given for pounds lost and events attended. Even if you're in perfect shape, you might want to go to tomorrow to see what it's all about. But be warned: The enthusiasm is contagious. ■

### TAKE US ALONG



### Reading at the crossroads

Cathryn Leclere reads her hometown news while on the Island of Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands where she travels every six weeks to do orthodontics.

Take Us Along on your travels and send photos to [Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com) or 315 Diablo Road, Danville 94596.

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#### Summary of the Position

We are looking for someone with a pleasant disposition to join our fabulous team. If you are interested and have proven clerical skills, a strong command of the English language, proficiency with Microsoft Word and data entry experience, contact us to learn more about the position.

#### Job Duties

The Receptionist/Administrative Assistant is the face and voice of the paper serving as the initial contact with our customers both in person and over the phone; assists in referring customers for assistance and scheduling appointments as needed; and ensures that all supplies and equipment for the office are available and in working order.

#### Job Requirements:

- Previous clerical experience including interaction with customers.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Word and data entry.
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- Ability to work calmly under deadlines and changing priorities.
- Ability to multi-task completing assignments simultaneously.
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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:

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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.

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**EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY**

**Mayor reaches out**

Mr. Mayor brews a mean cup of coffee. Mayor Mike Shimansky was the host at an informal get-together last Friday morning at Father Nature's for any resident of Danville who wanted to come and talk about the town. The Town Manager and the Police Chief were also there to answer questions. Shimansky said he didn't know what to expect; he thought it might just be the three of them.

More than a dozen residents came to the informal gathering to ask questions, voice concerns, and learn about plans under way in town. Shimansky said he got the idea for the coffees when he was campaigning for re-election and residents told him they didn't know about things until "it was too late." This is a casual way for everyone to find out about town plans in their early stages, as well as to let the mayor and other city officials know what's on their minds.

Danville is very good about communication with its residents. Town Council members take turns manning a booth at the Saturday Farmers Market on Railroad Avenue. They not only listen to concerns, they attend to them by contacting the appropriate staff person first thing Monday morning. Councilman Mike Doyle was also at Shimansky's coffee last Friday. Fifteen years ago, then-Mayor Doyle instituted something similar by having coffee at a restaurant on Hartz Avenue each morning where folks could join him.

Shimansky's coffee klatches will be held the first Friday of each month; the next one is scheduled for 7:30 a.m., Friday, Feb. 3, again at Father Nature's on East Prospect Avenue. Come with questions, concerns, to see what's new, or just to meet the mayor. Given this added opportunity to be informed, people can't complain that they didn't hear about things until "it was too late." The gathering makes an interesting start of the day for any Danville resident—and the coffee is good, too.

Shimansky said he got the idea for the coffees when he was campaigning for re-election and residents told him they didn't know about things until "it was too late."

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Host a French student**

Dear Editor:

I enjoy reading the Weekly and seeing the paper show up around the world as my neighbors travel. Since your readers seem to enjoy international experiences, they might want to host a French student for a couple of weeks next month.

This is the fifth year I will be hosting teenagers from the south of France, and I am looking for more host families for the short two-week period from Feb. 9-23. These kids range in age from 14 through 18 and attend school in Beziers at the Jean Moulin Lycee. They will be traveling with their English teachers and have a full itinerary of activities during the weekdays.

This foreign hosting opportunity offers an easy exposure to international lifestyles. It is also a great chance for us to share our wonderful valley with some great kids. If anyone is interested or needs further information, please call me at 984-7691, or send an e-mail to k.dimler@sbcglobal.net, or e-mail directly to group teacher Martine Causse at causeffly@wanadoo.fr.

The Rotary Club in Beziers as well as their school helps the teens to organize the trip for the students. Give me a call and help me show them our Tri-Valley hospitality.

*Kevin Dimler, Danville*

**Test welfare recipients**

Dear Editor:

The Danville Weekly, mailed free to homes in Danville, Blackhawk, Diablo and Alamo,

is a logical forum between your readers and Contra Costa County District 3, as these communities represent a large portion of that district. Supervisor Mary Piepho, representing us, has her main office a few steps from your offices, further reason for that forum. Board of Supervisors' meetings are televised on CCTV.

The largest portion of county taxes are derived from property taxes and, as District 3 has relatively high property valuations, a disproportionately high share of county income comes from us readers. The largest portion of county expenses goes to Health and Welfare.

Like many folks in Danville, our county and state, we work at jobs, or, if retired, receive pensions and Social Security from when we worked, paying taxes on that income to governmental bodies who distribute our taxes as they see fit. Many employers have zero tolerance policies or require random urine or blood tests for drugs or alcohol, with which I have no problem. Failing can mean immediate termination.

I have a problem with distribution of taxes to people who don't have to pass these tests to get health or welfare benefits. I have nothing against helping people get back on their feet. I do have a problem helping someone who just sits on their butt. Can you imagine the taxes we would save if people had to pass zero tolerance screening to get a public assistance check!

*Ralph Hoffmann, Danville*

**YOUR TURN**

**The Danville Weekly wants to hear from you**

The Danville Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or on issues of local interest. Deadline is 5 p.m. Monday for that week's issue. No anonymous letters or "open letters" to other organizations or individuals will be printed. Please provide your name, street address and daytime telephone number. Please keep length to 250 words or less. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length and style and for factual errors known to us.

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# Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Man arrested for stashing wine in pants

Employees caught a 41-year-old Danville resident putting a bottle of wine inside his pants and leaving Lunardi's Supermarket without paying for it last week, said Danville police Sgt. Troy Craig.

Officer Chad Pryor arrested the shoplifter Friday afternoon, Jan. 5, and took him to the Martinez Detention Facility. The bottle of wine had a selling price of \$16.99.

Craig said there could have been a number of

motivations why the Danville man wanted to steal the wine.

"Everyone's got their reasons," Craig said. "We can't really explain it."

He said a clerk working at Lunardi's, on Railroad Avenue, spotted the man putting a wine bottle in his pants. After the 41-year-old hid the bottle, he bought a bag of potato chips to make it seem like he was buying something from the store, Craig said.

When he was leaving Lunardi's, employees detained him until police arrived.

—Jordan M. Daronila

## POLICE LOG

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

### Sunday, Dec. 31

- Fireworks disturbance on Lehigh Valley Pl. at 1:53 a.m.
- Fireworks disturbance on Brookside Dr. and El Capitan Dr. at 2:01 a.m.
- Promiscuous shooting on Daylight Pl. at 2:03 a.m.
- Fireworks disturbance on El Capitan Dr. and Silver Cloud Pl. at 3:04 a.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on Bobbie Ct. at 5:10 p.m.
- Auto burglary on Diablo Rd. at 8:54 p.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Garden Creek Pl. at 8:59 p.m.
- Promiscuous shooting on Joaquin Dr. at 11:05 p.m.

### Monday, Jan. 1

- Fireworks disturbance on Ridgeland Dr. and Ridgeland Cir. at 12:02 a.m.
- Fireworks disturbance on Dunhill Dr. and Stetson Dr. at 12:03 a.m.
- Vandalism on Holbrook Dr. at 12:58 p.m.
- Vandalism on Tuscany Way at 1:55 p.m.
- Credit card fraud on Rancho Verde Cir. W. at 2:02 p.m.

- Vandalism on Alta Vista Way and Tuscany Way at 2:25 p.m.
- Credit card fraud on Rancho Verde Cir. W. at 2:29 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Morninghome Rd. at 3:06 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Leeds Ct. E. at 4:49 p.m.

### Tuesday, Jan. 2

- Vandalism on Harlan Dr. at 9:55 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Highland Dr. at 4:30 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Ackerman Dr. and Diablo Rd. at 9:10 p.m.

### Wednesday, Jan. 3

- Auto burglary on E. Linda Mesa Ave. at 8:44 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Highland Dr. at 3:25 p.m.
- Illegal entry on Sherburne Hills Rd. at 7:12 p.m.
- Drugs violation on W. El Pintado Rd. and Elsie Dr. at 8:04 p.m.
- Forgery of fraudulent documents on Stetson Dr. at 9:18 p.m.

### Thursday, Jan. 4

- Auto burglary on El Capitan Dr. at 6:17 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Rubicon Cir. at 8:36 a.m.
- Possession of counterfeit bill on Stetson Dr. at 8:42 a.m.
- Vandalism on Rubicon Cir. at 8:48 a.m.

- Identity theft on La Gonda Way at 10:16 a.m.
- Vandalism on St. Teresa Ct. at 12:06 p.m.
- Burglary on Mustang Ct. at 12:14 p.m.

### Friday, Jan. 5

- Accident, property damage, on Morninghome Rd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 9:32 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Diablo Rd. at 11:03 a.m.
- Identity theft on Old Town Ln. at 11:24 a.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, on Fostoria Way at 1:24 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, on Railroad Ave. at 3:33 p.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 5:41 p.m.
- Trespassing on Center Way and Shadowhawk Cir. at 5:46 p.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on Danville Blvd. at 5:48 p.m.
- Fight disturbance on Camino Tassajara at 8:07 p.m.

### Saturday, Jan. 6

- Fight disturbance on Boone Ct. at 12:10 a.m.
- Vandalism on El Capitan Dr. at 3:11 a.m.
- Strong-arm robbery on Camino Ramon and Franciscan Dr. at 9:40 a.m.
- Vandalism on Harlan Dr. at 4:25 p.m.

## OBITUARIES

### Althea Marie Nelson

Althea Marie Nelson, a doctor of Podiatric Medicine, passed away at her home in Alamo surrounded by her family on Saturday morning, Jan. 6. She was lovingly known as "Honey."

She was born Nov. 23, 1914, to Margaret Schneider Nelson and George W. Nelson, D.P.M., and raised in Minneapolis, Minn. She was a gifted student and graduated from high school at barely 16 years of age. She graduated from Scholl College of Podiatry (then the Chicago College). She was the only female podiatrist for a long time in the state of Minnesota, where she practiced podiatry for more than 40 years, many in association with her father. She moved to Walnut Creek in 1991 and to Alamo with her daughter in 2001.

Over the years people were drawn to her sweet and caring disposition, her sharp intellect and wit, her strong devotion to family and friends, and her kindness and compassion.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister Audrey Nelson Gordon. She is survived by daughter Roxanne Foster (Creig) of Alamo; grandsons Christopher and Scott Foster of Alamo; and numerous relatives and friends around the country.

The liturgy was scheduled for 10:30 a.m., Friday, Jan. 12, at St. Isidore's Catholic Church. Memorial gifts are preferred to Caring Hands Volunteer Caregivers Program through the John Muir Foundation, 1400 Treat Blvd., Walnut Creek, 94597, and Hospice of Contra Costa, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

### Virginia Theresa Beem

Virginia Theresa Beem, 80, passed away at her Danville home Dec. 28 after a lengthy illness.

She was born in Toledo, Ohio, on Feb. 28, 1926, and had been a resident of the San Ramon Valley for the past 50 years. She had a 20-year career as a medical assistant, and enjoyed playing cards, reading, traveling, and spending time with her friends and family.

She was pre-deceased by her husband, Ted Beem in 1989. She is survived by her children, Louann Turjanis of Elk Grove, Jim Conter of Murietta and Jeff Conter of Danville; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a sister, Patricia Scott of Pittsburgh, Penn.

A celebration of her life was held Jan. 3 at Wilson & Kratzer Chapel of San Ramon Valley.



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# FREEWAY FRUSTRATION

## I-680 NEIGHBORS SEARCH FOR SOLUTION TO CONSTANT NOISE

STORY AND PHOTOS BY NATALIE O'NEILL

Joe Krutulis, who lives in the Alamo hills above I-680, gazes out the window of his at home office in the direction of the constant whooshing and droning sound created by the freeway below.

It's 5 a.m. and Joe Krutulis can't sleep. Wide awake, he tosses and turns in bed as humming engines and squealing tires echo from the freeway into his Alamo home.

The first signs of the pre-dawn rush hour have begun, and for Krutulis this means another sleepless morning.

As more Bay Area commuters use I-680 as a freeway route, Danville and Alamo residents like Krutulis are feeling stronger effects of noise pollution. And it isn't just taking a toll on the folks who live close to the freeway.

Sound from the major transportation artery reflects off sound barriers and travels up into the hills, aggravated residents say.

"What I'm concerned with is my quality of life," says Krutulis, whose son returned from college over the holidays and also couldn't sleep at night.

Whether it's a loud banging or a subtle but perpetual rumble, there is no denying the effects of noise on the human body and mind. Increased stress levels, raised blood pressure, the frequency of head and back aches, along with sleep deprivation are just some of the physical and psychological effects that noise can have on one's health.

"It really affects the psyche of a person," says Alina Roshal, who lives in the Creeks of Alamo neighborhood, one street removed from the freeway.

Even after years of living with the noise, it's not something residents can get used to.

Frustrated, Roshal has begun circulating a petition to support a change that she says will ease the constant freeway drone.

The petition supports the laying of new freeway material that absorbs some of the sound from cars. Rubberized asphalt, which is made partially of recycled "crumb rubber" from old tires, would be laid over the existing lanes from San Ramon through Alamo.

Rubberized asphalt costs slightly more than non-rubberized asphalt but is often more durable depending on weather conditions. The material can be bought for \$37-\$70 per ton.

If the I-680 project goes through, it would be the first large scale freeway improvement in the area in about 40 years. And residents who live near the freeway have jumped at the chance to at least partially reduce noise levels.

"We can't talk to our kids outside without yelling or raising our voice," says Alex Jauregui, who lives on Ranger Court in Alamo and says the sound clouds his senses.

Others point out that the new material benefits both people and the environment by decreasing sound and keeping old tires out of landfills.

Caltrans spokeswoman Lauren Wonder said last week that a project similar to what they are requesting is in the making. The \$64 million project will patch 50- to 100-foot slabs, dips and cracks with rubberized asphalt on the 12-mile I-680 stretch from south county lines through San Ramon, Danville and Alamo to Rudgear Road, and is targeted for spring 2009. The project is focused on maintenance, not a solution to noise, as federal funding isn't provided for highway and freeway noise issues.

But those who live less than a mile from I-680 say spot-repairing the slabs just isn't enough. They want the all of the lanes covered with rubberized asphalt and attention given to noise complaints.

"It's like patching thread-bare pants," says Wonder. "You're not getting something that has outlived itself," she says.

Wonder said the repaired freeway would reduce sound by any significant amount. "It's like over time the pockets that sound fill up with dirt and dust from the road," she says. "It's like pores on your face. Logically, over time the road will fill up with debris."

Other areas that have used the rubberized asphalt, including Colorado Springs, O'Fallon, Ill., and Phoenix, have noticed noise decreases of 10 to 15 decibels. In Colorado Springs, the effect was roughly equal to cutting the number of cars on the street. In 2004, Caltrans paved I-880 in Oakland with rubberized asphalt at a cost of \$1.8 million per mile.

When standing right next to the freeway, sound levels are measured at about 70-80 decibels, close to the sound a stadium concert. "I didn't expect the noise reduction would be that significant," Wonder said.

"People who are keenly aware of the noise may notice an impact," she said, referring to the 2009 project.

Residents like Don Copland say they are keenly aware of the "high pitched whine

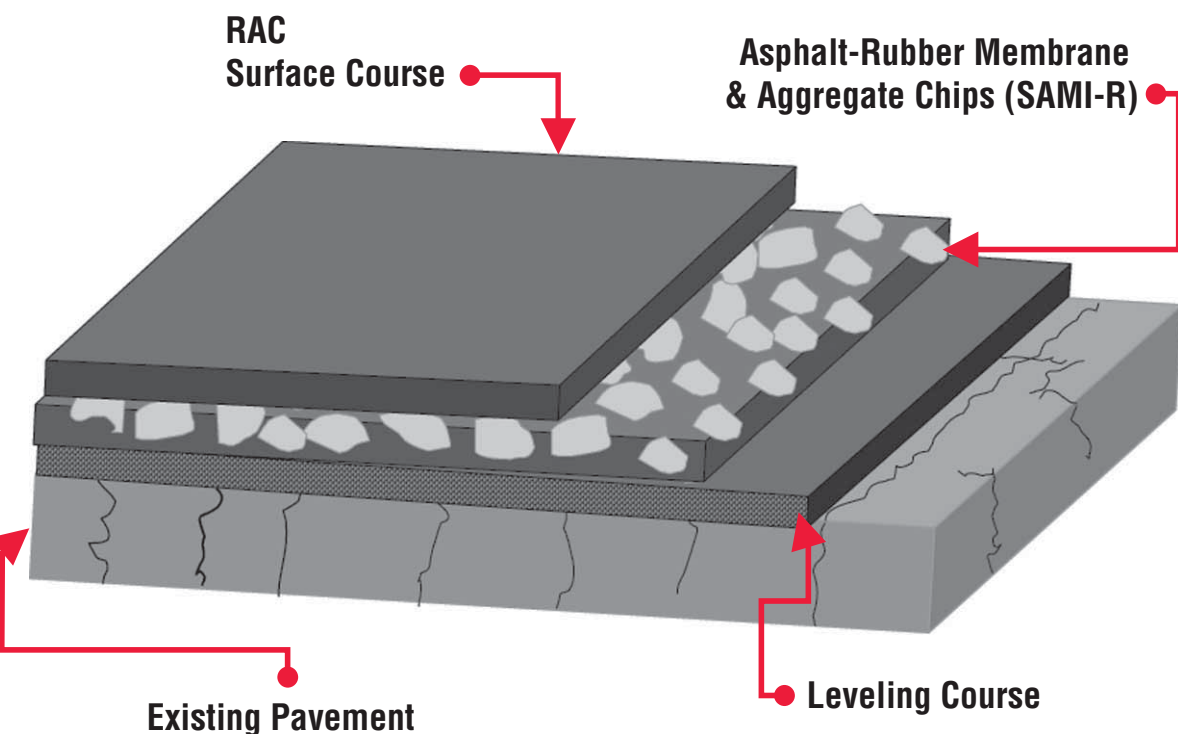
**"We can't  
talk to our  
kids outside  
without yelling  
or raising our  
voice."**

—Alex Jauregui



Left, the freeway pavement currently suffers from wear and tear, causing cracks, dips and potholes in some sections of I-680. Caltrans plans to repair damaged areas with rubberized asphalt in 2009, but not to pave the entire freeway as Alamo and Danville residents have requested.

Below, a diagram shows the levels of materials that make up a freeway paved with rubberized asphalt. SOURCE: CALTRANS



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heard on a daily basis. And other residents say the material would change the tone of the noise—which is equally important. They cited the strips of rubberized asphalt near the Caldecott Tunnel as an example of what they prefer.

"It's all about perception," Wonder said. "Some people think trees reduce sound but they don't by much—it's just peaceful to have green there."

Wonder said Caltrans has heard complaints about noise from the sound walls in the Alamo and Danville areas, but says she considers that issue separate from the rubberized asphalt project.

She added that Caltrans is in support of using the material because of environmental issues, not noise factors.

With the freeway becoming more heavily used, the issue is getting worse every year. Commuters leave earlier or stay later to beat the traffic, causing the peak noise time to be stretched out from 5-9 a.m. and to 4-7 p.m.

In the past year residents say the sound has gotten louder and is lasting for longer periods of time.

"It's gotten much worse. People are leaving earlier to beat the I-680 commute," says Krutulis.

Jauregui, who moved from San Francisco to live in a "garden community," points out this isn't what he expected from the semi-rural neighborhood he moved into.

"If a neighbor moved in and blared music on his speakers no one would put up with that. It's the same thing—a horrible nuisance," he says.

Other factors besides lifestyle and health are

also playing a part in the petitioners' decision to say "out with the old" asphalt.

With the sound getting worse some property values are dropping, Realtors say. Copland, who is both a resident and a real estate agent in Alamo, says it's taken him six months to sell a house near the freeway, a house that five years ago would have been off the market in no time.

"They sell a lot slower; it takes a special person that's willing to take that house," Copland says.

Jauregui, who is also in real estate, says the noise pollution is bringing down the median property value in the area.

"Even if it just goes down by 1 percentage point that could be millions of dollars," he says.

County staff is currently working with the petitioners, acting as a liaison for concerned residents in communication with Caltrans. Many residents say they hope to get Alamo Improvement Association involved as well.

"Anything that improves the quality of life for (District 3 residents) is worthwhile," said Paige D'Angelo, Chief of Staff for the south county offices.

In Alamo and Danville, residents are saying that's exactly what the use of rubberized asphalt on the freeway would do—improve their lives on day-to-day basis.

"Wouldn't it be great to go down to Alamo Plaza and be able to hear a bird chirp?" says Jauregui.

To sign the petition or find out more information contact Alina Roshal at aroshal@sanramon.ca.gov. ■

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JORDAN M. DORONILA

## Postal worker—in life and death

*Last resident of little houses on Front Street dies at 89*

by Jordan M. Doronila

Mrs. Emmitt Giddons proudly wore her white blouse, blue pants and sweater covering a blue eagle. Even as she lay inside a white coffin with her eyes closed, she continued wearing the uniform from when she worked at the Danville post office for 43 years.

Wilma Anita Giddons' family members mourned her death and put white roses into her casket to honor her life at her funeral service at the Wilson and Kratzer Chapel of San Ramon Valley in Danville last week. About 20 family members and friends attended the service Wednesday, Jan. 3.

Giddons, 89, passed away Dec. 26. Her grandniece Jeri Eresman—who had taken care of her for the last three years—cried at the service, while sharing memories of her aunt.

"She was like a mother to me," Eresman said. "I loved her. She could be very harsh, but you know what she said she meant."



A family member of Wilma Anita Giddons places a flower by her Danville home on Front Street after her funeral service. Top: Wilma cuts the cake at her retirement party in the early 1990s after 43 years of service at the Danville post office; Wilma and her husband Emmitt Giddons stand by their Front Street home more than 40 years ago; Wilma and Emmitt with their nephew Mike.

"She never gave up her roots in Danville," she added.

At the service, Pastor Roger Kuehn of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Antioch gave Wilma's eulogy. He talked about how God knew Wilma first, created her out of "His" love for her and sent her down on earth. Now, she is returning to God.

After he finished, he invited the family and friends to speak.

by police, to the little old white house on Front Street where she lived for many years and adorned it with a flower arrangement. She lived in the Front Street home for 63 years, next to the Danville Public Library. Next, the mourners assembled to bury her in the rugged hills of the historic Alamo Cemetery.

Wilma Siddons was born Feb. 8, 1917, in Kadoka, S.D. She worked

"Wilma was a great friend," recalled an old acquaintance. "She stepped out of life to be 'Wilma.'"

Then, Giddons' loved ones drove in their cars, escorted

at the Danville post office for 43 years, watching the town grow from a small farming community into a suburb saturated with homes, families and children.

She retired from the U.S. Postal Service on Dec. 31, 1992, to take care of her sister, who was Eresman's grandmother.

Even after retirement, she continued to wear her uniform.

"She wasn't ready to retire," said Eresman.

During World War II, Wilma was a lookout on Mount Diablo, which entailed enemy plane spotting and reminding people they needed to keep their lights down and their shades drawn for the blackout.

She enjoyed reading romance novels, and her favorite television shows were the Lawrence Welk

Show on Saturday nights and the religious TV program "It Is Written" on Sunday mornings.

When she was young, Wilma worked as a maid for awhile and was proud that she was able to continue her education and graduate from high school at a time in the 1930s when many only attended school through the eighth grade.

She worked at a food bank during the Great Depression and became upset when she saw judges and lawyers take food first, because they all had jobs. Moreover, she never trusted a bank because if it folded, she would lose her savings. She was frugal throughout her life and saved many things, Eresman said.

Wilma married Emmitt Siddons on June 12, 1943, and although the union did not result in children, they remained side by side until his death April 3, 1962. Even after his death, she wanted to be known as Mrs. Emmitt Siddons.

"She never gave up on that name," Eresman said. "She loved him."

She is survived by her niece, Georgia Whitney of Newark; and her grandniece, Jeri Eresman. ■

# Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE

## Saloons open in 20th century Danville (Temperance, Part 2)



Elliott's Bar was owned and operated by Hiram Elliott and his sons, Duane and Gordon, for 70 years. On the eve of Prohibition, Hiram offered drinks on the house, then he and his teenage sons poured out the liquor supply.

by Beverly Lane

The battle over liquor licenses went on for years in Danville and elsewhere. In 1900 the Contra Costa Gazette headline read, "Will Run Wide Open—Three Petitions for Liquor Licenses in Danville." Mr. Flagel was back; now he had a wholesale license but by law was restricted to selling liquor in quantities of one quart. However, when Flagel and T. McCauley sold some strangers a pint flask of whiskey, a complaint was sworn out against them and they were arrested.

Since the matter had been long fought, it was agreed to let the county Board of Supervisors decide whether or not liquor could be sold. The Gazette for Jan. 6, 1900, published names on the pro and con petitions, which included opposition R.O. Baldwin, James Root, J.A. Shuey and the Rev. R. S. Symington, and supporters Fred L. Humburg, John Hartz and John Halverson.

The supervisors granted retail saloon licenses to Flagel, McCauley and M. Lawless with Danville representative Supervisor William Hemme agreeing on two and opposing the Lawless license.

According to the article, "The result is that Danville will become a wide-open town." It seems the supervisors felt that, since liquor

had been sold there for many years, it was better that "the men have retail licenses when they are under bond to keep the law."

The battle didn't end there, for the Gazette on Feb. 10 reported, "The Saloon Fight—Two of Danville Cases Heard Last Tuesday." A "spy of the anti-saloon league" brought charges against the bartender of A. Flagel. Justice W.C. Lewis heard the case in Danville, 40 witnesses were summoned, and "the town was livelier than it had been for many a day."

Young Hiram Elliott went to work in the Lawless Saloon on Front Street early in the 20th century. He learned the saloon business, used his savings and bought the Lawless in 1907, renaming it Elliott's. Later he moved the business to the heart of town on Hartz Avenue.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Anti-Saloon League carried the temperance fight banner in California and the nation, with the 18th Amendment the result. Prohibition went into effect in 1919 and closed down saloons all over the county.

Prohibition impacted the valley in several ways. Owners of vineyards on the valley floor were unable to sell their crops and turned to growing

walnuts and fruit trees. One rancher, Italian immigrant James Morengo, had planted extensive vineyards in Alamo 30 years earlier and stored his wine in a large cellar just off Livorna Road. He was devastated when federal agents came to his ranch, busted his wine barrels and drained the wine into Miranda Creek.

The night before Prohibition took effect, Hiram Elliott offered drinks on the house, then he and his teenage sons poured out his liquor supply. He said he didn't want to break the law and sell out the back door. The bar became an ice cream parlor and candy store during the '20s, which reduced the family income considerably.

Owners of stills in Crow Canyon and the Mount Diablo foothills weren't as scrupulous. A book called "Jackass Brandy" by Bruno Buti recounts some Crow Canyon stories of bootleggers and their experiences with federal revenue agents. But that is another story.

Sources: *Contra Costa Gazettes, Carlo Borlandelli and Duane Elliott personal communications,*

—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."

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**Q. Our dog got into some chocolate fudge over the holidays. When I called our vet, he said the amount the dog ate wasn't going to be a problem (he's an 80-pound black lab). But isn't all chocolate toxic to dogs?**

**A.** A lot of people know that chocolate is toxic to dogs, but do you know why? The culprits are caffeine and theobromine, both classified as methylxanthines. Dogs are very sensitive to methylxanthines, which can cause hyperactivity, increased heart rate, tremors and even death at high doses. (Dogs can also be affected by the sugar and milk in chocolate, which may cause vomiting and diarrhea.) The amount of methylxanthines varies by the type of chocolate—in general, the more bitter the chocolate, the more methylxanthines and the more potential for toxicity. Milk chocolate can be fatal at a dose of approximately one ounce per pound of your dog's body weight. Baking chocolate, because it contains so much more theobromine, can be fatal at less than 1/10 of an ounce per pound of your dog's body weight! Pet birds are also sensitive to methylxanthines and can be affected by even the tiniest amount of chocolate.

It's always a good idea to call your Veterinarian immediately if you suspect your dog has ingested chocolate. It's important to try to determine how much he has eaten, what kind of chocolate it was, and how long ago it happened. Based on your dog's weight, your veterinarian can help you determine if it is necessary to seek emergency treatment. Treatment can include inducing vomiting, giving activated charcoal, and supportive treatment for symptoms such as seizures.

You were very fortunate this time! But here's a phone number you should keep next to your veterinarian's. It's the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 1-888-426-4435. They charge \$55 per call—worth every penny when your pet's life is in danger. For more information, visit [www.aspc.org](http://www.aspc.org).

**Q. I live in an apartment complex where semi-feral cats hang out, no doubt encouraged by food and water set out by other tenants who otherwise take no responsibility for the cats. The cats frequently climb and lie on the hood and roof of my parked car, leaving scratches, muddy paw prints and other evidence of their presence. Is there something I can do to prevent or discourage the cats from this behavior that won't harm the cats or my car?**

**A.** One thing that can keep cats off your car is aluminum foil. While there are some more aggressive tactics (products such as the scat mat come to mind), I would hate for you to buy something to leave on the car that might get stolen. You could leave the aluminum foil in the car and put it on after you park. You could also try leaving orange peels on the car—cats generally avoid them. However other critters are likely to run off with them. Another more labor-intensive tactic is to leave upside down mousetraps on the car. The noise and motion when they are sprung really scares cats, and as long as they are upside down they will not hurt the cats.

If the cats really are feral, there are several organizations that will help you have them spayed or neutered to cut down on the population, including our East Bay Feral Fix. However, these apartment cats are often owned animals that people just let run around outside. I've never been able to figure out why they are so obsessed with climbing on cars. I guess they just like the footprints!

—Dr. Heidi Strand is a veterinarian for the East Bay SPCA in Dublin. She has lived in the Tri-Valley for 10 years with her family and an assortment of four-legged friends. Questions can be mailed to 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville 94526; or e-mailed to [petvet@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:petvet@DanvilleWeekly.com). Her column appears every other week.



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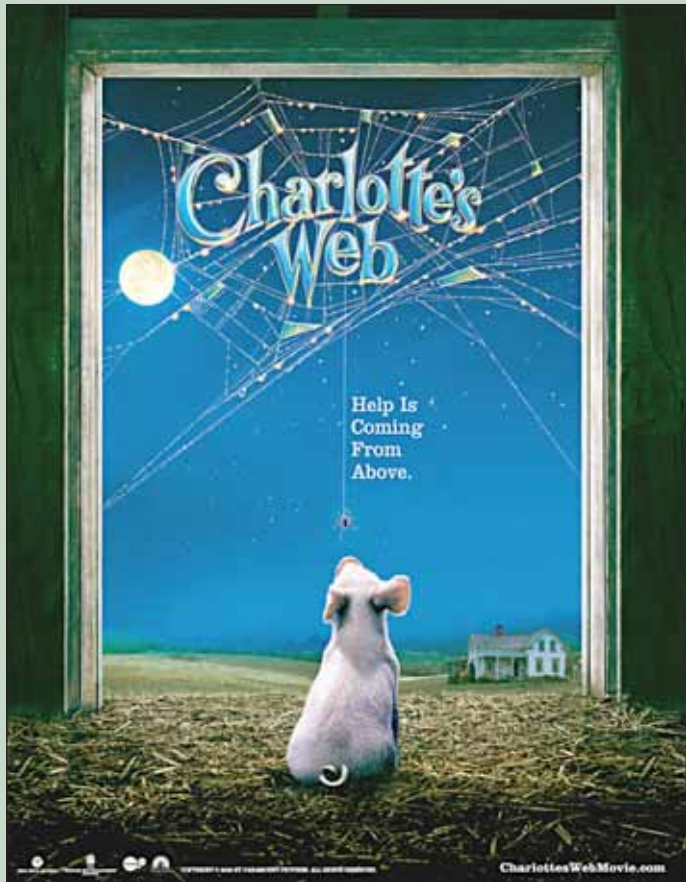
##### Hospital gets recognition

ValleyCare Health System has received a bronze award for performance excellence by the California Awards for Performance Excellence (CAPE), which recognizes businesses with continuous improvement in leadership, strategic planning, customer and market focus, measurement/knowledge management, human resources, process management and business results. Four categories are awarded: gold, silver, bronze and prospector, with 22 California organizations and businesses recognized.

"The criteria are rigorous and organizations that apply put themselves through the most respected and demanding filter in the country. To win this award on any level is worthy of tremendous respect," said Denise Shields, chairwoman of the CAPE Award.

ValleyCare submitted its application to CAPE in July 2006. In late October, ValleyCare was informed that examiners would visit both campuses, in Pleasanton and Livermore, by mid November. The award will be presented at the 13th annual Conference and Awards Ceremony on April 6 in San Diego.

NOW SHOWING



**Charlotte's Web - ★★**

Rating: G - 1 hours, 53 minutes.

E.B. White's beloved children's book about a radiant pig and his unlikely friendship with a soulful spider gets the big-budget treatment. But this "Charlotte's Web" suffers from a slight case of Hollywooditis—juvenile fart jokes, slapstick and a glut of famous voices detract from White's otherwise poignant plot.

Opening narration, care of Sam Shepherd, reminds us that not much happens in Maine's Somerset County. But all that changes with the birth of Wilbur (voice of Dominic Scott Kay), a runt-of-the-litter pig on the fast track to an axe's edge. Wilbur's life is spared by an affectionate young girl (Dakota Fanning as Fern), who leaves Wilbur to live on her uncle's farm across the way.

Wilbur is all innocence and naiveté, a fun-loving little hog stuck living with a handful of somber animals. The sheep, cows, geese and horses on the farm all seem bored by their tedious lives and decline to play with Wilbur. Camaraderie comes in the form of a motherly arachnid named Charlotte (voice of Julia Roberts). The tender bond that forms between Charlotte and Wilbur soon encourages the rest of the animals out of their collective funk and enlivens the farm.

Things begin to unravel with the appearance of Templeton (voice of Steve Buscemi), an ornery and self-serving rat who

informs Wilbur that he'll likely end up on a breakfast plate before winter. But Charlotte refuses to give up on her pal and devises a "miracle" solution that may save his life. By weaving pro-Wilbur messages such as "some pig" and "humble" into her web, Charlotte hopes the local townspeople will see Wilbur's worth and spare him.

There is plenty that works in this theatrical adaptation of White's tear-jerking tale. The computer graphics that bring Charlotte to life are phenomenal, and Roberts' vocal interpretation of the character is perfect. And the powerful climax is still one of the most touching in modern fiction.

But aside from Roberts and Buscemi, the who's who of vocal talent is exorbitant and unnecessary. The voices of Oprah Winfrey, Kathy Bates, Reba McEntire and Robert Redford are lost in the shuffle, although John Cleese as a noble sheep, Cedric the Entertainer as a comical goose, and Thomas Haden Church as a frustrated crow fare better.

Adolescent jokes based on flatulence and slapstick may inspire younger viewers to point and chuckle, but those abuses of creative license seem like an affront to White's original vision.

Despite some juvenile humor and a red-carpet vocal cast, this "Web" is spun with emotional resonance that sticks.

—Tyler Hanley

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## Girls basketball begins official season

*MV leads in preseason; SRV competitive despite loss of four stars*

by Rachel McMurdie

High school girls basketball officially got under way this week with Granada at San Ramon Valley and Monte Vista at Foothill (scores unavailable by press time). The Mustangs, coached by Ron Hirschman, entered league play with a 14-0 start to the season with a reputation as the team to beat. The team's tough defense has gotten it through three title-wins—the Basic Lady Wolves Tournament in Las Vegas, the Lady Bulldog Classic at Alhambra High, and the Lady Cougar Classic at Newark Memorial. Steph Cornell and Niveen Rasheed lead Mustang scoring but a deep bench and strong post in Carlyn Raphael makes it a tough team to beat.

But like every year, the East Bay Athletic League will produce

strong challengers. San Ramon Valley High is no exception. Coached by Hans de Lannoy, the Wolves have felt the loss with the graduation of their four longtime varsity players, Megan Yetman, Ashley Cheung, Jennifer Dreessen and Devon Pierce. However, seniors Allie Bacharach, Mindy Bacharach, Katie Falk, Melissa Iovino and Kate Griffin return to the squad this year along with junior Mary Kate Tengler and sophomores Carlie Bonderer and Megan Calderazzo. Entering league play the team's record was a competitive 23-8 overall.

### Wrestling

The San Ramon Valley wrestling team has found its new coach Randy Livingston, who will take over from longtime coach Ed Le Cara as head of the program. Livingston has coached youth wrestling at Los Cerros Middle School but has never coached a varsity high school program.

The Wolves, a young squad

with just a handful of performing seniors—Matt Rudow, Andy Koski and Dan McClelland—have had their best team results so far at the Dec. 9 Castro Valley Invitational in which they earned a fourth-place finish. Rudow led SRV, taking home the 171-pound title after entering the tournament unseeded.

The Wolves will look for wins again tomorrow, Jan. 13, at the San Ramon Valley Invitational where 25 teams are expected to compete.

### Boys soccer

The Monte Vista boys varsity soccer team chalked in two more wins last week, this time against non-league opponents, bringing their overall record up to 11-0-3.

The Mustangs served Alameda High with a 4-0 shutout Saturday, Jan. 6. Jeff Penna, assisted by Wes Lai, scored in the 29th minute that started a three-goal Mustang blitz. In just 10 minutes the Mustangs would take a 3-0 lead. Four minutes after their first goal, Nolan Bathalha, assisted by J.T. Londynsky, drove in goal No. 2. In the 37th minute of play, Morgan Oliver-Allen assisted by Jack Griffin drove in their third goal. Vinnie Butera capped off the Mustangs' win with a final goal in the 62nd minute of play. He was assisted by Penna.

Earlier last week the Mustangs beat San Lorenzo's Arroyo High 6-1 in a non-league match.

### Girls soccer

Monte Vista's girls soccer team made its second appearance at the Southern California Excalibur Tournament, going as far as the semifinals of the consolation bracket. The Dec. 27-29 tournament, hosted by Santa Ana's Foothill High, featured 50 of the states premier high school teams.



### Hoop happiness

The St. Isidore seventh-grade girls basketball team was champion of the 21st annual Christ the King Girls Christmas Invitational. St. Isidore's seventh-grade American Team beat St. Raymond's seventh-grade American Team, 40-23, in the championship game Dec. 23. The tournament MVP was Hannah Huffman, and the All Tournament Award went to both Amanda Davis and Malia Malin from St. Isidore. Team members are (bottom, l-r) Paige Ladensack, Natalie Gallo, Malia Malin, Christina Ray, Hannah Huffman, Amanda Davis; (top) Coach Bob Gallo and Special Assistant Gary St. Jean. Not pictured: Assistant Coach Lon Huffman, players Christina Coffin, Lauren Nielsen, Paige Southmayd, Niki St. Laurent.

### PREP SCHEDULE

#### Friday, Jan. 12

#### Boys Basketball

Monte Vista at Amador, 7 p.m.  
San Ramon Valley at Livermore, 7 p.m.

#### Girls Basketball

Monte Vista at Amador, 7 p.m.  
San Ramon Valley vs. Livermore, 7 p.m.

#### Boys Soccer

Monte Vista vs. Livermore, 5:45 p.m.  
San Ramon Valley at Cal High, 5:45 p.m.

#### Saturday, Jan. 13

#### Wrestling

San Ramon Valley Tournament, 8 a.m.

#### Tuesday, Jan. 16

#### Boys Basketball

Monte Vista at Granada, 7 p.m.  
San Ramon Valley vs. Amador, 7 p.m.

#### Girls Basketball

San Ramon Valley at Foothill, 5:45 p.m.

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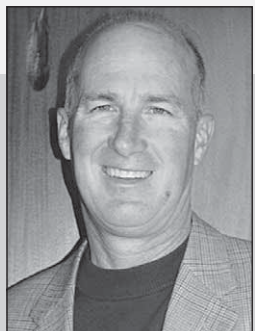
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## WEEKEND PREVIEW



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### Jazz at Peace to feature quartet

Jazz at Peace presents Mad & Eddie Duran Quartet at 5 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 14, at Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Mad & Eddie Duran were the first to give birth to the Jazz at Peace series. This event is free. Call 648-7000 or visit [www.peacejourney.org](http://www.peacejourney.org).

## Art

### Alamo-Danville Artists' Society

This society will present a group showing of paintings from Jan. 16-March 20, at the Danville Town offices, 510 La Gonda Way. The offices are open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

### Eugene O'Neill Arts Program

Students are invited to apply for participation in "Student Days" which will take place March 7-8, 14-15, at O'Neill's Tao House estate, Danville. Applications are available by calling 820-1818 or visiting [www.eugeneoneill.org](http://www.eugeneoneill.org). Deadline is Feb. 3.

## Auditions

### 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.

## Civic Meetings

Danville Parks and Leisure Services Commission

The Commission meets regularly on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St.

### Danville Planning Commission

The Commission meets regularly on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St.

### Town Council Meeting

The Danville Town Council normally meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St.

## 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).

### Financial Planning for Special Needs Children

Town of Danville will offer a free class for parents with special needs children to help them gain a better understanding of government benefits and legal and financial plans from 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 17 and Feb. 21, at the Danville Library, 400 Front Street. Registration is required, call 314-3392 or visit [www.ci.danville.ca.us](http://www.ci.danville.ca.us).

## 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 Women's Club

This club will meet for a luncheon at noon, Thursday, Jan. 18, at the Clubhouse, 242 Linda Mesa Ave., Danville. Members will contribute items for a baby shower for the Bay Point Family Health Center. Guests are welcome. Call 837-7528.

### Danville-Alamo Branch of AAUW

The Danville-Alamo Branch of American Association of University Women will host Paula Goldman from the International Museum of Women talking about "Imaging Ourselves" from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 20, at Danville Ranch Clubhouse, 1895 Ridgeland Circle. Cost is \$10. Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be served. Call Martha at 736-8399.

### Danville-Sycamore Valley Rotary

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

### Diablo Bonsai Club

This club will meet for a lecture and workshop on planting and raising bonsai trees from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 17, at Heather Farm Garden Center, Upper Room, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek. Call 736-9157.

### Diablo Diggers Dance Club

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

### Diablo Singles Dance Club

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

### Diablo Valley Fly Fisherman

This club meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at Heather Farm Lakeside Room, 301 N. San Carlos, Walnut Creek. Guests are welcome. For information, visit [www.diablovalleyflyfish.org](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 [claireshepherdson@ewomennetwork.com](mailto:claireshepherdson@ewomennetwork.com).

## Informational Tours

Jan. 17 - Wed.

Feb. 1 - Thu.

[Kindergarten]

Feb. 15 - Thu.

Mar. 21 - Wed.

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### 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.

### 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.

### Julie's Book Clubs

The morning book club will meet to discuss Sylvia Plath's "The Bell Jar" at 10:30 a.m., Friday, Jan. 26, and the evening book club will meet to discuss Alison Lurie's "Truth and Consequences" at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 17, at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. call 837-7337.

### Kiwanis San Ramon Valley

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

### Leads Group for B2B Business Developers

This group meets from 7:45-10 a.m., every third Thursday at Mimi's Cafe,

4775 Hacienda Drive, Dublin. The cost for members is free, \$40 for non-members. Call 201-3410.

### Model RC Boaters Association

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

### Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society

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

### Mt. Diablo Macintosh Users Group

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

### Porsche Club of America, Diablo Region

This club is for owners and enthusiasts of all Porsches. It meets at 8 a.m., every Saturday for breakfast at Denny's, 803 Camino Ramon, Danville. For information, visit www.pca.org/dia.

### San Ramon Newcomers Club

This club invites new and established residents of San Ramon, Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore and Danville to a luncheon at noon, Thursday, Feb. 15, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Call 735-3508 or visit newcomers.home.comcast.net.

### San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

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

### San Ramon Valley Rotary Club

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

### Tri-Valley Writers Association

This club exists to inform, educate, and have fun and is open to anyone interested in the craft of writing. The club meets at 11:30 a.m. the first Saturday of every month at Girasole Restaurant, 3180 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Contact Steve Workman at 485-1011 or skworkman@aol.com.

## Concerts

### A Musical Journey Around the World

Danville Community Band presents "A Musical Journey Around the World" at 2 p.m., Sunday, March 4, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. The event is free with admission to the museum. Call 736-2277.

### California Symphony 20th Anniversary Series

California Symphony presents Michael Torke's Rapture: Drums and Woods, Leonard Bernstein's Age of Anxiety: Symphony No. 2 for Piano and Orchestra and Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 at 4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 28, and at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 30, at Dean Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Call 943-7469 or visit www.californiasymphony.org.

### 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.

### Gilbert and Sullivan a la Carte

Six highly energized and talented entertainers will perform "Gilbert and Sullivan a la Carte" at 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 10, at LeFevre Theatre, Saint Mary's College, 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. Tickets for

general admission are \$25, \$24 for seniors and \$12 for students. Call 631-4670.

### Jazz at Peace

Jazz at Peace presents Mad & Eddie Duran Quartet at 5 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 14, at Peace Lutheran Church, 3201 Camino Tassajara, Danville. This event is free. Call 648-7000 or visit www.peacejourney.org.

### John McCutcheon

Community Concerts presents folk singer, storyteller and multi-instrumentalist, John McCutcheon, at 8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 20, at The Wesley Center, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Tickets are \$40, \$25, \$22. Call 229-2710 or visit www.communityconcerts.com.

### St. Timothy's Concert Series

St. Timothy's Church will host a concert series starting with Tyler Lewis (violin) and Hillary Nordwell (piano) from 5-6 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 21, at St. Timothy's Church Parish Hall, 1550 Diablo Road, Danville. Tickets are \$18. Call 837-4993, ext. 15 or visit www.sainttimothysdanville.org.

### 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.

### Winter Concert

Prometheus Symphony Orcestra with Zenas Hsu, Rosenkavalier Walzes will perform its Winter Concert at 3 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 28, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 114 Montecito, Oakland. This event is free, but donations are requested. Call (415) 864-2151.

## Events

### 'Anatomy of a Hot Rod'

Bedford Gallery will host a "Anatomy of a Hot Rod Day" from 1-3 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 21, at Bedford Gallery, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. This event is free thanks to Target. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Call 295-1417 or visit www.bedfordgallery.org.

### Black History Month

Celebrate Black History Month onboard the Aircraft Carrier USS Hornet Museum with activities all day, Saturday, Feb. 17, at the museum, 707 W. Hornet Ave., Pier 3, Alameda. Admission is \$14 for adults, \$6 for children; special price of \$20 for a family of four is being offered this day. Call (510) 521-8448 or visit www.uss-hornet.org.

### Chalk Hill Wine Dinner

Bridges Restaurant will host a Chalk Hill wine dinner with a reception at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 30, at Bridges Restaurant, 44 Church St., Danville. Cost is \$80 per person. Reservations are required by calling 838-1299.

### Cupid Pre-Dating

Cupid.com presents "Cupid Pre-Dating for Single Professionals" from 6:30-10 p.m., Monday, Jan. 29, at Vic Stewart's, 850 S. Broadway, Walnut Creek. Cost is \$39. Visit www.predating.com.

### 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.

### Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Livermore Peace, Environment and religious groups will celebrate nonviolence by honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. starting at 10 a.m., Monday, Jan. 15, at United Christian Church, 1886 College Ave. at M Street, Livermore. Call 443-7148.

### Street Smarts Skate Nights

City of San Ramon and Golden Skate present Street Smarts Skate Nights from 6:30-9 p.m., the third

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PET OF THE WEEK

**Chubby puppy**

Tyra, a.k.a. Miss Piggy, looks to have a tear in her eye after being placed on a diet plan at the Tri-Valley SPCA. Tyra loves to eat and at 70 pounds she's looking a little "square" these days. Tyra's resolution to lose weight shouldn't be too difficult because she is playful, outgoing and loves to take walks. Tyra is a 3-and-a-half-year-old, spayed female Pit Bull mix. She is friendly and has previously lived in foster care with another dog. Tyra's dog trainers at the SPCA say she is a good student in her obedience classes. Tyra's adoption application will require a home check to ensure she finds just the right home. For more information about Tyra, visit the Tri-Valley SPCA, 4651 Gleason Dr., Dublin, open from 1 to 8 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday through Sunday. Call, 479-9670 or visit [www.eastbayspca.org](http://www.eastbayspca.org).



CATHERINE RUSH

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).

**Kids & Teens**

**Art and the Automobile**  
Blackhawk Museum will host "Art and the Automobile" from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 25, at the museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. This event is free with admission to the museum. Call 736-2277.

**Footsteps Support Group**  
Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa is offering "Footsteps," a support group for children ages 7-18 who have experienced the death of a parent, grandparents, sibling or friend, on Tuesdays from Feb. 27-April 3, at Hospice and Palliative Care of Contra Costa, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill. Cost is \$99, but no one is turned away. Call Lee Ann at 887-5678, ext. 1036.

**'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 Cerros 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).

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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. Police will present "Seat Belt Safety" on Jan. 17. Call 820-2520 or 973-2655.

**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).

**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.

**Lindsay Wildlife Art Exhibits**

Lindsay Wildlife Museum will host a collection of art exhibits including: "Utopian Sunset" created by students at Northgate High School from Jan. 12-Feb. 11; The Art of Andrew Denman "A Natural Inclination" will be displayed Jan. 16-March 18; Origami Animals by Robert Lang will be displayed from Jan. 31-April 29; Birds in Art from Feb. 24-May 5, all at Lindsay Wildlife Museum, 1931 First Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 935-1978 or visit [www.wildlife-museum.org](http://www.wildlife-museum.org).

**Fundraisers**

**Claws for Paws**

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

**Crab Feed**

Outdoor Adventure Faire will host a Crab Feed at 6 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 17, at Charlotte Wood Middle School, 600 El Capitan Drive, Danville. The night will include dinner and silent and live auctions. Music and dancing will be provided by Tom Lucia's band. Cost is \$40. Proceeds will benefit Outdoor Adventure Faire. Call Jim at 820-3874 or Pete at 719-1950.

**Giant Book Sale**

Friends of Danville Library will present their Giant Book Sale from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, Jan. 19; 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 20; and from noon-4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 21, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Proceeds will benefit the library. Call 837-4889.

**Hats Off America 10K Red T-Shirt Run**

Come run with the Bear Flag Runner at the 10K Red T-Shirt Run at 10 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 10, at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Hollbrook Drive, Danville. Cost is \$35. Proceeds will benefit Hats Off America. Call 855-1950.

**Haute Couture Fashion Show**

Yellow Wood Coffee & Tea will host "Fashion is Forever - A Haute Couture Fashion Show" at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 20, at Yellow Wood, 215 Alamo Plaza, Alamo. Entertainment will be provided by Studio 8 Dance and Performing Arts. Tickets are \$25 and are sure to sell out. Proceeds will benefit Shepherd's Gate and Creekside Church's Youth Ministry. Call Wendy at 487-2747.

**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.

**Health**

**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.

**Second Annual Weight Loss Challenge**

The second annual Weight Loss Challenge for Alamo and Surrounding Areas will run Saturdays, Jan. 13-March 10. Participants will enjoy a Weight Loss Coach via telephone, personal trainers, bike riding, "Be a Kid" roller skating night and more! Sign up for the free Challenge at Bally's Total Fitness in Town and Country in Danville from noon-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 13. For more information, contact Debbie at 890-7549 or [dmcarmel@yahoo.com](mailto:dmcarmel@yahoo.com).

**The Wellness Community**

The Wellness Community offers different support groups for cancer patients and their family and friends including: 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 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

**Empowering Education that Opens Your World**

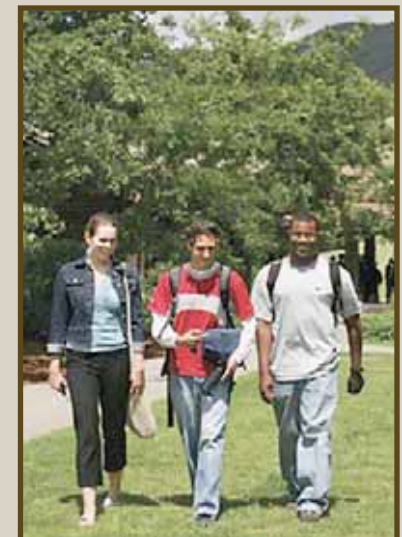
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**8 Weeks to 14 Years**

**OPEN HOUSE**

Thursday, January 11	9:30am	
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**INFORMATION NIGHTS**

Wednesday, January 17	7:00pm	3 years - 5 years
Thursday, January 18	7:00pm	Grades 1 - 3
Tuesday, January 23	7:00pm	Grades 4 - 5
Thursday, January 25	7:00pm	Grades 6 - 8
Wednesday, January 31	7:00pm	18 Months - 3 years
Thursday, February 1	5:00pm	Kindergarten

Fully Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) & the American Montessori Society (AMS)  
**1273 N. Livermore Avenue, Livermore, CA**  
**(925) 455-8021**  
[www.valleymontessorischool.com](http://www.valleymontessorischool.com)

"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.

**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.

## Literary Events

**California Writers Club**  
 This club will host a luncheon with Historical Fiction Novelist Janis Cooke Newman with her editor, Kate Nitze of MacAdam/Cage, at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 13, at Hungry Hunter Restaurant, 3201 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Cost is \$20 for CWC members, \$25 for non-members. Call 376-3631.

## Miscellaneous

**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.

**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).

## On Stage

**'Incorruptible'**  
 Role Players Ensemble will host the production of "Incorruptible" at 8 p.m., Thursdays-Saturdays and at 2 p.m., Sundays, Jan. 19-Feb. 10, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$18-24. Call 314-3463.

**'Love Letters'**  
 One night only, Annie Potts will star in "Love Letters" with James Hugh Taylor at 8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 20, at Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$60. Call 943-7469.

**'The Wizard of Oz'**  
 Monte Vista Theater Arts presents "The Wizard of Oz" at 7 p.m., Wednesday-Friday, Feb. 7-9, at Monte Vista High School Theater, 3131 Stone Valley Road, Danville. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students/children. Call 552-2878.

## 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. Cost is \$1 facility use fee and is open to the public. Call Fred Turner at 216-4590.

**Prime Time**  
 Join this club for a non-denominational 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.

## Spiritual

**Bridging the Gap**  
 San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church will host a series of sermons calling "Bridging the Gap" after the 8:30 a.m. or 10 a.m. sermon, starting at 11:15 a.m., Sundays, Jan. 14, 21 and 28, at 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Call 837-5243.

## Sports

**Adult Open Gym Basketball**  
 Danville Parks and Recreation Department holds drop-in basketball

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

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

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

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

## Support Groups

**Blue Star Moms California**  
 Blue Star Moms is a support group for families of members of the U.S. Armed Forces. It meets at 7 p.m., the second Wednesday of the month, at the Danville Veterans Hall, 400 Hartz Ave. Call Peggy at 866-7035 or Patty at 838-9096 or visit [www.bluestarmoms.org](http://www.bluestarmoms.org).

**PFLAG**  
 The Danville/San Ramon Valley Chapter of Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is a support group that meets at 7:30 p.m., every third Monday at the Danville Congregational Church, 989 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Call 838-8632.

**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).

**Tri-Valley Parkinson's Support Group**  
 This group provides peer support for those affected by Parkinson's Disease and for their caregivers, families and friends. The group meets from 10 a.m.-noon, the second Saturday of each month, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call Norman at 831-9940 or Jackie at 244-1231.

## Volunteering

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

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

**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).

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# Clearance Sale!

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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

ATTENTION 8th Grade Students and Home Schoolers, Local Mom and 8th Grade Son have put together an educational Washington D.C. trip for Spring break, April 10 thru April 15, 2007. We have room for a few more participants. Call 925-462-4341 for more info. Not a school sponsored event.

### \* 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!*

**Love Pregnancy?**  
\$22,000. 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)

**Pregnant? Considering Adoption**  
Talk with caring people specializing in matching birthmothers with families nationwide. Expenses Paid. Toll free 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions 1-866-910-5610. (Cal-SCAN)

### 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 Winter!*  
**Call Benneta Heaton**  
**(925) 820-1169**  
~ located in Danville ~

MUSICAL THEATER CAMP SUMMER 2007

PIANO-VOICE-MUSIC-FILM CLASSES

Private Piano Lessons - \$25/half h

### 140 Lost & Found

FOUND NECKLACE, PLEASANTON AQUAT CENTER

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### 155 Pets

Flea Meds, healthfulpets.com

## For Sale

### 201 Autos/Trucks/Parts

**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)

**Toyota 1995 Tercel**  
Automatic 168K miles.Runs good. Asking \$2300 or OBO. Contact # 925-699-8079

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

### 210 Garage/Estate Sales

**Livermore, 5281 Southfront Rd., 1/13 & 1/14 9-3**  
Large farmyard, household estate sale. Old farm equip., tools, R/R ties, welding rod, fuel tanks, lunch pails, furniture household goods.

Pleasanton, 1893 Cortez Court, Jan. 13, 8-1 Many items  
Pleasanton, 366 Christina Ct, Jan 13, 8-2

### 215 Collectibles & Antiques

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

### 240 Furnishings/ Household items

10" taper Candles - \$8  
2 White patio chairs, 5 baskets - \$1 - \$5

**3 Lazy Boy Chairs**  
1 never used & 2 are 3 years old 925-989-7550

8" Gold taper Candles - \$6  
Bedroom Suite - \$400  
Candles - \$15

Coffee Table - \$50  
Drop Leaf Table - \$600

Miniature House Collection - \$50/set  
moving sale, all less a year old - \$from \$1  
Office Unit Built-In - \$900

Throw Rugs (2) - \$15  
Twin Bed and Nightstand - \$200  
White and Green throw - \$15

### 245 Miscellaneous

12 Head Laser Pointer Complete w - \$1.85

6" joiner - \$100 or B0

**Building Sale!**  
Jan/Feb delivery or deposit holds till Spring. 25'x36'x14' \$5400. 40'x60'x16' \$12,800. Front end optional. Rear end included. Many others. Pioneer 1-800-668-5422 or www.PioneerSteel.com (Cal-SCAN)

Cute Conversation Piece - \$22.00  
Finches Need New Home - \$5.00  
Men's Duster Jacket sz 3x - \$52.42

Plus Size Evening Dresses  
Polaroid Joycam - \$7

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

SUNG by Alfred Sung Gift Set - \$34.32

### 260 Sports & Exercise Equipment

Lee Progressive 1000 - 125.

Vitamaster Treadmill - \$100.

## Kid's Stuff

### 330 Child Care Offered

www.tanisfamily.com

### 345 Tutoring/ Lessons

**A+ PRIVATE TUTORING**  
Math, Science, English, Reading, SAT Grades 5 thru High School  
Retired Teacher ~ Reasonable Rates  
**925-846-5247**

FRENCH, SPANISH TUTORING

Math Tutor

PIANO LESSONS - \$25.00

### 350 Preschools/ Schools/Camps

ABC Preschool/Childcare - 484-2554

### 355 Items for Sale

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

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

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

### 390 Kids for Summer Jobs

**Restaurant Clerical PC Assistant**  
Pleasanton Hotel seeks student for marketing assistance, proficient in Word and Excel.Flex hours,email: "dining@pleasantonhotel.com"

## Mind & Body

### 415 Classes

Martial Arts Classes

### 425 Health Services

**ELDERLY CARE LIVE-IN**  
10+YRS EXP! CALL ZEN @ 209-895-4543

### 450 Personal Growth



**Mina Skoutelakis, M.F.T. Relationship Specialist**

*Feeling frustrated and unsatisfied in your romantic relationships?  
Attracting the "wrong" type? Wondering what a "healthy" relationship is?*

**Call me today to schedule a free 30 minute phone consultation!**  
**925-216-6561 www.minamft.com Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist**

### 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)

### Assistant / Helper Needed

Small office in Pleasanton needs help.

PAY: \$15.00/Hr. HOURS: 9:00 to 12:00 noon four days per week.

Job Requirements: Hard worker, interested in working in a casual environment. There are three of us in the office now. I need someone as my assistant to do paperwork, do work on the computer, make phone calls. Duties would also include putting labels on small packages, running business errands, etc. Diverse workload. Working both for myself, Doug and our office manager, Renee.

Please bring brief resume to 5673 W. Las Positas Blvd. #214, Pleasanton, between the hours of 9:00 and 12:00 any day.

### Caregivers / CNA/ HHAs

Immediate openings for experienced caregivers to assist elderly clients in their homes. Hourly, live-in and overnight shifts available. Great pay rates, flexible schedules full medical benefits and bonuses paid. 510-795-7383 VISITING ANGELS - Fremont office

### DRIVER FOR SENIOR MEALS

Meals on Wheels driver needed in Pleasanton, 10-12, M-F. Must have car and clean DMV. Hourly pay with gas reimbursement.

Call Julie at (925) 931-5385

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

### MARKETING and PUBLIC RELATIONS

Part-time position in small Pleasanton insurance office. Avg 20 hours per week.

No insurance exp necessary - past PR and marketing experience a plus. Email resume to:  
**eileen@superioritc.com**

Office Assistant

**READERS/DRIVER NEEDED**  
\$10/hr 10 hrs/week. Computer skills required. Light Office work and local traveling. Call 925-895-2778

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

### 540 Domestic Help Wanted

#### Part Time Nanny/Mother's Helper

We have two happy, energetic kids. A boy age six and a girl age nine. In a few weeks they will have a new baby brother. We need someone to help my wife take care of the three children after school. Duties could include, picking the older children up from Valley Christian in Dublin, getting them something to eat and taking them to the park, helping them with homework - or watching and playing with the new born.

Hours needed: Roughly 2:00 to 5:30 PM, M-F. Pay: \$15.00 per hour. Looking for energetic, enthusiastic individual.

Contact Doug at (925) 895-6825

### 550 Business Opportunities

**All Cash Vending!**  
Call us first or call us last, either way we can save you thousands. Under 9K investment required. Toll Free 1-800-961-6147 (24/7). (Cal-SCAN)

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**SMOG INSPECTION**  
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**560 Employment Information**

**Attention CFL Truck Drivers**  
The Holidays are Over, Time to Get Back Behind the Wheel. Call McKelvey Now! 1-800-410-6255. (Cal-SCAN)

**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)

**Insurance Inspector/Reporter:**  
AFS seeks individuals to complete insurance inspections on residential buildings statewide in California. For more information, please visit us at: [www.AFSWeb.com/careers](http://www.AFSWeb.com/careers) (Cal-SCAN)

**Systems Accountant**  
Full Bachelor or equivalent in Business Finance or related subjects + 3 yrs experience; or will accept 5 yrs relevant experience preferably in the Real Estate/Mortgage Industry. Microsoft Certified System Engineer an added advantage. Apply with a cover letter and resume: PMG Mortgage Inc., 2890 N. Main St. #204, Walnut Creek, CA 94597 No phone calls.

**Business Services**

**601 Accounting/Bookkeeping**

**Awesome First Job!**  
Kay's Naturals, 12 new hires, Over 18, Travel USA! \$500 sign-on! Cash Daily! No Experience Necessary. Call Kay, today. 1-800-988-0650, 1-877-KAY-CREW, 1-602-421-3015. (Cal-SCAN)

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

**604 Adult Care Offered**

**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

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**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

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**Danville WEEKLY**  
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## SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during December 2006

Danville	Alamo	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 11	Total sales reported: 2	Total sales reported: 18
Lowest sale reported: \$480,000.00	Lowest sale reported: \$1,200,000	Lowest sale reported: \$299,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,312,500	Highest sale reported: \$1,300,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,075,000
Average sales reported: \$1,007,273	Average sales reported: \$1,250,000	Average sales reported: \$691,083

## OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

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

### Alamo

#### 3 Bedrooms

**914 Ina Dr.** **\$1,448,000**  
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 209-3451

#### 4 Bedrooms

**46 Vista Ln.** **\$1,595,000**  
Sun 1:30-4 Intero 672-2499

### Blackhawk

#### 4 Bedrooms

**34 Magnolia Pl.** **\$1,995,000**  
Sun 1-5 Intero 736-1500

### Danville

#### 2 Bedrooms

**2200 Oneida Cir.** **\$660,000**  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 577-5510

#### 3 Bedrooms

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

**1633 N. Clear Creek Pl.** **\$819,000**  
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 831-3329

**29 La Gonda Ct.** **\$960,000**  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Hometown GMAC - Sherri Platter 858-5400

#### 4 Bedrooms

**84 Stowbridge** **\$1,039,000**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 314-1111

**408 Coventry Pl.** **\$1,099,950**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 899-9651

**11 Jillian Wy.** **\$1,599,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 648-5342

**55 Sierra Ridge Ct.** **\$958,000**  
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 216-2283

#### 5 Bedrooms

**26 Bormio Ct.** **\$1,250,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 984-1945

**40 Edinburgh Pl.** **\$1,675,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4075

**112 Laurelwood Dr.** **\$2,049,950**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 977-8965

**124 Victoria Pl.** **\$2,159,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Intero 785-1386

#### 6 Bedrooms

**265 Montego Dr.** **\$2,200,000**  
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 209-3451

### San Ramon

#### 2 Bedrooms

**423 Pine Ridge Dr.** **\$594,000**  
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 249-0301

#### 3 Bedrooms

**775 Winterside Cir.** **\$680,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4110

**3111 Marble Canyon Pl.** **\$924,500**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452

#### 4 Bedrooms

**23 Stow Ct.** **\$1,150,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4 Alain Pinel 998-9747

**3008 Tamburlaine** **\$1,450,000**  
Sun 1-5 Re/Max 998-5334

**120 Claremont Crest Ct.** **\$785,000**  
Sun 2-5 Intero 788-6155

#### 5 Bedrooms

**642 Dromana Ct.** **\$1,095,000**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 968-1452

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

**106 Rodriguez Ct.** **\$1,355,000**  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 707-333-6640

**16 Pine Valley Pl.** **\$1,399,000**  
Sun 1:30-4 Intero 487-6211

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

**201 Pleasant Valley Ct.** **\$999,950**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 833-1822

#### 6 Bedrooms

**908 Regalo Wy.** **\$1,444,000**  
Sun 1-4:30 Intero 997-0806

**2317 Oleaster Dr.** **\$1,699,000**  
Sun 1:30-4 Intero 855-4072

### Dublin

#### 2 Bedrooms

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

**3275 Dublin Blvd., #412** **\$499,950**  
Sat 1-4 Intero 855-4190

#### 5 Bedrooms

**6133 Ledgewood Ter.** **\$1,319,000**  
Sun 1-4 Intero 855-4134

### Livermore

#### 3 Bedrooms

**426 Andrea Cir.** **\$699,950**  
Sun 1-4:30 Valley Properties 998-5312

### Pleasanton

#### 2 Bedrooms

**3399 Norton Way #1** **\$379,000**  
Sun 1-4 p.m. Alain Pinel - Emily Barraclough & Julie Davis 621-4097

#### 4 Bedrooms

**4365 W. Ruby Hill Dr.** **\$1,819,900**  
Sun 1-4 By Owner 262-3032

## HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

### Danville

**609 Ambience Way J. & N. Yu to C. & L. Parker for \$1,250,000**

**213 Ashley Circle** Loda Trust to J. Wood for \$515,000

**103 Carole Meadows Court** D. & R. Witkowski to E. & K. Ingram for \$1,249,000

**868 Dolphin Drive A. & L. Garcia to D. Livingston for \$1,054,000**

**221 Heather Place** M. Murphy to T. & M. Anderson for \$1,312,500

**790 Highbridge Lane** Schrock Trust to J. & M. Nikkari for \$800,000

**3076 Live Oak Court** Gomes Trust to S. & J. Peterson for \$975,000

**1281 Monterosso Street** Lennar Homes to V. & D. Raziano for \$1,248,500

**939 Richard Lane** Yee Trust to F. & T. Attwood for \$1,060,000

**101 Rubicon Circle** M. Beach to Brandoff Trust for \$480,000

**3555 Shadow Creek Drive** D. Gamlen to E. McClain for \$1,136,000

### Alamo

**1484 Emmons Canyon Drive** Woolverton Trust to D. & G. Taylor for \$1,200,000

**116 Post Road** J. Denning to C. Talbert for \$1,300,000

### Walnut Creek

**2871 Bowling Green Drive** K. & J. McCarthy to J. & J. Burlison for \$1,075,000

**2534 Corte Del Marques** Mertz Trust to S. & N. Padoan for \$870,000

**10 El Camino Terrace** D. Adams to F. & V. Maida for \$850,000

**2449 Gill Port Lane** T. & G. Brincat to S. Santos for \$775,000

**6508 Horsemans Canyon Drive** M. Stead to Thompson Trust for \$1,075,000

**31 Iron Horse Lane** Sirva Relocation to P. Blaho for \$555,000

**2550 Oak Road #114** Bridgeport Commons to L. Stuart for \$350,500.00

**2728 Oak Road #141** M. & J. Wetekamm to J. Reyes for \$395,000

**1985 Old Oak Drive** J. & J. Trembath to M. & A. Orr for \$887,000

**61 Picardy Court** Simms Trust to T. Grasso for \$667,500

**1895 Poplar Drive** V. Caires to A. Kaven for \$722,500

**2857 Ptarmigan Drive #4** Douglass Trust to P. Verbonitz for \$299,000

**1071 Rudgear Road** R. & S. Nannini to C. & C. Davis for \$922,000

**278 Santa Fe Drive** C. Morris to H. Esquivel for \$838,000

**960 Savannah Circle** E. Mattson to M. Dallara for \$695,000

**185 Sierra Drive #302** R. & A. Hellwig to M. & J. Sullivan for \$330,000

**3206 Terra Granada Drive #2B** Wallace Trust to Rice Trust for \$770,000

**1308 Walden Road #35 B.** Eckhaus to E. Cheung for \$363,000

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**Sharon Dare & Dave Bauer**

**925.855.4041**



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**Resort-Like Living!** **\$2,199,000**  
Elegant estate home w/casita(452+/-sf). Only 7 years old! 5bd, 3.5ba, 3-car garage, putting green, swim pool/spa, sport court, vineyard and more.

**Bill & Mimi**

**925.785.1386**



## DANVILLE

**\$150K Price Reduction!!** **\$2,049,950**  
Desirable Northridge Estates. Custom built 4787+/-sf, 5bd, 4.5ba at an incredible value! 4-car garage, pool, spa. Separate office w/built-ins.

**Brad Gothberg**

**925.977.8965**



## DANVILLE

**Estate Home in Diablo Highlands** **\$1,675,000**  
5bd, 4.5ba on a large, private lot near town. 4351+/-sf, fantastic floor plan including bonus room. End of cul-de-sac, backing to open space w/views.

**Joyce, Glen & Monica**

**925.855.4075**



## DANVILLE

**Entertain, Relax, Enjoy!!** **\$1,599,000**  
Make me an offer on this incredible home in desirable Diablo Woods! 4bd, 3.5ba, 3-car garage, beautiful pool, gorgeous tile roof and more.

**Vance & Sue Smith**

**925.648.5342**



## ALAMO

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

**The McDougall Team**

**925.672.2499**



## DANVILLE

**Reduced \$144K-Bring Offers** **\$1,250,000**  
5bd, 3.5ba in Hidden Valley, one of Danville's most desirable areas. Italian design, gourmet kitchen, 20' ceilings, light & bright.

**Peggy Kissinger**

**925.984.1945**



## DANVILLE

**Bettencourt Ranch Executive Home** **\$1,099,950**  
Like new inside and out! 4bd, one downstairs, 3ba, family room w/used brick fireplace, bar, morning sun breakfast area, huge master suite.

**Chuck and Renee Lamb**

**925.899.9651**



## DANVILLE

**In The Heart of Danville** **\$1,025,000**  
Gorgeous single level with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 3-car garage and a backyard oasis with pool and casita.

**Paul Harris**

**925.855.4134**

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