

Chamber lauds good citizens

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District adds new courses for the fall

Chinese Mandarin to be offered at high schools

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Vol. II, Number 42 • February 16, 2007

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Danville

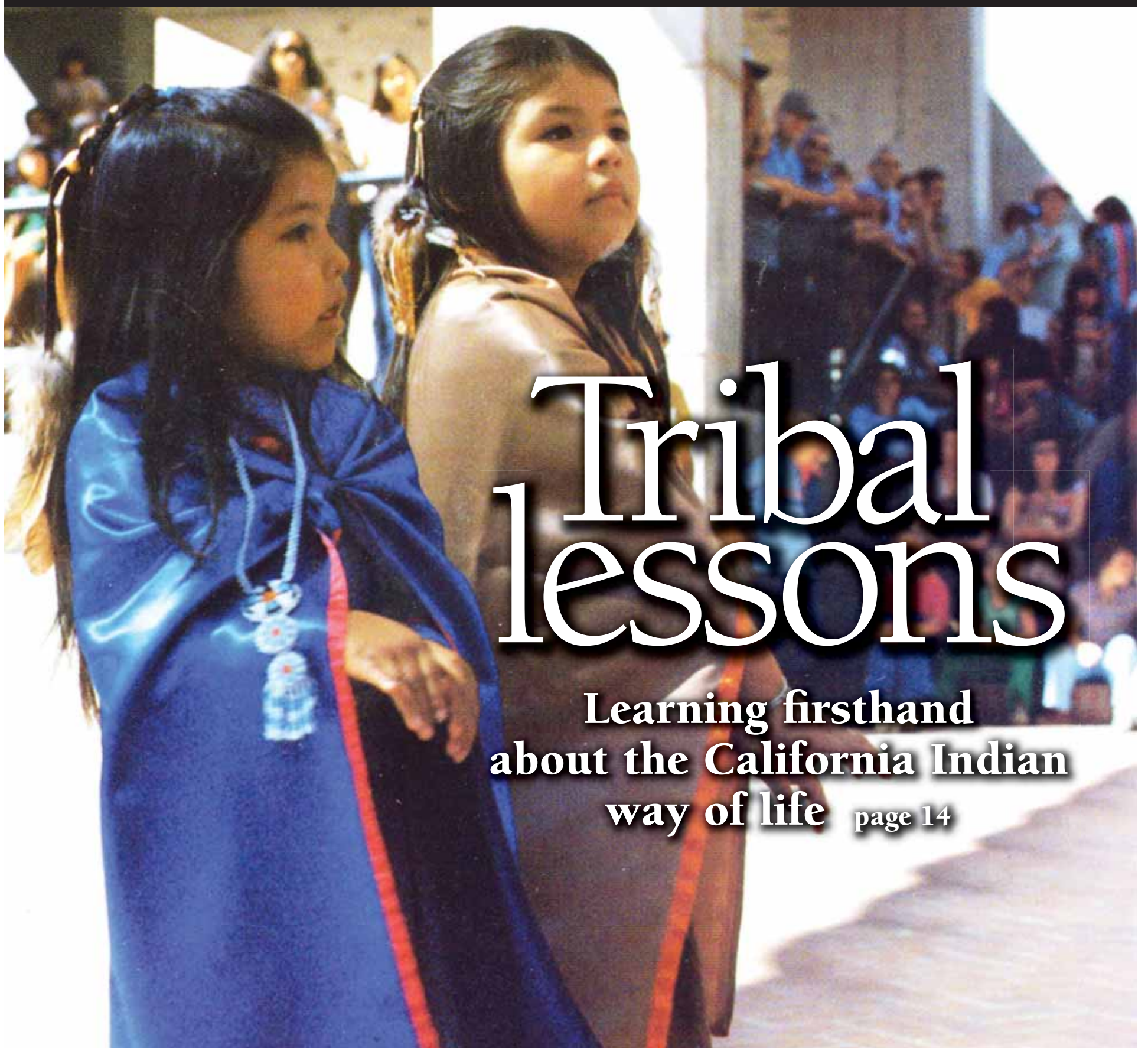
W E E K L Y

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

Supervisor goes to Washington

Trip is chance to ask for funds face to face

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Tribal lessons

Learning firsthand about the California Indian way of life page 14



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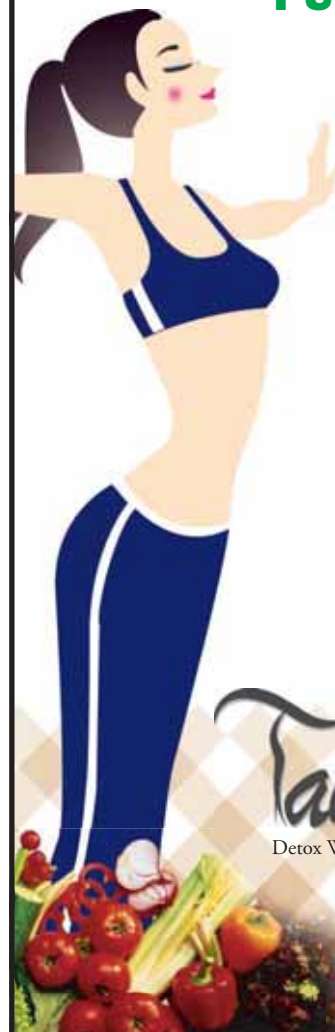
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Q: What is the most bizarre news story you've ever heard?



I don't watch the news because it's all bad news. It creates a negative vibe.

Jason Volkman
truck driver



The death of Anna Nicole Smith was pretty bizarre to me because of her son. He died last year. Now she died, and they can't explain it either.

Fabiana Campos
student at California State University, East Bay



Nothing surprises me too much anymore. I work on death row in San Quentin. I hear so many things. It's hard to shock me. The Amish story where a man killed children impressed me. The Amish prayed for that man and prayed for that man's family. I was impressed with that because the Amish were practicing their beliefs.

Marty Armendarez
San Quentin Correctional Officer



It was about the lady astronaut who drove across the country wearing diapers. It was weird that a disciplined naval officer evidently was temporarily deranged due to pressure and responsibility.

Robert Noble
retired physician and naval officer



I would like to comment about the lady astronaut. Her obsessive behavior was hard to comprehend due to the fact she was supposed to be disciplined and thought of as being a great upstanding citizen.

Denise Kolness and Sarah, 4
homemaker

compiled by Jordan M. Dronila

ABOUT THE COVER

Antoinette Saubel and Lenette Saubel, members of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, dance at a Sacramento Gathering in 1975. Photo by Michele Lasagna is on the cover of "Whispers from the First Californians," authored by Lasagna and Gail Faber. Cover design by Ben Ho.

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“ Does the man who asks you to marry him send his friend to do it—or does he get down on his knee and ask you himself? ”

—Supervisor Mary N. Piepho, explaining why it's important to make requests face to face in Washington.
See story, page 5.

Free spay, neuter surgeries

Dogs and cats belonging to low-income households can receive free spay and neuter surgeries Tuesday, Feb. 27, thanks to teamwork by the East Bay SPCA and Bishop Ranch Veterinary Center and Urgent Care. More than \$8,000 in surgical services is being underwritten by the two organizations.

“Any chance to partner with the Tri-Valley SPCA in an event like this is an opportunity to make a significant impact on the pet overpopulation problem as well as perform a valuable service to low-income residents of the area,” said Dr. Frank Utchen, co-owner of Bishop Ranch Veterinary.

Utchen will work alongside Dr. Heidi Strand of the SPCA to perform the surgeries at the Dublin facility. The SPCA started its low-cost spay and neuter clinic in Oakland in 1998 and added a Tri-Valley clinic in 2004.

For information and to make a surgery appointment, call 479-9674 or visit www.eastbayspca.org/thefix.

Town OKs Tri-Valley Vision 2010 funds

Last month the Danville Town Council OK'd spending \$25,000 to help fund the Tri-Valley Vision 2010 Project in the fiscal year 2006-07. The Tri-Valley Business Council was formed in October 1994 to represent the private sector in regional matters that affect the economic vitality within the Tri-Valley. Members come from businesses and organizations in Danville, San Ramon, Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore.

The Business Council works with governments and communities to resolve issues by doing research, tracking public policy and participating in public hearings.

Danville has supported the Business Council and the Vision 2010 project since 1998 with funding of \$10,000 per year until 2005-06 when the contribution was increased to \$25,000. This was in part because the organization lost the support of the Irvine Foundation.

This year the Business Council is focusing on responding to the needs of home-based business executives in the Tri-Valley, by marketing businesses, creating a Web site, and providing networking opportunities. Other focuses will be workforce housing and traffic congestion.

Chance for seniors to 'play ball'

Sign-ups for the spring and summer season of Senior Softball began Monday with the Town of Danville. Beginners and seasoned veterans ages 50 and up are encouraged to participate in the Danville leagues, which start play April 1 and end Aug. 23.

Participants can register as a team or as individuals in the softball sessions to be placed on teams by town staff members. Games take place Tuesday and Thursday mornings for players ages 50 and up, and Wednesday mornings for ages 60 and up.

All games will be played at Sycamore Valley Park, located at 2101 Holbrook Drive. Fees are \$30 per season for one day a week; \$40 for two days a week.

An all-players meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 22, in the Danville Library Mt. Diablo Room at 400 Front St. For more information, contact Steve Swanter, senior softball coordinator, at 413-9757.

Registration can be done by calling 314-3400 or online at www.ci.danville.ca.us.

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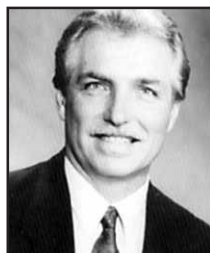
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NATALIE O'NEILL

What's good for Oprah...

Oprah Winfrey's personal trainer Bob Greene gives Tamra Rucker and Stephanie Cole weight loss advice during a book signing at the Alamo Safeway last week. Greene was in Alamo publicizing his new book, "The Best Life Diet," and gave short consultations to fans about their eating habits. In some of the conversations, he pointed out that food can be used as "a comfort drug" and in others he encouraged people to journal about their daily eating routines, recording what they ate, how much was consumed, and how they felt at the time. Rucker and Cole said they heard about Greene's book and philosophy when they were up late watching television one night. The women were also interviewed by reporters from the TV show "The View" while at Alamo Safeway.

Chinese prepares students for global economy

Change in population warrants new course

by Jordan M. Doronila

Trustees approved a bundle of new high school courses in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District at their meeting Feb. 6.

Chinese Mandarin, kickboxing, power walking and water polo will be offered at all district high schools starting next school year.

"This is an Asian language that will prepare our students for a global economy," said Denise Hibbard, principal of the soon-to-be opened Dougherty Valley High School in San Ramon, about offering Mandarin.

"It's exciting," said district spokesman Terry Koehne.

Chinese Mandarin, levels one, two and three, will be open to students in grades nine through 12. Kickboxing, power walking and water polo will be open to students in grades 10-12.

Prior to this approval, there was no high school Chinese language course offered in the district. Parents in the San Ramon Valley requested instructors to add Mandarin to their language course offerings.

Koehne said Hibbard pushed for a Mandarin course because of the local population's changing demographics.

"It fills a need," he said.

University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) both require foreign languages for admission; both uni-

versity systems require two years of language study, however, UC recommends three years.

Currently, Spanish, German, French, Japanese and Sign Language are offered at the high schools, Hibbard said. The Mandarin curriculum will be open to all students.

Approximately 80 students will move from Spanish and French to Chinese, wrote school administrators in course proposals.

Plans call for one instructor at each high school to teach Chinese, plus textbooks, language laboratory software and workbooks.

Kickboxing was proposed by Monte Vista High School staff. Students will receive physical education or an elective credit for taking this class, which is a total body workout that combines martial arts, dance and boxing.

Course objectives include the following: being able to safely engage in kickboxing and self defense movements; understanding the importance of when, why and how to use these techniques; and preventing violence before it happens. School staff estimated 40-50 students would enroll in kickboxing.

Power walking is designed to help students gain increased cardiovascular endurance and leaner, stronger and healthier bodies. It also increases flexibility. Approximately 40 to 50 students are expected to take power walking.

Waterpolo students will receive physical education or an elective credit. They will learn motor skills, movement patterns, tactics and increased physical activity. ■

Mary N. Piepho goes to Washington with hat in hand

Supervisors lobby on county health and environmental issues

by Natalie O'Neill

District 3 Supervisor Mary N. Piepho met with Bay Area delegates in Washington, D.C., earlier this month to lobby on health, quality of life and environmental issues in Contra Costa County.

Piepho and District 5 Supervisor Federal Glover met with congress members Jerry McNerney (D., District 11) and Ellen Tauscher (D., District 10) as well as Sen. Barbara Boxer on an official four-day trip funded by the county. The trip was made in conjunction with local mayors who were attending the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

The supervisors asked for federal funds to decrease mercury in Marsh Creek, to improve dredging

from San Pablo Bay to Stockton to transport imported items, to set up a cross-county radio system for emergency preparedness, and to improve library materials at the Juvenile Hall facilities.

"In Washington they call these requests 'pork,' I call it a return on our investments," Piepho said, noting that Contra Costa County contributes a lot of "matching dollars" and deserves a strong national voice.

It was the first time Piepho and Glover have gone in person to Washington to voice Contra Costa's needs. In the midst of the chaotic competition for national funding, face to face requests are more effective, Piepho said.

"You have to think about it in terms of any interaction or relationship. Does the man who asks you to marry him send his friend to do it—or does he get down on his knee and ask you himself?" she said.

Piepho also addressed the south

county rumor circulating that she visited Washington for the purposes of furthering her political career, rather than for the betterment of the county.

"It's actually quite offensive. We worked our tails off," she said, adding that her days were packed with meetings and that she spent ample time "running back and forth between buildings."

Those claims were unfounded, she said, considering that she has no intention of running for the 10th District congressional seat. She said she plans to run for supervisor again in 2008.

"We've got other great candidates like Assemblyman Guy Houston," she said.



Supervisor Mary N. Piepho

In terms of lobbying for issues that directly effect the south county population, dredging for shipping imports will decrease congestion along I-580, she said.

By deepening areas of channels by five feet along the stretch from San Pablo Bay to Stockton, more imports will be able to come in via ship. As a result, the amount of imports that come in via Oakland would be reduced and the shipments that clog I-580 during weekday rush hour traffic would be limited.

"It releases pressure from the Oakland port," Piepho said.

The project, including studies in preparation for dredging, is estimated to be about \$9.6 million.

Decreasing mercury levels at Marsh Creek in Mt. Diablo State Park is also a vital county issue as it could severely impact the health of residents and have a negative impact on wildlife.

But this is a complicated issue,

Piepho said, because if the county begins cleanup efforts it could potentially become the county's liability.

"The county has been poised to help mitigate but ... agencies will look anywhere to find someone culpable," she said.

In Washington, Piepho said she took steps to abate the problem and clarify that the county would be deemed a non-responsible party. She asked for federal funding in the amount of \$1 million for that project.

Other lobbying issues included a push for \$200 million in funds for an interoperable radio to be used among Contra Costa, Alameda, San Francisco and San Mateo counties in times of emergency.

"We live in a very vulnerable area. It's not question of if we need it, it's when we'll need it," she said.

► Continued on page 7



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What's next for high school athletes?

by Jordan M. Doronila

Harvard. Stanford. Yale. Utah.

Top senior student athletes at San Ramon Valley High School formally announced at a luncheon last week their intentions of what colleges they will attend.

Approximately 60 people comprising families, coaches and school staff honored their achievements at a recognition luncheon at the high school's small gym on Wednesday, Feb. 7. Sixteen students were honored.

"This is an exceptional group," said John Raynor, school athletic director and boys' varsity basketball coach. "It's an exceptionally talented young group of men and women."

At the event, San Ramon Valley High School baseball Coach Rick Steen and Athletic Booster Club President Chris Carter shared some supportive comments with the youths.

Steen will be retiring from teaching and coaching after 33 years, and this year will be Carter's last as the booster club president, Raynor said.

Sam Finlayson, who plays water polo and was recently given the 2006 Wendy's Heisman Award, has officially written a letter of intent to attend Stanford University, joining his brother Peter.

Raynor said the athletes honored represented positive role models who have met academic standards. Additionally, they are respectful, are leaders, and they have overcome obstacles to perform at a high level.

The following students have submitted their formal letters of intent:

- Roy Helu, Jr., football, University of Nebraska
- Corbin Louks, football, University of Utah
- Zackary Madonick, football, University of Nevada Reno
- Ryan Vandersloot, football, Yale
- Bria Park, women's soccer, Cal Poly

Piepho

► Continued from page 5

And on a smaller scale, she pushed for \$100,000 to improve library facilities in juvenile detention facilities. She said while youths are there, they should be encouraged to get an education.

"They are an important segment of our society," she said.

Overall, she said representatives in Washington responded with support, recognizing that many of the issues they presented were of regional significance.

Now, it is up to Contra Costa County lobbyists to continue to check in and remind representatives in Washington of the county's needs, she said.

"There is a huge competing interest (in Washington), and Contra Costa County needs to have a voice in the discussion," Piepho said. ■

Contact Natalie O'Neill at noneill@danvilleweekly.com



Sam Finlayson has signed a letter of intent to play water polo at Stanford University.

- Chelsea Gallegos, women's soccer, Portland State
 - Gabrielle Parisella, women's soccer, Loyola Marymount
 - Aubree Southwick, women's soccer, San Diego State
 - Cameron Walters, men's soccer, Cal Poly
 - Rebekah Weisser, softball, Azusa Pacific
 - Autumn Albers, softball, Stanford
 - Sam Finlayson, men's water polo, Stanford
 - Elliot Arthur, men's water polo, UC Davis
 - Allison Van Dorn, women's lacrosse, UC Davis
 - Carolyn Talley, crew, Harvard
 - Alexis Nordine, cross country, undecided
- The luncheon was an event to acknowledge their talents, Raynor said.
- "It was a wonderful day to recognize these tremendous athletes," he noted. ■

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Job fair highlights medical field

Careers in healthcare took center stage recently.

More than 400 high students gathered at the annual Contra Costa County Health and Bioscience Career Fair held at the Marriott Hotel in San Ramon.

The students are currently enrolled in Regional Occupational Program and School-to-Career healthcare programs offered by the county Office of Education, such as sports medicine, emergency medical training and nursing.

"The fair is always a great event for our students. This is our third year in a row attending," said ROP teacher Julie Mello. "It opens their eyes to so many more opportunities in the health-care field."

Mello currently teaches five sports medicine classes at Monte Vista High School.

During the Career Fair, the stu-

dents participated in a number of workshops that featured topics such as technology and health, laboratory medicine, imaging and

occupation they are considering after graduating from high school.

"Looking to the future, we can all agree that health care will continue to be one of the most crucial issues our country will face," said Joseph A. Ovick, county Superintendent of Schools. "With this program, we are also privileged to serve so many young students who have already decided to help others with their future career in health care and biosciences."

The presenting sponsors of the fair were John Muir Health, Sutter Health and Kaiser Permanente. The event was produced in cooperation with the Contra Costa County Office of Education, Contra Costa Economic Partnership, Contra Costa Community College District, and the Contra Costa Health and Bioscience Careers Collaborative. ■

"This is our third year in a row attending. It opens their eyes to so many more opportunities in the health-care field."

—Julie Mello, ROP teacher

pre-hospital care. In addition, the students were able to meet with 19 health-care-related exhibitors to learn more information about the



DIANE MORRELL

Paul Tilton, who teaches emergency medical training with the Contra Costa County Office of Education, talks about bleeding and wound management.

Heritage Commerce Corp acquires Diablo Valley Bank for \$70 million

Heritage Commerce Corp and Diablo Valley Bank last Thursday announced the signing of an agreement that merges DVB into Heritage in a cash-and-stock transaction valued at approximately \$70 million.

The merger will expand Heritage's branch network, add commercial lending capabilities to the bank's Diablo Valley operations, and bring total assets for the combined entities to \$1.3 billion.

"We expect the transition to be seamless to our customers," said John Hounslow, chairman of the board of directors of Diablo Valley Bank.

The boards of both companies unanimously approved the transaction, which is subject to approval

by DVB's shareholders, as well as regulators and other customary conditions of closing. They expect the transaction to close in the second or third quarter of 2007.

Diablo Valley Bank was founded in October 2003 and is one of the fastest growing community banks in the region with \$249 million in assets; \$199 million in loans; \$224 million in deposits; and shareholders' equity of \$24 million at Dec. 31, 2006. DVB, with branches in Danville and Pleasanton, serves the banking and financial needs of entrepreneurs, their families, business ventures and real estate investments.

Diablo Valley Bank has just opened its new headquarters and branch office at 387 Diablo Road.

Its ribbon-cutting is scheduled for noon, Monday, Feb. 26, which will kick off a week of festivities.

"We are delighted to be joining forces with the Diablo Valley team, which has established a phenomenal organization in a very short time period," said Walter Kaczmarek, president and CEO of Heritage Commerce Corp. "It enhances our position in the affluent East Bay communities of Danville and Pleasanton, which have exceptional demographics for attracting deposits and a very strong entrepreneurial business community."

Heritage Commerce Corp is headquartered in San Jose, with nine full-service branches, including one in Danville. ■

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BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



Did you see us on the radio?

The fun thing about working in downtown Danville is it's so darned friendly.

Why, just last Thursday morning some nice people rolled a cart into the office loaded with scrumptious pastries from a Sweet Affair in Alamo and gourmet coffee—two pots, with and without caffeine. They also brought balloons, a bouquet of flowers in an attractive vase, and a KKDV coffee mug.

The visitors were from radio station KKDV, 92.1 FM, which also specializes in the Diablo Valley, so we have a lot in common. Except we here at the newspaper never play music for our readers. And checking a Weekly newspaper for the traffic report just doesn't work although we hope to carry it on our Web site. We already show the temperature and the weather forecast.

The KKDV staff was providing our staff with "The Ultimate Coffee Break," which they do for local businesses every weekday morning from 10-10:30 a.m. To learn more, go to www.kkdv.com. They post photos on their Web site of the office staffs where they visit, holding their KKDV banner.

KKDV also did a "shout-out," 30 seconds recorded onsite, that aired 20 minutes after the fact in between songs from the '70s, '80s, '90s and today. The shout-out featured our publisher Gina Channell-Allen touting our new Web site, DanvilleWeekly.com, as well as admiring the extravagant array of pastries. Another highlight of the broadcast was our staff cheering on cue. Who knew we could sound so good as we exhibited our collective spirit? We should make some additional revenue by renting ourselves out for television laugh tracks.

I come from a long line of radio entertainers. In 1932, my father, a sports writer, made the first radio broadcast from Spartan Stadium, a football game between San Jose State and Sacramento State, on KQW, which became KCBS. He said he thinks the only listener was his mother. That's a sweet image, her sitting by a big, old-fashioned radio listening to her son's voice although probably not understanding a word he said because I would be willing to bet she knew very, very little about football. She told him he did a fine job. Well, of course! That's what mothers are for, isn't it?

My father said he didn't really enjoy doing the broadcasts, sitting all alone, talking into the microphone and wondering if anyone was listening besides his mom. When broadcasts began putting two announcers in the booth he thought it was a good idea so they could play off and talk to each

Another highlight of the broadcast was our staff cheering on cue. Who knew we could sound so good as we exhibited our collective spirit?

other. Personally, I find two or more announcers during football games on television can be kind of annoying—sometimes they seem to think they are there to enjoy each other and the game and forget about the viewers. As if we care about their personal banter. But I guess two makes it easier from the announcer's point of view.

A few years ago my husband and I visited the former oldies station

KDFC in San Francisco where our friend Sam Van Zandt was doing the evening show. He was alone and doing everything—being the deejay plus doing the technical part—but he seemed quite busy and self-contained, and received a couple of phone calls from listeners even while we were there. But then running a live radio oldies show isn't the same as broadcasting a football game.

Writing can be a lonely profession, which is why writers often have writers' groups, to socialize, support each other, and share their writing. Of course it's not lonely at the newspaper because we have a staff. In between interviews and writing, and planning meetings, we often meet up in our little kitchen. Which, by the way, is the site of the leftover pastries. After all, we owe it to our friends at KKDV to enjoy every last bite.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli
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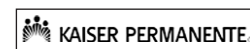
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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

Accident investigation reveals stolen wallets

A teenager from Monte Vista High School allegedly stole wallets and personal property from backpacks at a birthday party for a 17-year-old in the Veterans Memorial Building on Saturday evening.

The teenager, 16, rummaged through the backpacks, according to police reports, took items out and placed them in a 1998 blue Lexus that was driven by another Danville resident, 18. With his girlfriend, also a Monte Vista student, the 18-year-old drove away from the Veterans Hall, said Danville police Sgt. Troy Craig.

The 18-year-old drove the Lexus into property on Esther Lane in Danville. When Officer Kevin Briggs arrived at the scene shortly after 11 p.m., he discovered

the 18-year-old was driving under the influence of alcohol, according to reports.

Moreover, Briggs saw items in the back of the car that did not appear to belong to the driver, said Craig. Briggs conducted an investigation and found the items were stolen from the birthday party at the Veterans Memorial Building on Hartz Avenue.

His investigation revealed that the 18-year-old and the 17-year-old knew each other, Craig said. Afterward, the juvenile was contacted.

The 18-year-old was cited for driving while intoxicated and released to his parents. The juvenile was charged with grand theft and two counts of petty theft. He was cited and released to his parents.

The property stolen was valued at \$1,100, said Craig. —Jordan M. Doronila

POLICE LOG

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

Sunday, Feb. 4

- Accident on Camino Ramon and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 5:42 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 5

- Accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. and El Cerro Blvd. at 12:05 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Alameda Diablo and Diablo Rd. at 12:18 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on Conway Dr. at 9:49 a.m. and 10:09 a.m.
- Identity theft on Dove Creek Ln. at 11:04 a.m. and at 12:53 p.m.
- Petty theft on Ramona Rd. at 1:49 p.m.
- Identity theft on Dove Creek Ln. at 2:37 p.m.
- Threats disturbance on Love Ln. at 3:05 p.m.
- Grand theft on Diablo Rd. at 4:44 p.m.
- Party disturbance on Quintrera Ln. at 11:59 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 6

- Petty theft, shoplift, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 11:54 a.m.
- Petty theft on Bridgeside Cir. at 1:02 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Morninghome Rd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 3:35 p.m.
- Threats disturbance on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 4:47 p.m.
- Battery on Stone Valley Rd. at 5:57 p.m.

- Auto burglary on Lawnview Cir. at 7:59 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 7

- Trespassing on Railroad Ave. at 12:08 a.m.
- Party disturbance on Gatetree Ct. and Richard Ln. at 3:55 a.m.
- Vandalism on Laurel Dr. at 9:51 a.m.
- Commercial burglary on Hartz Ave. at 10:32 a.m.
- Identity theft on Larkwood Cir. at 10:54 a.m. and 11:34 a.m.
- Vandalism on Cross Bridge Dr. at 1:09 p.m.
- Forgery of fraudulent documents on Hartford Rd. at 2:42 p.m.
- Petty theft on Love Ln. at 4:02 p.m.
- Unwanted guest disturbance on Golden Hills Ct. at 9:48 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 8

- Petty theft from vehicle on Brookside Dr. at 6:16 a.m.
- Vandalism on Cameo Dr. at 6:33 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Diablo Rd. and El Cerro Blvd. at 8:03 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on Green Valley Rd. at 8:51 a.m.
- Petty theft on Love Ln. at 10:12 a.m.
- Throwing objects at vehicles on Camino Tassajara and Crow Canyon Rd. at 10:40 a.m.
- Accident, major injuries, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Town and Country at 11:43 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 11:46 a.m.
- Threats disturbance on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 2:17 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on La Gonda Way at 4:03 p.m.

- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Woodranch Dr. at 5:12 p.m.
- Grand theft on Mallard St. at 5:19 p.m.
- Malicious telephone calls on Waingarh Way at 8:09 p.m.
- Drunk in public on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 9:26 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 9:29 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 9

- Unwanted guest disturbance on Boone Ct. at 12:57 a.m.
- Identity theft on Highland Dr. at 10:21 a.m.
- Petty theft from building on Stone Valley Rd. at 12:37 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.
- Identity theft on Mustang Ct. at 2:18 p.m.
- Throwing objects at vehicles on Veda Dr. and Verona Ave. at 2:52 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Camino Tassajara at 5:02 p.m.
- Drugs violation on Brookside Dr. at 5:30 p.m.
- Shooting promiscuous on Century Way at 10:05 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 10

- Accident, major injuries, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 11:59 a.m.
- Identity theft on Mustang Ct. at 12:31 p.m.
- Petty theft on Love Ln. at 1:09 p.m.
- Battery on Camino Tassajara and Crow Canyon Rd. at 1:57 p.m.
- Vandalism on El Pintado Pl. at 2:21 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on W. Prospect Ave. at 11:05 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Edwige Josephine Evans

Edwige Josephine Evans, 82, a resident of Danville, passed away Feb. 5.

She was born in Moyenne, France, on Aug. 24, 1924, to August Demmerle and Katherine Henri Demmerle. She had been a resident of Danville for the past three years and prior to that lived in Alamo.

She was active in the French Resistance during World War II smuggling allied pilots back into France.

She is survived by her husband of 61 years, James J. Evans; daughter Jacqueline E. Ramos; son John Roger Evans; brothers Fritz and Camille Demmerle; five grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

A memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 17, at Hull's Walnut Creek Chapel, 1139 Saranap Ave. in Walnut Creek. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the charity of your choice.

Robert Allan Miller

Robert (Bob) Alan Miller, a resident of Diablo, passed away peacefully Jan. 28 at the age of 82.

He was born in Oakland on Nov. 14, 1924. He graduated from the University of Kansas in 1945 where he was a member of the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society. He was a first lieutenant in the Navy in World War II. Bob started Pacific Rolling Door Co. in 1947 and was president for 45 years. He was a longtime member of St. Isidore's Parish and Diablo Country Club.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Patricia Miller; son and daughter-in-law Jeffrey and Karen Miller; son

and daughter-in-law Timothy and Gina Miller; daughter and son-in-law Susan and Steven Swanson; daughter and son-in-law Teresa and Bradley Dyer; son and daughter-in-law Thomas and Ellie Miller; 13 grandchildren; sisters-in-law Anita Merkle, Dorothy McGuire, Shirley Davini; and brother-in-law David Davini.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Feb. 1 at St. Isidore's Church. Interment is at Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery in Lafayette. Memorial gifts can be sent to the American Cancer Society for Lung Cancer Research.

Gloria Greene Kimball

Danville resident Gloria Greene Kimball passed away Feb. 5 at the age of 82.

She was born Nov. 3, 1924, in Salt Lake City, Utah, to Mark Hindley Greene and Alice Amelia Dunford. She married C. Blaine Kimball on May 4, 1944, in the Salt Lake Temple. She had been a resident of California for the past 60 years.

She is remembered as a woman of character, personality and accomplishment who gave unselfishly for the welfare of others. She had striking good looks and was a joy to be around but remained modest and self-effacing.

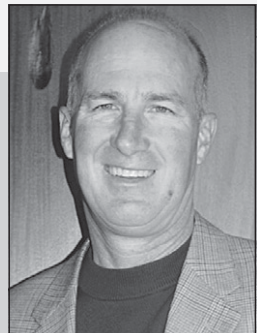
She is survived by her husband Blaine; five children, Jeff (Kathleen) Kimball, Kathryn Carroll, Scott (Shauna) Kimball, Debbie (Dave) Briggs, Connie (Kim) Wahlen; brother Alva Greene; sister Lovinia Harmsen; 27 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Services were held Feb. 10 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Alamo Ward Chapel, on Stone Valley Road.

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EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

More than just a history lesson

See a need and fill it. This is heralded as a good motto for those who want to invent something to make money. Think Post-Its.

It is also a dictum followed by those who want to make a difference for other reasons. Think two Rancho Romero Elementary teachers who found the curriculum on American Indians woefully lacking. Although the rest of California history was covered extensively, only a few pages were in the students' history books about the California Indians.

The teachers, Gail Faber and Michele Lasagna, started by writing a booklet for

students in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. But they knew there was more to the subject and ended up undertaking a huge project: thoroughly telling the true history and present-day story of the California Indians. Their mission led them not only to books, museums and local history experts. They also went to Indian gatherings to do first-hand research and to homes to talk to California Indians and learn directly from them about their way of life as well as their beliefs.

Now, more than 20 years later, Faber and Lasagna have developed a curricu-

lum that is not only used by the fourth-graders in our school district but by many

Rather than say, "Someone should write a history of the California Indians," Faber and Lasagna said, "We will write a history of the California Indians."

students throughout the state. The two women have jointly written five books, a series on California history for children to learn from and enjoy.

Faber and Lasagna should be proud of the difference they have made. History has so many errors and holes, due to erroneous records, no records, and, yes, even newspaper mistakes. The longer anyone waited to set the record straight on California Indians, the more time was passing and the further history was receding.

Rather than say, "Someone should write a history of the California Indians," Faber and Lasagna said, "We will write a history of the California Indians." Thank you to them for seeing a need and filling it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

...and the times they are a-changin'

Dear Editor:

After living in Alamo for many years, I have realized that it is in a different time zone. Over the first many years, I had determined that everything started 11 minutes late in Alamo. In my first year, I missed many meetings because I arrived on Silicon Valley Time, 10 minutes early and fully prepared.

But the times are changing in Alamo as a community with such exceptional professional talent looks beyond their county governments, community groups and service organizations and sets a path to a new opportunity for local self-direction. Alamo, by some method and majority of residents, will become a city with a broadly expanded commu-

nity business district as a major neighborhood among all neighborhoods. Alamo will reach out to its surrounding communities and create new regional abilities for self-directed planning and operations. In the end, repeated inability of county districts and departments to service Alamo's will, interests and advisory will be replaced by a municipality in Alamo.

It took many years of good humor as the unofficial Alamo Towne Fool, among a handful of other Towne Fools, to allow the majority in Alamo to step forward in directing our community's future. As that is happening, Alamo no longer needs its Towne Fools and can celebrate the exceptional talent of new majority leadership.

It was fun, thank you.

Hal Bailey, Alamo

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

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Calendar

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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 Visit

Lolly Winston Project Second Chance presents "The Bookies seventh annual Celebration of Books and the People who Love Them" with special guest, Lolly Winston, at 6 p.m., Thursday, March 29, at the Lafayette Park Hotel, 3287 Mount Diablo Blvd. Cost is \$50. Call (510) 723-5810 or visit Fremont Bank at 1735 N. Broadway, Walnut Creek.

Civic Meetings

State of the Town Address Town of Danville, Danville Area Chamber of Commerce and mayor Mike Shirmansky will host the State of the Town Address luncheon starting at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, March 1, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Cost is \$25 by Feb. 20 or \$30 afterward. Call 837-4400.

Classes

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, Feb. 21, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Registration is required, call 314-3392.

Clubs

Alamo-Danville Newcomers' Club This club is open to new and long-time women residents of Alamo and Danville interested in making new friends in the area. Their Prospective Member Coffee is held the fourth Thursday of the month, and a monthly luncheon on the second Tuesday. Call 775-3233 or visit www.alamodanvilnewcomers.com.

California Writers Club This club will meet for a luncheon and host guest speaker, Susan Bono from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 17, at Girasole Grille, 3180 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Cost is \$18 for members, \$25 for non-members. To reserve your spot, email Fred at fnorman300@aol.com

Danville-Alamo American Association of University Women AAUW will host a luncheon with guest speaker Lois Davidson Gottlieb at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, March 24, at Diablo West Clubhouse, 750 Ynez Circle, Danville. Cost is \$20. Call 944-5173.

WEEKEND PREVIEW



Musae to vocalize on love

St. Timothy's Concert Series presents Musae, a women's vocal ensemble based in San Francisco, in "Love the World 'Round" at 5 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 18, at St. Timothy's Parish Hall, 1550 Diablo Road in Danville. Cost is \$18 for adults, \$12 for students and seniors. Call 837-4993, ext. 15, or visit www.saint-timothysdanville.org.

Diablo Bonsai Club This club will host a lecture and workshop on planting and raising Bonsai trees from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 21, at Heather Farm Garden Center, Upper Room, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek. Participants may bring their trees. Call 736-9157.

Food and Wine Book Group The new Food and Wine Book Group will meet 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, Feb. 20, at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. Call 837-7337.

Habitat for Humanity Speaker The Tri-Valley Democratic Club invites the public to hear Janice Jensen Executive, Director of Habitat for Humanity East Bay. She will be discussing the organizations' work in Livermore where a 22 home "green" building development nears completion from 7-10 p.m., Monday, Feb. 19, at IBEW 595 Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free. 7-10 p.m. No Charge IBEW 595 Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. 925 451 4303. www.trivalleydems.com

Julie's Book Clubs Julie's Evening Group will meet to discuss Helon Habila's "Measuring Time" at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 21 and Julie's Morning Group will meet to discuss Gabriel Garcia Marquez's "Love in the Time of Cholera" and "Memories of My Melancholy Whores" at 10:30 a.m., Friday, Feb. 23, both at Rakestraw Books, 409 Railroad Ave., Danville. Call 837-7337

Concerts

'Love the World 'Round' St. Timothy's Concert Series presents Musae in "Love the World 'Round" at 5 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 18, at St. Timothy's Parish Hall, 1550 Diablo Rd., Danville. Cost is \$18 for adults, \$12 for students and seniors. Call 837-4993, ext. 15 or visit www.saint-timothysdanville.org.

Laurence Juber Community Concerts presents Laurence Juber at 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Wesley Center, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$22 for children and seniors. Call 229-2710 or visit www.communityconcerts.com.

The American Dream Diablo Symphony Orchestra will host "The American Dream" at 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 17, at the Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$12, \$20, \$22. Call 943-7469 or visit www.dlrca.org.

World Class Four Hand Piano Pleasanton Civic Arts will host Mark Anderson and Tamriko Siphraevili in World Class Four Hand Piano at 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 24, at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$15, \$20 and \$25. Call 931-3444 or visit www.civictickets.org.

Events

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.

Fifth Annual Youth Music Festival Pleasanton Civic Arts presents the fifth annual Youth Music Festival at 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 23, at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door. Call 931-3444 or visit www.civictickets.org.

Kosher in a Snap Contra Costa Jewish Community Center will host "Kosher in a Snap" with two different

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sessions at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 20, or Wednesday, Feb. 21, at Contra Costa Jewish Community Center, 2071 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Cost is \$175 for eight meals, \$225 for 12 meals. Call 938-7800, ext. 223 or visit www.ccjcc.org.

Newt Walk Lindsay Wildlife Museum will host a Newt Walk by searching for newts, frogs, lizards and more with a naturalist from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Feb. 17, at the museum, 1931 First Ave., Walnut Creek. Cost is \$15 or \$10 for museum members. Call 935-1978.

Street Smarts Skate Nights City of San Ramon and Golden Skate present Street Smarts Skate Nights from 6:30-9 p.m., the third Wednesday of the month, at Golden Skate, 2701 Hooper Drive, San Ramon. Admission is \$8 including skates, \$4 for in-line skates and parents skate for free. Sport safety will be the topic on Feb. 21. Call 820-2520 or 973-2655.

Exhibits

Space is the Place Bedford Gallery will host "Space is the Place" which will feature installations, paintings, works on paper and video clips which opens March 4, at the Bedford Gallery, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. An opening reception will be held from 3-5 p.m., Sunday, March 4. "Astronaut or Alien?" costume contest will be held for the best-dressed space explorer. Admission is \$3, \$2 for children 17 years and younger. The gallery is open from noon-5 p.m., Tuesdays-Sundays and 6-8 p.m., Thursday-Saturdays. Call 295-1416.

The Sword and the Cross The Museum of the San Ramon Valley presents "The Sword and the Cross" exhibit running until May 5, at the museum, 205 Railroad Ave., Danville. Admission is free to the museum, but donations are appreciated. Hours are 1-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday. Call 837-3750 or visit www.museumsvr.org.

Film

An Inconvenient Truth About Breast and Other Cancers Wall of Hope Breast Cancer Survivors Project will host a viewing of Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" from 7:30-10 p.m., Fridays, Feb. 23 and March 9 and 23, at a private residence in Danville. Tickets are a donation of \$20. For directions and information, call 736-7100.

Fundraisers

All You Can Eat Dungenous Crab Feed San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church will host an All You Can Eat Dungenous Crab Feed at 6 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 17, at the Wesley Center, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$12 for youth adults (12-18) and children 12 and under are free. Proceeds will benefit local church programs. Call 837-5243.

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.

Health

Free Wellness Classes Longs Drugs will provide free Wellness classes on heart health and weight management from noon-1 p.m. and 6-7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 21, at Longs Drugs, 650 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. To register, call (800) 865-6647 or email wellness@longs.com.

Kids and Teens

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.

Lectures/ Workshops

Focus on Investment Fundamentals Town of Danville Parks and Recreation presents "Focus on Investment Fundamentals" from 1-3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. Cost is \$25 for residents, \$30 for non-residents. Call 314-3400 or visit <http://econnect.ci.danville.ca.us>.

Gardening Seminars Sloat Garden Centers will host a workshop "Rose Pruning" at 11 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 24 and another workshop on "Orchids 101" at 11 a.m., Saturday, March 3, at Sloat Garden Centers, 828 Diablo Rd., Danville. Cost is \$5, free for Gardeners Reward members. Visit www.sloatgardens.com.

Publicity 101 The Danville Weekly and Pleasanton Weekly will host "Publicity 101" from 5:30-7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 22, at the Danville Weekly office, 315 Diablo Rd., Suite 100 and from 10-11:30 a.m., Saturday, March 3, at the Pleasanton Weekly office, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100. Call 600-0840.

Taxes, Bookkeeping and Asset Protection National Wealth Network presents "Taxes, Bookkeeping and

Asset Protection" from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 21, at San Ramon Library, second floor, 100 Montgomery St., San Ramon. This event is free. Call 973-2850.

Miscellaneous

One Warm Coat ERA Golden Hills Brokers will host One Warm Coat during the month of February. This program is dedicated to distributing reusable coats, free of charge, directly to local children and adults. Coats can be dropped off at ERA Golden Hills Brokers, 3223 Crow Canyon Rd., Suite 110, San Ramon. Call 216-4590.

San Ramon Symphonic Band San Ramon Symphonic Band is seeking a successor to their director, who is retiring after 20 years. The ideal candidate should have experience in directing adult instrumental groups, talent development and program innovation. Call David Turner at 736-7802 or visit www.geocities.com/sanramonband/.

On Stage

'The Tale of Cinderella' Diablo Ballet presents "The Tale of Cinderella" at 8 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 18, at Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, 2430 Bancroft Ave., Berkeley. Call (510) 642-9988 or visit <http://tickets.berkeley.edu>.

'Wigged Out!' Victoria's Hair on Stage has opened its doors for "Wigged Out!" which runs until June, at Victoria's Hair on Stage, 520 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Tickets are \$38. Call 855-SHOW (855-7469).

Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr. Civic Arts Education Junior Theatre presents "Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr." at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. or 7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 23 and at 2 and 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 24, at Del Valle Theatre, 1963 Tice Valley Road, Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$11 for seniors and children, \$13 for adults. Call 943-7469.



Meet Babycake

She's snug as a bug in a rug while awaiting adoption at PetsMart in Dublin. Babycake is a 7-year-old, spayed female, coal-black shorthair housecat who is being cared for by a Tri-Valley Animal Rescue foster parent. Babycake is de-clawed, so she needs an indoor-only home and she would prefer not to have a dog as a roommate. Babycake is very affectionate and loves to cuddle. Babycake is vaccinated and she is Felv/Fiv negative. For more information about Babycake, call her foster mom Suzanne, 360-6764. Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) holds adoption events on Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. at PetsMart, 6960 Amador Plaza Rd. in Dublin, where you can meet adoptable cats that are in foster care. Visit www.tvvar.org.

Spiritual

Roots of Secular Humanistic Judaism Tri-Valley Cultural Jews present "The Roots of Secular Humanistic Judaism" at 7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 23, at Home of Rabbi Judith Seid, 1817 Sinclair Drive, Pleasanton. Bring a dish for eight people to share. Call 485-1049.

Volunteering

Diablo Valley Literacy Council Diablo Valley Literacy Council (DVLC) is looking for volunteers to help non-English speaking adults learn to read, write and speak English. Tutor-training

workshops will be held Friday, Feb. 24; Monday, Feb. 27; and Friday, March 3, at DVLC, 4000 Clayton Road, Concord. Cost is \$15 for registration. Call 685-3881.

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

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

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1 Tribal lessons

Two local authors learn firsthand about the California Indian way of life

by Natalie O'Neill

As authors Gail Faber and Michele Lasagna sat nervously among members of a tribe of Hupa Indians, one thing was clear to them.

They were different.

The Hupa people studied their unfamiliar pale faces curiously, high in the hills of the Trinity Alps reservation. Sun poured in through the trees and the tribe sat together motionless, silent with the anticipation of the White Deer Skin Dance.



NATALIE O'NEILL

Authors and former Alamo teachers Michele Lasagna (left) and Gail Faber reminisce about their experiences researching California Indians, at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, where they currently teach the docents.

"You didn't write or talk or eat—you just sat. Nobody spoke and the children were remarkably quiet," Faber said.

After about an hour, a distant thumping of drums could be heard at the base of the foothills, moving up, inching closer. The booming sound grew louder and men in pristine white deerskin capes appeared, then disappeared as quickly as they had come.

The ceremony was fascinating to the two women, budding writers from Danville and Alamo; they had trekked to the reservation as part of the research they were doing for a book called "Whispers from the First Californians."

The sacred ritual was meant to thank the gods for their abundance of food. Since it was a spiritual dance, the Hupa prohibited the writers from bringing pencils, cameras or notebooks of any kind to the ceremony.

"It would have been like taking pictures at church," Lasagna said.

So they just watched.

Since then Faber and Lasagna have written a series of books on California history, including "Whispers Along the Mission Trail" and "Pasquala: The story of a California Indian Girl." They will be doing a book signing at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley in Danville on Saturday, Feb. 24.

At that time, the two had already acquired information from books, museums and local experts, but they hadn't yet immersed themselves in the culture. But meeting the people was essential, they said.

Becoming acquainted with modern day Native Americans drastically changed their perspective.

"They became very alive to us," Faber said.

The notion that American Indians are people in history books, that they no longer exist here, is one idea the former fourth-grade teachers have spent the last 20-some years trying to dispel.

"Unfortunately there are kids and even still adults who think that Indians were wiped out by the cowboys. They're not living in 'tule' homes out by the river, but they're still right here," Lasagna said.

Back when Faber and Lasagna taught fourth grade at Rancho Romero Elementary in the early 1970s, they were required to cover extensive lessons on the history of the state. The textbooks, however, skimmed over the history of the California Indians.

The books were written on the East Coast and provided only a few pages to cover hundreds of years of history on the California Indians, Lasagna said.

"They were teaching about (American) Indians in college and high school classes, but there was nothing for little kids to read," she said.

When a fire destroyed most of the textbooks in the summer of 1973, Faber and Lasagna offered to put together a small booklet on California Indians for some elementary schools in the area. With two weeks to piece together as much information as they could, they had to work quickly to include central, coastal and mountain Indians.

And the more they learned, the more they wanted to know.

"We were hooked," Faber said, recalling that the two worked out of a small room in her house that summer.

When the booklet was completed, it was distributed to elementary schools in the school district and the women received \$50 for the task. Much to their pleasure, their own fourth-grade students and surrounding schools responded to the curriculum with overwhelming curiosity and enthusiasm.

Using Faber and Lasagna's booklet,

many teachers in the Central Valley were teaching their students more about California Indians—how they survived, how they believed and how they came to be. The women were satisfied with the curriculum they had spearheaded, and felt the information they provided was more thorough and accurate.

"We knew we could do better," Faber said.

That's when they began writing their first book, "Whispers from the First Californians," a state approved text that has been used in elementary schools across California.

The book uses simple language to discuss hunting and gathering, prayer, housing, way of life, and how to survive here—from both a scientific and a story perspective.

"You must be fair with the truth on both sides," Lasagna said.

While both of the women have retired from their teaching positions, they still teach the docents for the exhibit at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley. Now elementary students on area visit the exhibit for a 45-minute tour on the Indians.

Faber and Lasagna allow the children to teach using their own style but stress the important points they should cover.

Kids tend to think of American Indians from the perspective of western movies, Faber and Lasagna said, and they were amazed to learn how friendly and welcoming California Indians are and were. They were also surprised to learn that tribes still exist.

"The children are like, 'Awww, they're kidding!'" Lasagna said.

One point they touch on is how the San Ramon Valley Indians lived on the Earth. The San Ramon Valley provided them excellent fresh-water, fishing, nuts, berries and shade.

"They were the first ecologists. If they came to a bush, they wouldn't eat all of the berries, they would leave some for the animals and some for the Great Spirit," Lasagna said.

After spending so much time with California Indian tribes, the women said it meant the world to them that the tribes they had spoken with approved of their book. They wanted them to see it as accurate and respectful.

Faber recalled a time she had to prove her good intentions with the members of the tribes she visited. She arrived at the reservation hoping to speak with an elderly Indian woman, but at first the woman was very hesitant to talk.

"She observed everything, almost as though she was just getting a peek for you," Faber said.

Faber said she explained that she had always been intrigued by the lives of the Indians and that she wanted to avoid degrading or objectifying them. The woman studied her and her husband and then said, "Well, what do you know?"

"I thought, 'I'm in!'" recalled Faber. When the authors returned to the reservation, their first book was published, they went to find the tribe approved of the book.

"They liked it and accepted it," Faber said.

There were, however, some concerns about the second book they were writing about the missions, as some California Indians felt the missions had taken away the

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In spending time with them, Faber and Lasagna also learned that the tribes prefer to be called by their tribal names or "Indians" as long as a distinction is made from the Eastern Indians.

For example, a tribe would likely prefer to be called Dakota Indians as opposed to Native Americans. Anyone who was born in America is a "Native American," they told the authors.

The authors also said many California Indians don't like the term "powwow" because only Midwest Indians have powwows. They call their tribal meetings "gatherings" or "festivals."

Faber and Lasagna have contributed pieces to the Sword and the Cross exhibit on the missions that is currently at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, running through May 5. Their books also include "Clara Rides the Rancho" and "Clara Rounds Cape Horn." Some copies can be purchased at the museum.

"Kids need to know that there were people before them—who they were and why they came," Lasagna said. ■

Authors at the museum

What: Five authors with their books that focus on California's colonial history

Who: Michele Lasagna and Gail Faber; Malcolm Margolin, author of "The Ohlone Way"; Dr. Gregorio Mora-Torres, "California Voices: The Oral Memoirs of Jose Maria Amador and Lorenzo Asisara"; Naida West, "River of Red Gold" and "Eye of the Bear"

When: 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 24

Where: Museum of the San Ramon Valley, Railroad at Prospect Avenue, Danville

Information: Call 837-3750 or visit www.museumsvr.org



Michele Lasagna and Gail Faber, who have traveled to reservations near Eureka and Palm Springs, have published five books together, including historical fiction and state-approved text books.

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This couple shines brightly in Danville



JORDAN M. DORONILLA

Jewelers
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Year for
their work
to help
others

Chris and James Edlund, owners of Christe James Fine Jewelry Works, were the winners of the 2006 Danville Area Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year Award.

by Jordan M. Doronilla

The gem of individuality shines brightly at Christe James Fine Jewelry Works in Danville.

Sparkling diamonds. Glimmering gold. Earrings to die for.

Only the best—and what is unique—can be found at the store, proclaim shop owners Chris and James Edlund, winners of the 2006 Danville Area Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year award.

The couple was awarded the honor at the Installation Dinner earlier this month for their fundraising work that helps treat Parkinson's Disease and cancer. Approximately 200 people from the business community attended the event.

"It's pretty exciting," said Chris Edlund.

"It's nice to be recognized," said James Edlund. "It's nice to live in a small town."

"What you do does make a difference," added Chris Edlund. "There are a lot of good citizens."

The Edlunds, both in their 50s, hail from Washington. Chris studied English Literature at the University of Puget Sound, and James studied at the University of Washington. However, they did not meet in their home state. They became acquainted after moving to California.

They both said Washington had the bluest skies but that it rained plenty in Seattle. James went into the jewelry business through a family friend. As a result, he became a manufacturer representative.

"A family friend was in the business," he said. "The opportunity opened up."

Chris said she fell into the jewelry industry by being

involved in it part-time during college. Eventually, she became a buyer.

"I liked it more than English literature," she said.

She moved to Berkeley because there was more opportunity, she said. Similarly, James moved to California due to his profession.

Chris and James met around 1978; however, they did not date until more than a dozen years later.

James proposed on a houseboat, and Chris designed her engagement ring, which has gone through several changes, she said. They married in 1994.

They also opened up Christe James Fine Jewelry Works on Hartz Avenue in 1994. Since then, with two children in college and two in high school from their blended family, their business still stands.

"We chose Danville," Chris said. "We enjoyed being part of the community. People trust you."

One of their rewarding experiences, they said, is being involved in selling jewelry to customers who are going through personal events, such as weddings and engagements.

"It's the most rewarding," said Chris. "It's the best part of the business."

They have also have seen young couples go through their second or third weddings.

"It's striving to have a relationship with customers," Chris added.

"You've got to treat customers like they are citizens of the year," added James. "You gotta be motivated by more than dollars."

James and Chris said they tailor jewelry for the individual customer's unique needs.

"We do design for a lot of people," she said. "I can't make a living any other way."

She says her design work sets her apart.

"How can you survive when everyone is doing the same thing?" she asked.

"Our customers want quality and unique pieces," added James, noting that their jewelry also comes from different parts of the world.

The Edlunds are involved in charity work, which led to their recognition by the Chamber. James serves on the board of directors of the Parkinson's Institute in Sunnyvale, and raises funds for the organization. Chris has been involved in volunteer work since 1991 with the American Cancer Society.

Chris is also vice chairwoman of economic affairs for the Chamber.

As the year continues, the couple plans to continue showcasing their fine treasures with Danville.

"We have had a good solid business for 13 years," said Chris. ■

"What you do does make a difference. There are a lot of good citizens."

—Chris Edlund

Epicure



BY JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

Kung Hay Fat Choy (Happy New Year!)

"Everyone eats and drinks; yet only few appreciate the taste of food."

—Confucius

The Chinese Lunar New Year celebration dates back to 2600 B.C. and represents one of the major holidays of the Asian culture. The Chinese Lunar Calendar is a yearly one, like the Western calendar. Because the start of the lunar year is based on the cycles of the moon, a new year can begin anywhere between late January and mid-February. Also called Spring Festival, the celebration begins Feb. 18 this year and, as always, lasts 15 days.

2007 is the Year of the Boar. The boar symbolizes integrity and courage. The Chinese believe that the Year of the Boar will bring benevolence and, according to www.paranormality.com, is "one with a lot of 'feel good factor,' one of abundance and a good year for business. Life in this year will be lived to the fullest and, although there will be uncertainty, it will be minimal."

Different activities are designated throughout the 15 days but the eve of New Year's is probably the most exciting part of the Chinese New Year festivities. Families come together to enjoy a delicious reunion dinner and honor senior members. The meal carries such importance that, if a family mem-

ber can't attend, an empty seat is reserved to symbolize the person's presence.

Dishes representing different wishes (or whose Chinese words phonetically sound like lucky symbols) are served at the sumptuous New Year's reunion meal. According to Panda Express, the nation's largest Chinese restaurant chain, "Popular dishes include whole fish (togetherness and regeneration), chicken (happiness and a long marriage) and dumplings (good wishes toward one's family). Green beans (longevity) or stir-fried blends of mushrooms, zucchini, broccoli, sugar peas and bamboo shoots are likely side dishes. Tangerines and oranges, symbolizing prosperity, are traditional dessert choices."

Delicacies such as prawns, dried oysters, raw fish salad, or Fai-hai (or angel hair, an edible seaweed) are also served.

It's popular to wear red, which is said to ward off evil spirits, but not black and white, colors associated with mourning. After the feast, family members spend the evening playing cards and board games or watching TV programs dedicated to the festivities. At midnight, the sky is lit bright with fireworks. To all who will celebrate the Year of the Boar: Happy New Year and much good fortune!

Jacqui Love Marshall lives in Danville with her vintage-car-loving husband, two pugs and binders of recipes. Her column runs every other week. E-mail her at Epicure@DanvilleWeekly.com.

Did you know?

- Legend says that firecrackers were used to scare away a mythical man-eating beast (and bad spirits) each spring. They are now used to bring in the New Year with a bang.
- "Hong Bao" (red packets of money) are given by married couples to children and unmarried adults as wishes for prosperity and success.
- Among many New Year superstitions, it is considered unlucky to buy a pair of shoes, get a haircut, or sweep the floor during the New Year period.
- "Fu" is the Chinese word for luck. During spring Festival, posters with "Fu" are intentionally displayed upside down.
- Shrimp represents liveliness and happiness, and 8 is the luckiest number in Chinese culture. Hence, the recipe below using 8 ingredients is ideal for serving at Lunar New Year.

RECIPES

Firecracker Shrimp (serves 4) Courtesy of Panda Express

- 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 12 oz. marinated medium shrimp (see below)
- 1-1/2 cups diced bell pepper (1/2 cup each red, green, yellow)
- 3/4 cup diced onion
- 1 Tbsp. bottled garlic and ginger for stir-fry (or equal parts fresh garlic and ginger)
- 1 tsp. red pepper flakes
- 2 tsp. Chinese black bean sauce
- 1 tsp. toasted sesame oil

1. Marinate shrimp:
12 oz. medium shrimp, peeled and de-veined
1 Tbsp. cooking rice wine
1/2 tsp. salt
1 Tbsp. cornstarch
1 Tbsp. water
1 tsp. sugar

Place shrimp in a re-sealable plastic bag. Stir together other ingredients in a small bowl. Pour mixture over shrimp and seal bag. Refrigerate up to 4 hours or until cooking time.

2. Heat vegetable oil in a large wok (or nonstick skillet) until very hot. Add marinated shrimp and quickly cook

over high heat, stirring constantly, until shrimp is just cooked through and turns opaque in color, about 1 to 2 minutes. Remove shrimp with a slotted spoon to serving dish and keep warm.

3. Add bell peppers, onion, garlic and ginger, red pepper flakes, black bean garlic sauce and 1 Tbsp. water to wok. Cook over high heat, stirring frequently, about 2 minutes. Add shrimp back to wok and cook, stirring constantly, 2 minutes longer or until sauce has thickened and is bubbling. Stir in sesame oil just before serving. Serve hot with rice or noodles.

OF NOTE

Vista Grande starts recycling

The school district chose Vista Grande Elementary School as its first grammar school to recycle all items, including paper, aluminum cans and plastic bottles. San Ramon Valley Unified School District provided recycling containers, which were placed around the campus in late January. Girl Scout Troop No. 2142 is leading the campaign to help educate students, teachers and parents on the importance of recycling.

This program makes Vista Grande the first elementary school in the district to recycle. The district also supports recycling at the high schools and a few middle schools.



Girl Scouts from Troop No. 2142 Kimberlie SooHoo, Allyssa Dorst, Jean Lindberg (Girl Scout Leader), Rachel Underwood, Lauren Steingraf, Hailey Lindberg, Emily Geranen, Julia Suffoletta and Paige Selbach are encouraging recycling at Vista Grande Elementary School.

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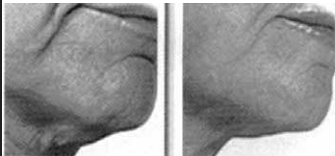


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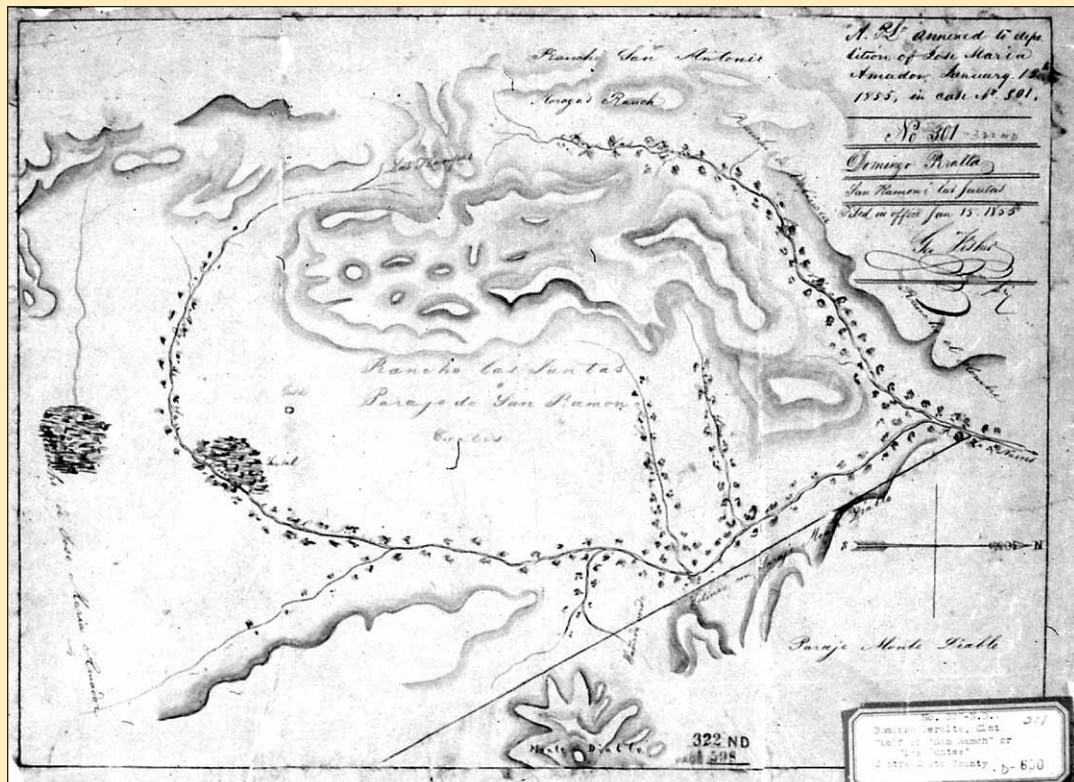
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Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE



SAN RAMON VALLEY - ALAMO, DANVILLE, SAN RAMON BY BEVERLY LANE AND RALPH COZINE

Early map of the Valley

This hand drawn map (diseño) shows the Castro-Pacheco Rancho San Ramon Valley, with north to the right. It is a shortened map of the valley which extends from today's Crow Canyon Road to Walnut Creek. Notice the large curve that leads from the top (west) then turns through the drawing's center. This represents San Ramon Creek as it flows out of Bollinger Canyon. Las Trampas hills and Mount Diablo are indicated, as are Sycamore Valley and Green Valley creeks. The northern boundary shows the joining of Las Trampas and San Ramon creeks. The original is in color, with green trees lining the creeks.

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Rating: PG-13 for sexual content including dialogue, some mature thematic material and partial nudity. 1 hours, 42 minutes.

Diane Keaton infuses this cliched romantic comedy with a healthy dose of youthful exuberance. The 61-year-old actress performs with the energy of a teenager, which helps invigorate an otherwise lackluster tale.

Daphne (Keaton) is the proud single mother of three grown daughters, two of whom Daphne has watched walk down the aisle. But her youngest, Milly (Mandy Moore), can't seem to snag the right beau. Daphne defines the meddling mother by signing Milly up for an Internet dating service without Milly's knowledge.

Daphne meets would-be suitors at an upscale bar and soon realizes how shallow the dating pool really is as unappealing single men arrive in droves. The exhausting introductions produce only two potential fellows for Milly: soulful guitarist Johnny (Gabriel Macht) and wealthy architect Jason (Tom Everett Scott).

Whereas Daphne is instantly encouraged by Jason's career and clout, she quickly disregards Johnny as unfit for her daughter. And while Daphne surreptitiously fixes up Milly and Jason, Johnny devises plans of his own. Soon Milly is dating both men unaware of her mother's veiled involvement, and when Milly must choose between what she wants and what's expected of her she finds that the options are in direct conflict.

The screenplay by Karen Leigh Hopkins and Jessie Nelson touches on sincere mother-daughter dynamics. One scene in which Daphne suffers from laryngitis and bunks with Milly for support features the film's finest moment. Daphne — having not been sexually active for years — passes a note to her daughter asking what an orgasm feels like.



Milly's reaction and the ensuing exchange bring a sense of realism and comfort to the otherwise strained relationship between Daphne and Milly.

Moore seems poised to gracefully assume the leading lady status that "party girl" actresses such as Lindsay Lohan have badly fumbled. Moore is charismatic — a capable performer — and seemingly not easily distracted by the lure of alcohol and nightclubs. Relative newcomer Macht brims with big-screen charm.

Keaton's portrayal, though, is occasionally too frenzied. Her Daphne frequently collides with modern technology (such as frustration with a GPS device or inability to shut off Internet pornography), leading to forced and humorless moments.

"Because" borrows dialogue and scenarios from films such as "Kindergarten Cop" and "Jerry Maguire," demonstrating a lack of originality. Ultimately, even a vivacious Keaton can't make a familiar film feel fresh — no matter how hard she tries.

—Tyler Hanley

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The 411



BY KATHARINE O'HARA

Facing prom anxiety

As prom time is approaching once again, I've started gearing up for the non-stop discussion of who will ask whom, who will wear what, and where to go for the best after-party. It seems the extensive efforts to create the perfect night have gotten a bit out of hand, and the amount of stress and anxiety that surrounds what is supposed to be an enjoyable night is more than necessary. Issues of appearance, money, expectations and rejection loom over the minds of hopeful prom-goers, and it seems only appropriate to explore the nature of the anxiety surrounding such an eventful occasion in the life of teenagers all over the country.

After the dress is bought, the tux is rented, and the couples are set, the age-old dispute is at question once again—who pays for what?

"Prom is something guys should pay for when it comes to dinner and tickets. After all, girls are paying a lot for dresses, shoes, hair, jewelry and the like. I think at the end of the night, girls are always spending more," said Maddie Cole, a junior at San Ramon Valley High School.

The same opinion holds true for Nick Pittarides, an SRVHS junior. "I think guys should always pay. It's a generous price tag (\$75 per person), but I don't think that following tradition is a bad thing."

I, too, think it is important to maintain some level of tradition in our very politically correct society that, in many areas, is straying from the conventional way. And most likely, the girl will end up breaking even with her date, if not end up paying more.

However, Callie Nobriga, also a junior at SRVHS, disagrees.

"I think that guys should only pay if they asked their date. For prom this year, I'm asking my boyfriend who is a senior, and I will be paying for his ticket. Whoever does the asking does the paying."

That seems practical enough. Though to me, what seems most fair is that each date pays for their own ticket. That way, both people are invested in having a good time and neither person sets him/herself up for being taken advantage of.

So what about those without dates? Is it OK to go stag?

"Of course!" says Pittarides. "You shouldn't let not having a date stop you from enjoying your prom—embrace it! If you go with a group of friends, you'll have just as much fun."

However, this is not the opinion of all.

"A friend told me that going stag was boring, because all of her friends had dates and she felt out of

place," said Jessica Fuca, a junior at SRVHS.

I get the feeling that this is the fear of many girls, but this doesn't seem to hold them back, seeing as though there is always a substantial group of them who attend the prom dateless. Personally, seeing most people having a good time with their dates, and not being part of it, seems pretty unappealing. Going stag just sets you up for feeling bad and excluded. And as far as guys going to prom without a date? Well, that virtually never happens.

"A lot more girls go stag than guys do. The guys who don't ask girls to the date are probably not that interested in going to prom to begin with," said Nobriga.

And of course, when talking about prom, it is seemingly appropriate to talk about sex. For some, prom night is the night, and it seems there is an overwhelming connotation around prom that establishes somewhat of a sexual expectation.

"I think a lot of people associate prom night with sex, especially since that is how prom is portrayed in a lot of teen movies," remarked Nobriga.

"I think there are a lot of expectations for prom night; I've heard some wild stories ... It's cliché though. I know I wouldn't want that no matter what a guy expects. It's your right to decide, and I wouldn't want to, despite the pressure," said Cole.

However, the whole sex scene can somewhat be avoided based on your date and after-party plans.

"Going to prom as mutual friends is the best way to go. Then there are no expectations made or drama at school afterwards," said SRVHS junior Grant Lipson.

"If a guy asks a girl to prom, it doesn't mean he likes her romantically. In fact, I think you'll find that more often than not, guys ask girls just as friends, which seems to work out pretty well. Typically there aren't going to be sexual expectations if you go with a friend," claims Pittarides.

When it comes to prom, I suppose there is no way of convincing teens that the night is not worth the stress everyone makes it up to be. Bringing a good friend overwhelmingly seems to be the right way to go, practically guaranteeing a good time and a night to remember.

The 411 offers information and insight on the teen scene by Katharine O'Hara, a junior at San Ramon Valley High School who spends her free time going to concerts, enjoying her friends, and playing the piano. E-mail her at o'hara5@comcast.net.

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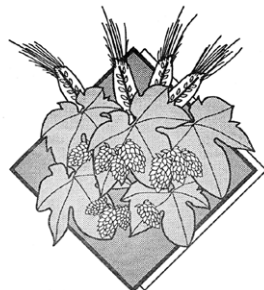
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Tennis anyone?

Erik Krommenhoek concentrates to prevail against Calvin Knop, 6-0, 6-0, in the coed 8 singles semifinals at the USTA's first Danville Community Classic Novice tournament, held at Monte Vista High School on Feb. 3-4; Krommenhoek went onto the finals, to be defeated by Andrew Cabral, 6-2, 6-1. At left, Regan Corcoran stays in motion as she defeats Virginia Purcell in the girls 12 singles. Corcoran won the tournament, defeating Alex Harrigan, 6-0, 6-2, in the finals.

Monte Vista boys and girls clinch EBAL soccer titles

Both teams headed to North Coast Section championships

by Rachel McMurdie

Andre Cuadra had one goal and one assist in Monte Vista's 2-0 win against San Ramon Valley last Friday on the soccer field. The win put the undefeated boys Mustangs in favorable position for the No. 1 seed in the NCS 3-A bracket. Monte Vista, the defending NCS champions, will host the winner of No. 8 seed Livermore (14-7-1) vs. No. 9 seed Richmond (17-4-1) in a quarterfinal match at 7 p.m. Saturday.

The Mustangs defeated Livermore earlier in the week, 1-0, securing the East Bay Athletic League title. The game- and title-winning goal came with just 15 minutes left to play. Monte Vista's Jack Griffin aimed a low-lying free kick toward the goal. Cowboys' goalie Jarrod Belsick deflected the shot, but Monte Vista's Morgan Oliver was there to put away the rebound.

Last year, the Mustangs defeated the Richmond Oilers for the section title.

Friday's match-up made the difference in last weekends' seeding decisions. Monte Vista, virtually tied with De La Salle (17-6-1), beat the Amador Valley Dons out of the No. 1 seed spot. The Dons lost their pre-season opener to San Ramon Valley in a non-league game. The Mustangs were 1-0-1 against the Wolves this season.

Girls soccer

Monte Vista girls locked up the battle over the EBAL title with a 1-0 win over hometown rivals San Ramon Valley. The Mustangs were tied in league standings with Pleasanton's Foothill High before the game. A tied match Friday would have meant a shared co-title.

But instead, the Mustangs (13-3-7, 7-1-4 EBAL) put the championships firmly in their own hands with a win.

The game's only goal was a corner kick a little over two minutes into the second half. Shot by Mustang Katie Monannam, the ball slid into the goal but not without contest from the Wolves' keeper Camy Senemar. It was the Mustangs' second one-goal win over the Wolves this season.

San Ramon Valley came out strong the first half. Wolves' player Gabby Parisella took several shots on the Monte Vista goal. But Monte Vista keeper Taylor Gonzales, who was reportedly playing with a broken wrist, proved to be an impenetrable force and helped the Mustangs to their win.

Boys basketball

After trailing 10-14 going into the second quarter, Monte Vista boys basketball took a 68-37 win over Granada in a league game last Friday. The Mustangs (21-2, 8-1 EBAL) kept Granada to just 23 points total during the last three quarters of the game, while they themselves sunk 20 points in the second quarter alone. Ryan Whalen led the Mustangs with 14 points. Drew McCallister and Cam Fenley had 13 each, and Brian Barbour added 11.

The San Ramon Wolves went home empty-handed Friday despite three players in double digits and an 11-point lead at the half. Amador Valley (13-9, 4-5 EBAL) outscored the Wolves 21-10 in the third quarter to take the lead, and later, the 66-61 win. The Wolves (5-4 EBAL) were led by Joey Fuca who had 24 points. Teammates Dan Daviess had 11 points and Vai Schierholtz added 18.

Girls basketball

Monte Vista girls earned their 23rd win of the season on the basketball court last Friday in a 51-34 game against Granada. But it didn't shake off the sting of their only loss this season, two days earlier, to Amador Valley.

On Wednesday, the Mustangs (23-1-0, 9-1-0 EBAL) rallied against the Dons, but a strong offense kept the win out of reach as Monte Vista trailed in the fourth, losing 37-44.

The Mustangs rebounded Friday. Trailing 13-12 at the end of the first quarter, the girls held a 24-19 lead at the half. The win came after a 16-8 Mustang run in the fourth quarter.

Sophomore Niveen Rasheed had 13 points to lead Monte Vista.

San Ramon Valley (7-15-0, 1-8-0) girls, after winning 68-47 over Livermore, lost to Amador Valley last Friday, 46-54.

Beyond high school

High school athletes have signed letters of intent to play in college next year.

Sam Finlayson, last season's EBAL Most Valuable Player, signed up with Stanford water polo. Finlayson's brother, Peter, will be a senior on the Stanford team next season. Goalkeeper Elliot Arthur, who helped lead the Wolves to the NCS semifinals, signed with UC Davis' water polo team. Across town, Charlie Steffens of Monte Vista Boys water polo signed with UC Berkeley.

Several girls soccer players also made commitments to college teams. San Ramon Valley's Chelsea Gallegos signed with Portland State; Gabby Parisella signed with Loyola Marymount University; Bria Park signed with Cal Poly; Aubree Southwick signed with San Diego State. Three Monte Vista players also signed with college teams: Shannon Lacy committed to USC; Kate Monannam to UC Santa Barbara.

Chris Beville, of Monte Vista Boys soccer team, committed to UC Davis. ■



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Send a cover letter and resume to **Gina Channell-Allen, president / publisher, gallen@pleasantonweekly.com; The Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Ste. 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566 or fax to 925-600-1433.**

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4 Bedrooms

46 Vista Ln. **\$1,545,000**
Sun 1:30-4 Interio 672-2499

Blackhawk

4 Bedrooms

34 Magnolia Pl. **\$1,995,000**
Sun 1-4 Interio 683-9799

5444 Blackhawk Dr. **\$2,998,000**
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6 Bedrooms

5077 Blackhawk Dr. **\$2,799,999**
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Danville

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2200 Oneida Cir. **\$630,000**
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1946 St. George Rd. **\$699,000**
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1009 Phoenix St. **\$579,000**
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56 Summer Hill Ct. **\$749,950**
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84 Stowbridge **\$1,019,900**
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389 Squirrel Ridge Wy. **\$995,000**
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5 Bedrooms

28 Estrella Pl. **\$1,274,950**
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2 Bedrooms

1101 Radiant Ln. **\$515,000**
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1054 Vista Pointe Cir. **\$755,000**
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1054 Vista Pointe Cir. **\$755,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Interio 855-4128

3 Bedrooms

1103 Radiant Ln. **\$599,000**
Sun 1-7 Interio 830-3999

1125 Vista Pointe Cir. **\$699,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Interio 855-4128

140 Shadowhill Cir. **\$715,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 876-4459

2782 Ellingson Wy. **\$769,000**
Sun 1-4 Interio 855-4161

1058 Vista Pointe Cir. **\$840,000**
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4 Bedrooms

4112 Terra Alta Dr. **\$1,059,000**
Sun 1-4 Interio 683-5165

745 Bridge Creek Dr. **\$899,900**
Sun 1-4 Interio 200-2917

64 Foster Dr. **\$919,999**
Sun 1-4 Interio 997-0806

5 Bedrooms

3125 Tewksbury Wy. **\$1,359,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Interio 855-4128

3125 Tewksbury Wy. **\$1,359,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Interio 855-4128

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

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

Walnut Creek

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337 Tampico **\$599,900**
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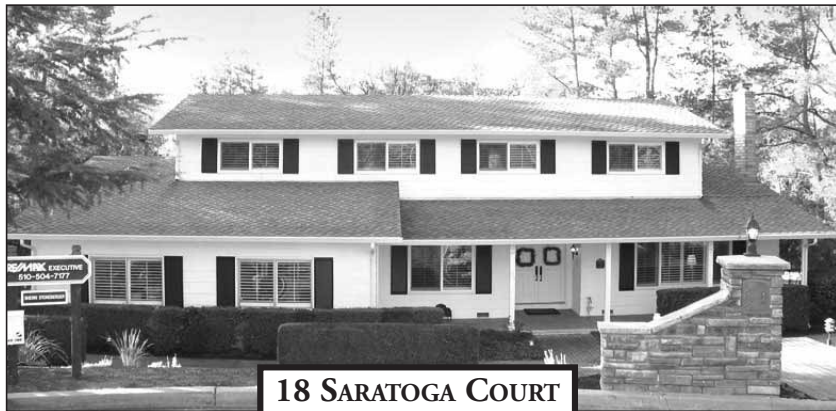


From HWY 680, exit on Sycamore Valley Road which turns into Camino Tassajara Road. Turn right onto Monterosso Street, then right on Genoa Street and follow the signs to the community.



Prices, features and availability subject to change without express written permission from Lennar Homes is prohibited. Prices subject to change without notice. See onsite sales associate for more information.

CALL FOR OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE



**18 SARATOGA COURT
ALAMO**

Here is a rare opportunity to own an exquisite secluded Roundhill home, nestled amongst pine & redwood trees in a court where there are all original-owner neighbors. With no rear neighbors & approx. \$240K worth of interior remodeling done in 2004, this spacious 4-bedroom, 2.5 bathroom home is an entertainer's dream home. Providing comfortable indoor & outdoor living, this home offers approx. 2,741 sq.ft of living space on approx. 22,330 sq. ft. lot; 10-car driveway; extra deep 2-car garage; prof. chef's eat-in kitchen with granite slab counters, oversized Designer Antiques custom island with prep sink, & stainless steel appliances; grand master bedroom suite with retreat/walk-in closet room; Old World charm bathrooms with modern amenities; Andersen French-sliding doors from the family room, French doors from 1st level bedroom/office, & door from powder bathroom all leading to an approx. 1,000 sq. ft. deck in the relaxing backyard; 2 indoor fireplaces; custom outdoor built-in BBQ grill & fireplace; spacious patio; breathtaking views of the hills/valley/Mt. Diablo; & much more.

Offered at \$1,488,000

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711 Camino Amigo - Westside Danville
New, totally remodeled 1-story home on 1/2 acre! 5bd, 3.5 ba, in approx. 3500 sq. ft. Travertine floors, vaulted ceilings, granite, stainless and pool! Ideal property, fantastic location! \$1,629,000



4304 2nd St., Pleasanton
Completely remodeled and upgraded with quality craftsmanship. 3bd/2ba + windowed basement w/private access, perfect for office. Natural stone, hardwoods, stainless, outdoor patio. Must see! Quality! \$1,125,000

701 South L Street, Livermore

Vintage 1907 downtown home! 10,000 sq. ft. lot, totally restored, granite, hardwoods, mint condition. Motivated seller. Awesome property - Must see! \$799,000 Bring all offers Seller says sell!!!

4500 Mirador, Pleasanton

You'll love this totally redone 2100 sq. ft. home with 4 bedrooms and 2 baths. Slab granite, maple cabinetry, hardwood floors. Outdoor kitchen and beautiful pool. \$1,135,000

Coming Soon - Not Yet on MLS. Downtown Pleasanton, 9 year old home in St. John Place. 4bd, 2.5ba, 2150sf. Backs to creek! Great location - walk to downtown! \$1,059,000

Coming Soon - Not Yet on MLS. One of a kind property on 5 acres on Foothill Road in Sunol. Views and privacy in a serene location! 4bd/2ba, home against the Ridge! Hardwood floors. new composition roof, new air and heat. Possible to build 2nd unit/caretaker's cottage. \$1,589,000

Sneak Preview Downtown Pleasanton 2nd Street. 3 bd/2 bath, approx 1800 sq. ft. Granite, hardwoods. Call for showing. Not on MLS. \$949,000

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Antioch Investment Opportunity

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and bath, Cul-de-Sac location,
large yard. \$410,000

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Danville
WEEKLY

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during January 2007

Danville	Alamo	Diablo	Walnut Creek
Total sales reported: 14	Total sales reported: 1	Total sales reported: 2	Total sales reported: 13
Lowest sale reported: \$532,000	Lowest sale reported: \$1,420,000	Lowest sale reported: \$1,270,000	Lowest sale reported: \$220,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,640,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,420,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,950,000	Highest sale reported: \$900,000
Average sales reported: \$997,536	Average sales reported: \$1,420,000	Average sales reported: \$1,610,000	Average sales reported: \$523,038

HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

Alamo	Diablo	Walnut Creek
12 Roxbury Court Sood Trust to N. & B. Tahir for \$1,420,000	N. Saleh to N. Aimaque for \$1,550,000	225 Masters Court #1 Fairways 340 Limited to C. & J. Pantig for \$256,500
5078 Blackhawk Drive C. & B. Maggio to P. Scalingi for \$1,640,000	812 Luz Court Prenk Trust to R. Kunes for \$705,000	225 Masters Court #2 Fairways 340 Limited to J. Soares for \$220,000
42 Casablanca Street P. & M. Martinez to K. Lindemann for \$759,000	1251 Monterosso Street Lennar Homes to A. & A. Chauhan for \$1,183,000	225 Masters Court #4 Fairways 340 Limited to Oconnor Trust for \$325,000
1772 Cottswald Street Lennar Homes to A. & T. Lung for \$994,500	1257 Monterosso Street Lennar Homes to Z. & S. Simab for \$1,007,000	470 North Civic Drive #205 Barndollar Trust to K. Pakabunto for \$305,000
189 Cross Bridge Drive Castle Principles to Modena Trust for \$920,000	1157 River Rock Lane Garcia Trust to Black Trust for \$800,000	2530 Oak Road #104 Bridgeport Commons to P. Wentworth for \$450,000
201 Cross Bridge Drive Mortimer Trust to A. & C. Carrejo for \$1,185,000	427 Sutton Circle R. & J. Moore to K. Wong for \$560,000	640 Preakness Drive J. Wright to R. Lakshmanan for \$630,000
900 El Capitan Drive D. & E. Criswell to E. Golez for \$990,000	1865 El Nido Davidson Trust to Ogles Trust for \$1,950,000	25 Ready Road J. Norris to N. Kim for \$890,000
724 Garden Creek Place E. Henze to W. Quenneville for \$532,000	25 Palma Vista Kriz Trust to C. & K. Rhodes for \$1,270,000	3288 Terra Granada Drive #4C Westlye Trust to E. Friederichs for \$599,000
637 Glen Road J. & D. Pitcher to A. & D. Stefani for \$1,140,000	562 Banyan Circle S. Gurson to G. Brown for \$795,000	313 Warwick Drive Spurr Trust to C. Costisevski for \$900,000
1358 Knolls Creek Drive	1629 Geary Road G. & R. Yelensky to K. Mahmood for \$640,000	3173 Wayside Plaza #211 C. Booth to A. Rettberg for \$400,000
	100 Kinross Drive #56 E. & K. Paul to B. Fan for \$389,000	

FOREST HILLS ESTATES



5029 FOREST HILL DR. PLEASANTON
5 bedrooms 3 full baths, Approx. 3440 sqft. Features large kitchen and family room, Custom built-ins, Maple Cabinetry, Granite counters, Travertine Floors, Hardwood floors, Security System, Central Vac, Intercom system, Professionally landscaped yards with custom built BBQ, fountain. Offered at \$1,459,950



PLEASANTON MEADOWS



4282 FAIRLANDS DR. PLEASANTON
5 bedrooms 2.5 baths, Approx. 2066 sqft. Hardwood floors, crown moulding, New carpet & paint, granite counters, stainless steel & black appliances, New windows and interior doors. Backyard has a Sparkling Pool and Spa, with an outdoor Kitchen complete w/ grill, sink, burner and refrigerator. A must see! Offered at \$859,950



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Debbie Gibbs
925 389-6751



100 Canyon Green Place in San Ramon
This Newly remodeled 3 bedroom 2.5 bath home includes new state of the art kitchen, crown molding and window casings throughout, hardwood floors, designer window treatments, Jacuzzi tub in master and much more!!!
\$785,000

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Outstanding Details! **\$7,250,000**
Spectacular new Tuscan Villa w/distressed hardwood floors, imported tile & stone, Main-6bd, 5-full/2-half baths. Cabana-2rooms, full bath, kitchen.
Sharon Dare & Pamela Schmid **925.855.4018**



ALAMO

Exceptional Views! **\$3,395,000**
Stunning custom with distinctive architecture & superior materials. 5bd, 4.5ba, 2 family rooms, bonus/game room plus 2 additional rooms. 6700+/-sf.
Sharon Dare **925.855.4041**



BLACKHAWK

Magnificent Curb Appeal **\$2,799,999**
6bd, 5.5ba, complete au pair apartment plus separate guest house. Wrap around porch, newly painted exterior, new roof, massive kitchen, sparkling pool.
Bonnie King **925.855.4072**



DANVILLE

City Close-Country Quiet **\$1,875,000**
Almost 2 acres of prime property. Country charmer with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, lower bonus room, upgdated and remodeled throughout. Approved for horses.
John Lopes & Gina Cefalu **925.998.8262**



ALAMO

Park-Like Setting on Westside **\$1,569,000**
3bd, 3.5ba, over 3700sf custom with library off master and a very private separate studio and great RV parking and elevator.
Julie Whitmer **925.997.5120**



DANVILLE

Great Value! A Must See **\$1,599,000**
Fabulous executive retreat in Diablo Woods! An entertainer's dream house, spacious rooms, walls of glass, gourmet kitchen. Gorgeous pool, spa, waterfalls.
Vance & Sue Smith **925.648.5342**



ALAMO

Totally Remodeled-Westside **\$1,545,000**
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

Feels Like Tahoe! **\$1,286,000**
4bd, 3ba, 3-car garage in spectacular location with stunning views! Gorgeous hardwood floors, many new windows, 3 French doors. It's lovely!
Lisa & Greg Doyle **925.855.4046**



DANVILLE

Gorgeous Westside Beauty! **\$1,274,950**
5bd, 3ba, 3123+/-sf, 3-car garage. Newer style contemporary floor plan. Gourmet granite slab kitchen w/tile flooring. Sparkling pool & spa.
Lisa & Greg Doyle **925.855.4046**

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