

## Scrabble keeps brains sharp

Seniors find fun with an old favorite > **page 14**

## Golf balls menace home in Round Hill

Shortened driving range makes life scary for this couple

> **page 5**

Vol. III, Number 37 • January 18, 2008

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# Danville

## W E E K L Y

Mailed free to homes in Danville

## McNerney at Exchange Club

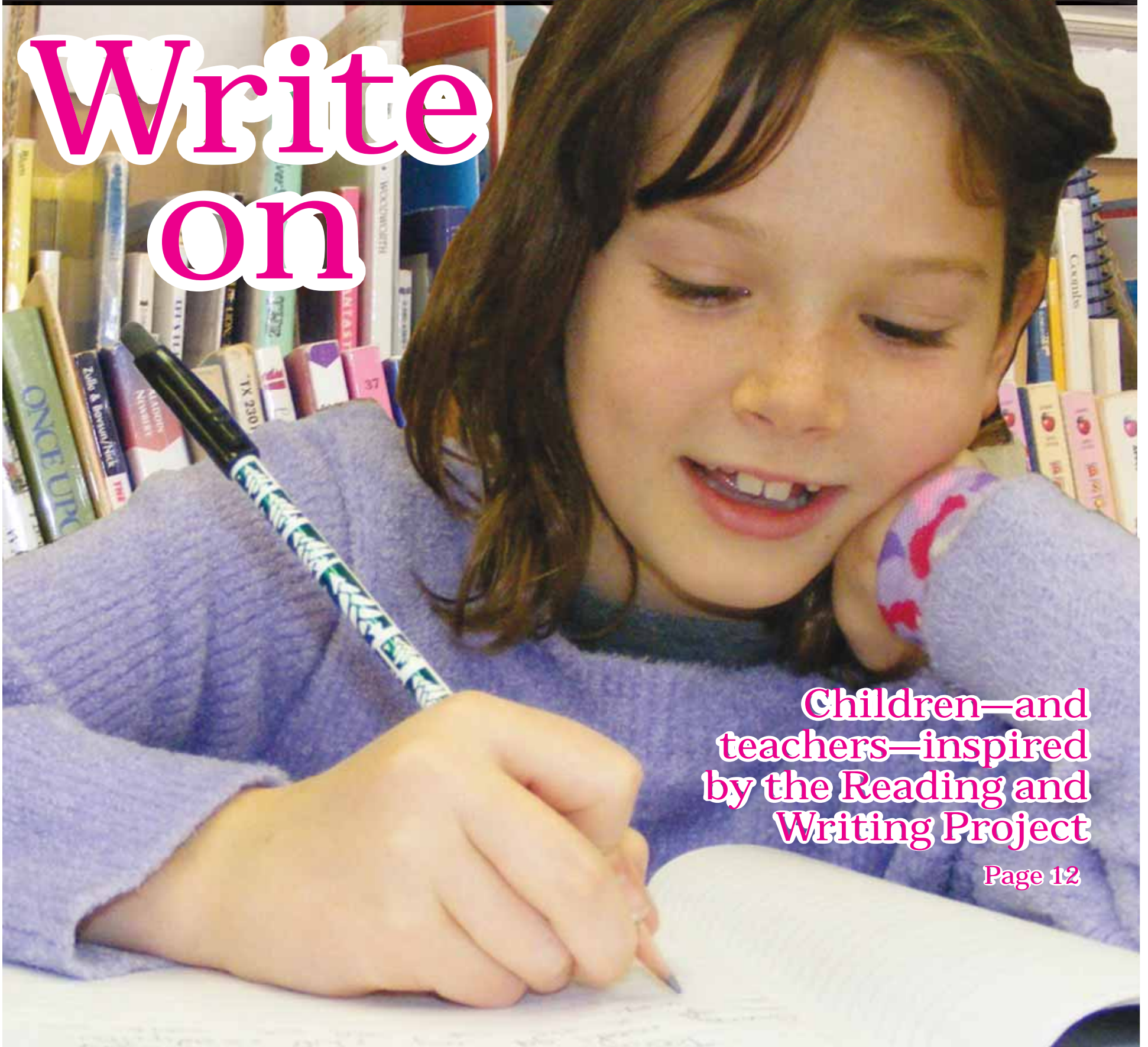
Sparks fly with differing opinions on Iraq

> **page 6**

# Write on

**Children—and teachers—inspired by the Reading and Writing Project**

**Page 12**



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# Streetwise

ASKED AT ALAMO PLAZA

## Q: What would you like to change about the way you were raised?



My parents were very protective of me. I wish I would have had more chance to travel, during the years after high school. They were over-protective, afraid something would happen to me. I'm going to the other extreme for my kids.

**Anusha Massoumi**  
Realtor



I would have my mom or dad coordinate their work time better so we could all have been together more. My dad was always working, even on weekends. He was a rabbi. My mother managed a medical office.

**Robyn Valdivia**  
speech pathologist



I wouldn't change a thing. I was raised in Los Angeles; my dad was a cop and my mom was a homemaker. We can always go back and say they should have done this or they should have done that. But don't go there.

**John MacMillan**  
attorney



I would have my parents place more value on education. I was raised in Toronto, Canada, and they were immigrants from Russia so to them the most important things were healthy meals and nurturing. Education for girls, according to my parents, was getting married and having children.

**Sharon Book**  
over 55 aerobist



It would be great if parents would consider all the dimensions of their children's well-being, especially the emotional dimensions. Parents need to be aware of the source of their children's behavior and understand what they are experiencing. I was raised in Iran and my father was a physician so he was trained to be aware.

**Laleh Shahidi**  
former medical informatics professor at UCSF

COMPILED BY DANVILLE WEEKLY STAFF

### ABOUT THE COVER

Julia Caulfield, a fourth-grade student at Alamo Elementary School, writes about her winter vacation as an exercise in the Reading and Writing Project used throughout the district. Photo by Natalie O'Neill. Cover design by Manuel Valenzuela.

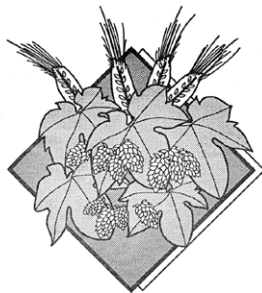
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**County celebrates Martin  
Luther King Jr.**

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors held its 30th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Commemoration and Humanitarian of the Year Award Program on Tuesday. The event focused on the theme "Teamwork Makes the Dream Work," to inspire collective advocacy for civil liberties, social justice, peace and non-violence.

Keynote speakers at the ceremony were Alan Wang, television anchor for ABC 7 News, KGO-TV; H. Abram Wilson, mayor of the city of San Ramon; and attorney John L. Burris.

Schools in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District will be closed Monday to honor Martin Luther King Jr.

Also, an interfaith service, the Martin Luther King Convocation for World Peace, will take place at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 21, at the Wesley Center at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd. in Alamo. It will have speakers from Hindu, Muslim, Jewish and Christian traditions, and the participants will pray together for peace.

**A 'Bus Stop' for Danville**

Danville's Role Players Ensemble will put on William Inge's "Bus Stop," a classic American play with contemporary impact, beginning tonight.

The play delves into issues of loneliness and connection as a group of people, some local, some stranded on a bus journey, come together at a diner in Kansas during a winter storm. "Bus Stop" was first presented on Broadway in 1955 and later became a famous Marilyn Monroe movie.

It will be staged at Danville's Village Theatre, 233 Front St., and runs through Feb. 9, Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$22-\$25, \$15 for students, and are available at [www.villagetheatreshows.com](http://www.villagetheatreshows.com) or by calling 314-3400.

**Gallery to feature high  
school students**

The Pioneer Art Gallery in downtown Danville, sponsored by the Alamo Danville Artists Society, is hosting an exhibit of students' work Jan. 25-27 from the six San Ramon Valley high schools—California, Del Amigo, Dougherty Valley, Monte Vista, San Ramon and Venture.

"This is a unique opportunity for young artists to publicly display their work, win awards and gain recognition," said Tracy Bauer of ADAS. "And folks who attend the exhibit can gain further appreciation for the importance of encouraging our young people to develop their creative talents."

Each school's art department is doing an initial jurying of their students' work, and then submitting it. The Danville Arts Commission will judge the finalists.

A reception is being held from 3-6 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 27, for the artists and their families. The public is welcome. The gallery is located at 524 Hartz Ave. Musical entertainment will be provided by San Ramon Valley High.

**Assistance for veterans in  
Danville**

U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (D., 11th District) will host a Veterans Assistance Workshop from 3-5 p.m., tomorrow, Saturday, Jan. 19, at the Danville Veterans Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“I’ve been hit in my rear end, shoulder and neck.”

—Kenneth Barker, who has 100 golf balls per month shot onto his property from the adjacent Round Hill Country Club driving range. See story, page 5.

Veterans are encouraged to stop by to meet with a service provider who will give information and guidance about filing claims to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, or obtaining or replacing service medals. Information about housing, employment and educational opportunities will be available, too. It is also a chance to meet McNerney, who is on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

**AAUW looking for scholars**

The Danville-Alamo branch of the American Association of University Women is offering scholarships to local women. Applicants must have graduated from San Ramon Valley Unified School District or resided in the district when attending a private school. Applicants must be a college junior or higher as of September 2008, at an accredited four-year college or university. Graduate students may also apply.

Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of scholarship, educational goal, financial need and campus or community involvement. Completed scholarship applications must be postmarked by April 1. Applications are online at [www.aauw-da.org](http://www.aauw-da.org).

**Street Smarts campaign  
under way**

The fourth annual Street Smarts Poster-Storybook Contest, presented by the Troy and Alana Pack Foundation and Toll Brothers, started Jan. 7. Each year, elementary school students in the San Ramon Valley participate in the annual contest, where students draw illustrations based on specific traffic safety themes. The contest ends Feb. 1.

In this year's contest, students are asked to draw traffic safety-related illustrations that will become part of a new children's storybook written by local author Dana Mentink. The story, "Way Out Visitors," is about aliens who visit Earth and leave a young alien behind. The alien journeys to find a way home and learns about wearing seat belts and helmets, and using crosswalks safely.

Winners of the contest will have their artwork featured in the eight-page storybook. The final book will be unveiled at the Poster-Storybook Contest Awards Ceremony at the San Ramon Community Center on Feb. 28, and distributed at bookstores and libraries throughout the San Ramon Valley. Last year's contest drew more than 275 entries and nearly 500 community members to the awards ceremony.

Street Smarts is a traffic safety education campaign involving the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, Danville, San Ramon, Contra Costa County and the San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs.

## WiFi for Danville?

Some residents think it would be a draw

by Natalie O'Neill

Web surfing while shopping. Googling over a grilled cheese. Posting on a park bench.

Advocates of adopting free municipal WiFi Internet in Danville say it would pull people into the town to shop, eat and play.

"I know this could benefit Danville. It could blossom into something that would be good for all kinds of people," said 30-year resident Susan Ritner, who broached the subject at this month's Mayor's Morning.

The council looked into putting WiFi downtown about a year ago, but vendors were not able to install it for free.

Businesses would have needed to install their own Internet router and likely bear the cost.

Mayor Candace Andersen said bringing wireless to Danville is a subject the Town Council is still open to exploring—especially as technology develops.

"It's certainly very appealing to us, assuming the price is right," she said this week. She added she thinks the town is "tech savvy."

A handful of metropolitan areas already offer free citywide wireless service, a trend that starting popping up about four years ago. But experts say significant technical and business issues must be hammered out before it can become a reality for most places.

In Alamo, Yellow Wood Coffee's wireless Internet is free and the shop is usually packed with patrons drinking coffee, eating lunch and using laptops. At Starbucks in Danville, users must pay to access Internet.

"The coffee shops in Alamo are using it and they are always filled," Ritner said.

Free wireless makes downtown Alamo more appealing for locals who work from their computer or just want Internet with their coffee, Yellow Wood regulars say.

Take Alfonso Li, for example. He lives near El Pintado Road—about halfway between downtown Alamo and downtown Danville—and he drives to Alamo instead of Danville for the free wireless at Yellow Wood.

While sitting at his laptop at the

"I definitely see a lot of laptop users. We've gotten a lot of positive feedback."

—Danville branch librarian Seng Lovan

► Continued on page 8



Alfonso Li drives from Danville to Alamo to use the free wireless Internet at Yellow Wood Coffee.

NATALIE O'NEILL

## Golf balls threaten Round Hill residents

Couple suing over shortened driving range at country club

by Natalie O'Neill

The sound of breaking glass made Kenneth Barker and his wife look up from their leisurely lunch. A bright yellow golf ball had just flown into the window of their Round Hill home—again.

Barker has lived at the end of Round Hill Country Club's driving range since 1974 and says he can expect over 100 golf balls to soar onto his property per month. Seven of his windows have been broken, and he and his wife have been hit multiple times by balls, court documents allege.

"It's a safety problem. People have been killed by golf balls," said Barker.

He's now suing the country club with the goal of either having the driving range shut down or mandating that it be longer than 375 yards.

"We're captives in our own house," he said this week.

The "continual bombardment" began in the mid 1990s, after the country club shortened the range from 260 yards to 190 yards while refiguring the golf course and revamping the clubhouse. The couple now rarely uses their yard and garden for fear they'll get struck, Barker said.

"I've been hit in my rear end, shoulder and neck. The worst thing about it is the shock," Barker said.

But management at the country club says the couple knew what they were getting into when they moved into the lot—that balls would be hit toward their home.

"The fact is you purchased the property with ... acknowledgement that golf balls from the course and driving range are driven in the direction of your lot," General Manager Greg Gonsalves wrote in a letter to Barker last summer.

His letter also states the club believes it has done everything it can to solve the problem.

That includes banning wooden

clubs, which generally propel the ball further than iron, and offering to construct a fence. Gonsalves could not be reached by press time to comment further.

"The club feels it has taken reasonable measures to mitigate the use of the range," he wrote. His letter was dated June 13, 2007.

But court evidence in the form of a photograph—dated two weeks after Gonsalves' letter—shows 107 golf balls lined into rows on the Barker property. The photo illustrates how many balls had been projected onto their property in 22 days.

"We've pleaded with them, they've made promises, but they've done nothing," Barker said. "They're arrogant."

The fence that currently separates his property from the driving range is made of black netted material and stands about 15 feet high with about 5 feet of ivy on top of that. The couple use the plants to shield

► Continued on page 7



The view from Kenneth Barker's home overlooks the Round Hill Country Club driving range, where balls are hit toward his property.

NATALIE O'NEILL

# Bill Baker blasts McNerney on Iraq stance

by Jordan M. Doronila

Criticism rained on U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney last week at Faz restaurant for his support of setting a timetable to withdraw troops from Iraq.

"I can't forgive you for setting a timetable," said Bill Baker, a former Republican congressman who lives in Danville. "It's unrealistic."

"We are seeing progress," he added. "I hope you reconsider your position. We should not have a debate about that."

Listeners surrounding Baker gave him a round of applause and cheers. Then McNerney (D., 11th District) responded.

"Thanks for your comments, Bill," McNerney said. "The war is hurting our country. We need to hold the Iraqis accountable. They need to take steps in (keeping) their responsibilities."

He did not receive the same accolades for his answer as did Baker at the San Ramon Valley Exchange Club's monthly luncheon.

Dozens of people attended the event to hear McNerney's keynote speech about energy.

He talked about using alternative sources of fuel and about global warming. He noted that the U.S. imports most of its oil from the Middle East, which causes the market to be volatile.

"We consume so much oil," he said. "It's in our national interest not to depend on oil and look for alternative sources of energy."

McNerney—an energy specialist and engineer—said wind, solar

and geothermal are other sources of energy that must be seriously explored. He said our country spends \$100 million a day to get oil from overseas, and there will be no more oil after approximately 100 years.

"The production and consumption of oil is at its peak," McNerney said. "We have never seen it at this point as it is right now. Oil consumption has increased exponentially."

The burning of oil creates carbon dioxide, which damages the environment, he said.

"Global warming is caused by human actions," he said, "20-25 million carbon tons are produced a day."

"The ice packs are melting," he added.

Developing other sources of fuel will help create jobs and will strengthen relationships with other countries, he also noted.

"This needs cooperation on a worldwide basis," he said. "We can create interdependence."

Although he advocated for alternative energy sources, he said he is still contemplating nuclear energy. Nuclear power has potential but he wants to know more about nuclear energy. He is concerned about its economic viability and storage of nuclear waste.

McNerney recalled asking a scientist about nuclear energy economics, and he was told he didn't do his homework. After receiving this curt answer, he said he felt like



JORDAN M. DORONILA

U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (D, 11th District) shares his experiences about being a freshman in Congress with San Ramon Valley Exchange Club president and Danville Councilwoman Karen Stepper, Planning Commissioner Bob Nichols and other members of the club on Wednesday, Jan. 9, at Faz restaurant in Danville. He addressed the club about alternative sources of energy and global warming.

## McNerney on being a leader

U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney said he used to have an enormous problem with public speaking. He recalled seeing a psychiatrist as well as an acting coach to improve his oratory skills.

He said he always enjoyed problem solving and mathematics, often keeping to himself, although he did socialize. But when he ran for Congress last year, he had to find a way to get his message to the masses.

"It was an enormous challenge," he said.

He shared his experiences being a congressman with the

San Ramon Valley Exchange Club's Leadership Program at Faz restaurant Wednesday last week after the club's regular luncheon. About six people stayed to ask McNerney questions.

He said one has to be well-prepared and honest about one's ignorance when engaging a hostile crowd. Also, enjoying the verbal sparring, communicating in a friendly way, and humor are keys to reaching people who have different point of views.

► Continued on page 8

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# Planners look at environmental report for Elworthy project

Residents voice concerns about noise, traffic and other impacts

by Jordan M. Doronila

The Planning Commission held a hearing last week to discuss the environmental impact of a residential development on the Elworthy ranch in Danville.

"I really enjoy living there," said Laura Farrell, a neighbor who lives near the property. "We enjoy the wildlife and open space. I'm concerned about the draining and slide issues."

Commissioners looked at the environmental report for the development of single-family homes and apartment units on the property, which is on San Ramon Valley Boulevard, one mile south of Sycamore Valley Road. Dozens of residents living near the property attended the hearing Jan. 8.

"It's a standard document," said Commissioner Steve Condie. "It was a responsible thing to do to have an EIR prepared because it is a pretty big size development."

The 459-acre property is on the west side of I-680, situated on the eastern slope of Las Trampas Ridge overlooking the San Ramon Valley. Elworthy LLC, the developer, has proposed to build 84 single family houses and 12 apartment units. The total 96 units would be built on approximately 12 acres on the site, adjacent to San Ramon Valley Boulevard.

The plan says 232 acres of the land's upper portion would be dedicated to the East Bay Regional Park District, and 186 acres would be a scenic easement where there would be no future development.

Kristie Wheeler, of RBF Consultants in Walnut Creek, explored numerous aspects in her environmental report: aesthetics; air quality; biological resources; horse pastures; the red-legged frog; the Alameda whip snake; nesting birds; roosting bat species; and archeological resources. Her report also looked at geologi-

cal formation, hazardous materials and water.

Residents spoke about noise, traffic and other impacts on the land caused by development.

Wheeler said development would create a less than significant impact, and Elworthy would mitigate any potential impacts, such as air quality and endangered species. Town staff members said they were pleased with the report.

"We think it addresses the potential impacts," said Principal Planner David Crompton. "It suggests reasonable areas for mitigation that need mitigation."

Condie noted no action has been taken on the environmental report. He said it is possible the commission could accept the report but deny the application.

The next Planning Commission public hearing on the Elworthy project may be in March, Crompton said. ■

## Roundhill

► Continued from page 5

themselves from showering balls.

If a higher fence were put in by the club it's expected to be about 45 feet tall. It would likely be made of similar black mesh material.

But that's not what the Barkers want. The wall would send their property value plummeting, he said.

"It would depreciate the value of our home by about half a million dollars," he said. "It would be an eyesore. It would look tacky."

Gusts of wind and strong hitters still currently send balls over

his roof and into his front yard on Royal Oaks Drive. He said those hitters would still clear the height of the new fence—even with 25 feet or so added to the height.

Both parties have tried for months to solve the issue without litigation but to no avail.

The case is scheduled to go to trial in about six months and will take into account alleged violations of nuisance, breach of contract and implied covenant of good faith on the part of Round Hill Country Club.

Legally, "nuisance" is defined as anything that annoys or disturbs unreasonably, hurts a person's use of property, privacy or violates health, safety or decency. ■



NATALIE O'NEIL

Kenneth Barker has found hundreds of yellow golf balls, used on the driving range, in his front and back yards. He and his wife have been struck by them and have had seven windows broken.

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## WiFi

► Continued from page 5

coffee shop this week he said he likes the feel of Danville better, but the wireless is the deciding factor.

"It's something that would draw me more into downtown Danville," he said.

Free WiFi is available at the Danville Library, which gets the

second highest wireless use of all libraries in the county. It can be accessed on personal computers with a wireless card.

"I definitely see a lot of laptop users. We've gotten a lot of positive feedback," said Danville branch librarian Seng Lovan.

The Town Council is having a goal-setting session in February and Andersen said the topic of WiFi may be included.

"It's something I think we will continue to revisit," she said. ■

## Leadership

► Continued from page 6

McNerney said being a freshman in Congress is challenging because there is little time in his two-year term to achieve everything on his agenda for his constituents.

"I'm on a very short lease," he said.

McNerney said he has to develop personal relationships with his colleagues, such as U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D., 8th District), who is Speaker of the House, and committee chairmen.

"My first year was just a learning curve," he said. "I got to find out who the gatekeepers were."

He said politicians in Washington have three paths they can take. They seek leadership, which means focusing on advancing their political party, finding donors and getting elected. They go for the gusto by holding press

conferences frequently, publicizing their agendas in a grand fashion. Or they can focus on a specialty, such as finance.

McNerney, an engineer and energy specialist, wanted to specialize on energy. However, he found there wasn't much of a chance for him to address the topic in Congress, and he was assigned to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

"As a freshman, it's a struggle to get recognition," he said.

He noted if one is excited about an issue, and has a vision to improve it, this enthusiasm can spread to others.

"There is a terrific future for us if we work together," he said.

The leadership program will take place each month after the Exchange Club luncheon for members to stay afterward to interview the guest speaker, focusing on the qualities of leaders.

—Jordan M. Doronila



JORDAN M. DORONILA

## Goodbye to a lovely little park

Construction equipment was busy at work this week demolishing the popular mini-park adjacent to Bridges that was a gift to the community by its founder, Kazuo Sugitani 20 years ago. He came to love Danville when his son Ryota Sugitani studied at Athenian School in 1985, and built the restaurant and the park. Ryota Sugitani, who lives in Oregon, now runs the business and is going to build a one-story retail outlet on the quarter-acre parcel.

Sugitani told the Planning Commission last summer that he wanted to develop his property because he was paying high taxes on it. He also noted he wanted to be part of Danville's vision to have the downtown filled with small local businesses. His proposal keeps a pedestrian-friendly design, including landscaping and seating on the corner of Hartz Avenue and Church Street.

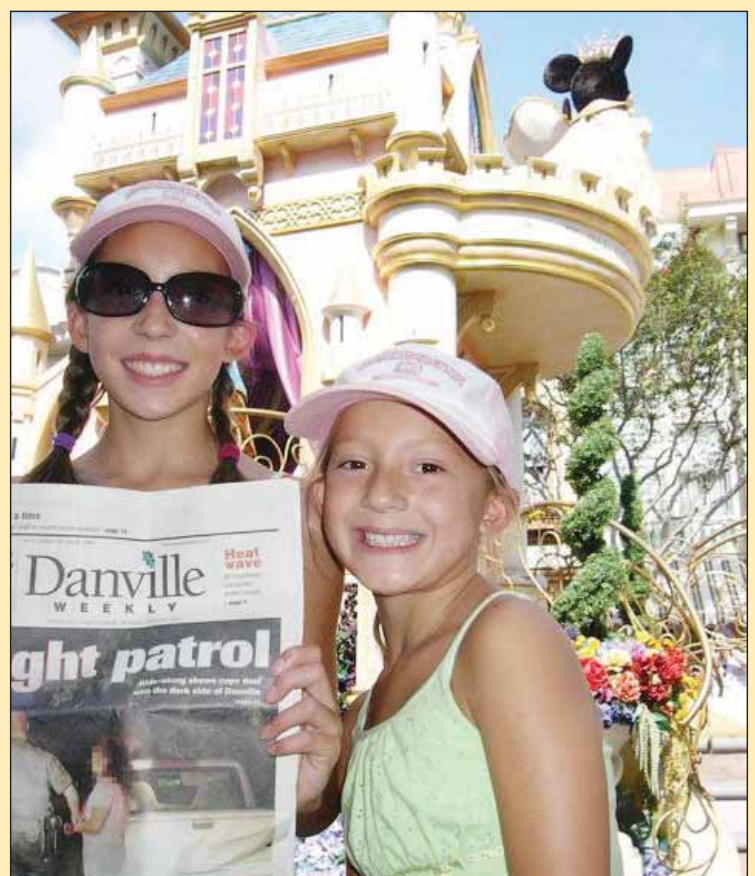
## TAKE US ALONG



### Enjoying scuba in Aruba—and the Weekly

Henry Macias ignored the beauty of Aruba last summer to find out what was going on in Danville and Alamo.

Take Us Along on your travels and send photos to [travel@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:travel@DanvilleWeekly.com) or 315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville 94526. Be sure to include a daytime telephone number.



### Disney fun

Nina and Victoria Christiansen of Alamo remembered their hometown paper when visiting Disneyland last summer.

# Diablo Views

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



## Say it with flowers

Such lovely blossoms, even in January. I stopped in at Alamo Flower Co. the other day and was delighted by so many things. The white fluffy stuffed bears waiting to be delivered with bouquets for Valentine's Day and heart-decorated vases. The tinkling fountain and the healthy green plants. The ceiling lights of blue sky and white clouds.

I wanted to talk to owner Connie Peterson because I'd heard the shop has been around for 30 years and I had two questions: How many blooms can possibly be purchased in little ol' Alamo? And how does a mom-and-pop shop compete against the convenient, inexpensive flowers at Costco and Trader Joe's? After talking to Connie, it all makes sense.

Connie attributes their success to their involvement in the community, supporting charities and the schools, and being active in the Alamo Merchant Professional Association and Rotary. AMPA sponsors the tree lighting in the little park, which is about 20 feet from the flower shop so it is an integral part in more ways than one. Alamo Rotary does the Music and Wine Festival in the fall in the Alamo Plaza parking lot to benefit the schools. Even while we visited, an Alamo resident who was known to me for her many activities came in to have flowers sent to an ailing friend. Of course, she would go to Connie's. It all became clear. It's a wonderful cycle because, as Connie noted, "We support the community, giving back to them for supporting us."

Connie said Valentine's Day is the single biggest day she has, and she hires extra help to take orders, put together arrangements and to deliver them. Many men order flowers ahead of time and pick them up on their way home, she said, and she carries Sweet Shop USA chocolates to include with the flowers. I accepted a few chocolates, contrary to our

ethics policy, and can personally vouch for them. Connie surprised me with the news that Thanksgiving and Christmas are also huge around here as people order flowers for their own homes. This year she filled a lot of orders for a large arrangement in the entryway with a coordinating centerpiece in the dining room.

Her mother always had a yard full of beautiful flowers in the summertime plus she grew her own vegetables.

Then there are flowers for Mother's Day, get well wishes, birthdays, anniversaries, thank yous, new babies, weddings, funerals and Easter. And don't forget "just because" flowers; roses are special anytime. Alamo Flower Co. also does corporate gifts and flowers for parties in homes or at Round Hill Country Club, where it provides fresh flowers in the dining room twice a week. Then there are the proms for San Ramon Valley and Monte Vista high schools, with mostly wrist corsages the boys buy for the girls and the boutonnières the girls buy for the boys.

"The kids are delightful," said Connie. "They're so polite. The juniors come back as seniors and sometimes come back later if their girlfriend is still in high school."

Connie said when she was growing up in Minnesota, her mother always had a yard full of beautiful flowers in the summertime plus she grew her own vegetables. "In the winter, she tried to have blooming houseplants," Connie recalled. "She always wanted something blooming

in the house." When she and Jim were married, in 1958, the flowers—white daisies—were provided by her mother and her garden club. They moved here in 1978 when Jim, who was in broadcasting, took a job with the Oakland A's.

Alamo Flower Co. was started in 1978 but Connie became involved 20 years ago, she said. Before that, she was an accountant and managed an office at a car dealership, and was raising two daughters. "I actually thought this would be easier," she said with a laugh. "More flexible." The flower shop moved from the Courtyard in Alamo to its present location for more room when the small center opened nine years ago.

Connie buys their flowers from the San Francisco Flower Market, choosing what she wants from its list. She noted the flower business is easier in the local climate, rather than back east where the flowers have to be shipped in and then must be protected with thick paper as they are delivered. She also said a Web site is mandatory ([www.myfsn.com/alamoflowerco](http://www.myfsn.com/alamoflowerco)).

I peeked into the backroom, too. Stunning gerbera daisies were in large vases awaiting their future in bouquets. Connie explained these aren't the ones grown in gardens—florists use a variety with thicker stems for bouquets, plus they stay fresh longer. She has to be careful to not overstock so she can keep everything fresh without discarding much inventory.

"No one wants to get flowers that are going to be dead the next day," she said.

With the shop open six days a week throughout the year, perhaps the flower business is not as easy as Connie had thought. But she's sure found a perfect way to be part of the Alamo community.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli  
can be e-mailed at  
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# Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

## POLICE LOG

The Danville Police Department made the following information available from its incident summary report:

### Sunday, Jan. 6

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on Bobbie Dr. and Diablo Rd. at 2 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Windover Dr. at 9:30 a.m.
- Vandalism on Northoak Ct. at 10:23 a.m.
- Drunk in public, arrest, on Railroad Ave. at 11:45 a.m.
- Vandalism on Kendall Lane at 12:55 p.m.
- Vandalism on Glen Arms Dr. at 3:22 p.m. and 3:45 p.m.
- Vandalism on Everett Dr. at 4:04 p.m.
- Misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI), arrest, on Blackhawk Rd. and Crow Canyon Rd. at 10:56 p.m.

### Monday, Jan. 7

- Vandalism on Matadera Ct. at 10:14 a.m.
- Identity theft on Brightwood Cir. at 11:6 a.m.
- Identity theft on St. James Ct. at 12:48 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Hartz Ave. and Railroad Ave. at 1:45 p.m.
- Petty theft on Crestridge Dr. at 1:57 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on Camino Ramon and Joaquin Dr. at 3:22 p.m.
- Suspicious subject, arrest, on

- Everett Dr. and Paraiso Dr. at 3:35 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Valley Creek Lane at 5:33 p.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop, arrest, on Camino Ramon at 10:36 p.m.

### Tuesday, Jan. 8

- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on northbound I-680 off ramp and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 9:25 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Camino Tassajara and Lawrence Rd. at 10:20 a.m.
- Petty theft on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 11:48 a.m.
- Petty theft on Windward Rd. at 2:58 p.m.
- Accident, property damage, on La Gonda Way at 3:30 p.m.
- Petty theft on Dubost Ct. at 5:19 p.m.
- Alcohol intoxicated subject on Railroad Ave. at 8:05 p.m.
- DUI, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 8:16 p.m.
- Residential burglary on La Questa Dr. at 11:47 p.m.

### Wednesday, Jan. 9

- Vehicle traffic stop, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. and Sycamore Valley Rd. at 2:05 a.m.
- Identity theft on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 10:39 a.m.
- Identity theft on Starmont Ct. at 11:40 a.m.
- Credit card fraud on Paraiso Ct. at 11:52 a.m.
- Grand theft on Del Amigo Rd. at

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Swindler victimizes woman, 82

A con artist allegedly tricked an 82-year-old woman from Danville into giving him a substantial amount of money last week.

The victim received a phone call from a man Wednesday, Jan. 9, who posed as bank security and asked her to withdraw money from her account to help catch an employee who was embezzling. She withdrew the money and met the suspect's partner at a parking lot, said police Lt. Mark Williams.

Once they met, he took her money, told her to remain quiet for five minutes and said he would call her at 2 p.m. the following day to set up a dummy account to catch the bank swindler. The next day came and there was no call. She went to her bank, and the teller informed the police, reports said.

"Anyone could be a victim of this crime," Williams said. "These crimes are geared to seniors in our community."

He noted that residents should not give any personal information over the telephone. Additionally, he said anyone who says they are representing a financial institution and asking for money is highly suspicious.

The Danville Police Department is holding an information forum about these types of crimes and issues for seniors at Town Meeting Hall at 9 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 12.

"When cases like these are made public, people come out of the woodwork," Williams said. "They initially don't report them because they are embarrassed. These suspects can be real crafty."

—Jordan M. Doronila

- 5:40 p.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop, arrest, on Boone Ct. at 6:11 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on Fostoria Way at 7 p.m.

### Thursday, Jan. 10

- Auto burglary on Richard Lane at 6:42 a.m.
- Terrorist threats on Camino Amigo at 9:26 a.m.
- Warrant arrest on Fostoria Cir. at 10:43 a.m.
- Petty theft on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 12:36 p.m.
- Petty theft, shoplift, arrest, on Fostoria Way at 2:08 p.m.
- Residential burglary on Everett Pl. at 3:37 p.m.

- Petty theft on Buckeye Lane at 3:41 p.m. and 3:54 p.m.
- Credit card fraud on Edinburgh Pl. at 4:14 p.m.
- Suspicious subject, arrest, on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 4:24 p.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on El Pintado Rd. and El Rio Rd. at 5:10 p.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on El Pintado Rd. at 7:18 p.m.

### Friday, Jan. 11

- Accident, property damage, on Crow Canyon Rd. at 8:55 a.m.
- Identity theft on Mustang Dr. at 10:52 a.m.
- Accident, property damage, on Park Hill at 1:06 p.m.

- Identity theft on Everett Ct. at 2:16 p.m.
- Fraud on San Ramon Valley Blvd. at 3:24 p.m.
- Battery on Tivoli Lane at 8:35 p.m.

### Saturday, Jan. 12

- DUI, arrest, on Camino Ramon and El Capitan Dr. at 12:50 a.m.
- Suspicious vehicle stop, arrest, on Silverwood Ct. at 4:25 a.m.
- Auto burglary on Glen Rd. at 8:01 a.m.
- Misdemeanor hit-and-run on 3100 block of Stone Valley Rd. at 8:39 a.m.
- Petty theft from vehicle on Celine Ct. at 5:08 p.m.

## OBITUARIES

### Jess M.B. Mosher

Danville resident Jess M.B. Mosher died peacefully at home Jan. 7 at the age of 89.

He was born April 22, 1918. His loves were his family, ham radio and gardening. He also loved flying and spent 30 years as an executive



pilot for Edgar Kaiser (Kaiser Industries), first in Michigan and after 1954 in California.

He is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Virginia; son John and his wife Diana; daughter Carol and her husband Dennis Lawrence; daughter Becky; and granddaughter Jessica. The family will hold a private ceremony at some later time. Instead of flowers, they request that friends set aside special time to share with their own families. The family also expresses thanks to Kaiser Hospice in Martinez where donations may be sent.

### Edythe D. McLaren

Danville resident Edythe D. McLaren passed away in early December and services were held Dec. 12. She was predeceased by her husband Harry B. McLaren. She is survived by three children,

seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

She received many flowers throughout her life and would like any donations in her name to go to Children's Hospital Oakland, 647 52nd St., Oakland 94609 or to the charity of choice.

### Brad Lee McWilliams

Brad Lee McWilliams passed away at his home on Mt. Diablo Scenic Drive in Danville on Dec. 6 at the age of 40.

He was born Sept. 8, 1967, to Dean and Barbara McWilliams, who lived at that time in Gresham, Ore., but now live in Hidden Oaks in Danville. He attended schools in Danville, and worked as a Technical Services Manager at the family firm OSI International. He served as a Certified Recovery Staff Counselor and was actively involved in local programs. He was an avid outdoorsman who loved fly-fishing, backpacking, mountain climbing, hunting, camping and skiing. He took frequent trips to Montana to fish, and backpacked in the Sierra, including climbing Mt. Shasta. He took great pride in being a conservator of nature.

He is survived by his parents; his brother David Thomas McWilliams and his fiancée Andrea Bourgeois of San Ramon; his sister Amy Susan Hess and her husband Troy of Concord; fiancée Lindsay Angelelo of Danville; and other

relatives in Arizona, Oregon, New York, Colorado and California; plus special "Buddy" Mosley, his companion golden retriever.

A celebration of his life was held Dec. 14 at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church. Donations may be made to the Meditation Garden at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, Save Mount Diablo, the Save Mt. Shasta League, or area programs of choice.

### Sharyn L. Hopkins

Alamo resident Sharyn L. Hopkins passed away Dec. 13 at the age of 66. She was born July 5, 1941.

She is survived by her husband, Arthur "Gene" Hopkins; son Gene Hopkins and his wife Rita of Oakland; daughter SteVee Coric and her husband Angelo Coric of Walnut Creek; and daughter Shaune Auzenne and her husband Michael Auzenne of Burke, Va. Her pride and joy were her grandchildren and her great-granddaughter.

Services were held Dec. 14. Donations may be made in her memory to Carondelet High School, 1133 Winton Drive in Concord or De La Salle High School, 1130 Winton Drive, Concord.

### Patricia M. Price

Patricia M. Price, a resident of Danville, died at the age of 68 in her bed at 3:20 a.m., Friday, Dec. 14.

She was born May 31, 1939, in San Leandro to Manuel and Mary Frades, and attended San Leandro High. She married her sweetheart, James T. Price, on Jan. 18, 1959. They raised two daughters and enjoyed living in many places throughout the U.S. and Europe. In 1974, the family settled in Danville. She loved her family, her friends, travel, cooking, knitting, reading and laughing.

She is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law: Lori and Jim Watson, and Cindy and Curt Kanellis; four grandchildren; nephews and nieces; and her sister-in-law.

### Pierre G. Bouret

Alamo resident Pierre G. Bouret passed away peacefully at home with his children by his side Dec. 16 after a brief illness, at the age of 83.

He was born Feb. 15, 1924, in Burlingame to French immigrants Leon and Madeline Bouret and graduated from Burlingame High, College of San Mateo, and Stanford University in 1947, with an MBA in 1949. He served in the U.S. Army from 1943-46 in Military Intelligence with the 46th Order of Battle Team in the Philippines and Japan, and was awarded the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with a Bronze Star, WWII Victory Medal. He also served as a 1st Lieutenant

in the Army Reserves from 1947-1954.

He won achievement awards from Pitney Bowes and Dictaphone Corp. where he was Western vice president of Marketing and Major Accounts. He was also a real estate broker and a VP at Whitehall-Parker Securities Inc. in San Francisco. He was a long time resident of Alamo and was a charismatic docent at the Blackhawk Auto Museum; a volunteer at the Garrett Thrift Shop of John Muir Medical Center; avid reader; he spoke French, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Tagalog, Mandarin and Thai; and worked the NY Times crossword puzzle every day in ink.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Marie; children Colleen Slater of Walnut Creek, Marc Bouret of Lafayette, and G. Pierre Bouret of Hanalei, Kauai; daughters-in-law Theresa Bouret and Mimsy Bouret; grandchildren, a great-grandson, and many nephews, nieces, and cousins in the Bay Area and France. A memorial Mass was celebrated Jan. 5 at St. Isidore Catholic Church in Danville. Donations may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., FL 17 Chicago, IL 60601.

**Deaths, Weddings and Births** are a free editorial service. Submitted to: editor@DanvilleWeekly.com (subject: transitions)

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EDITORIAL • THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

**Seven state propositions on ballot**

There are seven state propositions on the February ballot, but it's not as diverse as the number may sound. Proposition 91 has been abandoned by its proponents because a similar measure has already passed. Prop 92 deals with community colleges; Prop 93 revises term limits for state legislators; and the final four, 94 through 97, are all part of an Indian gambling package.

There is no campaign associated with Prop 91. It's not needed.

**We suggest a No vote on Prop 91.**

Proposition 92 would dedicate substantial additional funding to community colleges, averaging some \$300 million per year for the next three years; reduce student fees from \$20 to \$15 per unit; and make changes in the governing structure of community colleges that would have the effect of providing more independence and less oversight. Teachers' unions are split on this issue. Democratic legislators are split. The state college and University of California governing boards oppose it. Each player is defending his or her own turf in what is seen as a battle for very limited funds. We believe that community colleges, including our own Diablo Valley College, provide a vital function in our state. We also believe that they have often been neglected in favor of more powerful interests, including K-12 schools and the UC and state college systems. The spectacle of well-intentioned educators fighting with each other for limited funds is a sad one. They all have compelling stories and real needs. We believe that the needs of community colleges should be addressed. However, we don't like conducting state budgeting by locking in formulas through initiatives. In addition to the general principle, there are legitimate questions regarding how this particular formula works. The fact that we have a state budget deficit estimated to be in the \$14 billion range only reinforces our skepticism about any costly

state initiative.

**We suggest a No vote on Prop 92.**

The initiative with the broadest effect is 93. Under current law, members of the state Assembly can serve up to three two-year terms—for a total of six years. State senators can serve up to two full four-year terms—for a maximum of eight years. Since legislators can serve in both bodies, maximum legislative service could be up to 14 years. Under the terms of Prop 93, legislators would be allowed to serve a maximum of 12 years in either body or combination of the two. Because, unfortunately, they couldn't resist giving themselves a special deal, the measure also provides that sitting members may serve up to 12 years in their current body, regardless of past service in either body. This could extend the terms of some incumbents well beyond 12 years. We think the current term-limit system has serious problems, primarily because assembly members with a six-year service limit are barely elected before they must leave. The result is Assembly speakers and other leaders with seldom more than a couple of years' experience when they assume their positions. Committee heads, who guide major policy changes, have little experience and, in some cases, may even be newly elected. This situation produces less informed and effective legislators and shifts power to staff and lobbyists who have many years of experience. Notwithstanding its special deal for incumbents, this measure's basic approach strikes the right balance between limiting length of service and providing enough time for legislators to develop the knowledge and skills they need to be effective. Now, if we just had campaign-finance reform as well, we might create a truly independent legislature.

**We suggest a Yes vote on Prop 93.**

Propositions 94, 95, 96 and 97 would reject gaming deals brokered between

Gov. Schwarzenegger and four Southern California Indian tribes. The legislative analyst says the compacts would add to state revenue something under \$200 million net each year in the next few years and generate revenues in the low- to mid-hundreds of millions until 2030. The four tribes could add up to 17,000 new slot machines to the current 60,000-plus machines statewide. Opponents say the revenue formula, which determines how much the state would get, could be easily manipulated by tribes, the additional slots represent a massive increase in gaming—equal to the capacity of more than a dozen major Las Vegas casinos—for only the "Big 4" tribes, and there are labor and environmental exemptions. Jack O'Connell, state superintendent of public instruction, and the governor support the compacts. Among opponents are California Federation of Teachers President Marty Hittelman; activist Dolores Huerta; Lenny Goldberg, executive director of the progressive and independent California Tax Reform Association; and the American Indian Rights and Resources Organization, an Indian civil rights group; and some other tribes. It's difficult to quantify the lost revenue that additional Indian gaming would divert from other businesses that, unlike Indian casinos, do pay state and local taxes, or to measure the human cost of increased problem gambling. A May 2006 report for the state attorney general estimated there were at that time close to a million problem gamblers in California. Indian gaming in California has already passed Las Vegas in revenue and is headed higher, which raises the bigger issue of the wisdom of ever increasing Indian gaming in our state. But on these propositions, we are inclined to agree with the doubters and believe the state could negotiate a better deal for all Californians.

**We suggest a No vote on Props 94-97.**

YOUR TURN

The Danville Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or on issues of local interest. The deadline is 5 p.m. Monday for that Friday's edition.

Submit Letters to the Editor of up to 250 words to editor@DanvilleWeekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Danville Weekly and Embarcadero Publishing Co. to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

For more information, contact Dolores Ciardelli, editor, at 837-8300, ext. 29.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Children of Iraq**

Dear Editor:

I really enjoyed the article written in the Christmas edition about my life as a soldier over here in Iraq. Everyone who read it thought the piece was very accurate.

Just to let you know, I have received four boxes of school supplies and Beanie Babies from John Steen from Danville and the Lafayette-based Marine Corps League. The young children of Baghdad will love to get something

like this to brighten their lives. The little things like this can make such a difference and mean a lot to both sides.

*LTC Felix Boston  
HHC, 2BCT, 101ABN  
FOB Liberty  
APO, AE 09344*

P.S. I walked to work while it was snowing this morning. Who would think that a place that gets to 140-plus degrees in the summer, can produce snow in the winter?

story and photos by Natalie O'Neill

It's five minutes until recess in Sue Benit's fourth-grade classroom at Alamo Elementary—but instead of restless clock-watching, her students are in a trance. They're hunched over notebooks, pencils in hand.

"Everyone knows I'm a daredevil," a freckle-faced girl scribbles onto the page.

"The only thing I could see was thick white snow," another boy writes.

Younger kids from neighboring classes are filtering out into the hallways, where footsteps and muffled squeals ring. But even with the stir outside, only a couple boys near the window look up from their notebooks.

The class is writing first-person stories about their winter break, a 30-minute exercise that's part of the district's Reading and Writing Project.

The writing element engages students by letting them choose the topic they want—then teaches lessons like punctuation, transitions and prefixes around that topic.

Instead of assigning specific essays on teacher-chosen subjects, the idea is that kids will want to write more if they get to focus on what interests them.

"When they pick their own topics, they are more invested in what they are saying," says project staff developer Kathy Moore.

And when it comes to reading, the philosophy is that students will excel if they are allowed to read at their own level—whether that's above or below the grade's average.

"The whole idea is that you are making growth where you are—not anyone else," Benit says.

Students are tested for reading ability by answering comprehension questions and reading aloud. Teachers categorize books into reading "levels" and mark them with alphabetical letters to signify how difficult they are.

School Board Trustee Joan Buchanan says the approach is successful because it pinpoints students who are having trouble reading, right off the bat.

"You know right away if little Billy is having a problem," she says.

The teaching method originated in New York City, after founding director Lucy Calkins completed a doctorate about the differences between how teachers teach writing and how real writers write.

About eight ago, teachers and administrators began trying out the program at Sycamore Valley Elementary School. Since then, initial focus has been on elementary school students in the San Ramon Valley but the project is now being implemented up to the high school level.

In Benit's class, the 9-year-olds are required to spend half an hour a night doing silent reading at home with the book of their choice. Parents report that they've never seen their kids be so enthused about reading, she says.

"They're enjoying it—they're not spending effort trying to decode words," says Buchanan, an advocate of the project.

Getting youth to read at their own level is essential because tripping over words is daunting and discouraging. It keeps students from wanting to read, district staff says.

The style of teaching is new, too, in that it encourages kids to discuss ideas during read-aloud sessions. Students talk with partners about plot prediction, imagery, characterization and vocabulary.

Teachers might say, "What would you do in this situation?"

What do you think the character will do?" or "Who knows what that word means?"

In general, older methods require students to answer questions independently after the story, as a way of connecting to the lesson.

School board trustees honored teachers this week for their accomplishments using the Reading and Writing Project at Quail Run Elementary School.

"What I get out of this is an infectious enthusiasm that's spreading, and you're like the incubators," Trustee Greg Marvel told the teachers.

In Benit's room, during a read-aloud session on a recent Wednesday, she is reading a book about nature. Stacks of other colorful books frame the reading corner, and poetry hangs on the walls.

The excerpt she will read next involves a volcano, so she starts with some plot prediction.

"Now, I want you to turn and talk. When you think of a volcano, what do you think about?"

Cross-legged on the floor, kids turn toward their partners and ideas start to emerge.

"I think of danger," one girl says.

"I think of Hawaii," her partner says.

A boy in sweats raises his hand to share his association.

"I think of my mom's mind," he says.

"Why's that?" Benit asks.

"Because when it gets angry, it erupts," he says.

Discussion like this serves as a way of connecting the students to the lesson.

"You've made the connection, then they go, 'Oh, I get it!' And you made it more real. They may never say it to the whole group, but they'll say it to a buddy," Benit says.

The Reading and Writing Project aims to help kids "read to understand," learn different styles of writing, and use reading to become better communicators.

"I like that you get to express yourself," says fourth-grader Kathryn LaBarbera.

Still, some critics are concerned the method of teaching doesn't cater well enough to standardized tests, which are timed and often involve answering multiple-choice reading comprehension questions.

The STAR exams, for example, taken by fourth-graders in California is timed and requires students to write on specific topics. Fourth-graders who have learned the New York Reading and Writing approach aren't always used to having topics chosen for them—or being under time pressure.

Much of what the project is teaching is a curiosity and a passion for learning—things you can't test for. Because of this, some school districts have had trouble showing it is effective.



During a 30 minute writing session, fourth-graders work on first person narratives about any winter break-related topic they choose.

Alamo Elementary School teacher Sue Benit asks her students to make pred

"How do you show this is working? That's harder," Benit said.

The San Ramon Valley Unified School District staff maintains that children who spend more time reading perform better on standardized tests. Similarly, the more a student practices writing, the more likely he or she will internalize the structure and perform well on writing assessments, the district Web site states.

As an example, Buchanan points to Coyote Creek and Hidden Valley elementary schools, which fully implemented the program and have the highest API test scores in the district.

In part, this fixation with standardized test scores was triggered by the controversial "No Child Left Behind Act," passed in 2001. The legislation requires public schools be evaluated with standardized tests.

# Write on

Children - and teachers - inspired by the Reading and Writing Project

Julia Caulfield writes about winning a diving competition over winter break.



ctions about what the author might write on a subject, in between brief stories about nature.

Gillian Hart reads her journal back to herself to listen for places she wants to edit. She uses a plastic tube to hear herself.

Supporters say it holds schools accountable and that it will narrow socioeconomic gaps in the quality of education. But opponents say it encourages teachers to “teach to the test”—how to regurgitate facts—as opposed to promoting independent thought, creativity and discussion.

The legislation prompted heated rhetoric about what it means to learn something—and how to show that.

In the case of the Reading and Writing project, Buchanan says it does prepare kids for standardized tests—a necessary hoop to jump. But it also taps into creativity, she says.

“I think any good program should do both. The problem is you have to balance how much testing is necessary. It’s useless in many respects ... but the public wants a yardstick,” she says.

Melinda Burgess, who teaches second grade at Alamo Elementary School, says she likes the program because it meets the needs of the individual child—but that it’s by no means

perfect.

“It’s not an end all, fix all. There’s no one right way,” she says.

One thing she misses about the older approach is that there isn’t as much creative fiction writing in the project, she says.

“They don’t cut loose with the creative writing,” she says, adding that’s one thing she supplements with the program.

Another concern is that there isn’t enough time in the day for the project’s method of teaching.

“I’m not a skeptic, but I’m thinking, ‘What about all of these other things?’” Benit says.

During writing sessions, students meet with the teacher individually to go over their work. The teacher takes notes detailing what the child knows and what she is going to teach next.

In Benit’s class, students are thrilled to share their work in their conferences.

“You used the word ‘frolic,’” Benit says to one student. “I like that.”

The program brings in editing and helps kids learn to use specifics and description.

“You don’t write about the watermelon, you write about the seed,” says Benit.

Burgess uses another example.

“A boy might say, ‘I caught a big fish.’ But what did it feel like, what did it smell like?” she says.

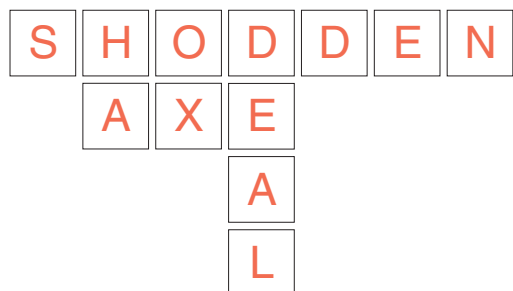
As far as the state and the district are concerned, it’s still up in the air whether the teaching style will stand the test of time. Project developers, however, say it’s much more than a trend.

“This is different because it’s not a program—it’s a philosophy. It’s teaching kids how to be able to think,” Moore says. ■



by Jordan M. Doronila

Words can have meaning—or they can have points. Ask any Scrabble player.



A simple word formation starting with “shodden” and “deal” can add “ax” for a combined five words: shodden, deal, axe, ha and ox. Plus it uses the 8-point letter “x.” These words could add to a Scrabble player’s score, sealing a victory to win thousands of dollars in a competitive tournament.

But money isn’t the reason Linda Stolow, 64, teaches competitive Scrabble to seniors in Danville. She wants their brains to be sharp; she also revels in exposing them to the complexities and possibilities of word combinations.

“It’s training your brain not to do the same old pattern,” said Stolow, who co-owns the Small Fry Shoppe on Railroad Avenue in Danville. “You have an infinite amount of words.”

Scrabble is a word game where players score points by forming words from individual lettered tiles on a game board; the words are formed across and down in a crossword fashion. Stolow, a certified Scrabble player, started teaching Scrabble at the Veterans Memorial Building twice a month in October. The next Scrabble meeting is at the veterans’ hall on Jan. 29, from 1:30-3 p.m.

“People can drop in,” she said. “We’re a pretty flexible class.”

Four to more than 20 have attended Stolow’s Scrabble workshops. And seniors give positive feedback.

“I enjoy the game very much,” said Burt Bogardus at a class last week. “I have always enjoyed words. I’ll be here next time.”

“I used to play with my husband,” said Mona Tauchar. “I love it. I love anagrams, crosswords. I play with a lot of words I never heard of.”

Stolow teaches Scrabble rookies the game’s basic rules and strategies. Some of them include keeping score, studying 2- and 3-letter words, dictionary words, and maximizing letter points. She said some good habits are holding the letter bag over the board while picking seven tiles to play, so you can’t see what’s inside.

She also urged players to use letters to create as many words as possible on the board

and not be content with just one.

“You’ve got to see cross connections,” Stolow said. “That’s what makes your mind work.”

Stolow also tells her students that they can play in competitive Scrabble tournaments where they can win prizes, and they can play online with people from all over the globe and at all hours of the day or night.

Stolow started playing Scrabble with her mother at the age of 11 when they were living in Boston. She would play when she was done with her homework and after supper.

“It was my thrill,” she said. “I did it for many years.”

However, there was a period of time when high school academics took her away from the game. Her concentration was focused on Latin, English, math, Greek history and the classics at Boston Latin School, the oldest public school in America known for its rigorous academic program.

“It’s a tough academic experience,” she said.

Upon graduating, she moved to California and attended UC San Diego, attaining a double-major in sociology and writing.

“I came here and became more laidback,” she said. “I was looking for someplace warm. It was time to get out of Boston.”

Although she left Massachusetts, she kept returning to Scrabble. She played in Scrabble tournaments in Washington, D.C., San Diego and Portland. She discovered that there were Scrabble clubs in Boca Rotan in Florida and Brighton and Lexington in Massachusetts. She said her highest rating was around 1600. “Experts” are above 1800, and “super players” are above 2000.

She said right now she doesn’t want to channel all her energy into studying and playing in tourneys.



Burt Bogardus scans the Scrabble board to see how many points he can score at the senior Scrabble program in the Veterans Memorial Building last week. The program is held twice a month and is facilitated by Linda Stolow, a certified Scrabble instructor.

“Some of these people study for hours and hours,” she said. “I don’t have the time.”

Stolow noted that to be at a high level in Scrabble, one needs to spend an extraordinary amount of time in preparation—just like an athlete.

She said she is aiming to teach competitive Scrabble to seniors at least twice a month. She said Scrabble is what she knows and she wants to share it with others. She describes her teaching as “intimate.”

“One has to love the game and love to teach,” she said. “I’m very one-on-one. It’s my goal to make sure they have fun and exercise their brain.”

“I enjoy getting people interested,” she added.

Friendships form in tournaments when players compare each other’s notes after games.

“Anybody can participate,” Stolow said. “It’s a game for all ages.” ■

# The Wine Guy

BY GREGORY PEEBLES

## Zinfandel now a 'rock star'

**2005 Ridge Zinfandel  
"40th Geyserville Vintage"  
(Geyserville Vineyard, Sonoma  
County)  
(Prima Vini - Walnut Creek, \$32.97)**

With the distinguished Paul Draper at the helm since 1969, Ridge Vineyards is synonymous with the production of "single-site," "vineyard-designated," old vine Zinfandel. A majority of Ridge's portfolio is dedicated to this multifaceted grape. Mr. Draper works exclusively with vineyards which produce fruit that combine varietal purity with a singular sense of place ("terrior"). The Geyserville Vineyard, with its gravelly loam soil and head trained vines (most are in excess of 40 years old; oldest, 120 years), has been a mainstay in Ridge's repertoire dating back to 1966.

Primarily relegated to the production of cheap, dreadful jug wine for over two decades starting in the 1960s, Zinfandel is now a media and consumer darling. This transformation from "no-name" to "rock star" is no more evident than at annual tastings such as the Paso Robles Zinfandel Festival or the elbow-

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to-elbow, palate numbing, teeth-staining experience that is San Francisco's multi-day ZAP (Zinfandel Advocates & Producers) Festival.

The 2005 growing season in greater Sonoma County coincided with much higher than average rainfall. In addition to the early summer rains, average daily summer temperatures were warm, but not hot. As a result, one may expect this wine's color profile to be somewhat diluted or pale. To the contrary, its opulent shades of red, ruby, garnet and purple are remarkable.

Having aged a whopping 14 months in 100 percent American oak barrels (20 percent new), this Zinfandel inundates

the nose and palate with soft wood tannins. The barrels contribute an omnipresent oak bouquet. Flavors range from austere red fruit jam to creamy vanilla to sweet smoke and spice.

Considering the burly blend is 77 percent Zinfandel, 17 percent Carignane and 6 percent Petite Sirah, I am disappointed in the excessive role American oak manages to play and the subsequent masking of the vastly more interesting fruit expressions. Yes, it's a pretty wine. All the same, it's a bit monotonous and short on Zinfandel's essential oomph and youthful spirit.

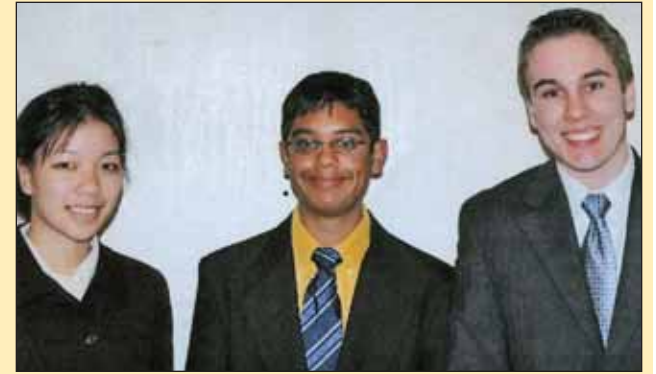
The raspberry-vanilla finish is marvelous, moderate in length and very elegant. This is the wine's strong suit.

Pull the cork and drink this Zinfandel now! Cellaring will not be of much benefit. Serve it with a platter of mild Italian sausages, sautéed onions and peppers, accompanied by grilled polenta topped with a thick wild mushroom ragu.

Let your palate be the judge...

*Have comments or questions about wine? Gregory Peebles, wine industry professional and East Bay resident, can be contacted at [caledoniawine@sbcglobal.net](mailto:caledoniawine@sbcglobal.net).*

## OF NOTE



Winners of the American Legion Post 246 Oratorical Competition were Michaela Lee, Niel Malani and George Emmons.

### American Legion Post 246 awards three speakers

George Emmons, a senior at California High, was the winner of this year's High School Oratorical Competition held by the American Legion Post 246 of Danville on Jan. 8. He received a \$100 check and a gold medal. Niel Malani, a junior at Monte Vista High, came in second and received a \$75 check and silver medal; third place was Michaela Lee, a sophomore from Athenian Upper School, who received \$50 and a bronze medal. They all were given certificates of participation.

"All the students delivered excellent orations and the judging was very competitive," said organizer Ron Roe.

The competition focuses on the U.S. Constitution, with a prepared oration on some phase of the Constitution followed by an assigned topic regarding a specific clause, section or amendment.

Emmons will now compete in the District 9 contest to be held at the Danville Veteran's Hall at 1 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 10. The public is invited.

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# The Pet Vet says...



BY DR. HEIDI STRAND

## Feed bunny grass hay and greens

**Q.** My daughter got a rabbit for Christmas and we weren't sure if she should see a veterinarian for regular checkups? We know they're not supposed to be kept outdoors, especially if we don't clean it every day. Is there anything we can do about the smell?

**A.** Rabbits don't need routine vaccinations like dogs and cats. But when you first get a rabbit it is a good idea to schedule a visit with a veterinarian who sees bunnies regularly. That way you will know the rabbit's age, weight and gender, and you have established a relationship with the veterinarian in case your rabbit becomes ill. They can also show you the proper technique for handling the bunny and trimming its nails. The veterinarian will check the teeth for normal occlusion—sometimes rabbits will need their teeth trimmed. I would also recommend you have your rabbit spayed after she is 4 months of age. She will be a much better pet for your daughter without the rag-

ing hormones that can sometimes make rabbits territorial and nippy. (The same goes for male rabbits, too.) Spaying has also been shown to prevent uterine and mammary cancer in females.

As for the odor, I would litterbox train your rabbit as soon as possible. You can buy a litterbox made just for rabbits with high sides—some even go in the corner of the cage. Put soiled bedding in the litterbox and keep the rest of the cage clean. Hopefully your bunny will get the idea. It is much easier to empty a small litterbox once or twice daily than the entire cage. Again, having rabbits spayed or neutered can cut down on urine odor and spraying behavior. Rabbits often spray on vertical surfaces to mark their territory. However, at a young age they are more likely to be simply "missing the box." That's why a litterbox with high sides is essential.

Make sure you are feeding the proper diet to your bunny. A diet consisting solely of rabbit pellets can lead to decreased water intake

and more concentrated urine—thus a more concentrated smell. The best diet for rabbits is grass hay and greens with a small amount of fresh vegetables and fruit. Many people are surprised to learn that pellets aren't the best food for pet rabbits. They were developed for industry (i.e., meat and laboratory rabbits) to promote rapid growth and are extremely concentrated—not to mention boring to eat! If you haven't already, pick up a good book on keeping rabbits, preferably one that your daughter can read. With proper diet and care, your rabbit can be a part of your family for many years.

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

### A movie review of what's

### NOW SHOWING

#### 27 Dresses

★ ★ ★

Rating: PG-13 for language and mature themes

Run Time: 1 hour, 47 minutes

After all the hoopla of the holidays—when somber fare rules the silver screen—"Dresses" is a refreshingly frothy change of pace.

Thanks to Katherine Heigl, who parlays a little "Knocked Up" charm into a Meg Ryan-esque quest for her happily-ever-after.

Its sloppy seconds for perpetual bridesmaid Jane Nichols (Heigl) who eats, sleeps and breathes the elusive enchantment of weddings. Jane is such a fan that friends and acquaintances look to her for all manner of arduous nuptial planning. Consequently it's always the bridesmaid, never the bride for an earnest second fiddle who focuses on everyone else's happiness at the expense of her own.

To make matters worse this sincere singleton toils in the taffeta ghetto while nurturing an unhealthy crush on her clueless but hunky boss George (Edward Burns). Salvation arrives in the form of Jane's glamour-puss sister Tess (Malin Akerman), a flighty supermodel who's just what the doctor ordered for support and distraction.

At least that was the plan. Tess and George fall head over heels on sight, leaving Jane with a clunky finish to her knight-in-shining-armor fantasies and yet another invitation to duty as a not-so-merry maid.

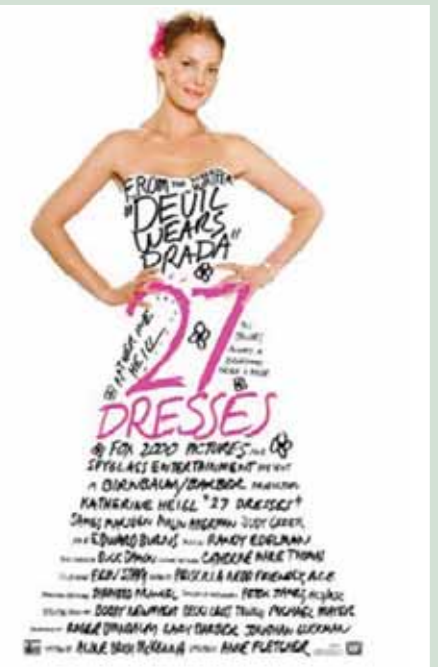
Enter classic spoiler Kevin (James Marsden), a cynical New York journalist who meets Jane at a friend's wedding (natch) and considers her plight perfect fodder for his popular "Commitments" column. Will Kevin get more than he bargained for?

There's absolutely nothing new to this Cinderella story that telegraphs its routine complications with blithe indifference to its formulaic forerunners. Fortunately the conventional elements are cobbled together with perky panache, from the quippy sidekick (the irrepressible Judy Greer) to some witty scripting (co-ed mojito and burrito tasting anybody?) and a hilariously tipsy bar rendering of "Benny and the Jets."

Heigl is a surprising master of the physical comedy while radiating a girl-next-door appeal that's hard to resist, even when packaged with an overdose of winsome window-dressing.

And then there are the dresses, 27 to be exact, frilly testament to the romantic secondary and homage to the nice girls who don't always finish last.

—Jeanne Aufmuth

For more movie reviews or local show times, go to [www.DanvilleWeekly.com](http://www.DanvilleWeekly.com)


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# Presenting the Past

BY BEVERLY LANE

## Work on the farm was never-ending



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

Men threshing the fields near Bollinger around 1901, part of the rigors of farm work.

At the turn of the 20th century, many agricultural labor-saving devices were still in the future for San Ramon Valley farmers and ranchers. In her book "Footprints in the Soil," Rose Peters Emery describes men's work on the Peters Ranch.

"For men on the ranch there were two main lines of work, the raising of grain and animals, though plenty of other jobs had to be done. In both of these divisions the work varied according to the season of the year. Spring was the time of sprouting wheat and baby animals. Summer was the period of growth. Fall was harvest and breeding time. Winter was for hog-butchered and all those tasks that had been neglected in the busier seasons, mainly repairs and construction."

Draft horses did all their work until 1918 when Joe Peters bought the first tractor. Peters himself was most comfortable with horses.

"In early spring before the sowing of the wheat crop could begin, the ground had to be tilled," wrote Emery. "Papa had a cultivator with four rows of shares like small shovels that sped up the work. He also had an ordinary plow with one share that was more maneuverable to fork around trees. Every year he plowed the orchard with the lines for the horse ties in a loop around his shoulders so his hands were free to guide the plow by the handles. A chicken or two followed behind, happily snapping up the worms that the plow dug up."

"We did not irrigate and California summers are dry," she recalled. After seeding, "the sown field soon sprouted. A faint green mist spread over the brown hills, then turning a rich emerald green. The wheat grew tall and thick in the hot summer sun."

"When the harvest was in, a hired threshing machine and crew arrived at the farm at a designated time to do the work. The threshing was a thrilling sight. A steam engine with a long, wide revolving belt powered the machine. When bundles of hay were fed into the thresher, a heavy stream of grain would come pouring out of its side into the gaping mouth of a gunny sack. A man stood guard there and sewed up the filled sacks with a large needle and twine. They were then stacked into a huge pile. My parents must have been thrilled to see that mountain of wheat! It was the culmination of a year's work."

Similarly, when the hay was ready, for Rose "the arrival of the haypress and crew was another exciting event, more amusing to a child than any of today's movies."

"The men who fed the press had to be in top physical condition, like football players, to do such hard labor. They worked stripped to the waist and sweating profusely, feeding big charges of hay into the maw of the machine, which clamped them all down in a bale-sized mold. Another charge was added and compressed as before, and another and another until a complete bale was formed. Wires were then poked through the slats in the cage and wrapped around the bale in several places."

The bales were then stored either in the hay barn or in a warehouse in San Ramon to be kept until sold. "In winter, when grass in the pasture grew scarce, the cattle (and horses) needed some hay as supplementary feed...Papa's cattle, in fact all of his animals, were always well fed."

The care, breeding and branding of cattle was an important part of farming too. Rose wrote, "The

part of the animal growth cycle that had to do with procreation and birth in anything bigger than a chicken must have been carefully concealed from us girls, for I have no memories at all of such things. The twice-yearly cattle roundup, with the animals jostling in the corral, was exciting. ... At the roundup, young males were castrated so they would develop into steers (beef animals), not bulls, although of course we never witnessed that procedure either."

Branding, horse care, hog-slaughtering, cutting and stacking wood were all men's work. Of course, Rose's brothers were expected to work like men from an early age. In the slack season there was fence building, road graveling, tree grafting and pruning, mending harness, building a shed or digging a septic tank. "When I picture Papa he is always busy - with the animals or the farm machinery or working with his sons at all the jobs that must be done."

Rose's father, Jose Pires Azevedo (called Joe Peters), came from the Azore Islands in 1872 at age 18. Like many Portuguese immigrants, he worked hard and succeeded in California at many levels. He married twice, had 12 children and, at the urging of his wife, sent three of them to UC Berkeley. "Footprints in the Soil" provides illuminating stories about one family's life in the San Ramon Valley.

Source: *Rose Peters Emery's "Footprints in the Soil, A Portuguese-Californian Remembers"*, museum archives.

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

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## Parent photographers

Send a jpeg to Editor@DanvilleWeekly.com of the best action shot from your child's game for consideration for our Sports page. Remember to include caption information: who, what, when, where—and the score.



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## Winter Turf continues for U14

Girls Mustang Fury cheer from the sidelines for a penalty kick goal to break the tie in overtime at the U-14 Winter Turf Invitational at the new Mustang Soccer Complex on Camino Tassajara; the sun sets on the tournament and the Valley on Saturday afternoon; Mustang Rampage player Cassidy Nicks finds air action against Sacramento United Extreme Red on Saturday morning.



## Xplosion caps off wins at State Cup

The Mustang Xplosion U10 Girls Division 1 Gold team recently completed its 2007 soccer season with an outstanding record of 60 wins, three losses and two ties, scoring an amazing 337 goals (5.18 goals/game) and surrendering only 51 goals (0.78 goals/game). The Xplosion was 9-0 in league play and competed in nine tournaments this past year, finishing with seven tournament championships and twice being finalists. The team capped off its tournament season with a 7-0 victory in the finals to win the Northern California State Cup Super Group Championship.

Team members are (back, l-r) Assistant Coach Scott Griffey, Ashley Arnett, Grace Stewardson, Kylee Hamon, Morgan McGarry, Madison Griffey, Colby Parker, Head Coach Lenny Lun; (front) Rachel Speros, Kelly Miller, Sammy Levy, Katie Carr, Sami Lang and Sherilyn Lee.



## Magic lives up to its name

The Mustang U14 Magic won first place in the Dick King Tournament against the Firebolts, with a final score 5-0. Magic placed second in the Crossroads Championships with the finals going into overtime with a final thrilling shoot-out against Livermore, which won 4-3 in sudden death.

Team members are (top, l-r) Coach Jill McMichael, Brandi Wilson, Dominique Wilton, Coach Kevin Clark, Kendal McMichael, Assistant Coach Rick Hatton; (middle) Madi Thomas, Hannah MacDonald, Bridget Hatton, Amanda Taylor, Jenny Smith, Jamie Schiller, Nicole Roy, Maria Roberts; (front) Jennifer Susic, Lauren Clark, Audrey Dameron, Alex Statley and Katherine Sharrock.



## Killer Bees bring buzz to Dick King

The Killer Bees of Mustang Soccer U-10B White won the 2007 Dick King Tournament against the Alamo Eels. The team is coached by David Sanghera and Vic Lorenc; members are Sam Anderson, Jonathan Ambrosio, Shashwat Bhargava, Joshua Dykzeul, Mateen Hirbod, Joseph Kelly, Alexander Lorenc, Christopher Miklasevich, Spencer Okamoto, Aaron Sanghera, Arjun Sudeora and Noah Williams.

## PREP SCHEDULE

### Friday, Jan. 18

**Men's Basketball**  
Monte Vista at Amador, 7 p.m.  
**Women's Basketball**  
Monte Vista vs. Amador, 7 p.m.  
**Men's Soccer**  
Monte Vista vs. Granada, 5:45 p.m.

### Saturday, Jan. 19

**Wrestling**  
Albany Invitational at Albany High, 7 a.m.

### Monday, Jan. 21

**Men's Soccer**  
Monte Vista vs. Deer Valley, 5 p.m.

### Tuesday, Jan. 22

**Women's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley vs. Livermore, 7 p.m.  
Monte Vista at Foothill, 7 p.m.  
**Women's Soccer**  
San Ramon Valley at Granada, 5:45 p.m.  
Monte Vista vs. Cal High, 5:45 p.m.  
**Wrestling**  
San Ramon Valley vs. Foothill, 7 p.m.  
Monte Vista at DV, 7 p.m.

### Wednesday, Jan. 23

**Men's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley at Livermore, 7 p.m.  
Monte Vista vs. Foothill, 7 p.m.  
**Men's Soccer**  
Monte Vista at Cal High, 5:45 p.m.

### Thursday, Jan. 24

**Women's Soccer**  
San Ramon Valley at Cal High, 5:45 p.m.  
Monte Vista vs. Livermore, 5:45 p.m.  
**Wrestling**  
Monte Vista at Amador, 7 p.m.

### Friday, Jan. 25

**Men's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley at Monte Vista, 7 p.m.  
**Women's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley vs. Monte Vista, 7 p.m.  
**Men's Soccer**  
Monte Vista at Livermore, 5:45 p.m.

### Saturday, Jan. 26

**Wrestling**  
Fairfield Tournament, 7 a.m.

### Tuesday, Jan. 29

**Women's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley vs. Amador, 7 p.m.  
Monte Vista at Granada, 7 p.m.  
**Women's Soccer**  
San Ramon Valley vs. Foothill, 5:45 p.m.

### Wednesday, Jan. 30

**Men's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley at Amador, 7 p.m.  
Monte Vista vs. Granada, 7 p.m.

### Thursday, Jan. 31

**Women's Soccer**  
Monte Vista at Amador, 5:45 p.m.

**Wrestling**  
San Ramon Valley at Livermore, 7 p.m.  
Monte Vista vs. Foothill, 7 p.m.

### Friday, Feb. 1

**Men's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley vs. Granada, 7 p.m.  
Monte Vista at Cal High, 7 p.m.  
**Women's Basketball**  
San Ramon Valley at Granada, 7 p.m.  
Monte Vista vs. Cal High, 7 p.m.  
**Men's Soccer**  
Monte Vista vs. Amador, 5:45 p.m.

# Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY • POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT WWW.DANVILLEWEEKLY.COM

## Art

### High School Artists and Musicians

Pioneer Art Gallery presents an exhibit of students' work from local high schools from Jan. 25-27, at the gallery, 524 Hartz Ave., Danville. This is a unique opportunity for young artists to display their work, win awards and gain recognition.

**Surf and Turf** Pioneer Art Gallery presents "Surf and Turf" which runs from Jan. 18-27, at the Pioneer Art Gallery, 524 Hartz Ave., Danville. A reception will be held from 4-7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 19, at the gallery. Call 356-2841.

## Auditions

**'School for Scandal'** Role Players will host auditions for "School for Scandal" at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 6, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St. and at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 7, at the Oak Hill Park Community Center, Danville. The theatre is looking for 11 males, ages 25-60 (may be double cast) and five females, ages 20-60. Prepare classic monologue and be familiar with play; British accent required. For an appointment, call (510) 865-4740. Call back will be on Feb. 9.

### Women's A Cappella Chorus

Come join Pride of the Pacific Chorus in making a joyful noise at 7:30 p.m., every Wednesday, at Lynnwood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton. The new chorus is starting its journey to greatness under the direction of Dr. Greg Lyne. Call (209) 830-7444 or visit [www.prideofthepacific.org](http://www.prideofthepacific.org).

## Author Visit

**Penny Warner and Simon Wood** Bay Books will host Penny Warner, author of "The Official Nancy Drew Handbook," and Simon Wood, author of "Paying the Piper," at 7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 25, at Bay Books, 2415 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Call 855-1524.

## Class Reunions

**Monte Vista High School 20 Year Reunion** The Monte Vista High School Class of 1987 is seeking members for its 20 year reunion. The reunion is planned for February 2008. To receive your invitation, e-mail [monte\\_vista\\_1987@yahoo.com](mailto:monte_vista_1987@yahoo.com).

## Clubs

**Alamo Women's Club** This club will host Millie Greenberg who will speak about the empowerment of women at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 23, at the Alamo Women's Club, 1401 Danville Blvd. Call 837-6548.

**American Sewing Guild** Start the year off with inspiration at the American Sewing Guild's Decades of Style Trunk Show from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 26, at Walnut Creek United Methodist Church, Social Hall, 1543 Sunnyvale Ave., Walnut Creek. Cost is \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members. Ten percent discount on patterns for ASG members. Call 439-4559 or visit [www.asgwalnutcreek.org](http://www.asgwalnutcreek.org).

**Diablo Bonsai Club** This club will host a workshop on "Formal Upright Style" from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 20, at Heather Farm Garden Center, Upper Room, 1540 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. Individual attention will be given to

those interested in the art of bonsai. Call 937-4216.

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

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

**Diablo Valley Fly Fisherman** This club meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at Heather Farm Lakeside Room, 301 N. San Carlos, Walnut Creek. Guests are welcome. For information, visit [www.diablovalleyflyfish.org](http://www.diablovalleyflyfish.org).

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

**Kiwanis San Ramon Valley** The San Ramon Valley Kiwanis meets from noon-1:30 p.m., every Thursday, at Round Hill Country Club, 3169 Roundhill Road, Alamo. Meetings include networking, lunch and a guest speaker. For information, visit its Web site at [www.kiwanis-srv.org](http://www.kiwanis-srv.org) or call 244-1227.

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

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

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

**San Ramon Valley Genealogical** This group meets at 10 a.m., on the third Tuesday of every month (except August and December), at the Danville Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Rd., Alamo. The public is welcome. Call Ed at 299-0881 or visit <http://arvgensoc.org/index>.

**San Ramon Valley Republican Women** This club will host a luncheon with guest speaker, Lores Rizkalla, at noon, Tuesday, Jan. 22, at the Crow Canyon Country Club, Danville. Ms. Rizkalla will speak on "2008: Republican Women and the Power to Shape History." Reservations are required; contact Sonall at 314-9129 or [mcvayall@aol.com](mailto:mcvayall@aol.com).

**Valley Stitchers Guild** This group will host, Sandra Ericson, who is a leading educator in the clothing and textile field, at 10 a.m., Monday, Feb. 4, at Faith Lutheran Church, 50 Woodsworth Lane, Pleasant Hill. Cost is \$5 for the meeting; annual memberships are \$25. Call Marie at 947-5817.

## Concerts

**California Symphony Presents Joyce Yang** Van Cliburn Silver Medalist Joyce Yang reunites with the California Symphony at 4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 27, and at 7:30 p.m.,

Tuesday, Jan. 29, at the Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$39-59. Call 280-2490 or visit [www.californiasymphony.org](http://www.californiasymphony.org).

**The Sun Kings** Community Concerts presents "The Sun Kings," the Beatles tribute group, at 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9, at San Ramon Valley High School, PAC, 501 Danville Blvd., Danville. Tickets are \$40 for gold seating, \$25 for adults or \$10 for students. Call 229-2710 or visit [www.communityconcerts.com](http://www.communityconcerts.com).

## Events

**2008 O'Neill International Conference** Scholars and devotees of Eugene O'Neill will come together at the 2008 O'Neill International Conference held from June 11-15, at the Tao House, Danville. Registration is now open; contact Diane Schinnerer at 828-0659 or [dmds@aol.com](mailto:dmds@aol.com).

**Spring Plant Sale** Ruth Bancroft Garden will host a Spring Plant Sale from 9-11 a.m. for members only and open to the public from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., April 5-12, at the Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1500 Bancroft Rd., Walnut Creek. Visit [www.ruthbancroftgarden.org](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org).

**USS Hornet Honors Aerial Firefighters** Aerial firefighters will be honored at a ceremony at 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9, at USS Hornet Aircraft Carrier, Pier 3, Alameda. The ceremony will launch a new permanent exhibit on the history of aerial firefighting in California. Cost is \$6-14. Call (510) 521-8448 or visit [www.uss-hornet.org](http://www.uss-hornet.org).

## Exhibits

**Agriculture for a Century, the Business of the Valley** Museum of the San Ramon Valley will host the "Agriculture for a Century, the Business of the Valley" exhibit from Jan. 22-May 10, at the museum at the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues. Museum hours are from 1-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Call 837-3750.

**Contemporary Warrior: Modern Day Tomb Soldiers** Bedford Gallery will host "Contemporary Warrior: Modern Day Tomb Soldiers," an exhibit of ceramic figures by Chinese artist, Wanxin Zhang, until March 9, at the Bedford Gallery, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Admission is \$3; free for members. Call 295-1416 or visit [www.bedfordgallery.org](http://www.bedfordgallery.org).

## Fundraisers

**10th Hats Off America Red T-Shirt Run and Walk** Hats Off American will host the 10th annual Red T-shirt Run and Walk from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9, at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Dr., Danville. Danville Mayor Candace Andersen will start the event. Cost is \$35; free for volunteers. All runners and volunteers will receive a red T-shirt and lunch donated by El Balazo Restaurant. Call 855-1950 or visit [www.hatsoffamerica.us](http://www.hatsoffamerica.us).

**Annual Crab Feed** Come and support a great cause at Outdoor Adventure Faire's Annual Crab Feed at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 26, at Charlotte Wood Middle School, 600 El Capitan Dr., Danville. Tickets are \$40 for adults, \$25 for children or \$350 for a table of 10. Menu includes garlic bread, salad, pasta, crab and dessert. The night will include live music and silent and live auctions. Call Jim at 820-3874 or Pete at 719-1950.

**Book Sale** Friends of the Danville Library will host a book sale from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, Jan. 18, 10

## WEEKEND PREVIEW



CATHERINE LINDBERG

## Diablo Summer and more on exhibit

"Diablo Summer" is one of the artworks being presented by the Pioneer Art Gallery in "Surf and Turf," an art exhibit featuring the works of Alan Ryall and Catherine Lindberg from Jan. 18-27, at 524 Hartz Ave., Danville. A reception will be held from 4-7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 19, at the gallery. Call 356-2841.

a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 19 and noon-4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 20, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. Proceeds will benefit Friends of the Danville Library. Memberships for the Friends of the Danville Library will be available at the door. Call 837-4889.

**Dakine Luau and Art Party** Mingle with artists and fellow Hawaiians at heart at the Dakine Luau and Art Party from 5-9 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 9, at the Pioneer Art Gallery, 524 Hartz Ave., Danville. Enjoy live music, hula dancing, Polynesian food and a drawing. Proceeds benefit the San Ramon Valley School District art programs. Cost is \$29 per person; reservations are due by Jan. 31. Call 876-4985.

**Spring 2008 Fashion Show** Amador Valley High School Fashion Club presents the 2008 Spring Fashion Show at 4 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 23, the Amador Valley High School Library, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. The show includes student models and designers as well as professional designers. Proceeds will benefit the Hurricane Katrina and Southern California fire victims. Tickets are \$8 in advance; \$12 at the door; front row seats are \$15 in advance. Call 931-0628.

**Super Bowl Sunday Crab Feed** Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley (VNVV) will host their annual Super

Bowl Sunday Crab Feed at 1 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 3, at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 400 Hartz Ave., Danville. Tickets are \$40. Door prizes and raffles will be awarded and the Super Bowl game will be broadcasted. Proceeds benefit organizations that VNVV supports. Visit [www.vnvvdv.com](http://www.vnvvdv.com).

## Health

**Achieving Healthy Weight Loss** Danville Library will host a workshop on "Achieving Healthy Weight Loss" at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 24, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. Dr. Nathalie Bera-Miller will discuss the key ingredients of achieving and maintaining a healthy weight. Call 837-4889.

**Chef and Trainer Seminar** Fitness Together will host a Chef and Trainer Seminar from 7:30-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 23, at Fitness Together Studio, 480 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. The seminar will include cooking demos and tips, a Q&A session on better eating habits and a discussion about hidden sugar calories. Call 837-1700.

**Mindful Chi Kung** Chi Kung is a moving meditation that integrates

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mind, body and spirit to enhance health and strength the immune system. Learn about this system from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Jan. 19, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This event is free for cancer patients, their families and friends. Call 933-0107.

## Kids and Teens

**“Peter and the Wolf”** Jim Gamble’s Puppets interpret Prokofiev’s favorite classic “Peter and the Wolf” from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 26, at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$10, \$14 and \$18. Call 931-5361 or visit [www.civcartstickets.org](http://www.civcartstickets.org).

**‘Amore, Amore!’** Blackhawk Museum will host “Amore, Amore!” from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 10, at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Children will learn about what St. Valentine, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and some automobiles have in common. This event is a free drop-in with paid museum admission. Call 736-2277.

**Hidden Homes Preschool Class** Enroll now for the Hidden Homes Preschool Class from 10-10:45 a.m., Tuesdays, Jan. 22-Feb. 12, at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum, 1931 First Ave., Walnut Creek. Cost is \$30 for members, \$40 for non-members. Pre-registration is required; visit [www.wildlife-museum.org](http://www.wildlife-museum.org).

**Winter Story Time Sessions** Danville Library will offer story times from Jan. 28-March 5, in the Danville Library, Children’s Reading Room, 400 Front St. Mother Goose Time is for children ages birth-24 months, at 10:15 a.m., Mondays and Tuesdays; Toddler Time is for children ages 25 months-36 months, at 11:15 a.m., Mondays and Tuesdays and Preschool Time is for children 3-5 years old, at 10:15 a.m., Wednesdays. Caregivers must attend with children. Call 837-4889.

## Lectures/ Workshops

**“The Price of Privilege”** The Seven Hills School will host a lecture with Madeline Levine, Ph.D., author of “The Price of Privilege” from 6:45-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 6, at Seven Hills School, 975 N. San Carlos Circle, Walnut Creek. Cost is \$15; educators are free. Call 974-4981 or visit [www.sevenhillsschool.org](http://www.sevenhillsschool.org).

**911 Earth Seminar** Gayler Construction is looking for 250 homeowners who are interested in buying bulk solar energy systems. The company will host “911 Earth” seminars on Jan. 22, Feb. 20 and March 13. For information, call Wendy at 820-0185 or visit [www.gaylerconstruction.com](http://www.gaylerconstruction.com).

**Couples and Cancer** Come with your partner for a group discussion on the impact of cancer on relationships from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 22, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Share struggles, solutions, issues and insights to support your relationship during and after cancer treatment. Call 933-0107.

**Global Financial Issues** East Bay World Affairs Council will host a program on “Global Financial Issues” at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 31, at Massimo Ristorante, 1604 Locust St., Walnut Creek. Cost for the program only is \$8 for members or \$10 for non-members; cost for the dinner and program is \$34 for members or \$36 for non-members. For reservations, call (415) 293-4600 or visit [www.itsy-ourworld.org](http://www.itsy-ourworld.org).

**History of Computer Games** Danville Library Foundation will host a workshop on the “History of Computer Games” at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 7, at the Danville Library, Mt. Diablo Room, 400 Front St. This event is free. Seating is available on a first-come, first-seated basis. Call 837-4889.

**Life Beyond Cancer** The Wellness Community will host a six-week workshop designed to help cancer survivors make the transition from active treatment to life after treatment from 6-8:30 p.m., Jan. 22-Feb. 26, at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Call 933-0107.

**Web Wizard Database Workshop** Danville Library will host the “Web Wizard Database” workshop at 6:45 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 16, at the Danville Library, 400 Front St. This workshop will help you learn how to use the library’s online databases for kids; you will be able to find information for school assignments from home. Space is limited and registration is required by calling 837-4889.

**Wills and Trusts Seminar** Tony La Russa’s Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) will host a wills and trusts seminar, with guest speaker, Sarah S. Nix, from 6-7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 7, at ARF, 2890 Mitchell Dr., Walnut Creek. This event is free, but reservations are required by calling 296-3103.

## Literary Events

**Applications Available for Student Days** High school students in Contra Costa County are invited to apply to participate in the 2008 Student Days, a program that offers professional training in drama, art, photography and writing, at the Eugene O’Neill’s Tao House in Danville. The program begins on March 5 with workshops on art; March 6 will focus on drama; March 12 with workshops on photography, and March 13 with workshops on writing. Applications are available by calling 820-1818 or visiting [www.myspace.com/eugeneoneill](http://www.myspace.com/eugeneoneill); applications are due by Feb. 15.

## Live Music

**Brazilian Guitar Quartet** Brazilian Guitar Quartet is one of the world’s leading guitar ensembles and will perform at 7 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 20, at the Grand Theatre Center for the Arts, 715 Central Ave., Tracy. Tickets are \$30, \$35, \$40, \$45 and \$55. Call (209) 831-6858 or visit [www.atthegrand.org](http://www.atthegrand.org).

## Miscellaneous

**The Energy Primer for Kids** The Energy Primer for Kids is a 25-page booklet of simple facts pertaining to current energy issues and is useful for adults that are evaluating energy related claims of politicians. For a free copy, write to Synergy Institute, P.O. Box 561, San Ramon, CA 94583. A speaker is available for groups wishing to hear about the global warming propaganda. Call 837-7612.

**Vista Grande Alternative Program Annual Orientation** The Vista Grande Continuous Progress Alternative Program will host its annual orientation meeting at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 7, at Vista Grande Elementary School, in the school’s multi-purpose room, 667 Diablo Rd., Danville. Learn more about the program and pick up the 2008/09 kindergarten class. Call 362-4098.

## On Stage

**‘Bus Stop’** Classic American play in which a mixed bag of bus passengers (and strangers) are stranded in a 1950s Topeka diner in a snowstorm. “Bus Stop” plays at 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday and at 2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 18-Feb. 9, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$22-25, \$15 for students and groups of 10 or more. Call 820-1278 or visit [www.danvilletheatre.com](http://www.danvilletheatre.com).

**‘The Heat Is On’** An explosive theatrical concert based on the life of Rita Hayworth, “The Heat Is On” will start at 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$35. Call 973-3372 or visit [www.sanramonperformingarts.com](http://www.sanramonperformingarts.com).

**‘Wigged Out!’** Hair on Stage presents “Wigged Out!” playing until June 21, at Hair on Stage, 520 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. The box office is open from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Saturday. Call 855-SHOW (855-7469) or visit [www.wiggedout.org](http://www.wiggedout.org).

**Company C Contemporary Ballet** Company C Contemporary Ballet will perform a repertoire by David Parsons, Antony Tudor, Alexandre Proia and Artistic Director Charles Anderson at 8 p.m., Friday, Jan. 25, at the Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$40 for adults, \$25 for students and seniors. Visit [www.companycballet.org](http://www.companycballet.org).

**Late Nite Catechism** San Ramon Performing Arts presents “Late Night Catechism” at 2 p.m., Sundays, until Jan. 27, at the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$25. Call 973-3372 or visit [www.sanramonperformingarts.com](http://www.sanramonperformingarts.com).

**The Second City “One Nation Under Blog”** The Second City presents “One Nation Under Blog” from 8-10 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 2, at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$20, \$25 and \$30. The show is appropriate for adult audiences. For tickets, call 931-3444 or visit [www.civcartstickets.org](http://www.civcartstickets.org).

## Political Notes

**Democratic Presidential Campaign Forum** Tri Valley Democratic Club will host a Democratic Presidential Campaign Forum from 7-9 p.m., Monday, Jan. 21, at IBEW 595 Union Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. Clinton, Edwards, Kucinich and Obama campaign representatives will address the club. This event is free and the public is invited. Wheelchair accessible and refreshments will be served. Call 831-8355 or visit [www.trivalleydems.com](http://www.trivalleydems.com).

## Seniors

**Golden Crane Chinese New Year** The Golden Crane Senior group will be celebrating the Chinese New Year on Monday, Jan. 28, at the San Ramon Senior Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd. Join the celebration with food and good cheer as we bring in the year of the rat. Cost is \$4. E-mail [jadragnfly@yahoo.com](mailto:jadragnfly@yahoo.com).

**HICAP Appointments** The Health Insurance Counseling Advocacy Program (HICAP) offers its services free to anyone on Medicare or at least 60 years old with questions about health insurance coverage. Appointments are available the second Wednesday and the fourth Tuesday of every month by appointment; call 314-3400.

**Prime Time** Prime Time for seasoned citizens meets from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., every Tuesday, at Community Presbyterian Church, 222 W. El Pintado, Danville. Activities include line dancing, English handbells, ceramics, wood carving and more. A home-cooked meal is served at noon for \$4. Rides are provided by County Connection Link for \$3.50 round trip; call Gloria at 837-5229. For information, call 820-6387.

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

**Seniors Program** Danville Veterans’ Memorial Hall Lounge hosts a senior drop-in program from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday-Friday, at Veterans’ Memorial Hall, 400 Front St., Danville. Activities include playing cards and board games, visit with friends and meet new people. Call 314-3400.

## Spiritual

**A Silent Retreat** San Damiano will host a silent retreat on “Giving Our Hearts to God” with guest speaker, Paula D’Arcy, author of “Gift of the

Red Bird” and “When People Grieve” from Friday-Sunday, Jan. 25-27, at San Damiano, 710 Highland Dr., Danville. Cost is \$220 for a private room, \$190 for a shared room. Call 837-9141, ext. 315.

**Family Candlelight Rosary St.** Isidore Church will host a Family Candlelight Rosary at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 25, at the church, 440 La Gonda Way, Danville. Singing sensation Diana Nagy will be the soloist. A dessert reception and babysitting will be provided. Call 552-8002 or visit [www.st-isidore-danville.org](http://www.st-isidore-danville.org).

**Martin Luther King Convocation for World Peace** An interfaith peace service with speakers from Hindu, Muslim, Jewish and Christian traditions will take place at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 21, at the Wesley Center, San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, 902 Danville Blvd., Alamo. The public is invited to pray together and work for peace. Call 837-5243.

## Support Groups

**Addiction Counseling** Narconon offers free counseling, assessments and referrals to centers nationwide to families in need of drug or alcohol addiction help. Call (800) 468-6933 or visit [www.stopaddiction.com](http://www.stopaddiction.com).

**American Chronic Pain Association** The ACPA group meets from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. every second and fourth Monday at the Community Presbyterian Church Library at 222 W. El Pintado Rd., Danville.

**Bipolar Support Group** The Tri-Valley Support Group provides free peer support for people with mood disorders. It meets from 7:15-8:45 p.m., every Wednesday, at St. Clare’s Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Call 560-0842

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

**Man to Man Prostate Cancer** San Ramon Regional Medical Center offers “Man to Man Prostate Cancer Support Group” from 7:30-9 p.m., the second Tuesday of every month, at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, South Building, West Day Room, 7777 Norris Canyon Road. Call 933-0107.

## Volunteering

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

**California Independent Film Festival Association** Support the Arts in the Tri-Valley by joining the California Independent Film Festival Association. The donation of the membership will support independent film events. For information, visit [www.caindiefest.com](http://www.caindiefest.com).

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

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

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



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## INDEX

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

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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

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#### Pregnant? Considering Adoption

Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions 866-413-6293 (AAN CAN)

#### Writers Wanted

The Academy for Alternative Journalism, established by papers like this one to promote diversity in the alternative press, seeks talented journalists and students (college seniors and up) for a paid summer writing program at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. The eight-week program (June 22 - August 17, 2008) aims to recruit talented candidates from diverse backgrounds and train them in alt-weekly style feature writing. Ten participants will be chosen and paid \$3,000 plus housing and travel allowances. For information and an application visit <http://aaaj.aan.org>. You may also email us at [altacademy@northwestern.edu](mailto:altacademy@northwestern.edu). Applications must be postmarked by February 8, 2008. Northwestern University is an equal opportunity educator and employer. (AAN CAN)

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#### \$1000 Gift

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#### \$500 Police Impounds

Cars from \$500! Tax repos, US Marshal and IRS sales! Cars, trucks, SUVs, Toyotas, Hondas, Chevys™s, more! For listings, call 1-800-298-4150 xC107. (AAN CAN)

#### Donate Vehicle

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

#### Donate Your Car

Children's Cancer Fund! Help Save A Child's Life Through Research & Support! Free Vacation Package. Fast, Easy & Tax Deductible. Call 1-800-252-0615. (Cal-SCAN)



#### BMW 1991 850i

Run upto 175mph. 105K mls, V-12 gets 16 city and 21 hwy. XLNT cond. 20" MOMO wheels. Must See. Must Sell. (775) 846-2277

Chevrolet 2002 Venture - \$8,700

Pace Arrow 1989 Motor H0me - \$13,000B0

### 210 Garage/Estate Sales

#### Menlo Park, 1441 Modoc Ave, Jan 11- Jan 20, 6-9

Mercedes 4dr 70' 2K; SVHs Cameras \$120 ea., HP Pavilion 8235nr Notebook pc \$1350. 650.521.0454

Pleasanton, 3649 Dunsuir Circle, Jan 19, 9-12noon

Pleasanton, Vbc - 7106 Johnson Dr., Sat. Feb.2nd 7AM-12:30PM

### 215 Collectibles & Antiques

Coffee Mill, Pepper Mill & Spice - \$89

Garantied Forged Grinder - \$39

Hood's Sarsaparilla bottle - \$28

Olympic Pins - \$3

partylite birthday cake candle - \$25.00

Precious Moments 1979-2000

Precious Moments 9"

### 240 Furnishings/ Household items

Beige leather loveseat and chair - \$550

Candles - \$15

Cherry Armoire - \$200.00

Custom Coffee Table - \$300

Sewing Machine, Viking Designer 2 - \$1,950

Signed Print - \$7



#### SOFA SECTIONAL

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Whirlpool Washer & Dryer - \$250.00

Whirlpool Washer and GAS Dryer - \$250

White table w/ two arm chairs - \$200.00

### 245 Miscellaneous

#### Sawmills for Sale

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3 youth disneyland costumes - \$60.00

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Craftsman table saw - \$75 obo

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### 260 Sports & Exercise Equipment

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### 345 Tutoring/ Lessons

#### High School Math Tutor

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### 355 Items for Sale

disneyland youth costumes

## Mind & Body

### 420 Healing/ Bodywork

#### REIKI

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### 425 Health Services

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5 to 80 acres, lowest possible prices. EZ terms. Call AZLR for free recorded message. 1-888-547-4926. (Cal-SCAN)

**Bank Foreclosures!**  
Homes from \$10,000! 1-3 bedroom available! HUD, Repos, REOs, etc. These homes must sell! For listings, call 1-800-425-1620 ext. H107. (AAN CAN)

**Bulk Land Sale**

40 acres - \$39,900. Moses Lake, Washington. Priced for quick sale. Beautiful land, interesting topography, good views & setting, abundant wildlife. Surveyed on maintained road. Financing available. Call WALR 1-866-585-5687. (Cal-SCAN)

**Closeout Sale - 36 Acres**  
\$29,900. Price is drastically reduced by motivated seller. Beautiful setting with fresh mountain air. Abundant wildlife. Secluded with good access. Financing available. Eureka Springs Ranch is offered by AZLR. ADWR report avail. Call 1-877-301-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

**New Mexico Sacrifice!**  
140 acres was \$149,900, Now Only \$69,900. Amazing 6000 ft. elevation. Incredible mountain views. Mature tree cover. Power and year round roads. Excellent financing. Priced for quick sale. Call NML and R, Inc. 1-888-204-9760. (Cal-SCAN)

**Priced for Quick Sale**  
Nevada 5 acres - \$19,900. Beautiful building site with electric and county maintained roads. 360 degree views. Great recreational opportunities. Financing available. Call now! 1-877-349-0822. (Cal-SCAN)

**River Access Retreat**  
Washington. 6 AC - \$49,900. 15 AC - Old farm building, \$89,900. Incredible land and gorgeous setting. Limited available. EZ Terms. Call WALR 1-866-836-9152. (Cal-SCAN)

**Southern Colorado Ranch**  
Sale 35 Acres- \$29,900. Spectacular Rocky Mountain Views Year round access, elec/tele included. Excellent Financing available w/low down payment. Call Red Creek Land Co. Today! 1-866-696-5263 x3469. (Cal-SCAN)

**Stop Renting!**  
Government and bank foreclosures! \$0 to low down! No credit check ok. Call now! 1-800-454-8939. (AAN CAN)

**Utah Ranch Dispersal**  
Newly Released Acreage. 40 AC only \$29,900. Dramatic views of Uinta Mountains. Great recreational area. Close to conveniences. Offered by motivated seller. Limited available. EZ Terms. Call UTLR 1-888-693-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

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**PET OF THE WEEK**



**Relax with Sammy**

Meet Sammy. This mellow fellow is a 5-year-old, neutered male Bernese Mountain Dog/Golden Retriever mix with a friendly, easy-going personality. Sammy is relaxed with just about everyone including other dogs, cats and kids. He enjoys going for walks and he loves treats. Sammy weighs 65 pounds and he has a thick gold and white coat. Sammy has hip dysplasia so he should have only moderate exercise. To meet Sammy and obtain more information about his hip dysplasia, contact the Tri-Valley SPCA, 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin. It's open from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wed. and Thurs. and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fri. to Sun. Call 479-9670. Visit www.eastbayspca.org for photos of other pets that are available for adoption.

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

## HOME SALES

Source: California REsource

This week's data represents homes sold during December 2007

### Alamo

**1374 Danville Boulevard M.** Ganzberger to Jone Trust for \$639,000

**25 Golden Grass Court** Davidon Homes to C. Swany for \$2,197,000

**121 High Eagle Road** Shaw Trust to M. & P. Cooke for \$1,475,000

### Danville

**22 Channi Court** Shapell Industries to E. Karuppiyah for \$492,000

**26 Channi Court** Shapell Industries to G. Chan for \$501,500

**126 Channi Loop** Shapell Industries to G. Chan for \$501,500

**153 Channi Loop** Shapell Industries to S. Shadic for \$460,500

**184 Channi Loop** Shapell Industries to E. & C. Delarosa for \$456,000

**188 Channi Loop** Shapell Industries to W. Chu for \$465,500

**192 Channi Loop** Shapell Industries to F. Lau for \$502,000

**292 Channi Loop** Shapell Industries to X. Tang for \$464,000

**296 Channi Loop** Shapell Industries to S. & B. Kim for \$502,000

**2024 Colmar Street** KB Homes to B. Huang for \$840,000

**3357 Deer Hollow Drive** Bailey Trust to Smoot Trust for \$2,200,000

**3007 East Griffon Street** Shapell Industries to Y. Chen for \$900,000

**3011 East Griffon Street** Shapell Industries to T. & J. Lloyd for \$1,113,000

**3017 East Griffon Street** Shapell Industries to J. Singer for \$702,000

**3039 East Griffon Street** Shapell Industries to B. Li for \$1,102,000

**3057 East Griffon Street** Shapell Industries to R. & C. Dauth for \$1,303,000

**3060 East Griffon Street** Shapell Industries to B. & B. Kassar for \$1,142,000

**3066 East Griffon Street** Shapell Industries to R. & A. Romhanyi for \$1,036,500

**3072 East Griffon Street** Shapell Industries to E. & A. Zhang for \$1,060,000

**67 Feather River Court P.** Fry to P. & B. Freeland for \$1,100,000

**851 Griffon Court** Shapell Industries to K. & M. King for \$1,098,500

**5 Lodgehill Court** Patry Trust to K. & J. Sebre for \$845,000

**2122 Lusitano Street** Shapell Industries to A. Chen for \$849,500

**2200 Lusitano Street** Shapell Industries to J. Park for \$725,000

**63 Marques Court** Griffith Trust to A. Puccinelli for \$557,500

**27 Marques Place** US Bank to M. Gohl for \$490,000

**3173 Martingale Street** Ponderosa Homes to L. Berwick for \$1,312,000

**3191 Martingale Street** Ponderosa Homes to R. & H. Chua for \$1,071,000

**516 Quivira Court G. & S.** Hebert to Patry Trust for \$1,135,000

**108 Shadow Creek Court** J. & S. Gill to A. Tafaghodi for \$882,000

### Walnut Creek

**3142 Lippizaner Lane R.** Johnson to Moylan Trust for \$720,000

**3031 Mayhew Court** Bennetts Trust to B. & A. Pennington for \$393,000

**420 North Civic Drive #406** A. Kononovich to J. Shiller for \$430,000

**2700 Oak Road #28 P.** Shannon to T. Trueblood for \$294,500

**2431 Olympic Boulevard** Gideon Trust to L. & J. Deslippe for \$536,500

**2893 Ptarmigan Drive #1** Lubkin Trust to Ferguson Trust for \$383,000

**2225 Ptarmigan Drive #2** Stephens Trust to M. & D. Artist for \$520,000

**2705 Saklan Indian Drive #7** R. Davis to Coxeter Trust for \$720,000

**2403 Stirrup Court** Taylor Trust to H. White for \$871,500

**85 Sun Valley Drive** Bump Trust to M. & K. Lasky for \$505,000

**1532 Sunnyvale Avenue #2** Crd Limited to E. & E. Tolentino for \$314,500

**1552 Sunnyvale Avenue** Crd Limited to J. Boxley for \$279,500

**4521 Terra Granada Drive #1A** Watt Trust to Kotzebue Trust for \$625,000

**1840 Tice Creek Drive #2329** Dooley Trust to Deome Trust for \$590,000

**1304 Walden Road #244** Washington Mutual Bank to ECM Limited for \$325,000

**1246 Walker Avenue #205 A.** Pollock to F. & L. Haswell for \$225,000

**2117 Ward Drive** J. Pomerantz to D. Meyers for \$615,000

**641 Wiget Lane** Discovery Builders to T. Sandoval for \$1,630,000

**642 Wimbledon Road** Herrington Trust to Jewel Trust for \$870,000

## SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during December 2007

### Alamo

Total sales reported: 3

Lowest sale reported: \$639,000

Highest sale reported: \$2,197,000

Average sales reported: \$1,437,000

### Danville

Total sales reported: 30

Lowest sale reported: \$456,000

Highest sale reported: \$2,200,000

Average sales reported: \$860,300

### Walnut Creek

Total sales reported: 19

Lowest sale reported: \$225,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,630,000

Average sales reported: \$570,921

## OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

### ALAMO

#### 3 Bedrooms

**101 East St.** \$969,000  
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 989-2989

### DANVILLE

#### 3 Bedrooms

**421 Garden Creek Pl.** \$519,950  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

#### 4 Bedrooms

**842 Matadera Cir.** \$1,282,888  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-2508

**200 Alicante Pl.** \$1,325,000  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 855-6410

**2651 Finley Rd.** \$3,700,000  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

#### 5 Bedrooms

**104 Parkhaven Dr.** \$1,200,000  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

**308 Sunset Dr.** \$1,249,000  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

**405 Skycrest Dr.** \$4,965,000  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-8883

#### 6 Bedrooms

**39 Green Gables Ct.** \$1,899,000  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 876-6575

### SAN RAMON

#### 2 Bedrooms

**9024 Craydon Cir.** \$220,000  
Sat/Sun 1-4 UCB / Brian Wright 417-7138

### DUBLIN

#### 4 Bedrooms

**10762 Inspiration Cir.** \$1,028,000  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 583-1121

**8035 Holanda Ln.** \$569,000  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 577-5510

**6974 Prince Dr.** \$639,000  
Sun 1-4 Tri-Valley Realtors 270-9000

**7788 Woodren Ct.** \$678,888  
Sat 1-4 Re/Max 580-8011

**6023 Hillbrook Pl.** \$748,888  
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 784-3068

**7823 Crossridge Rd.** \$779,000  
Sun 1:30-4:30 Hometown GMAC 997-2411

### PLEASANTON

#### 2 Bedrooms

**1847 Harms Dr.** \$649,900  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 462-7653

#### 3 Bedrooms

**2809 Whitney Dr.** \$614,500  
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3863

#### 4 Bedrooms

**72 Castlewood Dr.** \$2,350,000  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Intero 484-2045

**4677 Helpert Ct.** \$689,950  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436

**3730 Crofters Ct.** \$799,000  
Sun 1-4 Re/Max 200-7210

**946 Madeira Dr.** \$879,000  
Sun 1-4 Allied Brokers 846-3755

**3645 Dunsmuir Cir.** \$949,000  
Sun 1:30-4 Alain Pinel 998-9747

#### 5 Bedrooms

**8330 Moller Ranch Dr.** \$1,598,888  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Re/Max 580-8011

**5725 Ohana Pl.** \$1,999,995  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 846-6500

### LIVERMORE

#### 4 Bedrooms

**5075 Erica Wy.** \$524,950  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436

**6608 Tiffany Cmn.** \$549,000  
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 963-8322

#### 5 Bedrooms

**1642 Feldspar Ct.** \$939,000  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 583-1121

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Gated Estate Property in West Side Alamo Updated \$2,239,000



West Side Alamo 3.72 acres  
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Danville Sycamore  
X2000

Beautifully updated single story on large lot on cul de sac Street. 4 bedroom, 3 car garage, and pool. Price \$875,000



West Side Danville .93 Acre  
X5000

Prime West Side Danville Location. Updated 3 bed and 3 bath with an office. Mostly flat lot with view. Priced to sell \$1,450,000

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