

# The Hills Living

MAY 2019

A SOCIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SERRANO

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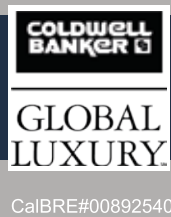




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**PUBLISHER** 530-321-2090  
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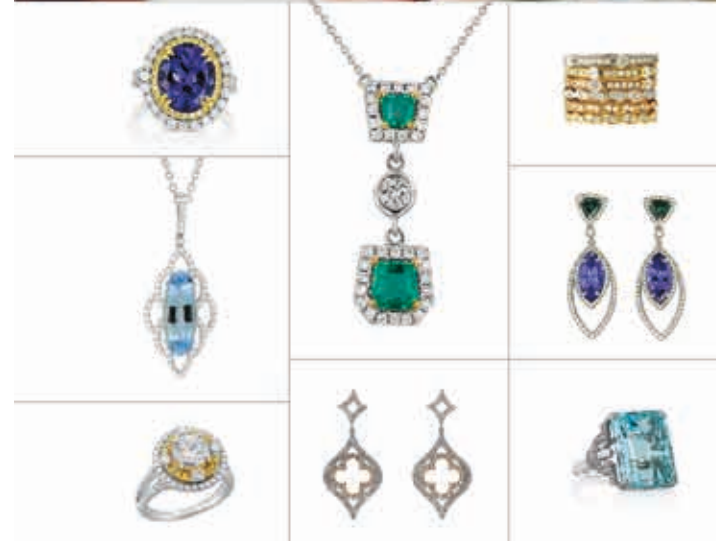
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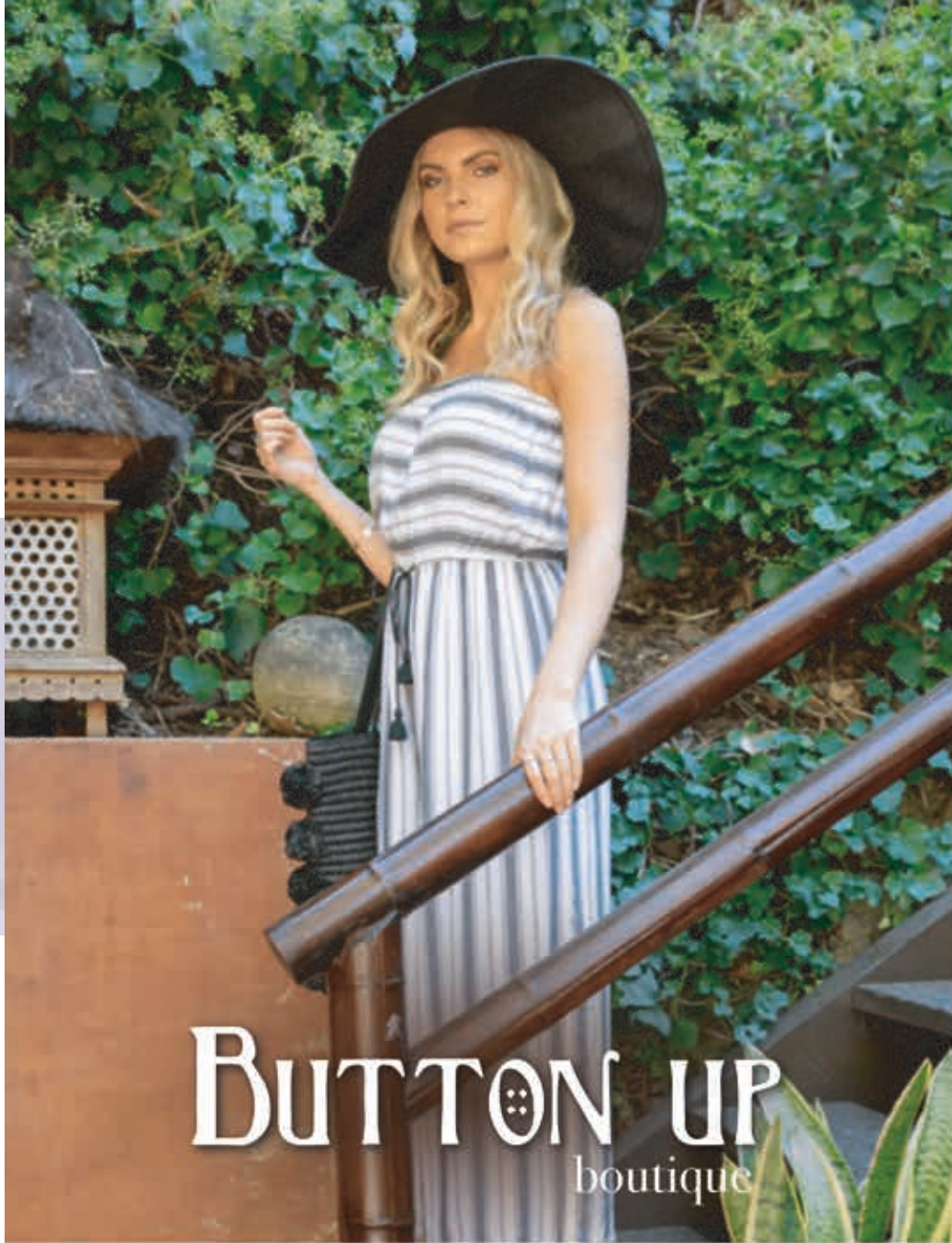
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# MAY is Here...

*Show US the FLOWERS!*

*"The sun loved the moon so much that he died every night to let her breathe."* UNKNOWN

Jenny Thurman

## publisher's note

Wow, May,

You sure snuck up quickly and brought with you some VERY warm weather! Of course, we knew that would happen this year after all that RAIN!

Thank you for the incredible turnout to our C. Knight's Steakhouse event. We were graced by Wally & Jenny Richardson and John and Eileen Hidahl's presence, along with many other neighbors and friends.

In this issue the Mendoza family shares their story and their hearts with us, we meet Chayce the adorable blind Daschund, we can TRY to keep up with Ryan Rogers (lacrosse star), we introduce you to country music/TV reality star Coffey Anderson (you may already know him), we follow the Cartiers to the Antarctic, and SO much more!

As I write this note, my 82-year-old dad is sleeping on my couch. I feel like it is Christmas when he comes to stay from time to time. It is such a gift to share time with him, not knowing what tomorrow brings. He is such a sweet soul...

Serrano, wherever you are in life, take time to appreciate the people,

the blessings and the abundance around you. Nothing is guaranteed, and any of us could lose everything tomorrow. Live as if this is your last day on earth. I have to remind myself to live that way every day!

Here's a poem I wrote that many have asked me to share. I have been hesitant...BUT, here goes!

### Finding me

*Half my life was over  
Spent on being lost  
Not like I imagined  
Picket fence and all*

*I flirted with the devil  
My goal to self destruct  
To silence all the voices saying  
'You're not good enough'*

*Lies were loudly screaming  
'This is true' inside my head  
Jumbled incongruities  
Struggling to make sense*

*Rock bottom was a place  
I'd come to know extremely well  
I'd always been afraid of it  
This nightmare straight from hell*

*This time I embraced the rocks  
Set up camp and stayed*

*Allowed the process to unfold  
And walked out unafraid*

*Don't get me wrong  
This was hardest thing I've ever done  
I took despising who I was  
And turned it into love*

*That's right I learned to love myself  
And even like me too  
A cleansing of my heart and soul  
My life began anew*

*The hopelessness subsided  
A zest for life sprung forth  
Joy filled every crevasse  
And gratitude was born*

*Now I see my life  
And shake my head in disbelief  
This courageous painful journey  
Held the key to finding me*

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here's the dream team!

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# The Best In The West...

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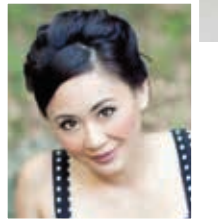
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Please help us welcome Alexa Martinez and Julius Spring to our team. Alexa is our new Social Media Director, and Julius is our new Website Builder/Manager. Thanks for another month well done, my friends and teammates. THL wouldn't be here without you! You are highly appreciated and valued beyond any recognition we could offer. Just keep being FABULOUS!





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family feature...

It all started with the need for change. After a family vacation to Costa Rica, returning to normality started feeling like a rat race. The Gumina-Mendoza family: Robert, Melissa, Dominic and Maya wanted to slow it down a bit. They wanted to breathe fresh air on a daily basis and not have to drive around for 15 minutes looking for parking at their local Safeway. A series of fortunate events is what brought them to this gem of a place that they now call home.

It began with a childhood friend moving to El Dorado Hills and raving about how much she loved the community. The deal was sealed when they met their wonderful real estate agent, Melissa Cvitanovic from the Menser Group, who helped them find the perfect home to house a Spanish Immersion in-home preschool. “It was the third house we toured, and that was that,” Melissa says.

Robert Gumina was raised in San Francisco and has a background in finance, and Melissa Mendoza was raised in Burlingame and has a master’s of education. They combined their knowledge and opened up Step by Step, Paso a Paso Preschool 10 years ago in San Mateo. They opened up their second location in El Dorado Hills in September 2018. Their business has become a true family business where every member of the family plays an important role, even their



three Labs: Pipa, Butter and Olive. Dominic, their 9-year-old son, loves to greet the students before he goes off to school and Maya, their 6-year-old daughter, loves to help the kids with their morning activities. Melissa tends to think of the crazy ideas to make their home a kid-friendly house and Robert brings them to life. Melissa says, “We can blame it on Pinterest! The slides on the side of the house; that was all Robert’s idea. He really impressed me with that one.”

The Gumina-Mendoza household is a busy one. A typical Monday through Friday consists of families drop-ping-off and picking-up, children playing, laughing, learning, dogs chasing the squirrels, and Melissa or Robert rushing to get their kids to school on time. Between the kids, the students, the dogs and the parents, you can always hear chatter and laughter, and that’s the way this family likes it.

The weekends are made for friends and family as dinner parties are a common occurrence. “We want our house to be the house where people just come over, where they want to stop by for a chat or a glass of wine and then roll into dinner.”

Their favorite part about El Dorado Hills is the community. From the parks to exploring the trails, the lake and fun restaurants, there is always something fun to do. Their kids love the freedom of childhood that they are able to experience in EDH. Robert and Melissa both echo the same thought: “As parents, watching your kids run from neighbors house to neighbors house and have the opportunity to grow up like the good old days is priceless. There really is a sense of community and that’s one of the most important things to us; we are lucky we were able to find that here.”

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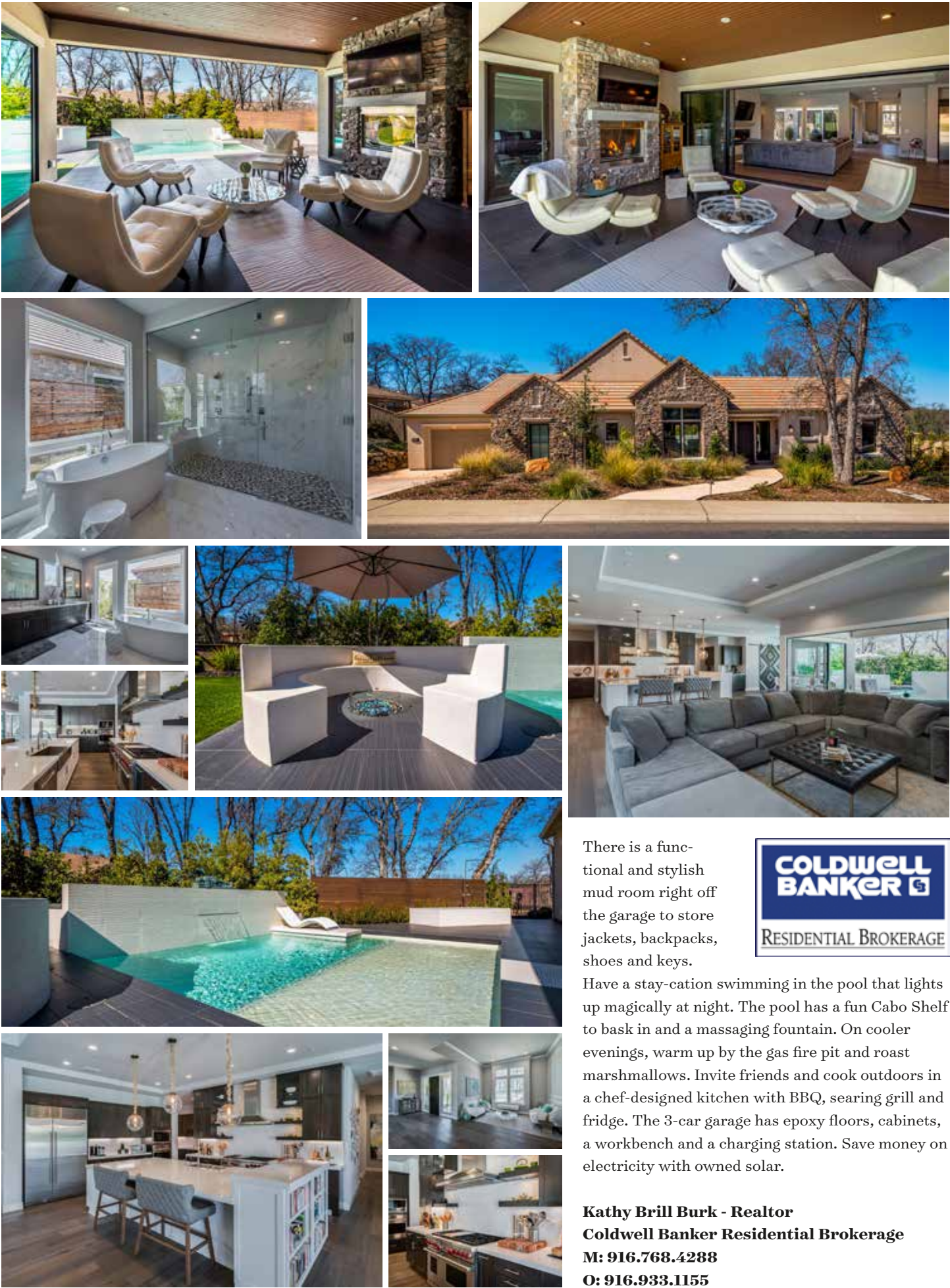


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Nestled among the majestic oaks on a quiet street in Serrano Country Club is this luxurious, exquisitely appointed beautiful single story home with over \$600,000 in upgrades. The Zen interior courtyard sets a serene vibe for the home. The living room has views out the front windows and the custom panels on the walls showcase the high ceilings. The oversized dining is perfect for when family comes for those special occasions. Entertain friends in the enormous chef's kitchen (with a large quartz island, Wolf stove, built-in fridge and backsplash that goes to the ceiling). The informal dining area has views of the resort backyard. The spacious family room has a custom stone wall, fireplace and a wall of stacking doors that disappear to extend living and allows for seamless entry into covered California Room with a fireplace, TV and auto Phantom screen. The romantic master is a retreat with a fireplace and the master bath is spa-like with a soaking tub and walk-in shower.

This spacious home is 4,420 square feet on almost a half-acre and has three additional en-suite bedrooms as well a great room with custom, designer barn doors that could be an additional bedroom/office/bonus room. Another barn door encloses the laundry room that has lots of cabinets for storage, a sink and plenty of counter space to fold laundry.



There is a functional and stylish mud room right off the garage to store jackets, backpacks, shoes and keys.



Have a stay-cation swimming in the pool that lights up magically at night. The pool has a fun Cabo Shelf to bask in and a massaging fountain. On cooler evenings, warm up by the gas fire pit and roast marshmallows. Invite friends and cook outdoors in a chef-designed kitchen with BBQ, searing grill and fridge. The 3-car garage has epoxy floors, cabinets, a workbench and a charging station. Save money on electricity with owned solar.

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# Steak Oscar for TWO...

*Is Your Mouth Watering?*



Resident & Chef...Crystal Schubert

## Steak Oscar for Two

### Ingredients:

#### For the Steak:

- 2 Filet Mignon Steaks
- 1 tablespoon Himalayan salt
- 3 tablespoons fresh cracked black pepper
- 2 tablespoons avocado oil

#### For the Hollandaise:

- 2 egg yolks
- 1 stick butter
- Juice of 1 lemon
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Dash of fresh tarragon minced

#### For the Crab Cakes:

- 1 Dungeness crab, shelled and cartilage removed
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice



- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon Himalayan salt
- 1 ½ teaspoon cracked black pepper
- 1 tablespoon fresh parsley, finely minced
- ½ cup fresh grated Parmesan cheese
- ½ teaspoon Old Bay Seasoning
- 1 teaspoon avocado oil

#### For the Shrimp:

- 4 Extra Large Shrimp, peeled, deveined, with tails attached
- 1 teaspoon Himalayan salt
- 1 ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon avocado oil

#### For Asparagus:

- 1 pound fresh asparagus
- ¼ cup unsalted butter
- Salt and pepper to taste

### Directions:

First things first, preheat oven to 500 with a large cast-iron skillet in the oven. Trust me on this one...your filet will cook to a perfect medium rare every time! While your pan is pre-heating in the oven, you're going to prep the rest of your ingredients. As well as preheating the oven, you're going to preheat a small saucepan and fill it halfway with water and turn on medium heat because you want the water boiling by the time it's time to whip together that beautiful Hollandaise sauce.

First, the crab cakes. The crab cakes are so simple. I usually just crack the crab meat into one bowl and then I do a quick once over with my hands and make sure I didn't miss any pieces of shell or cartilage 'cause let's face it, no one wants to sink their teeth into a hard piece of shell. In the same bowl, add your egg, Parmesan, lemon, salt, pepper and parsley. Now gently mix the ingredients together with a fork until the egg and Parmesan have blended together well. If your crab mixture seems too wet, add another ¼ cup of Parmesan cheese. Scoop two heaping spoonfuls of the

crab mixture into your hand and gently form a patty in between your two hands. Next, we're going to cook this crabby goodness. In a skillet over medium heat, heat the avocado oil and place each crab cake until golden brown on each side, about five minutes each. Set crab cakes aside.

Next is the shrimp in the same pan you cooked the crab cakes in. If you need more oil, add the additional avocado oil, if not, go ahead and omit. Crank that heat up to medium-high heat. Lightly toss the shrimp with the paprika, salt and pepper in a small bowl. Grill shrimp on both sides until browned on both sides, about three minutes on both sides.

Your next step is that glorious meat. Freshly crack the salt and pepper directly onto a wood cutting board and gently roll the meat on all sides into the seasonings so your meat picks up the seasonings on all sides. Do this with both pieces of Filet Mignon. Let it sit for 10 minutes so it can soak in those seasonings. While the meat is soaking, carefully remove your large cast-iron out of the oven and you're going to put it on the stove and turn the stove on HIGH heat. You want the pan to be at 500-degree heat on the stove as well. Lightly oil your pan with avocado oil and place the filets directly into the pan. Do not walk away. You're going to want to time this closely at 1 minute and 30 seconds on the first side. Flip that meat and cook for another 1 minute and 30 seconds on the other side. Flip again. Place in the oven. Time for 45 seconds and flip your meat one more time and time for 45 seconds. Remove your meat from oven and remove from pan to rest for 10 minutes on a plate or cutting board.

While your meat is resting you're going to cook your asparagus and Hollandaise. In a large skillet, melt butter and place your asparagus in a pan over medium-high heat. The asparagus should take just about as long as the Hollandaise takes to whip up.

Last but not least, the buttery richness of that beautiful Hollandaise. This is where you get an arm workout while you're cooking. In a metal bowl, place your two egg yolks. Next, using a whisk, you're going to whip those eggs for 30 seconds above the pan with the water, 30 seconds off the pan, 30 seconds above, 30 seconds off. You will see your eggs will start to turn a rich golden yellow color and start to thicken. This is when you add a little bit of the butter and continue to whip 30 seconds on and 30 seconds off, add more butter and continue the 30 seconds on/off method until you've added all of the butter, then finish off with the lemon, salt, pepper and fresh tarragon.

For the assembly, place the filet on the plate first. Place five asparagus spears to the left of the filet. Next drizzle the Hollandaise over the filet, top with crab cake, finish by crisscrossing the shrimp on top of the Hollandaise and I lightly stick a piece of parsley in between the two pieces of shrimp for garnish. Next, serve to your loved ones and watch them enjoy this lovely meal.

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Ryan Rogers

**How long have you been doing lacrosse and how did you get your start in it?** I started playing in fourth grade after seeing my friends play in a game the year prior.

**What position do you play?** I play midfield and attack but have been playing mainly midfield for high school this season.

**What do you like best about your sport?** It is free-flowing and allows for many different playing styles.



In my opinion, humility is the most important.

**What's the most important quality to have an athlete?** There are many qualities that are important to have as an athlete. In my opinion, humility is the most important.



**Who is your role model/Who do you look up to?** Rob Pannell, who is a professional lacrosse player.

**Now that you're a senior, looking back, what was the best memory of high school?** I don't have one memory in particular, but competing every day with my friends is something I'll look back on later in life.

**What are your plans for college?** I am planning on playing lacrosse at the University of Utah and I am majoring in business.

**Do you have any advice for someone thinking about trying lacrosse?** Don't give up on it too quick and don't be afraid to try it just because it's different.







travel mania...

# THE CARTIERS

## Meet Antarctica...

and Fall in LOVE!

Resident...  
Deborah  
Cartier

On an expedition cruise to the Galapagos a few years ago Michael and I met a couple in their 80s. They told us they had recently completed their fifth and final trip to Antarctica. What? I did not know what was more shocking to me; the idea of traveling to Antarctica, going there five times or doing it in your 80s! Michael and I are adventurous and have wandered around six continents. But a trip to the seventh? Antarctica never crossed our minds until listening to what this older couple had to say.

We returned home and began our research. We learned the journey is fraught with potential problems. First, there is no guarantee that you will get there due to the volatility of the weather and there are NO refunds

regardless of whether you ever step foot on Antarctica. You must book far in advance as the ships have very limited crossings and they must be done in the Antarctic summer (our winter). You are required to sign a detailed liability waiver because if you do have an emergency, critical evacuation may not be possible. And, finally, this journey is not inexpensive.

We learned that there are many cruise lines that will sail by Antarctica, but we wanted a “boots on the ground” experience on an ice-breaker expedition ship. We chose an itinerary that would give us six days of active exploration, weather permitting. We invited our Serrano friends, Stan and Karen Huser, to join us, and they were all in!

But I was quite nervous. To get to Antarctica you must cross the roughest stretch of water in the world, the Drake Passage, which is the body of water between the southernmost point of South America (Cape Horn) and Antarctica. The Drake Passage is where the Atlantic meets the Pacific, tropical water meets frigid water, and this collision of waters can cause tremendous turmoil. The weather is extreme and hard to predict. Waves can range from gentle swells to 40 feet high! The Passage is 600 miles wide and takes about two days to cross in either direction, and we would have to do it twice! Conditions at the crossing are a coin toss. Either we could have “Drake’s Lake” and have smoother waters, or we could have the dreaded “Drake’s Shake.”



Michael, Deborah, Karen & Stan



Michael & Deborah Cartier with Karen & Stan Huser...



Michael & Deborah...

Crossing Drake Passage is the price of entry for going to the Antarctic from South America. Even Charles Darwin, who made comprehensive studies of the flora, fauna and topography of these regions aboard the *HMS Beagle* in the mid-1800s, was famously seasick while rounding Cape Horn. But our ship was prepared to meet these challenges with an internal stabilization system and an ice-strengthened hull and was under the command of a seasoned captain and experienced crew with thousands of hours at sea. Regardless of the weather, we knew that we would be safe. We ended up lucky, and both of our crossings were more lake than a shake. There was some rocking and rolling but thankfully nothing too crazy!

The morning our ship arrived we threw back the curtains in our room and looked out. We were here! The adrenaline and sheer euphoria of that moment is something we will never forget. How to explain the wonder of Antarctica? How do you describe the serenity you feel gazing upon such beauty, purity and magnificence?

How do you describe seeing the most pristine and peaceful scenery you are ever likely to experience? How do you describe the moment a pod of humpback whales gently circles your small zodiac boat and you feel no fear because you are so happy? How do you describe 100 different shades of white?

This euphoria kept growing with our first iceberg sightings, first whale sightings and first seal sightings. We kayaked past small icebergs, through slushy waters while dodging ice chunks in search of wildlife, and it was absolutely thrilling! And the penguins...oh my gosh! They will steal your heart. They are curious and funny with loads of personality. They do not fear humans and are very social. Every man and woman quickly fell in love with these happy little guys!

The 450 people on that ship were communally stunned by our Antarctic experience, and passengers and crew alike celebrated and shared in the mutual joy of what we had been graced to see. Someone once wrote so beautifully that Antarctica is a community. Each moment is made up of hundreds of moments seen and lived through hundreds of eyes. In those six days, it was impossible not to have been changed in some way. It changes your perspective of life. It changes your awareness and knowledge of the environment. But most importantly, you have changed. You go home a new person, a better person. It is impossible not to be moved by the sheer beauty and power of this exquisite and brutal continent.

For me, Antarctica is like a secret piece of heaven at the bottom of the earth. If you are looking for the adventure of your life, to be thrilled at times beyond measure, and if you want to bask in phenomenal beauty in a place that very few people will ever see, consider Antarctica.

Michael and I have already booked our return trip to Antarctica. But this time we are staying even longer!

### Q&A

**How cold was it?** It was summertime and daytime temperatures were in the low 30s. But that does not take wind chill into account when it starts to blow! Antarctica is bigger than Europe or Australia and it is 98% ice. Antarctica is a desert and is the coldest and windiest place on earth. Ice goes as deep as three miles and is as old as 3 million years. When the wind blows over that icy continent it is quite cold!

**Is Antarctica the South Pole?** No. Antarctica is the continent surrounding the South Pole. The South Pole is the southern end of the axis on which our planet rotates. The South Pole is located under the glacier that covers Antarctica.

**Are there polar bears?** No. Polar bears live in the Arctic (the North Pole) while penguins live in Antarctica (the South Pole).

**Who owns Antarctica?** No country owns it. It is an environmental preserve for scientific research, overseen by 50 countries. It is the most protected place on the planet, especially from tourists.



# The Hills Living Teams Up with C. Knight's Steakhouse for an Unforgettable Evening!

**Tamara Berg...**Food  
Enthusiast  
& KCRA  
Channel 3  
Meteorologist

Photo Credit...  
**Jody Soria**  
Photography

Serving up memories one steak at a time. That's how the Knight family hopes you feel every time you visit C. Knight's Steakhouse. It's the only steakhouse in El Dorado Hills. But it's not just steaks on the menu. You will find something for everyone here. Come in for a classic cocktail, fine seafood, flatbread or tapas.

Knight says there was a need for a steakhouse in El Dorado Hills. He's lived here since 2002 and his inspiration comes from a few things. Before settling into El Dorado Hills, he lived in Denver and celebrated many milestones at the Aurora Summit Restaurant. Seeing how a steakhouse operates and the memories people gathered to share there, he knew it was something El Dorado Hills was missing.

"I'm not trying to be a trendy restaurant. I view a steakhouse as high-end comfort food. When you're celebrating something, it's kind of a no-brainer to choose a steakhouse. You'll find all of the classics here," says Charles Knight.

One of the things that really sets this steakhouse apart is its grill. It's a top-fire broiler. All the

heat in the broiler comes from the top and sinks into the meat. This offers guests a caramelized crust surrounding the beef. It's sweet, salty and acidic as the flavors of the steak combine. That's something that sets this steakhouse apart from places like Fleming's or Morton's.

Another interesting thing you'll find at C. Knight's is what's served on the side of your steak. You'll find a lime. "People ask what's with the lime garnish? I say just squeeze it on a part of your steak and try it out! It will bring in that acidic tartness that you would get from a steak sauce without covering up any of the flavor of the steak itself," says Knight.

When you walk into C. Knight's you can see it's not a huge space. It offers a personal, intimate feel to every guest. It seats 46 people for dining, offers a 20-person private seating area and a full bar. The décor is timeless, from the checkered floors to the oak bar and classic wall artwork. The approach to service is down home. Come inside, enjoy yourself, be comfortable and they'll handle the rest.

Knight says the menu offers plenty of variety for everyone. "I like to think of the menu in a few parts; you have your timeless steakhouse classics. On the back of the menu, you select your size and temperature preference. The other elements include the entrees. A salmon, pork dish or vegetarian choices," exclaims Knight.



A special "THANK YOU" to Becki Tyner for sharing chocolates with us at the mixer!



Not in the mood for a steak or full dinner? Check out the happy hour. The menu includes tapas and small bites along with drink specials. Wines are local from foothills wineries including Borjon and Boeger. Cocktails are crafted to please or select a beer from local breweries. It's the perfect spot to enjoy a bite and drink before taking in a movie or doing some shopping.

If brunch is on the mind, C. Knight's is currently working on a brunch menu. It will be offered on weekends only very soon.

If you're planning a business meeting, special luncheon or party, consider booking the private dining space or renting out the entire restaurant. Come dressed as you are, sip a drink, savor a dish and make new memories.







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## Can't Help but LOVE Chayce...

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Resident...  
Adaria Torres

pet prodigies...

"My dog is blind." Words I thought I would never be saying about my middle-aged Dachshund. "Don't worry, he's blind, he can't see what's happening," are my regular friendly reassurances to many who look at my dog in confusion when he's either facing in the opposite direction of them, looking at a wall, or tilting his head to the side while staring at the ground. My dog, who is a short-haired black and tan dachshund named Chayce (pronounced Chase), turned 10 years old this year. He gradually became blind at the age of 6.

I received Chayce when he was a puppy and, over time, he grew into a handsome, healthy Dachshund. However, in 2015 I began noticing changes in his behavior when he showed reluctance to climb down our staircase. This was followed by walking into our sliding glass door and eventually missing his food bowls. Concerned, I took him to the vet, and when his eyes were examined we learned he had SARDS (Sudden Acquired Retinal Degeneration Syndrome). Dachshunds are among a few breeds commonly affected by this disease, and there is no known cause or cure for it. My 6-year-old Dachshund was becoming blind at a rapid pace, and there was nothing I could do to stop it.

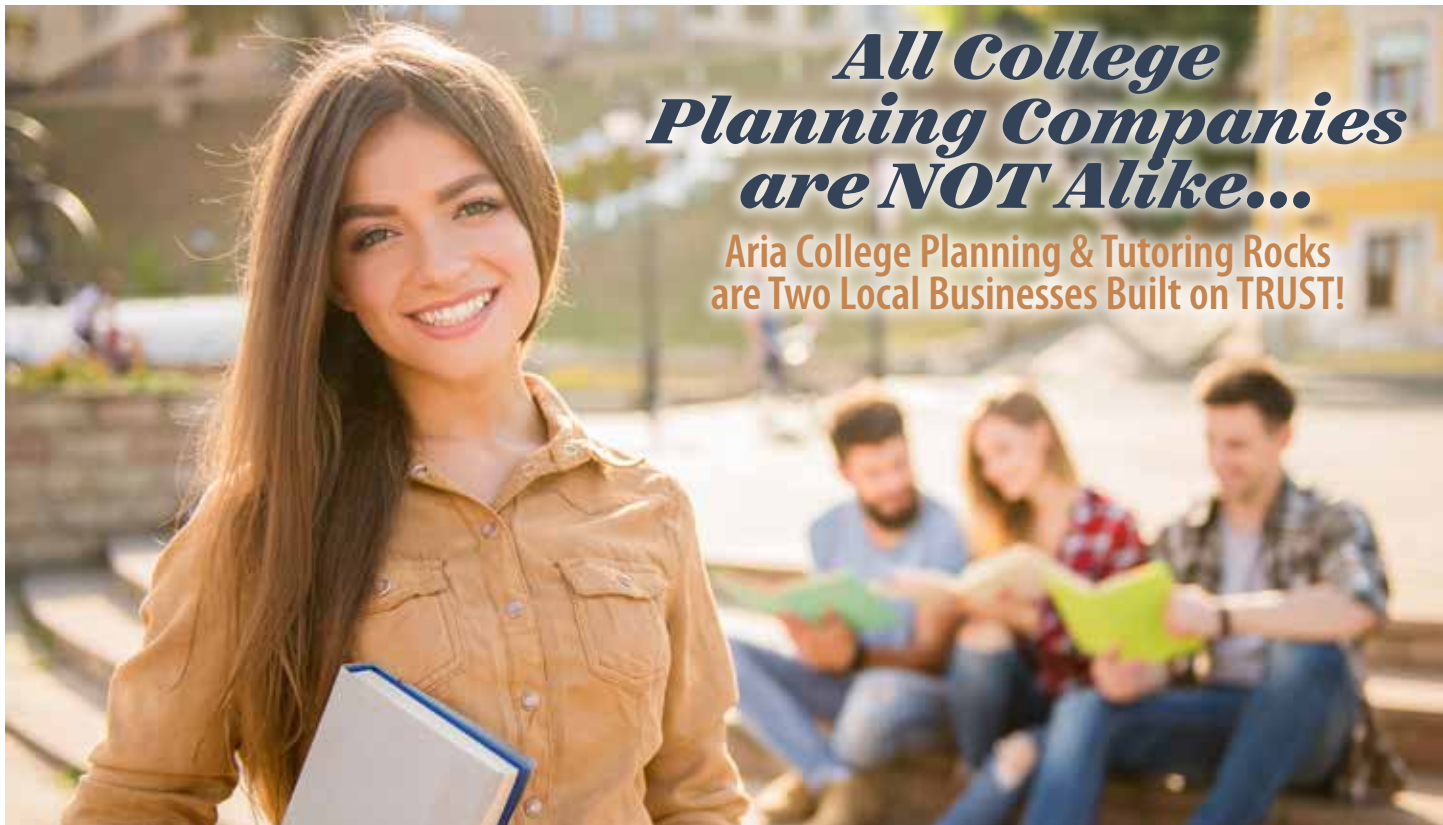
I won't pretend it was easy, but we acclimated to the change. I've had to become mindful of Chayce wherever he's at, exactly like keeping an eye on my son. There have been a few times when Chayce has wandered straight out of the front door, and I've had to run after him. I now use certain commands that he recognizes, especially if he's heading towards an obstacle. I've even learned how to hold his leash in a particular way to better direct him



while we're walking outside. In addition, whenever we're around a pool, I have to keep him on a leash so he will not fall in.

Throughout these changes, I've noticed a new personality emerge in Chayce. He's become friendlier and more patient with the people around him in addition to becoming closer to our family and friends. He continues to live a full life as we've adjusted to this new normal. Although Chayce was not born with this condition, he has a resilience that allows him to keep moving forward, which is something we can all learn from, and that is one of his many endearing qualities. He is a well-loved member of our family, and I wouldn't have it any other way.





## All College Planning Companies are NOT Alike...

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Resident  
& Business  
Owner...**Alex  
Bennett**

business news...

**What exactly is “college planning”?** For us at Aria College Planning, it means guiding students from whenever they first begin to think about college through graduation. We are both a resource and a mentor who can help with the big tasks, like preparing for the SAT and ACT, and with the little ones, like responding to a counselor’s email just right.

**What is your ultimate goal for your students?** A lot of people think a college planner should be clawing their students up the US News Rankings, doing “whatever it takes” to get into that #30 ranked school instead of that #31. We’ve never adopted or supported that mindset. For us, far more important than anything, is the “fit” of a school for a student. Each and every piece of assistance we provide is geared to finding for our students a college where they can be their best self.

**How do you go about this?** Honestly, we get to know our students. High schoolers definitely cannot be lumped together as one personality so we definitely don’t recommend the same types of strategies or colleges to everyone either! One of our program’s most exciting aspects is when we use both in-person interviews and our custom-built database of every college in the country to create for each student a list of 20 colleges that match up to their wants and needs. It’s an incredibly powerful tool for families.

**You mentioned SAT and ACT earlier. How important are those tests for students and**

**families?** Increasingly so. We all know that college admissions are getting tougher each year, and that trend doesn’t seem to be slowing down. When it comes to SAT and ACT prep, we try to take a more constructive approach though. Rather than aiming for a particular college’s averages and potentially being disappointed if it’s missed, we like to say that the higher the score, the more doors remain open. There is **always** a school for **every** student; the scores just help us narrow in on the right one.

**What about other aspects of school? Do you help with those?** Great question! Aria College Planning doesn’t assist with schoolwork, but we do like to recommend Tutoring Rocks, our sister company, which specializes in academic development. Chris Koch is the owner of both companies.

**What else are colleges looking at nowadays in terms of admissions?** All the classic metrics are still used, with GPA and test scores largely the most important. That said, not every college values the same things. Private schools tend to look more at extracurriculars and at “the whole student” while the UCs, for instance, are very focused on class rank right now.

**Any misconceptions that you notice families tend to have regarding college planning?** A lot, unfortunately! We actually have a list of common myths that we like to share with families who are considering our services.

**A list? Could you share one of those with us?** Sure! Many families assume that in-state public colleges are **always** the most affordable choice. However, when you factor in that other colleges tend to award far more in scholarship money, and consider that the average time to graduate from a Cal State is creeping up towards six

years, the savings on the “sticker price” of a school quickly seem to not be worth it.

**I have to ask, what was your take on the recent scandal regarding college admissions?**

To be honest, I’m surprised that there’s only been one major scandal so far. It’s so easy for students and parents to get carried away with getting into the “best” school, and it’s something that we always try to combat with our clients. With us, always and forever, it’s about the “right” school. With that mantra, it keeps us ethical and focused on precisely what our clients need.

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Resident...  
**Tanisha Leer**,  
Founder of  
Keegan's  
Promise

local events...

On March 10, 2019, El Dorado Hills was blown away by Coffey Anderson, his family, and his upcoming reality television show, *Country-ish*. District Church opened its doors to a sold-out crowd of over 600 people. They got to witness a fabulous concert as well as the finale to season one of the show. Stefan and Tanisha Leer have been long-time friends, supporters and fans of Coffey and have brought him to El Dorado Hills several times within the last three years to perform. Coffey performed at their first housewarming party, their "stud party," a friend's birthday party, Town Center as well as two fundraisers for the foundation Keegan's Promise, of which Coffey is a celebrity ambassador.

As country music fans poured into District Church, they were met with signs posted giving permission to be on the reality television show. Coffey also performed and told stories to 100 VIP guests prior to the concert. District Church volunteered as the venue due to their desire to serve the community and to bring people together to enjoy good country music!

Coffey and his family have been filming the first season since the beginning of December. Mark Burnett, his wife Roma Downey and their team purchased the show that will air on Fox later this year.

Thank you and WAY to go, COFFEY!







Resident  
and Tech  
Guru...**Jeff  
McNaught**

## When it Comes to APPLE Mail... Safe or Unsafe?

### tech guru..

A few months ago, in our December 2018 issue, we investigated some popular web-based email products like Gmail, Outlook, Yahoo and AOL. I wrote why many Internet-based email products are free to use, and it's because, with many (most) free online products, *you're the product*, not the *customer*, since in the terms of service (that long document full of boring legalese you have to click to approve) you allow the online companies the right to read your emails, instant messages, posts, photos and even scan your message attachments.

Time and space did not allow me to include Apple Mail in the article, so I've done my research, and will discuss that here.

I've never personally used Apple Mail, although I now carry an iPhone, and use an iPad and Mac computers on occasion. Based on the public and non-public information I was able to review, Apple has a pretty good track record of keeping customer email activities private. In recent years, researchers have found flaws in the HTML rendering of Apple Mail on Mac and iOS, as well as Mozilla Thunderbird, that allowed attackers to extract decrypted plain text from encrypted mail messages. While many email programs do not encrypt (scramble) text in emails, Apple and others provide that when required.

The big question I wanted to answer: Is Apple accessing your private email, attachments, etc. for the purposes of monetizing (selling to third-party data brokers) your data? Thankfully, it appears not.

While Apple does have examples of data breaches, where due to bugs in internal software, customer data and activities can be accessed by the public, or specifically by hackers, Apple has been relatively quick to correct the flaws in question, with the most recent one I found being fixed in November. That bug possibly allowed hackers to access or corrupt Apple's iCloud contact data but does not appear to have relevance for the email security topic.

So, short and sweet, if you're using, or thinking of using Apple Mail, you're in good hands.

Another thing that I want to share is the increasing use of telephone calls by scammers to the public to try and get data or money from us. The scenario is you get a call on your mobile or house phone where the caller claims to be from Apple (or Microsoft, Google or the IRS). They will claim any number of things, including that you've not paid your bill or taxes, that they have found inappropriate data in your email or web browsing, or that they have noticed a security breach on your PC or Mac computer. For a fee, they will fix the problem for you. Please immediately hang up on these callers and don't give them ANY information, including your name, address, etc. The IRS and these companies simply do not call customers for these sorts of things, so don't fall prey to these (increasing) scams.

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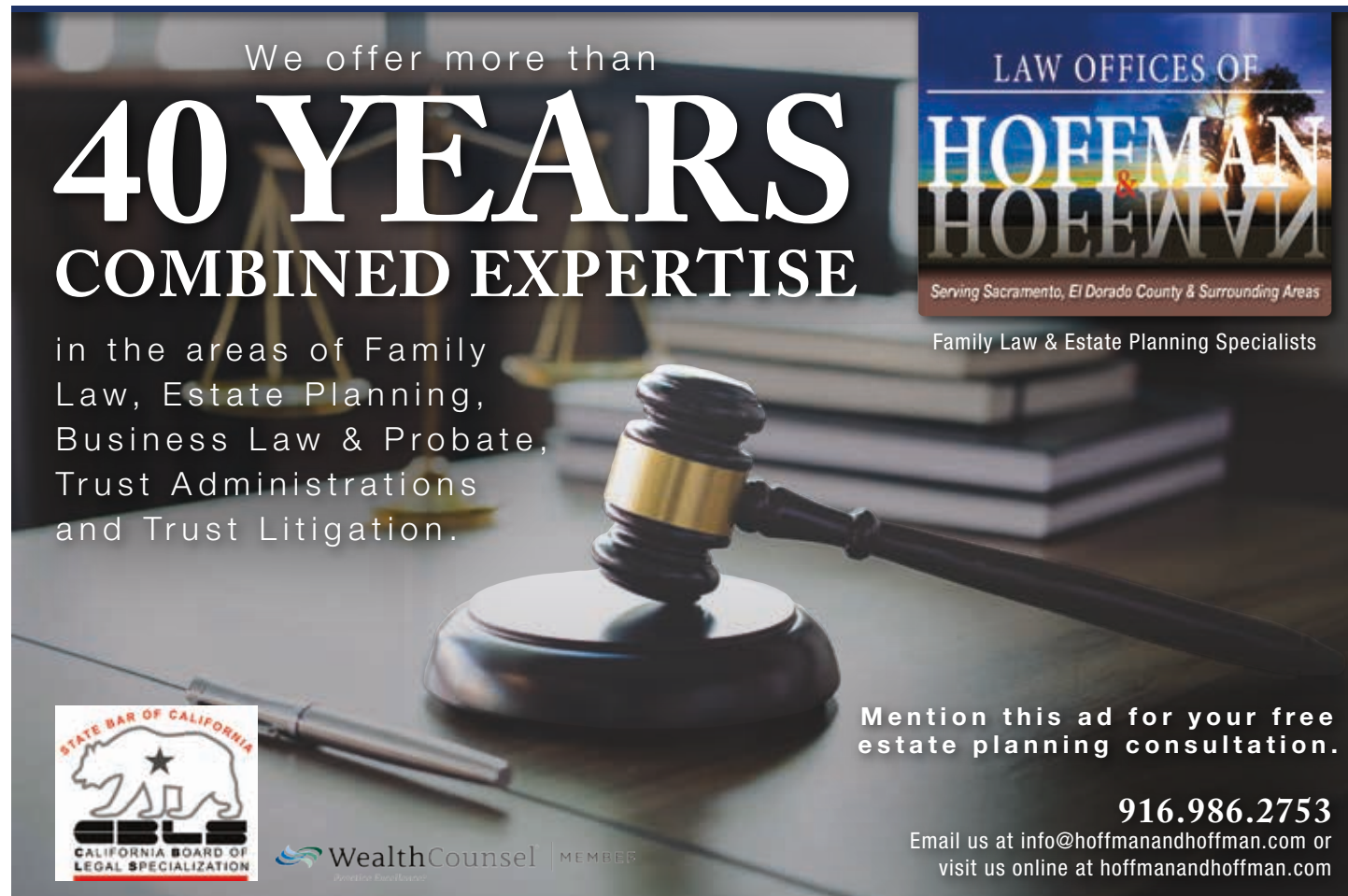
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# The GIVING CIRCLE Social...

GATHERING FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF OUR COMMUNITY!

Resident...**Jeff McNaught**

Photo Credit:  
**Jody Soria Photography**

local philanthropy

Life can be pretty amazing in El Dorado Hills; we experience the blessings of good community, great friendships and beautiful surroundings. Seems the sun always shines and no one has a care in the world, but El Dorado Hills, like most other places, has people in all stages of their lives, and many that can use our help.

Knowing this, a group of passionate residents of Serrano and El Dorado Hills has come together to combine fun and philanthropy to do good specifically in El Dorado Hills. It's called *The Giving Circle*, started by the El Dorado Hills Endowment, and just celebrated its one-year anniversary.

At a recent meeting of The Giving Circle, held at the beautiful Serrano home of Steve Showers and Eddie Blagdon, three organizations (selected by members for funding from over 18 submissions) provided an update to the membership:

**Court-Appointed Special Advocates of El Dorado County (CASA)** supports abused, neglected, and at-risk youth in court by providing volunteers who voice the child's best interest. They asked The Giving Circle for funds to help expand the team of Court Appointed Special Advocates and train these new volunteers, who in turn will serve 15 foster youth in the El Dorado Hills community. With the help of the advocates, these children will be less likely to remain in foster care long term and have a better chance of continuing their education. For the community as a whole, this results in less cost and strain on the juvenile court and child protection systems and provides for a more stable social environment for all.

**Hands4Hope – Youth Making a Difference** is a youth-led service-learning and outreach organization dedicated to inspiring and empowering youth in leadership and service. They asked for funds to help them develop and nurture young leaders in our community into socially responsible, civic-minded residents who have compassion for those in need; who engage in action to bring about change; and who work for a safe, vital community. The program has seen students go from quiet and shy, to leading a club of 35 and speaking to community leaders. A student with autism found acceptance and friendship within the H4H Club, then became club treasurer. Youth get involved, find their passion, build confidence and skills, and inspire and lead their peers in service projects that positively impact the lives of hundreds of local residents annually.

**The Assistance League of the Sierra Foothills** volunteers transform the lives of children and adults through community programs and asked for funds to support Operation School Bell, which allows disadvantaged students to feel better about their lives by providing an opportunity to go shopping for new school clothes. The goal of the program is to increase students' self-esteem, attitude toward school, school attendance and classroom participation, reducing their chances of dropping out of school. When students know that they will have clean, fresh, warm and comfortable clothes, they feel better about themselves. This added confidence enables them to participate more in school both academically and socially.

The Giving Circle is a growing part of the El Dorado Hills Endowment, a Fund of the El Dorado Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. It consists of El Dorado Hills and Serrano neighbors inspired by the power of collective giving, combining social gatherings with the spirit of philanthropy helping those in need



The GIVING CIRCLE Cabinet...Top to Bottom: Steve Showers, Andrea Howard, Shelbi Bennett, Alan Priest, Jeff McNaught & Nikki Smaglik.



in EDH, and is always looking for new members to join the cause. The EDH Endowment cabinet consists of local residents: Shelbi Bennett (chair), Andrea Howard, Jeff McNaught, Allan Priest, Steve Showers and Nikki Smaglik. Learn more on their web page at

[www.edhendowment.com/givingcircle](http://www.edhendowment.com/givingcircle), by calling (916) 235-1344 or emailing [info@eldoradocf.org](mailto:info@eldoradocf.org). Tax-deductible memberships start from \$200 to \$1,000 annually with all monies focused on supporting El Dorado Hills needs like those mentioned above.



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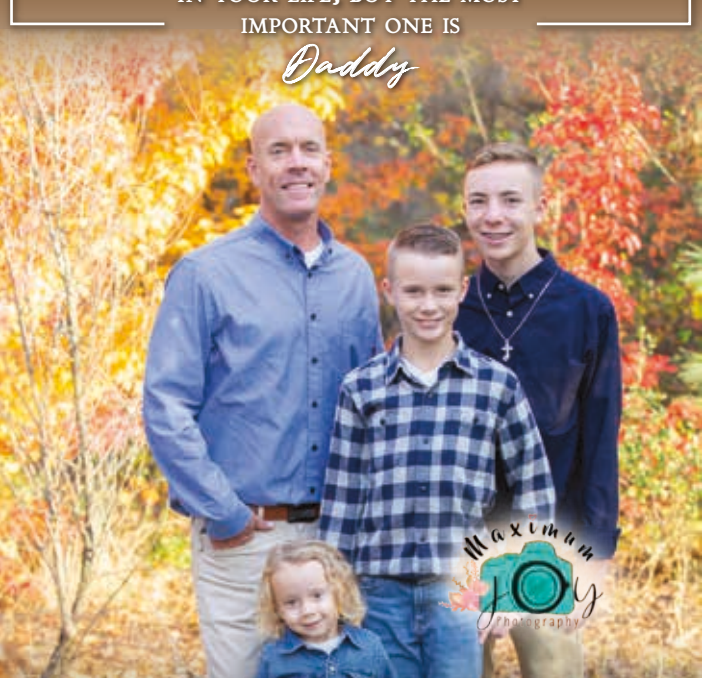
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Address	Neighborhood	List Price	Sale Price	Sold Date	DOM	Beds	Baths	SqFt	Parking	\$/Sq Ft
5408 Sur Mer Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$999,500	\$969,500	11/29/18	118	4	4	3,800	4+	\$255.13
5216 Breese Cir	El Dorado Hills	\$1,199,000	\$1,075,000	01/15/19	16	5	4	4,283	3	\$250.99
4424 Gresham Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$1,175,000	\$1,116,500	01/10/19	37	4	4	3,571	3	\$312.66
6018 Monet Way	El Dorado Hills	\$1,124,035	\$1,176,224	12/10/18	24	4	5	4,400	3	\$267.32
4215 Greenview Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$1,299,000	\$1,201,800	03/20/19	32	4	4	3,512	3	\$342.20
3397 Greenview Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$1,269,000	\$1,225,000	03/29/19	36	4	5	4,102	3	\$298.63
5185 Titleist Way	El Dorado Hills	\$1,299,900	\$1,250,000	12/31/18	120	4	5	5,056	3	\$247.23
4061 Errante Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$1,290,000	\$1,275,000	02/19/19	101	4	4	3,730	3	\$341.82
3373 Greenview Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$1,349,000	\$1,275,000	03/08/19	99	4	5	4,150	3	\$307.23
5175 Breese Cir	El Dorado Hills	\$1,350,000	\$1,300,000	12/28/18	217	5	5	5,047	4+	\$257.58
4234 Greenview Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$1,399,000	\$1,365,000	02/08/19	42	4	3	4,327	3	\$315.46
7535 Sangiovese	El Dorado Hills	\$1,449,000	\$1,449,000	03/26/19	85	5	6	4,850	3	\$298.76
4033 Raphael Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$1,475,000	\$1,450,000	01/11/19	0	5	5	4,213	4+	\$344.17
5280 Breese Cir	El Dorado Hills	\$1,489,000	\$1,460,000	12/19/18	1	5	4	4,975	3	\$293.47
3797 Greenview Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$1,399,000	\$1,515,062	01/22/19	221	4	6	4,196	4+	\$361.07
5048 Da Vinci Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$1,750,000	\$1,635,000	02/28/19	173	6	6	6,426	4+	\$254.44
6226 Aldea Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$1,649,000	\$1,649,000	02/26/19	97	5	7	5,805	4+	\$284.07
299 Bronzino Ct	El Dorado Hills	\$1,724,500	\$1,691,575	03/04/19	51	4	5	4,255	3	\$397.55
5351 Da Vinci Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$1,950,000	\$1,900,000	12/27/18	65	6	6	5,195	4+	\$365.74
4601 Gresham Dr	El Dorado Hills	\$1,998,000	\$1,998,000	03/20/19	19	6	7	9,360	3	\$213.46

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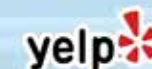
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As an EDH native and marketing professional, Melissa has a unique understanding of both the area and the needs of those who live here. She is a global real estate investor and is adept at guiding clients through real estate investments and 1031 exchanges.

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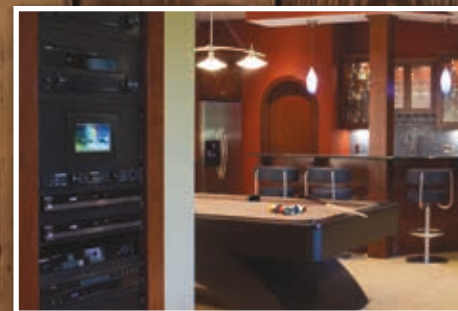
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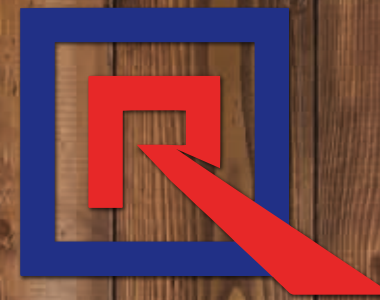
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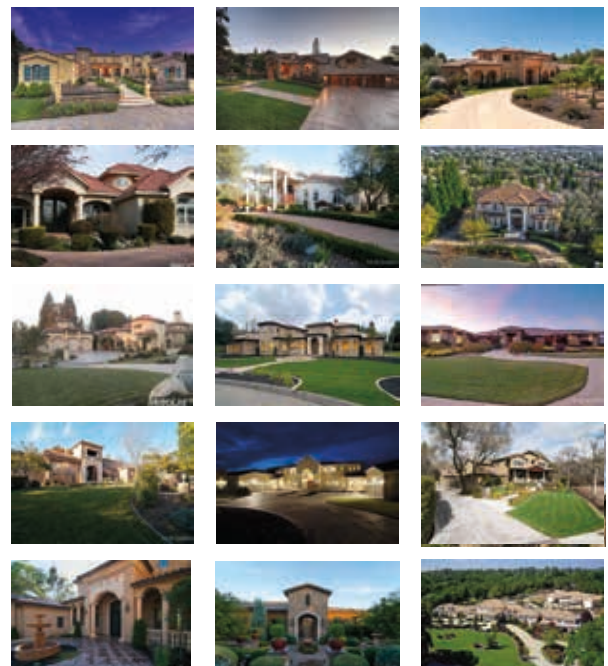


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