

# Inside

## BISHOP RANCH



### Business Seminar Series

**Bishop Ranch Conference Center**  
2623 Camino Ramon, Suite 175 (BR3)

Thursdays, April 21 and 28, May 5

Noon-1 p.m.

FREE, including lunch

**The good news:** Bishop Ranch Business Park has teamed up with Gevity HR to host an exclusive three-week seminar series on topics of vital interest to all businesses. **Even better news:** Each session is FREE to Bishop Ranch tenants—including lunch—and features a distinguished presenter who is an expert in the field. Space is limited. Please RSVP to Tenant Services, 543-0100. Here's what's in store:

**Thursday, April 21**

#### Hiring/Firing Best Practices

Learn state-of-the-art strategies for finding and hiring the "right" employees. Explore proper termination practices and ways to avoid employee lawsuits, too. Presenter: Littler Mendelson Law Offices

**Thursday, April 28**

#### Consumer-Driven Healthcare

Get updates on new trends in healthcare plans and learn possible strategies to significantly reduce healthcare costs.

**Thursday, May 5**

#### New Wage and Hour Regulations

Is your company in compliance with the Department of Labor's new regulations on "white-collar" minimum wage and overtime exemptions? Here's where to learn the latest requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act (effective August 2004).

### Host Your Meetings Here

**Bishop Ranch Conference Center**  
2623 Camino Ramon, Suite 175 (BR3)

If you're looking for a tastefully designed, conveniently located and reasonably priced setting for your next business meeting, we've got the site for you. The Bishop Ranch Conference Center at 2623 Camino Ramon, Suite 175 (BR3) offers a full array of amenities, seats up to 140 people and is available Monday through Friday. To schedule a tour of the facilities or to book your reservation, call 543-7700.



### Bishop Ranch Health Fair

Thursday, May 19

11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

2633 Camino Ramon, Suite 150 (BR3)

FREE to Bishop Ranch Tenants

We're making it convenient—and entertaining—for you to take care of your most precious asset: your health. At the Bishop Ranch Health Fair on Thursday, May 19, more than 40 healthcare providers will offer vital health information, present interactive health demos, give massages and more. Blood-pressure, bone-density and cholesterol screenings will be provided, as will eye exams. To boost your spirits, there'll also be raffle prizes and giveaways, plus tasty food and beverages.

Don't miss this hassle-free opportunity to check up on your health. RSVP by **May 16 to 543-0100.**

### Tenant Appreciation Night at Artescape Studio

Thursday, April 21, 5-7:30 p.m.

Artescape Studios,  
12901 Alcosta Boulevard, Suite C,  
San Ramon

FREE

If you haven't visited the recently opened Artescape Studios right here in San Ramon, that's all the more reason to come to this fun, interactive and "artful" party. Whether you just want to observe while enjoying good food, wine and live music or you want to dip your fingers in some paint, we're sure you'll have an enjoyable evening with a creative twist.

The owners of this one-of-a-kind artist studio/workshop—San Ramon's new home for creative expression—are rolling out the red carpet for Bishop Ranch tenants and their guests to showcase their contemporary art studio. RSVP to Tenant Services at 543-0100. Deadline: **Monday, April 18.**



## Mother's Day Treats

Tuesday, May 3, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.  
12677 Alcosta Boulevard, Lobby  
(BR15)



SWEET LIAISON  
CHOCOLATES

### Just in time for Mother's Day:

Pick up sweet treats for all the sweet moms on your list—without ever having to leave the Bishop Ranch premises. Sweet Liaisons, a local confectioner, will be on hand on Tuesday, May 3, to sell specialty chocolates in BR15's lobby at a preferred price for Bishop Ranch tenants. Plan on dropping by!

## New Playgroups for Tots

Wednesdays, April 13–May 11

Itsby Bitsy Playgroup (birth–4 months),  
11 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Roly Poly Playgroup (5–7 months), 12:45–2 p.m.

Bishop Ranch Urgent Care

2305 Camino Ramon, Suite 100 (BR11)

**Big fun for little ones and their moms:** A playgroup is a great opportunity for babies to get the knack of playing with peers and for mothers to share notes, problem-solve and form lasting friendships—not to mention get out of the house! Our new five-week playgroup sessions will be held Wednesdays, April 13–May 11, at Bishop Ranch Urgent Care, followed by ongoing sessions throughout the year. Highlights of what's in store:

- Discussions on relevant topics
- Weekly stroller walks
- Moms' e-mail list
- Girls' Night Out
- Family get-togethers

**FYI:** To foster a nurturing, small-group setting, each playgroup is limited to 12 mothers and their babies. To get more information about pricing and available spaces, or to sign up, call 941-7900, option #3.

## Attention Employers

The Bishop Ranch Web site offers an additional venue for you to promote job openings. Best of all, there's easy access for you and your prospects—and it's free. To obtain our job-opening form, visit [www.bishopranch.com](http://www.bishopranch.com), click "Tenant Services" then "BR Job Openings." Fax your completed form to Tenant Services at 543-0102, or e-mail it to [scorbett@bishopranch.com](mailto:scorbett@bishopranch.com).

## Tenant Profile: Randy Wheeler

Randy Wheeler is fond of planting seeds—literally and figuratively—and seeing efforts bear fruit. This CEO of Valley Oak Systems, computer science grad and avid gardener has nurtured the company from the tiny enterprise he founded in 1994 and ran from his spare bedroom to today's \$12.1 million operation. The secrets of his and his company's success? The claims and risk-management software Valley Oak developed for the insurance industry, plus its "client-centric" approach. "We've never lost a client," Wheeler says. "Prospective clients say we're 18 to 20 months ahead of our competition in terms of technology and functionality."



### Résumé

**Name:** Randy Wheeler

**Title:** Founder and CEO

**Company:** Valley Oak Systems

**Location:** San Ramon (BR8)

**Number of employees:** 70

**Year company was founded:** 1994

**Number of years at Bishop Ranch:** Two

### Company Profile

**Corporate headquarters:** San Ramon; opening Rockland, Calif., office in Q2 2005

**Business:** "We're a national provider of claims and risk-management software services and support that help our clients meet their insurance business goals."

**Business approach:** "The key is listening to our clients: Their goals are our goals, and that's driven our business since day one. The other key piece is to continually change the technology."

**Biggest challenge:** "To grow organically, without venture capital funding or any outside capital. The upside? I'm still able to make decisions based on the management team's judgment. We relish that independence."

**Biggest risk taken:** "One risk was that organic approach: Are you going to have enough money to get out the product and build the company? Another risk was back in 2000, when I realized we needed something that would run on the Internet. I had to hand over the operational reins and spearhead the software myself."

**Favorite task:** "Designing products and services to solve customers' problems and anticipating the future to figure out how to set up a project or our company for success."

**Least favorite task:** "Dealing with preventable problems."

**Your source of inspiration:** "Smart people."

### Personal Philosophy

**Best way to motivate staff:** "Personal accountability. Decisions aren't made by committee here. There's a high level of individual responsibility for our products."

**Suggestions for up-and-coming executives:** "Focus on your goal. Practice what you preach. And develop a way in which you continually learn."

**A goal you still want to achieve:** "Mastering the role of CEO in a fast-growing company. The role of CEO is unbelievably multidimensional and creative."

### Off Hours

**Favorite pastimes and stress-busters:** "Ice hockey—both watching and playing. I also enjoy gardening—not anything fancy, just working in the yard."

**Favorite vacation spot:** "Hawaii, any island."

**Favorite music:** "Classic rock. Everything that KFOG plays is great."

## Bishop Ranch Twilight Golf League

Wednesdays, May 18–September 28

First tee time: 5:30 p.m.

San Ramon Golf Club

9430 Fircrest Lane, San Ramon

Cost: \$16 per person (for each nine-hole round), includes green fee and contribution to prize fund



**Move over, Tiger:** It's time to tee up for Bishop Ranch's Twilight Golf League, scheduled Wednesday evenings, May 18 through September 28. Play will be at the San Ramon Golf Club, the ever-popular championship links with the signature ninth hole island green. The league welcomes golfers of all abilities and will feature a different competition each week. We'll award weekly prizes, topped off by honors at season's end. Sign up or get more info at San Ramon Golf Club's pro shop. Or call (925) 828-6100.

## Batters Up, Orders In

**Encore performances:** The Oakland A's are once again offering specially priced tickets to some of their upcoming home games—a terrific deal for Bishop Ranch tenants. To view a list of games for which discounted tickets are available or to get a ticket-order form, visit the Bishop Ranch Web site, [www.bishopranch.com](http://www.bishopranch.com) (click "Tenant Services," then "Sports & Attractions"). To purchase tickets, fax your completed order form to Chris Van Dyne at (510) 563-2398. **Go, A's!**



## Child Temperament Seminar Series

Wednesdays, April 20–May 4, noon–1 p.m.

2633 Camino Ramon, Suite 150 (BR3)

FREE

**Brown-bag talks for parents:** Temperament influences a child's approach to learning, willingness to complete homework and chores, inclination to please or confront, facility with relationships and friendships, and more. These noon-hour seminars are designed to help you understand your child's disposition (and your own) and to offer insights into solving everyday parenting challenges. Series host is Teri L. Jourgensen, author of *Raising Cuddle Bugs and Brave Hearts*. Here's the program:

**Wednesday, April 20** Participants will complete a child-temperament questionnaire, learn about their youngster's unique disposition and discuss its impact on such areas as studying, socialization and discipline.

**Wednesday, April 27** To help identify their own temperament and parenting style, participants will complete an adult-temperament questionnaire. They'll also explore a parenting model that reflects state-of-the-art research and helps pinpoint strengths and areas for improvement.

**Wednesday, May 4** This session focuses on ways temperament shapes family dynamics and influences modes of parenting and problem solving.

**Note:** Space is limited, so call 543-0100 to sign up today. The deadline is **Friday, April 15.**

## Meeting and Event Planning Seminar

Thursday, April 14, noon–1 p.m.

Bishop Ranch Conference Center

2623 Camino Ramon, Suite 175 (BR3)

FREE, including lunch

**Are you coordinating an upcoming meeting or event?** In this lunch-hour seminar on April 14, you'll gain practical insights into key aspects of meeting planning, including budgeting, site selection, promotion, food and beverage logistics, on-site management and post-meeting activities.

Seminar presenters are from Meeting Possibilities, a San Ramon company comprised of three certified meeting professionals. Together, they have more than 50 years' experience in the industry.

Even the most savvy planners can improve their skills in managing a meeting's many details. Mark your calendar and call Tenant Services at 543-0100 to RSVP. Deadline: **Tuesday, April 11.**

## More Pilates Classes

**Pilates Classes**

5000 Executive Parkway, Suite 250 (BR8)

Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon–1 p.m.

Six-week session: \$42 (\$40 cash)

Whether you're a Pilates beginner or a veteran, you'll benefit from instructor Judith Connaughton's enthusiasm and expertise. Stretch, strengthen and slim down at the Tuesday and Thursday lunch-hour workouts—pick a day or join both sessions. To sign up, call Tenant Services at 543-0100.

• **New Six-Week Pilates Sessions**

Tuesdays, April 5–May 10

Thursdays, April 7–May 12

• **Next Six-Week Pilates Sessions**

Tuesdays, May 17–June 21

Thursdays, May 19–June 23



## Preferred Rates for Bishop Ranch Tenants

**Good deals and discounts galore:** We're offering Bishop Ranch tenants preferred rates on everything from eateries to event planners, florists to financial services, office supplies to optometrists. Visit [www.bishopranch.com](http://www.bishopranch.com) and click "Tenant Services" to choose these and other special offers from the sponsor companies listed below.

### New This Month

- Café Matty • Embassy Suites Walnut Creek • MaggieMoo's Ice Cream & Treatery
- SAFE • Seishindo Acupuncture

### Caterers

- Classic Catering • Diablo Deli • Emilio's of Danville • Erik's Deli Cafe • Events by Wallace • Giuseppe's Pasta & Grill • Lost Ladle Café • Scott's Seafood Bar & Grill Walnut Creek • Valley Catering

### Restaurants

- Alouettes Restaurant • Applebee's Restaurant • Blackhawk Grille • Boudin Bakery
- The Brass Door • Bridges • The Dog • Erik's Deli Cafe • Faz Restaurant • Kabob House Too Restaurant • Lost Ladle Café • Luna Loca Mexican Restaurant • Mudd's
- Pasta Gondola Restaurant • Regional St. Bistro Restaurant
- Stixx & Steaks Restaurant

### Hotels

- AmeriSuites Hotel • Best Western Danville Sycamore Inn • The Carneros Inn
- Corporate Housing by Synergy Relocations • Courtyard by Marriott • Crowne Plaza Hotel Pleasanton • Embassy Suites Walnut Creek • Hampton Inn • Harbor Court Hotel
- Hilton Garden Inn Livermore • Hotel Griffon • Hyatt Regency San Francisco • Marriott Walnut Creek • Oakwood Corporate Housing • Radisson Hotel Dublin • The Rose Hotel
- Sierra Suites San Ramon • Summerfield Suites • The Village at Squaw Valley
- Wyndham Garden Hotel

### Miscellaneous Services

- AHN's Shoe Repair • American Financial Lending • Armanino McKenna LLP
- ArtDirect.com • Avis Rent-a-Car • Awe-Dacious Salon • The Basket Lady
- Bay Plant Company • Bishop Ranch Chiropractic Center • Bishop Ranch Dentistry
- Bishop Ranch Veterinary Center • Black Tie Transportation • Bodylines Day Spa
- Cambridge SoundWorks • Campus Wireless • Chic & Younique • ClubSport of San Ramon • Danka Office Imaging • Diablo Funding Group • Dublin Golf Course • *East Bay Business Times* • East Bay Eye • East Bay Flower Company • Empire Realty
- Enchanted Florist & Gifts • Enterprise Rent-a-Car • Excel Graphics • Fast Frame of San Ramon • Gift Bags Online • Gift Baskets by Design • GMAC Mortgage • Healthy Ways Muscle Therapy Solutions • Heaven's Best Carpet Cleaning • Home Inventory Specialists • Hometown GMAC Real Estate • Hornblower Cruises • Indulgence Salon
- Matchpoint Graphics • Meeting Possibilities • My Training Dept. • No Sweat
- Nor-Cal Moving Services • Out & About • The Paper Trail • Quality Haircuts • The Rain Forest • RMS Data • Roesberg/Spillner Car Care • Sam Clar Office Furniture
- San Ramon Body & Detail Shop • San Ramon Chiropractic and Occupational Center
- San Ramon Dental Excellence • San Ramon Family Optometry • San Ramon Floral Fantasy • Security Public Storage • Serenity Skincare • Smog Check by Boss Trucks
- Sponges Car Wash • Spotlights Art Academy • Spray Soleil • Suddath Relocations
- Susan Cooke Interior Design Group • 20/20 Optometry • 24-Hour Fitness • Tans Plus
- Technology Integration Group (TIG) • TLC Interior Plant Services • Tutoring Club
- Valley Limousine • Versailles Jewelers • XO Communications • Yoga

## New Transportation Events in April

**Special events coming this spring:** The Bishop Ranch Transportation Center will host a Bike Safety Training Session in late April to prepare adults of all skill levels for **Bike to Work Day 2005** (Thursday, May 19). A certified League of American Bicyclists instructor will lead the four-hour indoor class. Sign-up deadline: **April 15**.



And there's more: Robin Snyder, from Environmental Protection Agency's Best Workplaces for Commuters, will conduct an information session for Bishop Ranch Employee Transportation Coordinators (ETCs) on **Tuesday, April 26**. Snyder will discuss new national program developments, including the eligibility of many Bishop Ranch companies for national recognition. This invitation-only, RSVP event is hosted by the Transportation Center and open to one representative from each Bishop Ranch company. Enjoy a free lunch and learn how easy it is to be included on the **2005 Bay Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters list**. Invitations will be sent early in April.

For more information, to sign up for the class or to RSVP for the lunch, contact the Transportation Center at **830-0101** or [brtc@bishopranch.com](mailto:brtc@bishopranch.com).

## Contact Us

### Leasing:

Ed Hagopian, Rolf Jourgensen.....866-0100

### Building Services:

**Main Line: Property Management Office**.....277-1700

**BR 1 & 8:** Andrea Kirkpatrick, Sr. Property Manager

**BR 2 & 11:** Dana Riggs, Property Manager

**BR 3:** Alvia Rios, Property Manager

**BR 6, 7 & 9:** Paul Radich, Sr. Property Manager

**BR 12:** Gloria Taya, Property Manager

**BR 15:** Jenni Koidal, Sr. Property Manager

### Tenant Events/Services:

Sidney Corbett, Monica Magee.....543-0100

**Conference Center:**.....543-7700

**Transportation Center:** Marci McGuire.....830-0101

**After Hours Security/Emergency:**.....277-1700