



Photo by Andy Scheck

Central Lafayette is a great place to spend Saturday afternoons, for diners, shoppers, and pooches alike

The New Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson

The once sleepy little bedroom community of Lafayette has changed dramatically in the last 10 years. Not all that long ago, if you wanted a really good burrito, stylish accessories for your pooch, or knitting supplies, it was necessary to leave Lamorinda. Not anymore.

Evidence of the building boom is all over town. The Veteran's Building near the reservoir was completed in the fall of 2005; the new Mercantile building is under construction and expected to be finished later this year. After some geologic concerns that slowed construction, ground breaking for the new Lafayette Library is expected in the near future.

Since 2000, Lafayette has seen the following come to town: Baja Fresh, Panda Express and Hollywood Video, Cingular Wireless, Pizza Antica, Chow, Big Sky Yarn Co, Pendleton, the Town Center shingled apartment buildings, the new downtown park, a new playground at the reservoir and new baseball and soccer fields along St. Mary's road to name a few.

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Moraga Mourns the Loss of Sarah Rehm

By Julie Penfold

Any death is tragic, any death leaves a hole in the hearts of family and friends, but the death of a 17-year-old girl with her whole life before her is a tragedy on an even greater scale. It just shouldn't happen.

Moraga has dealt with two such tragedies in as many months, and while we can't conceive of the loss the families of Sarah Rehm and Kyle Morton feel, the deaths of the teenagers, and the loss of the exuberance and the possibilities their lives held, hurts us all nonetheless.

On March 13 at about 2:30 am, Sarah lost control of her Toyota sedan and crashed into a utility pole on Rheem Boulevard. She died instantly.

Sarah's car was traveling at such a high speed that the impact literally split the vehicle into two pieces. A mailbox hit by the car tore through the stucco of a house half a block away. Over 3,000 nearby households lost power immediately after the crash.

Sarah's tragic death occurred two months to the day from the fatal car crash of Kyle Morton, less than a block and a half away.

The coincidence of the date and location of the two crashes "is eerie," said Moraga Police Sergeant Robert Priebe. A father of three, Sgt. Priebe was clearly shaken by the events, calling the March 13th scene "the worst I've ever seen in my 27 years. I hope to never see anything like that again."

Priebe said that the similarities between the two fatal crashes are: the location the youth of the drivers; the fact that no other vehicles were involved and most importantly, the excessive rate of speed. Toxicology reports for the March 13 fatality will not be returned for a few weeks.

"At the point where the vehicle is going that fast, it's a matter of physics. No driver could control a car at that speed on a road that's

designed to handle 35 mile per hour traffic."

Priebe noted that at the point on Rheem where Sarah's accident occurred, "it's a straight, flat road. The road was not an issue in this crash."

Asked what could be done to prevent such tragic crashes, Priebe said, "There's nothing you can do to eliminate catastrophic events." He went on to say, though, that all drivers, especially young, new drivers, should never challenge how fast they think they're capable of driving. Again, he said, "it's a matter of physics. When you get 2,000 pounds of metal moving that fast, there's going to be a loss of control."

Sarah's memorial service was held at Moraga Presbyterian Church at on Monday, March 19.



Mourners created an impromptu memorial to Sarah Rehm on Rheem Blvd. in Moraga.

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Miramonte students walked out of classes and onto the Quad in a protest of school policy on March 14.

Picture: Jeremy Unger

Walkout at Miramonte

By Naveed Hassan

Contributing: Lee Borrowman

At about 10:30 A.M. on Wednesday, March 14, some 125 Miramonte students walked out of their 3rd period classes and onto the Quad. According to a statement released by Miramonte Principal Raul M. Zamora, "The walkout was orderly and remained on campus."

Arranged via online blogging, mass

text messages and word-of-mouth, the students took to the Orinda school's main quad chanting pro-teacher's rights slogans. The walkout was considered by many participants to be a final resort in protesting what they say is the Acalanes Union High School District's decision to nominate history and track coach Jaime Fernandez ...

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