

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Delivered weekly to all
Lamorinda households

Volume 01; Issue 04

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Wednesday, April 04, 2007



"Sunset Over the Reservoir"

Representational Artist Brings Local Area to Life

Artist Andrew Denman

By Jennifer Wake

Mountain Lions. Red-tailed Hawks. California Quail. It's just part of the menagerie of wildlife found in one of the area's favorite recreation spots: the Lafayette Reservoir. For Orinda resident and award-winning wildlife artist Andrew Denman, however, the recreational area is not only a jewel of the East Bay Parks system, but a locale with an abundant source of subject matter for his paintings.

Over the past 15 years, Denman has found sources for his intricate representational paintings in various locations throughout the Bay Area. Whether it is in the hills surrounding his Orinda home, on walks in Mount Diablo State Park, or

at the Reservoir, Denman looks for ways to connect people with nature.

"The living element in my paintings allows us to place ourselves in the setting," he said. "If we can relate to a painting, it can elicit from us a genuine emotional response."

But mountain lions?

"Despite the fact that I've never seen one, mountain lions are frequent visitors [to the reservoir]," said Denman. "We also have a resident bald eagle which I have seen once or twice.

continued on page 5

Orinda Police Chief Bill French Shares Some

Thoughts

By Lee Borrowman

Bill French now has three months as Orinda Police Chief under his belt, and he has settled right in to the business of running a Police Department. It did not take long for him to identify his priorities. "The juvenile diversion program, disaster preparedness and emergency planning, and traffic issues around the schools," French explains, are at the forefront. He spoke with us recently about a couple of issues of concern to him and to Orinda residents.

"Orinda, like Lafayette, is perfectly situated for a certain type of criminal who just drives around looking to commit a crime of opportunity," began French. "With a freeway

running through the middle of the city and the San Pablo Dam road artery, criminals have easy access to - and quick exit from - this city."

A recent string of burglaries, three over a two week period, on the south side of Orinda caused concern among residents. The last of those burglaries was about four weeks ago. "We do think these crimes were committed by the same people, because the m.o. was very similar. They knocked on the front door, and if nobody answered they circled the house and entered through an unlocked door or unsecured window." French continued, "In addition to investigating these crimes, we've been doing proactive police work, aggressively patrolling the area to be both on the look-out and a visible presence."

...continued on page 4

Reach Out to Everybody

By Andy Scheck, Publisher

"Are you serious?" "Why are you doing this?" "Do you really believe you can do this?" I had to answer question after question from friends, family and others after I announced my plan to start a local newspaper.

Well, we did it! You're holding issue #4 of the Lamorinda Weekly in your hands. "It's so much different..."; "It's the paper I really read..."; "I love it..."; "Keep up the good work..."; "It's what this community needed most!" These are just some of the comments we've received from our readers.

The vision to start a free local weekly newspaper, with a 1:1 online edition, began last year. The challenge was to find an editorial team to write about schools, sports, Saint Mary's College and the three towns that make up our extended community. This team has done a great job writing stories, interviewing people and filling our pages with lots of interesting articles.

We know that there are many active residents in the three communities and many things happen over the course of a week. To report about these events, it is necessary for us to connect with existing networks. Our editorial philosophy is, "The more you like it, the more we hear from you." We write to reach you. It's your paper as much as it is ours.

Writing about the people in the towns is writing about you... and us, as a community. Because it is all about us, we print all 16 pages

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- Moraga - 275 Paseo Bernal - 3BR/2.5BA
- Moraga - C.P. area 4BR w/ Pool
- MCC - 784 Country Club - 2BR+ Loft
- Lafayette - 3BR rental begin mid-May

in full color. Life in Lamorinda is very colorful, and changes with the seasons. Part of our mission is to capture and preserve this mosaic, these moments in our lives. As the Lamorinda Weekly is archived online, all of our stories and pictures will remain as a chronicle, a keepsake, to be enjoyed and shared. We believe that a newspaper, in representing the spirit of a community, will fulfill its role of being an informative, neutral and helpful medium for everyone it reaches. If you have friends, family or colleagues outside of Lamorinda, please feel free to invite them to read online. You may even choose to send single pages to them by email.

When we first started to deliver our newspaper, we learned that it is too hard for a small organization to reach every single driveway. We decided to change from hand-delivery to mail as our method of distribution. The Lamorinda Weekly should arrive in your mailbox on Thursdays.

Yes, it was a lot of work for us to make the Lamorinda Weekly happen. As the Publisher,

I'm very proud of my team. Great reporting, great communication with the community, well balanced editorial and very nice writing. This is what we want to continue. To achieve this I pushed the team very hard; too hard. So I have decided to go on a bi-weekly cycle to make the workload more manageable and also to balance our financials in this start-up period. This means issue #5 of the Lamorinda Weekly will come out on Wednesday, April 18th. Before we go back to a weekly cycle, we're planning to increase the page count first. Enjoy reading #4 of the Lamorinda Weekly. Reach me at andy@lamorindaweekly.com

Some facts:
Lamorinda Weekly reaches more than 60,000 people in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, as 24,300 copies are mailed to homes and another 1,200 copies are delivered to businesses, schools, libraries and municipal offices. We report only on local topics and issues. Advertising space is sold primarily to companies located in Lamorinda. More than 2,500 complete copies and 5,000 single pages from our first three issues have been downloaded from our web site.

LAMORINDA WEEKLY this week

Town news	page 2, 3, 4	Sports news	page 12, 13
Life in Lamorinda	page 5, 6, 7	Saint Mary's College	page 14, 15
School news	page 8, 9	Classified	page 16

Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, Apr 9 Monday, Apr 23	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, Apr 5 Thursday, Apr 19	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, Apr 10 Tuesday, Apr 24	
Park, Trails, Rec.	7pm
Community Center 500 St Mary's Road Wednesday, Apr 11 Wednesday, May 9	
Circulation	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, Apr 16	
Emergency Prep.	9:15am
City Offices 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 265 Wednesday, Apr 11	
Senior Services	4pm
Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, Apr 26	
Youth Services	6pm
Community Center, Elderberry Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, Apr 9	
check online: Town of Lafayette: http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us for: • all meeting notes • calendar updates Chamber of Commerce: http://www.lafayettechamber.org for: • local businesses • upcoming events	

Senior Transportation Program Stands Out

By Lee Borrowman
The successful Lamorinda Senior Transportation Program has been described as community based, innovative and resourceful. It has become a role model in the senior transportation industry. This program, which serves the close to 10,000 Lamorindans who are 65 or older, is shaped by three interdependent components: a 20% discount taxi service offered by Contra Costa Yellow Cab & DeSoto company for Lamorinda seniors, a volunteer driver program provided both through Senior Helpline Services "Rides for Seniors" program and Seniors Around Town targeting Orindans, and a ten passenger van service (dubbed Lamorinda Spirit) with wheel chair lift man-

aged by Lafayette Senior Services. The van serves not only older adults but any persons with disabilities. Lafayette Senior Services coordinator Mei Sun Li says, "The support of the City of Lafayette, including the City Council, Mayor Federighi, former Mayor Carl Andruri and Jay Lifson of the Chamber of

Commerce, as well as from the East Bay Community Foundation and Supervisor Gayle Uilkema has been vital to the success of the program." The Moraga and Orinda city councils have also officially endorsed the project, and it is hoped that the tri-city relationship will continue to grow.

As of year-end 2006, with seven months of expenses under the belt, the Lamorinda Spirit van had logged close to 800 rides with the focus on taking ADA/LINK eligible passengers to a lunch program in Walnut Creek.

The launch of Errand Day last November, which provides door-to-door transportation to grocery stores, drug stores and medical appointments, has garnered praise from local seniors: "I really depend on the van and enjoy riding it. I don't know what we would do without it," said one 90-year-old resident of Lafayette. A rider from Moraga said, "I think Errand Day is a wonderful service. It's a godsend to me as I'm housebound without it." And everyone loves driver Eddie Carvalho, who assists his passengers to and from the van, carries groceries, and treats each rider with courtesy and kindness.

There will be a Sock-Hop fundraiser for the Lamorinda Senior Transportation program on May 6, from 2:00-6:00pm, at the Lafayette Community Center. Tickets are \$10, and live music will be provided by the Tice Valley Swing Band.



Lamorinda Spirit Van. From left to right: Susan Hahn, Lafayette Senior Services Commission Chair; (on lift) - Muriel Manus Lamorinda Spirit Van Rider and Volunteer; Malcolm Hendry Lamorinda Spirit Van Volunteer Driver; Gayle Uilkema District Supervisor

Are you active in Town? Do you enjoy attending Council or Planning Meetings? Become a Contributing Reporter for the Lamorinda Weekly! Your impartial reporting of issues is more important than your previous writing experience. Email us at info@lamorindaweekly.com or call 925-330-1983

Richard Peck Event

By Sarah Henningsen
With his newest novel On the Wings of Heroes gracing children's bestseller lists, author Richard Peck is riding on literary success yet again. On March 26th, Newbery medal winner Richard Peck came to Lamorinda as part of his coast to coast tour, giving a speech and signing books at Temple Isaiah in an event that raised money for the Storyteller Bookstore and the Lafayette Library.

On the Wings of Heroes chronicles the life of Davy Bowman, a young American boy growing up during World War II. With an older brother off fighting in the army, Davy himself contributes to the war effort by collecting scrap metal

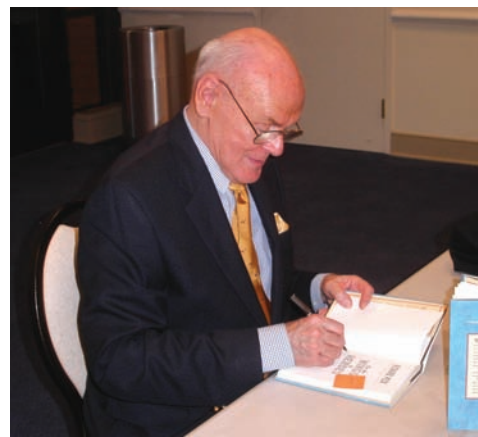
in his neighborhood, an endeavor that introduces him to many unique characters and important life lessons. The story is based loosely upon Peck's own boyhood. As Peck iterated in his speech, "I lived a red, white, and blue childhood of saving stamps, ration books, and 'loose lips sink ships'. We snooped around and called it patriotism. Today, I still snoop and call it research." Although he drew somewhat from personal experiences, Richard Peck's impeccable research about World War II manifested itself in this great new work.

Following Peck's humorous and inspiring speech, audience members could purchase On the Wings of Heroes as well as other notable titles like A Long Way From Chicago and A Year Down Yonder. A percentage of the proceeds from the books sold at Monday's event will be split between the Storyteller Bookstore and the Lafayette Library. Both institutions work tirelessly to support

literacy and reading skills among Lamorinda's youth, through the Tuesday Child author series that organized Richard Peck's visit and through various other events during the year.

The event itself was more than just a general speech and subsequent book signing. Musical trio Bob Sutherland, Don Hall, and Stewart Yasaki provided quality entertainment from the war era as audience members filtered into the social hall. Several local veterans—Blaine and Muriel Snow, Floyd Pickett, William Harbin, and Jack de Leeuw—shared their war stories and photos with children and parents alike. At yet another station in Temple Isaiah's expansive room, individuals were given the opportunity to decorate and write letters to troops which Campolindo student Justin Batcheller is collecting for his Eagle Scout project.

Linda Higham, owner of The Storyteller in Lafayette, expressed her thoughts on the evening: "The main objective of Tuesday's Child is to bring families together to promote interest in books. In that sense, the event was very successful."



Richard Peck

Parking Meters May Proliferate, But Just a Bit

By Lee Borrowman
In an effort to secure permanent on-going funding to pay for the City of Lafayette's Code Enforcement Officer, the Parking Meter Task Force is preparing to recommend the installation of additional parking meters in the downtown -Mt Diablo Blvd. corridor.

In response to requests from homeowners, the City Council last year decided to employ a full-time code enforcement officer. At the time the decision was made, the Council was advised that they would need to increase parking revenues in order to provide a source of funds from which to support this service. An increase in the parking meter rates from \$.50 to \$1.00 per hour went into effect this

spring. According to Administrative Services Director Tracy Robinson, "The Task Force determined that the city could potentially place an additional 470 parking meters, but will probably recommend to the City Council in May the installation of only 92 new meters."

The function of the code enforcement officer is to enforce Lafayette Municipal Code, particularly as it relates to land use and property maintenance. The code enforcement officer concentrates on the investigation and abatement of complaints involving general land use (existing structures), housing conditions, abandoned vehicles, signs, fences and general public nuisances.

Robinson says the city is

also considering alternatives to rows of single- or double-space meters for any new installations, and may pilot the use of parking kiosks that accept credit cards, similar to those that are currently found in nearby communities. "Kiosks reduce visual clutter and make access easier for those with disabilities," she said.

New rates and prospective new meters will not have an impact on the parking revenue that is currently being set aside to fund the city's long-planned public parking facility. "We are trying to find an appropriate place to provide public parking. We've not been able to locate a suitable property, and the cost of new construction is very high," says Robinson.

Going Out in a Blaze of Glory

By Lee Borrowman
If you don't have children, or the time to explore curiosities, you may never have walked through the door of Action & Adventure on Mt. Diablo Blvd. For ten happy years, Peter Grubbs and his faithful sidekick Ralph the Dog have, in Grubbs' words, "Made a small living but a big impression," from the little shop that's bursting with an eclectic assortment of comics

A self-described "compulsive shopper" and collector of tropical fish, Grubbs enjoys forays to the flea market in search of unusual items, and has been happy running his business. "I'd love to be able to stay here," says Grubbs. "The community has been very supportive, and several people have offered to help find a new location for the store." Business has picked



Peter Grubbs



and collectibles. Unfortunately, the end may be near for the dynamic duo.

Grubbs is finding it difficult to keep up with the cost of doing business, with lease payments on the property being a significant factor. His small business has provided something less than a modest income, and he faces strong competition from on-line vendors who now dominate this niche in the market. He has given notice to the property owner that he cannot "re-up for another five years."

up a bit since customers became aware that Grubbs will be leaving. He plans to keep the store open as long as possible, and has been negotiating accordingly with the property

owner. There many kids, and kids-at-heart, in Lamorinda who hope that Peter Grubbs and Ralph the Dog can continue their adventure.

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Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Moraga

Calendar

City Council 7:30pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo Wednesday, Apr 11 Wednesday, Apr 25
Planning Comm. 7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive Monday, Apr 16 Monday, May 7
Design Review 7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive Monday, Apr 9 Monday, Apr 23
Park & Rec. 7:30pm
Hacienda, Mosaic Room 2100 Donald Drive Tuesday, Apr 17

Youth Involvement 7:30pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room
500 St Mary's Road
Thursday, Apr 12

Liaison 8:00am
Fire Station
1280 Moraga Way
Friday, Apr 13

check online:
Town of Moraga:
<http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us>
for:
• all meeting notes
• calendar updates

Moraga Joins Regional Communications System

By Steve Angelides

The Moraga Town Council has unanimously agreed to sign a letter of intent to join the East Bay Regional Communication System (EBRCS) to provide radio communications for its police and public works departments.

This new system, which is eventually expected to provide coordinated emergency communications for all public agencies in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, except BART, is not yet funded, but is expected to cost \$60 million, according to Moraga Police Chief Mark Ruppenthal. Ruppenthal said the plan is to seek federal funding for the new system. The letter of intent does not bind Moraga to join the system, but allows the Town to get in on the ground floor of the planning.

As a show of good faith, the town is also putting up \$4,400 along with its letter of intent. That amount

is calculated based on \$100 per radio. Between the Police Department and the Public Works Department, the Town currently has 44 radios.

Emergency communications for the Town are currently provided through the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department. Using the current system, the police departments of Moraga, Orinda, and Lafayette can easily communicate with each other. However, with all of the other local agencies expected to join the new system, the Town would have no choice but to follow suit.

Ruppenthal explained that during any emergency it is necessary for all of the agencies to be able to communicate with each other in order to do their work. He said that this became apparent locally after the Loma Prieta earthquake and the Oakland Hills Fire, and became apparent nationally after 2001.

Town Council Moves Quickly to Seek New Traffic Signal

By Steve Angelides

The Town of Moraga is moving rapidly to take advantage of opportunities to enhance traffic safety. The newly formed Traffic Safety Advisory Committee held its first meeting last week, and on March 28 the Town Council authorized Town Engineer Jill Mercurio to apply for a \$710,000 fast-track grant to fund a traffic signal and other safety improvements at the intersection of Moraga Rd. and Ascot Dr.

If approved, the Highway Safety Improve-

ment Program grant will meet 90% of the funding requirement, and the remaining 10% will come out of the Town's Measure C transportation funds of approximately \$125,000

per year. The application is due April 13 and will be approved or denied by May 15. During the discussion, Mayor Mike Metcalf initially suggested that the Town's newly-formed Traffic Safety Advisory Committee first study the question, pointing out that some residents oppose a traffic signal at that intersection. Council member Rochelle Bird commented that residents want to be safer, but there are those who do not want to be slowed down by traffic

signals. According to Police Chief Mark Ruppenthal, there is a partially completed study by a traffic engineering consultant, which the Town decided not to con-

tinue, that indicates a traffic signal at that location is warranted. Mercurio explained that waiting for a study would cause the grant opportunity to be lost. She plans to incorporate preliminary plans for a meridian, part of the Town's beautification plan, into the grant submission as well. The Council voted unanimously to proceed with the grant process. In the grant selection process, priority will be given to projects that will start by



Town Council Moves Palos Colorados Another Step Forward

By Steve Angelides

The Moraga Town Council skittishly but inexorably moved the proposed Palos Colorados subdivision another step forward tonight by deciding that 4 miles of trails, 386 acres of open space, and a 1.4 acre "pocket park" were enough to satisfy the developer's park obligations.

According to Lori Salamack, Town Planning Director, a single acre of parkland would have been enough to satisfy the developer's obligations under the town code. The code allows a 50% credit for trails and a 50% credit for open space, so Salamack said the developer would have met the park requirement even without the pocket park. With the pocket park she said the developer was providing "more than 100% more" than required.


The Town's Park and Recreation Commission and Planning Commission, in a special joint meeting on March 5, had previously made a unanimous preliminary decision after two hours of discussion that the proposed parkland was "adequate, sufficient and appropriate." Despite that recommendation, and the non-discretionary nature of the issue, the Town Council deliberated for more than an hour before a dwindling audience before making its own final decision on the parkland issue.

Much of the delay came as council members repeatedly sought assurances from Town staff, and from each other, that the

Council retained discretion in later stages of the approval process over the placement and construction of the trails and the pocket park. Only after they were repeatedly assured of that by Salamack, Town Manager Phil Vince, and each other, did the council members eventually unanimously adopt Trotter's carefully-worded motion which approved Richfield's parkland deal and allowed the development proposal to move forward.

Salamack said that the Town Planning Department is currently working on the conditions of approval of the Palos Colorados subdivi-


vision. She hopes the conditions will be ready for a study session by the Planning Commission in April, and a public hearing in May, allowing time for further modifications and approval of the Vesting Tentative Map sometime in June. Richfield attorney Alicia Guerra said she hoped to submit the Precise Development Plan in the fourth quarter of 2007, and Vince said he thought it might be approved by around April, 2008. So after years of controversy and delay, Moraga gets another step closer to the Town's \$14 million payment.



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Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Orinda

Calendar	
City Council 7pm Auditorium, Orinda Library 24 Orinda Way Tuesday, Apr 10	
Planning Comm. 7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, Apr 10	
Traffic Advisory 7pm Mayor's Conf. Rm, City Offices 14 Altarinda Road	
Park & Recreation 7pm Community Center 500 St Mary's Road Wednesday, Apr 11 Wednesday, May 9	
Historic Landmarks 3pm Gallery Room, Orinda Library 22 Orinda Way Tuesday, Apr 24	
Liaison 8:30am Room 7, Community Center 26 Orinda Way Monday, Apr 2	
check online: Town of Orinda: http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/ for: • all meeting notes • calendar updates	
Chamber of Commerce: http://www.orinda-chamber.org/ • local businesses • upcoming events	

Orinda Police Chief Bill French Shares Some Thoughts

... continued from page 1.
French also said, "Statistically, Orinda averages about one burglary per week."
French urged residents to take steps to protect themselves and their property. "Lock and alarm your homes. Provide proper lighting, which may act as a deterrent. Lock your cars and homes even if you're only going to be gone a short time. Call us if you see someone who you think may not belong in your neighborhood."
French also voiced strong concerns around the issue of teenagers drinking and driving. "We will be very firm and strict about enforcing the law. My officers have been instructed to do everything they can, within the law, to keep kids who have been drinking off the streets." Police are targeting those who host a certain type of teenage party. French said, "I would love to talk to the parents who allow parties in their homes at which kids are drinking." "There are drugs and alcohol in the high school now, just like there have always been," said French. Alcohol and marijuana are the most

prevalent, but French reported that there has also been one case involving LSD since he arrived on the job.
On French's desk was a working document of crime trends from 2005 to 2006. In the category of serious crimes, the number of burglaries increased from 55 to 67, thefts rose from 201 to 233, and the number of assaults doubled, going from 15 to 30. There have been no murders, one rape and seven robberies. French was not prepared to comment on these statistics, because he is still in the process of reviewing the data.
Finally, Chief French would like Orindans to know that, "I like to talk citizens. We are here to do a job, and you have a right to expect a certain level of service. If you're not getting it, I'd like to hear about it." He added, "Not all interactions with the police are going to be positive experiences. It's the nature of police work. We deal with difficult situations."
Read more about some of Chief French's other priorities on these pages in the weeks to come.

Everyone in the Bay Area knows it can happen any day:

The Big One

By Chris Lavin
Yet while we are regularly surprised by the occasional jolt and subsequent tinkle of china in the cabinets, very few people who live in our neighborhoods have actually gotten around to laying in the supplies that will be needed when a major earthquake hits.
Orinda's mayor and the Orinda Association are out to change all that. "When the big one hits, we will have a couple fire trucks and a single police officer to help 18,000 people in Orinda," Mayor Steve Glazer said. "With crumbled roads and broken water sys-

tems, we have to be prepared for a week or more without any outside help. Good intentions will not be worth much. You are either ready to survive on your own or you will be in great difficulty."
Since January, the Orinda Association has committed to the effort. It began selling two sizes of earthquake kits: large backpacks for \$65 complete with basic food, water, medical and other supplies, and smaller duffle bags costing \$48 for a car trunk.
"Every car should have one," said Fred Lothrop, a volunteer trainer in the Lam-

orinda CERT program, which stands for Community Emergency Response Training.
One of Glazer's concerns is that much of California's emergency preparedness information tells individuals and families that they should have three days of supplies in case of an emergency. He believes that is far too short of a time-frame.
"You cannot rely on anyone but yourself when disaster strikes," Glazer said. "There are simply not the government resources available when there is massive destruction. Katrina is a huge wake-up call and we need to heed the warning and take steps to be prepared immediately."
Since the Orinda Association began selling emergency kits in January, it has sold 138 backpacks and 42 duffle bags. To order, visit www.orindaassociation.org. To learn more about CERT training, visit www.LamorindaCERT.org.



Orinda Chamber of Commerce: More Vibrant than Ever!

By Sophie Braccini

The Orinda Chamber of Commerce was established as a non-profit corporation in 1952. Its mission can be summarized by the sentence, "If it's good for Orinda businesses, it's Chamber's business." The Chamber tallies 275 members, with an outlook of a 10% increase this year. The set of companies is as diverse as one could imagine. Some top 500 companies are members and it's nice to see the local branches contributing to the welfare of the Orinda business community. The majority of the members are local business owners, often Lamorinda residents, who understand that working together will bring more prosperity to each and every one of them.
In 2007, a new Board was elected. Keith Miller of Prudential Realty is the new President. One of the board's first tasks has been to intensify its interaction with the town of Orinda. The Chamber has decided to support the coming bond measure E (Orinda roads, drains and water supply). Miller spoke in front of

the City Council to present the Chamber's position: "The state of our roads may be an 'inconvenient truth,' but we have to face it and it is as bad for property values as it is bad for businesses." The Town and the Chamber are partnering in the new

dress the audience. Come and hear CEO Patrick O'Dea explain how the company can successfully grow while retaining the artisan quality and "Peetniks" culture that sets the company apart. How is Peet's planning on succeeding



Board of Directors members gather around the fountain near their office, from left to right: Pete Ritter, Keith Miller, AJ Nisen, Patti Camras, Candi Kattenburg and Carlos Rangel

"Shop Orinda" campaign. The Chamber organizes many events during the year. The breakfasts, mixers and luncheons are a great opportunity to meet local business leaders and network. These gatherings are open to the public.
The next luncheon is scheduled for Friday April 27th, when Peet's Coffee CEO Patrick O'Dea will ad-

where its competitors have failed?
The luncheon will take place at the Orinda Country Club, starting at 12:00 noon, price per person is \$30. Reservations are recommended, call 254-3909. Go to www.orindachamber.org/directory.php for a list of Chamber member businesses.



Orinda Police Chief Bill French

Photo Lee Borrowman

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Life in LAMORINDA

Representational Artist Brings Local Area to Life

Artist Andrew Denman

...continued from page 1. Also, anyone who visits the reservoir frequently is very much aware of them, but new visitors are often amazed to see the large flock

few blocks from where he lives. "It's one of my favorite spots," he said, "Of course the coyote was not present at the time I came up with the idea for the piece, though I have seen coyotes along the trail before."

Denman continues to expand the confines of the term 'wildlife artist' by some-

For example, one of Denman's acrylics, entitled "Transport," shows the contrast between the stark cement beams of the 680 corridor temporary overpass towering in the sky and birds taking flight from beneath the freeway, while miles above the exhaust of a jetliner cuts through the clear blue sky.



Denman painting

of wild turkeys often visible quite close to the road along the dam."

In his painting, Sunset over the Reservoir, Denman used the view from the fire trail at the top of Meadow View Court in Orinda, just a

times incorporating elements of modern art into his pieces, as well as architectural themes and infrastructure (such as the windmills on the Altamont Pass) that traditional wildlife artists would avoid.

His paintings are so intricate he often borrows taxidermy specimens from local museums to ensure the accuracy of his work.

"If I can find the subject in the wild setting in which I wish to paint it, that's great,



"She"

but this rarely happens," he said. "It is much easier to photograph captive specimens, like at the Lindsay Museum, and then place them in an environment."

Once while photographing a full grown male white tiger, the trainer let the animal get a bit closer to Denman than she intended. "I was crouched on the ground when the tiger approached, gently butted its enormous head into my chest, and licked my face," he said. "He wasn't really being threatening, but it was a bit unnerving none the less. Having been around wild animals with some frequency, I just tried to stay still and hold my ground until the trainer pulled him away."

Other than his shirt being wet with tiger slobber, Denman says he was unscathed.

Over the duration of his 15-year career as a wildlife artist, his award-winning work has been featured in magazines such as American

Artist, Wildlife Art, The Artist Magazine and Southwest Art. His one-man-shows have garnered national attention, and his representational acrylics have hung next to such artistic greats as Robert Bateman, Carl Brenders and John Seerey-Lester.

"I feel grateful every day that, despite the struggles, I am actually making a living doing what I love," he said. "I feel fortunate to have the opportunities to observe wildlife that I have had, to connect with my audience and help foster a love of art and nature, and to meet such interesting people, from other artists, to collectors, to wildlife enthusiasts and experts. Art has the ability to expand one's world; it certainly has mine."

To view more of Andrew Denman's work, or to contact him directly, you can visit his website at www.andrewdenman.com.

Although Denman showed artistic talent in grammar school, he says he didn't take private art classes until junior high because no one would teach light and shadow, color theory, and composition to little kids. He sold his first painting when he was only 13-years-old, and soon after sought gallery representation at Pacific Wildlife Galleries in Lafayette where he continues to display his work.

Gallery owner Dennis Salvo recalls, "He started coming in when he was just 13. At that time he worked in colored pencil and water color. I'm very selective about what I display, and I politely told him, 'You're not good enough,' but he kept coming back. I've never seen anyone so determined and focused." A few years later, thirty five of Denman's paintings were sold at his first show at Pacific Wildlife Galleries.



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Life in LAMORINDA

Not to be missed

Lafayette Rotary Club's Annual Spring Egg Roll

This event is open to all children ages 2-10. The event takes place at Plaza Park (corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Rd) in Lafayette, at 10:00am, Saturday, April 7, 2007. The park lawn will be covered with candy for the kids to put in their baskets. The youngest are always given extra time to get their share! The Bunny will be there to take pictures with the kids. Join us for the fun.

Meet the Easter Bunny

Saturday, April 7th
11:00 am to 2:00 pm
Rheem Valley Shopping Center, Moraga

The Lafayette Community Center Foundation Presents:

A Day of Bunny Fun!
Sat: April 7 • 11am-12:30pm
Hop on down to the Lafayette Community Center for an Egg Hunt, Pancake Brunch, Live Show and a Bunny visit! \$7/person Adv. Sale \$9/person: Day of Event Buy tickets at the Lafayette Community Center before April 7 to receive the discount. A limited number of tickets will be available on the day of the event.

April Hikes for the Lafayette Hiking Group

April 7 - Shell Ridge, Walnut Creek Open Space Enjoy spring flowers, new leaves and spring grass close to home. See the historic Borges Ranch and some ponds on a loop hike with some hills. This hike is about 5 miles. Leader: Alison Hill
April 14 - Crockett Hills Regional Park Enjoy exploring this new area with great views over Crockett, Vallejo, Martinez and Benicia. Wear good shoes and bring hiking sticks if you use them, as there are some steep hills. This hike is 6-7 miles with hills. Leaders: Allan and Jennifer Deal

An Evening Celebrating 40 Years of Scholarship Excellence

7:00 PM Tuesday, April 10, 2007
St. Mary's College Soda Center, St. Mary's Road, Moraga, California
AAUW Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette (OML) Branch began the Scholarship program to recognize outstanding young women in our community 40 years ago and has carried on the celebration every year since. Once again, OML will proudly present \$750.00 scholarship awards to the 2007 recipients from Campolindo, Miramonte and Acalanes high schools as well as St. Mary's College.

Please join us for a special evening dessert meeting, which will be held at St. Mary's College Soda Center on April 10th, 2007 at 7:00 PM. All are invited to participate in and enjoy this inspiring event.
AAUW is pleased to announce that this year's keynote speaker at the awards ceremony is Dr. Shawny Anderson, Associate Dean of Liberal Arts at St. Mary's. The event is free to the public. No reservations are needed. Contact: Joy Elkinton-Walker at (925) 254-8754.

On Friday, April 13th at 7:30 PM, the Lamorinda Democratic Club will be hosting a riveting meeting with Move-On Co-Founder Joan Blades who will be discussing her new venture, MomsRising. Joan will be joined by Alexia Jackson, founder of Mother: The Job, who will be presenting their amazing film, "All Day", which is about the economic value of mother's work and the policies that make it difficult or impossible to truly care for our families. You need not be politically active...or a Democrat to attend...only open-minded and interested in joining the discussion. There will be a \$5 charge for the

room rental fee. For more information, go to <http://lamorindademoclub.com/>

Build-a-Pond Seminar- Saturday, April 14, 2006 from 9am to 5pm.

Join Steve Lambert and his crew from Garden Lights Landscape for a one day, hands-on seminar taking place at Steve's home in Orinda. Learn everything you need to know to build your own backyard pond & waterfall. This is an all-day, hands on, learn by doing seminar. Learn to create a pond and waterfall that you and your family will enjoy for years to come.
Registration is required. Call: 925-254-4797. Cost: \$100.00 per person.
Registration fee includes a boxed lunch and afternoon snack.
A Maximum of 15 Participants can be enrolled so don't wait to sign up.

Monday, April 16th 2007 Moraga Women's Society April Meeting

Coffee 9:30 a.m. Meeting 10:00 a.m. Speaker 11:00 a.m.
Gretchen Miller will talk about her book, "A Young Man Of Promise: The Flower Of The Family." She edited a series of 134 Civil War letters which were sent back and forth between James Marsh Read (1833-1865) and his family in VT.
Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga, 376-3520.

Classical Guitarist, Peter Fletcher.

This concert follows his New York Debut at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. Tuesday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m. Reservations are necessary and are accepted at the information desk Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga (925)376-6852

Wednesday April 18 2:00 pm Vivienne Westwood: Appearance is Everything

A San Francisco Museums of Fine Arts docent lecture presented by the Friends of the Moraga Library based on the exhibit which runs at the de Young Museum from February 24 through June 17. Organized by the Victoria and Albert Museum, this exhibition makes the de Young its only stop on an international tour, celebrating Westwood's extraordinary range and inventiveness in more than 150 objects spanning the extremes of fashion, from London street style to the catwalks of Paris and London. Vivienne Westwood is one of the most influential designers of our time.

The Moraga Garden Club is hosting their Spring Tea, "April in Paris." It will be Thursday, April 19th, 10:30 am at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. The program will feature renowned Bay Area floral designer, Marsha Heckman. Ticket donations at \$18.00 can be obtained by calling Nancy Compelli at (925) 376-3187.

Lamorinda CERT — Offering a series of free Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) classes beginning April 19. Hands-on training in fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster first aid. Classes are held at Saint Mary's College in Moraga. Website: lamorindaCERT.org. Registration online or at 925-376-2756.

Lafayette Concerts Presents Christopher Smith • Fri: 4/20
Doors open: 7:00 pm • All shows begin: 7:30pm • Tickets: \$15 at the door (Reservations suggested) • Lafayette Community Center, Sequoia Room Reservations: 925-283-1959 • Email: charlotte@lafayetteconcerts.com
Information: www.lafayetteconcerts.com

Orinda Book Store- Saturday, April 21, 2007 3:00 PM at Montandon will discuss and sign copies of her new memoir Oh, The Hell of It All! Join us for what promises to be one of our liveliest events of the year. You read Sean Wilsey's Oh, the Glory of It All, and enjoyed every gossipy detail as well as Sean's poignant "poor little rich boy" story. Now hear what his mother, Pat Montandon, has to say in a fascinating and candid memoir.

Children's Hospital of Oakland Grateful Families Program will be having their fundraising Gala on Saturday night, April 21, from 6pm to 10pm at Oakwood Athletic Club in Lafayette. Tickets are \$85 and can be purchased at www.gratefulfamilies.org or call 510/428-3885 X5029.

New Park Facility GRAND OPENING Sunday, April 22 • 12:30 pm

Opening of a Picnic and Petanque area at the Lafayette Community Park. The City of Lafayette Parks, Trails & Recreation Department teamed with the Lamorinda Petanque Club and created this new recreational space. Come learn to play Petanque, a boules game similar to lawn bowling and Bocce Ball, but with a definite French accent. Club members will give demonstrations and provide information on how you and your friends can get involved in ongoing games and occasional tournaments

Camp Galileo Parent Info Session Tuesday, April 24th

Camp Galileo is coming back to Lafayette this summer. There will be an info session for parents to learn more about the program on Tuesday, April 24th, from 6:30 - 7:30pm at the San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church (902 Danville Blvd. in Alamo). Camp Galileo combines art, science, and outdoor programming with fun camp traditions to create a summer day camp experience kids entering K - 5th grade love. Camp Galileo's curriculum is developed in partnership with The Tech Museum of Innovation, de Young Museum, and Klutz. Lafayette location: Bentley Upper School June 18 to Aug 3. Visit www.campgalileo.com or call 1-800-854-3684 for more information.

TOSSED TREASURES SALE Saturday, April 28th, 9 to 3 at the Lafayette Community Center. An annual event sponsored by the LAFAYETTE SERVICE LEAGUE, a small group of dedicated women who raise funds to help various community programs. This year's proceeds will be donated to the Lafayette Community Center AND Hospice of Contra Costa. We're looking for donations! If you can help, please call Jackie at 284-4131 or Diane at 283-8790. Plenty of free parking is available at the Community Center.

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Dear Editor:

How surprising to find the parallels in our lives when a former colleague at Stanley School sent me the first edition of Lamorinda Weekly. I am originally from Lexington, Virginia, and returned to live here a year ago after living in California for forty five years, thirty of which were on Woodminster Drive in Moraga. Upon my return, the Wednesday edition of The News Gazette which is a combined form of the childhood newspapers I remember, The Rockbridge County News and The Lexington Gazette, is an anticipated moment as you referred to your Luray Page News and Courier. The added surprise in your first edition was the article about Bob Athayde with whom I taught at Stanley School from his first year there until my retirement in 1998. I am delighted to have your newspaper online and will anticipate reading about my former adult hometown of Moraga and the schools of Lafayette where I taught for thirty five years at Happy Valley and Stanley. Now I have two newspapers to anticipate on Wednesday.

Letters to the Editor

We're a community newspaper, and we welcome your input. Please share your thoughts, news, ideas, suggestions, and photos here in the pages of the Lamorinda Weekly.

email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Regular mail: Letters to the Editor
Lamorinda Weekly
P.O.Box 6133
Moraga, CA 94556

I am delighted to be back in Virginia and feel just as much at home here as I did in Moraga.
Sincerely,
Martha Spencer

Letter To Editor

Another Unnecessary Orinda Bond Proposal Measure E Bond tax will cost taxpayers \$58.6 principal and \$61 million wasted interest. Your tax may be higher than the estimated average. Homeowners with an assessed valuation of \$1 million in 2014 will pay an annual bond tax of \$550, a \$2 million assessment will pay \$1100 and \$3 million will pay \$1650.

Measure E costs too much and repairs too little. The majority of streets will get no Bond money. If 500 cars trips do not pass your house daily, your road will get no Bond money but you will pay the

tax. Even if 500 cars do pass your house, you will only be eligible for Bond money, and no guarantees exist your road will be repaired.

A better solution exists that will cover all infrastructure: \$ 915,159 Use City annual pavement management funds (Ordinance 07-03) \$ 500,000 City Reserve Fund (Ordinance 07-03) \$ 900,000 Savings by changing Police Dept. from County to City (use Moraga Model) \$2,315,159 to fund a \$36,260,000 City Revenue Bond (No New Taxes Needed)

Additionally: forming an Orinda Fire District by 2010 saves \$2,476,974. This savings increases annually to \$4,680,606 for infrastructure in 2014. Please vote NO on E, an unnecessary new tax.

Vince Maiorana
Orinda

Community Emergency Response Team

By Becky Kim, with Sophie Braccini

Word is quickly spreading of the tri-city Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), which is actively leading motivated Lamorinda residents in a quest to become more efficient volunteers in case of a disaster. After a major event, remote suburban communities could have to wait for five days or more before outside help arrives. Most of us realize that the question is not, "Will there be a big one?" but rather, "When?"

The primary reason for CERT training is to give people the decision-making, organizational, and practical skills to offer immediate assistance to family members, neighbors, and associates

while waiting for help. While people will respond to others in need without the training, the goal of the CERT program is to help people do so effectively and efficiently without placing themselves in unnecessary danger.

In only 20 hours, spread over 6 weeks, the course offers training in a variety of situations: from dressing a wound and helping the severely injured, to safely entering a building knowing simple household hazard mitigation. A big part of CERT training is about organizing a search team, planning a simple rescue mission and assessing neighborhoods so limited resources are applied efficiently.

Gordon Nathan, a teacher of CERT commented, "We are ready but not as ready as we'd like to be. CERT benefits the community; people who go through CERT training have a better understanding of the threats."

Without the community support for an organization that could prove to save hundreds of lives, a near-future incident could hit Lamorinda and leave the efforts of the community fruitless. Go to lamorindacert.org for details and schedule of classes. In our next issue we will present responses from Lamorinda residents. If this topic strikes you, feel free to send your comments to editor@lamorindaweekly.com

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Life in LAMORINDA

Dog-Friendly Trails Less Traveled

By Cathy Tyson

With winter behind us, now is a terrific time to be thinking about hikes, especially for Lamorinda residents with dogs. While most residents are familiar with the Lafayette Reservoir, there are a number of hidden gems in the area that are free and easily accessible.

rooms, picnic tables, ample parking, swings and play structures at the Commons, make it a good place to start. Additional water available at the Lafayette Community Center, behind the Burton Valley Fire Station and at Stanley School for those going the entire length. Three-dog limit per

cautions the tall grass and brush make it a "tick festival." She recommends keeping your dog on the trail to avoid infestation. Connector trail is a rough dirt path near electrical towers. Park is available to rent for parties, to reserve call (925) 253-4208.

going the entire length of the trail, best to leave a second car at this other staging area. Although you may be cited, an EBMUD representative said Regional Park patrols usually let hikers off with a warning. Call (800) 866-40-EBMUD for more information.

King Canyon Loop Trail - Moraga

This is a very rarely traveled EBMUD trail. A permit is required; see information on obtaining one in Briones description. There are two choices here, both ok for dogs, the shorter and reasonably well-marked Riche Loop Trail directly adjacent to the staging area, or the 4-1/2 mile King Canyon Loop Trail. This is another two-car hike. The easiest way is to follow Moraga Road past Camino Pablo, where it changes name to Canyon Road. About 3/4 of a mile



Steve Christensen, Alexandra and dog Daisy at Moraga Commons Trail

from Camino Pablo, turn left into the Valle Vista Staging Area. No restrooms, no water, but lots of available parking. Follow the main trail .2 to the fork and go left .2 miles, then you have a choice of staying left for the Rimer Creek Trail, which connects to the Rocky Ridge Trail or continue right, along the water for the King

Canyon Trail. Both Rocky Ridge and King Canyon joint together half a mile from Rancho Laguna Park. There is water, restrooms, kid play areas and a large grassy field at Rancho Laguna Park, located at the end of Camino Pablo, past Sanders Ranch.



Cows, grass and Town of Moraga from Mulholland Ridge

Photo by Cathy Tyson

Mulholland Ridge Trail - Moraga

This is a lovely, quiet trail that runs along the ridge of the 250-acre Mulholland Ridge Open Space Preserve, that is essentially the remains of Donald Drive. There are spectacular views of Orinda and the Gateway development to the west, the town of Moraga, and looking east, Mt. Diablo. Water fountain available from the large green water tank at the top. No restrooms. Dogs can be off-leash at the top. Located near Rheem School. Coming from Moraga, turn left on Donald Drive toward the Hacienda de las Flores, just follow the brown signs and continue till road dead ends. Also accessible from Zander on the Orinda side.

Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail

This very family-friendly trail is a hit with dogs, bikes and the stroller set. This relatively level, paved path runs from the Moraga Commons at the corner of Moraga Road and St. Mary's Road, to a staging area at Olympic Boulevard and Pleasant Hill Road in Lafayette, around 6 miles, one way. Water, rest-

person, and a leash no longer than six feet required. Dogs may be off-leash in under-developed areas. Dangerous and aggressive dogs not allowed. For more information call 1-888-EBPARKS (1-888-327-2757).

Orinda Oaks Park

This quiet, grassy 12-acre park located on Moraga Way between Ivy Drive and Hall Drive has the best of both worlds, picnic and hiking. Although it's a bit hard to see the entrance,



Orinda Oaks Park sign

there is parking, restrooms, water, barbecues, picnic tables, horseshoe pits, bocce ball court - bring your own equipment, and a large level manicured grass field perfect for Frisbee, flag football or a baseball game. Behind the main area, there is natural open space with a connector trail to Mulholland Ridge. Off-leash dogs ok. Neighbor Joi Shustack

Briones Reservoir - Orinda

This is part of East Bay Municipal Utility District, so a permit is required. Getting a permit is really quite easy. It takes about five minutes to do in person, but is also available on-line at www.ebmud.com. I went to the Orinda Community Center, filled in a very short application form, paid the \$10.00 fee, and was ready to go. The applicant copy of the form is your temporary permit. If going the on-line route, again use your printed copy as your temporary permit. A Trail Use Permit will be mailed within thirty days. Permit holders are allowed to take members of their immediate family plus three additional guests. Heading north of Highway 24 on Camino Pablo, turn right on Bear Creek Road at the signal, stay on this road about a mile, past the electrical facility you'll see the Overlook staging area on the left. Restroom and parking available, but no water, be sure to bring your own, and sunscreen. Dogs on leash are ok only on the Oursan Trail, which is well marked and follows the north side of the reservoir 9.3 miles to the Bear Creek Staging Area. If

Spring Break in Lamorinda

By Sarah Henningsen

It's halfway through spring break and your kids are hyperactive with unused energy. Don't panic! If you aren't one of the families that are away on some exotic vacation, consider these ideas and make the most of what Lamorinda has to offer:

1) Rim Trail. Top off the afternoon with a family picnic at one of the many tables overlooking the reservoir.

2) Tadpole fishing is a great opportunity to spend time with your kids. Along with some fishing nets, pack up your family for a fun day in nature. If you're still not

ready for that puppy the kids are begging for, come early April, the tiny ponds and swampy areas along the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail start swimming with tadpoles just waiting to be taken home. You have to keep your eyes open for the ponds since they are relatively small and tucked away. After catching a good share of tadpoles, bring them home and watch as they morph into mini frogs, making the fun experience an educational one too!



Lafayette Reservoir

ready for that puppy the kids are begging for, come early April, the tiny ponds and swampy areas along the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail start swimming with tadpoles just waiting to be taken home. You have to keep your eyes open for the ponds since they are relatively small and tucked away. After catching a good share of tadpoles, bring them home and watch as they morph into mini frogs, making the fun experience an educational one too!

3) Before 9:00am and after 7:00pm, Rancho La-

guna park is loud and lively—with dogs. Whether you own a dog or not, simply watching the action at the park is extremely amusing. Upwards of thirty dogs and their owners visit every day for casual social time, talking for some and wrestling for others. From

labrador puppies to giant mastiffs, the dog park has a mix of many breeds all with colorful personalities. If not for the spectator element, your kids will love going to Rancho Laguna park during the off leash hours; the experience is better than any petting zoo.

Don't let yourself or your family face tortuous boredom—save it for summer when temperatures make you delirious and incapable of anything but laying next to the fan!

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Lamorinda Schools

Joaquin Moraga • Lafayette Elementary • Los Perales • Miramonte • Orinda Intermediate • Sleepy Hollow • Springhill • Stanley Middle • Wagner Ranch

Los Perales' 10th Annual Science Fair

By Lee Borrowman, with Bruce Burns

Under the watchful eye of school mascot Pouncer the Panther, Los Perales students proudly displayed their scientific experiments on March 26. With everything from the construction of a

of M&Ms, this year's event was described by Principal Bruce Burns as, "A very kid-oriented science fair!"

We asked Burns to explain the value of the science fair: "Elementary school sci-

entists to use their life skills of curiosity and problem solving in answering typical kid-like questions such as 'I wonder how that works?' or 'I wonder what would happen if...' and then turn that into a project."

"The projects require the students to be real scientists. They must do research to find and develop their projects, and implement the scientific process. Students working with a partner have the added benefit/challenge or learning opportunity to use the life skill of cooperation - figuring out who is going to what - when - and how," Burns continues.

"The science fair also provides student scientists a wonderful opportunity to show off their work to the school community. Their work is displayed and viewed and they are asked by visitors to explain their projects - and in some cases - defend their work! (They have the opportunity to be) creative in developing their boards/displays, use their math and writing skills to prepare their reports, and use oral language and higher level thinking skills to discuss their work. The science fair provides students an opportunity to use all learning modalities in a hands-on way," Burns finishes.

When questioned as to identity of the volunteer in the panther costume, school secretary Chris O'Connell said, "It's real, okay?!"



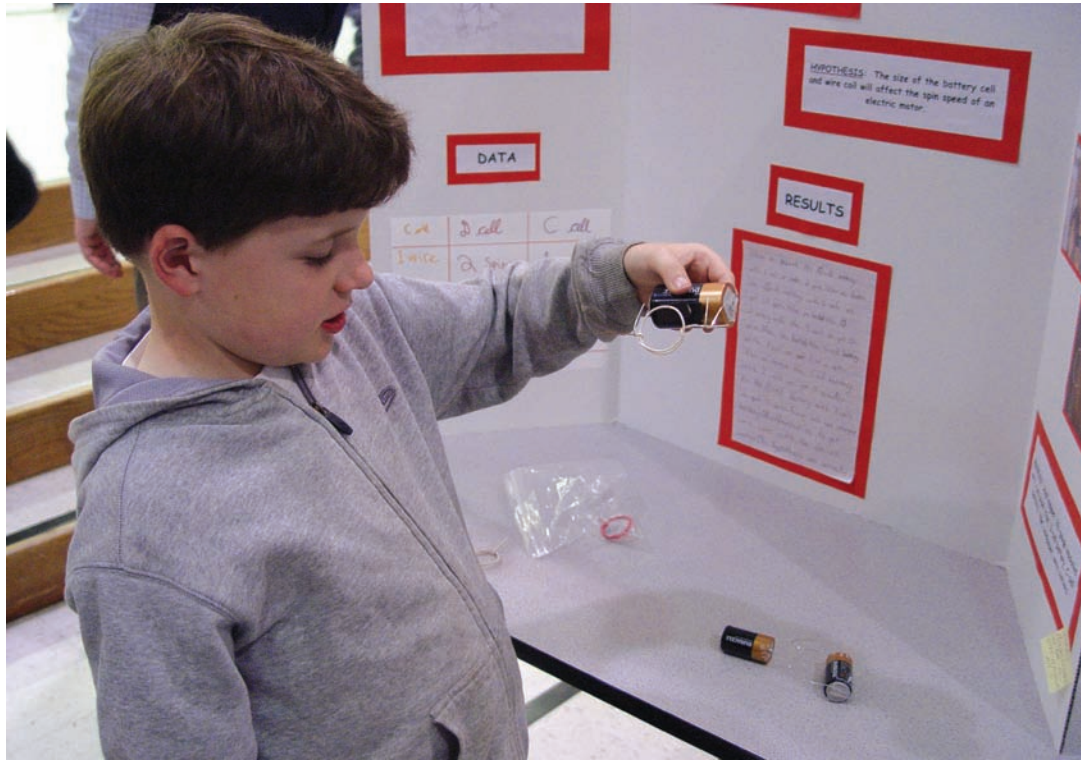
The true identity of Pouncer remains a mystery

simple electric motor to measuring the fizz in soda pop and floating the "M" off

ence fairs such as ours provide students a non-competitive opportunity



Ava Tajbakhsh and Danielle Norris make soda pop fizz



Evan Amsden rues the loss of battery power

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate: Respect All Differences

By Lee Borrowman

The Respect All Differences program at JM is week-long celebration of respect and tolerance. During the week of March 19, students participated in lunch-time activities that included a game of Cultural Jeopardy, a tie dye project, a high school student panel discussion on cliques, and the opportunity

Anna Schoenbrunner and Katie Mitchell, whose STAND project was developed to increase awareness about issues surrounding the civil war in Darfur, said, "It's a great challenge to explain in simple terms about what is a very complex situation." Through the use of a Powerpoint

students attempted to resolve their conflicts. The conflicts revolved around such issues as race, gender, and the bullying of students who are academically-inclined or have learning disabilities. There was also an interesting skit about what the world would be like if everyone and everything were exactly the same. Through the use of music and humor, the actors attempted to hold up a mirror to intolerant behaviors, and suggested, "If you don't like what you see, then change." The message on the idea of respect was, "We all want it, but first you have to be willing to give it."



The Educational Theater's "Same-ites"

to view cultural dance performances. The week was capped by a day-long Friday program during which students attended two assemblies, one presented by students from the Campolino STAND (Students Taking Action Now for Darfur) group, the other a performance by The Educational Theater Group called "Respect, Tolerance and Understanding."

presentation and "thought-talk" discussions the group made a big impression on JM students, who asked questions such as "Why is the government doing this?" "Why can't they compromise?" and, "What's happening to the refugees?"

The Educational Theater Group's play, "Respect, Tolerance and Understanding," was set in a peer mediation session in which four

What we heard from JM students

Justin Archangel: "I never heard of Darfur until today. I'm thinking about writing to the President."

Samir Shetty: "I didn't know what genocide was." Amanda Griggs: "What's going on (in Darfur) is really bad, but it was fun to learn about it."

Jack Hassler: "It's good to know people are doing something about (Darfur). The cultural dancing this week was cool, too."

Shayan Tajbakhsh: "The play was a funny and not boring way of teaching a lesson."



JM students enjoyed RAD week

API Scores: Lamorinda Schools Continue to Dominate

By Cathy Tyson

The recently released Academic Performance Index shows that on the whole, California schools are doing better than ever, and Lamorinda schools are doing exceptionally well.

With a scale of 200 - 1,000, a score of 800 is considered officially "successful" by the California Department of Education. Among high schools, middle schools and elementary schools, Lamorinda elementary schools fared the best with an average score of 925 for Lafayette, 956 for Moraga, and 965 for Orinda. Scores for OIS were unavailable, but our two Middle schools that had scores, Stanley and Joaquin Moraga

were neck and neck with 914 and 920 respectively.

For the second year in a row, Campolino came in first place of Lamorinda high schools with a score of 901. The others were not far behind; Miramonte scored 893, Acalanes scored 889 and Las Lomas scored 839. Principal Carol Kitchens could not be more proud. "It proves what I have always known about Campolino students, that they are both talented and hard-working. This would not have been possible without our dedicated teachers and supportive parents."

While Cupertino's Faria Elementary was the top scoring school in the state with a perfect score of 1,000, in

Contra Costa County, only San Ramon Valley Unified School District's elementary schools came close to Lamorinda's numbers. Their 18 elementary schools scored on average 927. The combined average score for the 11 elementary schools in Lafayette, Orinda and Moraga is 948.

The good news is 27% of California's schools scored 800 or more, that is 2,389 out of 8,851. The bad news is a shocking 73% scored below 800, making the majority of schools in our state, "unsuccessful." No child left behind? Clearly a preponderance of children are being left behind.

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Jazz Messengers in Monterey

The Stanley Middle School Jazz Messengers made a three-peat appearance at the Monterey Jazz Festival's Next Generations Festival the weekend of March 24. Participation in the Festival is by invitation-only, after a blind audition. Music Director Bob Athayde is very proud of his musicians.

"It was the best they've ever played," reported Athayde. "Fourteen of our kids took solos in our performances. Other bands featured only a few kids. With us, all of our kids contribute and all of our kids grow."

6-grader Angela Falk won an award for her outstanding trombone solo. "It's pretty cool," she smiled.



Award winner Angela Falk

The Round-Up is Coming!

Submitted by Debbie Mckeen

Come on down and join the fun at this year's Wagner Ranch Round-Up Saturday, April 28th from 11:00 am- 3:00 pm. The Round-Up welcomes everyone to share in the fun, food and festivities! There will be great music, terrific food, games, pony rides, a cake walk, inflatable amusements, a bake sale and much more! The Round-Up is the

rootin', tootin' event of the year!



Don't miss Kiss-the-Pig! A little fundraising fun - the kids put quarters, dollars, dimes and nickels in the piggy banks in the name of the teacher they want to Kiss-the-Pig. The teacher with the most in their bank gets the honor of kissing Basil the Pig on Round-Up Day!

Burton Valley's Science Fair

Submitted by Robin Longchamps

Jesse Longchamps and Evan Brown sold pizza at Burton Valley's Science Fair.

The fifth graders are raising money by selling donated goods and local deliv-

ered pizza - Pizza Oliva - to earn money for their autograph t-shirts, yearbook and graduation party from elementary school to middle school.



Jesse Longchamps and Evan Brown

Tee-Time!

By Andy Hubbell, Contributing Writer

The mention of balls and tees this time of year might bring to mind golf for many. But not to local kindergartners! For them, these words conjure up the kind of excitement only baseball can bring, especially if it's the first baseball you have ever played. Like the time-honored spring ritual of the grand old sport itself, Tee-ball has begun throughout Lamorinda, bringing kindergartners out to local ball fields every Saturday to learn the basic skills and rules of the game. And with the kids come many dads and moms, to coach and cheer and to generally have a great time.

But the local history of Tee-ball, the first formative step in our children's introduction to the "national pastime," is probably not well-known, and certainly not as deep as some might expect. In fact, prior to the 1980's, young kids in Lamorinda didn't have the option to learn the nuances of hitting a baseball from a tee, at least at an organized level. Organized baseball essentially meant coach-pitch with a hardball, or in some cases an overly-soft nerf ball, which didn't appeal to many parents of kindergarten-age children. According to longtime Moraga resident Art Coombes, one of the moving forces behind establishing an LMYA Tee-ball program in the area, many kids were choosing to play other sports in the spring as a result. With young kids of his own clamoring to play, Coombes became Moraga's first Tee-ball commissioner in 1982, joining forces with two other local volunteers, Charlie Franklin and Kurt Jacobs, to form co-ed leagues in Lafayette and Moraga. One of the first things Coombes did was to bring in equipment, such as batting tees and soft baseballs, which helped sooth-

parental worries of injury. A key piece of equipment was a nylon-coated, soft-core baseball called the "Incrediball." Produced locally in the Bay Area, LMYA was able to acquire quantities of this baseball with the help of another Moraga resident, and former major league ballplayer, Del Unser.

LMYA Tee-ball was an immediate success, and has remained so to this day. During Coombes' tenure as commissioner, games were played one weekday afternoon and on Saturdays. Much as today, kids back then had full schedules. Coombes particularly remembers one humorous incident in his Tee-ball coaching career.

"During one game," Coombes recalls, "a hard ground ball was hit to our third baseman.

He was in the proper position to field the ball, but the ball



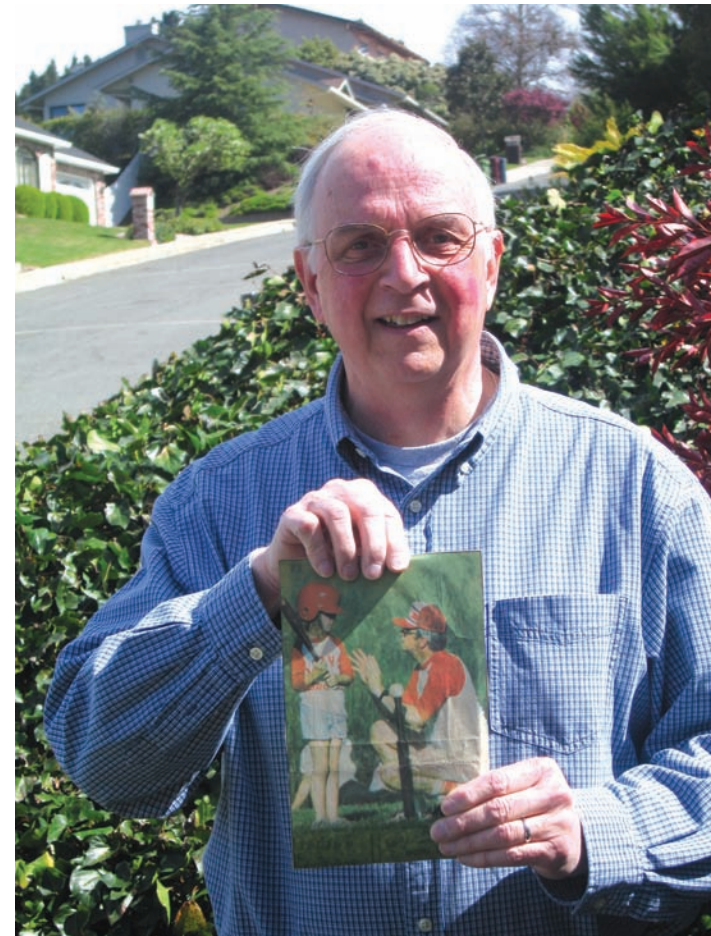
Tee-ball today

went right between his legs, and the boy didn't budge! I walked over to him to ask him why he didn't try to field the ball, lifted his cap, only to find he was sound asleep! Early morning swim practice, followed

by a full day of school, and then tee-ball was too much for him."

Today, Moraga Tee-ball games are played on Saturdays at the upper baseball field at Los Perales Elementary School and Lafayette Tee-ball games are played the same day at Stanley Middle School. Back in the beginning, under Commissioner Coombes, team jerseys and caps carried the LMYA name, differentiated only by color for each team. Today, though, each team sports the name and colors of a Triple A pro team, with catchy monikers like the Mudcats, Scrappers, Storm, and Ironbirds. While Tee-ball lasts only one season, these jerseys and caps will remain in closets for many years after, providing touchstones to a happy past when baseball first touched young lives.

Gameday schedules can be found at the following LMYA link: http://www.lmysports.com/documents/TBall_Baseball_Game_Schedules/2007_tee-ball_game_schedule.doc



Art Coombes, with photo of himself coaching ~20 years ago

The Lamorinda School pages were created as a place for our schools to share with the community all of the wonderful things our kids do all day. We are currently seeking parent-reporters (or grandparent, aunt, uncle, cousin, teacher, you get the idea)! If you are interested, please contact the Schools Editor, Lee Borrowman, at lee@lamorindaweekly.com

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Dietary Fat: Friend or Foe?

By Dr. Theresa Tsingis

Most people crave fats to some degree. This makes sense neurologically, as the brain is approximately 60% fat. Which fats keep us healthy...which cause disease? If you understand some basic facts about fats, it becomes easier to know which are good to eat, and which ones would be better reduced in your diet.

First, fats "wear out" in cell structures and must be replaced, usually through diet. Some of these are "essential fats" which the body cannot make in sufficient amounts to maintain health. Second, fats are classified according to their chemical bonding structures. Importantly, the structure of the fat determines how it behaves in our bodies. For example, some fats increase inflammatory states in the body, while others act in the opposite way and decrease inflammation.

Monounsaturated fats have been found to lower cholesterol. Avocados and olives contain those fats as well as naturally occurring vitamin E, which helps to protect cells.



What about saturated fats? Found in meats and dairy products, they have a more rigid chemical structure than plant and fish oils. Saturated fats are best eaten in moderation. Think of it this way -- flexibility is good for cells, not just muscles. Saturated fats can lead to cellular rigidity if eaten in excess, and also induce inflammation and imbalances of cholesterol levels.

Trans fats have gotten much bad press recently, for good reason. They promote inflammation and become free radicals, damaging cells and tissues. Trans



Generally, it is best to eat fats which reduce inflammation. Polyunsaturated omega 3 fats are in this category. They can be found in fish, nuts, flaxseeds, and greens such as arugula. Because a plethora of studies have found mercury and other heavy metals in fish, limiting fish consumption to twice a week and supplementing one's diet with fish oil capsules, may be best. Fish oils contain EPA and DHA (the names of the most beneficial omegas). Studies recommend an adult dosage between 600-1200 mg. EPA and 400-800 mg. DHA.

Omega 6 fats, when eaten in excess, can cause inflammation. They are found in plant oils such as safflower, sunflower, corn, and soy, and are commonly in packaged baked goods. For most people, it is healthier to consume more omega 3's than omega 6's.

Saying Good Night to Insomnia

By Howard VanEs, M.A.

A good laugh and a long sleep are the best cures in the doctor's book. Irish proverb

Have you had trouble getting to sleep or staying asleep in the last week or so? If so, you are in very good company. In fact 58% of adults in the U.S report having symptoms of insomnia a few nights a week or more (National Sleep Foundation). Symptoms include not being able to get to sleep, frequently waking up during the night, waking up and not being able to get back to sleep, waking up early, and not being able to getting enough refreshing sleep.

We need good quality, restful sleep to feel our best and maintain health: to renew and restore physically as well as psychologically. It's quite normal to have an occasional night or two of sleeplessness, but when insomnia is chronic it can lead to a variety of debilitating symptoms including: irritability, moodiness, depression, anxiety, daytime drowsiness, occupational mistakes and accidents, automobile accidents, weight gain, a compromised immune system, high blood pressure, heart attack, and stroke. Simply said, not sleeping well diminishes the quality and enjoyment of life.

So what causes insomnia? Chronic insomnia is directly influenced by certain medications, recreational drugs including caffeine, nicotine, and alcohol, medical problems, sleep disorders such as sleep apnea, restless leg syndrome, narcolepsy, and heavy snoring, poor diet/nutrition, stress from daily living/lifestyle factors, jet lag, psychological disorders such as depression, anxiety disorder or other mental illness, and environmental factors.

If you have trouble getting a good night sleep here a few proven tips to make sure the sandman pays you a visit:

Go to sleep and wake up at the same time everyday (even on weekends). This will help reset your sleep-wake cycle. The best times for most people to go to sleep are 10:00 to 11:00 pm and the best times to awaken are between 6:00 and 7:00pm. Avoid napping if you have trouble sleeping.

Exercise. Even a short 20 minute walk will work. This will help reduce your stress hormones, clear your mind and make you more tired at bedtime. Be careful not to exercise vigorously too close to bedtime though as it may have just the opposite effect and make you feel more energized.

Turn off electronics. The light coming from your television is very stimulating to the visual cortex of your brain - last thing you need late at night. Experiment with turning off your television by 9:00 pm. This goes for surfing the Internet too! Try it for a week or two and see what happens.

Turn down the lights. Your body and mind take signals from the environment. Melatonin is a hormone that informs your system that is time to sleep and is triggered by darkness. Being in a well-lighted environment throughout the night is counter-productive to relaxing and falling asleep. Try lighting some candles.

Listen to soft music. Researchers in Japan have found the listening to soft, relaxing music is a highly effective way to fall asleep.

Herbs and tea. Chamomile tea is time proven remedy for relaxing. Other herbs that work well include hops, passionflower, and valerian. These herbs are readily available as capsules or tinctures.

Caffeine. Caffeine can remain in your system for up to 35 hours. That means that cup of coffee you had this morning can keep you awake tonight. Wean yourself off of caffeine with decaf or try herb teas. Watch out for caffeine in soda too!

Alcohol. Many people have a drink or two to fall asleep. While it's true the alcohol will help you fall asleep, you'll most likely awaken as it interferes with deeper stages of sleep and can be dehydrating.

Is there noise coming from inside or outside of your home? We need a quiet environment to sleep well. If there is noise around your bedroom consider making some adjustments: earplugs, a white noise generator, moving your bedroom, etc.

Overactive mind. If your mind won't shut off, get out a pen and paper and write down everything going through your mind until it is cleared. Remind yourself that you can deal with these things tomorrow.

Make relaxation your goal, not sleep. Many people beat themselves up if they can't fall asleep, only making the situation worse. Remember that nobody has died as a result of not sleeping and that relaxation is the key to falling asleep. If you can relax sleep will follow naturally. Make relaxation your goal!

Additional Resources:
www.sleepfoundation.org
www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/sleep/insomnia.htm

Howard VanEs, M.A. is a local wellness writer, author, yoga teacher and former psychotherapist. Howard offers a free monthly health and wellness newsletter which can be obtained by visiting www.letsdoयोग.com. Reach Howard directly at info@letsdoयोग.com



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Sports Pictures submitted by Diane Thomas to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com. Thank you Diane!



Moraga Baseball Association (MBA) Pinto Cardinals vs Cubs game on Saturday March 24th



Moraga Baseball Association (MBA) Pinto Cardinals vs Cubs game on Saturday March 24th



Moraga Baseball Association (MBA) Pinto Cardinals vs Cubs game on Saturday March 24th



LMYA 1st grade girls soft-baseball Raptors vs Scrappers game on Saturday March 24th.



LMYA 1st grade girls soft-baseball Raptors vs Scrappers game on Saturday March 24th.



LMYA 1st grade girls soft-baseball Raptors vs Scrappers game on Saturday March 24th.

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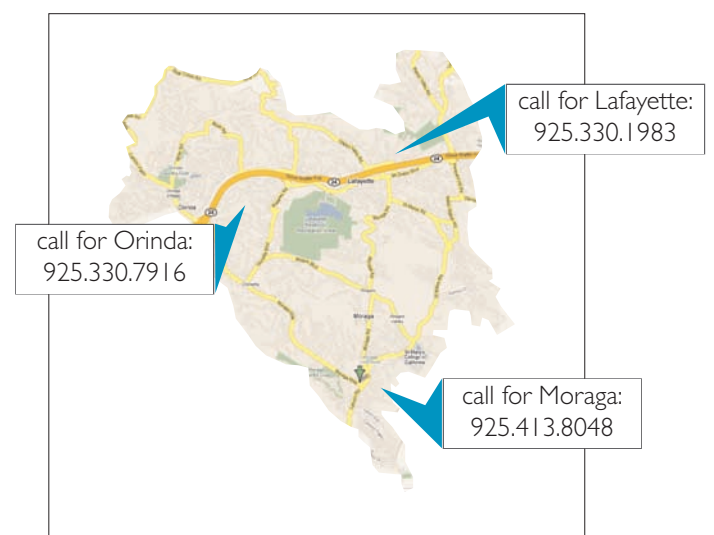
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SPORT

LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORT NEWS



Campolindo Cougar perfectly airborne before breaking the water Photo by Gavin Schissel

Swimming Quad Meet Brings the Competition

By Malia McClurg

The quad meet on March 28 brought together Campolindo, Miramonte, College Park, and Northgate for an all out swimming competition. Although Northgate and College Park challenged everyone as well, it was by far a match between Campolindo and Miramonte. Campolindo took the first event, the 200 men's medley relay with a time of 142.19. Their team (Erikson, Tutas, Chuch, and Foster) pulled away from Miramonte's combination of Honda, Kelly, Haufler, and Perry who finished with 146.07 to win the event.

scores and splits were separated by less than seconds. In the men's 200 IM (individual medley), Miramonte's Haufler, came in with a time of 2:01.08 and narrowly beat out Erikson from Campolindo, who came in a hair later at 2:02.03. The close races made this such a good meet. With the swimmers neck and neck, they had to feel the presence of the challengers in the other lanes. This helped everyone put up good scores and fight to the end.

But all the action wasn't just on the men's side. The women came to swim as well. The 100 butterfly was especially exciting: Lukins-Bozzini from Campolindo barely beat her next closest

competitor, Strausser, another Campolindo swimmer. Their respective times were 58.81 and 59.08.

One of the Northgate ladies, though, was giving everyone some problems. Delay beat Campolindo's Vance in the 100 freestyle. She won the 50 freestyle with a time of 24.55 and she led Northgate to a victory in the 400 freestyle.

Miramonte had a similar standout on the men's side with Parrague. He opened the meet with a win in the 50 freestyle with a time of 21.95. He went on to also take the 100 freestyle in 48.32. But, he did not go unchallenged. Campolindo swimmer, Johnson, gave Parrague a run for his money and came in close second with 49.59.

In his third event, the 200 free relay, Campolindo's team with Johnson, Chang, Dalton and Foster, finally managed to squeak by Parrague's team by less than a second. Campolindo finished in a time of 1:31.07. Miramonte's team consisting of Parrague, Sharf, Harrison, and Perry was defeated by seconds when they came in just shy with 1:31.73. Despite being defeated once, Parrague bounced back to claim victory in his fourth and final event, the 400 free relay.

Sharf, Lathrope, Haufler and Parrague took it with a time of 3:20.15, barely edging out Campolindo's Erikson, Pierce, Tutas, and Johnson who put up a time of 3:21.60.



Swimmers take their mark Photos by Gavin Schissel



Campolindo girls shows intensity in the butterfly stroke

Dons defeat Mats in Baseball, 13-3

By Jaime Zepeda



#34 Andrew Kjar throws some heat Photos by Jordan Fong

The Miramonte Matadors struggled to get their offense in gear against the Acalanes Dons. Largely due to the Don's spectacular pitching, the Mats were unable to establish a batting rhythm. Acalanes' starting pitcher, Scott Emery, struck out seven and allowed only one earned run in five innings pitched. His outstanding performance helped pave the way for an Acalanes victory and gave him the win.

three RBIs. Mike Guglielmo and Scott Emery also contributed to the Dons' offensive surge with three RBIs of their own.

In the second inning the Dons scored six runs on the Mats, but did not stop there. They continued to score two runs in the fourth and fifth, and then three runs in the seventh inning. But the Mats were not shut out. They responded with one run in the second, the fifth and the bottom of the seventh.

In the end, the Dons out-hit the Mats by more than 3 to 1 with 13

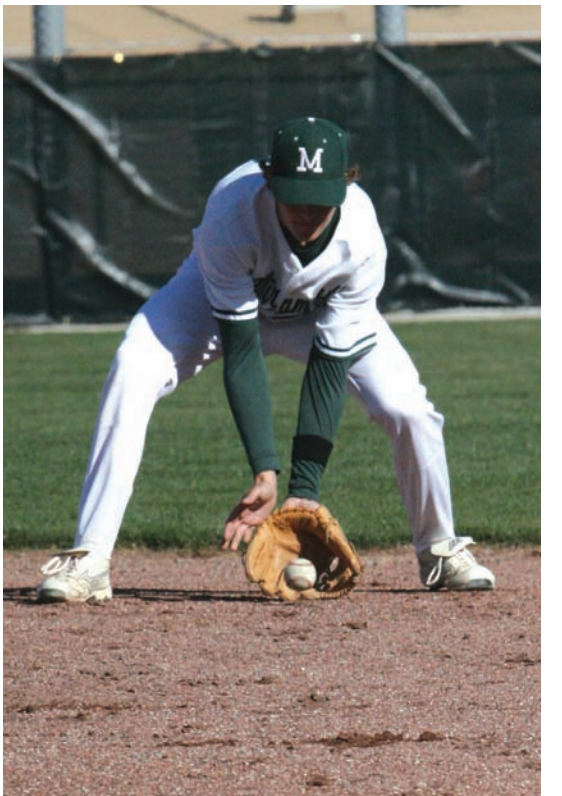
hits to Miramonte's 4. This was largely attributed to Scott Emery's pitching, which proved to be fundamental in keeping Miramonte's scoring to a minimum. Miramonte had a hard time finding an effective strategy against the Don's pitching that consisted of efforts by Emery, Jake Floethe and Donny Miller.

The Acalanes Dons defeated the Miramonte Matadors, at Miramonte, 13-3, in a game decided by solid pitching.

Leading the offensive run for the Dons was Jake Floethe. In total, he tallied one homerun and



Miramonte's Max Mayeri connects with the ball



#4 Will Bourgein, fields the ball

Malia McClurg is the sports editor for the Lamorinda Weekly. In high school, she ran the 100H, 300H, Long Jump, 4X4, and heptathlon. Reach her anytime at malia@lamorindaweekly.com.

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SPORT

LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORT NEWS



Acalanes' superb hitting lead them to victory

Photo by Jordan Fong

Matadors fall hard to Dons, in Women's Softball

By Jaime Zepeda

If enthusiasm won games, the Mats would ransack any team they faced with ease. The Miramonte Matadors made their presence known throughout, with cheers and high spirits, but the Acalanes Dons responded with powerful slugging and good pitching.

In spite of starting the game with "Ole, Ole!" chants, the Mats looked somewhat shaken to face the Dons. Jennifer Silva began the great hitting Acalanes showed in the game with a crisp triple for the Dons. She would later score the first run for the Dons' after capitalizing on a loose pitch at home. Later, another run was added to the Dons' tally in the first, thanks to Yvette Dickson's single and two steals.

The Mats made a couple of hits in the bottom of the first, but failed to get on the scoreboard. The Dons' starting pitcher, Katie Grey, had a stellar day, with four strikeouts in two innings of play. Getting past the Dons' pitching proved to be a tall order for the Mats, but Miramonte was still in it heading into the top of the third,

down by only three runs.

This would dramatically change soon. The Dons stepped up to bat, and showed nothing short of an outstanding offensive performance. Working with a last-minute substitute pitcher, the Mats had a rough time keeping the Dons at bay. Miramonte's starting pitcher, Tamaka Gravesand, was unable to control her pitches, bringing in some unearned Dons runs. For the Dons, players like Sheyenne Greer, Erika Mittleman, and Yvette Dickson, scored a total of 12 runs in the third inning. This onslaught gave the Dons a 15 run lead over the so-far scoreless Mats.

The fourth inning proved to be important for the Mats, as they scored their first run of the game, thanks to Kari Johnston. The Mats never let their spirits dampen. The cheers were as strong after the third inning as they were at the beginning of the game. As far as the Mats were concerned, they were still in it and refused to give up.

With the Dons team rested after their third inning

tour de force, they came back for more during the fifth. Yvette Dickson, for the Dons, once more added to her team's offense. She connected with the first pitch of the inning, and made an inside-the-park homerun. Four more runs came in that inning for the Dons, making the score 20-1.

It stayed that way with both teams shutting each other out for the rest of the game. In spite of the Mats persistence, the Dons put on an impressive offensive show that could not be beat. In the end, the Acalanes Dons defeated the Miramonte Matadors, 20-1.

Heads Up,
Lamorinda Players,
Coaches, and Fans

We want your game scores, highlights, and photos. Please send your game reports, including player names and digital photos to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com.

The Mats fall to the Spartans in Boys Lacrosse

By Jono Glidden

The Miramonte boy's lacrosse team fell to the heavily favored Spartans of De La Salle this week in non-league play. The game was a match up of strengths with De La Salle's high-powered offense facing off against the Matador's staunch defense. The Spartans proved stronger, winning 13-5.

The game didn't start off well for the Mats. De La Salle scored two goals in the first two minutes of the game to take a 2-0 lead. The Mats battled back, however, and stopped the Spartan momentum. Neither team scored over the next five minutes, until the 5:21 mark when Miramonte was able to punch one in from five feet out to cut the lead to one. The Spartan offense came back strong and once again took control and scored a goal to make it 3-1.

The Mats were nothing

if not determined and came back with another goal merely forty seconds later to once again make it a one point deficit. But just when it looked like Miramonte had a chance to create some momentum, their defense (their greatest asset) broke down. In a strange, but exciting flurry of action, three goals were scored in the final minute of the first quarter. When the dust settled, De La Salle had scored two and Miramonte one to make it a 5-3 Spartan lead.

At the end of the first quarter, it appeared that Miramonte would be able to keep it close. In terms of the level of play, they were more or less able to keep pace with De La Salle for most of the game.

The difference, however, was that while De La Salle capitalized on opportunities, Miramonte seemed unable to make that one final play to score the goal.

This translated into a rout by De La Salle.

The teams traded goals to in the start of the second quarter, to make 6-4. Then it got ugly. De La Salle brought out the whooping stick, scoring five unanswered goals, and thoroughly dominating all facets of the contest. When Miramonte finally broke the drought with a score with two minutes left in the third quarter, De La Salle had an 11-4 lead and not a single starter left in the game.

That goal would be Miramonte's last. De La Salle's subs would add two more goals to make it a 13-5 De La Salle victory.

The mats battled hard but they were clearly over matched by the Spartan offense. Fortunately, De La Salle is not in Miramonte's league, and the Mats along with Acalanes have a good shot at winning the DFAL league championship.



Both teams challenge each other for the ball

Photo by Gavin Schissel

A 1:1 copy of the printed edition is online available to print, download or send as an email. Each story is also available online, just as it appears in print. Go to: <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/html/read.html> (a pdf reader is required to view the pages.)

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Track Meet: Campolindo, Acalanes, and College Park

By Malia McClurg

Campolindo, Acalanes and College Park met March 28 at Campolindo to compete in a DFAL track meet. Acalanes swept the men's side, but fell to Campolindo on the women's.

For the Acalanes men, Anderson helped his team as he easily glided past his competition and onto victory in both the 110 and 300 hurdles. Anderson's teammate, Beach, also put some points on the board by winning the endurance testing two mile race in a time of 9:41.

On the women's side, Campolindo found success. Jung's first place jump reached the 15 foot, 11 inches mark, but she didn't stop there. She went on to also win the triple jump with a 35-5.5 mark as well as the pole vault by soaring over 11 feet.

In the frosh/soph bracket, over on Campolindo's side, the Cougar boys dominated the distance races by winning the 1600m, 800m, and 3200m. The boys weren't the only standouts. For the Frosh Soph girls, Hubert put up a 19.5 in the 100 Hurdles, and a 54.9 in the 300 Hurdles.

The athletes performed again at the Stanford Invitational on Saturday. Campolindo junior, Jackie Attiyeh sailed over the pole vault and improved her previous best by six inches. Fellow classmate, Stacey Jung, also had an outstanding performance as she reached success in the triple jump by reading the 35 foot mark for the first time this season.



It comes down to inches to clear the bar Photo by Gavin Schissel



Pole Vaulter sails over the bar Photo by Gavin Schissel



Acalanes jumps to a win for the men Photo by Gavin Schissel

Moraga Baseball Association

Pony Division

April 1

Moraga Cougars 13, Pleasant Hill Hawks 7

Cougars highlights:

Chris Roming 3-for-3, 2 RBI, run; Erik Baker 2-for-2, 2B, RBI, 3 runs; Matt Bruzzone 2-for-2, 2B, 2 RBI, 3 runs; Vince Graziano 2-for-3, 2B, RBI, run; Dan Brinckerhoff 2-for-4, 2B, RBI, 2 runs.

March 31; Game 1

Moraga Cougars 9, Pleasant Hill Hawks 2

Cougars highlights:

Pete Matthias CG, 6 K's, 1ER, W; Chris Roming 1-for-3, 2 RBI, 3 runs; Jaime Vega 2-for-4, 3 RBI.

Game 2

Moraga Cougars 10, Pleasant Hill Hawks 2

Cougars highlights: Chris Roming 6 IP, 11 K's, W; Jaime Vega 2-for-4, 4 RBI, run; Sean Wraith 1-for-2, 2 RBI, 2 runs.

March 29

Danville Grey 4, Moraga Mariners 3

Mariners highlights: Alex Currier 1-for-2, 3B, 2 RBI; Scott Lyness 1-for-3, 2B, RBI; KK Lowe 1-for-2, BB, run; Kevin Malley 1-for-3, run; Tim Coleman 1-for-3, run.

Other scores:

March 25 - Danville Red 9, Moraga Marlins 2
March 24 - Walnut Creek Red Dawgs 9, Moraga Marlins 5

Bronco Division

March 29

Moraga Nationals 8, Tara Hills 11 7 Nationals highlights:

JD Ratchford 3 IP, 4 K's; Joe Giachetti 2 IP, 3 K's, 0 ER, save; Mason Windatt 2-for-3, 1B, 2B, 3 RBI, 2 runs, 4 SB; Matt Yoklavich 1B, BB, 4 SB, 2 runs; Griffin McCaffery 1B, BB, run, 2 SB.

March 25

Moraga Nationals 13, Piedmont 2 Nationals highlights:

Mason Windatt 4 IP, 4 K's; Matt Yoklavich 3-for-3, 2 RBI, 3 runs; Brandon Dolan 2-for-3, 3 RBI; Billy Evenhuis 2B, RBI; James Coleman 2-for-3, 2 runs.

Moraga Mariners 13, Orinda Giants 5 Mariners highlights:

Troy Westernoff 2-for-4, 3 RBI, 2 runs; Matthew Gong 2-for-3, RBI, run; Taylor Abbott 1-for-2, RBI, 2 runs.

Moraga Dodgers 9, Piedmont Rangers 6

Dodgers highlights: Hunter Rosenbaum 3-for-3, 3 RBI, 2 runs; Alex Mirante 2-for-3, 2B, 2 RBI, 2 runs; Matt Huckins 1-for-2, BB, RBI, 2 runs.

Baseball Opens West Coast Conference Play at Pepperdine

By Jennifer Wake

Going in with a record of 16-9-1, the Saint Mary's baseball team headed to Malibu on Friday to face the tenth-ranked Pepperdine Waves, opening a three-game weekend of West Coast Conference play at Eddy D. Field Stadium.

Since 1971, the two programs have met 109 times with Pepperdine holding a commanding 88-21 advantage. The last time the Gaels won at Eddy D. Field Stadium was in 2003. The Gaels dropped all three games to the Waves last season.

"With the conference slate about to begin, this is where we get a real gauge on where we stand," head coach Jedd Soto said. "We have re-

14-13 record.

Sophomore infielder Joel Staples continues to lead the way for the Gaels. In the last five games played, Staples has smacked four home runs and driven in 10 runs. Staples sports a team-leading six homers on the season which ranks second in the WCC. Saint Mary's senior Eric Cattoni jumped into sixth place all-time in stolen bases with 39, in just one and a half seasons. With six more runs scored this season, Cattoni will crack the top-10 for runs in a single season.

"Eric (Cattoni) has made us go and has been a great leader on and off the field. His speed can change a game," said



SMC senior Eric Cattoni at the plate.

cruited well and played some decent baseball but this is where it counts. The team is ready to take the next step and bring home a WCC championship."

Prior to a loss against Nevada on March 20, Saint Mary's put together its finest unbeaten streak in the modern era, stringing together 14-straight without a loss. Saint Mary's currently sits at third place in the WCC standings with 16 wins just ahead of Gonzaga with a 16-14 mark. Defending co-champions USF closely follows with a

Soto, adding, "Sean (Gleason) has been the mainstay in our staff and has really proved to be one of the Conference's finest, [while] Randy (Wells) has had no problem with the transition from high school and is proving to be one of the top freshmen in the nation."

Saint Mary's will return home and face No. 20-ranked San Diego for a WCC series three-game set, starting Thursday, April 5. The first pitch is slated for 3 p.m. at Louis Guisto Field.

Professor of the Year Lawrence Cory SMC Biology Professor Finds Joy of Life in Science

By Jennifer Wake

It's a simple fact. Some people have more energy than others. If you stand next to someone like biology professor Lawrence Cory, who was honored last Friday by his Saint Mary's colleagues at a special presentation in Brousseau Hall, you can almost feel the energy emanating from him.

During the 1960s, Cory, now 89, and fellow professor Brother Dominic Ruegg would backpack into areas with neoprene diving suits, snorkels and weights, disrupting tranquil fishermen to dive in search of frog specimens. "Although Larry's pack was far heavier than mine, he plodded along like a deer and would arrive two hours ahead of me," Ruegg wrote in a statement read at the ceremony. Even today, after finishing a full day of teaching, Cory goes home, changes his clothes and is off hiking for miles in the surrounding hills, searching for salamanders and toads.

"When he's hiking, he's like a kid in a candy store," said his wife, Suzanne. "When we hiked together, he would name all the birds we could hear,

telling me their habitat, what they ate, everything about them. It was like being married to John Muir."

In addition to his love of birds and frogs, Cory is a violinist who makes fiddles as a hobby. "Once he injured his left index finger (the most important finger needed to play), but instead of giving up, he decided to learn to play the fiddle backwards, and built a fiddle in reverse," said Suzanne, who has been married to Cory for 35 years. "He's fascinated by challenges. He decided it would be an interesting neurological experiment."

Through his research in the 1970s, Cory opened the public's eyes to the dangers of DDT, publishing papers on the subject. His testimony before federal lawmakers contributed to a ban on the pesticide. Cory was recently named professor of the year at the college, after 55 years of teaching, researching, and lecturing at Saint Mary's. And he has no plans to stop anytime soon.

"People ask me when I'm going to retire," he said. "I don't know. You go as long as you go."



Cory and wife, Suzanne, visit with former SMC president Brother Mel Anderson at ceremony.

Author Speaks About Courage, Change

By Jennifer Wake

When Abigail Thomas's husband, Rich, was hit by a car, his brain shattered, forcing him to live the rest of his life in an institution.

Through the tragedy, Thomas came to realize that although "you might not find meaning in disaster, you might - with effort - make something useful of it."

As part of the Saint Mary's College Creative Writing Reading Series, Thomas will discuss her poignant memoir, "A Three Dog Life," which tells the story of great courage and change, on Wednesday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Soda Activity Center.

The book recounts how Thomas built a new life by moving to a small country town, creating a new family composed of three dogs, knitting, and friendship, and how she faced down guilt and discovered gratitude. The memoir also explores her relationship with Rich, a man who "lives in the eternal present, and the eerie poetry of his often uncanny perceptions."

In addition to "A Three Dog Life," Thomas is the author of two collections of short stories, "Herb's Pajamas" and "Getting over Tom," the novel "An Actual Life" and another memoir, "Safekeeping." She teaches fiction writing in the graduate program at The New School and lives in Woodstock, New York.



Abigail Thomas

Summer 2007 Youth Art Classes Hearst Art Gallery, Saint Mary's College

June 25 - 29, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

PRINTMAKING:

Gel, Foamboard, Monoprinting & Silkscreen

Workshop fee: \$110; Materials fee: \$ 95

July 9 - 13, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

DRAWING & PAINTING:

Still Life, Landscape & Portraiture

Workshop fee: \$110; Materials Fee: \$80

Both courses are team-taught by returning Hearst summer arts program instructors and OUSD art teachers, Hillery Patterson and Susan Zib.

Each workshop is limited to 15 students; recommended ages are 9 - 14.

FAMILY DAY: PAPER ARTS WORKSHOP

Sunday, April 15, Noon - 3 p.m.

Soda Activity Center

On view in the Gallery through April 29 - "Paper Cuts: The Art of Contemporary Paper" "William Keith: The 1870s Paintings"

Hours: Wednesday - Sunday, 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Telephone: 631-4379

Web site: <http://gallery.stmarys-ca.edu>

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SMC Students Spend Spring Break Rebuilding Big Easy

By Jennifer Wake

Spring break is often a time for students to relax and rejuvenate, but for the thousands of school-age children who lost everything to Hurricane Katrina, it's just another week or two spent trying to piece their lives back together. This spring break, seventeen Saint Mary's students decided to help.

drywall, baseboards, and trim, along with the toilet, plumbing, heating system, until only a skeleton of the building remained. Then they developed a demolition strategy. Attaching ropes to key points in the structure, they pulled the building to the ground.

"[The people at Catholic Charities] thought

the project]. Unfortunately, a lot of resources are drying up."

Although the living conditions are cramped and the work is hard, Anderson continues to be inundated with student requests to go back. She had to limit the Easter break trip to 17 students due to funding constraints – an unfortunate, yet



Photo by David R Blanchard

Setting out last Friday, the students joined Associate Dean of Liberal Arts Shawny Anderson on a trip to New Orleans where they will operate as a mobile relief unit to help rebuild some of what Katrina destroyed. It marks the fifth trip by Anderson and Saint Mary's students to the New Orleans area since the hurricane hit the Gulf Coast in August 2005.

During this trip, the students will stay in modified housing, much like a dormitory, which should feel quite luxurious following the cramped conditions they endured on a gutted Greyhound bus in January. They slept on a ring of boards which served as makeshift cots suspended above bench seats.

"There's no privacy, no alone time," said Saint Mary's student Justin Verrips about the bus. Verrips has made the trip four times before this one. "Within a few days, we're just a machine. It's hard to come back to civilization and kind of be apart. When we get back, we're at each other's hip for a week."

During the January trip, 25 students completed a total of more than 4,000 hours of labor in difficult conditions. It rained 15 of the 22 days they were there, yet they still went out and did the work.

"The students gave absolutely wholeheartedly all they had in service," said Anderson. "They surrendered their lives, families, and communications – everything to work as many hours a day to do as much as they could. They wanted to make a difference. They picked up hammers, sledgehammers and shovels, and tried to turn it around."

On one of the days, students worked with Catholic Charities to tear down a building once used as a food bank. Before starting, they needed to remove everything inside. It proved a daunting task. Mold grew up the sides of boxes and piles of food were infested with mice and cockroaches. Even the canned goods were covered with rust.

After the students created an enormous trash pile outside the structure, they began to prep the house for demolition, trying to salvage as much of reusable material as possible. They tore out

we were a bunch of hippies from California," said Verrips, who helped in the demolition. "In one day, we had torn the whole thing down. They were blown away."

In addition to building

growing predicament – but she will continue to find ways to return. "I want students to recognize that it matters what they do – to get it into their heads to change the world," she said.



Photo by David R Blanchard



Photo by David R Blanchard

demolition, students painted houses, buffed floors, weeded and rebuilt a community garden, and worked closely with Habitat for Humanity building new homes for hurricane victims.

"There's so much work to be done down there, but there's not enough manpower," said Verrips. Hurricane Katrina is estimated to have been responsible for more than \$80 billion in damage and left thousands homeless. "People still have not received Federal aid, or it's a fraction of the cost to rebuild. Originally we wanted to sheetrock and paint a house, but it's hard to find contractors [to oversee



Photos by David R Blanchard

In October, 2006, Saint Mary's College received national recognition for its Gulf Coast hurricane relief efforts when it was named to the first President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, civic engagement by college students has risen significantly in recent years. In 2005, 3.3 million college students volunteered for various causes.

You can view the students' journal entries at smcnola.blogspot.com.



Photo by Ken C. Young, Moraga; www.kcyoungfineartimages.com

Go Gaels!

Upcoming Saint Mary's Sports Events

Wednesday, April 4

- Women's Softball vs. Fresno State; Noon and 2 p.m. at Cotrell Field

Thursday, April 5

- Men's Baseball vs. San Diego; 3 p.m. at Louis Guisto Field
- Men's Tennis vs. Pacific; 3 p.m. at Korth Tennis Complex

Friday, April 6

- Men's Baseball vs. San Diego; 2 p.m. at Louis Guisto Field

Saturday, April 7

- Men's Baseball vs. San Diego; 1 p.m. at Louis Guisto Field

We wish all the Saint Mary's student-athletes the best of luck as they enter competition at games away from home this week. For information on all out-of-town games, visit the official Saint Mary's athletics website: www.SMCGaels.com.

Campus Happenings

Special Events:

Paper Art Workshop

(In conjunction with current "Paper Cuts" exhibition)

Sunday, April 15 from noon to 3 p.m.

Soda Activity Center

Pre-registration opens at 11:30 a.m.

\$5 per person (to partially offset materials and instructors fee)

Underwritten by the Walker Family Foundation

Lectures:

Abigail Thomas

Author of two collections of short stories, "Herb's Pajamas" and "Getting over Tom," the novel "An Actual Life" and, most recently, two memoirs, "Safekeeping" and "A Three Dog Life."

Wednesday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Soda Activity Center

Free

Jon Waterman

Author of "Where the Mountains are Nameless: Passion and Politics in the Arctic Refuge" discusses global warming and oil development in the Wildlife Refuge. Waterman was part of an expedition to the Arctic last year that discovered melting permafrost, disappearing glaciers and dying forests.

Thursday, April 12 at 7 p.m.

Soda Activity Center

Free

Robert Hass '63

"Study War No More: Kant, Violence and the Literary Imagination" Robert Hass, an English professor at the University of California at Berkeley and the former U.S. poet laureate, will focus on Immanuel Kant's "Perpetual Peace."

Part of the annual Brother Robert Lecture Series, the event celebrates the Jubilee Year of Saint Mary's Integral Program.

Saturday, April 21 at 5:30 p.m.

Soda Activity Center

Ticket price for the lecture is \$30 per person, which benefits the endowment. A reception for Robert Hass follows in Claeys Lounge. To register, contact Saint Mary's Alumni Office at (800) 800-2586.

Concerts:

"The Music of Spain"

Dawn Foster-Dodson, cellist and SMC faculty member, in concert with pianist Irene Gregorio, will feature folk songs and folk dances from Spain and the English countryside.

Sunday, April 22 at 3 p.m.

Saint Mary's College Chapel

Free

Art Exhibitions:

"Paper Cuts: The Art of Contemporary Paper"

Continues through April 29

Hearst Art Gallery

Free

"William Keith: The 1870s Paintings"

Reopened Saturday, March 24

Hearst Art Gallery, William Keith Room

Free

For more information about upcoming events at Saint Mary's College, visit the college website at www.stmarys-ca.edu/news_events/.

Jennifer Wake is the Saint Mary's section editor for Lamorinda Weekly and is a former director of public relations and writer for Saint Mary's College. You can reach her with any comments or story ideas at jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com.



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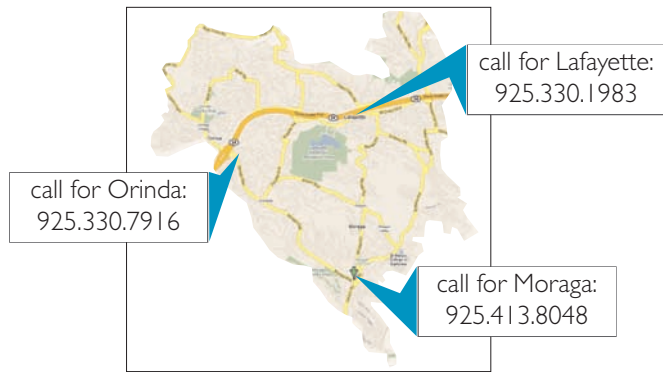
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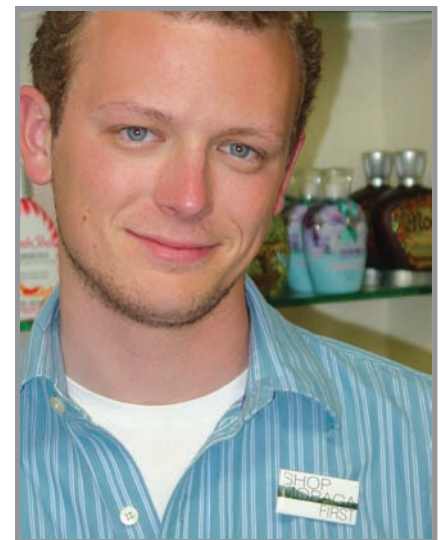
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The brainchild of a core group of volunteers who are working on finding ways to encourage Moragans to invest in their own town, this slogan reminds us that by keeping tax dollars in Moraga you invest in your infrastructure and services.

The campaign will be underscored at the first annual Art, Wine and Merchants Faire to be held at the Rheem Shopping Center on May 5. (More about the Moraga Beautiful week, this event and the Energy Faire in our next issue.)

Grant Stubblefield designed the logo for the buttons, which were ordered and paid for by Lori Stubblefield. Other merchants such as Bill Snider from Moraga Hardware

and Lumber have invested their time and money to start this campaign.

They hope with the assistance of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce that many Moraga businesses will get involved. Look for the posters and other media materials highlighting the benefits of shopping in Moraga.

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