



"Sunset Over the Reservoir"

Sudden Oak Death Hitting Our Trees

By Chris Lavin
Contributing Writer

A shadow is slowly passing over the Lamorinda area in the shape of a sickle: Sudden Oak Death Syndrome is descending on the oaks of our region.

It is not too late, however, to do something about it.

"There are some experts who are saying that this disease will kill 98 percent of the coastal live oaks in Contra Costa County in the next 20 years," said Jonathan Goodwin, a Canyon resident who has been trumpeting the word for the past year, advocating prevention.

Tanoaks and white oaks are also particularly prone to infection. Some trees in the EBMUD watershed areas in Contra Costa have already been infected, providing host trees for the spread of the disease.

Sudden Oak Death is caused by a parasitic pathogen with the name of phytophthora ramorum, which unfortunately can hitch a ride on particles of fog – an impossible traveler to block. The burning of diseased oaks can also spread the disease, or the delivery of an infected wood pile can carry the germs into the surrounding vegetation.

Bay laurels, camellia bushes and rhododendrons host the disease, as well, although they are not killed by it.

While dying oaks have not been ubiquitous in the Lamorinda area, more and more trees are being infected – a sign that there will likely be more to come, said Robert Scudder, of the San Francisco Professional Gardeners' Organization.

"I'm sure it will come," said Kenny Murakami, longtime owner and manager of the Moraga Garden Center, about the disease in Contra Costa County. "It's already here."
continued on Page 13



Kenny Murakami, Moraga Garden Center

Orinda's Ballot Measure E

This is the first in a series of three interviews with Mayor Steve Glazer by the Lamorinda Weekly focusing on Orinda's ballot Measure E, which comes to a vote on June 5. It calls for floating a \$58.6 million bond to fix the city's deteriorating roads, drainage and water pipes.

This week, we focus on those taxpayers who have owned their properties the longest, and will therefore be paying lower taxation amounts to pay the bond back, should it pass. In our next issue, we will target the issue for recent buyers, and in the final part of the series before the election, we will focus on how the measure might affect prospective Orinda buyers.

By Chris Lavin and Andy Scheck

Q: There seems to be some confusion among long-time homeowners in Orinda regarding how much this is going to add to their property tax bills. Why the worries?

Glazer: We think that some homeowners don't recognize the difference between the assessed value of their property – that is the amount they are taxed on – and the resale value. Sure, a rancher could sell for \$1.5 million, but it might be appraised at only \$200,000. We're talking about a small house, only two bedrooms and one bath. In other words, if the valuation of the property is \$200,000, the cost to that homeowner will be \$38 per year in the early years, graduating up to \$60 per year. For someone with a house that is assessed at \$2 million, it will be \$380 per year, going up to \$600. Assessed valuations and resale values are different. It's a huge difference. Hug

continued on page 4



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Real Estate in Lamorinda: A Healthy Stabilization

By Sophie Braccini

To the many families who have sold their houses for over asking price with multiple offers, the news that the average price of homes is decreasing in Contra Costa County brings a smile. For others, whose houses sat on the market for 5 months and were sold 20% below asking price, this is a reality. What is really going on in our little neck of the woods?

First, we have to realize that Contra Costa statistics are not Lamorinda statistics. In April, there are 855 homes for sale in Antioch, 395 in Concord and 529 in Pittsburgh, while Lafayette lists 69, Moraga 19 and Orinda 43. So in Contra Costa statistics, Lamorinda is not very influential, nor is it well portrayed.

What are the figures for our area then? In 2004 and 2005, we saw a double digit price increase. A 21% yearly growth certainly isn't sustainable in the long term. Between 2005 and 2006, prices started to calm down. Orinda grew by 8%, Lafayette 7% and Moraga stayed the same. Keith Katzman, who compiled the figures (from the multiple listing service) for all single family homes sold in Moraga in 2005 and 2006, says the price per square foot has risen between 2005 and 2006 by an average of 2.4%. At the same time the number of homes sold below the asking price rose. The market was

still anticipating a price increase.

continued on page 8



LAMORINDA WEEKLY this week			
Town news	page 2, 3, 4	Sports news	page 12, 13
Life in Lamorinda	page 5, 6, 7, 8	Saint Mary's College	page 14, 15
School news	page 9, 10	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 23	
Monday, May 14	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, Apr 19	
Thursday, May 3	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Tuesday, Apr 24	
Tuesday, May 8	
Park, Trails, Rec.	7pm
Community Center 500 St Mary's Road	
Wednesday, May 9	
Circulation	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Monday, May 7	
Emergency Prep.	9:15am
City Offices 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 265	
Wednesday, May 9	
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, May 14	
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	

FIX OUR ROADS – SUPPORT MEASURE C

Guest Commentary
Submitted By Carol Federighi, Mayor
City of Lafayette

Measure C on Lafayette's June 5th ballot deserves our community's support. Lafayette currently faces a \$24 million gap between anticipated revenues for roads and the expenditures required to maintain all roads and fix the 118 that have failed. Measure C would provide the necessary monies to bring all public roads to a good quality and maintain them for the next 30 years. Road repair and maintenance would be funded by a parcel tax, not to exceed \$150 per year per equivalent

roads. Currently, 118 in Lafayette are considered to be in a "failed" condition. The City consistently spends \$1 million a year from its General Fund on roads. In addition, it has contributed \$2.6 million from its reserves since 2004 to repair some roads before they failed, but those excess reserves are now depleted. Some residents have questioned why the City has not dedicated to roads money spent on or committed to projects such as the Veterans Memorial, the new library,

Of necessity, the City must balance its scarce resources among many worthwhile interests. Forty-three percent of our \$10 million General Fund budget goes toward our small police force. The rest supports planning, public works, engineering, and administration, several of which generate revenue that helps offset their costs. Cutting the \$5.7 million on non-police expenditures in the General Fund budget by even 10% is not supportable, in my opinion, and would yield only \$570,000 annually, not



Camino Colorados, Lafayette

Photo by Andy Schreck

nearly enough to solve our \$24 million problem. A vote for Measure C is a vote for fairness. Our neighbors on failed roads have paid their taxes to help repair arterial, collector, and some more highly used residential roads. Owners of commercial real property will also pay their share. A vote for Measure C is a good investment. Once repaired, anticipated revenues

residential unit for thirty years.

Most of Lafayette's homes and the neighborhood roads that serve them were built in the early 1960s. Without maintenance, roads will last for twelve to fifteen years before their condition declines sharply and will fail totally after about forty years. Reconstruction of totally failed roads costs as much as ten times more than maintaining roads in good condition.

In 1995, recognizing that the City did not have the funds to repair and rebuild its failing roads, voters approved a \$13 million bond which financed the repair of arterial and collector streets used by the most city residents. The work contemplated by that bond is complete and the money has now been spent.

While \$13 million was a significant amount, it was far short of that needed to repair all of Lafayette's public

the Downtown Specific Plan, the multi-sport court project, or the Pleasant Hill Road improvements. First, the City could not have legally used funds on neighborhood roads that it spent or is spending – redevelopment dollars, contributions, or state grants – for the Veterans Memorial, the new library, or the Downtown Specific Plan. The multi-sport court will be funded entirely by Parkland Dedication Fees and donations. The City's funds are committed to the parking lot for which Parkland Dedications Fees cannot be used – which will serve hundreds of people who come to the Community Center each month for various programs, events, and meetings. While the City contributed General Fund dollars to Pleasant Hill road improvements sought by scores of neighbors, 85% of expenditures came from outside grants, unavailable to repair neighborhood roads.

can continue to maintain all roads in good condition, and good roads throughout Lafayette will enhance property values. Without the needed funds from Measure C, our roads will continue to deteriorate, and the cost to repair them will increase substantially. A vote for Measure C is a vote for safety. Good roads are safer for our cars, our pedestrians, and our bicyclists. A vote for Measure C is a vote for an affordable tax, an amount of money many couples spend on only two dinners out in town. Finally, a vote for Measure C is a vote for accountability. Measure C provides for an oversight committee to ensure that moneys are spent for intended purposes.

I urge Lafayette residents to join the Lafayette City Council, the Lafayette School District Trustees, the Lafayette Homeowners Council, the Lafayette Taxpayers Association, the Diablo Valley League of Women Voters, the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the Lafayette Citizens for Fair Taxes and a long list of concerned citizens in voting "yes" for Measure C on June 5.



Symposium organizers Will Ewing, Helen Bullard, Kennan Cronen, Stephanie Long and Adithi Rajagapuram

Lafayette Celebrates Earth Day in a Big Way

By Steve Richard

On Sunday, April 22, the City of Lafayette and Acalanes High School are combining two exciting events—Lafayette's second annual Earth Day Festival and a student organized Science Symposium on global warming. The theme is "Global Warming – A Local Event," focusing on the threat of global warming and what we can do about it in Lamorinda.

The highlight of the afternoon is the Science Symposium on global warming from 1:00- 2:00pm in the Performing Arts Theater at Acalanes High School. Acalanes students have been planning the event since the beginning of the year, with the assistance of two teacher advisors—Janet Thomas and Thomas McNamara. The Symposium will be kicked off by seniors Kennan Cronen and Jeremy

Wolff who will introduce the issue of global warming and how it is directly affecting the world in which we live. Wolff said, "We hope to make people realize that even one person can make a difference."

The Symposium's keynote speaker is well-known Professor Dan Kamen, a professor in the Energy and Resources Group and the Director of the Renewable Energy Laboratory at UC Berkeley, who will talk about global warming and steps we must take to improve our situation. Speaker Adam Lerner will shed light on solar panels and Becky Shafi, an agent with AAA, will be talking about how to reduce greenhouse gases by making smart transportation decisions.

continued on page 7

New Library Breaking Ground – Come Join the Fun!

Dirt, big trucks, music...what could be more fun?! After years of planning and fundraising the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center is breaking ground for its new home. The celebration is scheduled for April 20, 2007 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the site of the new facility at the corner of First Street and Golden Gate Way. The celebration hopes to involve the Lafayette community in its new Library's groundbreaking with a brief ceremony to introduce key players followed by food, music, and family fun. Lafayette residents and visitors are invited to join in on this special historic day.

Speakers at the groundbreaking ceremony will include Mayor Carol Federighi, Supervisor

Gayle Uilkema, County Librarian Anne Cain and Anne Grodin.

Mayor Federighi is delighted to celebrate the start of the building's construction. The Mayor noted, "What better way to involve the Lafayette community and its friends than to invite them to participate in this historic groundbreaking day for our new Lafayette Library and Learning Center."

Mayor Federighi issued a special invitation to children to join the festivities. "This is a great opportunity for children to witness the official start of their new Library. There will be hardhats for the children as well as huge construction trucks and machinery for them to explore." Refreshments and music will be provided.



Auto burglary, 4/01/07 Unknown suspect using unknown object broke passenger side window of vehicle. Suspect entered vehicle and removed Dell laptop computer, HP 41 Cx calculator, Nikon digital camera and a jacket.

Suspicious circumstances, lost property, 4/01/07 Graduating St. Mary's college student left purse in Bistro restaurant of the Lafayette Park Hotel.



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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 25
Wednesday, May 9
- Planning Comm. 7:30pm**
Hacienda, La Sala Room
2100 Donald Drive
Monday, May 7
Monday, May 21
- Design Review 7:30pm**
Hacienda, La Sala Room
2100 Donald Drive
Monday, Apr 23
Monday, May 14
- Park & Rec. 7:30pm**
Hacienda, Mosaic Room
2100 Donald Drive
Tuesday, May 15
- Youth Involvement 7:30pm**
Community Center, Manzanita Room
500 St Mary's Road
Thursday, May 10
- Liaison 8:00am**
Fire Station
1280 Moraga Way
Friday, May 11

check online:

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



D.U.I., 4/07/07 Chevrolet Suburban almost struck someone in a parking lot on Ascot Drive. Underage male suspect had an open container and marijuana in the vehicle. Blood alcohol level above the legal limit.

D.U.I., 4/06/07 Officer pulled over vehicle on Moraga Road and detected odor of alcohol. Driver, who is a juvenile, had a blood alcohol level of .12%.

D.U.I., 4/02/07 Officer stopped a vehicle at the 7 - 11 parking lot, for erratic driving. Driver's blood alcohol level was measured twice, once the reading was .15%, the second time the reading was .17%.

Possession of alcohol, 4/02/07 Call regarding trespassers at pool area of an Ascot Drive apartment complex. Underage suspect had a large amount of alcohol and marijuana.

Commercial burglary, 4/1/07 The Karate & Fitness Center had its glass front door shattered. Computer monitor stolen. No suspects or witnesses.

Auto burglary, 4/1/07 Rear driver's window broken on a parked vehicle near Bollinger Canyon and St. Mary's Road. Purse and brief case missing.

Council Approves \$37K Study to

Attract Retailers Councilmember Brands Moraga "a Retail Sybill"

By Steve Angelides
Council Approves \$37K Study to Attract Retailers
Councilmember Brands Moraga "a Retail Sybill"
On April 11th the Town Council approved a \$37,000 study to help it attract retailers after discussing the town's retail woes.

The study will be performed by staff from the Ann Arbor, Michigan office of Map Info, a national research firm. It should be completed by the end of summer.

Map Info mostly does research for retailers before they decide to move into an area. Eight of the top 10 national retailers, and seven of the top 10 specialty retailers, all chain stores, are clients of Map Info. Map Info also does studies for cities to advise them on retailer recruitment and retention.

Town Manager Phil Vince told the council that Moraga receives about \$650,000 per year in retail sales tax revenue, but Moraga residents make 75% of their taxable purchases outside of Moraga.

Map Info Account manager Patricia Bell told the council she hoped that Moraga's sales tax "leakage" could be reduced from 75% to 50% or lower. Jenny Boyd, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Moraga, expressed a similar goal of reducing the leakage from 75% to 50% at the Chamber's meeting last month.

Mayor Mike Metcalf spoke in favor of the study, pointing out that the town's annual operating expenses in the last fiscal year were about \$200,000 more than the town's operating revenues. "If we don't do something we're going to go broke," Metcalf emphasized.

Councilmember Ken Chew initially expressed skepticism about the study. "Won't the free market take care of it?" he wondered. "Haven't we already been doing this (recruiting retailers)?" he asked. "Our problem is the leaking roofs in the shopping center," Chew asserted.

Councilmember Dave Trotter, who is on the council's specific plan committee, responded to Chew that the town has never before systematically recruited retailers, and that the town "can send a message to the free market" that "here's a plan that will revitalize the center."

Trotter reminded Bell that Moraga must be unique in the state of California in having a three mile radius to the south empty, and being four to five miles from the nearest freeway on the north. Bell admitted that Moraga had some unique challenges, but nevertheless believed that her firm's study would be able to help the town attract retailers.

Councilmember Linda Deschambault told Bell that

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Moraga Beautiful Week

Saturday May 5th, 10AM to 4PM

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"lots of people here want to stay a bedroom community." "We don't want a Baja Fresh; we don't want a Petco; we don't want a Starbucks; we don't want a Gottashalks," Deschambault said. She suggested that perhaps an Elephant Pharmacy or a Nitro Dog would be more desirable in Moraga.

"I have a hard time believing that we're terminally unique," Vince replied. "There were 52 people ahead of me in line at Starbucks yesterday. We may be unique in geography, and we have some ecotourism, but we also fit into many of the standard categories," Vince said.

"We're a retail Sybill here in Moraga," said Councilmember Rochelle Bird. "We say one thing and do another. We say we want mom and pop but we truck off to Costco to buy our toothpaste." "We need to be equipped as a town to make our case to capture the opportunity. We are not prepared for that," Bird claimed.

Bell assured Deschambault that her firm's study would not only focus on attracting chain stores, but would also provide

information which could help existing retailers be more successful, and might also help attract niche retailers. After that assurance, Deschambault made the

motion to fund the study, which was seconded by Bird and unanimously adopted by the council.

Moraga Beautiful Week: The Awakening of Sleeping Beauty?

By Sophie Braccini

Is May 5th the beginning of Moraga's future? Moraga Beautiful Week is a long tradition that is taking a turn this year toward making the town a more vibrant and innovative place.

For almost 25 years, the Town of Moraga and the Moraga Chamber of Commerce have been partnering in a town wide "spring cleaning". The key to the success of the week has been the large involvement of community volunteers

who show up to weed, trim and paint public parks and other community locations.

This year the week will be kicked off on Saturday May 5th by a Fair in each shopping center. The Moraga Center will feature an Energy Fair and a Health and Safety Expo from 11am to 5pm, while the Rheem Shopping Center will host an Art, Wine and Merchants Exhibit.

continued on page 5



Mike Majchrzak, Moraga's Citizen of the Year, with Supervisor Gayle Uilkema at the award ceremony held April 5 at St. Mary's Soda Center

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Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Orinda

Calendar	
Special City Council 12pm	
Room 6, Community Center 26 Orinda Way	
Thursday, Apr 19	
City Council 7pm	
Auditorium, Orinda Library 24 Orinda Way	
Tuesday, Apr 30	
Planning Comm. 7pm	
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Tuesday, Apr 24	
Traffic Advisory 7pm	
Mayor's Conf. Rm, City Offices 14 Altarinda Road	
Monday, Apr 23	
Park & Recreation 7pm	
Community Center 500 St Mary's Road	
Wednesday, Apr 17 (joint)	
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, May 7	
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's Ballot Measure E

continued from page 1

Q: We hear a common question: Why did the city council wait so long to find the money to fix the roads, while it spent money on other things?

Glazer: That's something we have heard a lot about. What people don't understand is that we could not spend specific monies on just anything. Take the library, for instance. It cost \$10 million, and people ask, 'Why didn't you spend that on something more pressing?' And you can see their point. But you have to realize that \$5 million was raised privately. And that \$5 million we spent could not be spent on roads – only toward Orinda public facilities. Plus, now we have a jewel for Orinda in this beautiful library.

Q: So if you had spent that money on roads and drains, you could have been sued?

Glazer: Absolutely. And we would have lost. Those funds were dedicated for specific purposes, not for anything else.

Q: One of the factors in assessing the property values of long-time homeowners is remodeling. When a homeowner takes out a permit for a

remodeling project, it will affect his overall assessment, right?

Glazer: Only to the extent that it improves the property in the specific area that is being remodeled. (The entire property is not reassessed.) But it does make an amazing difference. In Orinda we have 5 percent of the housing stock being remodeled every year – that is a huge percentage. We have averaged 300 remodeling permits a year for the past three years.

Q: Some people say that other agencies are not stepping up to the plate, that EBMUD or the fire district does not pay enough to maintain systems they should be responsible for. What do you say to that?

Glazer: Again, a common question. But EBMUD has a policy, an institutional policy, that it does not fix something until it's broken. Until recently, Orinda had 49 problem pipes in danger of rupture – two finally collapsed altogether and yes, EBMUD came in and fixed them. Now we have 47 problem pipes. We can't wait until they break to get them fixed.

For more information about Measure E, visit www.fixorindaroads.com.

Orinda Creeks Event on April 22

From Staff Reports

The Friends of Orinda Creeks will hold its annual Earth Day Creek Cleanup from 10 a.m. to noon on April 22 at the downtown portion of San Pablo Creek behind 23 Orinda Way.

Plant-lover John Zentner will provide several species of native plants in five-gallon containers for volunteers to plant at a revegetation area behind the Chevron station. Over the past five months Zentner, a FOC Board member, Barbara Leitner and others have helped to removed in-

vasive vegetation as a follow-up to the work conducted by Cinda MacKinnon, Toris Jaeger and the Orinda Garden Club.

During the cleanup, demonstrations will be held on acorn and Manzanita tea, as well as sessions on poison oak, invasive weeds and native plant identification.

For further information or to sign up to participate, please contact Maya Rappaport at mayarapp@comcast.net.

Get Wild!

By Lee Borrowman

The Orinda Union School District's 6th Annual Wildlife Festival will be held on April 22 from 1-4 at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area, 350 Camino Pablo Rd. The Wagner Ranch Nature Area is rich in local history and environmental diversity, and has served the Orinda schools for many years as both an outdoor, hands-on science lab and the perfect setting for interactive educational projects such as the Living History program's Native American Days and Rancho Days. Treat yourself to a docent tour of the area to which most of us never get to go! Learn about the history of the area, meet Steve Gentry's bees, make a leaf-print tee shirt or origami pot and see a Native American drum and dance performance.

The Wagner Ranch Nature Area is at times poised to become the victim of development – find out more about the area at www.fwrna.org.

City Council Special Meeting

April 19, 2007 12:00pm
Note location: Community Center, Room 6 26 Orinda Way

WORKSHOP: Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Strategic Planning Workshop for Fiscal Year 2007/08 including discussion of Orinda Union School District's relocation of the Maintenance/Corporation Yard (two options: Delaveaga and Wagner School sites).

Spring Plant and Used Book Sale

Friends and families work together for their cause

By Lee Borrowman

On Saturday May 5, and Sunday May 6, from 9am -3pm, at 73 Coral Drive in Orinda, the Bressette/Walker family will host a Spring Plant and Used Book Sale to benefit the Bret C. Harte Directing Internship at the Berkeley Repertory Theater. They will offer hundreds of plants and books for sale just in time for spring planting and Mother's Day, including gift plants, pot gardens, succulents, bonsai plants, annuals, perennials, landscape plants, heirloom tomatoes and many other herbs and vegetables to fill your summer garden. See it. Browse the vast collection of books and find something to relax with once you are done with your planting!

Bret C. Harte was the only child of Dennis and Juanita Harte of Moraga, friends of the Bressette family. He was a 1998 graduate of Miramonte High School in Orinda, California. He went on to graduate from Bowdoin College in Maine in 2002. He returned to the San Francisco Bay Area to pursue his passion for directing theater. By 2005 he had worked in several capacities with the California Shakespeare Theater in Orinda, the Calvary Presbyterian Theater Group and Actors Rhapsody in San Francisco, the Dean Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, the San Leandro Players, and Berkeley Repertory Theatre. In March of 2005, Harte was killed in an auto accident when he was run off the road

by an unknown driver on Hwy. 680 in Concord.

The Internship fund was started by family friends following Harte's death. Lee Bressette writes, "To be perfectly honest, when this internship was created we hadn't really thought about how to fund it.

None of us had ever done anything like this before, but it is amazing how motivated one can be when following one's heart. Gardening has always been my passion, so several years ago, when I read about a 'recycle' garden in Oregon that raised funds for a spaying clinic by selling donated plants, I got very excited about the idea! I just knew that there must be many sources for plants that needed a new lease on life. Many of my friends were gardeners with perennials that needed dividing annually. I knew that landscapers always have 'left over' plants. Growers grow way too many plants each season, and nurseries always need to rotate their stock. I played with the idea of doing something similar here in the Bay Area, but I never got farther than thinking and talking about it. Then in 2006 after we had started Bret's fund, and we were told that we had to raise \$100,000 to create an endowment, I had the motivation to give it all a try."

For more information on the Bret C. Harte Internship and its other fundraising events visit www.bretchartefund.org



D.U.I., Felony evasion, 4/11/07 Originating in Orinda and ending in Oakland, a traffic stop was initiated for speeding. The driver did not yield and drove westbound on 24 at speeds up to 110 m.p.h. Driver finally stopped vehicle at middle school in Oakland. Three passengers fled on foot. Blood alcohol level of driver .08% Driver and one passenger that was apprehended from Richmond.

Grand theft, 4/9/07 Unknown suspect took riding mower from the side yard of a resident on Lombardy Lane. John Deere riding mower, valued at \$1,000

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Life in LAMORINDA

Recent Rule Change For Teens No Friends Allowed.

By Cathy Tyson

Newly licensed teenage drivers throughout the state are subject to more restrictions than ever. Oddly enough, local teens aren't thrilled. "It's a ludicrous law, a year is far too long," says Campolindo sophomore Mike Boyer. "They should trust more in the youth of America."

The State of California has a new graduated driver licensing system as of 2006 to regulate teen driving. Specifically, from the date a provisional license is issued, for the first year no passengers under age 20 are allowed in the car unless a licensed driver age 25 or older is present. Also no driving is permitted between 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m., unless with a licensed driver 25 or older. Statistics have demonstrated the benefits. Teen passenger deaths and injuries from crashes of 16 year olds fell 40%, and at-fault fatal and injury collisions involving 16-year-old drivers have declined an impressive 24%, since the rule change.

Therefore if a group of sophomores at Acalanes want to go to a nearby convenience store for snacks after class, each and every kid will need to drive their own car. This may not come as much of a surprise to Lamorinda parents, but regardless of the consequences, some teens may break the rules.

"I never give warnings, 100% tickets," says Officer Mooney of the Orinda Police Department, for violations of

the probationary license. "Parents don't seem to understand that kids drive at their parent's pleasure." While it's true that a teen driver would need to be pulled over for something else, for example speeding or an improper turn, OPD will write up a citation for a violation of the probationary license along with the other infraction. Lafayette and Moraga police departments echoed the theme of enforcement, as well.

Penalties are at the sole discretion of the Court, fine or community service or both. First time violation is a minimum of \$35 and a possibility of between 8 to 16 hours of community service, second time a minimum of \$50 and possibly 16 to 24 hours of community service, according to the DMV. It can go much, much higher, depending on the driver and the number of infractions.

Every rule has exceptions, and this one is no different. A note is required explaining why the teenager must drive and when the necessity will end, and only



under certain circumstances. Car-pooling with neighborhood kids is not ok, according to Officer Mooney. Approved reasons are: medical necessity, school or school authorized activities, employment necessity, immediate need of a family member, and emancipated minor. Check the DMV website for more lengthy explanations of these exceptions, www.dmv.ca.gov/teenweb.

Tagging along as a passenger with a first year driver is unfortunately not uncommon. They rationalize their behavior by noting that they are not the one who'll get in trouble. Another creative excuse is that teens will drive "better" with an unauthorized pal passenger, because they don't want to get ticketed, so it's really an incentive to slow down and pay attention.

"Hell, no" said Heather Peri, mother of newly licensed son, Anthony, he is not allowed to drive other kids. "Obey the rules" is the family motto. She has been to two funerals recently, and says, "it's just not negotiable, period."

Parents of teens are confronted with additional whin-

ing, because when the law was first phased-in the restriction was only for six months. In households that have a sophomore and a senior, the senior only had to wait half the time his younger sibling is now required to wait. "Deal with it," advises Miramonte senior and older brother Ben Tyson to his younger brother Jake Tyson.



Moraga Commons

Photo by Jenny Boyd

continued from page 3

Moraga Beautiful Week: The Awakening of Sleeping Beauty?

The Energy Fair is sponsored by Sustainable Moraga, the volunteer group that brought battery recycling and green bag sales to Moraga. From windows and insulation to remodeling projects and new cars, all Lamorindans will be able to see what's available to them today to help lower their energy consumption. One of the exhibitors, Canyon Construction, is currently restoring the historic Moraga Barn. The builder will offer tours of the site, offering an impressive array of solutions for sustainable design. The Health and Safety Expo will feature the Police Department, a fire truck, a CERT information table, and a Red Cross blood donation station (call Janet Forman at 925-935-8808 to schedule an appointment).

At noon the Rheem Shopping Center will host the Art, Wine and Merchants Fair. The Art show will feature local artists, many from the Lamorinda Art Alliance,

bringing fine art, photography and jewelry. "Think Globally, Drink Locally," sponsored by Generation Green, will feature the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association. The first Merchants Fair will present about 20 local businesses. Each will bring something special to the Fair. For example, the Gourmet Bistro Café will sell food, Amoroma will offer a 30% discount on some of its gourmet groceries, including olive oils, jams, and chocolates, Moraga Hardware & Lumber will hand out samples of upscale and natural cleaners and beautifying products, and OSH will give out a Moraga Beautiful Week special coupon: \$10 off a purchase of \$50 or more. This exhibit is part of the "Shop Moraga First" campaign, to remind everyone that shopping locally is investing in our community by keeping tax dollars in the town.

The Fairs are just the beginning. On May 6th the

Farmers' Market will have a special "Start of the Season" display. Homeowners are encouraged to do their homework and spruce their properties. During this week, Allied Waste Services is offering recycle and pick-up days. Green waste can be picked up as well, just call: 935-8900.

Also on May 6th, the regional "Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour" will include the Kyte Garden at 57 Corliss Drive in Moraga, with garden talks at 12pm and 3pm (www.bringbackthenatives.net). During the whole week the Moraga Garden Center will offer 20% off on all native plants.

Parks and Recreation Director Penelope Leach is appealing to all groups to join the effort and send helpers for Volunteer Cleaning Day on May 12. Meet at Rancho Laguna Park at 9am and the Moraga Public Works Dept. will have a number of projects to offer.

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Life in LAMORINDA

◆ Not to be missed ◆

Last chance to see "Lend Me a Tenor" at Town Hall Theatre Company in Lafayette through April 21st. "This is the second funniest play ever written," says director Daren A. Carollo. Sophisticated themes – for mature audiences. Not recommended for children under 10. Length – 2 hours. Contact the Town Hall Theatre Company box office for dates, times, and ticket prices: 925-283-1557, or visit www.townhalltheatre.com.

Dreamscapes will continue at the Lafayette Gallery through May 12. Whether it's a painting, a sculpture or a piece of jewelry, each piece of work represents an individual vision – a dreamscape of colors, textures and light.

When visiting the Gallery, please be sure to wander through the Lafayette Sculpture Garden located behind the Gallery. Lafayette Gallery, 50 Lafayette Circle, is open Tuesday to Saturday from 11am to 5pm. (925) 284-2788, www.lafayettegallery.net

Moraga Bocce Ball
Bocce Ball for the 2007 season at the Moraga Commons is here. There is room for a few new teams and fill-ins. The nightly league season will be from May to September. There are 4 teams that play each other each evening. It's a great social and way to spend an evening and meet new friends. There is also a 10 A.M. Thursday drop-in. For more information please call Dom Sidari 376-1511

Lafayette Concerts Presents Christopher Smith
Friday, April 20, 7:30 PM
Fusing elements of humor and sadness, his songs feature characters that are quirky, vulnerable and unforgettable. His music is primarily based in the folk tradition, accompanying himself on fingerstyle guitar, octave mandolin, and banjo. Sequoia Room, the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road, Tickets (\$15) available at the door. Reservations suggested. (925) 283-1959 or email charlotte@lafayetteconcerts.com

The Miramonte Latin Club is holding a fundraising car wash on Sat, April 21st, 9am-2pm, at Orinda Motors.

Animal Fair-Open House and Yard Sale Fundraiser
Saturday, April 21, 2007.
Animal Fair - 10 am to 2 pm
Yard Sale - 9 am to 2 pm
Moraga Bright Beginnings Preschool, 1689 School Street, Moraga
Phone: (925) 376-2600

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Orinda, Celebrates Earth Day on April 22, 2007

To build awareness and educate members of the community about ways in which individuals can help to ensure a more sustainable environment, the exhibit will explain how individuals can "Reduce, Reuse

and Recycle" in their daily lives. 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., St. Stephen's Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda.
Barbara Bisel, Chair, Caring for Creation Group – (925) 377-5953

The Art of Creating New Camellia Plants in Lamorinda.

Monday 4/23 10:30 – Noon
Retired dairy-product scientist and 30 year Orinda resident John Wang will disclose secrets of his back yard passion, the evergreen camellia plant (Tea Flower). With spectacular slides, John will talk about the species, origin and history of camellias, his recent trips to China and his special method of camellia breeding. Lafayette Community Center, 500 Saint Mary's Rd. Call 284-5050 to reserve a spot.

Tuesday, April 24 at 7 P.M.

The Orinda Library hosts a Fireside Chat with local author David Smethurst about his new book, "Tripoli." In an intimate setting by the library fireplace, Smethurst will describe how he came to research this little-known period in American history called the Barbary War and write most of it the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, The Fireside Chat is free and open to the public. Call 254-2184

Borrego Solar will be hosting an Open House to provide information about the Solar Neighborhood Program on April 24, 2007 from 6-9pm at the Veteran's Memorial Hall, 780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette. Designed to let customers in the area take advantage of volume discounts for installing a photovoltaic system to provide electricity to their home or business, the program offers increasing discounts as more residents sign up. Contact Tyler Ruffolo at Borrego Solar, 1.800.403.0259 or sales@borregosolar.com

Planning for the "What Ifs" of a Longer Life

Thursday 4/25 11 AM – Noon
This lecture will review the issues one needs to be aware of to stay in control of life even when medical challenges complicate and color the quality of your life. Lafayette Community Center, 500 Saint Mary's Rd. Call (925)284-5050 to reserve a spot

Moraga TreeLine Triathlon
Soda Aquatic Center, Campolindo High School
April 28, 2007; 6 AM -- Body marking and swim start prep
7 AM -- Group start time

2nd Annual Child Safety I.D. Event Sunday, April 29th - 12:00pm to 4:00pm
Oakwood Athletic Club in Lafayette

TOSSED TREASURES SALE
Saturday, April 28th 9 to 3 at the Lafayette Community Center. Sponsored by the LAFAYETTE SERVICE LEAGUE.

This year's proceeds will be donated to the Lafayette Community Center and Hospice of Contra Costa. We're looking for donations! Call Jackie at 284-4131 or Diane at 283-8790. Plenty of free parking is available

Lamorinda Arts Alliance Spring Open Studios April 28 - April 29.
Open Studios features over 30 artists in a variety of media including watercolor, jewelry, garden sculpture, photography, acrylic and oil paintings, collage, and gourds. At the 13 locations, visitors can meet the artists, watch demonstrations and buy art directly from the participants. Saturday 4/28, 11am to 5pm and Sunday 4/29, 10am to 4pm. A reception will be held on Friday, April 27 from 6 to 8pm at the Lamorinda Arts Alliance Gallery, 570 Center Street, Moraga 925-376-5407. Maps will be available on-line at www.laa4art.org.

The Bulldog Theater Company presents "Snow White" May 3-6 at OIS.

Clive Worsley is directing this classic Brothers Grimm version of Snow White, performed by 60 OIS students in two casts and run by 27 students on tech crew. Tickets are \$5 General Admission and \$8 Reserved seating. General Admission tickets will be available on the OIS website starting Friday, April 20, and Reserved tickets will be sold at our box office starting Monday, April 23. Join us for what promises to be a great family event!

The Friends of the Moraga Library will hold an "Overstock Sale" of donated books on Saturday, May 5th from 9 to 12. The sale will be held on the Moraga library poach at 1500 Saint Mary's Rd. Bring your friends and take advantage of greatly reduced prices.

The Moraga Junior Women's Club will host its fourth annual Lamorinda garden tour, "Through the Garden Gate," Saturday, May 5 from 10AM to 3PM. Tickets will be for sale at Ace Hardware and "Across the Way" in Moraga, McDonnell Nursery in Orinda and Orchard Nursery in Lafayette as well as by mail through the Moraga Juniors. The entire \$30 ticket price will go to support Comfort for Kids. The garden tour will showcase six Lamorinda gardens—three in Lafayette, two in Orinda and one in Moraga.

Senior Sock Hop Fund Raiser Featuring the Tice Valley Swing Band Sunday May 6th from 2:00 to 6:00 pm. Admission: \$10.00, Raffle Tickets \$1, light refreshments no charge Lafayette Community Center, 500 Saint Mary's Rd in Lafayette Call 284-5050 to Reserve a Spot (We need a headcount!)

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

George Ehrenhaft a watercolor artist from Moraga, is a member of the Lamorinda Arts Alliance, a cooperative association of more than 200 local artists.

Over 30 Lamorinda Arts Alliance members artists will be opening their homes and studios to the public for two days for Spring Open Studios April 28 - April 29.

Editor's Note: We received more letters than we have space to reprint in support of Orinda's Measure E. The letters below are a representative sample.

Dear Editor;

I am a volunteer for the Fix Orinda's Road Committee, because I care about the terrible condition of our roads and want to do something about it. I'm surprised that some community members are actually recommending a no vote on Measure E. I can only assume that some questionable information is out there.

First of all, for those who want a parcel tax in lieu of a bond-a parcel tax would actually cost the average Orindan more than a bond and at the same time it won't raise as much money and as quickly. Bonds like house mortgages are used for long term asset needs. No one would expect to buy a house from current income alone. Maintenance covers superficial fixes, not the kind of repairs we need and it makes sense to fix pipes and drains at the same time. I have read letters that state all roads won't be fixed. This is not true. Only private roads will be ineligible. Major arteries will be fixed first and side roads later. As main roads are repaired maintenance funds can be released for smaller areas. Some of the other issues from those against Measure E seem beside the point. Whether you like the City Council or the Fire Authority has nothing to do with our current roads. Let's pull together and improve our city. Vote YES on Measure E. Yours truly, Jean Lyford Orinda

"E" for ... Embezzlement?
Measure E purports to be for road repairs, but it's really stealth financing for City Hall. It's telling that City Hall debt service is not in the budget, and that the Orrick firm, which sold us the fake lease (COP) financing plan, is also our legal counsel on Measure E. The City Hall "debt" (\$9.8 million principal, payable over 30 years) is an unfunded liability looming over the city budget. It should have been financed by a municipal obligation bond because without a 2/3 citizen vote, the debt is

unconstitutional. But our dishonest City Council (over Steve Glazer's objection) chose to sneak this debt on us, without our 2/3 vote or even our consent, by pretending no bond vote is necessary because it's only a "lease" which we can cover with existing revenues.

That's false on both counts: (1) The City owns the land, but leases it out to a dummy corporation (OFFC) composed of city officials, which subleases it back to the City. Does that sound like a bona fide lease, or an Enron-style flim flam to mask economic reality? and (2) Orinda in the past three fiscal years has only once had an excess of revenues over expenditures exceeding half the required annual "lease" payments (for 30 years) of \$620,000. We can't afford it, and the only place to get the City Hall debt service will be the road bond. Given Orinda's record of failing to respect dedicated funds (Gateway Fund and road money, for example), we can't trust them with \$58.6 million. They can't even be trusted with the \$1.2 they already get annually for roads – our pavement maintenance budget this year is only \$37,000, of which \$12,000 is for "consultant services." No matter how distinguished and honest the members of the Oversight Committee might be, they are only an advisory committee, appointed by the City Council. Like the Iraq Study Group, their advice can and probably will be ignored. That is not an unreasonable fear, considering the following quote from Mayor Glazer: "They [fellow councilmembers Victoria Smith and Amy Worth] also ignore expert independent advice about stretching our scarce road dollars." (Contra Costa Sun, March 17, 2006, p.6). Wilmot McCutchen Orinda

Letter to the Editor
As an Orinda teacher and resident, I am fortunate enough to be able to ride my bike to work. Riding a bike is my contribution to reducing pollution and traffic congestion. It has been an example to the school community and others now are joining me to enjoy the benefits of exercise,

Community Emergency Response Team –

Lamorinda Weighs In

By Becky Kim, with Sophie Braccini

Of the roughly 58,000 Lamorindans, 235 are certified CERT volunteers. After reading the CERT story in our last issue, supportive Lamorinda residents gave enthusiastic feedback. To train and educate your family is one thing, but it is another to unite with your neighbors and your community. CERT provides training in both personal safety and group survival. Some neighborhoods in our area are already organized, with certified CERT residents and updated information about their own resources, both human and material.

Edy and Jeff Schwartz of Moraga started training in spring of 2006 and have formed alliances within their neighborhood, giving an upper hand to an organized and practical route to safety. "CERT gave us a structure to do the things we had planned to do but never did," said the Schwartz's.

When a disaster hits the Lamorinda area, the limited resources will leave people helpless, and it is the combination of safety knowledge and unity that is going to save hundreds of lives. Ellen Beans, an advocate of CERT added, "I remind people that the professionals will not be on hand for everyone. We need to take care of ourselves."

There is concern among some that CERT participants tend to be older residents, those without young children, even though parents want to do their best to safeguard their families. This may be due to the demanding amount of time required to complete the training (20 hours over 6 weeks). It can be hard to carve out that time, especially when it competes with family obligations.

An anonymous working mother said, "I am aware of CERT and think it is important, but it is not high on my priority

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. Max. 200 word for a letters. email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com
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fresh air and doing a good deed. However, the roads in Orinda are in such bad shape that I worry about drivers watching and swerving for potholes and not seeing me on my bike. Parents have said to me the pavement is so uneven they can't allow their children to ride even though they want to. I'm glad that now we have a solid proposal on the ballot, Measure E, to fix Orinda's roads. This will make the roads safer not just for drivers, but also for pedestrians and cyclists. There's also some funding in Measure E for safe routes to school.

I'm going to vote yes on Measure E for both these reasons. Please join me!
Cheryl Collins, Orinda

Letter to the Editor
I am writing to urge support for Measure C, the Lafayette Road and Drain parcel tax on the June ballot. The passage of this measure will provide funding to repair, reconstruct and maintain Lafayette's roads and drains. The tax is an equitable one, shared by everyone, residential owners as well as commercial property owners. Many of our roads are in desperate need of reconstruction. Other roads only need maintenance but without that will deteriorate soon. The passage of Measure C will allow the city to rebuild and repair all 118 of the city's poorest roads and still have adequate funding to maintain all our roads for the foreseeable future. Without the passage of Measure C, current roads will deteriorate quickly and the cost to repair them will increase over time. Please join me in supporting Measure C... a good investment for our citizens and our city.
Mary McCosker, Lafayette

list. As a mother of two young children, I feel I have no time for this training. Maybe if CERT was offered through the school system, parents would feel the urge to be ready."

Frans Hoffman of Miramonte Gardens, one of the organized neighborhoods, explained, "Without training you are going to be a victim of emergency. Instead of being a victim, you can be the rescuer." On a stronger note, Laura Gilson added, "Almost everyone says they do not have time, but it's so important that they may want to consider making time."

Gilson wishes the training would also reach out to her teenagers, both students at Campolindo High. The minimum age to participate in CERT is 18, making the majority of students ineligible.

To sign up for the training that begins on April 19th, go to www.lamorindacert.org.



George Ehrenhaft a watercolor artist from Moraga, is a member of the Lamorinda Arts Alliance, a cooperative association of more than 200 local artists. Over 30 Lamorinda Arts Alliance members artists will be opening their homes and studios to the public for two days for Spring Open Studios April 28 - April 29.

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Life in LAMORINDA

What Happens to the Family When Junior Goes to College?

By Cathy Tyson

Its that time of year again, when Lamorinda High School seniors are checking their mailboxes, looking for long-anticipated letters from college, hopefully with a, "You're in!" on the cover and not "after careful consideration..." inside a much smaller envelope. These notices obviously signify a huge change not only for the student, but for the families as well. Depending on whether it's the eldest child leaving the nest, a subsequent sibling, or the baby, family life for those who remain is definitely not ever going to be the same. Concerns and fears are as different as every family and student; the following are five Lamorinda family's experiences, from firstborn to empty nester.

The Oldest - Big City worries

Everything with this child is a first, from potty training, to the ins and outs of shopping and applying to colleges. Parents are shocked and take a while to process the fact that the infant they held and rocked to sleep, helped with homework, car-pooled to sports is or will be in the very near future a functioning adult, capable of registering for classes, eating the occasional vegetable, and sadly vacating the homestead for months at a time. While every parent knows that this chapter in their lives is coming, still the reality can hit like a ton of bricks.

It's not surprising that these parents have different expectations and concerns about their firstborn heading to college. Kathryn Badalich and Sam Choi are the proud parents of Christina Choi,

who has already received acceptance letters from prestigious schools, one in St. Paul, and the other in the suburbs of Philadelphia. They're still awaiting word from another school in New York. "Growing up in such a small, safe environment," notes Kathryn, "I worry that she's not very street smart, especially with these urban schools." How to get around a big city, young and alone is a concern for the family. Because they have such a close relationship, she anticipates a definite void in the house. Video web cams, allowing her to see daughter Christina and hear her voice, will be helpful for both Mom and Dad with the transition. Another big change will be life for little brother Andrew, they all joke that he will be living in a fish bowl with both parents watching over him.

Little Brother Lonely

Stacey Nittler, mother of Scott, a senior this year at Campolindo, and Peter a sophomore, feels that Scott is ready for the next step in his life. Her main concern is that because the boys have such a close relationship, little brother Peter will be quite lonely. Scott has been accepted at a number of schools, all out of state. Stacey wishes now that he would have applied someplace closer to home, to make visiting easier. It's hard to know if your teenager really thought through all the consequences of his selection process. Especially when he's lived his entire life in a small semi-rural town.

Right now, the family house is usually filled with activity from Scott and his friends but all that noise and

commotion will be gone in the fall.

Already Gone - Worried Sick

"It's incredibly painful to walk by his room, which was usually a mess, there's a real empty feel to it." Says Margaret Field of son Alex, who is a freshman at a well-known school in New Jersey. Family dinners are much more somber, the kids are more animated at the table when everyone's home.

As a professor at St. Mary's College, she is well aware of the goofy things freshman students can do. But as a Mom, her real concern was him getting sick 3,000 miles away, and not being there to take care of him, like she would at home. She has seen her own students not using common

sense in getting to the campus health center or even the emergency room because of lack of transportation and prioritizing a class over getting a broken bone set.

In addition, the twins left at home really miss him. When she took him back to the airport after his last holiday visit home, seeing her eldest son walk through the glass doors into the terminal, her stomach just turned. "It's incredibly difficult."

The Baby Heading Out

Doug and Jane Johnson of Orinda have three children. Both older girls went away to UCLA 8 and 11 years ago, Jane cried when they were dropped off. Before Jennifer the oldest left for college, the whole family made a habit of going to all of her sporting events. When

she left, it was a big change, not having that time together.

When the oldest left the house, middle daughter Melanie, "just blossomed" says Jane. Both girls still call almost every day, Doug and Jane love to hear from them.

Now the youngest, Daniel, is a senior at Miramonte and looking forward to heading off to college in Arizona in the fall. It will be strange, their whole lives have revolved around the kids, and now they're anticipating an empty nest. Still close, the girls come home all the time; the Johnson's have no plans to remodel their old bedrooms.

Empty nest - Kelly Irving

It only took 24 years but Kelly and Brad Irving officially have an empty nest. "You add them one at a time and you lose them one at a time," notes Kelly. With their oldest, Kyle, everything was brand new and they were stumbling around. Kelly didn't want to be a smothering Mom; so being able to text or e-mail was very comforting. They became closer, when five became four. When middle son, Sean, left to go out of state, the distance was a factor, frankly easier on the parents, not being so close. When the baby, Greg, left they were excited for him, but also more worried about how he would handle the transition than his brothers. At the end of this long arduous road of raising three athletic boys, Kelly reviews her relationship with husband Brad. "I hoped to say I remember you and I still like you." She did. So they are living happily ever after in a house that stays much cleaner without the kids.



Sam Choi, Christina Choi, and Kathryn Badalich in their backyard

Lafayette Celebrates Earth Day in a Big Way

continued from page 2

On the same day, in the Acalanes parking lot from 12:00 - 4:30pm, the second annual Lafayette Earth Day festival will be held, with over 30 vendors and displays. A children's entertainment group, "Earthcapades," will perform a show on recycling from 2:00 - 2:30. The academy award winning documentary, AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH, will be shown from 3:00 - 4:30 in the Performing Arts Theater. All events are free of charge and free burritos will be offered to those that attend the symposium (complements of Casa Gourmet).

Thomas, an environmental science teacher at Acalanes, hopes that, "This event will bring the Lafayette community together in a way we've never seen before."

For more information about the Science Symposium and Earth Day Festival visit www.sustainablelafayette.net. Sustainable Lafayette is a new citizen's network that is helping residents and businesses learn from each other by sharing sustainability solutions that they've had success with.

Event Schedule, April 22:
 12:00 pm
 Exhibit area opens, Acalanes HS parking lot
 1:00-2:00
 Science Symposium, Performing Arts Theater
 2:00-2:30
 EARTHCAPADES Children's Entertainment, Theater Quad
 3:00-4:30
 Presentation of the film "An Inconvenient Truth," Performing Arts Theater
 4:30
 Exhibit Area Closes

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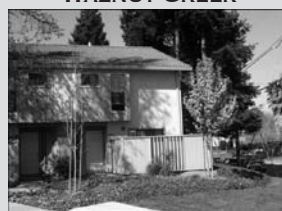
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Real Estate in Lamorinda: A Healthy Stabilization

By Sophie Braccini continued from page 1

So we have a lot of activity, some homes sold over the asking price and some not doing so well, and an overall whole stabilization. But what is the difference to buyers between a good house and a not so good one? Of course, "location, location, location..." but a well organized floor plan, good quality finishes, orientation, sunlight and square footage are all very important in what makes a house appealing. Pricing too high will hurt as well, not generating enough offers and

leading to price reductions. But at the end of the day, we all ask the same questions: Is it a good time to sell? Is it a good time to buy? According to Ben Olsen, if you are planning to move to Rossmore this is a very good time, because as prices are stable here but they have gone down by 35% over there. Sellers have to be aware though that there has been a shift in the relative powers of the actors on this market. Buyers take their time, and they bargain. If you want to buy today you are in a good position. The inventory is not

too high in our area, but there are choices. Interest rates are still low. Tammy Cryer from the Home Loan Group reminds us that you can get a loan for 6 1/4 % today when on the long term, the average 30 fixed rate is 8%. In talking to Cryer and other loan consultants, it is clear that the level of debt in our area is quite high. They confirm that a 55% rate of debt to gross income is deemed acceptable, provided a stellar credit score and a substantial income. So we still enjoy an active and healthy real estate

market in an otherwise depressed area. What sets us apart from the rest of Contra Costa? First, it's our relative affluence. Look at Marin County and the Peninsula -- there too, no sagging in real estate prices. People there, like here, upgrade in the same neighborhood. But we need to keep attracting young families and for them, the key is our schools. Lamorinda real estate agents tacitly acknowledge, through their involvement with LASF, MEF and EFO, that the value of our homes is tied to the quality of our schools.

Meet the New Guy at Orinda's Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage is pleased to welcome Walter Nelson as its newest sales associate. In his new position, Walter will specialize in residential sales in Lamorinda. "We are thrilled to have Walter join our team," said Val Cook-Watkins, manager of the Orinda office. "He has been a top performer throughout his career because of his passion for serving customers. We know Walter will continue his outstanding service and become a favorite among Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage customers."

Prior to joining Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Nelson worked at Prudential Real Estate. Before joining Prudential, he worked at Sage Broker-

age, a full-line food brokerage specializing in produce and snack foods for the industrial food network.

He is an active member of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, American Legion of Lafayette and the Moraga Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Nelson is a Distinguished Toastmaster with Toastmaster's International.

Nelson recently completed an intensive training program through Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Northern California University and Buffini & Company, which emphasized the principles and techniques of real estate.

He earned his bachelor's degree in human resources and organizational behavior from the University of San Francisco.

Nelson can be reached at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Orinda, located at 85 Moraga Way or by phone at 925.253.6334.

Lamorinda Home Sales for March 2007



CITY/AREA NAME: LAFAYETTE

TOTAL SALES:	25
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$500,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,640,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$1,000,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$1,054,860

CITY/AREA NAME: MORAGA

TOTAL SALES:	6
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$629,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,400,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$1,050,200
AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$1,053,833

CITY/AREA NAME: ORINDA

TOTAL SALES:	8
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$652,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$2,350,000
MEDIAN AMOUNT:	\$1,035,000
AVERAGE AMOUNT:	\$1,218,375

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither CalREsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

- LAFAYETTE**
- 942 1st Street, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1610 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 3-20-07
 - 975 1st Street, \$840,000, 3 Bdrms, 1223 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 3-9-07
 - 3272 Ameno Drive, \$1,190,000, 4 Bdrms, 2102 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 3-8-07
 - 3308 Berta Lane, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2090 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 3-26-07
 - 131 Castle Court, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2992 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 3-20-07
 - 3615 Chestnut Street, \$500,000, 2 Bdrms, 660 SqFt, 1933 YrBlt, 3-27-07
 - 31 Diablo Circle, \$1,603,000, 4 Bdrms, 2251 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 3-28-07
 - 108 Greenbank Drive, \$1,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 3467 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 3-23-07
 - 3626 Happy Valley Glen Road, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1304 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 3-23-07
 - 678 Jennie Court, \$820,000, 3 Bdrms, 1658 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 3-7-07
 - 623 Laird Lane, \$734,500, 3 Bdrms, 769 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 3-16-07
 - 3646 Madrone Drive, \$840,000, 1 Bdrms, 1639 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 3-15-07
 - 3 Maloyan Lane, \$1,640,000, 5 Bdrms, 3537 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 3-23-07
 - 3291 Marlene Drive, \$1,030,000, 4 Bdrms, 2354 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 3-22-07
 - 1154 Oak Hill Road, \$1,075,000, 5 Bdrms, 2395 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 3-7-07
 - 969 Oak View Circle, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1900 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 3-22-07
 - 2548 Pebble Beach Loop, \$699,000, 2 Bdrms, 1871 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 3-16-07
 - 844 Santa Maria Way, \$980,000, 3 Bdrms, 1572 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 3-14-07
 - 3385 St. Marys Road, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 2258 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 3-9-07
 - 527 Silverado Drive, \$1,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 2136 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 3-15-07

- 3180 Somerset Drive, \$1,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 2440 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 3-21-07
 - 3378 South Lucille Lane, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1226 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 3-15-07
 - 3177 Stanwood Lane, \$985,000, 3 Bdrms, 1949 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 3-21-07
 - 1 Sterling Heights Lane, \$835,000, 3-21-07
 - 3307 Sweet Drive, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 1756 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 3-19-07
- MORAGA**
- 1977 Ascot Drive #1, \$629,500, 3 Bdrms, 1782 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 3-13-07
 - 325 Calle La Montana, \$854,000, 4 Bdrms, 2340 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 3-14-07
 - 1373 Camino Peral #A, \$900,000, 2334 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 3-15-07
 - 67 Shuey Drive, \$1,400,000, 5 Bdrms, 2487 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 3-27-07
 - 1721 Spyglass Lane, \$1,199,500, 4 Bdrms, 2680 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 3-28-07
 - 17 Williams Drive, \$1,340,000, 4 Bdrms, 2826 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 3-15-07
- ORINDA**
- 64 Brookwood Road, \$652,000, 3 Bdrms, 1351 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 3-8-07
 - 82 Claremont Avenue, \$845,000, 3 Bdrms, 660 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 3-21-07
 - 10 Corte Holganza, \$901,000, 3 Bdrms, 1500 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 3-20-07
 - 59 La Espiral, \$1,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 2564 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 3-8-07
 - 26 Lost Valley Drive #A, \$1,169,000, 3 Bdrms, 2108 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 3-16-07
 - 31 Parklane Drive, \$870,000, 3 Bdrms, 1892 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 3-13-07
 - 20 Southwood Drive, \$2,350,000, 1 Bdrms, 2398 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 3-28-07
 - 61 St. Stephens Drive, \$1,635,000, 4 Bdrms, 3058 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 3-15-07



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Girl Scout Leader Appreciation Day

Submitted by Donna Colombo

Girl Scout Leader Appreciation Day. On April 22, 1982, a flag honoring Girl Scout leaders was flown over the Capitol building in Washington, D.C. So began Leader's Day in Girl Scouting, a very special day that comes during National Volunteers Week. That same flag is now at Edith Macy Conference Center and is flown on April 22 of each year.

Girl Scouts engage in activities such as camping, hiking, creek/water shed clean-up, warm coat collection, packages to service members in Iraq, school supply collection for underprivileged schools, toy collection for the Toys for Tots program, book collection for the Books for the Barrios, planting and gardening projects at various schools and churches, singing at

senior care facilities, canned food collection, cookie sales and numerous other activities.

The reason Lamorinda girls are able to engage in so many activities is due to the commitment of many wonderful parents and adults in our community. Troop leaders dedicate many hours to prepare and facilitate the girls' meetings. To ensure a quality

program volunteers must attend training. Many leaders continue on with their daughter's troop from kindergarten through high school. On April 22nd, please remember to thank your daughter's Girl Scout Leader!

Information for this article was submitted by Donna Colombo.



Lafayette Brownies talkin' trash!



L to R: Brianna Hardy, Lauren Tyburski, Solana Olmer, Jennifer Tao
Photo by K. de Groot AAUW Photographer

Young Women of Great Talent Recognized in Lamorinda

By Sophie Braccini

For 40 years now, the Lamorinda branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) has encouraged young women who are committed to excellence in education and to making a positive impact on their local and global community. One of the programs is the Outstanding Scholarship and Achievement Award, given to four young women every year. For Jan Coe, the President of AAUW and Maryellen Judson of the selection committee, the hard part is choosing only four winners, since the achievements of many Lamorinda girls are quite remarkable. This year's awardees were honored on April 10 in a ceremony at St. Mary's College.

From Acalanes High School, Lauren Tyburski was chosen for her many community service achievements, locally with the Richmond Rescue Shelter and John Muir Hospital and internationally on annual trips

to Tijuana with Young Neighbor in Action. Jennifer Tao from Campolino has been passionately involved in many local causes. Her presentation to the Town Council of potentially harmful pesticides led to the passage of the first Integrated Pest Management Policy in Moraga. She has served on the Contra Costa Countywide Youth Commission for two years. Solano Olmer represented Miramonte. She was inspired to raise money for a generator for an Indonesian school, and recently delivered 130 bags of

vitamins to a Burmese orphanage. Closer to home, she was President of Miramonte's Interact Club, organizing many local service activities involving local charity organizations. Finally, St. Mary's senior Brianna Hardy also received an award. Brianna was active in Dr. Shawny Anderson's hurricane relief mission to New Orleans. Brianna has served on the St. Mary's Academic Council for the past four years. Her advisor comments, "Brianna has the depth of character, intelligence and vision that are found in great leaders."

AAUW also granted one girl from each local middle school a Tech-Trek Award to attend math and science camp this summer. The awardees were Sophia Aguilera from OIS, Jacqueline Miller from JM and Hana Wasserman from Stanley. The 3 girls showed great poise and enthusiasm when presenting their motivations for attending the camp. "Our communities are blessed to nurture such talented and thoughtful young women," concluded Jan Coe.



L to R: Sophia Aguilera, Jacqueline Miller, Hana Wasserman
Photo by K. de Groot AAUW Photographer

The Odyssey Continues

By Steve Angelides

Four Lamorinda teams each placed second in their division at the Odyssey of the Mind creative problem-solving California state tournament in Visalia on March 31, earning the opportunity to compete in the world tournament in Michigan in May.

The Miramonte High School and Stanley Middle School teams each placed second in their division in the problem entitled "I'm Only Thinking of You!" For this problem, teams create and present an original humorous performance that includes a self-centered character who attempts to take advantage of others three times.

The Moraga Rotary Team from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School placed second in the problem entitled "The Large and Small of It." This problem requires teams to create and present an original performance that integrates team-created small pages and large versions that change appearance. The large versions serve as stage sets for the performance. The Moraga team used a James Bond theme for its performance.

The Happy Valley Ele-

mentary School team placed second in the problem entitled "Around the World in 8 Minutes." In this problem, teams create and present a performance of a trip around the world that includes stops at three locations, two real and one imaginary. The Happy Valley team's performance used pen and pencil characters that traveled to Pennsylvania and to the imaginary pen and pencil land.

Besides the four Lamorinda teams headed to Michigan this year, four other Lamorinda teams competed at the California State tournament in Visalia. In "Around the World in 8 Minutes," the fifth grade Moraga Rotary Club team placed third, the Burton Valley Elementary

School Team A placed sixth, the Orinda Intermediate School Purple Team placed seventh, and the Moraga Rotary Club Team C placed eleventh. The Orinda Intermediate School Purple Team also placed fourth in "The Large and Small of It."

To be eligible to compete at the state tournament, the eight Lamorinda teams placed in the top three in their division in their problem at the East Bay Regional tournament held at College Park High School on March 3. Of the 157 teams competing at the state tournament in Visalia, 31 were from the East Bay. Twelve of the 32 California teams advancing to the world tournament are from the East Bay.



Back: Ari Frankel, Anna Hirsh; Front: Jess Kallen, Brendan O'Donnell, Casey Sclar, Nikki Kurtz, Kelly Rice.

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Ali Lowrey and Hayley Andrews check their vines

4-H Update

4-H Vineyard Project Submitted by Sara Captain

On a warm summer evening, high school students across Contra Costa County gather at the Captain's vineyard in Moraga. This is not the first time they meet each other, nor is it the first time they prepare to get dirt on their hands by dressing in old torn jeans and thick leather gloves. These members of the Lamorinda 4-H Vineyard Project meet once, sometimes twice a week during the summer to learn about managing a vineyard by experiencing it first hand.

"It really opened my eyes to the ancient process of grape growing," said Chandni Dhupelia, a Senior at Miramonte High, "But it's not only educational...I also had a lot of fun meeting other people who shared this common interest."

Susan Captain, the Project Leader, attends courses and seminars all around Cali-

fornia, from UC Davis to the famous wine country itself, Napa. She brings information to the 4-H Vineyard Project members, who then decide what they think is the best way to produce the finest grapes. Each student selects his or her own section of the vineyard and manages it, receiving only information and supplies from Captain. They must deal with questions such as, "Should I put manure on my plants? What is the best way to weed? How can I control erosion?"

With another summer just around the corner, the 4-H Vineyard Project is beginning to pick up again. For more information on Lamorinda 4-H, please contact Michelle Chan at mmchan6@yahoo.com or 925-283-9519.

Sara Captain is Co-President of Lamorinda 4-H and a student at Miramonte.

JM Named California Distinguished School

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell announced on Monday that Moraga's Joaquin Moraga Intermediate is on the list of 171 California middle and high schools that have been selected as 2007 California Distinguished Schools, an annual award that recognizes some of the state's most exemplary public schools.

"These middle and high schools have shown they are able to meet the challenge of providing their students with the kind of

rigorous education that is essential to their future success in the classroom and the workplace," said O'Connell. JM Principal Catherine Mikes happily exclaimed, "We are so pleased! In fact, we are just tickled!" The list of 76 middle schools and 95 high schools may be accessed online at Distinguished School Awards - California School Recognition Program. The schools will continue to be designated as a California Distinguished School until 2011.

Lamorinda Weekly readers asked: Where do you keep the chickens and other livestock?

4-H Answer: Livestock is kept at other 4-H members houses, who have enough land, or boarded at a barn. We have actually had people who own property offer to let us keep our animals there for free. So far, if a child wants to have livestock, it hasn't been a problem.

4-H Seeks a Nurse:

Are you or someone you know a medical professional? 4-H Camp 2007 wants you!

In order for Contra Costa Co. to hold its annual 4-H Camp in Angwin, we must have someone currently licensed onsite. If you are at least 25 years old, currently practicing as an MD, RN, LVN, EMT or Paramedic, this fun week is for you!

Please contact Mark Johnston 925-875-2353 or Linda Whalen 925-646-6543 if you are interested or have questions.

Camp Details: Camp is for one week this summer, from June 17th to June 23rd, you could be part of an exciting and vital program at Las Posadas State Forest.

A Spring Break Tradition Continues to Draw Enthusiastic Teens

By Sarah Henningsen

During the week of April 1st - 7th, nearly 200 individuals traveled to Tijuana, Mexico for a service trip sponsored by the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. This philanthropic retreat has been extremely popular among students from Campolino and Miramonte High Schools, those both of Christian faith and of no religious affiliations. As in past years, the trip was a highlight for many Lamorinda teenagers and a great community gathering of humanitarianism.

The main purpose of the Mexico trip is to build houses for impoverished families in Tijuana, an area in which a large percentage of the population lives below the poverty line or on the streets altogether. Each participant is assigned to a team of 11-13 members who work throughout the week to construct one house together, each consisting of two rooms. Campolino junior Jenna Hermansen reflected on the work portion of the Mexico trip: "Not only did I have a blast, but it showed me how lucky and blessed I am to come home to a

safe and welcoming

A couple of high school seniors served as team leaders, responsible for organizing social events prior to the week in Mexico, giving assignments during the construction process and unifying the team as a whole. Senior Kenny Kapielian, who has gone to Mexico every spring vacation since his freshman year, commented on his role as a leader of the Blue Team: "I thought the whole thing was an awesome experience. It was great seeing my team work together and watching them interact with the people in Mexico."

From a religious standpoint, the project is not intended to impose Christianity on those

involved and instead focuses upon a community gathering of spirituality and renewal. In contrast to other church retreats that are exclusively restricted to parishioners, this service trip is open to anyone who is curious, willing, and interested in participating.

As evidenced by the extremely positive talk and reminiscing at the high schools, MVPC's philanthropic trip to Mexico was thoroughly enjoyed by dozens of individuals. Junior Susan Brinckerhoff took a lot away from her experiences in Tijuana, expressing that, "The main focus was just bringing hope to the people in Mexico. Even though there was prayer and reflection, at the end of the day, it was all about helping people out and building a sanctuary for them to come home to."



The group made new friends

Lafayette Appoints New Superintendent of Schools

The Lafayette School Board announced last week that Dr. Frank S. Tom has been unanimously appointed as Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Tom has worked in the San Francisco Unified School District for the past six years. Currently, he is the Assistant Superintendent of Equity Assurance and Internal Coordination. Prior to this appointment, he served as the Assistant Superintendent of High Schools for five years. Dr. Tom was also a school administrator and teacher for twenty-four years, serving students in elementary, middle and high schools throughout the Bay Area.

Board President Shayne Silva stated, "We are excited to welcome Dr. Tom as our new su-

perintendent. We believe his curriculum expertise and his focus on educating the whole child are qualities that best fit our district's philosophy and the focus of our Strategic Plan."

Interim Superintendent Bill Levison's contract ends on June 30. Dr. Tom will assume the post on July 1, after spending the intervening weeks talking to staff and parents.



All Night Walk-a-thon at Miramonte

A group of Miramonte students will not spend the hours between 6pm and 6am on April 21-22 at a party or in restful sleep in their warm houses and cozy beds. Instead, they will be out walking on the Miramonte track to raise money for Invisible Children, a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for war-affected children in Africa. The students decided to walk at night to symbolize the Ugandan children who walk at night to escape danger. 100% of the proceeds

from walker sponsorship will go to Invisible Children. Volunteer parent chaperones will be assisting at the event.

For information on making a donation to the Walk-a-thon please send an email to Miramonte Leadership student Kristina Crocker, kristinacrocker@yahoo.com. For more information about Invisible Children, please visit the following www.invisiblechildren.com. Information for this story was submitted by Meredith Radke.

JM Creative Arts and Writing Contest Awards

On Thursday, April 12, JM honored dozens of student writers, artists and musicians who participated in the school's annual Creative Arts and Writing Contest.

1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards, as well as honorable mentions, were given out at each grade level in several different categories of writing, musical performance and composition, art and photography. Several prolific students won awards in multiple categories.

Opportunities like this one happen in all of the Lamorinda school districts. You have only to attend one of these events, see the pride on the student's faces and view some of the amazing work of our children to realize the value of continuing to support

arts education in our schools.

The complete list of winners in the JM contest is too long for us to mention everyone. First place winners include Jenna Reynolds, Darren Brodoway, Alan Hickey, Amanda Chan, Eugene Wong, Hans Aasman, Griffin Piatt, Tom Zhang, Hanna Ousterman, James Marvel, Brooke Dugan, Colton Jang, Annie Guo, Marie Lu, Emily Zhu, David Ozer, Parker Hasler, Steven Zhou, Clara Fuchshuber, Alexander Nelson, Sam Firth, Ruthie Shapiro, Anthony Reardon, Tim Somers, Raneem Taleh-Agha, Celestine Ratsch-Rivera, Emma Lyddan, Rhea Jayachandran, Matthew Yoklavich, Steven Wetterholm, Jacqueline Tao, Kevin Blouse and Jack Hasler.



Families were able to view all of the contest entries in the JM library after the event

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.)

CANYON SCHOOL SPRING CONCERT

Submitted by Sally Swanson

On March 29th Canyon held its first ever Music and Movement Recital. Grades kindergarten through eighth participated in a program with a decidedly Caribbean feel. Music Director Hadley Loudon directed folk songs orchestrated with marimbas, drums, recorders and key-

board. Movement Director Ken Pitts led students in Capoeira with talking sticks and call and response. Two Middle School groups sang original blues songs accompanied by guitars and recorders. The finale featured Samba chants and dances with tamborines. The lively music and foot tapping left the audience feeling that this concert should become an annual event at Canyon.

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We are currently seeking **parent-reporters** (or grandparent, aunt, uncle, cousin, teacher, you get the idea!)
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In the Back Yard

April success tips brought to you by the Moraga Garden Center:

1. Plant ground cover now so plants will establish a strong root system before hot weather comes.
2. Plant an herb garden to add flavor to your cooking. Mint to garnish drinks, chamomile for a relaxing tea and catnip for kitty.
3. Fertilize plants you didn't last month.
4. Re-peat or replace loam as needed. There are new varieties of grass that use less water, stay greener and are more disease resistant than grass of just 5 years ago.
5. Apply iron to citrus and azaleas and other acid loving plants if the new leaves are yellow between the veins.
6. Terrace sloping yards to create an illusion of more space and greater depth. Terracing also helps reduce run-off and keeps soil in place.

April is right the time to prepare for your summer fiestas. Plant tomatoes now and enjoy home-grown, vine-ripened tomatoes this summer and fall! Use these tips for a bountiful crop and top quality fruit:

- Select several varieties to lengthen your harvest period, and to learn which ones taste the best and perform well in your garden. Be certain to try some Heirloom tomatoes.
- Choose a sunny spot – at least six hours of sun per day – and amend the soil with lots of Greenall Fir Mulch and add EB Stone organics Sure Start to give them a strong start.
- Unlike almost all other plants, plant tomatoes deep, about 2 inches deeper than in their original containers. Additional roots will form along the bared stem. Gently back-fill and firm up the soil around the stem. Form a basin around the plant for watering.
- Stake or cage the plants to keep the tomatoes off the ground. It's best to put these supports in when you plant, not later, so you won't disturb their roots.
- Irrigate the plant, water deeply, but not too often. Add mulch to help maintain a more even soil moisture level.
- Delicious home grown vegetables!

Growing your own vegetables is a healthy family activity, and there's nothing quite like eating home grown vegetables from your garden when harvest time arrives. No store bought vegetable, picked weeks before ripening, can match the flavor and tenderness of a vegetable picked at exactly the right



Chucho Torrente works for the Moraga Garden Center

moment! Seasonal vegetables to plant in mid to late April, as the weather warms, include tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, corn, chard, eggplant, squash, beets, carrots and radishes. Use the soil amendments and fertilizers mentioned above to produce more and larger vegetables.

Don't Deep Plant Trees!

Researchers at Texas A&M recently reported strong evidence that trees which are planted lower than their original container – as little as 3" inches deeper – suffer detrimental effects. Species in the study included sycamore, ash, crape myrtle, oliander and vitex, which were all planted either at the same depth they were in their containers, 3" below, or 3" above. Trees planted at the high level all had 100% survival and some grew faster than those planted at the same level. For trees planted deep, all species either had less than 100% survival, or grew more slowly than the other trees.



Chucho Torrente Tomato Plans at the Moraga Garden Center

By Sophie Braccini; information for this article was submitted by Dr. Wayne S. Moore and Frances Wilson for Moraga Gardens.



Dead Oak Tree of Pinehurst Rd, Canyon

Sudden Oak Death Hitting Our Trees

continued from page 1

Murakami recommends spraying healthy oaks with a dose of Agri-Fos, originally used as a fertilizer but which turned out to have the added benefit of preventing Sudden Oak Death in trees to which it had been applied. The Agri-Fos solution should be pumped and sprayed onto the trunk of the tree, from the ground up to about 8'. "Now is the time to do it," Murakami said. "Now, and again in October. It's a twice-a-year process."

And there is one drawback. "It's expensive," Murakami said. A half-gallon of Agri-Fos goes for about \$60, and while it must be diluted with water, the entire gallon should be used soon after it is mixed, so if you have neighbors with oak trees, collaboration might be in order. However, since the cost of removing a dead tree can run up to several thousands of dollars depending

on its size and location, prevention seems to be the more economical approach. Murakami is working on a quantity order for the preventive Agri-Fos solution to reduce the price to consumers.

Scudder said detecting oaks that are already diseased is difficult. One sure way to tell if your oak is doomed is to look for red-brown or amber ooze seeping out from seemingly healthy bark close to the soil line. Another sign is cankers that bleed a dark reddish discharge.

Scudder also emphasized that finding an arborist that will know your property is key to keeping it healthy.

"You have to have someone who knows your trees," he said. Good web sites to check out: www.suddenoakdeath.org, sponsored by UC California Berkeley www.sfpga.org – The Bob Scudder site that will lead you to everything.

Chris Lavin is a writer for the Lamorinda Weekly. She moved to Canyon from Oakland with her two small boys in 2004. She loves the Lamorinda area, where the weather is better and where everyone seems friendly and helpful.

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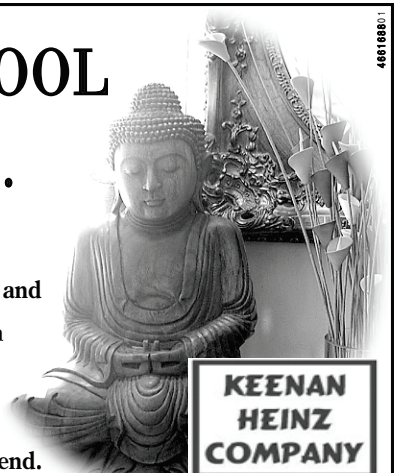
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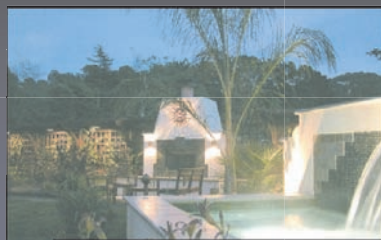
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SPORT

LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORT NEWS



Cougars and Mats Go Head to Head in Dual Meet

By Malia McClurg

As the track season rolls on, athletes become stronger and faster with each passing week. These efforts are rewarded with faster times and better performances. On Wednesday, April 11 at Miramonte High School, the Mats and the Cougars met under the sun and against strong wind to compete in a dual DFAL track meet. But the sun wasn't the only star shining, as there were several outstanding performances and personal bests in the day.

In the Frosh/Soph section, Campolindo's Olivia Warren (10) ran to not one, but two season bests in the 200m and 400m races with respective times of 28.5 and 64.8. She also claimed first in the long jump with a jump of 12'8.75"-- as well as tallied the fastest split in the 1600 relay with a time of 65.1. Warren's athletic and multi-talented showing helped Campolindo pull ahead of Miramonte 62-49.

Meanwhile, over on the varsity girls' side, it was the Miramonte ladies who managed to pull together and outscore Campolindo 81-54. The varsity girl Mats started the meet off with excellent handoffs and a win in the 4x100 relay. The boys quickly learned how important handoffs were in this short and quick race. On their side, in the Frosh/Soph heat, a botched handoff in the last leg compromised their lead. Luckily their anchor, Zack Mayeri, chose the right time to display his speed and came back to win the close race.

Then, in the men's varsity heat, Campolindo proved that their combined speed and flawless handoffs were too tough to beat and came out ahead with a time of 44.4. Campolindo's Alex Isaksson (09) was an obvious early standout. He was involved in both of the team

relay victories and individually came in first in the 100m race with a quick time of 11.4. With his help, the men's varsity team came out on top, 87-49 against the Matadors.

A look ahead shows the Phillips-McCain Invitational on Saturday, April 21, promises to be another showcase of talent, but on a larger scale.



Sepanta Padrah-Vajdy sprints toward the finish in the 200m



Miramonte's Scott Demunck in mid vault



Carrying together their boat to the water to prepare the race

San Diego Crew Classic Showcases Local Talent

By Jaime Zepeda

There is no reason to think that Lamorinda high school athletes only excel in the area. The recent San Diego Crew Classic gave local high school athletes, and high school graduates, the opportunity to flex their rowing muscles. The San Diego Crew Classic is one of the most anticipated rowing competitions of the year. Attended in great numbers, the Classic showcases some of the best collegiate, master, and junior rowing programs in the country, like USC, UCSD, Notre Dame, and Stanford, to name a few.

Representing the Lamorinda area were female and male athletes that have joined the Oakland Strokes junior rowing program, which competes throughout the year. In the Women's Varsity-8, the Oakland Strokes tried to win the Gilman-Mulliken Cup for the third year in a row. Unfortunately, a very competitive Maritime team, from Connecticut, won the Cup, in their first appearance at the Classic. The Women's Varsity-8 team performed very well, and came in at fourth place with a time of 7:26.56. Some of the key players were Lamorinda's own Alzizah Koorji (Miramonte) at coxswain, Julie Jones (Acalanes), Jessica Cherry (Campolindo), and Pia Hauch (Bentley).

Also, in the Women's

Junior Varsity-8, the Oakland Strokes proved to be a team to watch, qualifying for the finals with the fastest time in the preliminary. After a foggy delay, the Women's JV team faced stiff competition, and was unable to repeat their stellar performance in the preliminaries. They came in at fifth place with a time of 7:27.43, losing the ZLAC Rowing Club Trophy to Los Gatos. Lamorinda was very well represented, thanks to Anne Rutherford (Bentley), Kendall Sandy (Miramonte), and Brittany Beck (Miramonte), and their stellar performances.

On the men's side, they found themselves against tough competition as well, but maintained their poise in their pursuit of the Gilman-Mulliken Cup. For the Men's Varsity-8, the race was a tight one, with no team obtaining a definite lead until the last leg. Capital barely edged ahead of everyone, winning the very competitive race. The Oakland Strokes came in at fourth place, with a time of 6:36.85. Among the Lamorinda athletes in the team were TJ Laher (Miramonte), Monte Melnick (Orinda Academy), James Lencowski (Miramonte), Michael Luecker (Campolindo), and Mac Farrell (Bentley).

The Junior Varsity team fared better than their



Varsity teammates. The Men's JV team took third place in a highly competitive race, with a time of 6:40.57. Some of the star rowers were Alex Topacio (Campolindo) at coxswain, Garrett Bell (Las Lomas), Nathan Carbajal (De La Salle), Cole Williams (Campolindo), Brent Watson (Miramonte), and Robert Chan (Miramonte).

Some former local high school athletes made an appearance at the event, but as a part of their university team. UCLA's Women's Novice crew team came in at first place at the Women's Novice-8 event, with impressive performances by Danielle Piccinini (Carondelet graduate), Ann Schier (Miramonte graduate), and Lily Sakkis (Campolindo graduate). Thanks to their great performances, UCLA was able to beat out Oregon State and Cal by a slim margin, making the Lamorinda community proud.



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SPORT

LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORT NEWS

Miramonte Narrowly Defeats Campolindo in Hard-Fought LAX Match

By Jaime Zepeda

In an intense and tightly fought game, the Miramonte Mats came back to beat the Campolindo Cougars last Friday night. The game seemed to be in Campolindo's favor at the outset, but with a strong second half, Miramonte made the game a nerve-racking one.

For the Cougars, their powerful offensive attack was spearheaded by Larissa Durkin. She scored the first goal two minutes into the game, which gave the Cougars an early momentum boost. Larissa Durkin finished the game with 5 goals and four of them came in the first half.

The Cougars defense was equally relentless and allowed only two goals in the first half. Emily Hoyt, the Cougars' goalie, was nearly impenetrable and continued to make one unbelievable save after another. She suffered a small injury with 15 minutes left in the first half, which stopped the game for a few minutes, but continued thereafter.

The Mats didn't seem phased by the Cougars' lead. They trailed the entire game, and weren't even able to tie in until the second half. In fact, at the end of the first half, the Campolindo Cougars led the Miramonte Matadors 5-2. This would soon change.

Miramonte stumbled out of the gate in the second half, but as soon as they warmed up, they penetrated the Cougar defense with three goals in a row. Within a matter of minutes, three different Mats, Stephanie Shaffer, Allegra Cabellon, and Ariel Chin, scored on the previously

unstoppable Cougar goalie. The score was tied at five goals a piece.

After some successful back and forth offensive attacks by both teams, the score was settled at 6-6. Unfortunately, with 15 minutes left in the second half, the Cougars' Brett Esparmer suffered a hit to the face that once again stopped the game. This gave both teams a much needed breather. But Esparmer was not down for long and retaliated with a goal. After this, the game quickly became more physical and fouls were called on both teams at a fast clip. Campolindo added to their small lead with a couple of fast breaks that made the score 9-7, Cougars.

With a little over two minutes left, the Matadors made a last minute run to tie the game. Thanks to some outstanding plays by Allegra Cabellon, the Mats tied it up as time ran out. Overtime was in order, which meant three minutes per half.

Miramonte was the first to score, but was followed in the second half by a Campolindo goal. Once again, a tie. The game then went to sudden death, where the first team to score would win the game.

The golden goal was not scored in the first sudden death game. Nor did it occur in the second game. Not until the third sudden death match did Miramonte score, courtesy of Christy Sullivan and the crisp passing of her teammates. In a nail-biter, the Miramonte Matadors were able to come back and barely defeat the tenacious Campolindo Cougars.



Tara McKenna Polkabla and Current Leader

Young Lamorinda Equestrian Shines in International Competition

By Lee Borrowman

Tara McKenna Polkabla, a 15 year old sophomore at Miramonte, and Current Leader, her 8-year-old Registered Thoroughbred, took 2nd Place at the Galway CIC* International Horse Trials in Temecula, California, at the end of March.

Polkabla, one of the youngest competitors, and competing in her first International CIC*, placed 2nd coming out of the Dressage phase. With a field of 30 competitors from around the world, Tara and Current Leader retained their placing through the Cross Country Phase and Stadium Jumping. Tara is looking forward to competing at the Twin Rivers CCI* International Horse Trials in May, which will be a qualifier for the 2007 North American Young Rider Championships. Over the last six months Polkabla and Current Leader have competed in 6 of the regional United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Horse Trials and have consistently placed in the top 3 in their Preliminary Divisions.

Current Leader, familiarly called Katana by Polkabla, joined the family two years ago. "We spent the first year getting to know each other and figuring each other out," says Polkabla, who has been riding since age 5. "This year we started connecting more." Polkabla spends at least two hours a day at the stable.

Proud mom Jennifer Polkabla writes, "Eventing is

the most complete combined competition discipline recognized by the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI). It is an Olympic sport where man and animal are established team-mates, and one of the few where men and women compete on equal terms. It covers every aspect of horsemanship: the harmony between horse and rider that characterize Dressage; the contact with nature, stamina and extensive experience essential for the Cross Country; the precision, agility and technique involved in Jumping."

Polkabla says that there's a strong connection between her equestrian activities and her other hobby, dirt-bike racing. "I compete in Enduros, Flat Track races and Hare Scrambles," says Polkabla. "Like with horseback riding, you have to maintain control, watch your direction, and keep looking ahead to where you're going. Of course, when you tell a motorcycle to stop, it stops. A horse can blow you off."

In fact, she says, "My whole family is into dirt-bike racing. We all ride." Dad Michael Polkabla is also her chief mechanic and, along with her brother Maxfield, has Polkabla's back for chore duty when she's away competing at equestrian events. "The support of my family has just been so wonderful!"

Campolindo Boys Tennis Over Las Lomas, 5-4

By Jaime Zepeda

While showcasing their stellar varsity tennis team, the Campolindo Cougars played against the very competitive and top-rated Las Lomas men's team. But being top ranked does not necessarily guarantee a win. In spite of being considered an underdog, the Cougars beat Las Lomas, 5-4.

The Las Lomas team included Jack Warner, a usual favorite and well-known singles match player. He went against Campolindo's Patrick Siu, an underrated sophomore. Despite the odds, Patrick Siu ended up defeating Jack Warner, 7-6, 6-3. As one of Campolindo's coaches, Steve Cohan, would later point out, "Patrick pulled an upset victory."

In the doubles match, the Cougars had Jake Peiros (junior) team up with Eric Leung (junior), to go against Las

Lomas' AJ Handley and Justin Paull. The Cougars' team defeated Las Lomas 6-0, 6-3, in a very well played match. The day's matches also included the play of Travis Cohan Jr., one of the top ranked tennis players in the state.

Steve Cohan noted that Campolindo's No. 1 rank in boy's tennis is based primarily on the "team building" that has occurred in the last year. Many of Campolindo's varsity team graduated last year, so the team has rebuilt itself for this season. Thanks to the rebuilding, Cohan pointed out, "many different kids have been able to step up and help the team," thereby making the team better overall.

Campolindo is currently ranked No. 1, and will face a difficult opponent-- Miramonte next Monday, at Miramonte.



The Campolindo Tennis team poses for a picture

Campolindo Tennis Beats Alhambra to lead DFAL

Submitted by Campolindo Parent and edited by Jaime Zepeda

Campolindo High School defeated Alhambra High School (9-0) in DFAL boy's tennis match play on Tuesday, which put Campolindo into sole possession of first place in the Diablo Foothill Athletic League with a 12-1 record. This record is inclusive of recent head-to-head wins

over Miramonte and Northgate. The Campolindo victory was led by the number one singles play of Campolindo's Travis Cohan over Alhambra's Weston Thompson, 6-0, 6-1, and the number two singles play of Conrad Basset-Bouchard over Alhambra's Brendon Repicky 6-2, 6-4.

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Campolindo Graduate Inducted into SMC Hall of Fame

By Jennifer Wake

Since third grade, when Tracy Morris Johnston played for the Lafayette Moraga Youth Association, basketball has been a part of life for her and her family. Johnston, who now serves as the assistant women's basketball coach at Saint Mary's, will be inducted into the Saint Mary's College Hall of Fame on Sunday, April 29 at the Soda Activity Center.

The Hall of Fame was established to recognize individuals whose efforts have enhanced the college's reputation through their excellence; it is a collaborative effort of the Saint Mary's College alumni, Alumni Office, and the Department of Athletics and Recreational Sports. Other inductees this year include Trisha Dean, John Leykam, Ed Lickiss, James Mouton and Cassidy O'Hara. The 1985 women's volleyball team, winners of the NAIA national championship, will also be inducted.

For Johnston, being inducted into the Hall of Fame was an honor. "I think I was very fortunate to have such great coaches and wonderful

teammates while at Saint Mary's," she said.

Johnston came to Saint Mary's in 1996, following her older sister Kelly from Campolindo High School to the SMC campus and onto the court. She quickly made a name for herself, as she was the all-time scoring leader for SMC women's basketball, was the 1996-97 WCC Freshman of the Year and a three-time member of the All-WCC Team.

Johnston says the most exciting moment for her was winning the West Coast Conference Tournament her junior year and receiving an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

"I chose Saint Mary's because I wanted the opportunity to play with my older sister again. I wanted to stay close to home," she said. "Saint Mary's had the perfect balance - small school environment and Division I basketball. It is a beautiful campus surrounded by a very supportive community."

Now a part of the coaching staff, Johnston is driven to instill certain values in her players. "I want

them to be fierce competitors that would do anything for their teammates and their coaches; to have pride in what they do and what they represent; and to enjoy the experience and stay connected with the program and the college long after graduation."

Being a former student-athlete at Saint Mary's has proved beneficial. "I know what the classes are like. I know what the people are like. I know how things work at St. Mary's," she said. "Having been a player, I know what our girls are going through. I know how hard it can be and I know how good it can be. I think I can relate to them because I have been there and they know that."

The induction ceremony will begin with a reception at noon followed by the Hall of Fame banquet at 1 p.m. in the Soda Center. Registration is available through the Saint Mary's alumni office at 925-631-4200 (deadline is April 23). Tickets are \$50 per person, \$30 per child.



Saint Mary's cast in rehearsal at LeFevre Theatre.

Photo by Jennifer Wake

Urinetown:

One-of-a-Kind Musical Production Opens at SMC

By Jennifer Wake

When starving artists were rationing money for the day, they found themselves confronted with pay toilets and the decision of whether to use the facilities or to eat. Through this revelation, the Tony award-winning musical "Urinetown" was born.

Set in a futuristic Gotham-like city with a terrible water shortage, "Urinetown," written by Greg Kotis and Mark Hollmann, is a comedic tale of greed, corruption, love and revolution in a time when water is worth its weight in gold. Critics describe the score as "passionate, melodic and hilarious," incorporating musical styles from Guys and Dolls to West Side Story and Les Miz.

The epic musical, which features a live five-piece orchestra and is directed by award-winning Saint Mary's faculty member Reid Davis, opens Thursday, April 26 at 8 p.m. at Saint Mary's LeFevre Theatre.

"It's an absurd way of saying where we're all heading," said Davis, who is part of a cadre of professionals involved in the production; the staff includes musical direction by Greg Zema; choreography by Megan Opel and Shaunna Vella; scenic design by Michael Cook; lighting by Rob Anderson and costumes by Valera Coble. Davis describes the musical as "a 30s Depression-era musical with a dash of futuristic dystopian drama."

The 16-member ensemble cast each has a rich character to play. "And they're hilarious," added Davis. "A lot of [the students] have been working in theater since they were little kids. We needed a high operatic score and their voices are astonishing."

The cast includes Saint Mary's students Danielle di Paola, Vincent Rodriguez, Andrew Russ, Jillian Duffy, Marc Helou, Katie Cooper, Elizabeth Morales, Taylor Johnson, Mary Eileen Young, Danny Gutierrez,

Felisa Arguello, Lillette Lorenzana, Chris Coleman, Jose Luis Cordoba and Bethany Souza. Because of the cast's stellar singing ability, Davis said he and the others realized they could work with a smaller cast of 16 without adding a host of supporting cast members.

"It's exciting to see the students put on such a professional production and learn a score that's very complicated," he said. "We're all blown away by their talent."

Following the opening performance on April 26, additional performances are on April 27 and 28 at 8 p.m., a matinee on April 29 at 2 p.m. and performances on May 2, 3, and 4 at 8 p.m. in LeFevre Theatre on the Saint Mary's College campus. Tickets are \$15 general, \$10 for Saint Mary's College students, faculty and staff.

To purchase tickets please call the Performing Arts Department at (925) 631-4670.

Moraga Baseball Association

Pony Division April 15

Moraga Mariners 5.

Lafayette Generals 4

Mariners highlights: Adam Newton 1-for-3, walk, GW RBI; Tim Coleman 2-for-3, RBI; Alex Currier 1-for-2, walk; KK Lowe 2 walks; Scott Lyness 3 IP, 1 hit, 4 walks, 1 run, 2 K's; Phil Wright 4 IP, 4 hits, 1 walk, 1 hit batter, 4 K's, 3 runs.

April 15 - Game 1

Concord Hawks 1, Moraga Cougars 11

Cougars highlights: Peter Matthias W, 5 IP, 8 K's, 1ER; Jaimie Vega 2-for-2, 2 RBI; Jess Bon 2 RBI; Matt Bruzzone 2-for-3, RBI.

April 15 - Game 2

Moraga Cougars 16, Concord Hawks 2

Cougars highlights: Dan Fadelli 2 IP, no ERs or hits allowed; Sean Wraith 2-for-2, 3B, 4 RBI; Chris Roming 3-for-3, 2B, 3 RBI; Jaimie Vega 3-for-3.

Mustang Division April 15

Orioles 8, Red Sox 6

Orioles highlights: Ben Skinner 2-for-3, 1 R, 1 2B, 2 GW RBI, 2 SB, 2 IP, 1 H, 0 R, 5 K's; Sean Smith 2-for-2, 1 R, 2 RBI, 2 SB; Nick Elliott 2-for-2, 1 R, 1 RBI, 4 SB; Marty Cummane 1-for-3, 1 RBI, 2 SB. Red Sox highlights: Nick Fafoutis 2-for-3, 2 R, 1 2B, 2 RBI, 2 SB, 2 IP, 1H, 0 R, 4 K's; Griffin Whiting 1-for-3, 1 R, 2 RBI; Scott Smoot 1-for-1, 2 R, 1 SB.

April 11

Rangers 9, Yankees 5

Rangers highlights: Ryan Geisreiter 3-for-3, 2 runs, 2 IP, 1 run, 5 K's; Wyatt McNeil 1-for-2, run; Tyler Bartis 1-for-2, 2 runs; Neil Kelley 1-for-2, 2 runs. Yankees highlights: Ramin Nazeri 2-for-3, 2 runs; Jacob Malloy 1-for-2; Kevin Lehman 2 IP, 1 run, 4 K's.

Red Sox 4, A's 6

Red Sox highlights: Nicky Fafoutis 2-for-3, 2-1B, 2 RBI; Griffin Whiting 2-for-3, 2-1B, RBI; Brendan Gordon 1-for-2, 1B. A's highlights: Drew Fass 2-for-3, 1B, 2B, 4 RBI; Zachary Cole 1-for-1, 1B, RBI; Alex Gannett 1-for-3, 1B, RBI.

April 10

Angels 6, Orioles 5

Angels highlights: Joshua Sherman 3-for-3, 2B, 2 RBI; Scott Chen 2 IP, 0 runs, 3 K's; Tristan Caro 1-for-2, GW RBI. Orioles highlights: Danielle Thomas 2-for-3, 2 SB; Patrick Ratchford 3-for-3, RBI, run; Ethan Yasuda 1-for-2, run.

April 10

Padres 9, Cubs 7

Padres highlights: Tristan Westermoff 3-for-3, 2runs; Dylan Caro 3-for-3, HR; Bryce Dugan, 3-for-3, RBI. Cubs highlights: Jabob Delaney 3-for-4, 2RBI; Declan Rector 3-for-4, 2B, Callan Beaver, 3-for-3, 2 RBI.



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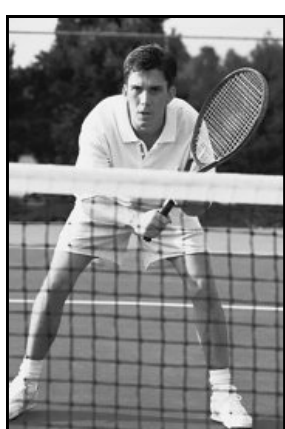
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Local Karate Kid Reaps Reward

Miramonte alum Nick Fleischman, age 18, earned a Bronze Medal at the 2007 Jr. World Goodwill Karate Championship on Sunday, April 1.

Fleischman's accomplishments at the National level led to his selection to the Amateur Athletic Union's USA Junior World Karate Team, and he spent the week leading up to the April 1 competition participating in a 5-day

training camp at Tokyo's Olympic Village.

Information for this story was submitted by Thomas Westernoff of Moraga's Karate and Fitness Place



Nick Fleischman



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Dance of the Spider, "Tarantella, Tarantula" at SMC

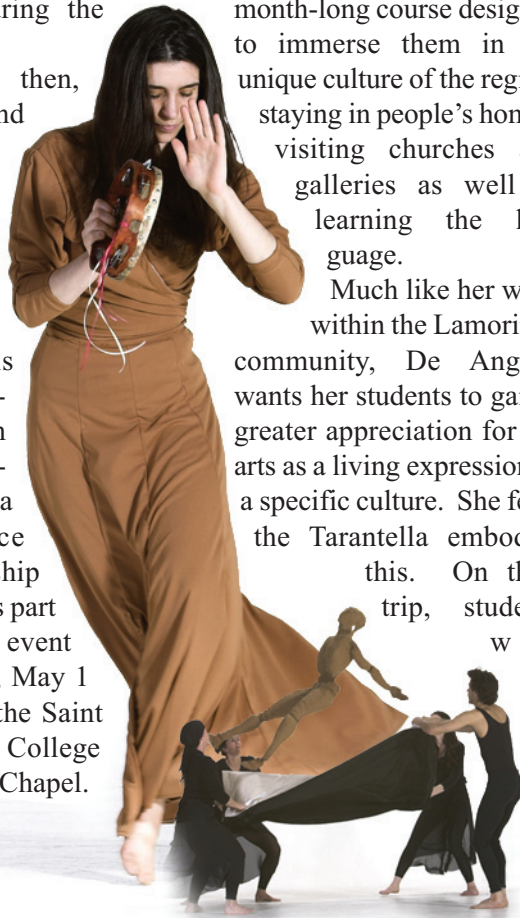
By Jennifer Wake

According to legend, in the Middle Ages an epidemic of tarantula poisonings spread through the town of Taranto, Italy. Victims (tarantata) would dance while villagers played mandolins or tambourines, trying different rhythms while the vigorous dancing ensued until one of the rhythms worked, curing the tarantata.

Since then, the dance and its music have become well-known elements of Italian culture. This centuries-old art form will be celebrated in a performance by the Artship Ensemble as part of a special event on Tuesday, May 1 in front of the Saint Mary's College Chapel.

Italian professor Maria Grazia De Angelis brought "Tarantella, Tarantula" and the "Piazza Santa Maria di Notte" event to Saint Mary's as an entrée for her students to learn the culture of Southern Italy. In June, eleven students will travel to the town of Sorrento, where they will participate in a month-long course designed to immerse them in the unique culture of the region, staying in people's homes, visiting churches and galleries as well as learning the language.

Much like her work within the Lamorinda community, De Angelis wants her students to gain a greater appreciation for the arts as a living expression of a specific culture. She feels the Tarantella embodies this. On their trip, students will



The performance will not only embody the ancient dance, but will weave verbal and non-verbal narratives in which the ensemble's actor/dancers perform many roles.

According to director Slobodan Dan Baich, the performance "is about the age-old yearning to cure 'The Dark Night of the Soul.'"

The free performance will be followed by the "Piazza Santa Maria di Notte" (Square of Santa Maria at Night) – a candle lit European atmosphere where guests can enjoy conversation, music, coffee, and appetizers catered by Amoroma Restoraunt, Il Fornaio, and Genova Delicatessen from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Chapel Plaza.

view authentic performances such as the famed "Sorrento Musical" – a unique representation of local Sorrentine customs and way of life – at the Tasso Theatre in Southern Italy.

The event is sponsored by the Saint Mary's Modern Languages Department with professor Maria Grazia De Angelis, Father Sal Ragusa with Campus Ministry, the students of Dante Club, and co-sponsored by the Anthropology/Sociology Department, the Art History Department, the Communications Department, the School of Liberal Arts, and the Academic Advising Office.

Searching for Earthquake Information at SMC

By Jennifer Wake

When the 4.2 magnitude quake hit Lafayette on March 1, delicate instruments began to hum 500 feet below the Earth's surface at Saint Mary's College. Within seconds, seismic data was being transferred from the machinery at Saint Mary's to the USGS at Stanford and the Berkeley Seismology Laboratory.

"When the Lafayette quake happened, people rushed down [to the seismograph station in Galileo Hall] to see what the seismic traces on that one looked like," said Saint Mary's physics and astronomy professor Ron Olowin, Ph.D. "There was a lot of interest on campus for that."



The astronomy observatory located on the hill behind campus
Photos by Jennifer Wake

As part of a geophysical network established by the Berkeley Seismology Lab, a borehole was drilled in the corner of the Moore Hall parking lot at Saint Mary's last summer. The borehole contains accelerometers as well as a satellite-based global positioning system which measures the size, location, direction and magnitude of an earthquake. The instruments measure seismic activity three-dimensionally – transversely, horizontally and vertically – along the Hayward Fault and around the local area.

From an EarthWatch Station located in a wall case in Galileo Hall, the public can learn about the current atmospheric, subterranean and seismic activity from data collected around campus. In addition to the wall case, the entire EarthWatch system includes a weather station, which feeds data to the NBC-KNTV website (<http://gg-weather.com/kntv.htm>), an astronomy platform and observatory behind the cross on the hill, a command center in Galileo Hall where students can remotely access the observatory for their astronomy studies, and now the seismic borehole.

"I discovered that UC Berkeley had a seismology lab, and they were interested in surveying the region in a consortium of observation posts that would look at the surrounding area and its activity, in particular the Hayward

fault," said Olowin. "They developed a scheme to monitor delicate instruments all around the Bay Area in a large number of seismic instruments dedicated to the cause."

As the scheme developed, Berkeley became more interested in looking at more data from the Lamorinda area and proposed drilling the deep borehole on the Moraga campus.

But will the information gleaned from this seismic monitoring help to predict earthquakes in the future?

Interestingly, Olowin says that if it does, the college would more likely want to look at the ethics of predictability first.

"If you had a seismic warning, we're not prepared for that type of information. Warning could cause panic and studies are going on now to see how we should respond to that information," he said. "How should we respond if there was an event in the Los Angeles basin? Would you stop traffic on highways? Would you start up your generators? Would you alert your hospitals and service personnel? Do you have a higher risk of people fleeing out of buildings? We don't know how we'd behave. We bring all of these issues into the discussion."

For now, Olowin is simply interested in what our planet does.

A long-time Lafayette resident who regularly speaks at local service clubs and often brings his telescope to different events to study the moon and stars, Olowin is continually looking for ways to bring data into the community. In addition to the seismic data, weather station and observatory, Olowin hopes to add a solar telescope to the infrastructure, one which can be accessed remotely.

He plans for the telescope to be used by visitors to the new Lafayette Library Learning Center, which will be part of the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium scheduled to open spring 2009.

"We're really eager to work with them," he said.



Physics and Astronomy Professor Ron Olowin



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

Go Gaels!

Upcoming Saint Mary's Sports Events

Saturday, April 28

- Women's Lacrosse vs. UC Davis 1 p.m. at Saint Mary's Stadium

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:

"East Bay Connection College Fair"

High school students, parents and college counselors will have the opportunity to connect with representatives from more than 150 institutions of higher learning, including private colleges and public universities from across the country. The event will include workshops – some conducted in Spanish – on topics such as financial aid and advice for first-generation college students. (A free shuttle will run between the Orinda BART station and Saint Mary's every 20 minutes between noon and 4 p.m.) Call the Admissions Office at (925) 631-4224 for information. Saturday, April 28 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Saint Mary's College

Free

Lectures:

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."

To register, contact Saint Mary's Alumni Office at (800) 800-2586. Saturday, April 21 at 5:30 p.m. Soda Activity Center

Ticket price for the lecture is \$30 per person, which benefits the endowment.

Book Review by Liz Dalby

Liza Dalby is the author of "East Wind Melts the Ice," a memoir through the seasons and best selling author of "Geisha." She was recently a Consultant for Rob Marshall's film "Memoirs of a Geisha."

Sponsored by the Saint Mary's College Guild

Thursday, April 25 at 1 p.m. Soda Activity Center

Free

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

Organist David Briggs

A recital by organist David Briggs features works by Walton, Mahler, Grieg, Rimsky-Korsakoff, Ravel, and a stunning improvisation. David Briggs, improvisator, transcriber, and composer, is Organist Emeritus of Gloucester Cathedral, England, was an organ scholar at Kings College, Cambridge, and studied improvisation with Jean Langlais in Paris.

Saturday, April 28 at 8 p.m. Saint Mary's College Chapel

Free

Art Exhibitions:

"Paper Cuts: The Art of Contemporary Paper"

Continues through April 29

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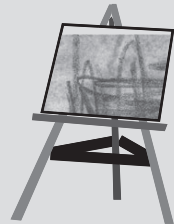
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For more information about upcoming events at Saint Mary's College, visit the college website at www.stmarys-ca.edu/news_events/.

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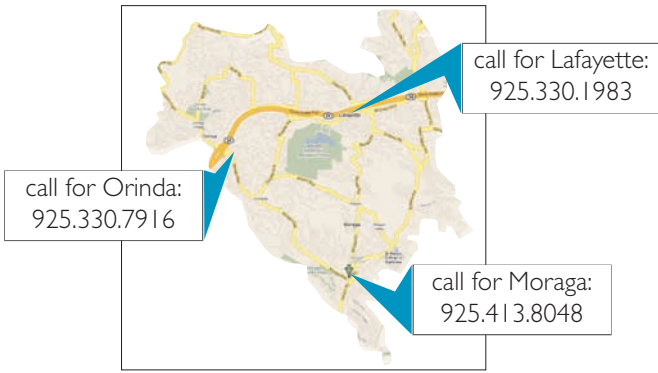
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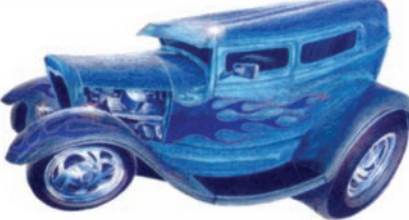


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