

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Volume 01; Issue 07

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Wednesday, May 16, 2007



Orindas newest housing development - Wilder

Photo by Tod Fierner

Grading is underway and relatively soon, late in 2007, sales will begin on the 245 lots available for the developer constructed residences and custom homes sites that make up Wilder, located just south of Highway 24 at the Gateway exit. It has been approximately 20 years since Pacific New Wave purchased what was once known as Orinda Gateway, and Montanera, but has been renamed Wilder, one of the last large available parcels of developable land close to San Francisco. This project has certainly seen its ups and downs over the years. It was given the go ahead, had the go-ahead rescinded, sued the City of Orinda in state and federal court, had lengthy settlement negotiations, a golf course was at one point approved, then taken off the table, numerous public hearings were held, and in 2001 an additional parcel, part of the McCosker Ranch, was purchased to bring the project up to the current 1,600 acres.

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Changing the Shape of Orinda

By Cathy Tyson

Highway 24 Rehab

Your tax dollars at work
By Cathy Tyson and Lee Borrowman

Strange plants have started cropping up in the vicinity of Highway 24 and are already spreading to local streets as well. They are generically called "Ramp Closed" and "Detour."

Caltrans has begun the huge rehabilitation project of Highway 24 from the Caldecott tunnel to the western edge of Walnut Creek. This \$41.5 million dollar project, funded by the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) is expected to be completed in mid 2009. Work on the fourth bore of the tunnel will start upon completion of this project. Not only did this section badly need improvement, but this work will extend the life of the freeway for all 160,000 daily motorists for the next 20 years. At the moment, they are working on the Fish Ranch and Gateway area.

When complete, the highway will have approximately 3 inches of new asphalt on the 8 miles of roadway, rehabilitated lanes, shoulders, on and off ramps, guardrails, and improved drainage.

...continued on page 2



Eastbound Gateway off-ramp; hmmm...

Whole Foods is Coming to Town

By Lee Borrowman

After serving as tantalizing grist for the rumor mill over the past few months, Whole Foods Markets announced on May 9 that it has signed a lease for the space formerly occupied by Albertson's in Lafayette. Although city officials said Friday that they have not been contacted regarding this incoming business, so it's a bit premature to throw away those Safeway Club Cards, local consumers who prefer organic foods and natural products are already rejoicing.

The first Whole Foods Market opened in 1980 in Austin, Texas. The Fortune 500 company now boasts 194 store locations in North America and the United

Kingdom, with 9 distribution centers and 7 regional bake houses in the US. Whole Foods Markets is ranked #5 on Fortune Magazine's 2007 list of the 100 Best Companies to Work For.

...continued on page 2



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What Were They Thinking? Slow Down, Lamorinda!

By Lee Borrowman

Although many believe the risk of getting caught to be a strong deterrent against breaking the law, it seems that more than a few drivers out there don't agree. Despite a massive effort to notify the public of the enforcement efforts, and speed trailers strategically positioned in advance, 50 speeding tickets were issued in the Pleasant Hill Rd. crackdown during the first week of the "Slow Down Lamorinda!" public awareness, education and enforcement campaign, and 28 tickets were issued (after 39 stops) on St. Mary's Rd. in Moraga last week. Evidently, not everyone has signed the Safe Driving Pledge that the Mayors, Police Chiefs and City Managers of our three communities all signed publicly on May 1.

"Slow Down Lamorinda!" is intended to make drivers more cognizant of their travel speeds and improve driving behavior through non-traditional education and enforcement efforts, and was developed in response to the fatal accidents earlier this year. The campaign partners, our local governments and police departments, spent much time last week engaging in getting the word out

in addition to dispatching several police cars to wait for speeders in the target areas. The school districts are supporting the campaign and parents' clubs have organized Slow Down rallies and events this week.

Moraga Mayor Mike Metcalf said, "Our problem is that some people just don't have it high enough in their consciousness that there's a real problem in our communities with speeding and driving under the influence. We've lost sight of the ball, and we need to raise awareness by continuing to place an emphasis on this issue."

We all remember those accidents. We all drove a little bit more slowly for a few days after each one. Slow Down, Lamorinda! is about the need to drive more slowly all the time. Consider this: If you drive five miles, which is roughly the distance from downtown Orinda to the Moraga Center, or from the Moraga Center to Lafayette, at 45mph rather than 35mph, you save less than two minutes of driving time. And the same car that was behind you when you passed through the last intersection will still come up behind you when you stop at the next red light.

According to Detective Nate McCormack of the Orinda Police Dept., when you are pulled over

you will spend 10-20 minutes waiting for that personalized speeding ticket, assuming you have all of the required documents with you. Then there's the price tag on the ticket, which varies widely depending on your speed and driving history, and if you factor in the time and money for court costs or maybe traffic school, the cost of a speeding ticket may not be negligible.

So you're two minutes late to that meeting; chances are, you still won't be the last one through the door. The last-minute item you need at the store will still be there two minutes later, as will

your teacher. You can flash your 'Slow Down Lamorinda!' bumper sticker at her—it might even work, once, before she tells you to get out of bed two minutes earlier. And it's a dirty job, but someone has to be last in line at the carpool pick-up after school, despite the protestations of your children.

The Lamorinda Weekly endorses this campaign. Safety is no accident.

Slow Down, Lamorinda!



Carol Federighi addresses the audience on May 1st, including Leah Greenblat, Mike Metcalf, Steve Falk, Mike Hubbard, Steve Glazer, Mark Ruppenthal, Phil Vince and Bill French (not pictured, Janet Keeter)

LAMORINDA WEEKLY this week

Town news	page 2, 3, 4	Restaurant Guide	page 12
Life in Lamorinda	page 5, 6, 7, 11	Sports news	page 13-15
School news	page 9, 10	Shop Moraga	page 16

Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Lafayette

Calendar

City Council 7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room
500 St Mary's Road
Monday, May 29

Planning Comm. 7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room
500 St Mary's Road
Thursday, May 17

Design Review 7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room
500 St Mary's Road
Tuesday, May 22

Park, Trails, Rec. 7pm
Community Center
500 St Mary's Road
Wednesday, June 13

Circulation 7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room
500 St Mary's Road
Monday, May 21

Emergency Prep. 9:15am
City Offices
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 265
Wednesday, June 13

Senior Services 4pm
Community Center, Alder Room
500 St Mary's Road
Thursday, May 24

Youth Services 6pm
Community Center, Elderberry Room
500 St Mary's Road
Monday, June 11

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



Possession of Marijuana, 5/04/07 17-year-old student was parked in vehicle near Acalanes High School and consented to a vehicle search. A green plant substance was found on person and in vehicle. Cited and enrolled in Lafayette Juvenile Diversion Program. Released into father's custody.

Residential Burglary, 5/2 - 3/07 Condit Road. Resident gone overnight, from 5/2 - 5/3, returned home and found home broken into. Extensive number of items stolen. No suspects at this time.

Stolen Vehicle, 5/01/07 Unknown suspect removed blue 1991 4-door Acura Integra from apartment carport on Dewing Avenue.

Highway 24 Rehab

...continued from page 1

Orinda and Lafayette residents living near the freeway should be aware that it's going to be noisy. They're grinding concrete out there, and that's loud work. Caltrans will keep work and heavy equipment to one mile of roadway to "localize" noise. Some one-mile stretches are not heavily populated, but if that one mile of roadway is in your backyard it's going to be a bumpy ride.

Caltrans spokesman John Cunliffe says, "Residents can check our website after 4:00 on Friday afternoon to find out which stretches will be worked on during the coming week." http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist/4/24_rehab/. However, a quick check last Saturday morning revealed no current information. Noisy work will not happen nightly, but when it does occur it may continue on consecutive nights. Cunliffe hopes residents will consider the noise "a short term effect, and take whatever mitigation measures they feel are necessary."

Coming Soon To The Mercantile Building

By Cathy Tyson

With construction almost completed on the upper portion of the buildings, retail tenants will soon be handed their respective spaces on the ground floor of the landmark Mercantile Building on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. "Store fronts are done by the tenants, they bring their own crew in," says Main Street Property Services' Craig Semmelmeier. He expects approximately 90 days for the build-outs. Shops should be open in late August.

Yankee Pier Restaurant signed a contract for 3,300 square feet of the 23,000 square foot ground level. Yankee Pier is part of the Lark Creek Restaurant Group, which also



Moving in with the grandparents over in Rossmoor for a couple of days, perhaps?

Drivers should note that most of the work, including ramp and lane closures, will be done on weeknights from 9:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. but will be flexible depending on type of "work, location and weather. Caltrans expects "little or no delay" for morning commuters. Signs will be posted 72 hours in advance of a ramp closure, and traffic will be re-routed to the next most convenient on/off-ramp. Detour signs, already up in Orinda, will direct traffic along surface streets.

Questions or comments can be submitted to Caltrans using a web form: http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist/4/24_rehab/24rehabcontact.htm or you can call them at (925) 957-2001. A recorded message directs you to the website but also offers the opportunity to leave a question of comment and a call-back number.

owns One Market in San Francisco. JoS. A. Bank, a men's clothing store, "Duchess" a women's boutique, an upscale day spa and a home furnishing store round out the current tenant list. At the moment there are only 2,000 square feet available, 633 of which would be perfect for a small take-out food shop.

Upstairs leasing is handled by Grubb and Ellis. Because its such a unique building, Mr. Semmelmeier opines that it won't be difficult to fill. First choice goes of course to Cortese Investments, the developer. When it's your building, you get dibs.



Seniors enjoying the dance

Photo by Cathy Tyson

Senior SOCK HOP Fund Raiser Sunday May 6th
To Benefit the Lamorinda Senior Transportation Program
By Cathy Tyson, Lamorinda Weekly Reporter

A Good Time Was Had By All

On a warm, sunny afternoon, many dolled up seniors came to the Lafayette Community Center for upbeat music, provided by the Tice Valley Swing Band of Rossmoor, to trip the light fantastic. Not only was this a fun party for area seniors, but it was a fundraiser for the Lamorinda Spirit Van transportation service. This service is a lifeline for seniors who don't drive. Every day the van, which is funded solely by the City of Lafayette, picks up seniors from Moraga and Orinda taking them wherever they need to go. Unfortunately the Town of Moraga and City of Orinda, have not contributed to the service even though it serves seniors from those communities. Ann Freitas, a Lafayette resident, says she

came for the entertainment, but was mainly there to, "support the van service. We need it."

Aletha Anderson and Mei Sun Li are the Co-coordinators of Lafayette Senior Services, who organized this event. The "ballroom" was done up with streamers and balloons, a long table filled with food added to the festive atmosphere. In addition

to the Sock Hop, every Wednesday, a "Tea Dance" is held at the Community Center, a bargain at \$2. with refreshments provided.

The Co-Coordinators even arranged for professional instructor Adrian Flores, a handsome fellow with perfect hair and very shiny shoes, to give dance lessons to eager participants.



Tice Valley Swing Band

Photo by Cathy Tyson

Whole Foods is Coming to Town

...continued from page 1

Whole Foods - Whole People - Whole Planet

A lofty motto, but Whole Foods Markets' track record does indicate that it actively supports sustainable agriculture, re-use and recycling, and the use of environmentally sound products, and it has a program in place that offers financial incentives to employees who engage in voluntary community service. Individual stores hold 5% Days (or CommUnity Giving Days),

donating 5% of that day's net sales to a local or regional non-profit or educational organization.

What About Supporting our Local Family-owned Businesses?

Is there room for another grocery store in Lafayette? Will community friend and mainstay Diablo Foods suffer a loss of business once Whole Foods Markets moves in? Similar fears arose when Trader Joe's arrived, and were

dispelled as shoppers came from outlying areas, drawn to Trader Joe's, and shuttled from one end of the parking lot to the other to shop at both stores rather than just one (c'mon, you know you've done it, too). Local optimists believe that there are enough shoppers in Lamorinda, some of whom currently trek to Whole Foods in Walnut Creek every week, to make this work.

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Lamorinda Community,

Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Moraga

Calendar

- City Council** 7:30pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School
1010 Camino Pablo
Wednesday, May 23
 - Planning Comm.** 7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room
2100 Donald Drive
Monday, May 21
 - Design Review** 7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room
2100 Donald Drive
Monday, May 29
 - Fire Board** 7pm
Fire Station
1280 Moraga Way
Tuesday, May 19
 - Youth Involvement** 7:30pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room
500 St Mary's Road
Thursday, May 31
 - Chamber of Commerce** 8:00am
Terzetto Cuisine, Moraga
Friday, May 25
- check online:
Town of Moraga:
<http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us>
for:
• all meeting notes
• calendar updates

Moraga Cleans Up!

Moragans came out in force last Saturday to take part in the annual Clean-Up Day, a fitting end to Moraga Beautiful Week.

Joining in the fun were nearly 100 Saint Mary's student-athletes who traded bats, sticks and clubs for paint brushes. In addition to staining park equipment at Rancho Laguna Park and Moraga Commons, the students weeded the Commons' skateboard park. The youngest helpers, mostly under the age of 5, took frequent breaks from their weeding to take advantage of the empty skate park by turning it into an awesome "slide park!"

You can contact reporter Steve Angelides at steve@lamorindaweekly.com



Cade and Chase Bennett help dad with the weeding



St. Mary's athletes dig in

Photos by Lee Borrowman

"Little Old Moraga" Sends "Political Message" on Global Warming

First Political Statement Ever on a National or International Issue

By Steve Angelides

The Town Council of "little old Moraga" has sent a political message to the rest of the world on the issue of global warming. By a vote of 3 to 2, with Mayor Mike Metcalf and Councilmember Rochelle Bird dissenting, the council adopted a resolution endorsing the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

The deciding vote was cast by Councilmember Dave Trotter, who said he voted for the resolution because he thought it was "important to send the political message, even from little old Moraga." Trotter made his decision after a spirited debate between the proponents, led by Councilmember Linda Deschambault, and the dissenters, led by Metcalf.

Deschambault works for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and heads a local non-profit organization called Generation Green. Metcalf is a Stanford-educated engineer who is retired from Chevron.

Metcalf said afterwards that this was the first time in the Town's history since it was incorporated in 1974 that the Council has taken a position on any national or international issue. "The reason we haven't is it's always been the belief of the Council that we should be focusing on our own affairs and we have enough on our plate," Metcalf explained.

The resolution urges the federal and state governments to take action to reduce global warming pollution, including asking Congress to pass "cap and trade" greenhouse gas reduction legislation. Cap and trade legislation includes a combination of emissions limits and a market-based system of tradable allowances among emitting industries.

The Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement which includes binding greenhouse gas limits, went into effect on February 16, 2005. It has been ratified by 141 countries, many of which have already enacted cap and trade legislation.

The political message which Moraga has endorsed seems to be aimed at least in part at the Bush administration,

which has refused to adopt the Kyoto Protocol, and until recently had questioned the role of human activity in global warming. California made history when Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed cap and trade legislation on September 27, 2006.

When she presented the proposal to the Council, Deschambault noted that in Contra Costa County similar action has already been taken by the county, and by the cities of El Cerrito, Richmond, Lafayette, Pleasant Hill, and Walnut Creek. Deschambault told the Council the issue of global warming is now "mainstream."

In addition to endorsing the U.S. Mayor's agreement, the Council also voted, with Metcalf abstaining, to join the organization ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, USA, Inc. During the debate Metcalf challenged the assertion in the ICLEI resolution that the burning of fossil fuels "accounts for more than 80% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions." Although the Council majority amended the ICLEI resolution to change the 80% to "a substantial portion," that was not enough to gain Metcalf's support for the Town joining ICLEI.

ICLEI, headquartered in Oakland, has over 660 local government members around the world, according to its website. The ICLE resolution calls for Moraga to establish a local greenhouse gas reduction target and adopt an action plan to meet that target.

Deschambault explained that ICLEI will provide software and other resources to help the Town develop its plan. Town Manager Phil Vince said the only money he will propose in the Town's forthcoming budget for this issue will be the \$600 annual ICLEI membership fee. Vince said he hopes students from St. Mary's College will volunteer to help the Town develop its plan.

The global warming issue was placed on the Council's agenda at the request of a local environmental organization called Sustainable Moraga. According to the group's president, Moraga resident Bill Durkin, the organization has been active since 2005, and adopted bylaws and established a bank account in January of this year.

Durkin said the group now has an active core group of about a dozen members and a mailing list of 100. The group's historic success in garnering the Town's action on global

warming comes on the heels of an energy fair it organized at the Moraga Shopping Center with 15 vendors on May 5, and a battery recycling program it initiated which won accolades from the Town Council last year.

Many members of Sustainable Moraga spoke in favor of the Council's actions on global warming, but only Metcalf and Bird spoke in opposition. "Although everyone in the room may have been in favor," Metcalf said, "if anyone thinks that's everyone in the Town, they're wrong."



Underage D.U.I., 5/06/07 Silver Lexus was stopped on St. Mary's Road near Bollinger Canyon for going 60 mph in a 35 mph zone. 19-year-old driver showed objective signs of alcohol intoxication. Blood Alcohol Level of .08%

Underage Possession of Alcohol, 5/04/07 Anonymous reporting person believed underage drinking and smoking was going on in the neighborhood. Officer followed trail and found three white male juveniles and one white, female juvenile that had been drinking. Officer found a water bottle of vodka and confiscated it. Parents were contacted and juveniles were released to their parents' custody.

Medical Assistance, 5/4/07 St. Mary's College, three individuals required medical attention due to alcohol intoxication. Taken to John Muir Hospital.

Possession of Marijuana, 5/01/07 A vehicle was pulled over on Camino Ricardo near Moraga Way, because it had no license plates, the 21-year-old driver had no proof of insurance as well. Officer suspected he smelled marijuana, and found 2.5 grams of suspected marijuana in the vehicle and two small "blunts." Driver had no medical marijuana card. Suspect substance tested positive for marijuana.

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Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Orinda

Calendar	
Special City Council	7pm
Library Garden Room 22 Orinda Way Tuesday, May 22 Tuesday, May 29	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 24 Orinda Way Wednesday, June 6	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, May 22	
Public Safety	7pm
Library May Room 26 Orinda Way Thursday, June 14	
Park & Recreation	7pm
Community Center 500 St Mary's Road Wednesday, May 16	
Historic Landmarks	3pm
Gallery Room, Orinda Library 22 Orinda Way Tuesday, May 22	
Liaison	8:30am
Room 7, Community Center 26 Orinda Way Monday, June 4	
check online: Town of Orinda: http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/ for: • all meeting notes • calendar updates	



Possession of Narcotics, 5/07/07 Officer pulled over vehicle near Gateway Blvd. and Highway 24, found crack pipe and some "rocks" inside vehicle, continued search of vehicle and found two containers of off-white powdery substance. Suspect spit out crack cocaine rock he was hiding in his mouth. Tests showed positive for cocaine. Suspect placed under arrest.

Trespass, 5/5/07 Anonymous caller reported party in a field at end of fire lane on Edgewood. Underage female Miramonte student had trespassed past a "No Trespassing" sign with a group of approximately 40 other students. Initially individual denied she consumed alcohol, upon further investigation and field sobriety test, admitted she had consumed beer and vodka. Released to parents custody.

Fight, 4/30/07 Victim, a student at Del Oro High School got into a verbal argument with three unknown white males in front of Fudge Alley off of Rheem Blvd. Three suspects battered victim then fled area. Although victim had a swollen left eye and swollen face, he refused medical attention.

Orinda's ballot Measure E

By Chris Lavin

This is the last in a three-part series by the Lamorinda Weekly focusing on Orinda's ballot Measure E, which comes to a vote on June 5. It calls for floating a series of bonds totaling \$58.6 million to fix the city's deteriorating roads, drainage and water pipes.

In this interview with Mayor Steve Glazer, we focus on those taxpayers who may be considering buying homes in Orinda, and will therefore be paying higher taxation amounts to pay the bond back, should it pass in the special election. The first two parts of the series, which focused first on long-time property owners and then on recent buyers, can be read at www.LamorindaWeekly.com.

Q: How will Measure E affect new home ownership?

Glazer: You have to look at what a new resident wants: They want a safe environment, strong schools and new roads. In that respect we are battling two out of three. Our road conditions will impact the attractiveness of our community and act as a detriment to the new residents, which has the affect of, eventually, influencing property values.

Q: Orinda is one of the wealthiest cities in the East Bay, so it seems kind of surprising that the roads are in such bad shape. Do you think the state of the roads has started to affect property values?

Glazer: Well, when you have a potential homeowner, and a starter house here now is \$1 million, arriving to see that house in a high-end car that is low to the ground, yes, I think it's an issue. People may look at homes on the Internet but no one goes out to buy a home without looking at it, and if the road is barely passable they are not going to consider it. People who can buy into Orinda are driving nice cars, that's just a fact, and potential buyers are going to be arriving in nice cars. I'm not so worried about the SUVs, but I'm thinking more of the Porches, high-performance cars that just don't need to be driving through potholes.

Q: Orinda has two new major housing developments in the making. Won't new homeowners there be expecting decent roads when they go to the grocery or the dry cleaners?

Glazer: Yes, I think they will expect that. And I think we can do that for them.

Q: Since new homeowners will be paying more for this measure, because their property valua-

tions will be greater than those of Orindans who have lived in the city for decades, how are you guaranteeing to them that roads will be kept up?

Glazer: First, Measure E is a long-term plan to fix our roads and keep them in better shape. I think, when it passes, it will take us through the next 20 years. But once we do get our roads up to good condition, it's a lot easier to get them there and keep them there. We have to remember that fixing a road that has been let go for 20 years is a lot more expensive, five times more expensive, than it is to keep it in good repair. And that's what we want to do. Get it fixed and then keep it repaired.

Q: There seems to have been some attention to the fact that most American cities have not put a lot of money into their infrastructure since the 1950s, and that Orinda is in good company with other cities across the nation. Do you agree with that?

Glazer: No, you cannot compare us to them. In the Bay Area, we're comparing our housing market to ... what? And Orinda has the worst, the worst! roads. Much worse than Moraga or Lafayette. What's happening elsewhere isn't really significant. We have to fix what we have to fix.

Q: Do you see a day when the people of Orinda will not be relying on roads so much, using more public transportation, and actually walking to their activities?

Glazer: In a city where probably 98 percent of the population needs to drive, not really. But we do have wonderful amenities to our town and we've worked hard to make it that way. But just think of the bicyclists. They need good roads more than cars do.



Photos by Tod Fierner



Michael Olson and Jason Keadjian

Changing the Shape of Orinda

...continued from page 1

Owner of the project since 1996, Orinda Gateway, LLC has jumped through numerous hoops to get the project off the ground. They got approvals from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (red-legged frog concerns) and finally the California Department of Fish and Game (Alameda Whip-snake concerns). In addition, there were all the usual approvals, a Preliminary Development Plan, Final Development Plans, and of course, Environmental Impact Reports (EIR).

Jason Keadjian, who grew up in Orinda and is now the Spokesperson for Orinda Gateway says, "We are really excited about the project, it opens up the entire west end of town allowing access to existing trails and providing additional recreational opportunities for Orindans." Indeed, 1,400 of the 1,600 acres will be protected open space, and five state of the art playfields will be constructed for baseball and soccer use, two with lighting and artificial turf. To serve the playfields, there will be approximately 300 parking spaces, rest-

rooms, water fountains, picnic tables and a playground. Although Orinda Gateway is designing and building the playfields, they will be owned and operated by the City of Orinda once complete, and meant for public use.

Project Manager Michael Olson of Brooks Street said, "We really listened to residents' concerns and kept the overall design reflective of the Orinda vernacular." The planned swim club for use by residents-only will be similar to the Orinda Country Club's design, but with a much lower profile. Landscape Architect Hart/Howerton has planned many whimsical, lush walkways throughout the project. Robert Hidey Architects Inc. is slated to design non-custom built homes. Designs will be subject to the Design Review process by the City, just like everyone else. Toward the south end of the project an Art and Garden Center will be built for public use, with much community input.

Prices for the large, up-scale homes will be market driven. Lots sizes run from 9,000 square feet to 1/2 an acre. In addition to the home purchase price, buyers will have a monthly maintenance fee to

cover upkeep of common areas and the swim club.

Two of the main concerns of area residents are emergency vehicle access, and where new homeowners' children will attend school. Because of Highway 24 traffic, two emergency vehicle access roads will be constructed linking the project with Orinda proper. One will be on Brookside, the other on Edgewood Court off of Lost Valley. School children will attend Orinda schools, Miramonte, OIS, and either Wagner Ranch or Del Rey.

For now, that consistent hum you hear is the sound of earth movers, moving several million cubic yards of dirt, grading the property, all of course approved by the City, and the rotor blades of a pair of helicopters hired to pour new foundations for the four sets of PG & E towers that will be relocated below the crest of the hill. When you create a brand new neighborhood from scratch, power lines clearly mar the aesthetic.

Check out the Google Earth map of this area by going to www.lamorindaweekly.com and clicking on the Google Earth link.

Farmer's Market Opens with a *SNIP*!



Chuck Carpenter, President of the Board of Directors cut's the ribbon
Photo by Tod Fierner

To the delight of shoppers and passers-by, the Orinda Farmer's Market officially re-opened for the 2007 season with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10:00am on May 12. The Farmer's Market will be open from 9am-1pm Saturdays through Nov. 20. Now in it's new location on Orinda Way featuring nearly 30 vendors each week, including favorites such as Hamada Farms, Sukhi's Indian food, Ana's Flowers and Steve's Bees, and live music from the likes of Bill Lombardo, Idyll Frets and Capricious Accordion this season appears poised to be the best yet.

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Life in LAMORINDA



Photo by Jennifer Wake

For What the Bell Tolls

Emergency Preparedness at SMC

By Jennifer Wake

The tolling of the Saint Mary's College bells is always a good reminder of the time of day, but Saint Mary's Public Safety Chief Bill Foley says they could be utilized in a new way – to alert the campus community in the event of an emergency.

The idea is one of many being considered by Saint Mary's as part of the college's comprehensive emergency preparedness plan. "Since [the bell] is electronic, we're meeting with the manufacturer of the system to see if we could either do a voice override or could get a distinctive tone that could alert the campus community," Foley said.

The college is also in the final stages of an emergency response website where people can find information about a disaster as well as have the capability to report their status following a disaster. "Families could scroll down through the list to check on students, faculty or staff instead of trying to call in or come to campus," said Foley.

Communication, however, is just one component of emergency preparedness.

"We have a lot of resources that can be utilized in the event of an emergency," Foley said. "The

town of Moraga and the college, as well as Lafayette and Orinda, are reviewing our disaster plans in light of shared resources – what we have, what we can share with one another it it's needed – and that includes spaces. In any sort of disaster in which there is extensive property damage, you start looking for wide open spaces to go."

Areas on campus could be utilized to perform triage, coordinate emergency equipment and supplies, or even house pets and livestock. "It might make sense to use the tennis courts as an animal care area because it's fenced," Foley explained.

Foley meets monthly with local authorities from Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, including the three police chiefs, the superintendent of Moraga schools, and the fire chief, but understands that during a major emergency, considering the size of the neighboring towns, response to the college will be minimal at best.

As part of their overall plan the college's emergency preparedness work group, chaired by Foley, has conducted disaster preparedness workshops and has created a building coordinator program. The program has 26

volunteer staff, faculty and Brothers, who have been trained in first aid, CPR, light search and rescue, and disaster preparedness.

"They have large carry-all bags that contain supplies, food, first aid, flashlights, gloves, and tape so they can do some immediate triaging within an area," Foley said. "We've also started to stockpile general supplies on campus for use in these sorts of disasters or long-term emergencies."

In February Saint Mary's engaged a consulting group to advise it on emergency preparedness and response issues along with local emergency response agencies. The college also co-sponsors Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training on campus, and has scheduled a CERT training specifically for Saint Mary's faculty and staff in October.

Foley says he would like to expand the volunteer base to include students who could work with trained leaders to help with traffic control or even light search and rescue during a major emergency.

When developing any plan at the college, Foley keeps in mind that Saint Mary's is a town within a town. "When you think about it, services come to the front of the gate, and we take it over from there," he said.

Fire Safety – Share the Responsibility

By Cathy Tyson

With an expected hot and dry summer just around the corner and wildland fires burning in southern California, now is a good time for all area residents to consider what they can do to be as fire safe as possible. Moraga-Orinda Fire District Fire Marshall Tonya Hoover is dedicated to promoting the message, "We believe we all share in the responsibility for our fire safety." There are many attributes that you can change that will have an impact on whether or not your house goes up in flames in the event of a fire. These simple things can give a 50% greater chance of saving a home. "If everyone participated we would all have a much better chance of surviving a wildland fire today."

Moraga-Orinda has a new program called Firewise, a web-based, parcel level evaluation of each individual parcel within the fire district. All the lots within their service area, that includes Canyon, Bollinger Canyon and unincorporated parts of the county,

are evaluated and assigned color-coded levels of risk, green - low, blue - moderate, yellow - higher risk, orange - very high, red - extreme risk. A quick glance at the map shows almost all parcels orange and yellow.

"I'm telling readers, look at the site, call me up and tell me if I'm right or wrong. For example if a homeowner put in a pool, after the area was evaluated, it changes the risk dynamic, providing a broader defensible space. I'll send a capable Firewise inspector out, and we will reevaluate the property, and we'll update the website. I want everyone to check their rating, if you don't agree, call me up and tell me I'm wrong." Hoover encourages all Moraga, Orinda, and Canyon residents to go to the website, www.mofd.org - click on the Firewise link, and read all about it. "Frequently Asked Questions" is a good place to start to learn how to navigate the program. You can also get information from the Fire Prevention office, (925) 258-4525. Reach

Hoover by email to thoover@mofd.org.

Lafayette is served by the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. Robert Davis, Supervising Fire Inspector, says they are working with Moraga-Orinda on their Firewise program, sending out notices to owners of vacant properties about abatement and surveying property owners following up on abatement. Lafayette is unique in that along with Brentwood, it has adopted an ordinance requiring mandatory automatic sprinklers in new homes when the closest fire station is more than 1 1/2 miles from the home.

"Canyon has been the most pro-active of all our communities," says Fire Marshall Hoover. "They have communicated with the California Department of Forestry, EBMUD, East Bay Regional Parks, they've done training exercise, addressed property owner issues and more. They chose to take one bite at a time on that elephant."

Things you can do to increase fire safety

- Roof – most vulnerable part of the structure, fire resistive roofing is best, Class A and B.
- Defensible Space – Create an area free of seasonal vegetation growth around the structure, for example

- eucalyptus and junipers are very flammable.
- Spark Arrestor for chimneys.
- Address Visible - day and night from the street that the fire department can read.
- Bridge – if your property is over a bridge, make sure it

- meets access requirements – 40 tons.
- Eave and Vent Openings – provide protection from embers intruding; install fire resistive screening with openings less than 1/4 inch over eave openings and vents



Moraga-Orinda firefighters drill regularly



Photos by Andy Scheck

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Life in LAMORINDA



Students work individually with pre-schoolers to build literacy. Photo courtesy of CILSA

College Jobs Bring Smiles to Children's Faces

By Jennifer Wake

Not many working college students are greeted at their part-time jobs with cheers of adoration, but it is a regular occurrence for Saint Mary's sophomore Sophie Damarel, a team leader in the Jumpstart program. Twice a week 40 Saint Mary's students spend at least two hours a day at Oakland schools, where they invest 300 hours each during the year as a mentor and teacher to a pre-school child.

"[The kids] look up from their lunches and scream, 'It's Jumpstart!'" Damarel said. "We become their friends; it gives them another friend in the classroom. So much more can be done for the kids when it's individualized."

Two years ago, the Saint Mary's Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action (CILSA) began partnering with Jumpstart, a national organization that brings at-risk pre-school children and caring adults together to build literacy as well as social and emotional readiness. Working with the children inspired Damarel to change her major from science to education; she now hopes to become a middle school science teacher. For team leader Alicia Torres, the program has taught her about leadership.

"I learned to take myself out of problems, and work things out," Torres said. She sees Jumpstart as a way to offer consistency in some public schools. "When there are a lot of substitutes, Jumpstart becomes the consistent element."

Last month, nearly 40 of the Jumpstart 3-year-olds came to campus with their SMC partners for an afternoon of fun at

the annual Carnival 4 Kids, where 200 children from area schools and organizations that partner with CILSA joined approximately 200 Saint Mary's student "buddies" to enjoy 28 different game and craft booths. More than 600 SMC students volunteered for the day's event.

Carnival co-chair Katie Ferguson says the day offered its own enlightenment. "One child didn't realize that everything was free, because his mom told him nothing in life is free. He was pretty stressed," said Ferguson. Much like the Jumpstart student workers, Ferguson explained that her very presence told these children that they are valuable. "When they come here they realize that we're taking care of them. It's the things that people do for you that are important."

Last night, CILSA honored pre-school teachers, staff and the Jumpstart student workers at a Celebration of Service, which included a showcase of the portfolios that SMC students made of each pre-schooler. "We take anecdotal notes and are very objective about what's going on with child to child interactions, adult/child interactions - we have a whole list of what we're observing," said Damarel. The students turn in their notes and samples of work to the site manager and the entire portfolio is given to families at the end of the year.

"We're able to engage students and build relationships with their families," said Torres, who has enjoyed being part of these children's lives. "It's going to be hard when this is over."

In Moraga, Change Makes Change

Submitted by Lisa Radcliffe

Local patrons of Cathy Corsi's Si Si Café in Moraga have been making big changes in the Dominican Republic by donating their spare change to a Peace Corp project to pour concrete floors in an impoverished community. Inspired by a recent visit to the Dominican Republic to visit his Peace Corp volunteer brother Kaveh Azimi, Si Si "barista" Kassra Azimi and staff have been enthusiastically raising money to help fund his brother's most current project.

"He's involved in a project to finally bring sanitation and water to the Batay he's living in," said Kassra. "But, his first project is to give these people floors. At least 35 houses in his Batay have only dirt." A Batay, reports Kassra, is a community made up primarily of Dominican's of Haitian descent. "They used to be worker camps for Haitian sugar cane workers", Kassra explained. "Now they are just poor communities in the middle of miles and miles of sugar cane."

Kaveh, a 2002 Campolindo High School graduate is serving as an economic development volunteer. He plans on being in the Dominican Republic until the summer of 2009.

Kassra and his family spent ten days touring the Dominican Republic with Kaveh, and meeting his various "host families." They spent two afternoons touring Kaveh's Batay and meeting the people there. "These people have an extraordinary sense of community,"

Kaveh reported. "People who leave the Batay tend to work outside to improve the Batay. They always come back -one way or another. We have no sanitation, we have only one source of drinking water, we have electricity outages that last weeks, and no indoor plumbing. What we DO have," exclaims Kaveh, "is a great feeling of community involvement. A little money goes a long way here."

"When the rains come," Kaveh reported, "living with dirt floors in addition to our dirt streets, is a nightmare." "Kaveh estimated that it costs approximately \$130 USD per house to pour the concrete floors," reports Kassra. "The labor is donated by the community."

To date Kassra has collected enough money to pour floors for 7 of the 35 homes in need, all through generous donations from our caring coffee drinkers. Most notably, Corsi herself generously donated \$100 to this cause.

While 7 homes is great, 35 would be better. Kassra hopes the donations continue to come in. "I want to let the people of Batay 8 know that the people of OUR community care", said Kassra.

Donations for the Peace Corp floor project may be sent to the Law Office of Radcliffe & Radcliffe, 455 Moraga Road, Suite A, Moraga, CA 94556. Make checks payable to "Radcliffe Attorney Trust Account" with a memo for "Peace Corp Projects" or contact the Peace Corp directly.



Saint Mary's students Whitney Powell and Kaley Smalley

Cafe Connections

By Sarah Henningsen

Walking around in circles trying to find service for your cell phone is not only frustrating, but also embarrassing. The same goes for laptop computers, which aren't quite as easy to carry around. Thanks to a few cafes in Lamorinda offering Wi-Fi internet access, this should not be a problem anymore. Although there are no real "cybercafes" in the area that have public computers anyone can connect to, there are several coffee shops providing this great service to the sleep-deprived, multi-tasking workaholics of Lamorinda.

The Starbucks boom has definitely been beneficial for the millions of internet junkies in the world. The commercial chain store offers T-Mobile HotSpot across the United States and in other parts of North America. At the various Starbucks stores in Lamorinda— in Rheem, in Orinda Theater Square, and two in Lafayette—broadband connections are fast, convenient, and most importantly, free. The hardest part is simply finding a table big enough to fit your shiny computer, venti caramel frappuccino, and jumbo-sized scone.

Café Terzetto in the Moraga Shopping Center is yet another coffeehouse that balances 21st century technology with traditional, to-die-for coffee and meals. Small tables lining the perimeter of the restaurant are perfect for individuals seeking a quick minute to check emails or

to spend an hour working on a business project while still getting a nice dosage of warmth and sunshine. The café serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner throughout the week and also boasts a to-go line for Italian sodas, morning coffee and snacks.

Chow Restaurant, located in the Lafayette Circle near Coldstone Creamery and A.G. Ferrari, has high quality food, ambiance and wireless service. Although the restaurant has only been in existence for a few years, it is always crowded with people seeking meals with the freshest of ingredients. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served daily and the menu often changes throughout the week. A small grocery store also adjoins the main restaurant. For those that cannot handle the noise and energy within the restaurant, there are several tables out on the patio where you can work in relative solitude.

Though rare, coffee shops offering wireless internet connections are a great service to Lamorinda residents. Toting a laptop around may be a hassle for some, but for others these internet cafes present the perfect opportunity to take a break from the boring home office. And isn't it nice, as you sit typing and sipping, to receive a nod and a smile from a similarly-inclined neighbor?

Sarah Henningsen is a feature writer and a student at Campolindo High School.



Kaveh Azimi and friends

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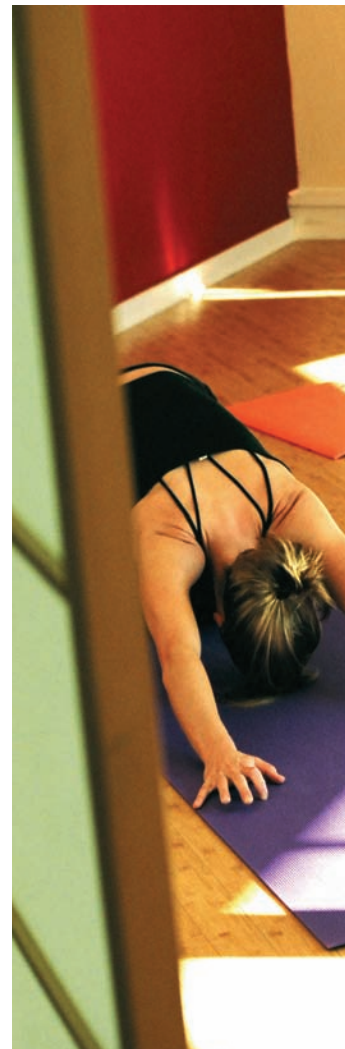
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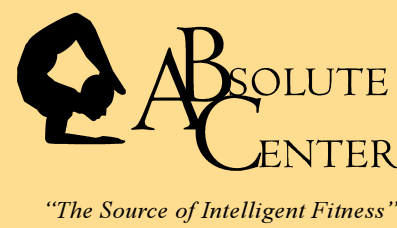


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Tried and True Tips for Getting Your Home Market-Ready

By Jaclyn Perdigo, guest writer

Lafayette- Real Estate Advisor Dana Green is "Setting the Stage for Success" not only as the motto to her career in real estate but has used her staging and design expertise to reposition over 200 homes in the Lamorinda/Walnut Creek areas. Green believes in the power of staging enough to offer it as a free service to her clients.

According to Green, "Staging is a strategic process proven to add curb appeal, increase your home's sales price and decrease the number of days your home is on the market. Prior to staging, I suggest to my clients easy ways they can help the process of readying their home for the market"

Green has come up with four tried and true tips to help improve the look and feel of your home while increasing its value. Even if you're not looking to sell, these tips are great for those who might be interested in realistic improvements.

1. Take a look at your house. Literally go across the street and look at your house. Pretend you are looking at it for the first time, what do you see? What improvements can be made? Take notes on what could bring more curb appeal such as landscaping, exterior paint or simply a new mailbox!

2. Floor It! Getting your carpets cleaned is one of the easiest ways to remove dirt, stains and odor. Although you may not notice that they need cleaning, carpets should be washed professionally 1-2 times per year (especially if you have pets!). If you are in a position to splurge, replacing your carpeting is the best way to go for home improvement. No carpet? Refinishing your hardwood floors will bring a sparkle to your home you may not have seen in a while!

3. Spruce up your sitting areas. No need to buy a new couch when fun and colorful pillows can enhance the decorative qualities of your living and family rooms. Choose colors that pop but still go with the overall theme of your home. Need more of a change? Add some new

paintings to your walls or a few new trinkets to spruce up your mantel.

4. Perk Up Your Paint! Nothing improves the overall look of a home quite like a fresh coat of paint. Whether the inside or outside, paint is quite simply the best way to freshen up.

For inside paint, tackle one room at a time and don't move on until you're completely satisfied! Don't be afraid to step out of your color box and try something a little more intense. Designers use the "60-30-10" rule, 60% of color in a room comes from walls; 30% from upholstery, floor coverings or window treatments; and 10% from accent pieces or artwork. Although color is important to build character, remember this ratio when making your decision to ensure you avoid color overload!

Don't rush the process of painting as color tends to make or break a room. Paint a swatch on the wall of the color you are considering and live with it for a few days to see what it looks like in different lighting.

For more information on Dana Green and her services, please visit www.DanaGreenTeam.com.



PRESS RELEASE

Rossmoor Marketing Meeting

In an ongoing effort to promote Rossmoor properties and in the spirit of cooperation, Managing Broker Mary Beall of Prudential California Realty invites agents from all real estate offices to attend the Rossmoor Marketing Meeting, held every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. at Liberty Title, 1940 Tice Valley Blvd, in the

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Lamorinda Home Sales continued



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LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$899,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,818,000
MORAGA	Last reported: 10
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$555,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,495,000
ORINDA	Last reported: 10
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$200,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$2,100,000

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

- 518 Bavarian Court, \$1,360,000, 4 Bdrms, 2574 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 4-12-07
- 3442 Black Hawk Road, \$1,540,000, 4 Bdrms, 2910 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 4-20-07
- 940 Hawthorne Drive, \$899,000, 2 Bdrms, 1475 SqFt, 1942 YrBl, 4-13-07
- 3392 La Caminita, \$1,818,000, 3 Bdrms, 3107 SqFt, 2002 YrBl, 4-18-07
- 1477 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2049 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 4-17-07
- 736 South Pond Court, \$1,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 2175 SqFt, 1996 YrBl, 4-19-07
- 3338 Vaughn Road, \$1,399,000, 4 Bdrms, 2409 SqFt, 1947 YrBl, 4-17-07

MORAGA

- 308 Birchwood Drive, \$1,145,000, 4 Bdrms, 2349 SqFt, 1971 YrBl, 4-18-07
- 301 Corte Gabriel, \$785,000, 3 Bdrms, 2117 SqFt, 1979 YrBl, 4-18-07
- 432 Donald Drive, \$1,110,000, 4 Bdrms, 2157 SqFt, 1967 YrBl, 4-18-07
- 4 Donald Place, \$850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2269 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 4-23-07
- 153 Miramonte Drive, \$555,000, 2 Bdrms, 1525 SqFt, 1966 YrBl, 4-19-07
- 1501 Moraga Way, \$575,000, 2 Bdrms, 1635 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 4-20-07
- 160 Valley Hill Drive, \$1,495,000, 1806 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 4-19-07
- 18 Via Barcelona, \$880,000, 3 Bdrms, 1736 SqFt, 1989 YrBl, 4-20-07
- 152 Walford Drive, \$1,245,000, 4 Bdrms, 2174 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 4-18-07
- 153 Walford Drive, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1698 SqFt, 1964 YrBl, 4-18-07

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- 1 Arbolado Court, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1917 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 4-17-07
- 46 Camino Lenada, \$1,244,500, 4 Bdrms, 1895 SqFt, 1936 YrBl, 4-17-07
- 210 Courtney Lane, \$1,278,000, 4 Bdrms, 2424 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 4-18-07
- 6 Descanso Drive, \$1,030,000, 3 Bdrms, 1743 SqFt, 1965 YrBl, 4-20-07
- 5 Lavina Court, \$782,500, 3 Bdrms, 1225 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 4-17-07
- 88 Lombardy Lane, \$1,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 2647 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 4-24-07
- 570 Orinda Woods Drive, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2980 SqFt, 2005 YrBl, 4-17-07
- 31 Sandy Court, \$1,795,000, 4 Bdrms, 3345 SqFt, 2005 YrBl, 4-18-07
- 7 Sunrise Hill Road, \$200,000, 4-18-07
- 28 Tara Road, \$925,000, 3 Bdrms, 2112 SqFt, 1965 YrBl, 4-19-07



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Cinderella is in the House!

By Lee Borrowman

Fifty-five 4th and 5th grade actors and a tech crew of twelve. Two full casts. And two missing glass slippers!

Hot on the heels of Glorietta's glorious production of "Hello, Dolly!" OUSD's Ron Pickett and the students of Wagner Ranch will present Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" the first weekend in June. The performers have been rehearsing weekly since January for what promises to be a fairy tale success story!

Pickett says, "This is a long standing tradition at Wagner Ranch. 'Cinderella' was preceded by favorites like 'The Wizard of Oz',

'Peter Pan', 'The Music Man', 'My Fair Lady,' 'The Sound of Music' and 'HONK!' We feel it is important to give the students the opportunity to experience 'the real process' of participating in a musical."

Putting on an elementary school play of such proportion can present challenges for the director, parent producers and many other volunteers, but there are valuable lessons young actors can learn during the production of a show. In addition to singing, acting and dancing, Pickett explains, "Children learn to work together as a team, set and meet goals, and articulate

clearly. These are all qualities that will help them be successful." The children have a lot of fun, and performing has another benefit: "It nurtures a strong confidence in their abilities. Confidence brings that overall happy feeling!" says Pickett. **Shows are June 1, at 4:00 and 7:30, and June 2, at 3:00 and 7:00. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children and \$10 for reserved seats.**

See the Wagner Ranch website for details: <http://www.orinda.k12.ca.us/wagnerranch/Default.aspx?Page=Play>



Sophia Leksan displays a Darfur photo Photo by Lee Borrowman

JM Student Learns a Different Sort of Lesson

By Lee Borrowman

"I have a story for you," read the subject line of an email from JM Principal Catherine Mikes.

Although nobody knew it at the time, the prelude to the story Mikes wanted to tell was in these pages on April 4. It was an article about Respect All Differences (RAD) Week at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate, and a special presentation at the end of the week by members of the Campolino chapter of Students Take Action Now on Darfur (Campo STAND) which was, for many JM students, their first introduction to Darfur and to the word 'genocide.' In the audience that day sat 6th grader Sophia Leksan. Not long after the RAD events Sophia came to Mikes, bound and determined to help the children of Darfur.

"When she first came to me," said Mikes, "she was so genuine and passionate about her cause." Sophia later explained that, "Most of the (displaced) victims in Darfur are children under the age of five." She lowered her head and stared glumly at the table in front of her as she noted, "All those people are being killed just because of the color of their skin."

Sophia asked Mikes if she could set up a table at JM's Spring Fling/Open House on April 26, to inform people about the conditions in Darfur and raise funds to help the children. Mikes was impressed, and agreed to the plan. "She worked hard to pull it together. Her determination and heart have really impressed me for an eleven year old girl."

Sophia did a lot of internet research to prepare for the event, and partnered with Campo STAND which provided her with images from its slideshow and other supplies. JM teacher and RAD coordinator Patti Forster said, "In all my years working on RAD, I don't remember any JM student ever being inspired to take up a cause, and to go out and raise money for it, on their own, without a teacher as the guiding force." With the help of friends, Sophia raised \$175.52 at the event.

Sophia is now looking forward to a summer beach vacation with her family, but she will

not soon forget her experience this spring. "It doesn't matter how old you are or where you live. You can still help people who are in other places," says Sophia. She hopes that students at other schools will take up the cause: "You might be small, but you can make a big difference."

Catherine Mikes praised Anna Schoenbrunner and Katie Holmes for being wonderful role models with the ability to inspire younger students to take action. Schoenbrunner, who established Campo STAND this past year, writes: "STAND is honored to learn that we have inspired someone to take a stance and get involved- especially at such a young and vulnerable age. Most people think that middle schoolers (don't) pay much attention to current events, but we have learned through our work that this is simply not true. With a little inspiration and encouragement (students like Sophia) will be the leaders of tomorrow." Campo STAND just donated \$2000, from its fundraising and tee-shirt sales, to Relief International. You can reach Campo STAND by email: campostand@hotmail.com. For more information on the national STAND organization, go to www.standnow.org. For Darfur donation information, www.savedarfur.org and www.ri.org.



Anna Schoenbrunner and Katie Holmes at JM's RAD event



Ron Pickett and friends in rehearsal

Miramonte Speakers Prevail

By Nee-Sa Lossing

The Miramonte High School Public Speaking team reached their sought-after goal once again, the state tournament. Thirty-one students spoke at the tournament, which Miramonte first attended in 1982.

The success of the team was spread among many categories of speech, all of which are practiced throughout the school year leading up to the event.

In International Extemporaneous, Michelle Chern was a semi-finalist, while Tony Wang placed seventh.

In National Extemporaneous, Maria Theophanous placed fourth and Alina Hasanain placed sixth.

In addition, Joseph Chen was a semi-finalist in Original Prose and Poetry, Alison Karol

was a semi-finalist in Oratorical Interpretation, Zoe Pehrson was a semi-finalist in Thematic Interpretation, and Meghan Radler was a semi-finalist in Original Oratory.

The Public Forum debate team of Emily Chesbrough and Elliot Olson competed in the semi-finals, and placed third in state.

All members of the Miramonte Congress, a group of students assembled to emulate governmental congress in competitions against other schools, advanced in the tournament. Hayley Andrews, Alia Fite and Pierre Thompson were semi-finalists, while Rajan Banerjee was a finalist. The highlight of Congress' success was Nico Kirk-Giannini, who was the state champion.

"These students worked so hard, and it means so much to them to even qualify for state," said Miramonte Public Speaking teacher Sandy Maguire. "I was proud of all thirty-one of them."

After Miramonte's triumphs at state, eight students will continue on to participate at the national tournament in June.

Students include Zak Dychtwald, Elise Washburn, Shawdee Rouhafza, Tony Wang, Alina Hasanain, Lucas Duplancic, Jordan Mushe, and Nico Kirk-Giannini.

Other recent achievements for Miramonte Public Speaking include service club competitions, in which the winners are awarded scholarship money. Nico Kirk-Giannini was the Northern California regional champion in Rotary's Four Way Speech Contest, and was awarded \$900. Zak Dychtwald, the state champion and a national quarter-finalist, was awarded \$1500.

For the tenth year in a row, Miramonte students will be performing at the Orinda Masonic Club, at an annual public speaking event. Students include Zak Dychtwald, Nico Kirk-Giannini, and Shawdee Rouhafza.

After many such accomplishments in past years, and the more recent ones at state, Miramonte Public Speaking teacher Sandy Maguire was honored at the school's annual Visual Performing Arts (VPA) showcase.

"As a coach of the program I was deeply honored to be recognized by the VPA organization," said Maguire.

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Winners Celebrate at Moraga Rotary Field Day Photo provided

Kids and Rotarians Come Out to Play!

By Lee Borrowman

In the fresh air and sunshine of last week, and with permission to run, jump and throw to their hearts' content, elementary school children in grades 3-5 from Camino Pablo, Los Perales, Rheem and Saklan Valley had a ball playing in the sun last week at Moraga Rotary's annual Field Day, held at Joaquin Moraga on May 9. And if the smiles on the faces of the Rotarians were any clue, there were some adults present who enjoyed the afternoon nearly as much as the kids.

According to Rotarian Al Simonsen, a record 194 students turned out for this year's event. The kids compete against others in the same grade and of the same gender, in events such as a sack race, 50-yard dash, softball throw, and the long jump; younger children do a standing long jump, older ones get to run and jump into a bed of off-raked sand. There are 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards given to the winners in each category, and ribbons for Participation for those who do not win, place or show.

"Students compete for themselves, their teachers and their schools," explains Simonsen. This year, Los Perales edged out Rheem for the High Participant Award, with 74 LP Panthers and 73 Rheem Roadrunners participating. Los Perales lost its long-held domination of the High Point School Award, as Camino Pablo came out on top by one point, 89-88 (five points are

awarded to the winner of an event, three points for 2nd and one point for 3rd place). The High Point Class was Mrs. Fallon's 4th grade CP class, with 47 total points. The High Point Girl, who won the same award last year as a 3rd grader, was Bridget Coleman who is now in 4th grade at CP, and the High Point Boy was Parker Lothamer, a Rheem 4th grader.

A long-standing tradition in Moraga and Orinda (Orinda Rotary held its event on May 12), Rotary Field Day is both "an opportunity to give back to our community, and gives us a way to stay connected to the kids," said Rotarian Bill Foley. "And it gives me a reason to take off work for an afternoon!" continued Foley, whose day job is being Chief of the Dept. of Public Safety at St. Mary's College. "Kids come back each year until they go on to middle-school. It's not so much about the competi-

tion, it's about doing your best." Foley says he still has a 2nd place medal won at a Rotary Field Day when he was in 4th grade at Del Rey (presumably this was more than a few years ago).

There was a respectable level of athleticism on display. Some of the boys seemed to fly through the air at the (running) long jump, and 50-yard dashers whizzed past in a blur, some with pony tails flying. Both boys and girls drilled softballs through hanging tires. Gabriela Diaz-Valdes, who took 1st place in the 3rd grade girls standing long jump, said, "I can't stop to talk now, they're going to start the next race without me!" Her enthusiasm was echoed across the JM school field all afternoon.

There was an abundance of energy at the event as well. "The girls are pretty good, they keep themselves organized" said Foley, who was stationed at the standing long jump and surrounded by kids clamoring for their scores and jockeying for position. Then he laughed, "But you should have seen the 3rd grade boys! It was like herding butterflies without a net!"



Gabriela Diaz-Valdes (CP), Sarah Day (Saklan) and Danielle Norris (LP)



5th grade girls 50 yard dash Photos by Lee Borrowman



4-H Fashion Fiesta 2007

By Megan Langner, Lamorinda 4-H

On April 28th, 2007, members of the Contra Costa County 4-H came together for their county-wide event, Fashion Revue and Food Fiesta, at Stanley Middle School in Lafayette. 4-H members of all ages participated in this special event to showcase their skills in sewing and food making.

For the fashion portion, girls brought clothes they purchased, recycled, or made themselves to model in front of a team of judges. Outfits were judged in categories according to age and experience of the 4-H member.

During the time garments were being evaluated, so was

the food! The theme was Cinco de Mayo and many members participated in preparing delicious food and creating wonderful table settings for the judges to evaluate. There was a lunch break after items were displayed for judging, and the all judges came together to decide rankings and prizes.

After lunch, all the models put on a fashion show for the participants of the food fiesta, the judges, volunteers, family and friends. The members of the sewing portion showed off their outfits on stage while the crowd got to learn a little bit about the model from the announcer. The stage was set up

What's Cooking at Lamorinda 4-H?

4-H New Member Meeting - May 22, 7pm

Springhill Elementary School Library
Are you interested in joining 4-H? Do you want to more about the Lamorinda 4-H program? Please join us for an informational meeting on May 22nd at 7pm in the Springhill Elementary School library.

Fashionable 4-H members Heather Chan, Megan Langner, Emma Butler, Madison Gibson, Jennifer Chan and Amelia Curry Photo by Lee Borrowman

in a fiesta theme with flowers and a path to accommodate the celebration. The crowd took many pictures and cheered, especially during the award receiving. All the girls were recognized with an award and gift, purchased by donations. The overall first prize winner received a sewing machine for her fabulous effort! The cooks and bakers also received awards for their efforts.

Refreshments followed the awards ceremony with viewers and participants getting to taste the foods made for Food Fiesta.

ORINDA ACADEMY STUDENT WINS AWARD

ORINDA ACADEMY PRESS RELEASE
Orinda Academy 9th grader Zeke Nierenberg, a founding member of a teen organization called Future Builders, was recently recognized in the East Bay Express for putting on the 'Best Benefit Concert Series' of the year in the entire East Bay. Unwilling to inherit the earth in whatever shape it's left, Zeke and his co-Future Builders have channeled their passion for music into a series of benefit concerts designed to raise

awareness of a number of environmental and humanitarian organizations. The lead guitarist for the band Duct Tape Maffia, Zeke is coordinating the Future Builder's next benefit Sunday, May 27th, at Blake's in Berkeley. All proceeds from this benefit will go to the UCSF Cancer Care Center in honor of fellow Orinda Academy student Chris Hansen, who is currently battling cancer. Zeke and Future Builders have also

produced a benefit cd. For more info, go to www.future-builders.org



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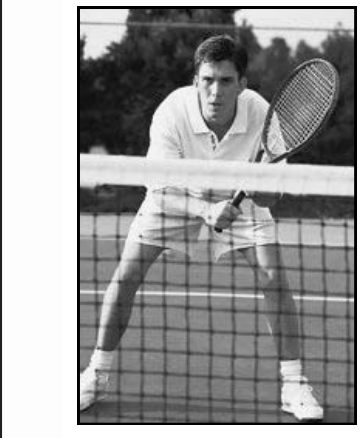
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End of the Year Gifts – PTA Projects – Grandparents Gifts: The Little Author has it All

By Sophie Braccini

This year, every room parent can easily get a great end-of-the-year gift for their favorite teacher: A book in which original pieces of work from every student, such as drawings, writing or collage, are printed and bound to last. The company offering this service is The Little Author. They scan the artwork, you decide on the lay out: first the dedication, second each of the 24 pages, with text (more can be added), and finally the "about the authors" page with class picture.

The Little Author is an Orinda company that was created in 2005. It all started when Maxton and Sharon Beck's children began to ask about their art: "What will we do with it Mommy? Could it be in a book?" Maxton, a broker of Municipal Bonds and artist during his free time, designed the project with his wife to make their children's dream come true. It has been growing steadily since and has attracted

a lot of attention lately with an appearance on ABC and reviews in Diablo Magazine. The couple is constantly working on improving the web site (<http://thelittleauthor.com/>) so the process is easy. They want to make it extra simple for school fundraisers: All you have to do is inform the parents and they will get a special code to include their child's art in the group project. "This is perfect for auctions and end-of-the-year gifts" says Sharon, who had been working with the Orinda school that her children attend. 15% of the proceeds come back to PTAs. "It brings tears to parents' eyes when they see their children's art in a book" adds Maxton.

Of course, this technique can be of great service for families too. All of us have a large box in a garage closet where the art work that our kids have been producing for years is stored. Sometimes we keep it because it made them so proud, some-

times we keep it because these pieces are the expression of a real emotion, of a special moment or highlights their unique talent and we just can't do away with it. Will we let them disintegrate in their box, will we throw it away when the kids leave the nest? Now, you can create books (or note cards) from those masterpieces.

If your child writes stories and illustrate them, this will work beautifully; if you want to make a grand-parent gift with pieces from all of their grandchildren, that will work as well. You can do a book per year, a "best of"... your imagination and your children's creativity is the limit.

The cost of the hard cover, 24-page book is \$68, and a soft cover book is \$45. You can order 10 note cards with envelopes for \$15. This is not inexpensive, but we live in communities where 4th graders get cell-phones and middle-schoolers will not be happy if theirs is not the latest technology. At least, we can keep these books, share them later with the next generation and won't have to keep all those drawings stuck on the fridge until they drop.



Local Soldier in Baghdad

By Cathy Tyson

While the average Lamorindan is watching the war play out on television from the comfort of their home, one area young man is serving his country as an Army Ranger.

Kyle Soler, a graduate of Campolindo High School, class of '01 is in Iraq, bravely defending the country. After Campo, he attended and graduated from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. I "spoke" to him via e-mail while he was home on leave for the first time in 7 months. His parents Pat and Jeff Soler say they may get a call only once a month because of the intermittent phone service, e-mail is mostly unavailable because the land-lines go down frequently and there are usually long lines when it is available at his base. They are able to keep track of his unit stationed at Forward Operating Base Falcon, just outside of Baghdad with Dept. of Defense automated press releases that identify casualties. "I think any parent is concerned about their child, but when you have a son serving in the military in a time of war, those concerns are multiplied, I am definitely aware of the danger," says Pat Soler.

Kyle has been hit by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and has lost 19 of 31 close friends in a 6-month timespan. "Bad things happen to good people," Mrs. Soler reflects on lessons learned the hard way by her son. Despite all of the hardships he's endured, Kyle signed up for another 2-year term after his current stint of 5 years and 19 weeks is complete. In his own words, Kyle Soler:

Why did you enlist?

Simple roots are back to 9/11 and thinking that there was always more that someone

should do. But I was a freshman in college when 9/11 happened and I completed my degree and enlisted nearly the next day. It came down to here I was in control of my life and around me people were still dying in a far off country. I figured that it was time to stop thinking that other people should do something, and go out there and do it myself - and maybe along the way bring back some of our men safely.

What do you do on an average day?

Our days vary in length and work. Often we run one mission a day whether it be at night or during the afternoon. We wake up, grab our gear and head down to the trucks. Receive our briefing on the drive to our patrol base and leave the FOB (Forward Operating Base). Whereas a lot of other units spend most of their time patrolling in vehicles, we just go to our patrol base then start our actual missions on foot. We tend to walk anywhere from four to fifteen kilometers before we arrive at our objective. Some days we are meeting with locals and trying to slowly build their trust in us, and other days we are detaining suspected insurgents or searching for weapons caches. Either way as the temperature gets higher it makes for long hot days, with the ever-present shadow of danger. (Up to 120 degrees.)

Where are you stationed?

I'm stationed out of Ft. Richardson, Alaska. I am part of the 4th brigade, 25th Infantry Division, an airborne Brigade Combat Team that stood up in October of '05. When I return to Iraq, I will be at FOB Falcon.

Do you get homesick?

We all get homesick in our own ways. I am very close to my family and we send letters



Kyle Soler Campo Class of 2001

and I try to call at least once a month when I'm over there, if simply to hear a welcomed voice. It's hard to grasp though just how strong of a family the men you work with over there create for each other. They really are like brothers to you, so it helps a lot.

What do you do on leave?

On leave I've done everything and nothing. I've been able to just sit quietly or go for walks and 'decompress' everything over the last 7 months. I've also traveled throughout the East Bay and will be heading up to Oregon for a week. You just want to see family and friends but you don't want to feel obligations on you because that's all that you've been dealing with is stressful obligations for the past seven months.

Jeff and Pat said a final farewell to Kyle at the airport last weekend, as he headed back to Baghdad. The Transportation Security Administration (and airlines) have loosened their rules and now allow families to say goodbye at the gate, rather than curbside. Pat: "Just sitting next to him, waiting for the airline to call his group to board was fantastic, but sad as well. Just being able to touch him, words aren't necessary, meant a lot to me. It was at least a three-hankie goodbye, but he only saw a few tears. And yes, it was a long, lonely ride home."

Tech-Savvy Echo Boomers Change Campus Life

By Jennifer Wake

Know how to text-message or ever chat on Facebook? If so, consider yourself tech-savvy.

If you have done these things simultaneously, however, while listening to your iPod and uploading digital photos to MySpace, you are likely part of Generation Y, also known as "Echo Boomers," born in the 1980s and early 1990s. They are the quintessential "multitaskers" who are now filling college dorm rooms and changing the way colleges teach.

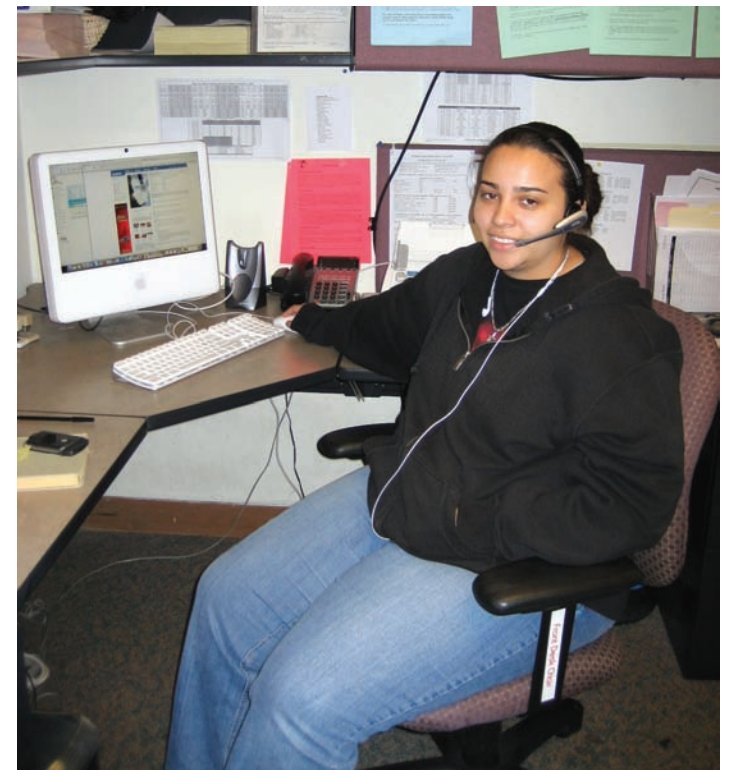
Saint Mary's is keeping pace with the demands of these students by offering podcast lectures, online chat-rooms, course-specific web-sites, and adding equipment such as robotic-mounted telescopes that give real-time video feed to astronomy labs.

The college president, Brother Ronald Gallagher, has a blog and people can download his speeches. Students can even IM (instant message) a research librarian.

"Young people take to this technology like fish to water," said Saint Mary's Events Technology Manager Rob Limon. Since coming to Saint Mary's last October, Limon has helped students develop podcasts and blogs of their experiences during travel courses, outfitted students with digital cameras and Macs, and trained them how to use Final Cut Pro to produce videos that can be viewed online. He has also worked with students and faculty, using his media production equipment, to create innovative films and commercials to enhance course work.

"[Students] wanted to share with the community their efforts to rebuild the Bayou in January. Creating a video blog addressed their needs, so our SMC Technology department developed a media communication plan and trained the students in a digital media classroom, set up their blogger and YouTube accounts, and they were just off to the races," Limon said. "The whole concept of social networking through the Internet is really inspiring to me; you can really communicate to [students] in a different way that's relevant to them."

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, three out of four teenagers have gone online, and 93% of those ages 15 to 17 are computer users, spending the majority of time emailing, instant messaging and gaming. Researchers note that the lives of these Echo Boomers have been shaped by the Internet and the constant flood of new technologies available to them. Limon works with fac-



SMC student Stephanie Olanos multi-tasks regularly with iPod, phone, and computer. Photo by Jennifer Wake

ulty to find new ways to incorporate technology into the teaching environment. An Oakland resident who worked in Oakland schools for 15 years before coming to Saint Mary's, Limon also occasionally conducts workshops at K-12 schools with high risk students, incorporating technology into the mix to re-energize students about learning.

"You can really reach out to those students who aren't achieving in the standard academic sense," he said. "You'll see 'at risk' students hammering on keyboards, doing text messaging. They want it, they use it, they are fully expressive with it. We just need to find a way to leverage it."

Last month, Limon was approached by the college to help promote De La Salle Week, in honor of the college founder, Saint John Baptist de La Salle.

Once again, Limon found his thoughts jumping "out of the box."

"How do you teach youth? Communicate through Hip-Hop," he said. Utilizing the cutting-edge technology of YouTube, Limon helped three students coordinate and produce a Lasallian-themed rap song, "Mind Cultivation," and put it online (<http://youtube.com/watch?v=kEXAcpzac74>).

It was a huge success. "[Students] have linked up the rap song to their MySpace pages," he said.

Since the Saint Mary's residence halls on campus

are equipped with high-speed data connections to the Internet, a lot of students use Facebook to keep in touch with friends, send automated party announcements, and expand their network of friends, reaching hundreds. They can also access web-based technologies from asynchronous threaded discussion to web-based simulations and real-time web-based conferencing, all from their rooms.

The Hybrid MBA Program uses these technologies to reduce the amount of physical class time while maintaining a strong sense of continuous engagement. The MBA program gives students video iPods and uses real simple syndication (RSS); lectures can be uploaded directly from iTunes University.

"Anytime you plug in or turn on your computer or iTunes, it automatically downloads in the latest upload of the lecture," said Limon. "One of the professors said given the time constraints of the lecture, she'll do enhanced units on certain subjects [online], which allows her to present a new take or a couple of different takes so it enhances her normal lecture."

For now, the struggle is finding ways to access new technologies while working within the confines of a sometimes slower-moving institution. "It's a bit of Wild West out there right now," said Limon.

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SPORTS

LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Gaels Golf Success Continues with McRae Selection to NCAA

By Jennifer Wake

Saint Mary's junior Mike McRae will head to the Arizona State University's Karsten Golf Course on May 17 as one of six individuals selected to participate in the three-day NCAA 2007 Western Regional Golf Tournament. It marks the fourth straight year the Saint Mary's golf team will have a representative in the NCAA Championships.

McRae finished the 2006-07 season with a 72.6 stroke average, playing at par or better in 19 of the 33 rounds he competed in. Posting a top-20 finish in nine of 11 events this season, McRae also had five top-5 finishes and took home medalist honors at the USF Triumph at Pauma Valley in March, where Saint Mary's captured the title.

The Saint Mary's victory, played March 13 at the Pauma Valley Country Club outside of San Diego, was won with a one-over-par 283-290-280 performance. McRae shot rounds of 70-70-69 at the par-71, 7,077-yard Pauma Valley course. The score of 209 marked the lowest 54-hole score for McRae and the seventh lowest total in Saint Mary's history.

This season, McRae posted four rounds in the 60s, which included a career-low round of 67 in the final round of the Ogio-Pacific Coast Intercollegiate. Last year, the Salt Lake City native was named to the All-

West Coast Conference Team. He entered the final round of the West Coast Conference Championships tied for 10th, but shot 2-under par in the final round to move up to fourth.

Prior to McRae's selection to this year's NCAA Championship, Chad Cocco was selected as an individual in 2006, the SMC golf team earned an at large berth into the 2005 NCAA Western Regional, and Joe Lanza was selected as an individual in 2004.

In order to advance out of the Western Regional tournament, McRae will have to post one of the top two scores for a player not advancing with his team. The championship rounds will start on May 30 and the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club's Gold Course in Williamsburg, Va.



Mike McRae Photo by Rich Davi

Moraga Baseball Association

Moraga Baseball Association Pony Division

May 9
Martinez Sting 4, Moraga Mariners 2

Mariners highlights: Allen Smoot 1-for-1, 2 BB, RBI; Adam Newton 1-for-2, BB, RBI; Phillip Wright 1-for-2, BB, 2B, 6 IP (4 runs, 8 hits, no BB, 2 K's); Kevin Malley 1-for-2, BB; Scott Lyness 1 IP (no runs, 1 hit, 1 BB, 1 hit batter).

Moraga Cougars 6, Orinda Padres 3

Cougars highlights: Chris Roming and Peter Matthias combined for the W. Roming 1-for-2, 2B, RBI, 2 runs; Matthias 1-for-3, RBI, run; Daniel Brinckerhoff 1-for-3, RBI.

Bronco Division

May 12
A's 2, Dodgers 1

Dodgers highlights: Kurt Vergara 5 IP, 5 K's; Hunter Rosenbaum 1-for-3, run; Alex Mirante 1-for-3, 2B, RBI; Jason Hoffman 1-for-3. **Athletics highlights:** Spencer Nichols 1-3, 2B, run; Reid Shellenbach 1-for-3, 2B; John Erikson 1-for-3, RBI; Kevin Lyle 1-for-2, RBI; Keal Lucasey game-saving, diving catch in left field.

Moraga Nationals 3, Orinda Rivercats 1

Nationals highlights: JD Ratchford 5 IP, 4K's; Sam McAlpine 2 IP, 4K's, Save; Mason Windatt HR to deep center; Brandon Dolan 2-1B, 2 SB; JD Ratchford 1B, 2B.

May 10
Giants 8, Mariners 4

Giants highlights: Brian Pfaff, Kevin Baldwin, Nathaniel Armen and Josh DeLany hit safely in the game. Matthew Barry, Armen and DeLany combined for the pitching. **Mariners highlights:** Taylor Abbott, John Schmitz, Troy Westernoff and Robbie Kalish hit safely in the game. Schmitz, Westernoff and Kalish combined for the pitching.

Moraga A's 7, Orinda Giants 2

A's highlights: Ryan Gannett 2-for-3, 2 runs; Will Moran 1-for-2, BB; John Warrington 1-for-3, BB, run.

May 6
Dodgers 10, Giants 7

Dodgers highlights: Hunter Rosenbaum 2-for-2, Grand Slam HR, 2BB, 3 runs, 4 RBI; Matt Huckins 3-for-3, 4RBI, run; Jason Hofmann 1-for-2, BB, 4 SB's. **Giants highlights:** Ian Daniel 2-for-2, 2B, 2BB, 3 runs; Josh Delany 2-for-3; Jack Evans 2-for-3.

Moraga Nationals 5, Orinda Outlaws 6

Nationals highlights: Sam McAlpine 2B, 4 IP, (3 hits, 1 K); Conner Rosenbaum 2-1B, RBI, 2 SB, run; Alex Wicker 2B, 2 RBI.

May 5
Moraga Bears 8, Orinda Rivercats 4

Bears highlights: Brett Stephens 3 hits, run; Andy Grubbs 1 hit, run; Ryan Hooper 2 hits, RBI, run; Scott Singh 2 hits, RBI, run; Cody Kiriaze 2 hits, RBI, run; Phillip Rei 1 hit, RBI, run.

Mustang Division

May 12
Indians 6, Orioles 4

Indian Highlights: Scott Zurnacian 2-for-2, HR, BB, RBI, 3 SB, 2 runs; Jack Stephens 2-for-3, 2B, 3 RBI, 4 SB, 2 runs; Sean Qualls 3 SB, 2 runs. **Orioles Highlights:** Patrick Ratchford 2-for-2, 4 SB, RBI; Danielle Thomas 1-for-2, 2 SB, run; Sean Smith 1-for-2, 2SB, run; Ben Skinner 1-for-3, RBI.

Yankees 8, A's 7

Yankees highlights: Caleb Whalen 3 IP, 1 run, 4 K's, 2-for-4, 2 RBI; Kevin Lehman 2 IP, 0 runs, 3 K's, 2-for-3, 2 runs; Sean Pappa 2-for-3, 2-2B, 2 runs; John Adranly 2-for-3, 2 RBI. **A's highlights:** Zach Cole 3 IP, 0 runs, 0 hits, 6 K's; Nick Riddle 2-for-3, 2 RBI; Drew Faas 2-for-4; Cole Stevens 1-for-2.

May 9
Red Sox 5, Indians 4

Red Sox highlights: Scottie Smoot 3-for-3, 2-1B, 2 runs; Nicolas Fafoutis 3-for-3, 2B, 1B, 2 RBI; Jonathan Hughes 2-for-2, 1B, RBI, run. **Indians highlights:** Nick Fadelli 3-for-3, 2-1B, 2 RBI, run; Jack Stephens 2-for-2, 2-1B, 2 runs; Scott Zurnacian 2-for-3, 2B, run.

Rangers 12, A's 1

Rangers highlights: Tyler Bartis 3-for-3, 3B, 3 runs; Ryan Geisreiter 2-for-2, RBI, 2 runs; Michael Wright 1-for-2, run; Eric Dunning 2-for-3, 2 runs. **A's highlights:** Nick Riddle 1-for-1, run; Parker Lothamer 1-for-2; Andrew Willmore 1-for-2.

May 8
White Sox 8, Orioles 4

White Sox highlights: Conner McNally 2-for-3, 2B, SB, 2 runs, 3 IP (2H, 3 R, 5 K's); Jake Rider 2-for-3, 2B, 2 RBI, 2-SB, 1 run, 3 IP (3H, 1 R, 6 K's); Russell Bruck 2-for-3, 3-SB, 2 runs; Tiger Garcia 1-for-2, 3B, 2 runs. **Orioles highlights:** Ben Skinner 2-for-2, 4-SB, 2 runs; Sean Smith 1-for-2, 1 RBI, 4-SB, run; Marty Cunnane 1-for-2, 2-SB.



Paul Griessel receiving his award and Jim Hamm, the owner of the Grayson Woods Golf Course

Junior Golf Association

Lafayette Boy Earns One Of The Top Spots At Junior Golf Association of Northern California Tournament on May 5, 2007

Paul Griessel, age 8, shot 34 on 9 holes to tie for third place at the tournament held at Grayson Woods Golf Course in Pleasant Hill. He competed against 26 other boys in the 9 and under age group.

88 of the best junior golfers, both boys and girls, from all over the Bay Area and Sacramento came to participate in this tournament which is one of a series of four tournaments for junior golfers that Grayson Woods is holding this year.

Paul lives in Lafayette and is a second grader at Saklan Valley School in Moraga. He has taken golf lessons for several years.

High Scoring Game goes to the OBA Sluggers

Submitted by Eric Smith

In a nailbiter finish, the OBA Sluggers slipped past the Piedmont A's Sunday 5/6 at Del Rey field. The final score was 31-30 and was marked by strong hitting by both sides. In the 1st inning both sides went through practically the whole lineup with strong hits by Stephen Schmidt, Carter Supple, Casey McGonnigal and Jack O' Melviney.

At the end of the first inning the score stood 9-5 Sluggers. The second inning was marked by another strong performance by the Sluggers with

hits by Markie Preston Jimmy Rickson, Sam Foss, and by the end of the end the Sluggers had pulled ahead 16 to 9. By the fourth inning the A's were closing the gap, and by the end of the fifth, the score stood at 25-24. At their last at-bats in the top of the six the Sluggers batted in six runs with strong help by Jake Hassard, Mikey Dakis and Emerson Smith. By the bottom of the six the score stood 31-24 and the A's made a valiant attempt to rally scoring six runs before outs were made on pitching pop flies by Jimmy Rickson and Stephen Schmidt to end the game at 31-30.

Press Release

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Gian David Panetta	2			TDLXK793TT578AK/Silver	
JD McPhee	2			TDPUK49433378AK	Silver Bronze
Michael Doucet	2			TDRLK553Y6578AK	Gold Silver
Brandon Tokuyama	2			TDGBK99Y3TY77AK	Gold Gold
Joseph Tsuboi	2			TDPBK69535377AK	Gold Silver
Keith Geiger	1			RDPPK594XXX77AK	
Judy Kienle	2			TDPKX57T9Y77AK	
Danielle Schumacher	2			SDJAK696Y8Y77AK	Gold Silver
Nick Fleischman	3				Bronze Bronze
Gabby Mancheno	2				Gold Silver
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SPORTS

LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORTS NEWS



2007 Acalanes' Men's Tennis Season Overview

By Coach Brad Rieser
Courtesy of: Acalanes' Booster Club

After losing 15 senior members of the 18 players on the 2006 varsity squad, we knew this season's boys' tennis team was in for a challenging year. With 35 kids trying out for the 12-15 open varsity spots, the pre-season tournament was very competitive to determine who would make the varsity team. Many matches had to be played to provide a fair chance for all, and, as such, we entered into the first of our 19-game season against Campolindo without any official team practice or decision on what our doubles line up would be. We lost that one and continued to experiment a bit as the season rolled along, playing many challenge matches and trying various doubles combinations to achieve the strongest roster possible. Unbelievably, due to our match schedule and a bit of untimely rain, the squad had its first real team practice just before the second half of the sea-

son began! Yet, despite these challenges, the team proved to be incredibly deep and we defeated all but the three strongest teams in the 10-team league, eventually tying with Las Lomas for fourth place in the DFAL, with a winning league record of 10-8, 11-8 overall, which included two tough 5-4 losses that came down to the last individual match and could have gone either way.

In the season ending DFAL tournament, we placed 11 individuals in the tourney with the doubles team of Evan Kline and Jarret Nelson, both of whom mostly played singles all season, were the second seeded team and advanced admirably to the semifinals. Our other players in the event (Aaron Boltz, John Grimes, Sam Behbehani in singles, Alex Henze, David Fisher, team captain Yoonho Ji, Blake Padua, Jay Yarlagada, and Jason Cheung in doubles)

performed well but got tough draws, dropping their matches to seeded players/teams in the early rounds. Nevertheless, all had fun trying and valued the learning experience.

The 2007 boys varsity tennis team will be remembered as a team with a new bunch of diverse players that showed tremendous depth and a real passion to compete, surpassing all expectations to achieve a very respectable winning record that could easily have been even better. Already, the team is looking forward to next season, returning all varsity players except two terrific seniors, Sean Kersten and Jay Yarlagada, who teamed at #3 doubles to earn one of the top records in the league at their position and voted by the coaches All League Honorable Mention. Their fine play, sportsmanship, and team spirit will surely be missed.

Oakland Strokes Wins Big at Long Beach Invitational

By Jaime Zepeda

On April 28th and 29th, the Oakland Strokes squad went to the Long Beach Junior Regatta. The Junior Varsity and Varsity teams for the Women's and Men's teams faced resilient opponents from across California. The races were held at the Marine Stadium, which was originally constructed for the 1984 Olympics. The Strokes shined as if they were Olympians, with nine 1st places, six 2nd places, and four 3rd place medals. Lamorinda athletes have made Oakland Strokes their home, and they showcased their athletic skills at the event. In the Women's Varsity-8 team, Alzizah Koorji (Miramonte) at coxswain, Julie Jones (Acalanes) in the stroke seat, Jessica Cherry (Campolindo), and Pia Hauch (Bentley) represented Lamorinda high schools. For the

Women's Junior Varsity-8 and 3V-8, Brittany Beck (Miramonte), Molly Castles (Bentley), Beth Goodwin (Miramonte), and Kendall Sandy (Miramonte) gave the strokes two 1st place finishes.

On the Men's side, the Varsity team gave Oakland Strokes two solid 2nd place medals. Thanks to the great effort by Alex Topacio (Campolindo) at coxswain, Garret Bell (Los Lomas) at stroke seat, Max Farrell (Bentley), Nathan Carbajal (De La Salle), James Lenczowski (Miramonte), Cole Williams (Campolindo), and Brent Watson (Miramonte) at bow, the Strokes barely missed 1st place two times. The Junior Varsity team faired equally well, with a 2nd place finish of their own. Alex Topacio (Campolindo), Garrett Bell (Los Lomas), Max Farrell

(Bentley), Nathan Carbajal (De La Salle), Evan Bontemps (Miramonte), Jason Luecker (Campolindo), Brent Watson (Miramonte), and Robert Chan (Miramonte), made notable contributions. Women's Novice and Frosh earned three 1st place medals, thanks in part to Dara Dickson (Acalanes), Dana Walsh (Miramonte), Kelly Bauer (Miramonte), Claire Grover (Miramonte), Piper Akol (Miramonte), and Nikki Dahlberg-Seeth (Miramonte). On the Men's side, Novice and Frosh earned one 1st place and two 3rd place medals. Notable contributions came from Daniel Migdale (Miramonte), Michael Schier (Miramonte), and Billy Deskin (Campolindo). For more information, visit the www.oaklandstrokes.org

Heads Up, Lamorinda Players, Coaches, and Fans
We want your game scores, highlights, and photos.
Please send your game reports, including player names and digital photos to
sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com.

Hairy Horse Show

Submitted by Mara Constantin

The Moraga Junior Horsemen's Association is an organization that has been around since the '50s, and this year's annual Hairy Horse Show is May 19 starting at 9! It's "hairy" because the show is traditionally one of the first of the season and takes place before all the horses loose their winter coats. This is a very fun event for the whole family and better than ever - this year the show is to benefit Orinda's Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center. All ages participate in the show as well as watch the

skills of the riders and their beautiful horses in a gorgeous setting. There is a good variety of food available throughout the day including a scrumptious barbecue. Both the English and Western riding styles are represented at the show with the classes including showmanship at halter, equitation, pleasure, fences, lead line, and trail. This year's judge is Debbie Butler. The arena is at 423 Canyon Road - just follow Moraga Road to Canyon Road and volunteers will direct you to parking. Don't miss this

long-held, fun, and festive event! Contact MJHA president Jane Jewett at 377-7537 for entry forms and more information.



Karen Garcia and her pony Phoebe did well at last year's event

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SPORTS

LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORTS NEWS



Team Extreme: Lamorinda Girls' Lacrosse

By Gavin Schlissel

Lacrosse is a veritable phenomenon which as shaken the core of the Lamorinda area. Currently fielding 13 teams of players in grades 2-8, the Lamorinda Lacrosse club has become a pillar of springtime athletics.

One Lamorinda Lacrosse team rises above the rest: the Lamorinda girls 7th-8th grade A team: The Lamorinda Extreme. And the team is just that.

The Extreme have brought the club to the forefront of Easy Bay lacrosse.

Lacrosse is organized first on the district level, and then on the regional level. Currently, the Extreme is ranked first on both. With an undefeated regular season record of 12-0, the Extreme make quick work of any would be rivals.

They have steamrolled powerhouse teams such as the San Ramon Scorpions, and the Pleasanton Cyclone.

In a recent 11-4 decision

against the Grizzlies of Ross Valley in Marin County, Lamorinda girls showed their prowess and domination. Under the leadership of senior players like Alexandra Seclow, starting midfielder from Orinda Intermediate, and Madeline Schlissel, starting 1st home of Joaquin Moraga, the Extreme were able to uphold their perfect record and officially send the Ross Valley team home packing.

The game began with a 4-0 run by the Extreme to put Lamorinda in control of the tempo. At the conclusion of the first half of play, Lamorinda led by a score of 7-1, Sumner Van Brunt the lone scorer for Ross Valley.

In the opening minutes of the second half, the Grizzlies appeared ready to claim control of the tempo and the game. With two unanswered goals by Grizzlies Kathrine Findlay and Noelle Ruane, the Extreme

were forced to dial back up the intensity and reclaim their victory.

The game ended with three consecutive goals by Lamorinda to make the final score 11-4.

But the box score fails to tell the story of the game. Lamorinda, though they clearly matched or exceeded the skills of the Ross Valley team, won with strength of bench against the Grizzlies, who fielded no substitutes. Forced to play every minute, Ross Valley was unable to fend off the onslaught of Extremists.

"It wasn't like a victory where one team just wins," explains Schlissel, "I was one of those victories you have to work for. We won the game because we won the ground balls. We really out-hustled them." Schlissel finished the Ross Valley game with two goals and two assists.

Stanford fights to a 6-1 record

Contributed by Mark Zembsch

Stanford and USC, in first and third place respectively atop the standings in 6th-8th grade LMYA softball, thrilled the crowd at Stanley Middle School on May 12 in a game highlighted by outstanding plays on defense and aggressive long-ball hitting by both teams. Stanford's dominating pitching in the early-going provided the difference, however, as Stanford won 16-10. Stanford improved to 6-1 for the season, and USC moved to 4-3-1.

The story of the game was Stanford's pitching and defense -- critical to building an insurmountable 12-0 lead after five innings. Stanford's pitching was led by starter Rachel Kelley's three shutout innings, earning Kelley her third win of the season. Rebecca Crisp held USC scoreless in the fourth and fifth innings by striking out five.

Crisp preserved the shutout through five innings by stranding USC's Kat Mathis at third, after Mathis' long triple. Stanford again enjoyed contributions on offense from all 11 players, led by Siena Del Ponte's two long home runs (matching the feat established by teammate Emily Streeter in the first game of the season). Stanford's Crisp was outstanding on the bases, scampering

home four times.

Besides Del Ponte's power surge, Stanford's Emily Streeter hit for extra bases twice, and Crisp also doubled. Stanford's defense was nearly flawless, again led by Kayla Wiggins, who made a thrilling outfield catch of one of the longest-hit balls of the season, off the bat of USC's Mathis.

Grace Lovell led USC with three base hits; Kat Mathis and Natalie Deskin each slugged an extra base hit deep into an outfield gap. Jessie Kathan also contributed with two base hits and two runs scored. USC turned in several key plays on defense as well, led by Mathis' command behind the plate, Kathan's snag of a line drive at third base, and Deskin's solid play at short.

The May 12 game followed one of the best-played games of the season between the two rivals on Cinco de Mayo at la escuela de Joaquin Moraga. Both teams provided numerous thrilling pitcher-batter duels, heads-up base-running and outstanding defensive performances on that May 5 morning, with Stanford winning 15-10.

Stanford enjoyed great pitching from starter Rachel Kelley (earning her second win of the season), Rebecca Crisp (striking out six in her two in-

nings of work), and Ashley Heim (picking up the key save). Stanford's offense continued to be well-balanced, as all 10 players scored at least one run each.

Stanford's 15-run attack was led by Emily Streeter and Rikki Starks, who clubbed key extra-base hits; Karen Ranstrom, Emma Harris and Joelle Alley reached base multiple times and scored two runs each. Stanford, which has benefited by great defense all season, seemingly ended each inning with a breath-taking "web gem," highlighted by Kayla Wiggins' two outstanding catches, and Tela Zembsch's sterling glove work at second base.

UCLA's 10-run offense was led by Maile Hoyt (two doubles), Sarah Reynolds (two hits and three runs scored), Kalena Alva (two hits and two runs scored). UCLA pitcher Natalie Goepel impressed with her dominating three strike-out performance against the three batters she faced.

The season will be decided on June 2, with four games each remaining for Stanford and UCLA, and with third place USC continuing its charge in the second half of the season.

Miramonte Swim Club Registration Open

Submitted by Erica Zeidenberg

Miramonte Swim Club registration is ongoing and practices are starting on May 14. Miramonte is the only public community swim team and has a long history since our start in 1957. We swim at Miramonte High School's pool, certainly one of the best pools in the area. Because of the excellent facility and the intimacy of our team, we give our swimmers more pool time and more opportunities to swim in meets. Our community-based culture

fosters character-building and leadership, with many of our coaches coming up from the team ranks.

We are also friendly to working parents and kids who may want to do other summer programs because Miramonte Swim Club offers both morning AND late afternoon practice sessions. As part of our social team building we provide bowling nights, dinners, barbecues and other activities to encourage friendship among the team. Check the

team website for sign up information and forms, www.MSCswim.org. Contact Kenny Tsuboi at 377-7133 if you have questions.



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Staff writers Steve Angelides and Cathy Tyson at the Moraga Art, Wine and Merchants Fair

SHOP MORAGA FIRST

Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of Moraga

The Shop Moraga First campaign was kicked off with a bang at the Art, Wine and Merchants Fair held on May 5 during Moraga Beautiful Week. "It was a wonderful community-building event," said Edy Schwartz. "Business owners and residents had a chance to meet and get to know each other. Consumers discovered businesses that they didn't know were here, and shop owners really appreciated the chance to connect with the community."

The result of two months of planning by a dedicated group of retailers and residents, the Fair featured 37 merchants, fine art and photography from local artists, wine from local vintners and a chance to meet your

favorite Lamorinda Weekly reporters! Attendance was estimated at about 800.

Shop Moraga First organizers hope to encourage residents to ask themselves, "Can I buy it in Moraga?" If you can, why wouldn't you? By shopping in Moraga for the things you can get here, before going outside, tax dollars will be kept in town. If everyone spent just 10% more a year in Moraga, that would make a big difference. We would be supporting our town, supporting the businesses who in turn give back to our community, and even reduce traffic, air pollution and wear and tear on our cars if we did a bit more of our shopping closer to home.

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