Volume 01: Issue 09

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Wednesday, June 13, 2007



Mission Accomplished:

Acalanes Captures NCS Baseball Title

By Kevin D. Shallat

The Acalanes Dons' baseball team made it all the way to the championship game of the North Coast Section (NCS) playoffs, facing off against the Albany Cougars on Saturday, June 2, at James Logan High School in Union City. After losing only one game the entire season, it all came down to this one game for the NCS title. The No. 1 seed Dons completed their mission by beating the Cougars handedly, 16-3.

Although Albany had just scored eight runs against St. Mary's, and 16 runs against Piedmont in the previous NCS rounds, the Dons' starting pitcher Mike Guglielmo pitched a terrific game Saturday, holding the Cougars to zero runs scored through five innings. Guglielmo's catcher, Mike Stone, said they tried to establish the breaking balls first.

While Guglielmo established his curveball and had excellent command of his fastball as well, the standout player in this title game was catcher Mike Stone. Stone did more than just call a great game behind the plate. While helping Guglielmo post five shutout innings, Stone managed to record eight RBIs – four of which came off his mammoth grand slam in the top of the second inning, which went over the fence in left field and caromed off the light pole and back onto the field.

"It was definitely an adrenaline rush," said Stone, who was looking for, and ex-

pected a fastball all the way. When the fastball came, he did not miss it.

Other players that stood out for Acalanes in this 17 hit, 16 run gauntlet included short-stop Ben Englehart, who reached base all five times he came to the plate and went one for three, with three runs and one RBI, and right fielder James Mathew, who went two for three, with a walk, three runs, and two RBIs.

Second baseman Joe Wallace went two for five, was hit by a pitch, and scored four runs. Wallace also accomplished something not many people ever do: He won an NCS title in basketball as well as baseball. "It was awesome to be a part of both championships," Wallace said. He was also quick to show his

appreciation for his coaches. "It feels good to get it done for our coaches, because they put in a lot of work for us all year."

The happiest man on the field after the game was undoubtedly Acalanes coach Andy Tarpley. That is until Scott Emery and the rest of the team poured a bucket of ice water on him in celebration.

Tarpley said that he was "ecstatic" for the players and for the whole program. "I'm just proud of the fact that these players can look back on this, not just as an experience, but as a positive experience," Tarpley said. "They set out to achieve their goals, and they did. They achieved their destiny."

...more photos on page 15



The Moraga Police Dept. reports that it has issued 200 speeding tickets since May 1.

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A Conversation With

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Pete Nowicki

By Jonathan Goodwin, Guest Writer Chief Nowicki, tell us something about how things were 25 years ago when you started out with the Moraga Fire District.

It was a very interesting time to come into the fire service because firefighting as a professional discipline was just beginning to take form. Up until that time, for instance, the tests for fire fighters were things like you'd see in the penny arcade. They tested grip strength, the force of your hammer swing and things like that. But then there came all sorts of regulations, qualifications, certifications and standards which you had to be accountable for. As an example, safety standards for protective gear were just becoming adopted. So, the wooly pants were no longer acceptable gear in a fire and oxy-

Town news

School news

Life in Lamorinda

gen breathing apparatus was becoming required in smoky environments. In those days you'd see all these guys retiring with cancer and heart problems; I don't think we're going to see that so much any more...and that's a good thing.

In those days we didn't have anything like the technology we have today. Back then everything was manually driven, today almost everything is computerized: patient reports, EKGs, defibrillators, the pumping systems, the vehicle tracking systems and so on.

Since the job has shifted from blue collar to something closer to white, you must now be looking for different qualities in your new applicants.

...continued on page 13

LAMORINDA WEEKLY this week page 2, 3, 4 Restaurant Guide page 12 page 5, 6, 7,11 Sports news page 13-15 page 9, 10 Classified, Shop Orinda page 16

Colleges of Choice for Lamorinda Seniors By Cathy Tyson

Seniors from Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte have at this point, attended Senior Prom, made it through finals week, experienced graduation, and enjoyed the eight plus hour Grad night party. What next for the young men and women of Lamorinda? The vast majority, an average of just over 97%, of graduates from our three high schools go on to either a 4 or 2 year college. Many will stay in California, the three high schools average 24% attending one of the University of California campuses, and 18.6% attending a California State University.

See chart for a specific breakdown of who is going where. Roughly 2% are undecided or considering travel or a Gap year.

A number of students will be studying internationally, at Franklin College in Lugano, Switzerland, American University of Paris, three schools in Canada - McGill University, Malaspina College and University of British Co-

lumbia, EPCC in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Sun

Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou, China.

Gwenly Carrel, College/Career Center Advisor at Campolindo, reflects on the selection process. "It is absolutely more difficult to get into one of the UCs this year. As the number of students who apply goes up, the number accepted goes down. Last year at Campo, 33 students got into a UC, this year it's 22. The size and strength of the class along with external factors help determine choice.

...continued on page 10



From left, Terrence O'Neill, Tyler Carlson, Taylor Neason all graduates of Miramonte

7pm

Lafayette

Calendar

7pm City Council Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, June 25 Monday, July 19

Planning Comm. 7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, June 21 Thursday, July 5

Design Review 7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, June 26

Park, Trails, Rec. Community Center 500 St Mary's Road Wednesday, July 11

Circulation 7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, July 18

Emergency Prep. 9:15am City Offices 3675 Mt, Diablo Blvd. Suite 265 Wednesday, July 11

Senior Services 4pm Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, June 28

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 • upcomming events



Possession of Dangerous Drugs, 6/2/07 A Concord man was contacted while walking across a parking lot of an apartment complex on Second Avenue. He identified himself as on "searchable probation." Officer searched him and found white crystal like substance, thought to be methamphetamine.

Counterfeit Cash, 5/31/07 A 37 year old woman tried to pay for milk and alcohol with a counterfeit \$100 bill at the Orinda Safeway. She had two fake \$100's on her person.

Phone Harassment, 6/2/07 Female Acalanes student received 11 text messages of a sexual nature, she was unsure if a fellow Acalanes student sent the messages. The officer attempted to track the owner of the phone number of the sent messages, but couldn't locate. Officer left a message on the sender's

"Who's Watching You?"

Lafayette Crime Prevention Commission, along with the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission and Lafayette Police Department, are holding a Town Hall Meeting next Tuesday, June 19, from 7:00pm-8:30pm in the Manzanita Room at the Lafayette Community Center.

Bring your issues and ideas for discussion. Learn about neighborhood watch programs and CERT training. All residents of Lafayette are welcome.

Lamorinda Spirit Van **Needs Drivers**

The Lafayette Senior Transportation Program is looking for volunteer drivers for Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda seniors. The time commitment is only one day per week for four hours. Drivers are required to have a Class B drivers license; training for the license will be provided. If you are interested, please call the Senior Transportation Program at 283-3534.

Would Smaller Be Better?

Lafayette's Planning Commission Finds that You Can't Please all of the People, all of the Time By Andy Scheck

Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

There have been and prehere have been hearings, sentations, and yet the Planning Commission was unable to reach a consensus last week on the proposed multi-unit residential condominium project at 3235 Mt.

Although the design was reduced from an original 40 units to 28, contained within 2 stories over parking on 2 acres of land, the building still appears poised to be a massive structure in comparison to the single-family homes nearby.

Joe Bologna, architect with Hollman - Bologna, Architecture & Planning, Inc., Walnut Creek, presented the design changes along with an exhibition of maps, pictures, landscape studies and a model of the site. Design changes were incorporated to address concerns expressed by the Commission at an earlier hearing. Some architectural elements came out and the number of units was dramatically reduced. None of the Planning Commissioners was satisfied with the design changes and no one could put a finger on exactly what was expected or what further changes could be made in order for the Commission to reach an easy de-

The proposed development

would bring a multiple housing project into Lafayette, which is on the city's "to-do list." It is considered a Low Density Multiple-Family Residential construction at 14 dwelling units to the acre. The biggest struggle is that the zoning has to be changed from Single-Family to Planned Unit Development and objectors are concerned that this could lower the bar for other projects to come.

During the public hearing session, residents and the Homeowners Council voiced their concerns about the development. The main concerns are about the size of the building and the po-

the number of "home parties" or

tential impact on environmental, drainage, traffic and noise.

A visibility study illustrated how much of the development could be seen both immediately after construction and also after 10 years when the landscaping around the building has grown tall enough to shield much of the structure from direct view. Tom Chastain, a commissioner who likes the proposed underground parking, would prefer to make the development "invisible" because of its design and not because it will be hidden behind trees after some point. The redesign which reduced the number of units also eliminated a

standout roof section for penthouse units. It also increased the setbacks to some single-home properties. Not reduced was the number of underground parking

In an ambiguous conclusion about the new development, the Commission could not come up with reasonable improvements to the existing design that would satisfy both the Commission and the public. It is now up to City staff to come up with a recommendation, and up to the City Council to decide if some of the people will be pleased some of the time; should this additional housing be built, or not.

of private parties or gatherings where alcohol is consumed by minors."

The meat of the proposed ordinance:

A. No person may permit or host a party at his or her place of residence or other private property under his or her control where 2 or more unrelated persons under the age of 21 are present and alcoholic beverages are in the possession of, or are being consumed by any person under the age of 21 years of age.

B. A violation of subsection A of this section is a misdemeanor, punishable by Community Serv-

ice or Alcohol & Drug Education or fine of not more \$750 for the first offense, \$1,000 for the second offense and \$2,500 for the third offense, or by both such fine and Community Service/Alcohol Education Program.

C. The amount of the fine under this section is a debt owed to the city by the Person Responsible. The city may bring an action for collection of the debt. The debt bears interest at the rate of ten percent a year. Interest accrues from the due date stated on the billing. To view the petition go to http://www.gopetition.com/online/12467.html

"Lock-down" Parties a Thing of the Past? By Lee Borrowman

here's been a new on-line petition circulating through Lafayette over the past couple of weeks which asks residents to support a proposed Social Host Liability Ordinance that was presented to the City Council on May 29 by Lafayette resident Joan Grimes.

Social Host Liability Ordinances are laws that hold private individuals responsible for underage drinking events held on their property. Orinda currently has a similar ordinance in place, and that city is currently considering

their ordinance even stricter. The Lafayette City Council has not placed this proposed Ordinance on its agenda nor is this proposal currently under consideration by the Council. Should backers succeed in moving the proposal forward, it is expected that debate will arise around the issue of privacy rights in relation to restrictions on activities taking place on private property.

some changes that would make

Grimes says, "Lafayette, as well as many other communities, has seen an alarming increase in

"lock down" parties. For example, after the Junior Prom this year, 911 had to be called due to alcohol poisoning. These parties are commonly large gatherings of young people in a private home. While California law currently prohibits both the furnishing of alcohol to underage persons and youth on public property, state law does not prohibit youth possession or consumption on private property." Grimes would like the City of Lafayette to enact an ordinance "which would prohibit the hosting

Road Measure Fails; Up Next, Schools By Lee Borrowman

easure C, the proposed parcel tax which would have raised funds for the repair of Lafayette's worst roads, was narrowly defeated on June 5. The measure received 63% of the vote, but needed 66% to pass.

Mayor Carol Federighi expressed disappointment that the measure did not obtain the 2/3 majority required. "I was heartened that more than 6 out of 10 voters supported Measure C," she said. "But the need for road repairs remains, and the City simply doesn't have the funds to do the job." The City of Lafayette estimates that an additional \$24 million would be required to repair all of its failing roads.

"I was really impressed, however," Federighi continued,"with the wonderful campaign that was waged. The volunteers worked so hard to get out the message and garner the support." Over 100 residents had mobilized over the last several weeks to campaign

in favor of Measure C.

Measure D, on the other hand, passed with over 70% of the vote. A companion to Measure C, this advisory measure requested that the town continue its annual allocation of \$1 million in General Funds to road repairs should Measure C

Voters in Lafayette appear to want the City to continue fixing the roads, and are reluctant to pay for it themselves. Federighi concluded, "It's likely that our strongest support came from voters on the failed roads that are the most expensive to repair and rebuild. Many of our roads are (private or are) in pretty good shape thanks to our successful Road and Drain bond measure in 1995."

On the November ballot: As the city considers what the future of Lafayette road repairs might look like, the Lafayette School District is making plans to renew and increase, to between \$290-

\$315, the 1999 parcel tax

which supports local schools. The current tax, which expires next summer, is \$132.

Did you Know?

Of those who voted in the special election, nearly 71% of Lafayette voters and 77% of Orinda voters used absentee ballots in this election.

Lest you ever think your vote doesn't count, Orinda's Measure E and Lafayette's Measure C were both less than 170 votes away from obtaining the 66% majority required to pass (165 votes in Lafayette, 163 in Orinda).

In the three Contra Costa County communities that held special elections on June 5 (Lafayette, Orinda and Clayton), total voter turn-out was less than 42% of registered voters. Find the numbers at: http://cocovote.us/

Lafayette Strategy Meeting

How many residents does it take to form a strategy for downtown Lafayette? More than you think. The City Redevelopment Agency recently signed a contract with planning and urban design firm, Wallace, Roberts & Todd for \$507,000 to develop a plan to guide development in downtown Lafayette for the next 20 − 30 years.

Extensive community input is a vital part of the plan. To that end, a representative from 14 distinct groups will make up an Advisory Committee. Obviously the City Council and Design Review Commissions will have a representative, but also Parks and Recreation, Creeks Committee, Homeowners Council and others groups will an at-large resident representative. There is a public meeting of the Committee, which the public is welcome to attend on Thursday, June 14 at 7:00 at the City Offices, 3675 Mount Diablo Boulevard. On the agenda is prioritizing the Committee's expectations for the project, perceptions of key issues and more. The scope for work for Wal-

lace, Roberts & Todd is divided into three main phases, culminating in a Final Draft Strategy. Phase I is defining the issues and vision. Phase II encompasses exploring alternatives and comparing relative merits. Phase III is about preparing a strategy for the City with analysis of many distinct elements the most prominent being land use, urban design, transportation and circula-



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Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Moraga

Calendar

City Council 7:30pm Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo Wednesday, June 27 Planning Comm. 7:30pm Hacienda, La Sala Room

2100 Donald Drive Monday, June 18 Design Review 7:30pm Hacienda, La Sala Room

2100 Donald Drive

Monday, June 25 Fire Board 7pm Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way

Wednesday, June 20 Park & Rec 7:30pm Hacienda, Mosaic Room 2100 Donald Drive

Tuesday, June 19 Liaison 8:00am

1280 Moraga Way Friday, July 13

check online: Town of Moraga: http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us

- all meeting notes
- calendar updates



Underage Possession of Alcohol, 6/5/07 An officer drove through the parking lot of the 7 11 and saw three young men walking toward a dark colored SUV. One young man was carrying a large box of beer, and placed it in the back of the vehicle. He appeared to be under 21. When the officer asked for ID's, he noticed the driver's license of the person claiming to be 21, was fake. The alcohol was confiscated and citations were issues.

Student Beats Up St. Mary's Public Safety Officer (PSO) 6/6/07 A PSO wouldn't let a student leave his dorm room, a fight ensued. The suspect student broke free and fled on foot. A backpack was later found on campus containing 13.5 grams of suspected marijuana an electronic scale and an interim California Drivers license in the name of the sus-

Mom Busts LSD Seller, 6/2/07 A Moraga Mom called police department about the sale of alleged LSD to her 20 year old son. A specific individual was named as the suspected supplier to the son at a party on Rimer Drive in January of this year. The suspected supplier is known to the police. Further investigation will be undertaken.

Moraga Parks and Recreation Foundation presents:

2007 Free Summer **Concert Series**

Thursdays at the Moraga Commons Park 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 14 Rossmoor Big Band; Swing Thursday, June 21

Boothill; Country & Western Thursday, June 28

Dave Russell Band; Rock 'N Roll Wednesday, July 4 Independence Day Festivities

Larry Lynch & the Mob Thursday, July 12 Motor Dude Zydeco; Cajun

Thursday, July 19 Stone Soup; Rock 'N Roll Thursday, July 26

Mixed Nuts; Decades of Rock Thursday, August 2

littledog2; Rock 'N Roll Thursday, August 9

Juke Joint; Blues Thursday, August 16

Ventana; Latin Thursday, August 23 Celtic Heart; Irish

Design Board Studies Sign Ordinance By Steve Angelides

✓ oraga's Design Review Board held a study session on the Town's sign ordinance last month.

Town Planning Director Lori Salamak showed portions of an extensive lecture and slide presentation by a law professor on the legal aspects of sign ordinances. The main points of the presentation were that signs are important to a community, that their regulation should be content-neutral with objective standards which are easy to administer, that exceptions are risky, that the legibility of a sign off the premises is a useful criterion, that temporary signs should be limited and truly temporary, and that the objective of regulating signs is to achieve a proper balance.

The Board then heard public comments. Two merchants from the Rheem Center spoke. Dave Reynolds of Curves for Women spoke in favor of loosening the Town's restrictions on temporary signs and banners. George Quintero of the Rheem Valley Pet Shoppe spoke in favor of eliminating the requirement that neon "open" signs be six feet behind the window.

Community organizers Ellen Beans and Edy Schwartz reiterated Quinteros' concern about neon "open" signs. They said that during their visits with other merchants they had heard many similar complaints

Schwartz said that in Lafayette banners and temporary signs are very useful in

communicating important events to the community, and she would like to see that occurring in Moraga. Schwartz added that large stores have large signs, "but if we don't do something for the little people they're going to go out of business." "We don't want just the national chains," Schwartz emphasized.

Former Mayor Mike Majchrzak addressed the Board as a private citizen, providing some history of the Town's sign ordinance, and some personal opinions. He said the sign approval process needs to be simplified, that there should be more banners, that neon "open" signs are not very important, and that we need more advertising, because "sterile is not semi-rural."

Resident Mary Williams spoke in favor of Moraga's current sign ordinance, stating that Moraga generally has been an attractive place to live and that "overall Moraga's sign ordinance is excellent."

The three Design Review Board members present at the meeting, Dick Socolich, Gloria Nedell, and Christine Kuckuk then all expressed their opinions that as much as possible sign approvals should be handled administratively, rather than going through the Design Review Board.

Planning Commissioner Allen Sayles echoed those views. "I really feel sorry for businesses," Sayles added. "I would never own a business in this town. If you can't properly sign it, why be here?" Sayles exclaimed.

Hacienda Foundation Formed **By Steve Angelides**

argaret DePriester announced nounced the formation of the Hacienda Foundation of Moraga, Inc. last month. De-Priester, long-active in Moraga civic affairs, is serving as the new foundation's first presi-

DePriester said the sole purpose of the newly-formed foundation is the maintenance and renovation of the Hacienda De Las Flores, an historic Spanish-style estate owned by the Town of Moraga. The Hacienda houses some of the Town offices and is rented out for weddings and other special events. However the Town lacks sufficient resources to properly maintain and renovate the Hacienda.

Attorney George Juarez donated the legal work for the formation of the Hacienda Foundation. According to Juarez, the foundation grew out of the previous Hacienda committee.

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\$5000 for businesses are being accepted through the end of 2008. Charter donors will be permanently displayed on a plaque at the Hacienda.

DePriester said the foundation is planning its inaugural event in October. She said the purpose of the event will be to invite people who do not know about the Hacienda to see itand of course to make a contribution.

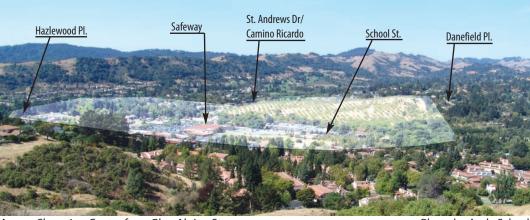
The Hacienda Foundation joins local philanthropic organizations the Moraga Park and Recreation Foundation. which raises funds to enhance local recreation programs, and the Moraga Education Foundation which raises funds to enhance local school pro-

Besides DePriester, the other officers and directors of the Hacienda Foundation are Judy Dinkle, Lonnie Treat, Ed Beatson, Jason Evans, John Haffner, Claire Roth, and Lily Wescott.

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Moraga Center EIR Will Study 720 New Dwelling Units By Steve Angelides



Moraga Shopping Center from Glen Alpine St.

Photo by Andy Scheck

he Moraga Town Council has directed the Town's staff to include up to 720 new dwelling units in the Moraga Center Specific Plan project description. This sets the stage for an environmental impact report (EIR) on the project and alternatives to it, which must be completed before the specific plan can be adopted.

Only alternatives included in the EIR can be included in the specific plan. Thus the project description effectively sets the upper limit on development that could be included in the specific plan.

The Moraga Center Specific Plan process has been underway since 2002, when the Town's General Plan, which requires specific plans for both the Moraga and Rheem center areas, was adopted. The Moraga Center area is roughly bounded by Danefield Place and Crossbrook Court on the North, Hazlewood Place and Sanders Drive on the South, Moraga Road and Country Club Drive on the East, and Camino Ricardo and St. Andrews Drive on the West.

The Council gave its directions on a 3 to 2 "straw vote", with Councilmembers Trotter and Bird, and Mayor Metcalf, in the majority, while Vice Mayor Deschambault and cilmember Chew dissented. The

main point of contention was how many new dwelling units to include in the project description.

The staff recommended up to 720 new dwelling units, based on a land use plan largely prepared by a planner retained by the Bruzzone family, the largest landowner in the specific plan area. The Council majority agreed with the staff recommendation, while also directing that alternatives of 566 units and 339 units be considered in the EIR. Deschambault preferred an upper limit of 339 units, while Chew was not prepared to give any directions to staff.

In addition to the new dwelling units, the project description will include 90,000 square feet of new retail space, 50,000 square feet of new office space, and a 30,000 square foot gymnasium and community center. The Council also directed the staff to add renovation of the existing Moraga Shopping Center to the project description.

Another point of contention, between Trotter and landowner Dave Bruzzone, was the location of the gym and community center facility. At Trotter's request, the Council majority designated the overflow parking area across from the Moraga Commons as "Alternative A" for that facility, and the site across from the Commons

where the Town marquee is located as "Alternative B". Bruzzone, who prefers the marquee site, called Trotter's designation "very pejorative."

Besides being an important step in a five year planning process, Planning Director Lori Salamack hopes the Council's directions will lead to the release of \$250,000 of road funds the Town needs to pay for repaving Camino Pablo this summer. The Contra Costa Transit Authority is holding those funds because of Moraga's lack of progress on affordable housing.

Salamack explained that at a density of 20 units per acre, the new dwelling units in the project description would automatically be considered affordable under state guidelines, regardless of their actual market price. Resident Lee Hayes, who works for a homebuilder, told the Council that 'you're not going to have a semi-rural community when you go 20 units per acre. You're going to have an Emeryville."

The Town's staff and consultants will now finalize the project description, begin drafting the specific plan, and prepare for the EIR. The next public step in that process will be a scoping session for the EIR, which is tentatively scheduled for September 4, 2007 before the Town's Planning Commission.

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Orinda

Lamorinda Community,

Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Calendar City Council 7pm Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Wednesday, June 19 Planning Comm.

Please refer to the June 26 Planning Commission Agenda for meeting location Tuesday, June 26

(rescheduled form June 12)

Public Safety Library May Room 26 Orinda Way Thursday, June 14 Historic Landmarks Garden Room, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way

Tuesday, June 26 8:30am Liaison Room 7, Community Center 26 Orinda Way Monday, July 2

check online: Town of Orinda: http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/

- all meeting notes
- calendar updates



Burglary at Beverages and More, 6/1/07 Two males wearing all black clothing entered the store at approximately 7:30 p.m., one asked to use the restroom. They allegedly stole 3 bottles of Dom Perignon, 2 bottles of Remy Martin and 1 bottle of Roederer Cristal, total value estimated at \$1014. Bev Mo employee ran into parking lot and flagged down a police car when he realized what happened. The suspects fled on foot. The store does not have a surveillance camera.

Young teen caught with marijuana for sale, 5/31/07 A 13vear old male student was caught selling marijuana at Orinda Intermediate School. He had 4 grams of marijuana and \$84 on him. He was released to the custody of his mother prior to police arriving at the school. The teen and his mother voluntarily made a statement admitting to selling \$40 worth of pot. A juvenile citation was issued.

Booze Burglary, 6/1/07 A 16 year old Miramonte student entered the Orinda Safeway and attempted to steal 2 bottles of Captain Morgan rum valued at \$34.00. He was released to the custody of his parents.

Walk. Run. Laugh. Remember. Submitted by Suzanne Tom

aley's 4th of July Run for a Reason is in its 3rd year and boy is it taking off! This year there are twice as many local sponsors who joined the commitment to raising awareness and money for the Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) program.

Haley's 4th of July Run for a Reason is a 5-mile Run or 2mile Family Walk that kicks off Orinda's 4th of July festivities. Hundreds of participants come early to support the SUDC program and walk in memory of Haley Tom, one of Orinda's own toddlers who died 7 years ago in her sleep at the age of 21 months. Since Haley was over 1 year, her death could not be considered SIDS. She belongs to a lesser known category SUDC that is a newly formed category for children over the age of 12 months.

In addition to the Haley's Run and Walk, there will also be a a Haley's 4th of July Run for a Reason Event Area by the Orinda Community Park tennis courts. There you will find Haley's 2nd Annual Silent Auction. Last year's Silent Auction raised almost \$3,300 in just a few hours! Home Depot will also be hosting their Kids' Workshop in honor of Haley. Kids can make their own wooden craft to take home - for free! Quenchers Smoothies will be selling yummy and refreshing smoothies and donating their proceeds to the SUDC program.

New this year will be a Memory Board located in Haley's event area. All bereaved parents and families are encouraged to bring a picture or write a message in memory of their child. Any loss of a child is tragic. Haley's 4th of July Run for a Reason would like to celebrate their lives along with Haley's short but amazing life. You can also pre-order a special

colored t-shirt in memory of your child. It will be waiting for you on the day of the event.

For the last two years, Haley's 4th of July Run for a Reason has raised more than \$40,000. Her event was one out of seven Run for a Reason events that took place across the country. But much more lies ahead. Haley's parents still do not know the cause of her death. Countless other parents share a similar struggle. We're asking everyone to come out and support this year's Haley's 4th of July Run for a Reason. You'll have fun, get some exercise, and take home a great t-shirt. You'll also personally contribute to a worthy and urgent cause.

For more information, please call Suzanne Tom at (925) 258-9097 or visit www.angelhaley.org. To find out more about the SUDC proplease www.sudc.org.

Free Popcorn At the Orinda Theater By Cathy Tyson



Haley's 4th of July Run for Reason 2006

Measure E. Goes Down to Defeat **By Chris Lavin**

rinda voters said "No" once again June 5 when the city asked them to approve a bond to fix the roads, drainage ditches and water pipes along much of the city's 92 miles of collapsing infrastructure.

The measure failed 4,031 to 2,323, a majority of 63.44 percent. It needed 66 percent to

The special election for Measure E had proved contentious, with those against approving \$59 million in bonds saying that city officials had made poor fiscal decisions in recent years - including building a deluxe new City Hall - and failing to require the fire district to pony up more funds. A similar measure also failed last November.

"I'm very disappointed in the outcome," said Mayor Steve

The failure at the ballot box leaves the city in a conundrum; less than \$1 million is allocated each year to road repairs, and a Citizen's Infrastructure Committee assigned with the task estimated Orinda needed as much as \$95 million to bring roads and pipes up to standard. Potholes proliferate throughout

residential roads, and some areas including along Moraga Way and Glorietta - are facing eroding substructure that, unless repaired soon, will cost many times what it would to repair now, Glazer said.

It appears that supporters of a bond measure, who responded so quickly to the bond's failure in November by immediately mounting a campaign for a special election, will take a break from a new attempt, for

"Maybe someday," Glazer said.

he Orinda Theater has free popcorn available Monday through Thursday as a way to entice moviegoers into the theater. Because of the historic artwork on the ceiling, they can't pop it in Orinda, however it's popped fresh daily and brought over from the Grand Lake Theater.

Owner Allen Michaan of Renaissance Rialto Theaters says, "The addition of 16 screens in Walnut Creek and 16 screens in Pleasant Hill has diluted the market place. This is the last old movie theater in the county, if it's not supported it can't survive."

To that end, Randy Holleschau, formerly of the Orinda Film Festival, is in the middle of negotiations regarding additional live entertainment events at the Theater. An agreement has not been finalized as yet.

A New Home for Orinda City Offices By Cathy Tyson



22 Irwin Way, New Orinda City Offices

Photo Tod Fierner

ood-bye trailers, hello 13,900 square feet of stunning, sustainably designed office space. "We are really excited. We haven't been able to provide the kind of services the public deserves in the trailers," says Kathy Polkinghorn, who has been working as Assistant City Manager since the project began back in 2005. For Lamorinda residents who needed their construction plans checked or to visit the Police department, for the last seven years, that meant a trip up Altarinda Road, duking it out for parking next to a number of police cars, then searching for the correct, dirt colored aging, cluttered

The City Manager compared construction costs to lease payments, and in the end, starting from scratch with construction of an efficient, functional building was preferred because the City would have an asset at the end of the day, rather than lease payments with nothing to show for it. The building will cost ten million dollars, financed by offering Certificates of Participation (COP) to investors who can buy COP in return for earned interest on the

The building is tentatively scheduled to open to the public in mid-June. The new City Administrative Building will be an impressive, green landmark chock full of the latest innovations in construction, ventilation, and site planning. Allsteel ergonomic chairs and shiny new desks await the many city employees who have been very patiently waiting for this upgrade. The building will house the City's Administrative, Planning, Building and Police Departments, and Emergency Operations Center. Located at 22 Irwin Way, behind the Library, the steep hillside and creek presented many challenges. "We're pleased that our solution not only saved

the creek and many trees, but also will leave a light ecological footprint," notes Henry Siegel of Siegel & Strain Architects.

The light-filled open loftstyle building is very welcoming, and visually striking. Special care was taken to fit the building to the site. "The building's envelope design, shape, and shading strategy take advantage of natural ventilation to eliminate energy intensive compressor cooling," continues Siegel.

From the two-tone cork flooring to the corrugated, angled metal ceiling, to the wheatboard, presto-log like desks you don't have to look far to see how the building was designed to be environmentally friendly. Nancy Malone, LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification specialist at Siegel and Strain, explains that the firm worked hard to make the building formaldehyde free. In addition, materials with no volatile organic compounds were used in the interior materials like paints, sealants and wood products. Because LEED certification cannot be awarded until the building is completely finished, and there are some minor touch-ups at the moment, certification has not yet been awarded. However they expect to have score in the gold

Taylor engineering was responsible for the unique mixedmode ventilation system that allows integration of natural ventilation and forced air when needed. This system not only takes advantage of the relatively mild climate here, but also saves money and energy, two important concerns for the City in the long run. Designers are pleased to report that the building will be in the 94th percentile of energy efficient buildings across the country, and significantly reduce carbon emissions.

Concerts-in-the-Park

Tuesdays, 6:30–8:30 pm (except for Wed., July 4, 11:30am), at the Orinda Community Center Park. Bring a picnic and enjoy the free music in the park!

June 19 Spirit of 29 (Dixieland Jazz)

June 26 Stone Soup (Oldies Rock) July 4 (Wed., 11:30am-1:30pm) Silver Spurs (Country)

July 10 Spazmatics (80s Rock)

July 17 Pladdohg (Celtic Rock) July 24 Lady Kaye & the Kings of Swing (Swing & Jazz)

July 31 Cal Alumni Big Band (Big Band Jazz) Aug. 7 Mixed Nuts (Oldies ROck, Disco, Blues)



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Life in LAMORINDA

Moraga Dad Runs for Congress By Sophie Bracinni

(Editor's note: The Lamorinda Weekly does not endorse political parties or candidates for any office; the following is not a statement of support for Nick Gerber's candidacy but rather a profile of one local dad, in celebration of Fathers' Day)

Te has a big smile, a charming wife and two young children. He is conservative, with a green tint, and wants to take Democrat Ellen Tauscher's seat in the U.S. Congress. What makes a normal father, who was happy to promote Moraga's businesses, take a leap and want to transform a nation? Nicholas (Nick) Gerber had a life changing experience when his wife was diagnosed with cancer. The two of them decided there was no better time than now to realize their life long dreams.

Nick Gerber was raised in New-York and got an MBA from the University of San Francisco. An entrepreneur at heart, he started a number of businesses, some very successful such as the United States Oil Fund. Today, Gerber is after District 10, a bold target in an area that traditionally votes Democratic. But he thinks that the battle can be won on ideas, not labels.

As we all know, winning takes money. Gerber is not afraid to pick up the phone and ask Republican sympathizers for campaign contributions. His first objective is to get his name out there. So he's going to the luncheons, the breakfasts, the dinners and doesn't miss any meetings of the Chamber of Commerce. And when his constituency wants him to look the part and wear a tie, Gerber is happy to oblige.

As a parent, Gerber wants a better world for his children. He believes that becoming a dad made him realize that he could plant a seed, nurture it and mold it. "I wouldn't trust someone who does not have children to run the country," he adds, "You need to raise a family in order to know what children need." And Nick's family was his first support. When tragedy struck them a year ago, with Melinda Gerber's sickness, the "Gerber



Nick and Melinda Gerber

team" fought together. Today Melinda, a published author, puts her creativity to work in support of her husband's dream. She knows that if he wins, the stress on the family will be high with a husband who must spend a lot of time in Washington, D.C.

The Gerbers say they are

about taking responsibility and keeping their commitments. Gerber wants government to stop treating people like children, so citizens can get the rewards that come from initiative and creativity. For example, he believes that a Universal Health Care system is not a good idea: "Of the 15% of people who are not now covered, many are young and healthy, and they do not want coverage," comments Gerber. "The problem is only about 7.5% of the population, and we do not want a system where the State will tell you that you should take one aspirin and not two." Gerber would rather see deregulation to bring down the cost. Having experienced the health care system first hand, he is very vocal about allowing patients to test new drugs if they want to take the risk and he would like to see the FDA practice a more hands-off approach.

Part of Gerber's commitment to create a better world for his children translates into strong environmental positions. He believes that the environment is fragile, that it's our duty to protect it and that we should move away from burning fossil fuel. "Good stewardship of the environment is a normal position for a Republican," he concludes. "After all, the EPA was funded by Richard Nixon, and another Republican President, Theodore Roosevelt, significantly developed the National Park System."

Where to Watch the Fireworks By Chris Lavin



The Fourth of July is coming up, and Moraga is the only game in town if you want to watch fireworks in this area that night.

The display, by the company Pyro Spectaculars, Inc., will kick off at dark on July 4 over the Moraga Golf Course, on Moraga Way. Parking is available at the Moraga Commons and overflow parking is available near Moraga Center.

"This company has been doing our show for years, and they do a really good job," said Penelope Leach, director of the Parks and Recreation Department in Moraga.

The whole show costs the Town about \$17,000, which pays for insurance, extra police officers for directing traffic, and the fireworks themselves. Last year the Town went out for bids for a better rate on the fireworks display, but Pyro Spectaculars still won out. The cities of Orinda and Lafayette contribute some monies to the display, although much comes from private donations.

Those donations can be made through the "Buy a Rocket" campaign by calling by calling by calling by calling 925-631-6842. When an explosive rocket goes up, parents will be able to say, "There's ours!" ...but only once if you pay the 40 bucks. You can donate any amount, Leach said, and even the smallest amount will be appreciated

If you are taking your kids, or if you are simply curious, some of the best information about fireworks can be found on the Internet at Wikipedia when you search for "fireworks." Also, for information about the country's birthday, you can always consult the Declaration of Independence, which was signed that day in 1776, and read at least the first three lines of the second paragraph and talk about them during the evening barbecue.

Text can be found at http://usmilitaryhistory.com/declrind.htm, among other places, but probably not enough.

Fireworks may then ensue.

Paul Caccamo Checks In

Around the Lamorinda Weekly office he's known as "The Hiker Guy." In our last issue you met Paul Caccamo, the local musician who is hiking the Pacific Crest Trail this summer. On May 31st, after five weeks of hiking, Caccamo and his companions arrived in Tehachapi (558 miles from the Mexican border). There he took a break, a long hot shower, and visited the library from where he sent a message to his friends (excerpts below).



Greetings All-

Much of Southern California has been desert with mountain ranges interspersed in between. We've crossed the Laguna, San Jacinto, San Bernardino, San Gabriel, Sawmill and Liebre Mountains. At times we have walked more than 25 miles between water sources.

We have but 140 short miles before we reach Kennedy Meadows and the beginning of the High Sierra. After all this dryness what an incredible luxury it will be to carry only a little water. Before that we will be once again experiencing 100-degree temperatures and spending the hot hours in the shade. The beauty of this strategy is that now we walk well into the night, walking by the light of the moon with occasional help from our headlamps. The wildlife is incredible at night; they don't expect to see a human at that time.

It wasn't at night but I saw my first mountain lion ever the other day. It shot across the trail about twenty feet in front of me and I had to wonder if it was thinking I would make a tasty meal. I spent the next few minutes very loudly disabusing him or her of the notion: "You better not EVEN try it lion!" It never returned.

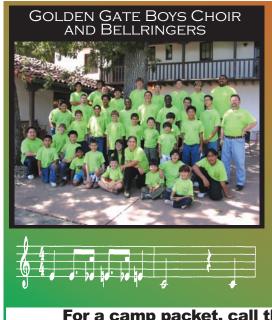
The grapevine tells me that many people have already dropped out of this insanity in favor of the comforts of civilization. Apparently the extreme dryness this year is punishing people enough to send them home. I can relate but am very happy to report that, apart from some brutal blisters and very sore feet, I am fine.

The other worry I had pre-trip was would I be able to handle being away from city life and family and friends for this long? Well it turns out I am very comfortable out here. I sleep a LOT better in the wilderness than in crappy motels, and while I miss my friends terribly it is a temporary situation and I think what I'm doing is worth the sacrifice. Have there been any great revelations/big changes since I've been out? Well, for one, I realize I like my work at Campo and want to go back. And Tim and Zach (my hiking partners, also known as Filthy Figaro and Sprout Boy) say I'm nicer than before. I may not agree but take that for what it's worth.

Everyone gets a new name out here, for example: Riddle, Troll, Oblivious, Mr. Pink, Grimace, Apple Pie, Speed Stick, Rocham and Ultrabrite. My name? Bounty Hunter. I'll explain later.

Next town stop is Independence, 240+ miles from here. They may not have a library - but we'll see.

-Paul C.



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Letters to the Editor

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Not to be missed

FREE outdoor Concert June 14 at **Moraga Commons**

Enjoy an evening of Big Band Music under the stars Thursday, June 14 when the Big Band of Rossmoor will feature Al Hart, Countess Felder from the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame, Dave Martel and Kyle Athayde. The 33 piece Big Band will perform from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Bring a blanket or lawn chair, and enjoy an evening of fun and music. Add a picnic dinner or enjoy the BBQ available at the park

MORAGA COMMONS PARK is located at1799 St. Mary's Road (corner of Moraga Road & St. Mary's Road)

PUPPET ART THEATER presenting SUPER TOMMY

Thursday, June 14, 3:30 pm. Ages 3 and older Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road, 925 376-6852

"Richard III" Through June 24

California Shakespeare Theater's 2007 Season at the Bruns Amphitheater in Orinda begins May 30th with Shakespeare's Richard III directed by Mark Rucker. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510.548.9666 or visit www.calshakes.org.

"Let's Go to Casablanca" Through June 23

By Kevin T. Morales Town Hall Theatre Company brings Let's Go to Casablanca to the stage. This is the much anticipated sequel to Let's Go to the Movies - the smash hit musical written just for Town Hall that was sold out and critically acclaimed. Contact the Town Hall Theatre Company box office for dates, times, and ticket prices: 925-283-1557, or visit www.townhalltheatre.com

Agatha Christie's An Unexpected Guest Sponsored by Orinda Starlight Village Player's. Through June 23rd Fridays & Saturdays, at 8:30PM; Thursday, June 21st at 8PM, 26 Orinda Way, at the Orinda Community Center Outside Amphitheater

Adult \$15, senior/student \$7.50, group rates available

No Reservations needed. (925)253-1191

Lafayette Gallery's New Show - ARTE: Abstractions, Reflections, Transitions and Explorations will run through June 2. When visiting the Gallery, please be sure to wander through the Lafayette Sculpture Garden located behind the Gallery. The current show features East Bay sculptors in a variety of media. Lafayette Gallery, 50 Lafayette Circle, is open Tuesday to Saturday from 11am to 5pm. (925) 284-2788, www.lafayettegallery.net

Performing Live at The Orinda House Holly Penfield - June 17th, 23rd, & 30th, Jonathan Poretz June 21st Call 258-4445 for more information

California Academy of Performing Arts June Showcase at Campolindo High School Performing Arts Center

The CAPA dancers are all from Lamorinda and are between the ages of 3 and seniors in high school. Show tickets are available by downloading a form from www.capadance.net. Ticket

prices are \$18 each. Show Dates/Times Tuesday June 19th 7P, Wednesday June 20th 7PM; Thursday June 21st 7PM, Friday June 22nd 7PM; Saturday June

"Capturing Light" the **Photography Show**

11, Through August Wenda Pyman, the featured artist in this group show, specializes in landscape, scenic and travel photography, with special emphasis on local East Bay and Diablo scenes. Her vast body of work reflects her all-consuming passion to capture nature's diverse patterns and imagery through the use of natural light. Moraga Art Gallery (Rheem Valley Shopping Center)

570 Center St., Moraga, CA 94556.

The Population Fix: breaking America's addiction to population growth Tuesday, June 19 at 7:00 pm at the

Moraga Library Moraga resident Edward C. Hartman spent 28 years in the telecommunications industry and runs his own financial services business. Since 1997, Mr. Hartman has been gathering data and using his skills of inquiry, analysis, and political savvy-honed over years in corporate and entrepreneurial positions-to write on the topics of resource constraints, carrying capacity, immigration policy, American media orientation, and ultimately population

Summer Reading Program 2007!

Pick up your reading records at the library. Read for fun and win great prizes. Kid's reading program for kids age 2 – 5th grade. New! Baby Reading Program for children birth through 2 years. Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road, 925 376-6852

Lafayette Concerts presents spellbinding finger-style guitarist Walter Strauss at 7:30 PM, Friday, June 22, in the Sequoia Room at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. Walter Strauss, whose

fiery technique conjures several instruments playing at once, has roots in American music and musicality that evokes far reaches of the globe, he weaves folk, jazz, world beat, Americana, and classical guitar into a brand uniquely his own. His songs are romantic yet edgy, filled with intelligent and vivid imagery.

Ticket's are \$15 and are available at the door, Reservations are suggested, 925-283-1959 or charlotte@lafayetteconcerts.com.

The Glover Groups to Exhibit Paintings At Orinda Library

Some 30 painters, who have studied under Pam and Ann-Marie Glover, will exhibit and sell their works at the Orinda Community Library through July 12, 2007. A reception with the artists is planned at the exhibit on June 22 from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Better golf without hitting a single ball! Reduce the likelihood of golf related injuries and play better golf. Learn about physical conditioning, and create an individual training program with Bob Anderson, golf professional, that will shave strokes off your game. Class will look into both pre-round stretching- to avoid on-course injuries, flexibility exercises - to improve range of motion, and long term conditioning goals toward improving your game. Monday, June 25th 10-11 AM

Book Signings at the Orinda Book Store:

Orinda's own Carol Pogash will discuss and sign copies of her new book, Seduced by Madness: The True Story of the Susan Polk Murder Case. Thursday, June 14, 4:00 PM

Amy Lyford will discuss and sign copies of her new book, Surrealist Masculinities: Gender Anxiety and the Aesthetics of Post-World War I Reconstruction in France. Tuesday, June 19, 4:00 PM Kaui Hart Hemmings will discuss and sign copies of her new novel, The Descendents, Thursday, June 21, 4:00 PM Michael Mayer will discuss and sign copies of Mindbody Healing Psychotherapy: Ancient Pathways to Modern Health. It has been called "a thrilling blueprint for the integration of body, mind, and spirit." Saturday, June 23,1:00 PM,

Amanda Eyre Ward, the author of How to Be Lost, will discuss and sign copies of her new novel, Forgive Me. Tuesday, June 26, 4:00 PM

Bi-Monthly Caregiver Support Group Caring for frail older adults in the home often creates great stress and emotional anguish for spouses and family members. Licensed geriatric care managers Barbara Schuh and Carol Shenson offer a bi-monthly support group for individuals who are considering or currently involved with the direct care of an older relative. To sign up, please call 284-5050. Drop-ins are also welcome. 6/18, 7/9, 7/23, 8/6, 8/20, 1:30 – 2:30 PM

Protecting Our Community from Financial Predators

Join a panel of experts from the JFKU Elder Law Clinic, Contra Costa County Adult Protective Services, our local Police Department, and Barbara Schuh, senior advocate and Lafayette Senior Services Commissioner, to discuss identity theft crimes and learn how to protect yourself, your family, and your community. Thurs 6/28 10:30 - noon Lafayette Community Center No charge. Donations at the door most appreciated. Call in to let us know you are coming 284-5050

Campus Happenings



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

Art Exhibitions:

"Town and Country: Jessica Dunne and Louis LaBrie" The 2007 biennial contemporary landscape exhibition From June 2 to August 12

Hearst Art Gallery

New Exhibition "William Keith: The 1880s Paintings" Works from the 1880s, which marked a decade of great changes in William Keith's life. Opened June 2 Hearst Art Gallery Free

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

HORSES WITH HEART: ORINDA'S GENTLE HEROES

By Virginia Fox, Guest Writer

or Cocoa, Pooh, Kiwanis and Bandit, life in Orinda couldn't be better. As specially trained horses for Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center, these gentle and sensitive animals help disabled youth, aged 5 to 17, conquer fears, build confidence, and develop physical and mental

Set on three acres of picturesque countryside off Valley View, Xenophon provides a nurturing learning environment for forty students with challenging disabilities like Autism and Cerebral Palsy. Individual lesson plans, games and school based programs help students astride horses learn sequencing, numbers, and colors while experiencing independence and freedom of movement. Activities also develop muscle tone, coordination and sociability. Xenophon is the only accredited (NARHA) therapeutic riding center in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties.

"New students often have strong fears about getting on a horse," says Executive Director, Judy Lazarus, Orinda resident

and founder of Xenophon TRC. Trained and licensed staff members introduce students to their horses, then use games and activities like petting the horse or putting a stuffed animal on the saddle to build a relationship between the horse and child. Once they're ready to mount, they are accompanied by a team with a horse leader and two side walk-

Our horses are very special," Lazarus says. "When we put a disabled person on Cocoa, she knows it and can tell the degree of disability. If the person is severely disabled, she moves like she's walking on eggs."

...continued on page 7



Lamorinda Weekly. Max. 200 word for a letters. email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Regular mail:

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

Dear Editor,

I have been living in Moraga since 1986. Thank you for publishing the article and photo of "The vandalized Slow Down banner."

However, I am so upset, when I read and view it. Whoever did that should be seri-

ously punished because it is disrespectful to our local authorities and a challenge to local policy. I sincerely hope that every Lamorindan would work together to make

Lamorinda a better place to live for years to come. Sincerely yours, James Fung

Some Like It Hot

Summer Exhibit Opens at the Lafayette Gallery By Andrea A. Firth



Three Girls in the Surf, Kauai by Judy Feins

The artists at the Lafayette Gallery are celebrating the imminent arrival of summer with their new exhibit entitled, Some Like It Hot. Using the heat of the season as inspiration, the artists have created art that reflects the contrasts of summer in Lamorinda from the white heat of the noon sun and yellow-brown grass on the hills to the cool, blue water of the pools and blue-green foliage of the pine trees. One of the best ways to experience the exhibit is to start with a stroll through the sculpture garden situated behind the gallery, stop to rest (and maybe share an ice cream cone) on the bench outside the entrance, then find refuge from the heat in the air-conditioned environs of the gallery and enjoy the original artworks in the exhibit.

Painter Judy Feins' work entitled Three Girls in the Surf, Kauai displays a fun day at the beach in vibrant yellow, orange, blue, and green and echoes the freedom of childhood during a long, hot summer. Inspired by a group of children

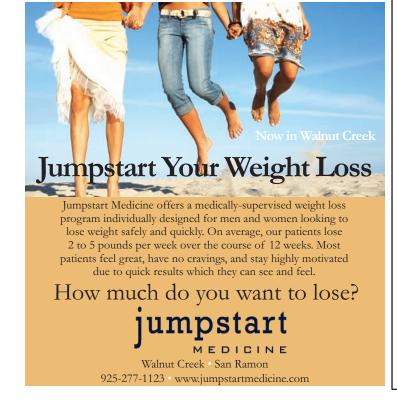
she saw playing, Judy explains, "They were so joyfully dancing in the waves, and the colors of their bathing suits and the water were so brilliant, I wanted to capture their exuberance." Judy is also exhibiting a large painting of the Lafayette Reservoir at dusk which highlights the warm, peach-colored light reflected in the water at that serene time of day.

Artist JoAnn Lieberman is showing two new collages in the summer exhibit. JoAnn ventured into gourd making six years ago and recently transitioned to collage.

"When you learn a new skill, you start to look at the world differently," notes JoAnn. "Now I always think about texture." Her collage entitled Summer Refuge did not start with a preconceived idea but came together as she started to work with various materials.

Printmaker Sherry Smith Bell found the exhibit's theme of summer and heat liberating and creatively challenging. Sherry uses a combination printmaking technique, to achieve a three dimensional effect in her work. "My visual ideas use objects such as doors, windows and houses as metaphors for change," explains Sherry, and this thought process is evident in her exhibit piece entitled Red Door. Keeping in sync with summertime fun, she takes a more playful approach in her print entitled Cowgirl which depicts a smiling, young woman from the untamed west.

Some Like It Hot includes new works by all 23 members of the Lafayette Gallery in a variety of media including acrylics, collage, photography, jewelry, oils, ceramics, and printmaking. The gallery is located in a quiet, shady spot at 50 Lafayette Circle in the heart of Lafayette. Some like It Hot opened June 5 and will run through Saturday, August 4th. Exhibit hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.





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Life in LAMORINDA



Volunteers at work

ts most satisfied customers

may not even have been born

when discussions first began

around a possible upgrade to the

Tot Lot at the Moraga Com-

mons last fall. But this past

weekend, volunteers assembled

the new play ground equipment

which will be available to happy

toddlers just in time for the

opening of this summer's Con-

certs in the Park season on

were purchased from Big Toys,

a purveyor of environmentally-

friendly play ground equipment.

According to Parks and Recre-

ation Director Penelope Leach,

the structures are "made of

100% recycled materials, most

of which is recycled milk car-

tons," are maintenance free and

come with a 50 year warranty.

pen in our small community, this

project was the result of the col-

lective volunteer efforts of many

supporters. The equipment was

purchased using funds from the

Robert-Z'Berg grant, a per

capita grant that can only be

spent on recreation or recre-

ational equipment. To qualify

for this funding, the Town had to

present its proposal for state re-

view and approval. There is a

matching funds requirement at-

tached to these grant monies, so

the town had to go scouting for

an additional \$21,000 to help

fund the project.

Like many things that hap-

The cool new structures

Thursday.

Moraga Tots Get Big Toys

By Lee Borrowman "Oh, who will help me?" cried Miss Penelope! Enter the calvary!

The Parks and Rec Foundation was able to donate \$17,000 towards the match because a generous donation was made to the Foundation for this very purpose by the Mark Robeson family. The Moraga Women's Society donated another \$4000, and the match was made. The excavation that occurred in the days leading up to last weekend was done free of charge, by Moraga's own Bay Area Drainage.

But who was going to build this new fantasy land? Up to the plate stepped the Kiwanis Club. About twenty Kiwanis volunteers, and a handful of younger dads,

Photos by Lee Borrowman toiled away on a glorious Saturday under the direction of a project manager supplied by the vendor. Dale Walwark, who coordinated the Kiwanis effort, said, "This town does not have the money or the staff to make things like this happen. We've always depended heavily on volunteer labor and donations." Looking around at row after row of plastic bags full of hundreds of different small parts that somehow all managed to look

There will be an official ribbon-cutting ceremony before the evening concert on June 21, but the new and improved Tot Lot will be open for business in the meantime.

alike, Walwark joked, "It's

every father's Christmas

nightmare!"



Meet Tom Clements, Tutor Extraordinaire By Sarah Henningsen, Campolindo

In an affluent community like Lamorinda, the pressure amoung youth and teenagers to excel is high, especially when it comes to academics. And with college admissions becoming increasingly competitive year after year, students often feel the need to spend extra time outside of school to improve their SAT scores and maintain solid grade point averages. The various tutoring businesses that have sprung up throughout Lamorinda in recent years help to ease the stress and pressures high school students deal with daily. From small enterprises within the home to large-scale organizations that cater to hundreds of students, tutoring businesses are booming and helping many Lamorinda students receive the extra personalized attention they seek.

Private tutors are common in Lamorinda but usually only advertised by word-of-mouth. Moraga resident Tom Clements assists dozens of high school students from Campolindo and Miramonte high schools. Providing classes ranging from physics and chemistry to advanced calculus and SAT II preparation, Tom is versatile tutor who is knowledgeable in many subjects taught in the Acalanes District. Tom's 4-6 person group tutorials have proven to be extremely effective and worthwhile, in comparison to traditional one-on-one tutoring. He commented, "My approach is much different than standard tutoring, which tends to focus on solving specific homework problems. I present material in lecture format,



Tom Clements with wife Michi

summarizing the main concepts of the chapter we happen to be going over for the week, clarifying the difficult sections and pointing out strategies for problem-solving. My teaching style is casual, comprehensive and straight-forward, a style high school kids can relate to. Also, by teaching kids in small groups, a team spirit evolves and kids benefit from the questions and comments brought up by other students in the group. I enjoy the interaction myself and that's one of the main reasons I teach group sessions."

A former Saint Mary's English teacher and freelance writer, Tom brings special expertise to the writing and grammar sections of the SAT. His strategies for acing the essay portion of the new SAT test have helped numerous students receive perfect scores to boost their overall total. By laying out several simple steps in crafting a strong essay, students have been able to

begin the test with calmness and ease. In addition, Tom is currently working on a new book, How to Write a Killer SAT Essay in 25 Minutes or Less, which is scheduled for publication in the upcoming months.

Tutoring is no longer just for failing students who need a leg up and some extra support outside the classroom environment-Lamorinda students of all ages, even those with already stellar records, spend hours with private tutors or in group sessions to help them maintain solid grades. As Clements commented, "It's unfortunate, but competition is unavoidable these days. That's one reason why tutors are in such demand; parents know that high grade-point averages and good SAT scores are paramount in determining which school their son or daughter gains admission to. In a perfect world, it would be otherwise. As it is, both parents and students have to deal with the reality.

HORSES WITH HEART: ORINDA'S GENTLE HEROES

...continued from page 6 Program participation often leads to behavioral breakthroughs. When Harry, a six year old boy from Orinda, came home from a riding lesson his mother asked him how he did. "I am wonderful at horseback riding," he replied. "This was the first time he had said he was good at anything," Lazarus says.

As the parent of an autistic child, Lazarus was acutely aware how few recreational classes were available for the disabled. She founded Xenophon in 1993, naming it after the Greek general

who wrote the first book on horsemanship. Three years later, Xenophon leased their Orinda site from PG&E. The riding center now offers class sessions from June - November and is supported by five licensed instrucand sixty dedicated tors volunteers.

One avid volunteer, Terry Murphy, Orinda resident and Xenophon Board President, says: "When I want to know whether or not what I'm doing is worthwhile, I look at the smiles of the children on horseback and know

this is what I want to do."

"Horses are incredible animals that make a person feel they can do almost anything," Lazarus says. "They don't care if you use a wheelchair or if you cannot speak. Their unconditional devotion is what makes therapeutic riding a joy for everyone."

Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center, 60 Don Gabriel Way, Orinda. OPEN HOUSE, Saturday, June 24, 1:00-4:00 PM For information contact Judy Lazarus: Xenride@aol.com. Website: www.xenophontrc.org.

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Essential Questions Every Home Seller Should Ask Before Selecting a Real Estate Agent Valerie Cook-Watkins



uying or selling a home is **B**usually the largest, most complicated financial transaction any of us will ever make, so selecting the right real estate professional to assist you is critical. Not all real estate agents are the same and in a very competitive industry with so many choices available to consumers. How do you find the best agent for you?

A good place to start is by interviewing a number of real estate professionals, much as you would interview potential employees for a job opening, before making your final decision. By opening up a good dialogue, you can begin to determine what specific services the agent will provide for their fees, their professional knowledge and expertise and whether there is a good rapport between the two of you.

There are a number of variables in selecting the right agent to sell your home. The resources and stability of the company, a sales associate's experience and market knowledge, his or her success rate and professionalism will all have a significant impact on the decision-making process.

There are several critical elements in selling your home; receiving the highest price with acceptable terms and managing your legal risk. You want to determine that your real estate agent has strategies for these in place when representing you.

The following are some questions I'd recommend you ask any real estate professional before hiring them to sell your

What exactly will you do to expose my house to the most buyers? With the choice between a full-service brokerage and a limited-service one, consumers need to understand there is a difference. The old saying goes, you get what you pay for. Ask the sales associate for a specific marketing plan which should include an action plan calendar, direct mail program, open houses, broker networking, local media and internet exposure. The majority of buyers in Lamorinda in today's market come from out of the area. What will the agent do to reach those buyers and what will they expect you to do? Beware of agents who think it is a good idea to keep your listing "in-house". Remember, generally the more people who see your home the higher the price you will receive

How exactly will the agent help you prepare your home for sale? It is very important to do some preparation before putting your home on the market for buyers to see. A good agent will take you through the process; they can recommend reliable and reputable resources for repairs, inspections and staging. Taking

the time to repair those de-

\$606,500

\$407,000

\$335,000

\$1,040,000

\$1,950,000

Last reported:

Last reported:

Last reported:

ferred maintenance items, freshen up your home and showcase it to its best advantage can bring you a higher price in less time.

How does the agent and their company assist in minimizing the Sellers' risk when selling their home? We all know that California is a consumer protection state. This is an important but frequently overlooked question. Sellers need to be sure when they close the sale of their home that they are in compliance with all local, state and federal requirements. An experienced, well informed agent should be confident in answering this question. They should have your protection "top of mind". It is important to ask your agent what steps they plan to take to make sure you are in compliance. A good agent will take the time to go through the many disclosures and statutory obligations that government agencies require. A note of caution, every year these requirements change so be sure that the company you choose has a good legal department with up to date information.

What systems do you use to determine price? Pricing is the critical element in any real estate sale. A good agent will

use many different criteria for pricing including comparable sales in the surrounding geographical area, square footage, and amenities of the home. Ask for sound recent data.

Finally remember this person and their firm will be representing you and your home to buyers and agents. Is this agent professional in their appearance and confident in

his/her manner? Is he/she an effective and articulate communicator? What is the quality of their marketing tools and web presence? Ask for and follow up with the agent's reference. Trust your gut, you must feel comfortable with this person because you are entrusting them with one of your most precious assets ...your home.





Lamorinda Home Sales continued



LAFAYETTE LOWEST AMOUNT: HIGHEST AMOUNT:

MORAGA LOWEST AMOUNT: HIGHEST AMOUNT:

LOWEST AMOUNT: HIGHEST AMOUNT:

\$2,400,000 lome sales are compiled by Cal REesource, 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 CalREcource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

17 Beaumont Court, \$875,000, 3 Bdrms, 1561 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 5-18-07 3333 Beechwood Drive, \$745,000, 3 Bdrms, 1474 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 5-11-07

60 Carolyn Court, \$725,000, 3 Bdrms, 927 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-15-07 3396 East Terrace, \$986,000, 3 Bdrms, 1301 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 5-23-07

1194 Glen Road, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1809 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 5-17-07

695 Glenside Drive, \$815,000, 2 Bdrms, 1814 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 5-11-07

3767 Happy Valley Road, \$1,360,000, 4 Bdrms, 2973 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 5-23-07 4058 Happy Valley Road, \$1,950,000, 4 Bdrms, 2185 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 5-23-07

3951 Los Arabis Drive, \$835,000, 4 Bdrms, 1737 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 5-21-07 1107 Magnolia Lane, \$975,000, 3 Bdrms, 1652 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 5-9-07

2 Middle Road, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 2340 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 5-15-07

820 Mountain View Drive, \$1,015,000, 4 Bdrms, 1885 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 5-17-07

3279 Mt. Diablo Court #12, \$710,000, 3 Bdrms, 1752 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 5-22-07 3279 Mt. Diablo Court #8, \$606,500, 3 Bdrms, 1731 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 5-23-07

1901 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,385,000, 4 Bdrms, 4005 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 5-9-07

1224 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$1,040,000, 3 Bdrms, 1635 SqFt, 1936 YrBlt, 5-22-07

1054 Vista Bella, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 3542 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 5-14-07 7 West Creek Court, \$697,000, 3 Bdrms, 1448 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 5-17-07

744 Augusta Drive, \$805,000, 2 Bdrms, 2079 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-18-07

1380 Camino Peral, \$533,000, 2 Bdrms, 1126 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 5-10-07

1476 Camino Peral #A, \$407,000, 1 Bdrms, 951 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 5-22-07 89 David Drive, \$1,040,000, 4 Bdrms, 2544 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 5-11-07

20 Dickenson Drive, \$867,000, 4 Bdrms, 1977 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 5-22-07

39 Lenelle Court, \$1,005,000, 4 Bdrms, 1710 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 5-18-07

401 Woodminster Drive, \$580,000, 2 Bdrms, 1474 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-9-07 **ORINDA**

120 Camino Sobrante, \$2,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 3197 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 5-15-07 66 La Campana Road, \$1,961,000, 4 Bdrms, 3391 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 5-18-07

40 Lucille Way, \$335,000, 5-9-07

292 Moraga Way, \$1,275,000, 5 Bdrms, 2923 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 5-22-07 124 Orchard Road, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2333 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 5-16-07

4 Southwood Court, \$860,000, 3 Bdrms, 1573 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 5-10-07

69 Southwood Drive, \$1,485,000, 3 Bdrms, 2926 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 5-16-07 17 Tappan Lane, \$2,400,000, 6 Bdrms, 3503 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 5-23-07 53 Van Ripper Lane, \$1,675,000, 4 Bdrms, 2292 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-22-07

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School is out - yeah!

What Local Kids are Doing for Fun This Summer!

During the last week of school, we sent a few intrepid junior reporters out into the field to ask their friends the question: What are YOU doing for fun this summer? (For security reasons, our reporters were instructed not to collect full names or vacation dates).

Here's what we found out!

Brian Chan reports from Stanley:

Carson: "Chillin!"

Samson: "Watching movies."

Emily: "I'm hanging with my friends." Bryce: "Swimming!"

Stanley vacation destinations include: Denver and Pismo Beach

Jennifer Chan reports from Springhill:

Taylor: "I'm going to basketball and soccer camp." Alta: "I'm going to a wedding and I can't wait!" Maddy: "We're going swimming with Grandma."

Molly: "I'm swimming and I'm doing piano. I think that's it."

Amelia: "I'm doing a gymnastic tournament and I'm really excited!"

Heather: "I'm sleeping and going to 4-H camp." Springhill vacation destinations include: Oregon and Canada

Amanda Griggs and Shayan Tajbakhsh report from JM:

Nate: "Boy Scout camp." Jessie: "Swimming." Maura: "Summer camp." Rachel: "Swim team." Caroline: "Sports camp." Joelle: "Volleyball camp." "Nicky: "Stuff!"

JM vacation destinations include: Massachusetts, England, New York, Hawaii, Los Angeles, Costa Rica, Washington and Japan.

Ava Tajbakhsh and Hana Sun report from Los Perales:

Derek: "Swim Team!" Taylor: "I'm going to camp." Shelby: "I'm going hiking!" Sean: "I'm going to the zoo."

LP vacation destinations include: grandparent's house, a cruise ship, Disney World, China and Chincoteague.

Tanya Salmeron reports from OIS:

Emily: "I'm going to Camp Kennolyn and Foothill with a group of friends." Sarah: "Splashing in the pool is what I will be doing this summer." Emily: "I'm going on the OIS class trip to Costa Rica and getting to know hot guys!" Jane Doe: Okay, we're not going to directly quote "Jane", who is spending much of her summer in writing class and does not seem to be wildly excited about it! OIS vacation destinations include: Mexico, England, and a Caribbean cruise

Antonio Salmeron reports from Del Rey:

Kaitlin: "I'm going to camp at Echo Lake and Feather River!" Spencer: "I'll ride my dirt bike, go the beach and hang out with friends."

Jacob: What a coincidence! Jacob is doing exactly the same things that Spencer is doing!

Antonio: "Playing tennis and soccer."



Del Rey vacation destinations include: Australia and Spain

Two Lamorinda Teams Place in Odyssey of the Mind World Competition

By Steve Angelides

wo Lamorinda teams placed in the top 6 in their division in the world Odyssey of the Mind creative problem-solving competition in East Lansing Michigan over Memorial Day Weekend.

The Moraga Rotary Team A from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School placed 5th out of 50 teams in the problem entitled "The Large and Small of It." This problem requires teams to create and present an original performance that integrates team-created small pages and large versions that change appearance. The large versions serve as stage sets for the performance. The Moraga team used a James Bond theme for its performance.

The Happy Valley Elementary School Team placed 6th out of 67 teams in the problem entitled

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

The other two Lamorinda teams in the world competition were from Miramonte High School and Stanley Middle School. Both of those teams competed in the problem entitled "I'm Only Thinking of You!" For this problem, teams create and present an original humorous performance that includes a self-centered character who attempts to take advantage of others three times.

Each of these four Lamorinda teams placed in the top three in their division at the East Bay Regional Tournament at College Park High School. Each of these teams then went on to place second in their division at the California State Tournament in Visalia.

A total of 12 teams from the East Bay competed at the world tournament in Michigan this year. Besides the two Lamorinda teams, three other East Bay teams placed in the top 6 in their division at the world competition in Michigan. Sycamore Valley Elementary School in Danville placed 3rd. San Ramon Valley High School in Alamo, and Glenview Elementary School in Oakland, each placed

Family Establishes Kyle Morton Memorial Scholarship

The family of Kyle Morton has announced the formation of the Kyle Robert Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund in support of students wishing to pursue a

career in Construction Management at Chico State University. Those wishing to make a contribution of any amount in Kyle's memory may do so at the Moraga

branch of Bank of America, to account #10327-41263. "Our goal is to reach a level that would allow (the scholarship) to continue in perpetuity," explained Kyle's parents.

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Have fun, kids! Lamorinda Weekly team



"Kings of the Road" at CP By Sophie Bracinni

Students get a chance to check out the bikes

hen the cohort of 20 motorbikes roared past Camino Pablo School, the 411 kids who were sitting on the side walks on both sides of the road cheered in delight. Motorcycle Drill Team from Oakland was starting its demonstration. The sun was bright on Wednesday morning, and the 22 Harley Road Kings glistened in its light. The bikers, 21 male and one female, all dressed in black, were ready to impress the young crowd.

And the kids were not disappointed. For fifteen minutes, it was a non-stop

ballet of twirls, figures and accelerations: a perfect demonstration of skill and control. Just like horses at the parade or airplanes tracing figures in the sky, the 22 bikers grazed by each other, vaulting gracefully. The

Photo Tod Fierner

was when, driving at about 30 mph, the whole troop rode by with two center bikers standing on their seats and saluting. The police officers ended their presentation by handing out stickers to the students. Carol Scott, 4th grade teacher at Camino Pablo, explains: "This is a wonderful way to bring the community together, to show positive role models to the kids. Hopefully, they'll continue to look up to policemen into their teen years."

The Motorcycle Drill Team, making its second appearance at CP, is part of Oakland Police Department and is led by Captain Dave Kozicki, whose kids attend the school. Officers in the team do traffic enforcement and the drill team keeps their skills sharp. Drill teams have been in existence since the late 1940's and there are only a few of them in the U.S. The Oakland group does about 10 performances a year, and they've been as far away as Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.

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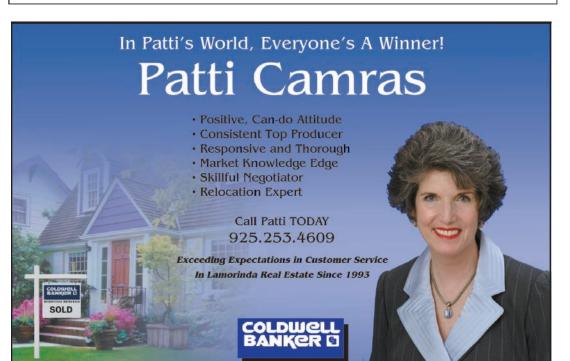
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School is out - yeah!

Global Relief Outreach:

Stanley Students Take on the World

By Lee Borrowman our years ago, Stanley Spanish and History teacher Jack Walton responded to an inquiry from some students, wondering how to help a couple of international charities, by organizing a student-led club called Global Relief Outreach (GRO). A natural step for Walton, who has been actively involved in social justice and charity relief programs for most of his life, GRO offers an opportunity for Stanley students to make a big difference in the lives of children who live under conditions that most Lamorinda

middle-school students have

Foundation and the Nature Conservancy."

GRO disburses funds to several charitable and relief organizations each year. This year's biggest beneficiary, receiving \$7300, was Contra Costa County's Shelter, Inc., which offers support services to homeless individuals and families. The impressive list of organizations to which GRO made contributions this school year includes UNICEF, the Kerewan Nursery School in Gambia, ACE Africa (Action in the Community Environment, which works with orphaned and vulnerable children) in Kenya,





GRO members Hanna Borosky, Erin Grant and Katie Waal

GRO President Matt Zelin

"GRO responds to both global and local issues," explains Walton. "In the past we've supported organizations that were engaged in tsunami relief efforts, aiding Katrina victims or caring for displaced children in Darfur. We have sent funds to the Peace Corp for a library in Honduras, and made donations to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer

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Revolution

the J.F. Kapnek Trust in Zimbabwe, Amigos Anonymous and an orphanage in Mexico, a school in Columbia, Heifer International (working to alleviate world hunger) and the Contra Costa County Food Bank.

The group receives guidance from Walton and several other teachers who often bring ideas to the table, as well as information on various relief or-

Mon-Wed: 7AM - 7PM

Thu-Fri: 7AM - 6:30PM

Saturday 8AM - 5:30PM

ganizations with which they are familiar. For example, science teacher Dianne Chandler's daughter Cassie introduced the students to ACE Africa, and Walton has had a long involvement with Amigos Anonymous. These personal contacts help insure that only reputable organizations are supported. The students decide as a group what fund-raising activities to pursue and to which organizations they

wish to give.

This year's list of fundraising activities included the sale of hot soup at lunch, a school-wide dance, a walk-a-thon, a canned food drive and a coin drive. Through their combined activities, Global Relief Outreach raised an astonishing \$23,000 this year.

The 20-25 members of GRO meet weekly at lunch time during the school year to plan fund-raising activities and discuss the many possible recipients of the proceeds. Meetings are conducted under a loose interpretation of the rules of Parliamentary procedure, and Matt Zelin, the current Club President, waits more or less patiently for members to "move" and "second" a motion before proceeding to a vote.

When first asked why they spend so many of their lunch hours engaged in these activities, the students gave the standard middle-school reply, "Because it's fun!" But there's more to these kids than hanging out with friends and planning activities. Erin Grant first joined GRO because she was on the Student Council and that illustrious body asked her to do so; two years later, she's still in GRO because she enjoys "working with friends and classmates to help others."

GRO has received welldeserved recognition for its efforts by the Peace Corp and the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors.

Rheem Valley

CLEANERS

Have fun, kids! Lemorinde Weekly teem

Colleges of Choice for Lamorinda Seniors

For example, last year 12 students went to USC, this year only 1. The difference could be attributed to the price, which just went up to \$50,000 per year." In addition, the "friend factor" can help rule out a school if a student has a number of pals planning on attending. "Overall kids are looking for a new experience," says Carrel.

...continued from page 1

With regard to out of state public schools, the unanimous choice was University of Oregon, Acalanes has 17 students going there, Miramonte, 13, and Campolindo 9. Second place was University

of Colorado, Boulder for Campolindo and Miramonte, and University of Arizona for Acalanes. University of Washington and Oregon State also will have a handful of Lamorinda students.

Terrence O'Neill and Taylor Neason are both the lucky recipients of track scholarships at Syracuse and Penn, respectively. While they were happy to receive the scholarships, Taylor expresses both boys sentiment, "They own you."

Looking at private schools across the country, our students are all over the map.



Harvard is the destination of 3, 8 at Stanford, 9 at St. Mary's in Moraga, and one or more students at the following: Baylor, Brigham Young, Columbia, Duke, Earlham, Georgetown, MIT, Notre Dame, NYU, Oberlin, Pepperdine, Reed, Tulane, Vanderbilt, and many, many others.

Congratulations Class of 2007

	Acalanes	Campolindo	Miramonte
% Going to College	96.5%	96%	99%
% Going to 4-Year School	73.5%	82%	85%
% Going to 2-Year School	23%	18%	14%
% at a Univ. of California	25%	22%	25%
% at a California State Universit	y 22%	16%	18%
Most Popular UC	Davis	Berkeley	Santa Cruz
Second Most Popular UC	Berkeley	Santa Cruz	Davis
Most Popular CSU	Cal Poly –	Cal Poly –	Sonoma
	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	
Second Most Popular CSU	Chico	Chico	Cal Poly –
			San Luis Obispo







Just for fun, llene tries on the hat!

Oliver and the boys try their hand at needlepoint Ava writes with a feather

Los Perales Students Return to the 1850s

By Lee Borrowman

ressed in jeans, plaid shirts and straw hats, or in gingham, aprons and braids, the boys and girls in Margrethe Ramirez's 3rd grade class at Los Perales last week got a little taste of what life may have been like for students in the days of one-room school houses, goose-quill pens and dunce

caps.

For two days, the students and their teacher dressed for their roles as pioneers. Children were assigned parts to play as members of various pioneer families, from poor immigrant farmers to shopkeepers and wealthy ranchers.

The usual clustered table groups were separated and lined up to resemble rows of benches, on which sat the children ordered by age and gender. Girls were allowed to go first in everything, much to their delight. Boys had to learn when it

was appropriate to remove their hats. Classroom lights were left off.

In an illustration of the rote memorization and recitation practices of the day, Ramirez asked her students to learn a short poem for their homework. The following day, each and every child in turn stood alone at the front of the classroom and recited the poem. A round of applause rewarded a successful attempt. When one slipped up, the entire class recited the poem again. Twenty students and half again as many recitations later, it seemed unlikely that any would ever forget "Trees."

Quill pens proved to be something of a challenge for many of the students. Fortunately for their parents, the children were armed only with washable ink. Needlepoint turned out to be a more manageable endeavor, as did

writing with "charcoal" on slates. Ramirez also read aloud to the class, conducted a traditional spelling bee and led the children in a lively game of Ring Toss, among numerous other activities.

The students prepared for the simulation by studying about the pioneers. They read books such as "Sarah, Plain and Tall," and a section of their social studies textbook entitled, "If You Traveled West in a Covered Wagon."

Although technology did occasionally intrude, in the form of period music emanating from a cd player, Ramirez successfully created as real an historical experience as children in a modern classroom could have, as evidenced by the excitement of the students for the project and their subsequent renewed appreciation for life in the 21st century.

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Protect Your Eyes from Harmful UV Rays This Summer

"Sunglasses-Don't be in the Dark"
(Kristine Eng, Dr. Weylin Eng, and Dr. Kelly Shintani

By Dr. Kristine Eng, Dr. Weylin Eng, and Dr. Kelly Shintani Orinda Optometry Group

Did you know that ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun can damage your eyes as well as your skin? According to the American Optometric Association (AOA), exposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun can harm the eyes, affect your vision, and cause sunburn of both the skin and the cornea of the eye, even on an overcast day. Over time, unprotected exposure to the sun can increase your risk of cataracts, age related macular degeneration and blindness.

You may be especially susceptible to sunrelated eye damage if you:

Spend long hours in the sun or are exposed to UV radiation - skiers, fishers, boaters, mountain climbers, dentists, welders

Have had cataract surgery or have been diagnosed with certain retinal conditions Are taking certain medications such as tetracycline, sulfa drugs, birth control pills, diuretics and tranquilizers

More importantly, infants and children are especially susceptible to eye damage from the sun since the lens in their eyes do not block as much UV radiation as in adults and can result in damage to the eyes. Fortunately, it's never too late to begin protecting the eyes from the sun's harmful rays.

UV protection is more important now than ever since the thinning ozone layer has

led to increased levels of UV exposure. Although the level of ultraviolet radiation is at least three times higher in the summer months than during the winter months, UV rays can still be potent on cloudy days and proper eye and skin protection is always a good idea.

Keep these tips in mind when you're out in the sun this summer:

- 1) Choose sunglasses that fit close to your face or have wraparound frames, and are made of lenses with 100 % UVA and UVB protection;
- 2) Wear a wide-brimmed hat or cap, which keeps out sunlight from directly overhead.
- 3) Never look directly at the sun even through sunglasses because doing so can cause permanent eye damage.
- 4) When selecting sunglasses, remember that a dark sunglass lens does not necessarily have UV protection, and that a polarized lens is recommended to cut glare from

sand, snow, and water. In addition, be sure to receive routine comprehensive eye exams. It's a good way to monitor eye health, maintain good vision, and keep up to date on the latest in UV radiation protection.



Dr. Kelly Shintani, Dr. Weylin Eng holding Peirson and Dr. Kristine Eng.jpg

How to Access your Computer from Anywhere for Free By Edward Zeidan, Nerd4Rent

Have you ever wished you could access your home or work computer when you're not there? Let's take a couple of common examples: You're on vacation, and you want to check your home email, or you're at home and want to work on a spreadsheet that's on your work computer. Perhaps you'd like to answer your work email from Star-

There is a way! Using the latest remote-control technology, you can be anywhere in the world and actually use your own computer. You have complete access to your files, programs, pictures, email—even your printer. Now here's the best part—it's free.

So how does this magic happen? You simply create a free account with logmein, (www.logmein.com). This involves creating a username, such as your email address, creating a password, and cre-

ating a computer passcode (password). Next, you install a small program on your computer (be sure to check with your IT department at work before installing anything on a work computer).

Make sure to leave your computer turned on and connected to The Internet when you want to remotely access it. Logmein is very secure. Logmein uses ultra-high 256 bit encryption, which is higher than most banks use for online banking or credit card purchases.

When you're away from your computer, you just go to www.logmein.com and enter your username and password. You'll see a list of your computers. Click the one you want to access and enter the passcode. Sometimes, logmein will ask to install a small program on the computer. Next you'll see your very own computer screen



Edward Zeidan

and have access to all your files and programs.

There is a slight decrease in speed using logmein vs sitting at your computer, but it's a small price to pay for the luxury of having anywhere/anytime access to your computer.

Logmein requires a PC, and a high-speed Internet connection, such as DSL, or cable. To download a free logmein cheat sheet, please go to www.Nerd4Rent.com and click freestuff.

Helping the Environment and Children, One Book at a Time

Submitted by Heather O'Donnell ur local schools are saving thousands of books from the landfill by donating them to Books for the Barrios, a Concord charity organization that builds school libraries in the Philippines. Alberta Falcone, the textbook coordinator for the Moraga School District, has been donating to Books for the Barrios for many years. "Over the years, the Moraga School District has donated thousands of used textbooks and library books to Books for the Barrios. Just this past May, close to 4 pallets of textbooks were delivered to them with probably another 4 pallets ready to be delivered in September." Lafayette School District has donated used textbooks, pilot teaching materials, DVDs and workbooks to Books for the Barrios. "Whenever the district approves a new curriculum, many companies send pilot materials to us in hopes that we select their texts for the new program. Next year, we will be donating Science materials." Sandy Campbell, district coordinator, said. Orinda schools also donate materials to Books for the Barrios, according to Carolyn Maxwell, who co-

the Orinda School District. Frank Jackson, a former Moraga School District

ordinates the program for

parent, picks up the used books from the schools and delivers them to Books for the Barrios. He has been the delivery person for Lamorinda schools' library books and textbooks for the past ten years. He got involved in the program because he was an American Airlines pilot with Dan Harrington, co-founder of the charity. "Frank is always willing to pick up the books and take them to our Concord warehouse," says Nancy Harrington, the co-founder, President and Executive Director of Books for the Bar-

rios. Nancy Harrington and Dan, her husband, started Books for the Barrios twenty years ago after they were stationed in the Philippines in the Navy. The local schools were filled with children that wanted to learn but didn't have any children's books for them to read. Nancy and Dan used their local expertise in the Philippines to partner with government authorities to build school libraries in the remotest islands by sending used children's books from the U.S. Every year, Books for the Barrios diverts over 300,000 pounds of books and materials that otherwise would be sent to landfills.

Besides collecting used textbooks, Books for the Barrios also has field trips

for school children, scout troops and even birthday parties for kids to learn about children in the Philippines who are just like them and about the importance of re-using and recycling. As part of the experience the children bring their own used books to the warehouse, pack them into boxes, decorate the outside of the boxes that will become the Filipino children's desk, and then load them onto pallets. While having a traditional snack of dried mangos and pineapple juice, the children watch a slide show about daily school life in the Philippines. Harrington introduces herself with the traditional Filipino greeting and then shows them homemade dolls and toys that Filipino children have made. Nancy teaches the children a Filipino folk song and one lucky singer will even get to hold an authentic vacual or hand-made umbrella. "I learned that the Philippines need more books, so me and my class boxed some books for the Philippines. I feel happy that we are helping the Philippines to have more of the things that we have," said a visiting fifth grader. For more information on the Books for the Barrios, the website is booksforthebar-

rios.com.

8 New Moraga Eagle Scouts By Steve Angelides



Troop 246 Eagle Scouts (L to R): Hyder Ramatala, Kyle Morton (posthumously), Stephen Kuypers, Tristan Jones, Ryan Hoyt, Derek Hellender, Richard Hardy, Peter Geoghegan

presented Boy Scout's highest award, Eagle Scout, to 8 men at an Eagle Court of Honor convened by National Boy Scout President Rick Cronk before a full crowd of family and friends at St.Monica's earlier this

spring.
One of the Eagle award recipients, Kyle Morton, had passed away on January 13, so his award was presented

posthumously. The crowd gave a standing ovation to Kyle's parents, Brian and Cynthia Morton, when St.Monica's pastor, Fr. Paul Minnihan, presented them with Eagle pins. The new Eagle Scouts were introduced by Scoutmaster Pat Geoghegan and Assistant Scoutmaster Mike Rijavek.

At the conclusion of the ceremony Cronk had all the Eagle Scouts of all ages who were present stand and join the new Eagle recipients in the Eagle dedication pledge. Afterward, Fr. Minnihan delivered the benediction in the rear courtyard in honor of Kyle Morton, who had completed his Eagle service project by repairing the benches in that courtyard. A reception followed in the St. Monica Peace Room, hosted by the parents of the new Eagle Scouts.

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Casa Orinda Celebrates its 75th Birthday

By Sophie Bracinni

Secret fried chicken recipe, juicy steaks, ham and eggs, guns, moose head, and incredible stories make up the spirit of Casa Orinda, the oldest continuously operated restaurant in Contra Costa County. Last Wednesday, the Orinda Historical Society honored John Goyak and his sister Charlotte, present owners, as they talked about life at the Casa. The restaurant is a landmark where generations of Orinda residents and Contra Costa diners have come to eat at their favorite tables; a place where politics are discussed and romantic involvements interlace.

Jack Snow came from Montana to Orinda in the early 1930's to work on the Caldecott Tunnel. Jack was a social man, he enjoyed company and a good time and since there was not much in that category at the time in Orinda, he decided to start his own restaurant. In 1932, he opened Casa Orinda where it stands today. At the time the restaurant was surrounded by grazing land and a few trees. The bar was a rallying place for the cowboys and a location to eat and catch up with friends. There was a rotisserie in the back and you could be served chicken, beef... but no lamb It was cowboy food, some of which can still be found there today.

John asked his brother Tommy to join in and manage the place. History has it that Tommy was a gambler and all kinds of games took place upstairs. At the time, "Crossroads" restaurants, like Casa Orinda, were considered "out of bounds," with poker and slot machines flourishing up to the 1950's. People say that Tommy Snow might have been playing a dangerous game when in 1965 he was found murdered in his car. His killer has never been found.



Artifacts and memorabilia from the Casa Orinda

Jack had to take the reins back, but he looked for a partner to manage the place. At that time the Board of Supervisors used to have dinner at the Casa after their meetings. Some say that's where the real business was done. That's how Jack met and befriended Superintendent Ivan Goyak, John and Charlotte's father, and proposed to take him on as a partner. John Goyak started part time in the kitchen when he was still a student and Charlotte did the hosting. At the time, the Casa was serving 2 breakfasts, lunch and dinner and Charlotte was practically living there. She's seen generations of Orindans and has hired many of their kids for part time jobs. In 1978, the Goyak family took full ownership of the Casa.

Charlotte went on to pursue other interests, but John stayed with the restaurant and is still managing it today. That continuity, over 75 years, explains how the original spirit was preserved. Ivan Goyak and his wife Mary retained one of the 4 apartments that sit above the Casa and when they are in town, that's where they stay.

Besides food, the charm of the Casa comes from its unique decor. When a decision was made to do away with the linens on the table, the family asked all the ranchers in the area to come with their brands and "brand" the tables. You can still see these markings today. The large rodeo paintings that can be admired in the dinning rooms were commissioned by Jack Snow. When he retired, he left his gun collection, which still hangs on the wall. Today, these artifacts, the trophies, the wooden tables are the ingredients of this unique Casa Orinda atmosphere. Some aficionados call it a "home away from home."

Today, when mayors from Contra Costa meet, they have dinner at the Casa; regulars come back to their favorite table and ask for their preferred dish. Class reunions meet there, like the Miramonte class of '73 which convenes in the restaurant every five years. The tradition of hearty cowboy food is maintained and John Goyak chooses only the best ingredients available in our area for the delight of his clients and friends. New dishes are added as "daily specials" but change on the main menu only occurs once in a while. Rooted into the ranching past of Orinda, this landmark carries on into the 21st century, preserving 75 years of Lamorinda history.

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Holly Penfield—

International Entertainer Returns Home

By Randolph L. Tom



One time rock 'n roller Holly Pen-

field is a local success story with an

enviable history as an international entertainer. Raised in the East Bay,

honing her singing and writing

skills while at Campolindo in Mor-

aga, Holly has returned home to

perform in cabaret style at the

Orinda House for several dates in

June before she heads back to her

adopted home of London, England.

tured as a singer by the legendary

Judy Davis, the voice coach for

Barbra Streisand and Frank Sinatra,

among others, Holly began her pro-

fessional singing career at the tender

age of 13, leading her band, Love

Agency, and playing multiple

shows throughout the Bay area. At

that time of musical history in the

early 70s, like a lot of young

singers, Holly stuck to playing cov-

ers of rock 'n roll classics for "chick

singers." Moving from Linda Ron-

stadt's "Different Drummer" to

Judy's Collins' classic, "Both Sides

Now," Holly sought inspiration and

contacts for her singing career,

While being trained and nur-





producers Mike Chapman and Nicky Chinn, who were responsible for producing multimillion dollar sellers for cutting edge women rockers like Pat Benatar, Tina Turner and Deborah Harry of Blondie.

Inspired by the singing and writing of one of New York's legendary women singer-songwriters, Laura Nero, Holly spent some time in New York City, paying her dues while writing a vast collection of both pop and more self expressive personal songs. With her music sensibilities changing in the rock 'n roll life of hanging with the stars of the day, Holly was enticed to seek her fame and fortune and stake her career in London. To satisfy her recording commitment with her Los Angeles label, Holly sought a producer who understood her music and need for expression. As fate would have it, Holly not only identified a great producer for her music, but found a soul mate and supportive spouse, Ian Ritchie. An accomplished saxophonist, Ritchie, who will be performing with Holly



Photo Rick Konlon

also has an active musical career as knows that performing locally to part of Pink Floyd's Roger Walters' support the businesses that make up touring band. Like most performthe community is extremely imporers, they check their Blackberries to tant to maintain its vitality. As Holly see when they'll see each other. indicated, "Orinda is home for me, London has been good to and I'd like to eventually return. The Holly, where she has been headlin-Orinda House is a great forum to ing for a decade in venues throughperform to an intimate crowd and

out Europe, bringing her acclaimed "Fragile Human Monster Show" to an enthusiastic and appreciative audience. In so doing, Holly has made the successful transition from pop rock singer-songwriter to jazz and cabaret performer. With her loyal following in the UK, where she has played for many of that country's dignitaries, including Prince Charles and Princess Diana, Holly is able to claim a home at the prestigious Dorchester on Park Lane where she performs to loyal patrons such as Shirley Bassey, Lionel Ritchie and Kate Moss.

In bringing her energetic cabaret style to her hometown, Holly is seeking to give a boost back to the community that has given so much to her. She fondly remembers her time in the bucolic

I'd like to do my best to support its owner, Ron Bonner, to help ensure its viability." With her eyes firmly focused on that goal, Holly is actively looking to renew her career in the States, this time emphasizing her ample entertainer skills in combination with her formidable singing capabilities. As she looks for professional representation in the States, Holly hopes to build on her welldeveloped reputation as an exciting cabaret and burlesque entertainer and dynamic singer, as evidenced by her latest CD "Holly's Hot Spot." In addition to her Father's Day performance, you can see

Holly at the Orinda House on June

23rd and 30th. Check her out and

support our local dining and enter-

tainment scene. I'm sure you'll

enjoy the show.

moving to Los Angeles where she at the Orinda House on June 17, secured recording contracts with setting of the Lamorinda area and Lamorinda Weekly is an independent publication, produced by and

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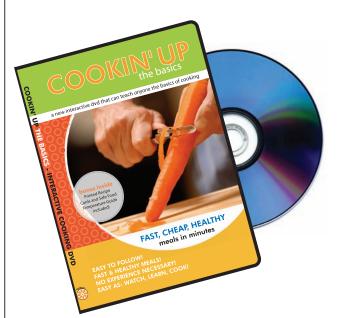
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AMORINDA's Restaurants

American		
Bistro	3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7108
Chow Restaurant	53 Lafayette Cir, Laf	962-2469
Hungry Hunter	3201 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	938-3938
Joe's of Lafayette	3707 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-8807
Nation's Giant Hamburgers	76 Moraga Way, Ori	254-8888
Quiznos	3651 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-0200
Ranch House	1012 School St, Mor	376-5127
Terzetto Cuisine	1419 Moraga Way, Mor	376-3832
The Cheese Steak Shop	3455 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-1234
BBQ		
Bo's Barbecue	3422 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7133
Café		
Express Cafe	3732 Mt. Diablo Blvd # 170, Laf	283-7170
Ferrari- Lucca Delicatessens	23 Lafayette Cir, Laf	299-8040
Geppetto's caffe	87 Orinda Way, Ori	253-9894
Caribbean		
Calypso Bar & Grill	2 Theatre Sq. Suite 153, Ori	258-9686
Chinese		
Chef Chao Restaurant	343 Rheem Blvd, Mor	376-1740
China Moon Restaurant	380 Park St, Mor	376-1828
The Great Wall Restaurant	3500 Golden Gate Way, Laf	284-3500
Hsiangs Mandarin Cuisine	1 Orinda Way # 1, Ori	253-9852
Lily's House	3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd #A, Laf	284-7569
Mandarin Flower	581 Moraga Rd, Mor	376-7839
Panda Express	3608 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-0288
Szechwan Chinese Restaurant	79 Orinda Way, Ori	254-2020
Uncle Yu's Szechuan	999 Oak Hill Rd, Laf	283-1688
Yan's Restaurant	3444 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-2228
Coffee Shop		
Millie's Kitchen	1018 Oak Hill Rd #A, Laf	283-2397
Squirrel's Coffee Shop	998 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-7830
Village Inn Café	290 Village Square, Ori	254-6080

Continental 32 Lafayette Cir, Laf 284-7117 Petar's Restaurant Shelby's 2 Theatre Sq, Ori 254-9687 3531 Plaza Way, Laf 284-1330 Vino Restaurant **Duck Club Restaurant** 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf 283-7108 **Hawaiian Grill** Lava Pit 2 Theatre Square, St. 142, Ori 253-1338 Indian 3740 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf 284-5700 India Palace 3602 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf **Swad Indian Cuisine** 962-9575 Italian 3406 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Laf 283-3869 Giardino La Finestra Ristorante 100 Lafayette Cir, St. 101, Laf 284-5282 15 Moraga Way, Ori La Piazza 253-9191 975 Moraga Rd, Laf Mangia Ristorante Pizzeria 284-3081 1375 Moraga Way, Mor 376-4300 Michael's 3576 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf Per Tutti Ristorante 284-5225 3600 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf 299-0500 Pizza Antica 3565 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf 299-8700 Postino Ristorante Amoroma 360 Park St, Mor 377-7662 Japanese 3518-A Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf Blue Ginko 962-9020 3474 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Laf 284-9709 Kane Sushi 1 Camino Sobrante # 6, Ori Niwa Restaurant 254-1606 2 Theatre Sq # 118, Ori 254-7088 Serika Restaurant Tamami's Japanese Restaurant 356 Park St, Mor 376-2872 Yu Sushi 19 Moraga Way, Ori 253-8399 **Jazz Dinner Club** 3707 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Laf 299-8807 Joe's of Lafayette The Orinda House 65 Moraga Way, Ori 258-4445 Mediterranean 254-5290 2 Theatre Sq # 105, Ori Alekos Oasis Café 3594 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf 299-8822 Mexican 3655 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Laf 299-1270 360 Gourmet Burrito

El Jaro Mexican Cafe 3563 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf 283-6639 258-9987 La Cocina Mexicana 23 Orinda Way, Ori 1375-B Moraga Way, Mor 377-1203 Mucho wraps 3596 Mt. Diable Blvd, Laf 283-8740 Baja Fresh Mexican Grill Celia's Restaurant 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf 283-8288 El Balazo 3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf 284-8700 74 Moraga Way, Ori 258-9049 Maya 3518D Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf Taqueria El Balazo 284-8700 3616 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf 299-1333 Numero Uno Taqueria Pizza Aladino's Pizza 3614 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf 283-6363 Mountain Mike's Pizza 504 Center St, Mor 377-6453 Pennini's 1375 Moraga Rd, Mor 376-1515 "361 Rheem Blvd, ", Mor Round Table Pizza 376-1411 Round Table Pizza 3637 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf 283-0404 Village Pizza 19 Orinda Way # Ab, Ori 254-1200 254-2800 Zamboni's Pizza 1 Camino Sobrante # 4, Ori Sandwiches/Deli Bianca's Deli 1480 Moraga Rd # A, Mor 376-4400 Europa Hofbrau Deli & Pub 64 Moraga Way , Ori 254-7202 Kasper's Hot Dogs 99 Brookwood Rd, Ori 254-2908 3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf Noah's Bagels 299-0716 19 F Orinda Way, Ori Orinda Deli 254-1990 **South American** The Patio Tapas and restaurant 960 Moraga Road, Laf 299-6885 Steak 20 Bryant Way, Ori 254-2981 Casa Orinda Tea 71 Lafayette Cir, Laf Patesserie Lafayette 283-2226 Thai 3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd # B, Laf 283-8883 **Amarin Thai Cuisine** Baan Thai 99 Orinda Way, Ori 253-0989 **Royal Siam** 512 Center St, Mor 377-0420 Siam Orchid 23 Orinda Way # F, Ori 253-1975

The Lamorinda Weekly (LW) Restaurant Guide is not paid advertising; our intent is to provide a useful reference guide. We hope that we have included all Lamorinda restaurants on this page, except those that told us they did not wish to be listed. LW is not liable for errors or omissions. In the event that we have inadvertently printed misinformation or excluded a restaurant please let us know (info@lamorindaweekly.com) so that we may correct our list for the next issue.

3339 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf

283-2345

El Charro Mexican Dining

A Conversation With Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Pete Nowicki



Absolutely. We looking for intelligent, articulate people who can pass the nationwide test requirements, but who are also street smart, have life experiences and other outside skills like, say, welding or changing their own motor oil.

How has the relationship between the District and the community changed since you started?

I'd say that it's become more professional and less like an extended family. Back then many of the fire fighters lived in Moraga and had grown up there. So, if you went out on a medical call and didn't know the patient, another person on your crew might. That kind of familiarity has disappeared because the populations of Moraga and Orinda have grown and become much more transient. What do you see as the challenges the District now is facing and how are you planning to address them?

First, we are in the process of getting our retirement funds out of the County system, which is

bleeding us dry, and putting them into the State system. Every month our share of the County's unfunded liability increases by \$50,000-\$70,000. Second, we have to provide full time staffing for the ambulance at Station

45 in Orinda. In the budget I have presented to the Board, I propose phasing this in over three years. The first year we would increase our staffing by calling in paramedics to work overtime. The second year we would hire three more personnel, and the third year we would hire another three more. In the longer term, however, our biggest challenge, like for all public service agencies, is that of general funding. That is, the District is funded primarily by residential property taxes, and while this

Nowadays, how is the public involved with the District, and how would you like to see this increase?

revenue source will remain

fairly constant, our costs for

wages, utilities, workers'

coverage, retirement, etc.

will only increase over the

competitive

medical

apparatus,

compensation,

We have a much closer relationship with our residents than most fire districts in terms of people dropping in to talk with us or attending our open houses and pancake breakfasts. And there's the Res-

cue One Foundation. I cannot believe how generous our residents have been through this program.

As for greater involvement, when voting for their Fire District Director, people should take some time to look into the platform that person is running on, rather than just voting care-

Another way is to get involved with the fire safety principles we espouse such as having safe vegetation clearance around your home and having a noncombustible roof and noncombustible siding. They can also enhance community safety by learning CPR or getting CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team) training.

Also, our Board of Directors meetings are open to the public and, especially now during budget time, people are welcome to come to these meetings to make sure that we're spending their money wisely. Anyone can find out about these things on our website, MOFD.org.

Jonathan Goodwin is a catastrophic fire prevention activist who serves as Central Coordinator for the Canyon Fire Council, as Board Secretary for the Diablo Fire Safe Council and will soon become an instructor for Lamorinda CERT.



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Marlins and Seahorses Splash Off Submitted by Ric Notini, President of Orinda Moraga Pool Association

he Moraga Valley Pool (MVP) Marlins swim team began their dual meet season last Saturday morning with an away meet against the Las Trampas Seahorses. With less than 80 swimmers just three years ago, MVP continues its rise in the Lamorinda community's competitive swimming league, featuring a club record 233 swimmers this year.

The team that swam on Saturday had a great range of age and experience, from Shurveen Najafi, 5, who swam his first meet on Saturday after graduating from the Mini Marlins program, to seasoned 18-year-old veteran Stefan Miller (fresh from his Campo Senior All-Night), who has been swimming at MVP since he was 6-years-old. Adam Schaffer, 17, broke the 1978 Las Trampas Pool record in the 15-18 100 yard Individual Medley with a time of 59.22.

Over the next two months, the Marlins will compete in 15 swim meets against other Lamorinda clubs. In addition, MVP has earned the right to swim in the Orinda Park Pool's Relay meet for the first time in over a decade, having finished fifth in the OMPA Championship meet last year.



first swim meet

The Marlins are coached by Kevin Lai and Jon Cravotto, along with 20 assistant coaches. One of the unique features of summer swim team is the chance for brothers and sisters ranging in age from 3 to 18 to be part of and compete as one team, and cheer for each other.

But the MVP experience isn't limited to swimming laps in practice and achieving personal bests in meets. This year's MVP season seems more like a summer camp program. Planned activities include Pilates for Parents, a camping trip at UC Berkeley's Lair of the Bear campground near Yosemite, and many more social events throughout the summer.



and Under Girls 50 yard breaststroke event.

A Dream Comes True

at Moraga Ranch

Submitted by Tom vonNovak, President of Moraga Ranch, edited by Jennifer Wake





Grand Opening Party, May 25

Photos Andy Scheck

fter a major remodeling Aeffort that included a new six-lane pool and equipment, shade structures, timing system with digital score-board, sound and lighting system, barbecue area and pool furniture, Moraga Ranch Swim Club held its Grand Re-Opening celebration on Friday, May 25 with over 350 in attendance.

What started out as a discussion to replace an aging five-lane pool, ended up including Trex Decking, a viewing area, upgraded restrooms, pump houses, sprinkler system fences, concrete decking.

"As one of the smaller clubs in the Lamorinda community, it was a daunting challenge when we first began to examine replacing our pool," said Tom vonNovak, President of Moraga Ranch. To bring it to fruition, the Ranch would need the board and membership to step up and take over a significant role in the ac-

tual construction of the facility outside of the pool it-

"We broke ground in late January 2007 and every weekend from that point forward, eight to 10 hours a day, you could find five to 25 volunteers of all ages working on any one of a dozen or more tasks on hand," said vonNovak. "Not only did we exceed our own expectations but we came in on time and on-budget. Our contractor Steve Santoro of Swan Pools could not have been any more professional, thorough and dependable from day one. I am extremely proud of both the board and the entire membership for supporting this undertaking and following through."

When you add some luck to the equation regarding the weather, the dream became reality. Founded in 1963, the New Moraga Ranch Swim Club 2007 is now open!

OMPA is a Family Affair

By Jennifer Wake

he Orinda Moraga Pool Association (OMPA) opened its 51st season June 3, with families joining for a kick-off barbecue. With approximately 1,600 swimmers in teams throughout Lamorinda, the OMPA has become a community within the greater community.

Ric Notini, president of OMPA, says belonging to the organization is not only about swimming and competing, but "it's a great social environment."

"It involves the entire family," he said. "They're all learning the value of working hard and can see the direct results of their effort, through sportsmanship, team camaraderie, spirit, and competition." The opening gave long-time swim team families a chance to reconnect.

"We all look forward to the start of swim season. Since we don't all have kids in the same schools, it's fun to see all the families again," said Amy Meckfessel, whose family has belonged to the Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club in Orinda for seven years. "The older swimmers and coaches are people we want our kids to look up to and emulate."

Many parents of swimmers, who range in age from 3 to 18 in the 10 recreational teams throughout Orinda and Moraga, belonged to OMPA when they were children and have continued the tradition with their own families. The season will culminate with the OMPA Championship meet on August 3, 4, and 5 at the Soda Aquatic Center at Campolindo High School.





Photos Gavin Schlissel





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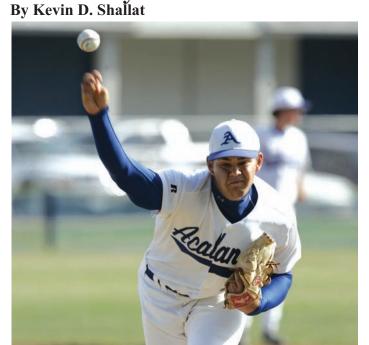
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SPORTS

LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Local Teams Meet Again in NCS Playoffs



DFAL MVP Scott Emery pitches against Campolindo Photo Tod Fierner

fter beating their respective teams in the second the Campolindo Cougars and Acalanes Dons baseball teams squared up against each other one more time at the North Coast Section (NCS) playoffs Wednesday, May 30 at Acalanes High School. The Dons beat the Cougars, 7-5.

Acalanes starting pitcher, Scott Emery, turned in a brilliant performance Wednesday. He was a little shaky with his command in the first inning. Giving up three runs, he admitted having too much adrenaline pumping at the start of the game.

"I was tempted to pull Emery after he struggled with his command early, but I didn't want to lose his bat," Acalanes coach Andy Tarpley said. Soon after giving up the first three runs, Emery settled down and allowed only one more run. He got three of those runs back going three for four, with three RBIs.

Third baseman Jake Floethe and catcher Mike Stone were responsible for the bulk of the remaining RBIs. Floethe went one for two, with two walks and two RBIs. Stone

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went two for three, with an RBI. Cougars starting pitcher senior Nick Ousman gave up five runs in five innings, but gave his team a chance to win. The Cougars trailed the Dons by one run when Ousman left the game. Ousman, who was named DFAL Most Valuable Pitcher this year, will be playing baseball for the University of San Diego next year.

Kevin Smith and his fellow Cougars did what they could for their team. Smith had a key hit to center field that scored the tying run for the Cougars in the top of the fourth. Seniors Bryce Metzler and Dwight Tanaka also had key hits. Metzler had two RBIs, and Tanaka had one as well.

Emery was able to hand the ball off to relief pitcher Donny Miller in the fifth inning with a one run lead. After walking the first batter he faced, Miller then settled down to pitch two strong innings for the Dons.

The Dons sent in pitcher Mike Guglielmo to close out the game. Guglielmo gave up one run on a triple and a sacrifice fly in the final inning to end the day.

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infants thru adults

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Miramonte Lacrosse Takes

Championships

Submitted by Evangeline A. Walsh

he No. 11 ranked Miramonte men's varsity lacrosse team won the Diablo Foothill Athletic League Lacrosse Championship the second year in a row, ending this year's season with a 13-7 record. Eleven players were selected for the All-League Teams, with senior

goalkeeper, Colin Timms named the league's Most Valuable Player. Miramonte's women's varsity lacrosse team also repeated as Diablo Foothill Athletic League Lacrosse champions (see our May 31 article, "Mats Fall to Amador in NCS Playoffs").



Jeff Hughes 1st Team Defense, Frankie Cuneo 1st Team Defense, Zander Smith, Harry Forman 2nd Team Middie, Spencer O'Neil, Robert Hofinga. Row 2 L-R:

Arlo Malmberg 2nd Team Attack, Joseph Walsh 1st Team Defense, Colin Timms Goalie MVP League, John Hofinga 1st Team Attack, Josh Everitt. Row 3 L-R:

David Walsh, Tim Albo Honorable Mention Middie, Asst. Coach Eric Knutson, Head Coach Danny Roden, Grant Davis 2nd Team Defense, Will

Missing:

Tommy Sander 1st Team Middie, Joey Martello 2nd Team Middie, Harrison Berkowitz, Will Hinkamp, Jack Nevin, Nic Radoff.

Mats Hoops Basketball Camps Open Soon

Submitted by Dave Brown, Miramonte Boys Basketball Head Coach

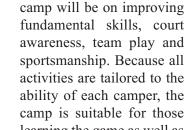
ATS Hoops -- led by the coaching staff of the Miramonte High School Boys Basketball program -is offering two basketball camps for boys and girls who are entering grades 3-12. The first week-long camp takes place June 25-29 and the second one is July 16-20. Both camps are located at the main gym on the Miramonte High School campus (750 Moraga Way, Orinda).

Each week-long camp has a morning and afternoon session. The morning session (9 a.m. to noon) is for boys and girls who will be entering grades 8 to 12 in the fall. The afternoon sessions (1 to 4 p.m.) are for boys and girls who will be entering grades 3 to 7 this

fall. Camp counselors will include members of the boys and girls varsity basketball teams at Miramonte High.

The focus of each camp will be on improving fundamental skills, court awareness, team play and sportsmanship. Because all activities are tailored to the learning the game as well as those playing competitively at the high school level.

The cost for each sescamper) is only \$300. All participants receive a camp t-shirt and 15 hours of instruction in playing basketball the MATS Hoops way.



sion is \$165, while the cost for two sessions (same



2007 LMYA Softball Season

Best Ever

Submitted by Mark Zembsch and Tom Leserman



Rebecca Crisp throws her change up.



Second grade Sun Devils softball player Kenna Sherman waits for infield action.



Bailey Moran prepares to hit next pitch.

Highlighted by generous coaching contributions from the Saint Mary's College coaches and players that led to significant individual improvements – and spirited team competition that went down to the wire - approximately 225 (2nd-8th grade) girls from Lafayette and Moraga enjoyed a banner softball season.

For the first time, 6th graders were added to the top level, with two Orinda OYA teams included in the scheduling to make a six team 6th-8th grade division. The result was a smashing success.

Stanford (9-1) rode an eight-game winning streak to the title. The offense was led by extraordinary run-producers Rebecca Crisp and Tela Zembsch – Crisp averaged 2.5 runs per game, and Zembsch scored at least one run in each of the 10 games. They were driven in repeatedly by the powerful bats of Emily Streeter and Siena Del Ponte. Stanford's pitching was led by Crisp, Rachel Kelley and Ashley Heim, while catcher Joelle Alley and Kayla Wiggins led an airtight defense.

UCLA (8-2) kept its championship hopes alive into the final game. The league's most powerful offense was led by the power hitting of Natalie Goepel, Maile Hoyt, Sarah Reynolds and Kalena Alva; Brenna Williams contributed with her glove and speed. Goepel also distinguished herself in the circle as LMYA's most dominating pitcher.

USC (5-4-1) enjoyed veteran leadership from long-time LMYA stalwarts Natalie De-



Third grade Cal infielder concentrates while in ready position.

skin, Grace Lovell, Tatiana Gessling, and Jesse Kathan. The Trojans got great help from Lauren Fruci and LMYA newcomer Kat Mathis was one of the league's most dominating players.

Cal (4-5-1) finished with an inspired effort against powerful UCLA. A trio of 8th graders (Lily Zwang, Sarah Martin and Elaine Rehm) led the Bears. Cal also got great support from Jackie Welland, Brianna Manzone and ex-baseballer Samantha Flower.

The last games of the seven 4th-5th grade LMYA softball teams were completed on June 2. The game of the week was between the first place UCLA Bruins and the second place ASU Sun Devils. After giving up five runs in the first inning, the ASU Sun Devils pitching duo of Jenny Leserman and Allison Stevens held the Bruins scoreless for the remainder of the game, but the UCLA Bruins remained in first place with the 5-5 tie. USC and Arizona ended the season right behind the Sun Devils, with Cal, Oregon, and Stanford finishing next.

With second grade girls included in the LMYA softball program this year, the second and third grade teams showed amazing improvement in their defensive abilities during the season and were able to hit the "coach pitch." The enthusiasm and skill of the Saint Mary's College softball team, as well the Acalanes and Campolindo softball teams exhibited during softball clinics inspired and motivated them to do their best.

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.



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SPORTS LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Acalanes Captures NCS Baseball Title ...continued from page 1

MBA Bronco Level Wins Tournament Submitted by Rob Yoklavich, Head Coach

oraga Baseball Asso-(MBA), which includes Orinda and Moraga teams, travel each year to Citrus Heights, Calif., for the annual Memorial Day weekend baseball tournament, which includes

more than 75 teams from throughout California. This year, the MBA Bronco level (age 12 and under) won the tournament; it was the first time in more than 20 years that an MBA team in this age bracket has won.



Front row/kneeling (left to right): Conner Rosenbaum, James Coleman, Mason Windatt; Middle row/players: Brett Stephens, Ryan Hooper, Matt Yoklavich, Sam McAlpine, Joe Giacchetti, Robbie Tenerowicz, Jeff Eriksen, Scott Singh, JD Ratchford; Back row/adults: Head coach Rob Yoklavich, Coach Rich Windatt, Coach Andy Ratchford, Coach Rob Tenerowicz

Saint Monica's Track and Field Takes Gold

Submitted by Coach Laura Foxworthy

aint Monica's Track and Field Team of Moraga and Orinda qualified 15 athletes for the May 12 Oakland Diocese Meet of Champions at Diablo Valley College, with five Saint Monica's athletes finishing with gold medals. Hadley Swanson took first place in the 6th grade girls 400m, Alex Shieman took first in the 5th grade boys 800m and Phillip Rei took first in the 400m. The 5th grade boys Sprint Medley relay of Zach Foxworthy, Chase Corallo, Phillip Rei and Alex Shieman took home four gold medals.

Leland Wong, a 7th grader, took home a silver medal in the Long Jump and placed third in the 1600m and fourth in the 400m. Sophie Settle took second place in the 3rd grade girls 1600m. Zach Foxworthy took fourth place in the 5th grade boys 1600m. Devin Kennedy took fourth place in the 7th grade boys 800m and placed second in the softball throw. Kieran Fara, a 3rd grader, took two fourth place medals in the 800m and long jump. Yurii Hanley took third place in the 3rd grade boys 400m. Alex Shieman took 3rd place in the 5th grade boys 400m. Harrison Hughes took seventh place in the 5th grade boys 100m. Phillip Rei took second place in the 5th grade boys 200m and 3rd place in the long jump. Hadley Swanson took sixth place in the 6th grade girls 200m and 2nd place in the long jump.

The 5th grade boys 4x100m relay of Harrison Hughes, Troy Westernoff, Chase Corallo and Phillip Rei took home third place.

The 6th grade girls Sprint Medley team of Tina Romak, Kristen Chan, Hadley Swanson and Emma Jones







Moraga Baseball Association **Bronco Division**

Moraga Bears 7, Orinda Outlaws 9 Bears highlights: Brett Stephens 3 hits, 3 runs; Rvan Hooper 2 hits, RBI; Scott Singh 2 hits, RBI; Robbie Tenerowicz 1 hit, RBI, run.

Moraga Bears 12, Orinda Rivercats 2 Bears highlights: Brett Stephens 2 hits, 3 RBI, run; Ryan Hooper 3 hits, 2 RBI, run; Jeff Eriksen 1 hit, RBI, run. Moraga A's 8, Moraga Giants 6

Moraga A's highlights: Spencer Nichols 1-for-3: Reid Shellenback 2-for-3: John Eriksen 1-for -3; Joe Navone 2-for-3; Ryan Gannett 2-for-3; John Warrington 1-for-3; Kevin Lyle 2-for-3; Keai Lucasey 1-for-3. Giants highlights: Ian Daniel 1-for-4; Tyler Garrision 3-for-4: Rvan Smith 2-for-4: Kevin Baldwin 3-for-4; Matthew Barry 1for-3; Nathaniel Armen 2-for-3; Brian Pfaff 1-for-3, Hunter Drobenaire 1-for-1.

Moraga Giants 6, Piedmont 3 Giants highlights: Ian Daniel 2-for-4; Tyler Garrision 1-for-4; Kevin

Baldwin 2- for-3; Matthew Barry 1for-2 hits; Nathaniel Armen 1-for-3; Josh Delaney 1-for-3; Barry and Ryan Smith 1 strikeout each pitching.

Piedmont Scots 7, Moraga Bears 5 Bears highlights: Brett Stephens 2 hits, 2 runs; Cody Kiriaze 3 hits, run; Phillip Rei 2 hits, 2B.

Moraga Giants 6, Orinda Giants 1 Moraga Giants highlights: Ian Daniel 2-for-4. Tyler Garrison 3-for-4; Ryan Smith 3-for-4; Kevin Baldwin 2-for-3, 2 RBI; Matthew Barry 3 IP, 4 strikeouts; Josh DeLaney 2 IP, 2

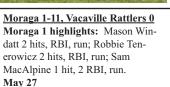
strikeouts. Memorial Day Citrus Heights Tournament

May 28 Moraga 1-12, Placer County 8 (Championship Game)

Moraga 1 highlights: Brett Stephens 3 hits, RBI, 2 runs; Robbie Tenerowicz 3 hits, 2 RBI, run; Ryan Hooper 3 hits, 2 RBI, run. May 28

Moraga 1-17, Orinda 3

Moraga 1 highlights: Ryan Hooper 3 hits, 3 RBI, 3 runs; Joe Giacchetti 3 hits, 3 RBI, run; Robbie Tenerowicz 2 hits, 4 RBI, 3 runs. May 27



Moraga 1-23, Golden Eagles 0 Moraga 1 highlights: JD. Ratchford 4 hits, 5 RBI, 3 runs; Mason Windatt 4 hits, 4 RBI, 3 runs; Ryan Hooper 3 hits, 3 RBI, run.

Mustang Division June 9

Championship Game Rangers 9, White Sox 2

Rangers highlights: Tyler Bartis 3 IP, 8 strikeouts; Chris Wilson 3-for-3, 3 RBI; Eric Dunning 1-for-2, 2 runs; Neil Kelley unassisted double play. White Sox highlights: Jake Rider 3 IP, 5 strikeouts; Tiger Garcia 2-for-2, run; Gill Jasper 1-for-2.

Game 1 -**End of the Season Tournament** Rangers 10, White Sox 2 Rangers highlights: Will Coates 1for-2, RBI, run; Neil Kelley 2-for-2, 2 RBI, 2 runs; Chris Wilson 1-for-2, RBI, run; Eric Dunning 3 IP, 1 run, 5 strikeouts. White Sox highlights: Tiger Garcia 1-for-3, 2B, run: Jake Ryder 2-for-3; Brian Lyle 1 IP, 0 runs;

June 7 - End of Season Tournament

Rangers 14, A's 13

Rangers highlights: Michael Wright 2-for-2, 2 RBI, 2 runs; Neil Kelley 2-for-3, 3B, 2 RBI, 2 runs; Brendan Purtill 2-for-3, 2B, 3 RBI, run; Catcher Tyler Bartis threw out base stealers at 2nd and 3rd for the last two outs of the game. A's highlights: Chase Corallo 2for-4, 2B, 2 runs; Alex Gannett 2-for-2, RBI, 2 runs; Zach Cole 2-for-2, 3 RBI, 3 runs; Nick Riddle 2-for-3, 2 RBI, 2 runs. June 5 - Playoffs

Rangers 9, Yankees 8 Rangers highlights: Ryan Geisreiter 3 IP, 7 strikeouts; Tyler Bartis 2-for-2, 2 run; Chris Wilson 2-for-3, run. Yankees highlights: Kevin Lehman 3-for-4, 2 runs;

Ramin Nazeri 2-for-3, run. **Pinto Division**

June 9 Cubs 15, Giants 14

Cubs highlights: Ryan McNally 2for-3, 3 RBI; Jason Rodriguez 2-for-3, 2 RBI; Spencer Giglio 3-for-3, 2 runs; Jacob Westphal 3-for-3, 2 runs; Brett Smith 2B, Callan Beaver 2B; Richard Gong 2B; strong defense by Rodriguez, McNally, Alex Capurro, including game ending catch by Eli Kirmeier. Giants highlights: Sterling Strother 3-for-3, 2B, 3B, 5 RBI; Sam Levy 3-for-3 2 runs: Harry Curtiss 2for-3, 2B, 2 RBI; Parker Windatt 2-for-

June 6 Cardinals 24, Diamondbacks 23 Cardinals highlights: Kroichick 5-for-5, 2 RBI, 4 runs; Matt Kronenberg 4-for-5, 2B, 2 RBI; Quinn Cuddihy 4-for-5, 3 RBI; Hayden Hunt 3-for-4. 2B. Diamondbacks highlights: Calvin Gee 3-for-4, 2 runs; Andrew Holloway 3-for-4, 3 runs; Jack Oxendine 3-for-4, 3B, 2 RBI, 3 runs; Kyle Hinds 4-for-4, 5 RBI. Cubs 21, Padres 19

Cubs highlights: Jason Rodriguez 2for-4, RBI, 3 runs; Jacob Delaney 4-for-4, RBI, 3 runs; Richard Gong 4-for-4, 2 RBI, 3 runs: Kevin Hoffinger 4-for-4, RBI, 3 runs. Padres highlights: Jack Hattabaugh 2-for-3, RBI, 2 runs; Tristan Westernoff 4for-4, 2 runs; Jake Rolfe 4-fo-4, RBI, 3

Giants 9, Padres 4 Giants highlights: Casey Kiriaze 2-for-3; Parker Windatt 2-for-3; Shun Ishida 2-for-3. Padres highlights: Tenshi Lucasev 2-for-3: Bryce Dugan 3-

June 2

for-3; Aaron DePaolo 2-for-3. Padres 15, Diamondbacks 6Padres Highlights: Tristan Westernoff 4-for-4, RBI, 3 runs; Michael Hooper 4-for-4, 2B, 3 RBI, 3 runs. Diamondbacks

Highlights: Calvin Gee 2-for-3, 2B,

run; Jake Oxendine 2-for-3, 2B, RBI

Aidan Crouch 3-for-3, run.

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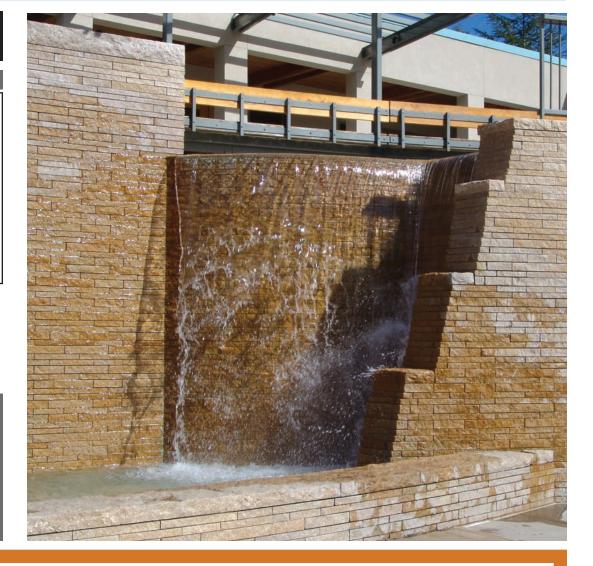
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