

Independent, locally owned and operated!

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

1st Anniversary Edition

Need to contact us? 925.377.0977

Delivered bi-weekly to all Lamorinda homes & businesses

Free

Volume 02; Issue 1

visit us online: www.lamorindaweekly.com

Wednesday, March 19, 2008



There's nothing more magical than seeing the delighted face of a child searching for Easter eggs in a large grassy field, or the sound of their laughter when being tickled by the soft fur or feathers of baby bunnies and chicks. If bunnies and chicks are purchased as Easter pets, however, the excitement of the new addition can wear off fast, says Lamorinda 4H Rabbit Leader Aimee Protzen. "Children lose interest very quickly," she said. "A lot of rabbits like a quiet household, so buying a rabbit for a 3-year-old is not a good match." And chicks have another complication. "People don't realize that when they go to a feed store and get chicks that many of them are roosters," said Lamorinda 4H Club Poultry Leader Michelle Chan. "You are never guaranteed the sex of chicks until they are six months old and start crowing."

... continued on page 9

Keeping Easter Fun for Everyone – Even Easter Pets

By Jennifer Wake



Now We Are One Dear Friends and Neighbors,

One year ago this week, you may have been surprised to find a small but colorful newspaper lying somewhere in the general vicinity of your home. For more than a few of you, that was a year ago next week; fortunately, our ability to deliver the Lamorinda Weekly to you in a timely manner has improved a bit. You may have immediately recycled that first issue because it was left in the gutter and had absorbed most of the run-off from the last rain, or thought to yourself, "I didn't order this..." Some of you opened it up and read about "The Little Paper That Could."

Not many of you knew us back then, but those who did sent letters of welcome and encouragement, and over the past year the support of our communities has grown more than we could have hoped. For all of the thoughtful and often thought-provoking notes, story ideas, articles and photographs you've submitted to us, we can't thank you enough.

I've been thinking all week about how to express the delight we take in having the opportunity to serve, in our own way, our little corner of the world;

to chronicle and celebrate everyday life in Lamorinda and to help, we hope, bring people together despite our differences.

Over the past twelve months we have gotten to know each other, to learn each other's strengths and weaknesses, and to appreciate what the other has to offer. In short, we've become friends.

And, just between us, we have had a whole lot of fun! It has been a genuine pleasure making your acquaintance.

The cities and town that comprise Lamorinda, while distinct in their own personalities, have much in common. We have been struck by the sincere commitment, level of involvement and great care we've seen displayed by and on behalf of our communities. We may live in 'small towns,' but they are a haven for generous and open minds.

This week, your friendly neighborhood newspaper celebrates its first birthday (or 'paper anniversary,' if you will), which means the National Newspaper Association now considers us a legitimate publication. But we are not, nor do we aspire to be, your typical newspaper; those aren't doing very well these days, and we like our cozy little niche.

As we look ahead, we acknowledge that we

have learned much during our first year, and freely admit that we still have much to learn. We will continue to grow and do our best to be the newspaper that speaks to you about what's happening in your own back yard.

There has been a rather heated debate going on in our editorial meetings of late as to whether or not the Lamorinda Weekly should take a formal position on some of our local issues. We've done so in only a very few instances. We have not, and probably will not, voice our opinion on issues that are to be determined by the voters in our communities, such as parcel taxes, open space initiatives, and city council races. Rather, we will continue to offer an opportunity for public debate and discussion, allowing differing views to be shared and exchanged and encouraging all residents of Lamorinda to get involved, stay informed and come to your own conclusions.

Thank you for reading, and welcome to Volume 2 of the Lamorinda Weekly.

Lee Borrowman, Editor

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

this week

PROFILE

As we continue our series introducing you to the key members of our City Staffs, this week we profile the Public Works Managers in Lafayette (page 2) and Moraga (page 3). The profile of the Orinda Public Works Manager will run in a subsequent issue.

Town News	2,3,4
Whole Foods Parking Woes	2
Let's Talk Specific Plan	3
State of the City	4
Something's in the Air	5
Buddha's Gate	6
They're Here! (Moths, that is)	7
Calendar, SMC Happenings	8
HOW TO CONTACT US	8
Lamorinda's Inner Beauty	9
Letters to the Editor	10
Public Forum (new!)	10
Bilingualism	11
Lamorinda Real Estate	12
Open Space Saga	12
Business	13, 14
A Sweet Event	13
Schools	15-17
Boys Buzz	16
Lamorinda Restaurants	18
In the Back Yard	19
Sports	20-23
Classifieds	22
SMC Goes to NCAA	20
Shop Orinda	24

Advertising



Jim Colhoun
Fine Homes and Relocation Specialist, Lafayette

Lafayette
Hidden Treasure
presented by Jim Colhoun



11 Sessions Road,
Lafayette
Reservoir Views, Gated Estate
Home of approx. 4200 s.f. on
over 3+ acres, Five bedrooms
plus media room & office.
Call Jim Colhoun
for a private showing
925 962-6101

Detour Ahead

By Cathy Tyson



Big equipment for big pipes is coming in town Photo provided

In an effort to keep Lamorinda drivers apprised of the upcoming Moraga Road Pipeline project, EBMUD has designed a special insert, which can be found in the center of this paper. Residents may want to leave a little early or stay a little late in June, July and August to avoid what EBMUD describes as a "noticeable impact." Another option would be to take a lengthy vacation, thereby reducing the number of cars on the road and possibly your blood pressure during the summer months.

Highlights of the insert include dates for the project, June 16 through August 22, and construction times. The installation will start in Moraga between Sky-Hy Drive and Draeger Drive, where, because of the width of the road, two-way traffic will be available, with a few small exceptions. For the most part, construction will run from 8:45 until 4:30.

... continued on page 11

Mailed to 24,600 homes and businesses in Lamorinda

return to: Lamorinda Weekly • P.O. Box 6133 • Moraga, CA 94570

PSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AD-VANTAGE

Lamorinda Community

Calendar, Notes, News

Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Monday, March 24	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, March 20	
Thursday, April 3	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Tuesday, March 25	
Park, Trails, Rec.	7pm
Community Center 500 St Mary's Road	
Wednesday, April 9	
Circulation	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Monday, April 7	
Emergency Prep.	9:15am
City Offices 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 265	
Wednesday, April 9	
Senior Services	3:30pm
Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, March 27	
check online: Town of Lafayette: http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us	
• all meeting notes	
• calendar updates	
Chamber of Commerce: http://www.lafayettechamber.org	
• local businesses	
• upcoming events	



In the wee hours, 3/02/08
Unknown suspect sprayed graphic images, of the masculine gender, in mustard all over a Lafayette woman's driveway sometime early in the morning. Even after the driveway was cleaned, damage from the mustard was still evident. Eight Safeway-brand mustard containers were taken from the scene as evidence and checked for fingerprints. No witnesses or suspects at this time.

Too tired, 3/04/08
A suspect used a "tire iron" to break the window and take property from the back seat of two different vehicles parked at an apartment complex on 3279 Mt. Diablo Blvd sometime before 6 am.

No more music, 3/05/08
Around dawn an unknown suspect smashed the rear door window of a parked utility vehicle on Augustine Drive and reached in to grab two black cases with musical instruments inside. No suspects or witnesses.

Faked it and fled, 3/06/08
An unknown suspect attempted unsuccessfully to use a counterfeit \$100 bill at Oasis Cafe. Next, the suspect tried SWAD Indian restaurant, but when the manager of SWAD took the bill into the kitchen to examine it, the suspect high-tailed it to the BART station.

YOGA
IYENGAR-ANUSARA METHOD

- Strength •
- Stamina •
- Stress Reduction •

JEANNE DOWELL
Former instructor under U.S. Olympic Committee Group Classes Orinda, Moraga, and Mills College. Private instruction available.

925.254.0193
www.yogawithjeanne.com

FIRST CLASS FREE



(925) 339-1918
danagreen@rockcliff.com
DanaGreenTeam.com



NEW LAFAYETTE LISTING!

Downtown Pottery Barn Charmer!
Cheerful 1559sf 2BD/2.5BA detached home
\$725,000



Library Artists Wanted

By Cathy Tyson

Creative person or team of artists wanted to develop artwork for the currently under construction Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Must live or work within California, and apply before the Friday, April 11th deadline. There are two commissions available. The largest, with a budget of \$245,000 is for two site-specific pieces for the Outdoor Plaza Corridor that will hopefully not clash with the contemporary Bay Area Craftsman style of the building.

The Children's Activity Deck has a budget of \$82,500 for a permanent outdoor art project to beautify the enclosed outdoor area for younger patrons to blow off some steam, while their caretakers can read or relax while watching them.

According to the project scope, "finalists will be asked to develop a proposal that may include some of the following characteristics: tactile, playful or whimsical, kinetic, interactive, imaginative, practical, durable and easy to maintain." Easier said than done.

"No one has applied so far, at least last time I checked," said Carin Adams, Project Manager at the Oakland Museum of California.

... continued on page 12



Meet Lafayette's Public Works Manager

By Cathy Tyson



Ron Lefler, Public Works Services Manager Photo Cathy Tyson

Who knew that the attractive trailer and large shed along Camino Diablo was Pothole Repair Central for Lafayette residents? Most citizens' only contact with Public Works is via the phone or e-mail when a tree falls across their street, or a storm drain is clogged. As Ron Lefler, Public Works Services Manager for almost nine years, explained one recent afternoon, that's just the tip of the iceberg.

"We maintain the city's infrastructure, keep it in good shape and keep within our budget," said Lefler, getting right to the point. He continued, "We basically maintain all the traffic signals and

street lights in town, and maintain all the street and median landscaping. In the wintertime we make sure all of the storm drains are open and keep the creeks flowing. With all the recent rain, we've done really well this year."

One of their least glamorous, but most common jobs is repairing potholes. A simple straight-forward Service Request order form to report potholes or streetlight outages is posted on the Public Works page of the city website. "Most potholes we fill in about 24 hours - that's our personal goal. We have a computerized database; we track everything that comes into the of-

ice, to make sure we follow up and get things done. We try to give people reasonable timelines for repair."

It's important to note that the Engineering Department is responsible for major roadway work, and sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner. As much as we would like to repair all of the roads in Lafayette, there's simply not enough money.

One of the best parts of the job, according to Lefler is "the satisfaction of getting things done and within budget - that's a big thing for me. We have not exceeded an operating budget in nine years."

"I think the worst thing about the job is not getting everything done you'd like to get done.

There's always a backlog of work requests. It's like doing laundry, it never ends. There's always potholes to fill, and long-term things you'd like to do like improving operations, often just can't get done because you're busy doing the laundry every day."

The department uses mostly herbicides and fertilizers and very little pesticide, all of course are EPA approved; they help keep the City's landscape investment green and healthy.

One of the big differences between Lafayette's Department of Public Works and Orinda and Moraga's is that they hire hourly labor for most of their projects. "It's cheaper. We're a small city, to keep a small crew proficient in all aspects of the job is difficult. The City pays an hourly fee that includes workers compensation and overhead." This gives them flexibility to gear up or down as needed, not keeping extra people on the payroll during slow periods.

Lefler grew up in the San

Joaquin Valley, and has lived for the last 35 years in Pleasant Hill. "In my junior year of high school I knew I wanted to be a Civil Engineer." To that end, Lefler attended Fresno State where he received a Civil Engineering degree and is a registered Civil Engineer.

To report potholes or traffic signal problems call the Public Works Hotline at (925) 299-3259 or fill out and submit a Service Request form via the City Department section on the website, www.lovelafayette.com.

Ware Designs
Fine Jewelry since 1977

- Custom Designed Jewelry
- Remodel Heirloom Jewelry
- Expert Repair
- Appraisals
- Pearls Restrung

50% off Watch Battery
Now \$5, Reg \$10
Tues 12-5 Wed-Sat 10-5

"The Forge" 3416 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette
283-2988 www.waredesigns.com

1 watch battery per person. Exp. 4/15/08. Quality installed while you wait. W/coupon. Restrictions apply.

Pants Half off with this ad! • **Pants Half off with this ad!**

PANTS HALF OFF WITH THIS AD!

3561 MT. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette 94549
925-284-2662

Dutch Girl CLEANERS
www.dutchgirldrycleaners.net

* Limit 5 pants

Pants Half off with this ad! • **Pants Half off with this ad!**

Sharp Bicycle

Sally, somewhere in Tuscany

All Fall/Winter Clothing

50% OFF

969 Moraga Rd. Lafayette in La Fiesta Square
284-9616 • M-F 10-6, Sat 9-6, Sun 12-5
www.sharpbicycle.com

Parking Problems at Whole Foods

By Cathy Tyson

Lafayette residents wondering what is up with the new Whole Foods need only look as far as the parking lot to check on its status. A couple of weeks ago there was a meeting with the store's representative and their outside consultant, to discuss the parking issue. In a nutshell, there aren't enough parking places as the lot is currently laid out to meet the City requirement.

Lafayette, like all other cities has regulations based on

the type of land use that a building requires. Currently there are a total of 383 parking spaces on the non-Safeway side of the shopping center. The existing businesses, McCaulou's, Noah's, Jamba Juice and Peet's, to name a few, take up a substantial number of those spots.

The current Municipal Code requires one parking spot for each 250 square feet of net floor area for retail businesses. Unfortunately the Planning

Department has not been provided a floor plan as yet, to determine the exact amount of spaces needed. But it's safe to say, considering the size of the existing building, there won't be enough parking spaces as the lot is currently configured.

"I'm hopeful that we can work something out," said Ken Hines, Vice President of Store Development for the Northern California Region.

... continued on page 11

Spring Into Beauty!

ASPEN MED SPA

The Nature of Science & Beauty

Come in for a Complimentary Consultation
and get 5 FREE units of Botox® Value \$65*
\$25 off Spa Facial Call to schedule an appointment

William Birdsong, MD • The Clocktower, 3579 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette
(925) 283-6975 • www.aspenmedspa.com
* New Clients Only, Expires 4/30/08

Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News

Moraga

Calendar	
City Council	7:30pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo Wednesday, March 26	
Planning Comm.	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive Monday, April 7	
Design Review	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive Monday, March 24	
Park & Rec	7:30pm
Hacienda, Mosaic Room 2100 Donald Drive Tuesday, April 15	
Liaison	8:00am
Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way Friday, April 11	

Town of Moraga online:
<http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us>
 for:

- all meeting notes
- calendar updates



Pot possession, 3/08/08 A Volkswagen Beetle was stopped on Moraga Road at Corliss Drive for expired registration. The savvy police officer sniffed out the odor of burnt marijuana. Unfortunately the driver did not have a medical marijuana card for the one-ounce of pot found in his car. To make matters worse, the driver did not have a driver's license.

Speeding, 3/06/08 A 17 year old Camplindo student was stopped for speeding, going 51 m.p.h. on Rheem Boulevard. The driver admitted he was racing with a friend. The officer had a little chat with the young man and an assignment was offered to the Juvenile Diversion Program.

Embezzlement 3/06/08 The owner of the UPS Store on Moraga Way called officers in to show them a closed circuit video recording of a female suspect stealing cash. The owner suspected other thefts, but could not document them. The suspect was contacted by phone, but declined to come to the police department to discuss the matter. Total amount of loss because of her actions is \$195.66. She was fired.

Possibly crazy but self-aware college student, 3/03/08 A male St. Mary's college student advised counselors that he was having violent thoughts about his roommates and wished to have his mental health evaluated. The subject said he was a danger to others and that he was capable of hurting or killing others. He was taken to Contra Costa County Hospital and placed on a 72-hour hold. A large survival knife was retrieved from his dorm room.

Found Property
 Moraga Police Department has 1 Machete that was turned into found property. 1 Paint ball gun and Keys found on 3/8/08. If one of these items belongs to you please call Heather Pomeroy at the Moraga Police Department at 925-888-7055x 7173. If items are not claimed on or before March 28, 2008 the items will be sent to auction or be destroyed.

Public Input Needed for Moraga Specific Plan

By Sophie Braccini

On March 27th the Town of Moraga is holding a public meeting to get input on the proposed Moraga Center Specific Plan. The plan addresses the area located at Moraga Way and Moraga Road, and also encompasses the pear orchard located to the south of Camino Ricardo. For years, the Town has been working with the property owner, the Bruzzone family. Recently the Dahlin Group was hired to create a visual rendition of what the Center could become. They have met with the

property owner, and with the Town; now it is time to have the people of Moraga contribute ideas.

The meeting will be held from 7:00-9:00pm at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, 10 Moraga Valley Lane in Moraga. The process of adopting the Specific Plan, including the environmental report, will continue during the spring, summer and fall of 2008. At the moment, the tentative date for adoption of a plan is late October, 2008.



Key opportunities and a possible configuration of land uses in the Moraga Center Area: (see map above)

1. Shopping Center – potential redevelopment, redesign, intensification or site improvements to create stronger pedestrian orientation.
2. Under-utilized land-potential for medium and medium-high density housing and/or commercial development.
3. Potential extension of School Street.
4. Proposed Town Center Facility Site.
5. Creek and Moraga Ranch historic structures-development setbacks and potential linear park.
6. Orchard Area – mixed density housing, clustered to protect some of the orchard areas.
7. Residential Area (3 units per acre; transition to existing neighborhoods)
8. Commercial/office areas (including existing assisted care facility, Moraga Barn, etc.)-some infill potential (small offices and/or housing)
9. Limited commercial Area – some infill housing potential.

Dan Bernie, Taking Care of Moraga

By Sophie Braccini

Dan Bernie is this kind of tough man that you want to count among your friends when trouble hits. The ex-Marine is reliable, resourceful; he knows how to lead and organize and has a passion for his work in Moraga, where he is the superintendent of parks and public works. Most of all, Bernie is humble, he even refused to have his picture taken unless his whole team was there.

The Campo graduate joined the Marines at age seventeen. He joined the Moraga staff in 1979 and was promoted to

Supervisor in 1982. He cares for 440 acres of parks and open land, 55 miles of roads, public buildings including the Hacienda and the library and for cleanliness of the water going into the creeks.

Bernie maintains the whole town with a staff of five, including himself. "This is probably the smallest team for a comparably-sized town in California," says Bernie, "but I understand that we have budget challenges and we've had to be creative."

... continued on page 19



Public Works team: (from left to right) first row: Charles (Dana) Blatner and Jill Mercurio, second row: Jose Limon, John Sherbert, Dan Bernie, Steve Reichhold, Kyle Salvin and Ruben Ochoa. Celina Carolipio not on picture Photo Sophie Braccini

TWO EXTRAORDINARY ORINDA HOMES!




11 OVERHILL COURT, ORINDA
 Location! Walk to Peets and BART from this private 5 Br, 3Ba, contemporary home on an oak studded 1.98 acre lot. 3650 sq ft of living space with a 3 car garage.
OFFERED AT \$1,299,000 WWW.11OVERHILLCT.COM

36 LINDA VISTA, ORINDA
 Charming French provincial style home located in the heart of the Orinda Country Club. Completely remodeled, over 3000 sq ft, 5 Br, 5.5 Ba, including detached guest house. Fabulous views!
OFFERED AT \$1,499,000 WWW.36LINDAVISTA.COM

*The Market has Changed...
 Its more important than ever to work with an experienced top producer! Call us if you're thinking of a move!*

ORINDA • MORAGA • LAFAYETTE
ELENA HOOD
 REAL ESTATE GROUP
 (925)254-3030 WWW.ORINDA.COM

Create a gorgeous garden this spring

Moraga Hardware & Lumber







Featuring an extensive selection of organic soils, amendments and insect control



Moraga
 HARDWARE & LUMBER
 SINCE 1967

(925) 376-3600 • 1409 Moraga Way
 Moraga Shopping Center

Please Support your locally owned & operated businesses

The Right Lender to Know™

Puzzled by news of lower interest rates when mortgage rates are increasing?

Want to know more? **Call me.**



925-627-7109

www.rpm-mortgage.com/gsteele

CA Dept. of Real Estate - real estate broker license # 01201643

RPM RESIDENTIAL PACIFIC MORTGAGE

Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News

Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, April 8	
Planning Comm.	7:00pm
Founders Auditorium, Comm. Center 28 Orinda Way Tuesday, April 1	
Planning Process Review	8:30am
Community Room, Comm. Center 28 Orinda Way Task Force Friday, March 21	
Parks & Recreation Comm.	7pm
Orinda Community Center 28 Orinda Way Wednesday, April 9	
Mayor's Com. Liaison	9am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Monday, April 7	

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

Chamber of Commerce:
<http://www.orindachamber.org/>
• local businesses
• upcoming events



Driving while angry, 3/10/08 An Orinda resident was driving east-bound on Highway 24 when someone started to tailgate him. Hand gestures were exchanged. The agitated tailgater followed the Orinda resident through the tunnel, they both parked at the Bev Mo parking lot. "I want the fast lane," said the disgruntled driver. He then used his tazer, and following that he sprayed pepper spray on the unsuspecting victim. Mr. Cranky driver then drove away. The white male middle-aged Orinda resident called a friend to take him home.

Auto burglary, 3/10/08 An unknown suspect broke into a car in front of a Dalewood Drive residence. The drivers side window was broken in and a Blackberry valued at \$400 as well as a digital camera, valued at \$1,000 were taken. The theft occurred sometime between 10:00 p.m. and 7:30 a.m.

Mail stolen, 3/10/08 A Bobolink Road resident had his mail stolen by unknown suspects from 2/28/08 until 3/02/08. The Post Office confirmed the mail was delivered to the home on those days.

Alteration rip-off 3/04/08 Three females entered the Clean Cleaners on Orinda Way to have a skirt altered. After bringing one of the women to the fitting room at the back of the store, the suspect decided not to have her skirt altered after all. Shortly thereafter an employee discovered her purse was missing. Video surveillance is available.

Mayor Gives State of the City Address

By Cathy Tyson



Orinda Mayor Victoria Smith at the Orinda Library Photo Cathy Tyson

"Our biggest challenge is roads. As you probably all know, the bad news is we have 95 miles of the worst roads in the entire bay area. We have sunk below the city of Richmond. We are dead last. As you probably also know it will cost \$100 million dollars to rebuild them," said Mayor Victoria Smith in her State of the City address.

To an overflowing crowd, Smith outlined what was happening in all the City departments and gave an overview of the budget. The straightforward speech was enhanced with a media presentation that included themed music for the various sections. Right off the bat was a crowd pleaser from the Rolling Stones, "You Can't Always Get What You Want" to kick off the first section, discussion of the road situation.

After graciously welcoming everyone and thanking all who contributed to the event, Mayor Smith singled out Monica Pacheco with a special audience acknowledgement for her technical assistance in putting together the visual aids and the music.

Continuing on with the road theme she spoke of the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Committee. "Their task is to make sure with the limited road dollars that we do have, around a million dollars a year...to make sure we are spending it on the right priorities. They will bring their recommendations to us in the next couple of months and we look forward to that." Seeking state funding and looking at various alternatives, like benefit assessment districts are options they are actively pursuing.

On a more positive note, the good news is the Moraga Way paving project has been

moved up so as not to conflict with the EBMUD plan to replace pipes along Moraga Road through Lafayette during the summer months. The \$2.8 million dollar repair, offset by a substantial grant of \$1.3 million from the state will be big improvement for drivers.

Following that came the aptly titled, "What does the City do for you and how does it do it?" Here she talked about the City's operating budget, about \$10.8 million dollars, over 50% of which comes from property and sales taxes. It may surprise some residents to know that for every dollar in property tax paid, Orinda only gets seven cents of tax revenue.

Next on the municipal finance theme was expenses. A substantial portion of the revenue pie is spent, almost one third, for police services. After everyone got a chuckle from the song, "I Fought The Law And The Law Won," Smith summarized the department; "We contract with Contra Costa Sheriff's Department for our police services. We have 14 sworn officers, so we always have at least two on duty at all times. We have a very safe city." She was pleased to report a 48% decrease in auto related crimes, which she attributes to good policing.

The Capital Improvement Budget for 2007 - 2008 of \$3.8 million will be spent on infrastructure projects; for example the Moraga Way project, the annual pavement management budget, fixing the Manzanita and Miner Road bridges, and repairing storm drains.

Parks and Recreation followed with some truly impressive numbers. "We really have a cradle to grave program here. We have things for toddlers, we have things for seniors. We offer more than 400 classes each session of the year; each of these sessions has more than 3,000 participants. They really do a terrific job for our community," proudly reported Smith.

Planning, Public Works, Engineering, and Administration were outlined towards the end of the speech along with updates on the Wilder and Pulte developments.

Shop **locally** whenever you can. Only your support of our **local** businesses will keep them open!



Residential and Restoration Painting Services

Meticulous attention to detail
37 years of satisfied customers

David Collins, Orinda
925-254-6882

Much Ado About Not Much

By Sophie Braccini

Executive Director Paul Morsen came out of retirement to help fix the management of the Central Contra Costa Waste Authority. Recently, a controversy emerged as the fairness of the use of a reserve fund was questioned. "The issue of the difference in use of fund reserve between jurisdictions needs to be put into perspective," says Morsen. "We are talking about the allocation of a three million dollar reserve accumulated over a 13 year period, when the annual garbage collection envelope is \$30 to \$35 million a year."

Each city pays a different rate. The solid waste rate is very dependant on the terrain,

the number of private streets, the size and practicability of the drives, and the number of commercial businesses. The more businesses, the lower the rate. So it is no wonder that Orinda, with its miles of roads and limited business population, suffers the highest rate. "Orinda is the toughest city to collect," explains Morsen, "while Walnut Creek is much cheaper."

In order to smooth the rates that are dependent on oil prices, the Authority saved money in a reserve fund that could be used in the subsequent years. It was found that Orinda had benefited more than its share from that fund.

"We are trying to find ways to solve what has been done in the past," says Morsen, "but there is no risk of a related rate increase." Decisions will be made by the Board in the coming weeks. Morsen would rather see attention focused on the good management of the Authority, which has maintained and even reduced pick-up rates over the past ten years, in spite of oil price increases and investment in new equipment. In Lafayette the rate went from an average per house per month of \$26.69 in 1994 to \$19.93 now, in Moraga from \$22.94 to \$19.98 and in Orinda from \$25.63 to \$25.23.

Moraga Way Paving Anticipated This Spring

By Cathy Tyson

In light of the Lafayette upcoming road closure for a large EBMUD project, Orinda wisely moved up the paving schedule of Moraga Way to avoid what could have been a traffic nightmare. Moraga residents will be especially pleased that both main exits from town aren't blocked at the same time.

At the State of the City Address Mayor Victoria Smith summarized the \$2.8 million dollar project that is tentatively expected to start in the next couple of months. "The City Engineer was able to get grants of \$1.3 million dollars, part of that for rubberized asphalt, which produces less noise. It will run all the way from downtown to the Moraga border. It will be a headache I know, but it'll be fantastic when it's done."

Orinda City Manager Janet Keeter signed the con-



Rough road conditions on Moraga Way Photo Andy Scheck

tract last week. "The next step will be to authorize hiring a Construction Manager for the project. This item goes to the City Council on March 18. After the Construction Manager (CM) is hired, the CM,

City staff and the contractor will meet to outline the schedule. I would hope we would have an idea of the schedule within the next couple of weeks," she said.

TILE CONTRACTOR

Kitchen, Bathroom, Floor & Fireplace

Phone: 925-437-5569

Quality Installation:
Ceramic Tile • Marble • Granite Stone • Glass Tile & Mosaic Porcelain • Slate • Travertine

Free Estimate
Reasonable Prices
www.TileContractorInc.com
State Lic. #791897

TheHattersleys.com

Helping You Achieve Your Goals!

Peter Hattersley
925.708.9515

Darlene Hattersley
925.360.9588

OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 23rd, 1-4

724 Spartan Ct., Walnut Creek
A Larkey Park beauty in a private court.

7 E Altarinda, Orinda
Traditional on flat, sunny .5 acres + solar pool.

COMING SOON IN LAFAYETTE!

Gorgeous views, 5 bedrooms,
4.5 baths, pool plus sport court.

Find MLS Listings and Valuable Buyer and Seller Tips on our Website.

Now in Walnut Creek

Jumpstart Your Weight Loss

Jumpstart Medicine offers a medically-supervised weight loss program individually designed for men and women looking to lose weight safely and quickly. On average, our patients lose 2 to 5 pounds per week over the course of 12 weeks. Most patients feel great, have no cravings, and stay highly motivated due to quick results which they can see and feel.

How much do you want to lose?

jumpstart

MEDICINE

Walnut Creek • San Ramon

925-277-1123 • www.jumpstartmedicine.com

1031 EXCHANGES...

TENANT-IN-COMMON SPECIALISTS

Presidio Exchange Advisors, a branch office of Omni Brokerage, Inc

- ✳ Over the past five years, more than one out of every ten dollars invested in real estate 1031 TIC securities offerings have been transacted through OMNI Brokerage.
- ✳ Since 1995 OMNI Brokerage has completed over 3,000 TIC securities transactions.
- ✳ OMNI Brokerage is the largest broker-dealer in the 1031 TIC securities industry, based on equity raised.
- ✳ Clients have invested into real estate valued at over \$3.0 Billion through OMNI Brokerage.

DAVID WAAL
PRINCIPAL

2950 BUSKIRK AVE., STE 300
WALNUT CREEK,
CA 94597

(925) 407-4747

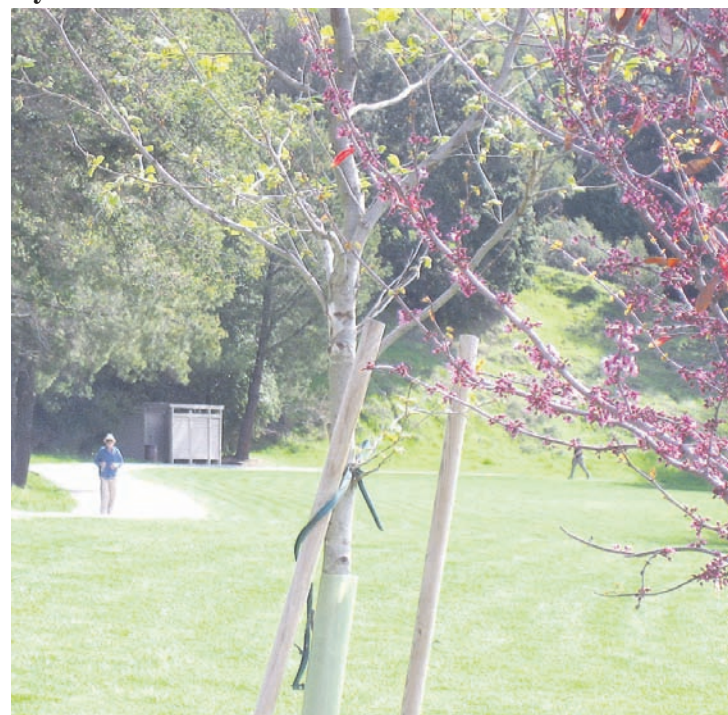
Securities offered through OMNI Brokerage, Inc. • Member FINRA/SIPC

1031 Replacement Property Solutions

Life in LAMORINDA

Something's in the Air . . . It's Spring! Gesundheit!

By Jennifer Wake



It's pollen time at the Lafayette Reservoir Photo Jennifer Wake

Spring is one of the most beautiful seasons, as blossoms bloom on tree branches and wild mustard grows on hillsides. For the thousands of Lamorinda allergy sufferers, however, the beauty can bring a sense of foreboding.

According to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology, allergies affect more than 50 million people in the United States, at an estimated cost of \$7.9 billion per year, and more than half of all U.S. citizens testing positive to one or more allergens.

"In the past 20 years, there has been a 30 percent increase in people with allergies – especially among children," said Dr. Allyson Tevrizian, who is an allergist/immunologist for Allergy and Asthma Medical Group of the Bay Area.

The cause for the increase is yet to be determined, but there are a variety of hypotheses. One such hypothesis states that living in a pristine environment with minimal outdoor activity may increase the risk of developing allergies.

"The leading hypothesis is the hygiene hypothesis," Dr. Tevrizian said. "The basic premise is that the absence of infectious exposure at a critical point in immune system development increases allergic disease. With increased use of antibiotics, smaller family sizes, and decreasing exposure to farm animals in rural settings, children may not be getting the necessary immune

stimulation that directs them away from allergic disease."

Diana Pandell, Ph.D., (an alternative healthcare practitioner in Lafayette) agrees that in our country we are overly concerned with cleanliness and the avoidance of common exposures that actually can help to build our immune systems.

But many questions are not answered because the indoor environment is so complex, explained Tevrizian.

Some studies have shown that if you live in a rural environment with farm animals, your incidence of developing allergies is less than if you live in a more urban environment. A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that children who grow up with two or more dogs in the home have their risk of developing pet allergies reduced by as much as 50 percent or more. But the results only applied to infants during their first year of life when their immune systems were still developing.

The most significant finding was that pet exposure early in life not only appeared to protect against pet allergies, but dust mite, ragweed, grass and other allergies as well.

"Some of the most intriguing studies come from rural locations," Tevrizian said. "If you grow up on a farm where there is a covered walkway between your home and the barn so that presumably you are inhaling animal

feces, you have a very low incidence of allergies and asthma. There is research studying the part of the bacteria responsible for the immune system switch as a potential treatment for those at high risk of allergic disease."

Until then, most allergy sufferers continue to find relief through allergy shots, over-the-counter remedies, or by strict avoidance behavior.

Avoiding pollen can be tricky, however, if you live near Acacia trees, which shed yellow pollen, said Gary Dorrington of McDonnell Nursery in Orinda. "Acacias grow wild in the area, so there's not much you can do about that," he said. "Also, a lot of people use Waxleaf Privet as a hedge, which can be really hard for people with allergies. If you use it as a hedge and it isn't allowed to flower, it's not a problem. The best thing you can do is check the pollen count before going outside."

Those who feel they have tried everything may seek unconventional treatments.

Pandell works with allergy sufferers using NAET and other modalities, which blend energy balancing, testing, and treatment procedures from Chinese medicine and nutritional disciplines.

"I was born with severe allergies which worsened after I moved to California," she said. "I had allergies to foods, mold, dust, animals, and pollen. Despite trying many different methods, including allergy shots, prescription drugs, and elimination diets, I still suffered on a daily basis." Pandell says her allergies have been eliminated or substantially decreased due to NAET. She has worked with hundreds of allergy sufferers to help them reprogram their bodies and desensitize their allergies.

Conventional means of therapy are also based on this premise. "Allergy shots are trying to do something natural as well," explained Dr. Tevrizian. "We are giving the thing they are allergic to in low doses, and then slowly increase the dosage to desensitize them to what they are allergic to."

A new treatment called sublingual allergen immunotherapy – or allergy drops – may eliminate the need for shots and weekly doctor's visits for some. The

drops are placed under the tongue and can be administered at home.

"This method is still considered off label use and may not be as effective as shots because you cannot reach as high allergen doses," Tevrizian said.

For now, until more breakthroughs are discovered, Lamorindans will continue to battle dust mites, mold, pollen, diesel exhaust particles, and tobacco smoke as they continue to greet sneezing, wheezing, and coughing with empathy and a hearty "Gesundheit!"



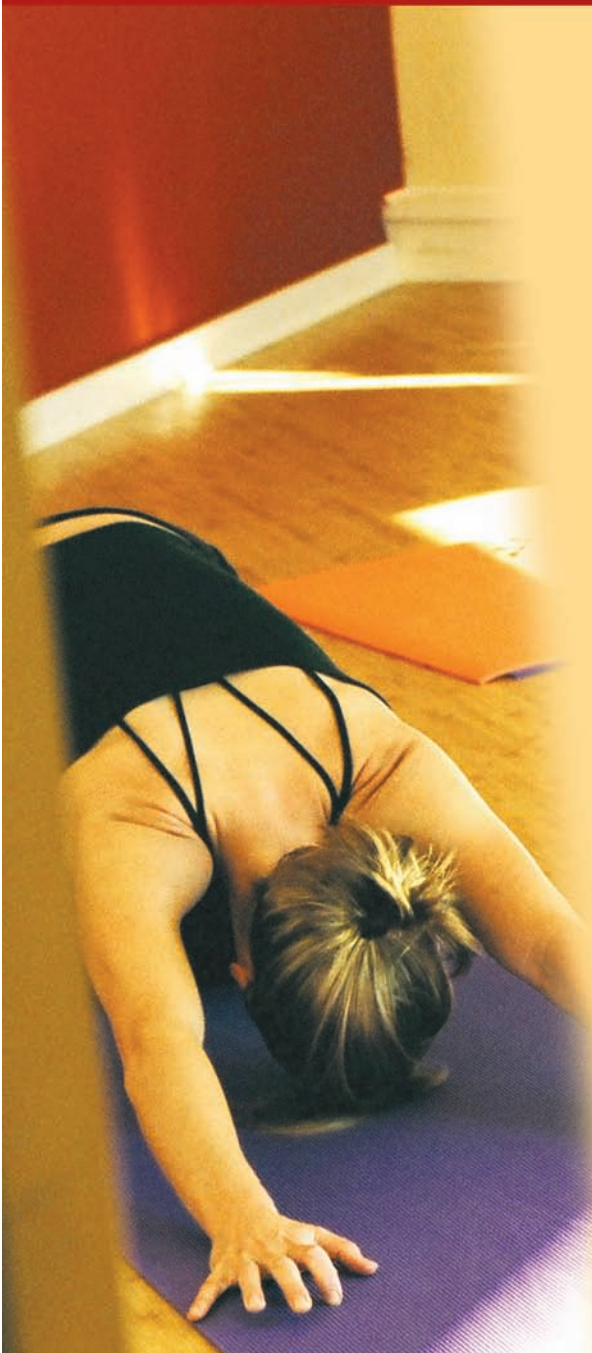
Refreshing contemporary catering and event planning. Creative, global and sustainable cuisines that bring your ideas for any event to life. Call: (925) 962 9369
www.springloaf.com info@springloaf.com

SpringLoaf

Catering

3744 Mt Diablo Blvd, Suite #307, Lafayette

PILATES, YOGA RECONDITIONING



Our approach

to reconditioning is based on helping clients achieve their goals by integrating Resistance Training, Pilates, and Yoga. Our studio offers a personal and professional environment, perfect for those seeking the knowledge to help themselves understand and implement their full potential.

Bring this ad in between March 10th–31st and receive any MAT class of your choice for FREE! Please see our web site for a class schedule.

*New visitors only.



"The Source of Intelligent Fitness"

3658 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

www.absolutecenter.net • [925] 299.9642

McCaulou's

FREE Giftwrapping*
at McCaulou's
*On items of 15.00 or more

Extra! Extra!

20% OFF

KIDS Dept.

A big selection to choose from on excellent values already marked down. Take an Extra 20% OFF clearance merchandise. Look for the "Extra 20% OFF" Red Toppers.
Babies • Toddler Girl • Toddler Boy
Girls 4 to 6X • Boys 4 to 7 • Girls 7 to 16

McCaulou's

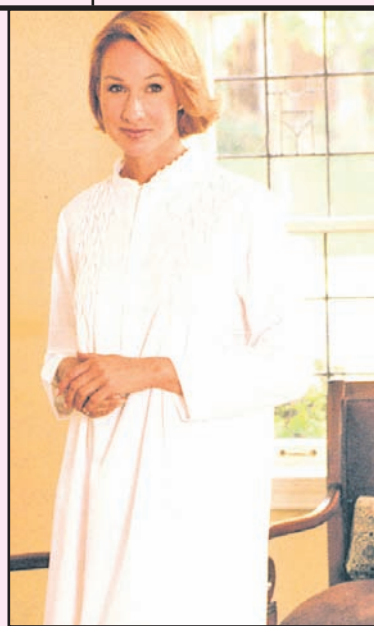
Save Gas
Save Money
Save Time
Shop your local McCaulou's



Comfy Robes

Up To **50% OFF**

Choose from Miss Elaine, Stan Herman, Cypress, Karen Neuburger and More



Sleepwear

Up To **75% OFF**

Choose from Jones NY, Karen Neuburger, Lanz, Liz Claiborne and More!



All Maidenform Bras

25% OFF

14.99 1 Value
Luxury Bras Excluded



All Vanity Fair Bras

25% OFF

All Styles and Colors!
Stock Up Now!



Barely There Briefs & Bralets

30% OFF

30% OFF
The individual price

McCaulou's

LAFAYETT Plaza Center DANVILLE Town & Country MORAGA Moraga Center COUNTRYWOOD Treat & Bancroft CLAYTON ROAD Vineyard Center ORINDA Village Square MONTCLAIR 6211 Medau Place, Oakland

Discontinued Bras

Up To **75% OFF**

Life in LAMORINDA

The Lasallian Spirit in Action at Saint Mary's College

By Linda U. Foley



Billie Jones (right) President of SMC Guild at Orinda Country Club Christmas luncheon (with Guild member Angie Veio)

Saint John Baptist De La Salle—whose precepts are the basis of Saint Mary's College—would be proud of the Saint Mary's Women's Guild whose mission is to raise scholarship funds to aid needy students.

De La Salle, born in Reims France in 1651, founded the Institute of the Christian Brothers, a teaching order whose tenet is to teach and provide affordable education to all within the framework of a Catholic education. De La Salle dedicated him-

self completely to the education of young people, particularly the poor and needy. He was canonized in 1900 and proclaimed Patron of Christian Teachers in 1950. For more than 300 years, the Brothers have perpetuated the Lasallian teachings throughout the world.

In many ways, the Women's Guild has assumed this dedication—committing itself to helping worthy students who need financial support—through various scholarship funding. The Guild—composed of alumni, College affiliates and friends of the College—was founded in 1939. Since its inception, the Guild has diligently focused on raising funds to aid thousands of students to achieve their academic goals and objectives.

The Guild has a current membership of 160 members who adheres to a busy schedule throughout the academic year. The standing calendar includes a spaghetti dinner, Bridge and Bunco, Christmas boutique and Annual Spring Fashion Show at the College campus, and the Christmas luncheon, usually off-site. In addition, upcoming events (such as bus outings to San Francisco or Napa) and newsworthy items are parlayed through monthly newsletters.

The monies raised by the Guild are funneled into The Saint Mary's College Guild Annual Scholarship Fund and the Brother Albert Plotz Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund whose current market value has generated in excess of \$42,000 for this year, providing direct funding to needy and worthy students.

This year's fashion show "Swing into Spring" will be held on April 12th; fashions provided by Coldwater Creek. For more information, call Mary Power at 925-672-6761.

Membership to the Saint Mary's College Guild is available to everyone and one need not be College affiliated. For membership information, contact Patricia O'Connell at 376-4096 or Patricia McEnaney at 376-3306. The College website is www.stmarys-ca.edu. The Guild's website is under construction.

Editor's Note: Rumor has it that Linda U. Foley herself will be among the fabulous models in the April 12th Fashion Show!

Buddha's Gate Open in Lafayette

By Andrea A. Firth



Buddha Gate Monastery in Lafayette

Photos provided

Tucked away in the northeast corner of Lafayette on several acres of hilltop land is the Buddha Gate Monastery—a retreat for local Buddhists and those new to Buddhism. Many residents of Lamorinda are unaware of this religious community, but its location is no secret. A sign for the Buddha Gate Monastery is displayed prominently on Taylor Boulevard across from the turn at Withers Avenue, and additional signs lead one through the winding roads of a residential neighborhood to the entrance to Buddha Gate off Gloria Terrace.

In fact, the all female group of Buddhist Masters who reside at the Monastery are delighted to receive both the experienced and novice Buddhist. "The purpose [of the Monastery] is to provide a place for people to access and approach Buddhism easily," states Master Jian-Sheng, the Abbess of Buddha Gate Monastery.

According to the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, approximately 0.7% of adult Americans identify themselves as Buddhists—a statistic

that includes several groups such as Zen, Tibetan, and others. Almost half of the Buddhists in the United States reside in the West, and the number of individuals affiliated with the Buddhist tradition in California approaches 2% of the adult population. The monthly ceremony held at Buddha Gate is attended by up to 120 people, and the regular membership consists of approximately 100 individuals.

Buddha Gate Monastery officially opened its doors in October of 2000. The area was first owned and developed by a Catholic Church over 50 years ago who then sold part of the land for residential development. The remainder served as the location of another Buddhist organization for about 10 years prior to the arrival of Buddha Gate.

Ten Buddhist nuns along with a few lay Buddhist women live and work at the Monastery. The nuns or Masters all originate from the Chung Tai Chan Monastery, the parent-monastery in Taiwan. Each has extensive training in the practice of Zen Buddhism promoted by the

Grand Master Wei Chueh.

The gates of the Monastery open at 8:30 each morning and members and guests are invited to participate in classes on Buddhism and meditation conducted in both English and Chinese. In addition to the Sunday morning ceremony held each month, the Buddha Gate holds half-day and full day Zen Retreats. "We hope to create an environment for reflection," states Master Jian-Sheng, "and we hope that people can immerse themselves in the environment."

For those interested to learn more about Buddhism and new to the practice, Master Jian Sheng suggests attending the Beginner Meditation classes currently held on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. There is even a Saturday morning meditation class for children who range in age from three to 15 years of age. Master Jian-Sheng smiles broadly and notes that meditation with a three-year old presents an interesting challenge. Call to inquire or register (925) 934-2411.

Monica Casale - Owner/Bookkeeper
OPTIMUM ACCOUNTING
Start 2008 right! Clean up your 2007 records!
 We've specialized in small business bookkeeping for over 16 years.
 We provide any or all of the following services:
 • Full Charge Bookkeeping • Only A/P or A/R • Payroll processing
 • Financial Statements • Account reconciliation • Year end reporting
 • Accounting system setup/cleanup • On/Off-site services
 24 Marston Road • Orinda, CA 94563
 Office: 415.370.4517 • Fax: 925.254.3178 • optimumaccounting@msn.com

Wonderful Spa Center
 23 Orinda Way, Ste N • Orinda



Foot Reflexology • Full Body Massage • Chair Massage
 Hours: 10 am to 9:30 pm
COUPON
\$10 OFF
 Full Body Massage w/ coupon exp. 4/8
 925-258-1888

Trifecta – Orinda Resident Works in Lafayette & Worships in Moraga

By Jean Follmer



Dot Feist, Orinda

Photo Jean Follmer

Orinda resident Dot Feist grew up in an Irish Catholic home in Brooklyn, New York. She eventually began working in Manhattan and found the atmosphere "so intense, I walked to the beach each night" to relax. One of five girls, Dot and her best friend went to visit Dot's sister in Laguna Beach, California. They loved the Southern California beaches even more than those in New York and soon moved to Laguna Beach together.

Not long after moving to Southern California, Dot met Jim Feist at a jazz event at The White House Restaurant & Nightclub in Laguna Beach. Jim grew up in Montclair Village in Oakland and was in Southern California visiting friends. Jim returned to Montclair, but the distance couldn't keep them apart and it didn't take long for Jim to propose marriage to Dot. He said "I'd rather call you my wife than my girlfriend." Jim's family was from Sweden and he married Dot two years later in the Swedish community of Svedahl in Salinas. They had a big turnout at the wedding with Jim's relatives flying in from Sweden and Dot's from New York. Dot said "Most of my family came out – lots of Irish firefighters."

After they married, the Feists moved to Albany and then to Hayward. They had two children – a son, Jack and a daughter, Dawn. Jim owned

B.J. Supply Company in San Francisco and Dot stayed home with the children during their first few years. Eventually Dot "went to work part-time. I didn't want to work (away from home) full-time, so I opened a daycare and ran it for about six years." Dot was "the room parent at the Hayward school and I became very involved with schools." They weren't happy with the direction of the Hayward schools, so they decided to move to Orinda in 1993. Dawn entered Glorietta Elementary and Jack entered Orinda Intermediate School. On the move to Orinda, Dot says it was "a wonderful change, a most positive experience." She shuttled her children to Scouts and sports and the family loved to ski and sail together. She again became involved in the schools working in Alameda as a teacher, at Glorietta in the after care program and then helped open Joyful Beginnings Preschool in Lafayette in 1995 as its Director. Life was good until 1996 when Jim was diagnosed with leukemia. Jim battled his disease, but it got the best of him and Jim died that October. "Dawn was about to turn 12 when Jim died, so I was basically a single parent. I focused on my children and my work. After Jim passed, the community was unbelievable, they were so supportive." Each year, Dot volunteers for Light the Night. Last year, she and

Dawn went to San Diego for the marathon. Dot ran the 1/2 marathon and Dawn ran the full.

Dot attends mass at St. Monica's in Moraga. She says "I used to teach CCD – I go there on a regular basis. I love my pastor, he speaks to my heart." Dot has also been going to Glide Memorial in San Francisco for over 20 years. She goes there every Easter to help feed the homeless.

She is still the Director at Joyful Beginnings. She was hired by Ginny Leavitt in 1995 and says "I couldn't have done it without Ginny". She stresses how supportive Ginny and Pastor Lori Sawdon have been to her and to the preschool. Dot is very proud of the Joyful Beginnings program and attributes its success to her staff and the loving environment they create for the children. She describes it as a "creative curriculum in which you use the whole environment to teach the children. My focus is that you give children a strong sense of self-esteem and help them develop social skills. If they've mastered that by the time they leave (for kindergarten), it enhances their critical thinking skills and helps them think outside the box. I encourage children and let them have freedom and choice." The Joyful Beginnings program is enhanced by yoga classes, visits from Pastor Lori, Lafayette Library visits, cooking and field trips throughout the year.

As for the future, Dot says "I'll definitely be here for awhile. I'll always be in this field and I plan to spend more time with my parents. Her sister recently moved to Orinda and Dot helped her start a toddler program at Lafayette Christian Church called Creekside Toddlers. Her son is currently working in the area and her daughter is finishing her nursing degree. Dot believes she is "truly blessed, I love my life and I'm really grateful for the community I have here."

Start The Year With A Brand New Smile Makeover!
 And We Will Help You Take The First Step With A Free ZOOM! Teeth Whitening.**

At La Beaute, we provide outstanding personal service and the highest level of cosmetic and general dentistry. Let us show you the difference attention to detail can make.

- No waiting. We accommodate your schedule
- Door-to-door concierge service
- Private, tranquil environment
- 24 hour emergency care
- State-of-the-art facilities
- The finest materials used for all procedures
- Full service dental facilities including dentures and implants

LA BEAUTE
 Cosmetic Dentistry / Aesthetics

For more information, 925.254.0084
 3 Altarinda Rd. Suite 305 . Orinda . CA 94563
 www.labeautesf.com

**Dental exam and cleaning are required before teeth whitening procedure. Cost for these services are extra. If you have the following conditions the whitening procedure will not be effective in whitening your smile: tetracycline stained teeth, existing crowns and fillings, numerous fillings and cavities.

Dr. Angela Bayat

Life in LAMORINDA

USDA to Treat for Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



Adult moth and the larvae



Photos courtesy USDA

Larry Hawkins, Regent of Public Affairs for the CA State Department of Agriculture (CDFA), has sent a warning: "Four male LBAM have been spotted in Moraga. That level of low infestation triggers a response called 'alternative treatment' that comprises the use of pheromone impregnated twist-ties attached to trees and shrubs. Treatment will start on April 7th in the four areas where the moths were seen." The moth has also been found in Orinda and near Lafayette. No spraying is planned currently for Lamorinda.

The LBAM is a small Australian insect whose larvae the CDFA asserts are dangerous for our plants. The moth can damage a wide range of crops, native trees, and suburban landscaping. The list of agricultural crops that

could be damaged by this pest includes grapes, citrus, stone fruit (peaches, plums, nectarines, cherries, apricots) and many others.

As a result, The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the CDFA have decided on a long-term goal of eradicating the LBAM. There are many native moths that can be confused for the LBAM. A qualified entomologist must identify adult moths. Larval stages cannot be reliably identified using morphological characters.

In Moraga, twist-ties will be hung on trees and shrubs at a rate of 250 dispensers per acre. The bait stations contain LBAM-specific pheromones that will disrupt the mating but will have no effect on other species. "The

most likely impact will be the reduction of LBAM within the eradication area," says Hawkins.

The twist-ties will be removed after three months. In the infested residential areas, CDFA will notify residents by first class mail prior to placement of the twist-ties and then an attempt to contact them personally will be made at the time of placement. The twist-tie looks very much like a conventional twist-tie used to seal a plastic vegetable bag. It is dark red in color and is mounted on a metal hanger by winding so that it can be placed up in a tree or other foliage. The hanger is also marked with flagging tape so that it can be seen when it is time for removal. "The twist-tie contains a very small amount of pheromone and poses no significant chemical risk from touching," says Hawkins, "we

also try to place the hangers out of reach."

"The solution proposed by USDA in Moraga is a good one," says Susan JunFish, Director of the local group, Parents for a Safer Environment (www.PfSE.org), "New Zealand studies where the pest has been present for over 100 years and where the climate and natural predators are very close to what we have here in the Bay Area, have shown that spraying is ineffective and that Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods worked best to control the infestation without causing any significant damage to crops. New Zealand researchers have also stated that aerial spraying of the pheromone cannot compete with the natural pheromone emitted by the female LBAM. So the underlying assumption that aer-

ial application is an option in light of health risks appears unwise." She adds that her group is concerned by the decision of aerial spraying that has been planned for other parts of Contra Costa. Many Bay Area cities are up in arms against the aerial spraying: the product can drift from three to twenty miles, and the pesticides are contained in plastic-like capsules that are particle sized and known to cause permanent lung damage.

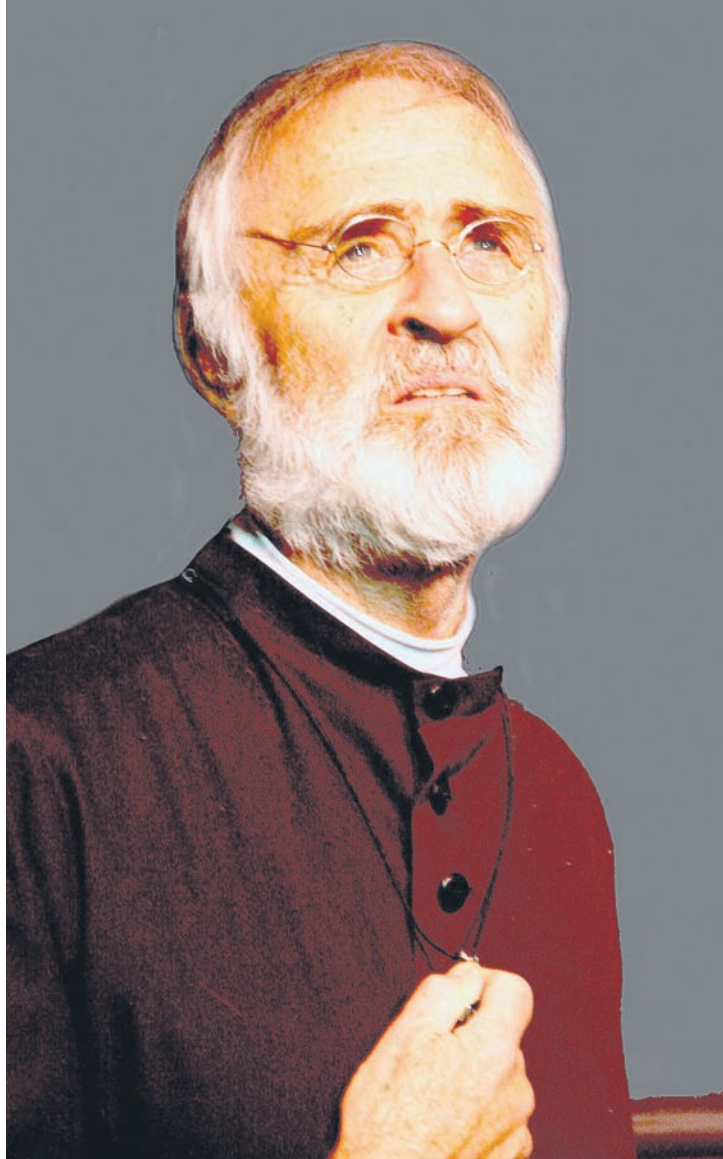
During a Board of Supervisors meeting on March 11th, Wendel Brunner, Public Health Director of Contra Costa Health Services, recommended that an independent environmental health assessment be made prior

to aerial spraying. Supervisor Gayle Uilkema believes that this is the right thing to do. "There are a lot of unanswered questions," said Uilkema, "we need to conduct an impartial risk assessment study which results will be made public."

But the CDFA is calling the shots and their mission is eradication. According to Hawkins, "We anticipate that some parts of Contra Costa County outside of the Moraga area may be heavily infested and require treatment by air. That final determination has not been made at this point." He confirms, "We try to work with counties to meet environmental quality, and safety standards for the land and the residents."

Dan Cawthon Plays Father Damien—The Leper Priest of Molokai

By Andrea A. Firth



Dan Cawthon as Father Damien

Photo provided

It's not unusual to ponder the fact that if you knew then what you now know, you would have done things differently 20 years ago. However, we typically don't get a second chance to bring the maturity and wisdom gained over 20 years to recreate an earlier experience. But that's exactly what Dan Cawthon, Performing Arts Professor at Saint Mary's College, gets to do when he revisits the role of Father Damien de Veuster in his upcoming performances of the play Damien.

Cawthon first performed Damien, playwright Aldyth Morris' story of a Belgian priest's life working among

the lepers on the Hawaiian island of Molokai, in 1982. He thought he had put this one-man show to rest after touring the play throughout the Bay Area, United States, and Europe in 1989 in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Father Damien's death. "I ended up at the Edinburgh Festival for two weeks and had a terrific run with it" describes Cawthon. "It was extremely satisfying. That would be the peak experience that I have had as an actor."

Yet, almost 20 years later as he prepares for his retirement from the faculty of Saint Mary's later this Spring, Cawthon finds himself once

again in the black and white garb of a priest telling the tale of the selfless and devoted Father Damien who fought the Church, the Hawaiian government, and his own personal demons to ensure the proper care and dignity of the neglected souls of Molokai. "It's been a wonderful experience for me to realize that that script is still alive and well in my mind," states Cawthon.

The play is set 60 years after Father Damien's death, as his recently excavated remains are being transported from Molokai back to his native country of Belgium. Damien awakens and reflects upon his life story. "He tells it from the perspective of someone who has had time to ruminate or to point out the layers of the experience," explains Cawthon. "He describes what was really happening in him—his doubts about what he was doing, the value of it, and whether he was serving himself, or the [lepers], or God. He's left with a lot of doubts."

Cawthon was 50 years old when he last performed the play—closer to the age that Damien was when he died

than the age he is portrayed in the play. "In twenty years I have had experiences that would lead me to look back and see that in our youth, when we set out to achieve things in life, there are a lot of conflicting motivations," notes Cawthon. "Now as I look back upon my own life, I can see threads of things that I would not have been able to see at age 45 or 50."

Dan Cawthon will bring his seasoned perspective to two performances of Damien at Saint Mary's College on Thursday and Friday, March 27th and 28th at 8 pm in the Soda Activity Center. Reservations can be made by calling (925) 631-4381 or go to www.stmarys-ca.edu.

Heather & Josh's Pet Care

Licensed, Insured & bonded
Since 2002 Lafayette residents

- Dog Adventure Walks
- Pet and House Sitting
- Puppy Socialization

www.heatherspetcare.com **925-388-2042**

A Neighbor You Can Trust..

"As a single mother, Stephen helped me with an investment out of state that was sold to me in a negative cash flow position. He educated me how to use an option ARM loan for my investment property. Stephen turned it around to produce a \$7,100.00 positive cash flow investment for me. Steve gave me hope and another chance to remain a real estate investor." *Tracy - Walnut Creek*

C · M · G

MORTGAGE SERVICES
1575 Treat Blvd., Ste 100 - Walnut Creek

284-7255

Senior Loan Officer
Lafayette Resident since 1990
CA Dept. of Real Estate Broker # 01370755

FINE BEDDING & GIFTS

Japanese style & comfort

Hours:
Mon-Sat 10-6pm
Sun: 12pm-5pm

Futons & Frames • Tatami Platforms and Mats
Custom Comforter Covers • Unique Japanese Gifts

961-A MORAGA RD. LAFAYETTE • 925-299-0882 • sugi-store.com

We provide reliable, experienced caregivers to help seniors remain independent in their own homes.

- Companionship
- Meal Prep/Clean-Up
- Transportation/Errands
- Alzheimer's/Dementia
- Bathing/Dressing & more

925-376-8000

www.SeniorHelpers.com

Call for free assessment/consultation

THERE'S A NEW NEIGHBOR

in your neighborhood.
Call or visit me today.

Mike Rosa State Farm Agent,
1042 Country Club Dr Suite 20 • Moraga
license # 0F45583 • 925-376-2244 • Mike@MikeRosa.org

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE.®

Providing Insurance and Financial Services

01/29/06 11/04 State Farm Insurance Companies • Home Offices: Bloomington, IL • statefarm.com

Kitchens/Bathrooms
Renovations/Additions
Design
Construction Management
Custom Cabinetry
Tile/Stone
Lighting/Fixtures
Finish Carpentry

There's No Place Like Home

Excellence in Home Building & Design

Make it Exceptional

925-899-7201

www.lamorindaconstruction.com

CA #886945

Not to be missed

MUSIC-THEATER

“The Emperor’s new Clothes”
Saturday, April 5, 10:30am and 1:00pm. The Town Hall Theatre of Lafayette, 3535 School Street, Lafayette. Tickets: \$10 per person. For tickets or information call: 925.283.1557. Tickets may also be purchased at the door. Website: www.childrens-theatre.org

Performers for Progress presents a cabaret night benefit performance featuring various styles of dance, vocal performances, bands, and comedy. Thursday April 17th, 7:30 pm. The Rheem Theater in Moraga. Produced by Emilyn Kowaleski and Madeline Vann and featuring roughly 40 high school students from the Lamorinda area. Tickets: \$5 for students and \$10 for adults

Please join us for Diablo Actors' Ensemble's production of *The Taffetas*, a musical journey through the Fabulous Fifties! Through April 12. The Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Price range: \$20.00 to \$25.00

Auditions for I Hate Hamlet, A Bed Full of Foreigners, and an Agatha Christie; ORSVP's summer season will take place on Sunday, April 6th at 4PM; and Tuesday, April 10th at 7PM. Orinda Community Center, 26 Orinda Way, Room three or the Amphitheater

ART

The Moraga Art Gallery presents a new group show, "Earthly Inspirations" by local Bay Area and Lamorinda artists. March 18 - June 1. Gallery is doubly featuring the work of 2 artists: Illustrator Michael Che, who paints a variety of subjects, but loves painting animals; Donna Arganbright, who has been working in clay since 1972. She creates ceramic baskets, plates, bowls, platter sets, mugs, pitchers and vases in her Lafayette Studio. The public is invited

to the Opening Reception on Saturday, March 22, 2008, from 3-5 pm. Moraga Art Gallery, 570 Center St, Rheem Valley Shopping Center/nest to Longs Drugs.

The Lafayette Gallery invites you to join us for "Garden Party", a celebration of the pleasures and enchantment of gardening - its scents, textures and colors as told through the artist's medium. The artwork in this show is a celebration of the beauty of landscapes and flowers in both the realistic and abstract realms. We are excited to invite gardeners, lovers of nature and members of the community to join us for a reception on Sunday, April 27 from 1 to 4pm. Lafayette Gallery, 50 Lafayette Circle, is open Tuesday to Saturday from 11am to 5pm. 925-284-2788, www.lafayettegallery.net.



Crocuses by Judy Feins

The Art of Diorama opens March 26 at the Bedford Gallery in Walnut Creek and continues through June 8. A reception with the artists will be held Wednesday, March 26 from 6:00-8:00 pm. Admission is \$3 and includes refreshments. Bedford Gallery, Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Refreshments. Admission \$3. Free for Friends of the Bedford and members of DRAA. 925/295-1417 www.bedfordgallery.org.

Diablo Valley College Library proudly presents member exhibition, East Bay Artists Guild: Creating Community Around Art. Through May 10th. Reception on Saturday, March 29, 2008 from 1-3pm in the library. Free parking on campus. Library hours: Mon-Thurs 8am to 9pm;

Not to be missed

Friday 8-5pm, Saturday 12-4pm 321 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill.

Literature

Orinda Library presents a Fireside Chat with a docent from Berkeley Repertory Theater in a behind the scenes talk about the company's new production "TRAGEDY: a Tragedy" by Pulitzer-nominated dramatist Will Eno. Free. Tuesday, March 25 at 7 p.m. The program will take place inside the library, beside the fireplace, which allows for a casual, intimate atmosphere. The Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. For more information, please call (925) 254-2184 or visit the library website at cclib.org

Commonwealth Club of California - "Peony in Love" Wed, March 26, 6:30pm, Wine and Cheese Reception, 7:00pm, Program. Lisa See, the Author of Snow Flower and the Secret Fan, has always been intrigued by stories that have been lost, forgotten, or deliberately covered up, whether in the past or happening right now in the world today. Come hear See in conversation about her new book, Peony in Love, and what inspires her work. \$15, Members \$30, Non-members. Peony in Love is available at Lafayette Book Store. Bentley School, Student Performing Arts Center, 1000 Upper Happy Valley Road, Lafayette.

Thursday, April 3, 4pm. Daniel Mason will discuss and sign copies of his highly praised novel, A Far Country, just out in paperback. Orinda Books.

Saturday, April 12 1 PM Germaine Greer will discuss her new biography, Shakespeare's Wife, a fresh look at Ann Hathaway. The event, co-sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library, will take place at the Orinda Library Theater, 26 Irwin Way, Orinda

Other Events:

Lafayette Rotary Club's Annual Spring Egg Roll. Open to all children ages 2-10 at Plaza Park (corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Rd) in Lafayette, at 10:00am, Saturday, March 22. The park lawn will be covered with candy for the kids to put in their baskets. The youngest are always given extra time to get their share! The Bunny will be there to take pictures with the kids. Join us for the fun.

Free Small Business Fair Sponsored by Betty T. Yee, Vice Chairwoman, State Board of Equalization. Tuesday, March 25th, 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (check-in begins at 8:30 a.m.) Crowne Plaza Hotel Concord, 45 John Glenn Drive, Concord, CA 94520. Free admission. To register online www.boe.ca.gov/sutax/tpsched.htm. For more information call: 916-341-7389

Emergency Preparedness Seminars for Businesses Wednesday, March 26th 7:30 -10am with breakfast-\$5, or 6:30-9pm with dinner \$10. Speakers: Moraga Chief of Police, SCORE, CERT, Red Cross, VISA, Moraga-Orinda Fire Dept. CCC Office of Emergency Services and DiabloLink Communications. Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Register by March 20th. Contact Ken Tom 925-376-0533

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church will be offering a Grief Recovery Workshop March 25 - May 27, 7-9 p.m. for those who have recently lost a spouse. For brochures or more information call the church, 283-8722.

Pain Management Workshop. Fri: 3/28, 10 - 11am Presented by Anne Randol. Did you know there are more ways to control pain besides medication? Learn the purpose of pain and the causes of chronic pain. Learn how improving posture and muscle strength can reduce or eliminate pain altogether. Stop suffering and take control. Free of charge. Lafayette Community Center. Please call (925)284-5050 to register. You will be contacted only if the workshop is cancelled. Free Blood Pressure Screening Following the Workshop.

Got Stuff to Sell? Looking to Buy? The Moraga Parks and Recreation Department will welcome shoppers and sellers from throughout Lamorinda to its first ever Community Garage Sale on Saturday, March 29, from 9:00-2:00 at the beautiful Ha-

cienda de Las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive in Moraga. Call Parks and Rec at 888-7045 for more information, or go to http://moraga.ca.us.

Hike at Mt. Diablo- Sun. March 30th 8:45 am to 2:45 pm. Waterfalls and Wildflowers, Meet at 9:15 am at Walnut Creek BART (must call 925-944-9068 for ride) 9:45 MP-13 Donner Canyon & Back Creek, end of Regency Drive off Marsh Creek Road, Clayton. 6-9 miles of moderately strenuous 1300 foot elevation gain hike. Some steep narrow trails, walking sticks recommended. Be prepared for mud. Light rain shortens hike, heavy cancels. Websites: berkeleyhikingclub.pair.com; geocities.com/contracostahills

Lafayette Hiking Group -April 12 Indian Rock Park. North Berkeley Meet at Lafayette BART's main entrance at 9:00 a.m. We form carpools to the trailhead. Remember to bring lunch, water, layered clothing, good walking shoes, sun protection and money to contribute toward gas, bridge tolls and parking. Indian Rock Park is one of six rock parks located in North Berkeley. It has great rock climbing and amazing views of the San Francisco Bay. We will walk to several of the other Rock Parks. Easy to moderate 3.5 miles. Email LafayetteHiking@comcast.net.

Job's Daughter's International - Orinda teaches young ladies ages 10-20 years old important skills for life, such as leadership, public speaking, organization, teamwork and self-reliance. Girls also learn a sense of community by participating in philanthropic projects. Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Orinda Masonic Center located at 9 Altarinda Rd, Orinda. For more information on membership and fun activities, contact Nicki Wandesforde, Bethel Guardian at (925) 283-7176 or email nickichef@comcast.net.

The Future of the Earth's Climate: Frontiers in Forecasting. April 8 in Orinda. Leading climate modeler Bill Collins - a senior scientist and department head at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, a Professor of Earth and Planetary Science at U.C. Berkeley, and a member of the team that was recently awarded the Nobel Prize for work on climate change -- will discuss scientific observations that show the Earth is warming at an unprecedented rate, and describe how human-induced changes are probably the primary culprits. The free program will be held on Tuesday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m., at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, in the Parish Hall (on the lower level), 66 St. Stephen's Drive, in Orinda.

A Nite at the Races- Rotary Club of Moraga- Sat, April 12th. Gates open 5:00 pm. Dinner at 6:15. First race at 6:45 - wager play money on eight video horse races and bid on wonderful live and silent auction items. Holy Trinity Hall, 1700 School St. Moraga. Reservations: \$40 per person. Contact Gary Irwin at 925-376-7688 or geirwin@comcast.net.

Orinda Historical Society is seeking to compile a record of all Orinda Olympic athletes who have competed beginning with the 1896 Athens games and to hear of any Orinda athletes who have been chosen to compete in Beijing. We welcome the assistance of our community! Please send any information, such as the person's name, sport, and Olympic year, to: Erik Andersen, c/o the Orinda Historical Society, PO Box 82, Orinda, 94563, or please leave a message at the Historical Society at 254-1353. The athletes may be current or former residents of Orinda.

Planning on Having a Baby? Oh Baby 2008, Saturday, April 12 from 9 a.m. to noon at John Muir

Not to be missed

Medical Center - Walnut Creek Campus, 1601 Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek. This free community event is designed for those planning to become pregnant, are already pregnant or those parenting small children. Educators from the John Muir Women's Health Center will share about breastfeeding, childbirth, prenatal and newborn care. Lectures will cover Pain Relief Options for Labor and Delivery, How to Survive the First Week Home, the Pregnancy Disability Leave Act and an Overview of Obstetric and Pediatric Services at John Muir Health. Ongoing activities will include refreshments, raffle prizes and demonstrations.

Lamorinda Republican Women meet the third Thursday of each month at the Metro Restaurant in Lafayette at 3524 Mt. Diablo Blvd. The meeting begins at 11:30 with lunch at noon and speaker at 12:30. Lunch cost is \$22 and for reservations please call 925-254-8617.

The Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center and Grandparents for Peace are co-sponsoring a "Make a Bid for Peace" spring benefit in Walnut

Creek's Rossmoor Sunday, April 13, Sunday 2:30 - 5:00 pm in the Fireside Room of the Gateway Center in Rossmoor. Tickets may be purchased at Hooked on Books, 1956 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek, or at the Peace Center. The admission charge is \$20 general or \$15 for seniors in advance of the event. 925-933-7850 or e-mail info@mtdpdc.org. Quality art and service donations are being accepted.

Lafayette Earth Day Festival 2008. A Family Affair, Sun, April 20th 12pm - 4pm. Come enjoy Lafayette's third annual Earth Day Festival! Grab your bikes and ride over to Stanley Intermediate School on Sunday, April 20th. Live Music - Acalanes Jazz Band. Fun Educational Performances - Including juggling show about recycling by Earthcapades. 20+ Educational Tables/Displays - By local vendors/organizations and school environmental clubs. Scavenger Hunt - Find out the ten most important ways to protect the earth and win a prize. Stanley Intermediate School - Area Between Parking Lot and Basketball Courts

Saint Mary's College Campus Happenings



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

Theater Performances: "Damien" - Passion, Faith and Fury in One-Man Show at SMC Saint Mary's College Performing Arts Professor, Dan Cawthon, stars as Father Damien in Aldyth Morris' powerful play, "Damien" - the compelling story of Father Damien DeVeuster, the Belgian-born priest whose devotion to the people of the leper colony on Molokai brought him international acclaim and excruciating personal conflicts. Father Damien fought two powerful bureaucracies, the Church and the Hawaiian government, for the care and dignity of the discarded human beings of this community. Through faith, compassion, courage and gentle humor, the actions of a single man profoundly impacted the lives of many.

Thursday and Friday, March 27 and 28 at 8 p.m. Soda Activity Center. Price: \$25 general; \$20 seniors (65+); \$2 SMC students; \$12 Saint Mary's College faculty, staff and non-SMC students. Information: Call 925.631.4381 or visit www.stmarys-ca.edu <http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/> and click on "Arts" for reservations. Sponsored by the Committee for Lectures, Art and Music at Saint Mary's College

Lectures: "Human Rights Activist Eve Ensler"

Playwright Eve Ensler - who gained worldwide recognition for raising more than \$50 million to oppose violence against women and girls in places as diverse as Afghanistan, India, the Congo, Mexico, Iraq, Native American reservations and, most recently, New Orleans - will be the keynote speaker for Women's History Month in a presentation about the global movement to end violence against women and girls. Her work supports education for girls,

the building of shelters and orphanages, families looking for missing relatives, and raising awareness about domestic, social, and political violence against women and girls. She will focus specifically on the women of New Orleans and the Gulf region, who have organized a group they call "Katrina Warriors" and are working to rebuild their lives. Tuesday, March 25 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Soda Center Free

"Creative Writing Reading Series - Nick Flynn" Nick Flynn is the author of "Another Bullshit Night in Suck City," a memoir about working in a Boston homeless shelter and his relationship with his down-and-out father. He is also the author of two books of poems, including "Some Ether," which won the PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award and was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. Wednesday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. Soda Center. Contact: Creative Reading Writing Series (925) 631-4457 Free

Art Exhibitions: "Pinturas de Fe: The Retablo Tradition in Mexico and New Mexico" Pilgrimage, procession, and the creation of home altars and shrines are ancient religious practices that endure today in many cultures around the world. This exhibition tells the story of one such tradition as it evolved in the Americas from the time of the Spanish Conquest to the present day. Today, individual artists faithfully carry on the tradition of hand painted retablos, and contemporary artists from diverse cultural backgrounds draw creative inspiration from this popular art form. Exhibition runs through April 6 Hearst Art Gallery

"William Keith: The 1880s Paintings" Works from the 1880s, which marked a decade of great changes in William Keith's life. On view in the William Keith Room. Hearst Art Gallery

Exhibition hours: Wednesdays through Sundays, 11 am until 4:30 pm. Admission: \$3 adult; children 12 and under free; free parking. Web site: http://gallery.stmarys-ca.edu. Telephone: 925-631-4379

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

Earthly Inspirations
presented by **Moraga Art Gallery**
March 18 through June 1 see the works of local artists
featured artist: **Michael-Che Swisher**
and Fine Art Apparel

Earthly Inspirations
presented by **Moraga Art Gallery**
March 18 through June 1 see the works of local artists
featured artist: **Donna Arganbright**

THE COLORS OF ISRAEL
ISRAELI ART EXHIBITION AND SALE

Jerusalem's Safrai Gallery brings over 1500 works by more than 100 Israeli artists to Lafayette

AT TEMPLE ISAIAH
3800 MT. DIABLO BLVD.

OPENING PREVIEW CELEBRATION
WED. 4/9 @ 7:00 PM
MUSIC, WINE, & REFRESHMENTS FOR ONLY \$10

ADDITIONAL HOURS:
THURS. 4/10: 10AM - 5:30 PM (TALK BY SAFARI GALLERY AT 2 PM)
SUN. 4/13: 10AM - 4 PM

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT
WWW.TEMPLE-ISAIAH.ORG
OR WWW.SAFRAI.COM

Lamorinda Weekly is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda, CA

Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133
Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 1-800-690-8136; email: info@lamorindaweekly.com

We're a community newspaper, and we welcome your input:
Letters to the editor (max 350 words): letters@lamorindaweekly.com
Sport events/stories/pictures: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Art, theater, community events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
Business news or business press releases: business@lamorindaweekly.com
School stories/events: schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com
General interest stories: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Staff Writers: Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com
Sophie Braccini; sophie@lamorindaweekly.com
Cathy Tyson; cathy@lamorindaweekly.com
Andrea A. Firth; andrea@lamorindaweekly.com
Contributing Writers: Jean Follmer, Linda U. Foley, David Anderson, Conrad Bassett
Sports Reporters: Kevin Shallatt; kevin@lamorindaweekly.com
Intern: Alex Crook, Sports Reporter
Steve Johns, Sports Reporter
Photos: Tod Fierner, Jordan Fong, Gavin Schlissel

Publisher: Andy Scheck; andy@lamorindaweekly.com, phone 925-330-7916
Associate Publisher: Wendy Wuertth-Scheck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Editor: Lee Borrowman; lee@lamorindaweekly.com
Advertising: Wendy Wuertth-Scheck; 925-377-0977, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

26,200 printed copies; 24,600 mailed to homes and businesses in Lamorinda. 1,500 delivered to pick up locations. Layout Andy Scheck, Moraga. Printed in California.

Life in LAMORINDA

Lamorinda Interior Design—the Beauty Inside

By Andrea A. Firth



Leslie Kalish

Photo Andrea Firth

Transitional seems to be the “buzz” word when you ask area experts what the interior design trends in Lamorinda are today. “It’s not as heavy and incorporates clean lines,” explains Leslie Kalish, a resident of Moraga and owner of LMK Interiors based in Lafayette. She explains that the transitional approach to interior design mixes contemporary pieces with antiques fluidly, and it projects warmth and comfort not uncharacteristic of the many indulged but relaxed post-Baby Boom homeowners in the area. Karin Lechner, an interior designer based in Lafayette, concurs: “Design in this area today is not fussy or ornate. It’s simple. There may be antiques, but the style is simple.”

The house designs in Lamorinda span the spectrum from the traditional older-home styles of Orinda from the 1920’s and 30’s to the ranchers of the 1950’s and 60’s on to the Brandy Bunch split levels filled with oak from the 1970’s and 80’s followed by the contemporary styles of the 1990’s and sprinkled with a smattering of original farmhomes and funky modern houses. One might call the area architecturally challenged, but local interior designers choose a pragmatic approach.

“The biggest challenge in Lamorinda is lighting,” states Leslie Kalish. This is often a function of way the house is situated on the lot, low ceilings, and poor floor plans, and too many

soffits she explains. “Original rooms in Lamorinda homes were mostly rectangular—long and narrow,” notes Kalish. She often finds herself working in redesigned space. “Remodel is what we do,” she adds. “The great room trend—combining the kitchen, eating area, and family room into one open connected space—is continuing strong.”

“Lamorinda is a lot about updating,” notes Lechner. “Exterior remodels on the ranchers in the area have added Craftsman elements such as columns by the front door and detailing in the trim to great effect,” she adds, “But these design elements do not have to be carried through to the interior of the home necessarily.”

“You always hope that a project has some strong architectural bones,” explains Alissa Lillie, a resident of Orinda with an interior design business based in Emeryville. “There is a lot of variety in home styles in Lamorinda and that makes it interesting.”

Lillie, whose clients are primarily based in San Francisco, is in the process of expanding into the Lamorinda area. “From what I see, people in Lamorinda want to have their hand in things when it comes to interior design,” she explains. Lillie anticipates that the interior design market will continue to become more user friendly, and that the show rooms will become more accessible to the public.

All of the designers describe a profusion of new materials to work with inside homes today. Leslie Kalish finds more clients incorporating metal surfaces into their designs and that some are using unique products such as zinc. Reclaimed wood is also a popular material for countertops and floors. And she identifies with the trend toward mixing surfaces. “Having more than one kind of material in a countertop works well. The more you mix—the calmer it gets,” she explains.

“People are also becoming ecologically conscious,” notes Lillie. Whether this increased eco-awareness has had an effect on Lamorinda homeowner choices with respect to home décor products is unclear.



The Painting Ladies

- ✗ Color Consulting
- ✗ Interior Painting
- ✗ Professional / Reliable
- ✗ Excellent Quality
- ✗ Home & Business

Free Estimates

Call Jackie: 925-787-5553

Premium Flooring Products

at Great Savings

Come in today and let our knowledgeable, friendly staff help you find the perfect solution.



- Carpet
- Area Rugs & Runners
- Hardwood & Bamboo
- Laminate
- Vinyl
- Amtico
- Plantation Shutters

LAMORINDA FLOORS & HOME CONCEPTS

3344 Mt. Diablo Blvd. • Lafayette • 925.284.4440

FREE In-Home Consultation, Measurement & Quotes
In House Experienced Installers!

Karin Lechner finds that although green design is hot among interior design junkies, she does not find it significantly affects the decision-making process of her clients in Lamorinda. “Green designs tend to be pricier,” she explains.

Leslie Kalish does find clients asking for low- and no-VOC (volatile organic compounds) paints to be used in their remodeling projects, but their motivation often stems from the fact that a family member struggles with allergies versus environmental considerations.

All the Lamorinda interior

design experts stress the need for clients to retain their own personal style in whatever interior design changes they make.

“A person’s home should look and feel like them. It should tell their story,” notes Lechner.

“I see myself as part of an educational and guiding process with the client helping them to make good decisions and understanding what works well together and why,” states Lillie

“I like to see what people love,” says Kalish. “I stick with their style but bring them to new heights.”

Keeping Easter Fun for Everyone – Even Easter Pets

... continued from page 1



The House Rabbit Society's "Make Mine Chocolate" campaign promotes buying chocolate bunnies for children on Easter Photo Jennifer Wake

Protzen experienced this first-hand. “I raised chicks when I was in first grade and kept them until they started to crow,” she said. “We had to give them up because we were in the city.”

Yet each year people continue to purchase rabbits and chicks as Easter pets, and sadly many end up abused or neglected. Just a few weeks before Easter, there were already more than 6,000 rabbits listed for adoption on PetFinder.org. “Unless a parent is willing to take care of rabbits they end up at ARF, the House Rabbit Society, or at a shelter,” Protzen said.

Moraga resident Sophie Lucacher realized how difficult

it can be to raise rabbits after she agreed to bring two bunnies home. “Andrea, my youngest child, age 10, had been begging for a rabbit for years (literally),” she said. “My husband didn’t want it in the house. A friend of ours, Kim Winter, (who has many animals) had a nice outside cage. I thought it would be a good solution.”

Her friend’s rabbit just had a litter, so Lucacher decided to buy the outside rabbit pen and took home two bunnies. “They were adorable. Andrea and her older sister swore they would care for them,” Lucacher said.

Although they built a lightweight mesh enclosure around

the pen so they could wander outdoors, the rabbits escaped numerous times. “We ran after them with the whole neighborhood helping us,” Lucacher said. “Sometimes it was fun, but when it got late and cold and everybody else had left, my kids and I ended up running after these animals that are incredibly fast and agile.”

Additionally, Lucacher said getting the children to clean the cage daily was nearly impossible, and when she let the rabbits into the kitchen, “they ate the phone wire and would grind their teeth on anything.”

“People don’t like the smell of rabbits in their home,” Protzen said, “and they think they can just put a cage outside, but if it’s not built to withstand predators, the rabbits will be gone. Raccoons and coyotes prey on them.”

Chicken wire needs to be more than a ¼ inch thick and sunk into the ground to keep chicks and bunnies safe. “If you use regular chicken wire, the raccoons will grab them right through the wire,” Chan said. “They will actually eat the chickens through the wire.” Owls, hawks, and dogs also prey on the animals.

Twice, a neighborhood dog charged Chan’s chicken cage and killed all her chickens.

And there are other costs as well. According to the House Rabbit Society, veterinary bills for rabbits can be more expensive than for dogs. And Rabbits can live up to 10 years.

“Some people think you can just give them food and water and go away for Spring Break,” said Protzen, “but they need to be boarded if you leave on a trip. There are costs like nail clipping, and they can have behavioral issues if they are not sprayed. Male rabbits tend to spray in the same place to mark their territory, and they dig and chew.”

The House Rabbit Society, which rescues abandoned rabbits and finds permanent adoptive homes for them, puts a moratorium on all rabbit adoptions during the Easter holiday, and started a campaign called “Make Mine Chocolate,” to promote purchasing chocolate bunnies for children versus the actual animal.

“Rabbits are not passive and cuddly,” the Society stated on their Web site. “They are ground-loving creatures who feel frightened and insecure when held and restrained.”

Protzen does not want to give rabbits a bad reputation, however. “Rabbits are great pets, if you’re ready for a rabbit,” she said.

Free Manicure with Purchase of Massage




The Best Manicure!

“Best Manicure in Silicon Valley” Mercury News, 2007
 “Best in Silicon Valley” Metro, 2006, 2007
 “Best of the Bay”, San Francisco Magazine

Each guest will receive a personalized nail toolset used only on you!

Lavande

A brand new day spa with
 - eucalyptus steam room
 - cedar wood sauna
 - relaxation lounge with Jacuzzi

3589 Mt Diablo, Blvd, Lafayette. (925) 299-8877

Offer Details: Signature Manicure Only. Applicable only to Massage scheduled between 3/8/2008 and 4/4/2008. Offers not applicable to gift cards or massage in specials or package

GET CLEAN.



TOTAL CLEAN

HOUSE CLEANING SERVICE

925.376.1004

Small Business of the Year 2006

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

computer technical support
 repairs • training • websites



NERD4Rent



Computer Consulting & Training

925.283.5666

Nerd4Rent.com

3503 Mt Diablo Blvd, Suite 4
Lafayette, California 94549

Lamorinda's Religious Services


Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Orinda, 254-3422
JOIN US FOR AN EASTER CELEBRATION!
 8:15 a.m. Traditional; 9:30 a.m. Blended Traditional & Contemporary; 10:45 a.m. Contemporary
 Easter Brunch served 8:30 to 11:00 a.m.
 Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

Our Savior's Lutheran (ELCA) - 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
www.oslc.net • 283-3722
Each Sunday: 8:15 am Classic Service, 9:15 am Education Hour
 10:30 am Contemporary Service
March 20: 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service
March 21: 7:00 pm Good Friday Service
March 23: 8:00 and 9:30 am Classic Easter Services
 Bells, Brass, Choir
 11:00 Contemporary Easter Service
 Adult and Youth Ensembles

St. Giles Episcopal Church of Moraga

Maundy Thursday	March 20	7:30 pm
Good Friday	March 21	7:30 pm
Holy Saturday	March 22	9 am
The Great Vigil of Easter	March 22	7:30 pm
Easter Day	March 23	9 am

All services are held in the Chapel at St. Mary's College
 Everyone is welcome

Temple Isaiah welcomes you to worship with us on Shabbat.
 For specific questions, call the Temple office at 925-283-8575
 or visit our website: temple-isaiah.org.
 1st and 4th Friday evening - 6:30 PM
 2nd and 3rd Friday evening - 8:00 PM
 Saturday mornings at 10:30 AM

If you would like your services listed, please email to
 info@lamorindaweekly.com or call 925-377-0977.
 A one inch listing will cost \$20.

Letters to the Editor




Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

All published letters will include the writer's name and town (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only), and should be 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for length or legal considerations.

email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; **Regular mail:** Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:
 Regarding Sophie Braccini's article "The Future of the Hacienda Still Uncertain" I noticed that Margaret DePriester is quoted as saying "some of our residents don't even know it exists." Perhaps if your article had included an address, area, cross-street, or neighborhood, more people (including me) might know. Maybe the title of the article should've been: "The Future, and Location, of the Hacienda Still Uncertain".
 If anyone on your staff knows where it is, and is willing to divulge this information, I'd like to know.
 B. Raynolds
 Orinda
(We have sent Mr. Raynolds the information he requested, and thank him for asking! Moraga's Hacienda de Las Flores is located at 2100 Donald Dr., off Moraga Rd. between St. Mary's Blvd. and Rheem Blvd. -ed.)

Editor,
SCHOOLS NEED OUR HELP.
 Education is extremely important to us all. The Lafayette School District will suffer a loss of \$1.7 million due to cuts in the state budget. I hope all components of our educational system (i.e., parent clubs, LASF, the School District, school families and other members of our community) will come together to make up for this loss. It has been determined that a family's proportionate share to make up this loss is \$124/child. This assumes all other educational components contribute their fair share. I plead with all parents who have the means to make a tax deductible contribution of \$124/child (or more!) to the Lafayette School District (3477 School Street) so our children will continue to receive the quality education they deserve. I hope that all other components of the system will contribute their share for our children and the betterment of our community. Our dollars are needed ASAP so the District can plan for the projected shortfall. Thank you for your help!
 Patricia Curtin-Tinley
 Concerned Parent of Two
 Lafayette

Dear Editor:
 A massive property tax hike of 44 percent is in store for Orinda residents if a special library tax is approved by the city's voters on June 3. In February, the Orinda City Council voted unanimously to put a measure on the ballot that, if passed, would raise the current library tax from \$27 to \$39 per year (Lamorinda Weekly, March 5). While the dollar amount of the tax may seem small, the actual level of increase is 44 percent!

Download "Your" story from
www.lamorindaweekly.com

We're online too:
www.lamorindaweekly.com

30 Day Challenge

**Lose Weight
 Drop the Inches
 Look and Feel Great**

Want a Slimmer, Healthier Body?

Cleanse Your Way to Better Health

"You Can Safely lose Pounds and Inches Naturally Through Nutritional Cleansing"

Call 925-376-3667 www.KFPUSA1.isagenix.com




NEW in LW Public Forum JOIN IT

Over the past year, we have received several exceptionally thoughtful letters from readers in response to some of our stories. Most have been too lengthy for us to print. In an effort to adhere to our mission of being a forum for public discussion, we have decided to allocate sufficient space to publish these letters whenever possible.

Our internal editorial board will review all letters for form and content, and reserves the right to refuse a submission. Writers should have significant knowledge of the area in which they are writing, and letters should be on a subject that we have introduced in our pages. We have not set a maximum word count, but it is unlikely that a 2000-word letter would be printed (for reference, the letter on the right contains 477 words).

All opinions expressed in this forum are those of the writer and not of the Lamorinda Weekly. Letters may be edited for legal considerations, but edited letters will be returned to the writer for consent prior to publication. Submissions should be sent to letter@lamorindaweekly.com.
 (Our already-familiar Letters to the Editor section will remain unchanged.)

Being "Wired on Technology" – Is it a Good Thing?

When I first opened up Computer Software & Hardware in Orinda in 1991, there were very few cell phones and no internet. People were thrilled when their computers opened up and produced a C} prompt. Computers were unreliable, expensive and the wave of the future.

As I read your front page article, "Wired on Technology," I was curious as to why you missed the part about how "instant communication" is threatening the need for the printed word. Why read a newspaper, book or newsmagazine when you can view them on-line?

I have seen the evolution of the instant communication revolution. It has created a culture of fraud, deceit, instant gratification, fear and according to some University studies, a decline in intelligence and reverse evolution.

I have every incarnation of cell phone, computer, IPOD and Blackberry. I see the advantage of instant communication. I also see what it is doing to our society. Text messaging during a movie, talking on a cell phone while driving, answering a device while in the middle of a conversation with someone and, most distressing, someone carrying on a private conversation in earshot of others. This is not the worst of it.

I have parents come into my office seeking help in getting their children to stop playing addictive computer games. There is a profusion of underage people losing big money playing on-line poker. Pornography is freely available to anyone who knows how to use a mouse and click on the button that says they are 'of age.' Since I

make a living helping people with their computer problems, I have to know how to help.

Then we have the internet criminals. They steal peoples' identities. They create a climate of fear that breeds something worse. Anti-virus, anti-spyware companies make money by providing fake security. These include some well known, local companies whose software is ineffectual and is efficient only in requesting money from the user on a yearly basis.

Your article mentions a school where cell phone use is banned. This does not work. Some students use the phones for cheating and are addicted to texting. AOL Instant Messenger is on almost every computer. The television, cell phone, and instant messaging are on while a student does their homework.

Also mentioned is a person who likes to be available 24/7 and even during sleep. The average Blackberry user checks the machine every 5 minutes. This is alarming. Some might say our productivity is increased. Our life spans are getting shorter. Depression, anger, drug use and white-collar crime are increasing. Courtesy, etiquette, conversational skills, handwriting and spelling are getting worse.

I can go on and on. I see the advantage to instant communication. I hope that at some point, we can raise the consciousness of our younger generation to reverse those things that are really important. They are not found in little screens.

Nuchem Weiss
 Computer Software and Hardware
 Orinda

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE TOWN OF MORAGA AND VILLAGE ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE




Moraga Treeline Triathlon

400 M



22 Km



5 Km



April 26, 2008

- ADULT (19+), STUDENT (12-18), AND RELAY CATEGORIES AVAILABLE.
- FEES INCREASE APRIL 1, 2008, REGISTER ONLINE, BY MAIL, OR IN OFFICE.
- DON'T WANT TO RACE? VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PREP AND RACE DAY!
- BE A PART OF THIS 2ND ANNUAL "CREATING COMMUNITY" EVENT!

Website
www.moragatri.com

Email
tri@moraga.ca.us

Phone
(925) 888-7045

www.moragatri.com









Detour Ahead ... continued from page 1

The biggest concern to most residents is the complete closure of the windy section of Moraga Road from Old Jonas Hill Road in Lafayette almost up to Sky-Hy Drive in Moraga. The narrow road makes it impossible to keep traffic flowing during construction. Expect closure of this section also from June 16 until August 22 from 9:00 until 5:30 weekdays. Traffic will be re-routed to St. Mary's Road.
 On April 10, at 7:00 in the Campolindo Library, EBMUD invites residents to a public meeting for an explanation of the construction process and a question and answer period. More complete information is available on the insert. For additional information go to www.ebmud.com.



Moraga Road Pipeline Construction & Summer Road Closure

Informational Meeting

Thursday, April 10, 2008
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Campolindo High School Library
300 Moraga Road
Moraga

For information call 510-287-0140
or email nharlow@ebmud.com

Life in LAMORINDA

Bilingualism: Increase in Grey Matter Available to All Lamorinda Kids

By Sophie Braccini



Pre-F class at KISS

Photo Sophie Braccini

When they adopted their baby daughter from China, Lynley and David Sides didn't want the infant to lose all ties with her origins. After looking for an existing immersion Chinese program in the area, they were inspired to start "Small World", a Chinese language program in Lafayette for children as young as one year old. "To speak another language is to possess a second soul", said Emperor Charlemagne some 1200 years ago. By being willing to give their daughter a Chinese soul, the Sides might very well have given her other important cognitive advantages over mono-lingual children.

"When I was pregnant," explains Darja Koehler mother of a seven-year-old tri-lingual girl, "I researched information about brain development in infants. A book I recommend is "Magic Tree of the Mind" (available at your public library), that demonstrates how the first years are crucial for developing knowledge of different languages, the art and music."

A native accent and fluency is not the only benefit of early language exposure. "Many studies that have been made of the brains of bilingual individuals," explains UC Berkeley Professor Emeritus Lily Wong Fillmore, "Dr. Ellen Bialystok of York University

showed that bilingualism confers cognitive benefits to preschooler learning to read, and her assertion was supported by Dartmouth's Laura-Ann Petitto's findings that bilingual children have higher cognitive skills. One of those skills is the plasticity of the brain, that is, the ability to figure out more solutions for a given problem and easier decision making." And benefits do not stop as people get older; a recent study by Bialystok shows that fluent bilingual individuals are able to ward off the loss of memory in old age.

"Language learning needs to start in infancy if bilingualism is the objective," states Fillmore, "children can start at three years of age, but even earlier is better." "My daughter started French for Fun when she was eleven months old," explains Darja Koehler, "for her it was not learning, it was just playing."

As Catherine Jolivet, the Director of French for Fun explains, her program starts with very young children who come with their parents a few hours a week. "We learn songs, the kids listen, they are exposed to the sounds of another language and they absorb it with an ease that will never again be the same." Isabelle Magidson, who teaches at the school says, "I teach the three-year olds. They come every day for two hours and

after a few months they are already starting to manipulated the language, not only repeat, but really make their own sentences."

KISS, the Spanish immersion program now located at the border of Lafayette and Walnut Creek, also offers programs that start at two years of age (and at one year beginning August, 2008). "We didn't know what we were getting into when we registered our son at age two," says George Madrigal, father of now three-year-old Jacob Alexander, "we had heard good things about the school but didn't know if he would fit in." The boy loved the program and the teachers, and is now signing songs in Spanish with his father. George, who had lost his native Spanish long ago, couldn't be more emotionally fulfilled.

Sharlen Foox had a different motivation when she registered her children with KISS. "None of us spoke Spanish," says the mother of two young boys, "but we wanted the cultural experience for them as well as the definite advantages that learning a second language gives to very young children, even in math." Foox's preschooler is now in the three-year-old program, going four days a week, three hours each day. "We know he understands a lot," she says, "when we went

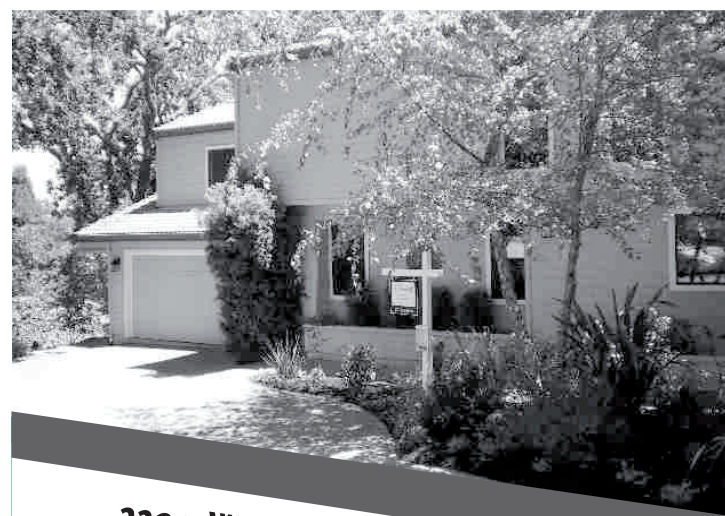
to Las Vegas and a waitress addressed us in Spanish he responded in her language with an ease that flabbergasted us."

Koehler confirms that the parents do not need to speak the language in order for the kids to become bilingual. "I do not even speak French," she says, "but since my daughter followed the French for Fun she became a fluent French speaker, with a native accent."

A similar experience was had by Jan Spauschus who adopted Laura from China when the infant was fifteen months old. She too, like the Sides, wanted her daughter to retain her native tongue, "Mandarin is a very tonal language," she explains, "often occidentals cannot even decipher the language." Jan and her husband went all over the Bay Area to maintain Laura's exposure to Mandarin and were thrilled when Small World started where they live, in Lafayette. "This is an invaluable experience," says Spauschus, "it changes your outlook on the world."

Other parents confirm that if bilingualism is the objective, a simple after-school program will not be enough. Dona Comar experienced both the immersion and the two-day-a-week program with her two sons. The older one went to French For Fun as an after school program, while the youngest was able to follow the everyday Kindergarten curriculum, "The difference is notable," she says, "The youngest is completely at ease with the French language. He comprehends and speaks effortlessly," says the mother, "he is not afraid to make mistakes and has a native accent. The oldest understands an enormous amount of French but is very hesitant to speak."

For more information go to:
French For Fun: www.frenchforfun.com
KISS: www.kissprogram.com
Small World: www.smallworld-lamorinda.com



3320 Woodview Court, Lafayette

\$431 per sq ft. and Lafayette schools.
Must see beautiful home on large wooded lot.
Remodeled kitchen with granite, stainless steel appliances & cherry cabinets.
4 large bedrooms & 3 1/2 baths including Master Suite and Au Pair suite with separate entrance. Very quiet area.

Offered at \$1,199,000

Marty Tuominen

J. Rockcliff Realtors

mtuominen@rockcliff.com

J. Rockcliff

REALTORS

Direct: (925) 253-7032

Mobile: (925) 482-4204

89 Davis Rd., Suite 100 • Orinda

WWW.MARTYTUOMINEN.COM

Law Office of Radcliffe & Radcliffe

455 Moraga Road, Suite A
Moraga, California 94556
925.376.2325 - 925.376.2328 (fax)



Serving Lamorinda for over 30 years.

Martha C. Radcliffe - Estate planning

Lisa J. Radcliffe - Family Law, custody, support and visitation

Parking Problems at Whole Foods

... continued from page 2

The City clearly wants Whole Foods to come to town. There are a few options that they might consider to solve the problem. According to Planning and Building Manager Niroop Srivatsa, one alternative would be purchasing nearby off-site parking

for employees. Second, they could look at the layout of the parking lot and see if there was a way to adjust the striping to add more spaces. Finally they can request a variance from the Planning Commission, and if approved, pay a hefty fee per spot, that would go

into the City's future Parking Garage Fund.

An additional issue is that the Fire District has increased its space requirement for fire lanes since the opening of the shopping center many years ago. Whereas employees used to be able to park

in the rear of the building, that's no longer possible under the new regulations. This represents a loss of about 20 spaces.

At the moment the ball is in Whole Foods' court. There is no deadline for them to resolve this issue.

Swing On By

The Candy Store from Your Wildest Childhood Imagination!

The New Mercantile Bldg.
3591 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
299-YUMM

Body Makeovers By Living Lean

Colleen Lewis:
I started with the Living Lean Program and Sheena fifteen months ago. Within ten weeks I had dropped from a size 10 to a size 8 and reduced my body fat from 33% to 24%. Within six months I was down to a size 6 and my body fat was 18%.

While it wasn't easy, it was fun. Sheena encouraged and motivated me every step of the way. She gave me great advice and created really interesting and challenging workout sessions (no two have ever been the same). Fifteen months later I am a size 4, my body fat is 14% and I feel great! Sheena has taught me how to incorporate Living Lean into everyday life. This isn't something that has ended with me reaching my initial goals it has become a lifestyle. Thanks for everything Sheena!

For More Information Call Sheena
(925) 360-7051
Space is limited so call today!

Living Lean Team

INTERLOCKING PAVING STONES - SPRING SPECIAL - 20% OFF

Beautiful Long-Lasting Patios Driveways & Walkways

Spring Special

INTERLOCKING PAVING STONES

20% OFF

RGP CONSTRUCTION INC.
- ORINDA -

Call For A Free Estimate
(925) 518-8258
www.rgpconstruction.com

Please mention this ad. Not valid with other offers. Exp. 4/30/08

INTERLOCKING PAVING STONES - SPRING SPECIAL - 20% OFF

MENTION THIS AD FOR OUR SPRING SPECIAL

MENTION THIS AD FOR OUR SPRING SPECIAL

Your "Rock Solid" Realtors



Lafayette's Prudential Team presents:

LAFAYETTE
ORINDA
ORINDA
LAFAYETTE
MORAGA
LAFAYETTE



\$2,390,000
11 Sessions Road
Spectacular gated 4,242sf home on 3+ private acres with reservoir views! Gourmet kitchen, 4/5 bdr, 3.5 baths. Call Jim Colhoun 925-962-6101 or James Collins 925-640-8818



\$1,359,000
712 Ironbark Court
Orinda Woods home features 3+ bdr, 2.5 baths, 2,350sf on a 1/3 acre lot, new hardwood floors, windows and built-ins. Great interior colors, Call Deb at 925-381-0325



\$1,099,000
20 Muth Drive
Spacious, upgraded 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 2,200sf home on a 3/4 acre lot. Close to downtown & BART. Grounds, granite counters & gas cooktop. Call Jennifer at 925-382-7484



\$2,450,000
1480 Shulglin Road
Amazing opportunity! 2 unique Spanish style homes on approximately 3.75 acres. Views, privacy, fantastic location! For more info visit www.1480shulglin.com or call Frith at 925-698-6030.



\$314,900
1973 Ascot Drive #B
Low price for 2Br-2Ba condo with pool and extra storage. Ideal investment opportunity. Call Jim Colhoun 925 200-2795



**** Call For Price ****
917 Hough
Coming Soon! Downtown Lafayette-2bd, 1 1/2 ba. **Newly remodeled and gorgeous!** Walk to BART and downtown shopping. Low HOA's, small and quiet complex. Call Lisa or Barbara 925 698-5752.

Your Professional Lamorinda Team is located at:
999 Oak Hill Road Lafayette 925-283-7000



Lisa Hctor, #2 agent for Prudential California Realty Lafayette Office 2007.
Early in my career my husband and I owned our own business and successfully ran it for 20 years. As a realtor I face many of the same challenges that I did as a business owner and found that exceptional customer service is key to being successful. I love my job and I love my clients!
Lisa Hctor "The Home Sales Doctor" I Make House Calls! www.lisahctor.com

Moraga's Open Space Initiatives: The Saga Continues

By Sophie Braccini

Like a good mystery novel, each chapter increases the suspense and tension of the situation. This ongoing story may indeed qualify as a mystery, as one must decipher the burgeoning acronyms.

October of last year saw the debut of MOSO 2008 (Moraga Open Space Ordinance 2008), an initiative produced by the Friends of Moraga Open Space (FMOS) to further limit development in Moraga, especially in the Bollinger Canyon (BC), Indian Valley (IV) and Rheem Ridge (RR) areas.

As FMOS gathered signatures, the property owner that would be hardest hit by the initiative, the Bruzzone family, responded with an initiative of its own: MOSPRO, retitled by the Town's attorney as, "Moraga Initiative Expanding Open Space and Residential Land Use Designations and Adopting Development Agreement." (MIEOSRLUDADA?)

This second initiative allows for and guarantees development rights for the next 25 years on the BD, IV and RR properties, and offers monies

to the town to build a community recreation center on a piece of land that the Bruzzone family would lease to the Town.

The plot thickened when MOSO 2008 bumped into opposition from the Moraga Country Club (MCC), which saw the text as potentially complicating their future development and restoration operations. In an unexpected twist, FMOS withdrew its initiative, even though a significant number of signatures had been gathered on the petition, in order to revamp the text.

The Bruzzone family and its supporters fought a tough battle with the Town Council, hoping to expedite their initiative and get it placed on the June ballot. There were many dramatic moments, including a mailing campaign claiming "Democracy is dying in Moraga." The Council refused to be rushed, and the Bruzzone initiative will appear on the ballot in the November general election.

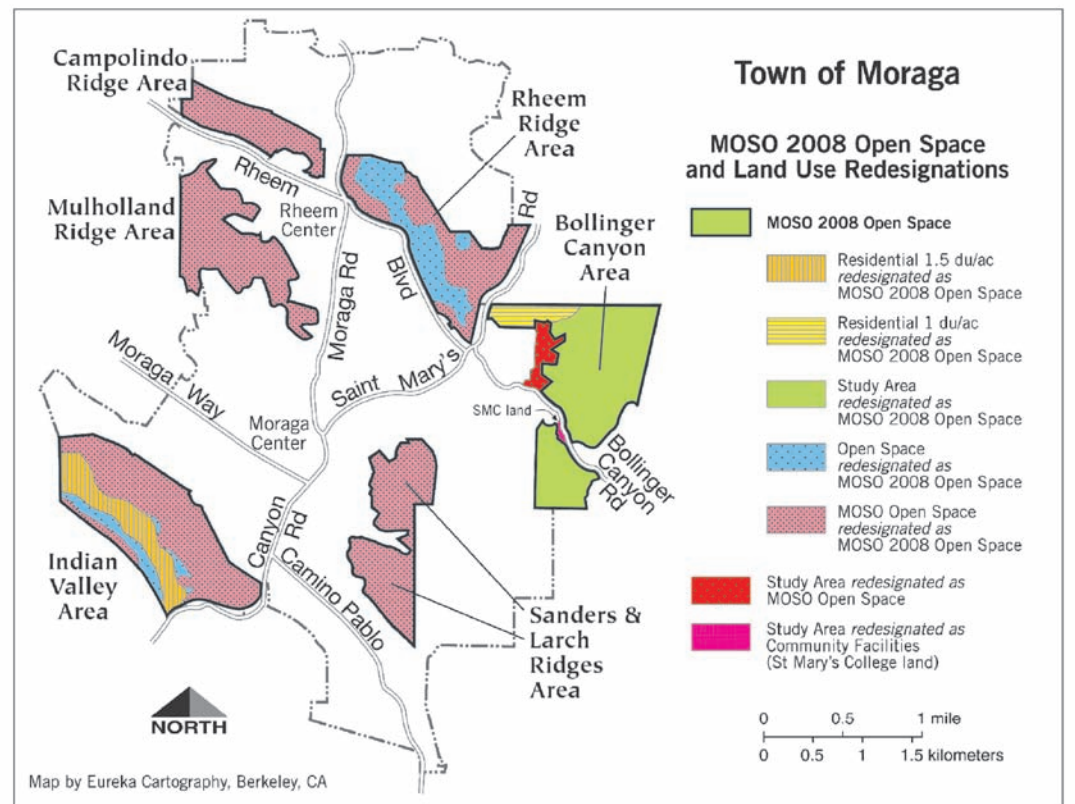
A new chapter of the saga has now been opened as a revised MOSO 2008 initiative

appears on the scene. In a nutshell, it's the same text as the October initiative but with explicit protection for MCC and Saint Mary's College (SMC). Main features include: no more than 1 dwelling per 20 acres in all prior MOSO-protected and new MOSO 2008 land, prevention of any development on ridgelines, slopes, unstable terrain and near creeks (riparian corridor).

The rights of MCC and SMC are explicitly protected. Section 2 (I): "The Ordinance does not apply to any land owned, operated, or leased by the Moraga Country Club..." The ordinance clearly also excludes land owned by SMC from its jurisdiction.

MOSO 2008 supporters must now return to the streets of Moraga in search of new signatures for their petition. Petitioners must gather the valid signatures of 10% of Moraga voters and submit them to the Town Clerk by mid-May in order to be eligible for the November ballot.

It's a real page-turner, and this story is far from over. Stay tuned, fearless readers.



Tried & True Tips to Improve the Value of Your Home... Perk Up Your Paint!

By Dana Green

Nothing improves the overall look of a home quite like a fresh coat of paint. Whether the inside, outside or both, paint is quite simply a cost-effective approach to freshen up your house. If you are considering selling your home, this should top your to-do list. New paint will increase your value and lesson your time on the market.

For interior paint, tackle one room at a time and don't move on until you're completely satisfied. Don't be afraid to step out of your color box and try something a little more intense. Designers use the "60-30-10" rule, 60% of color in a room comes from walls; 30%

from upholstery, floor coverings or window treatments; and 10% from accent pieces or artwork. Although color is important to build character, remember this ratio when making your decision to ensure you avoid color overload!

Don't rush the process of painting as color tends to make or break a room. Paint a swatch on the wall of the color you are considering and live with it for a few days to see what it looks like in different lighting. It is important to take the extra time to ensure you are choosing a color you can live with. If you are color challenged or don't trust your design skills, consider hiring an expert. For a



Dana Green, a Lafayette native, is a Lamorinda Real Estate Specialist. Dana can be reached at (925) 339-1918 or danagreen@rockcliff.com

few hundred dollars, your colors will be selected and the stress of painting will be eliminated.

Tried & True Interior Paint Colors by Benjamin Moore:

1. Chestertown Buff
2. Barley
3. Greenbrier Beige

Tip:

Pottery Barn and Benjamin Moore have teamed up and created a wonderful selection of paints to choose from. Order your Spring "fan deck" of paint samples at <http://www.potterybarn.com/products/p7916/index.cfm> for \$2 or stop by the Walnut Creek Pottery Barn store to pick one up for free.

Library Artists Wanted

... continued from page 2

"We're looking for all kinds of possibilities," she continued. The Museum, because it's part of the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium, was selected by the Library Public Art Committee to help with determining sites and managing the artist selection processes as well as overseeing the design and installation of the artwork.

The process won't happen overnight, and has a number of

hurdles. One of the highlights for Lamorinda residents to look forward to is the community display of proposal materials from June 9, 2008 through June 22, 2008. Winning artists will be announced on July 29 and tentative installation of the pieces will be April or May 2009. All dates subject to change.

Lafayette's Public Art Ordinance requires that public art is installed in structures of 10,000 square feet or more, and cost not

less than 1% of the construction total. Before residents start complaining, it's important to note that not even \$1 of Lafayette's General Fund was spent on the project. Funding came from the Lafayette Redevelopment Agency, a State Library Grant and substantial private donations.

At over 30,000 square feet of library and open space, the new building will be a landmark. It's considered a national model for future libraries, because of the unique partnership with a dozen regional educational and cultural institutions that comprise the Glen Seaborg Learning Consortium. Detailed application information for potentially famous artists is available on Lafayette's website, www.lovelafayette.org.

MVCRemodeling.com
MICHAEL VERBRUGGE CONSTRUCTION INC.
"RESIDING AND SERVING LAMORINDA"

RESIDENTIAL REMODELING

- ✓ Baths
- ✓ Kitchens
- ✓ Room Additions
- ✓ Finish Carpentry
- ✓ Repairs - dry rot, water and fire damage

925.631.1055
Lic# 681593

SB Painting
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

- Exterior / Interior
- Exceptional prep. work
- Fully insured and bonded

925-932-3193
CA Lic. 555600

UPHOLSTERY SPECIALIST
REFINISHING AND RESTORATION

- Slipcovers • Pillows • Window Cushions
- Custom Upholstery • Design Consulting

Marine - Commercial - Residential
Pickup & Delivery Available • Free Estimates By Phone

M.R.S.
Fine Old World Craftsmanship
Family Owned And Operated For Over 55 yrs.

3418 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette
Mon.-Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-2
(925) 962-0579

~ HE'S ALL ABOUT LAMORINDA ~



CLARK THOMPSON
REAL ESTATE BROKER
VILLAGE ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE
Office: 925-254-8585
Cell: 925-998-7898
Email: ct@clarkthompson.com

Search the MLS: www.clarkthompson.com



Lamorinda Home Sales continued

LAFAYETTE	Last reported: 5
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$500,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,565,000
MORAGA	Last reported: 4
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$494,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,035,000
ORINDA	Last reported: 4
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$761,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,535,000

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

LAFAYETTE
936 East Street, \$980,000, 3136 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 2-21-08
7 Mountain View Place, \$500,000, 3 Bdrms, 1783 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 2-22-08
1144 Nogales Street, \$895,000, 4 Bdrms, 1919 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 2-19-08
1080 Serrano Court, \$1,158,000, 3 Bdrms, 1563 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 2-27-08
1221 Woodborough Rd., \$1,565,000, 4 Bdrms, 3652 SqFt, 1992 YrBlt, 2-22-08

MORAGA
1437 Camino Peral, \$494,000, 2 Bdrms, 1116 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 2-21-08
1515 Camino Peral #B, \$565,000, 3 Bdrms, 1716 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 2-20-08
20 Corliss Drive, \$1,035,000, 4 Bdrms, 2541 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 2-26-08
1740 St. Andrews Dr., \$550,000, 2 Bdrms, 1262 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 2-22-08

ORINDA
13 La Sombra Court, \$1,315,000, 2 Bdrms, 2072 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 2-15-08
36 Southwood Drive, \$761,500, 3 Bdrms, 1400 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 2-28-08
31 Tappan Lane, \$1,535,000, 6 Bdrms, 2831 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 2-20-08
39 Via Hermosa, \$1,275,000, 3 Bdrms, 1386 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 2-15-08

Your ad will reach more then 26,000 homes and businesses in Lamorinda!

Call 925-377-0977

LAMORINDA Business

business briefs

Used Books Traded and Sold!

Canetti's Bookshop, 39 Moraga Way, Orinda, 258-9076

There is a new used bookstore in Orinda, across the street from Longs. It's open all day, every day and there can be found literature, classic and contemporary, including popular book group selections. Many key titles in all sections are on hand, and categories will be very well stocked as more people bring in their books for trade. One of the neat features of a used bookstore is the trading part: you can bring in your gently used books for store credit. "I worked at Bonanza Street Books in Walnut Creek for about nine years," says Jeff, the storeowner, "by the end of March they will have gone out of business. It is an immeasurable loss for Walnut Creek and all the people that liked to visit. When the impending closing was announced there was an enormous outpour of support, but sadly, it was too late. With so many independent bookstores closing, I felt it was so important to open one. I'm hoping the people of Lamorinda will enjoy and support Canetti's Bookshop."

Sweet Treats

Powell's Sweet Shoppe, 3591 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette.

The Grand Opening was on Saturday, March 15th; the Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting will be on Thursday March 27th at 4:30pm. Candies, Gelati, old-fashioned sodas, chocolates, toys, and lots, lots more. Over 5,000 items, all at your finger tips.

Shelby Sexton Salon Parties to Launch a New Line of Products

33 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette (in La Fiesta Square), 925.962.1900, www.ShelbySextonSalon.com

On March 8th, Shelby Sexton held a party at her salon to celebrate Shu Uemura, the great Hollywood make-up artist and his line of products now carried by the salon. 120 people came to enjoy the cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, experience Shu Uemura "lash-bar," take pleasure in a fashion show by neighboring store Specialties and appreciate new work of art on display from the Lafayette Gallery. "This was a team effort," says store manager Breann Ringenberg, who came up with the creative idea, "tons of new people came and it was fun." Residents are encouraged to stop by anytime to experience the new products.



Shu Launch Party at Shelby Sexton Photo provided

Lafayette Prudential California Realty, 999 Oak Hill Road, Lafayette, 283-7000

The real estate agency has named Jim Colhoun the firm's number one agent for 2007. Colhoun has been with Prudential California Realty's Lafayette office for 19 years, where he has been a top producer numerous times. He is a Certified Fine Homes Specialist and a Relocation Specialist who has achieved more than \$300 million in sales.

Colhoun is an East Bay native who resides in Moraga. He attended local schools in Orinda and Moraga, and U.C. Berkeley. Colhoun supports the Orion Academy in his free time.

The agency announces as well that Lisa Hoctor has recently joined the ranks as one of the newest members of the RealEstate.com broker network. RealEstate.com is the premiere online one-stop-shopping destination for consumers buying or selling a home. For more information you can contact Ms. Hoctor at Prudential's office in Lafayette.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage announced that its Orinda office and

Manager Val Cook-Watkins have received national recognition as one of the top real estate offices and managers nationwide last year. A 30-year real estate veteran, Cook-Watkins has earned the coveted President's Council distinction nine of her 12 years with the company. Cook-Watkins is a frequent contributor to the Lamorinda Weekly Real Estate page.

The agency has two locations at 5 and 85 Moraga Way, and can be reached at 925.253.4600 and 925.253.6300, respectively.

Emergency Preparedness/Business Continuity Seminar - Wednesday, March 26

The Moraga, Orinda and Lafayette Chambers of Commerce invite you to join us for an Emergency Preparedness Seminar on Wednesday, March 26 at the Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. The seminar will be held twice. The first seminar will begin at 7:30am and the second at 6:30pm. The morning event cost is \$5.00 and includes a breakfast. The evening seminar costs \$10.00 and includes dinner. Speakers include representatives from Red Cross, Contra Costa County, SCORE, CERT, police and city officials. Topics will include emergency plans, disaster kits, contact lists, backing up your business files and business continuity. Contact Ken Tom at 376-0533

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, 100 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, www.lafayettechamber.org

- Radon Test Kits Still Available. Dana Simi-Wilson at Freskos Realty wants you to stop by (3541 Plaza Way) and pick up a free Radon Test Kit. Radon, a naturally occurring gas, is responsible for 21,000 cases of lung cancer each year. Take advantage of this generous offer!
- Business Issues/Government Affairs Committee Open Meeting, Thursday March 27th, 8:00 am - Lafayette Chamber Conference Room
- Chamber Mixer: 24 Hour Fitness, Wednesday April 9th at 5:30 pm, 594 Moraga Blvd., Moraga

Moraga Chamber of Commerce, www.moragachamber.org

- Retail Leasing Seminar, Tuesday March 25th from 6:00PM - 7:00 PM Moraga Presbyterian Church Fireside Room, 10 Moraga Way, Moraga. Whether your lease is up now or not, come to this one-hour program designed to provide with an overview of the leasing process. Learn what the important points are in a lease. Find out the many negotiating points as they relate to landlord funding of your tenant build-out, the financial terms of the lease, options to extend the lease, adjustments, user restrictions and more. There will be plenty of time for questions. No charge. Email Larry Tessler for a reservation, larryst39@earthlink.net or call him at 376-1525
- Chamber meetings will now be held at the Hacienda de Las Flores, Fireside Room. Meetings are held from 8 to 9am on the last Friday of the month. In March it will be on Friday the 28th. The Chamber of Commerce wants to warmly thank Roos Pal of Terzetto Cuisine for her hospitality over the past year.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce, 24 Orinda Way, Orinda, www.orindachamber.org

- Chamber Luncheon on March 28th, from Noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda. Speakers from Pulte Homes & Wilder/Gateway Development. Cost: \$30.00 per person. Call 925-254-3909 for your reservation
- Chamber Board Membership Changes. The Chamber welcomes Eloise Middleton of Keller Williams Realty as a new Board Member, and extends our sincere thanks to Carlos Rangle of Shelby's Restaurant for his past service on the Board.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact

Sophie Braccini at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com

or contact

Lamorinda Weekly at 925-377-0977.



Margot & Hal Kaufman
Real Estate. Real People.

Margot 925.260.4787
Hal 925.260.4799



www.TheKaufmans.com

Sweet Event at the Mercantile

By Sophie Braccini



Gold Ticket winners with their sweet selections

Photo Andy Schreck

Do you still believe in a world of pure imagination? Five lucky children do. They found Golden Tickets in their Wonka Bars. And on Wednesday, March 12, those Golden Tickets gained them early entrance to the new Powell's Sweet Shoppe in the Lafayette Mercantile, and \$100 shopping spree.

At 4:30 pm, half hour before the crowd, Ella was the youngest to discover the store. The three year-old Lafayette pre-schooler entered the shop with her mother, brother and cousin in tow. She stepped into a world of colors and sweet smells, all presented in an appealing and organized way: the old fashion candies section, the everything-mint part, the British candies section, the international sector, the bulks, the high-end chocolates, the ice

creams... "We have a special movie section," says beaming store manager Didi Reed, "we have a big screen with revolving 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' playing, old restored movie theater seats in which to relax and movie-like candies are stocked all around the screen." The store is adorned with Lafayette memorabilia, with pictures courtesy of the Lafayette Historical Society.

The Lafayette store is the 12th franchise of Michael Powell's original store. The first Powell's Sweet Shoppe opened in 2003 in Windsor, California -- a small, rural town located just north of Santa Rosa. Powell believes in the old-fashioned retail model where you get to know your customers, learn their names and involve yourself in the community where your store is located.

Nabil and Zeina Hissen wanted to transport that same vision to Lafayette. "We are neighbors," says the Walnut Creek residents, "and we wanted a store in Lafayette, to get the community feel. Everybody here has been very welcoming."

The Wonka Bar promotion was a great idea. In the days preceding the opening, the owners distributed 1000 free candy bars to passers-by, five containing a Golden Ticket. Jessie, a 10th grader at Campolindo High School was one of them. "I love everything sour," says the sophomore, "I found an amazing variety here." Her bag contained chocolate covered gummy bears, chocolate nonpareil, chewy sours and all kinds of colorful, sweet looking worms and beans.

... continued on page 14

East Bay's Best Self-Storage



\$18 MOVES YOU IN*

On a limited number of units still available!

- Take a tour and receive a \$5.00 Starbucks Card
- Refer a friend who rents & receive a \$25 Gas Card
- Conveniently open every day except major holidays

Serving the Lamorinda Communities for over 12 years!



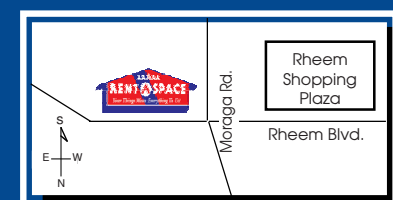
5A makes it easy to rent with our automated kiosk or on-line and for your convenience, quick payments at our gate!

*\$18 on limited units available now, first come-first served. Not good with other offers, exp. 3/31/08.

MORAGA

455 Moraga Road Suite F

www.5Aspace.com



Sweet Event at the Mercantile

... continued from page 13



The rush for sweets: Powell's opens the doors at Lafayette Mercantile

Alessandra was visiting from Berkeley when she got the lucky bar. "I got some good chocolate here," says the young 3rd grader, showing a bar of Scharffenberger chocolate. "I have tons of bubble gums, M&M and sour Jelly Bellies." In the store, she found a 1961 DVD for her daddy and a birthday card for her younger brother. Kacey, a freshman at Acalanes High School, was

lucky that parent Richard got a Golden Ticket. He shared it with her. "It's fantastic here," said the Walnut Creek resident, "they have collections of sweets for all ages and all at the same place." Adults can get hard-to-find candies like Flicks, wax lips, Big Hunks and Razzles; you have to be a certain age to know why those are special.

At 5pm sharp the store opened to the public. There was

a rush of exited children and teens. In a time of fight against children obesity one could wonder about the value of such a store. "This is totally part of childhood," said a mother who'd rather stay unnamed, "kids won't come here everyday, but it's a fun place for an occasional treat, just to put a little more sweetness in our lives." Lafayette resident Laura Easley, Ella's mother, is adamant, "I'll probably be back once a week for myself; I love this place." Obviously the charming and slender mother needn't concern herself about her silhouette.

"We have a small non-sugar section in the back of the store that will grow," says Didi, "our sorbet from Gelato Classico in Concord are 85% fruit and one of our ice creams is sugarless." Pleasure without the guilt! Is that reasonable?

Powell's Sweet Shoppe is located at 3591 Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

Walking & Pampering for a Cause

By Cathy Tyson

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce member Amy Davanzante, owner of Pamper My Party, wanted to make a difference. She's donating 30% of all sales during the months of April and May to ten members of the Bella Donna Social Club, a local women's group, to help with their fundraising requirement of \$18,000 for their team in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer.

It seems like a great idea, helping women feel better via her pampering parties and helping to fight breast cancer at the same time. Davanzante started her business three years ago to provide a luxurious spa experience to women in the comfort of their own homes. Her business, Pamper My Party provides spa services to groups usually for baby and bridal showers, but she's even done a menopause party. "Taking care of yourself is

vital, and I think social support for women is important," said Davanzante. Choices of treatments include massage therapy, hand and foot treatments, collagen masks and more.



The Avon Walk for Breast Cancer will be held in nine cities across the country. The San Francisco Walk, on July 12 - 13 starts in downtown San Francisco and continues across the bridge and alongside the Sausalito waterfront. The money raised is managed by the Avon Founda-

tion, a registered charity to advance access to care and finding a cure for breast cancer. A chunk of that money stays locally, San Francisco General Hospital and UCSF received \$1.25 million, Marin County Department of Health received \$400,000, Contra Costa Health Services received \$200,000 along with a number of other organizations in years past.

The savvy Avon Foundation emphasizes returning funds to Walk locales and places a priority on reaching low income, elderly, minorities and the growing number of folks with little or no health insurance.

For more information on the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, go to www.avonfoundation.org. For more information on Pamper My Party, go to www.pampermyparty.com

Lamorinda Weekly Online



We all know how quickly Internet use has grown, and how successfully it has connected people all over the world. Perhaps you have friends or family who don't live in Lamorinda but who might enjoy reading a particular story or seeing pictures of your kids, grandkids or maybe even yourself that has been published in the Lamorinda Weekly?

Go online! You will find all of our stories, from the first issue to the most current, on our web site: www.lamorindaweekly.com. All of the pages you have seen in your Lamorinda Weekly newspaper are stored in our online archive.

Because the Lamorinda Weekly is a full-size newspaper, it is not ideal for computer screens. So, for your convenience, we have also included "single-story" files.

Like the examples below, each story is available in letter-size format; easy to view, easy to print and easy to email!

Try it out! Open our web site, type into the Search bar a name or location and see what you find. Please enjoy it, and if you like it tell your friends about it!



Find online:

- All our stories, current issue and archive
- Lamorinda Restaurant Listing
- Not to be missed - Lamorinda Weekly Calendar page
- Classified ads
- Community Links

Miramonte Performs Les Mis

By Andrea A. Firth



Max and Daniel Coleman rehearsing for Les Misérables at Miramonte. Photo provided by Miramonte. "The immense talent of the Miramonte students makes this possible access to the... The major difficulty with the role is demonstrating my age," says Max. "The age difference between my character and me is about 50 years! Another difficulty

is that I have to show that I am dying of consumption (tuberculosis) throughout the entire play." Max and his fraternal twin brother Daniel, who plays Thenardiers the corrupt innkeeper in the play, have been performing since they were and mom could not sing these wretched songs. "The themes of Les Misérables are... Les Misérables is a... schedule, sophomore Max Coleman has found that playing the lead role of Jean Valjean has presented some other challenges. "The major difficulty with the role is demonstrating my age," says Max. "The age difference between my character and me is about 50 years! Another difficulty

MUSIC LESSONS

Decisions
 read online: [The Dangers of Gossip in Our Schools](#)
 read online: [Salan Gets Ready for Winter Concert](#)
 read online: [Teen Scene Column](#)

Online

read online: [Acalanes Choir Puts on a Hilarious Musical The Mystery of Edwin Drood](#)
 read online: [Miramonte Performs Les Mis](#)
 read online: [Campo Musical Goes to the Fairie with Oklahoma](#)

Download your story from: "Read Online"

Acalanes High School • Bentley School • Burton Valley • Camino Pablo Campolindo • Contra Costa Jewish Day School • Del Rey Donald L. Rheem • Glorietta • Happy Valley • Joaquin Moraga

Lamorinda Schools

Lafayette Elementary • Los Perales • Miramonte • Orinda Academy Orinda Intermediate • Saklan Valley School • Sleepy Hollow Springhill • Stanley Middle • St. Perpetua School • Wagner Ranch

They Went to Sacramento; Now What?

By Sophie Braccini



Senator Torlakson with Orinda delegation, Photo by Janice Adachi Back L-R: Michele Leighton, Julie Whitsitt, Sarah Butler, Senator Torlakson, OUSD Board member Pat Rudebush, Orinda Mayor Victoria Smith, OUSD Board member Riki Sorenson, Joan Kiekhaefer, Front L-R Diane Oshima, Ana Ramirez, Shannon Fuller, OUSD Board member Pam West

On February 27th more than 200 people boarded the buses that took representatives from schools in Lamorinda, Livermore, Alamo, Danville and San Ramon to Sacramento to meet our elected officials. 15 to 20 high school students from Las Lomas and Acalanes joined the group. "It was very interactive, we got to ask direct questions and got direct answers from our legislators," says Diane Oshima, Legislative Team, Las Trampas Creek Council of PTAs. The budget cuts looming in the short future overpowered the other issue, long-term education reform in California. "Even though there is no money at this time, we need to define what are the most important changes the system must undergo to meet the challenges of the future," adds Oshima. But the battle does not stop there. "Our district delivered close to 5,000 letters, and met with our

legislators," says Jim Negri AUHSD Superintendent, "but we have no commitment to date that the 10% across the board cut proposed by Governor Schwarzenegger will be amended. As of today, the 'no new taxes' Republican motto stands."

Most legislators that the team met are favorable to some type of budgetary reform. The Democratic majority, like State Representative Loni Hancock, are ready to increase the State's income as well as reducing its expenses. But in California (like in only three other States of the Union), a majority of 2/3 is required to pass a budget. This year, we can bet that the deadline of July 1st will have to be extended. And that is why schools want parents to stay motivated through the summer. "It is time that parents, educators and concerned citizens take a stand against the dismantling of California's pub-

lic school system," says Camino Pablo Elementary PTA Parliamentarian Ana Ramirez.

With the long debate ahead, Negri encourages everyone to send a new set of letters to Sacramento. The new set of letters can be found at <http://www.lastrampaspta.org/letters.html>. One of the statements of the letter is: "I urge you to leave Proposition 98 minimum funding limits for education intact, and to find ways to stabilize the state's budget at adequate levels."

The only delegate in our area who is not favorable to making a different budget decision is Guy Huston. He will be running for a position as a County Supervisor in November. "Maybe it's time that concerned parents let him know that his position on schools will influence voters," says Negri. Probably, the parents with most clout right now would be Republicans who might directly address the Governor, asking him not to cut 10% across the board, but to set priorities.

This position is the one advocated by one of the most respected voice in Sacramento, Elisabeth Hill, Head of the California Legislative Analyst's Office, the independent body that has been providing non-partisan fiscal advice to both chambers and both parties since 1941. Usually Ms. Hill's Office does not propose an alternative budget. This year, it did.

"This year we suffer from lower revenues, which creates a larger budget problem. For years we have suffered a structural deficit, and failure to set priorities,"

"I'm never too busy for your referrals!"



Holly Henkel
J.Rockcliff Realtors
89 Davis Rd, Ste 100
Orinda
925 253-7005(office); 360-2390(cell)
holly@hollyhenkel.com



Holly Henkel, your trusted advisor

said Hill. She believes that the 10% across the board cut proposed by our Governor only offers an illusion of fairness, that priorities have to be defined. Her proposal has two sides, a targeted spending reduction program and a revenue component. On the spending reduction side she proposes to maintain the service level and set priorities, to eliminate non-working programs or find alternative funding for other programs (increase California university fees, for example). On the revenue side, she believes that a broad based tax increase is not good for business or individuals; instead she proposes to remove some tax exemptions. A video presentation of her vision can be seen at <http://www.lao.ca.gov/laoapp/main.aspx>.

As Ramirez reminded parents, "The state of California is the

seventh largest economy in the world and spends 40% of its annual budget on education. The State ranks 46th in per pupil funding in the United States. All the legislators agree that we need to find and maintain more stable funding for our schools."

Oshima also believes it is possible, "From our perspective we are going to make a difference by supporting State support of schools. Interested citizens need to stay active over the summer and Las Trampas Creek Council of PTAs will keep informing people. The budget won't be approved on July 1st, pressure on elected officials needs to continue." Otherwise, layoffs, class size increase, reduction in library time, suppression of mini-grants and weakening of special education is in store for next year and the years to come.

The Las Trampas Creek Council of PTAs is encouraging parents and concerned members of the community to engage in a second round of letter writing. Now that the mid-year budget cuts have been made, we need to once again ask our legislators to support public education funding. The PTA's letter can be downloaded at <http://www.lastrampaspta.org/letters.html> and must be signed with name and address printed at the bottom of each letter. Letters can be dropped at the office of any public school in Lamorinda.

Miramonte HS Junior Prom: Arabian Nights

By Natalie Romak

Prom. It's a dinner, it's a dance; and to many, it is a rite of passage. A formal and extravagant event, Prom has always symbolized high school spirit and is traditionally the most memorable event of those four years. This spring, Miramonte High School's Junior Prom for the class of 2009 will serve as a fun filled and luxurious take on the classic "big night out".

Planning for the Miramonte Junior Prom began right off the bat with the selection of a location in September 2007. The Miramonte Junior Prom has traditionally been an on-campus event, but due to the increased use of the school gym for other purposes as well as fire regulations and the extent of the parent volunteer commitment, changes have been put into play. Just last year, the on-campus chain was broken and the Prom was held on an off-campus site for the first time. The success of the location was such that this year's Prom will also be held off-campus. The student officers of the Junior Prom committee agreed that it was of utmost importance to find a space that would hold all four-hundred and twenty expected guests in one room, both for a formal sit-down dinner and, of course, for dancing. After researching several sights, the student committee settled on the Golden Gate Ballroom of the Hilton Hotel in Concord, due to its convenient East Bay location (a School District requirement).

This past December, the Jun-



Junior Class Officers Colin Cramer (Vice President), Stacey Rosenzweig (Treasurer), Nika Saki (President), and Emily Rhodes (Secretary) research the best options to use for the Miramonte Junior Prom Photo submitted

ior Prom student committee met once again to continue discussion of the Prom. The theme was decided, after consideration of a variety of choices, to be Arabian Nights, a theme that allows for great entertainment, decorations and music, as well as a fabulous menu.

The Miramonte Junior Prom for the class of 2009 will take place on May 3, 2008. Students will arrive on campus, and be transported to the Hilton in ten luxury coach buses—and then the night begins. The formal three-course sit-down dinner will consist of a Middle Eastern inspired menu, beginning with a Mediterranean Salad and Chicken Kabobs, which will be followed by a Tuxedo Truffle Mousse Cake. A soda and juice bar

will be available all night long for the convenience of the guests. Students will enjoy not only the typical DJ dance, but also entertainment from an Arabian Princess Character, Tarot and Palm readers, and even Belly Dancers.

Invitations will be sent to each Junior Class student on April 7th for the May 3rd event. Tickets may be purchased from the Miramonte Web Store for eighty dollars; an expense that includes transportation, dinner, dancing, and entertainment.

The Junior Class Student Prom Committee has, with the help of generous parent volunteers, ensured that the members of the Miramonte Junior Class experience what will surely be a night to remember.

MUSIC LESSONS

www.musicandart.org

Lamorinda Academy of Music and Art

Private and group lessons
Piano, string instruments, voice
Competitions, Tests, Fun

All Ages & All Levels
925-299-1240

KUMON

MATH. READING. SUCCESS.

LET YOUR CHILD AMAZE YOU.

Kumon is a different kind of after-school learning program, where children master the basics of math and reading through daily practice.

Kumon students also build strong learning skills, disciplined study habits, and the confidence they need to succeed in school...and beyond.

Just imagine where that could take your child.

KUMON MATH & READING CENTER OF LAFAYETTE

925 Village Center, #3
Lafayette, CA 94549
925.284.9038

© 2008 Kumon North America, Inc. **877.586.6671**
www.kumon.com

Hurry in for great deals on home office essentials.

Your choice
24.99

Save \$25 REG. 49.99
27W Full-Spectrum Floor Lamp
Enjoy glare-free reading & working with this 48" H floor lamp. The full-spectrum bulb simulates natural sunlight. With an adjustable gooseneck and 10" oval shade with on/off switch. Black.
E 832 533 1

Save \$15
REG. 39.99
24-Ltr. Stainless Steel Waste Can
With pedal-operated plastic lid. Oval. 00"H. W 851 024 1

Save \$15
REG. 39.99
Cross-Cut Shredder
Shreds up to 8 sheets per pass. Also shreds credit cards, CDs/DVDs & staples. Auto on/off sensor. Includes 51/2-gal. wastebasket.
W 852 507 B2

ORINDA HARDWARE & RENTAL
56 Moraga Way, Orinda 94563 925-254-5429

Just down from the Orinda Theater
56 Moraga Way Orinda CA 94563
925-254-5429
Screen Repairs - 48 hr service

True Value

START RIGHT. START HERE.™

Sale ends 03/31/08
© 2008 by True Value® Company, Chicago, IL 60631

Acalanes High School • Bentley School • Burton Valley • Camino Pablo • Campolindo • Contra Costa Jewish Day School • Del Rey • Donald L. Rheem • Glorietta • Happy Valley • Joaquin Moraga

Lamorinda Schools

Lafayette Elementary • Los Perales • Miramonte • Orinda Academy • Orinda Intermediate • Saklan Valley School • Sleepy Hollow • Springhill • Stanley Middle • St. Perpetua School • Wagner Ranch

Lafayette Elementary Boys Buzz Hair as Statement of Solidarity

By Jean Follmer



Jack Eisner, Maxx Green, Tom Hofmeister, Ryan Donat & Grant Pedder

Photo Jean Follmer

Lafayette Elementary 5th grader Ryan Donat met Hudson Davis while playing baseball together. The boys, their parents and their sisters became great friends and all see each other regularly. Hudson is a 6th grader at Stanley Middle School and is currently undergoing treatment for a cancerous brain tumor. Ryan's mom, Jennifer Donat, spoke on behalf of the Davis family and said the illness came "completely out of left field for the family. It masked itself with some diabetic symptoms."

Before Hudson began his first treatment, Jennifer received a phone call from Hudson's dad, Greg Davis. Mr. Davis told her "they were going to have a Buzz

Party" for Hudson and Ryan was invited to participate. When Jennifer told Ryan about the invitation, he immediately said "I'm in." Several friends joined Hudson that day at the barber shop and many more boys have buzzed their hair since then. Jennifer said "When Hudson came out of that barber, he was 12 kids deep."

When Ryan returned to school at Lafayette Elementary, his friends asked him about his haircut since most of the boys are wearing their hair longer these days. When Ryan explained why he buzzed his hair, four of his friends decided to buzz theirs as a gesture of solidarity. Grant Pedder, Jack Eisner, Maxx Green and Tom Hofmeister, all friends of

Ryan's, buzzed their hair to support Ryan's friend, Hudson. Their teacher, Karen Chandler, says "I think the kids should be very proud of themselves for showing solidarity for someone that most of them don't even know."

Hudson is completing his second of six rounds of chemotherapy treatments and has a great prognosis. Ryan said "Hudson's going to be fine. He's a really good baseball player." Ryan's mom said "We got to see him last week and he looks great."

When you pass by Lafayette Elementary and Stanley Middle Schools, look for the boys with the buzz cuts. They're friends of Hudson Davis and they're really good boys.

Acalanes

Adult Education Center—The Place to Keep Learning

By Andrea A. Firth



Instructor Everett Makinen helps students in computer class at the Acalanes Adult Education Center Photo Andrea A. Firth

So you graduated from high school (possibly quite a long time ago) and you also finished an undergraduate degree (also a long time ago), possibly you even obtained a Masters and Doctorate degrees. Not done yet? Maybe you are looking for something completely different or little more fun this time around like learning how to dance the hula, sing in a women's Barbershop Chorus, trace your family roots, or create a website. These courses and many more are available for adult learners through the Acalanes Adult Education Center, which is currently accepting registrations for the Spring Quarter that starts on April 7th.

"The commitment to lifelong learning is something we strongly support," states Laura Canciamilla, the Director of Acalanes Adult Education. "The brain acts like a muscle," she explains. "You have to keep it exercised or it deteriorates." And like the many adults in Lamorinda who run, walk, and bike the trails to keep their bod-

ies in shape, many are committed to keeping their brains fit as well. "Each year we have over 8,000 adult students take classes through our Center," notes Canciamilla.

Headquartered at the Del Valle Campus on Tice Valley Boulevard in Walnut Creek with several cooperative campuses in Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda, the Acalanes Adult Education Center serves Lamorinda and the surrounding area. The courses cover a range of subject matter including citizenship preparation, fine arts, fitness, parenting, and estate planning.

"We have a really strong world language program," states Canciamilla. "Research [with seniors] shows that keeping the mind active and engaged helps offset the memory loss that often comes with age," she adds. "Learning a language is one of the best things for [older] adults to do." Offering several classes in English as a second language, the Center's language program also includes

classes in French, Italian, Spanish, German, Mandarin, Japanese, and Arabic.

"In addition, Tuesdays throughout the Spring we offer a lecture series in cooperation with the Diablo International Resource Center (DIRC)," states Canciamilla. "The DIRC was established following the passage of Proposition 13 to provide resources to supplement the social studies curriculums," she explains. The program has evolved to include this lecture series that will cover topics such as immigration, the global economy, and energy policy.

"Another exciting, new course on the Spring schedule is Film Appreciation," notes Canciamilla. Offered Monday evenings from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, participants will view and analyze both early and modern films as each week focuses on a specific aspect of the film process, e.g. lighting or sound. The films will be watched on a large, theater-like screen, and of course, popcorn will be served.

"Nothing makes me happier than to see you smile!"

Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

Scott D. Lothamer, DDS
Moraga
925-376-4602
1030 Country Club Drive
Member: ADA • CDA • CCDS • AACD

Providing Personalized Care through Quality Dentistry

- Comfortable, Convenient Family and Cosmetic Dentistry
- Certified in Full Mouth Reconstruction

\$40 off

mention this ad to receive \$40 off any dental treatment

Your child's probably ready to go to UC Berkeley.

Your children are precious, aren't they? And one of their most precious gifts is their eyes. That's why we encourage you to have your children's eyes examined first at nine months of age, again at three years, and regularly after that.

Who are we? We're the University of California Eye Center in Berkeley, a key part of UC's top-rated School of Optometry. And we can offer you a great deal of expertise with youngsters' eyes.

In fact, here at UC we've developed ways to test kids' eyes while they play, and to diagnose and treat any vision problems even before they can read an eye chart.

We take most vision insurance plans, and accept all major credit cards. So bring in the whole family for their eye exams. (You'll absolutely love our Eye Wear Center, with its incredible selection of designer frames!) We'll look for you!

UC BERKELEY OPTOMETRY Open to the Public 7 Days a week www.caleyecare.com
 Free parking next to Cal Memorial Stadium with appointments. 510.642.2020

CCYO Plays Disneyland

By Cameron Sun



Cameron Sun (center) searches for the right page

Photo by Sun Family

As a middle school student, I don't usually have many reasons to help me convince my parents to go to Disneyland with me. But that is exactly where I traveled with the Contra Costa Youth Orchestra (CCYO) to perform a suite of movie songs.

I play cello with CCYO, an orchestra consisting of about 30 middle school and high school age kids. Almost every year, we are offered a chance to perform for the Disneyland Magic Music Days program. In addition to Disneyland, CCYO has performed at places like Golden State Warriors games, the Blackhawk museum, Six Flags Marine World, and on a Royal Caribbean cruise.

I left for Disneyland with my family on the Friday before Presidents' Day. The 8-hour drive was probably the least enjoyable part of our trip, but it at least heightened my anticipation. The next day, we left our hotel with all our possessions to go to another hotel, closer to the park. We took our things to the room, bought four bus tickets, and rode to Disney's California

Adventure park.

California Adventure was one of my favorite parts of the trip, because it did something that all vacation spots should be able to do: it allowed me to escape. Each smaller section of the park had its own unique but pleasant atmosphere, making the park feel like multiple, smaller, more personal parks. It made me forget all about the stresses of school and whatnot.

My favorite moment of the trip took place the next day. At 8:30, I dressed in a suit and took my cello to meet the rest of the orchestra. Together, we walked through the service entrance at the back of Disneyland, past industrial-looking buildings, and through a gate which let us out right next to the Plaza Gardens stage.

At 10:30, we began playing. I've been in many concerts, but the one at Disneyland was almost magical. Just the feeling of being part of what makes Disneyland special was enough for me, but the fact that we drew a crowd of passers-by elated me. But alas, after we had our

fill of rides we left for our hotel and the next day, for home. But, even as we left Disneyland, I felt as if I was taking something back with me, as if some of the magic of the trip had stayed with me.

The Contra Costa Youth Orchestra is under the direction of Greg Mazmanian, who also teaches at Orinda Intermediate School. "CCYO performs at Disneyland every other year or so," Mazmanian says, "and the experience never gets old...in fact it's like visiting dear friends or relatives and entertaining them with the latest tunes you've learned!" CCYO will play a benefit concert for "Comfort for Kids" at the Leshner Center on May 28th. CCYO is a full symphony youth orchestra. Membership is by audition and is open to students in grades 7-12. For more information, contact info@ContraCostaYouthOrchestra.com.

Acalanes High School • Bentley School • Burton Valley • Camino Pablo Campolindo • Contra Costa Jewish Day School • Del Rey Donald L. Rheem • Glorietta • Happy Valley • Joaquin Moraga

Lamorinda Schools

Lafayette Elementary • Los Perales • Miramonte • Orinda Academy Orinda Intermediate • Saklan Valley School • Sleepy Hollow Springhill • Stanley Middle • St. Perpetua School • Wagner Ranch

LASF Brings Lawrence Hall of Science's "Build It!" to Math Fairs

By Jean Follmer

The Lafayette Arts & Science Foundation recently held its annual Math Fairs at the Lafayette schools. This was the first year the Math Fairs featured the "Build It!" program from the Lawrence Hall of Science. Build It! is one of the Lawrence Hall of Science's most popular festivals. It encourages participants to put on their engineer and architect hats using "design, problem-solving, and spatial skills by constructing in two and three dimensions."

Some of the topics included "two and three dimensional geometry, tessellations, proportion, spatial visualization and creative problem solving." Surrounded by polyhedra, blocks and cubes, LHS employee Randal Wung wore festive attire and circulated the fair helping students build everything from arched bridges to towers made from newspaper dowels. It was impressive to watch him swoop in to watch and help the students. Wung had a busy week saying "This has been going on quite a bit. We're doing it tomorrow and the next day too." The aid of the many volunteers who staffed the activity stations enabled Wung to make his rounds in



Randal Wung from the Lawrence Hall of Science engages students at the LASF Math Fair Photo Jean Follmer

the multi-purpose room.

Springhill LASF Math Fair coordinator, Meagan Hagglund, felt the LASF Math Fair was a resounding success. Hagglund said "This is my first time chairing an LASF event and I loved it! It was a great way to gently ease into a position

here at Springhill and I have always loved the Lawrence Hall of Science. The evening was a blast! We had a great turnout and the festival "Build It!" was so appropriate for all our students. The hit of the night was seeing all the parents sitting on the floor rolling these paper

dowels so the kids could build "whatever" with them. The paper dowels were being used to build hats, teepees, rockets, houses, etc." Wung said "We'll try to salvage as many dowels as we can for tomorrow night" since they take some time to roll. The students were allowed to bring any paper items they worked on home, so families left with towering structures made from the newspaper dowels. Hagglund also took home some family benefits from the Build It! festival saying "I learned 5 or 6 different projects I could do at home with my girls that don't require a lot of prep." It seems Build It! could make another appearance in Lafayette.

College Road Trip



48 hours, 4 boys, 2 universities. (Left to right) Campolindo Juniors Jake Tyson, Cole Martin, Jeremy Hauser and Ryan Lehman go shopping for higher education Photo Cathy Tyson

The Mechanics Bank Supports EFO and the Celebration of the Arts

By Jane Wiser, EFO

Let the Celebration begin! The Educational Foundation of Orinda's annual Celebration of the Arts will be held on April 9, 2008 at the Orinda Intermediate School. Each of the Orinda public schools will be showcasing its student's art, instrumental music and choral music. This EFO event is made possible this year due to the generous sponsorship of Mechanics Bank.

Artists from elementary school to high school, video producers, digital photographers, painters, sculptors, and wood technicians will participate in this year's gala event, along with musicians of all ages in an all school concert! Students from the highly acclaimed Miramonte Public Speaking class as well as the drama program will be there to showcase their talents as well.

This year marks the fifth year that Mechanics Bank has contributed to the efforts of the Educational Foundation of Orinda. The Bank's mission states, "We help people build prosperous communities as their trusted financial partner." The mission of EFO, "Building on a tradition of strong

community support for educational excellence in Orinda's schools." complements the Bank's mission. The collaboration between the bank and EFO helps to build prosperous communities through a commitment to education, and we are proud of the part we've played in contributing to the educational goals and dreams of the youth of Orinda.

Start the evening in the OIS Multipurpose room with

music by the OIS Jazz Band while enjoying the art show at 6:30, and then stroll to the Isola Gym for an all school instrumental music and choral program which will begin at 7:00. At 8 pm, the celebration continues in the multipurpose room. Admission is free, so please come and enjoy the creative efforts of our students as they explore their interests and talents at this wonderful community event.

Please send story ideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Your friendly neighborhood newspaper



Rosewood House since 1969
Fine Asian Furniture & Antiques
Solid Handcrafted Wood
Dining, Living & Bedroom
Custom Orders Welcome
Inspiring Selection
Large Inventory
RosewoodHouse.com (925) 827-9588

Become Healthy Once and for All

- Personal Plans
- Weight Loss
- Healthy Aging

Lamorinda NUTRITION

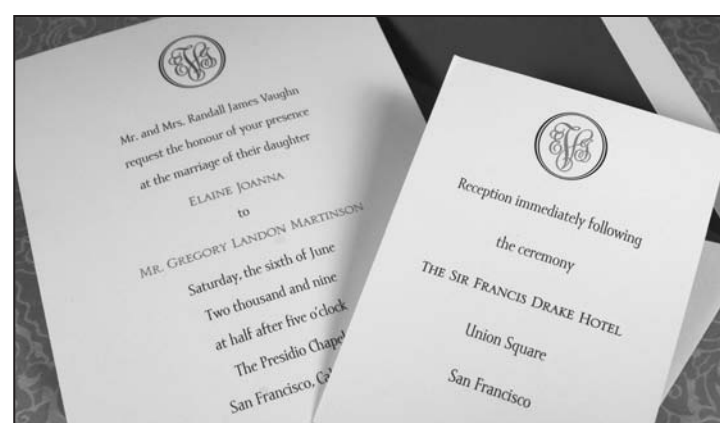
Theresa Tsingis, D.C., M.S.

360-2729

89 Davis Rd. #180, Orinda

FREE
10 minute
consultation

Download "Your" story from www.lamorindaweekly.com



PAPYRUS

3645-C Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Lafayette | 925.283.2391
Store Hours:
Monday - Saturday
10 am - 6 pm

adventure day camp
A traditional summer camp in Walnut Creek

Bay Area Parent Family Favorite WINNER 2006 & 2007

Camp ParaVida
A sleep away program by Adventure Day Camp

Outdoor

- Archery
- Nature
- Rock Climbing
- Camping
- Ropes Course
- Mt. Biking
- Horseback Riding
- Sports

Aquatics

- Swimming
- Sailing
- Canoeing
- Kayaking

Creativity

- Music
- Drama
- Singing
- Art
- Dance

Home Transportation
Serving Moraga, Orinda, Lafayette, Oakland, Piedmont, Berkeley, & the 680 Corridor from Martinez to San Ramon
Extended Care included

Ages 4 - 14

For More Information Please Call **(925) 937-6500**
Or Visit adventuredaycamp.com

Session Dates: August 10th - August 17th

Ages: 8 - 16

PureVidacamp.com

Dining • Dining • Dining • Dining • Dining •



Mmmm... ..Brownies! By Suzie Iventosch

The daffodils have bloomed and with spring in the air, it's time to start thinking about picnics and outings at Briones Dam, the Lafayette Reservoir or any one of the great little municipal parks in the area. And, when I think of picnics I always think of brownies for dessert. They're easy to transport and everyone seems to love them. But I never understand why anyone would settle for a boxed brownie when the real McCoy is so easy to make. Here are two excellent, rich brownie recipes that take a matter of minutes to prepare.

Gram's Brownies with Almond Paste

Ingredients

- ◆ 3 ½ ounces bittersweet chocolate, broken into bits, or use chips
- ◆ 2 tablespoons cocoa powder
- ◆ 1" slice of almond paste (Odense makes one that can be found in the baking section of most markets and comes in a toothpaste-shaped box)
- ◆ 1 cube unsalted butter
- ◆ dash of salt
- ◆ ½ cup granulated sugar
- ◆ 2 eggs
- ◆ 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ◆ ½ cup unbleached flour
- ◆ ½ cup slivered almonds, or pecans, coarsely chopped (optional)

Directions

Melt bittersweet chocolate, cocoa powder, butter and almond paste in medium-sized pot on low heat on stovetop and stir until well blended. Remove from heat. Add salt and sugar and stir until both are dissolved into chocolate-butter mixture. Add two eggs, one at a top, beating well after each. Add vanilla and flour and mix well. Stir in nuts (optional) at this time.

Pour batter into an 8-inch baking pan, prepared with cooking spray. Sprinkle slivered almonds over top of batter. Bake in a 325-degree oven for 18 minutes. Test with cake tester and if brownies still seem too wet, bake for one minute longer. If they seem just right, turn off oven and leave them in the oven for another minute. The brownies should be just slightly wet in the center when they are done baking.

Remove from oven and cool completely on baking rack. Cut into bite-sized brownies, 1 to 1½ inches square.

If you think Gram's are chocolatey ... just wait for these!

"Easy as Boxed" Brownies

Ingredients

- ◆ ½ bag (6 ounces) bittersweet chocolate chips
- ◆ 1 stick unsalted butter (1/2 cup)
- ◆ 2 large eggs
- ◆ 1 cup granulated sugar
- ◆ 1 tablespoons cocoa powder
- ◆ 2 teaspoons vanilla
- ◆ ½ teaspoon salt
- ◆ 1 cup all-purpose flour
- ◆ ½ cup chopped toasted pecans or walnuts *optional (toast nuts in a 325-degree oven for 5-10 minutes, or until barely toasted.)

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a glass or tin 8-inch square baking dish.

In a medium saucepan over medium heat, melt chocolate and butter, stirring occasionally to blend and keep from burning. Remove from heat and set aside to cool.

In a large bowl mix eggs, sugar, cocoa powder, vanilla and salt. Add cooled chocolate and mix well. Blend in flour. Pour into prepared pan and bake for 20-25 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Cut into small squares, as these are quite rich!



These recipes are available on our web site. Go to: <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com>

A Stranger in a Strange Land

Doug Tarter "The Posse"

Okay, so you quit that awful job, scaled back on the golf, the cigars, and the expensive vodka martinis and you're ready to join the at-home dad brigade. Now what? Well, obviously you're going to want to acquaint yourself with your kid's teacher(s), map out the local parks, join the PTA, and commit to memory all the current family friendly movies and DVDs, but those things are all relatively easy and don't particularly take a great amount of finesse on your part. Very soon it'll become apparent that something crucial is missing, a void is growing, and it's quite possible that you won't know what's causing it. Well my friend and comrade, if you haven't noticed already, your adult-to-adult interaction time has been reduced to a polite tete-a-tete with the crossing guard at the corner, and perhaps a wave or two as familiar minivans pass by. The time has come for you to form your posse.

Whether you voted for her or not, Hillary was onto something when she reminded us that "It takes a village to raise a child." At the very least, it takes a good group of moms and or dads with good kids and an even better grasp of Lamorinda, as it pertains to children.



Stay-at-home dad Doug Tarter with his "posse"

Now hopefully you've trained your kids well and they've chosen excellent friends for themselves because excellent kids are usually the byproduct of excellent parenting, which means that all you have to do is use your considerable charm and wit to win the parents over. During the last couple of years I've compiled a crack team of moms who both entertain and support me; Angie, the epitome of warmth and giving, Rhoda, energetic and inspiring, and Lynne, "UberMom," who always knows where the kids are supposed to be at every hour of every day.

I highly recommend a group of four. It's the perfect number for playing bridge, going to lunch, fitting in a compact car, and most importantly it's a big

enough group that in a pinch there's always someone to save your posterior by picking up the kids when you're forced to stay a little longer at the Lafayette Reservoir because you just know that on the next cast you're going to land that trophy bass.

Just a few words of caution, make sure every member of your posse has a vehicle that will transport at least seven people. If you invite one member of the group to shop for blemished All-Clad pans at TJ Maxx, invite them all. And, never ever go to lunch with them at that new Yankee Pier restaurant on Mt. Diablo because there are all these boutique-type shops that surround it and they're sure to insist on shopping at each one while you are forced to sit on the curb twiddling your thumbs.

Celebrate Easter at Petars
 Sunday, March 23rd
Champaign Brunch: 10:30 - 3:00
 Full service menu,
 Fresh fruit and croissants
Dinner: 4:30-9:00
 Enjoy our regular menu

Petars is open for lunch Monday through Saturday from 11:50 to 4:00 and open for dinner nightly.
925-284-7117 RESTAURANT & PUB
 Petars Restaurant is located in the heart of Lafayette at 32 Lafayette Circle.

Easter Sunday Brunch
 Full service and a la carte menu.
 Bottomless mimosas and champagne
 • Salmon Benedict
 • Ricotta cheese blintzes
 • Crab and avocado Omelet
 • Challah cinnamon french toast
 • Pancakes and waffles
 • Ahi Nicoise salad
 • Petrale sole sandwich
 • Fish and chips

March 23, 8am - 2pm
TERZETTO CUISINE

 1419 Moraga Way, Moraga Shopping Center
 925-376-3832

View our Advertising rates online: www.lamorindaweekly.com or call 925.377.0977

LAMORINDA's Restaurants			• updated January 23, 2008 •		
American			Village Inn Café	290 Village Square, Ori	254-6080
Bistro	3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7108	Continental		
Chow Restaurant	53 Lafayette Cir, Laf	962-2469	Petar's Restaurant	32 Lafayette Cir, Laf	284-7117
Hungry Hunter	3201 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	938-3938	Vino Restaurant	3531 Plaza Way, Laf	284-1330
Quiznos	3651 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-0200	Duck Club Restaurant	3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7108
Ranch House	1012 School St, Mor	376-5127	Hawaiian Grill		
Terzetto Cuisine	1419 Moraga Way, Mor	376-3832	Lava Pit	2 Theatre Square, St. 142, Ori	253-1338
The Cheese Steak Shop	3455 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-1234	Indian		
BBQ			India Palace	3740 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-5700
Bo's Barbecue	3422 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7133	Swad Indian Cuisine	3602 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-9575
Burger Joint			Italian		
Flippers	960 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-1567	Giardino	3406 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-3869
Nation's Giant Hamburgers	400 Park, Mor	376-8888	La Finestra Ristorante	100 Lafayette Cir, St. 101, Laf	284-5282
Nation's Giant Hamburgers	76 Moraga Way, Ori	254-8888	La Piazza	15 Moraga Way, Ori	253-9191
Café			Mangia Ristorante Pizzeria	975 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-3081
Express Cafe	3732 Mt. Diablo Blvd #170, Laf	283-7170	Michael's	1375 Moraga Way, Mor	376-4300
Ferrari-Lucca Delicatessens	23 Lafayette Cir, Laf	299-8040	Mondello's	337 Rheem Blvd, Mor	376-2533
Geppetto's caffè	87 Orinda Way, Ori	253-9894	Pizza Antica	3600 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-0500
Rising Loafer	3643 Mt. Diablo Blvd Ste B, Laf	284-8816	Postino	3565 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-8700
California Cuisine			Ristorante Amorama	360 Park St, Mor	377-7662
Gigi's	1005 Brown St., Laf	962-0882	Japanese		
Metro Lafayette	3524 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-4422	Asia Palace Sushi Bar	1460 B Moraga Rd, Mor	376-0809
Shelby's	2 Theatre Sq, Ori	254-9687	Blue Ginko	3518-A Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-9020
Chinese			Kane Sushi	3474 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-9709
Asia Palace Restaurant	1460 B Moraga Rd, Mor	376-0809	Niwa Restaurant	1 Camino Sobrante # 6, Ori	254-1606
Chef Chao Restaurant	343 Rheem Blvd, Mor	376-1740	Serika Restaurant	2 Theatre Sq # 118, Ori	254-7088
China Moon Restaurant	380 Park St, Mor	376-1828	Tamami's Japanese Restaurant	356 Park St, Mor	376-2872
The Great Wall Restaurant	3500 Golden Gate Way, Laf	284-3500	Yu Sushi	19 Moraga Way, Ori	253-8399
Hsiangs Mandarin Cuisine	1 Orinda Way # 1, Ori	253-9852	Jazz Dinner Club		
Lily's House	3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd #A, Laf	284-7569	Joe's of Lafayette	3707 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Laf	299-8807
Mandarin Flower	581 Moraga Rd, Mor	376-7839	The Orinda House	65 Moraga Way, Ori	258-4445
Panda Express	3608 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-0288	Mediterranean		
Szechwan Chinese Restaurant	79 Orinda Way, Ori	254-2020	Alex's	2 Theatre Sq # 105, Ori	254-5290
Uncle Yu's Szechuan	999 Oak Hill Rd, Laf	283-1688	Nino's Bay	#2 Theater Square, Ste. 153, Ori	253-1327
Yan's Restaurant	3444 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-2228	Oasis Café	3594 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-8822
Coffee Shop			Per Tutti Ristorante	3576 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-5225
Millie's Kitchen	1018 Oak Hill Rd #A, Laf	283-2397	Mexican		
Squirrel's Coffee Shop	998 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-7830	360 Gourmet Burrito	3655 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1270
			El Charro Mexican Dining	3339 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-2345
			El Jaro Mexican Cafe	3563 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-6639
			La Cocina Mexicana	23 Orinda Way, Ori	258-9987
			Mucho wraps	1375-B Moraga Way, Mor	377-1203
			Baja Fresh Mexican Grill		
			Celia's Restaurant	3596 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-8740
			El Balazo	3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-8288
			Maya Mexican Grill	3518D Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-8700
			Numero Uno Taqueria	74 Moraga Way, Ori	258-9049
			Pizza	3616 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1333
			Mountain Mike'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
			Round Table Pizza	361 Rheem Blvd, Mor	376-1411
			Round Table Pizza	3637 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-0404
			Village Pizza	19 Orinda Way # Ab, Ori	254-1200
			Zamboni's Pizza	1 Camino Sobrante # 4, Ori	254-2800
			Sandwiches/Deli		
			Bianca's Deli	1480 Moraga Rd # A, Mor	376-4400
			Europa Hofbrau Deli & Pub	64 Moraga Way, Ori	254-7202
			Gourmet Bistro Café	484 Center St, Mor	376-1551
			Kasper's Hot Dogs	103 Moraga Way, Ori	253-0766
			Noah's Bagels	3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-0716
			Orinda Deli	19 F Orinda Way, Ori	254-1990
			Subway	396 Park St., Mor	376-2959
			Subway	3322 Mt. Diablo Blvd #B, Laf	284-2627
			Subway	Theatre Square, Ori	258-0470
			Seafood		
			Yankee Pier	3593 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-4100
			Singaporean/Malaysian		
			Kopitiam	3647 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1653
			South American		
			The Patio Tapas and Restaurant	960 Moraga Road, Laf	299-6885
			Steak		
			Casa Orinda	20 Bryant Way, Ori	254-2981
			Tea		
			Patisserie Lafayette	71 Lafayette Cir, Laf	283-2226
			Tea Party by Appointment	107 Orinda Way, Ori	254-2206
			Thai		
			Amarin Thai Cuisine	3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd # B, Laf	283-8883
			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.

• In The Back Yard •

Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia

By Cynthia Brian

"He who plants a garden plants happiness!" Chinese Proverb

Having been born and raised on a farm, listening to the earth and understanding the seasons has always been an essential part of my life. My parents extended their wisdom about nature as my father tended acres of crops while my mother expanded into flowers and vegetables. I remember how we all anticipated spring...the smell of the blossoms, the freshly tilled earth, and a promise that another year of rebirth had begun.

Gardening is to me the same as life itself. My Moraga garden supplies my family with food, flowers, butterflies, bees, birds, frogs and a multitude of thrilling surprises. I talk to my flowers, trees, and shrubs and they just seem to know how much I love them by constantly showering the landscape with an ever-changing display of blooms and beauty. In these times of extreme stress, my private therapy is to go into my garden to spade the soil, pull weeds, and prune the roses. My children have always enjoyed the outdoors and our many animals romp with us as we work. The ever-changing garden invigorates and energizes us.

I invite you to discover the many secrets of your Lamorinda garden. Follow my simple gardening tips and you will be handsomely rewarded. Let nature

whisper its greenhouse delights as we take pleasure in digging deep.

March heralds the beginning of spring here in Lamorinda. Ah, we take a sigh of relief as we enjoy the warmth of the sunshine, longer daylight, and the green hills all around us. The gardener in us can't wait to get our hands dirty. The air is filled with the fruity fragrance of flowering cherry, plum, and crabapple tree blossoms. My remedy for an instant invigorating breath of early spring is to prune a few branches from my favorite tree. I bring my bounty indoors and arrange the branches in a large glass vase set on my kitchen island where I can enjoy the beauty of the bouquet. Since bulb beds are coloring the gardenscape, cut a selection of daffodils, tulips, or Dutch iris for a glorious springtime arrangement as we celebrate the vernal equinox, the official beginning of spring.



Cynthia Brian



Photo Cynthia Brian



Photo Andy Scheck

Cynthia's Digging Deep Garden Guide for March

- **BE ALERT** for oak moth larvae on your oak trees. If you notice large masses of green droppings on the ground, call in the professionals.
- **LAWNS** are ready to be mowed regularly now. Feed with high-nitrogen fertilizer. If weather is dry, seed or sod new lawns. Pull any weeds, making sure to get the roots. To control crabgrass and broad-leaved weeds, visit your local garden center for organic sprays then pay careful attention to the labels.
- **SOIL PREPARATION** is important for all new flower and vegetable gardens. Spade and till, adding organic soil amendments and compost from your pile. Work in a dry complete fertilizer.
- **COMPOSTING** is important for all your grass clippings and spring prunings. Do not put any diseased plants or weeds into your pile. Add fertilizer and keep moist for speedier results.
- **PERENNIALS** such as day lilies, agapanthus, yarrow, and phlox need to be divided while they are semi-dormant. Replant healthy pieces after division.
- **FERTILIZE**. This is the best time to feed all plants including fruit trees, annuals, roses, and shrubs. Mature trees need their nitrogen booster. Wait to fertilize rhododendrons and camellias with an acid fertilizer until next month and then when they are finished blooming. (I use coffee grounds!) Don't forget to give food to your potted plants as well.
- **PEST CONTROL** is important for all the new growth that may attract creepy crawlies this month. Wash aphids off with a hose or use a spray gun with a little household detergent. Keep your vigilance on baiting or picking slugs, snails and earwigs off your delicate plants.
- **VEGETABLE** planting time is here for potatoes, herbs, beets, peas and carrots, peppers, and eggplant. Still time for broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower as the ground is still moist and damp. When the soil warms up which is usually next month, vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and squash can be planted.
- **BULBS**. Your summer will be more beautiful when you take the time to plant warm weather bulbs now. Choices include begonias, dahlias, gladiolus, watsonia, and callas.
- **PROTECT**. Use netting to keep the hungry mouths of birds, deer, and small animals from eating your vegetation.
- **PRUNE** pelargoniums and geraniums for fuller summer blooms.

Remember there are no failures in the garden, just fertilizer. Have fun, dig deep, and connect with nature.

HAPPY GARDENING TO YOU!

Dan Bernie, Taking Care of Moraga

... continued from page 3

In 1980, Bernie contacted Lieutenant Priebe, of the Moraga Police, to propose that juvenile offenders from Lamorinda work for the Town to offset minor offenses. The system worked well until Bernie's responsibilities increased and he needed more manpower. Now he works with the "Work Alternative Program." The workers serving in Moraga are sent by the Walnut Creek Court and have been condemned for minor offenses such as DUI. They labor for a 25 cents an hour, for a day or as long as six months. "Most of the time we receive an average of two or three workers per day," explains Bernie, "we usually ask them to pick up trash along the road, weed our parks, dig ditches, paint, etc... Basically, anything that can be done without using electric tools."

And there is a lot of weeding to do in Moraga. The town is the leader in Integrated Pest Management (I.P.M.) in Contra Costa. "We do not use any type of chemicals anymore in our parks, including the Hacienda," beams Bernie. Children can roll in the grass; families can picnic

in the parks with a total peace of mind. This is very demanding in terms of manpower, since all weeding is done manually, so the continuation of the Work Alternative program is the key to maintaining the program.

Bernie stressed that the support of the Town Council, which unanimously approved the IPM policy in September of 2006. Bernie believes that this kind of non-toxic treatment is the way of the future, "I wouldn't want to put anybody in harm's way," says the ex-Marine.

To keep our parks clean, Bernie took another original and humanitarian initiative. He hired "Future Explorers," a group that gives work to mentally disabled workers under strict supervision. "They do a fantastic job for about \$19,000 a year," explains Bernie. "I just have to explain what I expect to the supervisor and the workers take great pride in their work."

Bernie also has responsibility for the quality of water that goes down our drains and into our creeks. "Changing behaviors takes time and our effort is placed on education," said

Bernie. Developers, both large and small, need to learn ways to ensure that no spillage from construction will reach the reservoirs, gardeners need to be taught not to blow dead leaves into storm drains, and residents need to learn to wash cars on their lawns.

For the years to come, Bernie's biggest concern is to keep good staff. "PG&E and EBMUD love to get people coming from our department, they are well trained and are not afraid to work." Then of course roads are high on his list, even if his boss, Public Works Director and Town Engineer Jill Mercurio, is big on preventative actions that will save the Town money down the road. "We are lucky to have such quality people working for Moraga," concludes Bernie, "from the Town Manager who is an expert at selecting the best department heads since I've been here, to our Director Jill Mercurio who has brought the Department to an all new level, the residents are in good hands."

Download "Your" story from www.lamorindaweekly.com

McDonnell Nursery

Shop early and earn McDonnell BUCKS!

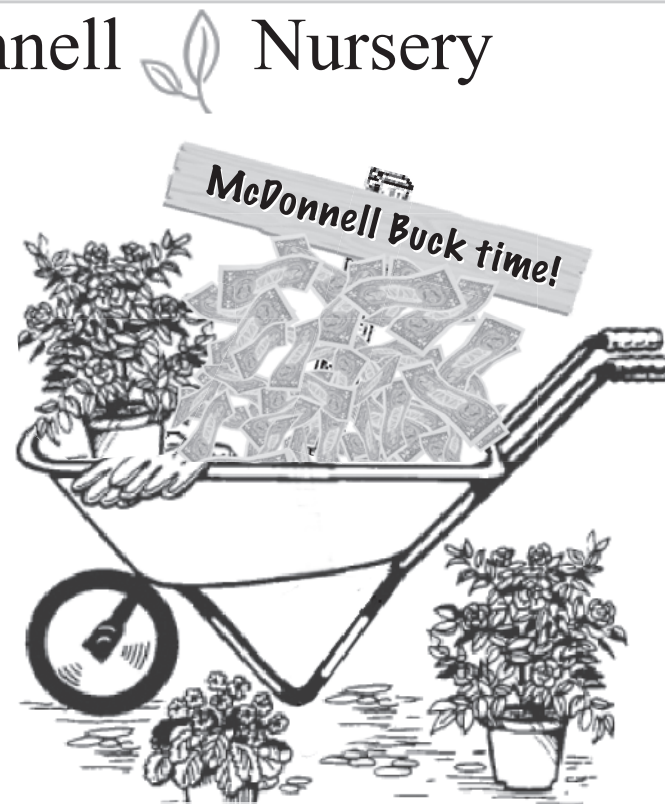
For every \$10 you spend in March and April you earn one McDonnell Buck (10%). Redeem your Bucks in August.

196 Moraga Way
Orinda

254-3713

- Open Daily -

www.mcdonnellnursery.com



JV LUCAS PAVING

QUALITY • INTEGRITY • EXPERT WORKMANSHIP
THIRD GENERATION PAVING COMPANY



- Driveways
- Private Roads
- Tennis & Sports Courts
- Parking Lots
- Subdivisions
- Seal Coating

Spring Special!
Call Today



LUCAS PAVING, INC.
RESIDENTIAL + COMMERCIAL

925-283-8027



Bay area Drainage, Inc.

"For all your drainage needs"

- French Drains
- Underfloor Drains
- Downspout Systems
- Subdrain Systems
- Sump Pumps
- Retaining Walls

Locally owned and Operated Contractor LIC # 762208

925•377•9209



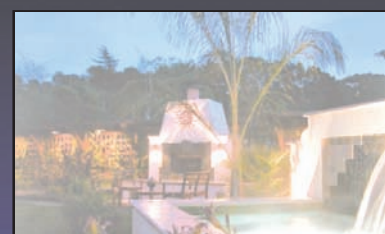
visit our website

www.bayareadrainage.com

Garden Lights landscape & pool development inc.

Garden Lights is an Award Winning Landscape Design-Build Firm Offering Services in . . .

- Landscape Design & Installation
- Planting - Masonry - Concrete - Carpentry
- Low-voltage Landscape Lighting
- Pool / Spa Design, Installation & Remodels
- Water Gardens, Ponds & Waterfalls



Design & Install with just one call.
925-254-4797
Free Consultations

Serving the Lamorinda Area for 18 years. Bonded - Licensed & Insured Lic. #702845

SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

We're March-in' NCAA Style

By Kevin D. Shallat



SMC players talk to fans, media at the College following the NCAA Division I selection announcement

Photo Tod Fierner

It's been six days since the Gaels dropped their semi-final game against the University of San Diego, but to the Saint Mary's basketball players it has felt like a lifetime. After dropping their one and only West Coast Conference tournament game to the Toreros, the Gaels have had to play the waiting game to see if they would be selected as one of 65 NCAA Division I teams to make the tournament. On Sunday, March 16, Saint Mary's invited fans to a party at the Soda Center on campus to view the live coverage of the NCAA selection process on the big screen. While the players waited anxiously in one room, the fans waited with pins and needles in their own conference room.

The mood in the player's room was upbeat, but decidedly serious. Omar Samhan was admittedly nervous, however, he wasn't alone. When Head Coach Randy Bennett was asked if he had a preference for a certain seeding or location, his response

was simple, yet to the point. "As long as they call our name," he said.

Ten minutes later, they did. When Greg Gumbel uttered the word "Gaels," the room erupted. The close-knit group of players stood up in unison, and hugged one another, followed by a few hard fist pumps to even out the mood. The Galloping Gaels of Moraga would return to the hallowed hardwoods of the NCAA tournament, a place they hadn't seen for three years.

While it may seem to some that the Gaels would make the NCAA tournament easily, given their incredible year, there were some lofty hurdles that could have kept Saint Mary's out of the big dance. The loss to San Diego may have passed without much fanfare had Gonzaga won the tournament, but the Toreros had other plans. San Diego pulled the upset win over the Bulldogs in the WCC tournament and received a guaranteed ticket to the NCAA tournament. As Gonzaga is a

ranked team, they too received an invite, albeit an at-large birth. Saint Mary's was the odd team out, or so it would seem. Perhaps the biggest hurdle was that the West Coast Conference had never, in its 56 years in existence, had three teams make the NCAA tournament.

As it turned out, the Gaels didn't have to win the WCC tournament, or even win one game in the tournament. It appears that the selection committee thought enough of the Saint Mary's resume to warrant a 10 seed to the Gaels, the same seed they received three years ago. The Gaels (25-6) will play the seventh seeded University of Miami (22-10) in a South Regional first round game on Friday, Mar. 21 at Alltel Arena in Little Rock, Ark.

"They (Miami) like to get up and down, and we love to get up and down. I think it's a great match-up, and I'm just excited about it," said Gael forward Ian O'Leary.

SMC Plays Stanford for Nine Innings: No Win, No Tie, No Loss

By Kevin D. Shallat

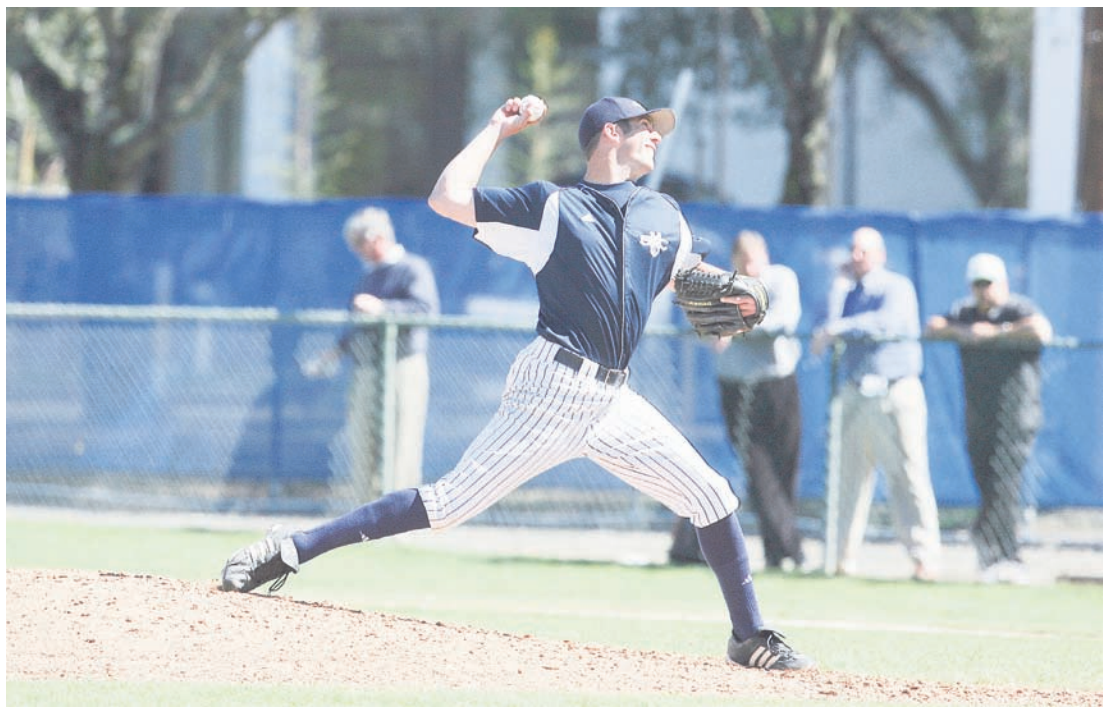


Photo Tod Fierner

The Saint Mary's baseball team was back in action Wednesday, Mar. 5, at beautiful Louis Guisto field on the Saint Mary's campus. After beating the Stanford Cardinal at the Sunken Diamond this year, the Gaels looked to sweep the home and home series. With the sight of a packed crowd basking in the warm afternoon sun, and the rolling green hills and pink cherry

blossoms providing the backdrop, the stage was set for another impressive win for the Gaels.

As it turned out, the sun was not a luxury in this game, but a necessity, as the current stadium has no lights. After trailing by one run in the ninth, the Gaels were able to tie the game at 7-7 before the coaches were forced to put the game on hold due to darkness, and fin-

ish the contest on a later date.

This game was a treat for fans from both ends of the spectrum. The first half of the game was a pitcher's duel between Stanford's starting pitcher and Saint Mary's starting pitcher, Anthony Aliotti. The second half featured a seesaw battle of the bats, which tested the bullpens of both teams.

... continued on page 22



Saint Mary's Lacrosse Falls To Monmouth

By Kevin D. Shallat



Goal Keeper Hilary Gardner (00), Ciara Breckenridge (10) and Abby Morgan (9)

Photo Tod Fierner

The Saint Mary's women's lacrosse team hosted Monmouth University on Thursday, March 13. The Hawks flew all the way across the country for this match-up, as they were unable to schedule any other local teams during their spring break period. It was a tough assignment for the Gaels going into this game, as Monmouth held a 3-1 record prior to Thursday's game, but Saint Mary's walked away with some great experience that should help them when their league games begin. The Gaels scored a season high 12 points in this game, but eventually lost to the Hawks, 18-12.

The Hawks jumped out to a 5-0 lead as the Gaels seemed to be overwhelmed on defense. Monmouth was able to get to the net with ease, and took most of their shots at point-blank range.

The Gaels were finally able to get on the scoreboard after Lisa Vogeley got an assist from Chloe

Dee to make it a 5-1 lead in favor of the Hawks. Vogeley showed great patience around the goal after receiving the pass, as she made sure she got as close as she could to the goal before attempting the shot. Two and a half minutes later Vogeley struck again, and recorded her second goal of the game on a pass over the net from P.J. Hainley to cut the Hawks lead to three.

Saint Mary's settled down defensively, but still allowed Monmouth to finish out the first half with nine goals, as the Gaels were able to record only one save in the half. Saint Mary's went into halftime trailing the Hawks by only four points, thanks to the gritty, heads up play from Dee. In the closing minutes of the first half, the Gaels trailed 9-4.

Saint Mary's desperately needed a goal to keep it close. Abbie Coleman missed a hard shot that caromed off the crossbar, but Dee was there to pick up

the deflection, and hammered it home for the Gaels with 22 seconds left in the opening period. Saint Mary's trailed the Hawks 9-5 at half, largely from the efforts of Vogeley and Dee, who scored two and three goals respectively in the opening period.

Saint Mary's was able to score seven goals in the second half, but still struggled to stop the Hawks on defense. With 21 minutes left Hainley scored on a free-position goal that occurred on a Monmouth penalty. Despite Hainley's shot, the Gaels were unable to take advantage of their penalty shots, as they converted on only two of their six free-position shots. Conversely, the Hawks made good on three of their five free-position shots.

Despite Dee's incredible six-goal performance, and a season team high of 12 goals, the Gaels had too many lapses on defense that enabled the Hawks to win this game, 18-12.

Saint Mary's Rugby Tops Texas A&M, 40-24

By Kevin D. Shallat



Photos Tod Fierner

Fifth ranked Saint Mary's continued their winning ways Tuesday, March 11, as they hosted the Texas A&M Aggies, and won in convincing fashion. It took the Gaels about a half to finally get into gear, but once they got going, there was no stopping the Saint Mary's rugby squad. After trailing the Aggies 24-21 well into the second half of play, the Gaels found their second wind to go up 28-24, and never looked back. Saint Mary's poured it on to take down the 12th ranked Aggies, 40-24.

The first half was uncharacteristically sloppy for the Gaels. Saint Mary's did a good job to get themselves plenty of scoring opportunities, but found themselves making some bad passes before reaching the try zone. If a team can be guilty of being too unselfish, the Gaels were just that in the first half of play.

Too often they elected to continue the run, or simply taking the tackle and securing the ball. After trailing the Aggies 7-0,

Kevin Swiryn found himself in a breakaway situation with a run down the field. The crowd had seen too many miss-handled passes, and when Swiryn looked to pass the ball, the home fans seemed to gasp in disbelief. Luckily for the Gaels, Swiryn elected not to pass and ran the ball all the way in for a 40-yard game tying try.

The Aggies did a good job of taking away the ball from the Gaels on gambles that paid off. They were able to step through the passing lanes and secure two interceptions.

After falling behind 17-7, the crowd appeared more nervous than the players. The players understood that Saint Mary's would make their run at some point. That run came when Chad Clark was able to pick up a loose ball near the try zone for the Gaels, and punch it in for the final try of the half. Despite the loose play, the Gaels stayed close, and trailed the Aggies 17-14 at halftime.

Blake McGahan started off

the second half with a long run down the sideline for Saint Mary's. "We started to get the ball in hand a lot better (in the second half) and run with it. We started to play our game," McGahan said.

Brandon Vedder was also very active for the Gaels, and was rewarded with a try to put the Gaels up 21-17. Saint Mary's fell behind again, though, allowing the Aggies to re-take the lead, 24-21. As the game wore on, however, the Aggies seemed to slow down while the Gaels appeared to speed up. After Swiryn scored the go-ahead try to make it 28-24, the Gaels scored at will, finishing off the Aggies with a beautiful two pass sequence from Swiryn, to Austin Mount, and finally to Brendan O'Meara for the final try of the game.



SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE

GAELS

SUMMER CAMPS

ALL-SPORT
BASKETBALL
BASEBALL
FLAG FOOTBALL
GOLF
LACROSSE
SOCCER
SOFTBALL
TENNIS
VOLLEYBALL

2008 Summer Camps

REGISTER ONLINE:
WWW.SMCGAELS.COM

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!

CLICK SUMMER CAMPS AT WWW.SMCGAELS.COM TO REGISTER FOR CAMP!

QUESTIONS, CALL: (925) 631-4FUN

Go Gaels!
Upcoming Sports Events at Saint Mary's College

Men's Tennis vs. Georgia Southern

Wednesday, March 19 at 3 p.m.
SMC

Women's Tennis vs. Wyoming
Thursday, March 20 at 11 a.m.
SMC

Women's Tennis vs. Cal Poly
Wednesday, March 26 at 3 p.m.
SMC

Women's Tennis vs. UC Santa Barbara
Saturday, March 29 at 11 a.m.
SMC

For information about upcoming season schedules, visit the official Saint Mary's athletics website at www.SMCGaels.com.



SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Cougars Comeback Falls Short at Quarter Final

By Conrad Bassett

Back on Dec. 6, the Campolindo boys basketball team opened their season on the road in Santa Rosa and fell behind 35-12 at halftime. The Cougars came back in that game and lost by only two points. In their Division 3 Northern California quarter final against Sacramento High on March 4 they faced a similar challenge – this time with less than five minutes to go in the game.

But, as in December, the Cougars comeback fell short and they lost to the Dragons 66-63.

Sacramento scored the first four points behind Bobby Evans and Chase Tarpley. Each team traded turnovers before Campo got on the board on a Jack Trotter hook shot at the 5:38 mark. The score seesawed back and forth before Campo took its first lead at 8-7 when Trotter scored on a layup to start a Cougar run. Chris Dyer went coast-to-coast on a layup and followed with a three. Chris Avenant hit a baseline jumper for the Dragons then Miles Macy drained a three and then was fouled on a layup where he willed the ball up and over the rim on an amazing shot. Evans made a tip in and Trotter a layup before Kyle Allen scored for Sac and Campo led after one at 20-13.

Campo's lead quickly evaporated at the beginning of



Jack Trotter (34), Bryan Reinke (3)

Photo Doug Kohen

the second as Tarpley hit a three followed by baskets by Kyle Allen and Avenant and the score

was tied at 20. Campo coach Chris Whirlow called a time out to slow the momentum down. Macy calmly hit another three and the Cougars led again. Tarpley answered with an improbable three from the baseline that actually hit the backboard. The lead changed hands a few more times before Tarpley hit a free throw. Campo came back down the court and Trotter was called for an offensive foul (his third) near the end of the period and Sacramento led 28-27 at the break.

In the second half, Trotter hit a follow shot and Campo would have the lead for the last time in the game. The Dragons made attempts nearly every time down court to get Trotter his fourth foul and Tarpley went to work inside scoring 13 of his game high 28 points in the period. By the time the horn sounded, Sacramento had pushed out to a commanding 57-38 lead.

The fourth period was one of the most exciting ever played on Campolindo's court. Sacramento continued to work inside and padded their lead to 65-43 when Evans dunked a shot with 4:47 to play. Then, the Cougars went crazy. Dyer buried a three and before Trotter went to the line at 3:31 to go, Campo was down by 19. Trotter hit both ends of the one and one and then

the fireworks began. Will Shields, who had been defended very well by Avenant much of the game, stole a pass and got the ball to Dyer who returned it to Shields who hit a three.

Dyer then made a steal and scored and with 2:27 to go and a 12 point lead. Trotter was fouled and hit two free throws and following a Campo defensive stop, Shields again hit a three from the corner and it was 65-58 with 1:51 to go. Sacramento turned over the ball on a three-second call and Dyer was fouled. He hit one of two free throws and the Cougars were within six. Tom Wraith made a steal and Dyer made another layup. The

Cougars had scored 18 unanswered points.

Allen made a free throw for the Dragons and Dyer came right back down and scored on a layup and improbably Campo was within three with 34 seconds to go. The Cougars fouled Avenant who calmly sank two free throws but the Cougars were not done as Dyer arched in another three and Campo called a time out with four seconds left and a two point deficit. Needing to get the ball back, they fouled Avenant who made the first of a one and one; then missed the second. Dyer scrambled for the rebound but his heave at the buzzer from the far base line

came up short.

The packed house stood and gave the team a rousing standing ovation. Trotter ended his Campolindo career with 26 points, 19 rebounds and nine blocks while Dyer, who will return next year finished with his own double-double with 21 points, ten rebounds and a handful of assists and steals. Macy had a career high of 13 points and seven steals. Evans finished with 13 for the Dragons as did Avenant who had career highs in both scoring and rebounding where he had ten.



Chris Dyer (10), Jack Trotter (34)

Photo Doug Kohen



LAMORINDA CONTRACTOR

- Kitchen & Bathroom Remodeling
- Decks
- Room Additions
- Hardwood Floors
- Door & Window Replacement
- And More

JAD Construction is a Lamorinda based company.
Family owned and operated with over 20 years experience

Home office: (925) 254-4080

• Mobile: (925) 286-8685

Email: Lamorindacontractor@gmail.com
 Licence #598907

Lamorinda's Leading Independent Real Estate Firm



93 Moraga Road, Suite #103
 Orinda, CA 94563
 925•254•0505

To learn more about Village Associates or to preview our listings please visit:

www.villageassociates.com

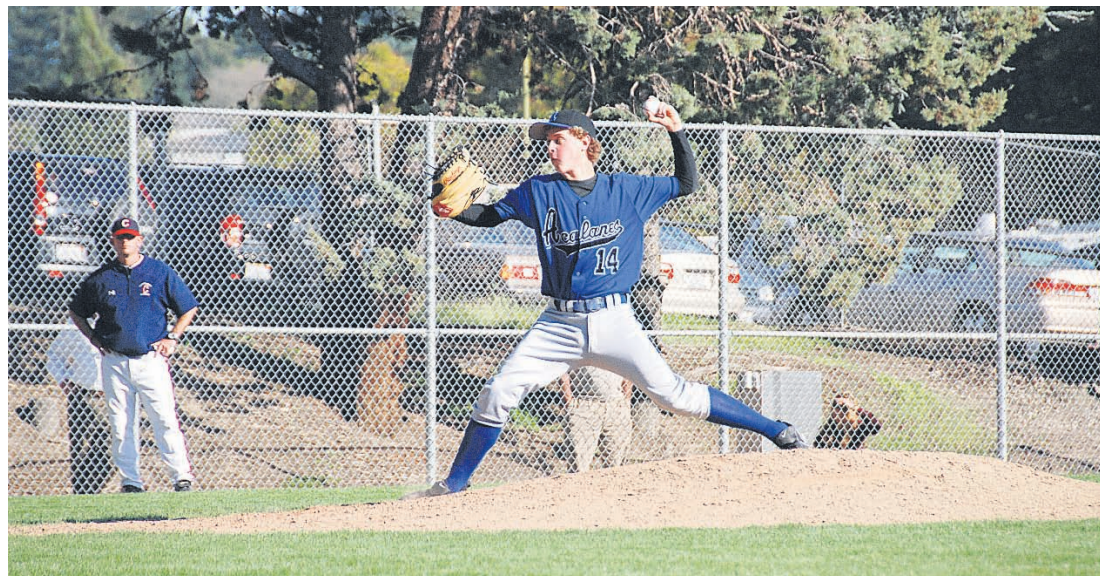
SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS



Cougars Hold on to Lead over Dons

By Steven Johns



John Treat (Dons 14)

Photo Gavin Schlissel

In their first game against each other this year, the Cougars baseball team took advantage of the Dons' wild pitching on Thursday, March 13 in a 6-2 win.

The game started off with Campolindo's Jeff Gold getting an easy 1-2-3 inning. In the bottom of the first the Dons' John Treat got the first two Cougars out, but then walked Anthony Fadelli. Chris Hilk singled to put runners on first and second. Next up was sophomore Chris Killeen, who launched a double into the left-center gap. Fadelli came in to score and the Cougars took an early 1-0 lead.

The Dons came back in the third inning with two runs of their own. Spencer Cuiper started off the inning with a single. After two outs Sean Nixon singled up the middle to score Cuiper. The next batter, Treat, grounded one between the third baseman and shortstop to give the Dons the 2-1 lead.

In the fourth inning, however, the Cougars blew the game wide open. Treat walked the first batter, Corbin Chase, on four straight pitches. After a Michael Kathan sacrifice bunt, senior Sam Gregory came to the plate. Gregory singled between the first and second basemen to tie the game at 2-2.

After a Tom Wraith single Treat became wild. He walked Fadelli to load the bases and

then proceeded to hit Hilk. Treat still could not find the strike zone when he walked Killeen to give the Cougars a 4-2 lead.

The Dons then pulled Treat in favor of Adam Hoffman. Hoffman walked home a run to give the Cougars a 5-2 lead. With the bases still loaded, Chase came to the plate for the second time in the inning. Chase hit a shallow fly into left-center. The runners on second and third forgot that there were two outs and didn't start running until the ball hit the ground. By that time the runner on first base passed the runner on second and was automatically out. The runner on third was able to score, however, to give the Cougars a 6-2 lead.

Cougars junior Jeff Gold



Chris Killeen (Campo 8)

Photo Gavin Schlissel

and sophomore Nick Russ were able to shut down the Acalanes offense for the rest of the game, holding on for the 6-2 win.

With this win the Cougars brought themselves back to .500 and continued their inconsistent year. In each of their three wins the Cougars have scored six or more runs. However, in two of their three losses they did not score more than one run. If the Cougars hope to go far they will need to pitch and hit more consistently.

The Dons have also played inconsistently by scoring more than four runs in three games and less than three runs in their other three games.

This win put the Cougars at 3-3 overall and 1-1 in DFAL. This loss drops the Dons to 2-4 overall and 0-2 in league.

JM Boys Win Basketball Championship

Submitted by Andrea Firth



Photo Andrea Firth

Following an undefeated season, the 7A Basketball Team from Joaquin Moraga Middle School won the area Middle School Championship defeating Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School From Berkeley in the final round. Garret Colonna was named MVP for the tournament, and Griffin McCaffery was named to the All-Tournament Team.

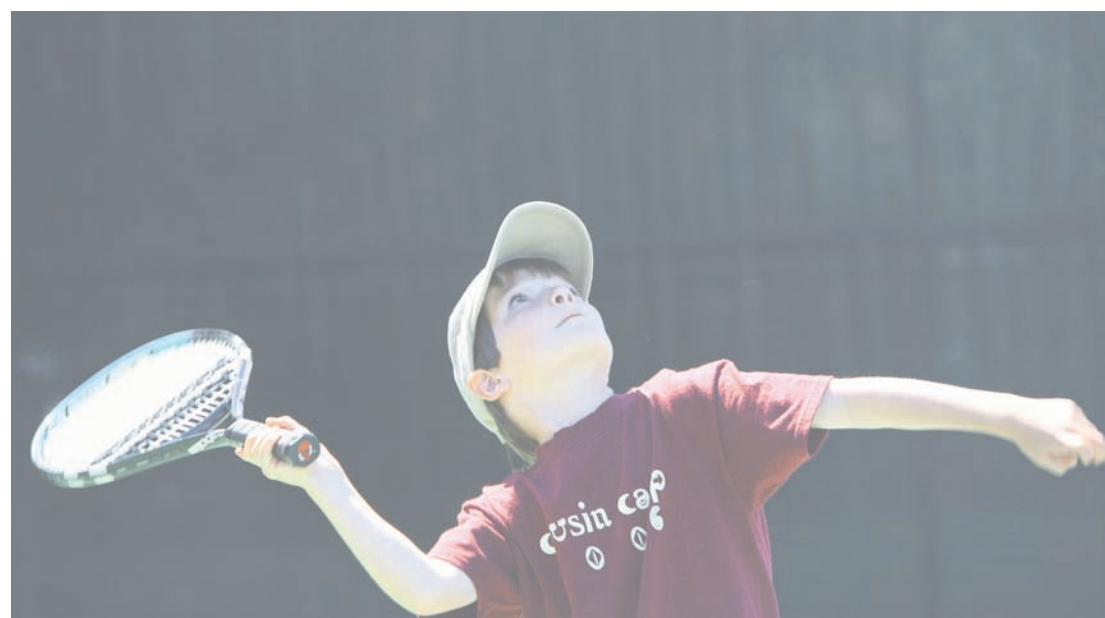
Pictured in the back row are players Jack Evans, Brian Lien, and John Schmitz. Pictured in the front row are: Coach Will French along side players JD Ratchford, Garret Colonna, Griffin McCaffery, Tyler Garrison, Brandon Dolan, and Sam Firth.

Way to go Marauders!

Lafayette 4th Grader

Wins Boys' 10 Singles Tennis Championship

By Jennifer Wake (Submitted by Anna Bird)



Isaiah Bird on the court

Photo provided

Springhill Elementary School fourth grader Isaiah Bird won the Boys' 10 year old Singles Tennis Title at the United States Tennis Association (USTA) 1st Annual Marin Spring Junior Challenger Tournament on March 9 in Tiburon, Calif.

The USTA is the national governing body for the sport of tennis and the recognized leader in promoting and developing the sport's growth on every level in the United States, from local

communities to the crown jewel of the professional game, the US Open.

After defeating Jake Kristy in the quarter final (6-3; 6-1), Bird moved on to defeat Gabriel Pizzolato in the semi final (6-4; 6-4) before facing Ryan Baumhoff in the finals. He won the championship match handily, 6-1; 6-3.

Isaiah Bird is 9 years old and lives in Lafayette.

SMC Plays Stanford for Nine Innings: No Win, No Tie, No Loss

... continued from page 20

Aliotti looked strong from the first pitch. With a live fastball and stellar defense on the mound, the big left-hander was able to pitch a shutout through three innings of play. His first mistake of the game came on a solo home run by Stanford in the top of the fourth, which gave the Cardinal a 1-0 lead.

By the top of the fifth inning, Aliotti looked like his arm was getting a little tired, but wasn't about to get pulled in a one run game. Stanford took advantage and scored three more runs on a two-run homer to deep left field, and jumped out to a 4-0 lead.

Geoff Byrns was able to get the Gaels on the board in the bottom of the fifth inning, as his sacrifice fly to deep right field was able to score the runner from third base. The Gaels took a 5-4 lead in the seventh inning, and would extend that

lead to 6-4 in the eighth after Aliotti scored Randy Wells on an RBI base hit.

Alex Jensen pitched two and a third strong innings for the Gaels, but was pulled in the ninth inning after surrendering a home run to Stanford's Zack Jones. Stanford was then able to tie the game at 6-6, before walking in the go-ahead run to give them a 7-6 advantage going into the bottom of the ninth. Kenny Fuglerud did a great job in the bottom of the ninth to keep the Gaels hopes alive, as he was able to get a hit and a stolen base to put Saint Mary's in scoring position. Cory Miller's double was able to score Fuglerud from second base. After nine innings, and the score knotted up at 7-7, the game was called due to darkness. The extra innings for this game will be made up in Palo Alto on April 23.

• Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified •

Classes Offered

Contra Costa Adventure Boot Camp
Get fit in these Fun, Fast Paced, One hour, Outdoor Classes for Adults. All fitness levels. Early morning classes available. You know you want it! 925-457-4587, www.ContraCostaBootCamp.com

Tutor/Educational Coach
Experienced classroom teacher Tutor grades 2-5 all subjects Professional/mature/kind Will come to your home or meet at your local library 925.876.2399

Music Lessons

Flute & Piano teacher Classical-jazz - all levels Nika Rejto 925-284-7797 nikarejto.com

Piano lessons in the comfort of your own home. Exp., prof. teachers. (925)324-4619 All ages & ability levels. www.88KeysToSuccess.com

Help Wanted

SALES
Friendly and professional sales people wanted for full or part time positions at Massage Envy in downtown Pleasant Hill. 925-689-3689

Lost & Found

Have you seen my small female black & white tuxedo cat? She disappeared from the area of Overhill & Scenic Rds in Orinda on Febr. 13. If you have seen her, please call (925)254-2902

Child Care

Family child care. 0-5yrs. license# 073406120 call (925)-377-0210

Shared Housing

\$700 + util - Large Bedroom in Moraga for Rent. Share with 3 mature adults. Avail. immediately mcedgemon@hotmail.com

Services

techmummy
since 1985 Alison C. Bouchard, Owner
"A High-tech Brain with the Patience of a Mother"
PC-Troubleshooting • Maintenance • Training Repair • Installation • Advice Hardware • Software
Phone: 925-377-7711

Problems with your Computer?

Previous IBM Helpdesk Experience software, hardware, internet \$60 per Hour call Joey 925 408 1425

Local Tax Preparation & Planning

Individuals & Small Businesses HALL OF TAXES, Peggy Hall EA Enrolled Agent-over 20 yrs exp. (925) 388-1040

Services

kathleen b. kolman landscape design
925.787.3261 kkolman@comcast.net orinda,ca residential . commercial
patios . paths . walls
decks . arbors . fences
water features . lighting
native gardens . restoration

Housecleaning with references English speaking Call Chami - 925-640-6311

T & T PAINTING CO

27 Years Experience Int & Ext Our Workmanship & References Speak for Themselves CA Lic # 616357 BONDED Steve Thaw 376-3380 Moraga

510-228-7366
www.feraru.us
FERARU & ASSOCIATES
KITCHEN AND BATH REMODELING ADDITIONS
EARTHQUAKE RETROFITTING, DECKS, ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING, FENCES, INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR PAINTING

SWARTS CONSTRUCTION

Slide repair, retainings walls additions, stone work, decks etc. Gen. Contractor, Lic #613717 Serving the Lamorinda Area for 25 years, call 254-1494

Absolute Plumbing

For all your plumbing needs Licensed, insured, bonded 925-708-7080

Services

Terry's Painting Company Decks, Fences, Interior, Exterior Repairs and Pressure Washing Lic # 851058, bonded. Call 925-788-1663

GG Home Improvements

Repair, Remodeling & general repairs. 925.787.6234, Local references

Quality Plumbing, 20 yrs. exp.

Commercial & Residential. Remodeling, Drainage & Service Tankless! Heaters. Laf. located Lic#906183. 925-299-9085

Reliable Window Cleaning

Friendly service and remarkable results! (Gutter & Pressure Washing) www.ReliableWindowService.com (925) 254-7622

Gutters and Roofs cleared

Fall yard cleanup, leafs raked, garden projects and maintenance Orinda resident, references. Charles 925.254.5533 or 925.528.9385

Designer Gardens

Land Art Design & Build Fences, Decks and Drainage Lic. #C-27 715459 & Bonded 925-766-3738

Send sports stories and ideas to: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com or call 925-377-0977



SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Lamorinda Rugby Whips Hayward Rugby Club 75 to 15

By Chris Roberts



Photo Chris Roberts

The Lamorinda Varsity Rugby Club continued its winning ways and undefeated season with a convincing win over Hayward by a score of 75 to 15 at the Miramonte High School pitch on Saturday, March 1. The Hayward RFC came to

the match with a group of physically imposing players but were quickly out flanked by the speed and agility of a well coached Lamorinda club that picked them apart with pinpoint passing and terrific ball handling.

The Lamo boys quickly

took charge on two tries by Nick Mascheroni and a try by Bo Richter within the first 10 minutes - and the rout was on. By halftime the Lamorinda guys were up 56 to 0 on two tries by Charlie Smith, two more tries by Bo Richter as well as another try by Nick Mascheroni. Those were capped off by a couple of threes and 5 two point conversions by the ever reliable foot of Bo Richter.

At the end of the first half, Jack Clark the nationally renowned rugby coach of the Cal Bears National Championship club stated that, "This is the best I have seen the Lamo Boys play; they are making a powerful statement out there. It's impressive; they are making very good decisions and are demonstrating that they really know how to play the game." The

second half started off a little slower as Lamo substituted liberally and allowed the Hayward club to score on three tries. However, the local club showed off their breadth of talent as James "White Shoes" Giles scored two outstanding tries by breaking through the Hayward defenders. Cole Huntley powered over for a goal while carrying at least four Hayward wide-bodies on his back at the 16 minute mark of the second half. And Peter Kegler finished off the Lamo scoring for the day with a slippery move to the outside that broke through three Hayward defenders.

Lamo's record stood at 11-0 prior to playing a very talented and undefeated San Francisco/Golden Gate squad at an away game on Treasure Island, March 8.

Moraga Baseball Association

Submitted by Vince Caro
Moraga Baseball Association
Bronco Division
March 8, 2008

Brooklyn Dodgers 19, Moraga Giants 7
Dodger Highlights: Nick Fadelli 4 for 4, 3 SB, 1 RBI, 3 RS; Marty Cunnane 2 for 4, 2 RBIs, Great catch in CF; Nathaniel Armen 3 for 3, 1 BB, 2 RS; Tristan Caro Sac. Bunt 1 RBI, 1 SB, 1 RS; Austin Chau 3BB, 1 SB, 2 RS;
Giant Highlights: Will Coates 2 for 2, 2B, 1BB, 2RS; Troy Westernoff 1BB, 3SB, 1RS; Jonathan Matsuda 1 for 2, 2SB, 1BB, 1RS

Piedmont Scots 9, Moraga Bandits 7
Bandits Highlights: Will Moran 3 for 3 1 RBI 1RS; Reid Shellenback 1 for 2 1 RBI, Keai Lucasey 2 for 3, with a straight steal of home; Harrison Hughes 1 hit, 1RS, and made the defensive play of the game when he caught a line-drive in centerfield and doubled the runner off of second base to end a Scots' scoring threat; Russell Bruck 1 hit, 1RS; Dom Tamburino 1 hit, 1RS; Justin Yom 1 hit, 1RS.

Orinda 2: 16, Moraga Irish 4
Orinda 2 Highlights: Cohen 3 for 4; 1-1B; 2BB; 2RS, Lloyd 3 for 4; 2-1B; 1BB; 3 RBI; 3RS, Niskan 3 for 4; 1-1B; 2BB; 2R, Gek 2 for 4; 1-1B; 1BB; 3 RBI; 2RS
Irish Highlights: Huckins 3 for 3; 2-1B; 1-2B; 1SB; 2RS, Delaney 3 for 3; 3-1B; 3 RBI, Barry 2 for 3; 2-1B; 1 RBI; 2SB; 1 RS, Tong 1 for 2; 1-1B; 1SB

Moraga Padres 8, Danville 0,
Padres Highlights: Scott Singh 1 for 3, 2 RBI and 1 RS; Joe Giacchetti 2 for 3, 1 RBI, 1 RS; Hunter Rosenbaum 1 for 2 and 2 BB, 3 RS, 3 IP, 6 K's; Jack Price 1 for 2 1BB, 1 RS; Jack O'Donnell 1 for 3, 1 RBI; Ian Daniel 1 BB, 1 RBI; Walter Brennan 3 IP, 2 K's.

Moraga Mariners 3, Orinda (#3) 2
Mariners Highlights: Caleb Whalen 1 for 2, 1RS, 1 RBI; Matthew Gong 1 for 3, 2B, 1RS, 1 RBI; Ethan Yasuda 1 for 1, 2B; Kevin Lyle 3 IP, W, 1 hit, 0 R, 5 K's.

Moraga Baseball Association Mustang Division March 8, 2008
Mariners 9, White Sox 6
Mariner Highlights: Steven Leserman 2IP, K's; Kevin Shaffer 2IP, 5 K's; Michael Hooper 2 IP, 5 K's. White Sox Highlights: Nick Fafoutis: 2 IP, 5 K's, 2HR, 2 RBI; Sam O'Donnell 2IP, 3 K's, Jack Lawrence 2 IP, 6 K's, Jack Gordon 2 hits.

Orioles 4, A's 3
Orioles Highlights: Ryan Rossi 1 for 3, 3B; Wyatt McNeil 1 for 2, RBI, 2 IP; Garrett Neustrom 1 for 2, 2 RBI. A's Highlights: Sterling Strother 2-for-3, 2B; Rick Lomas 2 for 3, RBI; Griffin Whiting 1 for 3, RBI.

Moraga Baseball Association Pony Division March 1, 2008
Moraga Cougars 2, Danville 3
Cougar Highlights: Dan Fadelli 1

for 3, 3B, 5 IP, 5 K's; Josh Cushing 2 for 3, 2B; Jaimes Vega 1 for 3; Alex Mirante awesome catch in outfield.

March 2, 2008
Moraga Cougars 6, Walnut Creek 2
Cougar Highlights: Josh Cushing 7 IP, W, 10 K's, 5 hits, 0BB; Connor Rosenbaum 1 for 4, 2 catches in outfield; Dan Fadelli 2 for 5, 2B; Vince Graziano 1 for 3, 2B, 7 great innings at catcher.

March 8, 2008
Moraga Cougars 17, San Ramon 0
Cougar Highlights: Dan Fadelli 3 for 4, 2-2B, 4 IP, W, 0 hits, 6 K's; Ryan Hooper 1 for 1, run; Ryan Gannett 1 for 1, 1RS; Beau Davis, 1 for 1, 2BB, 2 RS.

March 9, 2008
Moraga Cougars 3, Clayton Valley 2
Cougar highlights: Brett Stephens 2 for 2, BB, 3B, 1RS; Jaime Vega 1 for 3, 3B, 1RS; Andy Grubbs 1 for 1, 3B, 1RS; Josh Cushing 7 IP, W, 11 K's, 0 BB, 5 hits.

Moraga Baseball Association Bronco Division March 8, 2008
Brentwood Blast 6, Moraga Nationals 4
Nationals Highlights: Ryan Hoffman, 2 for 2, 2B, RBI, SB; David Ortega, 2 for 2, 2B
Blast Highlights: Briggs 5 IP, 1B, BB, Run; Garcia 2 for 4, 3B GWRBI

Moraga A's 6, Orinda Rebels 2
A's Highlights: Andrew Willmore 1B, 5 IP, no ER, Scott Smoot 1B, Chase Corrallo 1B, Bradley Rochlin 2 IP, Sean Smith 1B, Daniel Zur 3 for 3, 3 SB Josh Sherman 1B, 1 RBI, Eric Dunning 1B, 1 RBI
Moraga A's 15, Moraga Bandits 4
A's Highlights: Scott Smoot 1B, 1 IP, no ER, Chase Corrallo 1B, 1 RBI; Bradley Rochlin 3 for 3, 3 RBI; Tiger Garcia 2-1B, 4 SB, Sean Smith 3 IP, no ER; Molloy 1 IP
Moraga Bandits Highlights: Shellenback 1B, 1 IP, Taylor 3 SB; Tamburino 2B, 2 RBI, 1.1 IP, Bruck 1 IP, Nazeri 1.2 IP, Hughes 1 IP

Moraga Baseball Association Bronco Division March 9, 2008
Moraga Padres 12, Orinda 6
Padres Highlights: Hunter Rosenbaum 3 for 5 with one 2B, 2 HR, 4 RBI 3 RS; Joe Navone 2 for 4, 1 HR, 1 RBI 1 RS; Kurt Vergara 3 for 4, 1 HR, 1 RBI, 2 RS; Jack Price 2 for 2, 2 RS; Spencer Nichols 1 for 3, 2 RBI, 1RS; Ben Skinner 1 for 4, 1 RS.
Moraga Mariners 6, Orinda (#4) 4
Mariners Highlights: Scott Chen 2 for 4, 2B, 1RS, 3 IP, W, 2 hits, 1 run, 5 K's; Matthew Tuan 2 for 3, 2RS, RBI; Matthew Gong 3 for 4, 2B, HR, 2 RBI, 2 RS; Moses Havel, BB, 2 SB.
Brooklyn Dodgers 7, Piedmont Highlanders 5
Dodger Highlights: Zach Cole, 2 IP 5K's; Brian Pfaff 2 for 3, 1B, 2B, 2RBI, 1SB, Tommy Pride 1 for 1, HBP, 1 SB, 1RS, Chris Daniel 1 for 3 GWRBI

Acalanes, Campo and Northgate Square Off At Dollar Ranch Golf Course

By David Anderson

Acalanes golfer Jack Sullivan's low score of 37 at the par 36 Dollar Ranch Course in Rossmoor was not enough to keep the Campolindo Cougars from out shooting the Dons on Wednesday, March 12 with a final tally of 196-207. Despite the loss and thanks to Wednesday's "tri-match" format, in which Acalanes matched up against both Campolindo and Northgate, the Dons were able to add a victory to their record with a win over Northgate 207-233.

In the DFAL nine hole format, the lowest five scores of the match for each team are added together to produce the final score. Acalanes finished the day with scores of 39 (Blodgett), 41 (Fisher), 44 (Caldwell), 46 (Warren) and Sullivan's low score of the day 37. Despite the fact that Acalanes posted the day's low score, Campolindo was able to make up the difference with their top four players each posting a score of 40 or below

for the match (Kallerud 38, Goldberger 38, Berber 39, Middlebrook 40, Alexander 41).

"Campo is a good team; they beat us rather handily at their course" said Acalanes Head Coach Tim Scott after the match Wednesday. "They're a good team, my hat's off to them. The better team won."

The Acalanes men maintained their one game over .500 winning percentage while improving their record to 4-3 for the season. The Dons' losses this season have come at the hands of Campolindo and Miramonte, including two losses to the Campolindo Cougars, who have continued their undefeated season with a record of 4-0.

The Dons' have upcoming matches against Concord at Diablo Creek and College Park and Las Lomas at Rossmoor. Acalanes' next match is against Dublin at the San Ramon Golf Club on March 20 at 3:30.

most cars
Rheem Valley Automotive
Super Smog Special:
\$39.95
+8.25 cert. +2.95trans. fee
coupon required exp. 4-15
455 Center Street
in the Rheem Valley
Shopping Center
Complete Repair Shop
925.377.6020

Miramonte Falls to St. Mary's in NorCal Playoffs

By Jennifer Wake

Following an exhilarating 70-54 win over St. Ignatius in the first round of the CIF Northern California Division III playoffs, the Miramonte women's basketball team made a valiant effort against No. 3

ranked St. Mary's of Stockton at the NorCal semi-finals on March 6. Although the Mats held on early in a low scoring first period, they couldn't hold on against the highly ranked Rams, falling 70-51.

Stroke Improvement Clinics at LMYA

Submitted by Gint Federas

LMYA Swim will offer Stroke Improvement Clinics open to competitive swimmers from any team beginning in April. Cost is \$100/swimmer for eight classes. Clinics run from April 7 to May 1: Session 1 - Monday & Wednesday or Session 2 - Tuesday

& Thursday (6 & under - 5:20 to 6 p.m.; 7 to 8 yrs - 6 to 6:45 p.m.; 9 & up - 6:45 to 7:45 p.m.).

Location: Acalanes High School pool (1200 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette). For more information, please see the website at www.lmyaswim.com.

Professional Automotive
Since 1949
Affiliated with:
SPRINGS & BERTINO

- Insurance Work Specialists
- Auto Body & Paint
- Free Estimates
- Paintless Dent Repair

Open Saturdays
Mon-Fri 7:30 am - 5:30 pm • Sat 9 am - 1 pm
COLLISION & DETAIL CENTER
YOUR TRUSTED LOCAL ADVISORS FOR 75 YEARS

Lafayette
283-2160
3331 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Across from Big "O" Tires

Concord
827-4848
1160 Erickson Rd.
Off Monument Blvd.

www.professionalautomotive.net
Under New Ownership

GMC
0% APR*
ON APPROVED LENDER CREDIT FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS
ON ALL NEW 2007 & 2008 YUKONS[†]
COMPLIMENTARY LIFETIME OIL CHANGES!
Every new & used GM product purchase includes an oil change every 3,000 miles for the life of your vehicle! Excludes Diesels and synthetic oils. See Dealer for Details.

2679 N. Main Street
Walnut Creek
(925) 932-4800
www.steadauto.com

Michael Stead's
WALNUT CREEK
BUICK PONTIAC GMC

*0% APR available on all new 2007 and 2008 Yukons with 60 monthly payments of \$16.67 per \$1,000 borrowed. Based on 10% down payment. †Excludes Hybrid Models. All vehicles subject to prior sale, plus government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any dealer document preparation charge and any emission testing charge. Offers expire 3/31/08.

DODGE
2007 DODGE RAM 1500 MEGA CAB
\$6,000 REBATE PLUS 0% APR* FOR 36 MONTHS
On approved lender credit
1 at this price. ID 714203

*0% APR available on 2007 Dodge Ram Megacab 1500 with 36 monthly payments of \$27.78 per \$1,000 borrowed. \$15,000 max. amount financed. Based on 50% down pmt.

2404 N. Main Street
Walnut Creek
(925) 937-5060
www.steadauto.com

Michael Stead's
WALNUT CREEK
CHRYSLER Jeep DODGE

All vehicles subject to prior sale, plus government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any dealer document preparation charge and any emission testing charge. Subject to credit approval. Jeep® is a registered trademark of Daimler Chrysler Corporation. Offer expires 3/31/08.

It's Time You have Your Oil Changed by People You Trust

- Tire Replacement
- Computerized Digital Alignment
- Tire Service
- Complete General Repair and Lubrication Services
- Nitrogen Tire Inflation
- Rental Cars available

Express Oil Change & Tire Center
63 Orinda Way, Orinda
925-254-8989

Open 6 days a week
Mon-Sat

Drive Through Service - No Appointment needed

Professional Service at Your Convenience



SHOP

ORINDA

Meadow Swim & Tennis
 Located on Heather Lane in Orinda
 • youth competitive swim teams
 • year-round tennis
925-258-0115
 Memberships Available Now • www.gomeadow.com

All Fur Love Pet Care
 Loving your pets when you can't!
(925) 212-7422
 • Dogs, Cats, Birds, etc
 • Pet Visits & Mid-Day Dog Walks
 • Owner operated, Orinda resident
www.AllFurLovePetCare.com bonded & insured

ORINDA MOTORS
Express Oil Change & Tire Center

Complete Lubrication and Computerized Auto Maintenance Service & Complete Tire Service, Balance, Alignment, etc.

63 Orinda Way • Orinda • **925-254-8989**
www.orindamotors.com

ENTOURAGE INC.
 Day NIGHT Spa, Salon & Café

2 Theatre Square, Suite 148 • Orinda
 925-254-9721
www.entouragespa.com

ORINDA SHOES & SERVICE
est. 1952

↗ Shoe Repair ↘
 ↙ Specializing In Orthopedic Corrections ↘
 ↗ Footwear & Accessories ↘

Tel. 925-254-5088

19 Avenida De Orinda • behind Orinda Motors

McDonnell Nursery

• Shrubs • Garden Accessories
 • Flowers • Personalized Service

196 Moraga Way, Orinda
www.mcdonnellnursery.com
254-3713

Orinda PET Food & Supply

Offering Low Prices On a Full Line of Pet Supplies.

• Special Orders Welcome
 • 28 years of experience
 925.254.8282

152 Village Square, Orinda (Behind Safeway)
 10am - 6pm Mon-Fri • 10am-5pm Sat • 11am-3pm Sun

The Orinda Frame Store
 Professional Custom Framing

- Unmatched Collection of Frames and Mats
- Custom Mirrors and Shadowboxes
- Conservation Framing
- Competitive Pricing
- Locally Owned and Operated for **Over 20 Years**

110 Village Square (Located behind Safeway)
 Phone: **254-4465**

NEW LOCATION
JAMIE WESTDAL PHOTOGRAPHY

232 Brookwood Rd, Orinda
 next to Loards Ice Cream
 (925) 254-9689
www.jamiewestdal.com

Kasper's Hot Dogs

A Bay Area Tradition
 Mon-Sat 11-8, Sun 11-7

Theatre Square, Orinda (next to the Orinda Theater)

QUENCHERS

Smoothies
BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE!
 Bring in this coupon and buy one 24 oz. smoothie and get a second smoothie of equal or lesser value FREE!
21 Orinda Way, Suite G 925-254-7836
 Mon. - Fri. 10am - 5pm, Sat. 10am - 4pm

ORINDA BOOKS

The Bookstore in village square!

276 Village Square, Orinda, CA 94563
 925-254-7606
www.orindabooks.com

YOUR COMPLETE COMMUNITY BOOKSTORE

CANETTI'S BOOKSHOP

39 moraga way orinda 94563
 925.258.9076

We sell & trade gently read books

OPEN EVERY DAY!

ORINDA TAXI

(925) 482-7112

24/7 Airports & Local • Hybrid Vehicle
www.orindataxi.com

The Medicine Shoppe PHARMACY
Caring beyond prescriptions.

We're more than a dependable health professional. We're also your personal health advisor.

Alan Wong, R.Ph. 282 Village Square, Orinda
(925) 254-1211

The Pharmacy That's All About Your HealthSM

hediyeH Gift Boutique

Gifts for Easter from around the World

New, bigger Location:
 Theatre Square, Orinda
(925) 254-2594

SCREENS made and repaired

• Lowest prices • 48 hr turnaround **925-254-5429**

Orinda Hardware and Rentals, 56 Moraga Way

Orinda Shell

Complete Auto Care

Scheduled Maintenance - Air Conditioning - Brakes and Suspension - Electrical Repairs
 Warranty Repair - Smog Inspection - Wheel Alignments - Senior Discount
 • Free shuttle service - Walking distance from BART

Leave Your Car in good hands, Kathy & Joey

9 Orinda Way, Orinda • 925-254-1486

New Year. New Smile Makeover. Free ZOOM! Teeth Whitening.

-Premier cosmetic and general dentistry
 -No waiting. We accommodate your schedule
 -Outstanding personal service

LA BEAUTÉ
 Cosmetic Dentistry / Aesthetics

Please Call For Details, 925.254.0084
 3 Altarinda Rd. Ste 305. Orinda. CA www.labeautesf.com

THE FRAMEMAKER
 Custom made Frames by Bev Malcolm

925-254-0238

19 Orinda Way, Orinda

Treible Stationers, Inc.

10% OFF Coupon
 exp. 4/30/08 • present coupon or tell us about it.

19 Orinda Way, Orinda CA 94563
 Phone (925) 254-3643 • email: treibleinc@msn.com
 20579 Santa Maria Avenue • Castro Valley, CA 94546 • (510) 537-3600

• Commercial Discounts • On-Line Ordering Available **Free Delivery**

Geppetto's of Orinda

Espresso • Coffee Beans • Desserts
 Sandwiches • Soups • Salads
 Open Mon-Fri 6am-5pm • Sat 7am-3:30pm
 87 Orinda Way **253-9894**

INFORMA
 Integral Fitness

New Expanded Facilities
 Fitness • Yoga • Pilates

23A Orinda Way, Orinda (925) 254-6877

Orinda Village Antiques

Taking Tea in the English Manner

by Susan Teerch

Mon. - Sat. 11 to 6 or by appointment
 107 Orinda Way • Orinda • **925.254.2206**