

business briefs

Organic Coffee Rolls into Lafayette

Ironman Organic Coffee, Bunn, LLC.

Lafayette, Ca 94549 (888) 373-5550 x203 www.mdotcoffee.com

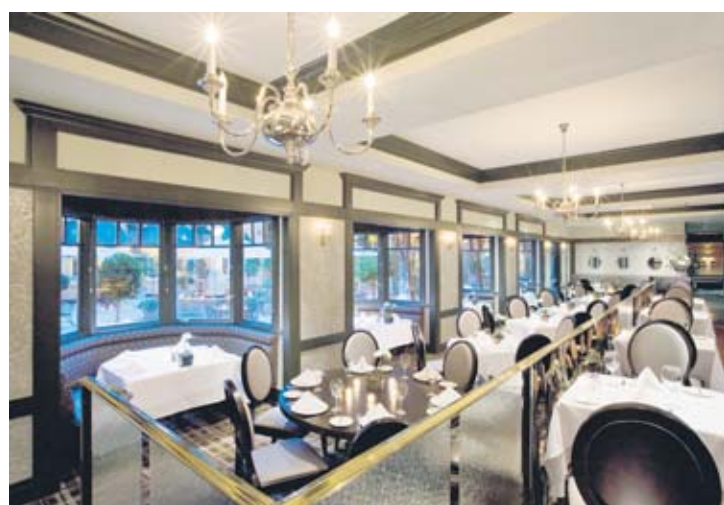
An Ironman triathlon is a very demanding and rigorous discipline. At first glance, one may not see what caffeine has to do with it. The Ironman Triathlon Corporation, managed by the Caicedo family, has diversified and started "Bunn LLC," a company distributing organic coffees in Lafayette. The company prides itself in selling only the best 100% certified organic, single origin beans. "The result is a superbly dark, bold and satisfying coffee," says owner and long time Lafayette resident Kiko Caicedo. The choice of coffees are: 100% Kona, harvested from the A'ama Organic Farms on the Hawaiian island of Kona; a single-origin organic Guatemalan that comes from the El Quiche region located high in the mountains of tropical Ixcan, and an organic Peruvian coffee coming from the Cochapampa co-op (150 small family farms), which is in the Cuzco region (south-central Peru). The coffee is available online and at Sharp Bicycle in Lafayette, not such a strange place for people who also train and race triathlon, marathons, and cycling events.

Renovation Completed at the Duck Club Restaurant

Lafayette Park Hotel

287 Mount Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette, 283-7108 - www.lafayetteparkhotel.com.

The Duck Club Restaurant at the four diamond Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa has been transformed by restaurant designer Bob Puccini. It features an updated menu by an award winning Chef and a revitalized focus on wine. Upon entering the restaurant, the walk-in wine cellar behind glass doors lets guests admire the expanded California wine selection. The new menu includes Scottish Salmon, Grimaud Farms Duck Breast, Filet Mignon, and Bison Rib-Eye. Ingredients selected by Chef Chuck Courtney are mostly seasonal and regional. The private dining room that accommodates up to 12 guests has been renovated in the same elegant and classic style. The Duck Club Restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch.



The renovated Duck Club Restaurant at the Lafayette Park Hotel Photo Sophie Braccini

Constructionplace.com, Inc. Announces On-Line Project

Moraga, 377-0188 - www.constructionplace.com

Gary Westernoff, CEO of the Constructionplace.com, will offer an on-line Project Registry (patent pending) where property owners can input and save their pertinent project data. The data are structured in a database, while tracking and reporting the performance of professionals and resources, thus making it easier to turn projects into cash. According to Westernoff, "Accountability of project professionals and resources is becoming increasingly more difficult for novice property owners, and many times for sophisticated owners. And not maintaining a project history for disclosure purposes can be very worrisome." He believes that his new product will eliminate these worries for good.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, 100 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette

www.lafayettechamber.org:

- Sunday, July 13 - Lafayette Criterium Bike Race - 7am-4pm - Downtown Lafayette
- Wednesday, July 16 - GREEN Committee - Noon - Chamber Office
- Thursday, July 17 - Entrepreneur's Club - 8:30am - Chamber Office
- Thursday, July 31 - Business Issues Committee - 8am - Chamber Office

Moraga Chamber of Commerce

www.moragachamber.org:

- Tuesday July 22nd 6:00 to 7:30 PM Hacienda - Speaker Lori Salamack on the Moraga Shopping Center Specific Plan
- SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE WELCOME FAIRE FOR NEW STUDENTS: On Thursday, August 28th, 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM at Saint Mary's College there will be a Welcome Faire for new Saint Mary's students. The Chamber will have a booth. How would you like to attract new students? How can we get students to Shop Moraga First? Please mark your calendars, think what you would like to offer, and figure out how you or one of your employees can help staff our booth. Email Edy321@comcast.net with times you can work.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce, 24 Orinda Way, Orinda

www.orindachamber.org:

The Orinda Chamber of Commerce thanks the community for their support for a great "Reach for the Stars" party before and for the 4th of July.

Judy's Nail Salon Robbed

By Cathy Tyson

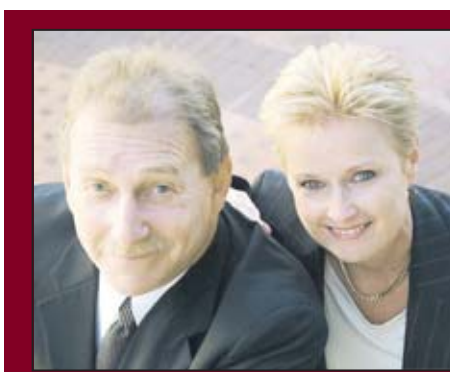
While Judy Yang, the owner and manager of Judy's Nail Salon on Moraga Road, was in China for a month and a half this past spring, the employee she put in charge of the shop allegedly robbed her. The prime suspect, originally from Viet Nam, Long Kim Tran, known locally as "David" was "like an adopted son to me," said Yang.

It is unknown at this time the exact amount of cash and nail related products missing from the store. Officer Will Davis of the Moraga Police Department said, "I can't comment on the case because it's an on-going investigation."

Yang wanted to warn her customers that had paid with a credit card to keep an eye on their statements for any irregularities. She was also concerned that David would continue to make manicure house calls for customers, and said that "he can't be trusted."



Judy Yang in front of her salon Photo Cathy Tyson



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Saint Mary's Vested Interest in Local Economy

By Sophie Braccini

The St. Mary's Center for the Regional Economy is launching an economic impact report addressing the Campus' effect on the neighboring cities. The Center was founded two years ago by Economics Professor Kris Chase with the Dean of the School of Economics and Business Administration, Dr. Roy Allen. "The core of the mission of a college like Saint Mary's is to teach people how to think and be life-long learners," says Chase, "However, another part of the mission is to be a service to the local economy, with a focus on those who need help in participating in the fruits of economic success. Currently, there is no institution of higher education in Contra Costa County devoted to studying and boosting the local economy, and that is why we are developing this new Center, we want to become that place."

The economic impact report will assess the College's contribution to the local economy. "We employ more than 600 full time employees, and our students visit daily the surrounding towns" says Chase, "our budget is in the \$100 million range."

She goes on to explain that the College is a non-polluting business that contributes to the cultural, social and sports life of surrounding communities. "We provide a lot of in-kind services. For example, we are the largest park in Moraga with trails that connect to Bollinger Canyon and Sanders Ranch, the campus is the designated area in the event of a major disaster, many community groups use our facilities and students and faculty are very active locally; 40% of St Mary's students are engaged in community service."

The impact of the campus is one of several studies conducted by the Center. One recent study looked at users' response to a potential disruption of the East Bay Water Source. It studied the possible implications for businesses of a severe



(L to R) Roy Allen introduces Kris Chase, Brian Lofman and Cheryll LeMay at the Conference on the Local Economy Photo Sophie Braccini

disruption in the water supply, either by accident or drought. Such a report should help shape public perceptions of water supply and consumption patterns in the East Bay, and influence public policy toward conserving and minimizing disruption to this significant asset. Another report analyzes the potential impact of a policy that requires businesses to prove that their new products are safe to the public, rather than just complying with existing regulations (a principle called "the precautionary principle" that's applied in Europe, Brazil, and San Francisco). The report analyzes the principle's potential to affect business, government, the environment, and economic vitality in Contra Costa County.

Those reports are the first steps for the Center. "On the other side of the tunnel you have the big Berkeley think-tank," says Chase, "but they do not focus on the specific needs of Contra Costa, and that's what we are doing. The Center's activities incorporate the fact that a very large part of Contra Costa's economy is driven by small businesses, many of which are formed by an entrepreneurial base that reflects the diversity of the region. They have specific needs and demands that the College wishes to address."

One of Chase's objectives is to maintain a pool of potential interns who could work in partnership with local businesses. "We are partnering with the Small Business Council," explains Chase, "already some students get internship through different classes. The Center would like to centralize these resources and establish a continuous relationship with the local economy."

The Center wishes to be a resource as well for Chambers of Commerce and local governments. "For example, we would love to assist towns who wish to assess the economic impacts of new development," proposes Chase. She points out that two St. Mary's students worked for Moraga and Lafayette to carry out an inventory of their energy consumption for the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). "Students want to be involved in the local economy and their energy and fresh perspectives can be of use to businesses and administrations."

Chase's challenge today is to secure long term funding for the Center. "We are looking for grants," she says, adding that if someone wants to make a difference in the local economy, a donation would be a great way to do so.

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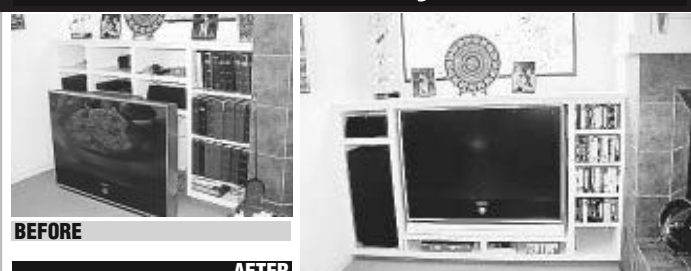
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