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## business briefs

### Young Artist Starts Business

Notable Considerations, Jodie Aranda, Moraga, 963-2620

A 1996 graduate from Saint Mary's college, Jodie Aranda decided a little over a year ago to devote all her energy to starting her own artistic business. Recently being let go from her corporate job has given her the extra time needed to focus on her budding business. "When I was at Saint Mary's, earning my B.A. in English, I took as many studio art classes as possible," says the young artist, "Now I want to give my passion a chance to be more than just a hobby by turning my pencil and soft pastel drawings into cards that people will use." With a background in publication production and advertising, the transition was not too hard. Now Aranda gets a lot of art done in her Moraga home, while connecting with the community. "The first people in town to give me a chance were Bill Snider and Susan Marconi at Across the Way," she says, "I have my cards for sale in the store and they were nice enough to have me as their featured artist during one of their recent events." She was very energized by the public's response to the blank note cards. "There is a need out there for cards that are not pre-written, sometimes what a person has to say needs to be said in their own words. I hope my cards will give people a chance to really express themselves," says Aranda. Right now she is focusing on readying enough card designs for the Moraga Community Faire on May 8th, where she will have a booth.

### News from the three Chambers of Commerce

#### Lafayette

Shop Lafayette Committee Meeting on Friday, April 13 at 12:30 p.m. in the Chamber Conference Room.

Mixer on Wednesday, April 14 at 5:30 p.m. at Restoration Piano, 3434 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette, with Orinda Chamber of Commerce.

#### Moraga

News from the Moraga Community Faire on May 8: Volunteers are needed for traffic control, set-up and takedown, cotton-candy booth and more. According to Moraga municipal code, community event signs have to be pre-approved. On March 24, the Council approved unanimously the hanging of about 20 banners around town to announce the Community Faire, from April 20 to May 10, 2010. The banners will advertise the Faire and display the name of a sponsoring business. For more information on volunteer opportunity and banners, contact Ellen Beans at [elbeans@comcast.net](mailto:elbeans@comcast.net).

#### Orinda

Ribbon cutting on April 2 at noon for Cloud 9 Foot Hand therapy, 1 Orinda Way, Suite 3, Orinda. (Read about Cloud 9 in our November 25th, 2009 issue.)

The Chamber of Commerce is continuing its support of the California Independent Film Festival that takes place this year from Thursday, April 22nd until Sunday April 25th at the Orinda Theatre. For more information, go to [www.caiff.org/specialevents.html](http://www.caiff.org/specialevents.html).

Chamber members are invited to join with Lafayette businesses for a duo-chamber Mixer Wednesday April 14 at Restoration Piano, 3434 Golden Gate Way in Lafayette.

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