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Photo Doug Kohen

State Champions!

Quote of the Week:

"Thomas Jefferson later claimed he could not possibly have maintained his estate at Monticello, with all its deciduous trees, had he not been the beneficiary of Ben Franklin's redesigned leaf blower." Read Letters to the Editor, page A8

Campolindo Volleyball Takes the Title

Read the full story on page L8

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Fire Chief Warns of Possible Fire Station Closures

By Cathy Tyson



Station 16, at risk of closure

Photo Cathy Tyson

Without a parcel tax next year, up to eight fire stations could close said Fire Chief Daryl Louder at a recent Board of Supervisors workshop, due to a projected \$12 million budget shortfall for fiscal year 2010/2011.

Calling a parcel tax "crucial to the survival of the District," Louder explained the dire financial straights of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (CCCFPD).

... continued on page A3

Going, Going...Sold

By Andrea A. Firth

Orinda recently acquired two sculptures that have been on loan to the City for the past few years: Gale Wagner's *Outta Here*, more commonly know as the frog that jumps over the Library fountain, and *Springtime*, a columnar sculpture located in front of the Community Center on the right as you enter.

"This has been possible through a wonderful partnership between the City and the APPC [Art in Public Places Committee]," said Ted Urban, Chair of the APPC, at Monday's City Council meeting. The Council voted unanimously to purchase the two sculptures, which had a combined price tag of \$46,000, with a combination of Park Dedication funds and private donations.

Park Dedication fees are assessed on commercial and residential development projects, and the funds may only be used for the creation and improvement of park and recreation facilities in the city, explained Parks and Recreation Director Todd Skinner. The Council set aside \$20,000 over the past two years for the procurement of public art, and the APPC set to work to solicit matching funds.

"There is enthusiastic support for the Art in Public Places program," said Urban, reporting that the Committee was able to exceed the matching fund goal to raise a total of \$26,000 to make the purchases possible.

... continued on page A6

The Caldecott Tunnel—History in the Making

By Andrea A. Firth



Tunnel building technology has changed significantly since a group of merchants from Oakland pooled their resources to fund the first hand-dug passageway through the hills over 100 years ago. What hasn't changed is how long it takes to tunnel through the dirt and bedrock between Orinda on the east side and Oakland on the west.

... read on page L1

Sneetches Spotted in Orinda

By Lou Fancher



Liz Piatt's Orinda home is being overrun by Dr. Seuss characters and she isn't going to take it anymore. Instead, she's sending The Cat in the Hat, a pair of Six-foot Sneetches, Horton the Elephant, Thing One and Thing Two, and more than 50 other soft, hand-sewn sculptures she created to Orinda Books.

... read on page H1

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