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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Wednesday, February 2, 2011

We tell our kids they can help make the world a better place. Volunteer for 2 hours together and show them how to start.

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ONE SUNDAY

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Best Actor Ryan Merriman signing the wall of fame



The sky lit up on opening night



Bill Snider: Darkhorse wins Best Performance in Iron Filmmaker short. Photo Ohlen Alexander



Opening Night of the film festival drew a large crowd to the New Rheem Theatre
Photos Doug Kohen

Indie Film Festival Makes its Mark in Moraga

By Andrea A. Firth

Moviegoers packed the lobby of the New Rheem Theater at the Friday night opening reception of the 13th Annual California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF). Locals stood shoulder-to-shoulder nibbling hors d'oeuvres and sipping wine from the vineyards of Moraga winegrowers Sal and Susan Captain as they waited for the start of the evening's sold-out feature film, *The 5th Quarter*. The excitement was palpable and attendees jostled for the best viewing spots as the Festival's Program Director Beau Behan introduced the film's writer, director, and producer Rick Bieber and leading actor Ryan Merriman. The audience ap-

plauded as Bieber and the 27-year old Merriman placed their signatures on the tiled wall in the lobby—Moraga's newly-designated Wall of Fame.

The 5th Quarter, based on the true story of the Abbate family whose teenage son Luke was killed in a reckless driving accident, struck an emotional chord with many residents. Bieber spent several months with the family to learn about their story of loss and understand their journey to recovery. "Writing the screenplay went quickly, but it was emotional for me just to write it down," said Bieber.

... continued on page L4

Quote of the Week:

"Perhaps we should be arguing that Moraga has been subsidizing Orinda all this time?"
Read Letters to the Editor, page A8

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<p>Grand Opening Feb. 13th Call for details</p> <p>Andi Peterson Brown Broker Associate 925.818.4588 DRE# 01738605</p>	<p>Coming Soon! 285 La Espiral, Orinda</p> <p>Located in the Country Club pocket of Orinda, this elegant new construction beauty boasts custom finishes and spectacular hillside views. 5bd/3+ba with gourmet kitchen, wine cellar, and media room.</p> <p>COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE</p> <p>www.285LaEspiral.com</p>	<p>Patti Camras Realtor 925.899.9282 DRE# 01156248</p>
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Lafayette Parcel Tax for Schools on May Ballot

By Cathy Tyson

With a unanimous vote by the Lafayette School Board, a parcel tax will go on the May 3rd ballot as an emergency measure to continue to provide a quality education program in the face of deep cuts in school funding by the state legislature.

Voters will be asked to levy a \$176 per parcel temporary tax for four years to maintain core academic programs in math, science, art, music and more. If approved, the tax will take effect on July 1, 2011 and deliver \$1.5 million to Lafayette schools each year. Seniors can receive a special exemption.

Resolutions for the tax spell out the reasoning behind the measure: the District has not been fully funded to provide a quality education, and the District has exhausted all feasible means of generating revenue. No stone has been left unturned, even sports fields are rented out to LMYA and CYO programs, and facility rental fees are paid by the summer Jazz camp, scouts and others.

"We have to plan for the worst," said School Board Member Teresa Gerringer. "We've already cut \$2 million over the past two years and we still have a structural deficit." ... continued on page S4

Gung Hay Fat Choy!

Happy Lunar New Year! With the arrival of tonight's new moon we usher in the Year of the Hare. The Hare represents longevity. It is said that people born under this sign are fun-loving, artistic, mild-mannered and conscientious. Following on the heels of a rather stormy year of the Tiger, 2011 should see things begin to calm down under the common sense and gentle influence of the Hare.

Graphic by Shayan Tajbakhsh



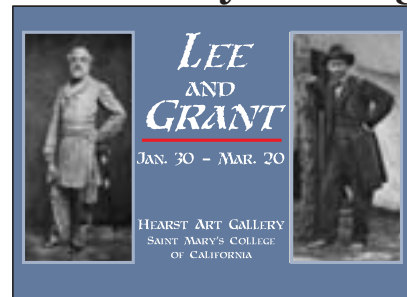
Wednesday delivery for Lamorinda Weekly!

In an effort to get the paper to you in a timely manner, we are converting our delivery method from the U.S. mail to a local home delivery service that will place the paper on your driveway every other Wednesday.

If you live in Lafayette or Moraga, this issue should have been delivered to you on Wednesday, February 2.

Home delivery to Orinda will begin on February 16. Please call (925) 377-0977 or email homedelivery@lamorindaweekly.com if you have any questions.

Lee and Grant Exhibit Opens at Saint Mary's College



By Sophie Braccini

The Lee and Grant exhibition opened last weekend at Saint Mary's College Hearst Art Gallery in Moraga and will continue until March 20th. Organized by the NEH On The Road, a special initiative of the National Endowment ... read on page L1

A Lamorinda Valentine's Day

By Lou Fancher

Celebrating Valentine's Day without leaving Lamorinda turned out to be much harder than expected. When the assignment came in, I thought: Piece of cake!

Literally. With bakeries, florists, gift boutiques, spas, new and established restaurants, movie theaters, and even a luxury hotel, what could be simpler? Within 30 minutes, the list of choices was longer than...

... read on page L3



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