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 Wednesday, April 13, 2011

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too perfect Premiere at The Orinda

By Andrea A. Firth

The title of Orinda-based movie producer Julie Rubio's new film, *too perfect*, carries a not so subtle hint of irony. Rubio's latest cinematic venture addresses the emotional ups and downs young people deal with as they transition from middle school to high school—a time many teens would describe as less than perfect. "It's a coming of age film about first love, friend-

ship, divorce, bullying and how these things impact kids," says Rubio. As the teens in the film deal with these heavier issues, there is also a lot of laughter, teasing, and playfulness, which suitably characterizes this time in life when young people step toward adulthood with one foot still planted in childhood.

The majority of the cast of *too perfect* is from Orinda and

attends Orinda Intermediate School or Miramonte High School. For almost all of the young actors, this was their first experience in film. The film's leads are played by Rubio's son Elijah Stevana and a close family friend, Tessa Hanson. Rubio recruited most of the other actors for the film through Elijah's network of friends except for a few young actors from southern California.

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Quote of the Week:

"Democracy requires participation amongst the governed..."
 Read Letters to the Editor, page A7-A8

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Significant Development Proposed for Christmas Tree Lot

By Cathy Tyson

Is Lafayette ready for a 315 unit apartment complex spread among fourteen buildings with over 500 parking spaces at the Christmas tree lot site near Acalanes High School? If approved, The Terraces would be the largest project in Lafayette's history. City staff just received the application from the owner of the 22-acre parcel, the Dettmer family, and is reviewing it for completeness. Building the proposed development hinges getting the necessary permits from the Planning Commission and the Design Review Committee.

In April of last year, after months of meetings and heated public comment, the City Council directed staff to down-zone the property to a lower density zoning category, LR-5 "rural residential" up to .2 dwelling

units per acre, or one house per five acres. Prior to that, it had been zoned to allow a maximum of 35 dwelling units per acre in Administrative/Professional/Office/Multifamily Residential classification (APO).

Many residents at that time made it very clear to the City Council they were not in favor of any development on that parcel – citing traffic concerns and preserving views at this gateway location.

Although the City Council ordered staff to rezone the land to a lower density category, "The developer submitted the application before the rezoning process got underway," said City Manager Steven Falk in his Friday Summary.

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Keeping Mosquitoes from Bugging Moraga

By Cathy Dausman



Josefa Cabnda disperses a mosquito treatment Photo A. Scheck

Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District (CCMVCD) is busy waging war. The agency recently treated Moraga hills and open spaces against mosquito infestations, inspected creeks and treated tree holes

to eliminate standing water. Standing water is a mosquito's best friend. Mosquitoes and people are not best friends. Mosquitoes can transmit West Nile virus, dengue fever, dog heartworm disease and malaria. They lay their eggs in standing water during breeding season in May or June.

Contra Costa County has 23 different kinds of mosquitoes, says CCMVCD's Deborah Bass. In peak season they mature from egg to biting adult in just five days and can travel up to 20 miles from where they hatch. They need very little water—just a couple tablespoons-- to reproduce. She says mosquitoes reproducing in clogged rain gutters number in the tens of thousands, but that "neglected swimming pools remain our number one concern."

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Sports C1-C3
SMC Baseball Storms into WCC Play



By Bryant West
 The Saint Mary's Gaels entered conference play last week on a win streak and kept it up with a series win over the USF Dons in San Francisco. The Gaels, winners of nine of their past 11 contests, ...read on page C2

Life in Lamorinda D1-C5
Fate Brings War Hero to Lafayette



By Cathy Tyson
 Through a very extraordinary collection of events, Lafayette's own Citizen of the Year, Karen Mulvaney, was inspired to reach out to Louis Zamperini – former Olympic athlete, Army Bombardier, survivor of a plane crash and forty-seven ...read on page D1

Our Homes F1-F8
2011 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour



By Sophie Braccini
 Alma Raymond wanted to see more Orinda homes featured on the annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, so she approached Tour organizer Kathy Kramer about her new front yard; Raymond's will be one of three new ... read on page D4