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business briefs



Sandra Ann Harris with some of her EcoLunchboxes
Photo provided

Grand Re-Opening of Orinda Theater on May 14th
Beau Behan, the General Manager of both the Orinda Theatre and the New Rheem Theatre, is working hard on a grand re-opening event at the Orinda Theater that will involve the whole community - Behan hopes to demonstrate that the California Independent Film Festival Association (which operates the New Rheem and recently assumed operation of the Orinda), is there to become an active part of the Orinda scene, contributing to its creativity and vitality. "Rich Little, 'The Man of a Thousand Voices,' is our special guest for the evening," says Behan, "We are now planning with the City of Orinda, the Chamber of Commerce and the Orinda Arts Council to include local artists in the celebration." For event details go to www.theorindatheatre.com.

ECOLunchboxes Goes Even Greener

Sandra Ann Harris, Lafayette mom and founder of the Lafayette-based sustainable lunchware company ECOLunchboxes, announced that the business she started three years ago is now a Certified Green Business with the Contra Costa County Green Business Program and has been accepted into Venture Greenhouse's accelerator program for sustainable businesses. "The Contra Costa County Green Business Program sets standards for sustainable business practices and ECOLunchboxes successfully demonstrated good environmental practices to win the certification," says Harris. The local business owner was also very excited to have been accepted into the Venture Greenhouse accelerator program. "Venture Greenhouse is run by the Green MBA Program at the Dominican University in San Rafael," she explained, "it seeks to leverage the success of small, sustainable businesses in the San Francisco Bay Area and support the growth and jobs-generation of these businesses." For more information, go to www.ecolunchboxes.com.

'Market Moraga' Becomes 'Student Deals'

Two months ago, Saint Mary's student Matt Lebel launched Market Moraga, with the support of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, a website and Facebook page dedicated to students wanting to get good deals in town. "We analyzed the performance of our 'Market Moraga' two-month pilot and rolled our conclusions into a new program that we feel will better connect St. Mary's students/faculty/staff with Moraga businesses," says Lebel, who is renaming the program 'Student Deals.'

Dana Green Team Announces Affiliation with Pacific Union International

(925) 339-1918, www.danagreenteam.com

"It always amazes me how life comes full circle," says Dana Green, "I started my real estate career with Pacific Union when they were independently owned. In 2009, Pacific Union was purchased by a local real estate entrepreneur, Mark McLaughlin, and again all 18 Greater Bay Area offices are privately held." The company has committed to opening a new Lafayette branch so Green will continue to work and live in her community. "I look forward to helping launch this office; along with my long-time manager, Ellen Anderson," she added.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

- Big Band Ballroom Dance on May 6 at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Lafayette, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Dance Lessons from 7-8pm are provided by Gail Enright. Live music by The Big Band of Rossmoor from 8-10pm. Tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased at the Chamber office or by calling 284-7404.
- Monthly Mixer On May 11, 5:30-7pm at Clocks, Etc.,

971 Moraga Road, celebrating Clocks Etc.'s 35th anniversary.
- 9th Annual "Taste of Lafayette," Tuesday, May 17, sponsored by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and the Lafayette Community Foundation. Taste of Lafayette is a tour of Lafayette's finest eateries that lets you sample the signature cuisine of each restaurant. Tickets will be available online on the Chamber web site at www.lafayettechamber.org

Moraga

5th Moraga Community Faire on Saturday, May 14th from 11am-5pm at the Rheem Shopping Center, sponsored by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce. There will be great bands (noise level lower than last year), food, wine, climbing wall, jumpies for the kids, and a classic car show. A total of 80 booths are scheduled to feature many of the Moraga retailers, organizations, sports groups, and artists. An added bonus: Saint Mary's basketball players will sign autographs for the young and old alike!

Orinda

After-hours mixer on Thursday, May 19, 2011, 5:30-7:30pm at Union Bank of California, 140 Brookwood, #101, Orinda.

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