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LAMORINDA

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Wednesday, June 8, 2011

SUMMER'S HERE!
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 Simply Music is a breakthrough program that has students of all ages playing great-sounding classical, blues, and contemporary songs from their very first lessons.
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From left, Campolindo students Emily Berglund, Brooke Manini, Aya Lakers, Courtney Norton, Aeron Brackenbury, Sherry Griest, Sara Torchio, Bailey Finegold, Becca Frazier Photo Doug Kohen

Another Year of Memories!

One sure sign that the end of the school year is near is the distribution of yearbooks. As students across Lamorinda eagerly line up for this year's edition, scrawling cheerful notes across the pages of a year's worth of memories, seniors prepare for the big event and everyone looks forward to a fun-filled summer. Congratulations to Lamorinda's graduates, whether you're done with grade school, high school or college; we wish you the best of luck as you take the next step!

Quote of the Week:
 "The Friends of the Orinda Library, a non-profit organization, is the owner of Orinda's wonderful library."
Read Letters to the Editor, page A9

Advertising

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Dollar Tree Opens For Business in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



Sally Cony, who works in Lafayette, came up from Alamo with her husband Keith to check out Moraga's new Dollar Tree. Photo Andy Schreck

Dollar Tree celebrated its soft opening in Moraga's Rheem Center last Sunday with coffee and donuts. The morning event attracted many people in addition to the Town officials who came out to greet the newest store in the prolific and successful retail chain. Most came out toting bags containing products sold for just \$1.00. The store's official grand opening will take place on June 18.

"Dollar Tree continues to grow and we are excited to be joining the community," according to spokesperson Chelle Davis. "Our store is conveniently located, open seven days a week, and provides the things customers want and need."

... continued on page A10

Banner Days Continue in Lafayette

By Cathy Dausman

They call to you wordlessly along Mt. Diablo Boulevard, urging you to visit the reservoir, support the arts, or touting our great schools. They may or may not be star-spangled, but the banners do proudly wave in downtown Lafayette, as they've been waiving since 1999. And will continue to wave, at least in the near future, despite the recent threat of budget cuts.

Lafayette City Council members voted 3 to 1 on May 23 to continue funding the program that City Manager Steven Falk calls, "a rotating public art program."

When a downtown beautification project in the mid 1990's moved Mt. Diablo Boulevard utility lines underground, the city brought in Battery Park-style streetlights with banner poles. When the poles were in place, the banners quickly followed.

While mass-produced, generic banners are readily available, Falk says Lafayette wanted its banners to be "custom-designed and unique." The banners, all twenty or thirty sets, are usually changed out monthly but the current design, "Land of the Free," aptly stays up through the Fourth of July.

Former Lafayette mayor and City Council member Anne Grodin was an early advocate for the banners. Also active in the city's Chamber of Commerce, Grodin saw banners used in other towns and felt this was a great project to bring to Lafayette. She felt the banners gave Lafayette more of a "hometown feel" and "encouraged people to shop locally."

Banners cost \$5,000 to design and \$5,000 to produce, and an additional \$35 in city time and labor to hang each double-sided set.

... continued on page A10

Sports B1-B4

Freshman Golfer is One to Watch



By Marissa Harnett
 Imagine watching a five year boy practice chip shots out of a bunker for five and a half hours while his sister plays in a golf tournament. Child prodigy or just bored? While the latter may contain ...read on page B1

Life in Lamorinda C1-C5

Can You Canoe? This Crew Can!



By Cathy Dausman
 "Welcome to the best kept secret in Lamorinda," says Ron Brown, as he opens the door to a wondrous workshop. The 20 by 45 foot bay (to call it a garage is to call the Fourth of July a "modest civic celebration") seems to hold every handheld and machine powered ... read on page C1

Our Homes D1-D8

The Cutting Edge of Water Use and Reuse



By Sophie Braccini
 When John and Gwenn Lennox decided to rebuild their home in Lafayette, they knew they wanted it to be energy efficient, to incorporate sustainable materials and have a drought resistant landscape -but they never imagined they would end up read on page D1