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## business briefs

College Counselor Jan Russell is Back

www.choicesacc.com

Jan Russell retired a few years ago as director of college counseling and teacher at The Athenian School in Danville. Loving the work she did for 23 years in the college admission planning and guidance profession, Jan decided to keep herself busy by beginning an independent consulting business in our community. Information about her professional background and educational philosophy can be found on her web site. Russell can be reached at (510) 701-5247.

New Development Next to Chef Chao

337 Rheem Boulevard, Moraga

Last summer, the Chao family, owner of the beloved Chinese restaurant in the Rheem Valley, purchased the retail space located directly next to their restaurant, where Mondello used to operate. They pondered what to do with it for a while, but the cat's now out of the bag as they applied to open a cafe and a beauty salon. No opening date has been set.

Val Cook-Watkins Earns President's Council Award

5 Moraga Way and 2 Theatre Square Ste. 211, Orinda

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage announced that Val Cook-Watkins, managing broker of the company's Orinda office, has earned the President's Council Award for her office's success in 2011. The designation is awarded to the most successful managing brokers from more than 750 national offices and is based on total profit, return on revenue and mortgage usage categories. A 40-year Bay Area real estate veteran, Cook-Watkins has managed the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Orinda office for more than 17 years and has received the coveted President's Council Award for the past 14. Under her leadership, the Orinda office was named a Coldwell Banker Premier Office for 13 consecutive years. Cook-Watkins has also received the Manager of the Year award and holds the distinguished Certified Residential Broker and the Certified Residential Specialist designations. The two Orinda downtown offices incorporate a team of 75 full-time real estate professionals

Two Realtors Ranked Highest in Top Sales

5 Moraga Way and 2 Theatre Square Ste. 211, Orinda

Also from the same Coldwell Banker Orinda office, two top-producing Lamorinda realtors have been ranked in the top one percent of top producing agents in Northern California for 2011 sales. Glenn Beaubelle (The Beaubelle Group) and Elena Hood (The Hood Team) from Orinda have outpaced more than 3,600 agents in Northern California. "The East Bay offices of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are filled with the best and brightest in local real estate," said Rick Turley, president of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. "To rise to the top of such a distinguished group of professionals is a tremendous accomplishment."

Alain Pinel Realtors Launches Newly Redesigned Website

apr.com

Alain Pinel Realtors (APR) has launched their newly redesigned website, apr.com, showcasing many new enhancements including expanded property search capabilities, as well as a modern and sophisticated look. The site's expanded property search offers refinement options such as school district search, most recent listings, and keyword search. Also featured are an open house search of all MLS-listed properties in the Bay Area, an international property search which offers the ability to find homes worldwide, and an agent/office search which helps consumers find the right agent and/or office for their needs. "Our new site puts an unprecedented amount of information and resources in the hands of the online consumer," said Stephen Skinner, APR Vice President of Technology.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

- Monthly Mixer at Lafayette Physical Therapy, Wednesday, April 11, 5:30 to 7 p.m., 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite #B110.

- Social Media Workshop Wednesday, April 18, 8 to 9:30 a.m., Lafayette Library & Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Create a Business Facebook Page! FREE to Chamber Members ~ \$15 for non-members RSVP:

workshops@lafayettechamber.org

- Ribbon Cutting for sewnow! fashion studio, Thursday, April 12, 5 p.m., (new location) 3534 Golden Gate Way.

- Ribbon Cutting for Mike Rose Auto Body, April 26, 5 to 5:30 p.m., 3430 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Moraga

Registration is opened for the 6th Annual Moraga Community Faire (scheduled for May 12). To register and reserve a

booth, go to the Chamber's web site: Moragachamber.com or contact Ellen Beans at ellen.beans@gmail.com. Still a few spots available on the colorful 96-inch banner that will hang on Moraga street light poles starting April 21. Download the flyer online at moragachamber.org or contact Jane Russell at JaneRussell57@aol.com. The car show also needs your antique car. Please contact Brad Noggle at (925) 631-7000.

#### Orinda

Orinda Chamber Networking Mixer, Tuesday, April 17, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Quarry House at Wilder. The evening will feature New Chamber Member Epicurean Exchange & Chef/Owner Charles Vollmar.

A graduate of the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco, he has been a practicing Chef Instructor, Culinary Educator and Event Planner for over 16 years. Join us as he demonstrates cooking seasonal dishes (with recipes to take home) and introduces you to his company and complete line of services. The Mixer will include a food and wine social - "Best of Spring" seasonal cooking demonstration, tasting buffet and beverages.

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