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Theater View Veterinary Clinic is a brand new facility owned by "Dr. Laurie" Langford who has been caring for animals in Orinda for 15 years.

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Community Service

Making All Things New

Submitted by Rev. Joshua Serrano



Holy Shepherd youth pray for those who will receive Beanie Babies.

Photo Joshua Serrano

Trying to repurpose collections once sold on eBay for up to \$1,000 like Beanie Babies – which and now fill boxes in attics and garage

shelves – might seem like an impossible task, but not for the youth of Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church in Orinda. The grade-school age children learned about a need at a clinic run by International Health Partners whose mission is to develop partnerships across the globe to improve healthcare in Tanzania. When children come to the clinic to receive care they are given a Beanie Baby to comfort them. When the Holy Shepherd Beanie Baby drive culminated, the children had collected 1,200 of these little stuffed animals and blessed the Beanie Babies on September 30. During Sunday school, the children played their hearts out with the Beanie Babies, boxed them up, and shipped them to Tanzania.

Father Runs Marathon in Son's Memory

Submitted by Jim Holt



Jim Holt smiles at the Half Moon Bay International Marathon

Photo Provided

The sign read "only 0.2 to go – Hail to the Queen." Moraga resident Jim Holt was nearing the end of his long journey and had been running for over five hours. On September 23, at age 56, Holt was almost

finished with his first marathon. "I started training for the Half Moon Bay International Marathon 10 months ago," he said. "Last November I decided to create a challenge for myself to honor my son Ryan. Ryan was killed in a motorcycle accident here in Moraga in 2007."

Holt has been running on and off since high school but most of the runs were just three to four miles. A marathon had always been an endeavor he wanted to accomplish but he never had a good reason to run one. "Now I had found my reason," he said. "I chose Half Moon Bay because of the location, cool weather and a relatively flat terrain. These are all important factors to consider when setting out to run 26.2 miles."

While training Holt found he had many hours to simply think. "I decided to make the run a personal fund raising event for the Contra Costa Crisis Center.

The Crisis Center is a non-profit

organization that provides free services to the county including 24/7 crisis lines, 211 and grief counseling," he said. "For a couple years I was in a grief support group for parents who had lost a child. The loss of a child changes how you view life and what you choose to do with your future."

Recently, Holt became a volunteer grief counselor with the Crisis Center.

Holt, along with his oldest son Kyle, created a website (www.marathon4ryan.com) that explains why he ran the marathon, shows pictures of Ryan, the family and provides a link to donate to the Crisis Center. The two have raised over \$5,400 in donations.

"Running that last 0.2 mile and crossing the finish line was a very emotional experience," Holt said. "It marked the culmination of many months of hard work and reflection on the loss of Ryan. This marathon is a memory I'll cherish the rest of my life."

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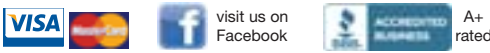
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Birthday Bash for Junior Giants

Submitted by Kelly Wood



Photo Provided

Lafayette Elementary School Luke Souza, Luke Pearson, third-graders Jack Wood, Matthew Muren, Dylan Mandell,

Ryan Mandell, Warren Cooper, and Will Berrien celebrated their fall birthdays with 20 of their friends Sunday, October 14 with a fundraiser for the Junior Giants, a program of the Giants Community Fund that brings baseball to 20,000 at-risk children in California, Nevada and Oregon. They were able to raise \$1,001, enough to sponsor two Junior Giants teams, all while having a great day of baseball at Buckeye Field. The boys plan to deliver the check to the Junior Giants and take a tour of AT&T park.

Girl Scouts Create Solar Cookers

Submitted by Haley Seyranian



From left: Haley Seyranian, Mary Noal, Maddy Weinberg, Jenna Shafer

Photo provided

Four members of Moraga Girl Scout Troop 33206 recently completed a 50-hour service project, earning the Silver Award, the second highest award a Girl Scout can earn. They made five complete solar ovens that will help families in Afghanistan cook their food without the use of wood, which is expensive and produces smoke that can harm their health and the environment. The Solar Cookers can heat up to 350° F and can cook just about anything that can be made in a gas or electric oven. With the help of Trust in Education, a Lafayette-based organization, the cookers will be shipped and distributed to families in need.

The Haunting of Theatre Square

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The construction crew included members of the Glorietta Dads' Club. Local artists such as Allison McCrady, Al Eames, Rob Becker, and Mer Hemming donated their time to decorate the interior.

Inside the house, volunteers from the Educational Foundation of Orinda and the Miramonte Drama Club, among others, will make the house come alive. "We will let in groups of kids of about the same age and will tailor the 'scariness' to the age group," says Karp.

The haunted house tour is free and fearless visitors who bring a can of food for the Contra Costa Food Bank will receive a 10 percent discount at participating Theatre Square business, according to Sophina Gallon of Theatre

Square manager Cushman and Wakefield.

The Orinda Haunted House, recommended for kids ages 5-13, is open from 5 to 9 p.m. (10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday) October 24 to October 30.

Haunted House at the Rheem

Seeking more screams? Don't miss the Dark Dreams Haunted House at the New Rheem Theatre from 7 to 11 p.m. October 26, 27, 28 and on Halloween, October 31. Tickets are \$9 at the door. This is a fundraiser for the California Independent Film Festival.

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