

Llamas in Llamorinda

By Cathy Dausman



One local llama gets up close, and personal. Photos Cathy Dausman

Area residents may be accustomed to seeing turkey, deer, quail, coyote, fox and the occasional skunk, but who knew there were llamas in Lamorinda? Arlene, the "Llama Mama," does – she keeps two on a parcel of land snuggled up against a west-facing hillside.

Llama Mama acquired the pair in 1997 from a Hayward widower who sought foster families to care for the small herd his wife once kept. To protect the animals' safety, Arlene asked that Lamorinda Weekly not use her last name.

"Last summer a group of young boys came and I caught them throwing stones at the llamas' heads. I scared them off but it could have been awful if a stone had hit one of their beautiful big eyes," she said in an email. The llama pair, Tahoe and Tonapa (or Tony) are half-brothers who seek shade in the barn when it gets too hot.

Tony is a bit more social around humans, but thanks to their keen eyesight, both are "very nosy and very alert," Arlene said. She advises to wait for the llamas to approach, rather than approach them. "[Llamas] are gentle souls and have a wonderfully soothing presence about them." They are very curious, she added, and will often gently exhale on your face.

Arlene said her pair escaped once, running "across the lane and

up the hill in the opposite pasture, but [they] came back on their own at dusk." She also said they respond favorably to music. "They come when I call 'la-la-la-llama' and they love it when I sing "Danny Boy" to them."

When nervous or upset, the llamas make a humming sound, and when feeling threatened, she said they stand head to tail, side by side, evoking an image of the fictitious Dr. Doolittle-inspired two-headed llama.

"Llamas are camelids (two-toed, cud-chewing mammals)," explained veterinarian Jamie Peyton. They have slender necks and long legs, and adult males weigh over 400 pounds. Both llama and alpaca are domesticated South American pack animals, whose thick coats are used to make rugs or clothing. Nearly 260,000 llama and alpaca were imported to North America by the 1990s; millions more live in the Andes mountain countries today.

Peyton keeps both llamas and alpacas on her Sacramento Valley area ranch. She said both llama and alpaca are very social animals, and unlike sheep, will care for each other's offspring. "They are good 'Aunties,'" Peyton said. She also said llamas are careful guardians, and will 'sing' to alert the pack if they detect the presence of predators, including coyotes.

If they break into a chorus of "Danny Boy" you'll know its Tahoe and Tony!



Huge Catch at the Res

Submitted by Jeanette Irving



Sarah Neasmith with her catch of the day. Photo provided

Del Rey Elementary School second grader Sarah Neasmith recently caught a 15-inch bass at Roughing It summer camp at

Lafayette Reservoir. The counselors said it was the largest fish caught at camp in five years. Sarah was thrilled and her family ate the fish for dinner.

Life in LAMORINDA



Land Home's Funding it ForwardSM Loan Program.

Land Home is offering a \$250 donation to any non-profit organization of your choice when you purchase or refinance your home with our Funding it Forward program.



For More Information Contact Land Home Today
2 Theatre Square, Suite 146, Orinda, CA 94563
Phone: 925-885-6760 • Fax: 925-386-0546

NMLS #1058022 • CA-DBO #6054704 • CA-BRE #00988341

Upon satisfying the following terms and conditions, Land Home Financial Services ("Land Home") will proudly make a \$250 donation to any non-profit organization of your choice. First, you must provide your Land Home Loan Officer with this fully completed, single-use form within ten calendar (10) days after the closing of a new, qualified mortgage loan in your name(s). To so qualify, the new loan must have been originated by Land Home and be secured by a first lien on an owner-occupied, one-to-four unit family dwelling. Only one form may be used per loan transaction, and it is not transferable or usable in conjunction with any special-priced loan program. This form does not constitute a commitment to make a loan or waive any term or condition of the new loan, and Land Home reserves the right to withdraw this program at any time without notice. Applies to Land Home Orinda Branch loan/transactions only. Equal Housing Opportunity Lender. *Rates and programs subject to change. Not a commitment to lend. Restrictions may apply. Land Home Financial Services 2 Theatre Square, Suite 146, Orinda, CA 94563. NMLS #1058022. Licensed by the Department of Business Oversight under the California Finance Lenders law - #6054704, Department of Business Oversight - 916-324-6624, California - Bureau of Real Estate Branch Office License Endorsement #00988341, Date 7-31-13



ST. MARK'S NURSERY SCHOOL

est. 1962

Loving, experienced teachers in a traditional preschool setting.

NOW ENROLLING FOR THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR

451 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563. Phone: 925.254.1984. www.stmarksnurseryschool.org
License #070200759

Saturday, September 21st 10-7 PM Sunday, September 22nd 10-6 PM
Downtown Lafayette



18th Annual Lafayette



- FREE**
- Admission
 - Parking at BART
 - Shuttle to event
 - Bike Valet Parking

4 LIVE STAGES -- 2 FULL DAYS

- ZEBOP • THE SUN KINGS • AJA VU • EAST BAY MUDD
- BOB ATHAYDE & FRIENDS • THE SPAZMATICS • OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY
- THE VOLTONES • ANNIE SAMPSON • SPIN OUT • COVER 2 COVER
- RED HOUSE ALLSTARS • JUICE • PETTY THEFT • FLEETWOOD MASK
- MERSEY BEACH • SAVANNAH BLUE • CHUBBY'S ALLSTARS • DOMINANT 7



www.lafayettefestival.com

www.facebook.com/lafayettefestival @friendly chamber #LafFest