

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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The 21st Annual Reservoir Run
Sunday, October 27, 2013
8:00am Downtown Lafayette
 2 Mile Run/Walk (8:00am) • 5K (8:30am) • 10K (8:45am)
Online Registration at
www.lafayettechamber.org



Dave Parker pulls open the netting that has been protecting his ripening grapes from birds as the sun rises on harvest day at Parkmon Vineyards. Photo Andy Schreck

Early Harvest on Lamorinda Hills

By Cathy Dausman

The early morning sunshine splashed along the hillside and the enticing scent of ripe grapes made the awkward slope-side climb a bit easier. It was 7 a.m., first light, and already Parkmon Vineyards owner Dave Parker was outside, pulling back nets to prepare for the harvest.

"This is a pretty busy time of year," Parker said, explaining

that weather wise, this could be one of the best harvests in their 10 years as vintners. "It was an even, uniform growing season" – never too hot. They expect fruit exceptional in quality and quantity, but said "it's going to be a race between the birds and yellow jackets."

Yellow jackets like the sun-ripened fruit as much as humans

do, and they're not shy about burrowing into a ripe grape.

Those who dare disturb the clusters they light on may feel them burrowing into fingers, so pickers, beware. Gathering the harvest is "hot and sticky work," Parker said; he was stung at least once while working the slopes.

... continued on page A12

Advertising

Quote of the Week:

"We're going to need professional help." Read Fire News Briefs -- Lafayette Emergency Services Task Force, page A9.



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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Town News	A2 - A12
Life in Lamorinda	B1 - B12
Classified	B8
Food	B9
Service Directory	B9
Not to be Missed	B10-B11
Business	B12
Sports	C1 - C3
HOW TO CONTACT US	C3
Shop Moraga	C4
Our Homes	D1 -D16

This Week Read About:

Testing the Waters	A2
Regulations Revisited	A4
Preventing Car Theft	A7
Transition to High School	B1
Maynard Coming to LLLC	B2
Funding Common Core	B3
Adobe Celebration	B6
Elf Trapping	B7
Lamorinda Open Studios	B12
Water Polo Heats Up	C2

Moraga School District Pins its Hopes on Measure B

By Sophie Braccini



Bruce Burns calls this ballot measure the most significant event of his career as superintendent of the Moraga School District. Measure B on the November ballot must succeed, according to Burns, because failure would mean the end of Mor-

aga schools as we know them. Burns makes this dramatic statement because a previous parcel tax for the schools failed a year and a half ago and if the district does not get additional funding it will face a \$900,000 deficit for the 2014-15

school year, an unacceptable fate that will instead translate into cuts that could affect everything from class size to libraries, technology and extra-curricular activities.

A team of volunteers, led by school board member Kathy Ranstrom and parent Nancy Kendzierski, are drumming up support for the needed two-thirds majority vote on the measure.

"We worked with a polling company, True North, and listened to feedback from the community to understand the reason the previous measure failed," says Burns. "We learned that the last measure's no-sunset clause was not supported, so this time we are proposing a temporary measure (six years), and we are also asking a little bit less; that too is in response to feedback from the commu-

nity." Measure B asks for a tax of \$192 per parcel that will provide the school district with a little more than \$1 million a year. The tax will allow the district to stop deficit spending. This year the board will spend \$110,000 of its \$2 million reserve in order to maintain services at the current level.

The school district says having funding sources that are independent of the state is absolutely necessary. For five years now, state resources have diminished and even the recent passage of a statewide tax for California schools will not allow Moraga to recover for several years. "Voters passed the governor's initiative that is aimed at giving school districts as much money as they received in 2007-08," explains Ranstrom.

... continued on page A11

Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

"A Winter's Tale"

Lou Fancher reviews Cal Shakes' final offering of the 2013 season - page B4.



Sports C1-C3

Football Rivalries

Campolindo defeated Acalanes and Miramonte; the Mats host the Dons Oct. 11. Michael Sakoda reports - page C1.



Our Homes D1-D16

Let's Eat!

Chris Lavin visits some of Lamorinda's edible gardens - page D1.

