www.lamorindaweekly.com

Providing Insurance and Financial Services

It's no accident more people trust State Farm.



Mike Rosa, Agent Insurance Lic. #: 0F45583 1042 Country Club Drive, Moraga 925-376-2244

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE.

Zippity Do It!

By Cathy Dausman



From left, Riley Breul and Cooper Davis, who decorated their faces rather than their Rube Goldberg Machine Contest entry.

Photos Cathy Dausman

student groups recently had fun not getting to the point. Rube Goldberg Machines are never designed to be quick. Students sported T-shirts proclaiming "I don't do simple" and invented machines, using an assortment of items – bells, magnets, pulleys, marbles, xylophones, smart phones, gears, and recycled materials – to complete a simple task. Whether or not each machine worked perfectly, the groups all managed to hit their audience (200 family members and friends) squarely on the funny bone.

Contest was named in honor of a San project to reflect a theme, unless you Francisco-born Pulitzer Prize winning were Riley Breul and Cooper Davis. cartoonist, sculptor, engineer and au- Those students taped zipper goatees thor. As a cartoonist, Goldberg dreamed up complex, comical "inventions" to solve simple problems. The contest is now 60 years old, and allows a new generation of students amazing year for the Rube Goldberg from middle school through college to appreciate Goldberg's ingenuity.

Sixth grade science teacher Mike Meneghetti introduced the contest to Stanley 14 years ago. It ran annually for three years before becoming an every-other-year event, with 2014 marking their ninth contest.

Tasks in past years included popping a balloon, assembling a hamburger, raising a flag, and peeling an apple. This year's contestants had two attempts to zip up a zipper, using at Maiden and Jeremy Hathaway). least 11 steps.

Meneghetti said the competition at- contest was over, the laughter lintracted "problem solvers who like to gered. As one team's project headline build stuff." As a teacher, he con-

ourteen Stanley Middle School but didn't help them build their machines. The students were bound to

Parent Stri Zulch said her daughter's team (Nicki Zulch, with Lizzy Follmer, Shannon McVay, Sammy Martin and Cailey McVay) learned to use power tools while "the project lived in my house for two months." Students were judged by a panel of four; two adults, and two high school students who competed when they attended Stanley. Lengthy run times and a "hands off" execution (no nudging from contestants) earned high The Rube Goldberg Machine scores. Entrants also decorated their to their chins. "We didn't want to design our project," Davis explained, "so we designed ourselves."

Meneghetti said 2014 was an contest, and he was really pleased with the number of contestants who stuck with the process, start to finish. After weeks of hard work, it was over in a matter of seconds. Winners included: Group 1(Vasya Tremsin and David Ji); Group 2 (Sophia Browne and Lynn Wolfe); and Group 7 (Bianca Chao and Emily Sverak). Honorable mention for their contraption "Zipping through Time" went to Group 13 (Jeremy Ridge, Christophe

The disassembly took mere min-Participation was optional, but utes, and although the Rube Goldberg so aptly put it: "Zip, zip hooray!"



From left, parent judges David Osborn and Dave Bricetti evaluate Bianca Chao and Emily Sverak's entry, one of three winners.



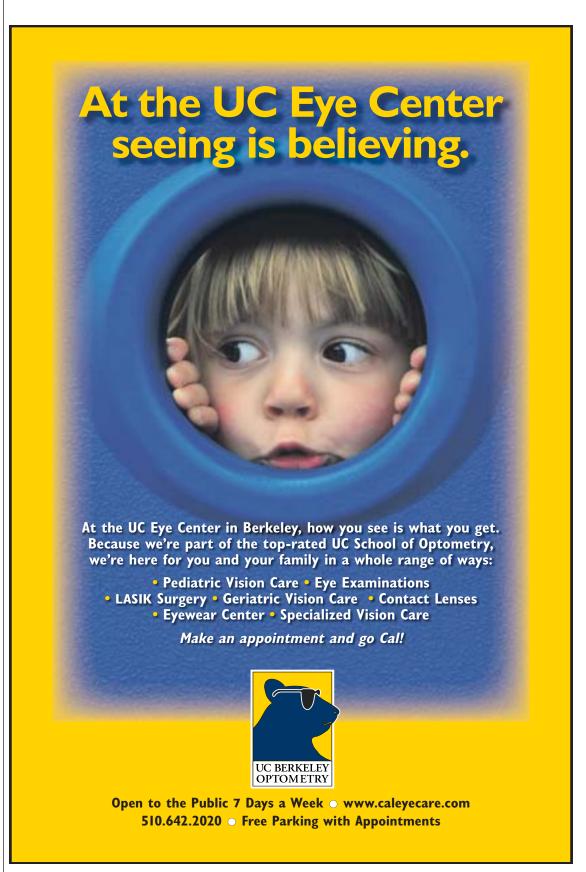
Elegant and Relaxing Environment Personalized Professional Nail Care



960 Moraga Road, Lafayette (925) 284-7700

www.bollingernailsalon.com

Voted #1 Nail Salon in East Bay by **Diablo Magazine**.



Reach 60,000+ in Lamorinda Advertise in

I appreciate the work you do on covering our local Lamorinda news. The Lamorinda

Lamorinda Weekly Call 925-377-0977 today