

Not to be missed

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OTHER ... continued

2014 Firefighter Career Expos are being held at the DFFJAC Firefighter Candidate Testing Centers next month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays: Sept. 6 at FCTC Sacramento, 2560 River Plaza Drive, Sacramento; and Sept. 20 at FCTC Livermore, 526 Commerce Way, Livermore. Meet fire department recruiters, try the Candidate Physical Ability Test, find out what to expect on the written test and learn more about a career in the fire service. For more info and to RSVP, visit www.cffjac.org or call (916) 648-1717.

A second annual Sustainability Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6 at the demonstration garden at N. Wiget Lane and Shadelands Drive in Walnut Creek. This free community event is designed to share information about how we can all do our part to help the environment. Partnering with Sustainable Contra Costa, there will be presentations, informal demonstrations and many vendors from the area. Learn about smart watering, composting, losing your lawn, beekeeping, growing vegetables and much more.

The American Red Cross and the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church will partner for a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6. The drive comes at a time when the Red Cross has a great need for donors to help prevent a blood shortage. While walk-ins are welcome, donors may save time with an appointment. Visit redcrossblood.org and insert sponsor code Moraga925.

Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center will feature a Fresh Farmers' Cheese Making Workshop from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7. Learn how to make delicious fresh goats' milk cheese, and sample a few different flavors. You can also learn the basics of water bath canning for high-acid foods at All In a Jar - Canning Basics with Penny Porter from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Sept. 21. Register for classes at www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org.

Campolindo Girls' Lacrosse is hosting an open field on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 7 p.m. beginning

this week until winter break. Girls from all high schools in the area are welcome to attend and should meet on the upper field. For more information please contact Jessica Hoffschneider at jessicahoff@gmail.com.

Join 5A and neighbor businesses in a "Shred Fest" to support Moraga Lion's Club from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13 at 489 Moraga Rd. All donations welcome. \$5/per bankers box. Call (925) 631-7000 for more details.

Toast to Moraga - 40th Anniversary Celebration from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27 at the Moraga Commons Park. Pre-registration required; deadline is Sept. 12. Join the community for a picnic-style (bring your own), dinner in the park to celebrate the Town of Moraga's 40th anniversary of incorporation. Celebrate by sharing a meal with friends, family and neighbors. Reserve your table early; each 6-foot table comes with six chairs and a bottle of sparkling juice for \$35. (You can reserve as many tables as you like). Register Online or download the application form. For more info and to register, visit <http://www.moraga.ca.us/BookingRetrieve.aspx?ID=224022>.

Orinda's Classic Car Show from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept 13 will feature everything from eye-popping engine designs to sleek, classics from the 1920s. For more info, visit www.orindacarshow.com. (See story page B7)

SENIORS

Positive Living Forum ("Happiness Club"), moderated by Dr. Bob Nozik, MD, professor emeritus UCSF from 10:30 a.m. to noon on the second Thursday monthly at the Lafayette Community Center. Brighten your day and take part in this interactive gathering which features speakers on a wide range of topics that guide participants toward a more ideal and positive life experience. Drop-ins welcome. Elderberry Room (Sept. 11). Fee per class: free for Senior Services members; \$5 non-members.

Arthritis: Physical Therapy Presentation with Anne Randolph, RPT, who has been practicing physical ther-

apy for 35 years, providing outpatient therapy in Lafayette and specializing in the care of those 55 and over. Understand the challenges and changes arthritis brings on and find practical solutions to make daily activities easier from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29 in the Sequoia Room, Lafayette Community Center. Free for Senior Services members; \$5 non-members.

If you are drawn to the waters, one of the SIR activities is a group of hardy and energetic sport fishermen. The Fishing Group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord. The meeting starts at 8:30 a.m. but many arrive early to have some breakfast and talk about latest fishing exploits. Come early and introduce yourself.

Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 meets the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School St. Moraga. Social hour 11 a.m.; lunch noon. The after lunch speaker on Sept. 3 will be Clive Worsley, artistic director of learning at California Shakespeare Theater (Cal Shakes). Worsley will speak about the Artistic Learning Program which brings the arts and theater to more than 5,000 youths in the Bay Area aimed at educating youths and developing talent in theater and the arts. For membership information, call Larry at (925) 631-9528.

Sons In Retirement Las Trampas Branch 116 luncheon meeting at Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Dr. will feature speaker Bill Andrew, manager, Marine Transportation, Chevron Shipping LLC at 11:30 a.m. Monday, Sept. 15. He will discuss a history of Somali piracy and tactics, and maritime and military response and current piracy threats. For reservations, call (925) 322-1160 by Wednesday, Sept. 10. Lunch is \$15. For info about SIR activities for retired men, please visit www.Branch116.org.

GARDEN

The Walnut Creek Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting at 9 a.m. Monday, Sept. 8 at the Garden at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks

Road, Walnut Creek. It will include the business meeting, social time, and the program featuring Carolyn Russell, floral designer at Orchard Nursery who will share her expertise of flower arranging. You do not need to be a gardener to join the WCGC. For info, contact mslittle44@gmail.com.

Lafayette Garden Club, Thursday, Sept. 11 meeting and program: "Urban Farmgirls," a SF garden design firm will present a special program on vertical gardening and succulent wreaths. "Urban Farmgirls" is a creative, full-service gardening company that specializes in earth-friendly alternative garden solutions.

Guests welcome! Coffee starts at 9:30 a.m.; followed by the meeting from 10 a.m. to noon at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. For info, email cpoetzsch@gmail.com.

Montelindo Garden Club Meeting (third Friday, September thru May) will be at 9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 19 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Visitors welcome. Topic: "Roots Demystified, Change Your Garden Habits to Help Roots Thrive" with speaker Robert Kourik. For info, visit www.robertkourik.com or www.montelindogarden.com.

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE GUILD

WILL CELEBRATE ITS 75th DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY ON SEPTEMBER 13TH, SATURDAY.

IT WILL BEGIN WITH MASS IN THE CHAPEL AT 5:30 P.M. FOLLOWED BY COCKTAILS AND HORS D' OEUVRES ON THE PATIO OF THE SODA CENTER. DINNER WILL BE SERVED IN THE MORAGA ROOM.

TICKETS ARE \$75 PER PERSON. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT CYNDIE HARRISON AT 925-820-8002



Service Clubs Announcements



Explore Lamorinda Rotary clubs The heart of Rotary is our clubs- dedicated people who share a passion for both community service and friendship. Learn about Lamorinda's Rotary clubs.



A global volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

Please join us at our new location **THE LAFAYETTE PARK HOTEL** on Friday mornings at 7am. For more info, please email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

August 29:
Lamorinda Sunrise member, Jack Peers will 'Expose Himself'!

September 5:
Our speaker is CJ Coolidge, author of The People - Driven Business: 4 New Rules to Increase Profits and Create Sustainable Competitive Advantage

Please join us for breakfast and a great speaker!

SOROPTIMIST OF 24/680



"Improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment"

Please join us for our next meeting:

WHEN: Wednesday 9/3/14
Social 5:30-6:00 p.m.
Meeting 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Buttercup Grill
660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek.

January Speaker:
Sister Caritas Foster - "Modern Day Slavery/Trafficking"

For more information, contact:
Regina Englehart @925-876-9076
or go to: soroptimist24-680.org

'When the Game Stands Tall'

By Derek Zemrak



Image provided

Hollywood loves to produce sports themed movies and over the years they have scored on "Hoosiers," "Rudy," "The Blind Side," and "Remember the Titans." But Hollywood has also disappointed viewers several times with films like "Gridiron Gang," "Johnny Be Good" and "Summer Catch." If you missed these titles you did not waste two hours of your life. If you did see them, sorry, you wasted two hours of your life.

Now Hollywood has produced the film "When the Game Stands Tall," from the book of the same title by former Contra Costa Times sports writer Neil Hayes, based on one of the greatest sports records in history - De La Salle's historic 151-game winning streak that spanned more than a 12-year period. Yes, the Bay Area's De La Salle High School is a Roman Catholic boys' school in Concord. Over a 12-year period and a national record there should be a solid dramatic movie in there somewhere. The story focuses on head coach Bob Ladouceur (portrayed by Jim Caviezel, "The Pas-

sion of Christ," "The Thin Red Line") and his coaching style as he builds a family among the players. "It's not about the sports; it's about growing up, forgiveness, commitment and brotherhood." The movie also addresses Ladouceur's family life - especially his relationship with his wife Bev, played by Oscar nominee Laura Dern ("Rambling Rose"), and his son Danny (Matthew Daddario). This all seems like enough material for a miniseries, not a two-hour movie. Whenever Hollywood purchases the movies rights of a real life story, they retain creative control and also have the liberty to embellish. Anyone who followed the remarkable winning streak of De La Salle or just casually read about the team in the newspaper will know the producers and writers exercised their creative license.

The three major storylines are based on factual events: the 151-game winning streak; player Terrence Kelly's murder in Richmond; and ending the streak to Bellevue, Wash., 39-20 in 2004. Even these three major storylines have had creative license added to them. The rest of the film shows Hollywood at its best - adding drama to what they feel makes a better movie. I question that. Most of the players in the film are fictional characters, such as star running back Chris Ryan, and his relationship with his overly obsessed father is all added drama. If you are looking for a factual movie, you may want to look elsewhere.

One thing I found interesting about the movie was that the film starts with De La Salle losing and Coach Ladouceur rebuilding the winning spirit of his football family. Seeing the local high school team with their actual team jerseys was an added treat.

"When the Game Stands Tall" is rated PG-13 with a TRT (Total Running Time) of 1 hour and 55 minutes. "When the Game Stands Tall" is now playing at the Orinda Theatre and to tie in with the national release of the movie, Orinda Theatre is offering discounted \$7 movie tickets on Thursday, Aug. 28 to any students who are dressed in attire showing their own school pride.

Listen to Derek every Saturday morning at 8 a.m. on Real to Reel, 1450AM KEST.

MOVIE REVIEW