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Burton Valley Elementary School fifth-graders are intent on helping to bring back declining numbers of monarch butterflies by planting milkweed seedlings and distributing them throughout Lamorinda. From left: Joel Clarke, Rhett Skvarna, Tommy Hillman, Mason Archer, Logan Ketcham, Jonathan Clarke, Chloe Burrows and Jenna Barton. Kim Curiel is the garden coordinator and Laura Lowell teaches science. Photo Chris Lavin

Planting the Seeds of Hope

Fifth-graders dig in to bring back monarch butterflies

By Chris Lavin

It's more like a memory of past springs and summers, rather than a ubiquitous current image: Children running through fields or playgrounds, a butterfly net aloft, in pursuit of their objects of fascination. Captured, examined, gently released. The trouble is, it's not happening much now. Because there just aren't that many butterflies.

Monarch butterfly populations here are in especially serious trouble. The insect-devoted Xerces Society has them down by 50 percent, which is better than on the other side of the Rocky Mountains, where populations are down 90 percent. Yet there is hope, and it starts with every last fifth grader in the garden of Burton Valley Elementary School in Lafayette holding a milkweed seed in one hand

and poking a hole in the dirt with the other.

"We're focusing almost everything on milkweed," said master gardener Kim Curiel. They're growing flowering nectar plants, too, but those aren't quite as important because monarchs feed many flowers. "The monarchs are going to die out altogether unless they have milkweed."

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Lamorinda School Bus Program Celebrates 20 Years

By Cathy Tyson



Bus line at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School

Photo Cathy Tyson

About two decades ago a group of plucky parents knew there had to be a better way to get their kids to school. In one of the very rare collaborations in our tri-town area, some parents, the towns and the school districts worked diligently to create something from nothing. Together they were the first in the county to advocate for using Lamorinda's share of Measure C, then Measure J funds – a voter approved half-cent sales tax in Contra Costa County – for reducing car trips to local schools on school buses. While other municipalities preferred to use the money on freeway widening or other construction related projects, the effort here focused

on using those funds to cover roughly two-thirds of the cost of providing bus service for Lamorinda students. Parents pay the remaining third.

Now there is a fleet of 21 buses that serve Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, saving 660,420 vehicle trips during the school year, transporting over 1,200 students to school every day, for the bargain basement rate to parents of \$1.27 per ride. This year the Lamorinda School Bus Program is celebrating 20 years of congestion relief.

While it's not uncommon to hear complaints about traffic, those big yellow buses hold up to 71 elementary students. Imagine the increased volume

of cars at peak times if each of those 71 kids in a single bus was chauffeured individually to school by a parent or guardian? Bigger kids obviously take up more space, says Juliet Hansen, the program manager who has been running the bus program since the beginning. She estimates 50 to 60 middle school kids can fit in a large bus.

It's a bus bonanza at Orinda Intermediate School every day, probably due to the long commute for families who live in a number of neighborhoods north of the freeway from OIS, which is at the south end of town.

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Lafayette

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, May 26, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, June 1, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Tuesday, May 26, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, June 3, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Tuesday, June 23, 4 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
District Office Board Room
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
Phone: (925) 284-1968

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org

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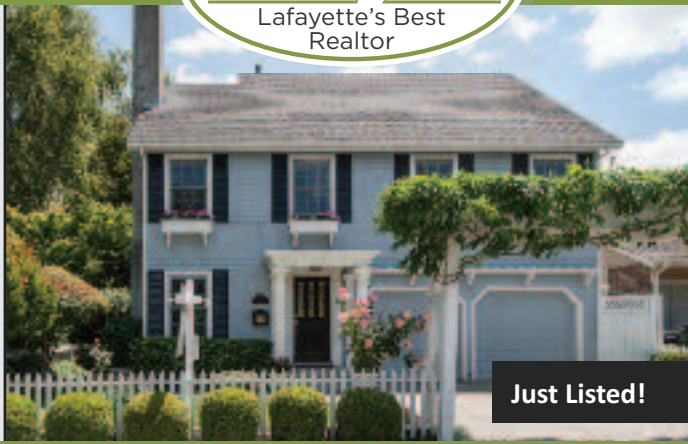


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City Doubles Down on Pathway Enhancements Near Schools

By Cathy Tyson



Cars queue up along Happy Valley Road

Photo Cathy Tyson

It was a sidewalk doubleheader for city engineer Matt Luttrupp at a recent public information meeting: He first discussed upcoming im-

provements to a walkway on Happy Valley Road for school kids, then moved on to the Quandt Road pathway, which serves students at Springhill Elementary.

Both projects will bring new walkways, handicap ramps, curbs, gutters, and pedestrian crosswalk push buttons and striping on the city's right-of-way, which typically extends 10 feet or more beyond the curb or edge of the pavement. The combined \$275,000 worth of improvements will be partially funded by Transportation Development Act grants for sidewalk safety and school access. While keeping kids safe and leveraging city funds are good things, traffic delays associated with the projects are inevitable as these two-lane roads morph into one-lane roads with the help of orange cones and flaggers directing traffic.

The Happy Valley Road work is especially tricky, since that street is more of an arterial to the neighborhood. A new 350-foot walkway separated from the roadway will be constructed along the north side of Happy Valley

Road from Panorama Drive to Redwood Lane, which is basically right across the street from the elementary school, and is usually full of parked cars. In addition, construction should tentatively begin in September, to be completed in mid-November when school is in session.

Energetic principal at Happy Valley, Shayna Peeff, voiced her concern that the start time for construction crews – originally slated for 8:30 a.m. – is the same time that classes begin. Luttrupp had no problem bumping the construction start time to 9 a.m. every weekday, well past the school's dismissal time. She, along with teachers, have made an effort to improve congestion at peak times to accommodate twice the volume of cars on school property to ease backups on Happy Valley Road. A rolling dismissal time to alleviate the afternoon crunch has recently been instituted; students have an almost 20 minute window of supervision when parents or guardians can pick up their kids.

The timing of both projects is not fantastic, but due to the restrictions of the grant funds, work must be completed by next summer. One resident suggested perhaps contractors could work during the Christmas season. Luttrupp explained that weather is a concern, bids may come in higher than anticipated, and the construction might take longer than anticipated, lengthening the inconvenience for all.

Senior engineer Farzaneh Sanders will be in charge during the construction phase this fall and will post weekly updates on the city website on Fridays during the project's duration about the work scheduled for the following week. Residents have been advised that shrubs and trees "in conflict" with the pathway alignment will be removed; they have also been asked to let the city know if there is irrigation, lighting or drain lines within the public right-of-way to see about preservation, if possible.

Luttrupp describes the residents at the Quandt Road meeting as "enthusiastic" and "happy." Improvements there will run about 450 feet from Pleasant Hill Road to Quandt Court. The westbound travel lane on Quandt Road will remain 10 feet wide, but the shoulder will be reduced to four feet. "Usually neighbors are excited to see the improvements," said Luttrupp. "It's nice to give people something they've been wanting for a long while." While the bearded Luttrupp has an official title of senior engineer, maybe it should be civic Santa?



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report April 26 to May 9

- Alarms** 57
- Animal Control**
100 block Lafayette Cr
- 911 calls (incl. hang-ups)** 8
- Battery**
Lafayette Park Hotel
1000 block 2nd St
Safeway
- Brandishing a Weapon**
St Francis Dr/Dahlia Ct
- Burglary, Auto**
Bentley School
1300 block San Reliez Ct
3500 block School St
900 block Mt View Dr
Safeway
Oakwood Athletic Club (2)
3000 block Camino Diablo
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl (2)
3500 block Golden Gate Wy
Postino
30 block Lafayette Cr
- Burglary, Residential**
3500 block Boyer Cr
600 block Glenside Dr
3200 block Sweet Dr
- Disturbing the Peace**
Burton Valley Elementary
- Drunk in Public**
RoundUp
- Police/Fire/EMS Response**
3400 block Monroe Av
Pleasant Hill Rd/Olympic Bl
1000 block Laurel Dr
El Nido Ranch/Sunnyhill Rds
- DUI**
Deer Hill/Pleasant Hill Rds
- Found Adult**
3400 block Mt Diablo Bl
- Forgery**
1000 block Timothy Ln
- Harassment**
4000 block Tilden Ln
800 block Birdhaven (phone)
3400 block Mt Diablo Bl
3500 block Wilkinson Ln
El Nido Ranch/Acalanes Rds
- Hit & Run**
Mt Diablo Bl/1st St
Reported to police dept
3500 block O'Connor Dr
3600 block Mt Diablo Bl
900 block Moraga Rd
- ID Theft**
80 block Bacon Ct (3)
3700 block Highland Rd
600 block Sky Hy Cr
4000 block Woodside Ct
3500 block Springhill Rd
- Loud Music**
Library (2)
- Missing Adult**
3100 block Sweetbrier Cr
- Neighbor Dispute**
800 block Birdhaven Ct

- Panhandling**
McDonalds
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl
- Petty Theft**
1100 block Garden Ln
200 block Lafayette Cr
1200 block Barrot Rd
600 block Los Palos Dr
3500 block Springhill Rd
900 block Paulson Ct
3400 block Golden Gate Wy (from vehicle)
Safeway (in custody) (2)
30 block Lafayette Cr
BART Lafayette
10 block Ruth Ct
- Public Nuisance**
Florence Dr/Betty Ln
3100 block Stanley Bl
3400 block Golden Gate Wy
3500 block Brook St
Post Office
- Promiscuous Shooting**
700 block Solana Dr
800 block Mt View Dr
West Terrace/Sweet Dr
Los Palos/Via Los Colorados
- Reckless Driving**
Pleasant Hill Rd/Olympic Bl (3)
Hwy 24/Oak Hill Rd
Moraga/St Mary's Rds
Pleasant Hill/Springhill Rds
Burton/Silverado Drs
600 block Lucas Dr
- Shoplifting**
Safeway (3)
CVS
3400 block Mt Diablo Bl
- Susp. Circumstances** 15
- Suspicious Vehicle** 26
- Suspicious Subject** 19
- Throw from Moving Veh**
Upper Happy Valley/
Happy Valley Rds
- Traffic Stops** 215
- Trespass**
1300 block Martino Rd
- Unwanted Guest**
3500 block Moraga Bl
Lafayette Park Hotel
3300 block Mt Diablo Bl
- Vandalism**
1000 block Carol Ln
Trader Joe's
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl (2)
Burton Valley Elementary
- Vehicle Theft**
3500 block Terrace Wy
20 block Lafayette Cr
- Vehicle Recovery**
3600 block Mt Diablo Bl
- Verbal Dispute**
3400 block Mt Diablo Bl
Buckeye Fields



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Council Considers Rent Control

By Cathy Tyson



The Lafayette City Council recently discussed a possible rent increase moratorium for larger apartment complexes like the one at 1038 Second Street. Photo C. Tyson

After hearing public testimony from many tenants complaining about unfairly soaring rents at a complex that recently changed hands, now known as 1038 on Second, and commentary from a number of local landlords who are providing what they believe to be under-market rates, the Lafayette City Council faced a dilemma. At issue was whether to institute a rent increase moratorium that could temporarily stabilize rental rate increases. Lafayette has never had rent control, and while council members were sympathetic to the tenants' plight, they were also concerned about establishing a precedent that may hurt smaller responsible landlords.

Many residents at the complex, located at the end of Second Avenue between Merrill Gardens and Highway 24, had received 60 days' written notice of rent increases, the new addition of utility charges and a requirement for renter's insurance, along with an expensive new pet policy.

In preparation for the May 11 city council meeting, city manager Steven Falk asked Kirby Sack of Sack Properties to prepare an action plan to address issues at the aging 1038 Second Street apartment buildings. A copy of the letter was available at the meeting; it acknowledged missteps but did not contain specifics to remedy the situation. The complex has some serious deferred maintenance that has accrued over many years, under the prior owners. According to its web-

site, new tenant rates for a two-bedroom, one-bath unit range from \$2,033 per month to \$3,660.

"It would be a huge step backwards to eliminate low-income units," said Kathy Merchant, development director of Las Trampas. Some of the developmentally disabled low-income Las Trampas clients live in the 1038 complex.

Another woman who lives in the apartments commented that the new management was willing to negotiate, offering instead of the 39 percent rent increase, a 33 percent increase – the equivalent of \$550.

Tenant Jennifer Brown encouraged the council to "implement safeguards." The rent on her 1950s apartment with no insulation, aging appliances, and single pane windows has gone up exponentially.

"We need affordable housing," said Jennifer Sutherland, urging much more reasonable rent increases, adding, "Sack (Properties) has lied to us in the past."

Bruce Whitten, who spoke up for his 80-year-old landlord mother who has a history of good relationships with long-term tenants, asked the council, "Why is it your place" to set limits on rents, calling it "landlord control."

A number of questions came up when Matt Siegel, staff attorney for the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Program, who is a Lafayette resident, stepped up to the podium.

... continued on page A9

Last Call for Monticello Road Home

By Cathy Tyson

In a last ditch effort before adoption of the official denial of their controversial home on Monticello Road at a recent city council meeting, property owner Linda Wight questioned the Lafayette City Council about the large proposed home, calling its decision "duplicious." She explained that due to the instructions from the city, the Wights moved the house location toward the eastern side of the hilly, almost 14-acre property. This necessitated a number of design changes, including bunkering the home into the hillside and making it two stories, which she said, "was not our preference or choice," as they are getting older and wanted a one-level home, but a "direct consequence of the city's direction to us."

A 21-page denial resolution was ready to go spelling out in great detail findings that couldn't be made at the council's April 13 meeting. On a split vote at that meeting, after years of discussion, the city council voted to deny the project. Usually a simple procedural matter on the consent calendar follows once a decision has been made, adopting the denial resolution, settling the matter.

Not so with the drama surrounding the Wight's home. Both Steve

and Linda Wight wrote a scathing letter to the city council on April 20 expressing their disappointment and belief that "we have been shabbily treated by this lengthy City process," adding that they have been "unnecessarily harmed by such a sustained delay in obtaining a decision from the City."

They concluded by urging the council to "thoughtfully consider our application and adopt the resolution of approval" at the upcoming May 11 meeting. The attorney for the couple, David Bowie, was in attendance arguing that years ago the city approved the site and massing for Phase I that required much less grading and was single story. "Then you created this bunkering situation" and disapproved Phase II, adding that it is "inappropriate and incorrect to say there is too much grading."

Ed Shaffer, attorney for the Glen Neighborhood, stated the denial lays out objective findings and there is no basis for "clearly arbitrary or capricious" claims.

Members of the city council didn't budge from their original votes, three in favor of denying the project, one in favor of approval and one abstention.

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Moraga

Public Meetings

Town Council

Special Meeting:

Wednesday, May 20, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 27, 7 p.m.

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, June 1, 7 p.m.

Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Tuesday, May 26, 7 p.m.

Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District

Tuesday, June 9 and 16, 7:00 p.m.

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate
School Auditorium

1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga

www.moraga.k12.ca.us

See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us

Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



Moraga Police Department

Rearranging the patio furniture, 5/04/15 A Tharp resident reported a weirdly suspicious circumstance at a vacated property. He visited the residence and found the patio furniture rearranged, a rear door open and an interior light on. No sign of forced entry. A maintenance worker was the last one there.

Kitchen remodel issues, 5/08/15 The contractor that a Hodges Drive resident was using to replace her kitchen cabinets was acting aggressively and demanding more money. Although the job wasn't complete, the homeowner asked that he pack his tools and vacate the residence.

Expensive watch stolen, 5/08/15 A Danefield Drive homeowner reported to police that sometime in the past four to six weeks an unknown subject took a Cartier Santos watch valued at \$10,000 from her home. She has no idea who would do this, but wanted to document the incident.

Counterfeit money, 5/07/15 An Ascot Drive resident had a new iPad Mini listed for sale on Craigslist for \$320. A "buyer" responded to the listing and met the seller. Although purchaser agreed to pay the full price, unfortunately the three \$100 bills that changed hands were fake, but the \$20 bill was real. The bills were collected by cops and will go to the Secret Service for analysis.

Residential Burglary, 5/10/15 Thieves cut power to a Camino Ricardo home and forced open an exterior garage door to gain access to the house. The homeowner will make a detailed list of items taken at a later time.

In addition, the following crimes occurred between May 5-12:

Lost Wallet – Gary Road

Welfare Check – Moraga Road

Two Motorists Arguing – Moraga Road

Danger to Self - Moraga Road

False Alarm – Cypress Point Way

Smiley Face Vandalism – Alta Mesa Court

Loud Party – Whitethorn Drive

BMW Window Smash – Moraga Road

Loud Party – Wandel Drive

False Alarm – Fieldbrook Place

Harassing Phone Calls and Texts

– St. Mary's Road

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City Ventures' Downtown Development Project a Go

By Sophie Braccini

A three-and-a-half-hour drama played out at the Moraga Town Council meeting May 13, with some unexpected twists. But when the curtain fell, Newport Beach-based City Ventures, LLC, had the town's approval of its Moraga Town Center Homes project, a 36-unit townhouse and condominium development with some three-story-high buildings along Moraga Way at the entrance of the town, next to the fire station. This is the first parcel to be developed in a highly visible portion of the Moraga Center Specific Plan (MCSP) area in downtown Moraga.

The May 13 meeting was a continuation of an appeal filed by a group of residents against the planning commission's November 2014 approval of the project. At the first hearing in January, the council asked the developer to make modifications and then continued the appeal to a later date.

Many residents opposed the project, saying it's too dense for the highly visible location and out of character with Moraga. About a dozen residents attended the meeting, explaining that this was a good project, but for another location. Some also came to support the project, explaining that infill development near retail makes sense and that the town needs new, slightly more affordable homes than

the majority of existing detached single-family homes in the area. Local business owners also sent letters of support to the council.

A large portion of the game was played before the public meeting began. City Ventures met with town staff after the January continuance to make amendments to its plan. Setbacks along Moraga Road were increased, ranging from 15 to 25 feet (setbacks along Country Club Drive range from 6 to 15 feet) and the third story was removed on some of the buildings. These modifications in addition to the visual simulations showing how the development would impact the scenic corridor and the ridgeline view sheds gained staff's approval. Town staff stated the project provides architecture, landscaping and view corridors consistent with the character of Moraga.

Councilmember Mike Metcalf asked the town attorney to revisit the reasons why this project is compliant with the Moraga Center Specific Plan that was approved in 2010 and found compliant with the General Plan. The appellants argued that the MCSP is not compliant with the General Plan, but no one on the dais was willing to open that discussion.

Councilmembers Dave Trotter and Teresa Onoda, as well as Mayor Roger

Wykle, asked the developer to increase the distance between the duplexes located along Country Club Drive from 10 to 25 feet – one of the MCSP requirements. As it looked like another continuance was imminent, the developer indicated that such demands, after years of work and several continuances were excessive. He asked for a five-minute recess to analyze the consequences of this new request.

When the meeting resumed, City Ventures indicated that they did not want a new continuance and offered two proposals: to either group the duplexes facing Country Club Drive and create larger buildings with more separation between them; or increase the separation between the proposed smaller buildings by a few feet on the ground level and five feet at the second-floor level.

Wykle and Trotter supported the latter offer, while Onoda maintained her opposition. The resolution denying the appeal and upholding the planning commission's decision was approved as amended, 4-1, with Onoda opposed. Staff also added a long list of esthetic and quality requirements that the developer will have to comply with when building the Moraga Town Center Homes. Now that the conceptual plan is approved, the developer will present the

precise development plan to the planning commission and design review board.

After the meeting, appellant Dick Olsen expressed his disappointment. During the meeting he characterized the changes that the developer made as tinkering around the edges. When asked what the residents opposed to the project would do next, he responded, "We are considering all of the options available to citizens when they consider a council has made a significant mistake. This is only round one."

MOFD's Opposition to the Moraga Town Center Homes Project

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District opposed the development of homes next to its training facility. In a letter to the town, the MOFD board listed factors such as noise and even potential hazards that made the project unfit, in their opinion. The proposed mitigation, such as an eight-foot sound wall was not found adequate. The council members did not ignore the agency's recommendations, but did not use them to oppose the proposed development.

Want More Pedestrian and Bike Paths in Moraga?

This is your chance

By Sophie Braccini

Whether your children walk or bike to school, whether you are a speed biker zooming through Moraga, whether you bike to work or are a casual pedestrian roaming the streets of town, your experience and opinions are wanted for the new pedestrian and bicycle committee that the Town of Moraga is assembling. The volunteers will meet six times over the course of a year, and will help shape the town's Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan (PBMP) update. They will also work on updating Moraga's Wayfinding Plan.

"The main issues are the lack of facilities (paths, lanes, sidewalks), the fact that Moraga is a hilly community, and that the street network is not very connected, implying that there are not a lot of parallel and alternative routes," says Ellen Clark, Moraga's planning director. She expects the new committee to take a more creative look at what could be done.

On April 22, the Town Council approved the Moraga PBMP update and Wayfinding Plan Citizens Advisory Committee charter. The committee will include one member of the planning commission, the design review board, the park and recreation commission, and four members of the community.

Interested residents have until May 29 to download an application at on the town's website (Moraga.ca.us) and email it back with their resume and letter of interest to the town clerk at mmcinturf@moraga.ca.us. The council will select the members during a public meeting if more than four volunteer. To learn more about the PBMP update and Wayfinding Plan, and the role of the CAC, visit www.moraga.ca.us/walkbikemoraga or email Coleman Frick, assistant town planner, at cfrick@moraga.ca.us, or call (925) 888-7039 if you have questions or would like additional information.

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Champagne Design Named Moraga's 2015 Small Business of the Year

By Sophie Braccini



From left: East Bay Leadership Council CEO Kristin Connelly, Kathe Nelson and Lynn McAuliffe. Photo provided

Champagne Design is Moraga “mompreneur” Lynn McAuliffe’s company, creating everything graphic for other businesses, from marketing materials to print media and websites. The mother of two Campolindo High School students created the business 17 years ago after her first child was born and the daycare center she arranged to take care of her baby dropped the ball. Since then, the creative, artistic and tech-oriented businesswoman has made Champagne Design her livelihood. Since she moved to Moraga in 2007, the business has grown organically thanks to the Lamorinda business com-

munity. The Chamber of Commerce named her the 2015 Moraga Small Business of the Year.

McAuliffe started her career in the printing industry, working for a promotion agency. “I’ve always been interested in the technical side of design,” she said. “I know what is needed to make materials print-ready, and this is a knowledge I continue to use.” After the birth of her first child she intended to go back to work, but when the daycare faulted, her husband recommended she start her own business. “That’s what you’ve always wanted to do,” he said.

...continued on page A11

Targeted Study For Recreation Use on MOSO Land

By Sophie Braccini

One rule in the Moraga Open Space Ordinance – stipulating that recreation on MOSO land be managed by nonprofit, not for-profit, entities – could kill the recreation project proposed by Adventure Day Camp on the site of the former Moraga Tennis and Swim Club before it’s even submitted. At its May 13 meeting the Moraga Town Council recommended a limited change to the rules to allow recreation activities managed by for-profit entities as long as they would operate facilities that preexisted MOSO’s adoption, and would not change the footprint of that former business.

In her presentation to the council, Planning Director Ellen Clark indicated that staff did not find in the MOSO any conflict to a change of the rules to authorize for-profit recreation uses. “MOSO treats recreation uses generally, and only talks about land use in term of residential density,” said Clark. She also noted that it is unusual for land use zoning to make the distinction between nonprofit and for-profit use. “This does not connote a land use, but is more a business model,” she said. She cited activities that could be nonprofit and yet not very desirable in Moraga open space, such as off-road vehicle clubs. She recommended that this section of the MOSO rules be revisited, but from the perspective of the type of activity rather than the way it is operated.

Residents neighboring the site expressed

their concerns over modifying MOSO rules, fearing that it would invite more applications and more development than originally intended. They also listed their concerns about increased traffic on a neighborhood street traveled by many school children, as well as parking issues.

Vice Mayor Mike Metcalf reminded them that all the impacts would be studied if Adventure Day Camp submits an application, and that the topic of the night was only to make recommendations regarding the MOSO rule.

Councilmember Dave Trotter proposed a short-cut to the long process that would be needed to revise a part of MOSO, suggesting adding a sub-paragraph that would authorize a for-profit recreational use of recreational facilities that were constructed prior to the adoption of MOSO, provided that this new use on MOSO land would not result in any increase or change in the development footprint that existed at the time of MOSO’s adoption.

Other council members supported the idea, as did Susan Jones, representing Lamorinda Open Space – the group formed to support MOSO.

The final direction given by the council to staff was to study, in the short term, the possibility of the customized addition to MOSO, and also, for the long term, to look at how to better define the types of desirable recreation activities permitted on MOSO land.

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NEWS OF THE WEEK

The market is still hot, with multiple offers on many homes! If you’re thinking of buying a home, do so now, before interest rates rise!! Here is a sampling of some recent buyer-represented sales:

653 Miner Road, Orinda, \$1,825,000 Julie Georgiou
 3310 S. Lucille Lane, Lafayette, \$1,100,000 Jim Colhoun
 31 La Cuesta, Orinda, \$1,000,000 Ruth Eddy
 2222 Gladwin Court, Walnut Creek, \$889,000 Jim Colhoun
 3279 Mt. Diablo Court, Lafayette, \$701,000 Julie Georgiou
 2001 Ptarmigan Dr., Walnut Creek, \$459,000 Larry Jacobs and Kress Hauri

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Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, June 2, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 26, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC)

Monday, June 15, at 7 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting Orinda Union School District

Monday, June 8, 6 p.m.
OUSD Office, 8 Altarinda Road,
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org
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Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

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Council Approves One-Year Crime Cam Pilot Program

By Laurie Snyder

Orinda residents shared a wide range of opinions for and against the installation of security cameras leading up to the Orinda City Council meeting May 5. Some quoted Benjamin Franklin: "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety." Others seemed less concerned. "I don't think you have a right to privacy in a public space," one resident said. "Just get on board with everybody else because it's going to happen, and it's not George Orwell and all this other stuff. It's just the way the reality of it is today because we're on TV all the time, we're in the public eye no matter where we go."

Once again, council members deliberated whether or not to install security cameras inside city boundaries, and once again they probed the minds

of city staff and average citizens as they weighed the sincere privacy concerns of those worried about the government's increasing use of surveillance on Americans against the very real fear felt by those whose homes have been burglarized.

On May 5, the council considered Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel's latest proposal – a one-year pilot program to install eight Reconyx cameras at Orinda's points of entry and neighborhoods where crime spikes, as well as to equip one police car with automated license plate reader (ALPR) technology which would link that car to county, state and federal databases that, theoretically, would help police catch suspects more quickly.

According to the staff report, the Reconyx cameras would be purchased by the city at a cost of \$6,730 with

maintenance performed by a community service officer or other city employee with possible help from volunteers. The ALPR system would be covered by the city's contract with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department, and would be purchased from the same vendor used by CCSD and the City of Lafayette – Vigilant Systems – at a cost of \$16,580.

The cameras would be helpful, said Nagel, in the absence of DNA or fingerprint evidence. Reconyx camera data would likely be accessed by Orinda's police immediately after the commission of crimes, but could also be viewed later if residents discover problems after returning from vacation.

The ALPR system would make a difference because it delivers real-time information that is shared by multiple

agencies, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. "Vehicles associated with wanted subjects are not constrained by city limits," said Nagel. "Vehicles wanted in one city can easily travel through Orinda and by not sharing data, the police and the community at large would never know a vehicle associated with a list of crimes travelled through Orinda."

In response to multiple questions from council members regarding how long the city would be required to retain the photographs and other data obtained from ALPRs and city-owned crime cameras, as well as when and if the photos and data could be subject to public disclosure, city attorney Osa Wolff said the ALPRs would fall under CCSD policies, which requires that records be retained for one year.

... continued on page A11



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report April 25-May 9

Abandoned Vehicle	
30 block Coral Dr	
Alarms	59
911 calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Barking Dog	
10 block Las Piedras	
Burglary, Auto	
100 block Ardith Dr	
600 block Tahos Rd	

Wilder Rd/Orinda Fields Ln	
80 block Davis Rd	
Wagner Ranch Elementary	
80 block Tara Rd	
Burglary, Residential	
40 block Charles Hill Cr	
100 block Ardith Dr	
10 block Monroe Ct	
10 block Ridge Ln	
Credit Card Fraud	
10 block Las Piedras	
10 block Theatre Sq	
10 block Scenic Ct	
Dependent Child	
20 block Orchard Rd	
Domestic Disturbance	
Mechanic's Bank	
20 block Camino Sobrante	
St Stephen's Cr/El Nido Ranch	

Fare Evasion	
Brookwood Rd/Camino Pablo	
Petty Theft	
20 block Altamount Dr	
20 block Heather Ln (from veh)	
50 block Berkeley Av (2)	
30 block Lombardy Ln	
Hit & Run	
Orinda/Santa Maria Way	
Avenida de Orinda	
ID Theft reported to Orinda PD	
10 block El Camino Moraga	
Loud Noise	
Bigleaf/Quarry Hill Rds	
20 block Hacienda Cr	
Loud Party	
Rustic Wy/Moraga Via	
100 block Abbott Ct	
100 block Ivy Dr	

200 block Hall Dr (2)	
80 block Hillcrest Dr	
Missing Adult	
10 block Altarinda Rd	
Panhandling	
Theatre Square	
Police/Fire EMS	
Glorietta/Robert Rd	
20 block Watchwood Ct	
40 block Via Floreado	
20 block Orinda Wy	
Moraga Wy/El Camino Moraga	
200 block The Knoll	
Prowler Heard	
500 block Moraga Wy	
Public Nuisance	
Moraga Wy/Ivy Dr	
20 block Southwood Dr	
100 block Stein Wy	

Reckless Driving	
Knickerbocker Ln	
Glorietta Elementary	
Moraga Wy/Glorietta Bl	
Recovered Stolen Veh.	
Library garage	
Susp. Circumstances	10
Suspicious Vehicle	35
Suspicious Subject	9
Traffic Stops	172
Uncontrollable Juvenile	
80 block Via Floreado	
Unwanted Guest	
30 block Muth Dr	
Vehicle Theft	
Wilder/Hwy 24	
200 block Village Sq	
Warrant Service	
10 block El Toyonal	
60 block Sunnyside Ln	



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Ties That Bind

Former Orinda mayor visits Sister City of Tábor

By Laurie Snyder



Orinda's 2015-16 Sister Cities visiting student, Karel Balogh (center, right), welcomed former Orinda Mayor Bobbie Landers (far right); Lamorinda Sunrise Rotarian, Buddy Burke; and Landers' daughter, Holly, to his home in Tábor, Czech Republic earlier this month. Photo courtesy Bobbie Landers

"Spring is lovely in Tábor!" That was the verdict from former Orinda Mayor Bobbie Landers in an email sent the afternoon of Sunday, May 10 from Orinda's Sister City in the Czech Republic. "We are warmly greeted by old friends, former visiting students, the mayor, vice mayor. Every visit shows the hard work by Czech citizens to re-

turn their country to glory after years of Communism."

Landers also spent two days in Prague revisiting the Castle, as well as enjoying a Dvorak concert and relaxing with a Czech beer on the roof of a reconstructed historic home.

But it was her time in Tábor that was clearly the most memorable. While there, Landers visited with

Karel Balogh and his family.

Balogh is the newest Czech scholar to be named as a visiting student with the Orinda-Tábor Sister Cities initiative. He will attend Miramonte High School this fall. Like many high school students the world over, he helps out around the house by doing the dishes and mowing the lawn.

The Sister Cities initiative is a vitally important program, Landers explained, because it helps to foster the kinds of ties between people of differing cultures that bind – bonds that President Dwight D. Eisenhower believed would ultimately lead the world to "the dawn of eternal peace." Eisenhower launched the Sister Cities program in 1956, hoping it would nudge the world in the right direction.

Sister Cities' host families typically provide room and board for their assigned students. In Orinda's case, each student goes through a highly competitive process to demonstrate that he or she is a good fit for the program, and is fluent enough in English to do well in classes at Miramonte.

... continued on page A8

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<p>ORINDA \$1,450,000 4/3. Built in 2014, approx. 2387 sq ft plus lrg bonus room. Close to BART & downtown. Diane Petek CalBRE# 01703677</p>	<p>ORINDA \$2,595,000 4/3.5. Orinda's Country Club neighborhood. Lovingly re-built and expanded to perfection. Melanie Snow CalBRE# 00878893</p>	<p>LAFAYETTE \$1,325,000 3/2. Charming Cottage style. Extra .30 deep lot, approx 2121 sq.ft. Lovely garden area w/large child's play area. The Beaubelle Group CalBRE#00678426</p>	<p>MORAGA \$2,500,000 4/3.5. Exquisite estate in a very private setting! Gorgeous grounds w/large spa. 4542 sq. feet. Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247</p>	<p>LAFAYETTE \$1,325,000 3/2. Beautifully Updated & Private Single Level Home in Great Trail Location. Shellie Kirby CalBRE#01251227</p>	<p>ORINDA \$875,000 2/2. Completely remodeled 1678 sqft. .45 acre lot w/private setting, great commute location. Peter Liu CalBRE# 01460749</p>
<p>ORINDA \$2,395,000 6/2.5. Cap Code Custom home on .41 acre lot. Chef's kit, hwd flrs, plantation shutters, 2 lvl lawn areas. The Beaubelle Group CalBRE#00678426</p>	<p>ORINDA \$1,295,000 5/3. Spacious view home in the desirable Orinda Country Club area. Xtra large fenced in bkrd. Shellie Kirby CalBRE#01251227</p>	<p>ORINDA \$2,478,000 4/2. Fabulous Glorietta Home: over 1 acre & remodeled w/ incredible attention to detail. Finola Fellner CalBRE#01428834</p>	<p>LAFAYETTE \$1,595,000 4/3.5. Spacious stunning home Comfortable elegance Nr Downtown Private with breathtaking views. Susan Schlicher CalBRE#01395579</p>	<p>ORINDA \$875,000 2/2. Completely remodeled 1678 sqft. .45 acre lot w/private setting, great commute location. Peter Liu CalBRE# 01460749</p>	<p>LAFAYETTE \$1,295,000 4/2.5. Split lvl home on a cul-de-sac. 1/3+ acre w/private yard. Close to Lafayette Reservoir. The Holcenberg's CalBRE#01373412</p>
<p>LAFAYETTE \$2,400,000 4/2.5. Luxurious Adobe Retreat. STUNNING views. Private wine country style estate, minutes from school & freeway. Susan Schlicher CalBRE#01395579</p>	<p>MORAGA \$1,100,000 4/2.5. 2284 sqft, formal living and dining rooms, flat .22 acres w/pool, close to K-8 schools. Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247</p>	<p>LAFAYETTE \$1,275,000 5/3.5. 2 homes attached w/sep. entrance. Remodel. kit. & bath, hwd floors, lg yard w/ privacy. The Beaubelle Group CalBRE#00678426</p>	<p>LAFAYETTE \$2,995,000 6/3.5. New Construction! Close to dwnn & trails. Chef's kit. w/island, lg lawn w/outdoor kit. The Beaubelle Group CalBRE#00678426</p>	<p>LAFAYETTE \$1,295,000 4/2.5. Split lvl home on a cul-de-sac. 1/3+ acre w/private yard. Close to Lafayette Reservoir. The Holcenberg's CalBRE#01373412</p>	<p>LAFAYETTE \$1,295,000 4/2.5. Split lvl home on a cul-de-sac. 1/3+ acre w/private yard. Close to Lafayette Reservoir. The Holcenberg's CalBRE#01373412</p>

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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire

District Board of Directors
Wednesday, May 20, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library Community Room
1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga
For meeting times and agendas,
visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors

Tuesday, June 16, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber room 107,
Administration Building,
651 Pine St., Martinez
For meeting times and agendas,
visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

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New Ambulances Rolling in to MOFD

By Nick Marnell

At its May 6 meeting the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board unanimously approved a \$425,000 expenditure for two new 2016 International TerraStar Leader ambulances, which will give the district a fleet of six ambulances, including two reserve vehicles. MOFD last purchased ambulances in 2008.

"Our two most active ambulances have been out of service 27 percent of the time," said fire chief Stephen Healy. "We're burning through transmissions, motors and brakes, and a cracked frame, in one case. We are

very tough on our ambulances."

The district apparatus committee, headed by battalion chief Felipe Barreto, recommended the purchase of new vehicles as opposed to remounting the current district modules on new chassis. "For one thing, we then wouldn't have reserve ambulances," said Healy. The chief noted that the new ambulances should last up to 15 years, while remounted modules onto new chassis will last maybe half that long. The cost of remounting was presented as about half the cost of a new purchase.

Healy explained that the new apparatus have beefier chassis, stronger power trains and are larger and heavier duty than the models being replaced. He allayed concerns that the new ambulances were so much bigger than the current units that they could not navigate all of the district roads. "Our fire engines can get to every street in the district," he said. "These are much smaller than our fire engines."

Barreto said that the ambulances should be delivered in the fall, and that the two new vehicles will likely

be deployed at station 41 in Moraga and station 44 in south Orinda. One reserve ambulance will remain at station 41, the other stored at Moraga's station 42.

The new Internationals will be purchased through the National Joint Powers Alliance, a Minnesota-based municipal national contracting agency. The district plans to send out a request for proposals this month for the lease financing.

ConFire-AMR Partnership Forges Ahead

By Nick Marnell

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District moved another step closer to providing emergency ambulance service in Contra Costa County on May 12 when the Board of Supervisors, acting as the ConFire board of directors, authorized fire chief Jeff Carman to execute an agreement between the district and American Medical Response, the current provider of county ambulance service. The agreement details the relationship between the district and AMR if ConFire is awarded

the 5-year Contra Costa County emergency ambulance service contract effective Jan. 1, 2016. The county regions up for bid exclude the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, which provide their own ambulance transport service.

After a district consultant reported in 2014 that it would be financially feasible for ConFire to provide ambulance service for the county, AP Triton, LLC, a fire consultant, advised the district that the most suitable and cost effective way to provide that service was to partner with a private ambulance company. Through a competitive bidding process, ConFire chose to partner with AMR, under a subcontractor agreement with the district.

Should the county award ConFire the ambulance contract AMR, as the ambulance subcontractor, will provide the district its own personnel and equipment and will also be responsible for maintaining and upgrading the ambulance fleet. Over

the five years of the deal ConFire will pay AMR not more than \$188 million for this service, which Carman explained would be the district's maximum financial exposure. ConFire will bill and collect patient fees and charges, reimbursements from healthcare providers and other emergency ambulance transport revenue to cover those expenses.

"Even at the maximum costs, this proposal will make financial sense to the district?" asked John Gioia, board chair.

"Absolutely," said Carman.

Carman later pointed out indirect benefits of the relationship with AMR, including consolidation of personnel and other potential costs savings. "AMR has huge buying power for medical supplies," he said. "At the same time, we have better buying power for fuel since we use so much, and they can take advantage of that."

Erik Rohde, AMR general manager for Contra Costa County, discussed the synergy of merging dispatch personnel. "ConFire's dis-

patch center is in Pleasant Hill and ours is in Sacramento," he said. "By putting them in the same room, the dispatchers will have the ability to communicate real time, face to face, rather than over a phone or computer."

And one of Carman's top frustrations will frustrate him no longer. "We won't send a fire company and an ambulance to everything anymore," he said. "Now we can send just what is needed and closest. This adds capacity to our response reliability."

The Board of Supervisors plans to approve the new county ambulance contract in July. If ConFire is awarded the deal, and the district successfully enters into the subcontract with AMR, it will have joined forces with its long-time rival.

"We will share mission and vision," said the chief. "Instead of competing, we will be working as a single team."

"Truly this relationship will be better for the agencies and the customer."

Front page

School Bus Program



Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School students start filling up buses.

Photo Cathy Tyson

Ten buses are transporting kids daily to OIS, the program's most popular destination.

Originally it took some convincing of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority that Lamorinda's share of the sales tax money should go toward reducing traffic instead of building road improvements. Maintaining and improving the county's transportation system are the focus of the agency that manages the sales tax program paid for by Measure C and now Measure J. Passed in 1988, Measure C provided revenue to pay for programs such as a BART extension, freeway improvements, and more. Measure C sunsetted in March 2009.

Voters actually agreed to tax themselves again to carry on with the transportation improvements. With 71 percent of the vote, Measure J was approved in November

2004 to continue the county-wide half-cent sales tax for 25 more years beyond the original expiration date of Measure C. Contra Costa County residents' Measure J tax money paid for the new fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel, improvements on Highway 680, over \$350 million for local streets and road maintenance, and improvement and enhancing transit not only for local school kids but for seniors and people with disabilities.

Kathy Fernbacher and Stephanie Sorensen were a couple of the original moms who got the ball rolling. Other key players include Don Tatzin, Amy Worth, Bobbie Landers and Steven Falk. Fernbacher had moved from the south end of Orinda to the Sleepy Hollow area and was concerned about the traffic jams in her new neighborhood. She and other concerned parents attended "meeting

... continued from page A1

after meeting," said Fernbacher. "We just kept fighting," explaining that parents would like to spend the tax revenue to push for school buses. She recalled, "Eventually they gave in." In the fall of 1994, after two years of planning and negotiation, the first buses got rolling.

"It really did work," commented Ann Grodin who was part of the effort from the start, explaining that studies showed the bus program actually got cars off the road, especially on Moraga Way. "As bad as it is now, (traffic) was worse then." She also remembers the "hard fought vote" 20 years ago to use the tax money for buses, but in her opinion the results are amazing.

The three towns, in cooperation with local school districts, embraced the grassroots effort and formed a joint powers authority that oversees the program. Originally, the Lamorinda school bus program was approved only for a five year pilot, contingent upon surveys and statistical support to prove its value. Now the program, with professional drivers from First Student, has a fleet of clean diesel buses that are equipped with the latest safety features – including seat belts.

Early registration is already open, with special pricing offered for those who sign up by June 15. The round trip annual bus pass will cost parents \$455 for the school year, which comes out to \$2.53 per day or \$1.27 per ride. Keep in mind that 62 percent of the school bus program budget is funded by a portion of your sales tax dollars.

Orinda

Ties That Bind

Orindans Bob and Maryette Thompson have welcomed a number of exchange students over the years, and highly recommend the experience. "All of my kids have really gotten to know these students. They really became part of the family."

Chandler Visher and Deborah Lambert concur. Their student, Michael Čížek, became like a brother to their boys, and joined the family in

Santa Barbara for a Thanksgiving visit with Lambert's parents and a trip to Yosemite. Their most memorable moments, though, were spent in Las Vegas. It was one of the places Čížek most wanted to see while he was in America.

It is these kinds of experiences that were precisely what Eisenhower was hoping when he gave his memorable "The Chance for Peace" speech

... continued from page A7

in 1953, and what Landers strives for in organizing each visit by a Czech student. She reported recently that a host family is still urgently needed from August 2015 through January 2016 for Karel Balogh. If you can help, call Landers at (925) 254-8260.

Then, follow the adventures of the Orinda Klub Tábor on Facebook: www.facebook.com/OrindaKlub.

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Letters to the Editor

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

Recently I've had the feeling there was a void in my life. Sophie Braccini's May 6 article gave me the answer: Roundabouts! That's what's been missing. Roundabouts! Fortunately, Ron Boyle of Omni-Means confirmed my suspicion. He explained roundabouts "... can create a sense of place." Equally fortunate, Mr. Boyle specializes in designing roundabouts. Talk about coincidence!

Ignore the naysayers. Who can trust Onoda and Trotter? They sound as if they are actually trying to live up to their campaign promises. Listen to Onoda: "I say if we don't have to spend the money, don't spend the money." What's she trying to do, give politicians a good name? Next she'll be saying, "Six million here, six million there, and pretty soon it adds up to real money."

Come on Teresa, Dave, get with the program! Here's Moraga's opportunity to outspend Lafayette. Drive a short distance into Lafayette to where Rohrer and South Lucile run into St. Marys Road, and what do you see? Three stop signs each. How much did Lafayette pay for six lousy stop signs? Less than \$6 million you can bet. How pedestrian! Speaking of pedestrians, the roundabout at Rheem Boulevard and St. Marys Road could combine pedestrians, bicycles, and motorized vehicles, making that roundabout more exciting than a roller coaster. That should give people "a sense of place?"

Why stop with two roundabouts? Consider the junction of Moraga Road, Alta Mesa, and the shopping center easement. Another roundabout! People drive through it now as if it's a roundabout. And 50 feet north at the St. Marys Road intersection, replace the signal lights with another roundabout. Think of it ... two adjacent roundabouts! Moraga could boast of having one of the country's few roundabouts connecting to another roundabout.

But why settle for outdoor roundabouts? Why not bring that "sense of place" indoors? Moraga citizens are noted for volunteering for community projects. Perhaps some citizen do-it-yourselfers could volunteer to construct an interior roundabout where the town council meets and where town employees work. While not normally noted for my civic volunteerism, if volunteer builders build a grand interior roundabout, I volunteer to furnish the center cell ... with a giant round of cheese.

Edward C. Hartman
Moraga

Lafayette

Council Considers Rent Control

... continued from page A3



Photo Cathy Tyson

He suggested if there will be a moratorium, "eviction protection" should be included. When asked how much the rent stabilization program costs the city of Berkeley, he replied \$4 million, with 22 full-time employees.

Council Member Don Tatzin observed interesting clusters of those who commented: a group of smaller property owners who spoke against a rent moratorium, and none of their tenants; and, conversely, many tenants of large rental complexes, specifically from the 1038 on Second project, and the property manager who didn't show up. "I think that says something," reflected Tatzin. One self-described mom and pop landlord who owns a fourplex spoke up about some research she did at the county assessor's office. By her rough calculations there are 96 landlords who own from two to four rental units within the city, with an additional 37 landlords who own between five and 24 units.

Surmising only 10 entities own larger complexes -- eight who own between 25 and 59 units, and only two property owners who own 60 or more units -- Tatzin figured if the city is to pursue a temporary rent increase moratorium, it should be specific to larger properties.

Mayor Brandt Anderson agreed that there are a number of responsible landlords doing a good job and that the city should focus on the new owner who needs "to be held to the fire." Unfortunately without an actual moratorium, the city has little leverage over a private property owner.

Ultimately the council decided to have the city manager pursue conversations with Sack Properties, as well as work on preparing an emergency moratorium for consideration at the next meeting that would apply exclusively to multi-family projects with 25 units or more.

Over the years, the apartment complex at issue has been called a variety of names: Alta Vista, El Cerro, and La Playa apartments. The new owner, Sack Properties is based in San Francisco and took possession in February.

Can the city of Lafayette control how much of an increase an independent business entity can charge for rent? According to a parade of frustrated tenants, what the new owners have done is extreme and egregious. Many complain that they can no longer afford to live in the city they love where they are raising their children.

California state law limits rent control to older, multi-unit apartment buildings. According to the city attorney Mala Subramanian of Best, Best and Krieger, LLP it's possible for the city to adopt a moratorium limiting rent increases, although it must comply with state law regarding local rent control ordinances. In order to fully consider whether to adopt rent stabilization, the Lafayette City Council first should adopt a moratorium, which requires a four out of five vote. At this point, Subramanian was tasked with preparing the paperwork for a moratorium, but it's not clear if city council members will vote for it.

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Jonathan D. Larose, Esq. MBA

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Business

My Genealogy Services: Know Where You Come From

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Karla Henderlong and Madeline Yanov Photo Sophie Braccini

Karla Henderlong and Madeline Yanov met at the Contra Costa County Genealogy Society and became friends. When they brainstormed ideas for a new career that would combine flexibility and passion, genealogy quickly emerged. Together they founded My Genealogy Services, where they use their talents and endless patience for research to uncover the layers of data that reveal unique family histories, from the humble to the amazing.

Henderlong's curiosity about the Scottish roots of her paternal grandmother who was born in Washington state in 1898 led her to the field of genealogy. "I became addicted," she

says with a smile. She was able to trace that branch of her ancestry to the Highlands of Scotland in 1770 when her ancestor, Rachel, set sail to the new world at age 17. Along the way, Henderlong, a former attorney, discovered that the research needed to be pulled from various sources like census records, tax records, or the California death index. Patience was paramount to sift through hundreds of records and locate a match.

Yanov, who was a paralegal, studied history in college and had always been curious about her ancestors. She recorded everything her parents and relatives remembered. "I knew the stories (of my grandparents)," she

says, "and in the process of studying their life records, I discovered a whole new branch of my family I did not know." She found out about her great-grandfather's relatives through an Illinois newspaper's obituary that listed his siblings and those siblings' spouses. "It's like detective work," says Yanov. "And you have to be able to think outside of the box." She has since reconnected with this Illinois branch of the family that holds periodic reunions.

Henderlong and Yanov joined forces because they feel they have a similar work ethic and philosophy. "We both wanted to offer services that would be affordable," says Yanov, who knows how prohibitively expensive some genealogy services can be. "We can teach research techniques, we can consult and offer suggestions."

"We can also do all the research for people who are too busy to do it," adds Henderlong.

They note that while the Internet, in general, gives access to a lot of information, it's only the tip of the iceberg — only about 10 percent of available material is online.

"We have a client who did research online and had found that one of her ancestors was connected to the Mayflower immigrants, and she wanted us to do some checking," says Yanov. The two Lafayette ladies discovered that the ancestor of this client was married twice: his first wife had

ancestors on the Mayflower, while the second, who was the direct ancestor of the client, had none. "We searched documents in different libraries, compared it with the Daughters of the American Revolution records, and found the discrepancy," explains Yanov. "Then we looked at the birth and death certificates of the children of the two wives to confirm the true lineage." Everything has to be verified, Yanov adds. "Otherwise it's mythology."

Some of the stories they uncover can be quite fascinating, like one woman who knew that she had Cherokee blood. "We found that she is a direct descendent of the most famous Cherokee woman of all time, Nanyehi, known in English as Nancy Ward, who helped the patriots during the Revolutionary War, and has a chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution named after her," explains Henderlong. The client has since applied for a tribal citizenship in the Cherokee nation and has gained admittance into the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Another client's grandfather was a prisoner of war in Germany during World War II. "The man never wanted to talk about it, but (after he passed) we were able to find testimonies and journals of people who were in the camp with him," says Yanov. Other research uncovered another client's "family skeleton" in-

volving a great-grandfather who killed his wife before committing suicide. "Everybody has (skeletons) and everybody has stories," says Yanov. "We go beyond names and dates; we look for these stories."

Sometimes the two virtually travel all over the world to find the roots, in some instances partnering with genealogists in other places. "My mother's ancestry is part Norwegian and in this country they have the farms' histories that date back to the 1600s," says Henderlong. As a result, she was able to connect with her Norwegian side of the family and establish new friendships with distant cousins she has visited and who have visited her.

The two women said that people often start this work as a legacy for their children, or as a gift to their mother or father. Henderlong and Yanov also do research for adopted individuals looking for their birth parents.

For more information, contact them at <http://www.mygenealogy-services.com>. For information about the Contra Costa County Genealogy Society, visit www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cacccgs/.

Lamorinda Weekly business articles are intended to inform the community about local business activities, not to endorse a particular company, product or service.

business briefs

I Do DryStyle Lounge - New Hairstyle and Makeup Salon

3587 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette
(925) 299-0087 – idodrystyle.com



A Lamorinda Weekly mystery-shopper went to the salon on May 16 for a senior ball hair styling. The young woman, who asked to remain anonymous, said: "The person who did my hair was very professional and had good insight; I felt very pampered." Photo Sophie Braccini

Renée Pawele and Taylor Cercone opened the new I Do DryStyle salon in Lafayette a few weeks ago. Located in the Mercantile building next to Lavande on Mt. Diablo Boulevard, the salon offers blow-dry, makeup and massage services for all occasions, for one person or for a group in its private lounge.

Barbacoa and Table 24 Change Chefs

2 Orinda Theatre Square, Orinda
Barbacoa (925) 254-1183 – barbacoaorinda.com
Table 24 (925) 254-0124 – www.table24orinda.com
Mexican restaurant Barbacoa in Orinda's Theatre Square recently hired a new Peruvian executive chef, Remberto Garcia. The new chef is a veteran cook in this country with more than 20 years of experience at San Francisco's Fleur de Lys. "I do not want to change the dishes that are offered here 100 percent," he says. "I want to make what

we offer more flavorful." The chef uses spices and herbs to concentrate the flavors, without giving the dishes too much heat, and utilizes various techniques to create different textures and flavors in the food. Little by little he will introduce novelties for patrons to discover, without sacrificing the favorites. He will be also adding new desserts. Among the new dishes are the tuna taco with seared Ahi tuna and caramelized pearl onions, a quinoa green citrus salad with roasted pistachios, carne asada rolled tacos with house-made jalapeno sauce and roasted beet salad, and he is planning to add a ceviche a la Veracruzana. Table 24 also welcomed a new executive chef, Jonathan William, a Bostonian who brought with him a New England clam chowder and Maine lobster rolls that he added to the menu. William is continuing Table 24's tradition of offering seasonal, fresh and flavorful dishes for the whole family.

Moraga Loses One Restaurant, Gains Another Graze to Replace Shish Kabab Show in the Rheem Center

376 Park Street, Moraga
The Mediterranean bar and grill, Shish Kabob Show, closed and will be replaced by Graze — a "fresh salads, house-made focaccia, soups and braised entrees" restaurant. According to the father of the owner, the restaurant should open the beginning of June.

Jim Colhoun Receives Honors

BHG Mason-McDuffie bestowed Jim Colhoun with two awards during its annual awards event in San Francisco April 17. Colhoun received the Legacy Award, which goes to an outstanding agent that has been with the company for a number of years and has qualities that are reflective of the best that the or-



Jim Colhoun Photo provided

If you have a business brief to share, please contact Sophie Braccini at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com

ganization has to offer. Colhoun's 2014 sales production also earned him a place among BHG's Top Ten, a ranking encompassing 30 offices and 900-plus agents throughout Northern California. He is a Certified Fine Homes Specialist and a Relocation Specialist who has achieved more than \$500 million in sales during his career. For more information on buying and selling real estate contact Colhoun at (925) 200-2795.

News from the Three Chambers of Commerce: Lafayette

Ribbon Cutting at the new location of Behymer & Steel Chiropractic at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 21, 1043 Stuart Street, Suite 100.

Ribbon Cutting for Red Carpet Flooring at 5 p.m. Thursday May 28, 3561 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

May Mixer from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday May 27 at Lafayette Physical Therapy, 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd. suite B110.

Save the date for the first Rock the Plaza concert with The 925 Band from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, June 5 at the intersection of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard. No cost — just bring a picnic meal and enjoy.

Moraga

Save the date for the next chamber mixer at 5:30 p.m. Friday, June 26 starting in the lobby of the Moraga Executive Plaza at 346 Rheem Blvd., Moraga. Non-chamber members invited, too.

Orinda

Ribbon Cutting for Parker Thatch at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 21, 19-D Orinda Way.

Moraga

Champagne Design

... continued from page A5

She chose to use "Champagne," her maiden name, for her business.

"My business grew quickly from my first client," she remembered. Mary McElhiney was the marketing director of ERS Inc. at the time, and she brought McAuliffe on board to create all their marketing materials, trade show signage, and other support graphics. From that first contract and through referrals, she obtained big corporate clients in the communications industry, and during the tech boom, she expanded rapidly. Then in 2007, the family moved from Alameda to Moraga "for the schools," she said. At first McAuliffe was quite distressed because most of her corporate clients were on the other side of the tunnel "and here we were, in the middle of nowhere," she said with a smile.

For McAuliffe, the breakthrough happened as soon as she joined the Moraga Chamber of Commerce and began offering her graphic design services pro-bono for the local organization. "Edy Schwartz was the president at the time, and she became a big advocate of mine," she said. McAuliffe also expanded her marketing graphic design business to the online world and to web design, something she considered a natural extension. At first she conceived the visual and functional aspects of the sites, while she worked with contractors for the technical aspects of development. She now does some of the development herself.

The majority of Champagne Design clients are small and medium-sized local businesses. "For example, I did all of Stat Med's graphic, print and web design," she said, referring to the emergency medical service that opened two years ago in Lafayette. McAuliffe said she likes working with new businesses and concepts, because she can create a very homogeneous image that can

be incorporated into all of the company's visuals, either online or in print. "Lynn helped me design our Stat Med logo, as well as set up and launch our website, and designed graphics for our signage," said Dr. Samaniego, founder of Stat Med. "She has a creative insight, and a wonderful way to guide you to a professional product. She is easy to work with, and full of great creative ideas."

McAuliffe also works with social media for some clients, even with app creation such as the upcoming "Explore Orinda" app for the Orinda Chamber of Commerce that will allow people to instantly check everything that's happening and available in the city at any given time.

"I continue to volunteer for the Moraga Chamber of Commerce and also for Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette," says McAuliffe, who loves theater and is presently working on THT's next season brochure.

Champagne Design is not McAuliffe's only business. With business partner Sue Tenerowicz, she created Spell-It-Out-Photos, a service that allows people to create displays using pictures of natural elements that represent letters. Then even more recently she started Walls of Quotes, where people can order famous quotations printed on hangable wood panels, with a wide choice of formats and colors.

McAuliffe was honored on May 8 at the East Bay Leadership Council's 15th Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon.

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Moraga

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Undergraduate Commencement
9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 23

Graduate & Professional Studies Commencement
10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, May 24

Orinda

Crime Cam Pilot Program

... continued from page A6

Regarding the Reconyx cameras, she said while there "is generally an exception for investigatory files and investigative records so that you cannot use the state Public Records Act to learn about strategies of the police," the law isn't clear whether or not Reconyx camera pictures would fall within that exception. Adding that it's "entirely possible" that the city could be required to disclose the photos to anyone asking to see them, she said state law "probably needs some updating to keep up with the technology that we have today."

Asked by Mayor Steve Glazer if the city would be required to turn over data to anyone who might, for example, use the Public Records Act to request every image captured by a specific camera from a specific Orinda neighborhood, Wolff said, "Folks are entitled to records essentially in the way that we keep them. So, if somebody has a big enough storage device, they could potentially ask for every picture we have, or they could ask for pictures in a certain date range. And if we don't catalogue the pictures by which camera they came from, then we wouldn't be able to deliver the data to them that way. We would only be able to deliver the data in the way that we keep them."

As to the length of retention, Wolff said that one part of the government code states that records must be retained for one year while

another section indicates that the city might be allowed to purge photos after 90 days "if the city keeps another record, such as written minutes or audio recording, or other event." Asked whether or not the city could encrypt the data, Wolff said encryption would be prohibited by law if the images are determined to be part of the public record.

During deliberations, Council Members Dean Orr and Eve Phillips advocated for a more limited crime cam program - one that would initially use only Reconyx cameras, saying a smaller pilot would give the city the chance to test the cameras without venturing into the arena of ALPR use, where the city would likely have less control over how data would be shared by law enforcement agencies outside of Orinda.


Vice Mayor Victoria Smith observed that the police chief's proposed crime cam program "has evolved over time, and is well thought out," and noted that, in numerous communications received from the public about the matter, the full pilot program "received significant majority support."

In the end, council members voted to approve the one-year pilot, 4-1, with Phillips voting no, and stipulated that all data obtained from the city's Reconyx crime cameras will be retained for the minimum period of time required by state law.

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Planting the Seeds of Hope

... continued from page A1

Led by Curiel and science teacher Laura Lowell, the students are raising three varieties of milkweed to establish a Monarch Butterfly Way Station at the school and in public places like Roger's Ranch. So far, Curiel says, the students have provided milkweed transplants for 11 sanctuaries in the East Bay this year. Why milkweed?

"We wanted to start making a place where butterflies could land and eat," said Mason Archer. And what else? urged Curiel. "And a place to lay their eggs," he replied. She smiled and nodded her approval.

Science teacher Lowell says the project would never have gotten off the ground without Curiel. "Kim has a passion, and I have the passion for teaching these kids," Lowell said. Indeed, Curiel sports an enamel monarch pin that she simply doesn't take off. "It was my mother's, and it means a lot to me."

A visit to the school shows that the garden means a lot to the students as well. Enthusiasms abound. "Monarchs are pollinators for plants like this!" said Tommy Hillman, holding up a bright orange marigold. And the color attracts them, he said.

The classes started with 6,000 seeds and students worked to get

them planted into plastic containers, watered regularly, and when the time was right, transplanted some into their own garden. Others they gave to groups wanting to create their own "Way Stations" for monarchs on their migration. The kids are now anxiously awaiting the plants to grow before monarchs begin to flutter their ways down from Canada to their roosts in Central and Southern California and Mexico. They stop to feed along the way – and to lay their eggs, which they do only on select varieties of milkweed plants because that is the only thing their children will eat. Sort of like a toddler holding out for macaroni and cheese, but a lot worse. A hungry child will eventually eat a piece of broccoli. A monarch larva will die.

"Milkweed is poison to people," said Logan Ketcham. Curiel is an intense, driven gardener who sees the relationships between people and plants and animals and soil and insects and nature all around her. Her passion comes through. When asked what is causing the precipitous demise of the monarch butterfly, her eyes narrow.

She has one word for it: "Roundup," she said. The drought isn't helping, either.



















In short, amid the ongoing debate about genetically modified foods (GMOs), Monsanto has developed seeds now used in the vast majority of the country's fields. Corn, soybeans, the list goes on. But the seeds are developed to withstand the application of Roundup. The company claims – and many don't dispute it – that the crops themselves are not harmful to people. But, Curiel poses, what about the insects? Where did a tremendous number of milkweed plants grow in the past? Milkweed used to grow in the furrows of those fields, along their edges.

No more. So conservationists like the Burton Valley 10- and 11-year-old students are trying to make up a little bit of the difference. Because the butterflies need milkweed all along their migratory route to lay eggs, activists are calling for utility companies to spare the plants near their power lines, along the roadways connecting the country. Plants can be mowed. Just not during the migration.

Now the students have done their part. They have planted a Way Station, they are carefully watering it, watching the plants grow, and keeping their eyes on the sky.

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Moraga's 'Bray-dee' Bunch

By Cathy Dausman



Pat Rose with her donkey, Ava. Once overweight, Ava now has a roll of fat on top of her neck.

Photos Cathy Dausman

Pat Rose's charges – babies Janie and Libby, plus Ava, Theodore and Eddie – give her that warm, fuzzy feeling every time. "They are sweeties, but I do have a lot of mouths to feed," Rose admits. Fortunately, they're all on the same carb-heavy diet, consuming three to five pounds per day of ... hay.

If you haven't guessed by now, her "sweeties" are Sicilian donkeys, "one of the smaller breeds," she said. Sicilian donkeys came to the U.S. in the early 20th century, weigh between 250 and 400 pounds, and stand 26 to 36 inches high at the shoulder, according to the PawNation website (www.pawnation.com). Although most have mouse-gray coloring, they can also be dark brown, white, spotted or chestnut.

Donkeys are smaller than mules, which are the offspring of a male donkey and a female horse. Mules are sterile; donkeys can reproduce. Janie and Libby (short for "Liberty"—born on the Fourth of July) are living proof, as they are Ava and Theodore's offspring and were born on Rose's Moraga acreage.

"I've always wanted a donkey," Rose said, but rather than fostering the larger, wilder donkeys the Bureau of Land Management offers, Rose purchased her donkeys from private owners. Eddie was her first; he is "the old man" of the group. "He's probably in his late 20s," she said.

She's had him 12 years. Ava was pregnant when she bought her, something the former owner didn't disclose. Each donkey needed looking after. "They

were thin and hadn't had their feet trimmed in years," Rose said. Ava's hooves "turned up like elf shoes, poor girl."

She is fine now though, Rose noted. The donkeys ask very little from life, just clean water, and some space. "They aren't very aerobic," Rose said, so there isn't the need for a large corral. They do like company, as they are pack animals. They receive vaccinations every year or two, she said, and now have their hooves trimmed three times a year, "just to tidy up their toes." Although "they do a pretty good job of

wearing them down, just trotting around," Rose added.

Rose is diligent about fly and mosquito control because the herd lives near her house. "The gardener picks up all the manure twice a week and takes it out to the compost pile in the back corner of my property," Rose said. "And I hang fly traps on the fence posts during the warm months."

As for the donkeys themselves, "if you want one or two, I would be happy to give you some of mine," she teased.

Somehow, her donkeys know that isn't likely to happen.



Sister donkeys, Janie (partly visible) and Libby, munch on their daily flake of hay.

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In the Eye of the Storm

Lamorinda volunteers experience the destructive force of a tornado

By Bobbie Dodson



A toilet seemingly hangs from the ceiling in this trailer that was completely picked up by powerful winds, flipped upside down and smashed into another trailer nearby. Photo Tom Welte

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The mission team from Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC), myself included, never imagined we would experience tornadoes when we planned a trip to Moore, Okla., for the week of May 3. Our group of 34 volunteers, ranging in age from 28 to 89, was going to help in the rebuilding of the town. In 2013, a tornado hit Moore with deadly force, claiming 24 lives, nine of them children, and destroying 1,150 homes. The estimated \$2 billion of damage is in a zone stretching more than 17 miles long and 1.3 miles wide, so there is still much to be done.

The work scheduled by non-profit Serve Moore, which helps those in need, had us repairing damage from a smaller tornado that happened in March of this year. The first three days were spent fixing fences and roofs. One of the tornado victims, Connie, told the group it was a dream come true to have a fenced-in yard again. "I thank you from the bottom of my heart," she said.

But work was cut short Wednesday afternoon, May 6, because of an impending storm. Our team assembled in the lobby of the Days Inn Motel ready to move into the central pantry room if necessary. For us Californians, the eerie wailing of sirens off and on for the next six hours was unnerving as our eyes were glued to the TV screen. Images showed street-by-street progress of the storm, the damage being caused, and major flooding, with water up to the door handles of cars.

Moore received seven inches of rain and also golf ball-size hail. It appears there was only one death: a woman drowned in her cellar storm shelter. Fifteen mobile homes were destroyed, and 10 more were deemed uninhabitable by the tornado that passed over our motel and touched down at the Forest Park Estates Mobile Home Park a couple of miles away.

We also learned how capricious tornadoes can be, as they touch down and perhaps destroy homes on one side of the street and not the other. Ours was a three-story motel, and we experienced the eye of the tornado going over us, but not touching ground. Two miles away a motel building just like ours had the roof and part of the third story blown off, all the windows smashed, and extensive damage.

The next day, hoping we could help those who experienced damage, we learned that Serve Moore couldn't send volunteers until a request was made. So some labored at a home where

many repairs were needed, and others stocked shelves and helped clients in a food pantry the food bank operated.

The request finally came, so we spent all day Friday at the mobile home park (or manufactured home park, as they call them). Seeing some of the homes turned on their sides or upside down revealed the strength of the wind. Huge trees had been uprooted, damaging homes, cars and trucks. It was a heartbreaking scene. But the gratitude of the residents was heartwarming: "Thank you, thank you." "God bless you." "We so appreciate your coming."

All this rang in our ears as we hauled tree limbs, siding, water-soaked insulation, as well as metal and wooden framework to the curbs where we deposited it, and homeowners in pickup trucks hauled the debris away. Dorinda, head of their security team, had tears in her eyes as she hugged each one of us upon our arrival. She expressed her appreciation for all we accomplished in a note sent to our construction leader, Rich Lewis of Orinda. We were impressed by the way the people of the park were out helping one another.

LOPC team members, Mary and Tom Welte, also Orindans, were surprised to see Bill and Kelly, owners of the home where their team had worked on the roof. It turned out Bill's parents lived in one of the completely destroyed homes, and they were there to help out. The Welte's learned that the parents had a storm shelter, but a car had been deposited on the entrance so they could not get out. With the help of friends, the car was shoved off, and Bill's parents were rescued.

Rev. Lauren Gully, staff leader for our mission team, said of the trip, "It is always incredible to speak to people who have lived through a natural disaster. Their stories of what the storm was like, how they felt, and the obstacles they face in the wake of the storm speaks to our humanity and our need for one another. I have been changed by having these conversations, not only in Moore, but on other mission trips as well. These sorts of interactions are honest and authentic. They remind me of how we need to care for one another when things are tough, and how inspiring it can be to see strangers helping one another."

Much, much more was left to be done in Moore but the LOPC team was glad to accomplish what we did and that we showed the residents others cared about them and their plight.

Submit stories and story ideas to
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Lamorinda Weekly Writer Wins First Place for Education Coverage

By Jennifer Wake



Uma Unni's first place win announced on the big screen during the May 9 award ceremony. Photo Andy Scheck

Lamorinda Weekly features writer Uma Unni who was awarded First Place for Education Coverage in the California Newspaper Publishers Association Better Newspapers Contest at a May 9 awards luncheon in Coronado, Calif., for her article, "WISE Program Opens Doors for Miramonte Students." The article focused on Miramonte High School alumni and students enrolled in the Wise Individualized Senior Experience, which allows seniors to create intense, flexible learning modules to pursue unique areas of interest.

"We were in awe that Uma won this award with an article she wrote last year at the ripe age of 15," said Lamorinda Weekly associate publisher Wendy Scheck. "This was not a student contest. All of the submissions were published articles from California Newspapers that are members of CNPA."

Unni was competing with other writers from weekly newspapers with circulations between 11,000-25,000. The contest is designed to recognize outstanding journalis-

tic achievements of California newspaper staff. Nearly 3,500 contest entries are received each year, according to the CNPA. Daily and weekly publications competed in separate divisions based on circulation. When evaluating the entries, judges considered comprehensiveness of coverage, quality of writing, local appeal, selection of material, and balanced reporting.

"Right after we published Uma's story last November a neighbor told me how much he liked the story and how well done it was," said Lamorinda Weekly publisher Andy Scheck. "Our team shared his opinion at our editorial meeting the same week."

Unni was not only recently recognized for her writing ability, but also for her entrepreneurial prowess when she was awarded first prize for entrepreneurship by the Lafayette Partners in Education (LPIE) for a series of free writing workshops for Lafayette middle schoolers she organized last year. After identifying a need for writing tutors among students, she did some

research and found out that Saint Mary's College Masters in Fine Arts students were looking for teaching experience, so she connected the two.

"I put both groups, each with their own needs, together – students seeking teachers and teachers seeking students," said Unni. She didn't charge for this service, calling herself a "social entrepreneur who works for the satisfaction of accomplishing a social good." Unni also arranged for the workshops to be held on the Saint Mary's College campus so that the middle school kids could be inspired by the ambience of a university setting.

"The workshops were taught by a very accomplished panel of tutors, all of whom were writers, and many of whom were also editors," said Unni. "They clearly did something right, too – the girl who won first prize for writing in the 2nd Annual Writing and Photography Contest attended two of our workshops, as it happens!"

Unni also received an honorable mention in journalism for the "WISE" article in the LPIE contest.

To read the full article, go to <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0818/WISE-Program-Opens-Doors-for-Miramonte-Students.html>.



Unni at the CNPA conference

Acalanes High School Newspaper Receives Top Awards

Submitted by Iris Wang

Acalanes High School's *Blueprint* Newspaper recently was honored with numerous awards from three different highly respected institutions for excellence in journalism. "This may be our biggest haul [of awards] the last twenty years," Marshall Grodin, *Blueprint's* volunteer advisor, said. "This is clearly a big day for *Blueprint* and for Acalanes." Quill and Scroll, an organization that honors individuals with national-level awards in a variety of different categories, awarded eight Acalanes *Blueprint* journalists with awards recognizing their top standing in the country. The American Scholastic Press Association in its 2014-2015 Annual Newspaper Review and Contest ranked Acalanes High School's *Blueprint* in its "First Place" category, recognizing *Blueprint* as among the top high school newspapers in the country. And the Dean Leshar Scholastic Journalism Awards, which celebrate student journalistic talent in Contra Costa County, awarded *Blueprint* its top award of First Place in "Overall Excellence," recognizing *Blueprint* as the best high school journalistic entity in the County. Leshar also awarded *Blueprint* 11 individual awards, including the most prestigious individual award, "First Place Contra Costa Journalist of the Year," to *Blueprint* Print Editor-in-Chief Megan Yee. The Journalist of the Year award was accompanied by a \$1000 scholarship.

Thank you for Supporting LPIE at the Power Party

On Saturday, March 14th parents and supporters from all over the community came together to "power" LPIE's fundraising efforts, and the result was an overwhelming success!

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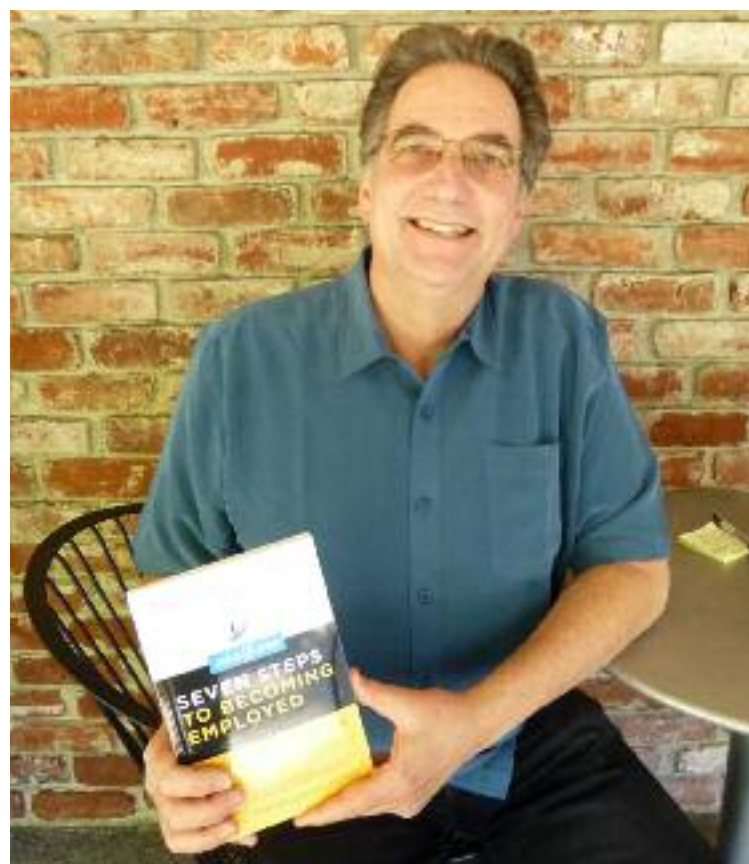
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Jails to Jobs

Lafayette resident helps former inmates find jobs

By Sophie Braccini



Mark Drevno

Photo Sophie Braccini

How does someone go from being a successful IT entrepreneur to training inmates about job-searching skills? It's a personal journey Lafayette resident Mark Drevno started 15 years ago when he gave a second chance to a young homeless man who had been incarcerated and was looking for a job. Today Drevno and his foundation, Jails to Jobs, aims at raising the necessary funds to place his eponymous book in the libraries of every prison in America.

"He had been up front about his addiction when I first talked to him on the phone, and I appreciated that," remembers Drevno of the former convict he hired in 2000. "I hired him because there was no reason not to hire him." When the newly-employed man turned out to be an excellent salesperson, Drevno thought he should find others like him. "Good salespeople are hard to come by," he said. "I wondered how many other 'diamonds in the rough' there might be out there." He began to go to rehabilitation centers and homeless centers and started to develop a job search workshop. He then reached out to the prison system. "I was always a do-it-yourself type of person," said Drevno. "Giving a second chance was new to me."

And something else started to

change in Drevno's life. "When I turned 49, I started questioning the meaning and purpose of always wanting to have more. This was bottomless and was not giving me fulfillment," he remembers. "Then I began to meditate with the Infinite Smile Sangha (a group practicing Buddhist spirituality) formed by former Acalanes teacher Michael McAlister. It opened my eyes to spirituality and other possibilities I had been yearning for."

This new dimension soon took a prominent place in Drevno's life, transforming who he was. He studied intensely for four years in a Buddhist chaplaincy program and will soon become a board certified Buddhist interfaith chaplain. Of course, in the meantime his search for the 'diamond in the rough' mutated. "Going to teach in the jails is like a calling to me," he says. "The self-interest faded away. I go there as an offering of hope, with compassionate presence and caring."

"Our organization, Jails to Jobs, has three programs," explains Drevno. "The training I do in prisons, the book that we want to put in every jail, and a tattoo removal referral service in 34 states." Drevno noticed that some inmates had tattoos that were highly visible and would either be the sign of a gang affiliation or be per-

ceived as anti-social – a real job-stopper that can be safely removed.

The book "Jails to Jobs, Seven Steps to Becoming Employed" is based on the extensive research Drevno did and his years of teaching the material. It covers some of the elements you would find in any book, for teens looking for jobs for example, but other elements are very specific to former offenders. For example, some parolees do not have the right to use the Internet, a hurdle Drevno is aware of that leads to offering other, more old-fashioned options for this population. The book presents several tips that ex-offenders will find useful, such as where to find the places where they worked years ago, and may have forgotten. Or top recommendations from companies that hired people with criminal records, the first one being, "Be upfront and honest about the conviction." He also lists the skills people develop in prison that can be used when presenting oneself, such as the ability to function under pressure or getting along with all kinds of people.

The comprehensive book oozes the enthusiasm and positive energy that characterizes Drevno. He developed an entire chapter about how to fight the enemy within that includes nurturing positive thinking, finding motivation, or trying mindful meditation, which could be used by anyone who's been unsuccessfully looking for a job a little too long. He is confident that if they follow the seven steps, people with criminal records will find employment, even if they face tremendous challenges doing so.

To this day, Drevno has presented his workshop to 3,000 people. "When I teach in prison I cannot give any personal information that would allow me to do a follow-up with the inmates once they are released," says Drevno, "but when I see someone I would find very intimidating outside lining up to shake my hand and thank me, that's reward enough for me."

Since Drevno continues to manage his IT services company, Data Focus, he needs more volunteers to teach in more prisons. The foundation has also launched the campaign to put a book in each of the 5,000 prisons in the United States. Each book sells for \$14.95 and donors can choose which prison or jail to send it. To learn more about the foundation, go to jailstojobs.org.

Bookmark Contest Draws Hundreds of Artists

Submitted by Mary Ransdell



From left, back row: John Halstead, Chaya Tong, Kristi Conner, Ethan Del Rosario, Georgia Carpenter and Isabella Bartos; front row: Kaitlyn Yasumura, Mattioli Sena, Emily Roberts, Sofia Bartos and Matthew Gillette; not pictured: Lisi Burciaga.

Photo provided

The winners of this year's Friends of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Bookmark Contest are Matthew Gillette (kindergarten, St. Perpetua School); Emily Roberts (first grade, Lafayette Elementary School); Mattioli Sena, (second grade, Springhill Elementary); Sofia Bartos (third grade, Burton Valley Elementary); Kaitlyn Yasumura (fourth grade, Happy Valley Elementary); John Halstead (fifth grade, Happy Valley Elementary) and Ethan Del Rosario (sixth grade, Stan-

ley Middle School); Georgia Carpenter (seventh grade, Stanley Middle School); Lisi Burciaga (eighth grade, Stanley Middle School).

Hall of Fame winners are Kristi Conner, a fifth-grader at Lafayette Elementary School, and Isabella Bartos and Chaya Tong, both sixth-graders at Stanley Middle School. The Hall of Fame honors students who submit outstanding artwork and who have won the contest previously.

More than 500 Lafayette students participated in the annual contest.

The Awards Ceremony took place at the Lafayette Library April 29. Each winner received gift certificates from The Storyteller Bookstore and The Friends Corner Book Shop. In addition, Anthony Ruiz of FastFrame in Lafayette will frame each student's bookmark free of charge. Mr. Ruiz also frames all of the winners' artwork for display in the library. He has generously supported the Bookmark Contest for over 25 years.

Submit stories and story ideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com



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New Lamorinda Arts Council Supports All the Arts

By Sophie Braccini

The official launch reception for the Lamorinda Arts Council, an all-volunteer arts education and advocacy organization born from the long-standing Orinda Arts Council, is planned for May 27. At the kick-off reception, musicians, graphic artists, dancers and literary artists will present their crafts – a perfect way to underscore this citizens' movement that promotes all forms of artistic expression and education in the three Lamorinda communities.

The change from the Orinda Arts Council to the Lamorinda Arts Council is the result of efforts by president Lawrence Kohl, with the support of his board as well as representatives from the two other cities, including Moraga council member and landscape painter Teresa Onoda. Founded in 1950, the Orinda Arts Council is best known as the organizers of the Lamorinda Idol, and of the high school Visual Arts Competition.

Kohl, who is the music director at Pacific Chamber Symphony and an Orinda resident, joined the Orinda Arts Council board in 2014. He became a co-president with Susan Garrel, before taking the helm when she stepped down. "It seemed to me that the arts council had a lot of potential," said Kohl. "The first thing that I did

was to establish a strategic planning group, to reflect on several basic issues." During the soul-searching process the group looked into what the other towns were doing and realized the OAC was the only arts council in Lamorinda. It seemed to the group that expanding the reach to the three communities would multiply the possibilities.

"The Lamorinda Arts Council will be able to achieve far more than the sum of our three towns individually," explained Kohl. "The possibilities are endless." The maestro met with council member Onoda at the Orinda Arts Council holiday luncheon. "She is interested in creating a public art committee like Lafayette and Orinda have," said Kohl. "For this to happen, she needs grass roots support, and that is one of the things an art council can foster."

Onoda started rallying artists and interested parties in Moraga and Lafayette. On April 6 a group of 20 or so artists and patrons came to discuss possibilities.

"(The purpose is to) capture the combined experience, expertise and exuberance of people who enjoy the arts," said Onoda. "For the first time, we intend to create a means to identify, encourage and support all of the

arts – performance, literary, painting, singing, etcetera – of all types and kinds. We intend to engage both Saint Mary's College and all of our local schools." Artists from the three cities came: ceramists, painters, gallery owners, musicians, a board member of the Saint Mary's creative writing program, Dr. Lino Rivera, a concert pianist and teacher at the college, as well as three members of the Lafayette Public Arts Committee, a branch of the Lafayette government, who indicated that it would be useful to have a non-government organization to work on some programs.

The next move happened at the April 23 Orinda Arts Council board meeting when a unanimous vote officially changed the OAC's name to the Lamorinda Arts Council. Those present were asked what their interests were and what projects they would be interested in developing, and they were asked to join the board and the strategic planning group. The launch reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. May 27 at Merrill Gardens, 3413 Mt Diablo Blvd., in Lafayette.

The LAC board assured that its commitment to Orinda and its schools will continue, and believes that the expanded Lamorinda Arts Council will enable everyone from the three

towns to work together to expand the reach, deepen the impact, and bring more of the arts to the broader community.

Artists and patrons of the arts who are interested and have ideas can come to the party or reach out to the group online at lamorindaarts.org.



The new Lamorinda Arts Council with Moraga councilmember Teresa Onoda (first row, center) and the council's president, Lawrence Kohl (to her right). Photo provided

Lynn's Top Five

College Students: Create your Own Internships!

By Lynn Ballou, CFP®

I'm hearing from a lot of clients that their college-bound kids are having a very tough time this summer finding meaningful work to do, paid or not. This is so frustrating for parents in our community who have worked tirelessly to instill the value of money and time in their kids, and even more so for their children who want to be useful and accomplished citizens with enhanced future employment prospects. My thought is this: If nothing created by someone else is forthcoming, create your own internship! Here are some ideas that others have shared with me over the years, and hopefully will resonate with you, on how to go about this.

Foster a pet. If you have a love of animals, giving a pet a loving home for the summer could be a great experience. Often you'll be asked to bring your new buddy to various pet

adoption venues, and help place them in a permanent loving home. You can also volunteer in pet shelters. Whether it's walking a dog or cleaning out kennels and cages, there's much work to be done. Your local veterinarian can help you with contact information for shelters, as can pet stores who often host adoption days.

Volunteer in assisted living facilities. Time can pass slowly for us when we live in even the best group assisted living situations, and having activities to do makes life much more fun. You and some friends who are talented in theatre arts, for example, could put together a "Revue." Call or visit the managers of these types of group homes and offer to put on a weekly show. Another idea: Volunteer to come read, sing, play music or create art. Whatever your talents are, they can be shared and enjoyed by many who are living in a group situation.

Help with literacy. Contact your local library to learn about how to help someone with English as their second language learn to read. Or volunteer in a community where English is not the primary language to help people navigate their lives in an English-speaking world. One of my client's children volunteered her time to assist a Spanish-speaking family friend go to doctor's visits and interpret instructions from the medical team to her when the woman's daughter was unable to go due to work conflicts.

Get involved in church or temple activities: Check with your local community churches and synagogues, even if you are not a member, and ask what charitable work they do and if you can lend a hand. It might be as simple as collecting canned goods in your neighborhood for their coor-

ordinated food bank initiative. Or it might involve helping out someone who is temporarily incapacitated by watering their plants, mowing their lawn, and maybe preparing a few simple meals.

Become a camp counselor. Some of these are paying jobs and some are not. And most are probably filled by now. But guess what? It's not unusual at every camp that some of the college kids who serve as camp counselors (and work in other camp functions such as cooks and office workers) bail out on their jobs at some time during the summer. It's not too late to call around to local summer camp programs and even some of the live-in camp programs in the mountains, for example, and offer to be an "alternate" if someone gets sick or leaves. You never know – you could be the perfect replacement and then next summer have priority as a first hire. This is great for someone outgoing with a flexible schedule.

These are just a few, very simple ideas. If you are a college student reading this, my advice is to narrow down your top three or four interests – hobbies and studies – and think about where you could add value in your community while focusing on these areas. And remember, by taking the initiative to offer your services to those in need, not only are these fantastic resume builders, but you may actually come across a field of interest or new hobby you never considered before! The experience of reaching out alone will help you as you navigate future job opportunities with your presentation skills and poise. Plus the contacts and friends you make can be invaluable to you for years to come. Wishing you much success!



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Community Service

LCF Gives Generously to Local Organizations

Submitted by Rhonda Andronico



From left, back row: Beth Montgomery, Beth Needle, Mike Gilson, David Morales, Janet Thomas, Lia Nelson, Sereta Churchill, Mary Bruns and Ruth McCracken; middle row: Susie Falk and Sandra Patterson; front row: Erica Hom, Dan Houge, Kathy Merchant Photo provided

The Lafayette Community Foundation's Spring Grant Recipient and Major Donor Event took place at Town Hall Theatre May 11. LCF gave out almost \$14,000 to the following organizations: California Shakespeare Theater, Contare Con Vivo, Early Alert Canines, Girl

Scouts-Twin Canyon, Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation, Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center, Lamorinda Adult Respite Center, Lamorinda Spirit Van, Lamorinda Village, Las Trampas and Town Hall Theatre.

Girl Scouts Host Free CPR and AED Training Event

Submitted by TJ Kirke



Lafayette Girl Scout Troop #31881 members with their moms (Jordan Lum, Sam Lum's sister, in the purple sweatshirt) Photo provided

Hands-only CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) can double or even triple the chances of survival for a cardiac arrest victim, according to the American Heart Association. Thanks to Lafayette Girl Scout Troop #31881, the public can learn hands-only CPR and get Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training at a free event from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 31 at St. Perpetua Church, 3454 Hamlin Road in Lafayette. The training facilitated by Contra Costa County EMS only takes 15 minutes, and no reservations are required. The Girl Scouts decided to host the event in honor of Stanley Middle School eighth-grader Sam Lum, who is

the brother of one of the Scouts, Jordon. Sam was saved when a bystander used an AED to revive him after he collapsed during a CYO basketball tournament. "Luckily there was a nurse at the game who immediately performed CPR and, ultimately, used a defibrillator machine to revive him," said one of the Girl Scout's moms, TJ Kirke. "Sam and his family are well-loved in this Burton Valley community and we were all touched by this crazy occurrence. We all learned that we need to stop making excuses and get trained in case of an emergency. St. Perpetua is graciously letting us use their facilities and trainers are donating their time."

New Troop 212 Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Lauren Woolsey



From left, back row: David Cushing and Walker Franklin; middle row: Noah Bagley, Ian Franklin, Alexander Horst, Kevin Atkinson and Derek Ludwig; front row: Tristan Westernoff, Dylan Thomas, Grant Bartis and Nicky Erickson Photo courtesy Karen Drinkwater

Boy Scout Troop 212 conducted their 52nd National Eagle Court of Honor on Sunday, April 26 at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, which sponsors the troop, to celebrate 11 outstanding young men earning the Eagle Award.

This year's Troop 212 Eagle Scout honorees from Campolindo High School and Acalanes High School are: Nicky Erickson, who painted new blacktop games at Camino Pablo Elementary School; Kevin Atkinson, who installed a bench at the Saint Mary's College cross in

memory of Reed Whittaker, fellow Troop 212 Eagle; Grant Bartis, who built a collapsible container to hold a generator for the MVPC Mission Trip; David Cushing, who built three custom-sized bookshelves and rolling planter for a special education classroom; Noah Bagley, who built and replaced old shed doors at Harbor House Ministries; Walker Franklin, who built risers for the choir program at Harbor House Ministries; Derek Ludwig, who built a storage shed for Campo Cabana Club; Dylan Thomas, who rebuilt the Rheem Elementary School marquee; Ian Franklin, who refurbished the courtyard of Las Trampas Inc.; Alexander Horst, who built eight backless benches for Camp Timberwolf; Tristan Westernoff, who rebuilt and replaced the baseball cubbies in the dugouts at Joaquin Moraga baseball fields.

Eagle is the highest award that a Scout can earn. Nationally, only about 4 percent of all boys who enter the Scouting program earn the award. Troop 212 has an active program of campouts, summer camps, and high adventure activities. The Troop currently has 79 youth actively involved in its programs. Troop 212 has awarded this special honor to 397 scouts since 1961.

Event Helps Junior Girl Scouts Bridge to Cadette

Submitted by Merrylee Landau



Junior Girl Scouts pose at Golden Gate Bridging event

Photo provided

More than 6,000 Girl Scouts from around the country May 2 participated in Golden Gate Bridging, an event exclusively for fifth-grade Junior Girl Scouts to bridge to the next level, Cadette Girl Scouts. Some girls from the Los Perales fifth-grade troop 30576 participated in the event. The girls and adult chaperones/leaders were shuttled from the Presidio to

the Marin Vista Point. They then walked back across the bridge to Crissy Field, beginning the bridge walk as Junior Girl Scouts and ending the walk as Cadette Girl Scouts. As they meandered down the path from the bridge to Crissy field, the girls were greeted by older Girl Scouts and complete the bridging ceremony with a pinning and the Girl Scout handshake.

CP Read-A-Thon a Huge Success

Submitted by Melanie McCauley and Laura Osteen



Camino Pablo Student Council members with Principal Tom Rust and Kaela Blasen from Reading Partners. Photo provided

Camino Pablo Elementary School in Moraga held its annual Reading Round Up (Read-A-Thon and book drive) and student involvement was at an all-time high, with some classes reaching 100 percent participation. The money raised during the Read-A-Thon has already benefitted the Camino Pablo campus with the installation of two murals representing the current students and their commitment to the Life Skills program. The CP community collected gently used book donations to benefit Reading Partners, (www.readingpartners.org) a local, nonprofit literacy program in the East Bay. The over 1,000 books donated will be used

to help children enrolled in a one-on-one tutoring program build their home libraries. Student Council representatives brought the donated books to Allendale Elementary School and learned more about the Reading Partners Program at the school from Kaela Blasen, the Reading Partners - Americorps site coordinator. Principal Tom Rust explains, "It's great to have a community-wide activity that engages students in reading, raising money for a common goal, and a way for students and families to give back to others. That is what the Read-A-Thon and book drive provides our community."

Kitten and Cat Adoption Days

Submitted by Billie Cummings



"Boo," a high-energy 8-week-old kitten rescued from the middle of a busy street by a Lafayette woman who brought her to the pet store. A kind store staffer has been fostering her.



"Fanny" is a very sweet 10-month-old black and white tuxedo who was rescued after being caught in an auto fan belt. She had to have her left front leg removed but does very well. She can climb, run, tackle other kitties, and still have a good time like there's no tomorrow! She's about 6-7 months old. Fanny will only be shown on Saturday.

Free kitten and cat adoptions will take place the weekend of May 30-31 at the following Community Concern for Cats adoption sites: PetFood Express Lafayette and Pleasant Hill and Petco Walnut Creek. Hours are Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. This adoption event is the Fifth Annual Maddie's® Pet Adoption Days, sponsored by Maddie's Fund. CC4C hopes to place dozens of its rescued kittens and cats in the arms of qualified adopters for free, and has over 200 pictured on its website, plus many kittens too young for adoption that are now being nurtured in their foster care program. Last year on Maddie's® Pet Adoption Days, 170 of CC4C's cats found good homes.

"Pumpkin" is a 7-year-old female longhair orange tabby with big jade-green eyes. She had to be surrendered by her heartbroken adopter, who developed a severe allergy. Pumpkin is very affectionate and people-oriented. She should be the only cat in the home.



"Tia" has been homeless since a wee kitten when she was rescued from near-death. She is now a 10-month-old little spitfire even though she is a small kitten-like cat. She is lots of fun and very sweet, but takes her time with new people.



"Izzy" (Isabella) is a real lover ... of people and of food. She loves cuddling close to your chest no matter what cat is already there. She also knows when food is being dispensed as she is by your feet and moves with your every step. Izzy is active and loves the company of other cats. She doesn't let her missing eye slow her down.

CC4C is a 29-year old all-volunteer cat rescue organization that works directly with the community in Contra Costa County, helping homeless cats. "We rescue from the streets and rely on the people in the community to be our foster caretakers," explains Gemma Osendorf Boyd, CC4C president. CC4C provides whatever the cat needs - vaccinations, all medical care, medicines and socialization; fosters provide food and a loving environment. Together they help frightened rescued cats grow into happy, healthy kitty companions. If you see a cat on the CC4C website (communityconcernforcats.org) that you are interested in meeting, please call the contact person named in the posting to ask where the cat will be on view.

Dealing with Dementia

First responders and caregivers gather to learn how to help

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Lafayette Chief of Police Eric Christensen, Teepa Snow and Kevin Reneau Photo Sophie Braccini

Teepa Snow commands respect. A dementia and Alzheimer's care expert who trains and helps agencies, facilities and families, Snow gave a presentation May 14 to a crowd of firefighters, police officers, nurses, and other first responders and caregivers, and had a simple message: Dementia is a rampant epidemic. With only 20 percent of people affected by the early phase of the disease diagnosed and properly treated before accidents happen, 40 percent of people at mid-stage still driving, and 50 percent of 85-plus-year-olds getting dementia, Snow is calling on communities to train and organize to make California a dementia-capable state.

She cited a program in the state of Wisconsin, called the Healthy Brain Initiative Project, created in partnership with the Department of Health Services, the Alzheimer's Association of Southeastern Wisconsin and AARP to educate the public, businesses and government entities on effective strategies for working with individuals with dementia and their caregivers (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01000.pdf>).

Snow's presentation was organized by Kevin Reneau's Senior Helpers of Moraga. "While first responders are incredibly well trained in emergency situations involving injuries and other conditions, they haven't received any real training in recognizing dementia or Alzheimer's

and lack effective tactics to handle such situations," said Reneau. He adds that all of his caregivers are introduced to the Teepa Snow system of training, which focuses on what dementia patients can still do rather than solely on their limitations. "Patience and compassion are the core components in any dementia care," he added.

Snow asked participants to pair up in the Orinda auditorium to better understand and experience for themselves how the different stages of dementia alters perception and behavior. "What we have to realize is that what they do is the best that they can," she said. "We make assumptions about people." For example, she explained that affected individuals sometimes understand only part of what is said to them. A statement like "don't move" could be understood as "move!" She recommended law enforcement officers to use only positive affirmations, such as "stay in the car."

The presentation was aimed at teaching how to safely work with people with dementia, so they can continue to live as independently as possible, for as long as possible.

Participants viewed a short documentary Snow recorded during a meeting where a woman with dementia was holding maracas, and would not stop banging them against furniture, would not disengage to go to the bathroom and move to another activity. Snow asked the woman's hus-

band what her job was when she was younger and learned she was a cleaning lady. Snow approached the woman. Holding a cleaning cloth, Snow started rubbing the furniture next to her. Then she encouraged the woman to do the same and traded the maracas for a cleaning cloth. To help the woman end the activity, she moved furniture away and started praising her for her accomplishments, finally succeeding in taking her to the bathroom and focusing on another task.

Snow traces every problem, including these obsessive behaviors, back to the deterioration that happens in the brain. It destroys certain mechanisms and reinforces others as people desperately try to continue to make sense of their world, even if everything increasingly loses coherence for them.

Another challenge dementia patients face is dramatically diminished field of vision as the disease progresses, leaving people with narrow tunnel vision. She explained how to approach people afflicted with this so as not to startle them, how to hold their hands to establish trust and be able to lead them without frightening them.

One Moraga-Orinda Fire District employee described how often first responders treat a symptom of dementia, but not the cause. "[The patient] will be treated for the consequence of the fall, but we often

don't know why the person fell, and emergency room personnel are not necessarily aware of the condition. Therefore, the person will be discharged, and this will happen again. We are impacted by repeated events that would be much better served with a different approach."

Additionally, Snow said sometimes the patients themselves will tend to hide the symptoms, either because they are concerned about losing their autonomy, or because they are in

denial, faced with a condition that has no cure and will only worsen.

Throughout the presentation, Snow's energy and humor dispelled any fear or anxiety about working with those afflicted with the disease and she provided matter-of-fact information and tools that will make the life of the caregivers, the first responders and the patients much easier.

More information about Snow, visit TeepaSnow.com.

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Rheem 4th Grader Wins Jump Rope Contest – On One Foot



Photo provided

Donald Rheem Elementary School fourth-grader Olivia Hlavac desperately wanted to win a jump rope contest at the May 8 Rheem Spring Picnic, but she carried a heavy burden with her to the competition – namely, a large black cast that covered the foot she broke on April 15. "She was so determined to win, she jumped on one foot for about five minutes," said her sister, Lauren. (Five minutes is a long time for someone who has two healthy jumping legs.) Olivia won the competition and was awarded a trophy, a bag full of candy, and Mexican jumping beans. J. Wake

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ART

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art presents for new exhibitions: "Visual Language: Mystery and Meaning" through June 21; "River Passage: New Work by Danae Mattes" May 25 - Sept. 6; "Andy Warhol: Prints, Polaroids and Pop" through June 14; and "The Darker Side of William Keith: Late Paintings" through Sept. 6. Museum admission: \$5 adults; members and K-12 graders free; free parking. For info, call (925) 631-4379 or visit stmarys-ca.edu/museum.

The Moraga Art Gallery show, "Transitions," features the one-of-a-kind, Asia-accented jewelry of Lafayette's own master jeweler K. de Groot, and a collection of Raku and pit-fired pottery by guest artist Mary Leigh Miller of Moraga. The show will run through May 30. For info, visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

Hacienda Wine Social and Art Exhibit & Sale from 5 to 7 p.m. on May 28 the at the Moraga Hacienda. The featured art will be from over 25 artists affiliated with the Hacienda art program led by Marianne Brown. Guests will find a variety of work ranging from landscapes to modern abstract art. The featured wine is from Captain Vineyards, and is \$8 per pour.

Lireille Gallery of Contemporary Jewelry and Art will exhibit new paintings by Oakland artist Ani Lucia Thompkins through June 20, with a reception for the artist from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, June 5. Contact the gallery for more information at (510) 547-3455, or visit the artist's website at http://anilucia.com.

The Lafayette Art Gallery's new show, "Spring It On Me," will run through June 28 at the Gallery, 3420 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite A, Lafayette. The featured artists are Judy Feins, Jill Landau and Lauri Moffet-Fehlberg. For more info, visit www.lafayettegallery.net

MUSIC

Clerestory presents Clerestory: Songbook at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 30 at David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley. The men of Clerestory perform jazz standards and classics of the American Songbook, along with beloved spirituals, barbershop, and folk tunes. Cost: \$25; \$15 students/seniors. For more info, visit http://www.clerestory.org or email info@clerestory.org.

WomenSing presents "Southern Exposure III" from 8 to 10 p.m. Wednesday, June 3 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. In "Southern Exposure III," WomenSing and Quinteto Latino present the premiere of Pirhekua, composed by Jose-Luis Hurtado and other southern gems. Cost: \$30 premium; \$25 general; \$20 senior; \$10 student/youth. For more info, visit http://www.womensing.org or call (925) 798-4875 or email info@womensing.org.

Jazz Café returns to Lafayette! Lafayette's annual Jazz Café will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, June 5 in the Stanley Middle School Multi-Purpose Room. There is a fabulous lineup featuring Stanley Middle School's Crusaders & Jazz Messengers, Campolindo's Jazz Band & Acalanes' Jazz Ensemble. Pre-concert entertainment by various musicians. Tickets: \$10 general admission, \$5 elementary students; kids under 6 are free. Los Primos Market Taco Truck will be selling scrumptious food from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dessert, coffee and beverages will also be available for purchase all evening. For info, contact Anouschka Wardy at anouschkaw@mac.com.

1st annual Lafayette Cello Bash

- hear up to 100 Cellos in a free concert from 5 to 8 p.m. Sunday, June 7 in Lafayette Park Plaza. Music conducted by the esteemed Bonnie Hampton, featuring the "Dirty Cello" band.

THEATER

Town Hall Theatre presents the comedy "Moon Over Buffalo" by Ken Ludwig and directed by Scott Fryer May 23-June 15; previews: May 21 and 22. For show times and tickets go to www.townhalltheatre.com or call (925) 283-1557.

"Willy Wonka Jr." opens June 5 and 6 at Wagner Ranch Elementary School. Director Ron Pickett, producers Ara Jelalian and Jackie Lawrence-Knight, musical director Derek Luscutoff have worked tirelessly with the fourth- and fifth-grade actors for months, crafting a theatrical event of pure imagination suitable for all ages. Tickets are available at the door or through www.showTix4u.com. Cost: \$12 reserved seats; \$10 general seating.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Many Faces of Skin Cancer from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 20 at the Walnut Creek Library, 1644 N. Broadway, Walnut Creek. This event focuses on one of the most preventable cancers. Join an engaging panel of medical experts as they offer insight into the latest information on prevention, early detection, risk factors and treatment options. Admission and refreshments free. Register by calling (925) 677-7287 or email calskincancer@gmail.com. Sponsors: Diablo Valley Oncology, Cancer Support Community and American Cancer Society.

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation Distinguished Speaker Series will feature Native San Franciscan David Downie from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, May 29, in conversation with Lynn Carey. David moved to Paris in the 1980s and has chronicled his love affair with the City of Light in three books: "Paris, Paris," the bestselling "Paris to the Pyrenees," and his newest "A Passion for Paris" in which he skillfully transports readers into the city's vibrant culture and hidden locations. Registration required. Cost: \$10 at door, or register for this and the May 19 Arabella Bowen event, and pay \$15 for both.

Commonwealth Club presents "Video Games and Neuroscience: A Vision of the Future of Medicine and Education" from 6:30 to 8 June 10 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. Brain training games offered by companies like Lumosity and Fit Brains are rapidly gaining popularity, but how do we know if they're truly able to keep our brains healthy? Come hear the latest in neuroscience as University of California, San Francisco's Dr. Adam Gazzaley explores how video games can train our brains, fend off mental decline and reduce our reliance on medication to treat neurological and psychiatric conditions. Cost: \$15 members; \$25 nonmembers. Check-in starts at 6 p.m.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Kids Day begins at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, June 14 at The New Rheem Theatre, 350 Park Street in Moraga with the showing of the movie "Despicable Me," followed by a festival from 12 to 2 p.m. with Sno-Cones, Bricks 4 Kidz, face painting, food, bounce house, petting zoo, balloons and police cars. The cost for the movie is \$5 and the entire event is a benefit for the Special Olympics of Northern California.

OTHER

Contra Costa Commission for Women, in partnership with the Institute of Entrepreneurial Leadership at JFK University, will present a Leadership Panel Discussion featuring powerful women who have excelled in their chosen fields from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 20. Panelists include: KPIX 5's weekend news anchor Ann Notarangelo, Contra Costa County District III Supervisor, Mary Piepho, Contra Costa County Deputy District Attorney, Dominique Yancey, and Political Strategist, Mary Jo Rossi. The goal of the Women's Commission is to inform, educate and empower women to make more beneficial choices in their lives. Register now as seating is limited for this event. It will be held at JFK University Institute of Entrepreneurial Leadership, 2151 Salvio Street, Suite 350, Concord. Refreshments will be served. To register go to www.womenscommission.com.

Join us for the 42nd Annual Belly Dancer of the Year Competition, Memorial Day Weekend, May 23-24, at the Orinda Library Auditorium. The competition will feature professional solo and troupe performers from the US, Mexico, and Japan. Belly Dancer of the Year is a volunteer-supported community event, and all ages welcome! Details and tickets available at www.bellydanceroftheyear.net.

Community Concern for Cats invites you to its annual Maddie's Pet Adoption weekend May 30-31. Every kitten and cat is free to a qualified home. See adorable adoptables at Pet Food Express Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco Walnut Creek from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. The Pleasant Hill site opens an hour earlier. For more info, go to www.communityconcernforcats.org. If you see a cat on the website that you would like to meet, call the name in the posting to ask where the cat will be on view.

Join Parents for a Safer Environment to decrease pesticide usage in the community, particularly in public areas where children may get exposed. We have changed policies for the MUSD, Town of Moraga, CC County Departments, AUHSD, and continue to work on other communities as our resources allow. We are currently seeking volunteers: marketing/development director to work with sustainable businesses; program manager to work with individual public agencies and help review pesticide usage data; community organizer to work on special events and over 1,000 community members on our list serve; and legal counsel to help with certain projects addressing Prop 65 and/or EPA Pesticide Injunctions. Contact Shirley@pfse.net or (925) 283-4609 for more info. www.pfse.net.

Eat to End Alzheimer's from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, June 11 in the Desco Plaza Fountain Courtyard 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. In celebration of National Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month in June, the Alzheimer's Association in Lafayette will host its third annual barbecue fundraiser. Enjoy live music, a delicious barbecue spread, and raffle prizes for a \$10 donation to support the local programs and services of the Alzheimer's Association. RSVP at https://alzbq.eventbrite.com or Lacey Todd at Ltodd@alz.org or (925) 284-7942.

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SENIORS

Enjoy one of the Bay Area's top magicians, an interactive dementia experience and a presentation by local author Bob Nozik on how to create happiness in one's life highlight the 7th Annual Lamorinda Senior Faire from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, June 2 at the Hacienda de las Flores in Moraga. Other presentations at the event, which is free to the public, will include a session focused on the Top 10 Exercises for senior balance and strength held by Sue Funkhouser and a presentation on the new direction of senior nutrition by Dorothea Michalik, RD, CDE. Free food and refreshments will be offered.

GARDEN

Golden Gate Audubon Society presents Gardening for Wildlife in our Drought from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, May 21 at Northbrae Community Church, 941 the Alameda, Berkeley. The current

drought challenges us to find new ways to design sustainable residential landscapes to also create habitat for birds and butterflies. Cost: \$5 or free for members. For more info, visit <http://www.goldengateaudubon.org/education/speaker-series/> or call (510) 843-2222 or email ggas@goldengateaudubon.org.

Lafayette Community Garden presents Healthy Household Cleaners from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, June 6 at 3932 Mount Diablo Blvd. Learn about some of the chemicals we are exposed to and how to lessen this exposure or avoid them. See how cleaning with natural homemade products can result in a healthier home and discover some easy and fun drought tips. To register, visit lafayettecommunitygarden.org/classes-and-events.

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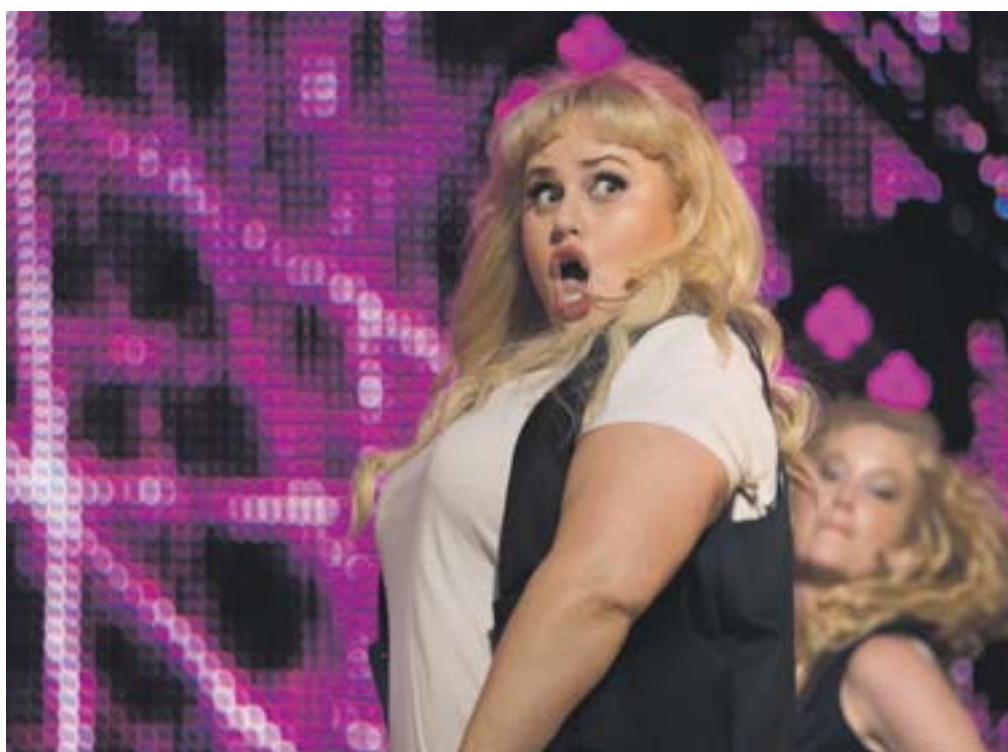
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‘Pitch Perfect 2’

By Derek Zemrak



Fat Amy (Rebel Wilson) steals the show in "Pitch Perfect 2," the follow-up to 2012's surprise hit. Photo Richard Cartwright

The pitch is in tune in "Pitch Perfect 2"! The Bella's are back in the sequel to the 2012 surprise hit, "Pitch Perfect," which was made on a \$17 million production budget and grossed \$65 million at the U.S. box office. Moviegoers knew a sequel would be in the works with those results. This time, everyone's favorite a capella group – the Barden University Bellas – must regain their glory after a humiliating wardrobe malfunction by Fat Amy (Rebel Wilson) that was witnessed by the president of the United States while they performed at the prestigious Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. With nowhere else to turn, the Bellas enter an international competition that no American a capella group has ever won.

The solid ensemble cast from the original movie returns in "Pitch Perfect 2," which includes Oscar nominee Anna Kendrick (Beca), comedian Rebel Wilson (Fat Amy), Brittany Snow (Chloe),

Ester Dean (Cynthia), Hana Mae Lee (Lily) and Alexis Knapp (Stacie). Beca is a senior at Barden and working as an intern at a record label company when Chloe discovers that Beca is more interested in her career. The Bellas once again must pull it all together and find the "perfect pitch."

Two-time Emmy Award nominee Elizabeth Banks ("30 Rock") takes the directing reins and keeps the movie going at a quick, witty pace. She also does another superb job as the color commentary co-host, Gail, at the a cappella contests. As sequels go, the movie hits all the right notes and holds its own as an entertaining, enjoyable comedy. Once again it is Wilson (Fat Amy) who steals the stage. The girl is hilarious and I would say the funniest woman in Hollywood. She deserves her own movie.

"Pitch Perfect 2" is rated PG-13 for innuendos and language.

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For more information, contact:
Regina Englehart @925-876-9076
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Lamorinda Weekly

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Letters to the editor (max 350 words): letters@lamorindaweekly.com
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Publishers/Owners:
Andy and Wendy Scheck; andy@lamorindaweekly.com, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

Editor: Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com, **Copy Editor:** Nick Marnell; nick@lamorindaweekly.com

Sports Editor: Caitlin Mitchell; sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Advertising: 925-377-0977, Wendy Scheck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

Staff Writers:
Sophie Braccini; sophie@lamorindaweekly.com, Cathy Tyson; cathy@lamorindaweekly.com;
Laurie Snyder; laurie@lamorindaweekly.com, Cathy Dausman; cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com,
Nick Marnell; nick@lamorindaweekly.com
Digging Deep: Cynthia Brian; cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com
Food: Susie Iventosch; suziventosch@gmail.com

Contributing Writers: Conrad Bassett, Moya Stone, Michael Sakoda, Marissa Harnett, Lou Fancher, Chris Lavin, Amanda Kuehn Carroll, Diane Claytor, Scott Wu, Lauren Kim, Uma Unni, Spencer Silva, Karl Buscheck, Ryan McKinley, Zoe Portnoff, Barry Hunau (cartoonist), Derek Zemrak (Film Critic)

Calendar Editor: Jaya Griggs

Photos: Tod Fierner, Ohlen Alexander, Gint Federas

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Mailing address:
Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133
Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 1-800-690-8136
email: info@lamorindaweekly.com website: www.lamorindaweekly.com

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May 22:

Hear from Mark Fillingner, Director of Development at First Solar where he develops utility-scale solar projects.

May 29:

Come learn more about Lamorinda Sunrise and Rotary LSR'r Jackie Steel "Exposes Herself" - please join us to hear her story.

Please join us for a great speaker and breakfast!!

Lafayette Rotary Club

Step in on a Thursday and join us for our lunch meeting.
Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

May 21:

Barry Goode, Presiding Judge, CC County – Judicial Branch and its ramifications”

May 28:

Dr. Ben Ho – WOOF search dogs teams with Wilderness Finders

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Granola Bars for Summer Hiking

By Susie Iventosch



Peanut Butter-Chocolate Chip Granola Bars

Photo Susie Iventosch

One day at the office, we started talking about food, which happens quite a lot, and my boss told us that his daughter makes granola bars! Wow. Even though we've made granola at our house for years, the idea of making granola bars had never occurred to me! What a great idea for summer camping and hiking, which is when I normally indulge in granola bars.

I asked for the recipe, twice, but it was not forthcoming, so last week I ventured forth on my own and attempted to make two different flavors: peanut butter-chocolate chip and cinnamon flavored fruit and nut. They turned out completely different and, just as store-bought granola bars vary from dry and crispy to gooey and chewy, mine did too! The key to making them dry or gooey is how much of the syrup concoction you add to the oat base and how

long you bake it.

For the fruit-nut bars, I added pecans, sliced almonds, sunflower seeds as well as a cup of Trader Joe's "Legendary Nut & Berry Mix," which also includes almonds, cranberries, raisins, cashews, blueberries, raspberries and walnuts, so this one is chock-full of energy.

When I made the peanut butter-chocolate chip bars, I added the chocolate chips a little too soon and they melted into the bars, rather than staying in one piece, as they do in chocolate chip cookies. So, I would recommend adding them after the mixture has cooled to room temperature, before baking them.

Try adding different dried fruits, nuts and spices to come up with your own favorite version!

Cinnamon Fruit-Nut Granola Bars

(Makes about 16 bars)

INGREDIENTS

- Dries
- 3 1/2 cups oats (I used Old-Fashioned, but prefer Quick for making granola, and will use those next time)
- 1/4 cup wheat germ
- 1/4 cup sunflower seeds
- 1/2 cup pecan pieces
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon cardamom
- 1 cup fruit and nut mix (like your favorite trail mix, I used Trader Joe's Legendary Nut & Berry Mix)
- Syrup
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup honey (or agave, or half and half)
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS

Grease a 9-by-13 inch baking dish, or spray with cooking spray. Place all dries, spices and fruit in a large bowl. Toss to mix well. Heat honey, brown sugar and vanilla over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until brown sugar is completely dissolved. Remove from heat. Pour syrup over dries and toss to coat well. Pat into prepared pan and bake at 300 F for approximately 15 minutes, or until desired doneness. Remove from oven and cool for about 10 minutes before scoring into the size bars you want. Allow them to cool completely before removing the bars from the pan.

Peanut Butter-Chocolate Chip Granola Bars

(Makes about 8 granola bars)

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups oats
- 1/4 cup nuts (your choice – peanuts, cashews, pecans, almonds)
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup chocolate chips

Syrup

- 3 heaping tablespoons peanut butter (either crunchy or creamy are fine)
- 2/3 cup honey (or agave, or combination)
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

DIRECTIONS

Place oats, nuts and salt in a medium bowl. Mix well. Keep chocolate chips on the side for now. Heat honey, brown sugar and peanut butter over medium heat until peanut butter and sugar are dissolved. Add vanilla and stir well. Pour sweet mixture over dries and mix well. Allow to cool to room temperature, then stir in chocolate chips. Spread mixture into a well-greased 8-by-8 inch pan. Bake at 300 F for approximately 15 minutes, or to desired doneness. Remove from oven and cool for about 10 minutes. Score into bars, but don't cut into bars until completely cooled.

Susie Iventosch is the author of Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, www.amazon.com, and www.taxbites.net. Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com. **This recipe can be found on our website:** www.lamorindaweekly.com. If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977.



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LAMORINDA SPORTS



Acalanes, Miramonte in NCS Tennis Tournament

Dons Advance to CIF Tournament Finals

By Spencer Silva



Photos Gint Federas

Since the first NCS team tennis tournament in 1999, only seven high schools have earned the distinction of champion. Acalanes had a chance to become the eighth school on that list on May 16. Under a new coach, Stephanie Lawrence, Acalanes reached the title match for the first time in school history. In the championship, the Dons faced off with DFAL rival Dougherty Valley, but fell by a final score of 5-2.

Acalanes (24-3) earned the No. 2 seed in the tournament after finishing second in the DFAL. On their way to the finals, the Dons beat Sonoma Valley 7-0 and swept Amador Valley 7-0. In the semifinals on the morning of May 16, they beat No. 3 Monte Vista (EBAL) Mustangs 4-3 in thrilling fashion. Senior doubles partners Ian Dao and Preston Tso pulled off a thrilling victory over Monte Vista's No. 1 doubles team, tipping the overall contest in their favor. "The doubles win versus Monte Vista was huge," explained Lawrence. "It wasn't nec-

essarily expected, but they came through."

In the finals, Dougherty Valley proved to be too difficult an opponent. Lawrence didn't mince words about the strength of their opponent: "Dougherty is one of the best teams in the country."

The Dons' No.1 singles player, Kyle Everly, ended his match early Saturday due to a leg cramp. Everly, a junior, earned third place in the boys' Division I singles tournament the weekend before. He lost to eventual champion and No. 1 seed Kevin Ma of Dougherty Valley.

Although the NCS title escaped them, the future of the program is bright. All four of Acalanes' top singles players will return in 2016, and the Dons were ranked Top-10 NorCal team after winning a 117-team tournament in Fresno earlier in the season. The team had strong chemistry this year and expect to carry that over to next season. "It's a great team. The seniors and the freshman root for each

other, which isn't something you get to see in a lot of sports," Lawrence said.

The team planned its year-end banquet for Sunday, the day after the NCS finals, but, as fate would have it, their season hasn't ended. Their second-place NCS finish promised a berth — their first — in the CIF NorCal tournament, which begins next Friday. They will meet Granite Bay in the first round, a team Lawrence is quite familiar with from her days coaching in the Sac-Joaquin Section. "They've been a nemesis of mine for a long time. This is going to be a very exciting tournament," she said.

No. 4 seed Miramonte (15-5) fell to South Bay powerhouse Mission San Jose 4-3 on May 15. It all came down to No. 1 singles player Peter Martin who played Mission San Jose's Viam Aurora in the contest's rubber match. Both sets were eventually settled in tiebreaker fashion — 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-3). Martin and No. 2 singles player, junior Alex Hwang,

were fresh off winning the NCS doubles title, a tournament in which they didn't cede a single set. Miramonte's senior doubles team, Kyle Rechnitv and Bryce Hummer, were the highlight of the afternoon for the Mats, beating Mission San Jose's No. 1 doubles team in straight sets (6-3, 6-1).

It was not the way that the senior class, winners of two NCS titles and second place finishers in 2014, had hoped to conclude the season. Martin is going to Middlebury College in Vermont to play tennis and a number of the other players are headed to elite colleges for academics. Head coach Mike McCollum spoke glowingly about his senior class. "This is the greatest tennis group we've ever had," he explained. "They're all great kids: we're talking excellence in the classroom, on the tennis court and as teammates ... they're off the charts."

SMC Rugby Wins Second Straight National Title

By Spencer Silva



Photo provided

Saint Mary's College returned to the Division 1A Rugby National Championship with one goal—to win a second title. The Gaels defeated Life University (Marietta, Ga.) 30-24 for the second year in a row to take a second straight title on May 9. It was the third year in a row they played the Running Eagles in the 1A National Championship game.

Last spring, the two teams met at Stanford University. The Gaels triumphed in front of a sympathetic home crowd, beating the Running Eagles by a score of 26-6. This year, the game took place in Life's backyard — at Third Bank Stadium at Kenesaw State University — just a 10-mile drive north from Life's campus.

The match was largely defensive and neither team dominated for any large swath of time. "Defense on both sides was very strong," said assistant coach Tony Samaniego. "We knew it was going to be that way."

The Gaels jumped out to an early

lead when game MVP Dylan Audsley scored a try and conversion in the middle of the first half — they led 13-10 at the half.

With 20 minutes left, Life nearly staged a comeback when it scored a try on a chip-kick over the Saint Mary's defense. The conversion afterward brought the score to an uncomfortable 27-24. Fortunately for the Gaels, Audsley converted a difficult penalty kick from far away minutes later to bring the score to 30-24.

In the last five minutes, up 30-24, Saint Mary's fumbled the ball over, which nearly cost them the game. With no time left, the two teams found themselves in a scrum near Saint Mary's try line. It was then that Kingsley McGowen, a U.S. National team hopeful, stole the ball and punted it out of bounds to save the day — the referees whistled the game over seconds later.

"The game lived up to the hype," explained Samaniego. "Both teams

came out with a strong desire to win back the title of the best team in the country."

All-American honors will be announced sometime this week and several Saint Mary's players are likely to be recognized. Seven players earned the distinction last year, when the Gaels were unanimously voted the No. 1 team in the country. Senior Captain Cooper Maloney — last year's national title-game MVP — along with McGowen, Audsley and co-captain Mike O'Neill, have formed the core of one of the most successful teams in school history.

The school will send a Sevens team to Colorado this weekend in hopes of capturing yet another national title. Sevens is a variation of traditional rugby, where seven players play from each team, instead of 15, for shorter periods of time. It's set to make its debut as an Olympic sport in Rio de Janeiro next summer, perhaps with some former Gaels on the squad.

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Acalanes LAX Advances to NCS Semifinals

Mats, Cougars qualify for NCS

By Karl Buscheck



Acalanes senior Adrian Jeffries

Photos Gint Federas

After storming through the DFAL with a perfect 12-0 record, the Acalanes boys' lacrosse team is looking to win its second NCS title in three seasons.

"Our senior class has played in two consecutive championship games and they're a real big reason that we got to where we are," said head coach Brent Ringwood.

As the Dons aim for another NCS banner, the team will be relying heavily on seniors Adrian Jeffries and Vinny Gladden along with junior Brian Maiken.

"Everybody's really stepped up, but those three guys are very exceptional players," said Ringwood.

The league champs earned the No. 1 seed in the Division II playoffs and had a bye in the opening round before taking down Campolindo at home on May 15.

"Overall, the effort was there the whole time, but in the second half, things really got rolling and we got some good looks," said Ringwood after the Dons topped the Cougars 13-6.

Next up on the docket is another

clash with No. 4 seed Marin Academy on May 20 in the semifinals. Acalanes edged past Marin Academy 11-10 at the end of March in San Rafael.

"Anytime you play a team multiple times, you end up having to beat them in different ways," said Ringwood. "The last time we played them it was a double overtime win, so we have to figure something new because it's definitely not going to be the same thing twice."

For Campolindo, the loss to Acalanes in the quarterfinals brought to an end a historically successful campaign. The Cougars landed in second place in the DFAL standings with a 9-2 record; their only losses came against the Dons.

Campolindo swept past Miramonte and also hosted its first NCS game since 2008. Plus, Campolindo earned its first-ever NCS win, knocking off Bishop O'Dowd 14-8 in the opening round of the playoffs on May 13 in Moraga.

Head coach Mitchel Frey gave all the credit to his players: "The success goes hand in hand to the amount of work and effort that our kids put in and I couldn't

be prouder of our group of kids."

Like the young Cougars, the Mats are another youthful team on the rise. Miramonte placed fourth in the league standings with a 6-6 record, earning the No. 12 seed in the NCS postseason. On May 13, the Mats nearly upset the No. 5 seed Novato on the road.

"We were aiming to make it past the first round," said head coach John Hofinga after his team lost 8-7. "We played a very good game. It was a one-goal game, back-and-forth the whole time and the guys played hard and I was proud of the way the team came together and really showed up

to play in that last game, but we definitely could have won that game."

A quartet of senior captains—Sam Essabhoy, Spencer Hardwick, Josh Chen and Sam Tuttle—anchored the Mats in 2015, but the future looks promising thanks to an array of re-emerging stars.

"I think that was the key part—especially as the program continues to grow. If we get those younger guys to keep coming in year after year, it really builds a good foundation," said Hofinga. "We have that chemistry on and off the field and that translates to success on the field."



Miramonte senior Sam Essabhoy



Kannah Cruickihank, Campolindo

Acalanes and Miramonte Lacrosse Teams Cruise in NCS

Cougars fall in quarterfinals

By Karl Buscheck



Ellie Higgins, Acalanes



Sophia Hubbell, Campolindo

Photo Gint Federas

The Acalanes and Miramonte girls' lacrosse teams both advanced to the NCS semifinals thanks to decisive victories on May 15.

The Dons, who landed the No. 2 seed in the Division II playoffs after ripping off a 12-0 record in league action, carved up Justin-Siena 17-5 in the quarterfinals. The key to success

for the DFAL winners all season has been that squad doesn't have to count on any given player.

"One of the greatest things about this season's team is that we have a huge team, but every single player is capable of being an impact player," said head coach Katie Mitchell. "We don't have the superstars that the pro-

gram has had in the past, but every girl is a very strong player. It's nice having a deep team and being able to rely on everyone on the team."

That depth was needed, as Acalanes faced off against the No. 3 seed S.F. University in the semifinals on May 19 in Lafayette. For the Dons, it's all about being mentally prepared.

"I think it's a mental game," said Mitchell. "We've worked really hard and improved a lot over the season and it's anybody's game when you step onto the field. So, I think it's just who can execute the best. Hopefully we'll come in mentally ready."

The Mats also ran up against a big-time opponent, as Miramonte traveled to Piedmont to battle with the No. 1 seed in the semifinals on May 19. The Mats advanced to that stage after dispatching their neighbor Campolindo 19-10 at home on May 15. The win marked the second time that the Mats had topped the Cougars in less than a month.

Miramonte also beat Campolindo on April 28 in what proved to be a crucial contest for both squads. Thanks in part to that win, the 9-3 Mats hung onto the second spot in the DFAL standings while the Cougars dropped into third place. As a result, the No. 4 seed Mats got to host the

No. 5 seed Cougars in the NCS showdown.

For the Cougars, senior Mary Hildeburn was the star throughout 2015 season.

"She's just one of the best players in the entire league who all the girls on the team look up to," said head coach Jessica Hoffschneider.

Campolindo also has a slew of talented young players like sophomores Peyton King and Grace Burnite who provide plenty of optimism for the 2016 season and beyond.

"We have some sophomore players who are first-time varsity players and who have really impressed us and become some of the best players on the team," said Hoffschneider. "So, what's been great for us and for the future of the program is to see some of these younger players who we weren't expecting much out of really step it up."

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50 Camps and Classes SUMMER CAMPS 2015

Oakland Strokes Advance to National Championships

Submitted by Cheryl Richards



Women's Varsity Lightweight 8+: Gray Strandberg, Liz Hofinga (Miramonte), Jillian Lundstrom (Miramonte), Marie Johnson (Miramonte), Julia Giovanni (Campolindo), Madelynn Prendergast, Maddie Boxer, Limor Dubrovsky (Acalanes), Rileigh Long Photo Laura Cvitanovic

Oakland Strokes rowed to victories at the U.S. Rowing Southwest Youth Championships held on Lake Natoma in Gold River, Calif., on May 1-3. This year the regatta drew 571 crews hailing from 35 clubs in the southwest district.

The boys' varsity 8+ won the championship, having found the right combination to take down their powerful regional and national rivals Marin Rowing Association. With the win, the squad earned a berth at the 2015 U.S. Rowing Youth National Championships to be held June 12-14 in Florida.

The boys' JV 8+ went undefeated this season on its way to a championship. The last time the Strokes won championships in both divisions was in 1999.

Oakland Strokes entered two boats in the boys' varsity 4+ event, and took first and second in their separate heats, but finished third and fourth in the final, edged out by Marin.

The girls' varsity lightweight 8+ boat took first in its heat and second in the final, finishing only 1.411 seconds behind Newport. The second place finish was enough to earn a berth to the nationals.



Men's Varsity 8+: Back row, from left: coach Brian DeRegt, Daniel Hogan (Lafayette resident), Rhys Daniel, Alex Lilichenko (Miramonte), Michael Cuellar, Kenyon Watson (Miramonte), Cameron Chater, Tucker Johnson, Max McDonald, Connor Olson, coach Alan Kush
Men's JV 8+: Front row, from left: Luke Lawler, Allen Hosler, Henri Illien, Brandon Fluegge (Miramonte), Isabella Onken, Cole Ortiz (Campolindo), Sam Thatcher, Jackson Witherspoon, Brendan Purtil (Bentley) Photo Barbara Wright

Magic U15 Boys make CYSA State Cup Semifinals

Submitted by Greg Davis



Back row, from left: Jason Vilchez, Alejandro Fabian, Joseph Grato, Oliver Feigin, Nicolas Brenes, Emmanuel Anaya, Shukoor Haji, Sam Pinto, Yohannes Kolanji, Ben Hodder, Daniel Wahl; front row: Aidan Jenkins, Alex Topping, Mason Larrick, Zachary Flagg, Tai Fox, Luca Arghast, Sohayl Sayfurahman, Cole Kelez, David Lacayo, Photo provided

The California Magic U15 boys advanced to the semifinals of the CYSA Premier bracket of the State Cup in their first tournament of the season on April 25. They beat the No. 4 team in Northern California, Santa Clara Sporting White, 2-1 and shut out their last opponent the Sacramento Pumas to advance.

They played very well in their loss in the semifinals to No. 3 Santa Clara Sporting Green. Coaches Jasko Begovic and Kamani Hill say

the boys showed great character in moving on to the semifinals and are off to a great start so early in the year.

Begovic said, "Only 2-3 weeks into the Spring season, our boys are showing a tremendous level of dedication, commitment and cohesiveness. They have created a strong culture as a team and we are very proud of them and their accomplishments so early in the season."

Aquabears Viking Club Swimmers Excel at NCS Championship

Submitted by Julie Roberts



From right: Marie-Claire Schillinger (Miramonte), NCS Champion in the 100 Breaststroke with fellow Viking Aquabear breaststrokers Aileen Lee and Kaya Philapil Photo provided

The 2015 North Coast Section Swimming and Diving Championship was held on May 14-16 at Concord Community Pool. Over 800 swimmers and divers representing 70 public and private high schools competed at the meet. Aquabears Viking Club, located in Pleasant Hill, qualified 16 swimmers representing 12 local high schools.

Olympic trials qualifier and Harvard-bound Acalanes senior Brittany Usinger won two individual events, the 200 Freestyle (1:47.51) and the 100 Butterfly (52.43). The 100 Butterfly swim set a new NCS record, previously held by Celina Li of Foothill High School from 2012.

Marie-Claire Schillinger, a senior from Miramonte headed to Rice University in the fall, won the 100 Breaststroke with a time of 1:01.12. She also finaled in the 200 Individual Medley (2:06.47) and placed seventh. On Sun-

day, at the Aquabears post-NCS meet held at Diablo Valley College, Schillinger qualified for the 2016 Olympic trials in both the 100 and 200 meter Breaststroke.

Other fast swims included Campolindo Junior Alexa Hanley who placed 18th in the 100 Breast (1:05.70) and 25th in the 100 Butterfly (58.52). Campolindo Junior Jane Wood also swam the 100 Fly and placed 21st (57.98). Miramonte freshman Nicole LaCour placed 28th in the 500 Free (5:28.54) and Las Lomas senior Michael Lutzker placed 17th in the 500 Free (4:50.94) and 24th in the 200 Free (1:48.24).

With the high school season over, these swimmers now shift their attention to the summer-long course season. For information on the Viking Club team, contact coaches Joe Natina or Chris Horner at aquabearsvc@gmail.com or visit www.swimviking.com.

Sixth-Graders Net Bid to Volleyball Nationals

Submitted by Baldwin and Jeanie Lee



Brianna Lee, Olivia Knutson, and Laura Studebaker (back row, second-fourth from the left) pose with their teammates. Photo Baldwin Lee

Moraga sixth-graders Brianna Lee, Olivia Knutson, and Laura Studebaker helped guide their NorCal Volleyball Club team to second place at the Northern California Regional Championships that took

place in Reno on May 9-10. Their finish earned them a spot in the top national division at the USA Volleyball Junior Olympics, which will take place on June 27-30 in New Orleans.

11U Moraga Mavericks: TPR Team Appreciation Tournament Champions

Submitted by Kat Panos



From left, bottom row: Max Rittman, Michael Coane, Adam Harper, Xavier Esquer, Nate Powers and Cade Bennett; top row: Coach Chris Rago, Jack Beaty, Shan Brinton, Jack Williams, Luca Rago, Connor Fritch and coach Don Cooper Photo provided

Moraga Baseball Association's own 11U Mavericks team took first place in the TPR Team Appreciation tournament at Mistlin Sport Park in Ripon, Calif. After dominating their first three games of the tournament, the Mavericks landed in Sunday's championship game versus East Bay Expos from Fremont. It took a come-from-behind effort to best the Expos by a final of 13-11 to take top honors.

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 09 Issue 6 Wednesday, May 20, 2015



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D14

“Greening” is Bad for Oranges

By Cathy Dausman



Moraga resident Tom Delfino with his oranges

Photos Cathy Dausman

California Citrus Nursery Society executive director Tom Delfino is proud of his healthy citrus stock and wants it to remain that way. But keeping his trees healthy, or even alive, may not be possible, due to the arrival of a tiny flying insect known as Asian citrus psyllid.

Delfino knows firsthand how well suited Lamorinda's climate is to growing citrus. In 22 years, he has lovingly coaxed more than 30 mouth-watering varieties – everything from a cocktail grapefruit hybrid

to lemons, limes, oranges, mandarins and mandarinquats from the soil in his Moraga yard. He is so devoted to his citrus quality that he uses a refractometer to determine a fruit's sugar content before offering his guest a sample. He is so protective of his stock that when he once discovered three plants infected with Citrus tristeza virus, he “burned them in the fireplace that night.” But ACP, a bug smaller than a flea, is a killer when it carries citrus greening disease (also known as Huanglongbing, or HLB).

Since the Gold Rush, citrus has been an integral part of the California agricultural scene. According to Agricultural Resource Marketing Center data, Florida produced 63 percent of the total U.S. citrus crop in 2012, and California 34 percent (two other states, Texas and Arizona accounted for the remaining 3 percent). But Florida numbers have fallen since the discovery of HLB there in 2005.

Today over half of California's citrus stock is grown in home gardens, so Delfino said it is up to the backyard farmer to slow citrus psyllid spread.

The arrival of ACP in the East Bay is not so much a question of if, but when. ACP insects are already established throughout the world, in Latin America, Arabia, Southeast Asia and China, as well as in parts of Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia and Florida, Delfino said. In California, ACP presence has been confirmed in 13 counties ranging from Southern California to Santa Clara County.

The psyllid arrived in California in 2008; four years later, the presence of a single, HLB-infected plant was detected. Finding ACP on a plant is challenging. Eggs are tiny and often found inside the tender, still-curved new leaves of citrus plants. It sometimes takes a magnifier to spot the feeding nymphs, so citrus growers must look for a telltale trail of waxy tubule the ACP excretes.

“None of the citrus trees planted in anyone's garden is resistant or tolerant to Huanglongbing,” Delfino warned. “If Asian citrus psyllids are here and Huanglongbing arrives, we will lose our trees. Diligent control of Asian citrus psyllids in our gardens should delay infection, but our trees will eventually succumb,” he added. ... continued on page D4

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	11	\$674,000	\$1,527,000
MORAGA	8	\$677,000	\$1,300,000
ORINDA	11	\$950,000	\$2,600,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

- 3205 Andreasen Drive, \$1,437,000, 3 Bdrms, 2069 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 3-26-15
9 Del Rey Court, \$910,000, 3 Bdrms, 1914 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 3-27-15;
Previous Sale: \$202,000, 12-10-85
963 Hawthorne Drive, \$1,435,000, 4 Bdrms, 1908 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 3-30-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 08-30-13
3746 Highland Road, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 3936 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 3-26-15
1090 Leland Drive, \$1,527,000, 3 Bdrms, 3025 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 3-27-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,355,000, 05-09-14
3279 Mt. Diablo Court #18, \$674,000, 2 Bdrms, 1386 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 3-26-15;
Previous Sale: \$520,000, 03-17-04
3607 Powell Drive, \$1,525,000, 3 Bdrms, 2647 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 3-31-15;
Previous Sale: \$825,000, 08-07-98
1407 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2691 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 3-31-15
581 Silverado Drive, \$1,275,000, 3 Bdrms, 2075 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 3-30-15
621 St. Marys Road, \$918,000, 3 Bdrms, 1484 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 3-31-15;
Previous Sale: \$650,000, 08-08-03
2950 Windtree Court, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2742 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 3-31-15;
Previous Sale: \$260,000, 04-09-82

MORAGA

- 116 Alta Mesa Court, \$696,500, 2 Bdrms, 1698 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 3-25-15;
Previous Sale: \$250,000, 08-26-88
220 Calle La Montana, \$975,000, 3 Bdrms, 1775 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 3-27-15;
Previous Sale: \$975,000, 12-16-14
7 Carey Court, \$1,130,000, 4 Bdrms, 2543 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 3-27-15;
Previous Sale: \$407,000, 11-13-87
8 Juniper Way, \$1,092,000, 4 Bdrms, 2220 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 3-26-15
1712 St. Andrews Drive, \$818,000, 3 Bdrms, 2079 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 3-25-15
1729 St. Andrews Drive, \$677,000, 2 Bdrms, 2079 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 3-31-15;
Previous Sale: \$150,000, 01-30-79
133 Westchester Street, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 2264 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 3-31-15;
Previous Sale: \$870,000, 05-02-14
29 Winslow Place, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2287 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 3-27-15;
Previous Sale: \$459,500, 07-11-95

ORINDA

- 6 Abbott Court, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2436 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 3-27-15;
Previous Sale: \$767,000, 09-24-04
341 Camino Sobrante, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 2755 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 3-31-15;
Previous Sale: \$935,000, 06-30-11
12 Descanso Drive, \$1,865,000, 4 Bdrms, 2724 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 3-31-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,235,000, 12-11-03
32 Fallen Leaf Terrace, \$2,600,000, 5 Bdrms, 4185 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 3-31-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,028,000, 03-13-98
130 Fiesta Circle, \$1,488,000, 4 Bdrms, 2837 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 3-31-15;
Previous Sale: \$421,000, 10-19-94
11 Hilldale Court, \$2,128,000, 3 Bdrms, 2501 SqFt, 2008 YrBlt, 3-25-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,005,000, 01-31-07
23 Las Piedras, \$1,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 2386 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 3-26-15
24 Los Amigos, \$1,100,000, 5 Bdrms, 2006 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 3-27-15;
Previous Sale: \$485,000, 09-01-98
128 Meadow View Road, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1749 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 3-25-15
705 Moraga Way, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1628 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 3-27-15;
Previous Sale: \$379,000, 05-19-99
51 Van Ripper Lane, \$1,270,000, 3 Bdrms, 1671 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 3-25-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 01-29-14

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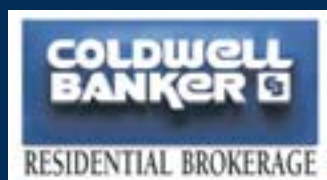
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“Greening” is Bad for Oranges

... continued from page D1

Delfino said Lamorindan farmers can fight HLB spread three ways: “Watch out for psyllid (inspect your citrus plants regularly, ideally, every month), use only registered budwood when grafting, and don’t move trees outside the quarantine area.”

It is illegal in California to import citrus fruit or plant material from other states or countries. To inquire about HLB call the California Department of Food and Agriculture exotic pest hotline at 1-800-491-1899, or go online to http://civr.ucr.edu/asian_citrus_psyllid.html.

To obtain state approved citrus budwood for graft, go to <http://ccpp.ucr.edu/> or http://www.agmrc.org/commodities_products/fruits/citrus/citrus-profile/.



Nymphs and white waxy tubules of Asian citrus psyllid, Diaphorina citri Kuwayama, infesting citrus and being tended by ants.

Photo Michael E. Rogers, University of Florida



Asymmetrical yellow mottling of leaves and odd shape and greening of fruit, symptoms of Huanglongbing (citrus greening).

Photo Dr. Susan E. Halbert

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*per Public Records



The Play Storage Dining Room?

By Andi Peterson Brown

Home staging refers to the act of preparing and showcasing a property for sale in the real estate marketplace. Many people associate the term only with carting in a houseful of rented furniture and painting the walls an unassuming white. And for certain homes, that might be the case. But in reality there is a spectrum to home staging, and for some sellers it may simply mean dressing up and rearranging what's already there, de-cluttering rooms, or merely removing some personal items during home showings. While it is common for sellers to initially feel some resistance towards staging their home, the truth is that staging is a tremendous asset. And here's why:

- **It makes for a great first impression.** Staging a home creates a neutral palate so that buyers can see themselves living in the home and making it their own.
- **It enhances the emotional experience.** A lighter, brighter, cleaner, warmer, more organized and more cheerful home will win a buyer over every time.
- **It eliminates distractions.** Many buyers can't see past the play room that ate the dining room. Personal effects should be minimized and rooms should be used for their intended purposes.

It is important to remember that staging a home can be accomplished on any budget. It is a sound investment toward the ultimate goal of obtaining the highest price possible in the shortest amount of time. And really, isn't that what it's all about?



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Late Spring's Focus on Wealth and Abundance

By Michele Duffy



Place purple silk or real flowers in the wealth area of your home office. Photos provided

Late spring in the *I Ching*, which also influences the Feng Shui Bagua map area of wealth and abundance or prosperity, is governed by wind and sun. It makes sense, since windy and sunny days are the hallmarks of the season.

In feng shui, the wealth and abundance or prosperity area is found in the far or back left portion of your home from the front entrance (see map on page D12). The wealth area of your master bedroom is also in the far left area from the bedroom door. This area is ruled by the wood element and by the number four. Wealth and abundance is all about identifying what in your life helps to make you feel prosperous. It is not just about "big money" – although this is the area associated with having money to go on a dream holiday – but it's also about connecting with what helps to make us feel prosperous. It can be the source of all our good, and can relate to our work, marriage, spiritual practice, friends or family. This area governs finding inner peace and true happiness with what you have in life and learning to be philanthropic. It is often associated with the generosity and gratitude area as well.

Since this area is ruled by wood, placing feng shui plants that are associated with great wealth like bamboo, money trees or lucky jade are all sound symbolic choices. If you are considering painting your master bedroom, and it happens to be in the far left area of your home, a soft pale agave or jade green hue is perfect to activate the wood element that rules prosperity.

The wealth area also rules desired life events like stable and increased income, receiving unexpected money or a raise, and making more money from your business.

Water features in the far left area of your garden or yard are ideal, and planting things that protect wealth, like orange trees, is auspicious.

Recently, a client in Lafayette had an issue with the wealth area in their master bedroom that had views of a neighbor's home (what surrounds us influences our energy, too). The view was causing negative feelings in the client, so we planted a wall of privacy trees to block the unsightly home and activate the wood element for the yard area. We then turned our attention to the master bedroom wealth area. We painted the entire room in a soft green hue and placed a purple orchid in the far left area on one of the nightstands. My client began to experience a notable increase in the quality and number of work-related opportunities in his life.

Remember to minimize the metal element in the wealth area, unless you want to chop your ability to prosper. Avoid the colors white, grey and silver, metal picture frames (use wood ones instead), metal sculptures or furniture.

The wealth and abundance area is a fantastic spot for a dream board, placing the images of what specific type of abundance you would like to manifest in your life. Remember to use a wooden frame. Fill the area with an abundance of fresh new round (coin shaped) leafy plants like jade. As you tend to your plants, try to set your intention to inviting new growth into this area of your life.

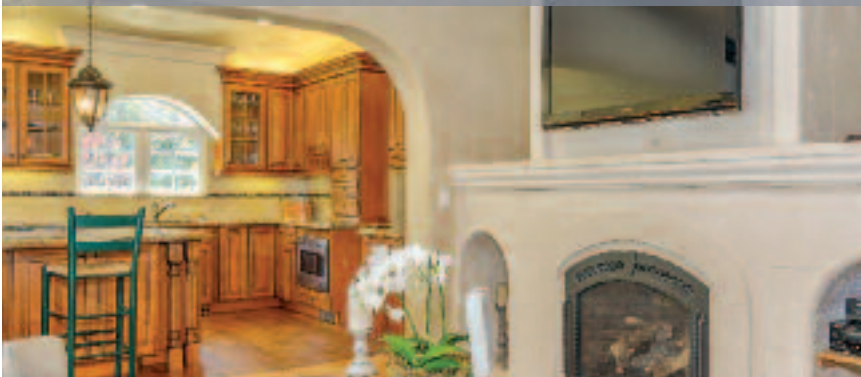
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Late Spring's Focus on Wealth and Abundance ... continued from page D10



A money tree symbolically activates the Wood area of this Lafayette home.

Make sure to go to this far left area of your home and analyze what is there: a cluttered storage room or closet, a bathroom, or some other representation of lacking can drain energy. One of my local clients has a leaking roof and unfinished bathroom in this area and says they have constant "financial leakages" as well. Sometimes, the feng shui is quite literal. Needless to say, fixing this problem is at the top of this homeowner's list. Remember, nothing should be "broken" in this area or you are energetically and quite literally broke.

Endless supply is the first rule of abundance and aligning

yourself with this important distinction of true prosperity is essential for success. Clear the clutter and hide the bathroom with a mirrored outer door. Try balancing this area by placing a purple amethyst to activate wealth and abundance since purple is symbolic of nobility and the nobles were always wealthy.

Remember, prosperity is a state of mind and feeling equally abundant about all areas of your life puts you in harmony with the universe and aligned to receive what you dream for yourself. Dream big!



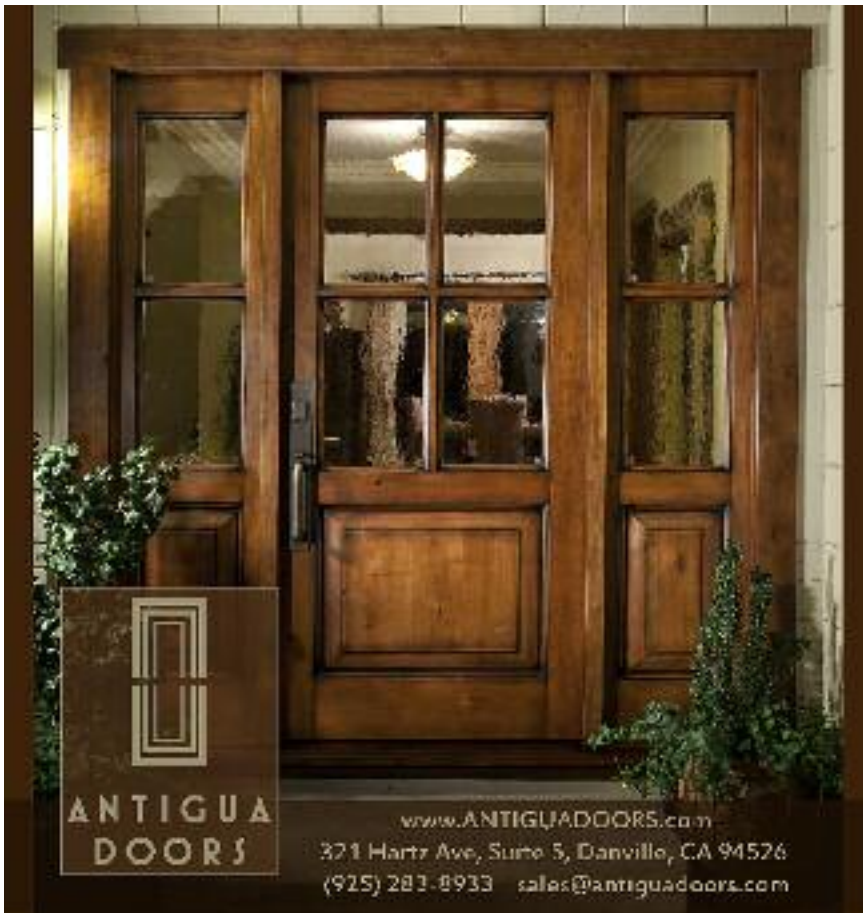
Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating "Space as Medicine" Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2015 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to spaceharmony@gmail.com.

What is Feng Shui?

Feng shui (or Wind and Water) is the practice of arranging your environment so that energy or "Qi" flows gently and smoothly through your home or business. The principles of feng shui are founded on traditional Chinese medicine, which is based on the dynamic opposites of yin and yang, together with the five elements (water, wood, fire, earth and metal) as well as form, landscape, space orientation and time. Feng shui is about creating a natural equilibrium that promotes health, harmony, stability and prosperity. Feng shui is based on the concept that everything is connected and you and your environment has a life force or energy called "Qi." Just as Qi flows through your body, Qi also flows your through living environment. When the energy flow is stagnant, stuck, obstructed or moves too quickly unbalanced Qi may lead to ill health, domestic strife or financial concerns. Professional feng shui advice, adjustments and blessings help create nurturing energy in the spaces and places we spend the most time in, our homes and offices. The goal is sustainable good luck, good health, harmonious relationships and prosperity.

WEALTH & PROSPERITY "Gratitude" REAR LEFT Wood Blues, purple & reds	FAME & REPUTATION "Integrity" REAR MIDDLE Fire Reds	LOVE & MARRIAGE "Receptivity" REAR RIGHT Earth Reds, pinks, & whites
HEALTH & FAMILY "Strength" MIDDLE LEFT Wood Blues & Greens	CENTER "Earth" Yellow & earth tones	CREATIVITY & CHILDREN "Joy" MIDDLE RIGHT Metal White & Pastels
KNOWLEDGE & SELF CULTIVATION "Stillness" FRONT LEFT Earth Black, blues & greens	CAREER "Depth" FRONT MIDDLE Water Black & dark tones	HELPFUL PEOPLE & TRAVEL "Synchronicity" FRONT RIGHT Metal White, grey & black

Door Wall



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Digging Deep for May

By Cynthia Brian

BFFs (Best Friends Forever)

“Be careful the environment you choose for it will shape you; be careful the friends you choose for you will become like them.” – W. Clement Stone



Nasturtium is a supportive flower to many other flowers and vegetables. Photos Cynthia Brian

People have acquaintances, friends, and best friends. We may like or dislike our acquaintances, get along with our friends, and really love our best friends. In fact, when it comes to our best friends, we sometimes feel that we couldn't live without them. Most of the time, we discover that we are different than our BFFs, yet complementary. In the world of nature, plants have favorite companions as well as ones that they wish they'd never encounter. By planting our gardens in potagers that include herbs, fruits and flowers instead of in rows, we gain destructive insect-repellent properties, beneficial insect attractors with benefits of higher yields and healthier plants.

As we start digging in our enriched earth this spring to plant our veggies, it is useful to know what specimens are compatible and which ones repel one another. Like humans, plants encounter other plants that they don't like, and when planted near one another, neither thrives. The idea behind companion planting is to mix flowers and herbs in a patch together. Herbs have high concentrations of aromatic oils that protect vulnerable plants from insect attacks, and many gardeners find that growing certain plants together actually increases flavor in fruits or vegetables and fragrance in blossoms.

Some of the helpful herbs are rue, tansy, lavender, chamomile, Artemisia, savory, dill, rosemary, catnip, sage, thyme and pennyroyal. Supportive flowers are marigold, nasturtium and nicotiana. Garlic and chives are happy bedfellows with roses and several other plants, giving off an odor that deters aphids and blackspot. A brew of garlic tea sprayed on plants keeps pests at bay. Chamomile has often been called “the plant's physician” because it has a reputation for improving the health of surrounding flowers and herbs. Pennyroyal keeps ants away, and marigolds deter beetles, white flies, and maybe even rabbits. Nicotiana works on a trap principle where it will attract a predator, which are then caught in the sticky stems and leaves. Nasturtium is repulsive to many bugs, beetles, and moths and improves flavors while providing a cascade of edible flowers with long blooming times.

It is fascinating that while one plant may be beneficial to many plants, it could be harmful to some. Experiment companion planting with some of these popular home-grown vegetables and see if you experience a difference in quality, quantity, flavor and pest resistance.

BEANS: Friends of beans include eggplant, beets, potatoes, peas, radish, chard, cucumber, everything in the cabbage family, and marigolds. Enemies of beans are garlic, onions and chives as they stunt growth.

... continued on next page



Plant beans and kale or other cabbage family plants together.



Calendula, AKA “poor man's saffron” and fennel are great together to fend off plant enemies.



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KALE: Kale is currently the most hailed of the cabbage family. Its BFFs include beets, celery, spinach, lettuce and chard. Plant garlic nearby for improved growth and flavor.

CARROTS: Tomatoes, peppers, peas, radishes and beans all are happy around carrots. Chives will increase flavor, rosemary and sage will keep the carrot flies from destroying the crop – but keep the dill in a galaxy far, far away or you'll have stunted growth.

CORN: Don't plant corn next to tomatoes as the same worm munches on both. Instead, corn enjoys companionship from parsley, melon, pumpkin and beans. Plant marigolds to fend off Japanese beetles.

EGGPLANT: One of my most favorite vegetables to plant, it thrives with peppers and beans. Again, marigolds are friends with eggplant.

LETTUCE: So easy to grow in a home garden, throw some seeds near strawberries, radishes and beets. Boost flavor and aphid control with garlic and chives.

POTATOES: Allies are eggplant, corn, cabbages and beans. Keep tomatoes and potatoes away from one another or you'll attract blight. For protection from beetles, plant marigolds.

PUMPKINS: Every kid wants to grow his or her own Halloween Jack O'Lantern. Squash and melons are good buddies with pumpkins. Nasturtium and oregano provide the pest protection.

STRAWBERRIES: Thyme serves as border patrol. Lettuce, bean, onion and spinach all like to party with strawberries, but don't invite cabbage.

TOMATOES: We already know that potatoes and corn are not to be planted with tomatoes, but you need to know that dill and kohlrabi will stunt growth. Friends include basil, chives, mint, celery, cucumber, onion, parsley and pepper – all the delicious ingredients of a summer salad!



Grow tomatoes in a container with BFFs, basil and peppers.



Cynthia Brian is friends with all flowers.

I am available as a speaker, designer, and consultant.

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A basket of vegetables and herbs that have helped one another thrive.

Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Reminders

CLEAR debris from your home and garden perimeter. Dried limbs, leaves, and weeds need to be removed. Fire season is upon us.

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LAFAYETTE



New Price

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New Listing

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PLEASANT HILL



New Listing

203 Hazel Drive Walk to town, movies, walking trails & schools from this cute home. Lovely level backyard w/mature trees. Living rm w/frplc, dining area w/French doors to patio, backyard.

\$429,000

PLEASANT HILL



New Listing

1906 Marguerite Avenue Nicely updated home on large corner lot! Remodeled kitchen with birch faced cabinets, granite counters & gas cooktop. Wonderful pool with great entertaining backyard!

\$610,000

WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

1861 Parkside Drive Great location close to Town/Bart/Shops/Schools/more! Light & bright 3bd/2.5ba newer construction home w/vaulted ceilings, dual pane wndws, newer carpet, attached 2 car garage.

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