

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Independent, locally owned and operated!

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26,000 copies delivered biweekly to Lamorinda homes & businesses

FREE

FREE admission, FREE Parking, FREE Shuttle, Free Bike Valet Parking

20th Annual Lafayette Art & Wine Festival

September 19 & 20

Saturday, Sept. 19 10-7 PM

Sunday, Sept. 20 10-6 PM

Downtown Lafayette

Live Music on Four Stages/ Kid Zone

www.lafayettefestival.com



Moraga-Orinda Fire District firefighters hold the Rocky Fire south of Highway 20 near Clearlake; MOFD captain Jon Bensley and firefighter Chris Matthews pictured (right). Photos provided

Stress on the Front Line and on the Home Front

Firefighters discuss the pressures of their strike team assignments

By Nick Marnell

When you talk to firefighters from either of the Lamorinda fire agencies who left the area to fight California wildfires this season, you realize that the fires affect not only those at the incident but those whom the firefighters leave behind.

ConFire

The call came at 2 a.m. and in 30 minutes Contra Costa County Fire Protection District captain David Woods and his team headed to Del Norte County to tackle the Gasquet Fire, a 17,000-acre wildfire set off by lightning strikes in the wilderness outside Crescent City.

"Have you ever driven up 101? In a fire engine?" said Woods. The crew of four responded

Aug. 1 to the emergency call in the state system and would spend nine days away, then relieved by another ConFire crew.

"It's a completely different experience than at ConFire," he said.

In a house fire firefighters can see where the fire is going, and the crews can go right in and fight the fire head on. "In the wilderness, you're watching the weather conditions, the wind patterns, the footing is different. You can't see where the fire is. We're cutting through steep timber, heavy brush, with hand tools and chain saws, fighting fire with fire." Woods said that his crew did not use a gallon of water.

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The 11th Annual

Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

Saturday, September 12th, 10am - 3pm

www.OrindaCarShow.com

Plan to Attend – Admission is FREE!

California Independent Film Festival Opens Tomorrow, Sept. 10

By Sophie Braccini



"Queen and Country" plays in Orinda on Saturday at 9 p.m. Photo provided

The excitement of a film festival, with its red carpet, stars arriving in limousines, and the flashing of camera bulbs, is something everyone should experience. While Lamorinda may not be as glamorous as Cannes or Venice, this year the California Independent Film Festival team is bringing the ingredients for over-the-top, world-class entertainment to the

Rheem and Orinda theaters Sept. 10-16, offering movie buffs a unique opportunity to meet directors, producers and actors and ask behind the scene questions. There will be movies for everyone to love, from near and far, at this event that has become exponentially more popular every year.

On opening night Tab Hunter will be at the Rheem Theatre to present the documentary "Tab Hunter Confidential." Hunter, an American heartthrob from the '50s, will make the trip to Moraga to answer questions from the opening night crowd.

As in previous years, the festival supports local filmmakers and also features great foreign films that have not yet been distributed in the United States until now. "This is the case for John Boorman's 'Queen and Country,'" says CAIFF president and co-

founder Derek Zemrak. "Boorman was nominated four times for an Academy Award. This film picks up where Boorman left us at the end of the 1987 film 'Hope and Glory' and takes us on a partly hilarious, partly serious adventure as the little boy of 'Hope and Glory,' now a young man, trains for the Korean war." Zemrak said that he actively sought Boorman to get that movie; most of the other features are submitted and selected for CAIFF.

Other foreign films include the Vietnamese movie "Huong Ga - Rise," by director Cuong Ngo. The young director who shares his time between Vietnam, Canada and the United States is already well known for his films such as "The Golden Pin" and "Pearls of the Far East." ... continued on page A12

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