

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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FREE

2015 Lafayette Reservoir Run
Sunday, October 25, 2013
8:00am Downtown Lafayette
 2 Mile Fun Run (8:00am) • 5K (8:30am) • 10K (8:45am)
 Online Registration at:
[Http://bit.ly/resrun2015](http://bit.ly/resrun2015)
www.lafayettechamber.org



Specially trained linemen stand atop PG&E's lattice steel structures after being lifted by the helicopter hovering above.

Photo Andy Scheck

PG&E High Wire Act Wraps Up

By Cathy Dausman

If you looked skyward in Lamorinda lately, you probably noticed helicopters hovering near local transmission towers. The linemen, air crew and their ground counterparts are working to upgrade Pacific Gas and Electric Company's 230-kilovolt transmission lines in the Lamorinda corridor. The project is a portion of a 27-mile-long upgrade stretching from the Oakley power plant substation to the Moraga substation in Orinda, said PG&E spokeswoman Tamar Sarkissian.

"This is a significant capacity and reliability project," Sarkissian said, "which serves approximately 26,000 customers. It is also the first time since its establishment in 1950 that this particular line has undergone a project of this nature."

Last year, a similar project in the East Bay was completed, Sarkissian said, but this 27-mile replacement-upgrade is one of the longest. The transmission towers, technically called lattice steel structures, are being upgraded with foundation reinforce-

ments and the installation of 16.5-foot cage tops to raise the conductor.

Using helicopters allows PG&E to bypass the need for heavy trucks and equipment on the ground. This reduces the project's environmental impact, Sarkissian said. "Crews can work safely and quickly, and it's physically easier on the linemen than climbing each tower, which is 80 to 150 feet high," she said.

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- Stanley Middle School Jazz Liaison 2 years
- Lafayette Little League Vice President 2 years
- Burton Valley Teacher's Aide 1 year



Group Demands Weil's Ouster from MOFD Board

By Nick Marnell



Fred Weil
 Photo Lamorinda Weekly archive

A grass roots group of district residents began a petition drive in October to force Fred Weil to resign from the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board of directors. The petition, posted on the Care2 website, states that Weil, as board president, vi-

olated the public trust in 2008 by authorizing retiring MOFD Chief Pete Nowicki's compensation beyond what his contract allowed, costing the district \$4 million in pension charges over the chief's expected 30-year retirement period. The Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association board in September stripped Nowicki of more than \$1 million of his pension when it determined that his pension had been calculated improperly.

"You will note that the petition is not for recall, only for Fred to act unilaterally in the community's best inter-

est. The petition is really for Fred. He knows what he did," said Steve Cohn, spokesman for the Orinda Citizens' Emergency Services Task Force, sponsor of the petition. "This is not right and there should be repercussions." The task force notes that since Weil's term ends in November 2016, a recall would not be worth the effort and expense. Rather, the group encourages Weil to remove himself from the board immediately "so as to allow the board and the community to move on without distractions."

"As long as he remains a voting member of the

MOFD board, his judgment will be questioned," reads the petition. "If the other members of the (2008) board were still public officials, they would be included. But they are not," said Cohn.

"The petition is part of Steve Cohn's malicious smear campaign, motivated, I believe, by a desire for revenge," said Weil. "He has resented for years my willingness to publicly challenge his dubious proposals, including his latest attempt to derail the rebuilding of Orinda's fire station 43 on Via Las Cruces, (which is a station) so important to the safety of north Orinda."

Cohn wrote to Supervisor Candace Andersen in October blaming MOFD and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District for costing the districts millions of dollars by halting plans to build and operate joint fire station 46 in western Lafayette, and asking her to intercede. MOFD opted to rebuild station 43 and Con-Fire chose to repair Lafayette station 16. "I was in favor of station 46, but the situation has changed," said Andersen. "The important thing is that Lafayette and Orinda will have excellent coverage."

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Sports C1-C3

Strong start for SMC men's golf – page C2.



Our Homes D1-D16

Tips for fabulous, stress-free table décor – page D6.





Public Meetings

City Council

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

Planning Commission

Monday, Nov. 2, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Oct. 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, Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 7 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



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Sept. 27 to Oct. 10

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Alarms | 62 |
| 911 Calls (incl hang-ups) | 12 |
| Noise Complaints | 16 |
| Traffic Stops | 184 |
| Suspicious Circumstances | 9 |
| Suspicious Subjects | 13 |
| Suspicious Vehicles | 22 |
| Abandoned Vehicle | |
| West Rd/Mt View Dr | |
| 3200 block Marlene Dr | |
| Armed Robbery | |
| Mechanic's Bank | |
| Battery | |
| Acalanes High School | |
| Burglary, Auto | |
| 1000 block Carol Ln | |
| Olympic Blvd/Reliez Station Rd | |
| 3700 block Sundale Rd | |
| 900 block Village Center | |
| Safeway | |
| Burglary, Residential | |
| 10 block Moss Ln | |
| 3200 block Judy Ln | |
| Dispute | |
| 3400 block Moraga Blvd | |
| 900 block Dewing Ave | |
| 1000 block Brown Ave | |
| Disturbing the Peace | |
| Pleasant Hill Rd/Springhill Rd | |
| 3100 block Indian Way | |
| Found Adult | |
| 3400 block Mt Diablo Blvd | |
| Forgery | |
| 3200 block Ortega Ave (2) | |
| 3400 block Mt Diablo Blvd | |
| Harassment | |
| 10 block Ethan Ct (2) | |
| 3400 block Golden Gate Way | |
| (phone) | |
| 3300 block West Terrace | |
| 1700 block Toyon Rd | |
| 1100 block Glen Rd | |
| 3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd | |
| Health & Safety Violation | |
| 1000 block Buchan Dr | |
| Post Office | |
| Acalanes High School | |
| Hit & Run | |
| 3400 block Mt Diablo Blvd | |
| Loitering | |
| 20 block Lafayette Cir | |
| Bank of America | |
| Missing Juvenile | |
| Reported to police | |
| Panhandling | |
| Post Office | |
| Safeway | |
| Police/Fire/EMS Response | |
| 4000 Coralee Ln | |
| Moraga Blvd/3rd St | |
| Public Nuisance | |
| 3000 block Rohrer Dr | |
| Proximate Shooting | |
| 100 block Hunsaker Canyon Rd | |
| Hwy 24/Oak Hill Rd | |

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Developer Must Yield for Story Poles in Burton Valley

By Cathy Tyson

Building a house in Lafayette is not for the faint of heart. With its original application now 11 years old, local developer Soldier Field Partners encountered a small speed bump on the way to Phase I development permits for lots 4, 6 and 7 of an eight-home subdivision called Lucas Ranch Estates. The homes will be clustered on roughly one-third of the 87.9-acre parcel, with the balance of the land remaining undeveloped, except for public trails.

Planning commissioners called for story poles to be erected to illustrate the size, mass and visibility of these three homes on the edge of Burton Valley.

"It just seems silly," said planning commissioner Jeanne Ateljevich at a meeting in late September, explaining the obvious need to see how big a structure is prior to approving it.

Chair Tom Chastain agreed. "I'm not making any findings unless I can see the story poles," he said. "I want to go on record to try and stop this trend; it's not a good one. We need them so everyone can understand what we are deciding upon."

The developer erected the poles as promised on the perimeter of the site for three of the estate-size homes for planning commissioners to view, prior to their next review of the project.

Attorney for the applicant, Alan Moore of Gagen McCoy, reminded the commissioners that story poles had been erected many times in the past for this project, and poles will need to go up again for the Phase II review, presumably in the near future. Full design plans are necessary for a Phase II Hillside Development Permit, which covers aesthetics, height, architecture, colors, materials, lighting and landscaping.

Responding to comments from neighbors who have complained that the development is not compatible with the existing homes in the area, Moore said that's true, it's not com-



View from the end of Lucas Drive to the Soldier Field Partners development in Burton Valley. Photo C. Tyson

patible, "it's meant to be a new neighborhood." Already approved design guidelines specify large custom estate homes on large lots to be clustered on the southern corner of the property.

"Look at this through a different prism, the land is zoned LR-10, one home per 10 acres." Moore also pointed out that two-thirds of the land on the 88-acre parcel will remain open space.

Expressing a willingness to talk with neighbors about particular features of the homes, he added, "We'll work with you, but we have a vested

right to move forward." The framework for the eight-home subdivision, including the lot layout, has already been approved in the design guidelines.

The expansive homes, 10,318 square feet for the lot 4 house, 9,927 for the lot 6 house, and 9,416 for the lot 7 house will be located between the Lucas Drive extension and south of Lucas Court at the tail end of the J-shaped parcel. The majority of the land extends north, on the hillside behind traditional ranch-style homes on Lucas Drive.

The subdivision has a long history dating back to an original application in 2004; after an appeal, it was ultimately approved by the City Council on a split vote with a series of conditions of approval in 2006. Construction is already underway for roadway improvements. The Phase I permits for lots 1, 2 and 3 have already been approved, but presuming Phase I permits for lots 4, 6 and 7 get approved, all of the homes still have to go through the review process to get Phase II approval.

City seeks volunteer for vacancy on the Design Review Commission

The Lafayette City Council is soliciting applicants to fill one vacancy on the Design Review Commission.

The five-member body is responsible for matters relating to aesthetics and the physical appearance of the city. The commission advises the staff, planning commission, and city council and acts on applications for design review including residential and commercial development projects.

Members of the design review commission are selected on the basis of education, training and experience in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, design, city planning or a related field. The council may appoint one or more nonresidents if, in its discretion, it considers it necessary to gain sufficient expertise.

Individuals interested in this volunteer position may obtain an application from the City's web site at www.lovelafayette.org or in person at:

City of Lafayette Offices
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 210
Lafayette, CA 94549

You may also call the City's Clerks Office at (925) 284-1968 to request an application be mailed to you. Completed applications must be received by 5:00 pm, October 23, 2015.

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3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Register: tinyurl.com/LLLCKidsBookFest2015
or visit www.lllcf.org



23RD ANNUAL LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR
RUN & HEALTHY LIFESTYLE FAIR

Sunday, October 25
Begins at 8am

Downtown Lafayette
Register: bit.ly/resrun2015

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FREE TRICK OR TREAT STREET
Friday, October 30
4pm - 6pm

In BOOtiful Downtown Lafayette
Recommended for children 9 & under

Visit www.lafayettechamber.org after Oct. 23
for list of participating businesses



GARAGE TOUR

Sunday, November 1
12pm - 4pm

Tour begins at Blodgett's Abbey Carpet & Flooring
3291 Mt. Diablo Court
Tickets: LafayetteCF.org
Info: info@LafayetteCF.org or 925-284-8214



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Changes Afoot for the Reservoir Run

By Cathy Tyson



Participants of all ages at the Lafayette Reservoir Run Photo Andy Scheck

In order to keep traffic flowing while Lafayette's biggest footrace is in motion, the start, finish, pancakes, first aid station and booths will all be migrating westward slightly.

The excitement will center around the intersection of Oak Hill Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard, with balloons marking the start and finish lines at the Starbucks and Valero gas station across the street.

"It will be fantastic," says race organizer and executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, Jay Lifson, "much more intimate, with more interaction with the runners."

Street closure will start at 6 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 25 at the intersection of Oak Hill Road and Mt. Diablo Boule-

vard, and additional closures down the boulevard starting at 7 a.m. By 11 a.m. the party will be over and the roadway should be clear for drivers.

The popular family bike ride was canceled last year, but it has a green light for this year.

Looking for pancakes? Visit the new location this year at the Round Up parking lot. Find all the details for the family-friendly two-mile, 5K and 10K races, as well as sign-up information at the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce race website <http://bit.ly/resrun2015>. Sign-ups are still welcome on the day of the event, free parking is available at BART, and bikes can rest easy at the bike valet.

Get Married at City Hall Next Friday

Does true love need to bother with flowers, a gaggle of bridesmaids and an expensive dinner? For the first time, couples who obtain a license to wed from the county can get hitched at the Lafayette city offices. What better way to celebrate a partnership than in the stylishly decorated Chapel of Love Lafayette?

This year, the annual creative transformation by city staffers rings in Halloween and weddings at the same

time. Not one, but two employees can officially marry people. Save a bundle (the candy is free) at the city of Lafayette offices in Desco Plaza, 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 210, Friday, Oct. 30. Simply call to set up an appointment at (925) 284-1968. For those not willing to commit, it will be worth checking out the fantastic Vegas-inspired venue; grown-up trick-or-treaters are welcome. C. Tyson

District Grapples with Old Schools, More Kids

By Cathy Tyson

The initial meeting to assess the facilities of the Lafayette School District kicked off, appropriately, at Lafayette Elementary School, which first opened its doors to students in 1943.

The District faces a two-fold problem: schools are old and in need of significant repair, and the student population is gradually increasing. Architectural firm HKIT spent the summer analyzing exiting conditions and needs at Burton Valley, Happy Valley, Lafayette, and Springhill elementary schools, as well as at Stanley Middle School, the Lafayette School District offices and the White Pony School. HKIT staff also talked to principals and teachers to get a handle on exactly what was needed to modernize the facilities.

On average, four of the five schools that make up the district are 62 years old and are suffering from some of the maladies of old age. Springhill Elementary School was upgraded in 1999.

Architect and consultant with HKIT, Dara Youngdale, explained at the Oct. 15 meeting the firm's analysis of the physical conditions of the district's buildings, overall infrastructure needs, parking, fields and play areas, current capacity and growth potential.

"This is a place where time has stood still," said Youngdale. "There has been a culture of accommodating deficiencies." She outlined examples at Lafayette Elementary School: site drainage and flooding, big problems with drop-off and parking, old energy-inefficient single-pane win-

dows, and a need for classroom upgrades.

Parents and community members were happy to share concerns during the information-gathering component of the meeting and reported, table by table, their top priorities for the Lafayette Elementary School campus.

Keeping students safe, dry and warm was an overarching need that the consultant HKIT suggested. Building on that, almost every table of attendees commented that parking and drop off is, as one mom put it, "a nightmare."

School board member David Gerson reported that the top priority for his table, after addressing years of deferred maintenance, is the learning environment, where kids spend most of their day.

Accommodating a growing number of future students is another important issue to consider when taking a comprehensive view of district facilities. There are currently 2,351 students enrolled at the four elementary schools, but estimates project an additional 100 students expected by the 2019-20 school year.

The trend is similar at Stanley Middle School, which has a current enrollment of 1,181 students and is anticipating an increase of 155 students in the next five years.

"Facilities haven't kept up with cutting-edge curriculum," Superintendent Rachel Zinn said, "and we are looking at incremental growth over the next five years of 100 students in kindergarten through fifth grade."

... continued on page A8

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Claudia Heath

"Keith, I am still processing the fact that we actually got the house. Thank for all your help. We are extremely excited...I hear you worked your magic for my sister in law today. I can't say I'm surprised. I told them to just do whatever you recommended. Great job."
BH | Birchwood Drive

"Keith you are my new hero. I could not have made it through the whole past 8 weeks if not for you. You rocked my mom's house. Truly it has never looked better. Not only that you guided me and explained things, frequently more than once. If not for you I probably would be sitting on the living room floor crying my eyes out. Thanks for taking me by the hand and leading me in the right direction. As a friend and a real estate guru, you are the greatest. Thank you for all your patience and kindness. For the rest of us, if you are doing real estate, you MUST get together with Keith."
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www.BrydonIvesTeam.com
BrydonIvesTeam@apr.com



Moraga

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Oct. 28, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, Nov. 2, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7 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

Not so missing student, 10/6/15
Moraga police contacted Saint Mary's public safety staff who wanted help locating a student who had not been seen for several hours. Moraga cops were able to locate the student after a short investigation – he had spent the evening with family members.

Needs help 10/07/15
Moraga cops were asked to conduct a welfare check on a family member who is living on Corte Pinto. Police contacted the homeowner who was unable to walk to the front door. The fire department responded and assisted officers in entering the home. Paramedics transported him to a local hospital for further treatment.

Driving erratically with stolen stuff 10/8/15
A blue Mazda was being driven fitfully on Moraga Way, then proceeded onto Camino Ricardo. The 27-year-old driver fled before the car came to a stop and made a run for it into the pear orchard. Cops determined the car hit a parked Ford pickup during the chase. Found in the vehicle was approximately \$2,400 worth of suspected stolen merchandise from Safeway. Genius driver/alleged thief was arrested for possession of stolen property, resisting arrest, hit and run and reckless driving. Goodies were returned to Safeway and the car was towed.

Loud party 10/10/15
This time it wasn't a college-centric celebration. Instead, about 50 guests gathered, along with a very loud DJ playing music at a home on Hazelwood Place for the homeowner's 70-year-old father's birthday. The resident was issued a written warning and advised to quiet down.

Other crimes occurring in Moraga between Oct. 5-13.

Slight Graffiti – School Street

Welfare Check – Augusta Drive

Gun Drop Off for Destruction – owner deceased

Danger to Self – at local convenience store

False Alarm – Thune Drive

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Back and Forth Bargaining Between the College and the Town

By Sophie Braccini

Two topics emblematic of the dynamics between Moraga town officials and Saint Mary's College leadership were discussed at the Town and Gown Committee meeting Oct. 15. First, the town received its initial report on the improved lighting system at the intramural field that had negatively impacted some residents; second, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was approved to share recreational facilities at no cost for either party. As Saint Mary's College desires to grow and improve its student services, the town seeks to control that growth while making Moraga more of a college town.

While not public meetings, Town and Gown discussion items often end up as subsequent action items at the town council meetings. Diego Ríos, a SMC senior and Associated Students president, asked that he and his successors be invited to the town and gown breakfast table to make student involvement in the town a priority.

The report on the lighting sys-

tem's modification, presented by consultant Leslie Davis of Lighting Design who said it used state-of-the-art equipment to measure the glare of the old and the new system, drew absolutely no comment from the attendees. Davis noted reductions in glare from 32 to 90 percent, depending on where the measurements were taken in the neighborhood that adjoins the lighted field.

Optimizing the lighting system to reduce the glare on residents' homes is part of the conditions of approval for the extended hours of operation on the intramural field to 10 p.m. Measures to limit noise pollution are also part of the conditions of approval, and the 10 p.m. limit will be reviewed after one year for compliance.

The second topic of the night was an agreement between the college and the town to use each other's recreational facilities at no cost. Jay Ingram, the parks and recreation director, presented the agreement as an opportunity to expose residents to

the campus and to encourage students to be a part of the town. All of the town facilities are listed in the agreement, such as the parks, the Hacienda, the electronic sign, the new town chambers, or the sand volleyball court at the Commons Park. The text of the agreement notes that SMC's facilities are first and foremost to be used in the fulfillment of Saint Mary's mission and that the first priority for use of the college's facilities are regular and special college programs. The facilities that the town can use include the Soda Activity Center, the outdoor basketball courts, the Chapel, and Hagerty Lounge. Sports field and tennis court usage are subject to review by Saint Mary's Athletic Compliance office in order to avoid situations that could be or could lead to possible NCAA infractions. The sharing of McKeon Pavilion and the Joseph L. Alioto Recreation Center are not included at this time and will be reviewed in two years.

A previous agreement was signed

in 1991 for a 20-year period; the new MOU expires in five years. When Councilmember Dave Trotter asked why the shortened period, Tim Farley, director of community and government relations for the college said, "Saint Mary's is going through (its) master plan right now, and there is some concern about the use pattern of our recreation center. And as Saint Mary's goes forward in the next phase of our master plan, we want this agreement to be for a brief period of time, and have it relooked at in another five years." Trotter responded by suggesting that the conditions of approval of the college's master plan provide an additional opening to discuss a different term for the MOU. Farley indicated he would relay this comment to the college.

The MOU was approved by the Town Council and will take effect once the college's president, James Donahue, signs it. It applies to the government of the town only, not to any other local organization.

Is This the End for Moraga Pear Trees?

Volunteers work to stop spread of fire blight

By Sophie Braccini

For the past three Saturdays, a determined group of volunteers has been pruning trees to rid them of fire blight on the pear orchard at the corner of Camino Pablo and Canyon Road, on the lot next to the middle school belonging to the Moraga School District. Other pear trees in town, which are the last remnants of what used to be a major industry, are also affected, some of them very seriously, but they remain untouched since they are located on private lots. The disease could kill these pear trees and contaminate other trees, such as apple, plum and cherry.

"Not all trees are affected the same and some trees can survive the fire blight," says Kenny Murakami of the Moraga Garden Center. Some types of pear trees, such as the Ledbetter pear, is proven to be fire blight resistant and the Kieffer pear is not really fire blight resistant but fire blight tolerant, but Bartlett – the pear most widely found in Moraga – as well as Bosc and Clapp's Favorite are highly susceptible. Murakami says the infected trees will be vectors of disease propagation, especially in the spring when the trees are in bloom.

Moraga resident Bobbie Preston organized pruning last year after she found fire blight in her home garden and noticed the disease on the school property trees. Unfortunately, the disease continued to spread this year. "Last year we didn't cut the branches far enough," explains Preston. "We need to cut the affected branches 12 inches below the last affected leaves." She did this in her garden, and while the pruning seemed radical at the time, the trees have bounced back and are no longer showing signs of the disease.

Volunteers came to prune for a second time on Oct. 10. They noticed that some branches that had been cut last year, or pruned during the spring, were still infected. "This is the right time to do it when there are still leaves on the tree and the blight is very obvious," says Preston. Volunteers will come back to

the lot on Saturday mornings until the end of the month of October to save the historical trees. Preston will share tools and methodology with those willing to tackle the issue on their personal property.



Moraga Councilmember Teresa Onoda and SMC student Diego Ríos

Photo Sophie Braccini

trick or treat

Costumed children are invited to Trick or Treat the businesses of Rheem Valley on Halloween, October 31st from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Free* Halloween Candy from participating businesses.

rheemvalley.net

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Not Ostentatious, But Efficacious

After a long wait, new town chamber opens Oct. 28

By Sophie Braccini



Outside and inside views of the new town chamber at 335 Rheem Blvd.

Photos Sophie Braccini

Historians could quite possibly record Oct. 28 as the day the town of Moraga entered the 21st century. For the first time that day, the town council will meet in its new chamber, located at 335 Rheem Blvd., while residents interested in following the interactions will be able to watch from the comfort of their homes, sipping a glass of whatever they like to sip. It took years to transform the Public Works Department corporation yard into a state-of-the-art meeting room for public officials, but the result meets all expectations, both from an esthetic and functional point of view.

The front patio, designed by landscape architect Tara Bhuthimethee, features modern sculptures, local boulders and trees, concrete urns holding succulents, low walls to sit on and benches, trellises for shade, and a drought tolerant garden with "no-mow" grass and dry creeks. And local architect Steve Forster transformed the former fire station and corp yard into an esthetically pleasing Spanish-style building.

While the outside is inviting, the real goodies are inside.

The town chamber is not vast or grandiose, but it is classy and airy. The black ceiling and gray or blue-gray walls give the room a solemnity,

without being too cold. The chamber can hold up to 70 chairs, which can be placed to face the slightly raised dais. The electronic equipment in the space, however, is what is most impressive: large TV monitors on the side walls, a retractable screen behind the dais, an in-ceiling projection system, a fully-equipped presentation table with a camera to project documents, and a sound system that should allow residents with any level of hearing to comfortably follow the debates.

The technical room to the left of the meeting chamber contains the controls for the three cameras. "There is an automated option that allows to

just broadcast with one fix camera," says Town Clerk Marty McInturf. "That's what we will start with. Using multiple cameras will require an operator."

The total of the capital expenditure for the broadcasting and audio system was paid for by annual \$34,000 in public, education and government (PEG) revenue that is generated through a 71-cent monthly fee paid by Moraga cable subscribers. Moraga allocated recent PEG funds for the installation. During the first phase, the video recording will be available online within 24 to 48 hours through the town website. The sec-

ond phase will include a live broadcast on a local TV channel. At this time, the town's live broadcast is reserved for emergencies only.

The new site also features two bathrooms, one ADA accessible, and a smaller room for closed meetings. The back of the building is still a maintenance location and the left and back outside areas are still housing the town's corp yard.

Lori Sugang, the senior town engineer who provided project management support to complete the project, says that parking is plentiful around the site. "There is ADA parking at 335 Rheem, people can also park at 329 Rheem, at 333 Rheem (the site of BrightStar Care that is closed by 7 p.m.), and along the boulevard," she says. There is also ample parking across the street and a new pedestrian crosswalk will be striped in the coming weeks.

The new building will likely house all of the town's public meetings, including those of the Planning Commission and Design Review Board. McInturf anticipates that a formal opening ceremony will be organized, inviting the public in to visit. A soft opening will take place at 6 p.m. Oct. 28 with light refreshments before the 7 p.m. council meeting.

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CalBRE#01029160

3416 Morningside Drive, El Sobrante



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CalBRE#01094898

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CalBRE#01362381

711 Pebble Court, El Sobrante



This home has new kit. and bathroom flrs, fresh paint, new lighting, newer fenced in & low maintenance yard and was remodeled just 2 years ago throughout! This home is move in ready, sitting in a quiet cul de sac. Ideal for indoor and outdoor entertainment and a layout that families can enjoy. **Offered at \$395,000 by Janine Hunt 510.409.6266.**

CalBRE#01909766

TIP OF THE WEEK

More buyers are getting loan approvals now, which is great news! This is primarily due to 3 factors:

1. Home prices are stabilizing, with fewer multiple-offer scenarios in some areas
2. Employment, manufacturing and retail sales reports have been below expected levels, keeping the Federal Funds Rate and mortgage rates low
3. New TRID mortgage regulations are now in place to further protect consumers.

If you'd like more information about the local market, feel free to contact us anytime!

Meet our Featured Agents ...

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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Nov. 11, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting Orinda Union School District

Monday, Nov. 9, 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
Phone (925) 253-4200

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Sept. 27 to Oct. 10

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Alarms | 48 |
| Noise Complaints | 6 |
| 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) | 8 |
| Traffic Stops | 152 |
| Suspicious Circumstances | 9 |
| Suspicious Subjects | 7 |
| Suspicious Vehicles | 27 |
| Battery | |

100 block Camino Sobrante
Vallecito Ln/El Toyonal

Brandishing a Weapon
Wagner Elementary
Moraga Way/Camino Encinas

Burglary, Auto
10 block Theatre Square
Wilder/Hwy 24 (2)

Burglary, Commercial
10 block Orinda Way
Address n/a

Civil Problem
30 block Rheem Blvd

Fraud
200 block Sundown Terr
10 block Lost Valley Dr

Health & Safety Violation
60 block Singingwood Ln (2)

Harassment
10 block Altarinda Rd
10 block Dos Posos

Hit & Run
100 block Moraga Way
200 block Brookwood Rd

ID Theft
20 block Via Hermosa
10 block Descanso Dr
Reported to police
500 block Miner Rd
60 block Scenic Dr

Missing Juvenile
Glorietta Elementary

Missing Adult
10 block El Caminito

Police/Fire/EMS
Donald Dr/Alice Ln
100 block Camino Don Miguel
10 block Irwin Way
10 block Descanso Dr
7200 block San Pablo Dam Rd
Coral Dr/Moraga Way
10 block Camino Pablo
600 block Miner Rd

Public Nuisance
40 block La Cresta Rd
10 block Warford Terrace

Reckless Driving
Orinda Theatre
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd (3)
Orinda Way/San Pablo Creek
Acalanes Rd/Hwy 24
El Toyonal/Canyon Dr
Camino Pablo/Via Corte
Charles Hill/Honey Hill Rds
Miner Rd/Lombardy Ln

Shoplift
Safeway (3)
10 block Camino Sobrante



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Council to Consider Changes to Orinda's Smoking Ordinances

By Victor Ryerson

The Orinda City Council has directed the city's staff to present proposals to change certain portions of the Orinda Municipal Code (OMC) that govern the sale and use of tobacco in Orinda. The council identified specific issues of interest at its Oct. 6 meeting, and the proposed revisions will come back for discussion at a later meeting.

Two sections of the OMC currently address smoking, prohibiting the activity in some parks and nature areas, and restricting the promotion and sale of tobacco products to minors. State law also regulates these activities to a certain extent, and the interrelationships with local regulation are somewhat intricate. The council's effort at the recent meeting

was to identify the areas for staff to examine more closely for possible revision of the city's laws. The issues they pinpointed for further examination include outdoor use, including sidewalks, tobacco retailer licensing, and emerging issues relating to smokeless tobacco products.

Other Contra Costa County communities, including Lafayette and

Walnut Creek, have recently expanded their smoking ordinances to target more smoke- and vapor-producing products and prohibit smoking in more locations.

No public comment was offered at the recent meeting, but the public will be afforded a full opportunity to offer comments when the matter comes before the council in the future.

Ivy Road Repair Approved for 2016

By Jennifer Wake

Road conditions continue to be a cause of concern in Orinda, but Ivy Drive residents will be given some relief beginning in 2016. Over the past two months, the Citizen's Infrastructure Oversight Commission has reviewed repair scenarios recommended by city staff and the StreetSaver program and approved the 2016 list of streets for council approval. The list of streets slated for repair in the 2016 Annual Pavement Reconstruction Project is a short one: Ivy Drive.

At its Oct. 6 meeting, the City Council approved the recommendation by the CIOC to repair the

remaining section of Ivy Drive, from Fiesta Circle North to Moraga Way.

The CIOC's recommendation to only focus on this one section of road for 2016 comes "because of the success of the past several years of paving projects has brought the arterial Pavement Project Index (PCI) to 78 and the collector PCI to 66," according to the city council staff report. The StreetSaver program, utilized as a method of street selection for road repairs, was putting all the money from gas tax and Return-to-Source funds into minor repairs to keep the good roads good, and ignoring the

really bad roads, said Director of Public Works Charles Swanson. "As we're trying to make the program work for us, it basically would ignore the bad road collectors and arterials forever. We had to go back and look at collectors and arterials with bad PCI ratings and look at the streets with a PCI less than 25."

Swanson said this section of Ivy Drive was the next natural candidate on the list of collectors to be repaired. The CIOC decided that for 2016 and possibly the next couple of years roads selected for repair should be the worst remaining arterials, collectors and school

routes in Orinda.

Council member Eve Phillips suggested the CIOC look at start-up and shut-down costs for each road segment, and work to lump segments together to ensure the least disruption as possible for residents during construction in the future.

The proposed cost of the Ivy Road project will be approximately \$1.2 million. Once a Request for Proposal is sent, and bids are received and approved, construction could begin by April or May of next year, said Swanson.

Orinda School Board Selects Search Firm to Recruit New Superintendent

The Orinda Union School District board of trustees voted unanimously Oct. 5 to select Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA) to conduct a search for its new superintendent. The board will be filling the position left open by the upcoming retirement of Dr. Joe Jaconette in January 2016 after eight years of service to the district and the community.

The board selected HYA after thoroughly interviewing three different search firms during two separate board meetings, which were open to the public. HYA has recently conducted several successful local superintendent searches including Piedmont Unified School District, Belmont-Redwood Shores School District, Ross School District and South San Francisco Unified School District.

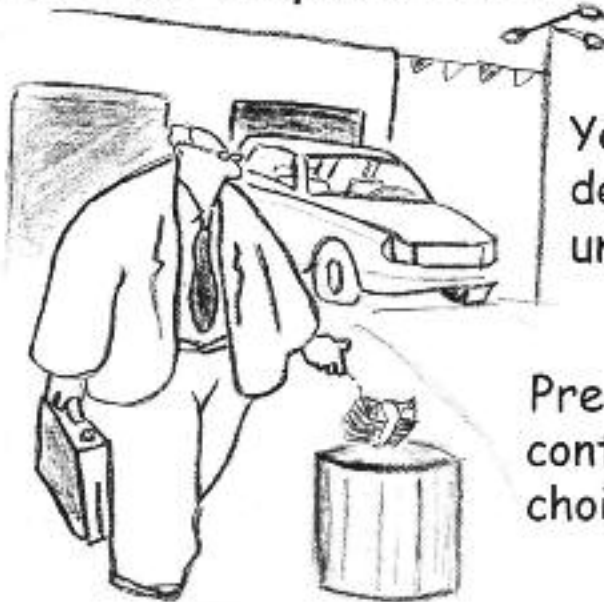
The board and HYA expressed their commitment to a comprehensive process with robust opportunities for public

input. The community is invited to take part in this process as it is unveiled in the coming weeks through town hall meetings, an online survey, meetings held with

key stakeholder groups and school board meetings. For more information, visit <http://www.orindaschools.org/SuperintendentSearch>.

A Community Forum is scheduled at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 26 at the District Office, Conference Room A, 8 Altarinda Road. J. Wake

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Sister City Exchange Student Welcomed by Council



Photo Victor Ryerson

Doing double duty on Oct. 6, former mayor Bobbie Landers presented Karel Balogh, Orinda's 16th exchange student from its sister city of Tabor, Czech Republic, to the City Council. Balogh, who is attending Miramonte High School, underwent a highly competitive process to demonstrate that he was a good fit for the program, and was fluent enough in English to do well in classes at Miramonte. Sister Cities' host families typically provide room and board for their assigned students. Orinda's first mayor Richard Heggie, with Landers, was instrumental in organizing the connection with Tabor, according to the city of Orinda website. Landers, the last surviving member of Orinda's first City Council, also presented a history of Orinda's cityhood at the council meeting. The highlight of the presentation was a screening of the 17-minute videotape that was used to persuade residents to opt for cityhood. Orinda officially became a city on July 1, 1985. V. Ryerson

OCF Grant Application Deadline Nov. 1

Submitted by Sue Severson



Orinda Community Foundation grants have helped support programs such as the Summer Concerts at the Park series at the Orinda Community Park. Pictured, DND Band at the June 9 concert. Photo Ohlen Alexander

The Orinda Community Foundation, which works to enhance the quality of life in Orinda by encouraging philanthropy, building partnerships, and providing financial assistance to support community activities, beautification and the arts, is accepting grant applications through Nov. 1. In 2014, grants were given to local organizations including the Orinda Association, the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation, Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe, Orinda Arts Council, and the Orinda Garden Club to support the annual Fourth of July parade, Lamorinda Idol, Youth Ink, summer outdoor movies and concerts, and more. Applications are available online at www.orindafoundation.org or can be sent to OCF, P.O. Box 21, Orinda CA 94563.



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Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247



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4/3.5. Remodeled & expanded. Easy living with many upgrades. Part of Woodland Hill swim & tennis.
Rick & Nancy Booth CalBRE#01341390/01388020



ORINDA \$3,450,000
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David Pierce CalBRE# 00964185



LAFAYETTE \$7,500/mo.
5/5.5. Wonderful, Mid Century serene estate property on 2.5 ac flat lot. Pool & 2 bd pool house.
The Hattersley's CalBRE# 01181995



ORINDA \$1,765,000
4/3.5. Branagh Built 2005! 3311 sqft, beautiful detailing, spacious rms, wood paneled office, high ceilings, .66 acres
Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247



ORINDA \$3,295,000
5/4.5. Breathtaking Mediterranean Estate with glorious Views, opulent paradise in the prestigious Glorietta vicinage.
Vlatka Bathgate CalBRE# 01390784



BERKELEY \$1,785,000
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Laura Abrams CalBRE# 01272382



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LAFAYETTE \$1,189,000
3/2. One of the best cul-de-sacs in Lafayette. Upgrades galore. Happy Valley Elementary.
Vlatka Bathgate CalBRE# 01390784



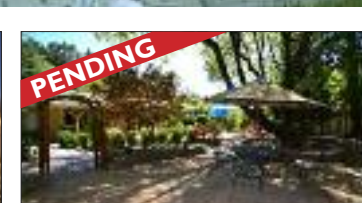
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4/2. Exceptional Style! Beautiful & refined on private setting w/ remarkable outdoor spaces w/ pool.
Diane Petek CalBRE# 01703677



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Tom Stack CalBRE# 01501769



OAKLAND \$695,000
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Andi Brown CalBRE#01738605



ORINDA \$799,000
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Vlatka Bathgate CalBRE# 01390784



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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 4, 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, Nov. 10, 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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www.lamorindacert.org.

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weekly.com)

So You Want to Be a Firefighter?

By Nick Marnell

Your captain directs you to perform a dangerous, hazardous duty, like climbing onto a burning roof. What do you say to her? To succeed as a firefighter-paramedic with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, you need to know that answer, and you need to respond quickly.

Fire Chief Stephen Healy and two recently hired firefighter-paramedics, Jeremy Kshevatzky and Chris Sillers, presented a behind the scenes look at the testing process recruits endure in their quest to become

MOFD firefighter-paramedics. "First up is the written test. It covers mechanical aptitude, mathematics, medical questions, reading comprehension. You've got to be pretty smart to get through that," said Kshevatzky. "And you've got to get smart at testing. Utilize the information the department has given you, study, and prepare."

"We also want to see how they would respond to certain firefighting situations," said Healy. "You see your captain stick into his pocket a wad of cash that he picked up from the inside of a house where a fire was just extinguished. What do you do?" Was he collecting evidence? Was he trying to protect the money

from fire damage? Was he stealing it?

The chief said that most of the applicants make it to the next round: the interview with the fire board. "They ask seven or eight open-ended questions, like, why do you want this job?" he said.

"They don't want canned answers," said Kshevatzky. "They are looking for honesty. They may ask, how do you respond to a patient who has made it clear that she does not agree with paying her taxes to support the fire district? (We're here to take care of whoever is in need.)"

Successful candidates then progress to a paramedic skills evaluation. "Show us that you can function as a paramedic," said the chief.

"It's role playing," said Sillers. "A panel sits at a table, a mannequin lying on the ground, they watch how I interact. They want to see how you think in a dynamic situation. Can you make the right decisions?"

The skills evaluation is a pass-fail test. For example, the candidate responds to a victim who was hit by a car. If she does not hold the victim's head still, she fails.

Qualified applicants progress to

the fire chief's interview. "It's more personal," said Kshevatzky. "Chief Healy wanted to get to know who I was, where I came from, about my family." Sillers interviewed with previous fire chief Randy Bradley. "We spent 45 minutes talking about my life, and my family experiences," he said. Note the similarity in the interview style of the two chiefs.

The final test portion is the paramedic field evaluation. "It's the most important test we take," said Sillers. Candidates ride along in the ambulances, and are monitored on how they respond to a stroke call, a pediatric call, a diabetic with breathing difficulty. This segment may take up to two weeks.

"We want to be certain that the individual has the skill sets and the potential to be a successful, long-term district employee," said Healy. "Plus, they work at a station, spending time interacting with the crews. We try to place them with a captain they match with. Also, we provide them differing perspectives. The Orinda crews respond to freeway incidents, while those at the Moraga stations would experience calls at Saint Mary's."

"A lot of people can answer

questions, but they want to know if you are someone they can work with," said Sillers.

"It was very stressful," said Kshevatzky. "I was a paramedic in another county. I had to make sure that I performed according to the protocols of this county, knowing that if I don't succeed right now, I won't be here tomorrow."

Meanwhile, the candidates undergo a physical, a psychological test and a background check. "Through the field evaluation and the background check is where we lose the most people," said Healy.

The entire testing process took seven months, said Kshevatzky, before he received a phone call from the chief, telling him that he was an MOFD firefighter-paramedic. "I've never felt anything like it," he said. "It was the best feeling, knowing that all of my hard work had finally paid off."

The correct answer to that question in the opening paragraph? "It's our job to perform tasks that many would consider hazardous and dangerous," said Sillers.

It is likely that those who choose a career as a firefighter would not have it any other way.

District Grapples with Old Schools, More Kids

... continued from page A3

"What we're learning is every school has a great deal of need," adding that when it comes to financing and improvements, "we are on our own," since there is no matching money available from the state. Zinn said no decision has been made and the district is committed to keeping the assessment process open and transparent, which is the point of the Community Engagement Meetings.

As the Oct. 15 meeting wrapped up, Gerson gave a summary of the current budget situation, noting that starting in 2008 there were significant cutbacks that affected the district, with basic maintenance of the buildings the only option. One example of the current state of aging infrastructure he cited was a gas line that was installed in 1954 at Burton Valley El-

ementary School, and a leak in the line that left students without heat for a week in early March of this year.

Each school in the district is planning a meeting to promote dialogue with parents and the community about specific school needs. That information will be presented to the school board, along with poll results that will be completed in November. It will be up to the board to make a decision to see if they would like to pursue a general obligation bond to address a school facilities overhaul.

The old library directly adjacent to Lafayette Elementary School is another consideration in the overall facilities picture. The LSD negotiated a lease with the city of Lafayette on the property in late September 2015, with an option to buy the parcel that expires on

April 1, 2017. With its \$32 million annual budget, the district is in the black, but in no way could pay for an extensive remodel of campuses or purchase and renovate the library structure.

The public is welcome to attend the next three community engagement meetings, which will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22 at the Stanley Middle School multi-use room, at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 26 at the Springhill Elementary MUR, and at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27 at the Happy Valley Elementary MUR.

To see the complete HKIT analysis of existing campus buildings and school needs, go to the LSD website, www.lafsd.k12.ca.us, then click on the Facilities Master Planning resource page, then the HKIT Architects presentation.

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Business

Orinda's Taverna Pellegrini: A Place to Come Back To

By A.K. Carroll



Petrole sole with lemon caper sauce



Pasta Carbonara



Squash ravioli with butter sage sauce



Scaloppini all Piccata (pork scaloppini with lemon caper sauce)



Spinach cheese ravioli in pesto sauce

Dario Hadjian, owner of Orinda's Taverna Pellegrini that opened for business in mid-September, says he likes to eat and he loves to cook. The statement won't surprise anyone who has smelled the gorgonzola cream sauce that coddles his homemade gnocchi or tasted a steaming slice of his fire-roasted pizza. "My pizza is amazing," Hadjian attests. "As thin as it can be and as light as it can be."

Persian by birth and Italian by heart, Hadjian pronounces "prosciutto" and "mozzarella" as they were meant to be spoken: with elongated vowels and short staccato consonants.

Hadjian fell in love with Rome as a young man, wandering his way through the city's cobblestone streets and among its ancient monuments. During the time that he attended Rome's American University, he got "a new batch of friends" every semester. "Romans are easy-going," said Hadjian, who grew accustomed to showing around foreigners, sharing with them the things he enjoyed most.

Hadjian's love of cooking, eating, and Roman cuisine are the passions that he brought to Piazza Pellegrini, the Italian restaurant he opened in San Francisco's North Beach neighborhood over 10 years ago. Prior to getting his own place, Hadjian worked in California's food industry for over a decade, helping to open spots like Café Tiramisu and Caffè Delle Stelle.

"It gave me a good chance to learn a lot about the business," said Hadjian, who also started his own import and export company bottling olive oils and balsamic vinegars.

"Like every person in the

restaurant business, you're stupid enough to want your own place until you have it," Hadjian joked. "[But] if you like people and being with people, you get hooked on this kind of environment, even if it's really hard."

Hadjian, it would seem, is just that kind of person, hence the opening of Taverna Pellegrini, an East Bay outpost of his original establishment. "I'd been looking to expand and having lived in Walnut Creek and Lafayette prior to opening in San Francisco, I wanted to open a place here. I know a lot of people and the environment here in Orinda is really nice."

Hadjian likes the taverna's proximity to BART and the freeway, one that allows him to share staff with his North Beach location. "These guys are my family," he says of his employees. "I take care of them they take care of me."

On the menu at Taverna Pellegrini, you'll see many of the same Roman Italian specialties, from the classic bruschetta made with melted fontina cheese and sautéed mushrooms to mista and arugula salads, an array of wood-fired pizzas and paninis, and no shortage of primis and secondis. The restaurant has a full bar and a generous wine list.

With seating for up to 100 guests, the Tuscan-inspired space is brightly painted and divided into a partially-enclosed front dining room with window seats, a central bar with plenty of stools and two television screens, and a back section of two- and four-top tables. "I liked the space," said Hadjian, who hopes to expand into catering and private events and now has the room to do so. The

taverna is currently open seven days a week for dinner only, with plans for brunch and lunch options in the near future.

Specialties of the house include spinach, meat, crab, squash, and lobster raviolis (each of which is made daily by hand and uniquely colored); wood-fired pizzas, and saltimbocca alla piemontese – a butterflied chicken breast filled with prosciutto and mozzarella and served in a cream sage sauce with steamed vegetables and herbed potatoes. Though it's a calorie-dense dish, the saltimbocca is surprisingly light, the sauce thin and simple, rich in flavor, but not overly heavy. Hadjian's pizza is no pie, but it is flavorful, made with oven-cooked tomato sauce and a simple selection of authentic ingredients, many of which are sourced directly from Italy.

"I work on all the recipes myself," said Hadjian. "I have an extensive knowledge of Italian food and try to keep it as authentic as possible, as fresh as possible, and as simple as possible. That's really

Italian food. We make it really rustic and really simple, but fresh."

Hadjian hopes that his Orinda space will offer both a relaxed atmosphere and a bit of a sports bar, something for families, couples, students and seniors. "That's why I call it a tavern. It's a casual setting, but we make everything from scratch, so it's fine food, good quality food, but very homey and rustic."

Ultimately what Hadjian wants to offer Lamorindans is an eatery they can brag about and one that they return to. "What we hope for is that you as a resident are proud of your local place," said Hadjian, who anticipates loyal return-customers to supplement curious new visitors. "That's what keeps us going. That's the kind of reward that you want. The same faces coming back."

Taverna Pellegrini
65 Moraga Way, Orinda

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



Photos A.K. Carroll

business briefs

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

Walgreens Opens in Lafayette
3614 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. (925) 385-2385



Walgreens grand opening Photo Sophie Braccini

The new Walgreens pharmacy and convenience store opened Oct. 9 on Mt. Diablo Boulevard, in the former Citibank and Mountain Mike's Pizza building across from Diablo Foods. Jay Lifson, the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce executive director, welcomed Cindy Ma, the district manager for Walgreens, at the opening. The store is open every day from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., the pharmacy is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. during the week and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends.

Shop Orinda Campaign: Win a \$100 Gift Certificate



The Orinda Chamber of Commerce has put together a fun way to entice people to visit businesses on both sides of Orinda, with the Shop Orinda Campaign. "Just go to the 10 participating businesses and have them stamp your card," explains Chamber of Commerce president Sylvia Jorgensen. There is no obligation to purchase anything as you visit Echo Grove, McDonnell Nursery, Hello Tiara, Morrison's, Parker Thatch, Hilton House, Orinda Cleaners, Orinda Designer Shoes, Republic of Cake and Orinda Motor. "You just have to visit," adds Jorgensen. Each of the 10 participat-

ing businesses have contributed \$100, and 10 winning \$100 gift cards will be drawn from the completed cards collected. "This is just a way to get people to know the Orinda businesses better," adds Jorgensen. The completed cards must be dropped at the Chamber of Commerce office, 26 Orinda Way, by Nov. 28.

Sustainability and Green Building Award Winners

Sustainable Contra Costa hosted its 7th annual Sustainability & Green Building Awards gala Sept. 23 at the Concord Hilton. Moraga-based nonprofit, 4CL, which stands for Contra Costa County Climate Leaders, took home an award for its work with policymakers to find solutions to local, environmental issues. Environmental advocate and teacher Sheila Hill received an award for her ongoing work in the Sustainable Schools program, the Wellness City Challenge, Generation Green, and Parents for a Safer Environment. Three outstanding Green Building projects were recognized this year: Woodbury, Lafayette's newest eco-friendly residential complex, the Milovic residence in Lafayette, and Orinda's Old Yellow House.

Moraga Employee of the Month for September

Ariela Araquistain, a popular waitress and cashier at The Golden Palace restaurant, has been named the Moraga Employee of the Month for September.



From left: Roger Gregory, Jay Lie, Ariela Araquistain and Kevin Rneau Photo provided

She often stays late after her shift to assist in other restaurant duties. The Moraga Rotary and Chamber of Commerce awarded Araquistain gift cards to Safeway and the Home Goods store in Moraga at an Oct. 6 Moraga Rotary meeting.

John Gillham Starts Fitness Coaching Practice
3385 Mt Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, john@marathonjohn.com
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"I specialize in fostering freedom through FUNCTIONAL fitness," says John Gillham, a former ultra-marathon runner. "I coach and guide my clients to find their strength and do things with their bodies they only dreamed of before." Most of Gillham's clients are individuals who let their health become a lower priority than their job or children. He guides them back to where they once were and beyond through personal strength training. Gillham is a NASM certified personal trainer, CHEK Exercise Coach as well as an Underground Strength Coach. He guides clients with diet and lifestyle and trains in a variety of modalities ranging from kettlebells to powerlifting and gymnastics. Gillham operates JG Fitness within BeFit Exercise studio, offering a free training session for new clients.



John Gillham Photo provided

News from the Three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette
Lafayette Reservoir Run at 8 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 25. The run is a family event, with optional costumes. To register, visit lafayettechamber.org.

October Mixer at Bradley School of Music from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 1042 Brown Avenue.

Moraga
Business meeting open to members and interested parties at 8 a.m. Friday, Oct. 30 at in the Hacienda de las Flores Fireside Room, 2100 Donald Drive. Speaker Stephanie Shaterian, owner of fLO Content Marketing, will discuss how to create marketing videos.

Orinda
Fall into Oktoberfest Mixer at Landhome Financial from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22 at 2 Theater Square, #146, Orinda. Complementary brews and nibbles will be served.

Celebrating an Anniversary?

If your business is celebrating a significant anniversary (5, 10, 20 years or more ...) send us a photo of your business, the owner(s) or the staff with specific information about your business and what you're celebrating, and we'll include it in an upcoming issue.



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PG&E's High Wire Act Wraps Up

... continued from page A1

The high wire act is fascinating to watch. The specially trained linemen use a technique called "long lining," which involves hanging from a cable underneath the helicopter as they are transported from the ground onto the tower. PG&E was one of the first utilities in the United States to introduce long line work procedures, something still taught at the company's Livermore facility, Sarkissian said.

Long lining is now used nationwide. On the ground, more workers watch as the new line gets pulled along the towers, ensuring the wires stay off the ground and away from contact with each other. Temporary catch poles and wire baskets went up

along the route as crews began pulling wire from Rossmoor through the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail.

The crews worked on Moraga Road near Buckingham Drive across from the Campolindo High School soccer fields, adjacent town offices on La Salle Drive, and at the north end of the Mulholland open space along Rheem Boulevard between Scofield and Harold Drives. They expect to work in Orinda through October, and plan to pull their last transmission line from Lafayette to Rossmoor late this month.

The project is scheduled for completion in November, contingent upon resources and safe weather condi-

tions, Sarkissian said. But weather is actually one reason the upgrades have come about – peak summer demand or extreme weather conditions can max out the current transmission lines' capacity.

There will be no encore performance anytime soon for this high wire act. "We expect these upgrades to last more than 60 years," Sarkissian said.

PG&E construction and line upgrades in the East Bay began in January and are scheduled for completion during the summer of 2016. For more information, visit http://www.pge.com/en/safety/ccmoraga/index.page?WT.mc_id=Vanity_contracosta-moraga.

Group Demands Weil's Ouster

... continued from page A1

"Cohn has used as a vehicle for his personal attack the written and oral statements of CCCERA's lawyer, Harvey Leiderman," continued Weil. He explained that in August, Leiderman wrote a memorandum to CCCERA laying much of the blame on the MOFD board for Nowicki's improper pension, failing to mention that Leiderman warned CCCERA in 2009 that the practices and policies of the retirement board for more than 10 years had caused overpayments to retirees,

including many of the items that Leiderman claimed were caused by the misconduct of the MOFD board or Nowicki. "Cohn knows all about Leiderman's 2009 letter, but he is hiding that fact in his petition," said Weil.

Weil asserted that Leiderman's suggestion that the MOFD board violated the Brown Act in working out Nowicki's pension was baseless and gratuitous, yet Weil said that Cohn continues to create the impression that Weil violated the Brown Act.

"This is not personal between me and Fred; I don't even know him personally," said Cohn. "This is about something he and the 2008 board did ... which has damaged the community by handing out millions of dollars to a favored public employee."

In its 18-year history, several directors have resigned from the MOFD board, the latest being Frank Sperling, who moved out of the district in 2013. No board member ever resigned in response to public pressure.



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Building Bridges

Orinda resident participates in Bridges To Prosperity projects

By Sophie Braccini



The happy team in front of the finished bridge

Photos provided

Naya Olmer simply wants to be treated like one of the guys when she works on a construction site. When the 22-year-old Orinda resident signed up to build a bridge in Panama this summer, she knew what she was doing: she had already worked on a similar project in Rwanda, proving that she had the stamina as well as the desire to handle serious manual labor. The slender young woman got plenty of chances to prove herself again in the small Panama village of Los Canones while helping to build a new footbridge so children could get to school safely.

"I love to build things, I love to use tools," says Olmer, who thinks building a new bridge from scratch is one of the coolest projects she has done in her life. Besides working with her hands, what she also appre-

ciated was the long-lasting and significant impact this charitable venture has on an entire community.

The bridge in Rwanda serves 10,000 people, in a community that is separated by a river. "On one side of the river you have the hospital, the market, the school, access to main roads, and the other side is just farmland," she explains, noting that residents lived on both sides of the river. "During the dry season people can cross on foot, but during the wet season they can't. The situation was similar in Panama," says Olmer. "The main purpose of the bridge was for school children to access the school safely." The old bridge was made of tree trunks and branches.

On site, the team of 10 American volunteers – mostly male professional engineers, one intern from the non-

profit Bridges To Prosperity (BTP) and another young woman – worked with three local volunteers.

BTP constructed the concrete foundation ahead of time and the group Olmer was a part of had 12 days to build the suspension bridge. It is made of steel towers, steel cables going across the towers and steel suspender cables coming down from the towers to the decking, which is a steel base with a wooden top. Olmer worked all jobs, including on scaffolding where she loved the bird's-eye view of the site. By the end she worked on decking the bridge. "There is nothing in front of you, and you look down (at the river), and you think that you're literally bridging that river," she says, adding that the feeling of accomplishment was overwhelming. ... continued on page B3



The old bridge was made of branches from trees growing on both sides of the river.



The left bank team with Naya Olmer was the first to cross the bridge.

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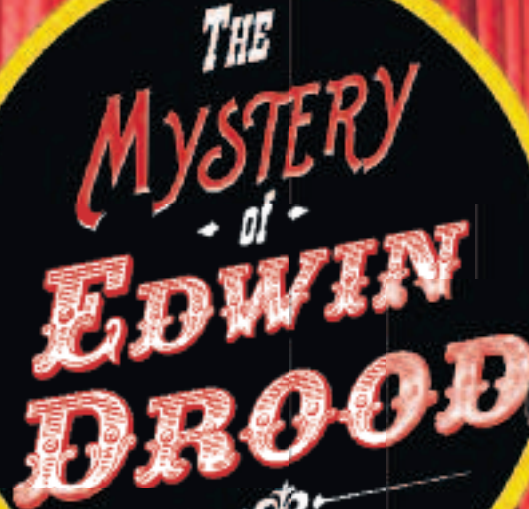
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 - Fresh Seafood Cioppino:** in a rich tomato-basil sauce, parmesan, garlic toast...19
 - Roasted Scallops:** spinach, saliccia sugo19
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Disabling Barriers

Steve Wampler to discuss “Overcoming Obstacles In Spite of Adversity” at Stanley Oct. 26

By Cathy Dausman



On day four of his ascent, Steve Wampler hangs 45 feet from the wall.

Steve Wampler is not about to miss out on life, in spite of the life he has been dealt. It has been five years since Wampler conquered climbing the face of Yosemite’s El Capitan, inch by inch, one measly pull at a time. The six-day, five-night climb was unprecedented. Wampler, born with cerebral palsy, is confined

to a wheelchair – and has the use of only one arm.

According to the Stephen J. Wampler Foundation website, the Lafayette native wanted to show kids with physical challenges that while it didn’t have to be El Capitan, they should find and work toward accomplishing challenges that they placed upon themselves, and enjoy all that came from that process. He wanted to show them, by example, what they could face as individuals ... disability and all.

Schooled in an era before the Americans with Disabilities Act, Wampler says his mother advocated for a mainstream education for him. As CEO of his foundation, Wampler now advocates for the next generation of children with disabilities.

Wampler will speak about “Rising Above: Overcoming Obstacles in Spite of Adversity” at 7 p.m. Oct. 26 at Stanley Middle School, 3455 School Street in Lafayette, as part of a Lafayette Partners in Education parent education event. He will tell his amazing story of the grit, sheer will and guts needed to climb the famous rock face, which is chronicled in the YouTube documentary “Wampler’s Ascent,” as well as talk about his beloved “Camp Wamp” – a High Sierra wilderness camp for youth with disabilities that he established as a nonprofit 12 years ago.

Wampler has been on both sides of the camp equation; having grown up in Lafayette he attended camp for 10 years beginning in the late 1970s. The then-nameless camp was initially administered by Easter Seals of Walnut Creek, but it fell into disuse and was sold to the Boy Scouts. Wampler revived the campsite and went to work.

A self-proclaimed “go getter” who now lives near San Diego, Wampler says the camp offers kids with physical disabilities the opportunity to step outside their own boundaries while attending a sleepaway week of camping under the stars, fishing, canoeing, and hiking and survival challenges. The camp currently operates only during two summer weeks accommodating 60 campers per week. Campers arrive from across the



Steve Wampler Photos provided country, “New York, Massachusetts, Seattle, New Mexico and Florida,” Wampler said, and return home having learned independence, creativity and problem solving.

He hopes eventually Camp Wamp will host campers from every state. Cost per camper, which Wampler says covers “everything” including insurance, counsellors and supplies, varies depending on the recipient but runs approximately \$2,300 per camper.

Now thanks to an anonymous donor, Camp Wamp is poised to expand dramatically in the next few years. Wampler plans to buy a new campsite, build a kitchen and classrooms and eventually operate the camp several months per year. The initial donation (to preserve anonymity, Wampler has declined to reveal its exact amount) has kick-started a 2015 Camp Wamp fundraiser, known as the #2gether Project. Its goal is to raise \$4 million. Wampler has also begun talks with corporate sponsors.

He says fundraising is simply a matter of “getting the right people in the right room.” He hopes to see the project go viral. Wampler is also scheduled to speak before the entire Stanley student body as well as to Happy Valley Elementary School students. “I know what the camp did for me,” Wampler said, noting how “independent and confident” campers return after their High Sierra experience.

As he says in an online video: “You have a disability; that’s not going to change. I don’t care if you’re mad about it; I don’t care if you’re sad about it. You’re missing out on life!”

No one would ever accuse Wampler of that.

To reserve a seat for the Oct. 26 LPIE lecture, go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F4CA5A8238-district>. For information about the Stephen J. Wampler Foundation, visit <http://www.wamplerfoundation.org/>. To view “Wampler’s Ascent,” the documentary film released in 2013 that chronicles Wampler’s six-day, five-night climb of Yosemite’s El Capitan rock face, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LTYdHk7cGiQ>.



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Tips to Tackle Head Lice

Now that school is back in session, there is one thing – or several things – parents would rather their child not bring home: head lice. While Dr. Kelly Hood of Lamorinda Pediatrics recommends first using over-the-counter permethrin 1% (Nix) or pyrethrins (Rid), she says to be sure to retreat on day nine, even if the instructions say otherwise. “If lice persist, consider prescription treatment and steer away from natural insecticides like ylang ylang and tea tree oil, since there is not enough evidence

showing that these work or are safe,” she says. “Some non-drug options that suffocate lice (Cetaphil, etc.), or manual removal with wet combing alone are becoming more accepted. These techniques are suggested for infants under 2 months old, if other options aren’t effective, or for parents who want to avoid pesticides. Don’t be surprised if you are seeing more kids with head lice staying in school. By the time the lice are spotted the child has been infested for about a month.” *J. Wake*

‘Marshland’: (La Isla Mínima)

Dark Spanish thriller opens at Orinda Theatre Oct. 30

By Sophie Braccini



image provided

Spanish equivalent of an Academy Award – may mean that enough time has elapsed since Franco’s death and Spaniards are ready to look their past in the eye.

“Marshland” will be shown for one week beginning Oct. 30 at the Orinda Theatre as part of the International Film Showcase. For information, visit lamorindatheatres.com.

When two teens disappear in the sparsely populated rice-growing marshland of southern Spain in 1980, two homicide detectives, with vastly different personalities, are sent to solve the mystery in the film “Marshland” – a tense, dark thriller.

The officers represent the two sides of Spain that have been fighting throughout the 20th century. The older detective has a shady past, while the younger is eager to move forward and is ready to challenge any resurgence of a hated history.

The detectives’ job will prove difficult in this remote region.

In this portion of Spain, people do not talk much and they are stuck in the not so distant past of the brutal Franco dictatorship. General Franco died in 1975; the first democratic elections were held in 1977.

The secrets the two men uncover are as dense and opaque as the waters of the countryside’s vast labyrinth of canals. Director Alberto Rodriguez said he was inspired by “2666,” the novel by Chilean writer Roberto Bolaño, who was interested in a series of 1993 murders of women in northern Mexico. In “Marshland,” secrets slowly emerge and collusion between local politicians, industrialists and the Civil Guard, which had a prominent role during the dictatorship, persist.

Rodriguez shows his interest in Spain’s transition period between 1975 and 1982, as his country tried to free itself from 40 years of fascism. The Franco regime was the result of the victory of the forces on the extreme right against the left during the Spanish Civil War, ending in 1939.

The film opens beautifully with aerial views by photographer Hector Garrido of the wetlands of the Rio

Guadalquivir in southern Spain. This esthetic opening helps shed light on this lesser-known region of Spain, and properly sets the scene for this complex mystery.

“Marshland” is Rodriguez’s sixth movie. Audiences should be warned that this is an adult film with disturbing images and storylines portraying torture and extreme acts of violence against women. The reason why the director chose to portray such violence so vividly is explained at the end of the film, as well as the obsessive presence of birds, which contribute to the movie’s beauty and feeling of unrest.

In an interview with a European magazine, Rodriguez said about his two main characters, “The first one is motivated by his fear of dying, while the second thinks mostly about his career. But there is no obviously good one or bad one in this story; it would be too simple. However, the question raised by the movie is: is the young policeman right to put this colleague’s past behind? What future can we imagine for justice in our country? Is compromise the right solution? At what price? During the last 30 years, our politicians from the left or the right have concentrated on moving forward, fearful of opening old wounds. But it could be a better idea to heal the open wounds, so they close at last.”

Various countries have dealt differently with the horrors of their past; South Africa, for example, made the choice of calling out the abuses before forgiveness could be earned. Many others, like Spain, just moved on.

The remarkable success of “Marshland” in Spain, which this year earned nine Goya Awards – the

Building Bridges

... continued from page B1

“When you start, you are super energetic, but as days pass people become exhausted because you’re working from sunrise to sunset, and you can’t sleep at night because it’s 95 degrees, and the dogs are barking, so it’s really amazing when you’re able to pull it off and you walk across the bridge (for the first time).

“As I did in Rwanda, I was happy to leave the power tools to the locals who came to help build the bridge, and instead take a shovel to dig trenches.” Some of the American engineers might have felt lessened by doing so, she says. Olmer chose not to create a distance with the local people, but to work alongside them. “You connect better that way.”

People often volunteer for these missions with the idea to give to people in need, Olmer adds, “but in reality locals who receive want it to be an exchange, and they want to give us everything (they can).” Throughout

her 12-day experience she was deeply touched by the gifts of food and items that came to her. “People are excited to connect; there is a lot of mutual respect and they want to have an impact on us also.” As she embarks on her graduate studies at Cal, Olmer says she learned that people with less education can teach us lessons and have much to contribute to the world.

When the bridge was finished and inaugurated, Olmer was surprised and happy to see that horses and humans could cross easily. She came home with a unique souvenir in her luggage: one of the local volunteer’s personal machete.

“It was his tool to do everything,” she explains, “and when I said that I would like to find one for myself, he just gave me his.”

For information about Bridges to Prosperity, visit bridgestoprosperty.org.

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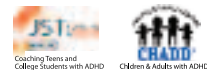
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Making the Most of Your College Admissions Interview

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

Many students request interviews, or 'sit downs' as they are sometimes called, with admission representatives who visit our communities this time of year. Others receive emails or phone calls to schedule an interview appointment from an alumnus or other individual who represents a college. Regardless of who initiates the interview or what it is called, it is easy to impress a college interviewer if you do a little work in three areas: self-awareness, college awareness, and tapping into the wisdom of the person who conducts the interview.

Before your scheduled talk, take some time to review your resume and transcript. Now make a list of five qualities or pieces of information about you that would be beneficial for the interviewer to know. Your job is to make certain you weave this information into the conversation. I have included common interview questions at the end of this article. Practice responding to those questions. Weave the five important things you want the interviewer to know about you into your answers, and be sure to include specific examples whenever possible. Now practice with a family member, trusted friend or counselor. Do not share your list of five items with your interviewer. At the end of the mock interview, ask what they learned about you and see if it matches your list.

Before your interview, be sure to carefully research the college. Read the write-up in the most recent "Fiske Guide to Colleges or The Best 380 Colleges" by Princeton Review. Next, head to the college website. Look for opportunities that interest you academically. Check out classes and professors, and decide which ones you would enjoy if you were a student on campus now. Look into social events and clubs, research and internships. Look at the college newspaper to understand the current issues of concern to students and faculty on campus. Become fully knowledgeable about the school. Then write down at least three reasons why the college is a good match for you. This information will come in handy during the interview when you are asked a version of the question "What made you decide to apply to our college?" Or "What attracts you to our college?"

The last important part of a good college interview is knowing how to respond when asked "Do you have any questions?" Be prepared with five well-conceived questions. Avoid those questions which could be easily answered on the school's website and use this chance to dig deeper. Long before the interview takes place you should know the name and position of whom is conducting the interview. If it is young alum who just graduated from the school, you can ask questions about current campus life, culture and happenings. If the person is older, graduated long ago and does not currently work or teach on the campus, ask a question about what they studied and how they connected with their professors. If the person is an admissions rep on campus now, you can feel safe asking just about anything about campus academics and campus life. No matter who conducts the interview, if you prepare well, you will be relaxed, you will make a good impression and you will have fun! Be yourself, and, remember, the interviewer is hoping to make a good impression on you too – colleges look for reasons to admit an applicant and a good interviewer will know how to bring out the best in you.

Common interview questions:

1. Tell me about your experiences at your high school. Is there a particular experience you had there that stands out?
2. What would you change about your school if you had the power to do so?
3. What might your teachers say is your greatest strength as a student, and what are your weaknesses? (Be honest but show steps you are taking to improve.)
4. What magazines and newspapers do you like to read? (Pick sources that show intellectual curiosity and love of learning.)

5. What sort of things do you like to do outside of school?
6. In the last year, what books or articles have you read that have special meaning for you? (Be sure to explain the special meaning.)
7. If you had a time machine and could go back and change history, what time period would you go to, what would you change and why?
8. What volunteer activities are most important to you?
9. What have you done with your last two summers?
10. What accomplishment are you most proud of?
11. Who is your favorite teacher and why?
12. What do you do to relax?
13. Who is your favorite author?
14. Tell me what your favorite subjects are at school.
15. If you could solve a local or global problem, what would it be and what first steps might you take to solve it?
16. Would you rather write a report or give an oral presentation? Why?
17. What are you interested in studying in college?
18. What interests you about our college? What makes you a good match? What do you want out of college?



Elizabeth LaScala, PhD. is an independent college advisor who draws upon 25 years of higher education experience to help guide and support the college admissions process for students and their families. Dr. LaScala is a member of NACAC, WACAC and HECA. She can be contacted at (925) 891-4491 or elizabeth@doingcollege.com. Visit www.doingcollege.com for more information about her services.

In Memory

Charles R. Vierra

Former longtime Lamorinda resident Chuck Vierra passed away peacefully surrounded by his family in Asheville, North Carolina, on Sept 26.

Born and raised in Oakland, California, he was a Berkeley firefighter for 28 years, owned and operated A Ace Carpentry for 40 years and was a Korean War vet. He and his wife, Kay, lived in Moraga from 1966 to 2005.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Kay, and survived by his four daughters: Cheryl Lee (Rich), Kathy Bigelow (Rich), Lynelle Flowers (Mark), DeeDee Vierra (Lisa) and Grandsons Tim, Carl and Zach.

There will be a Celebration of Life service at 11 a.m. Oct. 24 at Chapel of the Chimes in Oakland. All are welcome. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Alzheimer's Association www.alz.org.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

Where Does the Soul Go After It Departs This World?

JLI offers a new course in Lafayette on the spiritual side of existence

Submitted by Rabbi Dovber Berkowitz



Image provided

Some questions are universal to the human experience. Is there life after death? What happens to the soul after we die? What is it like for those who have traveled over to the Great Beyond? These are but a few of the questions addressed in the newest course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI).

Beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27, JLI will present "The Journey of the Soul," the institute's new six-session course conducted by Rabbi Dovber Berkowitz of Chabad of Contra Costa at the Contra Costa Jewish Day School, 955 Risa Road in Lafayette. The course will also be offered at 10 a.m. at Chabad of Contra

Costa 1671 Newell Ave. in Walnut Creek.

"Journey of the Soul" provides spiritual insight into the soul's journey through life, death, and beyond, as well as ancient Jewish wisdom that sheds light on the philosophical, emotional, and practical aspects of coping with death and mourning.

"Science knows very little about the soul and what happens to it post mortem," said Berkowitz. "It's about what is truly valuable and meaningful in life, which is relevant to everyone, and many have expressed their curiosity to learn about the topic, so we're expecting a very good turnout."

Death of a loved one puts us in touch with our mortality, and often changes our perspective of life, explains Jay Lewis, manager of Gan Shalom Cemetery in Briones and managing funeral director of Sinai Memorial Chapel in Lafayette, which is a sponsor of the course. "Despite this daunting reality, I find that many people want to explore how Judaism addresses these important matters," Lewis said.

Professor Sheldon Solomon of Skidmore College, who co-authored the book "The Worm at the Core: On

the role of Death in Life," said, "This course strikes me as a very fine juxtaposition of ancient theological wisdom with contemporary empirical science. My sense is that this will be an interesting and rewarding educational and personal experience."

The course is being offered in joint sponsorship with the Washington School of Psychiatry, enabling medical and mental health professionals to earn up to 7.5 AMA, APA, CBBS, and ASWB continuing education credits for their participation.

Like all previous JLI programs, "Journey of the Soul" is designed to appeal to people at all levels of Jewish knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

Interested students may call (925) 269-9554 or visit www.myJLI.com for registration and other course-related information. JLI courses are presented in Contra Costa in conjunction with Chabad of Contra Costa.

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Lamorinda Fifth-Graders Represent State in International Rabbit Show

Submitted by Allison Curletto



Bettina Curletto with her "Best in Show"-winning rabbit, Shocker



Ava and Bettina Curletto team quiz bowl event.

Ava and Bettina have been meeting with their Junior level teammates for study sessions to sharpen their skills and be ready for the big competition. The Curletto family will make the 600-plus-mile drive up to Portland starting Oct. 29. Instead of getting ready for trick-or-treating, the girls' Saturday and Sunday will be full of tests, quiz bowls and interviews with the results unveiled at the Youth Banquet on Tuesday night, Nov 3. Monday their rabbits are judged as well as some artwork and educational posters that they are submitting.

Ava and Bettina are also helping their breed specialty club. They belong to the National Jersey Wooly Rabbit Club. Ava is making the favors for the NJWRC Breed Award Banquet where breeders (adult and youth) from all over the world come together to celebrate improvements and learn from each other. Bettina is organizing the fundraising raffle for the club, which awards youth scholarships and education with the money it raises.

Both girls have been very successful with their rabbits. Ava is the current title winner of showmanship in her age group in all of California. She won this title at the California State Convention in Turlock in February 2015. Bettina's most recent win was the Best in Show award at the Contra Costa County Fair in May 2015 where her rabbit, Shocker, was chosen as the rabbit most close to perfection in the whole county. She won a large trophy, banner, ribbon and belt buckle.

'Girl Rising' Screening at Acalanes Oct. 30

Submitted by Samantha Taketa



Image provided

The Acalanes High School Students for the Advancement of Global Education (SAGE) club is hosting a community screening of the groundbreaking film, "Girl Rising," at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30 in the school's Performing Arts Center. Girl Rising is a feature film narrated by Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway and others, that tells the stories of nine incredible girls living in the developing world: ordinary girls who confront tremendous challenges and overcome nearly impossible odds to pursue their dreams. It is a moving testament to the strength of the human spirit and the power of education to change lives, communities, nations and the world. The film is directed by Academy Award-nominated director Richard Robbins, and is rated PG-13 for mature content.

Acalanes' SAGE club is a student-led organization that works closely with Trust in Education to provide educational, economic and health care assistance to Afghan families and promote gender equality.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students. Additional donations are welcome. Proceeds from the event will be donated to Trust in Education and to the Girl Rising Fund. To view trailers of the film, visit www.girlrising.com/see-the-film/about-the-film/.

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Halloween Skit Returns to Moraga



The cast at last year's performance, "Spellbound Count Down."

Photo provided

James Shumate, 22, will be returning to perform in his neighborhood's annual Halloween skit Oct. 31 that he started participating in when he was about 4 years old. Shumate, who will play the prince, is a graduate of San Francisco State University in cinematography and recorded the skit's soundtrack, which includes an introductory song by professional singer Amanda MacDowell, the daughter of the skit co-founder Michelle Wilson. The skit, which was started years ago by Wilson and her

brother, Greg, on their front porch has now expanded to be performed by friends and neighbors in the garage at 12 Lynwood Place from 7 to 9 p.m. on Halloween. This year, the group will be performing "Cinderelli" – a spoof based on a song sung by the mice, Jaq and Gus, in the animated film "Cinderella."

"This skit is definitely a work of love; many, many hours are put into this, starting in the summer months," said participant, Judy Michel Shumate. J. Wake

Burton Valley Cub Scouts Tour Shell Ridge with Walnut Creek Mayor

Submitted by Dean Smith



Mayor Bob Simmons points to a habitat restoration site above Deer Lake during a tour of Shell Ridge with the Burton Valley Pack 645 Cub Scouts.

Photo provided

Local Cub Scout Pack 645 of Lafayette recently were given a private tour of Shell Ridge and Indian Valley by Walnut Creek Mayor Bob Simmons in an effort to learn more about wildlife conservation and habitat restoration.

Pack 645, a Cub Scout group of 6- to 11-year-old boys from Burton Valley Elementary School, met the mayor at the Indian Valley Elementary School entrance to Shell Ridge and spent several hours learning about oak trees, invasive species and the need for habitat conservation. Mayor Simmons discussed the extensive work done by the volunteers over the years, and demonstrated his passion for hiking and wildlife conservation.

In addition to a scenic walk, the hike was extremely educational for the Scouts, who learned about the work being done by the Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation in various parts of the Shell Ridge region, including the restoration of Deer Lake, previously called Ames Pond. The Scouts hiked approximately three miles with the mayor to see firsthand the work being done to restore the pond.

The tour and hike was a component of the Cub Scout naturalist achievement, which includes learning about ecosystems, observing wildlife and protecting the environment. Dating back to when the property was acquired in 1976, the city of Walnut Creek and the Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation have conducted extensive efforts to help restore the area and enhance the ecosystem surrounding Deer Lake. These efforts have included planting trees, trash removal, improving the drainages leading into the lake and planting native grasses. Volunteers have also removed invasive species of vegetation to allow planting of additional trees, willows, milkweed and elderberry.

The restoration of Deer Lake is an ongoing effort to enhance the local habitat and encourage migratory birds to visit the area.

The Scouting program at Burton Valley Elementary offers programs for first to fifth-graders. The activities include hiking, camping, leadership training and a wide-range of adventure catered to the age level. For information, call (925) 385-8877. The local council can be reached at (925) 674-6100.

DeSaulnier All Smiles at Sustainable Lafayette Event

Submitted by Melinda Krigel



Mark DeSaulnier

Photo provided

Rep. Mark DeSaulnier was all smiles at the second annual "Sustainable Sunday" event Oct. 4 at Metro in Lafayette. DeSaulnier was one of 140 guests and speakers including Kathryn Lyddan, executive director of Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust; Kira Gould, co-author of "Women in Green;" Bea Johnson, author of "Zero Waste Home;" Ames Morrison, co-founder of eco-friendly ranch and vineyard Medlock Ames; and Charles Bohlig, water con-

servation supervisor for the East Bay Municipal Utility District. The fundraiser benefitted Sustainable Lafayette programs, including Lafayette's Earth Day Festival, Summer Environmental Film Series, Green Schools, Community Garden, and Recycle Lafayette. It also featured organic and sustainably-produced local appetizers, beer and spirits (wine pairings with Medlock Ames wines), an environmentally-friendly silent auction and live jazz.

New Troop 241 Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Carole Noel



From left, front row: Colin Noel, Maxx Green, Eric Byberg; back row: Kevin Tuholski and Casey Conrad

Photo provided

Five Boy Scout members of Troop 241 in Lafayette were honored at a special court of honor Oct. 17 for achieving the Eagle Scout Award, Boy Scouting's highest honor. Each one of them completed a contributory community project: Colin Noel built and installed stairs for the stage at the Lafayette Reservoir; Maxx Green constructed two raptor poles to give birds

of prey a place to perch while hunting the over-running vermin at two community parks; Eric Byberg made raised planter boxes for Orinda Academy School; Kevin Tuholski built a sand box for CATS after school program at Lafayette Elementary School; and Casey Conrad built a wooden car play structure for Lafayette Nursery School.

Moraga Rotary Donates Books to County Juvenile Hall Library

Submitted by Gary Irwin



County Juvenile Hall library director Joe Young (in blue shirt) with Moraga Rotarians, from left: President Roger Gregory, Debbie Roessler, Frank May and Evie Michon.

Photo provided

Members of the Rotary Club of Moraga delivered 45 books to the Juvenile Hall library recently, and received a tour of the library and other facilities from the library director, Joe Young. The Club has now donated a total of 65 approved books since commencing this service project in spring of this year. Many of the bookplates have been signed by the featured speaker at weekly Rotary meetings. Rotarians making this latest book delivery were Frank May, Debbie Roessler, Evie Michon, and president Roger Gregory. The project chair is Rotarian Barbara Bruner.

This library, and the one at Byron Boys Ranch, is a part of the Contra Costa Library system. Both locations have a special dedicated library room about 30 feet by 45 feet in size, where many books are available or can be ordered, and two volunteer librarians serve the room at specified hours. There are also five

computer terminals connected to the library system to provide online reading experience. The books provide students an opportunity to improve their reading skills and provide resources for entertainment and education.

Moraga Rotary was asked by the library staff to be a book donor because of the club's involvement with the Juvenile Hall Auxiliary through its Christmas stocking project, which is in its 19th year, where gift-filled decorated stockings are given to residents on Christmas Eve. This program was originated by Rotarians Jim and Linda Campbell.

Rotary Club of Moraga is a local service club within Rotary International, one of about 33,000 Rotary Clubs in about 200 countries. Regular meetings are held on most Tuesdays at noon at the Soda Center at Saint Mary's College. For further information, call Frank May at (925) 376-8195, or check out moragarotary.org.

Award-Winning Authors and Illustrators at Lafayette Library Oct. 24

Submitted by Fran Miller



Image Michael Slack

Five well-known, award-winning authors and illustrators – Jennifer Choldenko, Thacher Hurd, Jordan Jacobs, Elisa Kleven and Michael Slack – will sign books and demonstrate illustration techniques from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24 as part of the Children's Book Festival at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. Performers from Town Hall Theatre's "Seussical the Musical" will kick off the free festivities with a musical performance at 11 a.m.

Gennifer Choldenko is best known for her Newbery award-winning "Al Capone Does my Shirts."

With more than 2 million books in print, School Library Journal says Choldenko is "unsurpassed at interweaving plot with historical detail." Her Tales of Alcatraz trilogy is considered by Kirkus to be "a cornerstone series in contemporary children's literature." Choldenko will read from her latest novel, "Chasing Secrets."

Thacher Hurd graduated from the California College of Arts and Crafts with a degree in painting. He has written and illustrated more than 25 books for children, among them "Mystery on the Docks," "Mama Don't Allow," "Art Dog," "Moo Cow Kaboom,"

"Sleepy Cadillac," and most recently "Bad Frogs." He has also written and illustrated two board books, one of which, "Zoom City," was a New York Times Best Illustrated Book of the Year.

Elisa Kleven grew up in Los Angeles, and wished that the huge city could be more like the places in the books she loved – places where forests grew and seasons changed, where animals talked, people could fly, and anything was possible. As a writer and illustrator of children's picture books such as "The Lion and the Little Red Bird," "The Puddle Pail," and "Hooray, a Pinata," Kleven now creates the magical worlds she imagined as a young girl.

Jordan Jacobs is the award-winning author of the Samantha Sutton series of archaeological mysteries for tweens. His childhood passion for mummies, castles and Indiana Jones led to his participation in his first excavation at age 13. After completing a high school archaeology program, he followed his passion to Stanford, Oxford, and Cambridge. Jacobs' work for the Smithsonian, the American Museum of Natural History and UNESCO Headquarters in Paris has focused on policy and the protection of archaeological sites in the developing world.

Michael Slack is an artist, illustrator, and character designer. His character driven humorous art has been recognized by Society of Illustrators Los Angeles, Applied Arts, Pictoplasma, Computer Arts, and SBS Digital Design. Slack's illustrations have appeared in books, magazines, and on TV. His paintings and drawings have been exhibited in the U.S. and Europe.

For more information, visit llcf.org.

Family Focus

Handling Our Anger in Increasingly Stressful Times

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

We are all aware of the increase in incidents of excessively angry behavior in recent years. Road rage (a term that didn't exist 30 years ago); nasty interpersonal disputes; adult temper tantrums in public; increased rudeness and impatience toward service people; and many more instances of bullying behavior, including online bullying, have all led to a sense that civility in our society is breaking down.

A 2013 study reported in USA Today found that 60 percent of Americans reported feeling angry or irritable. That is up from 50 percent when a similar poll was taken in 2011. The percentage for 2015 may well be even higher.

As we know, our behavior and attitudes have a profound effect on our children. If we want to help them learn to control their anger we need to be models of self-restraint.

Some factors that may contribute to our increased anger and frustration are high expectations for ourselves, our children, and others; comparisons with others we see as more successful and privileged (exacerbated by social media and increased celebrity worship); uncertainty about the economy and our financial present and future; worries about happiness and success for our children; and upsetting events in the world.

On top of all this, we now have "social media rage." One study on Internet social media sites points to the contagious nature of strong emotions, and identifies anger as the most influential emotion in online interactions. Is it any wonder that we are more prone than ever to anger and irritability?

When we have underlying unresolved issues and then become overloaded by stressors, it may not take much to cause loss of control. A former client, a successful businessman, came to see me because he was becoming increasingly irritable at home and at work. In addition, he had a high degree of road rage and was driving erratically at times.

"Tony" already carried around hurt and anger from growing up with critical parents who only seemed to care about his achievements. He did not feel that his parents tried to get to know him, and did not feel accepted and loved for who he was – only for how he could make his parents proud so they could impress others.

Although Tony was highly accomplished in his career, he felt pressure to keep up a certain level of performance and to maintain his family's lifestyle. Lately, Tony's relationship with his wife and sons was deteriorating, and he was drinking a bottle of wine or more each night. Tony had many friends, but no one who knew him on a deep level. In therapy Tony realized that he had been keeping everyone in his life at an emotional distance. Undereath his facade of success was a person who didn't feel good enough. He feared that if others got too close they would realize he was flawed.

Tony's unhappiness and dissatisfaction with himself made him more vulnerable and reactive to upsetting events. On the road he personalized perceived slights by other drivers and tried to take control in ways that were highly risky. When his wife and sons expressed even a mild complaint or criticism, he quickly and unconsciously reverted back to his childhood when he endured so much negativity from his parents, and he became enraged.

We need to make sure that we are emotionally healthy and well-balanced in order to cope with the many potential stressors in our lives. Understanding ourselves and being aware of our feelings help us maintain self-control and rationality. Additionally, we can try hard to avoid speaking or acting on impulse when we are highly upset. Taking time to think things through before deciding how or if to react can significantly reduce conflict.

If we do need to express irritation or anger, because it is not healthy to bottle up our emotions, we can do so

assertively, not aggressively. Talking about how a situation affects us and using an "I-message," without blaming or making others wrong, can help ease communication. Starting messages with "I" and how you feel, and avoiding the word "you," allows the recipient to better hear what you have to say. For example, if you are upset because your spouse frequently interrupts, you could say "I get frustrated when I'm interrupted in the middle of a sentence." Then follow up with a request, "Can we agree that I will have time to finish my thought?" And finally, be sure to establish an agreement in order to complete the transaction.

Of course, it helps to take good care of ourselves physically with adequate sleep, exercise, healthy eating, and moderate screen time. Spending time in nature, taking time off from work and responsibilities, maintaining positive connections with family and friends, feeling a sense of purpose and value, and helping others, all contribute to our well-being. And finding ways to turn off our thoughts and give ourselves mental breaks – through meditation, prayer, music, and other soothing activities – can help us feel stronger and calmer.

By making an effort to control our own anger and irritability, we help our children learn to control theirs as well. After all, we don't want to be in the position of telling our children to "do as I say, not as I do."



Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a marriage and family therapist in Orinda and Walnut Creek. Contact her at (925) 376-9323 or margierye@yahoo.com.

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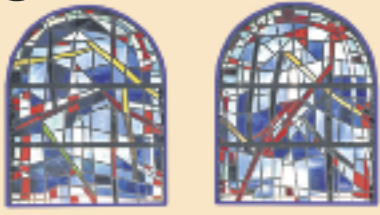
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| Children & Teen Faith Formation | Sunday | 10 am |
| Teen Fellowship | Sunday | 6 pm |

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8:30 a.m. Traditions Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Education for all ages
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
Coffee Fellowship at 9:30 and 11:45 a.m.
Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

ART

About Face - The Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County is offering two-day self-portrait painting workshops at no cost to all Contra Costa County veterans. Workshops will take place in Martinez at ARTU4iA, a working art studio led by noted artist John Kleber. No art experience required. All painting materials will be provided. Workshops are from 6 to 9 p.m. on Oct. 20, 22, 27 and 29 and Nov. 3, 5, 17 and 19. Free food and beverages will be provided. Class size will be held up to 15 participants. Register online at AC5.org/ABOUTFACE.

The newest show at the Lafayette Art Gallery titled "Artists in Action," which runs through Oct. 31, will focus on action! To view samples of the artists' works, visit <http://www.lafayetteartgallery.com/exhibitions.html>.

The 9th Annual Artisan Faire in Orinda will be held from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5 at the Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante. This is a perfect occasion to find holiday gifts of unique and distinctive art and craft pieces, including ceramics, glass, painting, woodwork, clothing, fiber art, clocks, jewelry, photography and more. Complementary wine tasting will be offered at this festive event.

The Moraga Art Gallery's new exhibit "Yellowstone: Beauty, Beasts, and Boneyards," will feature oil landscapes by Orinda's Lisa Gunn, whose imaginative palette captures the primitive character and timelessness of Yellowstone National Park and its environs. Also featured is a boldly-hued collection of one-of-a-kind etched tableware, handmade by guest artist Lisa Neimeth in her studio, a converted San Francisco chicken coop. The show will run from Nov. 4 to Jan. 9 with a free reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Nov. 7. The current show "Color, Clay & Fire" featuring artists Jacqueline Proulx and Marge Barta Atkins runs through Oct. 31. For more info, visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

"Wild" Animal Portraits and Cityscapes by Dan San Souci at the Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery, 3620 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. The Exhibit runs from Nov. 6 to Dec. 5 with an artist reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on Nov. 6.

MUSIC

The Gold Coast Chamber Players perform the music of Mozart and Mendelssohn in Prodiges. The concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Ticket price includes complimentary champagne, a pre-concert talk at 7 p.m., and a reception with the musicians following the performance. Tickets are available at www.gcplayers.org and by phone at (925) 283-3728. Limited seating, please reserve early.

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center will be hosting its third annual Teen Battle of the Bands from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7. In this popular event, teen bands will battle it out on stage in front of their friends and peers alike for cash and other prizes. Radio station Live 105 will make a return appearance. Local Walnut Creek based food trucks Tonli Dumpling House and United Bites will also be present. Raffle prizes will be randomly awarded to audience members between each set.

THEATER

Town Hall Theatre presents "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" by Rupert Holmes through Oct. 24. Taking place at the turn of the century in a bawdy music hall, a group of actors decide to attempt the unthinkable – to solve, resolve and conclude Charles Dickens' unfinished masterpiece, "The Mystery of Edwin Drood." With the audience deciding several outcomes every evening (resulting in over 200 different combinations of endings), "Drood" is fast, incredibly funny ... and never the same show twice. Rated PG-13 for bawdy humor and adult situations. Contact the Town Hall Theatre Box Office at (925) 283-1557 or check the

website at www.TownHallTheatre.com for show times and tickets.

Join the Acalanes DramaDons in their entertaining and comedic production of "The Curious Savage," directed by Ed Meehan, Acalanes drama teacher. The story playfully highlights how, in a world that seems motivated by greed and dishonesty, the virtues of kindness and affection can prevail. The production runs at 7 p.m. Nov. 10, 12, 13 and 14 in the Acalanes little theatre. Tickets are available in November during lunch at AHS or online at ahsperformingarts.org. Limited ticket sales at the door. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Cost: adults \$12; students and seniors \$7.

Orinda Intermediate School's Bulldog Theater presents the play "Transyl-Mania" at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Nov. 12 and 13 and 2 and 5 p.m. on Nov. 14, 80 Ivy Drive, Orinda. Ticket prices range from \$3 - \$10 and are available for advance purchase at www.showtix4u.com. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Lecture at the Orinda Library by **Dora Sorell**, author of "Tell the Children, Letters to Miriam," at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22 in the auditorium. Free. For info, visit <http://www.letterstomygrandchildren.com/> or contact the library at (925) 254-2184.

Berkeley Repertory Theatre docent lecture at the Moraga Library at 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22. Enjoy an entertaining afternoon with a Berkeley Repertory Theatre docent who will discuss "The Hypocrites' Pirates of Penzance."

Biscuits and Blues - an evening with Audrey Skondeen Ward, author of "Hidden Biscuits, Tales of Deep South Revivals Told by Heart" at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Enjoy stories of the deep south, bluegrass music, homemade biscuits and southern-style hospitality.

"Rising Above - Overcoming Obstacles In Spite of Adversity" from 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 26 at Stanley Middle School in the Multi-Purpose Room. Stephen Wampler grew up in Lafayette with his four siblings. This longtime resident of Lafayette, and graduate of Acalanes High School, returns to the Lamorinda community to tell his amazing story of climbing the face of El Capitan in Yosemite with the use of only one limb, his right arm. To reserve your seat to this event, please go to: signupgenius.com/go/30E0F4CA5A8238-district. (See story page B2)

Moraga Movers and the Moraga Library present "Book Talking" at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4 at the Moraga Library, featuring speaker Marian Neilson of Orinda Books.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Halloween Monster Mash from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29 at the Moraga Library. Play games and make goeey slime and other Halloween crafts while you listen to haunting music. The playhouse fort will be transformed into a haunted house – peek in if you dare! Children are encouraged to come in costume. No registration required for this free event. For children ages 3-12.

Halloween Parade for Tots in Orinda at 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29 at the Orinda Community Center Park. Come join the fun in costume and follow Glenda the Good Witch in a stroll around the park and then participate in Halloween themed activities.

Annual Haunted House courtesy of the Lafayette Youth Commission. Not Too Scary (7 and under with parent) 7 to 7 p.m. Very Scary (8+) 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23 and Sunday, Oct. 25 at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road. Cost: ages 7 and under: \$3; ages 8 and over: \$5.

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Children's Book Festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall, and will fea-

ture five well-known, award-winning authors and illustrators – Jennifer Choldenko, Thacher Hurd, Jordan Jacobs, Elisa Kleven and Michael Slack – who will sign books and demonstrate illustration techniques. Free. (See story page B7)

This fall Lindsay Wildlife Experience will be leading hikes in Mount Diablo State Park to explore the natural habitat of tarantulas. Discover these eight-legged creatures on a local two-mile hike recommended for nature lovers ages 6 and up. Tarantula Hikes take place from 4 to 6 p.m. every Sunday through Oct. 25. The hike costs \$10 for Lindsay members and \$15 for all non-members. Pre-registration is required.

The Halloween Harvest Festival takes place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25 at the Moraga Certified Farmers' Market. Festivities include a costume contest and parade at 10:30 a.m. Prizes will be given for Scariest, Funniest, Best Farmers' Market Theme, Most Creative, and Best Overall Costume. Family fun also includes a "Guess the Weight of the GIANT Pumpkin" contest to win \$50, and children's mini-pumpkin decorating.

Lafayette Reservoir Run from 6:30 to 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 25 in downtown Lafayette. In addition to the 5k, 10k and 2-mile run, there will be a family bike ride and Healthy Lifestyles Fair. For more info and to register visit www.lafayettechamber.org/events/reservoir-run/.

Trick or Treat Street: a fun, safe Halloween event, where children and their parents are invited to trick-or-treat on Mt. Diablo Boulevard from Oak Hill Road to Dewing Avenue and in La Fiesta Square from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30. All participating businesses will display a "Trick-or-Treat Poster" and balloons. Please come in costume to receive a special treat. Don't forget to bring a trick-or-treat bag.

Tick-or-Treat! Costumed children are invited to trick-or-treat at Rheem Valley Shopping Center businesses from 3 to 5 p.m. on Halloween, Oct. 31. Free Halloween candy from participating businesses.

Day of the Dead Crafts at the Moraga Library from 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3. Color a skull on foil or make a skull mask to celebrate (a bit late) el Día de los Muertos – Day of the Dead. The craft will have simpler and more complex versions to accommodate all ages of crafters. Free program, no reservations necessary.

OTHER

Volunteers needed to prune the Fire Blight-damaged branches from the 102-year-old pear orchard adjacent to Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School in Moraga (1000 Camino Pablo at Canyon) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Saturday in October. Bring pole pruners, loppers and hand pruners, water, gloves, hat and sunscreen. Wear sturdy shoes. Reply to barbarampreston@comcast.net with which day, the number of adults and kids (ages) coming, and what tools you will bring.

What is human trafficking? Why should we care? What can we do? Join a presentation from Soroptimist International, "Look Beneath the Surface," at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21 at St. John Vianney Church, Mullen Commons, 1650 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For more info, go to www.soroptimist24-680.org.

Women's Spiral Dance - A Multi-Cultural Celebration of Our Beloved Ancestors and Crones from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23 at the Orinda Masonic Temple, 9 Altarinda Road. Daughters of the Goddess Womyn's Temple welcomes women and girls of all ages to its annual Spiral Dance. During this multi-cultural ritual, led by Kahuna Leilani, and accompanied by spiritual elders of different traditions, the community comes together to honor and celebrate loved ones who have passed away. Tickets: \$23 in advance; \$29 at the door. For tickets or info, contact Leilani at (925) 787-9247 or Leilani@DaughtersoftheGoddess.com.

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'Bridge of Spies'

Spielberg's Cold War thriller

By Derek Zembrak



Image courtesy DreamWorks all rights reserved

"Bridge of Spies" opens as a masterpiece displaying the art of motion pictures with the use of artistic cinematography to set the thriller tone of the movie. The first several minutes of the film have no dialogue – the picture tells the story.

The viewers are introduced through the camera lens that the FBI is on the trail of a Soviet Union spy, Rudolf Abel, masterfully played by Mark Rylance ("Bing," "Wolf Hall"). Rylance's performance reminded me of James Whitmore's amazing performance in "The Shawshank Redemption." One can only hope that Rylance will not be overlooked for his performance when award time arrives, as Whitmore was for "Shawshank."

Rudolf is arrested and must stand trial for spying. Of course, he is convicted in the press as the most hated man in America before he even sees the inside of a courtroom.

The CIA hires a law firm to represent Rudolf's defense and when none of the senior attorneys want to take on the case, insurance attorney James Donovan (Tom Hanks) is assigned the duties.

Donovan quickly becomes the second most-hated man in America. Donovan believes that everyone should have the right to a fair trial as the U.S. Constitution clearly states, putting himself and his family in danger.

As the Cold War continues the United States plans a secret mission for U.S. pilot Francis Gary Powers ("Austin Stowell," "Whiplash," "Dolphin Tale") to photograph the Soviet Union. Powers' plane is shot down and he is captured by the Russians. Although Powers' leaders are disappointed in him for not committing suicide before being captured, the U.S. government decides to offer the Soviet Union a trade – Rudolf Abel for Francis Gary Powers. Donovan is assigned the negotiation duties.

"Bridges of Spies" is a solid spy thriller but not a Spielberg masterpiece like "Schindler's List." The cinematographer and two-time Oscar recipient Janusz Kaminski ("Schindler's List," "Saving Private Ryan") is deserving of a third Oscar for his artistic magic in "Bridge of Spies."

"Bridge of Spies" is rated PG-13 for some violence and brief strong language with a TRT (total running time) of 2 hours and 21 minutes.

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

OTHER ... continued

Combatants for Peace at 7 p.m. on Oct. 23 in the Social Hall of the Walnut Creek United Methodist Church, 1543 Sunnyvale Ave., Walnut Creek. Founded in 2006, Combatants for Peace is nonprofit volunteer organization of ex-combatant Israelis and Palestinians — men and women — who have laid down their weapons and rejected all means of violence. Entrance fee is \$10 to cover event costs. For more info about Combatants for Peace, visit www.cfpeace.org.

Yard Sale supporting St. Giles Church, Moraga from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24 at 501 Moraga Way, Orinda.

The Contra Costa Women's Commission in partnership with JFK University's Entrepreneurial Leadership Center will present a dynamic panel discussion on how to become a successful entrepreneur from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 2151 Salvio Street, Ste. 350 in Concord. Five women entrepreneur's from various fields will share their personal insights gained along the way and highlight how they became successful. For more info, or to make a reservation, go to www.women-scommission.com.

A community screening of the groundbreaking film, "Girl Rising," is being held at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30 in the Acalanes High School Performing Arts Center. Tickets (sold at door) are \$8 for adults; \$5 for students. The event is hosted by Acalanes' SAGE Club (Students for the Advancement of Global Education).

Custom Garage Tour featuring live music, classic cars, food trucks and, of course, custom garages from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1. Check-in at Blodgett's Flooring at 1 p.m., 3291 Mt Diablo Court in Lafayette. Cost: \$35 per ticket. Lunch available for purchase. For info, visit www.LafayetteCF.org, email info@LafayetteCF.org or call (925) 284-8214.

Join Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, for an All Souls' Day Festival, inspired by the traditions of Dia de Los Muertos from 9:30 to 10 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 1. Bring along a small photo of someone you have lost for the shrines we will create. Also featuring musical guest Cascada de Flores and face painting for the kids.

North Shattuck Association presents Dia de los Muertos Celebration in the Gourmet Ghetto from 5 to 9 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 2 North Shattuck Ave., 1400-1800 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. Build a community altar, wear costumes, face paint, Aztec dancers, DIY art projects, food, beer and wine, and a sidewalk candlelight procession. Free. For more info see <http://www.another-bullwinkeshow.com/day-of-dead/> or call (510) 334-6523 or email Lisa@AnotherBullwinkeshow.com.

A Gathering of the Tribal Knowledge – a two night panel discussion of the Grateful Dead starting at 6 p.m. on Nov. 6 and 7 at the Town Hall Theatre. For schedule and tickets, visit www.townhalltheatre.com.

Lafayette Juniors 22nd Annual Rummage Sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7 at Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Special early bird entrance fee: \$5 per adult from 7 to 8 a.m. Pre-loved designer clothes, baby and kid clothes, toys, and gear, furniture, household goods, and much more. For info, visit www.lafayettejuniors.org.

SENIORS

Eldercare Services will be participating in the AFA National Memory Screening Week by appointment only, Nov. 2-6 at 1808 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Call (925) 937-2018 to schedule a free screening with an Eldercare professional care manager.

It's Medicare Open Enrollment time. Do you have questions about your Medicare plan for 2016? This is the time to understand your coverage. Contra Costa Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program

(HICAP) will be at the Moraga Library at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3 to talk about what is new with Medicare for 2016 and how to optimize your coverage. For more info, visit www.cchicap.org or call (925) 602-4163.

Dementia Roadmap: From Diagnosis to Family Care at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11 at the Eldercare Walnut Creek office at 1808 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Join Linda Fodrini-Johnson as she discusses what you need to know, what you need to plan, and what you and your family can do when faced with the challenges of dementia. No fee and limited seating. Advance registration required. To register for an event call (866) 760-1808 or email us at info@eldercareanswers.com.

GARDEN

Master Gardeners present Pruning Basics from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28 at the Moraga Library. UC Master Gardener Lorraine Frey will share the basics of healthy pruning practices for your trees, shrubs and roses: why to prune, what tools to use, how to prune, when to prune and what to prune. The focus will be on what you should be pruning late fall through early spring.

The Walnut Creek Garden Club will meet from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Monday, Nov. 9 at the Gardens at Heather Farm located at 1540 Marchbanks Road in Walnut Creek. The topic of the program is Special Flowers and Arrangements for the Holiday Season. Anna Cambell grows unusual flowers on her own farm and will share her "live art" with a hands-on demonstration of unique and simple arrangements. You do not need to be a gardener to join the WCGC. For more info, email mslittle44@gmail.com.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com



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Service Clubs Announcements



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| | |
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| <p>LAMORINDA SUNRISE Rotary <i>Friends, Fun, Service Above Self</i></p> | <p>We meet Friday mornings at 7:00 am at The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. For more info, please email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com</p> |
| <p>October 23:</p> | <p>October 30:</p> |
| <p>Speaker: Catherine Baker, District Assemblywoman, on Priority Issues and Challenges.</p> | <p>Speaker: Tom Guyette, recent Regatta maven, exposes himself</p> |
| <p>Look for an upcoming Cold Weather Coat and Clothing Drive to help members of Monument Crisis Center. There will be donation drop-off locations in Lamorinda on November 6 and 7.</p> | |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>SOROPTIMIST OF 24/680 <i>Best for Women</i></p> <p><small>"Improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment"</small></p> | <p>Please join us for our next meeting:</p> <p>WHEN: Wednesday, November 4th Social 5:30-6:00 p.m. Meeting 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>WHERE: The Buttercup Grill 660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek.</p> <p>"Save the Date for our Crab Feed" Saturday, January 23rd</p> <p>For more information, contact: Regina Englehart @925-876-9076 or go to: sorooptimist24-680.org</p> |
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Lamorinda Weekly

is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA 26,600 printed copies; delivered to homes & businesses in Lamorinda.

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Layout/Graphics: Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.

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Chicken Ragout, Much Lighter Than a Stew

By Susie Iventosch



Pappardelle Pasta with Chicken Ragout

Photo Susie Iventosch

This is the time of year when the desire for comfort foods really starts to surface. That is probably why my son, who is a huge seafood fan, opted for pasta instead of lobster on his first-ever trip to Boston last week. He was so enthralled with the dish, that he sent an email to tell me all about this orecchiette pasta with hen ragout.

"Holy cow, it was amazing!!! I mean, really, really amazing!" he raved. And, then he went on to ask if I knew how to make a ragout. Well, the short answer is yes, but normally I think of tomatoes and veggies, along with some beef for a hearty, stew-like meal. This chicken ragout is lighter than a beef ragout, and calls for carrots, celery and onions, along with herbs, wine and chicken. It is delicious and perfect to serve over pasta. We chose pappardelle pasta, because it holds up so well to the pureed sauce and chunks of chicken.

INGREDIENTS

1 whole, fryer (or roaster) chicken, quartered into leg/thigh and breast/wing parts (remove skin if you prefer skinless)
Sea salt and fresh ground pepper
¼ cup olive oil, divided
2 carrots, cut into ½-inch pieces
2 stalks of celery, cut into ½-inch pieces
1 large yellow onion, coarsely chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
4 sprigs of thyme, stripped of stem
2 sprigs of rosemary, stripped of stem and chopped
3 sage leaves, chopped
¼ cup parsley, chopped (reserve some for garnish)
¼ cup tomato paste
1 cup dry white wine (can use red wine)
1 ½ cups water
16 ounces pappardelle pasta
½ cup fresh-grated Parmesan

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 300F.

In a large skillet or Dutch oven, heat 2 tablespoons oil and brown chicken on both sides. Remove to a plate.

In the same pan, add a little more oil and cook onions, garlic, celery, carrots and herbs over medium heat, until beginning to brown and getting a little bit caramelized. Add tomato paste and mix until dissolved. Then add the wine and water and stir well, until integrated.

Place chicken back in pot, press down into broth and veggies and cover with a tight-fitting lid. Bake, covered, for approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes, or until chicken is cooked tender and falling off the bone. Remove from oven and cool to room temperature.

Pull the meat from the bones into large and small pieces and discard bones and fat. Set chicken aside. Meanwhile, puree braising veggies along with all the broth that is left in a food processor. This may take several batches, depending on the size of the processor. Return pureed sauce to a pot or pan and season to taste with salt and pepper. Add meat and heat until warm. Serve over cooked pasta and garnish with fresh grated Parmesan and a sprig of parsley.

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.



Specialties of the House

The Hunt for Happy Hour – Home/Made Kitchen

By A.K. Carroll



Photos A.K. Carroll

This week's Hunt for Happy Hour takes us to Moraga's Home/Made Kitchen Café to see what's cooking with their newest afternoon offering.

Not everyone will venture off the beaten path or drive the extra distance to have a meal in Moraga, but those willing to wander to the door of Home/Made Kitchen will be greeted with a welcome that might just change their uphill aversion. A modest establishment housed in cinderblock walls with wide-open windows, the café's character comes from its creators' attention to detail – butcher paper table-cloths, dishes edged in flowers, tiny sugared cookies served alongside cups of coffee. It isn't elaborate by any means, but that is intentional. It is quaint, comfortable, homey and, well, "homemade," which isn't always a word you associate with happy hour.

Home/Made started as a daytime joint that served breakfast at all hours, poured quality coffee, and baked dainty and decadent pastries. The local community was insatiable, so the café expanded its offerings to take-away meals and prix fixe Friday dinners. Less than two miles from a college campus and nestled among the suburbs, happy hour was the logical next step in filling



out the café's offerings. You won't find crazy cocktails, truffle fries, or foie gras, but you will encounter generous portions and heart-felt food at a fraction of the price. It's like home. Only better.

Home/made's happy hour features chilled canned and bottled beers, including Lagunitas, Blue Moon and Caldera, all of which go for \$3-\$3.50. House red, white and sparkling wines are \$5 a glass, as are delicate peach bellinis made in the traditional style with a puree of fresh white peaches mixed with sparkling wine.

Beverages can be enjoyed indoors at a cozy café table or outdoors on the sunny stretch of patio.

Food offerings are simple, but generous, and include a chicken quesadilla made with sharp cheddar and jack cheeses, with pico de gallo and sour cream; barbecue pork sliders served on fluffy soft butter buns with red cabbage and housemade wasabi slaw; and crunchy housemade tortilla chips with edamame hummus or a side of guacamole. Options are likely to rotate according to season, reception, and culinary inspiration.

Though you could easily make a meal off of Home/Made's happy hour offerings, if it's a Friday evening and you're in need of a night out you might opt to stick around for the curated three-course prix fixe. Like all of the café's items, these dishes are made with quality ingredients from local markets and food purveyors – the sort of places you might buy from if you were shopping for your family, which is essentially how the owners view the mission of their meals. Hop on over for happy hour and get a taste of what makes Moraga a home away from home that's worth a little drive.



When:
4-6 pm, Thursday-Friday
Where:
Home/Made Kitchen Café & Bakery, 337 Rheem Blvd., Moraga
Drinks:
\$5 bellinis, \$5 house wines, \$3 beers
Food:
\$2-3 appetizers
Recommended:
White Peach Bellini and edamame hummus

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Miramonte Defeats Campo in NCS Final Rematch

By Spencer Silva



Christian Schillinger

Photo Gint Federas

In most seasons, the influx and ebb of talent from local water polo programs leave clear favorites. This season, however, it is anyone's guess which team will top the season-end DFAL standings.

"This is the deepest I've ever seen the DFAL," said Campolindo head coach Miles Price. "Anyone could win it this year."

For now, Miramonte (8-6 overall, 2-0 DFAL) is the de facto frontrunner, after defeating rival Campolindo 9-7 at home last Wednesday, Oct. 14. It

was the first time the two teams met since last fall, when Miramonte knocked off No. 1 seed Campo 10-8 in the NCS final – they met in the finals the year before, too; the Cougars won 11-10.

The two teams traded blows early, but the Mats dominated the second half.

"Last year, we got a little caught up in the rivalry; this year we were more even keel," said Mats head coach James Lathrop. "The boys had a good, concerted defensive effort."

Early in the fourth quarter, two spectacular goals from senior Christian Schillinger shifted the tide in favor of the Mats. The first was a lob from the perimeter over Campolindo goalkeeper Nikhil Suri, which provoked Miramonte parent, Jack Hallahan, to exclaim, "That's the game!" He added, "I don't know Schillinger's first name, but it's 'God' right now." On the second goal, Schillinger came over the top for a near side finish, which staked the Mats to a 9-5 lead they wouldn't lose. ... continued on page C3

Depth Leads to Strong Start for Saint Mary's Men's Golf

By Karl Buscheck



Jonathan De Los Reyes

Photo Tod Fierner

With Jonathan De Los Reyes anchoring the squad, the Saint Mary's men's golf team is cruising along early in the campaign.

"Obviously, we're led by Jonathan De Los Reyes," head coach Scott Hardy said of the senior, who was a preseason all-West Coast Conference selection. "He's one of the best college players in the country."

De Los Reyes has been the star, but the key for the Gaels has been everyone chipping in.

"Honestly, the team's success comes from the fact that all five of our guys can play," said Hardy, who has named the WCC Coach of the Year eight times in his 15 seasons with the program, including last year. "We have a deep lineup. A lot of times in college golf, it's hard to get a four and five guy to contribute a lot, and we really don't have that problem."

Pavan Sagoo is another member of that deep lineup who has stood out. At the Nick Watney Invitational in Fresno on Oct. 5 and 6, the sophomore fired off a 16-under par 197, which was the best 54-hole score in Saint Mary's history.

"It was quite a performance," Hardy said. "It was also the lowest total ever shot at that tournament and they've had an unbelievable list of winners – Phil Mickelson's won it, Tom Watson – a bunch of established tour pros have won that tournament.

So it was neat for Pavan to set those records."

While Sagoo wrote his name into the record books, the Gaels topped the field at the tournament. The title at the Nick Watney Invitational was just business as usual for Saint Mary's.

The team was the co-champion at the Fighting Irish Gridiron Classic in South Bend, Indiana on Sept. 21 and 22 and the runner-up at the Saint Mary's Invitational at Pebble Beach from Sept. 14-16.

For now, the Gaels' focus is on the upcoming trip to El Paso, Texas on Oct. 23-25 for the Price's "Give 'Em Five" Invitational, but the team has major plans for the rest of the season.

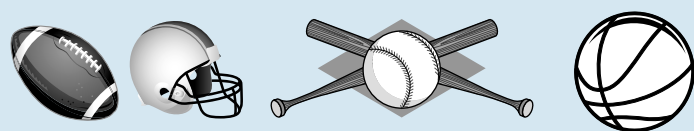
"Our main goal for the year is always to win our conference championship," Hardy said. "That's always a big deal for us."

Last year, Saint Mary's landed in third place at the WCC Golf Championship before finishing in eighth at the NCCA Regionals.

"Our big goals are to get into the NCAA postseason, which is the regional tournament," Hardy said. "And then once you're in regionals, advance onto the national championship; I think that's what we have our sites set on more than anything else is making it to nationals."

Hardy believes that his talented team has the ideal mindset to accomplish those objectives.

Youth Sports Registration



Lamorinda Rugby Football Club



On-line Registration opens Oct 1st for the 2015 rugby season! Season runs December through March for youth, and through April for HS. Ages 6-19. Girls welcome through middle school. No prior rugby experience necessary. Practices are located at the Wilder Fields in Orinda.

Find out more about our team and how to register online at www.lamorugby.com. For middle and elementary school ages, contact head youth Coach Adam Browne for more info: adam.browne6@gmail.com. For High School, contact Recruiting Director Steve Peterson at stevepetersonhome@yahoo.com.

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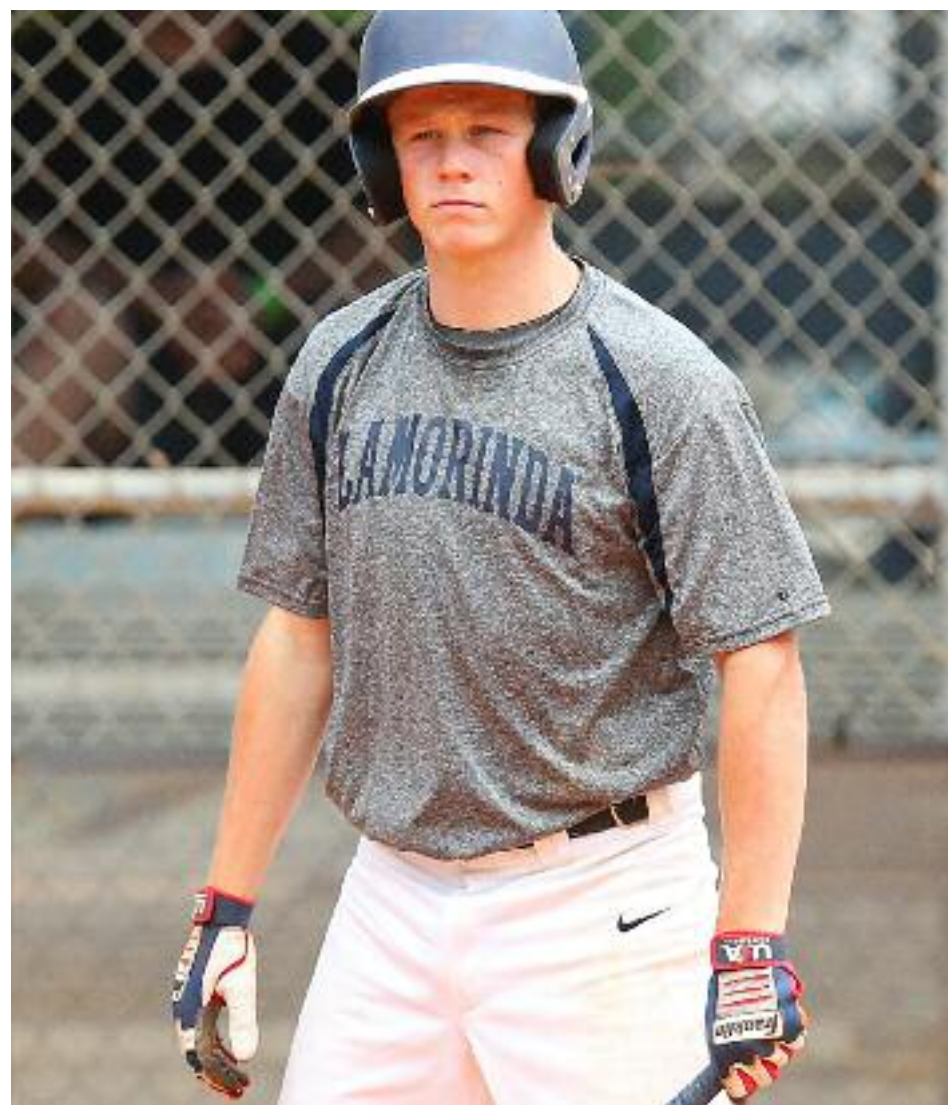
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Lafayette Little League Standout Set to Star on Big League Stage

By Karl Buscheck



Jake Delaney

Photos F8sports

Thirteen-year-old kids aren't supposed to hit 350-foot home runs. But Jake Delaney, the star of the national champion Lamorinda Knights, is no average 13-year-old kid.

"I've seen Delaney hit and he's pretty special," said Brian Domenico, the president of the Power Showcase, which is an annual event featuring the best middle school and high school players from around the nation and across the globe. "The ball comes off his bat much differently than any other 13-year-old that I've seen in a long time."

Domenico, who was selected by the Oakland A's in the 19th round of the 1992 MLB draft and who spent six seasons in the minor leagues, has seen a ton of rising stars over the years. The upcoming edition of the Power Showcase, which will be held Dec. 28-Jan. 2 at Marlins Park in Miami, Florida, will mark the 10th time that Domenico has put on the event.

During the 2009 Power Showcase, Bryce Harper – the heavy favorite to win the 2015 Na-

tional League MVP award – put his name on the map by crushing a 502-foot home run at the Power Showcase Home Run Derby.

Delaney put his name on the map back in August when the center fielder-catcher helped lead the Lamorinda Knights to 2015 Travel Ball Select National Championship in East Cobb, Georgia.

Domenico had the chance to watch Delaney play in the tournament and that's when he knew that the Stanley Middle Schooler needed to take part in the upcoming Power Showcase.

"I saw Delaney hit a home run down in East Cobb and just the way that he moves, the way that he runs, the functionality and the strength. I mean, he's like lightning in a bottle," Domenico said.

Winning a national title wasn't the only headline-worthy moment from Delaney's busy summer. After delivering a game-winning hit while playing for the Lafayette Little League All-Star team, Delaney was ejected from the

contest for celebrating. As a result, he was forced to sit out the final game of the tournament when Lafayette lost to Petaluma and missed out on its chance to play in the Little League World Series.

Delaney will represent California during the Home Run Derby and play for the West squad in the Future Stars Game. Delaney will be pitted against other 13- and 14-year-olds in those contests, and the Power Showcase also has competitions for the Rookies (10-, 11- and 12-year-olds), high school freshmen (15U) and sophomores through seniors.

While the home run derby highlights the event, the Power Showcase also provides all the players with an opportunity to learn about mental strength training, and for the high school players to work out in front of MLB scouts.

"What separates us from everybody else is there's no other organization on the planet that puts 10-, 12-, 13-, 14-year-olds in a major

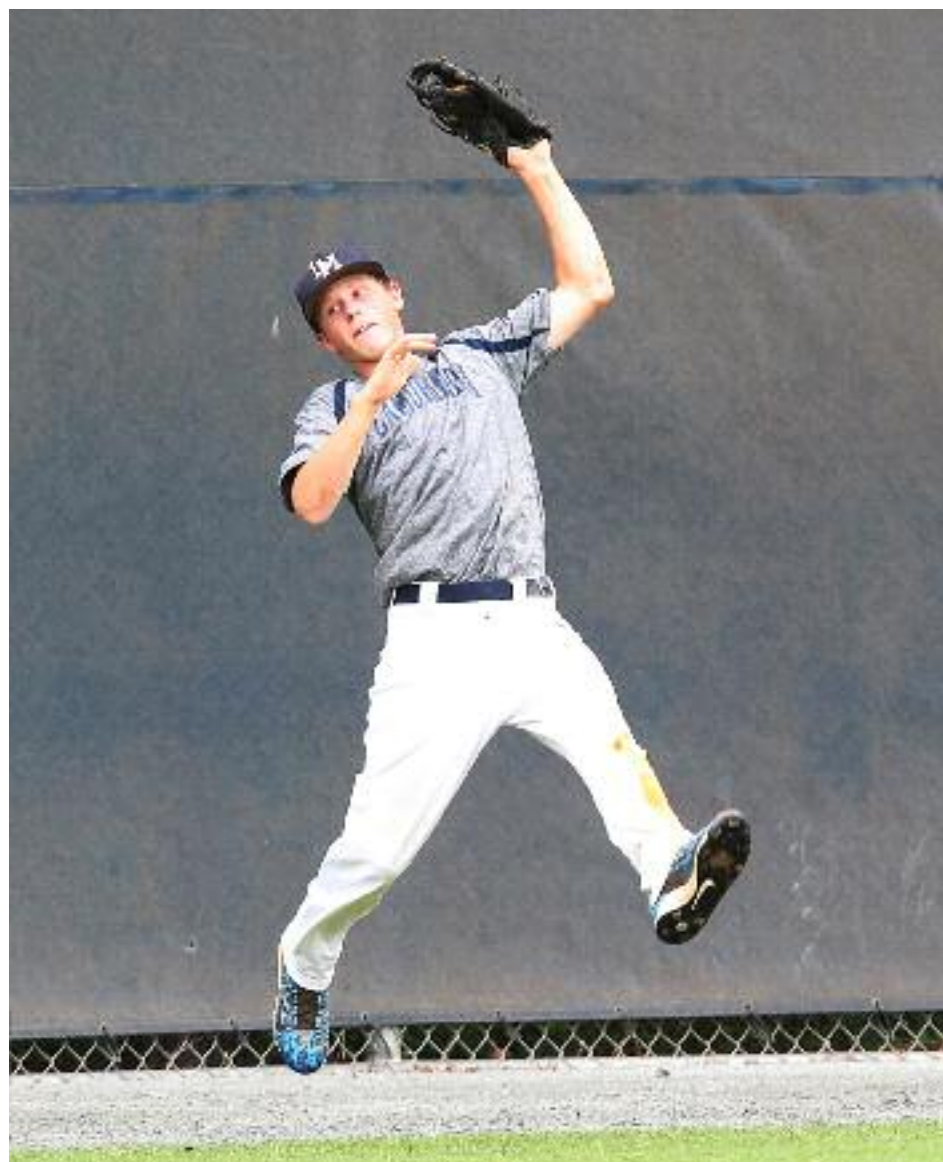
league stadium and wets their palates for greatness," Domenico said.

Delaney is looking forward to getting the chance to take the field with some of the most promising prospects when he travels to Miami in a couple of months.

"[It's] exciting that I get to have a fun time with other great players from around the nation," Delaney said. "I hope to learn how to compete and at the same time have as much fun as I can."

The Power Showcase also includes a philanthropic aspect, as all of the players who take part in the event must also work with the Home Runs That Help program, which partners the players with kids from local hospitals to raise money for the young patients.

"I think it kind of plants the seed for them to be a role model," Domenico said. "And it teaches them what it's like to give back to the community."



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Lamorinda U12 Boys Finalists at Davis Legacy Premier Cup

Submitted by Juliandra Rittmann



Top, from left: Coach Evan Sassano, Andrew Heilmann, Cristian Alfaro, Sebastian Calderon, Ryan Nickens, Max Rittmann, Owen Peck, Miles Bergman, Nick Govea, Rhett Skvarna and Matthew Alm; front: Cole Curtis, Mason Archer, Adrian Fernandez-Lopez, Ernesto Cruz, Brendan McCulloch, Jonas Dao, Tony Guzman, Jack Cusumano and Jorah Delbanco

Photo provided

The Lamorinda United U12 Boys Navy team was a finalist in the Davis Legacy Premier Cup Tournament (Sept. 26-27) in Davis, California.

Local Fencer Finishes Third at North American Cup

Submitted by David Kornguth



Kornguth, top left, receives her third-place medal

Photo provided

Lindsay Kornguth, a Miramonte freshman, took third place in epee at the North American Cup Division II event held in Richmond, Virginia on Oct. 10.

Lindsay earned a National "B" rating, which qualifies her for Division I, the most selective level of tournaments in the nation.

Sea Serpents Make a Splash

By Rosie Chester and Makenna Millham



Sea Serpent Lily Grenning smiles at the EBSS Laney College Meet.

Photo Deanna Wentzel

Everyone has a different definition of what qualifies as victory. For some coaches and athletes, victory comes every Sunday at the Campolindo Soda Aquatic Center. They participate in East Bay Sea Serpents, a nonprofit swim team affiliated with Special Olympics of Northern California. EBSS caters to children and adults with disabilities and serves as an outlet to have fun, while also providing aquatic fitness and skill.

For some Miramonte students, these victories have been witnessed first-hand. Many Lamorindians participate in Sea Serpents as volunteer coaches or athletes, helping children and adults with disabilities that includes Down syndrome, autism spectrum disorders and cerebral palsy.

For Miramonte junior Charlotte Curran, Sea Serpents has been a very rewarding experience. "The biggest takeaway has definitely been learning how to work with people with different abilities and figuring out how to articulate instructions or compromise," she said.

Miramonte senior Patrick Kirbach has made huge strides in advancing his swimming career. Kirbach has swum with Sea Serpents since he was 6 years old and has moved his way over from the shallow pool—where more developmental skills are practiced—to the deeper pool, where stronger swimmers have a workout-style practice. When asked about his favorite aspect of Sea Serpents Kirbach said, "I like being able to be in the water and kick my legs. My favorite strokes are breaststroke and backstroke."

The program benefits athletes as well as parents. Anna Tague, mother of long-term swimmer Nicole Tague, has seen her daughter

improve over the years due to volunteers and the positive vibe of the program. "To have a team of students and adult volunteers donating their precious weekend time to support children with special needs is a gift to our community," Tague said. "The relationships built between the Sea Serpent athletes and families with the youth coaches are inspiring and I think benefit every person involved."

Not only is Sea Serpents a good workout and learning experience, it's a fun way to spend time with a variety of swimmers and coaches. Veteran coach and Miramonte junior Matthew Coleman has been instructing for two years. "The best part is seeing everyone progress, because everyone really does get better," he said.

East Bay Sea Serpents was founded in March 2001 by Joleen Silverfoote. Since 2010, the director has been Brian Wentzel, who has been offering his time and expertise since 2010 with the help of his wife, Deanna, who takes photos of the athletes and volunteers. "I would say that there are two aspects of Sea Serpents that stand out for me," Wentzel said. "First, of course seeing the athletes learn, grow and expand their aquatic skills is amazing. Secondly, I love the aspect of working with our community's youth as volunteers for the program."

More information about Sea Serpents may be found at <http://www.eastbayseaserpents.org/>.

Editor's note: This story was written by Miramonte High School Mirador staff writers, and was originally published in the Oct. 8 issue of The Mirador. Published with permission.

Miramonte Defeats Campo in NCS Final Rematch

... continued from page C1

The Mats appear to be reaching peak form after scheduling a tough preseason slate, which included two matches against Harvard-Westlake Academy (Los Angeles, Calif.), one of the nation's premier teams. The Wolverines won both times.

Overall, the team is reliant on leadership from a strong senior class. Last fall, junior Tyler Abramson and senior Alex Zamanian earned first and second team all-league honors last fall, respectively. According to Lathrop, the team needs contributions from up and down the roster to make a run at another NCS title.

The Cougars (10-6 overall, 2-1 DFAL) are off to yet another strong start, although some new faces have made their way into prominent roles. Freshman Beck Juradius is the team's starting two-meter player, and while young, he's slowly turning into a force to be reckoned with near the cage. Seniors Cole Stevens and Yurii Hanley, who earned first and second team all league honors in 2014, are staples once again for the Cougars.

Price saw a fine effort from his team against the Mats. "Effort had nothing to do with (the loss)," he explained. "We've just got to keep getting better."

The team will participate in the upcoming North-South Tournament at Sacred Heart in Atherton, where there will some of the better teams the Bay Area has to offer. There Price's team will have an opportunity to polish up its game before entering what is shaping up to be a competitive final sprint.

Both teams boast talent out of the pool as well. Mats senior Jack Niehaus recently

returned from New York City screening his short documentary, "Of Bears and Men," at the All American High School Film Festival. It was a finalist in four different categories. Campolindo's Nikhil Suri, who plays French horn, was recently given a chair on San Francisco's Symphony's Youth Orchestra. Suri is also receiving interest from Ivy League schools for playing water polo.

The Acalanes Dons (9-7 overall, 1-2 DFAL) are having an up-and-down season so far, showing flashes of brilliance and disappointment. They beat rival Campolindo twice in the preseason, for instance, but then suffered an 11-6 loss to the Cougars a week after blowing out Dougherty Valley by a margin of 21 goals.

"Good team defense fueled our solid early season results," said coach Clarke Tamiriki in an email. "We have had trouble maintaining that defense which has led to a lack of focus of late."

A strong senior group that includes Tommy Fellner and Jack Winther, who both earned second team all-league honors in 2014, and Evan Wentzel headline the roster.

Like their peers, the Dons prepared for the grueling DFAL schedule with a tough slate of preseason matches against some of California's top teams. However, in order to be successful, they're going to have to recreate some of their early season mojo.

"We have not played our best water polo in the last couple of weeks and need to regain the focus that we had early season," Tamiriki said. "When we are playing to our strength, I feel we stack up well (against other DFAL teams)."

Lady Mats Turn Tide on Cougars, Win 11-4



Grace Tehaney

Photos Jeanette Broad

The Miramonte Lady Mats (9-4 overall, 3-0 DFAL) also won their rivalry match against Campolindo (9-7 overall, 1-2 DFAL). Unlike the boys, who have been evenly matched in recent years, the 11-4 victory marked the first time the Lady Mats beat the Cougars in nine seasons. The 'Super Sophomores,' which includes two-meter specialist Grace Tehaney, Carson Broad, Katrina Drake, Kelly Murphy and Skylar Savar, has been the foundation of the team's success this fall. Senior goalkeeper Paige Miller, who recorded eight saves against Campo, leads the team's superior defense. "We can focus on defense because we have so many great athletes on this team," head coach Noel Murphy explained. "Scoring just happens." The girls were runners up at the Western States Tournament in Modesto this past weekend and face off against co-DFAL leader and rival Acalanes on Wednesday Oct. 21.



Carson Broad

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 09 Issue 17 Wednesday, October 21, 2015



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D12

Saving the Garden ... and Water, Too

By Sophie Braccini



Mike Taylor on his trailer with water containers.

Photo Jann Taylor

Water restrictions can be painful. It is not easy for local gardeners to see the trees, annuals and perennials that were chosen with care, and grown with dedication, wither away. But several Lamorinda residents have found an innovative solution to lessen the pain: using free recycled water from the Central Contra Costa Sanitary district (Central San) to save all or part of their landscaping.

Passersby may have noticed small signs planted on front gardens that say: "Irrigated with free recycled water." The solution might be free, but it is not for everyone. It takes equipment and weekly trips to Martinez, but these residents are proving every day that you can save potable water and the garden at the same time.

"We wanted to save our trees, the citrus and the small maple," explains

Lafayette resident Carolyn Lane. "We were not trying to get the lawn going, but we were concerned about the trees." The Lanes were willing to make as big an effort as possible to contribute to saving potable water for drinking use, so when they saw in the Central San newsletter, *The Pipeline*, that the agency was giving out free recycled water to residents, they looked into it and now go twice a week to Martinez,

bringing back 150 gallons each time.

"We have had the recycled water program available for industrial and agricultural use for some time," says Central San project manager Nathan Hodges. "We decided to make it available for residents to get people used to recycled water." Hodges explains that the water coming out of the treatment plants is either sent to the San Francisco Bay, or is retreated before it is used as recycled water. "We recycle one and a half to two million gallons a day," says Hodges. "A part is used by ourselves in our treatment plant; other large users include the Pleasant Hill and Concord school districts that use it for their landscaping, local golf courses, and parks." He says that the Dublin San Ramon Services District was the first one to start recycling and using this water in the area.

In Moraga, Barbara and Tom Preston are also taking advantage of the free water to take care of a garden lush with plants and trees. "We first went to Central San with the trash cans we use to collect roof run-off, but were told that we needed containers with a screw-in lid," explains Barbara Preston, "so we bought drums that could fit in the back of the minivan." The Prestons go to Central San twice a week and get about 135 gallons of water each trip.

... continued on page D4

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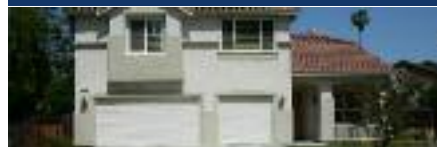
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| City | Last reported: | LOWEST AMOUNT: | HIGHEST AMOUNT: |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| LAFAYETTE | 17 | \$555,000 | \$3,000,000 |
| MORAGA | 14 | \$365,000 | \$1,430,000 |
| ORINDA | 9 | \$865,000 | \$2,047,500 |

Home sales are compiled by CalREsource, 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

- 3562 Boyer Circle, \$1,285,000, 3 Bdrms, 3182 SqFt, 1937 YrBl, 8-20-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 05-24-06
- 3108 Del Oceano Drive, \$933,500, 4 Bdrms, 2067 SqFt, 1962 YrBl, 8-21-15;
Previous Sale: \$690,000, 09-12-12
- 1089 Glen Road, \$2,495,000, 4 Bdrms, 3408 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 8-25-15
- 3265 Greenhills Drive, \$1,625,000, 5 Bdrms, 4244 SqFt, 1989 YrBl, 8-20-15;
Previous Sale: \$142,500, 07-02-87
- 3483 Hamlin Road, \$1,780,000, 4 Bdrms, 2665 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 8-24-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,015,000, 08-25-10
- 4120 Happy Valley Road, \$950,000, 5 Bdrms, 4986 SqFt, 1990 YrBl, 8-24-15;
Previous Sale: \$950,000, 10-22-13
- 3300 Helen Lane, \$850,000, 6 Bdrms, 1879 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 8-21-15
- 3755 Highland Road, \$1,025,000, 4 Bdrms, 1972 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 8-28-15;
Previous Sale: \$725,000, 03-04-10
- 1503 Huston Road, \$900,000, 6 Bdrms, 2158 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 8-25-15;
Previous Sale: \$900,000, 04-21-05
- 3261 Marlene Drive, \$555,000, 2 Bdrms, 1160 SqFt, 1972 YrBl, 8-27-15;
Previous Sale: \$28,000, 10-31-78
- 3741 Meadow Lane, \$3,000,000, 5 Bdrms, 4457 SqFt, 1961 YrBl, 8-28-15;
Previous Sale: \$2,100,000, 05-13-10
- 948 Reliez Station Road, \$1,170,000, 2 Bdrms, 1950 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 8-27-15
- 570 Silverado Drive, \$1,525,000, 3 Bdrms, 2002 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 8-27-15;
Previous Sale: \$799,000, 04-10-03
- 3362 Stage Coach Drive, \$1,855,000, 3 Bdrms, 3289 SqFt, 1989 YrBl, 8-25-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,695,000, 08-24-07
- 3370 Stage Coach Drive, \$1,975,000, 4 Bdrms, 4069 SqFt, 1989 YrBl, 8-28-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,729,000, 08-17-10
- 4036 Valente Drive, \$900,000, 2 Bdrms, 2316 SqFt, 1975 YrBl, 8-20-15;
Previous Sale: \$565,000, 09-28-01
- 1010 Woodbury Road #201, \$1,569,500, 8-28-15

MORAGA

- 2063 Ascot Drive #115, \$365,000, 2 Bdrms, 1068 SqFt, 1971 YrBl, 8-21-15;
Previous Sale: \$240,000, 12-24-02
- 2051 Ascot Drive #202, \$380,000, 2 Bdrms, 1191 SqFt, 1971 YrBl, 8-21-15;
Previous Sale: \$325,000, 08-05-03
- 390 Birchwood Drive, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 2060 SqFt, 1970 YrBl, 8-20-15;
Previous Sale: \$52,500, 10-27-70
- 148 Calle La Montana, \$1,110,000, 3 Bdrms, 1817 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 8-26-15;
Previous Sale: \$769,500, 10-24-03
- 8 Doral Drive, \$745,000, 2 Bdrms, 1743 SqFt, 1978 YrBl, 8-21-15;
Previous Sale: \$340,000, 04-30-98
- 307 Draeger Drive, \$1,430,000, 4 Bdrms, 2318 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 8-21-15

... continued on page D9

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Saving the Garden ... and Water, Too

... continued from page D1



Edwin Oto uses recycled water in his garden.

Once water is on site, the question became how to get the water to the garden. Since the Lanes' lot sits below the road, they simply use gravity to get the water flowing; the Prestons have a level lot so gravity was not an option. Instead, they created a simple system with a sump pump to transfer the water from Central San to different containers around their garden and they water their plants manually with hoses.

The Taylors in Lafayette, who travel many times each weekend to get between 1,500 and 2,000 gallons of water, had to get professional about their water handling. They use a trailer to haul the water, a maximum of 300 gallons a trip, which equals about 1.2 tons, not something any normal vehicle can handle safely. "We are maintaining a small orchard and a front yard (that includes a lawn)," says Jann Taylor. "Personally, we would love for Californians to recycle and reuse all our sanitized water." She notes that a large part of her weekend is dedicated to getting the water, something she does not see as sustainable. "If we do not get a good downpour of water with El Niño this winter, the lawn might have to go," she says.

Edwin Oto also uses a trailer pulled by a small truck. He bought a 275-gallon container, at a cost of \$200, as well as a new powerful pump that gets him enough pressure to efficiently water his garden. He

goes to Martinez twice a week.

As a young man in college, he visited a treatment plant where he learned about the safety and benefits of recycled water. "Some say that this water has more minerals than the tap water," says the Moraga resident. "This could be why the plants we water with it are doing so well."

Taylor agrees and adds that it is like using Miracle Grow all the time. "My roses look so healthy," she says. Oto and his wife don't feel that they needed a lawn; they consider it a waste of water and they took theirs out, "but we needed water to keep plants alive," he adds.

The sanitary district confirmed that recycled water is perfectly safe for the vegetable garden, though people should not drink it. "In Monterey County recycled water is used widely by commercial growers," says Hodges. "The water is perfectly safe to use for vegetable gardens; all you need is to wash your vegetables before eating them."

For information and to registration to participate in the program, visit <http://centralsan.org/index.cfm?navid=1348>.

Photos Sophie Bracinni



Bobbie and Tom Preston's garden

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Stylish Solutions

Stress-Free Fall Tables

By Ann McDonald



This photo shows layers: washed linen on the table, copper tray as charger, glass plate for main dish, blue vintage for first course, tea towel for napkin and same faux greenery we shared in last month's tip for using basics fall through New Year's. It is OK to layer and mix!

Photos courtesy Couture Chateau llc

We are so blessed to live in Lamorinda, in such natural beauty. As the weather shifts ever so slightly, do you have the fall table planned out? From Halloween parties to harvest brunches to Thanksgiving, thoughts of lavish parties can loom large. First, don't panic. Second, don't worry that you have not even thought about holiday cards, never mind next week's buffet at your house.

Last month we covered top tips for color coordinating your holiday décor for the upcoming months. That will help you make decisions at the decorating stores quickly. This month we will get specific on how to set your table and what you need to get a high-style look without breaking the bank or spending hours planning.

Setting up a quick buffet can work for large or small scale. You can switch the buffet out and set up for a sit-down party with the same materials. Because the items are flexible, you can have them on hand and switch last minute, if needed, from buffet to sit-down or vice versa.

One of the biggest stresses is transforming your year-round home into a space worthy of the holiday party, big or small, formal or informal. It all has to do with setting the table. It is fun to host friends, but no one wants to fret over styles and if the table decoration works with what you already have going on at home, why not do it that way?

Here's a partial list of what we keep in our proverbial table-setting war chest:

- Chargers in all sizes and types
- Small, low rimmed trays for buffets, all sizes and types
- Good quality square glass plates and bowls

- Good quality stainless silverware
- Interesting tea towels, usually in some type of theme, bought in bulk and used only as napkins
- Five- to seven-yard remnants of good quality upholstery fabric to use as table coverings
- Mini battery-operated white or amber colored lights to weave into and under centerpieces

I love to host parties and think they are a beautiful way to share unique styles during different seasons. Homes, like people, have personalities. Embrace yours and host friends. During the fall, it is fun to have soup and chili parties or luncheon sit-downs with friends. We just wrapped our Stress Free Holiday Home live workshop (you can purchase the Workshop Course, see below) and one of the bonus sections I shared was on "Easy Elegant Entertaining: Bohemian to White Tie."

Here's a truth we forget: To create a great eating area, you don't even need a dining room table, or a dining room. You can use simple folding tables and cover with fabric, even desks and side tables, to create flat surfaces worthy of holding what's necessary. These can be set up anywhere in your home depending on how you want people to circulate.

Once you identify the table surfaces, consider good quality upholstery fabric. With five to seven yards, you can get enough coverage for about 12 people at a sit down rectangular table, up to 24 for a buffet table. To calculate needed yardage: measure your tables in length, add 12 to 15 inches to each end depending on how much overhang you want, and divide by 36.

Since one yard equals 36 inches you will know approximately how much material to buy.

... continued on page D8



Think outside the box with napkins. Close-up of simple scrap leather strips as ties for decorative tea towel napkins. Great for buffets, they cover the whole lap.

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Easy El Niño Home Prep

By Andi Peterson Brown

I know, I know—it's 80 degrees out and I'm writing about prepping your home for rain. But El Niño is looming, and if you are anything like me, once the holidays hit, getting up on the roof to clean the gutters is just not going to happen. Thus, there is no better time than a warm fall weekend to spend a few hours preparing your home for the cold, wet weather that is just a couple short months away. These easy tips can prevent future costly repairs, lower your utility bills, and ultimately protect your largest investment from the impending deluge.

- **Clean your gutters.** It's so easy and yet so hard. But failing to clean your gutters can lead to leaks as well as cause long term water damage to your siding, roofing, and wood trim.

- **Inspect your roof and flashing.** Been some time since anyone's been up there? For minimal cost, a roofer can inspect, diagnose, and perform basic repairs.

- **Extend downspouts.** Water should drain a few feet away from your foundation, not flow right onto it.

- **Caulk around windows and doors.** And those foam and fabric front door draft stoppers—yes, those, the ones on late night infomercials for twelve bucks—they work wonders.

- **While you're at it, why not inspect your heating system.** For minimal cost, an HVAC technician can tune up, clean, and perform basic repairs to ensure your system is running at maximum efficiency.



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Stylish Solutions Stress-Free Fall Tables

... continued from page D6



The buffet table is easy to set up. Start with chargers or trays so guests aren't balancing just the plate on their lap. Lay out food just as you would serve it and finish with napkins (see tea towel suggestion) and serve-ware at end.

Example: 132-inch table plus 24 inches for fabric overhang (12 inches each end) equals 156 inches; 156 divided by 36 (the length of one yard) equals approximately 4 1/3 yards.

By purchasing five to seven yards, you accommodate for shrinkage and can use extra fabric to cover pedestals for food or for visual interest around a centerpiece.

Where to get these fabrics? Everywhere! From discount stores to online fabric shops. Make sure to wash fabric ahead of use, especially if near food. The un-ironed look is nice for fall as it is more casual. If you have a round table or are using folding tables, consider using an under cloth in a solid color to hide the legs and then the upholstery fabric to sit on top, where most people see.

Now, to the setting. There are lots of ways to set tables these days, and the old rules have been thrown out for many. You are free to mix styles, textures, materials and even colors on the same table. It is very au courant to mix interesting chairs at a dining table, especially for larger groups. We've all seen the gorgeous clean-lined 60-foot-long table with matching chairs – which is lovely for an outdoor gar-



Use upholstery fabrics to cover your table instead of the standard cloth. Here are four we have set aside for harvest through Thanksgiving and into December. By switching out the centerpieces and table settings, the look is changed.

den party – but for the indoor fall events, just like the mixing of colors with the leaves, I recommend mixing your colors and textures.

Don't try to force a look when it is not happening in nature. No guilt over not having 40 matching plates or chairs!

Let me know how your table setting goes. For the perfect holiday home join in on our Stress Free Holiday Workshop series. You can access it 24/7, 365 days a year and it includes the option of a printed workbook. I even include my infamous cookie bribery recipe, which works to keep family decorating help happy while hanging garland. For information, visit <http://couturechateau.com/holiday/>.



Ann McDonald, IIDA, NAPO, is the Founder/CEO of Couture Chateau, a luxury interior design firm in Orinda. For a complete blog post including other design ideas, visit www.couturechateau.com/blog



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

MORAGA

- 9 Fleuti Drive, \$1,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 2102 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 8-26-15;
Previous Sale: \$375,000, 06-28-94
- 18 Hammond Place, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1467 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 8-21-15;
Previous Sale: \$751,500, 08-16-12
- 21 Miramonte Drive, \$560,000, 2 Bdrms, 1344 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 8-28-15;
Previous Sale: \$479,000, 09-23-04
- 1079 Sanders Drive, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1512 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 8-27-15
- 70 Shuey Drive, \$1,275,000, 4 Bdrms, 2471 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 8-21-15;
Previous Sale: \$689,000, 11-06-01
- 1707 St. Andrews Drive, \$905,000, 2 Bdrms, 1464 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 8-21-15;
Previous Sale: \$770,000, 09-19-14
- 137 Whitethorne Drive, \$1,020,000, 3 Bdrms, 1887 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 8-26-15;
Previous Sale: \$420,000, 04-30-98
- 424 Woodminster Drive, \$700,500, 3 Bdrms, 1800 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 8-21-15

ORINDA

- 11 Altamount Drive, \$1,055,000, 3 Bdrms, 1502 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 8-27-15
- 20 Austin Court, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2529 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 8-26-15;
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 03-25-04
- 207 Crestview Drive, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 2311 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 8-21-15
- 180 Ivy Drive, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1289 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 8-21-15
- 224 La Espiral, \$1,508,000, 3 Bdrms, 2540 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 8-21-15;
Previous Sale: \$710,000, 05-28-99
- 12 Meadow Court, \$2,047,500, 4 Bdrms, 3456 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 8-21-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,595,000, 12-05-03
- 19 Totterdell Court, \$1,085,000, 4 Bdrms, 1832 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 8-20-15
- 52 Underhill Road, \$865,000, 2 Bdrms, 1114 SqFt, 1930 YrBlt, 8-28-15;
Previous Sale: \$507,000, 02-02-15
- 39 Zander Drive, \$1,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 2930 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 8-20-15;
Previous Sale: \$875,000, 05-18-00

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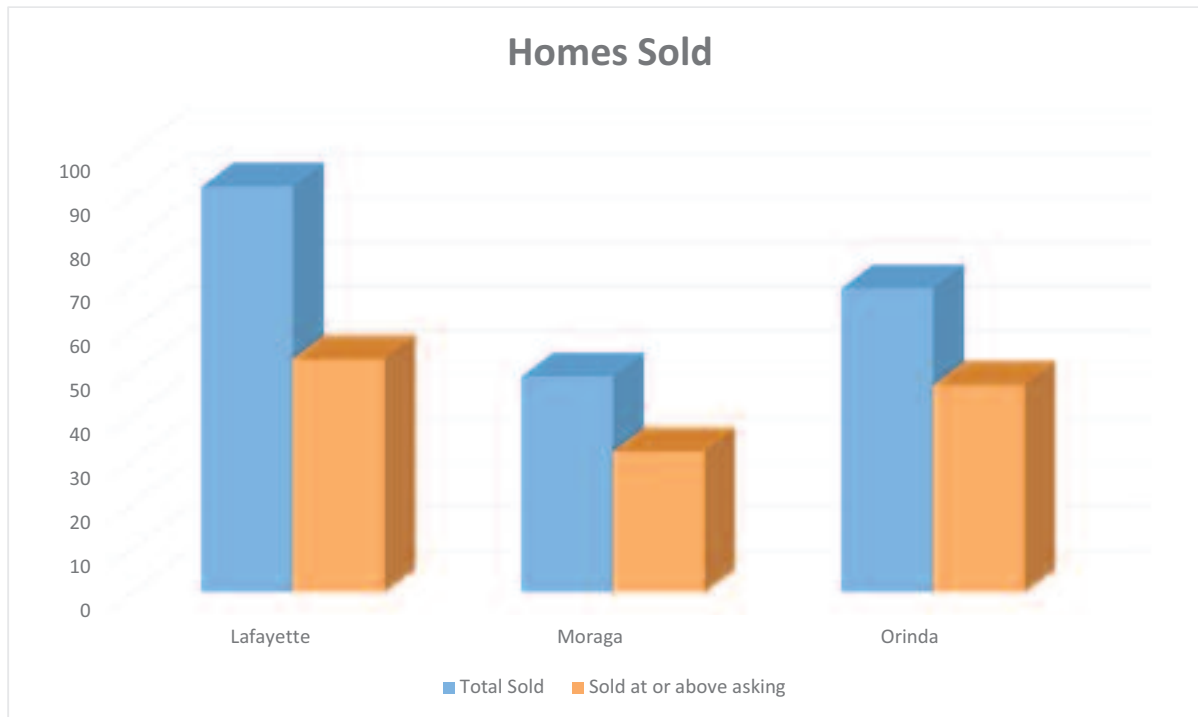


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The Real Estate Quarter in Review

By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS



The third quarter of 2015 again showed very good activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate and inventory continues to remain low when looking at available homes: In Lafayette there were 32 on the market as of Oct. 6 and there were 39 at this time one year ago; in Moraga buyers have their choice of only 10 properties down from 22 properties a year ago; and Orinda inventory has fallen to 37 currently available from 46 last year.

Current asking prices range from \$450,000 for a condominium in Moraga to \$7 million for an Orinda property. At the high end, 29 homes closed above \$2 million in the three communities combined during the quarter, compared to 23 in this quarter a year ago and only 12 homes in 2013. There are currently 28 homes available above this amount – nine in Lafayette, 16 in Orinda, and three in Moraga.

Of the 67 pending sales in the area, 58 have received acceptable offers since Sept. 1. That is an average of about two per day. Usually many of the sales are completed prior to the start of school. Depending upon how many of the homes are being purchased by families with children who are new to Lamorinda, these sales may impact certain grades at the elementary level.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics

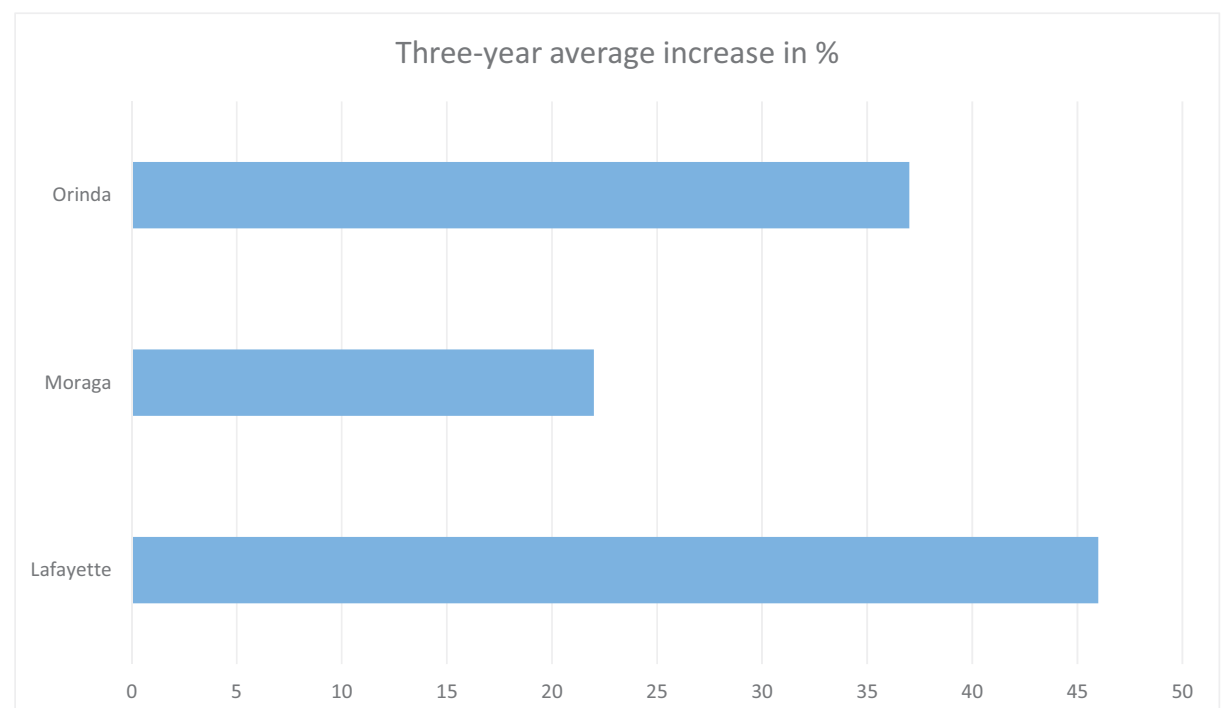
reported from July 1 through Sept. 30, 92 single-family homes closed in Lafayette, which was a slight increase from the 84 that closed in the third quarter of 2014. Sales prices ranged from \$745,000 to \$3.2 million. The

average number of days on market was 24, similar to 22 for the same period in 2014. The average sales price was \$1,462,872, up around 11 percent from the same quarter last year. Average prices have increased over 46 percent in the last three years!

In Moraga, there were 49 single-family closings, about the same in the third quarter of 2014. Prices ranged from \$750,000 to \$2.2 million. The average sale price was up nearly 9 percent from the \$1,178,956 in the same quarter last year and the average increase was 22 percent in the last three years. The average marketing time was 14 days, down from 24 days a year ago.

In Orinda, the number of single-family closings was down to 69 from 90 in 3Q2014. Sales prices ranged from \$740,000 to \$3.3 million, with an average price of \$1,520,904 versus \$1,420,663 a year ago, a 37 percent three-year average increase in Orinda.

In the third quarter of this year, on an average price per square foot basis, Lafayette detached single-family homes sold at \$573.91 versus \$560.50 per square foot a year ago and a continued large increase over the same quarter in 2012 when it was \$419.49 per square foot. Moraga homes sold for \$526.77, an increase over a year ago when it was \$504.10. In Orinda it was \$566.29. A year ago it was \$518.49. ... continued on next page





The Real Estate Quarter in Review

... continued from page D10

In Lafayette, the average sales price was 101.5 percent of the final asking price. In Moraga it was also 101.5 percent and in Orinda it was 102.6 percent. In many cases, there were multiple offers on homes and the result was a closing price above the asking price.

In Lafayette, 53 of the 92 closings sold at the list price or above. In Moraga, 32 of the 49 sold at or above asking and in Orinda it was 47 of 69.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had two closings. They were priced at \$555,000 and \$805,000; Moraga had 40, almost double the 22 a year ago. Sales prices ranged from \$255,000 to \$900,000. Moraga Country Club attached home sales ran from \$745,000 to \$950,000. Orinda had one condominium sale in Orindawoods at \$950,000.

As of Oct. 6, there were 67 pending sales in the

three communities combined, compared to 77 pending sales per the MLS a year ago. The asking prices for the pending single-family detached homes range from \$430,000 to \$3.295 million. It should be noted that there are only two "Potential Short Sales" that are currently pending and were subject to lender approval. None of the pending sales are an REO (bank owned property).



3187 Lucas Circle, Lafayette - SOLD
\$1,285,000 (multiple offers)



7100 Marlborough Terrace
Berkeley/Grizzly Peak
Represented Buyer \$950,000



170 Stewart Circle, Pleasant Hill
Represented Buyer \$785,000



54 Vista Lane, Alamo
Represented Buyer \$1,657,000



7217 Skyline, Oakland Hills - SOLD
\$1,340,000



6051 Margarido Dr. Oakland/Rockridge
SOLD \$1,975,000

Hey Now!

Join us on November 6th & 7th for a "Gathering of the Tribal Knowledge," a two night event celebrating the Grateful Dead's 50th Anniversary. Each evening will feature a panel discussion featuring long time members of the Grateful Dead family including former band member Donna Jean Godchaux-MacKay. The Golden Rose will then play two sets of music. Silent auction items include a signed guitar from Bob Weir, posters, concert tickets, historic and rare photographs and much more. Tickets available NOW at www.TownHallTheatre.com

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Digging Deep - Gardening with Cynthia Brian

Living, Growing, and Totally Spooky

By Cynthia Brian

“To the eyes of the man of imagination, nature is imagination itself.” –William Blake



Jack-o'-lanterns light up the landscape.

Photos Cynthia Brian

The season of screams and scares is officially here! Halloween is right around the corner, and it's time to embrace your inner ghoul. With only a few days left until a haunted eve, a walk in the park or around your personal garden will spark your spooktacular spirit as you encounter everyday species that ignite eerie imaginings, yet are friendly visitors. It's time to put out our mystical welcome mat.

Children have feared spiders since the days of learning the nursery rhyme “Little Miss Muffet.” We may not want them living in our homes, but in the garden spiders are considered beneficial bugs. There are generally two types of spiders: the weavers and the hunters. The big, beautiful, yet scary looking yellow and black argiope spider (Golden orb weaver) spins a web that catches garden predators twice her size while the hunters, the wolf spider and the crab spider, ambush

their prey. Even their names evoke Halloween myths. These helpful arthropods (meaning eight legs) are considered more efficient eaters than our feathered friends eradicating aphids, spider mites, leafhoppers, armyworms, caterpillars, beetles, thrips and other nuisances. Don't squish the spiders nor destroy their webs because spiders are positive pest patrollers of our secret oasis.

Allium sativum is renowned for repelling vampires. But the next time you witness darting dive-bombers of the dark, hide the garlic to usher in the bats. Contrary to common thought, these North American “vampires” do not attack people. Mosquitoes bite people and bats eat more than 600 mosquitoes per hour. Their droppings are rich in nitrogen and they guard gardens from invasive insects. If you have a pool, you'll witness them skimming the water at twilight.

Many people are frightened of snakes, but finding

a snake in the grass is a good omen. Most snakes are not poisonous and the most common snakes we find in our gardens are the garter or king snake. Rattlesnakes are venomous and like all pit vipers have thick triangular heads, easily distinguishable from their docile, non-poisonous relatives. Snakes eat mice, rats, and other rodents as well as snails and slugs.

Do you have lizards in your landscape? Congratulations, you are gardening organically. A healthy garden boasts plenty of these small, fast moving reptiles. Without chewing, lizards swallow moths, grubs, flies, grasshoppers, beetles and crickets whole. When you see a lizard with a missing tail, it's not an ingredient in a witches' brew, but probably digesting in the belly of a bird. Tails do grow back. Lizards are excellent neighbors. Encourage them to stay.

To attract any of these beneficial creepy crawlies or flying friends, make sure to offer hiding places, water, and eliminate all pesticides, herbicides and non-organic fertilizers. Allow them admittance to your hunting grounds as they pursue, chase, and stalk plant destroyers.

... continued on page D14



Adorn your skeletons in your garden and weave a web on your palm tree.

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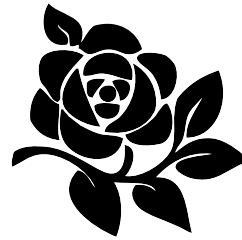
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Living, Growing, and Totally Spooky ... continued from page D12

How else can we be scared in our own backyards this Halloween?

- Trees can be frightening. Get up close to check out the bark of a eucalypts tree or recline under a pepper tree swaying in the wind. Let your imagination run wild. Do you see skeletons, witches, ghosts or faces of the walking dead?
- Investigate the babies of a spider plant or be spooked by a hanging snake plant.
- Admire the beautiful blooms and intoxicating fragrance of the sweetly named Angel Trumpet but don't be tempted to taste it. As a member of the Nightshade family, it is highly toxic, even deadly. Wear gloves!
- Why is the fox by the fountain in the backyard? Or is the fox a shape shifter?
- Are the coyotes howling at the moon or an evil eye wandering in the darkness?
- Do you hear the hooting of the owls and the cawing of the crows? They too are hunting ... and not for humans.

And, finally, a gardener's Halloween quiz. (Answers at the bottom)

- What is a vampire's favorite flower?
- What is a werewolf's favorite legume?

Carve your pumpkins, light the jack-o'-lanterns, weave your webs, and dress up the skeletons you have been hiding in the closet. Nature provides the imagination for your supernatural trick-or-treat decor.

Happy Halloween to all the witches, warlords, pirates, princesses, paupers, pumpkins and pilgrims!



A Hansel and Gretel path to the deadly Angel Trumpet Bush



An argiope spider weaves its web to catch its prey.



Recline under a pepper tree – boo!

Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Reminder



I'm sounding like a broken record, but remember to chill your bulbs for a minimum of six to 10 weeks before planting. Keep them in the dark at 38-45 degrees Fahrenheit before putting in the ground as we live in a warm zone and many bulbs, including tulips native to colder Holland, will not thrive. Make sure that no fruits or vegetables are in the refrigerator, as they will emit harmful ethylene gas. In November and December when ready to plant, make sure the soil has been properly prepared before removing your bulbs from refrigeration. Plant promptly.

Quiz answers

A: Bleeding Hearts

B. Human Beans



Pirate Cynthia Brian lectures

Happy Gardening, Happy Growing!

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Cynthia Brian

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ORINDA



12 Tara Road Unique Frank Lloyd Wright style home with great opportunity for additions. 2388sf home with 3bd/2ba. Fabulous 7/10th acre. Walking distance to town. **\$989,000**

ORINDA



19 La Campana Rarely found on market! Old Spanish Country Club Hacienda on premier lot. Brick entry crtyd. Nanny unit completes 3rd bed, 2nd bath. Views, privacy, lovely gardens, towering oaks. **\$1,395,000**

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8 Camino Del Diablo Stunning Contemporary rebuilt in 2002 by MGHG Designs. Impeccable design & architectural finishes. Chef's kitchen w/top of the line appliances, Carrera marble counters, radiant flrs. **\$2,100,000**

MORAGA



1223 Rimer Drive Updated kitchen, hardwood floors, new landscaping, fresh paint. 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Steps from Intermediate & Elementary schools. **\$1,285,000**

LAFAYETTE



3 Shreve Lane Fabulous sun flooded 2 year old twnhm! Open flr pln w/granite & stainless kitchen, 4 well appointed bdrms incl. gorgeous master ste, 3.5 baths. Walk to shops, library, restaurants & Trail. **\$949,000**

LAFAYETTE



3160 Plymouth Road Remodeled & expanded 3bd/2ba in Acalanes Valley. Eat in kitchen, dining area, formal living & fam rm. Expansive bkyd. Walk to Springbrook pool, Springhill Elementary & Acalanes HS. **\$970,000**

LAFAYETTE



348 Shire Oaks Court Burton Valley cul-de-sac charmer. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1545 square feet., meticulously maintained & top schools! **\$1,025,000**

LAFAYETTE



1100 Rahara Drive Custom Upper Happy Valley home. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, hardwood floors, resort-like yard, lush landscaping & beautiful views. **\$2,195,000**

LAFAYETTE



23 Sessions Road Gated English Manor 12.18 acre 5bd/6ba Estate. Grand foyer, living, family rms + "Club" rm, deluxe kitchen, dramatic solarium + executive office. Gorgeous grounds w/lap pool/lawns, views. **\$3,550,000**

LAFAYETTE



1141 Vallecito Court Treasured Happy Valley estate custom built in 2006 w/finest craftsmanship. Chef's kitchen, gorgeous master, ofc, fam rm, home gym. Pool, spa, frplc & level lawn w/views. Detached guest house. **\$3,900,000**

LAFAYETTE



5 Burton Vista Court Spectacular 7bd/9+ba, 8986sf Estate w/luxury amenities in grand oversized spaces. Premium 2.25ac parcel w/sport court, sun-drenched pool, pavilion w/kitchen, dressing rms & showers. **\$6,595,000**

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5050 Hilltop Drive NOT TO MISS! Great location. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1088sf with views of Mt. Tam. from backyard. Spacious eat-in kitchen, hdwd flrs & lots of storage. Probate sale, sold "as-is". **\$310,000**

PLEASANT HILL



20 Whitfield Court Great 2.58 acre parcel at top of knoll w/views of Mount Diablo & ideal privacy. Truly special setting sites for development zoned R-10 & R-15. Wonderful opportunity for investment. **\$1,750,000**

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3311 Rossmoor Pkwy #4 A rarity! Fantastic, level in (no steps) Cascade model on golf course w/views of hills & course from most living spaces. Granite kitchen w/breakfast nook, plantation shutters, view deck. **\$629,000**



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