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**business briefs**



Tatiana Hastings in her studio with some of her refinished furniture. Photo provided

The Wood Knot Refurbished Furniture

(925) 705-1830 - [www.thewoodknotfurniture.com](http://www.thewoodknotfurniture.com)

For two years Tatiana Hastings has been developing a custom furniture refinishing business from her Lafayette home. "I get pieces, most of the time solid good structures, from consignment stores, or from friends," says Hastings. "When I get a piece, the fun part starts for me. I wait until an idea comes to my mind; each piece inspires something different." Hastings uses different decorative paint, textures and finishes. Sometimes people ask her to transform a piece they like, but want to modernize or want a different color or finish. She also does simple upholstery and distressing. "I started doing this when I was in school," Hastings says. "I was selling pieces on Craigslist when I was still in college. Then, when we moved into our new Lafayette home and looked for

good quality furniture we realized that new home furniture was very expensive, so I went to consignment stores and started refinishing what I bought." She says she has redone everything in her home. "Our friends were surprised by the uniqueness of the pieces and asked about it," she adds. "My husband asked me, 'Why don't you start a business?' and he built a studio and office in the back of our house." In August, Hastings opened an online store, The Wood Knot. While most items are sold online, customers living in the area are also welcome to contact her to visit and see the pieces in her studio. "This is relaxing to me," she says. She does not plan to stop anytime soon.

Cisneros Named November Moraga Employee of the Month

Jacqueline Cisneros, a popular and veteran checker at Safeway, has been named the Moraga Employee of the Month for November. Cisneros has been with the local grocer for 16 years and has developed a loyal group of shoppers who appreciate her friendly approach and wonderful customer service. "I receive at least two customer compliments daily on how great an employee she is and she always seems to remember their names and ask about their family," said manager Nicole Chenault. Cisneros will be awarded \$50 gift cards to Safeway and Pennini's restaurant in Moraga from the Moraga Rotary and Chamber of Commerce at an upcoming Moraga Rotary lunch in early December.

News from the Three Chambers of Commerce  
 Lafayette

Annual Holiday Mixer at U.S. Bank from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 3498 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. The party includes food, fun, beverages and a big holiday raffle. The mixer is \$10 for members; free for members who bring at least three canned items for the Food Bank.

Moraga

Chamber Holiday Party from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10 at Aegis of Moraga, 950 Country Club Drive, Moraga. Registration required at [MoragaChamber.org](http://MoragaChamber.org): \$15 per person.

Orinda

Christmas Holiday Party at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3 at the Hilton House, 21 Orinda Way, Orinda.



From left: Kevin Reneau, Nicole Chenault, Jaqueline Cisneros and Roger Gregory Photo provided

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