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Judges Choice winners (from left) Lynn Wolfe, Lauren Stadt and Sophia Browne explain to the audience how their Rube Goldberg machine works.

Photo Cathy Dausman

Students Fight off El Niño at Goldberg Fest

By Cathy Dausman

El Niño struck with a vengeance in the gymnasium at Stanley Middle School in Lafayette, at one point even raining cats and dogs — albeit small plastic cats and dogs. The audience of approximately 200 was ecstatic. El Niño marked the return of the popular biannual Rube Goldberg competition where, as the students' T-shirts explained, they simply "don't do simple."

This year's challenge, held March 30, was to open an umbrella in 12 steps. Part mental, part physical, with a dab of metaphysics tossed in, the event is a science, technology, engineering and math-laden enrichment opportunity sponsored by Lafayette Partners in Education.

By design, none of the steps were easy because Rube Goldberg, the program's namesake, was anything but a rube. The

Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist and Bay Area native was best known for his humorously complex multi-step "problems" that he solved on paper to his readers' unending delight.

Remember the board game Mousetrap? This is Mousetrap on steroids. Each year presents a new challenge. Past competitions have required students to assemble hamburgers, dispense hand sanitizer, pop balloons and zip zippers. ... continued on page A12

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Miramonte Cheer Squad is No. 1



Photo provided by Gina Armstrong-Smith ney Smith, Jacqui Yuke, Jessie Musacchio and Emily Forkas.

Lamorinda keeps turning out champions. In March the Miramonte Competitive Cheer Team took home the National Championship in the Varsity Small Show Cheer Division. The squad competed against 23 teams in their quest for the title.

Pictured here are (Back row from left): Kaylie Parr, Megan Melohn, Hannah Gunn, Lauren Kozicki, Hallie Pritchard and Mary Rockwood. (Front row, from left): Maddie Robinson, Syd-

Prior to the National Competition, cheer teams had to qualify at Regional levels and receive an invitation to compete. The USA National Cheerleading competition was held in Anaheim March 19-21. While at the competition each cheer team had to perform at preliminaries in order to qualify and compete on the final day. See accompanying story, page A11.

Costs to Repair Sinkhole May Soar

By Sophie Braccini

The massive sinkhole at the crossing of Center Street and Rheem Blvd. is going to be a very costly burden for the Town of Moraga.

Town Public Works Director Edric Kwan estimated last week that the sinkhole, which punctured gas lines, will cost \$3.5 million, and that's just a conservative preliminary analysis. The damage is extensive and includes fixing Laguna Creek's 96-foot-deep seeded culvert, an area that had been identified as "high risk" in the town's storm drain master plan.

The cause of the collapse is still under investigation and options for repair will be brought forward at the April 27 town council meeting. The intersection is likely to be disrupted for many more months.

"We are still investigating the reason why the sinkhole formed," Kwan said. First workers had to stabilize the hole for safe access, and dig deep into the debris to uncover all the layers.

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A guide to some of the best local programs. — page B3

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Volunteers help create cutting-edge pieces in woodworking. — page B1



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Lady Mats are proud of their historic run. — page C1



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Catchments prevent precious rainwater from going to waste. — page D1





Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, April 11, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, April 18, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, April 11, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, April 13, 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:

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Phone: (925) 284-1968

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org

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Committee Looks to Unsnarl Lafayette's Traffic Congestion

By Cathy Tyson

As Lafayette's comprehensive study on downtown traffic congestion continues, the all-volunteer steering committee wrestled with how to turn the very long list of suggestions into a short list, focusing on the key question: What are some of the best ways to solve downtown traffic congestion?

Does the city need more bike friendly roadways, or a direct connection to the freeway? Those were two of 50 concepts study engineers came up with after analyzing multiple complex data sources, community outreach, surveys and past studies. The Arup Group, the con-

sultants on the project, has used state-of-the-art technology, included GPS traffic information, to investigate costs and benefits of an array of strategies that could ease congestion. By using big data that clearly identifies traffic patterns, the consultants can custom-tailor solutions for specific problems.

At this point in the year-long, grant-funded study, the focus is to weigh the broad inventory of ideas, and indicate which of those ideas merit priority for further evaluation, according to city Transportation Planner James Hinkamp. As the Downtown Congestion Reduction Steering Committee, which has been providing input and guidance throughout the study process, painstakingly went through each and every concept at a March 22 meeting, it was apparent that some concepts were better than others.

The 50 potential projects were divided into four color-coded categories: green, yellow and red — that corresponded with the costs and benefits — along with blue for “require further consideration and input from steering committee.” Items in the green range garnered the most bang for the buck, while concepts in the red category had high costs or uncertain benefits. The blue category contained concepts like a free downtown shuttle and consolidating or relocating Lafayette Elementary School and Stanley Middle School. Both ideas were non-starters with the committee.

Arup will analyze the most highly recommended solution ideas that are on the committee's short list, from the original universe of possible options, including “moonshots” like having a direct connection to Highway 24 through what is now McCaulou's. Going forward, three options will be selected that meet the project goals of addressing current and future traffic conditions.

Surprisingly, initial work done by the consultant found 63 percent of the traffic heading northbound on Moraga Road is going to Highway 24, which generates tremendous pressure at the Y — cars turning right and left at the intersection of Mt. Diablo and Moraga Road as they make their way to the freeway.

Bike East Bay Advocacy Director Dave Campbell attended the meeting to lobby for bicyclists; he complimented the process so far, calling it “wonderful” and noted the many good projects. When asked about actual bike ridership, he replied “a lot more people would ride a bike if it were safe to do so.”

Campbell would like to see more separated dedicated bike lanes as a means to encourage ridership and get people out of cars. “I think what Lafayette is doing is a real example to other cities trying to figure out how to move more people without endlessly widening streets.”

Shopping center owner Joan Bruzzone was also in attendance and made it clear she was not in

favor of extending Moraga Road to connect with the freeway, and hinted at legal repercussions.

Strategies that were left on the short list for now include “road diets” for Oak Hill and First Street to create “complete streets” that reduce the number of travel lanes and provide a two-way cycle track and wider sidewalks that make for a better connection with BART to enhance the bike-pedestrian experience.

“Changing the way kids get to school would help a lot,” said City Engineer Tony Coe of the additional school loading zones strategy at Stanley Middle School and Lafayette Elementary School, so that concept is also on the short list.

Concepts that didn't make the cut include a BART garage. Don Tatzin commented that because the transit agency owns the land, the probability that BART would agree for Lafayette merchants' employees to park there is “zero.” Also not making the short list: a traffic management center and a roundabout at the intersection of Mt. Diablo and Moraga Road.

The shorter list will go to Arup for further refinement, where they will look for the best value and to see how the narrowed-down projects match up to over-arching congestion and parking problems that the study is geared to address. Another round of outreach to residents is expected this summer.

Lamorinda Artists Lose Marketing Outlet as Lafayette Gallery Closes

By Nick Marnell



Gallery owner Judy Miller displays her art. Photo Nick Marnell

The Lafayette Art Gallery quietly closed its doors March 31, a casualty of hasty decision making, bad timing and the 21st-century disruption of legacy businesses. But atop the list of reasons for its downfall sat a Lamorinda inevitability: the 17-year Lafayette fixture could no longer afford the rent.

The gallery, a cooperative of up to 28 artists, was founded by Judy Miller in April 1999. She sat alone at her desk, not a customer in sight, as she reflected on what went wrong.

“The selling of art has changed,” Miller said. She waxed philosophically about the damage done to artists by the Internet, especially to sculptors like her. “People miss the feeling, the touching, the handling of a piece of art, by purchasing online.”

Miller identified the 2013 gallery relocation to 3420 Mt. Diablo Blvd. as the beginning of the end.

“The new spot was not known as a place to buy paintings,” said

jewelry to pay the rent.”

“It might have taken years for this to become a destination spot,” added Susan Erickson, one of the original member artists.

Miller agreed that the gallery location was an impediment, acknowledging that if she could have done it over, the gallery would have remained at its previous location, across from Chow Restaurant.

“I wanted to stay,” she said. “But we weren't sure what was happening. The landlord took down our sculpture garden with only two weeks' notice. What would happen next? Did the plans include us? We voted to move. As it turns out, we could have still been there.”

... continued on page A9



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report March 6 to 19, 2016

Alarms	57
911 Calls (incl. hang-ups)	24
Noise complaints	5
Traffic stops	78
Suspicious Circumstances	22
Suspicious Subjects	38
Suspicious Vehicles	41
Abandoned Vehicle	
900 block Village Center	
1000 block Miller Dr.	
Barking Dog	
3300 block Johnson Rd.	
Burglary, Auto	
900 block Happy Valley Ct. (2)	
Wells Fargo	
20 block Lafayette Cir.	
Safeway	
50 block Lafayette Cir. (2)	
Starbucks	
3600 Mosswood Dr.	
Burglary, Commercial	
3300 block Mt Diablo Blvd.	
Burglary	
3400 block Moraga Blvd.	
3300 Mt Diablo Blvd.	
Civil Problem	
900 block Dewing Ave.	
3300 block Mildred Ln.	
1200 block Vacation Dr.	
90 block Carolyn Ct.	
Lamorinda Tow	
3000 block Camino Diablo	
Counterfeit	
3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd.	
Dispute, Verbal	
800 block Mt View Dr.	
Bentley Upper School	
3600 block Bickerstaff (2)	
Safeway	
Disturbance	
Mt Diablo Blvd./Carol Ln.	
Fraud	
3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd.	
700 block John Way	
3600 block Mt Diablo Blvd.	
Shell Station	
1000 block 2nd St	
Harassment	
10 block Hartwood Ct. (phone)	
Safeway	
800 block Avalon (phone)	
Hit & Run	
700 block Los Palos Mnr.	
3700 block Mosswood Dr.	
Starbucks	
1700 block Toyon Rd.	
Mt Diablo Blvd./	
Happy Valley Rd.	
1000 block Brown Ave	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Hwy 24	
3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd	
Golden Gate Way/1st St.	
800 block Mt View Dr.	
Intoxicated Subject	
Whole Foods	
Missing Adult	
3600 block Robertson Rd.	
3300 Reliez Highland Rd.	
3200 block Ameno Dr.	
Ordinance violation	
Olympic Blvd/Pleasant Hill Rd.	

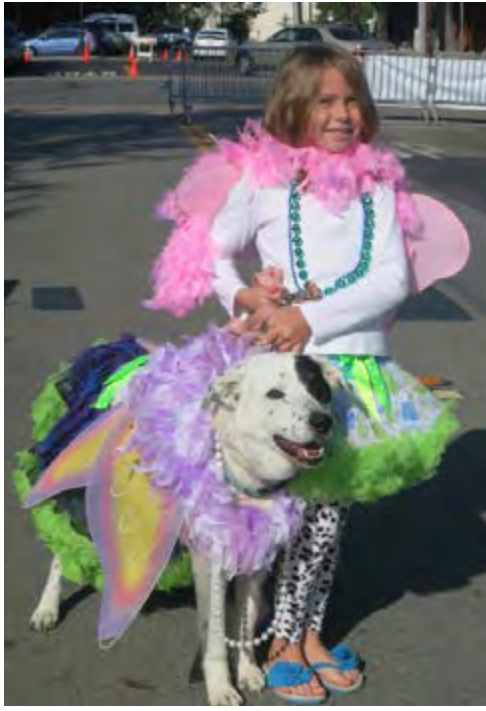
Panhandling	
Trader Joe's	
Police/Fire/EMS response	
1000 block Serrano Ct.	
600 block Moraga Rd.	
Bank of the West	
Pleasant Hill/Reliez Valley Rds.	
900 block Dewing Ave.	
Possession	
3100 block Stanley Blvd.	
Public Nuisance	
3300 block Moraga Blvd.	
Library (2)	
Willoughby Ct/Condit Rd.	
3100 block S Peardale Dr.	
N Peardale/S Peardale Drs.	
3100 block Sandalwood Ct.	
Trader Joe's	
Martino/Springhill Rds.	
3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd.	
Promiscuous Shooting	
Reliez Valley/Pleasant Hill Rds.	
Prowler	
1100 block Bacon Way	
1000 block Vista Bella	
Reckless Driving	
Olympic Blvd/Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Deer Hill Rd./Sierra Vista Way	
Green Valley Dr./Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Acalanes/Hidden Valley Rds.	
Pleasant Hill/Deer Hill Rds.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Hwy 24	
Mt Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.	
St Mary's Rd./Glenside Dr.	
Recovery stolen vehicle	
1000 block 2nd St.	
Strong-arm Robbery	
Safeway (2)	
Shoplifting	
Safeway	
Theft, Petty	
Safeway (4)	
10 block Amanda Ln.	
3500 block Walnut St.	
Reliez Valley Rd./Withers Ave.	
3400 block Black Hawk Rd.	
900 block Raintree Pl.	
1300 block Reliez Valley Rd.	
3100 block Lucas Dr.	
3200 block Lucas Dr.	
BART (from vehicle)	
3100 Black Hawk Rd.	
10 block Greenvalley Dr. (2)	
Theft, Grand	
3100 block Lucas Dr.	
900 block Village Center	
Safeway	
Theft, ID	
3200 block Sharon Ct.	
3300 block Kim Rd (2)	
3500 block Terrace Way	
3400 block Stage Coach Dr.	
3200 Beechwood Dr.	
900 block Moon Ct.	
3600 block Brook St.	
Theft, Vehicle	
1000 block Walnut Dr.	
3400 Golden Gate Way	
Threats	
3300 S Lucille Ln.	
Trespass	
10 block Green Place (vehicle)	
Library	
Unwanted Guest	
3200 block Stanley Blvd.	
Lamorinda Tow	
3600 block Bickerstaff	
Vandalism	
1700 block Reliez Valley Rd. (2)	
Hillside Ter./Reliez Valley Rd./	
3200 block La Canada Rd.	
10 block Green Valley Dr./	
1100 Estates Dr.	

The 2016/2017 Lafayette Chamber Directory was delivered to Lafayette residents' homes last week. If you need an additional copy, please contact the Chamber at 925-284-7404.

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Lafayette Goes to the Dogs

By Cathy Tyson



both humans and their pooches can rock a signature ensemble in public, without getting any curious looks. Organizers from the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce have thought of everything from a Doggie Vogue fashion show, a kissing booth for owners and their four-legged beloved, and for the first time ever, a Puppy Bowl. Furry friends can be entered into any and all contests; free registration begins at 9:30 a.m. at the library.

Look for special canine treats from local Huckleberry Kitchen and even dog friendly ice cream from Smitten. Casual contests include: Looks Most Like Owner, Human-Dog Team Tricks, Best Costume, and of course, Best in Show.

Even cat people are invited to check out Lafayette's Dogtown Downtown. The event runs from 10 a.m. to noon, and it's free and fun – but a leash is definitely required.

Possibly the best way for Lamorinda dogs and their humans to spend Saturday morning, April 9, is to celebrate all things canine at Dogtown Downtown. This third annual event kicks off at 10 a.m. with a dog parade from the Lafayette Plaza Park down Golden Gate Way to the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, led by Lafayette's police force.

This is the one day of the year

Photo provided

New Signals on Reliez Station Road Get Green Light

By Cathy Tyson



Supporters of the traffic signals on Reliez Station Road gathered at a Lafayette City Council meeting. Photo Cathy Tyson

Who knew there would be so much controversy in the name of safety over a pair of traffic signals on Reliez Station Road?

After three public workshops, two public walking tours and reviews by the Circulation Committee and the Design Review Committee, the matter was discussed before the Lafayette City Council on March 28 with both supporters and opponents in the audience. Residents most immediately affected by the signals voiced their concerns and were thrilled that stop lights for two intersections on Reliez Station Road were approved, despite the roundabout fashion the solution came to pass.

"The arguments for the light are so compelling – this seems to be the only reasonable solution," said Council Member Brandt Anderson, recognizing the threat of cars and trucks stopped on the steep hill rolling backwards already exists

now. The balance of the council agreed, so the stop lights were approved, along with an okay to purchase some of the necessary equipment ahead of time.

Although there was public outreach on the Olympic Boulevard and Reliez Station Road corridor that started with an initial opinion survey in May and June of 2014, some residents still felt frustrated with the process, and criticized a lack of transparency and adequate notice of meetings. Still other opponents are troubled by the steep slope at the location of the light that will be at the corner of Las Trampas and Reliez and the relatively small number of car trips generated by the 72 homes on those streets.

"Does it make sense to endanger upwards of 15,000 cars a day to save time for a few hundred cars?" asked Silloo Tarapore in a letter to the city council.

... continued on page A9

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Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, April 13, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, April 27, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, April 18, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, April 11, 7 p.m.
Monday, April 25, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Tuesday, April 12, 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

Report

March 15-22



Four car burglaries 3/16/16:

Police responded to the Moraga Safeway on a report of four auto burglaries. Like a good neighbor, Orinda P.D. is there – an Orinda officer located the vehicle and pursued it to Oakland. Even more help arrived in the form of air support and an Oakland P.D. cruiser. Two suspects were arrested for possession of stolen property from auto burglaries at Safeway, and conspiracy to commit a crime. The driver was also arrested for evading officers.

More grocery crime 3/17/16:

A supermarket employee reported the theft of food and other items, as well as the suspects fleeing in a U-Haul van – way to blend in. The vehicle was stopped by a neighboring unspecified police department and found to be stolen; just a guess – either Orinda or Lafayette cops. Upon further investigation, cops learned the stolen items from the grocery store were recovered by employees prior to the suspects departing the premises. Although they didn't get cited for the shoplifting – the driver of the U-Haul was arrested for vehicle theft and drug charges.

No love for Trump stickers 3/18/16:

Around midnight at St. Mary's College, six Trump stickers valued at \$10 each have been defaced or removed from the reporting person's car while parked. The fellow also states he has been harassed via social media for his political beliefs and had reported the incidents to St. Mary's College Public Safety. The Trump supporter had no idea who would be removing his stickers, but he wanted documentation of the incident. What about the college's Lasallian commitment to social justice and respect for all persons?

Toddler in traffic 3/19/16:

Police responded to a report of a toddler who ran into traffic near the 7-11 on busy Moraga Road at 2:25 p.m. Officers took charge of the child and located his residence, but found no adults at home. The father was eventually contacted via phone and returned to the residence, explaining that he had gone to pick up another child, and left the 3-year-old in the care of a 7-year-old. There was no indication of other neglect or abuse and the child was left in the care of his father. The case was referred to Child Protective Services.

Other crimes occurring in Moraga from March 15 – 22:

Traffic incident – Rheem Shopping Center
Car vs. unoccupied car – Moraga Star gas station
False alarm – Rimer Drive,

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Hillside and Ridgeline Regulation Debate Continues

By Sophie Braccini



The Bellavista development is under construction off Rheem Blvd.

Photo Andy Scheck

The hills of Moraga were front and center last month at a special Moraga Town Council meeting.

The council has been working to clarify inconsistent terms and regulations about hillsides and ridgelines noted in the General Plan

and the Moraga Open Space Ordinance (MOSO), as well as in the grading ordinance, design guidelines and the zoning code as part of the hillside and ridgeline regulation

revision process that began two years ago. Public workshops have

been conducted, a steering committee was appointed, and 10 amendment topics have been identified.

Whether to protect the face of hills and ridgelines from development stirred the most controversy at the March 10 meeting.

"The General Plan calls for protecting the view shed along the scenic corridors, but what does protect mean?" asked consultant Ben Noble, who showed different options such as horizontal or vertical setbacks from the ridge, or a "cone of vision."

Council Member Teresa Onoda said that when she thinks of a hill in Moraga, she does not think about houses. "I want to see the hill," she said. "Just seeing the ridgeline is not enough."

Vice Mayor Dave Trotter added that the General Plan includes protection of view sheds that necessarily include some of the hillsides. But others, such as Mayor Mike Metcalf, were concerned that prohibiting too much development could open the door to lawsuits by property owners.

... continued on page A12

Town Makes \$10,000 Donation to Carr Ranch

By Sophie Braccini

The Town of Moraga sent a strong signal of support to the John Muir Land Trust when the town council voted to donate \$10,000 to the campaign to purchase 600 acres of the Carr Ranch property.

The vote, held at the March 23 meeting, was not unanimous, as Mayor Michael Metcalf said he would have rather waited for the coming budget cycle before agreeing to the donation.

When the JMLT announced nine months ago that it was committing to raising \$7 million to purchase Carr Ranch, it seemed a monumental task, and the largest the 26-year-old trust ever undertook. But Linus Eukel, JMLT Executive Director, said that over \$5 million had already been committed.

"We have over two-thirds worth of support toward the acquisition of the property," Eukel said. "It comes

from a mix of public agency funding, private foundations and individual supporters, most of them from Lamorinda."

The East Bay Municipal Utility District, which owns the watershed next to the Carr Ranch property, has really helped support the fundraising efforts, Eukel said.

The director added that the town's donation had not been solicited by the Trust and that it was a strong signal of local support. During the meeting he stressed the importance of getting a unanimous decision from the council. The four council members present all supported the idea of a \$10,000 donation, but differed on the way of appropriating the sum.

"Ten thousand dollars was a payment by SummerHill (Homes) for illegally cutting down a buckeye tree that was on the tree map for

preservation on the Rancho Laguna II property," said Council Member Dave Trotter. "It was always contemplated that this money would be allocated to a project that would have a pro-environmental impact."

A letter from Summerhill was produced that indicated that the fine should be used to protect open space.

But Metcalf said he had never seen a written account of this transaction and that he wanted the donation to be included in the many projects up for review during the next budgeting cycle, which will start in April.

"My problem is not what we are doing, but how we are doing it," he said. "There are a bunch of things that we know are going to come up, and we have a budget process that gives us an opportunity to make an assessment of all our needs."

Council Members Roger Wykle and Teresa Onoda agreed with Trotter that there was a nexus of opportunity at this time and the donation was approved.

Eukel added after the meeting that "no deal is done until it is finished" and that the JMLT continues to need strong local support to raise the rest of the money.

On April 30 a fundraising gala will be held at Campana Farm, next to the ranch. "The sale of the seats is already going strong and we have capped the number of attendants at 350," Eukel said. "We are so grateful to Pat Rose who gave us the place for this occasion."

The Trust's goal is to close escrow with the Carr family by July of this year.

More information about the Carr Ranch campaign and the gala can be found at www.jmlt.org.

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Gala

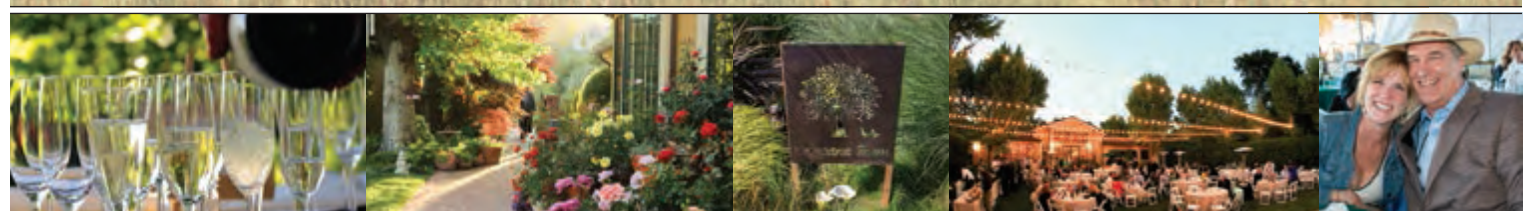


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LAND TRUST

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‘Selfless’ Volunteer Judy Dinkle is Moraga Citizen of the Year

By Sophie Braccini



Judy Dinkle is Moraga's Citizen of the Year.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Judy Dinkle is an unassuming woman who says she feels more comfortable in the background, but the licensed general contractor, entrepreneur and volunteer extraordinaire couldn't hide her achievements indefinitely, as she was selected as the 2016 Moraga Citizen of the Year.

Since 2001 she has volunteered in the town, serving on the board of the Park Foundation, then helping in the creation of the Hacienda Foundation. She has spearheaded many projects for both groups.

It seems as if Dinkle is everywhere, serving food on the Fourth of July, Cinco de Mayo and at other local celebrations, lending an enthusiastic hand whenever she can. What people don't always see is that Dinkle

has also been working hours on the preparation for these events.

"I was raised in a Connecticut family where serving the community was the norm," Dinkle says. "My father served on the city council and my mother was involved with the Juniors, the garden club, and other local groups."

With a full time job on top of being a mom, she was already very busy in the community. When her progeny prepared to leave for college, she decided to engage more time in the town's affairs and take on more responsibilities.

"I joined the Board of the Moraga Park Foundation in 2001," says Dinkle. That group is known for raising money and funding the ever-popular free summer concert series. Dinkle has been in charge of selecting and contracting with the bands for years. "Going to the park on summer night and seeing all the families (at the concerts) is just a wonderful experience," she says.

Her biggest love affair in Moraga is with the Hacienda de las Flores. An art major and teacher when she started her career, Dinkle has always had a flair for aesthetics and was attracted to the charm and serenity of the Moraga jewel. When the town asked volunteers to serve on a Hacienda committee in 2005 she was selected. The committee recommended the creation of a Foundation that would raise \$1.2 million to repair the Hacienda. Dinkle was instrumental with other committee members and friends to start the foundation's fundraising efforts.

Many projects have been undertaken

by this group. Bob Reynolds, Moraga Park Foundation Board member, recalls the renovation of the kitchen. "Judy was an absolutely critical and instrumental part of the team that initiated and executed the remodel of the Hacienda kitchen," he says, adding that for him Dinkle represents talent coupled with dedication.

Everyone who worked on these projects with her, either remodeling, repairing or putting on events to make the Hacienda a more popular venue rave about her can-do attitude.

"Her expertise in matters of construction and design has made her a most valuable asset to our parks-related projects," says Claire Roth, a member of the Hacienda Foundation Board of Directors. "She is selfless, talented, hardworking, and exceptionally productive."

And she is a delight to be around, adds Reynolds.

After 10 years on the Hacienda Foundation Dinkle has timed out. "I am very hopeful about what the town is doing now with Gould Evans to develop the property," she said, "I'm sure that a restaurant would do very well there." She also believes that a public-private partnership could allow development there.

A dinner to honor Dinkle will be held on April 29 at the Soda Center on the St. Mary's College campus. The event will start at 6 p.m. with a social hour, followed by a buffet dinner at 7 p.m. and the recognition program beginning at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$55 per person. Reservation deadline is Monday, April 25, 2016. Purchase on line at www.moraga-chamber.org.

Best Heirlooms on Sale at Moraga Garden Farms

By Sophie Braccini

Since the mid-1990s Moraga Garden Farms has sold its produce to the best local restaurants, from Chez Panisse in Berkeley to Postino in Lafayette. The heirloom tomatoes that the farm grows from seeds are among the favorites.

Local foodies will rejoice that through April 24 farm volunteers are selling the same plants to the public that local chefs seek. The proceeds help fund the group, which also gives its surplus to those in the area that most need it.

"We have used their tomatoes for many years," says Beth Wells, head chef at Chez Panisse in Berkeley. "We try to buy as much local and organic produce as possible. Their tomatoes are great!"

Deva Rajan, founder and director of the farm, confirms that Heirloom tomatoes are the most popular items.

"Star Grocery loves our hybrid tomatoes also, especially the Early Girls," Rajan said. "We are also delivering fresh summer squash and cucumbers."

Farm volunteer Claire Curtin says that there are four restaurants in Lamorinda that are buying the produce:

Postino, Metro Lafayette, The Rustic Tavern and the Moraga Ranch Cafe on School Street. She adds that in Berkeley and Oakland there are several:

... continued on page A12

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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, April 19, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, April 12, 7 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
Orinda Library

Parks & Recreation Committee.

Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 7:00pm
Orinda Community Center, Room 7
28 Orinda Way, Orinda

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Orinda Unified School District

Monday, April 11, 6 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda
www.orindaschools.org

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



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report March 6 to 19, 2016

Alarms	66
Noise complaints	8
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic stops	65
Suspicious Circumstances	7
Suspicious Subjects	10
Suspicious Vehicles	19
Abandoned Vehicle	
60 block Brookwood Rd.	
4300 block El Nido Ranch Rd.	
Animal cruelty	
Bank of America	
Assault w/deadly weapon	
Orchard Rd./Moraga Way	
Burglary, Auto	
10 block Orinda Way	
500 block Tahos Rd.	
Orinda Way/Camino Sobrante	
El Ribero/Camino Sobrante (2)	
10 block Owl Hill Ct.	
70 block Ardilla Rd.	
20 block Fallen Leaf Ter.	
300 block Dalewood Dr.	
50 block Orchard Ct.	
Civil problem	
80 block Davis Rd.	
80 block Moraga Way	
10 block Lavina Ct.	
60 block Brookwood Rd.	
Coroner's case	
address n/a	
Dependent child	
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.	
DUI	
Moraga Way/El Camino	
Fight	
Orinda Intermediate School	
Fraud	
70 block Hacienda Cr	
Forgery	
200 block Sundown Ter.	
Harassment	
60 block Brookwood Rd.	
Hit & Run	
80 block La Espiral (2)	
600 block Crosswood Pl.	
ID Theft	
200 block Moraga Way	
100 block Crest View Dr.	
Neighbor dispute	
40 block Muth Dr.	
30 block Muth Dr.	
Wild Rye Way/Rabble Rd.	
Ordinance violation	
Estates Dr/Brookside Rd.	
10 block Theatre Square	
Panhandling	
CVS	
Police/Fire/ EMS	
500 block Moraga Way	
20 block Bryant Way	
Public Nuisance	
60 block Moraga Way	
10 block Harran Cir.	
Reckless Driving	
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.	
Camino Pablo/Hwy 24	
Lombardy Ln./Miner Rd.	
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd. (2)	
40 block Muth Dr.	
Honey Hill/Charles Hill Rds.	
Restraining order violation	
Filed with police	
Orinda Senior Village	



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New Village Development will 'Enliven' Orinda

By Vic Ryerson



A rendering of the proposed development on Orinda Way.

Image provided

Orinda Village will be getting a facelift as the Planning Commission approved a major project across the street from Orinda's community center.

After holding a study session and two formal public hearings, the commission approved a commercial development proposal located directly across Orinda Way from the Orinda Library and Community Center. The new building will house ground-level retail and restaurant spaces, second floor offices, and associated rooftop and second story public parking spaces. The plan features a public area for outdoor seating and café tables at the sidewalk level, and existing trees will be incorporated into the sidewalk design.

The developer, Paul Urgenti of Tandem Real Estate Co., adapted the project plan several times in response to comments offered by the commission and the public since it was unveiled in November. The biggest change from the original proposal was to move the front of

the building back an average of three feet to widen the sidewalk to 11 feet – a width the developer says is sufficient to accommodate three double strollers, side-by-side. Overhangs were also pulled back. This change reduced the leasable area by 500 square feet. Commissioner Willy Mautner commended the developer for making these changes, expressing his feeling that the usable sidewalk area "will really enliven the town."

Changes were also made to the front and rear facades in response to comments. Additional changes to the front of the building will reduce the appearance of the architectural themes from three to four. Additional features were added to the rear façade for the same reason, improving the view from the Vintage building behind the site.

Not everyone was entirely pleased with the result. Sixty-five-year Orinda resident Lawrence Burde remarked that "ticky-tack façade architecture is horrible." Other reactions were more restrained, and

the commission directed staff to work with the developer to modify a particularly troublesome Spanish colonial element added to the front in response to earlier comments.

Recognizing that no plan would please everyone, the commission reached a consensus that this project met all of the city's zoning requirements, and is a good first step toward improvement of the downtown. They all agreed that it is an improvement over what exists now. The empty lot, which has languished for many years behind a chain link fence, was previously the site of a defunct service station. Its dimensions, tapering from a width of 100 feet at the south to 50 feet at the north, presented a significant challenge to development because of the economics and various zoning requirements, a fact that the commission acknowledged. The strategic location across from the heart of Orinda's community center also made the project design a particularly sensitive issue for the public.

Approval required waiving the 35-foot height limitation to accommodate certain features of the building, including a tower that will house the elevator shaft. The 10-foot setback requirement from lot lines was also waived, so the building basically fills the entire lot.

The result is a building with an entirely new look for the Village side of Orinda, and may well be a precursor of future designs for projects in the area. "It's a good design," declared Commissioner Claire Sammon Roberts. It "offers what some Orindans say they want," conceded public speaker Bruce London less enthusiastically.

There is a 10-day appeal period before the commission's decision is final.

A three-dimensional virtual animation of a street level drive-by of the building design as it was presented to the commission on March 22 may be viewed at <https://cityoforinda.box.com/s/qu2u7ebz-flv11ytksw00kpyhd5mi9e11>.

City Paves the Way for Revised Roads, Drainage Plan

By Vic Ryerson

Orinda's City Council approved an updated plan for repairing the city roads and associated drainage, an effort that originated in 2012 as the 10-year Plan, but is revisited every two years. The plan was last updated in April 2014.

The plan depends upon approval of future funding of \$47 million by the council and voters, and adds a fifth phase to the previous four to allow for that funding approval to be accomplished in two steps. The council has already acted to put a \$25 million general obligation bond issue on the ballot this June. The remaining \$22 million needed to complete the work will be sought by approval of another bond, parcel

tax or other means in 2018.

The fifth and final phase will involve extending the current half-cent sales tax, which expires in 2022, and seeking other revenue sources to maintain the improved condition of the roads.

The overall objective of the repair program is to increase the condition of all of Orinda's 92.5 miles of paved, publicly owned roads to a minimum Pavement Condition Index (PCI) of 50 or greater over the course of the work, and then have sufficient resources to maintain the roads to that standard afterward. Given the history of gradual deterioration since the city's founding because of the shortage of avail-

able funding in the city's budget, this is an ambitious goal. The city has elected to do the work in stages, funding each stage as the program progresses and revising the plan as each stage nears completion, to gain voter acceptance.

The ongoing project is one that Council Member Amy Worth likened to building a series of buildings, rather than completing a single project. The city is currently performing repairs with revenues raised under the first two phases of the project, as well as state and federal grants and other unplanned sources.

The updated plan adopted by the council on March 15 reflects

changes since the 2014 update, including the passage of Measure L, which approved a one-half cent sales tax increase that provides approximately \$1 million each year, and Measure J, which allows the city to raise \$40 million through a general obligation bond issue for repair of the worst residential roads and associated drainage. Roads are still being repaired under Phases 1 and 2 of the plan.

The city uses a detailed methodology to prioritize the selection of roads to improve to reach the minimum average PCI of 50. The full report and more detailed information are available at the City's website, www.cityoforinda.org.

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- Uncontrollable juvenile**
50 block Barbara Rd.
- Shoplift**
Rite Aid
Safeway
20 block Orinda Way
- Theft, Petty**
Hwy 24/ Camino Pablo
50 block Orchard Rd.
Safeway
100 block Sleepy Hollow Ln.
- Threats**
Wilder/Rabble Rd.
- Trespass**
10 block Orinda Way
- Unwanted Guest**
60 block Moraga Way
Theatre Square
- Vandalism**
20 block Charles Hill Cir.
10 block Spring Court
80 block Tarry Ln.



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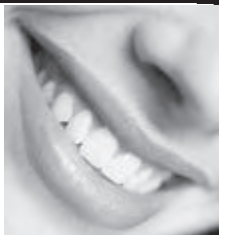
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PG&E Security Plans Rankle Lost Valley Residents in Orinda

By Vic Ryerson



This image of a masonry security wall was presented at the meeting. Image provided

Pacific Gas and Electric Company's plans to beef up the physical security around its Moraga Substation in Orinda's Lost Valley neighborhood immediately fired up the neighbors, who are concerned that the work will adversely affect aesthetics, noise and the environment in the area.

In an effort to address their concerns, PG&E hastily convened a meeting in the Orinda Library at 3 p.m. March 29. Four PG&E managers were present to explain the utility's actions to residents. Attendance by the neighbors was modest because of the workday timing, but those who showed up were very vocal.

Jack Paulus, secretary of the Lost Valley

Association, was present to represent both those who were there as well as others who could not attend, but individual speakers did not hold back. In the end, the raucous meeting produced a detente of sorts, and the prospects for resolution of the dispute look promising going forward.

The Moraga Substation is a key link in the utility's regional electrical grid serving the East Bay. It was built in the late 1940s, and the Lost Valley neighborhood grew up around it. At the meeting Vic Baker, PG&E's senior manager for the Mt. Diablo Division, explained that the construction project is an upgrade required to comply with mandatory security standards. It will principally consist

of a new 12-foot-high masonry wall and a 10-foot-high chain link fence with vinyl slats around the perimeter to obscure the view into the facility. The wall will be built along the front (east) side of the facility, and the fence will enclose the rest.

Construction is slated to begin "immediately" ("about three weeks from now" in PG&E terms, according to Baker) to take advantage of the dry season, and will require about two months to complete if there are no weather-related delays. Crews will work from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and no work is scheduled to be done on weekends at the present time.

The project will require removal or trimming of about 30 trees, and this, along with potential environmental effects to the adjacent creek and noise, became the key issues in the discussion at the meeting. The trees to be affected are of various types, including pine, oak, willow, and redwood.

Residents of the bucolic neighborhood – which includes a barn and pasture on Lost Valley Road – reacted strongly to the possible loss of screening vegetation, and are also concerned about construction noise and disruption.

PG&E explained that the new measures are required under the North American Electric Reliability Corporation Critical Infrastructure Protection Plan (NERC CIP). NERC is a not-for-profit international regula-

tory authority whose mission is to ensure the reliability of the bulk power system in North America. Its physical security standards are mandatory under Federal Energy Regulatory Commission rules. PG&E gave priority to the Moraga Substation project because of the recent Metcalf incident in San Jose in which a major substation was vandalized, threatening the reliability of regional electric service.

PG&E says it notified the City of Orinda of the Moraga Substation project in the fall of 2015, but did not send letters to area residents until March 11, 2016. Lost Valley residents, who are no strangers to threats of encroachment and disruption by developers, quickly rallied in response. Although the meeting produced a lot of smoke in addition to some light, it concluded with an agreement between the two sides to form a joint task force to work out their problems.

"We regret not having completed additional community outreach on this issue," says Tamar Sarkissian, PG&E spokesperson. "As a result of the March 29 community meeting, we are committed to working closely with the City of Orinda and our substation neighbors to ensure clear communication about the substation improvements and our security concerns. Going forward, we are creating a working group with representatives from both PG&E and the neighborhood to discuss this and other ongoing issues."

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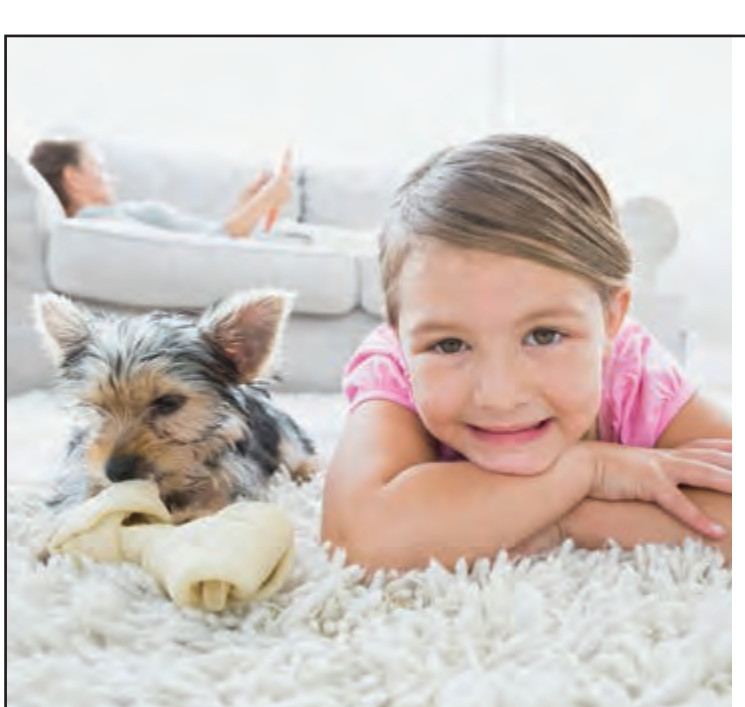
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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, April 6, 7 p.m.
New Meeting Room:
Sarge Littlehale Community Room
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563
For meeting times and
agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors

Tuesday, April 12, 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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Letters to the Editor

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

Thanks to Moraga Leaders for Swift Response

Dear Editor,

We are so fortunate to have both Bob Priebe as our Town Manager and Lt. Jon King as our Chief of Police. Their leadership of the town staff and mutual aid from around the area [during the sinkhole and gas line breaks] helped prevent an event that could have easily turned into what happened in San Bruno, California. All this occurred with the additional problem of the homes sliding off the hillside.

I am sure there will be a formal debriefing to see what could have gone more smoothly and proper steps will be taken to incorporate the ideas in future events.

I feel they should be recognized for their professional response which prevented the loss of many lives. As a citizen of the Town of Moraga, I want to thank them and their staff.

Barry Behr
Moraga

Fix Orinda Roads

Dear Editor,

We were excited to move to Orinda a few years ago and get to know this great city with its beautiful scenery and active community. However, as we began driving around Orinda we were not so excited to discover the terrible condition of some roads. While our new home

is on a newly renovated street, we were surprised that many of the local roads are in such poor condition. We did not expect to need a four wheel drive vehicle to maneuver some of the awful streets.

Good Orinda roads are critical to every Orinda resident, not just for access to our homes, but also for safety and long term community health. We understand a road repair plan is in place and are glad to see that some of the Orinda roads are being repaired. We agree Measure L is needed to continue the work and reach our goal of good public roads throughout Orinda. We urge you to vote YES on Measure L to fix Orinda roads and keep our community moving in the future.

Jeremy and Laura Tieman
Orinda
Vote Yes on L for Orinda Roads

Vote Yes on L

Dear Editor,

For decades, Orindans, in fits and starts, have been trying to find a solution to its roads problem. How does an affluent but small community with 93 miles of public roads in poor condition execute a fix?

It took 10 years and three tries at the ballot box before the community came together and agreed on a phased approach to bring all roads to at least "good" condition. Phases 1 and 2 have gone well, El Niño notwithstand-

ing. Twenty-nine of these 93 miles have been either repaired, are under construction, or have been specifically identified and placed in the repair queue.

Now we need to approve Phase 3, the \$25 million bond proposal known as Measure L. These funds are necessary to continue beyond the 29 miles. Without Measure L, progress will stop when these 29 miles are complete.

But the nattering naysayers, who have no plan of their own fix the roads, want Orinda voters to turn down Phase 3 financing and simply walk away from a job only partially complete. Why? None of their reasons are sound.

Don't be fooled. Vote to continue the excellent start to fixing our roads. Vote to support the road repair project to completion. On June 7, vote YES on Measure L!

Carol Penskar
Orinda

Thank You, PG&E

Dear Editor

Thanks to PG&E for their prompt response to our gas outage last week. The service representatives were very courteous and explained what was happening. We had our gas back on the next day.

Gordon Steele
Moraga

Costs to Repair Sinkhole May Soar

Nearly 23 feet below the broken 27-inch storm drain is the 96-inch culvert that carries Laguna Creek, the same creek that comes above ground at the Hacienda de las Flores and feeds into Moraga Creek.

"We observed deformation of the culvert, offsets at the joints and scouring at the bottom," Kwan said. Water is still running in the pipe and street runoffs and water from the 27-inch broken storm drain have been redirected to the culvert at this time.

Repair costs will far exceed town resources so it is critical that the state recognize the State of Emergency the town declared soon after the sinkhole appeared on March 13, and provide additional funding.

"We have sent a letter to the governor and are expecting state representatives to come soon," Kwan

said. "They will investigate the incident. We will also provide them with our forensic study results."

Kwan explains that this inquiry will study soil samples and the damaged infrastructure, seeking to put together a picture of how it all occurred. Causes of the failure and sinkhole cannot be determined until this is completed.

"Our objective is to bring alternatives (for repair) to the town council on April 27," said Kwan, knowing that this will be a challenge. Many different aspects will have to be taken into account, such as environmental impacts — this is a freshwater creek that ultimately ends into the San Leandro reservoir for drinking water — timeline, cost and other technical factors.

Last August, when Kwan pre-

sented the storm drain master plan to the council, creek culverts were clearly identified as the weakest link in the system. The report evaluated the total cost of delayed maintenance at \$26 million, with \$8.9 million of high priority work. The culvert in the sinkhole was part of that list of hot spots.

At the time the town council decided that there were no funds available to address the problem. The 2016 town goals include studying financing strategies to maintain the antiquated storm drain system. A study is underway to determine responsibilities, since landowners are responsible for what runs under their property unless the town owns an easement.

The council also decided to include the storm drain repairs in

... continued from page A1

a townwide community preference survey. "There are a lot of competing needs," Kwan said. "I have more concerns about infrastructure, but that's just one perspective. The council wants the community to tell the town what needs to be addressed first."

Even as Kwan refuses to be tied to a repair deadline, he wants residents to be assured that the town's team and its consultants are very experienced in managing such problems. He himself was Richmond's City Engineer in 2010 when a 120-foot-long and a 20- to 30-foot deep sinkhole swallowed Via Verdi in that city, costing Richmond \$12 million and taking three years to repair. A 30-year-old culvert carrying San Pablo Creek was the culprit there.

New Editor Doesn't Get Swallowed by Sinkhole

By Peggy Spear



you may remember that this is not my first swing through Lamorinda, as I was editor of the Contra Costa (now Lamorinda) Sun from 2002-2005. I loved those years, getting to know Lamorinda, its civic communities, the schools, and the residents who weave the fabric of this unique place.

Since leaving the Contra Costa Times in 2006 — when my oldest child started high school — I have been editor of two parenting magazines, *Bay Area Parent* and *Parents' Press*. I wrote for local Patch sites and launched Concord Patch in 2010.

My family moved to New Orleans for nearly a year, where I wrote for local papers and parenting magazines, but we missed California and the Bay Area so much we moved back. Since then I have spent my time as a freelance writer and editor for many local publications, most notably the *Weekly's* "cousin" publications, the Concord and Clayton Pioneer. I have been covering Concord civic issues since 2013.

But now I'm back where I feel I belong, and I look forward to meeting — and reacquainting myself — with all of you who make this area one of the best places in the country to live. Sinkholes and all.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at peggy@lamorindaweekly.com with story ideas, civic gripes, business topics, good news, bad news and bragging about your kids. That's what local news is all about.

It was a crazy first issue for me, but it reminded me how much I love covering this community. Some of

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New Signals

When a resident complained she hadn't heard of the project, or the point where the decision was going to be made, Coe itemized the overall number of meetings, which in his quick estimation was over a dozen, along with email blasts and updates on the city website.

The majority of public speakers at the meeting were neighbors who live on side streets that intersect at the crest of Reliez, where one of the signals will be located. They urged approval, citing safety reasons, especially noting the paved path that serves children and cyclists crosses from the west to the east side of the street at that intersection.

One speaker summed it up: "A traffic light is the only way to guarantee safe passage, the inconvenience to the community is minimal." The other signal will be at the intersection of Reliez and Olympic Boulevard.

Both signals would stay on green roughly 99.4 percent of the time, Andersson said, only changing to red when pedestrians or bicyclists hit the button at the crosswalk or for cross-traffic from side streets. "Is that too much to ask?"

"Prepare to stop" signs will be illuminated on the approach to the light and the poles will be long enough to be seen from an adequate distance.

Rae Eckholm asked the city council to rely on the independent opinion of traffic engineering experts Stantec, who collected and analyzed data on the corridor and recommended the installation of traffic signals. Eckholm pointed out

... continued from page A3

that, "we citizens are not traffic engineers." She said the current situation doesn't meet safety regulations and there is no legitimate reason to question the experts who have evaluated the road.

Another neighbor shared a video taken just a couple of hours before the meeting, that demonstrated actual cars blowing through the intersection at Las Trampas as the flashing lights were illuminated, complaining they are "constantly ignored."

If the city does nothing, it could be liable, due to its knowledge of a dangerous condition. "The city has potential (legal) exposure either way," said city attorney Mala Subramanian, whether a light is installed or not. She explained that vintage Reliez Station Road is not necessarily up to the standard that would be built today.

Mayor Mark Mitchell pointed out an important change the city recently made in truck weight rules on Reliez Station Road. Police can now issue \$1,000 citations as an incentive to encourage getting trucks off that road.

There was also some debate as to the timing of the project. City engineer Tony Coe wanted the project to be scheduled for this summer, when there would be less school traffic to reduce construction impacts for the roughly 14,000 cars that use the road every day. Unfortunately some of the necessary equipment requires a three-month lead time prior to delivery, so he asked the city council to approve the purchase of the items in advance of the construction project itself going out to bid; they

would arrive in time to be part of the summer construction window.

In addition, the decision to order the estimated \$100,000 to \$150,000 signal equipment requires the city commit to the project, since it's not possible to cancel the order.

The vast majority of the funding for the estimated \$762,000 project will come from the Contra Costa Transportation Authority's Measure J Major Streets Program.

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Lafayette Gallery Closes

... continued from page A2



Photo Nick Marnell

Instead, the gallery struggled from the outset at its new location, contending with the boulevard construction and the rebuild of Bonehead's Texas BBQ next door.

"We were having a tough time making it," Meredith said. "There was no money for advertising. Press releases can only go so far."

It became a dysfunctional way to run a business, Miller said. "One artist leaves, a new one comes in because they can't afford to stay. We were struggling to pay the bills."

"They asked to lower the rent by half, but I couldn't do that," said Dave Roberson, managing partner

of The Forge, the gallery landlord. "I couldn't support their business. But I offered to let them draw down on their deposit. They gave me a 60-day notice in February.

"I hated to see them go," he said.

According to Miller, two members will take over management of the Diablo Fine Arts Gallery in Walnut Creek, providing a new outlet for the co-op artists to feature their work. Roberson said that potential tenants for the gallery space include a cafe and a menswear retailer.

"It's a big loss for everybody," Miller said.

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Local Designer Has Business in the Bag

By Moya Stone



The Cass Clutch purses will be available online soon after Debra Szidon's Kickstarter campaign ends. Photo provided

Lafayette resident Debra Szidon says that she didn't know a thing about the fashion business or marketing. But that wasn't going to stop the interior designer and mother of three from launching her own line of handbags.

Starting with a vintage purse for inspiration, Szidon began learning a new business over a year ago and now is unveiling a Kickstarter campaign to help fund the first in a series of vintage-style handbags.

It started several years ago when Szidon, who has "always had a thing for vintage items," bought a 1970s clutch handbag from a San Francisco consignment shop.

What attracted her to this particular bag was its shape, versatility, and the patina of age. Brown suede with a leather trim, the rectangle handbag folds over and can be sported as a clutch or carried by the inset handles. It's big enough to be a tote or used as a chic briefcase.

"I've even used it for groceries," says Szidon, who made it her daily go-to purse. "Every time I used this bag everyone — young and old — loved it." All the compliments she received inspired Szidon to recreate the handbag.

Having grown up in New Jersey with a father who restored 1950s and '60s cars, Szidon appreciates the idea of what she calls "restoration from old to new." She imagined

a new life for the vintage styling of her favored bag.

Still, there were many daunting tasks ahead. Szidon had to learn the business of purse manufacturing and fashion marketing.

"I had to teach myself about leather," she says. She started with cobblers and then a friend who makes her own handbags made the first prototypes for Szidon and introduced her to local companies that deal in tanned hides. From there she found SVEN, a leather handbag design company in Berkeley. They created the main pattern and are ready to manufacture her line locally, which is important to Szidon.

Now it's time to market the bag Szidon is calling The Cass Clutch and raise funds to start production. Enter Kickstarter, the popular crowdsourcing platform that raises not only funds, but also awareness. Although there is already a waiting list for The Cass Clutch, the Kickstarter campaign will get the word out as well as confirm for Szidon the extent of interest in her product.

Starting just last December, Szidon quickly learned how Kickstarter works. "It's like a whole other business," she says. As a marketing tool, part of Kickstarter is to have

a polished video that tells a story. Even though she knew the story she wanted to tell, she needed help. Szidon hired a video team that had Kickstarter experience. "It wasn't just about the film — I needed guidance in building the campaign."

Local friends helped too, volunteering for the video the use of a mid-century home and a classic convertible car from the late 60s, all contributing to the retro-California vibe Szidon wanted.

Szidon says that she doesn't think she'd come this far with the project if she were not in California. "People here are really supportive with networking and collaboration. It's so present and welcoming ... California definitely has that spirit."

The Kickstarter campaign launched in March and runs until April 18. After that, Szidon will go into production with The Cass Clutch and sell initially online.

For information on the Kickstarter program for The Cass Clutch, visit <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1432071361/the-cass-clutch-a-vintage-inspired-handbag>.

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

business briefs

Bill Sullivan Named Moraga's Employee of the Month

Bill Sullivan, the Director of Scheduling and Special Events at St. Mary's College, has been named the Moraga Employee of the Month for March.

Sullivan oversees the scheduling and execution of hundreds of events and promotions at the college each year and makes sure all the needs are met with professionalism.

"Bill is a wonderful ambassador of our college," said Vice Provost of Enrollment and Communications for SMC, Hernan Bucheli. "He handles so many events and always finds way to solve scheduling issues and special requests when they pop up."

In winning the award, the Moraga Rotary and Chamber of Commerce will award Sullivan a gift card to Safeway as well as a gift card to Ristorante Amoroma in Moraga. Sullivan will be presented with his



Roger Gregory, Rotary President, Bill Sullivan, Hernan Bucheli, Provost Saint Mary's College. Photo provided

award and gifts at an upcoming Moraga Rotary lunch at the college.

"Paths to Success" Business Forum

The Lamorinda Business Forum Presents "Paths to Success" from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on April 20, in the Lamorinda Music "Big Room" Theatre, Downtown Lafayette.

This lively panel discussion features three Lafayette brick-and-mortar business owners whose businesses have thrived by taking unique paths. The featured speakers are Tom Stenzel of Venture Quality Goods (opened 2012), Carole Sinclair of Farnyard Darlings (opened 2010, second location opened 2015 and) Colleen McCormick of Lamorinda Music (opened 2009).

"We chose these three business owners thoughtfully," says Jay Lifson, Executive Director of the Lafayette Chamber, who is serving as moderator for the panel. "Each has succeeded because they have found a way to differentiate their business in a competitive market (even during the recession), identify their ideal target customers and communicate to them effectively."

In addition to attracting local customers, each of these businesses has succeeded by attracting customers outside of Lamorinda, too. It helps that they each offer great products, merchandise them well, and deliver excellent customer service.

"I love that they all live in Lafayette, too," says Lifson. "We can each learn something from them that will help our own business, including the Chamber."

The event is free and open to the public, but space is limited. RSVP recommended. Presented by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. Visit <http://bit.ly/lamorindabizforum> for tickets and information.

From the Chambers Lafayette

A Ribbon Cutting celebration will be held at 5 p.m. on Thursday, April

28 at the Tail Haven Hotel & Day Lounge, 3399 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

A Ribbon Cutting celebration will be held at 5 p.m. May 26 for Oakbay Chiropractic-Lamorinda, located at 1080 Carol Lane in Lafayette.

Moraga

The Entrepreneurs Lunch Series continues at 12 p.m. on Monday, April 11, at the home/made kitchen cafe & bakery, 337 Rheem Blvd. Cost is \$10.

This month's topic is "Mentoring: for the Mentee and Mentor," and will feature an interactive discussion with Jim Carlson from SCORE. Carlson has over 20 years of various sales leadership positions at Fortune 100 technology companies, where he successfully led Global OEM account teams. He has experience developing new markets as well as owning and selling his own company. Jim has participated in formal Mentor programs for over 10 years.

Open to both members and non-members. RSVP required to kathe@moragachamber.org.

The monthly Chamber Mixer will be held at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, at Bullfrog Creek Vineyard, 35 Hansen Ct. in Moraga. Hosts are Bullfrog Creek, Hall of Taxes and Hollie Felts-Howell.

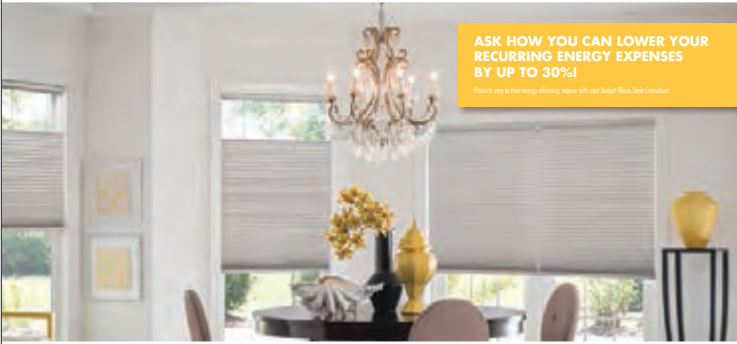
Orinda

The Orinda Chamber of Commerce and the Orinda Rotary present the Orinda Trivia Bee on Friday, April 29 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Dr. Orinda. Cost is \$360 per team (up to six people per team), which includes a family style dinner. Doors open at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. and the game begins at 7 p.m. sharp. Winners take a cash prize for the nonprofit of their choice. Reserve a table quickly, as only 16 tables are available. To purchase a table go to orindachamber.org, call 254-3909 or email info@orindachamber.org.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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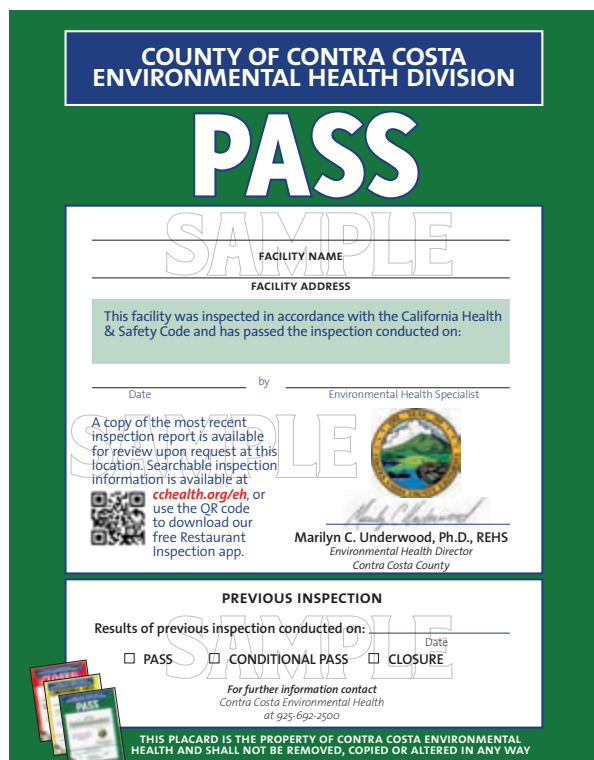
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New Signs Will Encourage Lamorinda Eateries to Be Healthy

By Nick Marnell



Lamorindans will soon be able to tell the health and food safety record of their favorite eating establishment just by looking in the window.

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors last month adopted an ordinance requiring food purveyors to post a color-coded placard informing the public about violations discovered during their most recent health inspection. The program will be phased in starting with regular inspections after April 15.

“The placards are another great resource for our residents who want to make informed decisions about where they eat,” Board Chair Candace Andersen said. “With the placards prominently posted, they will be able to instantly tell whether there have recently been any health code violations.”

A green placard means zero or one major violation, yellow means two or more and red will be posted if a busi-

ness is shut down because of an imminent health hazard. Major violations include food measured at unsafe temperatures, a sick employee handling food, or equipment that is unclean or not properly sanitized. Any of the problems discovered by a Contra Costa Environmental Health inspector must be corrected on the spot.

Tampering with or removal of the placards, which can be posted only by Environmental Health inspectors, may result in the business losing its operator’s permit.

“Our primary goal is to reduce food-borne illness,” Environmental Health Director Dr. Marilyn Underwood said in a statement. “Making inspection results highly visible appears to have an impact on making businesses that sell food operate more safely.”

“It’ll certainly keep everyone on their toes,” said Pat Vahey of Peninni’s

Pizza and Pasta in Moraga. “I’m not that concerned about it. If you keep a clean shop, you won’t have anything to worry about.”

For one Lamorinda chain restaurant, Denver-based Chipotle Mexican Grill, a green placard likely cannot be posted quickly enough. Customers across the country have recently contracted food-borne illnesses from eating at Chipotle, and to ensure better food safety, the restaurant announced it will process more of its ingredients through centralized kitchens. Neither Chipotle area manager Anthony Thomas nor director of public relations Chris Arnold chose to comment on the placard program.

Contra Costa Health Services maintains a searchable database of county health inspection results through its free Food Inspector app, downloadable for Google Android and Apple iOS operating systems.

There’s a Lot to Cheer About in Cheerleading Competitions

By Cathy Dausman



The Miramonte Competitive Cheer team is serious about their sport, winning the national championship in the Varsity Small Show Cheer Division. Photo provided

Succeeding at Miramonte High School’s National Champion Competitive Cheer Team is a bit like climbing the human pyramids its members build.

It began last April when 32 female students were selected as members of the Spirit Team Cheer, said parent Gina Armstrong-Smith. This group performed during MHS football and basketball games.

Several weeks later, a subset of 12 Spirit Team members were selected to form the Competitive Cheer Team. For three hours a day, three days a week, the team worked on physical conditioning and developed two-and-one-half-minute timed performances consisting of a dance routine, stunting (pyramids) and standing and running flips, known as tumbling.

Stature determines where each team member is placed; younger, smaller athletes top the pyramid while taller athletes take back row spots on the ground. Cheer and execution portions of each performance are similar to gymnastics moves,

and like gymnastics, performances may involve risks.

Junior Sydney Smith knows because she’s been dropped. “It’s pretty dangerous,” Smith says.

Smith and best friend Jessie Musacchio, a senior with four years on the Cheer team, each bring 10 years of gymnastics know-how to Cheer. The two explain that gymnastics is a more mentally challenging sport for individuals, while Cheer is more a physically demanding team sport. Practice starts in October, and regional competitions begin in December and run through February. Win enough regional competitions, and the team advances to nationals, where as many as 1,000 students compete in categories ranging from small to super-sized groups in novice, intermediate and advanced classes. A team of four to seven judges award points for the energy, showmanship, difficulty, recovery, cheer and execution portions of each performance.

MHS Cheer placed first in three regional competitions this year and second in two others before competing against 23 teams in Anaheim this March to earn the Varsity Small Show Cheer Division National Championship.

And that, as they say, is something to cheer about.

Acalanes High School entered 28 competitors in the Super Large Varsity Show Cheer division in Anaheim but did not advance to the final round. Cheer coordinator

Sallina Boynton said theirs was “a very hard division.”

“Miramonte did phenomenal,” Boynton said.

Campolindo High School does not have a Competitive Cheer Team.

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Students Fight off El Niño at Stanley Competition

... continued from page A1



In spite of rain cloud headgear, Audrey Davis (left) and Kristi Conner have a sunny outlook for their Rube Goldberg project Photo Cathy Dausman

This year students coaxed dominoes to topple, ran toy cars and marbles down ramps and through chutes, and used pulleys, levers and zip lines to complete the seemingly endless task of opening an umbrella. Rain gear was abundant, and the presentations were imaginative. One group prefaced their turn with a skit involving a three-way conversation between a drought-challenged farmer, the weather forecaster and Mother Nature. Another literally turned the finale on its head by filling their umbrella with marbles and opening it upside down.

It was a young group this year, comprised largely of sixth-grade presenters, said science teacher and organizer Michael Meneghetti. Meneghetti says Stanley is the only middle school in Northern California to offer the Rube Goldberg event, which is a scaled-back version of the Purdue University challenge originating in 1949. While the college-level challenge encourages entrants to use as many steps as possible, for size and time reasons the Stanley version was limited to a 12-step process. Overall layout dimensions were a maximum 130 by 75 by 100 centimeters (this is a science project, after all). Meneghetti standardized just

one item in each project – the umbrella.

"We didn't want full sized umbrellas," he said, nor did he want anyone to opt for those tiny cocktail umbrellas, so each team used the same 10-inch paper umbrella.

Stanley students "put 40 to 50 hours into their 'babies,'" Meneghetti said. Still, the setups are fragile and he said that 80 to 90 percent of the machinery misfires the first time. That is why each team runs its invention twice. The groups were judged by a panel of four — a parent, a high school student, a school board member and Lafayette resident, each looking smart and official decked out in lab coats and carrying clipboards.

"I just love coming back [to judge]," said Teresa Gerring, whose college student is a science major.

"I'm delighted to be in a community where I can volunteer in so many events where kids explore science and the arts," said another judge, Dave Briccetti. "I'm very impressed with the science program and teachers at Stanley."

Entrants were allowed five minutes to set up their machine and five minutes to prep for a re-run. Some performed better than others. Jack Matson's "ran flawlessly" in his science class earlier that day, but not so well at the competition. When asked what went wrong with his team's initial run, participant Jack answered succinctly: "everything."

In the end, it was "all about the opportunity," Meneghetti said, adding this was "an impressive year." And because most entrants were sixth graders, they'll have another chance to out-Rube Rube Goldberg in 2018.

Learn more about Rube Goldberg and the namesake nonprofit "dedicated to keeping laughter and invention alive" by visiting www.rubegoldberg.com.

"The Art of Rube Goldberg" by Jennifer George is also available.

**2016 Stanley Middle School Rube Goldberg awards:
 Outstanding Machine Awards:**

- Group 5**
Paige Towery, Lucas Ross, Marco Stassi
- Group 7**
Kai De La Cruz, Ian McBride
- Group 10**
Eilidh Kilpatrick, Malena Vermut-Young
- Judges Choice:**
- Group 12**
Lauren Stadt, Lynn Wolfe, Sophia Browne

Best Heirlooms on Sale ... continued from page A5

Chez Panisse, Cesar, Pizzaiolo, Penrose, The Grease Box and Kroner's Burgers. "Our produce are also sold in markets, like Star Grocery on Claremont Avenue in Berkeley and Diablo Foods in Lafayette," she adds.

Rajan says that the number of delivery points will not grow because the organization is and will remain small. "We deliver about 300 pounds of tomatoes, about 200 lbs. of summer squash, cu-

cumbers, eggplants and peppers, twice a week," he says. "Deliveries continue from late June through mid-October. The sale of fresh produce represents about two-thirds of our farm income. One-third is from plant sales."

The farm is located at 1290 Moraga Way, next to the fire station in downtown Moraga, on a property rented from the Bruzzone family. The non-profit group is 60-members strong.

They work on the farm every week and share the produce that isn't sold, while some goes to charity.

Every year the farmers grow their plants from seeds in their greenhouses and produce enough that about 3,000 small plants can be sold to the public between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday through April 24. Each 4-inch pot costs \$3.

Hillside and Ridgeline ... continued from page A4

The council and consultant had difficulty finding quantifiable standards, such as a certain percentage of the hillside that could be fixed to protect the character of Moraga. The consultant said he would work on language to create a visual separation between new development and ridgelines.

The council members did agree with the recommendations by Noble and the steering committee to create a single consistent MOSO map incorporating property lines and existing developments; include the totality of Indian Ridge in the MOSO ridge line map; define the term "development" as displacement of material, grading, change in density, or construction of a structure; and design a new high-risk map using the latest information and technology.

Council members Onoda and Roger Wykle voiced concerns that removing the requirement for a hillside development permit could cre-

ate a loophole. They asked the consultant to check what would happen for developments on a slope greater than 20 percent, with more than 50 yards of soil removal.

Current text says that no development on MOSO land is allowed on slopes greater than 20 percent. It was decided that the area used to calculate the average slope includes the home and its landscaped area, called the building envelope, and that average slopes must be below 20 percent.

Some argued that if a developer remediates the high-risk nature of his land, then the density should be increased, noting that since remediation can be a benefit to the community and is very costly, some compensation should be included. The majority of the council disagreed, stating that when high-risk areas are fully remediated, the density allowed at that location should not change.

There was also a discussion to decide whether or not the term "dominating the landscape" should be added to a definition of a non-MOSO ridgeline. The consultant suggested he return with different maps according to different definitions, so the council could make a decision.

The last topic discussed had less to do with hillsides and ridgelines, and more to do with the size of homes built along the town's scenic corridors. The majority decision was to cap these highly visible home sizes in Moraga to 5,500 square feet, with a sliding scale for property between 20,000 square feet and 1 acre.

Drafting and agreeing on the revised texts should continue through the end of the year. There will be additional opportunities for public input during that time. For more information about the hillside and ridgeline project, visit www.moraga.ca.us/hillsides.

Volunteers Help With Woodworking Skills

By Chris Lavin



David Fleisig, a volunteer in the Campolindo wood shop class, demonstrates to students how unique small boxes can be turned with a lathe using creative techniques. Teacher Don Dupont is in the rear. Photo Chris Lavin

Plenty of homes in Lamorinda have projects hanging on the walls that came straight out of Campolindo High School's wood shop, a class taught by one of the school's favorite teachers, Don Dupont. These houses might have more key racks than keys and more California Bear-shaped clocks than kitchens to put them in. The point of the class, however, is not to adorn the walls but to teach life skills.

And those skills would largely not be learned but for a small and dedicated band of volunteers who help Dupont with large classes – and for the feint-of-heart parents who might want to skip this part – many very high-voltage power tools. We're talking table saws, drill presses, routers and blade saws.

Yet in the 16 years Dupont has been at the school (with four years elsewhere, and fine-furniture making before that), the worst thing that has ever happened is the occasional minor cut.

"I love this job. I have the greatest job in the school but also the hardest job," Dupont said – because he has 28 students in some classes. "I have to be diligent."

But he also points to his experienced adult volunteers for help in advancing the skills of students

while keeping students safe. Enter volunteer David Fleisig – literally – because Fleisig has just walked through the door. Dupont rips him about the T-shirt he's wearing that says "Get Lost," but it's really for a search-and-rescue group that finds people who are lost.

"The kids will like this," Fleisig defends himself, looking down at his shirt.

Longtime wood-turner Jacques Blumer of Moraga recruited a few good volunteers to start the volunteer program about 10 years ago. Fleisig is a lawyer, retired now except for "a bunch" of pro bono work he does when he can. He can spare only one day a week for the class, but he never misses one.

"I wouldn't," he said. "These kids are great, and some have really great projects."

In the 20 minutes before their students began to arrive, Fleisig and Dupont commiserated about the best and worst of teaching kids the art of transforming wood. "It runs the gamut," Dupont said, and Fleisig nodded his head. Measuring and dividing seems to be one of the students' biggest problems, they said. "Metrics would be so much easier in wood-cutting," Dupont added. And for another problem,

"there are these darn things," he said, holding up a cell phone.

Of course there are some students who just want to get through the class; then there are others who truly shine: Dupont's students have won state awards with their projects, and Dupont and Fleisig both brighten when they display ribbons and photos of their students' work.

A highly creative high table, the size of a lectern, stands at the front of the Lafayette Library, for instance, created by a team in the class. The piece appears to be a stack of books with a tabletop set on top. The team even etched the names of classics on the spines of the tomes. When Dupont said the way they built it might not be stable enough, that it would need "feet," the students put wooden cutouts of feet on the bottom of the legs for stability.

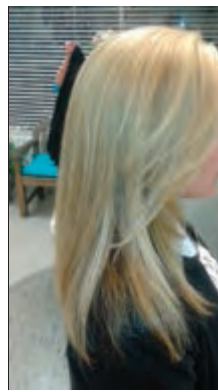
"There has been some amazing work that's come out of this class," Fleisig said. He enjoys talking to the students the most.

"And some become so interested in the work," he said. "They become really good. They'll use these skills for life. And that's very gratifying."



Campolindo wood shop volunteer David Fleisig gives advice to junior Bobby Poole on how to orient a project.

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Good Fortune Smiles on 87-Year-Old When She Finally Meets Her TV Idols

By Cynthia Brian



From Left: Joan Rankin, Heather Brittany Rankin, Brian Rankin, Vanna White, Alice Abruzzini, Pat Sajak and Cynthia Brian. Photo Carol Kaelson, with permission

Since the "Wheel of Fortune" TV show debuted in 1983, Alice Abruzzini has invited Pat Sajak and Vanna White into her family room for a half hour of fun and games every Monday through Friday between 7:30 and 8 p.m. Friends and family know not to call the octogenarian weekdays during that half hour or they'll get this curt answer: "Sorry I can't talk right now because I'm watching 'Wheel of Fortune.' Please call back later!"

The top item on her bucket list for three decades has been to visit the set as part of the audience. Since she is 87, living in Northern California without any ties to the show, she was certain that was one bucket list item that would never be crossed out. But in November, Campolindo graduate Brian Rankin spent a day auditioning to be a contestant on "Wheel of Fortune." At the end of the day, the casting director informed him that if he was chosen it would probably take two years before a shoot date was selected. Exactly two weeks later, Brian's phone rang and he was informed that not only had he been chosen to compete, but they needed him in the studio the following week. There were two caveats: One, he could only bring

four people as his audience cheerleaders; two, they had cast four people for three spots on the show. There was a 25 percent chance that he would not be this shoot date. Besides his wife, Heather, and his mother, Joan (who is also a great fan), he knew that one of his choices had to be his grandmother-in-law, Nonie: Alice Abruzzini. Nonie was ecstatic with the invitation until she looked at her calendar and realized that she had already R.S.V.P'd "yes" to another important family event. When you are the mother of five, grandmother of 11, great grandmother to 10, and Nonie to everyone, juggling celebrations is cause for anxiety. With the rest of the family's blessing and enthusiastic encouragement, Nonie set off for her Wheel of Fortune adventure in Los Angeles.

Fortunately Brian was chosen as a contestant for that specific date and Nonie was able to live her dream, clapping, yelling and cheering from the audience bleachers. She waved to Pat and Vanna and even had her photograph taken with them.

How did our local Moraga contestant do? Tune in at 7:30 on Monday, April 11 for the rest of the story...

Town Hall Music Festival Hits the Right Notes

Submitted by Tom Stack



From left, Ron Bruder and Pat Nevins perform at the 2015 Lafayette Community Music Festival. Photo provided

Lafayette's Town Hall Theatre will present the sixth annual Lafayette Community Music Festival, to be held on Saturday April 16.

Featured this year are Dream Posse, Stevie Coyle of Lafayette's Mighty Fine Guitars, Garageland Rodeo, Reminisce, Hard Rain and the Town Hall Kids.

The musicians donate their time and talents to the event, while performing 25-30 minute acoustic sets in a Bridge School-style format. "This event is a labor of love," says Tom Stack, vice-president of Town Hall. "The musicians believe that live music and the arts need to be supported at all costs, and are willing to donate their time and considerable talents to that very cause."

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the music starts at 7:30 p.m. For more information on the festival, visit www.townhalltheatre.com.



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SUMMER CAMPS 2016

29 camps listed

10th Annual Summer Camp Guide

Part 2, Half-Day Camps (Part 1, full-day camps, March 9 2016)

CREATIVE ARTS/THEATRE/MUSIC

Academy of Language and Music Arts/ ALMA (Orinda)

Private lessons in all instruments, including guitar, piano, drums, band instruments, strings and voice. Also private lessons in languages, including Italian, French, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese and ESL. Special summer group classes and performing ensembles, including rock combo, jazz combo, vocal ensemble, drum circle, theatre and acting skills. All ages and levels are welcome; located at 99 Brookwood Rd., Orinda. Dr. James Fiatarone, Director. In Orinda since 1994.

Dates: various dates and times available (please contact office for information and/or to enroll)

Phone: (925) 254-5056; (925) 254-5053

Website: www.alma-leap.com

Fun music lessons! (Lafayette)

The Lamorinda School of Musical Arts is offering a summer program of individual lessons (piano or voice) for students ages 3 and up. A Grammy Award winner, director Xiomara Di Maio is well known in the Lamorinda area for her creative approach and joyful way of teaching children. She also teaches at Stanley Middle School, and is the Preparatory Chorus Director at the San Francisco Boys Chorus. Dates: schedule based on your availability.

Email: xiomydma@gmail.com

Phone: (925) 878-5159

see ad

Sewnow! Fashion Design (Lafayette)

Learn fashion design and sewing at Sewnow fashion studio. It offers a variety of one-week half-day and full-day camps for juniors (second and third grade), kids, and teens. Have a blast, learn to design, sew, and illustrate like a pro and walk away with unique personalized fashion items. Camps include fashionkit patterns and digital instructions, fabrics, notions, custom embroidery, and participation in our end of summer fashion show.

Dates: June-August

Website: www.sewnow.com

Phone: (925) 283-7396

see ad

Journey to the Art of Summer Art Room Summer Day Camp (Lafayette)

Students enjoy the creative process while learning art skills in a nurturing environment. The Journey to the Art of Summer is a journey toward individual expression, improved craftsmanship, and an overall love of art. Campers get to experience a variety of artistic media, including sculpture, drawing, painting, and more! Dates: one-week half day or whole day sessions June 13 - Aug. 19, with an extra "Lil' Minions Camp" session for ages 4-6 from Aug. 22-26

Website: www.theart-room.com

Phone: (925) 299-1515

see ad

The Crucible Youth Summer Camps (Oakland)

Hands-on creative fun making art, while learning real-world skills! Kids participate in any of 15 exciting departments including ceramics, enameling, glass blowing, hot wheels, jewelry, neon, kinetics, textiles, welding, woodworking and others. Morning and afternoon sessions available.

Dates: six 1-week sessions, June 20 - Aug. 5

Website: www.theCrucible.org

Phone: (510) 444-0919

Town Hall Education Summer Camps and Classes (Lafayette)

The award-winning Town Hall Theatre educational programs return this summer featuring skills-based and performance-based theatre classes for preschool to high school-aged students. Great for young performers as well as students who wish to expand their public speaking, social, and team-working skills.

Dates: June-Aug.

Website: www.TownHallTheatre.com

The Lamorinda Weekly Summer Camp listings are not paid advertising. Our intent is to provide a useful reference guide. In the event we have inadvertently printed misinformation, please let us know. LW is not liable for errors or omissions.

It's only April, which means there is plenty of time to sign your child up for an unforgettable summer experience. Check out our listing of local camps and programs sure to engage your young camper, no matter their interests. There is a camp for everyone!

--Lamorinda Weekly



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Open House
Sat April 16th
3pm-5pm

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The Writing Studio

A Camp for Young Writers

June 13-July 1
July 5-August 5

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CAMP YOUNG WRITERS is open to students in grades 3-12 who strive to improve their writing skills. Projects consist of first person narratives, historical biographies and literature analyses. Our camps will take place **June 13-July 1** and **July 5-August 5**; sessions will be held three days per week, 2-5 pm.

For further information, please call **925-385-0211** or visit us at www.lafayettewritingstudio.com.

3455 Golden Gate Way, Suite A, Lafayette (925) 385-0211

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Our summer program is designed to provide an enjoyable but very real introduction to the great sport of rowing. We use these introductory camps as a recruiting program for all of our rowing teams. They provide excellent training for beginning rowers in rowing technique, teamwork, physical fitness and endurance. Within a week rowers will gain enough experience to compete in their very first race, an exciting experience for all! Classes now available on the San Pablo Reservoir or Oakland Estuary.

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June 13 th - 17 th	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)
June 20 th - June 24 th	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)
June 27 th - July 1 st	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)
July 11 th - 15 th	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)
July 18 th - 22 nd	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)
July 25 th - 29 th	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)

*Intermediate sessions available to athletes who have completed a prior one week introductory session or our middle school program

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www.oaklandstrokes.org

SUMMER CAMPS 2016

ACADEMIC/LANGUAGE/SCIENCE

Amazing Math Classes (Moraga)

Weeklong sessions taught by experienced, funny teachers through the Moraga Parks and Recreation Department. Sessions include elementary school math and science, sports and statistics, algebra I, high school geometry, and algebra II. Contact head teacher Michael Adler or Moraga Parks and Rec Department. Individual or small group tutoring also available.
Email: m.adler@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.moraga.ca.us
Phone: (925) 888-7036

FIRECRACKER MATH Summer Camp (Lafayette, Oakland, Berkeley)

Extra-curricular math for curious and challenge-loving kids from 6 to 16. Topics are selected from Number Theory, Geometry, Combinatorics, Graphs, Logic, and more. Instructions employ math games, magic tricks, and paradoxes to spark kids' interest and boost their skills and confidence in math. Small groups. Full day option is available.
Email: hello@firecrackerforum.org
Website: www.firecrackermath.org/mathcamps/
Phone: (510) 488-4556

Lorie Tutors Writing Camp (Moraga)

This week-long camp for incoming first-third graders with Mrs. Lorie (a Rheem Kindergarten teacher), will help foster a love of writing. Focusing on fun and engaging lessons and activities, campers will learn engaging strategies to write narrative, information, and opinion pieces. Maximum of 12 students.
Dates: June 13 - 17
Website: www.lorietutors.squarespace.com

Orinda Academy (Orinda)

Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, English, ESL, Mandarin, Blending/Online Courses. Personalized instruction with 9:1 student-to-teacher ratio. Orinda Academy classes meet state requirements for credit and are UC-approved.
Dates: June 20 - August 5 (9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Mon. - Fri.)
Website: www.orindaacademy.org
Phone: (925) 254-7553

Saklan School (Moraga)

Summer @ Saklan provides culture, language and summer fun for ages 3-11. Mornings on campus are filled with enrichment in Mandarin, French, Japanese, Spanish and Italian. Afternoons are packed with summer fun, including field trips, swimming, art & music. Three-week sessions 8:30 - 4:30. Full or half days, with extended care available. Mini Campers, ages 3-5 & Explorers, ages 6-11.
Dates: Jun. 13 - Aug. 12
Website: www.saklan.org
Phone: (925) 376-7900

Spanish Immersion Summer Camps with Viva el Español (Lafayette)

Learn or improve Spanish language skills through games, music, arts & crafts, and cooking! During each week-long camp students learn vocabulary related to a specific kid-friendly theme such as Los Deportes (Sports) or Central American Adventure. Half Day 9am-noon, Full Day 9am-3pm.
Website: www.vivaelespanol.org
Phone: (925) 962-9177

Summer Bridge Math (Moraga)

This program, intended to be both fun and educational, is designed to reinforce previous math concepts, while introducing future ones. Manipulatives and interactive problem solving will be a part of each session. Groups will consist of no more than nine students and will meet four times over the summer. Mr. Lorie, a JM math teacher, will lead the sessions.
Dates: various dates and times
Website: www.lorietutors.squarespace.com

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The Writing Studio - Camp Young Writers (Lafayette)

Summer camps at The Writing Studio provide both writing instruction and one-on-one sessions for grades 3-12. Writers step into a world of storytelling and essay-based expository writing, developing strong writing skills in the process.
Dates: June 13 - July 1 and July 5 - August 5
Website: www.lafayettewritingstudio.com
Phone: (925) 385-0211

SPORTS

Artemis Rowing (Oakland)

Artemis Rowing is a competitive rowing program based at Oakland's Jack London Aquatic Center. Throughout summer, Artemis is offering fun Learn to Row camps for students in grades 6-12. Enroll in two or more and be ready for our middle/high school teams in fall! Ideal for grades 8-10.
Website: www.ArtemisRowingClub.org
Phone: (510) 542-9673

Cougar Youth Football Camp (Moraga)

The Cougar Youth Football Camp directed by Head Coach Kevin Macy for grades 4-8 is held at Campolindo High School. All equipment is supplied; T-shirt is included. Registration forms can be found at campfootball.net.
Dates: July 11-22 (Monday - Friday, 1:30 to 5 p.m.)
Website: www.campfootball.net

Orinda Tennis Academy Summer Camps (Orinda)

Elevate your game and take it to the next level while enjoying cooler temperatures in Orinda! For participants of all ages and abilities. Enjoy making new friends, having fun, working hard and developing tennis skills. Camps located at the Orinda Park, 28 Orinda Way, next to the Library. Dates: All Summer Hot Shots Tennis Camps (Ages 4-8) Jr. Tennis Camps (Ages 9-15) Directed by Drew Diefenbach, USPTA Certified Elite Coach
E-mail: tenniscoachdrew@gmail.com
Enroll on-line: www.OrindaTennis.com

Miramonte Swim Club (MSC) (Orinda)

2016 Swim Team, Spring Stroke Clinics, and Junior Gator Learn-to-Swim program open for registration.
Website: www.msccgators.com
Phone: (925) 247-8110

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Dates: Various one-week sessions starting June 13.
Email: oaklandstrokes@gmail.com
Website: www.oaklandstrokes.org

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Dates: August 15 - 19
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see ad Summer Tennis Camp - St. Mary's College (Moraga)

Camps will address technical, tactical, and fitness aspect of the game through personal instruction and specifically designed age/level appropriate drills, as well as competitive aspect through match play and fun games. Full day or half day sessions are available. Dates: 1 week sessions June 13 - August 12 Website: www.smctenniscamps.com

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS

see ad Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church (Moraga)

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church's "Racing in Rio" Vacation Bible School, an Olympic adventure with God! For children who are 4 years old (by June 20) to those entering fifth grade in the fall. Dates: June 20-24; 9 a.m. to noon Cost: \$70 per child Website and Registration: www.mvpctoday.org Phone: (925) 376-4800

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (Lafayette)

Cave Quest: Following Jesus, the Light of the World Gear up for an adventure! At Vacation Bible Camp this year, we will ground kids in the rock-solid foundation of God's love through songs, stories, games, experiments, and more. Camp is where kids experience the love of Jesus that will take them through life's dark times while sharing that love with others in a safe and fun environment. For 4-year-olds through completed fourth graders. Dates: June 13-17, afternoon Cost: \$60/child (after May 1, \$75) E-mail: ryan@LOPC.org Website: www.LOPC.org Phone: (925) 283-8722 x234

Willow Spring Church (Moraga)

Vacation Bible School is an exciting place for kids to come make new friends, have fun, and learn about the bible. Willow Spring Church employees and volunteers have planned out fun games, crafts, videos, songs, and healthy snacks! 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. for grades 1-6. Dates: July 18 - 22 Website: www.willowspringchurch.com Phone: (925) 376-3550

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Moraga Parks and Recreation Summer Camps (Moraga)

Parks Make Life Better ... and so do summer camps! A variety of camps are offered through the Moraga Parks and Recreation Department: Little Medical School, Creator Camp, Sciensational, Techsplosion, Coding Camp, Bricks 4 Kidz, Kindercool, Skyhawks Sports, Math, Cooking with Kids, and more! Registration is currently open. Dates: various dates and times available Phone: (925) 888-7045 Website: www.moragarec.com

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Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church



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New Eagle Scouts for Troop 237

Submitted by Greg Ansel



New Eagle Scouts from Troop 237 are Griffin Ansel, John Novogradac, Ian Livingston, Carter Fife and Jack Jorgensen. Photo Michael Novogradac

Boy Scout Troop 237 of Orinda honored five new Eagle Scouts, **Ian Livingston, Griffin Ansel, John Novogradac, Carter Fife and Jack Jorgensen** on March 20 at the Orinda Community Church. Troop 237 is chartered by the Orinda Community Church and has served the community for over 60 years with 225 scouts earning the highest rank of Eagle Scout.

Ian is a sophomore at Miramonte High School and his Eagle Project reflected his keen interest in the outdoors and the environment. Ian built nursery houses for bats and mounted them at the park rangers' station at the Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve. The four-chamber bat houses can hold up to 1,000 bats and will benefit the environment by spreading seeds, pollinating flowers and eating insects.

Griffin is a junior at Miramonte High School. Griffin, a varsity football player, wanted his Eagle Project to benefit Miramonte and incorporate his love of sports. He worked closely with the head football coach to design, build and organize storage cubbies at Miramonte to hold the shoulder pads and helmets in the off-season. The enhanced storage facilities will store the equipment without damaging them and will extend both their life expectancy and effectiveness.

John is a sophomore at Head-Royce School. John, a varsity baseball player, met and brainstormed with leaders of the Oakland Girls

Softball League (OGSL) and cleaned, organized and built shelving to store OGSL softball equipment in a secure Oakland location. As part of his project he led young people, including scouts, to clean, inventory and organize the OGSL equipment.

Carter is a senior at Bentley High School. Carter, an avid reader, wanted to find an Eagle project that would allow him to share access of quality books with readers from Oakland to Africa. Carter's Eagle Project collected unwanted books door-to-door by personal solicitation and then led a team to sort the books according to type and condition. The books most relevant to African readers were shipped to Books for Africa with the rest donated to the Oakland Library.

Jack is a senior at Miramonte High School and wanted to give back to the community. Jack's Eagle Project was to create navigational aids for First Responders to be able to navigate their way around Miramonte High School efficiently in the event of an emergency. His project included positioning and painting Compass Rose directional markers throughout the campus as well as painting classroom numbers making the campus easier to navigate for emergency medical service, fire and police responders in the case of an emergency.

For more information about Troop 237, please visit www.troop237orinda.com.

Community Service

Troop 224 Eagle Scouts Honored

Submitted by Shelley Smith



From left: Peter Candell, Riley Smith, Colin Smith and Joshua Douglas. Photo provided

Four scouts from Troop 224 in Lafayette were honored at a March 26 banquet for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Scoutmaster is Kyle Blocker.

For his Eagle Scout community service project, **Peter Joseph Candell**, the son of Brian and Susan Candell, worked with John Eaton, a board member of the Lafayette Community Garden, to build two "Creek Viewing Areas."

During his scouting career, Peter earned more than a dozen merit badges, and the National Youth Leadership Training certificate of achievement. He hiked with scouts to the top of Mt. Whitney last summer, attended Philmont Scout Ranch High Adventure Camp in New Mexico, and attended many scout camps and adventure trips. He currently serves as a New Scout Patrol Leader, leading the youngest scouts just entering the troop as fifth and sixth graders.

Peter, 17, is a junior at Acalanes High School in Lafayette.

For his Eagle Scout community service project, **Riley Noel Smith**, the son of Brad and Shelley Smith, coordinated with church represen-

tatives to design, plan and build a labyrinth at the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Pleasant Hill. A labyrinth is a circular walking path that leads to the center and back out. It is used for personal meditation and reflection.

During his scouting career, Riley earned two dozen merit badges, the National Youth Leadership Training certificate of achievement and attended several scout camps, including the Philmont Scout Ranch High Adventure Camp in New Mexico where he backpacked more than 75 miles in 10 days. He currently serves as the Senior Patrol Leader for the troop – the senior scout in charge of directing troop activities.

Riley, 16, is a junior at Acalanes High School in Lafayette.

For his Eagle Project, **Colin Wade Smith**, the son of Brad and Shelley Smith coordinated with the Peter Pan Preschool and their sponsoring organization, the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Pleasant Hill, to design and build a new sandbox and pergola. This project replaced an old, open, plas-

tic sandbox and provides the children a better experience with shade and a storage box for sand toys.

During his scouting career, Smith earned more than two dozen merit badges, the National Youth Leadership Training certificate of achievement, and attended several scout camps, including the Philmont Scout Ranch High Adventure Camp in New Mexico where he backpacked more than 75 miles in 10 days. Beginning with Cub Scout Pack 200 in first grade, he has completed 12 years of scouting.

Colin, 17, is a senior at Acalanes High School and is planning to attend the University of Colorado, Boulder, in the fall.

For his Eagle Scout community service project, **Joshua Singer Douglas**, the son of Jill and David Douglas, helped the shot put and discus program of the Acalanes Track and Field team by building a practice shot put ring athletes can use to practice their form. It will last years and be used by all who visit the Acalanes shot put area.

During his scouting career, Josh earned 22 merit badges, the Ner Tamid Award (a Boy Scout of America award overseen and bestowed by the National Jewish Committee on Scouting), and attended several scout camps, including the Philmont Scout Ranch High Adventure Camp in New Mexico where he backpacked more than 75 miles in 10 days. Joshua's father, David, also received his Eagle Scout rank from Troop 224 in 1980.

Joshua, 18, is a senior at Acalanes High School in Lafayette and will decide by May 1 where he will attend college in the fall.

Troop 204 Celebrates New Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Courtney Anderson



Back row from left: Kai Watanabe, Ethan Kuan, Christopher Anderson, W. Payson Newman, Harley McKee, W. Coleman Cronk; front row from left: Christopher Fulton, Charles Price, Joshua Christian, Isaac Evans, Spencer Spiering, Matthew Mlynek Photo provided

Lafayette Boy Scout Troop 204 honored 12 scouts who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout at a March 19 event at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. They are led by Scoutmaster Tom Steuber, who was just honored as Lafayette's Citizen of the Year.

Christopher Anderson is the son of Steve and Courtney Anderson and a junior at Acalanes High School. Christopher built an additional compost bin for Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center which included pouring a 7-foot by 7-foot concrete pad with a drive-up concrete ramp and constructed 3-foot cinder block walls with a wooden removable front door. Xenophon is a nonprofit organization located in Orinda that provides equine-assisted therapies for children with disabilities.

Joshua Christian is the son of Darrell Christian and Kathy Trost and a junior at

Campolindo High School. Joshua worked with the City of Lafayette to preserve the natural landscape around the Lafayette Community Center. He removed ivy from a number of trees to help reduce the spread of this invasive species. He also refurbished park structures including a park bench that had been destroyed by vandals, a sign directing visitors away from poison oak, and four bollards on the bridge that had been worn by weather.

W. Colman Cronk is the son of Jeff and Jamie Cronk and a junior at Campolindo High School. Cole renovated the outdoor entry area of a Shelter Inc. homeless shelter in Martinez. He built a bench and several planter boxes, planted some unique plants, installed special fence material to hide a cluttered storage area, and created a much more appealing, relaxing entry for the residents.

Isaac Evans is the son of Jeremy and Eleanor Evans and a junior at Acalanes High School. Isaac labeled, catalogued and organized Bay Area Girls Rock Camp's entire instrument inventory consisting of over 100 instruments and hundreds of pieces of equipment. He also created a digital database to help track their inventory.

Christopher Fulton is the son of John Morgan and Katie Fulton and a senior at Acalanes High School. Chris refurbished and improved the Birthright House in Concord, which included sanding and painting the front door, replacing all the light fixtures and blinds in the building, purchasing and installing a mirror for the mothers and organizing their closets.

Ethan Kuan is the son of Jose and Patricia Kuan and is a senior at Acalanes High School. Ethan organized a collection of art and drama supplies for Camping Unlimited. He collected 11 bags of supplies and created an online crowd funding campaign to raise money to purchase a much needed Automatic External Defibrillator for the camp. Camping Unlimited is a nonprofit organization located in Santa Cruz that provides outdoor and recreation programs to people of all ages with mental and physical disabilities.

Harley McKee is the son of Jim McKee and Amy Cummings and a junior at Acalanes High School. Harley worked with St Elizabeth's Catholic Elementary School in the Fruitvale area of Oakland to help clean, restore and repair its Garden of Learning back to usable condition after years of neglect. The garden has been restored to a place for the children to learn about plants and nature.

Matthew Mlynek is the son of John and

Marie Mlynek and a junior at Acalanes High School. Matthew built a message board for the Springhill Elementary School garden. The board will be used for posting messages and reminders, along with holding handouts with information about the garden.

Payson Newman is the son of Scott and Mary Newman and is a junior at Acalanes High School. Payson constructed a garden with drip irrigation and raised beds at Buchanan Field. This area is where families with underprivileged kids wait as their children fly with volunteer pilots as part of the national Young Eagles Program.

Charles Price is the son of Kent and Andrea Price and is a junior at Bentley High School. Charlie, in honor of a loved one, built a bench in their Garden of Hope at the Cancer Support Community in Walnut Creek. The bench will provide a place to sit for the patients to in the garden as they are on their road to recovery.

Spencer Spiering is the son of Mike and Carol Spiering and is a junior at Campolindo High School. Spencer assembled 25 new bikes donated by Bike for Tots and gave them to kids who have never owned a bike. He worked through Cambridge Elementary School in Concord in order to find the kids in need.

Kai Watanabe is the son of Yoshi and Mika Watanabe and is a junior at Acalanes High School. Kai created 15 knot tying kits for patients at Children's Hospital in Oakland. The kits, which include a board with rope and an instruction book, will provide hours of entertainment for bedridden children as they are being treated at the hospital.

St. Mary's Actors Stage Powerful 'Lysistrata'

By Sophie Braccini



The "Lysistrata" actors rehearse with director Daniel Larlham (front left) and Kentaley McCurdy (front) playing the title character. Photo Sophie Braccini

Aristophanes' "Lysistrata" is a subversive comedy that has inspired directors and actors across centuries and borders, from ancient Greece to the present day. St. Mary's College's version is nothing like you have seen before, infused with the energy of youth and with the creativity of director Daniel Larlham.

This refreshing and fun take on a classic is for adults and will open at the Lefebvre Theater on April 14 and play through April 24.

Aristophanes wrote "Lysistrata" in 411 B.C. in Athens during the Peloponnesian Wars, its three-decade clash with Sparta. The idea is simple: women in both city-states get tired of the war and decide to stop the conflict using one deadly weapon: withholding sex from their husbands.

In a time where women were not regarded as equal and had no right to vote, this unique anti-war comedy supports conventional thinking of the time about women. Women were, in essence, feeble and over-

emotional creatures. But this is transcended by the figure of Lysistrata, a common woman, who proves herself unwavering and powerful.

"This is a challenging show, but the students understand it very well," says Larlham. "We have added a lot of things, and it is quite exciting."

Larlham has been teaching at SMC for over a year and enjoys directing the students in plays. "I feel more and more that I don't have to have a clear conception of how a scene should be set, until we are on rehearsal," he says. "My job is to magnify potential I see in students. They are not fully formed yet and they can let strange things flow through; sometimes it is wonderful, and I structure it into the show."

The SMC troupe is working from an adaptation by Ellen McLaughlin, which makes the language easy to understand and removes the contextual aspects that were familiar to Athenians 2,400 years ago but would be totally obscure today.

"We have added two big choreographic scenes, the first darker to begin the show, to convey some of the expression of women suffering in a war zone, then we turn the knob toward comedy," Larlham says. "The second is an interlude in the middle of the show that came from an improvisation students did during audition. It blew my mind, it was so creative and powerful."

Songs have also been added, some of them created by Larlham and arranged by the students. One scene was inserted to symbolize the Peloponnesian Wars, as a physical and rhetorical competition between Athenians and Spartans.

"(The director) is very inclusive and opened to our ideas," says Kentaley McCurdy, who plays Lysistrata.

McCurdy, who will graduate this year with a major in theater, says that she was amazed when she discovered a play so old talking about civil rights and feminism.

"This woman is so powerful and so strong, this is so easy for me," says the young actor, who exudes a powerful presence naturally. "And she is also so funny, I immediately connected to her."

Two-thirds of the 20 students in the play are also majoring in theater.

The students had the benefit of a talk with Professor Emily Klein, who recently published "Sex and War on the American Stage: Lysistrata in Performance 1930-2012," that examines staging of this play in the U.S. over the past 80 years.

Klein teaches at SMC and will be part of a pre-show talk at 7 p.m. on Friday April 15. More information and tickets can be found online at www.stmarys-ca.edu/Lysistrata.

Moraga Women's Society to Hold Fashion Show

Submitted by Susan Sperry



From top left: Ellen Beans, Teresa Onoda, Fiona Marlow, Sally Whipple, Ginny Ruble. Bottom row from left: Lizette Legaspi from Draper's and Damons, Elsie Mastick, Linda Borrelli and Judy Ayres. Photo provided

When the Moraga Women's Society was formed in 1967, the group sponsored many community based events, like the pre-incorporation mayoral race, the annual September Artist Faire at the Commons and the biannual Christmas House Tour. This month, MWS is presenting "Couture for Moraga," a fashion show and luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, April 18, at the Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Fashions are provided by Draper's and Damon of Walnut Creek.

Going back to their roots, this event will highlight nine prominent organizations in Moraga who will provide models: Ellen Beans, Moraga Citizens Network and 2012 Moraga Citizen of the Year; Edy Schwartz, New Rheem Theatre director of community marketing and 2010 Moraga Citizen of the Year, and past-president of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce; Teresa Onoda, Mor-

aga Town Council member and California Plein-Air artist; Ginny Ruble, president of the Moraga Garden Club; Fiona Marlow, a board member of Board of Friends of the Moraga Library; Judy Ayres, membership chair of Moraga Women's Society; Linda Borrelli, past president of Moraga Movers, board member of Rescue One Foundation of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District; Elsie Mastick, Moraga Historical Society ex-officio board member and archivist; and Sally Whipple, co-president of the Moraga Educational Foundation.

Sam Sperry, first vice president of the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley, and SIRS branch No. 174 Little Sir Bill Lund will assist during the event. All proceeds benefit Moraga schools, library and parks and recreation. Tickets are \$45 and are still available. Call 925-376-3187 for reservations.

Family Focus

Surviving the Sandwich Generation

By Margie Ryerson

New York actor and writer John Jiler's one-man show, "RIPE," begins with a man on the phone with a pharmacist, from whom he is ordering three boxes of diapers. One is for his infant son and two are for his aging parents. Jiler created the perfect metaphor for finding oneself in the middle of the generational sandwich.

As life expectancy rates continue to increase, more of us are finding ourselves sandwiched between generations who depend on us. Along with our aging parents and their various physical, emotional and financial needs, we may have children at home and/or adult children who still look to us for support. Additionally, more and more of us are grandparents who are assuming a larger caretaking role for our grandchildren. So it is possible for some of us to be sandwiched between our parents, our children, and our grandchildren — a tight squeeze to be sure.

I asked a few friends and neighbors what they find hardest about providing care for several generations. Here are some of their responses:

"I feel a lot of guilt because I don't think I'm doing enough for my elderly father, who is lonely. I try to see him once a week, but I have two small children, a husband and a part-time job."

"Since my parents moved close to us three years ago from the Midwest, I have gained 30 pounds. They didn't know anyone out here, and I spent most of my extra time with them the first year or so. Even after they were more settled, I stopped going to the gym. I have no time between working and caring for my kids and my parents."

"My mother lives in assisted living now, but we are helping her financially along with our daughter in college. My wife and I both work, but we are concerned about our financial future."

"My relationship with my two brothers has deteriorated since my mother has needed more assistance. They each live in the area but expect me to do the bulk of the work.

I have three children and a busy schedule, while one of my brothers is single. I have asked both of them very nicely to do more, but they just don't come through for my mom or me. It's very frustrating."

Worry, guilt, resentment and accompanying physical symptoms such as exhaustion or stress-induced headaches are potential byproducts of caring for several generations. You may also be very sad at times watching your parent decline. Many adults who are "sandwiched" experience anxiety, depression, resentment and emotional depletion as well. When you love many people who depend on you and you feel like you are constantly performing triage, it can take its toll.

It is natural to have a variety of feelings when your life feels more out of control than you would like. Your time, energy, preferences and outside relationships are limited. Negative feelings that inevitably accompany lack of control make it even more difficult to feel happy and fulfilled.

Often there is sorrow that your role is reversed with your parent, and that now you are the one who needs to be a caretaker. You may feel sad for your parent who has lost so many abilities, and also sad for yourself that you no longer have a parent to lean on.

How can you help yourself through this difficult and challenging time? It helps to have a considerate, helpful partner and other family members, but largely you are the one who needs to look out for yourself. A common analogy is when flying with children and the oxygen masks come down and need to be used. You first need to put on your mask so that you can help your children or others with theirs.

Here are a few suggestions for coping when you are pulled in many directions:

- Be accepting and supportive of your own feelings. One of the most common problems I see is having expectations of oneself that are too high. After all, there has only been one Mother Teresa. Be aware that any negative, resentful

feelings you experience are natural and human. You are not a terrible person for having them.

- Set boundaries for how much you can do for your family. Become more comfortable with saying "no" at times. Admit to others that you can't do as much as you would like. Sometimes, family members say that they didn't think to offer to help because it looked like others were handling everything just fine.

- Enlist help from other family members, paid caretakers or babysitters.

- Find others that can listen to you vent when you need to and offer compassion and support — your partner, friends or a therapist.

- Commit to finding time to take good care of yourself by exercising, eating healthfully (well ... there will be moments for sure, but making good choices for the most part), getting adequate sleep, moderating alcohol intake, and planning some fun activities. I'm a big believer in escapism for getting our minds off our problems. People report that it is difficult to concentrate if they are too stressed. Give yourself permission to watch mindless TV or movies at times. One friend, a high-powered attorney, reads trashy romance novels as relief from everyday stress. Try to pay attention to your instincts about what you want and need.

- Know that you are a wonderful person for giving so much of yourself to your family. Give yourself lots of praise for all that you are doing, and try to let go of guilt for the inevitable times you can't be there for them.



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

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Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church
mvpc

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Not to be missed

ART

The Moraga Art Gallery's new show "Capturing Moments of Motion" features paintings by local artist Josie Osolin and figurative ceramic sculptures by Fred Yokel. The Moraga Art Gallery is located in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center next to the Dollar Store. For more info, visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

Valley Art Gallery's New Spring Collection, "Art Pop," features over 300 new works of art as fresh and eye-popping as the spring season itself, including works for sale or for rent from the best East Bay artists. Plus, there are beautifully crafted, ceramic, wood and glass pieces, and original designer jewelry. The show runs through May 14.

Live Pet Portrait painting with Artist Robert Carter from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday April 9 and 10 at the Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery, 3620 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette. Dog treats on hand. Drop by with your dog before or after the parade. For info, visit <http://jenniferperlmuttergallery.com/2016/03/pet-portrait-live-demo/> or call (925) 284-1485.

The City of Lafayette Public Art Committee welcomes its latest art exhibit "Oscar's Excellent Year," featuring local artist Joanne Taeuffer. The exhibit is on display in the Homework Center at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center now through June. For info, visit www.joannetaeuffer.com.

MUSIC

Lafayette's Town Hall Theatre's Sixth Annual Lafayette Community Music Festival at 6:30 p.m. Saturday April 16. Music starts at 7:30 p.m. Featured this year are Dream Posse, Stevie Coyle (Mighty Fine Guitars), Garageland Rodeo, Reminisce, Hard Rain and the Town Hall Kids. Tickets available at www.townhalltheatre.com or through the box office with limited hours, so email BoxOffice@TownHallTheatre.com or call (925) 283-1557.

WomenSing presents its "Treble Voices Now" festival along with five other choirs from 3 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 16 at First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. Free. For info, go to <http://womensing.org/youth-inspiring-youth/treble-voices-now/> or call (925) 798-4875 or email info@womensing.org.

THEATER

Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Moraga Library present a docent lecture about "Macbeth" at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 7 at the Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive. The Berkeley Repertory Theatre docent will discuss the current "Macbeth" production showing at the Roda Theatre through April 10.

The Acalanes Drama Dons proudly present "Macbeth" at 7 p.m. on April 27, 28, 29 and 30 in the Performing Arts Center little theater. Shakespeare's "Macbeth" is a swift and relentless tragedy which uncovers the terrifying consequences of blind ambition. Tickets are available in April during lunch at Acalanes High School and online at ahsperformingarts.org. Limited ticket sales available day of the show. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Adults \$12; students and seniors \$7.

Orinda Intermediate School's Bulldog Theater proudly presents "James and the Giant Peach JR." at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. April 28 and 29 and 2 and 5 p.m. April 30, 80 Ivy Dr., 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

William Keith and the Battle for Hetch Hetchy. John Schneider, curator of this exhibit at the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art, will discuss Hetch Hetchy, William Keith and John Muir, Yosemite, and other gems of the national collection at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12 at the

Moraga Library. This is an NPS Centennial Celebration program.

Moraga Movers and Moraga Library present Book Talking at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 13. Adina Sara will review her debut novel "Blind Shady Bend," which has surprising twists and turns, like the road to Blind Shady Bend itself.

The youngest member of Israeli Parliament, MK Stav Shaffir, will discuss the current Israeli political landscape, prospects for peace, and her efforts to advance government transparency, social justice, and economic equity in Israel at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 14 at Temple Isaiah Social Hall, 945 Risa Rd., Lafayette.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Decorate a Mini Library Bookshelf from 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 12 at the Moraga Library. Celebrate National Library Week by decorating your own mini bookshelf for your books at home. This free event is open to all ages, no registration necessary.

Painter's Tape Art and Book Cover Paintings from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 13 in the Arts and Science room of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Register online at tinyurl.com/teenscapeART.

The Saklan School Parent Association presents "Helping Highly Sensitive and Gifted Kids Manage Anxiety" with Dr. Grace Malonai from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 19 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center in Lafayette. For registration info, visit saklan.org. Free.

The Friends of the Orinda Library is excited to announce the commencement of the 2016 Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest, open to all high school students who reside and/or attend high school in Orinda. Entry Categories are Science Fiction/Fantasy, Essay/Memoir/Biography, Poetry and Short Story. Students may submit one entry in any of the four categories for a total of not more than three entries. Submission deadline is noon on Friday, April 22. Entries should be submitted to individual school representatives or at the Orinda Library. For additional info, go to www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org or email contest@friendsoftheorindalibrary.com.

The Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center presents its 19th annual Peace Through Art and Writing Challenge. This year's topic: Cherish these natural wonders. The contest is open to middle and high school students in Contra Costa County, who may submit works in three categories: Essay, Creative Writing and Art. Submissions are due April 22 to Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center, 55 Eckley Ln., Walnut Creek, 94596. For detailed contest requirement info, visit www.creatingpeacefulschools.weebly.com or call (925) 933-7850.

Seedlings Preschool's 22nd Annual Wheel Day from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 23 at LOPC - Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Bring the whole family to climb inside a giant tractor, sit on a real motorcycle and hear a real fire engine siren. Your child can also enjoy face painting and even take a train ride around the parking lot. Free. Snacks and refreshments will be available for minimal cost.

Free Practice exams for the new SAT and ACT at the Moraga Library. ACT on April 23 with the review on May 5. Sign up online or at the Moraga Library. Signups include the test return and review date.

The Bay Area Storytelling Festival, which promotes the timeless, contemporary art of storytelling by presenting today's finest talents, starts on Friday, April 29 with one or more master-level workshops and an evening performance by all tellers, and continues with several performances for adults and older kids, and a special family program for the younger kids on Saturday and Sunday April 20 and May 1 at the Orinda Community Center. The festival

showcases the power of stories to bridge generations, celebrate diverse cultures, and build and connect communities. For info, visit www.bayarastorytelling.org.

The Lamorinda Idol 2016 auditions will be held May 19-21. Registration is open to all Lamorinda students or residents. Groups can include members outside Lamorinda. Register at www.LamorindaArts.org through April 30. The Lamorinda Idol program includes workshops, multiple performance opportunities, parties and the Finals at the Orinda Theatre on Sunday, Sept. 4.

OTHER

Dogtown Downton from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 9 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Parade, activities, contests, demonstration and vendors.

Survey an area of your choosing for Sudden Oak Death ("SOD") during the 10th annual SOD Blitz at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 9. Come to the Garden Room at the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, for a one-hour session on SOD and the Blitz leaf collection protocol with UC professor and SOD Blitz founder Dr. Matteo Garbelotto, then collect leaves from areas and at times of your choosing through Sunday, April 10. For info, visit www.sodblitz.org. For space and material planning purposes, email William Hudson at wllhh@gmail.com if you plan to come.

This spring open your nest to a new kitten or cat. Community Concern for Cats invites you to meet beautiful felines at the adoption event from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, April 9 and 10, at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more info, see www.communityconcernforcats.org.

Guide To A Healthier Home: Better Living Through Nature from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 12 at Rodgers Ranch Heritage Center in Pleasant Hill. Denise Koroslev will discuss how to reduce exposure cleaning products, furniture, bedding, carpet, paint and clothing can all include chemicals that can be harmful to our families by maintaining a clean home with natural products. Cost: \$20. For more info and a complete list of workshops, visit www.sustainablecoco.org/workshops.

The Blue Pearl Group will offer a series of workshops to cultivate physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 13 at the Lafayette Library Arts and Sciences Center. The workshop will be group taught by experienced practitioners. Sessions will include Vajra Wind – an engaging breath practice, meditation, chanting, and more in a lighthearted joyful atmosphere. Presented by David Holland. Minimum Donation: \$10. For info, call (415) 233-2581.

The sixth annual blood drive in memory of Rachael Wenger will be held from noon to 6 p.m. Friday, April 15 at Springhill Elementary School, 3301 Springhill Road, Lafayette. For appointments, call The American Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or log in at www.redcrossblood.org and enter either sponsor code RachaelWenger or zip code 94549.

The Saint Mary's College Guild's annual lunch and spring fashion show, Lavender and Lace, will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 16 at the St. Mary's College Soda Center. Draper's and Damon's will feature fabulous spring fashions. Cost is \$40 per person. Please make check payable to: SMC Guild. Send to: Patricia Wiegmann, 39 Carr Dr., Moraga, CA 94556. For more information contact Pat at: (925) 376-6088. All proceeds go to students seeking financial aid at St. Mary's College.

Save the Earth from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, April 17 at the Wildlife Earth Day Festival at Wagner Ranch in Orinda.

... continued on next page

MOVIE REVIEW

Sally Field Proves Again Why We Really Like Her in 'Doris'

By Derek Zemrak



Image provided

Sally Field, once America's Sweetheart, is proving herself to be "America's Grandma" in "Hello, My Name is Doris."

Two-time Oscar-winner Field is back on top of her game doing what she does best – making an audience "like" her. In "Hello, My Name is Doris," Field plays an older woman, Doris, who, after seeing a self-help guru, gets the courage to romantically pursue a much younger co-worker. Sally makes the movie and you just want more of her, much like the olden days in her roles in "Smokey and the Bandit," "Norma Rae" and "Places in the Heart."

Doris (Sally Field) gets help and advice from her best friend Roz, brilliantly casted with five-time Golden Globe-nominee, Tyne Daly ("Cagney & Lacey") and

her granddaughter Vivian (Isabella Acres). The advice, fights and banter between the three makes for several enjoyable scenes.

Doris is at a crossroad of life as a 60-something "plain Jane" accountant at a Brooklyn clothing company who would prefer to stay in her cubicle crunching numbers. Doris is dealing with the passing of her mother and questioning what life is all about. She gets a spark in her that has not been lit for years when she meets the young co-worker, John ("New Girl's" Max Greenfield). It is fun to see a flip of genders in the film, when an older woman is pursuing a much younger man.

"Hello, My Name is Doris" is a cute, enjoyable movie but predictable and missing a few surprises to be an award winner. But nevertheless it's an entertaining film. Once again Sally, we like you, we really like you!

"My Name is Doris" is rated R for language with a TRT (Total Running Time) of one hour and 35 minutes.

Upcoming Rheem and Orinda Theatre Events:

- 7 p.m. April 14** – Free Movie Night in Orinda: "Die Hard," starring Bruce Willis
- 1 p.m. April 16** – Sci-Fi Day Four – Irwin Allen Tribute with special guests, Marta Kristen ("Lost in Space") and Gary Conway ("Land of the Giants").
- 7 p.m. April 23** – Fatty Arbuckle Festival with live piano score performed by Patti Liedecker.
- 7 p.m. May 21** – The Rheem USO Canteen – A Memorial Day Tribute to the songs and memories of war ballads, patriotic songs and just good ole American patriotism with Adam Reeves and Patti Liedecker.

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Service Clubs Announcements

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

LAMORINDA SUNRISE Rotary
Friends, Fun, Service Above Self

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

April 8 Sandra Scherer, Executive Director of the Monument Crisis Center	April 15 Diann Grimm, Partners in Sustainable Learning, Nepal
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Wine Barrel Raffle: 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winner drawings on May 1, 2016 Proceeds fund various community service projects. Buy \$10 raffle tickets from our Rotary Club members. See particulars at lamorindasunrise.org

Lafayette Rotary Club

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

April 7: Greg Gillis, PG&E	April 14: Beth Needel, Executive Director Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation
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www.rotarylafayette.org

Please submit events to:
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda Weekly

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◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

OTHER ... continued

Moraga Women's Society will be going back to their roots when they present "Couture for Moraga," a fashion show and luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, April 18 at the Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. They will present nine popular community members as models: Ellen Beans, Edy Schwartz, Teresa Onoda, Ginny Ruble, Feona Marlowe, Judy Ayres, Linda Borrelli, Elsie Mastick, and Sally Whipple. For reservations, call (925) 376-3187.

The internationally acclaimed documentary "An American Ascent" about the first African American expedition to tackle North America's highest peak, Denali, will be screened at the Orinda Library Auditorium at 7 p.m. on April 20. Expedition member, Scott Briscoe, will introduce the film and speak about his on-going work. Free and open to the public. First come, first seated. For more information, call (925) 254-2184 or email bgirshma@cclib.org.

The City of Orinda will be beautified and cleaned during the eighth annual Orinda Action Day of Community Service by community volunteers from 9:30 to noon Saturday, April 23. A new theme this year is "Keep Orinda Beautiful!" There is a poster contest for K-12 students in conjunction with Orinda Action Day, with cash prizes for the winners. Completed posters are due by noon April 23. They may be turned in at the Library Plaza on Orinda Action Day April 23, or dropped off before at Mechanics Bank, 77 Moraga Way, Orinda. Back of poster must be marked with name, grade and contact information.

Join Friends of Orinda Creeks for Orinda Action Day 2016 and help clean up San Pablo Creek from 9:30 to noon on Saturday, April 23. Meet at the booth in front of the Library. Wear long pants and a hat, bring gloves if you have them. Other tools will be provided.

The Lafayette Earth Day Celebration will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 24 at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Help support children and families affected by AIDS in Zimbabwe. Get your family and friends together for the 13th Annual JF Kapnek Trust Family Fun Run and post-race brunch from 9 a.m. to noon on May

1 at Miramonte High School - 750 Moraga Way, Orinda. All race participants receive a T-shirt and delicious post-race brunch, music, kids' craft booth, face painting, prizes for the top finishers and more.

Mark your calendars for A Taste of Lafayette, the city's 14th Annual Restaurant Walk on Tuesday, May 17, 2016. This is an opportunity to tour Lafayette's finest dining establishments and sample the signature cuisine of each restaurant. Cost is \$45 per person if purchased by May 6, 2016; \$50 per person after that date. Visit www.lafayettechamber.org/events/taste-of-lafayette/ for more information.

SENIORS

The Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. on April 11 in the Concord I Room at John Muir Medical Center, 2540 East Street, Concord. The topic will be: Vision Restoration Therapy with NovaVision, a therapeutic approach to improve visual abilities following a stroke or traumatic brain injury. For info, contact Ann Dzuna at (925) 376-6218. Free.

So You Think You Can Dance? The Moraga Movers will be entertained by U.S. Open Swing Dance Champion Kurt Senser and his partner Cynthia Austen at their monthly dinner meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, April 11 at Saint Mary's Soda Center, with social hour starting at 5 p.m. For reservation and membership info, visit moragamovers.org.

Sons In Retirement - Las Trampas Branch 116 welcomes guest to socialize at its monthly luncheon beginning at 11 a.m. Monday, April 18 held at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. The speaker, Jim Cole, who always had a fascination with the sea, will discuss his passion for sailing, a sport in which he has actively participated for over 40 years. Call (925) 322-1160 to make lunch reservations. Cost: \$15. For more info, visit www.Branch116.org.

Men "of a certain age" (semi- or fully-retired) are invited to hear a presentation from Adam Czekanski, Lt. Col. of the Army Corp of Engineers, during its regular lunch meeting at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 13 at Holy Trinity Church, 1700 School St., Moraga. SIRs welcomes new members. For details, visit www.branch174.sirinc2.org or call Tyler at (925) 284-5561.

Lunch n' Learn: Spring Cleaning Workshop from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 13 at Byron Park, 1700 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. It's time to get organized, clear out the clutter, simplify, and plan how to use your space more efficiently. Do your closets, the garage, a spare room, your desk or work space need to be organized? This workshop will give you the tools and resources you need to begin to de-clutter those areas of your house. Free, lunch generously provided. Space is limited; RSVP to Lafayette Senior Services by April 6 by calling (925) 284-5050.

GARDEN

Fill your garden with a plethora of plants, including California natives, shrubs, ground cover, perennials, grasses, ferns, annuals and drought-tolerant plants at The Gardens at Heather Farm's annual Spring Plant Sale from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 9. The sale takes place, rain or shine, in the parking lot at The Gardens at Heather Farm, located at 1540 Marchbanks Dr. in Walnut Creek. Free.

Montelindo Garden Club will meet at 9 a.m. Friday, April 15 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Dr., Orinda. Visitors welcome. Katie, of Katie Creighton Design, a talented full-service designer of residential and public gardens in the Bay Area, will discuss "Having Fun With Garden Design Challenges."

Walnut Creek Garden Club's business meeting and social time is 9:30-10:45 a.m. Monday, April 11 at The Gardens at Heather Farm at 1540 Marchbanks Rd. At 10:45, we will drive to Our Garden on Ygnacio Valley Road to meet Master Gardener Janet Miller. She will be giving us a tour of Our Garden, spreading the word about what Master Gardeners and Our Garden does for the community, sharing "advice to grow by," and answering edible gardening questions. For info, email mittle44@gmail.com.

Lafayette Garden Club is excited to present "What's New?" with speaker Katherine Greenberg, who is the director of New Plant Introductions at Monrovia Growers. She will be discussing interesting and beautiful new varieties developed for our gardens. The meeting will be held from 9:45 a.m. to noon on April 14 at the Lafayette Veteran's Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Visitors welcome. For info, email Carolyn Poetzsch at cpoetzsch@gmail.com.



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Sardines Insalata: calamata olives, green beans, potato, feta cheese, balsamic olive oil9

Niman Flat Iron Steak: potato gratin, green beans, chimichurri sauce18

Fresh Seafood Cioppino: in a rich tomato-basil sauce, parmesan, garlic toast..19

Roasted Scallops: spinach, salciccia sugo19

Roasted Wild Salmon: white wine, capers, braised greens, and potato gratin..17

Veal Scallopini: mushrooms, garlic, marsala wine17

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Coconut (and Chocolate) Lovers Can Dip into This Sweet, Seasonal Cookie

By Susie Iventosch



more complexity to the issue, there is also a type of cookie called an almond macaroon, which is typically made with almond flour or almond paste, and usually granulated sugar in place of the powdered sugar used in macarons. We are not going to focus on the almond macaroon this week, but perhaps another time ... they are really delicious, too.

Macaroons, on the other hand, are made with coconut, sweetened-condensed milk, vanilla and a dash of salt ... that's it, unless of course, you dip the bottom in melted dark chocolate for an added touch of amazing flavor. This concoction ends up tasting like an over-the-top Mounds Bar. In my opinion, coconut and chocolate are a heavenly match, even though coconut with pineapple or lime are also delightful and can be added to your macaroon, if you so desire.

This recipe calls for using both sweetened and unsweetened coconut, and Paula uses the flaked coconut as opposed to the shredded coconut. Trader Joe's packages this type of flaked, unsweetened coconut and I also found a private label brand at the grocery store where I shop. I have made macaroons that used the "Let's Do Organic" brand natural flaked coconut, and they were tasty, but not quite the texture I prefer in a macaroon, because the pieces of coconut are so tiny and a bit grainy.

With a newfound knowledge of macarons and macaroons, you can venture forth and give each a try to see which type of cookie you prefer. Both of these recipes make excellent choices for Passover desserts, since they use no flour or leavening agent.

Chocolate-dipped Macaroons Photo Susie Iventosch
Last issue we had some technical difficulties and the French chocolate "macarons" turned out to be "macaroons" in my column. Being a food columnist I was a bit alarmed, but because so many people really don't know the difference, and many of you may have always wondered, this gives us a great opportunity to spell out how these two types of cookies are made. Also, now I can share my neighbor Paula's amazing coconut macaroon recipe with all of you.

Keep in mind, you absolutely must be a coconut lover in order to bother with macaroons, because they are mostly made of a big mound of coconut. If you can check that box, then please read on.

Both macarons and macaroons are made with stiffly beaten egg whites, and unless you desire a coconut filling in your macarons, that is pretty much where the similarities end. French macarons are very light and airy meringue cookie sandwiches, made with almond flour, flavoring and powdered sugar. The filling can be made from just about anything you desire, from jam or filling to buttercream or chocolate ganache. Just to add a little bit

Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com. This recipe can be found on our website: www.lamorindaweekly.com. If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977.



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Paula's Chocolate-dipped Coconut Macaroons

(Makes 24 cookies)

INGREDIENTS

- 14-ounces sweetened, flaked coconut (approximately 4 1/3 cups)
- 12 ounces unsweetened, flaked coconut (approximately 4 cups)
- One 14-ounce can sweetened, condensed milk
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 4 egg whites
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 6-8 ounces bittersweet or dark chocolate, melted in the microwave

Directions:

Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Mix the first four ingredients together in a large bowl until well integrated. It may seem too dry, but it will all work out. Mix together with a spoon until well mixed. In a separate large glass bowl, beat egg whites with salt on high speed until stiff peaks form. Fold coconut mixture into egg whites in three batches until all mixed together. Using a one-fourth or cup rounded measuring cup, spoon batter onto parchment paper. Bake for 22-25 minutes, until bottom of cookie is golden brown and tops are toasted. Remove from oven and cool completely. When cookies are at room temp, melt chocolate in the microwave until just melted. Dip the bottoms on the cookies in the melted chocolate, or spread chocolate on bottoms with a butter knife. Cool, chocolate side up, until chocolate is hardened. Store in an airtight container until ready to use.

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Lady Mats' Historic Run Ends in State Title Game

By Karl Buscheck



Senior Keana Delos Santos's three pointer gave the Mats a 53-51 lead with 1:32 left in the third quarter Photos Gint Federas

Despite a furious third-quarter charge, the Lady Mats came up short in their quest for the school's first state title and perfect season, losing 80-71 to Chaminade in the CIF Open Division championship at Sleep Train Arena on March 26.

"It was a good run. It was a tough run," head coach Kelly Sopak said after his team dug out of a 20-point hole to briefly claim a third-quarter lead over the West Hills heavyweights - MaxPrep's No. 3 team in the nation. "And I thought we had them and it goes that way, but it's not going to change who these kids are - what we are defined by as a team. We're a tough hard-working group of players whether we win or lose and unfortunately it didn't work out."

The Mats (32-1), famous for their supercharged starts, endured a nightmare beginning of the night in the state capital, falling behind 23-11 by the end of the first quarter. MaxPrep's fifth-ranked team in the country was staring at a 43-33 deficit heading into the half, though they captured the momentum thanks to an unreal shot from Sabrina Ionescu to close the half.

In the closing seconds of the second quarter, junior Elle Louie ripped a rebound away from Chaminade and passed to the All-American who banked in a 35-foot buzzer-beating three pointer which not only ignited the crowd at the Sacramento Kings arena but also ignited Miramonte's second-half

comeback attempt.

While the long-run effort was Ionescu's only three ball of the night, the senior's triple-double - 24 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists - fueled the Mats second-half comeback. Miramonte outscored Chaminade 22-14 in the third quarter and even briefly took the lead, 53-51, with 1:32 to go in the third when senior Keana Delos Santos rained in a three pointer from the corner.

Ultimately, the Mats offered a towering Chaminade squad too many second chances.

"They outrebounded [us] on the offensive end - I think they were two to one on the offensive rebounds," Sopak said, after the Eagles dominated the offensive glass 19-11. "And I think that was something we needed to shore up that we didn't. We gave them too many easy looks for offensive put-backs. If we could have a couple of those back, we'd be a little happier right now."

In the final quarter, those second chances caught up to the Mats. Chaminade scored 23 points in the fourth, as the Eagles secured their second state title in three seasons.

"You have to exert a lot of energy to come back from 20," Sopak explained. "We got on a run there in the third quarter, and we just couldn't weather that last storm."

The Mats' first and only loss brought a disappointing end to a spectacular season in which the Mats flirted with both the state

and national titles, a massive accomplishment for any school, but especially a Division III program drawing from less than 1,400 students. In fact, the storybook season managed to even exceed the expectations of their star player.

"I didn't think a team like us could make it this far," Ionescu admitted on stage in the Sleep Train Arena's pressroom, flanked by her teammates. "We had our doubts throughout the season but we stuck to it. You know, we listened to our coaches. We worked as hard as anybody's worked in practice and took every game like it was our last."

Editor's Note: Last week, Lady Mats star Sabrina Ionescu participated in the McDonalds' All-America Game (Chicago, Ill.) and not only earned the Jack Daly Sportsmanship Award, but also earned game MVP, scoring 25 points - a new record - and leading the West to a second-half comeback victory.



Senior Sabrina Ionescu made a half-court shot as time expired in the first half, shifting the momentum in the Mats' favor



The Ionescu family - from left: Dan, Sabrina, Liliana Butas and Eddy - pose for a photo at the McDonalds' All-America Game award banquet.

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Acalanes Baseball's Video-Analysis System a Home Run

By Spencer Silva



Photo Gint Federas

After several years of offensive output seemingly incommensurate with their talent, Acalanes Dons' head coach Justin Santich-Hughes, and others, decided to look for answers.

"We always thought our offense could be better, so we wanted to invest in some tools," he explained.

Two years ago, they found a tool in RightViewPro, a video-tracking system developed by former major leaguer Don Slaught.

With the help of the Lafayette A's – a local non-profit that helps fundraise for local baseball projects – and Acalanes parents, the program was able to raise enough money to purchase cameras, a radar gun and the accompanying computer software.

At the professional and collegiate ranks, teams have long used advances in technology and data gathering to effect change in box scores. Now, it seems, the "Moneyball" ethos made famous by the Oakland Athletics is trickling all the way down to high school.

The Acalanes baseball field now features three cameras that record every single play from both first and third base sides, as well as from behind home plate. Last year, during the system's inaugural season, video from games was primarily used to aid hitting coach Clint Hoover, who played for both Cal and the Houston Astros, in tweaking players' swings.

The system also allows coaches to juxtapose players' swings with those of current major leaguers. If players use a leg kick, for instance, they can compare themselves to Blue Jays' third baseman Josh Donaldson; or, if a player has a minimal stride, they may decide Angels' first baseman Albert Pujols is a better model.

"Every single major leaguer has the same things in their swing. Why wouldn't we try to get our guys there if we can?" Santich-Hughes asked.

The results thus far have been eye opening. Despite graduating many of their key players, the Dons raised their team batting average some 45 points and won the DFAL crown in 2015. Santich-Hughes estimates the team average is up another 40-or-so points this season.

"We just started using the system to its

full capabilities," Santich-Hughes said.

In order to track more data – to develop scouting reports on opposing pitchers and hitters, position defensive shifts, and even learn coach and umpire tendencies – the team hired two Acalanes students, senior Matt Self and sophomore Tyler Sverak to log play-by-play data into the system's proprietary software. The RightView Pro also came with a Stalker II radar gun – the preferred model of major league scouts – to track pitch velocity.

Self became interested in sports analytics after using the Hudl – video analysis software for football – during his tenure on the school's football team. He has a background in technology and is considering pursuing the intersection between sports and technology as a career.

"The pitchers always want to see the radar-gun readings," Self said.

Santich-Hughes believes that his career, which ended after four years at San Jose State as a catcher, could have been different with the type of technology his kids have.

"I had really good coaching and I was never taught this stuff. I'm convinced I'd be playing in the major leagues if I could hit! Maybe that's a stretch, but that's the kind of impact this stuff has," he declared.

Another benefit to the technology is it allows the team to send colleges accurate data on potential recruits, a luxury most high schools don't have.

Last week the Dons (9-1 overall, 2-0 DFAL) started DFAL play with comfortable victories over both Dougherty Valley and Campolindo. They're averaging a robust 6.6 runs-scored per game and appear to be the team to beat in the DFAL.

Santich-Hughes admits he's been fielding more questions about the system recently.



Grant Young

Photo Gint Federas

St. Mary's Baseball Finding Early-Season Rhythm

By Dean Boerner



Corbin Burnes

Photo Tod Fierner

Despite graduating star slugger Collin Ferguson, St. Mary's baseball returns most of the talented nucleus that led the Gaels to their first winning season in six years. Last season, the Gaels finished 28-27 – a substantial improvement on the 16-39 record of the season before – and now, at 15-10, many in the program are excited about the upward, winning trend.

"Last year was a big year for us," said junior catcher Nate Nolan. "We had a lot of guys from that team return this year, so having that taste of success was good and showed a lot of guys what we were capable of."

Head coach Eric Valenzuela is confident that his team will build off of its improvement from a year ago. "I like that attitude of our guys," said Valenzuela. "As long as we have energy and enthusiasm, we're going to be okay."

Early on, the Gaels don't appear to have any glaring weakness. The Gaels' Friday starter, junior Corbin Burnes – a West Coast Conference Preseason Pitcher of the Year selection – leads the pitching staff. Burnes followed a solid sophomore campaign with a dominant summer in the Cape Cod League. The tall right-handed hurler touches 94 mph with his fastball, and is expected to go in the first few rounds of the Major League Baseball Draft this June.

The team's Saturday and Sunday starters are also juniors: Johnny York and Cameron Neff. York won seven games last season, a

team high, while Neff posted a 2.23 ERA in five starts.

Another area of improvement is the bullpen, a major liability in previous seasons. This spring, the Gaels' relief corps is a mix of both experience and youth. Nathan Simmons and David Dellaserra are the staff's elder statesmen – it's only seniors – while newcomers Bryce Reichmann, a junior transfer, and freshmen Ty Madrigal and Jonathan Buckley round out the pen.

"Our greatest strength, as opposed to other years, is that this year we have a lot more depth in the bullpen and offensively," Burnes said.

Valenzuela points to his pitching staff's command as a crucial factor in their success. "We have to throw strikes," he explained. "We give up some hits, but it's better than walking guys and giving up free bases."

On offense, the Gaels return several key contributors. Sophomore Zach Kirtley, Nolan, and seniors Anthony Villa and Anthony Gonsolin, headline a balanced lineup. Kirtley – who batted .346 as a freshman and earned Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American honors – is locked in as the team's leadoff hitter, Nolan and Villa anchor the middle of the lineup with their right-handed power bats, while Gonsolin provides both extra-base power and base-stealing acumen.

Just over a month into the season, Saint Mary's holds a 6-3 record in conference. Nolan has already launched five home runs – including a walk-off blast against rival Gonzaga on March 25. Kirtley is once again hitting for a superbly high average, but he's also added a power element to his game, matching Nolan's homerun total of five. Eddie Haus, a redshirt freshman, has also hit well. He burst onto the scene this summer after winning the Hampton's League MVP.

"It seems like we have new guys who step up every day," Nolan expressed.

Even with the early success, Valenzuela stresses improvement. "Executing from an offensive standpoint is something we have to keep improving on," Valenzuela said.

On the mound, Corbin Burnes has met, and maybe even surpassed, expectations. Burnes has four wins and ERA below 2.00. Johnny York has also pitched well, and the Gaels bullpen continues to be productive, especially southpaw Bryce Reichmann.

The Gaels seem to have the pieces to compete for a WCC championship for the first time in years. "I think we have a very special team this year," Burnes said. "By sticking to the process, I think this team can do something that no other Saint Mary's baseball team has done before."

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Magic Soccer U16 Girls Compete in Vegas Showcase

Submitted by Greg Davis



Back, from left: Molly Davis, Kierra Krawec, Jackie Nichols, Lauren Van Stralen, Annie Midt-hun, Sophia Giordano, Jasmine Safarians, Vanessa Jones, Jenna Van Pelt, Mitzy Ramirez Front: Rachel Brickman, Emily Smith, Molly Ikeya, Sophie Marengo, Anya Li Photo provided

The California Magic 99G U16 girls, team traveled to Las Vegas March 18-20 for the Players Showcase 2016 tournament. The Magic girls, reunited after their respective high school seasons, faced stiff competition head-on. They played the number-one club teams from both Oregon and Colorado. In their second of two games on Friday evening, the Magic were outpaced by a tough Oregon team 3-1. True to Magic form, however, the girls wowed the throngs of college coaches watching from the sidelines with their technical skill, their comfort on the ball in close quarters and their ability to domi-

nate ball possession. Then, on Sunday, the girls faced off against Colorado's top club, in 90-degree heat, for their fourth match of the weekend. The Magic girls showed their grit, tying the game 2-2 shortly after being down 0-2 at the half. In the end, the Magic fell short, losing 3-2. "I am proud of our girls in being able to compete at such a high level after only being together two weeks coming off their high school season," head coach Harris Obic said after the game. "We are excited to work hard and build on what we learned this weekend to become a stronger team."

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Takes 2nd Place in Boys Basketball Tournament

Submitted by Judy McNeil



From left: Jeffrey Gao, Nick Faoro, Owen Hunger, Kellen Clancy, Will Windatt, coach Daryl Utter, Rex Curtiss, Peter O'Donnell, Chase Peterson and Hunter Clark. Not pictured, Anish Visht Photo provided

Joaquin Moraga's eighth-grade boys basketball team plowed through the Eighth Grade A Boys Basketball Tournament, mak-

ing it all the way to the championship after eliminating WCI, Piedmont and Albany.

St. Perpetua: CYO 3rd Grade Champions

Submitted by Jack Appleton



St. Perpetua's third-grade boys' basketball team beat St. Monica's 17-15 to claim the CYO West Diablo Championship for the National Division. St. Perpetua finished the season with only one loss.

Top, from left: coach Matt Pecci, Ethan Ward, Will Appleton, Zac Herrerias, Lincoln Sovik, Ren Marchetti and coach Stuart Colaco. Bottom: Brady Quinn, Dane Lowden, Ben Pecci, Austin Wampler and Jake Colaco. Photo provided

4th Grade Bruins Complete Perfect Season

Submitted by Bill Trento

The fourth-grade UCLA Bruins completed a perfect 10-0 season and won the Next Level Fourth Grade Flag Football Championship. The championship game was played in the rain at De La Salle High School on Sunday, March



Top, from left: Joey Floyd, Orlando Sanchez, Sava Pouridis, Noah Janinda, Patrick Floyd, Ian Bellanca, Marshall Anderson, coach Gabe Coray-Dozier, Calvin Kotarba, Paulo Trento, Walker Smith, Aidan Scheg, Jack Park, and Will Jones. Photo provided

Santa Maria 6th Grade Girls Runner-up in Diocese Championship

Submitted by April Murphy



Photo provided

On March 12, the Santa Maria sixth-grade girls' basketball team came up just short of a diocese championship, losing to St. John Vianney (Walnut Creek) in the di-

ocese final. The girls, little Mats in the making, jumped out to an early lead, but eventually lost the hard-fought game.

St. Monica's 7th Grade CYO Spartans Win it All

Submitted by Brenda Mossotti



Back, from left: Ben Jules, Matthew Koob, Will Pelter, Nico Mossotti, Sean Lee. Front: coach Matt Koob, Jackson Rusconi, Max Duff, Sam McGonigle and coach Gary Mossotti Photo provided

Sweeping through the CYO West Diablo League, the Spartans basketball team won the league championship and then advanced to and won the East-West

Diocese Championship to complete an amazing season 2015-16 season.

Stanley Wildcats 7th Grade Boys Win Championship

Submitted by Linda Drucker



Photo provided

Stanley's seventh-grade boys B basketball team took first place in the Piedmont Middle School Basketball Tournament. The Wildcats came from behind in their final game to defeat Berkeley's Willard Middle School by a single point, 27-26, to win the championship. The final game capped a highly successful regular season in which

the Wildcats won their first 12 games in a row and ended up with a stellar 17-1 season record. During the final game, they managed to defeat the only team they had lost to during the regular season. Two Acalanes High School juniors guided the championship team: head coach Noah Prozan and assistant coach David Severet.

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Lamorinda Weekly Volume 10 Issue 3 Wednesday, April 6, 2016



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...read on page D12

Catching Rainwater

Using Water from the Sky Helps the Bottom Line

By Chris Lavin



Photo Chris Lavin

Luckily, Suzanne Jones of Bollinger Canyon got the idea several years ago, before the drought hit hard: Buy a tank that could hold extra water, in case the spring on her property went

dry. She went to Napa Valley and bought a 10,000-gallon stainless steel tank previously used for wine making for a lot less than the same tanks cost now. And she is so glad.

“Last year we held onto the rainwater, to use domestically,” Jones said. That worked out especially because of the drought. “By October, the spring can be quite low.” The spring – the

literal kind, with water – gets down to trickling out about 50 gallons per day. That could be cause for worry if you have to have water, not just for people but for livestock and plants.

According to the state Water Quality Control Board, the average water use by us Californians is about 80 gallons per day per person, so if you have, say, two people in the house, you can do the math. Dishwashing and showering and flushing the toilet just add up to that much more water going down the drain. If two parents have two kids, they’re looking at an average 320 gallons, and it’s often more.

Yet while the “if it’s yellow it’s mellow, if it’s brown flush it down” moniker is the catch-phrase of some households, more people are using rainwater to ameliorate their public utilities’ outflow of treated water in place of water that doesn’t really need to be treated.

“You can use the rainwater for anything,” said Lee Lawrence, who lives on the outskirts of Moraga and has about a dozen barrels. “It’s perfectly okay to drink.”

(Some at the Water Quality Control Board disagree that rainwater can be consumed without treatment.

... continued on page D4



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City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	9	\$890,000	\$3,250,000
MORAGA	5	\$540,000	\$1,100,000
ORINDA	5	\$1,258,000	\$3,400,000

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

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Previous Sale: \$775,000, 05-12-88

3683 Happy Valley Road, \$3,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 4210 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 3-4-16;
Previous Sale: \$2,400,000, 11-22-13

3340 Helen Lane, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 1683 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 3-1-16;
Previous Sale: \$645,500, 01-25-12

783 Los Palos Manor, \$3,000,000, 5 Bdrms, 3957 SqFt, 1949 YrBl, 3-8-16
303 Lowell Lane #W, \$2,175,000, 5 Bdrms, 4144 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 3-1-16;

Previous Sale: \$185,000, 03-24-78

3226 Lucas Circle, \$1,487,500, 4 Bdrms, 2297 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 3-10-16;
Previous Sale: \$489,000, 04-07-99

3403 Mountain Springs Road, \$1,853,500, 4 Bdrms, 3293 SqFt, 1966
YrBl, 3-9-16; Previous Sale: \$1,110,000, 08-26-14

1726 Springbrook Road, \$890,000, 3 Bdrms, 1153 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 3-10-16;
Previous Sale: \$475,500, 06-18-02

765 Tanglewood Drive, \$1,290,000, 4 Bdrms, 2972 SqFt, 1946 YrBl, 3-1-16;
Previous Sale: \$473,000, 09-14-99

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1183 Alta Mesa Drive, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1954 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 3-1-16;
Previous Sale: \$86,300, 01-22-76

5 Berkshire Street, \$927,500, 3 Bdrms, 2148 SqFt, 1978 YrBl, 3-4-16;
Previous Sale: \$875,100, 07-22-13

1864 Joseph Drive, \$732,500, 4 Bdrms, 2410 SqFt, 1971 YrBl, 3-1-16;
Previous Sale: \$235,000, 03-01-16

4 Kimberly Drive, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1561 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 3-4-16;
Previous Sale: \$330,000, 07-19-91

32 Miramonte Drive, \$540,000, 2 Bdrms, 1248 SqFt, 1964 YrBl, 3-3-16;
Previous Sale: \$37,000, 08-26-74

ORINDA

21 Francisco Court, \$1,645,000, 4 Bdrms, 3101 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 3-9-16
5 Hall Drive, \$1,405,500, 3 Bdrms, 1760 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 3-4-16;

Previous Sale: \$800,000, 03-20-15

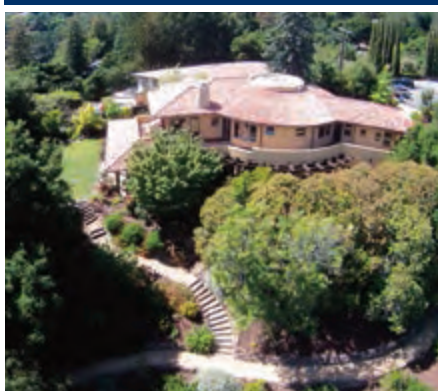
11 Hilldale Court, \$2,171,000, 3 Bdrms, 2501 SqFt, 2008 YrBl, 3-2-16;
Previous Sale: \$2,128,000, 03-25-15

4 Ridge Lane, \$3,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 4153 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 3-4-16

10 Whitehall Drive, \$1,258,000, 3 Bdrms, 1848 SqFt, 1959 YrBl, 3-4-16;
Previous Sale: \$629,000, 10-31-01

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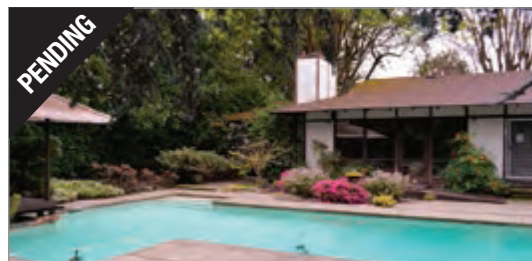


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Catching Rainwater

... continued from page D1

The Board say it depends on the quality of the water, for which the board does not currently test, and the safety of its catchment and storage facilities, as well as the length of time the water spends in the tank.)

The use of any water – especially watching the skies pour down in March and April – has many Lamorindans starting to use rainwater catchment systems, so that when the rain comes down, it doesn't just flow downhill or seep into the ground. Instead it gets caught up in barrels and tanks and troughs so that livestock, gardens and even toilets get water targeted for a purpose, and doesn't come through East Bay Municipal Utility District's metered system.

"We use it for a lot of things," Lawrence said. "We have rain barrels coming down right in front of the gutters."

In many parts of Colorado, catching rainwater is illegal. Ranchers and farmers need all the runoff from suburban and borderline properties to flow off the roofs of houses and into the watershed. Many families find it abhorrent that the rain that falls on their roofs is owned by somebody else. Such conflicts illustrate that water is becoming a more politicized issue.

Less than 3 percent of all the water on earth is fresh water. That is correct: less than 3 percent. Predictably, in a drought the precious amount of rainwater is being harvested by more households in order to water gardens, trees, or even for drinking.

"We drink rainwater here, too" Jones said.

Jones even put a metal roof on her house to ensure more "clean" delivery into the directed rain gutters on the part of the house that rain showers feed most directly into her big tank. She waters a garden and fruit trees, and waters her livestock and birds. "It's pretty simple," she said.

For more information on rainwater catchment systems, visit the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association at www.arcsa.org.



Bill Snider and the store dog, Wells. Some rain barrels sold at Moraga Hardware and Lumber come with a rainwater diverter kit. Photo Andy Scheck



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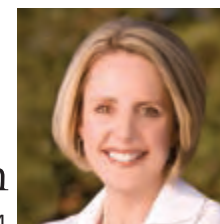
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The Glorious Rent-Back

By Andi Peterson Brown

Without a doubt, the Lamorinda real estate market is currently a seller's market. Scores of qualified buyers continue to flock to open houses and inventory remains tight.

But many would-be sellers looking to make their next move feel stumped by the catch-22 of the current market: they want to move, but where will they go? They need the equity from their current home for their next down payment, but they are watching buyers write a few offers before finally securing a home. If they put their home on the market, how are they supposed to find and purchase their next home in the typical escrow period of a mere 30 days?

Thus enters the saving grace for this dilemma: the glorious rent-back. A rent-back is a contractual term that allows a seller to remain as tenant after the closing. And just why is this rent-back so glorious? Because it buys the seller time. Essential, priceless time. Knowing there's an option available that provides breathing room means that more sellers are bringing their homes to market, boosting our much-needed inventory. Many sellers today are getting 30, 60, even 90 day rent-backs. While eager buyers have to wait longer to move into their new home, a well structured rent-back is usually crucial in writing a winning offer and thus a vital component to keeping our market moving.



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Stylish Solutions

Making the Springtime Switch

By Ann McDonald



Use single-color accessories for a clean-lined spring home. You can always bring back the color in the fall and winter. Photo Couture Chateau LLC

Spring has sprung, and it's so beautiful, I'm tempted to move my desk outside. But since that's not possible, it's all about updating homes and bringing the spring feeling indoors.

I want to share updates you can use to refresh your home this spring. The main thing is what we in the studio call the "spring switch." Give yourself several weeks to plan and execute — this is not a weekend project, but more of a lifestyle switch. Have fun with it.

What is the spring switch? It's the walk-through of your home, where dark tapestry pillows are put away in cedar-lined boxes in favor of fresh linens and florals. Winter draperies head to the cleaners for restoration, repair and proper storage until the fall, replaced by simple linen or sheers. Even the furniture gets the quick slip with summer florals or white washable slip covers or tailored throws.

Spring Switch Tips:

Slipcovers: I know, some people roll their eyes, but here's

the truth from a long-time interior designer: slipcovers save furniture. By giving your furniture a break seasonally, you extend the life of well-made furniture and extend the life of expensive fabric upholstery. I personally recommend clients spend to acquire well-made pieces and use the slip cover (tailored or flowy) to deal with mood and design changes.

A testimony: One of the sofas my husband and I have purchased in 1989 and is still going strong. The base fabric, a pricey linen velvet, held its own until just last year. That's 26 years. When you do the cost analysis, you see the value. It may have set me back a pretty penny years ago, as the fabric wholesaled at \$175 a yard in 1989. At the time I was working for a wholesaler and that same fabric retailed at over \$350 a yard. Here's the thing, it was a nubby neutral, and lasted well over two decades. That fabric more than paid for itself.

I watched as friends tossed their "budget" furniture, and even now, those same friends laugh as the couch we bought is still in style and going strong in Orinda. ... continued on next page



Even a simple drapery application can be gorgeous. This is a wire, with easy to use clips, available in many retail outlets or online.
Photos Couture Chateau LLC

We recently had the sofa reupholstered, this time in another well-made upholstery fabric, and the piece is still a favorite. I credit slipcovers for preserving the linen velvet seasonally for all those years.

Consider options in florals and solid or tone on tone linens. If you go the route of linens, you can easily update your space by switching out colorful prints for some black and white photos for a clean look through summer.

Pillows: Remember my tips on color matching, and take something with you so you know how to coordinate. If you are very unsure, stick to one color and do tone-on-tone.

Draperies: For our luxury clients, summer draperies are designed and fabricated at the same time the winter draperies are. These are then properly stored and cared



Linens and nubby sheers are perfect for the "spring switch."

for and professionally installed when the seasons switch. If you are doing it yourself, there are so many options, from the Pottery Barn catalog to other online sources. I love seeing the same summer options for outdoor drapery in all the catalogs arriving these days. Consider allocating some time to peruse and choose what would work in your home space.

From a budget standpoint, my professional opinion is the same for drapery as it is for furniture. Once you decide what you need in terms of window covering, go with the best you can afford. Even seasonally, if you invest in a well-made pre-fabricated product (look for lining and warranty information), you won't have to re-purchase next spring.

... continued on page D10



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Stylish Solutions

Making the Springtime Switch

... continued from page D9



Nubby and tone-on-tone are easy combinations to live with. Photo Couture Chateau LLC

In closing, no matter what your space looks like, take time this spring to enjoy your home.

I read a funny article the other day about Pinterest, as the author described house shame. As the resident designer this week, I formally banish that from your thinking and say that your home is beautiful, unique and a gorgeous representation of you in process. It really is about you finding your wheelhouse, so to speak, and embracing the season you are in.

May your spring home be everything you want. If you'd like to join us for a trend report coming out of High Point Market, you may sign up at www.couturechateau.com/trend. This is an online webinar format where I will be sharing tips and ob-

servations my team has picked up while at market.

For now, happy home to you.



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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Fight Sudden Oak Death— 10th Annual Sod Blitz April 9

Survey an area of your choosing for Sudden Oak Death (“SOD”) during the 10th annual SOD Blitz. The Blitz is a citizen science project sponsored by UC Berkeley, with funding from the US Forest Service, the PG&E Foundation, and private forestry sources, that provides data for the academic studies used to understand and combat the spread of the disease. Lack of rain in the past four dry years has inhibited SOD spread, but the wet conditions of 2016 favor substantial new infections that will be important to identify.

Help fight Sudden Oak Death this year in the East Bay from 10 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 9 at the Garden Room at the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. Learn about SOD and the Blitz leaf collection protocol from UC professor and SOD Blitz founder Dr. Matteo Garbelotto. Then, collect leaves from areas and at times of your choosing through Sunday, April 10. Dr. Garbelotto’s lab will analyze the leaves for SOD and post the results this fall on the Blitz website map.

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April Gardening Guide

Spring is a Time to Renew Your Gardens

By Cynthia Brian

“April hath put a spirit of youth in everything.” — William Shakespeare



A well-organized spring garden of rhododendron, breath of heaven, bearded iris, alyssum, calla lily, and pelargonium. Photos Cynthia Brian

The siren song of spring calls my soul to the outdoors as swiftly as the mermaid lures the sailor to the depths of the sea. The fragrance of the blossoms, the colors of blooms, the chirping of the birds, the croaking of the frogs, and the scent of green grasses speak to my deepest being. Our precious earth is in the process of rebirth and no matter how many years I've witnessed this evolution, I am always in awe.

My camera captures thousands of photos, most of which looked so much better with the naked eye, yet I want to record the beauty. I am obsessed with the lilacs, wisteria, iris, freesia, fruit trees, wildflowers and, especially, the soothing sounds of the cascading creeks.

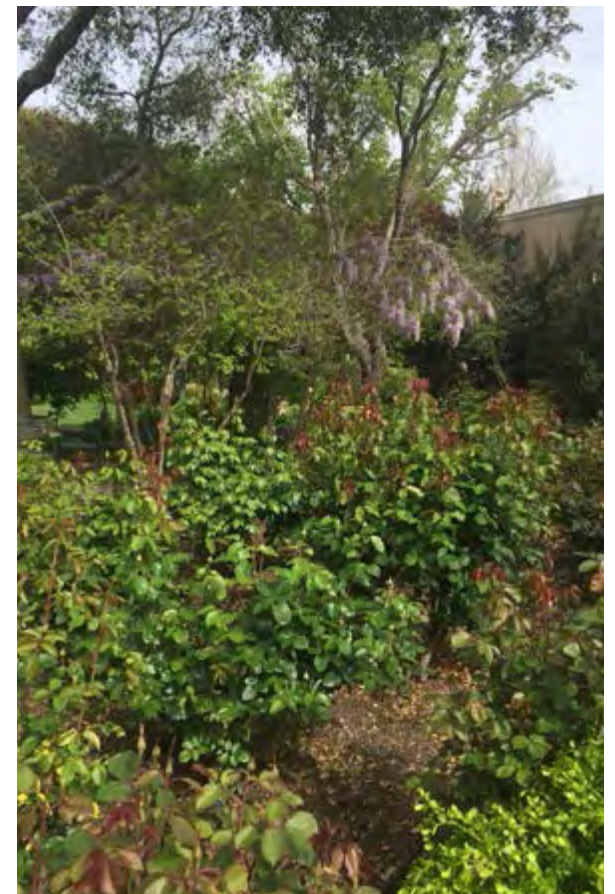
Spring-How I love thee!

As wild turkeys gobble-gobble along the hillsides

and into our streets — unaware that turkey season is open for those who seek to bag a bird for a barbecue — and as the deer begin to nibble our budding roses, it's wise to consider protecting our delicate plants from our indigenous predators. Wire, netting and fences are our most effective armor. El Nino has been a blessing in quenching our thirsty gardens, especially our lawns, yet the prodigious weeds, if left unattended, will compete with our flowers for moisture in summer. Now is the time to take action.

Every morning as I walk my property, I tell myself I'll spend only an hour in the garden after work. However, the hour quietly melts into three or four and soon I'm weeding by flashlight. This is love. It's springtime in our gardens and fun is pending. Go out and dig.

- **ADD** edible flowers to your dining experience. Plant seeds of hyssop, nasturtium, violet, leaf fennel, daisy and calendula.
 - **SCATTER** seeds of zinnia, cosmos, and marigold seeds for summer blooms.
 - **WEED**, weed, weed. Don't let seed heads develop or you'll have more invasive plants next season.
 - **SOW** onions not only for eating but also as a natural pest control in your garden, especially for brassicas including cabbage, broccoli, collards and kale.
 - **MIX** flowers with edibles to attract pollinators to your spring garden. Make sure to plant in groups so that the birds, bees and butterflies see the dinner you are serving.
- ... continued on page D14



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April Gardening Guide

... continued from page D12

- **BUILD** hugels while the soil is moist. You will find them invaluable this summer when water is scarce. (See October 7, 2015 issue for instructions: <https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0916/Digging-Deep-Gardening-with-Cynthia-Brian-Water-Wise-Dreams.html>)
- **CHECK** trees for damage. Many trees are suffering or have died during the drought. Ivy growing up the trunks, mushrooms at the base, and mistletoe are signs of trouble. Call a certified arborist.
- **PLANT** purple. Compounds called anthocyanins in purple produce have anti-inflammatory effects would could help lower the risk of cancer and heart disease. Think purple kale, purple potatoes, purple carrots, purple cauliflower ... purple anything.
- **NATURALIZE** aquilegia, commonly called columbine. These delicate star-shaped petals will self-sow if planted by others to cross-pollinate. They come a range of bold colors including blues, rose, yellow, white, pink, crimson, fuchsia, and many bicolors.
- **SHADE** gardens lend themselves to the lush green to bronze foliage of astilbe. Spires of pink, red, scarlet and white add summer grace.
- **CUT** bouquets of Oriental poppies mixed with lilacs for a stunning indoor offering with a heady scent.
- **PHOTOGRAPH** your garden. If you have a stellar masterpiece, send me a jpeg with a description. Who knows, we may publish it. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com.
- **WELCOME** home the migrating birds with fresh water in the fountain and new seed in the feeder.
- **REPLACE** woody lavender bushes. After six years or so, lavender is ready for the compost pile.
- **BE** friendly to native bees by incorporating native wildflowers into your landscape. (See March 23, 2015 Digging Deep-Cultivate a Wildflower Meadow: <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1002/Digging-Deep-How-to-Cultivate-a-Wildflower-Meadow.html>)



Santa Barbara daisies, Dutch iris, freesia, and asparagus fern share a plot.



Apple blossoms enhance the white picket fence.

- **CARE** for your lawns. The continued rains provide an opportunity to re-seed. I am sowing Pearl's Premium on rainy days then making sure the seed is watered daily until it sprouts. To protect the germinating seeds from hungry birds, our publisher, Andy Scheck suggests putting old screen doors on the patches. I've used old window screens. By summer the roots will be 14-to-20 inches deep and drought resistant. I'll keep you posted on my success or failure.
- **RAISE** your mower to a higher setting and forget the bag this month allowing the grass clippings to add nitrogen back into the lawn.
- **CLEAN** the patio. Sweep and wash furniture. Enjoy the sunny days.
- **START** tomatoes if your soil is warm. You may get a jumpstart on summer juiciness.
- **PICK** tangerines, Meyer lemons and tangelos as they ripen.
- **COMPOST**, compost, compost. The more nutrients you put into your garden, the more spectacular your scenery.
- **MARK** your calendars for wine and books event benefiting Be the Star You Are!® charity from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 9, at Dawn's Dream Winery Tasting room, on the northwest corner of Seventh and San Carlos, Carmel-by-the-Sea. www.bethestaryouare.org/#!events/kg2e.
- **PROGRAM** your DVRs to record "Wheel of Fortune" at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 11 on ABC for a fun local experience. Make sure to watch to the final wave goodbye.



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Moraga since 1987



Your friendly neighborhood arborists Darren and Lew Edwards

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Spring is here – it's time for spring cleaning but for your landscape! The trees and plants in the yard need to be inspected for water damage, remove dead or dying branches which may have been injured by disease/severe insect infestation or storm damage.

We also want to prune for improved plant appearance, tree and plant size to ensure all around health for your landscape.

So don't wait until it's too late, have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service to make your yard a summer STAYCATION.

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A PostScript

Have you followed my December 15, 2015 advice about making hard copies of your garden photos as well as other collectibles? My Digging Digitally article hit a chord with so many people, including those in other countries. This note arrived from Ireland:

“As regards your article about Digging Digitally and making hard copies of precious visual memories, and I so agree with everything you write. Last night I spent an agreeable evening perusing 100-year -old photo albums from my husband Per’s family, and it was so lovely to see the photos and read the handwritten comments. Those long-dead grandparents, aunts and uncles and their lives and interests came to life again.

I am obsessive about making paper copies of everything that comes my way digitally — photos, even interesting emails. (And before emails, I have saved almost every letter I ever got!) Technology changes rapidly, and the visual records are so much more readily accessible--no waiting for your computer to boot itself up and install a million updates, while all you wanted was a quick look at a particular photo. So keep on preaching the message to the younger generation.” — N. Daly

It’s never too late to start a garden journal or actually print out our photographs. (If you missed the article, find it here: <https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0921/Digging-Deep-Garden-With-Cynthia-Brian.html>)

Pictures of your most beautiful specimens make terrific art pieces when framed appropriately.

Let’s pray for April showers to bring more May flowers. Put a bounce in your step, sing, dance and be young.

Happy gardening and happy growing!



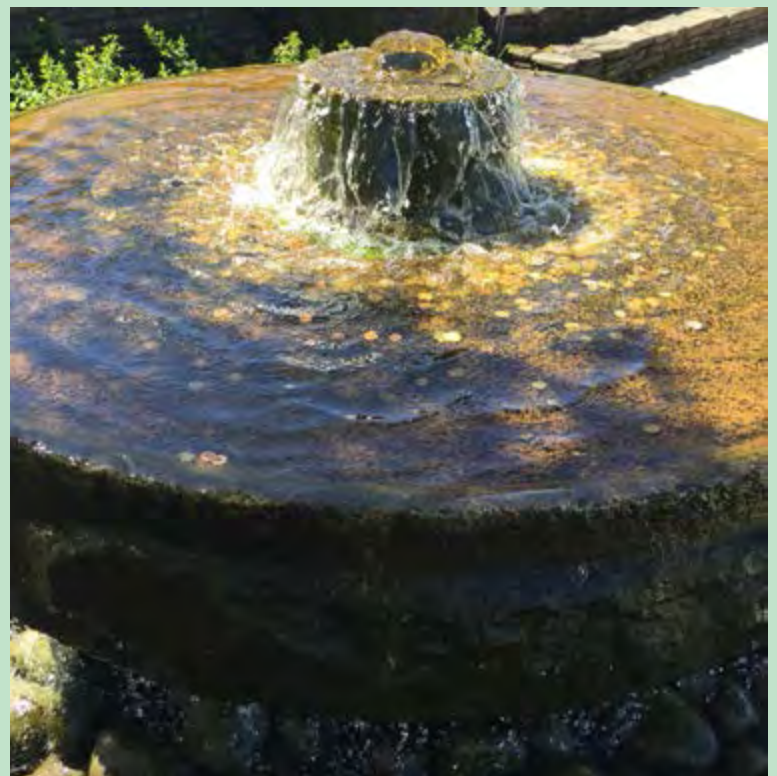
Spectacular smoke tree in its spring wardrobe.



Cynthia Brian in the luscious lilacs.

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Tune into Cynthia’s Radio show at
www.StarStyleRadio.com
Garden and plant consultations by
appointment.



Tiny frogs chirp around this gurgling fountain.

Lamorinda's Leading Independent Real Estate Firm

ORINDA



New Listing

10 Pico Court Beautifully updated 5br,2.5bth home on serene cul-de-sac in one of Orinda's most sought after neighbors! In beautiful condition, it has lots of level yard w/ hill views, conveniently located near schools, shops, parks & trails. **\$1,275,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

32 Sunnyside Lane Southwest charm abounds. Dark hwd flrs throughout, updated kitchen opens to family rm, spacious master, lower level with 4th bdrm, laundry/craft/ofc, & workout or play rm. Steps to Swim/Tennis. Hill Views. **\$1,575,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

650 Kite Hill Road Stunning Orindawoods estate home, beautifully renovated thruout w/gourmet kitchen, gorgeous master, soaring ceilings, rich hardwood flooring. Fabulous private .4 acre w/lovely view, expansive deck, yard, play space. **\$1,639,000**

ORINDA



15 Estates Drive Redesigned & renovated. Living, dining & island kitchen all in a "Great Room". 4bd/3ba + study/den. Hwd floors thruout. Patio & side yard. Close in loc. on .53ac lot. Top rated Orinda schools. **\$1,698,000**

ORINDA



15 Valley View Drive Fabulous picture postcard traditional ranch, 4bed +office, granite & stainless kitchen adjoining spacious family rm, formal dining rm. Private yard with expansive lawn & flowering gardens. Walk to 12 years of school. **\$1,795,000**

ORINDA



111 Bear Ridge Trail Gated 1.22ac lush knoll parcel. Custom 5bd/4.5ba, 3952sf home w/light & bright rooms, walls of windows & high ceilings. Modern kitchen w/informal eating area & adjoining fam. rm. Views! **\$1,895,000**

ORINDA



160 Camino Don Miguel Magnificent Spanish Mediterranean estate on two adjacent lots, located on fourth hole of Orinda Country Club. Main house completely rebuilt in 1996 is over 5800 sq. ft. with 5bd/5.5ba & separate 627 sq. ft. 1bd/1ba guest house. **\$6,200,000**

MORAGA



New Listing

43 Miramonte Drive Updated end-unit in desirable Miramonte Gardens HOA... move in-ready! Remodeled kitchen, dual pane wndws, indoor laundry. Priv. patio w/back gate access to Ivy Dr. 2 bdrms up, 1 down. Must be owner occupied. **\$599,000**

MORAGA



New Listing

135 Devin Drive Sweet Rheem Valley Manor 3bd/2ba, 1,545sf rancher on .24ac. Updates, hwd flrs & professionally landscaped yard. Eat-in kitchen w/ bay window overlooking trees & patio. Near shops, park & trails. Top schools! **\$975,000**

MORAGA



New Listing

1875 School Street Located in popular Moraga nghbrhd w/sidewalks, wide streets. Walk to shops, trails, schl. Wonderful hm w/ 3 spacious bdrms, 2.5 baths, apx. 2476sf, formal dining rm. Fenced bckyd w/patio, play area, lawn & garden. **\$1,250,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

4080 Legion Court Charming CA Ranch w/hardwood floors, open flr plan, "great room" kitchen, family & dining. Seamless in/outdoor access, inviting deck, level yard, pool & garden areas. Great loc. for easy commute & short walk to Laf. Reservoir. **\$1,045,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3400 Echo Springs Road Fabulous home updated for today's lifestyle! Situated on .94ac park-like lot w/pool & mature landscape. New kitchen & baths, new double paned windows & sliding doors. Living & dining rm w/old world charm, & sep. family rm. **\$1,295,000**

LAFAYETTE



1155 Camino Vallecito Happy Valley 2 acre estate designed by CA notable architect Esherick, sophisticated style, extra high ceils, french drs, glass walls, gorgeous kitchen adjacent to family rm. +office, guest quarters. Views! **\$3,825,000**

LAFAYETTE



5 Burton Vista Court Truly spectacular 7bed/9+bath, 8986 sq. ft. estate with incredible luxury amenities in all grand oversized spaces. Premium 2.25 acre parcel with sport court, sun-drenched pool, & pavilion with kitchen, dressing rooms & showers. **\$5,599,000**

CONCORD



2039 Sierra Road, Unit 5 3 bed, 2 bath townhouse-like condo in sought after Comstock Gardens. 1099 sq. ft. Patio, garage, parking, extra storage. Great location for shopping and commute. Investors welcome. **\$315,000**

PLEASANT HILL



New Listing

201 Roberta Avenue Heart of Poet's Corner. Remodeled 4bd/3ba home on pancake flat lush 1/3 acre lot. Great open floor plan, light and bright. Oversized 2-car garage. Walk to town, restaurants, theater. **\$1,150,000**



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