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Rachel Lowe, in black, and Diana Katzman, in white, get a workout at a Lamorinda Rugby Club practice May 24.

Photo Andy Scheck

High School Girls' Rugby Team Makes Pitch in Lamorinda

By Nick Marnell

The Lamorinda Rugby Club launched its first high school girls' rugby team May 17 in front of a packed hall at the Wilder Ranch House in Orinda. Club officials, coaches and several players on girls' rugby teams talked about the benefits and excitement of the budding girls' team sport.

"We provide an opportunity for girls to play rugby with our boys from U8 through middle school," said Beth Marks,

volunteer administrator. "At that point it becomes too dangerous for them to continue on playing with high school boys."

And so, with rugby one of the fastest growing team sports in the country, the Lamorinda club started its own girls' high school rugby program, rather than have the girls travel miles away to play.

Diana Katzman, a junior at Campolindo who drives to

Pleasanton to play in a girls' rugby league, said the sport has improved her toughness, self-respect and self confidence.

"Coaches are honest," she said. "There is no sugar-coating. It opened my eyes to see that all of the work I did actually paid off in my improved play." Katzman's Pleasanton Cavaliers will be a Lamorinda club opponent.

... continued on page A12

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Lamorinda Realtor's Long Journey Home

By Nick Marnell

Real estate agent Shiva Jafarzadeh will sell you a home, but she wants nothing to do with anything that reminds her of back home.

"I was a rebel," said the Iranian-born Bay Sotheby's International Realty agent, expelled from middle school because she questioned the religious teachings of Islam. Why did the prophet have 40 wives? It didn't make sense to her. School officials had no answers.

She kept it up in high school, questioning why girls should cover up, or not wear makeup. The school thought she was mentally ill, and sent her to therapists and religious leaders. "There is nothing wrong with me!" she insisted.

At the University of Tehran in the mid-1990s she continued to flout authority, publishing flyers about Islam and how it promotes the abuse of women, taking away their rights. Again, expelled.

"Where you are going, is very dangerous," her father warned.

That scared Jafarzadeh. "I was afraid that if I got into too deep of trouble, I would be sent to prison. And the tortures..." So she acceded. She agreed on an arranged marriage — to her cousin.



Shiva Jafarzadeh in her Lafayette office Photo A. Scheck

"It's not like you can walk down the street in Iran and ask a guy to have coffee with you."

The pairing was doomed from the outset. She worked as a travel host for an agency, and her fiancé hated it. He hated that she laughed with other men. He hated that she had an interest in art, and painting, and she told him she was damned well going to work. "You don't talk to your future husband like that," he said. He hated it enough that he hit her.

... continued on page A12

Local Community Court Will Help First-time Offenders

By Sophie Braccini

Some low-level crimes in Lamorinda will soon be diverted from the Contra Costa County criminal courts and managed through a new Community Court system. This agreement with the District Attorney's Office is set to ease congestion in the county judicial system, and as of recently, the three local cities are now set up to move forward.

A Community Court provides a voluntary non-criminal alternative for first-time offenders of minor crimes. Hearings are conducted by trained, licensed attorneys acting as hearing officers. They may issue a directive including a fine, community service or counseling. When the participant completes the directive, the case is discharged. The program is voluntary and the of-

fender — as well as the victim, if there is one — can opt out at any time during the process.

Moraga interim Town Manager Bob Priebe said that there are about 40 cases a year in Moraga for this type of proceeding. "People can make mistakes, and that can follow them for a long time," said Priebe. "This process gives the person a chance to not have a conviction on their record." He gave the example of a Saint Mary's College student arrested while drunk, a conviction that could hurt that student going on to graduate school. Through the Community Court system, the suspect could be ordered to do community service, and nothing would show up on future records.

... continued on page A12

Civic News	A1-A14	Life in Lamorinda	B1-B8	Sports	C1-C3	Our Homes	D1-D20
<p>Moraga is denied federal funds for Sinkhole repair. — page A5</p> <p style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">Fire Districts</p> <p>MOFD gets deal on new temporary home.</p>	<p style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">A8</p> <p>Town Hall Delights With 'Play it Again, Sam.' — page B1.</p>		<p>Gaels baseball takes a swing NCAAs — page C2.</p>		<p>Old trees can live on as beautiful pieces of furniture. — page D1.</p>		



Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, June 13, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, June 6, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, June 13, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, June 1, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Tuesday, June 21, 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

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New Fire Station on the Drawing Board

By Cathy Tyson



ConFire Deputy Fire Chief Lewis Broschard and Fire Chief Jeff Carman showed attendees at the neighborhood feedback meeting the preferred station plans. Photo Cathy Tyson

Lafayette residents will get their new fire station, but it will be up to them to determine how long it will take to build.

After engineers recently evaluated the uninhabitable Station 16 on Los Arabis Drive that has been vacant since 2012, Contra Costa Fire Protection District staff and architects crunched the numbers; it made more financial sense, said Fire Chief Jeff Carman, to demolish the existing structure and start fresh with a new functional modern fire station that will serve the community for decades to come.

This move comes after lengthy negotiations on a joint station with the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department fell through.

Carman was clear: "Our number-one priority on the Capital Improvement Plan is to build this station."

For Lafayette residents living in the neighborhood, a functional local station is very good news, and it can't come soon enough. However, the entire construction process is slated to take 24 months in order to finalize architectural plans, get city building permits, environmental reviews and complete construction.

"I consider getting this station an emergency," said concerned neighbor Susan McEntee. "It needed to be done yesterday."

The new station will be about 60 percent smaller than a standard fire station, and will be approximately 3,800 square feet, said Carl Campos, CEO of LCA Architects, due to the constricted lot in Happy Valley. Once complete, the rectangular station, a bit longer than what is now there, will house three personnel: a captain, an engineer and a firefighter. One of the three

will also be trained as a paramedic. It will also house a large fire truck and a substantial amount of equipment.

There are stringent requirements for this type of structure, Campos explained: it must be ADA accessible throughout, per county regulations it must be environmentally efficient and LEED certified, and it must be built to withstand major seismic events. It must also have separate dorm accommodations for female employees, as well as a very large driveway so the rig can back in. It must also have a decontamination area and laundry room.

City Manager Steven Falk said at the meeting that it was up to the neighborhood to choose the style, and the way to speed up the process is if the neighbors can come to an agreement about the style of the exterior of the building quickly versus drawing out the city approval process with disagreement and infighting.

"This is up to you, have at it" he said. At that point attendees were given stickers to place near their preferred design style.

Large poster boards mounted on the wall had over a dozen examples of various fire station building styles, from sleek and modern to Mediterranean to craftsman-esque. By far, the image that garnered the most stickers looked vaguely like a residential version of the Veterans Hall, with stone elements, a metal roof and lots of windows.

"We want to be good neighbors," said Deputy Fire Chief Lewis Broschard thanking residents for the feedback, but he cautioned that ConFire will have to balance suggestions with their budget and the primary need to house a substantial amount of equipment and apparatus on a constrained site. ... continued on page A8



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report May 1 to 14

- Alarms 58
- 911 Calls (including hang-ups) 3
- Noise complaints 5
- Traffic stops 99
- Suspicious Circumstances 8
- Suspicious Subjects 17
- Suspicious Vehicles 23
- Abandoned Vehicle

- St Mary's Rd./Camino Colorados 900 block Hawthorne Dr.
- Woodview Dr./St Mary's Rd. 1200 block Pleasant Hill Rd.
- 3400 block Moraga Blvd.
- 3600 block Bickerstaff
- St Mary's Rd./Woodview Dr. El Nido Ranch/Acalanes Rds.

- Auto Recovery** 1200 block Quandt Rd.
- Battery** 3800 block Happy Valley Rd. 1200 Pleasant Hill Rd.

- Burglary, Auto** Second St./Mt. Diablo Blvd. 1500 Silver Dell Rd. 600 block Huntleigh Dr. 3200 block Lucas Cr. 3200 block Ameno Dr. 1200 block Sunset Lp.

- Burglary, Commercial** 900 block Oak Hill Rd. 3400 block Golden Gate Way 3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

- Burglary, misc.** 1000 block Pine Ln.
- Burglary, Residential** 1200 block Summit Rd.

- Civil Problem** 1000 block Dolores Dr. 3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3200 block Beechwood Dr. 3200 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3200 block Stanley Blvd. 1000 block Almanor Ln. (3) 800 block Moraga Rd.

- Dispute, Verbal** 1000 block Almanor Ln. 1000 block Via Roble

- Disturbing the Peace** 3300 block Springhill Rd. 1100 block Estates Dr. 4000 block Marianne Dr. 1000 block Brown Ave.

- DUI** Deer Hill/Oak Hill Rds.

- Drunk in Public** 3200 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

- Fraud** 3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 20 block Crest Rd. 3400 McEllen Ct.

- Harassment** Las Trampas School 3400 block Lana Ln.

- Health & Safety violation** Springhill/Pleasant Hill Rds.

- Hit & Run** 3300 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Mosswood/Village Center Mt. Diablo Blvd./Willow Dr. Mt. Diablo Blvd./First St. 3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

- Panhandling** 3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Police/Fire/EMS response** 300 block Willoughby Ct. 3400 block Monroe Ave. 1200 block Upper Happy Valley Rd.
- Public Nuisance** 800 block Broadmoor Ct. 1000 block Oak Hill Rd. 3500 Eagle Point Rd. 900 block Moraga Rd. 3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Harper Ct/Sierra Vista Way
- Promiscuous Shooting** 800 block Rosedale Ave.
- Reckless Driving** Moraga Rd./School St. Moraga Rd./Tofflemire Dr. Mt. Diablo Blvd./Risa Rd. St. Mary's/Moraga Rd. Upper Happy Valley/El Nido Ranch Mt. Diablo Blvd/Moraga Rd. Springhill/Pleasant Hill Rds. Pleasant Hill/Hwy 24
- Robbery** 3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Shoplifting** 3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2) 3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)
- Theft, Petty** reported to police 3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 1000 block Second St. 500 block Silverado Dr. 3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3900 block Happy Valley Rd.
- Theft, ID** 1200 block Panorama Dr. 600 block Murray Ln. 3200 block Phillips Rd. 3200 block Sweet Dr. 600 block Sky Ranch Ct.
- Theft, Vehicle** Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.
- Trespass** 1000 block Second St. 1000 block Via Roble 500 block Hamlin Rd.
- Unwanted Guest** 3400 block Golden Gate Way 3800 block Quail Ridge Rd.
- Vandalism** 20 block Green Tree Ct. 3100 block Stanley Blvd. (3) 1700 block Springbrook Rd.
- Warrant** 3200 Alta Ln.

Scout Summer Camp Out of the Woods

By Cathy Tyson



Four Girl Scouts, along with a raccoon, pose in front of the welcome sign at Girl Scout Camp Twin Canyon in Lafayette. Photo provided

It was only a handful of years ago that Lafayette's hidden gem that has served generations of campers, Girl Scout Camp Twin Canyon, was in dire financial straits. Operating at a deficit, faced with aging infrastructure and rising costs, the 35-acre camp near Briones Regional Park, purchased with Girl Scout cookie sale revenue back in 1954, was designated a Tier 3 camp, in

danger of being mothballed or sold. Twin Canyon, located at the end of Springhill Road in Lafayette, was one of a number of Girl Scout camps that faced possible closure, but thanks to the efforts of dedicated volunteers, the camp is again open for business. For the foreseeable future it will continue to provide a summer time experience many Lamorinda girls know and love.

Girl Scouts of Northern California are faced with some hard choices. At their annual board meeting, a large majority of members expressed the view that staying the course, continuing to own and operate all 29 GSNorCal properties is not sustainable, according to CEO Marina Park, so they are exploring their options. A property task force from the Northern California Division is focusing on camps that have the lowest attendance and are the most expensive to operate. Twin Canyon has a robust attendance, and now with the help of generous donations addressing infrastructure needs as well as key green updates, it looks like the camp is out of the woods, at least for the time being.

Responding to concerns to keep the camp open, the Twin Canyon Work Group formed to come up with a break-even plan to address the pressing financial situation. ... continued on page A14

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Rock the Plaza Summer Concerts Return Friday

Lafayette's favorite block party is back every Friday during the month of June at Plaza Park on the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road with a lineup of free family friendly evening concerts. Mark your calendars, bring the kids, dog and a picnic or support local establishments by purchasing dinner fixin's from nearby grocery stores and restaurants.

- Kicking off the fun is the Allmond Brothers, a popular tribute band that plays covers of the similarly named Allman Brothers band on Friday, June 3.
- "Ticket to Ride" a Beatles tribute band, plays on Friday, June 10.
- "The Big Jangle," a local band dedicated to playing Tom Petty tunes, plays on Friday, June 17.
- Wrapping up the series is the 2016 Lamorinda Idol Finalists on Friday, June 24.

All of the concerts start at 6:30 p.m.

—C. Tyson

Downtown to See More Meters, Less Free Parking

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

Drivers, brace yourselves for more parking meters, as rates for many previously free on-street parking options will now have hungry meters standing at attention, ready for your credit card or coins.

Sweeping parking changes recently adopted by Lafayette city leaders also decreased the cost of parking at one lot, and will stage a trial run to give preference to local cars near BART. Although free parking can be found on a Monopoly board, it's becoming increasingly rare downtown, for the simple reason that free parking encourages drivers to leave their cars all day long, locking up spots that could be used by multiple vehicles.

Tasked with finding actions to immediately improve the parking situation, the Parking Ordinance Committee has worked with the Chief of Police to find ways to improve the use and efficiency and encourage turnover of existing public parking spaces downtown.

All of the committee's concrete suggestions were approved by the city council, with just one exception. Installing parking meters on Carol Lane is slated for further study. Council members hesitated to adopt changes that would affect the 26 on-street spaces which are mainly used by employees of nearby businesses.

Jesse Wellen, longtime owner of the Lafayette Car Wash on the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Carol Lane, acknowledged that meters are necessary for turnover; however he estimates there are many employees of various businesses in the area, and existing adequate customer parking at Ace Hardware. He feels installing meters on Carol Lane would create a "financial hardship" for many of the workers.

It wasn't all bad news: parking at the city-owned lot directly across the street from Lafayette Elementary School will soon be cheaper. It was \$5 per day, and will be \$2 per day, once the official parking changes take effect sometime this summer. The gravel lot used to be free, but when the rate went up to \$5, the occupancy rates fell considerably, an indication that it was too expensive. Because of its location, this lot is intended to serve downtown employees and carpoolers.

Parking meters will be coming to 24 previously free spaces on Golden Gate Way to encourage

turnover of heavily used spots by the library; the eastern end of the street will remain unmetered. Meters will cost \$1 per hour and be enforced from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., while parking within the library structure will continue to be free.

The eastern portion of Lafayette Circle from Mt. Diablo to Hough Avenue will also see new two-hour maximum parking meters at 24 spaces, to discourage employee parking there. Many employees used these free street spaces since the privately owned La Fiesta lot became metered. Police observed that some drivers abuse the timed spaces, moving their vehicles only a few feet to foil enforcement chalk marks on tires.

It will soon cost \$5 per day for long-term parking on Dolores Drive. Currently the 15 on-street spaces are unregulated and are used by BART patrons and local store employees. Nearby Via Roble will have signage posted on the lower section limiting parking to two hours. This move is being made to deter long term parkers in the residential area, and allow the use of spaces by residents and their guests.

Also in response to pressure of BART parkers, and to benefit Lafayette residents, a six-month test period for 40 street spaces on Happy Valley Road, from the freeway to Deer Hill Road, will be reserved for Lafayette residents and marked with Permit Parking Only signs. These spaces will be on a first come, first served basis. Residents will have to register their car license plates in order to obtain a permit; police will be checking the cars parked in this designated area to verify the vehicle belongs to a local. Meter fees still need to be paid.

This program may take a little longer to implement said Planning and Building Services Director Niroop Srivatsa, since the city will have to get the word out to residents who will then need to register their cars, but it should be up and running later this summer.

Other changes include establishing a \$1 minimum meter credit card payment, since service charges eat up \$.40 of every credit card transaction. The parking ordinance committee will also work with existing banks and other businesses to allow public parking use of their lots after business hours.

... continued on page A12

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Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, June 8, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, June 22, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, June 6, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, June 13, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Tuesday, June 7, 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

April 26 through May 3



Fire 5/17/16: An investigation into a vehicle and structure fire at North Sandringham Drive found that the 20-year-old resident, who was not allowed to smoke in the house, was smoking a cigarette in his parked vehicle under the carport. The subject fell asleep while smoking and was later awakened to his car on fire. Luckily he escaped without injury. Cops evacuated two adults and a dog from the house without injury. The fire department arrived and extinguished the fire. The car was toast and there was substantial damage to the carport and garage. Time of the incident was 4:08 a.m. which may have contributed to the incident.

Fraud 5/16/16: A Thorndale Place couple came to the lobby of the Police Department to report a fraudulent joint tax return. They had already reported the incident to the IRS and it was being investigated. The couple also filed a report with the Federal Trade Commission, but in order to complete the FTC claim, they needed to obtain a case number from police. No mention of monetary loss in the police report.

Harassing phone call 5/16/16: A Sanders Ranch Road resident stated he received a voicemail from a subject whose son plays on the same youth baseball team as his son. The caller alleged in his message that the reporting person was "messing" with his kid's playing time at practice. The dad called back and was concerned that the voicemail guy stated he would "bust up" the Sanders Ranch fellow if he messed with the subject or the subject's family. The harass-ee just wanted documentation in case of further issues. Apparently adult bullying is not considered good sportsmanship.

Found bike 5/16/16: A Crossbrook Drive resident reported she noticed a bike hidden in the bushes between two of her neighbors' front yards. Cops checked the serial number of the bike and it wasn't listed in the state stolen property database. If you're missing a bike - it's being held at the Moraga Police Department.

Equipment collision 5/15/16: At the corner of Spyglass Lane and Augusta Drive a Bobcat of the construction variety lost the use of its steering and brakes after its engine seized. The Bobcat rolled approximately 110 feet down a steep hill and

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Old Moraga Post Office To Become a Warehouse

By Sophie Braccini



The old post office on School Street will soon be a warehouse for Beauty Republic.

Photo Andy Schreck

The Moraga Planning Commission recently approved the transformation of the old post office at the corner of Country Club Drive and School Street into a warehouse. About eight people will work there and not much additional traffic is anticipated.

Song Chae Yun owns the building across from Si Si Caffè on

one side and the Moraga Unified School District Office on the other. It used to be Moraga's second post office but was closed when the U.S. Postal service cut costs and has been vacant ever since.

Yun is the owner of Beauty Republic, a beauty products company with retail stores in the Bay Area. Hayoung Lee, the architect

who was representing Yun at the May meeting, said that the owner's first intent had been to open a retail store in Moraga, but that zoning of the property would not permit it. The building is located in a suburban office zone of the Moraga Center Specific Plan.

The commissioners' questioned the type of administrative

and storage business proposed by Beauty Republic. The site is a 17,424-square foot lot, and the one-story building itself is 5,483 square feet. Lee confirmed that it would be oversized for what is intended.

The traffic generated by Beauty Republic would consist in one delivery to the site every two weeks, and rotation of stock between the local stores in Emeryville and San Ramon twice a week. The impact was estimated to be much less than the previous use when the site was a post office. Lee added that internet sales could possibly be managed from the site.

The commissioners noted that Moraga was not positioned well in the Bay Area to become a warehouse hub, and added that this business would probably bring no additional revenue to the town. The use was compliant with local regulation and unanimously approved.

Planning Commission Needs More Time to Study Wine

By Sophie Braccini

Everyone in town who has an interest in Moraga's budding wine industry was holding their breath as the Planning Commission met to regulate wineries in residential districts. But they were able to exhale when, after hearing from staff, residents and considering their own questions, the commissioners made no firm decision. They decided to appoint a study group to delve into the complex ramifications of regulating wineries.

Planning staff has been working for years on creating a new layer of regulation for people who are producing wine on their property. At this time, this activity is subjected to county and state rules that owners have to follow to be bonded and allowed to produce and sale their wines. In Moraga, home businesses are permitted. However, since the town has received at least one complaint from the neighbor of a local winery, it was decided that studying the addition of local protections was necessary.

As they examined what staff was proposing, planning commissioners had additional questions regarding the impacts on neighbors, from the toxicity of allowed

collided with the back of an asphalt grinder. The driver was lucky, only receiving a minor cut on his leg. He was examined by Moraga Orinda Fire District paramedics but declined to be transported to a hospital. Do Bobcats have seatbelts?

Drunk kids 5/14/16: A group of juveniles was hanging out at a local fast food establishment at about 9:30 p.m. when officers came by and found one of the kids extremely intoxicated and unable to care for himself. Paramedics were summoned. The youth was eventually released to his mother at the scene.

Other crimes occurring in Moraga from May 10 - 17:

Bike swiped - in front of Safeway
Probation violation - no address, two suspicious subjects on bicycles, one with methamphetamine
False alarms - Calle La Montana, Fernwood Drive, Arroyo Drive
Domestic dispute - Corte Gabriel
Welfare check - Corte Yolanda

sprayed products, to noise, odors, to setback of equipment, just to name a few.

The local winemakers explained that their profession is already very highly regulated and noted that their properties are located in either open space or study areas where agricultural activities are permitted, including processing

of the crop.

Planning commission chair Steve Woehleke proposed that a group of two commissioners meet with staff and stakeholders to go further into the question, make sure that the proposed regulation is necessary, protects neighbors adequately, and not nip in the bud an industry that is contributing to the

community.

Planning Director Ellen Clark said that the study group made up of commissioners Ravi Mallela and Kymberleigh Korpus met at the end of May with staff and stakeholders, and would meet again early June. June 20 is the target for the next time the planning commission will discuss this topic.

Samira Says



Samira Davi is a Nurse Liaison for ManorCare Health Services in Walnut Creek. Samira has over 10 years of experience working in health care in Contra Costa County, which has gained her a wide view of what is important to the health care consumer. She will be posting common questions and comments in each issue of the Lamorinda Weekly. You are welcome to contact Samira directly at 925.270.8766

Warm Weather Safety

As spring turns the corner to summer, the urge to spend time in the sun consumes many people. The desire to bask in the rays of the summer months results in numerous positive physical benefits, but can be detrimental if certain safety precautions are not followed. Although the sun provides the body with essential nutrients like Vitamin D, it can be very dangerous if the body is overexposed. This is especially true in older adults.

As we get older, our bodies become much more susceptible to dehydration and heat-related illnesses. Our thirst sensations diminish over time, which means that the body loses its ability to alert us when we are becoming dehydrated. The aging body also loses its ability to cool rapidly, increasing the chances of heat-related illness.

Here are a few important safety measures to take to help avoid heat related issues:

- Stay indoors as much as possible during the late morning and early afternoon.
- If you exercise outdoors- do so during the cooler hours of the day.
- Stay hydrated. Drink plenty of fluids, even if you don't feel thirsty!
- Stay away from alcoholic beverages or those that contain caffeine, as they can increase the risk of dehydration.
- Try to stay in the air conditioning if at all possible. If you do not have air conditioning, consider going to places that do- like the mall, library, grocery store, or movie theater.
- If you go outside, wear a hat that can help shield your face from the sun. Wear sunglasses and sunscreen!
- Do not wear heavy or dark clothing.
- Do not do any heavy lifting or other laborious tasks during the hotter parts of the day.

We at ManorCare Walnut Creek and ManorCare Tice Valley are happy to provide you with these Warm Weather Safety Tips.

As always, we at ManorCare offer post-acute medical and rehabilitation care for those recovering from surgery, illness, or injury. The continuum of care provided by our experienced and committed team members (including physical, occupational, and speech therapist) helps our patients to successfully transition back to home.

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Town Denied Federal Transportation Funds For Sinkhole Repair

By Sophie Braccini

The Federal Highway Administration denied the town of Moraga the funding to repair the sinkhole that formed mid-March after the heavy rains.

The town is disputing this initial decision, which Interim Town Manager Bob Priebe announced at the May 25 town council meeting, and will contact Cal OES, the Governor's office of emergency services to discuss the situation. Priebe said that repair work will proceed as planned whatever the results of

the negotiations with the agencies.

The California Department of Transportation is the agency that made an assessment based on information the town provided and made the determination that the town did not qualify for federal funds. Priebe is drafting the appeal to Caltrans, and given the urgency of the need to begin repairs as soon as possible, is contacting Cal OES to get some guidance on their process.

At the beginning of May the

council had decided to authorize repairs of the damaged 96-inch culvert that caused the road collapse at the intersection of Rheem Boulevard and Moraga Road. Cost estimate for the repair is \$3.3 million.

In the meantime, town staff will present the bid package for repairs to five pre-selected contractors. Priebe said that the town continues to do everything it possibly can to get the repairs done quickly, continues to support the business community during the repair phase, and

is seeking financial assistance until all options are exhausted.

The town manager added after the meeting that there is no additional impact on the town's current budget, because Moraga will have to initially fund the repairs no matter what financial assistance is obtained. Any state or federal monies are reimbursements. The 2006

sinkhole took two years to receive the FHWA money.

"Clearly, if the town is denied state or federal assistance, it will impact future budgets," he said. That money that will not be replenished to offset the costs that will be borne in the current fiscal year and next year's fiscal year's budget. They will be presented on June 8.

Summer Concerts Coming to the Commons

Summer is coming, which also means that it's time to tune up for the free Thursday evening concerts at Moraga Commons. Families can bring picnic blankets or lawn chairs to the grassy hillside in front of the band shell.

Volunteers from the Moraga Park Foundation that sponsors the series cook dinner at the snack bar, which opens at 6 p.m. Concerts start at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m.

Line-up:

- June 23** Apple Z — Rock & Roll
- June 30** Moonalice — Bay Area 60s
- July 4** Floorshakers — Dance party & show (7pm concert)
- July 14** Spill the Wine— Jackson 5 to Maroon 5
- July 21** Foreverland — Electrifying tribute to Michael Jackson
- July 28** Kings of 88 — Piano rock e.g. Elton John, Billy Joel, etc
- Aug. 4** Fleetwood Mask — Tribute to fleetwood Mac
- Aug. 11** Mixed Nuts — Decades of rock
- Aug. 18** Beatles Flashback — Tribute to the Beatles
- Aug. 25** FUNdamentals — Season finale cover and dance band
- Sept. 24** Pear Festival concert 2-4 p.m. — Tune Riders

Sponsors of the 2016 Concert Season include: The Bruzzone Family, Republic Services, Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley and 5A Rent-A-Space

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 Joanna Truelson | 925.258.1111



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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, June 21, 7 p.m.
June 7 has been cancelled
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, June 14, 7 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
Orinda Library

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, June 8, 2016, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
City Hall, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda

School Board Meetings

Orinda Unified School District
Monday, June 13, 6 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org
Phone (925) 253-4200

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

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Maureen Wilbur



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As City Clerk Olsen Departs, Orinda Loses Its 'Heart'

By Sora O'Doherty



Michele Olsen will now have more time with her family. Photo provided

Three hundred fifty city council meetings over 13 years. How do you measure a career? In dignity, in integrity, in smiles and

even-handedness, in cheerfulness, and earnest and caring for all.

At least that's how Michele Olsen did it.

The longtime Orinda city clerk is leaving, and when asked about it, Mayor Victoria Smith replied, "I'll have to stop crying before I can give you a comment."

After she dried her proverbial tears, the mayor spoke eloquently about how much Olsen, who has been with Orinda as city clerk for 13 years, means to the community. "She is the face of the city," Smith said, and that she manages the council with "poise and dignity."

As much as Orinda loves Michele Olsen, she loved her job. Until one day, last year, when Olsen shattered her ankle in the Tough Mudder race. With 13 pins and 5 plates in her ankle, Olsen was off work for months. She had thought that she was close to her children, but she realized just how much closer she became when she actually had more time to spend with them. Olsen has two sons, 14 and

12 years old, and a daughter, 9. As she gazed into the future, she suddenly knew that she wanted more than anything to be there for them, to mold them into productive members of society through these next, crucial years.

At the same time, Olsen observed that a friend from Orinda who moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, was growing calmer and happier away from the pressures of the competitive Bay Area. Eight years ago, Olsen and her husband had thought about moving to Raleigh, North Carolina, where her husband has family. But now they have trained their sights on Charlotte, and just closed on a new home there.

Eventually, Olsen will return to work, but not for a long while. She wants to be there for her children and really share these last precious school years. ... continued on page A11

Is Wilder Getting Wilder? Residents Push for More Restrictions After Crime Creeps Into Neighborhood

By Sora O'Doherty

Will the public amenities at Wilder attract an unwanted, criminal element to the valley? Some Wilder neighbors think so and lined up to express their concerns to the Orinda City Council at a recent meeting.

The complaints ranged from an episode of drug-intoxicated strangers abandoning their car in the middle of the street and occupying a resident's driveway, to long response times by police, to concerns that traveling through the valley provides an opportunity to case homes for potential future burglaries.

Wilder resident Madeline Malory stated that Wilder now has the highest rate of crime in Orinda.

Some of the suggestions that were put forth included gating the parking area, locking restrooms, prohibiting the use of alcohol, and installing security cameras. All the speakers expressed a desire to be involved in the decision making processes, and the council members agreed that there would still be time for consultation.

Faster approval of new homes in the Wilder development, an Art & Garden Center at no cost to the city, and a trailhead respite area are among the goals of the seventh amendment to the Wilder Development Agreement, presented to the council. The amendment would also permit second units in Wilder, as are already allowed in the rest of Orinda.

While many aspects of the amended DA were praised, Wilder residents queued up to express concern about safety issues in the Gateway Valley and concerns that the Trailhead Respite Area would become a destination in itself and might attract activities that would be unwelcomed by residents. They expressed concern about the level of policing, and whether the East Bay Regional Park District has sufficient personnel to add the Trailhead Respite Area to the parks they maintain.

The amended DA provides for an expedited design approval process for homes, which would be a two-step process of approval: first by the Wilder Design Review Committee and then by the Orinda Zoning Commissioner. Approval by

the Planning Commission or city council will no longer be required, except when a variance is requested or upon appeal of a decision.

Mayor Victoria Smith hailed the plan as being more objective, given the high level of planning that went into the original Agreement.

Drummond Buckley, Orinda's planning director, noted that the reason the streamlined approval process could be fairly implemented is because so many design restrictions had been put in place

during the earlier negotiations. With this extensive framework already in place, each application is simpler to rule on because it must already conform to so many standards. Hence the exception for requests for variances.

Wilder Handbook

There is now a Wilder Design Review Handbook, which draws together all the requirements applicable to Wilder homes in once place. Previously, applicants for Design Review approval were required to peruse the 2005 DA as amended,

the Conditions of Approval for the Development Agreement and for the Final Development Plan, and the Landscape Master Plan to determine the requirements applicable to developing a new home in the Wilder Project. To streamline this process, Section I of the Handbook assembles these requirements in a single document. Smith called this handbook a great improvement, and added that it was sort of a "duh" moment—why hadn't it be done earlier?

... continued on page A13

ORINDA POLICE	
Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report May 1 to 14	
Alarms	64
Noise complaints	3
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	6
Traffic stops	64
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subjects	5
Suspicious Vehicles	16
Battery	
20 block Irwin Way	
100 block Meadow Ln.	
Burglary, Residential	
30 block Overhill Rd.	
Civil	
100 block Moraga Via	
2300 block Lawson	
Disturbance	
100 block Oak Rd. (2)	
El Toyonal/Camino Pablo	
Dispute, verbal	
Irwin Way/Orinda Way	
200 block Moraga Way	
400 block El Toyonal	
DUI	
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.	
BevMo	
Harassment	
60 block La Espiral (2)	
Health & Safety violation	
Stein Way/Knickerbocker Ln.	
Hit & Run	
Camino Pablo/Hwy 24	
ID Theft	
100 block Crest View Dr (4)	
Reported to police (2)	
Moraga Way/Brookside Rd.	
60 block Moraga Via (2)	
10 block Bates Blvd.	
Missing Juvenile	
500 block Dalewood Dr.	
Panhandling	
Yashell Way/Moraga Way	
Public Nuisance	
Bel Air /Park Lane Drs.	
Orinda Country Club	
10 block Orinda Way	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Way/Oak Dr.	
Camino Pablo/Orinda Way	
Glorietta Blvd./Moraga Via	
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd. (2)	
Bear Creek Rd./Camino Pablo	
40 block Muth Dr.	
Shoplift	
20 block Orinda Way	
Stolen car recovery	
BART lot	
Theft, Petty	
20 block Moraga Via	
Reported to police	
60 block Estates Dr	
CVS	
Theft, Grand	
50 block Donna Maria Way	
100 block La Espiral	
Trespass	
50 block La Encinal	
Uncontrollable Juvenile	
10 block Ichabod Ln.	
Unwanted guest	
40 block Underhill Rd.	
Vandalism	
Safeway	

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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 sauce.....18
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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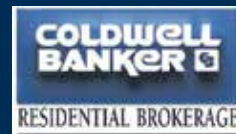
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Music and Movies Mark Summer in Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

This summer will see the return of Summer Concerts in the Park, sponsored by the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation and supported by the Orinda Community Foundation, Rotary Club of Orinda and City of Orinda. Each concert will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on a Tuesday evening in Orinda Community Park, except that Opera in the Park will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday July 24. There will be food trucks for all concerts, as detailed below, except for Opera in the Park.

June 14:	Bay Bridge Beat, 70s Funk & Soul	Food Truck:	Kenny's Heart & Soul, soul food
June 21:	Stratify, Jazz	Food Truck:	An the Go, Asian fusion
June 28:	3 Day Weekend, Motown	Food Truck:	Streetdogs, Chicago style hot dogs
July 5:	Floorshakers (Funk Soul/Rock n' Roll)	Food Truck:	El Ranchero
July 12:	What the Funk! (R & B/Soul/Disco/Rock)	Food Truck:	Streetdogs, Chicago style hot dogs
July 19:	Lamorinda Idol (Variety)	Food Truck:	Kenny's Heart & Soul, soul food
July 24	(Sunday): Opera in the Park* with Solo Opera, 4-p.m. (Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Orinda supported by the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation and City of Orinda.)		
July 26:	Blind to Reason (Blues)	Food Truck:	El Ranchero
August 2:	Spill the Wine (Soul/Rock/Funk/R&B)	Food Truck:	Streetdogs, Chicago style hot dogs
August 9:	Dave Alt 18 Piece Big Band Jazz	Food Truck:	Kenny's Heart & Soul, soul food

Summer Movies in the Park

In addition, once again Orinda will be hosting Movies in the Park on Thursday evenings this summer. The movies were selected by the community via an online survey. The venue is the Orinda Community Center Park and the movies will begin at dusk. Here is the schedule of films to be offered by Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation, with support from the Orinda Community Foundation and City of Orinda:

June 23:	"Minions"
July 7:	"Hotel Transylvania 2"
July 21:	"Cinderella" (2015)
August 4:	"Inside Out"
August 18:	"Good Dinosaur"

Families are encouraged to bring blankets, lawn chairs and picnics. For more information on both these ongoing events call (925) 254-2445 or visit the city's website at www.cityoforinda.org.



Last year at the Movies in the Park Photo Ohlen Alexander

New Website Will Make it Easier to Navigate City

Community members and city staff will get a new look at Orinda in a few months when the city unveils a new, more user-friendly website.

The city council unanimously authorized a contract with Civic Plus for website design and hosting. The \$33,597 price tag, which has already been budgeted, will cover the cost of the website design and includes \$6,606 for the first year of hosting. Civic Plus is a company that specializes in government website design and technology.

The Civic Plus product is 100 percent customized, will integrate with Accela and Open Government programs, and most importantly, will allow staff to perform live web editing utilizing drop and drag features. It will provide platforms that are specifically designed to work on different types of devices, from desktop computers to cell phones. Other localities that are using Civic

Plus include Morro Bay, Healdsburg and Oak Brook, Illinois.

Council member Amy Worth pointed out the benefits of a company that has already designed 2,000 websites. Civic Plus won hands down, she said, compared to other companies explored. Training, consultation and a 24/7 help line will be provided by Civic Plus. The city does not employ a either a full-time or part-time information technology staff.

The new website will not replace everything currently used by the city. Box, the program Orinda uses for thousands of documents, will remain, and the Parks and Recreation Department has specific needs that require a separate website.

The timeline for the new website is typically 16 to 24 weeks from website optimization to going live. Every four years, the company provides a full refresh of the website, which is not a full redesign. —Sora O'Doherty

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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors
 Wednesday, June 1, 7 p.m.
 Moraga Library Community Room
 1500 St. Mary's Road
 Moraga, CA 94556
 For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors
 Tuesday, June 14, 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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Fire Chief Snags a Bargain on a Temporary Firehouse

By Sora O'Doherty

Moraga-Orinda Fire District firefighters will be sitting pretty in a \$120,000 temporary building Fire Chief Stephen Healy obtained from Carmel Valley Fire Department for only \$3,000.

The temporary building will be installed in the northern parking lot of St. Stephens Episcopal Church, around the corner from MOFD fire station 43, which will be demolished and rebuilt. The application for the work was approved by the Planning Commission on May 10.

The temporary structure should be in place by the end of June, and the new fire station is expected to be completed in one year, reopening in October of 2017, according to Healy. The

temporary structure is 1,080 square feet, and has a detached, unenclosed apparatus bay for one fire truck. Although during the year that it takes to build the replacement permanent fire station, there will not be an ambulance on site. Healy pointed out that in the past two years, the ambulance from station 43 has only been called out once.

Plans for replacing station station 43 were approved by the planning commission first in September 2012, but the approval expired. The new permanent fire station is the same as was approved in 2012, but the temporary structure is now bigger, and located off site, only 450 feet away from the station.

Lafayette

New Fire Station ... continued from page A2

According to Broschard, the original Station 16 was constructed in the 1950s, way before Lafayette was even incorporated, and was originally designed for only two people. That station eventually was rolled into ConFire in the late 1960s and was in use until the Loma Prieta earthquake. At that point, there was so much damage, a double-wide mobile home to accommodate three people was installed at the site, although the original garage remained. As that mobile unit was nearing the end of its useful life

in 2011, capital reserves were set aside and architectural plans were made to replace it. Less than a year later, in 2012, came the rodent infestation and mold; however plans were already in the works to replace the station. Then the really bad news came, as voters rejected Measure Q that would have helped fund the station rebuild. Firefighters from Station 16 have been working from Station 15 on Mt. Diablo Boulevard ever since. It looks like they will be there for another couple of years, until at least 2018.

Sandingham Drive Home Damaged in Recent Blaze



Photo provided

Firefighters from the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District responded May 5 to a house fire at 235 Sandingham Drive North in Moraga. Three people were displaced from the

home and no firefighters were injured. The fire resulted in \$100,000 damage and was caused by discarded smoking materials, according to Dennis Rein, MOFD public information officer. — N Marnell

Rescue One Foundation Donates AED to Commons

By Cathy Dausman



Showing off the new AED are, from left MOFD Battalion Chief Jerry Lee, Steve Strand of Rescue One, Gene Gottfried, Rescue One President, Mayor Mike Metcalf, Interim Town Manager Robert Priebe and Gordon Nathan of Rescue One.

Moraga now has another Automated External Defibrillator thanks to a donation from Moraga-Orinda Fire District's Rescue One Foundation.

The latest unit was installed inside the kitchen adjacent the band shell at Moraga Commons Park. The portable device is used to treat victims of sudden cardiac arrest. Last fall Rescue One donated an AED to the Moraga and Orinda police departments in 2014.

Hacienda de las Flores and the SODA Aquatic Center at Campolindo High School also have AEDs, although those were not Rescue One purchases.

"Knowing now that the town will have a dedicated AED for large community events at The Commons is extremely important," said Moraga Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram. "On behalf of the town, thank you for continuing to make Moraga a safe place to live, work, play and rescue," he said.

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A New Chapter in Kids' Bookstores Opens its Doors in Lafayette

By Lou Fancher



Daniel and Michele Collier with children Quinn, Chase and Bean came by on opening day at Bel and Bunna's. Behind the counter are Sam Nicholson and owner Clare McNeill. Photo Andy Scheck

Sometimes going out on a limb is the smartest way to go.

Embracing her wildest dreams with both eyes open, Clare McNeill launched Bel & Bunna's Books, an independently owned and operated children's bookstore in downtown Lafayette.

Sawdust disappearing just three days prior to the May 28 opening had the 46-year-old Walnut Creek resident beaming like the store's logo, a red-headed roughly 9-year-old version of McNeill created by designer Olga Larner.

"It's insane, in a world where people buy everything from Amazon, why do a bricks-and-mortar bookstore?" she asks.

Of course, McNeill is anything but insane. Arriving from the U.K. where she ran everything from IT companies and startups to a 150-year-old church building and community center, McNeill was until June 2015 the Director of Finance and Administration at Incapture Technologies LLC in San Francisco. The company at its peak had 80 employees and leaving it, she says, "I gave up a big salary, trust me."

But she didn't give up the savvy that put her in charge of a financial services company. Case in point: her co-investor, Anthony D'Silva, managing director of Incu Global, a capital management firm. "He heard I was looking for an investor at a social event on a Friday. He came over that Sunday and looked at my business plan and said, 'I'm in.' He knows we're not in this to make millions. We're in it to get one child to read one book and

maybe, help him or her to have a life for the better."

D'Silva, according to McNeill, operates rather like a rough washcloth, whisking away the layers to ask "Why do you need it?" for each line item on the store's budget.

"You have to meet the bottom line," she says. "You have to offer something the customer wants. You have to give them the value added things: the book clubs, author readings, Saturday morning events and such."

A children's bookstore owner must also arrive with fondness for books and reading and a love for spending time with children. McNeill was born in London to Scottish parents: her mother was a preschool teacher who encouraged McNeill and her younger brother to read. "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" was a favorite, but so too were books by Roald Dahl and Enid Blyton; English artist Mary Tourtel's "Rupert the Bear" comic strips, fairy tales and more.

"My father had a tiny room he called 'the library.' It was floor to ceiling with books. He read anything. I recall him reading to my brother and me lists of people who died at the Battle of Culloden (a battle in the Scottish Highlands)."

Today, the mother of 13-year-old James Moore and Joseph Moore, age 9, brings her boys home from their enthusiastic karate exercises at East West Kung Fu in Alamo to read the "Jedi Academy Series," "The Lord of The Rings," the Alex Rider books or "The Art of War" by Sun Tzu. "James, give him a book, he inhales it. Joseph, he

asks why read 'The Hobbit' when you can watch it on television? I encourage him to read what he wants to read. There's nothing worse than being told what to read."

By allowing the same sponta-

neity of choice that had her selecting a friend's suggestion for the store's name — a compilation of her nickname, "Bel," and the name of her younger son's stuffed rabbit, "Bunna"— McNeill says, "It makes reading and books more personal if it's more personal for me and for them."

Until mid-June when a college student on summer break will lend assistance, McNeill will operate the store seven days a week by herself. Working from 10-6 Monday to Saturday and 12-5 Sunday and holidays sounds like a tall order — until it's compared to preparing and opening Bel and Bunna's.

"Doing this was nothing like what I'm used to. Dealing with the city, the county, the paperwork — everything costs money — it was far more than I expected. People have no idea that opening a retail business is harder than starting an IT." McNeill says she learned early on how to handle her frustration. "There was no point in my being cross with people. If you're kind,

you'll find people are prepared to help."

Bel and Bunna's will not be a "Storyteller Two," a pale imitation of the beloved Storyteller Bookstore owned, founded and closed due to retirement in 2015 by Linda Higham. Although Storyteller's popular offerings will be true of McNeill's store — quality books, classic toys, a summer reading program, an approachable, warm owner and other specialties — a better location (near Paxti's in the shop that formerly housed Floret) is just one improvement. Promises of adventurous ways to choose books and McNeill's plan to write to every child who registers at the store add allure. "I want it to be fun to come read stories with Bel. I'm a viable alternative to an iPad. The struggle to put books in kids' hands is real, but I don't think it's out of reach."

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

Anthony Ma Named Moraga Employee of the Month for May



From left: Chamber Vice-President Bob Fritzky, 24 Hour Fitness Manager Patrick Russell, Anthony Ma, Rotary President Roger Gregory Photo provided

Anthony Ma, Master Personal Trainer at 24-Hour Fitness, has been named the Moraga Employee of the Month for May.

Ma is one of the longest tenured employees at the gym and personally trains over 40 clients each week, helping them with their fitness and health. His training skills make him one of the most popular trainers and is noted for his attention to detail and work effort "Anthony is a fixture at 24 Hour Fitness," said Patrick Russell, the club's manager. "He's been here over six years and his clients really love him as he has almost no attrition. He has mostly long-term clients and he has helped change their lives dramatically, making them more fit and healthy."

In winning the award, the Moraga Rotary and Chamber of Commerce will award Ma a gift card to Safeway as well as a gift card to a local restaurant. Ma was presented with his award and gifts at the May 31 Moraga Rotary lunch at Saint Mary's College

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Orinda is located at 5 Moraga Way and can be reached at 925-253-4600.

GRAZE Honored by Baker



Photo provided

Assemblywoman Catharine Baker (R-San Ramon) has recognized GRAZE Food Bar in Moraga as the 16th Assembly District's Small Business of the Month for the month of May.

"Since opening last year, GRAZE Food Bar has quickly become a local favorite for its fresh, delicious food and casual dining experience, and as a small, family-owned business, GRAZE Food Bar is an important contributor to our local community and economy," said Assemblywoman Baker.

GRAZE Food Bar describes itself as a casual, counter order café serving quick, simple, and delicious food, with a commitment to proving its customers a quality product at an affordable price.

Sindeo Names Orinda Resident Deepak Kumar as COO/CFO

Sindeo, the modern mortgage marketplace, recently announced its newest executive hire, Deepak Kumar, who will assume the role of COO/CFO. Kumar is an accomplished business executive with over 20 years' experience leading teams to high-growth business success, most recently as Fannie Mae's Senior Executive and VP, Client Management. He lives in Orinda.

From the Chambers:

Mix and mingle at the Orinda Chamber Mixer from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 23 at Sutter Urgent Care, 12 Encino Caminas, in Orinda. For more info, visit the Chamber website at www.orindachamber.org.

Learn a bit about business teamwork at the Moraga Chamber of Commerce's monthly mixer from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, June 24, at Saint Mary's College. Hear about the school's five-year plan and tour the Sports Center Fillipi Hall.

The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce is offering a Social Media Workshop: 3 Easy Steps to Get Your Business and Website Found on Google, from 8 to 9 a.m. June 15. The free event will be held at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Presented by the president of the Bay Area Search Engine Academy.

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Coldwell Banker Snags Two New Associates in Orinda

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, the leading provider of real estate services in the Bay Area, recently announced two new sales associates at its Orinda office.

Carrie Avila will specialize in residential sales in the Lamorinda area and surrounding cities and Carol Russell will specialize in residential sales in Contra Costa County and surrounding areas.

Prior to affiliating with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Avila worked as an author for four years and is a licensed attorney specializing in Criminal Law.

Russell previously worked at Maui Luxury Real Estate in Maui, Hawaii. Her responsibilities included real estate sales focusing on the Island of Oahu. Russell brings 13 years' experience specializing in residential and investment sales.



Carol Russell Photo provided

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



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A Place for Flags Beyond Repair

By Cathy Dausman



Boy Scouts stand by Victor Petersen's project. Photo Cathy Dausman

Old Glory spends a lot of time outdoors. Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Patriot Day, Election Day and state and federal holidays are all occasions to fly the red, white and blue. But exposure to the elements eventually takes its toll, and flag etiquette forbids simply throwing away even a damaged U.S. flag.

Flags are instead ceremonially retired with honor, by an organization like scout troops, Veterans of Foreign Wars or American Legion posts (see www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0618/Goodbye-Old-Glory-Scouts-Retire-Two-US-Flags.html).

The challenge can be get-

ting the tattered flag into the right hands. Now, thanks to Boy Scout Victor Petersen of Pleasant Hill's Troop 405, it's easy.

Unserviceable U.S. flags may be deposited in a box at the entrance to the Lafayette Veteran's Memorial Center. Work on the box, which was Petersen's Eagle Scout project, began last summer under the direction of VFW Post 8063 member and scout leader Bill Lew. The finished product was installed in March.

Victor said placing the collection box at the center seemed especially appropriate because the VFW is the chartering organization for several local Boy Scout troops. He initially considered refurbish-

ing an old mailbox but found those were scarce. Instead he used a standard courier box from a hardware store and had a local auto body shop custom paint it red, white and blue. Donations for the purchase of the box and its paint job came from Victor's grandfather.

Lew said a few finishing touches – specifically the installation of American Legion and VFW logos on the box— remain. He is unsure just how many flags have been collected to date. "I know flags have gone into the box, but I couldn't give you a count," he said. He will tell you the finished product is beautiful.

Mt. Diablo Silverado Council BSA District Director Joe Squeri said Brentwood Veteran's Memorial Hall also has a flag collection box.

Local Cub Scouts incorporated a flag retirement ceremony during Family Camp over Memorial weekend, he said, adding, "We have a volunteer who is beginning a program to get flags that need retiring to Boy Scout troops that can retire them."

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Orinda

Orinda Loses Its Heart

... continued from page A6

Olsen's mother will be moving to Charlotte with her, and Olsen's sister already lives in Boston, so she will be much closer too.

Olsen said that the biggest changes she has observed in her years as city clerk is the advent of more transparency. She has worked hard to get information about the city out to the public, which, she observed, was not easy as a one-person shop working with older technology. Olsen is very excited about the improvements in technology finally coming to Orinda in the next few years. She spoke of Orinda's proposed new website (see story, page A7) with live streaming improvements.

She is proud, too, of improvements in elections — which was her favorite part of the job. She has worked at polling places, and given civics lessons on elections to elementary schools. As a neutral party, Olsen has taken pride in helping candidates go through the election process. She laughed as she commented, "They call me Switzerland because I'm a neutral party!" So dedicated is she to her job that she will do everything that she can to prepare for the November election prior to leaving for North Carolina.

The least favorite part of her job has been when people have written letters questioning the city's integrity. What won't she miss? The long, late meetings.

But she will miss the people,

hands down her favorite aspect of her job. Olsen acknowledges that she is an extrovert. "They call me the heart of the city," she noted, and the mayor concurred, noting that Olsen is often the first, and sometimes the only, contact with city government for citizens. When asked what it would surprise people to know about her, she responded, "That it wasn't just a job for me, I truly embodied this role."

What is on Olsen's bucket list? She wants to compete in an Olympic distance triathlon, take up yoga, travel more and play golf. Her parting words to the citizens of Orinda are, "Thank you for being so involved and making Orinda the amazing place it is. Stay engaged and work together to find solutions to issues that still face Orinda."

Olsen will be replaced on an interim basis by Sherry Kelly, a former city clerk of Berkeley, who has served as interim city clerk in the nearby cities of Walnut Creek, Vallejo and American Canyon. Although Olsen, as the longest serving director-member of the executive team in Orinda, is an invaluable fount of institutional knowledge, she is confident that Kelly, as a retired city clerk with years of experience, will be a really good person for the transition and training the next city clerk.

The city will bid Olsen farewell June 1, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Orinda Community Center.

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Lamorinda Realtor's Long Journey Home

... continued from page A1

Jafarzadeh was suffocating, like breathing in a steam bath. She had to leave — the war, the oppression, him.

She and her boss at the travel agency concocted an escape plan. He assigned Jafarzadeh to lead a pilgrimage into Syria. But, in order to leave the country, she needed permission from her fiancé, or her father, any male authority figure. The boss called her dad, and after much weeping and gnashing of teeth, he agreed to sign her travel document. She had pleaded that she needed the money.

Off to Damascus. "All of those women... they all wanted to set me up with their sons."

She left the hotel in Syria and rushed to the U.S. Embassy, seeking a temporary student visa. Other applicants chided her. "You only have \$500? No English? You're wasting your time." An official stormed into the lobby. Let her alone! She grabbed Jafarzadeh, dragged her into her office. They held hands and cried as Jafarzadeh told her story. Maybe I can find a sponsor for you, the official said. Can you stay here two months?

It was a miserable two months, sneaking from hotel to hotel. But the official found a sponsor. A church in Oklahoma agreed to sponsor Jafarzadeh as an international student. She would do volunteer work for the church in return.

"Oh, boy. Now I'll have to commit to some other religion. But, if that's what it takes..."

She was broke. She had nobody. She knew no English. "But at least I'm not married."

The church fed her and provided a place to sleep, yet she despised it. She resented having to do what the church expected. But she avoided expulsion; she crawled out the window of her dorm and escaped.

An Afghan man gave her a job mopping the floor at a Walgreens and he let her sleep on a mattress in the back room of the store. She met a guy and dated him for six months, until she found out he was married, with kids. His wife warned Jafarzadeh: He'll do the same thing to you.

"So this is what they mean by a free country?"

The guy stalked her. The church turned her in. Immigration was after her. She fled to California, where there were more Iranians. Jafarzadeh arrived in Walnut Creek in 1999, got a job at a cafe in Oakland, saved her money.

And she applied for asylum. A volunteer immigration translator helped her at the court. You need to tell me your story, he said. "No, I only have to tell my lawyer. Not you."

The volunteer was her future husband.

At her hearing the San Francisco judge told Jafarzadeh to raise her head. "I want you to be proud of yourself. Be proud that you reached this level. You are serving this country and we need people like you. I am going to grant this," he said.

She enrolled at DVC, worked finance jobs, married the translator. More courts. Prove to me that this marriage is legitimate, said the judge, wary of a fraudulent reach for citizenship.

"What evidence do you need? Pictures? Movies?" Defiance with a smile.

Jafarzadeh lives in Moraga with her husband and 7-year old son, and has poured her passion and drive into a 13-year real estate career, at Lafayette Sotheby's since April 2015. "I love to find people a home where they can feel safe, loved, free...and enjoy a community that will respect them," she said. Sometimes she has trouble identifying with those who complain about things like the area traffic, or the property taxes. "I can't share that with them. They have no idea..."

She still has flashbacks, as on one of her first dates in San Francisco. Her fiancé promised a surprise, which as a rule she dislikes. Into the city they drove, she heard the roar, she saw the planes approach, lower...closer. "No! Not here too!" She fainted. But they were not bombing her grade school in Iran. They were the Blue Angels.

Jafarzadeh believes in a strong community, and especially in education. She believes that the best investment people can make is in their own children.

"If as parents we try to raise independent critical thinkers by supporting their questions and refer them to books and research, and respect their choices even if they are different than ours, maybe the next generation will not experience the chaos and war that is going on around the world now," she said.

The chaos and war of which she has many memories that she tries hard to forget.

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*per Public Records

High School Girls' Rugby

... continued from page A1

Club coach Rob Lowe, whose seventh-grade daughter Rachel has played for two years on the Orinda Intermediate School rugby team, noted that women's rugby is the newest NCAA varsity sport, so colleges can now offer rugby scholarships.

A student asked about the injury risk. "The coaches teach you how to tackle, and how to do it right," Katzman said. Kat Clark, a senior at UC Berkeley and vice president of the Women's Rugby Club, said she suffered more injuries playing softball than playing rugby.

"But one of the biggest pleasures was how the sport provided me a great social network," Clark

said. Along that social line, club president Drew Pearson told the group that after each match, the two opposing teams meet on the pitch - the rugby field - and share a meal together.

Club officials stressed that the sport is open to high school girls of every shape and size, with no experience necessary. This summer, the league will field a team of seven players, and plans to introduce a 15-player team this fall.

Practices run through July 21, at the Pat Vincent Field at Saint Mary's College, from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and from 6 to 7:15 p.m. Thursdays.

Lamorinda Community Court

... continued from page A1

The Orinda City Council was the first one to approve the concept last December. Then on April 14, the Moraga Town Council approved its participation in it. Lafayette Chief of Police Eric Christensen confirmed that Lafayette will participate in the program, and that the agreement with the D.A.'s office about the guidelines of the program will be signed in the near future.

Christensen said he thinks that

the program will have some benefits for the community and will piggy-back well on the Lafayette current diversion program that is used for juvenile offenders in the community. He said that the cases that Lafayette will be sending to that new court are nuisance style of crimes that have been vetted through the Lafayette process. He also said that convicted criminals will not be eligible for the program.

Lafayette

More Meters ... continued from page A3

The POC is also looking at longer term solutions to manage parking better — including installing smart meters and parking pucks in the street and have the city enter into partnership with the private sector to increase the supply of public parking. According to its research and occupancy studies, the city already has a significant amount of parking, the problem is where it's located, how accessible it is and how it is regulated or restricted. Other options on the table are ways to incentivize property owners to connect rear parking lots, opening

them up to easier public access.

The current substantial city-imposed in-lieu fee, a whopping \$36,900 per parking space in the downtown core, going down to \$19,200 in the east and west ends of town, is being examined. The owner of a parcel who is unable to provide all of the off-street parking required by city code is responsible for in-lieu fees. These amounts represent the actual cost of purchasing land and constructing one parking space, and the POC recommends restructuring this fee so that it is more predictable and fair.

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Rain Fails to Dampen SMC Grads, Families

By Cathy Dausman



Susan Murray spots her newly graduated daughter Alexandra Klepp as Brad Smith photographs the moment. Photos Cathy Dausman

It rained just a bit ahead of their parade as more than 660 newly minted Saint Mary's College graduates, their families and friends endured half an hour of showers at the start of the 2016 undergraduate commencement May 21, but the rain let up as the first undergrads stood to file onstage and receive their diplomas.

They came from across California, across the United States and from overseas—San Diego, San Rafael, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Australia and Saudi Arabia. Class of 1996 SMC graduate Mahershalah Ali ("House of Cards," "The Hun-

ger Games") delivered the commencement address, advising his 20-something audience they were still "a people in process."

An estimated 600 additional students received graduate and professional studies degrees the following day, under slightly improved weather conditions

California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson was their commencement speaker. Saint Mary's College enrolls more than 4,200 students in undergrad and graduate liberal arts and business programs.



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Orinda

Is Wilder Getting Wilder?

... continued from page A6

The handbook garnered widespread praise. Previously, despite a builder's best intentions to conform to the requirements, it was all too easy to miss one and be sent back to the drawing board. In the past the approval process for Wilder has been acknowledged to be too cumbersome and time consuming, resulting in long delays and fewer homes being built than anticipated. Although initially the Planning Commission expressed some reservations about the changed approval procedure, they did vote unanimously to recommend it to the city council.

Art & Garden Center

It was originally envisaged that the Art & Garden Center would be located at the far end of the Gateway Valley, drawing visitors into the valley and making the entire valley seem like an integral part of the city of Orinda. However, as development progressed, there appeared to be good reasons to move the center to the front of the development, near the playing fields. In

agreeing to do so, Orinda saved something in the neighborhood of \$1.25 million, which will be picked up by the developer, OG Property Owner LLC.

The site which would have housed the Art & Garden Center will now be used for depositing soil removed during the grading of building sites, and for a respite area at the trailhead. The Trailhead Respite Area will include picnic tables, an ADA compliant restroom, a drinking fountain, and parking for 19 automobiles and 2 equestrian trailers. The respite area, which will probably be owned and maintained by the East Bay Regional Parks District, attracted the most attention and concern from Wilder residents.

At the conclusion of the hearing the council voted to introduce the ordinance adopting the seventh amendment to the development agreement. It will be up for a vote on adoption at the next regular meeting of the council on June 21.

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Lafayette Scout Summer Camp

Once the plan was approved, the Twin Canyon Site Committee was formed to implement that plan. Under the direction of site committee co-chairs Sandra Patterson and Denise Greenspan, along with a number of other volunteers, they got busy generating more revenue by expanding use at the camp during non-summer months and campaigning to increase grants, fundraising, donations and leveraging local generosity.

Their goal is to be sustainable and work toward breaking even in 2017; their plan was to raise a relatively modest \$5,000 per year for three years and \$10,000 per year in 2017. It's fair to say they've been successful. In fiscal year 2013, they raised over \$43,000 from a number of sources, including donations from the Tent and Trails fund, a Hike-a-thon, cookie sales, the Spectacular Raffle, a generous grant from the Lafayette Community Foundation, Lafayette Juniors and a \$10,000 grant for tree work from Grosvenor.

Savvy organizers recently garnered help from the Kiwanis Club of Moraga to purchase a new stove and refrigerator. Clayton Valley Sunrise Rotary and the Kiwanis Club of Martinez purchased nine low-flow toilets with donated

labor from Nuance Construction that will save roughly 50,000 gallons of water per year. In addition, Job Corps students were able to practice their newfound skills by removing old inefficient lighting fixtures and installing energy efficient long-lasting LED lights as well as painting at the camp, trial maintenance, installing retaining walls and rebuilding a barbecue pit. They also had a tree replacement GoFundMe effort that raised over \$16,000 created by Stephanie Chew to help plant shade trees and support reforestation.

The facility was "in dire need of refreshing" said Patterson. "Now it looks spectacular."

Diablo Day Camp, part of the Girls Scouts of Northern California community for over 50 years, leases the facility during the summer months. They have supported the camp improvements financially, and free Job Corps labor was critical to getting the job done. These developments are part of the Site Committee's emphasis on going green, and updating the aging facilities in order to be more attractive to outside group rentals.

Greenspan explained what it's like to "walk the line" with other camp volunteer staff during the Spectacular Raffle, providing

... continued from page A2

information on the camp, where the funds raised will be spent and selling \$20 raffle tickets to the parents waiting in line to pick up their kids.

"Twin Canyon is in great shape right now," said GSNorCal CEO Park. "Hats off to the community, they've done a really good job understanding the needs of Twin Canyon and the reality of what it takes to keep the gates open - they've been incredibly supportive." She also praised all the hard work of the Site Committee for bringing the camp closer to break even and successfully in obtaining grants and donations.

Hard choices are slated to be made at the November 2017 Girl Scout Annual Meeting as the board looks at the overall portfolio of properties; focusing on camps with the least amount of use which are the most expensive to operate. The sale of one or more of these properties would be used to continue to support other more robust camps.

Attendance at the camp has increased to 22,900 camper days per year and the facility is nearing break even, but is still grappling with aging infrastructure. For more information on Camp Twin Canyon and to view a YouTube video go to www.twincanyon.org.

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Audiences Will Want a Repeat of Witty ‘Play it Again, Sam’

By Sophie Braccini



The Beginning of a Beautiful Friendship: (From left) Humphrey Bogart (Jerry Motta), the Fantasy Woman (Ginny Wehrmeister), Linda Christie (Heather Kellogg) and Allen Felix (Alan Coyne) in Town Hall Theatre’s “Play It Again, Sam” by Woody Allen, directed by Søren Oliver. Photo provided

Humphrey Bogart coaching Woody Allen on how to impress dames is the comic scenario on which is built Town Hall Theater last play of the season, “Play It Again Sam.” A very funny screenplay by Allen himself, it is close to the namesake 1972 movie that was in fact based on the 1969 Broadway show. Served by a talented cast, this new production beginning June 4 will delight Woody Allen as well as Humphrey Bogart lovers, or just anyone ready for a fun evening.

Town Hall Theater 71st season has been incredibly diverse again this year, featuring a wide range of plays and talents. Before the very amusing closing production, Town Hall had presented the multiple award winning play “Angels in America” about the AIDS epidemics, with Alan Coyne in one of the title roles as a young Mormon lawyer. It is this same actor that plays here Allen Felix (played by Woody Allen originally), a recently divorced neurotic writer riddled with guilt and lust, trying to re-enter the dating world and forge a new meaningful relationship.

The story might have been written in the 60s, but it is still relevant today. There are no cell phones or internet surfing interjected in the action, but the humor cre-

ated by the difficult pursuit for love by someone who is insecure and gauche never fails to create gentle laughter.

The charm and effectiveness of the play comes from the way the different voices that play in Felix’s mind are materialized on stage. With a different light and different costumes they enter and exit like colorful ghosts, sometimes in parallel with “real” characters. The way the play is directed makes it very clear and amusing.

First is Humphrey Bogart himself — perfectly impersonated by Jerry Motta, the real stud of a man that gives Felix advice on how to play it tough with the women and “be a man.” Wrapped up in his famous fitted trench coat and wearing the classic fedora hat, Bogart tries to teach Felix the confidence he’s always lacked with the ladies. The results vary, to the great delight of the audience.

Ginny Wehrmeister, also a regular performer at Town Hall, must be having a blast playing all the different fantasy women Felix dreams about. She gives to the depressed intellectual, the lascivious dancer, or the eccentric hippie her charming energy and nuanced impersonation.

Heather Kellogg and Edwin

Peabody are very credible as Felix’s supportive friends, while Megan Stetson, playing his wife, is trouble, right on the mark.

The references and lines from “Casablanca” and “Maltese Falcon” dot the play and all the classic Bogart movies lovers will rejoice.

Director Søren Oliver (previously directed “Art,” “Twelfth Night” and “Sly Fox” at Town Hall) said that he had great pleasure directing this fast pace comedy.

“A lot in comedy is about timing,” he said. “Making people laugh is not easy.”

“Play It Again, Sam” runs June 4 through June 25 at Town Hall Theatre, located at 3535 School Street in Lafayette. Tickets are available on the website at townhalltheatre.com, or by calling the Box Office at (925) 283-1557.

JM Students Shine in Annual Math Olympiad

By Sophie Braccini

There is no need to be a math genius to participate in Karlene Steelman’s math competition class at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. This class provides a playful and different approach to solving math problems. And when it came to compete with 150,000 other students from all over the planet, the Moraga students did very well, with four of them ending in the top 10 percent and one in the top 2 percent of the annual Math Olympiad.

Enriched with this first years’ experience, the students who are not off to high school math next year say they will take the elective class again.

Steelman, who has been teaching math and science at the Moraga middle school for 10 years, was looking for a math enrichment class; something she would have loved to have as a kid, she says. She views the class as an opportunity for every student, an alternative where all abilities can flourish and learn from each other.

“This is an outlet for fun and interesting ideas,” she says. “I do have some students struggling in math that I have seen blossom in this class.”

The class works collaboratively on questions and thinks

of different ways of answering them. Steelman says that she learns every day because the students think in different ways.

She gives the example of a problem where one person goes to a shoe store where the third pair is free when someone buys two pair. In the problem, the person invites a friend along because he needs only two pair. The question is, how should they share the savings? Steelman says that the most advanced math students will immediately go into equations, while others are going to wonder about the interaction between the two friends, who paid for the gas, and who provided the savings opportunity. For that question, Steelman says there could be tens of different right answers.

Noel Sel a seventh-grade student says that she chose this class because she likes solving puzzles and is interested in math. With Annika Johnson, an eighth grader she met in the class, they are among the few girls belonging to that group. They both say they have fun while learning to use different concepts in a different way to solve problems. “It was a cool experience to compete and try to get the best scores,” adds Sel.

... continued on page B3

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LAC's First Short Documentary Competition a Rousing Success

By Sophie Braccini



Josh Silva

Photo Sophie Braccini

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center auditorium was jam-packed with a buzzing crowd excitedly anticipating the presentation of the first Lamorinda Arts Council short documentary competition. That Sunday afternoon saw the crowning of four amateur videographers age 8 to adults. The quality of the work presented is a harbinger of LAC offering the competition again next year.

The short films presented on May 15 could not have been more different, ranging from vacation movies to political satire, from two to 15 minutes in length, from serious and analytical to poetic or humorous.

The 17 movies were competing in four different categories: elementary school, middle school, high school and adults. From an early age, the mastery of the media was impressive.

The youngest contestant Jason Friedman, a third grader at Glorietta Elementary School in Orinda, had shot a movie about Miwok Indians. His mother, Meredith Friedman, said that the result was truly her son's creation, even if she supported him along the way.

"My biggest work was to keep him on track," she said. Like most contestants, Jason filmed with his iPhone and edited using iMovie. His mother says she was very surprised at how quickly her son took to the technology.

The elementary group was one of the most prolific, presenting a trip to the zoo, explaining fitness, and talking about books or art. Del Rey Elementary fifth grader Jack Nixon won in that category with his movie "Pub-

lic Art Everywhere." When he announced the results, judge Joel Patterson said how impressed all of the judges had been by the maturity of the young talents. Not an empty compliment coming from someone who is a veteran producer on shows such as "60 Minutes."

The middle school competitors were a big hit with the judges and the crowd. Using an app for instant voting, LAC asked viewers at the end of the festival to select their favorite, and it was the winner of the middle school category, Josh Silva's "ABC World News: The Journalism Formula" that was selected as the public award. The satirical documentary aimed at demonstrating that this station's news is just based on an empty formula designed more to draw crowds than inform. A very well edited opinion piece, the documentary used apropos derision.

The high school group with six films from four different local high schools went from spoof to very elaborate pieces. One film talked about social justice, another about a class, a unique film called "Burgers: an Odyssey" by Acalanes' Karl-Erik Mills, made a wonderful use of close-ups, music and silence. But this curious and unique ode to the national culinary delight did not win first place. The judges preferred "Eating Through the South" a travel documentary by Miramonte 9th grader Jack Lewis. The well-constructed and interesting film included a lot of animations that gave it a very professional feel.

Graham Roberts won the adult competition with an artistic and poignant movie about a homeless person who has built a makeshift castle made of scraps and jetsam on a beach. That category also proposed an analytical movie about the power of women, and a unique documentary by local photographer Lewis Giles using series of snapshots to magnify the work of steel construction workers.

Julie Rubio, a local film maker of such films as "East Side Sushi" and "One," said that everyone should be very proud of himself or herself, and that she had been very impressed by the quality of both the direction and editing of the amateur film makers. For Rubio, film is the strongest medium for provoking thoughts and sparking discussions. Lawrence Khol, LAC president, confirmed that with the festival that had been proposed by Meredith Friedman and Kahl Dutch, the non-profit was at the core of its mission of inspiring artistic creation of all types.

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Later-in-Life Painter is the Cat's Meow

By Lou Fancher



Joanne Taeuffer with her art.

Photo provided

Confronted in the year 2000 with the turn of the century and hovering close to age 50, Joanne Taeuffer sought culture.

"I decided I was going to learn to paint and learn to speak French. And I did both," she says, rattling off a few phrases en français to demonstrate. "Learning to paint and learning the language have been a gift to me."

The "gifts" are intrinsic, far surpassing the external "who I know/what I've done" rewards of other success, says Taeuffer. After working in internet publishing and journalism, the Berkeley-based painter has been invigorated by "mucking around in paint" and the quirky mannerisms of an elegant, indulged black cat named Oscar.

An exhibit, "Oscar's Excellent Year," features Taeuffer's 12 acrylic paintings of the family's pet feline on display in the Homework Center at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center now through June.

Growing up on her great, great grandfather's prune farm near Healdsburg in Sonoma County, the now 65-year-old Taeuffer told stories in pictures. With a roll of plain paper and her favorite Christmas present — the all-familiar big box of 64 Crayolas — Taeuffer made animated movies. "I drew a lot of people and animals, just like I do now. I drew comic strips; series of scenes that I'd put in a shoe box, with a hole cut out for a viewer. You'd turn the pencils and see the images go by."

Earning a psychology degree at UC Berkeley, led to work as a journalist. Attending graduate school at USC in new media — what became the internet — captured her interest. She worked for tech companies and founded a company, Blackberry Creek, an online creative community offering digital content created entirely by middle school age kids, combining words and pictures.

So it's not a stretch to imagine that her quest for a significant accomplishment led to more of the same.

"I started with drawing, then turned to paint," she says, describing a process that sounds a bit like Goldilocks testing chairs in a fairy tale. "Watercolor was too precious. Oil paints turned into mud. But someone put acrylic paint into my hand and it was just right."

She took classes with Marcy Wheeler, a Walnut Creek-based artist who offers group courses, and provided valuable lessons. "Marcy told me that if you do something that's really working in one part of a painting, don't do it all across the painting because then it becomes boring. And blocking in light and dark without worrying about color is the way to create good bones for a painting."

The latter discipline, delaying color application for an artist who's fond of layering thick, intensely pigmented paint like frosting with a palette knife, has been a struggle. "I've had many teachers who've told me light and dark matter and

I'm not abandoning color, but it's hard to resist."

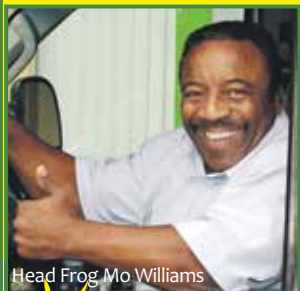
The "Oscar" paintings show the benefits of repeatedly painting one form. Crusty edges and straightforward realism reminiscent of the work of American artist Wayne Thiebaud are at play in "Meet Oscar." A painting titled "What the Mouse Saw" references Bay Area Figurative Painter David Park. "Once you understand a subject — I paint lots of cats — you're free to try it in different styles," she says.

In her studio, a "granny cottage" tucked behind her second home in Healdsburg, Taeuffer works surrounded by paintings. "I have a tiny house in Berkeley and you can't put a 40-by-60 canvas anywhere in that house. Here, I paint in the kitchen and have things on walls, leaning against doorways, spread out throughout the house."

Taeuffer keeps several paintings going in various stages at one time. "I can never finish one unless there are three more I want to get on with, or I'd not be motivated to finish any of them." Unless she's at a weekly painting session with fellow members of the Bay Area Studio Artists, a longtime group of artists who've become fast friends, Taeuffer prefers painting alone. Classic rock like The Beatles often accompanies her "dance and paint" approach. "I'm always standing. You get your whole body into it. I'd rather not paint a lot of detail. My favorite paintings are kind of blocky and if you sit down, you get into the picky part."

Her most-loved subjects, animals and people, send her up ladders — to shoot a photo from which to paint Oscar, sprawled among the dishes on the breakfast table — or outdoors, to catch a shopper dashing for cover in the rain on a city street. But you won't find Taeuffer outdoors with the plein air crowd: The controlled atmosphere and comfort of air conditioning and heating, she says, were invented for good reason.

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New Artistic Director Highlights Diversity, Authenticity for 2016's Cal Shakes Season

By Lou Fancher



Eric Ting Photo provided

Commitment, authenticity, consistency and excitement. "Much Ado About Nothing," "Fences," "You Never Can Tell," "Othello." William Shakespeare, August Wilson, George Bernard Shaw and...Ting.

Cal Shakes audiences will this season experience the four named qualities in four productions coming from three playwrighting masterminds and the company's new Artistic Director, Eric Ting.

The 2016 season of outdoor theater in the Bruns Amphitheater marks a new journey set into motion when former artistic director Jonathan Moscone departed after 15 years to become chief of civic engagement with Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco. His final act in 2015 was to select three of this season's four works. Ting chose Shakespeare's classic "outsider" play, "Othello," to cap the Main Stage season.

In an interview, the recent Bay Area transplant and Obie-winning director says that he's "dazzled by the depth of artistry" in the Bay Area. Arriving with his wife, Meiyin Wang and their young daughter, Frankie Ting, he anticipates finding family.

"I talk a lot about the family you're born into and the family you make. Theater is an act of making family. And not just at the Bruns where audiences forge community through the shared experience of an evening under the stars, but everywhere that Cal Shakes reaches: we seek to build bridges, we seek to make family."

The anticipation of working with artists familiar to Cal Shakes audiences leaves him "giddy," he claims. But new faces are greeted with equal enthusiasm as he observes director Jackson Gay's rehearsals of a streamlined, contemporary version of "Much Ado." Ting arrives after 11 years with the Long Wharf Theatre and a reputation for brave forays into the classical theater canon. His Obie Award-winning play, "We Are Proud to Present a Presentation...", examines African genocide; a spir-

ited "Macbeth" set in the Vietnam era challenges and champions new perspectives.

Even so, Ting seeks to reassure people coming to Cal Shakes that his commitment is to presenting classical plays "in a vital urgent, human way." He's learned that the entire experience — shared food, wine and theater under the stars — is as potent to audiences as are the quality of the acting and the productions. "There's something about the act of exposing ourselves to the natural world like that: to me, it suggests a unique willingness to engage with the irreducible human experience. I have such admiration for our audiences and can't wait to meet them this season," Ting says.

"Comforting" is an apt but odd word to apply to Ting, a theater maverick. And while the word is true of his personality and his dedication to maintaining the company's high standards are striking, genuine and welcome, he expresses restlessness when given a chance to speak on diversity.

"I'm proud of the work that I'm seeing across the Bay Area and on Cal Shakes' stage in terms of representing a plurality of perspectives — though even here issues arise like the recent controversy surrounding 'The Mikado' that suggest we still have our own complicated challenges to navigate — but diversity on stage is only half the battle. I think our greatest challenge as a field is what I see when I look out at our audiences."

Ting says theater will be richest when the audience reflects the same diversity theater companies strive to present onstage. "And to that end, we all have far to go. Our very society has been built upon the idea that a collision of different points of view creates a space for meaningful discourse; those opportunities have been slowly eroding away (be it by technology, or rising costs of living, or the surfacing of long suppressed fears) and we find ourselves once more in polarizing times. The theater is one of the last public forums in our world, and we pursue diversity in our audiences not because we want to share theater with more people, but because diversity enriches our lives, enlarges us, makes us more whole."

This, more than any play selected or actor cast, might be Ting's legacy at Cal Shakes. And if it is, the much-admired company will shine brighter than the full moon that at times illuminates actors onstage in the Orinda hills.

Following "House of Cards" writer Kenneth Lin's and Gay's take on "Much Ado" (May 25-June 19), director Raelle Myrick-Hodges brings to life Wilson's Pulitzer prize-winning "Fences," the story of Troy Maxson, a former Negro League baseball player whose family is pulled into his downward spiral (July 6-July 31). Shaw's wit and women challenging society's constraints are unleashed by the return of Lisa Peterson (Peterson helmed "King Lear" (2007) and "The Winter's Tale" (2002), among others) to direct "You Never Can Tell" (Aug. 10-Sept. 4). The season wraps with "Othello," last seen at Cal Shakes in 2005.

JM Students Shine In Math Olympiad

... continued from page B1

The math competition was an integral part of the class. Math Olympiad has been going on for 37 years for grades four to eight. It is an online competition that lasts five months, both for teams and individuals. Steelman noticed that her students struggled a bit at the beginning but got better as time went by.

Edward Lee, the student who placed in the top 2 percent, is a seventh grade student who has been doing the math competition since fourth grade. He too said he had fun in the class, as well as learned a wide variety of strategies to solve problems. His classmate, Cooper Schnurr also a seventh grader who

placed in the top 10 percent, found it stimulating to try to solve problem as fast as possible. Cooper also enjoyed the teamwork in class and added that all level students had something to contribute.

Sam Morasch, who is in eighth grade, enjoyed going far and beyond what can be found in a normal math class. He said that the variety of problems was much wider, and triggered more creative ways of approaching them. All recommend incoming seventh and eighth graders take the elective.

Steelman will propose math competition again next year as an elective class, as well as a separate engineering class.

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Community Service

We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Troop 234 Eagle Scouts Honored

Submitted by Sarah Tabler



Honored Eagle Scouts from Troop 234 are Nicholas Thompson, Matthias Baker, Jeremy Bernhardt, and Mark Lindblad. Photo Mike Bernhardt

Boy Scout Troop 234 of Moraga honored four scouts for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Mark Lindblad, Nicholas Thompson, Jeremy Bernhardt, and Matthias Baker were feted on Saturday, April 16 at St. Monica's Catholic Church. Each contributed a project that beautified and improved the Town of Moraga.

Realtors put 'gardens' in BH&G

Submitted by Lisa Shaffer



Photo provided

Since 2009 Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate has performed a local volunteer day to give back to the community it serves.

This year's recipient was the Orinda Senior Village. BH&G representatives worked in their garden that residents lovingly attend. The team of realtors laid pavers, pruned, weeded and cleared debris.

Those in attendance were Broker Manager Regina Englehart, and agents Maureen Caldwell-Meurer, Tania DeGroot, John Fazal, Dana Fillinger, Adam Hamalian, Tomi Izuno, Larry Jacobs, Oksana Lawlor, Rachel Lederman, Sassa Oznowicz, Teresa Ramirez, Lisa Shaffer, Randy Shaffer, Melody Shahid, Amanda Smith and Kelly Smith.

Camino Pablo Wins 25th Annual Moraga Rotary Field Day

Submitted by Gary Irwin



The 25th annual Moraga Rotary Field Day again brought out the best in young athletes from local elementary schools. Photo provided

Camino Pablo School's third, fourth, and fifth graders were repeat winners of the 25th annual Moraga Rotary Field Day, amassing a total of 97 points. Second place went to Rheem School, with a total of 89 points. Rheem had the highest participation, with 55 percent of its potential athletes competing, and fielded 120 of the record 324 contestants from all Moraga schools, including Saklan which fielded 16 athletes.

The total medal counts for each school were: Rheem, 54; Camino Pablo, 49; Los Perales, 37, and Saklan, 4. The athletes winning the most points were both from Camino Pablo. The High Point Boy was Tristan Anderle, a fourth grader in Mr. Barnett's class, and the High Point Girl was Ava Garcia, a third grader in Mr. Matthews' class. Mr. Matthews' students combined to win the most points, 28.

Moraga Rotary conducts Field Day as a

community service to introduce elementary school children to entry-level track and field competition among the Moraga schools. The main goal is for the athletes, parents, and teachers to enjoy the competition and to have a good time.

The Field Day chairman, Rotarian Tony Schoemehl, praised the school teachers, principals, and parents for encouraging the children to participate, and thanked Coach Randy Bennett and the Saint Mary's Gaels' basketball teams for their help and for encouraging the athletes to compete. Thanks also to parents who helped direct the children around to the various events, and to parents who helped with the field events.

Rotary Club of Moraga holds regular meetings on most Tuesdays at the Soda Center at St. Mary's College. For further information, please call Frank May at 925-376-8195, or check out moragarotary.org.

A Visit to Moraga Royale

Submitted by Remy Moran



Photo Remy Moran

The ninth grade class from the Lamorinda Chapter of National Charity League visited the Moraga Royale Assisted Living community in March. The girls and their mothers served the residents and some of their family members tea, sandwiches and a variety of Parisian desserts at the Paris-themed event.

The girls were dressed in black and white with pink scarves and spent the afternoon chatting with the residents. Entertainment was provided by an Irish dance group and Anica Zulch, who performed three beautiful songs on the piano. New friends and good memories were made at the afternoon tea.

Learning to be Good Citizens

Submitted by Shirley DeFrancisci



Photo provided

On Friday, April 29, the Camino Pablo Elementary School Daisy Troop #31485 had the honor of a visit from Officer Barrett Wilder, Officer Scott Edwards and K9 Officer "Bandy" of the BART Police Department. The officers shared details of a typical day with the young troop members,

helping to reinforce the topic of "Respecting Authority," which includes practicing good listening skills, the importance of yielding to emergency vehicles/personnel and not being afraid to ask for help from an officer to ensure one's safety.

AAUW Honors Outstanding Lamorinda Students

Submitted by Gail Chesler



AAUW OML Tech Trek Camp Scholarship Winners and Keynote Speaker: Helen Kaidantzis, Emilia Gutman, Yuhan Liu, Keynote Speaker Mary Fettig, Abbie Lee, Shannon Lipp, Reese Whipple.



AAUW OML Community Service Scholarship Winners: Yasmin Shamloo, Carina Novell, Eleanor Roeder. Missing: Caiseen Kelley

Photos provided

On Sunday, April 17, The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of the Association of University Women (AAUW) celebrated with 10 young women from Lamorinda schools by awarding six Tech Trek camp scholarships and four college scholarships. The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls.

Six middle school girls, interested in science and math, were awarded full scholar-

ships to the week-long science and math Tech Trek Camp that will be held on the Stanford Campus this July. In addition, one \$5,000 and two \$1,000 community service scholarships were awarded to three high school women and a \$5,000 graduate studies scholarship was awarded to a Saint Mary's College student.

The six AAUW OML 2016 Tech Trek scholarship winners are Abigail Lee and Yuhan Liu from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate, Reese Whipple and Shannon Lipp from Orinda Intermediate, and Emilia Gutman and Helen Kaidantzis from Stanley Middle School.

The three high school awardees were Caiseen Kelley, Eleanor Roeder, and Yasmin Shamloo from Lamorinda high schools. Caiseen is also a former AAUW OML Tech Trek Scholarship recipient.

Carina Novell, a senior at Saint Mary's College, was awarded the Community Service Scholarship and will use it to study law at UC Davis.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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

Teacher Dupont Says Goodbye to Campo

By Chris Lavin



Teacher Don Dupont with some of the awards received by his students over the years. Photo Chris Lavin

Longtime woodworking instructor Don Dupont is hanging up his tool belt this month. He will clock out for the last time when school ends and head for the

great world of retirement. "I love this job," said Dupont, who has taught woodworking and furniture making at Campolindo High School for 16 years. And

students love him, too.

"He's a really good teacher," said Will Gipson, a junior who has taken gradually more complex classes from Dupont for more than three years.

His students have won dozens of woodworking awards over the years, and the community is scattered with creative projects. For example, the lectern that holds the big dictionary at the entrance of the Lafayette Library – which resembles a stack of books – was made by his students.

Dupont plans on spending time with his family, traveling – and of course continuing wood projects.

"I'm going to miss teaching," he said.

Family Focus

When Your Child Has Trouble Making Friends

By Margie Ryerson

Seven-year-old Evan began hitting other children and his parents, too, when he entered second grade. He complained that no one liked him and that he had no friends. His demeanor changed from generally easy going to angry and unhappy.

It is never easy for parents to see their children in distress. Evan's parents reached out to his teacher and other professionals for help.

When a child feels that he has no friends, he naturally concludes that he is unlikable. Then, as in the case of Evan, he may behave in unlikable ways, further confirming his doubts about himself as others react to him with anger and dislike.

Your child's belief that he has no friends can become a self-fulfilling prophesy if he becomes self-conscious about this issue. We make friends more easily when we can be positive, or at least neutral, rather than self-critical and pessimistic. It may be even more difficult for your child if he has siblings who have an easier time making and keeping friends. Naturally he will tend to compare himself to them and feel even more inadequate.

Here are some suggestions for helping your child form healthy friendships:

- **Start early.** Parents need to be involved in the early years and actively teach their child what is appropriate behavior with others. For example, it's wonderful to involve your child in a small play group or to have another child over for a play date when he is 2 or 3, but if your child has difficulty playing well with others, this is not the time to retreat into another room for conversation with other parents and a cup of tea.

A young child needs active reinforcement for using skills such as sharing, cooperating and taking turns. He also needs quiet coaching or intervention when he is not behaving nicely with his playmates. Afterwards, tell him how proud you were that he played so well and be sure to mention specifically what he did that pleased you. Let him hear you tell others how happy you were that he shared his toys or took turns.

Evan's parents had never invited another child to their house to play or to go on an outing with them. Instead, they relied upon his school, the after-school child care program and occasional visits from relatives with children close to his age to provide socialization for Evan. Evan's parents didn't feel comfortable socializing with others; they were close to their own parents and some cousins and this formed their social world. They learned that they needed to take a much more proactive approach to help Evan form friendships. They needed to show interest in others outside of their family and to model how to make new friends.

- **Beginning when your child is in kindergarten,** find out from his teacher who he plays with in school,

and ask your child if you can invite his classmate to your house to play. You want to get his buy-in, but of course you can structure your request in such a way to succeed in accomplishing your goal. Inviting one child at a time is best so that he can practice skills involved in play, such as negotiating, cooperating and conceding graciously. Then you can expand and see if there are other classmates you can invite over at other times, again on a one-to-one basis. Hopefully, other parents will reciprocate and your child will be able to have practice playing with another child in a less structured environment than school. The objective is to help your child develop a level of social comfort at an early age.

- **At various ages,** discuss with your child what makes a good friend, and how in order to make a good friend, he needs to show he can be a good friend. With a 3-year-old you might talk about someone who shares, takes turns and isn't mean to you and to other children. With an older child, you would look at qualities like honesty, inclusiveness, showing interest and not being mean to you or to others. For a teen or adult child, you might discuss trust, common values and interests, and not being mean.

There seems to be a common denominator here. All too often, children and adults overlook or accept mean, purposely hurtful treatment from someone whom they are trying to befriend. Even though this person may have many attractive qualities, mean-spiritedness towards others is a huge red flag. It is important for both you and your child to be selective in choosing friends.

- **Try to keep communication open** with your child so that he can come to you for support and advice. And it goes without saying that helping him develop positive self-esteem will enable him to avoid feeling that he is socially defective in some way. He will be better able to observe situations objectively instead of being self-critical.

- **Be an active listener.** Offer compassion and understanding. Elicit more information by asking him why he feels a certain way. Ask him questions so that he can possibly reassess a situation. For example, if he tells you that no one on his soccer team likes him, ask him, "What about Jake? I see him smiling at you and talking to you." Be surprised that he thinks no one likes him because you know that he's such a fun, interesting person. Overall, try to encourage him without telling him what to do or how to feel.

- **Don't discuss your child's feelings** with anyone who can't be trusted not to blab to others. You don't want to take a risk that other children will find out.

- **When child can understand,** discuss introversion and extroversion. Introverts tend to be socially more restrained and less demonstrative. They sometimes give others an impression of indifference or

unfriendliness. In reality, they may not feel this way at all. In contrast, extroverts typically show enthusiasm and eagerness to communicate and get to know others. They have more social energy for exploring relationships, whereas introverts need to conserve their more limited social energy.

In the case of one sibling who seems to have more friends and an easier time making friends than another, personality style may be a large factor. Help your more introverted child learn to accept himself and know that he, too, is capable of forming good friendships. He may just need more time and effort because social ease may not come naturally.



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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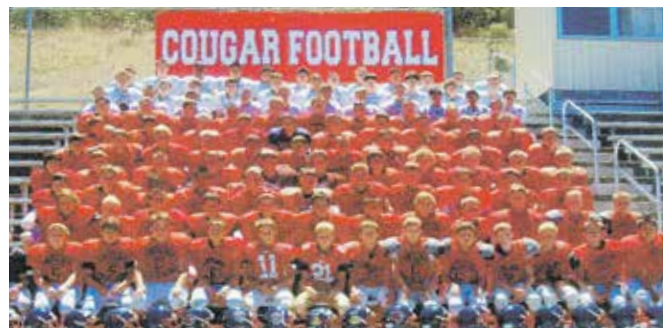
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Not to be missed

ART

Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery presents: Painting with Light — Photography and Watercolor from June 4 to July 9, with an artist talk on June 15. Photographers: Maude Pervere, Stephen Elbert, Suzanne Engelberg, Tanya Knoop, and Watercolorist Julie Cohn. (925) 284-1485 www.jenniferperlmuttergallery.com

The public is invited to attend the **Art and Photography Show**, featuring works by some 80 adult students, at Acalanes Adult Education (AAE) from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, June 10. This free opening night reception includes samples of drawing, multi-media, oil/acrylic paintings, and special projects created in Art Lab. Some items will be available for sale. Refreshments will be served. AAE is located at 1963 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek. The exhibit will continue on weekdays only through July 29.

The **Moraga Art Gallery announces a new show**, "Porcelain Poetry/Textile Treasures," featuring beautifully-crafted, functional pottery by member artist Donna Arganbright of Lafayette and a selection of vibrant quilts created by guest artist Denise Oyama Miller. The show runs from June 8 to Aug. 13. There will be an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 11. The exhibit and reception are free and the public is invited to attend. The Moraga Art Gallery is located at 522 Center Street, Moraga. (925) 376-5407.

MUSIC

Enjoy a Latin Musicfest featuring Carlos Reyes with special musical guests Rolando Morales and Esther Godinez from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 2 at Aegis Living of Moraga, 950 Country Club Dr. in Moraga. Free. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP at (925) 297-6760.

Lafayette's Jazz Café is at 6 p.m. June 3 in the Stanley Middle School Multi-Purpose Room. Lineup features Stanley Middle School's Crusaders and Jazz Messengers, as well as the Campolindo and Acalanes jazz bands. Tickets: general admission \$10; elementary students \$5; kids under 6 free. Tortilleria El Molino Catering from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Raffle drawings for fabulous gift baskets! This is the only fundraiser for the Stanley Middle School Jazz Program. For info, email anouschkaw@mac.com.

Bay Area dancer and choreographer Todd Courage and dancer, choreographer, and yogi Mary-Anngeline Douvikas will premiere their thesis concerts at 8 p.m. June 3 and 4 in the LeFevre Theatre at Saint Mary's College. Courage and Douvikas are members of the very first cohort of students in the MFA in Dance program at Saint Mary's and will be presenting their work at the inaugural MFA in Dance Thesis concerts series. Tickets are \$15 general admission, and can be purchased at the door or in advance online at www.stmarys-ca.edu/mfa-in-dance-thesis-concert-a.

WomenSing presents "To Give Voice" at 4 p.m. Sunday, June 5 and at 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 8 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. WomenSing's 50th anniversary spring concert gives voice to the musical traditions that have shaped America and WomenSing. Cost: \$28 general admission; \$10 for students and youth 18 and under. For more info see http://womensing.org/concerts/current-season/spring-concert/, call (925) 798-4875 or email info@womensing.org.

Enjoy a musically innovative and exhilarating evening presented by the Piano Composers Chapter of the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society. The free concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 10 at Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd. near Rossmoor in Walnut Creek. Parking is easy. Visit www.ccpas.org

THEATER

Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Moraga Library will present a docent lecture at 1 p.m. Thursday, June 2. A docent from the Berkeley Repertory Theatre will discuss the current production, "For Peter Pan on Her 70th Birthday," showing at the Roda Theatre through July 3.

Crosslight Theater's Youth Conservatory presents "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" at Walnut Creek's Leshar Center for the Arts, June 3-12. Thursday/Friday/Saturday at 7:15 p.m., with shows June 3, 4, 9, 10, 11; Saturday/Sunday at 2:15 p.m. with shows June 4, 5, 11, 12. Tickets \$15/\$17 available in person at the Leshar Center Box Office, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek; by phone at (925) 943-SHOW; and online at www.leshar-artscenter.org.

Town Hall Theatre Company presents "Play It Again, Sam" by Woody Allen and directed by Soren Oliver in Lafayette June 4-25. Tickets and exact show times are available at www.townhalltheatre.com or at by calling (925) 283-1557. (See story on page B1)

Florence Nightingale performs at 8 p.m. on June 17 and 18 at the Martinez Campbell Theatre, 636 Ward St. in Martinez. Tickets at the door are \$20 and may be reserved by calling (925) 518-3277. For more information visit Onstage-theatre.homestead.com.

LECTURE

The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley will present Dr. Helen Benjamin as its speaker from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 11 in the Cedar Room of the Lafayette Community Center. Dr. Benjamin is the retiring Chancellor of the Contra Costa Community College District. She will be sharing her experience in higher education and her perspective on the future of a community college system now faced with fluctuating budgets and changing demographics.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Author Marissa Moss Visits ... for Amelia's Graduation! from 4 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1 at the Moraga Library. Author Marissa Moss will talk about her "Amelia" series and "Amelia's Middle-School Graduation Yearbook." Books will be available for purchase, and Moss is happy to sign them. These Moraga Library events are free and open to the public, and are geared to older elementary and middle school students.

Free Family Movie Night at the Moraga Commons Park at 8:50 p.m. (depending on darkness) on Friday, June 3. Kick-off your summer like a superhero! The Moraga Youth Involvement Committee (MYIC) is hosting a free outdoor presentation of "The Incredibles." Bring friends and family, enter the raffle, and enjoy refreshments sold by the MYIC.

Kids Carnival for Wishes. There will be fun games, face painting and more to raise money for Make-A-Wish Foundation, hosted by local junior ambassadors from 1 to 4 p.m. on June 4 at Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette.

MISCELLANEOUS

Charles "Chuck" Swanson, Director of Public Works for the City of Orinda, will be speaking on the "Orinda's Road Repair Plan — What do You Do With 92 Miles of Bad Road?" from 1 to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1 at the Orinda Country Club. The public is also invited to attend the Orinda Rotary lunch starting at 11:45 a.m. prior to the speaker. Lunch is \$20, no lunch is \$5.

The 35th Annual Walnut Creek Art and Wine Festival kicks-off

summer with art, wine, food and fun for all ages from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 5. Free to attend, Heather Farm Park will be filled with more than 250 arts and crafts booths, live music, craft brews, wine tasting, dozens of food options, a Kids Zone and more. For additional information, visit www.artwinefestivalwc.com.

Happiness is adopting a kitten or cat. Find your new best friend at Community Concern for Cats adoption event from 1 to 4 p.m. this Saturday and Sunday, June 4 and 5, at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information see www.communityconcernforcats.org

Is rowing your sport? This is your opportunity to find out. Join Artemis Rowing Club and USRowing for National Learn to Row Day 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 4 at the Jack London Aquatic Center. Artemis Rowing is a competitive community-based rowing program for East Bay youth in grades 6-12. Please visit www.ArtemisRowing-Club.org for more information.

Check out careers and opportunities with the East Bay Regional Park District at 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 9. Jaimee Rizzotti, Community Outreach Coordinator, and Bismarck Blanco, Human Resource Analyst, will talk about programs and opportunities, seasonal, temporary and permanent jobs with this "special district," a system of parklands and trails in Alameda and Contra Costa County. An NPS Centennial Celebration program.

Summer Sustainable Living Series from Sustainable Contra Costa presents Home in Harmony: Living with Less Stuff from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14 at the Rodgers Ranch Heritage Center, 315 Cortsen Road, Pleasant Hill. Learn how simplicity can bring balance to our lives through fun, practical ways to organize, declutter, and get your home into shape. Register online at www.sustainablecoco.org/workshops.

KPFA Radio 94.1 FM presents Rebecca Gordon: American Nuremberg: The American Officials Who Should Stand Trial for Post 9/11 War Crimes from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15, at Berkeley Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St, Berkeley. Answers, questions and book-signing. Cost: \$12 advance, \$15 door. For more info see http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2547547 or call (510) 967-4495.

Diablo Ballet and its Teen Board present their first annual PAWS de Tutu event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on June 18 at the Lafayette Reservoir. Participants are invited to dress up their dogs and enter the dog costume "ComPAWtition" and win some amazing prizes. Anyone interested in participating, should register online at www.diabloballet.org as participation is limited. Registration fees are \$30 for adults and \$20 for youth 17 and under.

Honor those with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers by participating in The Longest Day on Monday, June 20, a sunrise-to-sunset team activity held annually on the Summer Solstice that raises disease awareness and funds toward Alzheimer's care, support and research. Join an existing team or create your own team with activities that honor your loved ones. Register now at: alz.org/TLD.

... continued on next page

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MOVIE REVIEW

Film Clips

It's Hard to See Good in 'Looking Glass'

By Derek Zemrak



Patti Leidecker and Adam Reeves Photo provided
These days Hollywood is about producing sequels and reboots, formerly called remakes. If it makes money a sequel is immediately in the works. Prime example is the 2010 box office success, "Alice in Wonderland," which grossed over \$334 million in U.S. ticket sales on a \$200 million budget.

It was a box office triumph for Disney and Director Tim Burton but it received mixed reviews from moviegoers. But any victory in Hollywood seems to equal sequel, which brings us to the release of "Alice Through the Looking Glass." This time, director James Bobin ("The Muppets," "Muppets Most Wanted") is calling the shots, but with less gothic style and holding closer to Lewis Carroll's fantasy classic novel with a much more vibrant use of color and flamboyant flair.

You may or may not recall in the first film Alice started her voyage at sea and this is where this movie starts. Alice, once again played by Mia Wasikowska, returns from her expedition only to be threatened by her ex-fiancé Hamish (Leo Bill, "The Girl with the Dagon Tattoo") to regain her ship, the Wonder. Alice decides she must return to Wonderland, this time through a

mirror and not the traditional rabbit hole.

Down under, Alice learns that her old friend, the Mad Hatter (Johnny Depp), is deeply depressed over the death of his family and asks Alice to help him. Alice believes she can make things better for Hatter by stealing the time traveling chronosphere from Time (Sacha Baron Cohen). Sacha is a positive addition to this franchise. Adventuring in the past Alice learns of the relationship between the Red Queen (Helena Bonham Carter) and the White Queen (Anne Hathaway).

All the flashy computer generated imagery (CGI) cannot save a subpar script and the characters just do not draw you in. "Alice Through the Looking Glass" has a total running time (TRT) of 1 hour and 53 minutes with a PG rating.

Now playing at the Rheem Theatre:
 "X-Men: Apocalypse," "The Angry Birds Movie" and "Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising"
Now playing at the Orinda Theatre:
 "Alice Through the Looking Glass," "Money Monster" and "The Meddler"
Upcoming Special Events at the Rheem and Orinda Theatres:
June 9, 7 p.m. – FREE MOVIE NIGHT in Orinda – "M*A*S*H"
June 18, 7 p.m. – An evening with Litz Plummer as she performs the greatest Broadway and movie songs.
June 15, 2 p.m. – Moraga Movers Present, "Father of the Bride," hosted by Larry Swindell
July 14, 7 p.m. – FREE MOVIE NIGHT in Orinda – "Stand By Me"
July 23, 7 p.m. – Eileen and Brett sing the greatest American ballads from Judy Garland to Frank Sinatra.
July 30, 7 p.m. – Charlie Chaplin Festival screening of "The Kid" with live piano score written and performed by Patti Liedecker.

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Service Clubs Announcements



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

June 3
Robert Priebe, Moraga's successes and challenges

June 10
Andrea Fazel, Street Law In Our High Schools

Annual Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary President Roast coming up June 17

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.

June 2: Rachel Zinn, Superintendent Lafayette School District will be speaking about the Bond Measure C
June 9: Alex Lidgren – Exchange student speaking on his year in Lafayette/US

ROCK THE PLAZA: Fri. – June 3, The Allmond Brothers Clan
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Not to be missed

GARDEN

The Lafayette Community Garden presents Getting to Know the Food We Grow from 2:30 to 4 p.m. on June 5. Explore seasonal foods grown in the Lafayette Community Garden. Their nutritional benefits as well as simple, healthy ways to prepare them will be discussed. Led by Jaime Askew, a certified nutrition consultant and garden member. Participants will also harvest the foods from the garden in this class and create a nutritious and delicious dish for all to share.

Now you can have a beautiful garden...and eat it, too! Gardening and horticulture expert, Bob Hornback will show you how to produce your own organically-grown veggies,

fruits and herbs in plantings that are attractive enough for the front yard. You'll learn everything you need to know about designing, installing, maintaining and harvesting an edible landscape. From 10 a.m. to noon on June 11 at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek. \$20 - \$25. More info: www.gardenshf.org or (925) 947-1678

Creating a Sustainable Garden Workshop: Learn how to build healthier soil, chooses water-wise plants and manage pests in the least toxic way during this free workshop, 10 a.m. Saturday, June 11 at McDonnell Nursery in Orinda. To reserve a seat please call (925) 252-3713 or info@mcdonnellnursery.com.

Lamorinda Weekly

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Thoughtful Food

Bacon and Brown Sugar Scones are a Sweet and Savory Treat in the Morning

By Susie Iventosch



to loving bacon and the sweet touch of brown sugar sounded so good to me. I tried it the very next day, and we used that brown sugared-bacon in a Cobb Salad and then realized it would be great in these scones, too. I decided that a few toasted pecans would also add some nice crunch to the texture.

I am not sure if these scones fit more into the sweet or the savory category, since they include bacon, blue cheese, figs and pecans, but regardless, they are really delicious and would be great served alone or with a side of scrambled eggs. I haven't tried this recipe with fresh figs, but if you do, please let me know how it turns out! Fresh figs and blue cheese are always a fantastic combination! Also, I am curious if the brown sugar would add the same amazing flavor to turkey bacon, but have yet to try that one, too.

Scones don't have to be dull and dry.

This recipe for Brown Sugared-Bacon, Fig and Blue Cheese Scones with Toasted Pecans came about from a couple of different angles. First of all, my son bought a fig-bacon-blue cheese scone on his way to work a few weeks ago. He emailed me and told me how

amazing it was and asked if I could please make a batch for him. Why, of course, no problem.

And, then, when I was visiting my sister in Tucson, she showed me how she prepares bacon, sprinkled with brown sugar and then baked in the oven. I must confess

Photo Susie Iventosch

INGREDIENTS

- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 ¼ tsp. baking powder
- ¼ tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 stick of butter, cut into pieces
- 4 strips brown sugared-bacon*, cooked and crumbled
- ¼ cup pecan pieces, toasted and coarsely chopped
- 5-6 dried figs, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1/3 cup crumbled blue cheese
- ½ cup buttermilk

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper, or spray with cooking spray.

Prepare brown sugared-bacon. (See instructions below)

In a large bowl, mix flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Using a pastry cutter or your fingertips, cut butter into dries until integrated. Add pecans, blue cheese, figs and bacon crumbles and mix.

Stir in buttermilk with a fork or wooden spoon. If necessary, use your hands to make sure all the flour is incorporated. Add a little more buttermilk, if necessary.

Shape into a large circle, about one-half to three-fourths-inch thick. Cut into eight pie-shaped pieces and place onto parchment paper. Bake for 15 minutes or so, until scones are beginning to brown on top and dough appears to be cooked. It can be frozen or stored in refrigerator. Reheat in hot oven to crunch up and serve.

Brown sugared-bacon

Lay bacon strips out on a baking sheet. Sprinkle each piece of bacon with a tiny amount of brown sugar. For example, I used about 1 teaspoon for 10 strips of bacon, so not much at all. Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 15 minutes. Turn bacon, and repeat the process by sprinkling each piece on the reverse side with a small amount of brown sugar—again about 1 teaspoon for all 10 pieces. Continue to bake for another 5 to 10 minutes, or until bacon is cooked to desired doneness. You may have to drain fat from bacon once or twice during the baking process.

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.



Lamorinda Girl Pays Wishes Forward

By Cathy Dausman



Audrey Price was able to meet her favorite band, One Direction, in 2014.

The summer of 2014 was a difficult time for Campolindo High School sophomore Audrey Price. Diagnosed with a brain aneurysm, Price underwent surgery the very day summer vacation began (a Friday the 13th) and suffered surgical trauma to her right side which confined her to a hospital ward for six long weeks (see <https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0902/pdf/An-Instant-Leftie-Campo-students-brain-surgery-recovery-continues.pdf>).

That same summer ended on a higher note, though, when through Make-A-Wish Foundation Price was flown to Chicago to meet her favorite band — One Direction — attend their concert, meet the group backstage and be photographed with them. Initially reluctant to accept a wish for Audrey and warned that it might take years to have it granted, Price's mother Barbara

Price said the hospital medical staff encouraged them to participate. "Just do it!" she said of their incredible experience.

Fast forward to present day, and you'll find Price is busy helping other candidates obtain their big wish. In December Price collected 1,588 letters from teachers and students for the Macy's Believe Campaign, raising \$3,176 for Make-A-Wish. She says she'll fundraise for that event again next December.

But now she and several other members of Make-A-Wish's Young Professional Advisory Council and

Details:

- Kids Carnival for Wish Kids
 - Benefits the greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish foundation
 - Saturday June 4, 1 to 4 p.m.
 - Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane Lafayette
 - Tickets \$1 per event or \$20 for unlimited game participation
- To donate online, go to: <http://mawevites.kintera.org/faf/donorReg/DonorPledge.asp?ievent=1079236&lis=1&knetae1079236=68B290E5FAFE405EB1B4279238A58CBA&supId=411012775>

Photo provided

some 20 volunteers are preparing to host a Kids' Carnival for Wish Kids June 4 at Lafayette's Our Savior's Lutheran Church. The carnival, designed for children ages four to 10, features professional face painting, temporary tattoos, a cupcake walk, bingo, musical beach towels and other carnival games. Price has already raised \$600 in advance of the event. All proceeds benefit Make-A-Wish. "They are working so hard to provide fun games and activities [while] spending as little as possible," said Price's mother.

LAMORINDA SPORTS

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Campolindo's Moore Wins 800 Meter at NCS Meet of Champions

By Karl Buscheck



Niki Moore

Photos Gint Federas

Campolindo qualified so many athletes for the NCS Meet of Champions that head coach Chuck Woolridge nearly lost track of just how many made the cut.

"Well, that's a good question," Woolridge said. "Let me count."

The final tally was 17 and none did better than junior Niki Moore during the two-day event held on May 27 and 28 at Cal's Edwards Stadium.

Moore placed in second in the 800-meter trials on May 27 before winning the finals a day later – becoming the first Cougar to accomplish that feat in program history.

"Meet of Champions is interesting because you have to go through trials and then come back 24 hours later – if you make it to finals – and perform again," Woolridge said. "You have to be poised and relaxed on Friday. However, you're likely to need to get close to your personal best to advance on to the final. So, you're really trying to expend as little energy as possible on Friday, but ensure that you make it."

The boys' 4x400-meter relay team and senior 800-meter runner Sarah Cella also both advanced to the second day of the Meet of Champions. In the finals, the relay team placed fifth, while Cella earned fourth place in the 800-meter race – setting a new school record.

Including the 4x400-meter girls' relay team, which finished in fourth place in the finals, Acalanes brought 11 athletes to Edwards Stadium.

"I think it's a compliment to the kids," head coach John Crain of bringing so many athletes to the meet. "On the girls' side we knew we were good, it was just a matter of getting in the right positions to be able to qualify."

Senior Julia Lyons – who qualified for three events – came in sixth place in the 100-meter race and earned a trip to the state meet in the long jump by placing in third in that competition.

Junior Windy Margerum ran in sixth place in the 100-meter hurdles, while sophomore Muppy Gragg – who qualified

for four events – placed seventh in the 300-meter hurdles. On the boys' side, junior Ethan Westemeier landed in fifth place in the triple jump finals.

The Mats, who shared the girls' DFAL league title with the Dons, had 10 athletes competing at Cal.

"Making NCS Meet of Champions is a great achievement that a very small percentage of the team make," said head coach Tristan Tool. "The state meet is much more exclusive."

From senior Christian Gonzales to junior Hannah Fishlow

and freshman Cassy Haskell, Miramonte had an array of distance runners harboring state ambitions.

Gonzales punched his ticket to the state meet by finishing in second place – just half a second behind Campolindo's Moore.

Haskell also advanced on to state, meeting the CIF at-large standard qualifying time even though she finished in fifth place in the 1600-meter finals. Fishlow ran in seventh place for the Mats.

"The girls distance races were stacked this season," Tool said. It was a stellar field."



Acalanes Boys Tennis Team Reaches Semifinals in NorCal State Tournament

By Karl Buscheck



Isaiah Bird

Photo Gint Federas

great," said head coach Stephane Lawrence. "And that's what they did."

On May 21, at the Broadstone Racquet Club in Folsom, the Dons postseason run came to an end as the boys lost to St. Ignatius – the top seed in the tournament.

Throughout the season, a deep contingent of seniors set the tone for the Dons. That group included the likes of DFAL singles champ Isaiah Bird and NCS Division I singles runner-up Kyle Everly.

"Isaiah Bird, who played No. 2, actually won the league when he beat Kyle in the finals," Lawrence said. "He had strong performances [in the playoffs]."

Lawrence also highlighted the outstanding play of Ryan Cardiff.

"I would say the iron-man most valuable [player] is Ryan Cardiff who pulled off a big victory against [James] Logan that got us to the state finals," Lawrence said. "And he almost pulled off a victory against Dougherty [Valley] when we almost beat Dougherty in the section finals."

While Bird, Everly and Cardiff dominated on the singles side, Nico Brightbill was one of the seniors who lead the way for the doubles team.

"I have to compliment him," Lawrence said of Brightbill, who played with fellow senior Conor McGlynn. "He's kind of my doubles captain. He could have played singles or doubles. They were the best doubles team. They were first team all-league. They even won both their matches at the Nor-Cal State. They won their match against Davis and they won their match against Sr. Ignatius, who was the state champion."

After back-to-back runs to the NorCal State semifinals, there's no avoiding the reality that a lot of talented players are departing the Dons. But the seniors have left their footprint on the program, as the prepare to move on to the collegiate rank.

Lawrence was thrilled with the team's promising future, too. "A couple of players, like Kyle, has a younger brother Ryan who's a freshman and will move up next year. Nico has a younger brother Cole who moved up in doubles," Lawrence said. "So, they were able to mentor – at least their brothers – for a year (as) seniors to freshman. And I'll have all these young brothers coming back next year who have received this valuable mentoring from the older players."

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Gael's Baseball Earns First Trip to NCAA Tournament

By Karl Buscheck



Corbin Burnes

Photos Tod Fierner

The Saint Mary's baseball team hammered Gonzaga 13-4 on May 28 at Banner Island Ballpark in Stockton to claim its first ever West Coast Conference Tournament championship and clinch its first ever trip to the NCAA playoffs. "It's a lot of fun," said Eric Valenzuela – the WCC Coach of the Year – whose Gaels own a 33-23 record overall and an 18-9 mark in conference play." These guys

are deserving of everything they're given. They work hard and have put us in a position where we're fighting to get to (the CollegeWorld Series in) Omaha."

In the title game – as the Gaels beat the No. 3 seed Gonzaga for a second day in a row – first baseman Jackson Thoreson collected a three-run homer in the second inning. Second baseman Zack Kirtley went 4-for-5 and drove in a pair

of runs on his way to being named the tournament MVP.

In the opener on May 26, the Gaels topped the No. 4 seed Pepperdine 8-7 thanks to an 11th-inning walk-off single to left field by Kirtley.

"He's one of the best second basemen in the country," Valenzuela said of the sophomore. "He's going to go play in the Cape Cod League this summer and they've also called me from Team USA asking about him. So, he's as high profile of a guy around as there is."

Kirtley only had the chance to strike the decisive hit because of the power of junior Nate Nolan. The catcher connected on a pair of game-tying home runs – first in the eighth and then in the 10th.

A day later, the Gaels clubbed Gonzaga 13-4. Third baseman Anthony Villa gave Saint Mary's an immediate advantage, connecting on a 2-run shot in the top of the first. In the sixth, designated hitter Ian McLoughlin hit a grand slam as part of a six-run frame for the Gaels.

Even before arriving at the conference championship, the Gaels, who led the WCC with nine play-

ers on the All-Academic team, had enjoyed a record breaking season.

"It's history," Valenzuela said after his squad earned a share of the WCC regular season title. "There's lot of tradition [here] with lots of major leaguers and there was a Hall of Famer in there. The tradition of Saint Mary's Baseball goes way back. I mean, 100 years. So, the tradition of it is great. To be the first team to win a conference championship is unbelievable. And to be part of that with this group is special."

The title capped a dramatic rise for the program during Valenzuela's first three years in charge in Moraga. In 2015, the Gaels pushed beyond the .500 mark and this season the team surpassed the 30-win plateau for the first time in 25 years.

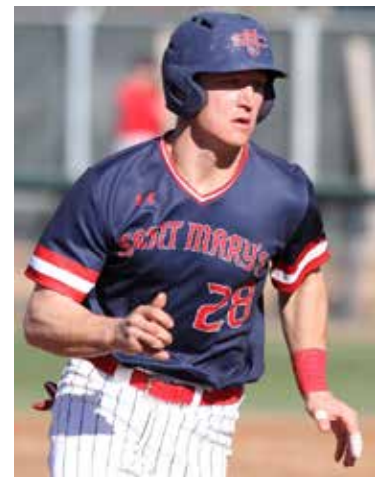
"I don't think our guys are just happy to be here. I think our guys want more," Valenzuela said. "I think that's what's expected with our program and within our program is that we work hard and we want to keep on climbing."

No player better embodies the upward trajectory of the program than junior ace Corbin Burnes.

"Being our Friday guy and pitching against some of the Friday guys in this conference, who are some of the best pitchers in the country, he's been phenomenal," Valenzuela said.

While the postseason beckons first, Burnes figures to be one of the most highly sought-after starting pitchers when the MLB draft rolls around on June 9.

"He's a great leader. His stuff is electric," Valenzuela said. "He's going to be a high draft pick – possible first rounder. First or second rounder – for sure. He's a major leaguer."



Nate Nolan

LMYA's Team Miramar Beach Volleyball Takes Home Title

Submitted by Gina Hageboeck



Team Miramar Beach Defeated Miami 2-1 to Clinch the fifth Grade Championship.

The LMYA fifth grade girls volleyball season culminated with a competitive, exciting match. After losing the first game 25-12 to Miami, team Miramar Beach came back to win the second game 25-15, leading to the climactic third game championship win, posting a score of 15-10.

Top row from left: Catherine Judson, Lucy Gellman, coach Michael Wiseman, Georgia Winkles, Kea Yoshinaka, Nora Macarewich. Bottom row from left: Hanna Hageboeck, Sierra Lashinsky, Madeline Kearney, Olivia Wiseman

Photo provided

Bay Area Blitz Third Grade Basketball Team is Undefeated

Submitted by Rhodora del Rosario



From left: Top Row - Mark Del Rosario, Sadie Suppiger, Abigail Williams, Shayna Chan, Campbell Evans, Julia Ferguson, Addison Ames, Brian Frechman; bottom row- Julissa Islas, Jada Dorst, Ella Del Rosario, and Nataile Frechman.

The Bay Area Blitz, a Lafayette-based third grade girls basketball team, won the Spring Season Championship Title On Sunday, May 22, 2016. The team went undefeated in the 2016 MVP Flight basketball league this season. The Blitz is coached by Brian Frechman and Mark Del Rosario.

Photo provided

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Lamorinda High School Divers Win

Submitted by Patricia Cetrone



From left: coach Brianna Nicholson, Audrey Lundgren, Brenna Cetrone, Jackie Samaniego and head coach Will Haynes
Photo Trish Cetrone

Three Lamorinda High School CLAM divers medaled at May 12th North Coast Sectionals (NCS). Miramonte sophomore Brenna Cetrone (Moraga) bested last year's 4th place standing by finishing 1st with a score of 427.00. She beat last year's champion by 7 points. Cetrone also came in first at DFALs on May 7, setting a new pool record with her score of 497.35 and came in 2nd at the California Interscholastic Federation Championships (CIF) in Clovis on May 21. She placed 13th (score of 439.35) out of 27 divers from around the state. She bested last year's 19th place finish in the semi-finals. Acalanes freshman divers Jackie Samaniego (Lafayette) placed 6th (score of 370.60) and Audrey Lundgren (Lafayette) placed 8th (score of 359.40).

Miramonte Sophomore Brenna Cetrone competes at 2nd Annual CIF Swimming & Diving Championships in Clovis, CA.
Photo Les Hata



Photo Les Hata

Lamorinda Runners Win at CYO Championship Events

Submitted by April Murphy



From left: Beck Murphy, Tyler Bergren, coach Harlan, Sydney Wood and Shannon Murphy
Photo provided

Runners from St. Perpetua Santa Monica and Santa Maria parishes participated in the CYO Dioceses Championship Events in Hayward and Livermore May 6/7. Charlotta Bell 4th grade girl from San-

ta Maria, Orinda won the 400m and Tyler Bergren the 800m race. Bergren set a 2.29 Oakland Diocese CYO 4th grade boys 800m record after his last years 3rd grade record.

Miramonte and Campolindo are Headed to State Swim Meet

Submitted by Katie Lyons



From left: Audrey Chang, Katie Lyons, Sophia Kosturos and Eloise Engs
Photo provided

Swimmers from Miramonte and Campolindo High School competed at the California Interscholastic Federation Championships (CIF) swim meet on May 20-21.

Miramonte: Audrey Chang (Sr.), Eloise Engs (Fr.), Sophia Kosturos (Fr.) and Katie Lyons (Fr.) competed in the 200 Free Relay. They tied for 7th place with Campo in the finals at a time of 1:35.76 - an All American Automatic time. Campolindo: Alicia Campbell (So.), Sophia Cavalli (So.), Lauren Etnyre (So.) and Ashleen O'Brien (Fr.) In the 400-yard Free Relay the Miramonte girls took 13th in the state finals with a time

of 3:31.94. Campolindo came in 15th with a time of 3:33.32. For the Boys teams, Campolindo came in eighth in the finals in all three relays - the 200 Medley Relay (1:38.58), the 200 Free Relay (1:27.60), and the 400 Free Relay (3:14.46). Swimming for Campolindo was Sam Ayers (So.), Alec Baker (Fr.), Kai Nashan (So.), and Michael Wheeler (So.). Representing Miramonte, Carter Chan (Sr.) Justin Lammert (Jr.) Christian Schillinger (Jr.) and Scott Wu (Sr.) competed in the 200 Medley Relay and came in 21st in the Preliminaries (1:37.33).

Campo Boys Golf Advances

Submitted by Gary M. O'Neill



From left: Will Lagomarsino, Ryan Burnett, Austin Fischer, Mitch DiRaimondo, Big Jay Thomas and Jack Moeller
Photo Mary DiRaimondo

On Monday, May 16, the NCS Golf Championship was held at the par 72 Roddy Ranch Golf Club. Twenty-seven of the best golf teams in the North Coast Section, along with select individual qualifiers, played in the tournament. The top three teams and top six individuals not playing on a qualifying team would advance to the Northern California High School Golf Championship.

In the end, Campolindo Cougars finished second after De La Salle. Monte Vista and Amador Valley tied for third place and Monte Vista advanced based on the tie breaker formula.

Once again, Sophomore Ryan Burnett led the Cougars with a tie for the lowest score of the day, a three under par 69. Based on the tie breaker rules, Burnett placed third overall. He was closely followed by Senior Austin Fischer who fired a one under par 70 to take fourth place. The Campolindo scoring was rounded out with Senior Will Lagomarsino and Sophomore Big Jay Thomas carding 80, Senior Mitch DiRaimondo 82 and Junior Jack Moeller with an 83. Other Lamorinda standouts were Miramonte Senior Drew Karren with a 71 and Acalanes Senior Jake Basilico with a 73.

Local Soccer Teams Advance

Submitted by Keven Guillory



U17 girls
Photos provided



U15 boys NorCal State Champions



U15 girls

Three local youth soccer teams are traveling to Boise Idaho this month June 20 to-26 to represent Northern California at the 2016 Far West Regional Soccer Championships.

The Lamorinda Soccer club U15 Boys, U15 Girls, and U17 Girls will compete against teams from Alaska, Arizona, Southern California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

The U15 boys also won the Northern California Premier State Cup last month in Sacramento, while the U17 and U18 girls also competed in the prestigious tournament

final.

Two young Lamorinda players have been called up to the U.S. National Team. Cecilia Gee was invited to Spain this past February to play with the National U18 team. Three undefeated games later against Denmark, England, and Norway, she's back at Lamorinda preparing for the Far West Nationals, and awaiting the national team's next call. Teammate Caroline Clark has also been called up and participated in the elite US National Training Camp. Both young women have also committed to Stanford University which reached out to them after seeing their exploits on the soccer pitch.

**Submit stories to
sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com**

(We prefer to receive your original photo file, minimum size: 200 dpi and 1200 pixels wide.)

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 10 Issue 7 Wednesday, June 1, 2016



*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian
...read on page D16*

Local Lumber Transforms into Great Furniture

By Sophie Braccini



Julie Mitchell, owner of Lafayette Rancho Cantina, sits at a eucalyptus bar.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Many Lamorinda residents have trees on their properties that hold sentimental value: the kids have been climbing them or a treehouse was nestled there at one time. It may be a great redwood, a majestic cedar or a bicentennial walnut.

But time passes for trees, too, and some-

times they have to go. Bill Ridings of Lafayette, owner of California Urban Lumber, makes sure that these old companions are not completely gone, and in the form of a table, a bench, a center kitchen island, he magnifies their beauty and makes sure they continue to draw admiration and warmth into the home.

Ridings is a sawyer, meaning that his gift is to be able to take a piece of lumber and see how to best saw it to extract the most beautiful boards. "Then I have people on my team that will be creative and turn it into furniture," he says. A banker for many years, Ridings comes from at least three generations of talented woodworkers. Then one day in 2007, on a whim, he asked his friend John Connolly if he'd be interested in having him operate his machinery and develop the business. Connolly said yes, and when he retired, Ridings purchased California Urban Lumber.

... continued on page D4



*This redwood table top that belongs to Michael and Teresa Gerringer of Lafayette is three inches thick, four feet wide and 16 feet long.
Photo provided*



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	16	\$525,000	\$3,000,000
MORAGA	16	\$609,000	\$1,605,000
ORINDA	11	\$615,000	\$1,745,000

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

LAFAYETTE

- 3216 Bavarian Lane, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2789 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 5-6-16; Previous Sale: \$1,195,000, 04-27-07
- 1517 El Sombro, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2509 SqFt, 1946 YrBl, 4-26-16
- 4080 Legion Court, \$1,384,500, 4 Bdrms, 1986 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 4-29-16
- 1169 Nogales Street, \$825,000, 4 Bdrms, 2055 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 4-29-16
- 3316 North Lucille Lane, \$840,000, 4 Bdrms, 1655 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 5-4-16
- 3921 North Peardale Drive, \$1,310,500, 3 Bdrms, 1989 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 4-26-16; Previous Sale: \$365,000, 08-12-92
- 914 Old Hawthorne Road, \$1,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2266 SqFt, 1941 YrBl, 5-5-16; Previous Sale: \$600,000, 11-24-99
- 3710 Rose Court, \$1,920,000, 3 Bdrms, 2445 SqFt, 1962 YrBl, 5-3-16
- 1049 Silverhill Drive, \$1,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 3053 SqFt, 1989 YrBl, 4-29-16; Previous Sale: \$965,000, 09-27-12
- 3397 Silver Springs Court, \$2,750,000, 5 Bdrms, 4530 SqFt, 1984 YrBl, 5-5-16; Previous Sale: \$2,595,000, 06-03-05
- 955 Stow Lane, \$3,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 4054 SqFt, 1946 YrBl, 5-10-16; Previous Sale: \$1,095,000, 04-12-99
- 15 Via Magnalena, \$1,910,000, 4 Bdrms, 2735 SqFt, 1962 YrBl, 4-26-16
- 3701 West Road, \$525,000, 1 Bdrms, 832 SqFt, 1977 YrBl, 4-26-16; Previous Sale: \$375,000, 08-22-13
- 1030 Windsor Drive, \$1,110,000, 3 Bdrms, 2159 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 4-26-16; Previous Sale: \$569,000, 06-28-99
- 2 West Creek Court, \$741,000, 3 Bdrms, 1488 SqFt, 1975 YrBl, 5-6-16; Previous Sale: \$741,000, 06-15-06
- 3395 Woodview Drive, \$1,155,000, 4 Bdrms, 2503 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 5-6-16; Previous Sale: \$220,000, 05-12-86

MORAGA

- 1021 Alta Mesa Drive, \$609,000, 2 Bdrms, 1700 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 5-5-16; Previous Sale: \$525,000, 04-02-04
- 617 Augusta Drive, \$900,000, 2 Bdrms, 2187 SqFt, 1976 YrBl, 4-25-16; Previous Sale: \$860,000, 07-31-07
- 321 Birchwood Drive, \$1,335,000, 5 Bdrms, 2352 SqFt, 1968 YrBl, 5-10-16; Previous Sale: \$850,000, 07-28-09
- 49 Buckingham Drive, \$1,205,000, 4 Bdrms, 1764 SqFt, 1968 YrBl, 4-27-16
- 1094 Country Club Drive, \$1,293,500, 3 Bdrms, 1875 SqFt, 1975 YrBl, 4-28-16; Previous Sale: \$869,000, 08-03-12
- 173 Cypress Point Way, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1644 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 4-28-16; Previous Sale: \$480,000, 06-27-00

... continued on page D14



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Local Lumber Transforms into Great Furniture

... continued from page D1

From building wood cell towers, the business' direction has been redirected over the last 10 years toward furniture making because of demand from people who had to cut trees in their yard — as well as word of mouth. Ridings often partners with Hamilton Tree Service in Lafayette, a company that has a crane powerful enough to lift the thousand-pound logs that are cut. Then Urban Lumber fetches the tree and starts the milling process.

Once Urban Lumber has cut the boards they have to dry. Ridings says that the rule of thumb is that it takes a year per inch of thickness. It also depends on the species of timber, redwood drying a lot faster than walnut. "In fact everything dries faster than walnut," he adds with a smile. People store their own lumber. Ridings says that outside is fine, that rain is fine, but that sun is the enemy, and that you want air to get to it and dry it.

The variety of creations that can come from the lumber is limitless.

... continued on page D6



Bill Ridings shows a client a walnut piece with live edges for the table the client wants to give his son.

Photo Sophie Braccini



This single piece oak board that will eventually become a bar gets set to go through the sander.

Photo Sophie Braccini



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SOLD! 3546 Silver Springs Road, Lafayette
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Local Lumber Transforms into Great Furniture

... continued from page D4



Bill Ridings checks the natural finish of a center island piece that's ready to go.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Ridings explains that depending on how the wood is cut, the boards will be more or less knotty. He sometimes would re-saw a board through its thickness creating a book-match: once the cut is complete and you've opened the two pieces, like a book, the grain on each of the two cut faces will almost perfectly mirror one another. He occasionally leaves live edge on the sides of the board, or turns it around, putting the live edge in the middle. "It's quite popular for office or conference tables because you can slide the cables through the holes in the middle of the table."

At Rancho Cantina in Lafayette, owners Julie Mitchell and Erik Peterson have worked with Ridings to create a look of authenticity for all

their restaurant tables. Mitchell says that Ridings is a friend and they had seen other tables he had done for a restaurant in Walnut Creek. The tables are red bark eucalyptus, oil finished, and both rustic and sophisticated. "We get a lot of compliments about our tables," says Mitchell.

Teresa and Mike Geringer of Lafayette have also been hiring Ridings to construct furniture for their vacation cabin. There it is redwood that was milled and sanded to create a one-of-a-kind table. Mike Geringer says that what he loves about Ridings' pieces is that each is unique. "Every time you go to the warehouse to see the wood it is different," he says. "There is something magical there."

Don't lament if you don't have one of these precious trees in your yard. Ridings has trees that have been donated by people who did not need the wood but did not want to see their trees go to wood chips. The company mills 100,000 board-feet a year. (One board-foot is 12-inches by 12-inches by one-inch thick.) Ridings adds that a typical log has about 150 to 200 board-feet.

In the air of the huge warehouse in Martinez, light fragrance of trees softly drift through. The place is a compelling mix of rugged powerful machinery and the moving beauty of trees. No wonder Ridings says he just loves getting up early every morning to go to work.





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124SantaCatalina.com

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70LostValleyDrive.com

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It's Not Easy Being Green

By Andi Peterson Brown

Along with family road trips and outings for ice cream, summer is synonymous with home improvement time. If you want to do some value-add projects to your home this summer but tearing up your dated bathrooms sounds way too intense, you might want to consider doing a little bit of "greening" instead. Compared to other house-related projects, greening your home can be much easier, can immediately lead to utility savings, and can still create some long term value. Below are a few ways to easily go green.

- Switch to low flow showerheads and dual-flush toilets.
- Replace lights with CFLs or LEDs.
- Seal gaps and cracks around windows and doors and install weather stripping where necessary.
- Install solar landscaping lights and motion sensor porch lights.
- If possible, replace some grass square footage with native landscaping/low water plants.
- Install a programmable thermostat.
- Plant your own vegetable and herb garden.
- Lower the temperature setting on your water heater to 120 degrees.
- Replace an outdated HVAC system with a newer, more energy efficient model.



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Stylish Solutions

Four Steps To Creating Your Future Dream Home Now

By Ann McDonald



Simple clean lines for an outdoor kitchen make room for life and people. Many Lamorinda homes were built in the 50s and have brick outdoors. This showcases an easy way to work around that for an updated look.

What an incredible time of year. We are so blessed to live in Northern California. I absolutely love the seasons, and am particularly enjoying the summer blooms following our recent rains.

This month, Stylish Suburbanite, I wanted to share helpful tips from "Behind the Drapery" as many in Lamorinda undertake remodels, refreshes and other updates to properties and homes this time of year. Even as the world swirls around us, there is something sacred about home. It does not matter if our abodes are big or small, the spaces and places we call home set the stage for so much of our lives.

As we look toward the summer months and consider what to undertake, may these tips help us create beauty and

invite peace into our living spaces.

First, an encouragement for any who are feeling overwhelmed at the prospect. As a veteran of the Design Industry, I am often asked to speak encouragement to my peers. I don't know if it's just because I'm old or what, but as I say to them, "Stay the course!" The beauty you create and steward in your home will pay off in more ways than you can count.

One of my most requested presentations is what I call "Present Future Design." This has to do with truthful evaluations of what space is currently emphasizing in ones' life and how to systematically go about changing those spaces without trashing the entire set-up.

... continued on page D12

//JUST LISTED

VACATION WHILE STILL AT HOME

149 Westchester Street, Moraga



This lovely, updated townhome is located in Moraga Country Club on a coveted quiet and inviting Cul de Sac. You are just minutes from golf, tennis, swim, fabulous dining and entertaining facilities at the stunning MCC club house.

The spacious 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhome is approximately 1,892 square feet. The front patio graciously welcomes guests. It has seamless access from the family room, for outside dining and is a wonderful play area for young children or a combination of all the above.

The kitchen offers granite counters, great breakfast bar for

casual meals, stainless steel sink, and views of the patio. It is adjacent to the spacious dining room with seamless access to the private deck, once again expanding the interior area to the outside.

The living room also accesses the deck providing a wonderful area for family fun and entertaining friends.

Upstairs are three spacious bedrooms and two recently remodeled baths. All with tons of natural light, and plenty of closet space. This is a lovely family home with all the amenities of Moraga Country Club.

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Stylish Solutions

Four Steps To Planning Your Dream Home Now

... continued from page D10



In this small space we see practical application of four chairs and a coffee table with a fireplace. Note the teak is not in perfect condition, and accent pillows provide color. Stick with neutrals for the main cushions so you can switch the look each year. The addition of an outdoor rug would be nice as well.

Seasoned, and sometimes hardened, architects, designers and decorators are reminded of their heart that brought them into an industry where creating spaces and places blesses and encourages new growth, both in the built environment and for people who will inhabit those built environments.

So for the Lamorinda reader, here is my reminder: Your home is meant to catapult you into the next season, not hold you captive to a yesterday, laden with faded memories. Make room for the next. The next season with your spouse or significant other, the next season with your children and/or friends and/or pets, and most importantly, the next season of you.

How do we do that? Here are my foundational tips:

- 1) Take an unplanned photo of each and every space, room, and if possible, the outside of your home. Nothing speaks truth like a good, unplanned picture. I recommend you don't tidy up. Why? Because it gives us a strong understanding of how we really live. Today.
- 2) Evaluate those photos in a neutral location. Don't sit and look at the spaces and places you live in from your messy dining room. Go to a peaceful place for you, which could be an outdoor hike, a coffee shop, library or the neighborhood pool. Just get out. Bring a notebook

and tag photos with what an ideal life would look like in those rooms one, three and even five years out.

Plan for your present to future life in those spaces.

Do you yearn to pick up painting again? Create space for that today. Do you yearn to have more peace in your life? Eliminate the television and donate all those old video games. Do you yearn for less time cleaning up? Eliminate all the clutter.

- 3) No playing catch-up. Forward march only! Many times, families especially, are designing for the past season of their lives trying to catch up. It's often unconscious. We find the resources grow as the kids leave home, and that pool that never materialized looks mighty inviting. However, by honestly evaluating where we'd like to be five years out, we are able to make educated wise decisions about design and remodels.

One trend we are seeing strong is the aging in place concept. As such, many clients are preparing for in-law suites or revamping so there is a first floor master bedroom. Take time to take stock. Don't rush — plan well. It will save time once the project starts, I promise. Your soul will thank you for planning.

- 4) And finally, only undertake by yourself, what you can finish by yourself. We joke in the studio that DIY is actually an evil spirit. Here's wisdom: there are some projects you can do alone. You can plant the front porch pots alone, but probably not re-build the steps. As the summer hits its stride, remember that help is often booked out, so plan for your sanity now. It's okay to ask for help. Not one of my friends with television shows on DIY does it themselves. If you knew the teams, sponsors and crews making it all possible, you'd never feel guilty about hiring again.

What's the old saying? Many hands make for light work. It is especially true in design-related projects.

For today, may your home be blessed and may your spaces be places of refuge and restoration, beauty and good cheer.

... continued on page D15



91 Orchard Road, Orinda

Beautifully remodeled home in Glorietta with park-like grounds including lawns, flowering plants, ponds, waterfalls, patios, greenhouse, outdoor fireplace and peaceful views. Complete au-pair/in-law suite with separate entrance.

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<http://pro.walkintour.com/17528>

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

MORAGA ... continued

308 Corte Gabriel, \$840,000, 3 Bdrms, 2018 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 5-10-16; Previous Sale: \$300,000, 12-27-93
 43 Miramonte Drive, \$619,000, 2 Bdrms, 1344 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 5-2-16; Previous Sale: \$415,000, 11-12-03
 238 Paseo Bernal, \$835,000, 3 Bdrms, 2044 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 4-29-16; Previous Sale: \$748,000, 12-30-14
 632 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 1965 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 5-3-16
 266 Scofield Drive, \$1,270,000, 3 Bdrms, 1573 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 5-6-16; Previous Sale: \$884,500, 04-29-04
 1724 St. Andrews Drive, \$775,000, 2 Bdrms, 1464 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 4-29-16; Previous Sale: \$73,000, 12-19-75
 1742 St. Andrews Drive, \$950,000, 2 Bdrms, 2191 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-5-16; Previous Sale: \$865,000, 09-29-06
 3832 Via Granada, \$1,438,000, 3 Bdrms, 2078 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 5-6-16
 133 Warfield Drive, \$1,605,000, 4 Bdrms, 2149 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 5-10-16
 93 Warfield Drive, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2100 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 5-5-16; Previous Sale: \$730,000, 11-29-00

ORINDA

39 Camino Encinas, \$1,270,000, 4 Bdrms, 1561 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 5-4-16; Previous Sale: \$815,000, 10-06-09
 64 Donna Maria Way, \$1,160,000, 3 Bdrms, 1857 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 4-29-16; Previous Sale: \$446,000, 09-04-97
 4 Edgewood Court, \$1,275,000, 4 Bdrms, 2280 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 5-3-16; Previous Sale: \$1,082,000, 10-15-08
 108 Hillcrest Drive, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1771 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 4-27-16; Previous Sale: \$300,000, 11-28-95
 215 Ivy Drive, \$650,000, 3 Bdrms, 1281 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 5-10-16
 12 Knickerbocker Lane, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1930 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 5-4-16
 233 La Espiral, \$999,000, 3 Bdrms, 1254 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 4-29-16; Previous Sale: \$790,000, 10-05-09
 626 Moraga Way, \$795,000, 4 Bdrms, 1897 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 5-6-16; Previous Sale: \$615,000, 04-27-16
 15 Valley View Drive, \$1,745,000, 4 Bdrms, 2967 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-29-16; Previous Sale: \$800,000, 06-30-98
 112 Via Floreado, \$1,370,000, 4 Bdrms, 2978 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 5-6-16



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Stylish Solutions

... continued from page D12



Here we see clean lines for an outdoor kitchen. The view is the star, something many Lamorinda homes can take advantage of. If your outdoor kitchen is far away from the main house, perhaps up a hill, make sure to allocate enough storage so you aren't constantly going back and forth. A disposal is also a good idea.



Here we see armless chairs in a very neutral setting. Low profile is timeless, especially in outdoor furniture. These are investment quality pieces. I like how they work with the old pavers, something many Lamorinda homes have. Don't rush to rip them out. If uneven, lay an outdoor rug atop instead.



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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Digging Deap

Your Garden is Your Canvas This June

By Cynthia Brian

"The world is but a canvas to the imagination." Henry David Thoreau



Cymbidiums are blooming in abundance outdoors.

With summer approaching quickly, June is possibly one of the busiest months. Graduations, Father's Day, weddings, birthdays, vacations, swim meets, pool parties... it seems that these 30 days offer the most opportunities for celebrations.

It is time to fire up the barbeque, sweep the patio, freshen the flowerbeds and get ready for some serious fun. By growing your own food, you and your family will be healthier, happier, and enjoy more exercise. Get your children involved in the seed sowing, planting, and caring process to help them understand how food travels from the ground to the table. Allow your garden to become your artistic canvas to showcase your imagination and creativity throughout the summer.

SEED SOWING

This is a fun project to do with children, providing pride in growing. Start with radishes, lettuces, kale, zinnias, marigolds, or beans as they germinate quickly. An edible garden is especially popular with young kids.



Sweet peas reseed and climb wire or fences. Excellent for cut bouquets.

- **RECYCLE** plastic six-packs, flats, and pots to use to grow your own seedlings. Wash well before beginning the process and make sure the drainage holes are not plugged.
- **HANG** a shoe organizer on a sunny wall with the pockets filled to three-fourths full with soil for a fun vertical garden that is especially excellent for herbs, lettuces, and other compact plants.
- **BUY** sterile seed-starting mix, which doesn't have any soil in it when you want to plant seeds in a container.
- **READ** seed packets carefully. It's critical to know how to plant each variety of seed, what amount of water, sunshine and care it will need. You also want to know how big the plant will become.
- **PLANT** extra seeds as many will not germinate.
- **KEEP** seedlings moist or they will shrivel and die as summer approaches.



Roses are prolific bloomers this year.

Don't over water or seeds will drown.

- **THIN** as necessary. Discards the remnants to the compost bin.
- **FERTILIZE** with organic micronutrients once a plant has several leaves.
- **TRANSPLANT** when each plant is big enough to outgrow its planter.
- **REWARD** yourself and your children with the harvest of vegetables or flowers.

SUN SAFE TIPS:

National Sun Safety Week is June 5-11.

- **APPLY** sunscreen daily and especially before going out into the garden. Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer.
- **WEAR** a hat to protect your head and sunglasses to protect your eyes.
- **CHECK** your skin for any abnormalities and see a physician if you suspect problems.



Rhododendrons need moisture to keep healthy.

Photos Cynthia Brian

FIREPROOF YOUR GARDEN

It's probably not possible to completely fireproof any area, but follow guidelines issued by the fire protection districts to create defensible spaces no later than June 15.

- **PREVENT** embers from igniting your home in the event of a fire by clearing leaves, needles and debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks.
- **REMOVE** dead vegetation from under your deck and within ten feet of your home.
- **TRIM** weeds and grasses to three inches.
- **PRUNE** tree branches so that the lowest branches are between six-ten feet from the ground.
- **REDUCE** "fire fuel laddering" by pruning to separate trees from bushes.
- **MAINTAIN** your property and weed-whack or pull any re-growth.

Digging Deep

Cynthia Brian's Fresh Tips for Your June Garden

- **AVOID** using pesticides and insecticides as they kill the beneficial insects along with the invasive. Bees, bats and bugs that help our crops reproduce and flowers flourish can be destroyed.
- **DINE** on nasturtium. For a stunning and delicious appetizer, roll curried egg salad into the peppery leaves of nasturtium. Add edible flowers to the platter. It's delicious.
- **PACK** your salads with nutritional vitamins A, C, K, iron, calcium, potassium and folate by growing leafy greens such as frisee, mache, romaine, bok choy, arugula and kale. Don't forget to toss in radish and turnip tops, too, for an added crunch.
- **BUILD** a raised bed for a low maintenance edible feast. Make sure to put mesh wire on the bottom to keep out the gophers, moles and rats. Fill with clean soil for best results.
- **ADD** a gently meandering dry creek with gravel and rocks to help with drainage, runoff, and provide a natural look to your landscaping. For a shaded area, plant with hosta, ferns and lamium.
- **INVITE** butterflies into your garden by providing a sunny spot for them to land, shrubs for shelter, masses of flowers for nectar, and a saucer of water for a sweet drink. Make sure to change the water daily so as not to attract mosquito larvae.
- **DEADHEAD** roses as soon as flowers are spent to encourage continual re-blooming. This is one of the best years ever for the prolific showcase of these prize winners.
- **RECYCLE** brown and green waste, fruit, vegetable scraps, coffee and tea into a natural fertilizer. Make your own compost all year round to feed your plants.

... continued from page D17



Easy to grow lettuce and kale will be welcome for summer salads.

- **PICK** bouquets of vibrant sweet peas and clematis for long lasting fragrant arrangements to brighten your interiors as well as your outdoor dining areas.
- **GROW** cymbidium orchids in containers located in a north or northwest location to enjoy annual blooms. Cymbidiums bloom for months, and can be brought indoors for further pleasure. When the spires fade, return the pots to the coolness of outdoors.
- **FERTILIZE** rhododendrons, azaleas, roses and camellias.
- **ENJOY** your special celebrations in your charmingly refreshed garden.
- **REFLECT** your unique personality with your plantings and artistry. Be creative in the outdoors. It's more fun.



Jacob's Coat is a stunning rose packed with multiple sunny colors.



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For a soothing shade garden, columbine mixed with hosta in a gravel riverbed is attractive.

Congratulations to everyone who is graduating and commemorating a special occasion. Happy Father's Day to all the dedicated dads, especially those who share the respect for Mother Nature with their children.

Happy gardening. Happy growing!



©2016 Cynthia Brian cautions gardeners to wear hats in the garden.
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33 La Cresta Expansive mid-century home w/hwd flrs, updated kitchen, 2 Masters & guest suite/ in-law unit with 2nd kitchen, media/ family rm & private entrance. Level backyd w/barbecue, pool, spa.

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16 La Cintilla This exquisite OCC 6bd/6ba two story residence is located on a private oak-studded .30 acre lot. Vaulted ceilings, open flr pln, gourmet kitchen, spacious game rm & priv. au-pair guest suite.

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LAFAYETTE



1155 Camino Vallecito Esheric Architectural Mid Century. Spectacular 2ac Happy Vly Estate. Beaut. updated, walls of glass, Fr. doors, high ceilings, pano views. Kit/fam rm, stunning liv/din rms, cabana/ba. Top schools.

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ALAMO



New Listing

2465 Lunada Lane
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