

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

925-377-0977

www.lamorindaweekly.com

The 12th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend
 Friday Night Pre-Party, September 9th, 6:00pm
"DANCING WITH THE CARS"
 Space is limited so don't wait. NO WALK-INS WILL BE ALLOWED.
 Our all-inclusive event is Orinda's largest community-wide fundraiser, featuring "Italian Job"-capable Mini Coopers, molto belli Maseratis, not to mention favoloso Ferraris! Also enjoy Compari-infused cocktails, a hearty Italian dinner, an abbondanza of awesome auction items and dancing to the hits of (who else?) Dino!
THE ITALIAN JOB
 tix: OrindaCarShow.com

26,000 copies delivered biweekly to Lamorinda homes & businesses

FREE



Incoming freshman Brandon Gentry (striped shirt) and his mother Jeanine attend Cougar Day at Campolino High School just before the start of the 2016-2017 academic year. Photo Cathy Dausman

Back to Pencils, Back to Books

By Cathy Dausman

Summer vacation in Lamorinda has disappeared quicker than a Popsicle on a hot sidewalk. While the calendar still says August, school districts are calling their kids back to class. This return might be even slightly more painful for new students if their im-

munizations are not up to date. In a new law, California schools are now required to collect those records. See www.shotsforschool.org for details. The school bell rang for Lafayette and Moraga students and Miramonte students Aug. 22. Joaquin Moraga

Intermediate School attendees caught a slight break as their start time was readjusted to a more sleep-friendly 8:30 a.m. At the end of the day, Moraga public school third graders get a break with an early dismissal schedule through Sept. 9. ... continued on page A14

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The Bernie & Ryerson Team

Welcome Back to School, Lamorinda!

925.200.2222 Gary | 925.878.9685 Ken
 gabernie@pacunion.com | ken@ryersonrealty.com



New Owners Ready to Resurrect Park Theater

By Cathy Tyson



From left, the new owners of the Park Theater, Cathy Abbott and Dr. Alex McDonald. Fred Abbott, the third owner, was out of town. Photo provided

A trio of partners are excited to bring new life to the historic Park Theater in Lafayette, which has been closed for more than a decade. Armed with a business plan and a sense of urgency after learning that a developer was interested in the property, local residents Cathy and Fred Abbott, along with partner Alex McDonald, recently signed papers to purchase the theater property that comes with a small, narrow rectangular parking area in the rear. Cathy Abbot said she "figured it was now or never." If all goes according to plan, escrow should close in early 2017. Shortly afterward, with the help of additional investors, the group hopes to begin an estimated \$6 million of renovations. Their plan is for adaptive re-use of the 64-year-old building to feature movies, performances, and music by partnering with a variety of local entities for everything from comedy shows, educational lectures, independent films and more. The partners envision a beautiful structure that celebrates the art deco streamline moderne style, possibly including a living wall of plants on an upstairs rooftop deck and bar that would serve beer on tap and locally sourced wine. Grassroots efforts in the past to reopen the beloved landmark were never able to make a go of it, due to a variety of factors: the difficulty in making enough money to support the business with one screen in the age of the multiplex, significant structural issues, non-handicap accessible bathrooms, and of course parking constraints that don't meet the current city code. Many residents

had high hopes when rumors of Fenton's Creamery taking over swirled in 2011, but they never materialized. The trio are well aware of the significant amount of investment it will take to allow the building to be open for business after a walk-through with a structural engineer. "Alex, Fred and I want to create something that is kid- and senior-friendly, a place where everyone feels welcome," Cathy Abbott said. "We think it would be great to have a Battle of the Bands for the local high schools, a place for nonprofit benefits and private rentals," said the Acalanes High School graduate, who went on to get an MBA from UC Berkeley. ... continued on page A12

General Election — Important Voter Dates

Military Overseas voter ballots mailed	Sept. 23
Sample Ballot mailing	Approx. Sept. 29
Vote-by-Mail mailing	Oct. 10
Registration deadline	Oct. 24
Supplemental Sample Ballot mailed	Oct. 27
Last day to request Vote-by-Mail ballot	Nov. 1
Last day to return or mail Vote-by-Mail ballot	Nov. 8
Election Day	Nov. 8

Civic News A1-A16 Lafayette settles with Wights on home. — page A2 Fire District A8 Fire season is warming up in the East Bay. — page A8	Life in Lamorinda B1-B8 It's time again for the annual California Independent Film Festival. — page B1	Sports C1-C4 A new season means new hopes for local football teams. — page C1	Our Homes D1-D16 Tips for managing a so-called "empty nest." — page D1
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