

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Photo Craig Nelson

## We Are the Champions! Dons Take State

**M**ove over Golden State Warriors and Oakland Raiders — there are other top-notch sports teams in the East Bay.

In what coach Ernie Rodriguez called “an instant classic,” the Acalanes High School Lady Dons volleyball squad won the State Championship match against Crossroads of Santa Monica, in a game that saw the Acalanes team go up 2-0, only to lose the next two sets. But the plucky Dons kept

their cool and went on to win, keeping a smile on their faces as well as Rodriguez’s.

“It was a lot of fun to just watch these girls really grow up in front of your eyes,” he said.

For the full story, see page C2.

And if one state champion wasn’t enough, the Campolindo High School Cougars football team goes for the gold Dec. 17 against Bakersfield Christian in the CIF State

Division 4-AA Championship, to be held in Bakersfield.

The Cougars beat Palma Dec. 9, 30-21 to claim the NorCal Division 4-AA Championship.

For more on the Cougars title game, see page C1.

Maybe Lamorinda is the sports capital of the West.

— Peggy Spear

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**The Beaubelle Group**  
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Happy Holidays



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## Local Volunteers Offer Warm Respite Through Winter Nights

By Jennifer Wake

**W**hen you are homeless, having a warm place to sleep on a cold winter night is a worry. When you are a parent of young children and are homeless, that worry becomes profound.

Thousands of volunteers have signed up to help approximately 20 families at local churches and synagogues in Contra Costa County during two-week rotations between October and May as part of the Winter Nights Shelter, a project of the Social Justice Alliance of the Interfaith Council of

Contra Costa County.

Twelve of the 42 participating congregations are in Lamorinda, with six of those serving as host congregations, according to Winter Nights Executive Director Judy Stillman.

The main goal is to provide a safe shelter with nutritious meals and a welcoming environment, said Christine Ayers, who chaired the program at St. Monica Catholic Church in Moraga.

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## Santa Makes Annual Appearance in Lafayette to Usher in Holidays

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Gint Federas

**H**ark! It wasn’t exactly the herald angels singing, but the next best thing: angelic children from a variety of local venues entertaining a park full of families for the annual Wonderful Life in Lafayette event at Plaza Park earlier this month.

Between the charming music, the enticing aroma of complimentary popcorn and other goodies, and kids giddy with anticipation of Santa rolling in on historic “Old Betsy,” the downtown park was ground zero for the best block party of the holiday season.

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### A Note About Our Newspaper Carrier

Blackhawk Enterprise (email –mailblackhawk@gmail.com) has been delivering the Lamorinda Weekly to all homes in Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga since January 2011. The team of eight drivers works hard to make sure you get your newspaper every other Wednesday. Blackhawk Enterprise and its team members would like to wish our readers a joyous holiday season and a very happy new year. You will also see a flyer from them in this week’s issue. Thank you, Lamorinda Weekly

**Civic News** A1-A12

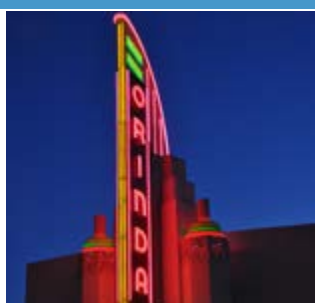
Metcalf has some tough farewell words for Moraga. — A4.

**Fire Districts** A8

MOFD: Firefighter recalls Ghost Ship fire — page A8.

**Life in Lamorinda** B1-B8

Orinda Theater to throw itself a 75th Anniversary party — page B1.



**Sports** C1-C4

Girls Soccer gets a leg up on the new season — C2



**Our Homes** D1-D16

Take the stress out of holiday get-togethers — page D1.

