

LAMORINDA WEEKLY



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Local high schools held graduation ceremonies June 9. Clockwise from Top left: Miramonte, Campolindo, Acalanes, Campolindo, Miramonte and Acalanes

Photos Gint Federas

Lamorinda celebrates its graduates

It's that time of year again when a parent's tears flow as quickly as mortar board hats fill the sky. Graduation 2017 from Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte was no different, as the three Lamorinda high schools braved a breezy evening to commemorate the nearly 1,000 local graduates heading off to college, the military,

work, gap years and other exciting opportunities. The graduation caps were decorated from everything from the student's college of choice to their favorite movies. One Campo graduate channeled his own Summer of Love by dressing in flower child gear, while another graduate rocked a cap made of money.

The diversity of the caps reflected the diversity of each student accepting a diploma on June 9, representing their own Independence Day from 13 years of traditional schooling. For a list of all graduating seniors, see page A11. And best of luck, graduates, from the Lamorinda Weekly! — Peggy Spear

Advertising

LAMORINDA WEEKLY	
Letters to the Editor	A9
Community Service	B4
Not to be Missed	B6-B7
HOW TO CONTACT US	B7
Classified	C2
Shop Moraga	C4

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Canyon challenges Moraga's handling of bridge crisis

By Sophie Braccini

The Canyon School District declared a state of emergency over the closure of the bridge connecting the small enclave to the town of Moraga that occurred in mid-April.

According to the school board, the situation endangers the 70 students that attend the school since Moraga-Orinda Fire District emergency services cannot reach the community anymore. This declaration included a challenge to what Moraga has been doing to reopen the road.

The Moraga Town Council will discuss all possible options to reopen the road at its June 14 meeting.

For Moraga Public Works Director Edric Kwan, the Canyon School District's claim that Moraga is stalling comes from its misunderstanding of the complexity of the bridge situation and how the appropriate emergency funding works.

Jim Smith, president of the Canyon School District, explains that if an incident occurred in Canyon, rescue services would have to come

from Oakland. The Canyon school board believes that the response time would be unacceptable, bordering on 30 minutes. Pressed by what they feel is an emergency, the school board members decided to take things in their own hands.

According to Smith, the only entity that should have been able to declare if a bridge is safe or not is the California Department of Transportation, not the consultants hired by Moraga. The Canyon resident explains that this is the only agency that has the expertise to assess a bridge's usability. Smith confirmed that the town of Moraga reached out to CalTrans when EBMUD contractors signaled that a landslide was threatening the bridge, but that the agency does not intervene in an emergency, unless it gets direction to do so from state or district emergency services. The board is even questioning whether or not the bridge should stay closed.

... continued on page A8

An unforgettable Father's Day gift

By Cathy Dausman



Matt Phillips and his daughter Adeline meet two of the Con Fire crew who responded to his 911 call for help. From left, Captain Tony Arieta, Phillips and Adeline and Engineer Garrett Presley. Standing in for Firefighter Britten Peterson is Firefighter David Hall (far right). Photo Cathy Dausman

Matt Phillips received his Father's Day gift a bit early, but it is one he will never, ever forget. Phillips delivered — on his own — his second daughter Adeline in the Lafayette home he shares with

his family and that once belonged to Adeline's great-grandparents. "It doesn't seem real," says mom Sarah Phillips, of the couple's evening home-birth on April 11. ... continued on page A12

Civic News A1-A12

Brakes put on Orinda school bus plan — page A6.

Fire Districts A8

Brushfire spurs fear of busy season — page A8.

Life in Lamorinda B1-B8

Pause to enjoy Paws de Tutu — page B1.



Sports C1-C4

Mats say goodbye to coach, AD Dell'Aquila — page C1.



Our Homes D1-D16

Local man cooks up his own designer barbecue and smoker — page D1.

