

Raiders kicker Tavecchio to speak at MVPC Men's Group Dinner, April 11

By Jon Kingdon



Photo provided

The Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church will be holding their Men's Dinner featuring guest speaker Giorgio Tavecchio, the placekicker for the Oakland Raiders, April

11 at the Saint Mary's Soda Center. Reception starts at 5:30 p.m. with dinner to follow. According to Bratton, "This is the first dinner open to the public and we are hoping

in the future to hold them twice a year."

Tavecchio, a graduate of Campolindo High School and the University of California at Berkeley, has been a paragon of persistence. After Cal, in 2012, as Tavecchio was hoping to kick for any team in the NFL, he took an optimistic perspective: "I don't know what the future has in store, all I know is that I have been so blessed to have these opportunities. I just want to do my absolute best and grow as much as possible."

From 2012 to 2017, Tavecchio went through training camps with the San Francisco 49ers, the Green Bay Packers, the Detroit Lions and with the Oakland Raiders exclusively in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. When the Raiders kicker Sebastian Janikowski suffered a season ending injury, Tavecchio was finally activated to an NFL roster. Intimidated? Hardly. In his first game with the Raiders, Tavecchio went 4 for 4, including two 52-yard field goals and was chosen AFC Special Teams Player of the Week. With Janikowski since released by the Raiders, for the first time in his career, it's Tavecchio's job to lose.

Mike Ahr, a former punter at California and a member of the church, was Tavecchio's coach in high school when as a sophomore, he decided to try his hand (or foot) at football. Ahr attributes Tavecchio's success to his attitude: "Going from soccer was easy for him. He believed in himself and worked hard to be ready when the opportunity presented. I have never saw him as anything but happy."

Ahr has maintained contact with Tavecchio throughout his long journey to the NFL: "We talked about it several times. I told him that the window was still open and at some point, it's going to close so he should keep trying and give it his all as long as there was an opportunity."

It should be an enlightening evening listening to Tavecchio share how he was able to keep his eye on the prize and reach his ultimate goal after so many years of trying. Tickets, which are \$25 per person, must be purchased by April 4. For information, contact Bob Bratton, the Director of Adult Ministries.

Bay Area Blitz 5th/6th grade Bay City Spring tournament champions

Submitted by Rhodora Del Rosario



Back row, from left: coach Brian Frechman, Kalli Crowder, Zakara Cooper, Jazlyn Alcantar, Addi Ames, Shayna Chan, Dulci Vail, coach Mark Del Rosario; front row: KK Lacanlale, Jadee Salvador, Ella Del Rosario, Sophie Chinn and Natalie Frechman.

The 5th Grade AAU Bay Area Blitz girls basketball team were dominant in winning the Bay City Spring Tipoff tournament held the weekend of March 24 in Pacifica.

The girls went undefeated, beating Southern California's No. 2 ranked SJV, as well as S. California Wolfpacks and Bay Area Prime team.

Lafayette 6th graders win Next Level Flag Football Championship

Submitted by Flavia Trento



Front row, from left: Patrick Floyd, Paulo Trento, Will Jones, Joey Floyd, Sava Pouridis; back row: Marshall Anderson, Ian Bellanca, Aidan Scheg, Calvin Kotarba, student head coach Scott Lombardi, Walker Smith, and Maverick Wilson. Not pictured: Orlando Sanchez.

The 6th grade team Navy completed an undefeated season (10-0) and won the Next Level sixth grade Flag Football Championship. The championship game was

played at De La Salle High School on March 11. The attached photo shows the champions after their big victory.

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

LMYA Wins Big at March Madness Invitational



LMYA wrapped up its basketball season with a win in the league's annual March Madness tournament – the first time an LMYA team has emerged victorious since the invitational started nearly a decade ago. LMYA hosted the event on March 10th at Stanley Middle School, inviting 6th grade "B" teams from Joaquin Moraga and Orinda Intermediate schools to compete against LMYA 6th Grade Boys teams. Participants in the all-day community event enjoyed a pizza lunch, contests, prizes, trophies and T-shirts for taking part in the tournament.

LMYA Team Tournament Champions

(Front Row): Anthony Yamamoto, Henry Ross (holding MVP trophy), Jonah Orlando, Soren Petersen. (Back Row): Benjamin Szidon, Kabir Batra, Lucas McCaffrey, Kuimars Koopah, Tristan Anderle, Coach Jared Petersen. (Pictured separately top-left): Christian Davis.



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