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Volunteers needed for Orinda Action Day

By Sora O'Doherty

Orindans are being asked to volunteer for Orinda Action Day, which will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 21. Starting at the Library Plaza, volunteers will undertake a number of tasks to beautify the city, from cleanup of Orinda Community Park (good for children) to work on downtown San Pablo Creek, a job that requires long pants and poison oak spray. Volunteers can sign up for specific assignments on Signup Genius. The event is sponsored by Orinda Community Foundation in partnership with the city of Orinda.

Light refreshments will be available at check-in at 9:30 a.m., and at noon volunteers will enjoy a light lunch and music at the Library Plaza. Volunteers will also receive free T-shirts.

www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d4baba629a02-orinda4

Orinda Starlight Village Players announces its 35th season

The Orinda Starlight Village Players has announced the three plays to be performed during its 35th season of performances in Orinda Community Park, which runs June 1 through Sept. 29.

The season begins with Agatha Christie's "Spider's Web," directed by Suzan Lorraine with performances beginning June 1. The second production will be Dave Freeman's "Kindly Keep It Covered," directed by Malcolm Cowler, with perfor-

mances beginning July 20, and the final production of the season will be P.G. Wodehouse's "Good Morning, Bill," directed by Eddie Peabody, with performances beginning Aug. 31.

The local theater group is completely volunteer run and no one at the theatre is paid. Anyone who is interested in any aspect of theater who would like to help is encouraged to contact the group at www.orsvp.org or (925) 528-9225. — S. O'Doherty

Council meeting draws strong views against marijuana

By Sora O'Doherty

Although there is some support for marijuana locally, Supervisor Candace Andersen received mostly negative feedback when she attended the March 20 Orinda City Council meeting. Her presentation was part of an outreach effort to gather views on marijuana regulation in the unincorporated areas of Contra Costa County. The majority of those who urged the county to reject all types of marijuana-related activity were Chinese.

One of the speakers contacted after the meeting, Jinsong Zhang, said that the Chinese community has a social media chat group and uses it to communicate. That was how he heard of the Orinda City Council meeting. He said, "The general position of [the Chinese] community is that we are against anything to do with marijuana and substance abuse. We don't think our children should have anything to do with marijuana and we don't think we should profit from marijuana."

"We have been going to different meetings to promote our position," he added. "We want to comply with federal law. When Walnut Creek approved marijuana shops," Zhang said, it was "pretty shocking to the community."

We want to make sure that all the other communities don't jump onto the same bandwagon."

The county is currently considering adopting regulations that would allow the cultivation of commercial cannabis and activities currently prohibited in certain unincorporated areas, such as retail sales/delivery, manufacturing/processing, distribution centers and a cannabis testing facility where cannabis products could be tested for potency, quality, and health and safety requirements.

According to the provisions of Proposition 64 local jurisdictions should have permanent cannabis regulations in place prior to establishment of the state licensing program, which is expected to be in place by November. Prop 64 allows local city and county governments to permit or prohibit all aspects of the commercial cannabis industry as well as apply local regulations over and above what state law requires. Senate Bill 92, a budget trailer bill, codifies a number of regulatory requirements related to cannabis and seeks to create a uniform regulatory framework between the medical and recreational markets of the commercial cannabis industry. ...continued on page A10

Orinda Academy announces new head of school



Susan Eva Porter Photo provided

Author and educator Susan Eva Porter will become head of school at Orinda Academy for the term starting on July 1. Porter will replace outgoing head Ronald Graydon, who is retiring after 36 years. Founded in 1982, Orinda Academy is an independent, private high school serving grades 8-12. — S. O'Doherty

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