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The Saint Mary's Beach Volleyball team can be found at the Moraga Commons for practice and games.

Photo Tod Fierner

SMC's beach volleyball gains traction

By Jon Kingdon

Beach volleyball came into existence in the 1920s in Santa Monica with six on a team. Two-person volleyball teams began in the 1930s. The sport steadily grew with various tournaments and pro circuits, eventually becoming an Olympic sport in 1996 with 42 countries represented.

In 2010, the NCAA made it an "emerging" women's sport, initially calling it "sand volleyball."

Saint Mary's College head volleyball coach Rob Browning accepted the challenge of becoming part of this growing sport: "In 2013, I sent an email to all of the local colleges and universities and said we should do this

together because the only way they will approve it is if we can control our expenses. Along with Pacific and Stanford, we took the lead and formed a Bay Area consortium, playing each other and not requiring extra coaches or scholarships."

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Lafayette commissioners' mass resignation causes consternation for some

By Pippa Fisher

Within a couple of days after the city council's 3-2 vote to adopt an uncompromising policy intended to end any impropriety or perception of impropriety in the planning and the design review commissions, five of the seven members of Lafayette's planning commission had resigned. Whether or not that is cause for panic depends very much on one's point of view.

Proposed by the newest recruits to the council, City Council Member Ivor Samson and Vice Mayor Cam Burks, "Version A," a tough reform on the policy which would demand resignation plus a one-year post-service period of exclusion rather than the current practice of recusal in cases of conflict of interest, was adopted at the March 26 city council meeting. With Mayor Don Tatzin and Council Member Mike Anderson voting against it, Council Member Mark Mitchell's decision to vote for version A made it a reality.

The decision comes after months of discussion, and input from members of the public overwhelmingly in favor of a resignation policy.

Attorney and Lafayette resident Scott Sommer

says he and many other Lafayette citizens welcome the reform. "Hopefully qualified citizen commissioners will soon be appointed, the PC will be functioning better than ever and this regrettable phase of Lafayette city government will be over."

Sommer says there have been six commissioners from the DRC and PC who have personally appeared for clients before their own and other commissions, even the city council, which he points out is a misdemeanor under the California Political Reform Act.

The Fair Political Practices Commission fined former DRC Commissioner Tim Ward for advocating for a client to his other DRC commissioners. Former PC Commissioner Allen Sayles is now under investigation by the FPPC for appearances for clients in 2015 and 2016.

Architect and former DR commissioner Gordon Chong talks in an emailed letter to the council, of seeing developers "who were well-schooled at co-opting ... the process at each level including the addition of commissioners as 'design consultants' to the initial/preferred architect team." ... continued on page A11

AUHSD board revises policy banning interdistrict transfers, approves new calendar

By John T. Miller

| Reason | Total |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Curricular reasons | 36 |
| Parents work in the area | 36 |
| Older siblings | 16 |
| Recent move out of area | 14 |
| Bullying | 3 |

Reasons for transfers (2017-2018)
 (Data limited - reasons not disclosed by some districts)

A collective sigh of relief could be heard in the classrooms, hallways and offices of the Acalanes Union High School District after the school board voted to revise their policy to ban interdistrict transfers at their March 21 meeting.

The board decided to grant admissions for the 2018-19 school year, with a cap of 50 interdistrict transfers in all, and will revisit the issue for the 2019-

20 school year in the fall. After more consultation with community members and a review of alternatives, they will ultimately vote on a potential ban by Dec. 7.

Over 30 speakers spoke against the ban, most of them students, including some of the transfers themselves. Speaker after speaker emphasized that the interdistrict transfers are scholars, leaders, citizens and friends who make AUHSD a stronger and more pluralistic district. No one spoke in favor of the ban.

Zahra Hasanain, a senior at Miramonte High School where nearly half of the 274 interdistrict transfers attend, said, "Interdistrict transfers have been some of the most interesting, kind, and helpful people I've met on campus."

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Local connection for many in MOFD - page A8.

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Science in action at Stanley Rube Goldberg event - page B1.



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Fun-filled half-day summer camp listings - page B5.



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Lamorinda high school volleyball season starts strong - page C1.



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Moraga artist's work featured in home decor - page D1.





Lafayette

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, April 19, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, April 9, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, April 18, 7 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, April 18, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
District Office Board Room
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

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www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
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Lafayette crosses landowner allowed lot line revision

By Pippa Fisher



Local Boy Scouts help maintain the crosses memorial March 10, on the land in question. Photo Pippa Fisher

The owner of the contentious 5-acre parcel of land that's home to the Lafayette crosses is finally able to move forward as the

their own separate plot.

Although previously allowed by the Planning Commission, Council Member Ivor Samson submitted a formal request to appeal and review the decision. The council voted to hear the appeal, considering the land with the crosses to be of such importance that it should be reviewed at the city council level.

The landowner Charles Clark, whose mother created the crosses memorial on her private land in 2006, did not hide his exasperation at the March 26 city council meeting, saying that the council's decision to take another look at the matter had cost him two months. "You guys are getting in the way," he said.

Samson said he appreciated Clark's frustration but that there is a process and they have to follow law.

The council heard comments from members of the public concerned about the loss of the crosses but ultimately agreed that, with all conditions met, there was nothing to prevent the redrawing of the lot lines.

"The crosses are important, but it is not a public monument. It's a private monument on private land," said Council Member Mike Anderson, recognizing that they could find no reason to deny Clark's application.

Anderson also drew the public's attention to a new monument honoring fallen troops to be unveiled April 29 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center.

The council unanimously supported Clark's application for a lot line revision, with Mayor Don Tatzin having recused himself due to the proximity of his home.

Lafayette has a new sheriff in town

By Pippa Fisher



New Lafayette Police Chief Ben Alldritt introduces himself to the Lafayette City Council March 26.

Photo Pippa Fisher

While it seemed like an impossible task to replace Lafayette's outgoing, larger-than-life Police Chief Eric Christensen, the new guy, Ben Alldritt, has a vote of confidence from top city officials.

City Manager Steve Falk made the announcement March 24.

Alldritt, who has spent the last week shadowing Christensen, is very excited by the challenge and appreciates the opportunity to serve in this community.

The new top cop worked for the California Highway Patrol for four years before joining the Contra Costa County Sheriff's office in 2006. Following a short time working in the Custody Services Bureau, he then spent five years in Danville working in traffic enforcement and investigations. As a sergeant Alldritt was in charge of the investigations unit and the homicide unit. As a lieutenant he served as watch commander for the county and was most recently the assistant commander of the patrol division. He has a master's degree in public administration from Golden Gate University.

Alldritt lives with his wife and two young children in Oakley.

... continued on next page

Lamorinda groups help Grateful Gatherings tackle biggest project yet

By Pippa Fisher

Furnishing a 27-room facility is a huge undertaking, but that is exactly what the Oakland-based, nonprofit organization Grateful Gatherings is doing with help from many in the Lamorinda area. This particular project requires the help of all six Bay Area chapters, local groups and corporations, and volunteers as they help set up Claire's House, a community home offering love, hope, therapy and healing for children overcoming the trauma of sexual exploitation and trafficking. And Grateful Gatherings is still in need of some help.

Grateful Gatherings recognizes that when the homeless finally have a home, often they have nothing else. "Maybe an air mattress, if they're lucky. But not always even that," says Director of Programs and co-founder Chris Flitter. Grateful Gatherings collects donations, delivers and sets up for people transitioning out of homelessness.

The organization started small. In 2013 Executive Director Donna Wright Somerville sponsored a family in need over the holidays, providing gifts and food. She kept in touch with the family and when they were placed in an apartment a few months later but had no furnishings, Somerville sent emails out to 20 of her friends. She had their apartment furnished within four days.

Today Grateful Gatherings works on the same principle, except that now they have an email list of 2,500 active donors and sponsors. They are a registered nonprofit with six local chapters, including Lafayette and Orinda.

Whereas in the beginning, Flitter says, she would single-handedly rent a U-Haul truck for deliveries, since 2016 moving company Chipman Relocation and Logistics has sponsored them and sends a truck and movers. Describing this as a gift she says, "In 2015 we were helping 29 people. Chipman allowed us to grow. In 2017 we helped 85 people."

... continued next page



A group of Miramonte volunteers help with a Grateful Gatherings event.

Photo provided

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A taste of wine in Lafayette

By Pippa Fisher



From left: Doug Spear, Isabelle Ord and Bill English at Isabelle's Vineyard in Moraga. Photo provided

For anyone curious about the wine made from some of the many vineyards scattered around the Lamorinda hills, at last there is an opportunity to enjoy some wine tasting in Lafayette.

Meadow View Winery is going to be pouring on the first Friday of each month at Farmyard Darlings, right in the heart of Lafayette's restaurant row, making it convenient for a quick taste before heading to dinner. Meadow View is a boutique winery specializing in making wine from Lamorinda grapes.

Award-winning Meadow View winemaker Bill English hopes that people will wander in and taste. He says they will be pouring samples of their chardonnay, cabernet franc, cabernet sauvignon, rose, super-T and pinot noir.

"Now there is a place where people can try local by the taste," says English.

English has been making wines since 1976. He moved to the Bay Area in the early 1970s from Ohio. Initially living in Oakland, he said the climate was fine for storage but when he moved to the warmer climate in Orinda in the late '70s he dug a wine cellar under his home to keep his stored wine cool.

English points to the similarity in climate and hillside geography between Lamorinda, and the better-known wine-producing regions of Napa and Sonoma and says that this area can produce excellent wine.

In 2016 Lamorinda was established as an American Viticulture Area (AVA). "Local means something to some people," says English.

English made wine in small amounts as an amateur for many years before becoming bonded in 2014. In 2013 he started using grapes grown at Isabelle's Vineyard – a Moraga vineyard owned by his partners Doug Spear and Isabelle Ord. In 2015 he moved production of wine from his cellar to Spear's garage. He says they currently produce around 300 cases per year.

Almost all the wines are produced from grapes grown in Lamorinda, the only exception being the pinot noir for which he uses grapes from the Russian River. English says that Isabelle's Vineyard is their biggest producer – the vineyard is almost an acre and provides five tons.

The winery conducts yearly blending trials, using a small panel of experts to perfect the balance. In fact their cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc and their super Tuscan-style wines are all blends.

On the shelves, Meadow View Wines can be found at Jackson's Liquor Store and Diablo Foods in Lafayette and at three of the Total Wine stores (Pleasant Hill, San Ramon and Pleasanton).

The next opportunity for tasting is Friday, April 6 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Farmyard Darlings, 20 Lafayette Circle.

Grateful Gatherings

... continued from page A2

Both Somerville and Flitter have a background in television production, including HGTV. Flitter also worked at Shelter Inc. – one of the 15 agencies that Grateful Gatherings works with. Others include Save, Operation Dignity and Ruby's Place.

Flitter says the "gatherings" are exciting and heartwarming, noting that they always manage to gather everything on their list. She says each project starts with a drop-off of the donated items – a community affair – before the furniture is taken to the new home and set up by volunteers. She says it is as much about giving as receiving.

The Claire's House project, run by Catholic Charities of the East Bay, will be a little different, not least in terms of size. With 12 bedrooms, two living rooms, counseling rooms, a classroom, five bathrooms, kitchen, dining room and laundry room there is much to gather.

Currently Grateful Gatherings have some corporate sponsorship as well as local groups such as the Acalanes National Charity League

and some individual Lamorinda families sponsoring rooms. At this point Grateful Gatherings mostly has its entire list filled; however, they are still in need of donations to raise funds for mattresses, which they always buy new, and volunteers to help.

According to CCEB Director of Communications Mary Kuhn, one of the biggest problems facing those trying to help sex trafficking survivors is the lack of supportive homes for healing. Claire's House provides the security, long-term care and intensive counseling necessary to help minors overcome their trauma. Claire's House has space for 12 girls, aged 12-17, and will be opening in late May. The home, currently being renovated, is located in Alameda County. For reasons of privacy, the exact location is not being given.

Those interested in donating money for mattresses or in other opportunities to help in the May 5 event should sign up on the Grateful Gatherings website at <https://gratefulgatherings.org/upcoming-gatherings/>.

New sheriff

... continued from page A2

Members of the community including Mayor Don Tatzin, Lafayette School District Superintendent Rachel Zinn, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson, Moraga Police Chief Jon King, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Deputy Chief Lewis Broschard, and retired Moraga Town Manager Bob Priebe interviewed Alldritt

as part of the selection process. Falk notes that Alldritt's time spent in Danville, a city similar in demographics and topography to Lafayette, combined with his years of experience in traffic enforcement makes him ideal for the Lafayette job.

Tatzin says he is looking forward to working with him.



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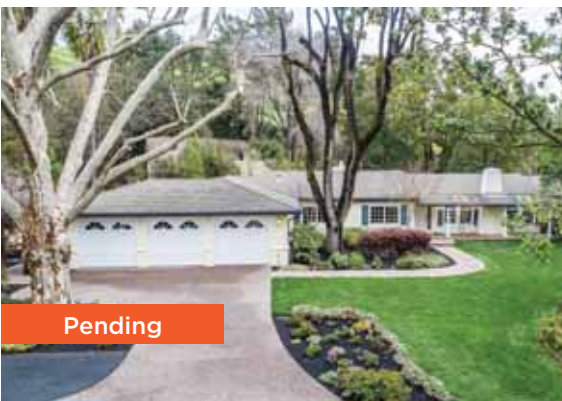
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Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, April 11, 6 p.m.
 Wednesday, April 25, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, April 16, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, April 9, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
 Tuesday, April 10, 7 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us
 Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

Moraga

Police Department Incident Summary Report



| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| March 13 to March 25 | |
| Alarms | 9 |
| 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) | 4 |
| Traffic | 47 |
| Suspicious Circumstances | 12 |
| Suspicious Subject | 5 |
| Suspicious Vehicle | 4 |
| Service to Citizen | 57 |
| Patrol Request/ Security Check | 94 |
| Noise Complaint | 2 |
| Supplemental Report | 18 |
| Welfare Check | 3 |
| Abandoned Vehicle | |
| Sanders Dr./Fleuti Dr. | |
| Accident Injury | |
| Moraga Commons | |
| Accident Property | |
| 1400 Block Moraga Way | |
| Beat Info | |
| Rancho Laguna Park | |
| Child Abuse | |
| 10 Block Elk Ct. | |
| Civil | |
| 2000 Block Donald Dr. | |
| Civil Disturbance | |
| 100 Block Miramonte Dr. | |
| Civil Problem | |
| 100 Block Draeger Dr. | |
| DUI Misdemeanor | |
| Moraga Rd./Corte Santa Clara Safeway | |
| Excessive Speed | |
| St. Marys Rd./Moraga Rd. | |
| Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr. | |
| Moraga Way/Hardie Dr. | |
| Federal Codes | |
| 200 Block Claudia Ct. | |
| Fraud Credit Card | |
| 100 Block Calle La Montana | |
| Grand Theft | |
| Rio Vista Youth Center | |
| Rheem Valley Shopping Center | |
| Harassment | |
| 200 Block Paseo Bernal | |
| Hit And Run Misdemeanor | |
| 200 Block Sheila Ct. | |
| Identity Theft | |
| 900 Block Augusta Dr. | |
| Juvenile Disturbance | |
| Wells Fargo | |
| Lost Property | |
| 30 Block Wandel Dr. | |
| 50 Block Buckingham Dr. | |
| Police Department | |
| 40 Block Cumberland Ln. | |
| Loud Music | |
| 10 Block Buckingham Dr. | |
| Other Non Criminal | |
| 50 Block Buckingham Dr. | |
| Petty Theft | |
| Safeway | |
| St. Marys College (2) | |
| 70 Block Sullivan Dr. | |
| Public Assembly | |
| Check Campolindo High School | |
| Rheem Valley Shopping Center | |

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Susan and Sam Sperry: Moraga Citizen(s) of the Year

By Sophie Braccini



Sam and Susan Sperry at the Ranch.

Photo Sophie Braccini

While the Sperrys may not live in Moraga, and live in unincorporated county land that borders Moraga, the small town is in their DNA; they breath Moraga, and almost every day of their lives they have given something of their time and skills to the East Bay suburb. They will be honored for their multiple contributions over several decades during a dinner starting at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center.

Susan Sperry's father bought the 80 acres of undeveloped land where the family still lives the year she was born, before there even was a town of Moraga. In fact, Sperry says that when they moved into

their ranch a few years later, her mother would mostly be involved with Lafayette that already existed as an unincorporated village. It was a time when the train would run from Oakland through Canyon, past the college and would stop not too far from Lafayette's Town Hall where the community met. Years later, Susan Sperry started her teaching career in the recently formed Moraga School District. Next year, Sperry will have continuously contributed to that district for a record of 50 years.

Sperry taught, of course, and that was her job, but she also started the historical tour of Moraga for her middle school students, and now

originally formed in 2001 to preserve hillsides, ridgelines and the semirural feel of the community. She currently serves on the Arts in Public Places Committee.

Sam Sperry is an active member of the Moraga Valley Kiwanis and is a past president of that group. As a Kiwanian, he was part of numerous projects benefiting the town such as the restoration of the band shell in the Moraga Commons Park. It is this group that has been organizing the Moraga Citizen of the Year selection for years, with the Chamber of Commerce, Saint Mary's College and Lamorinda Weekly.

Last but not least in the Sperry's long list of volunteer contributions to the town is their joint facilitation and note taking of the Moraga Liaison meeting, a monthly gathering of officials and service groups in town and beyond sharing current news and future activities.

Sperry says that he thought that he and/or Susan would never be citizens of the year since they live outside of the town's border. The service club recently adopted a rule amendment opening the coveted title to people with a Moraga address, which is the case of those living in unincorporated county land off Bollinger Canyon Road and Valley Hill Drive. Susan Sperry says that her husband was overwhelmed when he heard the news.

Tickets for the celebratory dinner will be available on the Moraga Chamber of Commerce website: www.moragachamber.org.

A fresh new face for Moraga parks and recreation department

By Sophie Braccini



Breyana Brandt, new parks and recreation director has settled in at the Hacienda de las Flores.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Breyana Brandt joined Moraga staff in mid-March coming from the city of San Leandro, just like new city manager Cynthia Battenberg. In her former department, as assistant recreation and human services director, her budget was \$5 million, more than half of Moraga's budget, but she says that being the director in Moraga brings her back to the small town feel she was used to while growing up in upstate

New York, and that she is looking forward to working and partnering with all the groups in Moraga.

The department Brandt was working for in the city of San Leandro had a completely different feel than Moraga. The new Moraga director explains that all the events

and programs in San Leandro were exclusively proposed and managed by city staff.

... continued on page A11

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Pros and cons of the stormwater fee

Collected by Sophie Braccini

Strong debate continues regarding the stormwater fee ordinance proposed by the town of Moraga. Lamorinda Weekly asked SOSMoraga members Mike Metcalf, John Haffner and Dale Walwark, and SmartMoraga members Brent Meyers and Scott Bowhay to respond to the same questions regarding the proposed ordinance. Their answers are below.

Q: Is there an emergency to fund storm drain repair?

(SOS): In 2005, an enormous sinkhole opened up when a large culvert under Rheem Boulevard failed. The federal government authorized only an emergency repair that the town initially funded. Government reimbursement didn't arrive for four years.

In 2016, the Rheem Boulevard sinkhole opened up. This sinkhole destroyed the roadway above, and underground utilities below. Rheem Boulevard was disrupted for more than a year. Storm drain failures have caused other problems. A culvert on the Hacienda grounds failed in 2006, causing flooding and damage to the Pavilion. Federal assistance to replace that culvert arrived four years after construction was completed.

Three other Moraga drain pipes have since failed – less serious but disruptive and expensive. There is a problem. It's clear that Moraga's old and deteriorating storm water system—gutters, catch basins, underground pipes, culverts, ditches and channels—needs to be fixed. In 2015 the Town adopted a master plan for repair and maintenance. The capital project price tag is estimated at \$26 million. Annual maintenance costs add another \$240,000 per year.

(SM): No. The Master Storm Drain Study concluded the "overall condition of the storm drain system in Moraga is very good" and "the majority of pipes and structures inspected ... were in excellent or good condition." No professional engineers have concluded the storm drain system is at risk of imminent failure or disaster.

The town says there is an emergency because its consultant urged it "quickly to take advantage of the current high profile" of the sinkhole and a special ballot with timing and messaging controlled to avoid being "vulnerable to other measures and candidates sharing [regular elections]."

Q: Is there a need for additional money to fund the storm drain master plan? Aren't there other sources of funding for the town, such as reimbursements from FEMA, developer fees, etc?

(SM): If real urgency existed, the town could avoid the time and cost of a special ballot and use money that is readily available through existing storm drain taxes, developer impact fees, federal reimbursements and Palos Colorados funds it already has.

(SOS): Moraga is already the lowest-cost city in the county. It operates on a bare-bones budget. A new source of revenue must be found. Palos Colorados developer funds cannot pay for the storm water program because these one-time funds are insufficient for the capital projects or annual maintenance. Further, these funds would dribble in only as houses are constructed. There are no guarantees when or if these funds will be paid. Palos

Calorados has been in the making for nearly 30 years. Yet start of construction remains uncertain.

Q: How much has the town saved so far to fund the stormwater master plan?

(SOS): Nothing of any magnitude.

(SM): Our understanding is that the town has not saved anything, but spends 85 percent of existing stormdrain tax collections of \$250,000/year on activities other than stormdrains.

Q: Will the fee be enough to cover all the needs to repair the stormwater system?

(SM): Our analysis indicates the town will collect far more than it needs. In addition to other available sources of funding, the proposed fees are almost two times what is needed for their stated purpose: 30-40 percent contingencies (the town's consultant called them "hefty" and will "come down as you get your budget correct"); the redirected, existing \$250k/year clean water tax; and duplicate taxes on property owners despite grants already secured for work.

There are so many unknowns to resolve, it's impossible to make an absolute determination. If the amount sought is too much, residents are overtaxed; if too little, an unpleasant surprise seeking more money later awaits. The best approach is to send the town back to the drawing board until it develops a complete plan for residents to consider.

(SOS): The proposed storm water user fee, \$120 per year for most single-family homes, will fund the highest priority storm water capital projects and provide for annual maintenance. Fee monies will be used only for storm water needs. Some suggest the storm water plan should be more inclusive, address lower priorities as well as the more pressing ones. Surveys suggest

that while a majority of property owners might be willing to take on a \$10 per month fee, they would be reluctant to approve anything much higher.

Q: Does the town have a plan on how to use the money if the fee passes?

(SOS): Highest priority projects which pose the most imminent threats are first in line, and debt financing would be required so they can be completed quickly. New state financing programs can help control debt costs. Every year projects would be undertaken to the extent of available funds: The plan will be to do as much work possible on a pay-as-you-go basis; then use debt financing only for urgent work. Overall system life can be extended with good maintenance and new technologies for repairing deteriorated pipes.

(SM): No. The town hasn't determined whether to use the money on a "pay as you go" basis, float a bond, nor calculated the amount available after interest and debt payments.

The town is saying "give us money now and we'll figure out the rest later".

Q: Will the town get any funds in 2018 to start repairs? If not, is there a plan to use other money to start addressing the most pressing needs?

(SM): The town has not presented a plan/timeline for repairs, nor committed to using existing funds.

(SOS): Probably not, for a fee program enacted in June 2018. Receipt of storm water fees would likely begin in 2019, simply because the bureaucratic process moves slowly. In the meantime, the town would respond to interim emergencies as best they can under the circumstances at that time.

Q: How much will the schools be assessed? Is the fee fair to all users?

(SOS): The property-based fee is fair. Fees would be assessed based on the amount of storm water each property contributes. It is a fee for drainage service, similar to garbage and sewer services. Homes, commercial properties, schools, colleges, and even the Town, will pay the fees. Why schools? Because Prop 218 requires that all properties that benefit from a service pay for it. That's fair.

(SM): Public schools will be assessed \$37,000 per year, and Saint Mary's College \$40,000 per year. The cost to churches and preschools hasn't been revealed. A parcel tax/fee on June/November ballots would have exempted public schools, churches and nonprofits.

As designed, the fee isn't fair: it has no sunset (forever) and relies on expediency at the expense of equity. It groups properties based on size rather than topography/geography, actual runoff, or proportional use of stormdrains.

The appeal process is for the town's benefit rather than fairness: appeals are limited to the town engineer/manager; no objective party adjudicates appeals and the criteria are undefined.

Q: What will happen if the fee does not pass? Is there any risk to the town?

(SM): The town will need to do what it already should have been doing: (1) budgeting properly for maintenance and repairs, (2) spending existing tax dollars and other sources of revenue for their intended purposes, and (3) prioritizing resident and town "needs" over "wants." This would be a good thing.

(SOS): There will be future failures elsewhere in town. How serious can only be speculated.

Clarification on SB 231

The state of California passed last year Senate Bill 231, a regulation that defines storm water systems as part of sewer systems. Up until now, sewer fees could be assessed by municipalities without having to go through a public vote, but storm water systems had not been considered a part of the sewer system.

According to the SB 231, "sewer" includes systems, all real estate, fixtures, and personal property owned, controlled, operated, or managed in connection with or to facilitate sewage collection, treatment, or disposition for sanitary or drainage purposes, or structures necessary for the disposal of storm waters, but in a state appellate court decision of Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association vs. City of Salinas (2002), the court ruled that the term "sewer" does not include storm drains.

Several residents asked at the council meeting on March 28 why the town spent \$170,000 on an election that does not seem to be needed after all. Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg explained the next day that the Town Council was advised not to move forward with the SB 231 process due to substantial uncertainty as to whether or not the revised definition of sewer to include storm water drainage would hold up in a court of law, and in view of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association's promises to sue any city that uses SB 231. "The Town Council followed that advice as it has no interest in becoming a test case regarding the validity and enforceability of SB 231," she wrote.



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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, April 10, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, April 10, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Citizens' Infrastructure

Oversight Commission

Wednesday, April 11, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

School Board Meetings

Orinda Union School District
Monday, April 9, 6 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org
Phone (925) 253-4200

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

March 11 to March 24

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Alarms | 45 |
| 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) | 6 |
| Traffic | 142 |
| Suspicious Circumstances | 5 |
| Suspicious Subjects | 8 |
| Suspicious Vehicles | 18 |
| Patrol Request/ Security Check | 87 |
| Service to Citizen | 54 |
| Supplemental Report | 12 |
| Vacation House Check | 8 |
| Welfare Check | 4 |
| Abandoned vehicle | |
| El Toyonal/Camino Del Cielo | |
| Accident injury | |
| 200 Block Moraga Way | |
| Accident property | |
| Camino Pablo North Eb Sr 24 | |
| Orinda Country Club | |
| 50 Block Davis Rd. | |
| Moraga Way/Brookside Rd. | |
| Auto burglary | |
| Wilder Sports Fields | |
| 100 Block Via Floreado | |
| Barking dog | |
| El Toyonal/Loma Vista Dr. | |
| Beat info | |
| Eb Sr 24 At St. Stephens Dr. | |
| Burglary | |
| 10 Block El Verano | |
| Civil | |

| |
|----------------------------------|
| 10 Block Gardiner Ct. |
| 10 Block Owl Hill Ct. |
| 20 Block Ardilla Rd. |
| 20 Block Tappan Ln. |
| 100 Block Canon Dr. |
| 50 Block Monte Vista Rd. |
| 70 Block La Cuesta Rd. |
| Police Department |
| Death non criminal |
| 10 Block Altarinda Rd. |
| Disturbing the peace |
| Bart Orinda Station |
| 20 Block Greenwood Ct. |
| Drunk in public |
| 10 Block Quarry Hill Rd. |
| Dui misdemeanor |
| Library |
| Hailed by citizen |
| Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way |
| Hit and run misdemeanor |
| Camino Pablo/Moraga Way |
| Identity theft |
| 20 Block Keith Dr. |
| 300 Block Rancho De Maria |
| 100 Block Orchard Rd. |
| 10 Block Rabble Rd. |
| Juvenile disturbance |
| Camino Pablo/Bart Track |
| Lavenida Dr./Estabueno Dr. |
| Litter |
| San Pablo Dam Rd./Bear Creek Rd. |
| Loud party |
| Orinda Country Club |
| 100 Block Manzanita Dr. |
| 600 Block Moraga Way (2) |
| Medical hospital |
| 10 Block Lost Valley Dr. |
| 10 Block Altarinda Rd. |
| 30 Block Ivy Dr. |
| Moraga Way/Hall Dr. |
| Motorist assist |
| Camino Pablo/North Santa Maria |
| Ordinance violation |
| 100 Block La Espiral |
| 50 Block Meadow View Rd. |

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Orinda Mutual Appreciation Society: Salomon gets raise

By Sora O'Doherty

Steve Salomon took over as Interim City Manager when former City Manager Janet Keeter retired, which happened to be about a month after the Miner Road sink-hole occurred. The city council was so pleased with his performance that last October it offered him the job on a permanent basis, which he accepted with the proviso that he be allowed to work only 90 percent of full time as he commutes from

Brentwood. His employment contract provides for the possibility of a raise of up to 3 percent after six months on the job. On March 20 the city council confirmed that Salomon would receive the full 3 percent raise. His performance review was conducted in closed session, and the result was reported to be "superb."

Vice Mayor Inga Miller declared that Salomon was a pleasure to work with, and said that she was

pleased "we can increase to the maximum allowed." The motion on the salary increase was moved by Miller, seconded by Council Member Dean Orr, as he said, "happily," and carried unanimously. Salomon was lauded for his incredible service and tremendous leadership.

In turn, Salomon praised the city council members. "You are all very devoted to this community,"

he said, "and you all have family obligations and job obligations that most people would find overwhelming ... but you manage to put in tremendous amounts of quality time." Salomon's raise will cost the city an additional \$7,915.19, and includes the salary increase plus increased contributions to his 401(a) plan and payroll taxes. Salomon's base salary will now be \$231,379.20 per year.

Wilder development agreement postponed indefinitely to allow sidewalk negotiations

By Sora O'Doherty

Although some would have preferred a certain date to keep the pressure on to find a solution, the Orinda City Council decided to defer indefinitely further action on the approval of the eighth amendment to the development agreement for Wilder. The main controversy concerns the elimination of planned sidewalks for a large part of the development.

Approval of the eighth amendment to the development agreement had been on the council's consent calendar, but was pulled, as it was clear that there was further public concern. City Manager Steve Salomon noted at the outset that the city council had received significant testimony and written comments indicating that a large number of Wilder residents want sidewalks. He proposed that the matter be continued "so that we can work with the developer to make that happen."

Project Director Bruce Yamamoto said that everyone is very passionate about Wilder. There are continuing discussions about 4-foot paths in all sections, and

there are ways to achieve this, he said. He also wanted to clarify that the special assessment that Wilder residents pay is for public improvements, such as the Art and Garden Center and playing fields, and cannot be used for the Quarry House, for example, or sidewalks on private streets.

Originally, the development agreement provided for pathways of decomposed granite, but the developer thought that cement sidewalks would be easier for long-term maintenance. A number of 3-foot sidewalks were poured, but were later found to be out of compliance with state law. Since the residents on those streets had an expectation of sidewalks, the developer planned to replace them with 4-foot compliant sidewalks, but to recover some of the costs by eliminating sidewalks in other parts of Wilder.

Mark Bresnik told the council that there is an ever-growing group of Wilder residents who favor sidewalks, and submitted a letter signed by 55 voting-age residents who occupy 31 homes in Wilder. He welcomed the effort to continue negotiations and hoped that residents would be included.

Rick Kay spoke of the elimination of sidewalks as a safety issue, and presented the council with pho-



This 3-foot sidewalk ends on Boeger Ranch Road in Wilder.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

tos taken from the driver's seat of his car as he drove around Wilder, demonstrating how a child might not be seen by a driver in Wilder's undulating terrain. Julie Liu said that all purchasers of Davidson homes were told that there would be sidewalks, and that they therefore have expectations that it will be safe to walk in the development.

A local developer and Wilder resident, Ben Zarrin, told the council that his wife has been frightened by a near miss accident in Wilder. "It's not complicated," he said, "it's

about safety." He urged the parties to allow residents to be involved in the negotiations.

There was some disquiet expressed about the role of the Wilder Homeowners Association. Roxanne Christophe noted that the HOA members who comprised the pathway accessibility committee were two residents who already have sidewalks in front of their homes. She believes that they did not represent the other homeowners, and that the HOA has disseminated misinformation on the issue.

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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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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, April 4, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors

Tuesday, April 10, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber room 107,
Administration Building,
651 Pine St., Martinez
For meeting times and agendas,
visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

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MOFD board awards Fire Station 43 contract. Again.

By Nick Marnell

With little fanfare, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board awarded the Fire Station 43 construction contract March 21 to the San Leandro-based Sausal Corporation, the low bidder at \$3.8 million among four proposals submitted to complete the project.

Little fanfare is exactly what the district ordered, after two disastrous experiences with contractors in 2017. Pacific Mountain Contractors stopped working on the station in the summer, citing an overwhelming number of

change orders necessary to complete the project. The successor, Federal Solutions Group, failed to meet financial performance obligations.

MOFD legal counsel recommended that all preapproved bidders furnish completed financial documents ahead of the contract award, including a performance bond, a labor-material payment bond and an insurance policy. "We did not want to bring anything to the board until all of the boxes were checked," said Fire

Chief Dave Winnacker, who confirmed that Sausal had never been removed from a project for a contract violation.

As to the change orders, the chief, SKA Architects and new project manager Scott Ritter of Consolidated CM cleaned up the entire set of plans for the station, getting rid of change orders that made no sense, like the addition of a catwalk. Winnacker also said that he and Ritter will hold weekly construction meetings to ride herd over the project details.

The company has 365 days to complete the job and will be fined \$1,000 per day for delays. The clock began April 2.

Sausal has completed other projects in Lamorinda, including a seismic retrofit and complete interior remodel of the Moraga Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and replacement of the turf at the Campolindo High School athletic field. The company also renovated Fire Station 7 of the Fremont Fire Department.

MOFD firefighters share their passion for serving their hometowns

By Nick Marnell

There is a good chance that one of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District firefighters who responds to your emergency call either lives in the district, grew up in the district or graduated from one of the three Lamorinda high schools. And to hear the firefighters talk, they could not be more proud of that pedigree.

"It's great. I enjoy the service part of the job," said firefighter Mark DeWeese, Lafayette resident and Campolindo High School graduate who coaches junior varsity football at the school. "We're serving people that we know personally, and I like to think it's nice for them that someone they know

is helping them in their time of need."

The desire to give back to the community was expressed by many of the firefighters. Julie Murphy, born and raised in Moraga, a Campo graduate and Saint Mary's College graduate as well, recalled how impressed she was when she attended Camino Pablo kindergarten and saw the fire engine and the ambulance pull up to the school, and then watched a presentation by the firefighters. "Now, it feels so good to be doing the same thing those firefighters were doing back then. It's so cool to give back," she said.

Engineer David Mazaika recently delivered his own fire presentation at Mulberry Tree preschool in Moraga. "I felt so proud to speak at my own school," said the 1995 Campo graduate. "It's an honor to serve the community. I love running into friends and schoolteachers and classmates."

Running into those old friends and classmates can be a mixed blessing at times, especially when the firefighters respond to a call that features one of their friends having done something stupid. "They'll hope it's not me on the call because they know I'll give

them a hard time," said DeWeese, one of 13 MOFD firefighters who graduated from Lamorinda high schools.

The close connection to friends and family can also present special obstacles. Engineer Tim Williams grew up in Burton Valley and graduated from Campo in 2001. And though he, too, enjoys running into and serving family, friends and classmates, one aspect of that closeness sometimes stresses him. "I thought it would be easy, but really it's more difficult," Williams said. "I feel the pressure of expectations, and I don't want to let anybody down."

Often the local connection for the fire personnel is through family. Murphy's older sister worked for MOFD, and Mazaika's father worked for the Moraga Fire District. Capt. Brian Oliver, a Campo graduate, had his first contact with the fire service through a family emergency.

"My grandmother had a stroke, and the Moraga Fire District answered the emergency medical call," Oliver said. As his mother, a registered nurse, was settling the bills, she reached out to the fire district but was surprised that she was not billed for the service. "I



From left, Chris Davies, Brian Oliver and Mark DeWeese: Campolindo-bred, with finishing touches applied by MOFD. Photo provided

thought that was such a great burden lifted off of her," Oliver said. It made such an impression that he joined the fire service shortly after college.

Engineer and 2002 Campo graduate Chris Davies comes from a family of ranchers who settled in Moraga from Denmark in 1881. "I am the first firefighter in the family," said Davies, who jokingly looks back at a school counselor who told him he would never make anything of himself if he did not go to a four-year college. Davies is one of four MOFD firefighters who live in the district.

The underlying sentiment of

many who interviewed was expressed by firefighter Steve Rogness, born and raised in Lafayette, and a 1989 Acalanes High School graduate. "I got a lot from others as I was growing up, and now it feels great to give back," Rogness said.

Their local agency through which to give back engenders pride in many of the firefighters. "When I came to learn about the reputation of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, it was an easy decision to join here," said Oliver, who had worked for American Medical Response before he came aboard. "MOFD is the premier destination."

A complex financing arrangement for MOFD Fire Station 43

By Nick Marnell

To pay for the construction of Fire Station 43, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District considered various funding mechanisms, including direct placement and a public offering. San Francisco-based investment bank Brandis Tallman provided direction to the district for the fire station financing, and recommended a direct placement.

In order to facilitate the financing, the district created the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Public Facilities Financing Corporation, with whom the district entered into

a lease-purchase agreement for fire stations 42 and 44. The PFFC agreed to advance the district the total rental payment of \$4 million, which would pay for the station construction and which the district would pay back over 15 years. The finance company then assigned its lease payments to a lender, J. P. Morgan Chase, in exchange for the total rental payment.

The two fire stations, which MOFD owns outright, have a market value well in excess of \$4 million. But the loan between Chase and PFFC was made based upon the insurable value of the property, not the appraised market value. Fire Station 42 carries an insurable

value of \$2.4 million with Fire Station 44 at \$2.1 million.

"I was astounded at J.P. Morgan's rates," said Steve Anderson, MOFD president at the time of the loan agreement. And though the collateral pledged to secure the loan seemed high, the effective interest rate of 2.14 percent, fixed for 15 years, proved too hard to pass up.

The district could not simply take out a \$4 million mortgage on one of its owned fire stations to pay for Station 43 because the district is not allowed to mortgage its real property, according to Nicole Tallman of Brandis Tallman. She said the financing method used by

MOFD was a standard and customary way for public agencies to encumber real property.

In its recent long-range financial plan, MOFD looks to rebuild Fire Station 41 and upgrade the administration offices in 2019. But the Chase loan may not be prepaid until 2020, during which time three district fire stations will be pledged.

According to terms of the loan agreement, the district may substitute alternate real property as collateral with the consent of the lender – in this case, the alternate real property could be Station 43, which the district expects to complete by early 2019.

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An early snapshot of the new truck purchased by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. The truck should be put into service later this spring. The truck was assembled in Wisconsin, and yes, that really is Lambeau Field.

Photo courtesy MOFD



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Letters to the Editor

SB 231 Question

At the recent Town Council meeting, an opponent of Moraga's storm drain fee stated that the election currently being conducted by the Town is unnecessary. He stated that such fees are exempted from the election requirement by 2017 legislation commonly referred to as "SB231." As an experienced municipal finance attorney, I wish to set the record straight as to why the Council's decision to conduct the election was absolutely correct.

The election requirement is imposed by Section 6(c) of Article XIID, added to the State Constitution in 1996 by Prop. 218. It applies to any property-related fee EXCEPT those for sewer, water and refuse collection. In the case of storm drain fees, the question is: does the term "sewer" include storm drains. Unfortunately, the drafters of Prop. 218 did not provide a definition of the term "sewer."

California law presently has two conflicting answers to that question: (1) the decision of a State Appellate Court in *Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association vs. City of Salinas* (2002), in which the Court ruled that the term "sewer" does NOT include storm drains, and (2) Section 53750(k) of the California Government Code, which was added in 2017 by the State Legislature as part of SB231. It defines "sewer" to INCLUDE storm drains. In essence, the Legislature has sought to overrule the Court on this matter of interpreting the State Constitution.

In deciding whether to conduct the election, the Town had to decide which of these two conflicting sources to rely on. Wisely, it chose the Court decision. The Court's interpretation of "sewer," as used in the State Constitution, has legal precedence over the conflicting Legislative enactment in SB231. Only a further court decision upholding the definition in SB231 would enable the Council to responsibly impose storm drain fees without an election.

If the Council were to impose the storm drain fees now without an election, it would be inviting an almost-certain lawsuit. Win-lose-or-draw on the lawsuit, the legal cost of defending it would exceed the election cost many times over. The Moraga Town Council made the right decision.

Sam Sperry
Moraga

Storm Drain Fee

Most of Moraga's storm drains are 50+ years old ... many at risk of imminent failure. Cost to repair the Rheem pipe before failure would have been \$1.7 million compared to the \$3 million repair cost after failure. Neither the cost of the Rheem Sinkhole to businesses nor the disruption to daily life caused can be calculated. Yes,

the aging Storm Drainage system should have been better maintained in the past, but we cannot re-write history and we cannot risk more catastrophic Storm Drain failures.

The fee will be \$120/year for the average homeowner, less than the cost of one movie a month. The fee (which is not a tax) will be used for long-overdue maintenance/replacement of the storm drain utility; funds from the fees can be used ONLY for expenditures on the storm drain program. Schools and churches cannot legally be exempted and will pay fees under this program, since they shed water into the Town storm drainage system (Although some have suggested that storm runoff from Joaquin Moraga directly enters the adjacent stream, the vast majority of their storm water does, in fact, first enter the storm drains). The Moraga School District fee is calculated to be \$21,400/year, which equates to 0.1% of their annual \$23 Million budget (not \$37,000 as reported elsewhere). The fee will also provide for installation of debris collection from storm water before it enters our drinking water source (San Leandro Reservoir).

Some have suggested voting against the Fee to "send a message to Town Council"; it would be a mistake to protest the fee program to voice dissatisfaction with past or present Town Council. We cannot afford to kick this can further down the road; if you would like to change our local representatives, you can do so in November 2018 and November 2020.

The Storm Drain Fee is a small price to pay to avoid future sink-holes/disruptions/road and bridge failures, maintain our quality of life, and ensure safe drinking water. Please vote "Yes" for this very important measure.

Respectfully,
Bobbie Preston
Moraga

Moraga deserves your support! Vote yes for our storm drains.

Let's talk documented facts rather than disingenuous numbers and spurious claims.

Some would have you believe that, over the years, Moraga has been profligate and/or wasteful with your tax dollars. As a consequence of past poor judgment we now need this new revenue stream to fix what we should have been fixing all along.

Fact: Moraga has never had enough revenue to be wasteful let alone enough to address the things we admittedly knew would ultimately need addressing.

Fact: Moraga's per capita cost to operate our town is \$481 – the lowest in the county by a significant margin!

Fact: When you pay your annual real estate tax to Martinez, the county sends back only 5.32% to

Moraga – the lowest return in the county. Thus, a \$10,000 tax bill generates only \$532 for Moraga.

Our immediate neighbors are very similar to us demographically and geographically. They have similar overall financial needs, and yet Lafayette gets back 6.66% and Orinda gets a generous 7.39%.

What does that mean? For FY2016-2017, based on the assessed value of our Moraga real estate, the county returned \$3,888,623 to Moraga. At Lafayette's rate our return would be \$4,868,087 (+\$979,464). If we were lucky enough to enjoy Orinda's rate we would have received \$5,405,186 (+\$1,516,563).

It is obvious that even if our return was only equivalent to Lafayette's, those additional dollars would more than cover our storm drain needs plus several hundreds of thousand dollars more for other infrastructure needs each year.

Sadly, the unpleasant reality is that we are stuck with that 5.32% rate of return and must look to ourselves for the revenue needed

to maintain our infrastructure.

The user fees are modest and affordable. Additionally, they have been fairly allocated for all of us – including our schools. (It amounts to only \$12 per student per year.)

Please vote yes for our storm drains. It seems to this property owner that it is the reasonable and financially responsible thing to do.

Carrol Foxall
Moraga

More on Storm Drains

I support the Storm Drain Parcel Fee proposal. After listening to both sides on this issue I am convinced the parcel fee is the

right solution. Everyone agrees we need to maintain the Storm Drain system in Moraga. One of my original concerns was that the fees be equitably spread among all the property owners in the Town of Moraga. After meeting with the town engineer and staff I was told that 100% of the fees could only be used for storm drain maintenance and or if needed replacement. This proposal is endorsed by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce and the owner of the Rheem Center. I want to compliment our Mayor and the Town Council along with Town Staff with developing this solution. I urge everyone to vote YES on the Storm Drain Ballot.

Barry Behr
Moraga

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

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Moraga businesswoman's venture focuses on mixing things up

By Sophie Braccini



Amy Schofield enjoys Moraga with her family.

Photo provided

Little suburbs populated by educated people have the striking ability to foster female entrepreneurs who draw from their previous professional experience, finding outlets for their creative energy at different stages of their lives by starting new businesses. Some wait for their children to be out of school, others like Amy Schofield invent something that they can manage while raising young children. Schofield's business, Mixify Beauty, offers a range of online kits to create beauty products: nail polish, lip-gloss and perfume. The mother of two daughters, ages 2 and 6, also created a blog in her spare time to help people discover her new hometown: Moraga.

Schofield was born in one continent, Australia, her husband in another, the Indian sub-continent, and they met in a third, Europe. How they ended up in Moraga is a long story, where jobs and schools had something to do with the final decision. The European encounter happened in London, where the

future couple attended the same business school. Schofield's career developed in communication and procurement, until she centered her life around her two daughters. But her entrepreneurial spirit kept pushing her toward more business adventures.

The first was bridesmaids' dress rentals. She quickly tired of the business where she says some never return the dresses they were supposed to just rent and most of the work was about collecting money. But from that first endeavor came the idea of creating nail polish colors that would match the dresses. She played with the idea, and came out with Mixify's first product: a nail polish kit.

Schofield says that she was not a girly-girl growing up, but that for her, this kit is a way to express creativity, and have fun, by yourself or with a group of girlfriends. The kit contains eight colors: five basics – red, blue, yellow, white, black – and three “passion” colors based on individual selection, to be mixed to create any color

imaginable. The kit includes five, 10 or 20 uncolored nail polish bottles with base either shiny regular or matte, a mixing tray, funnel, spoons and stirrers, mixing balls and instructions.

According to Schofield, the kits are popular for bachelorette parties, birthday parties and any girls' night out-type activity. She adds that her clients can be in elementary school – though needing supervision – up to any age.

The second product she started with the same artisan-make-it-yourself concept is a lip gloss, and the most recent is perfume. The new perfume kits were presented at the GBK's pre-Oscar celebrity lounge, and her website features celebrities' with the personified fragrance they created. The kit includes three options for the “head” note, three for the “heart” note, and three different bases. Schofield says that she does not consider herself a “nose,” but that making perfume opens a new door to olfactory senses as well as an understanding of what makes the uniqueness of a fragrance.

Schofield did not forget to add a philanthropic side to her business. She donates to Near and Dear Fundraising, a group that serves California schools, and she also wants to be involved locally.

The proud mom adds that entrepreneurship is something that can be modeled. She did not start being an entrepreneur until her 30s, but her oldest daughter came to her last Christmas because she wanted to create her own line of products: Christmas lights that she assembles and now sells on Etsy. For more information, visit www.mixifybeauty.com.

Building interest for Moraga through a blog

As a relatively new resident of Moraga, and part of Viva Moraga, a group that wants to see more economic development downtown, Schofield wrote a blog called “10+ unique things to do in hidden Moraga, the San Francisco East Bay town that you've never heard of ... and it's closer than you think.” The postings are on-line on playbuzz.com, just enter “Moraga” in the search at the top of the page. The 10+ things include Saint Mary's NCAA's basketball team, the Moraga Art Gallery, Natasha Grasso's jewelry business, the ultimate disc golf parcours, Captains' Vineyard, and much more. She welcomes feedback and suggestions.

Views against marijuana

It is anticipated that no commercial cannabis uses would be authorized by Contra Costa County until such time as a cannabis tax ballot measure has been approved by county voters. A county cannabis tax initiative could be considered by voters at the next general election in November, so regulations permitting commercial cannabis uses are not expected to become effective until that time at the earliest.

Debbie Barnett spoke on behalf of ADAPT, the Alcohol Drug Abuse Prevention Team, at the March 20 council meeting and suggested a buffer of one mile from incorporated lands. According to the draft report prepared by the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development for the County Board of Supervisors current state law requires a buffer of 600 feet between any cannabis business licensed by the state and any K-12 school, day care center or youth center. A county ordinance may increase this buffer distance and may also establish buffers between cannabis businesses and other sensitive uses, such as parks.

Gracie Chen, who is a student at Orinda Intermediate School, stated she feels that more legalization of marijuana will promote teen use, citing higher use by teens in states where marijuana is legal. Other speakers brought up concerns

about how they might be exposed to marijuana grows while running on trails outside city limits, or the potential use of pesticides and poisons in outdoor grows, water use concerns during drought years, how there is already an excess of marijuana in California.

City Council Member Darlene Gee generally agreed with the speakers' points of view. Gee doesn't think that the benefits outweigh the costs of commercial marijuana regulation. She prefers consistency with the regulatory approach of the city. Mayor Amy Worth agreed with speakers who talked about runners being exposed to marijuana grows when their trails take them outside the city limits.

Vice Mayor Inga Miller agreed about areas near schools and trails, but acknowledged that 60 percent of voters in the area voted in favor of legalizing marijuana, so she thought that perhaps remote areas of the county would be acceptable. Council Member and runner Eve Phillips said that Contra Costa is not an agricultural county and so doesn't seem like the county for growing marijuana.

While several other meeting attendees expressed their concerns about marijuana cultivation and use, resident Harlan Van Wye said that “prohibition of marijuana is just plain stupid.” He said there is a

... continued from page A7

lot of misinformation being distributed, but that the voters approved recreational use of marijuana.

“The people have spoken,” he added, “and they want marijuana reasonably available and reasonably regulated.”

Orinda has already adopted laws governing marijuana within city limits. Although the city is not permitted to ban indoor grows completely, the council did limit indoor grows to six plants and banned all outdoor personal or commercial grows, as well as prohibiting all commercial land uses and sales within the city.

The council chose not to ban deliveries to local residents from outside the city, finding that the activity would be too difficult to police. Currently within the unincorporated areas of the county the commercial cultivation, distribution, storage, manufacturing, processing and sale of marijuana and the outdoor cultivation of cannabis for personal use are prohibited and will remain so unless new regulations are adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

More information about the county's marijuana regulations can be found at www.cccounty.us/cannabis, or by contacting Ruben Hernandez, Current Planning Principal Planner, at Ruben.Hernandez@dcd.cccounty.us.

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Lafayette commissioners

... continued from page A1

Burks says that the decision marks a major shift in the way the council addresses issues of integrity. "I believe the new policy will tangibly strengthen public confidence in our design review and planning entities and processes," he said.

Burks continues, "I considered this the most important vote that I've cast in my 15 months on the city council; integrity, ethics and public trust mean everything to me. Our community rightfully expects their government officials to execute at the highest standard when it comes to these critical values. In this context, I'm very pleased with the outcome."

Reflecting the PC members' disappointment with the decision, the letters of resignation came quickly from Commissioners Ateljevich, Chastain, Curtin, Gutzwiller and Lovitt. "It is sad when a town's democratic body votes to disenfranchise a class of its citizens," says Chastain in his letter.

"I am truly shocked that our leaders believe one is guilty before proven innocent," observes Curtin in her resignation letter.

Tatzin is very clear in his opinion. "Obviously we made the wrong decision," he says, adding, "None of the current commissioners have done anything wrong. We've rejected five very good people whose only goal was to make this a better city."

Both a former mayor and for-

mer PC member Erling Horn agrees. In an email to the council he states, "It is clear to me that the concerns outlined in these (resignation) letters are correct and the policy should be revisited. The city has lost a group of experienced, talented and dedicated citizen commissioners who will be very hard to replace."

Former mayor Brandt Anderson referred to the policy as "punitive" at the meeting as he expressed doubt that anyone would want to sign up and serve on a commission under those circumstances.

Getting people to serve will now be the new focus. To that end, Tatzin called a special city council meeting for April 2 to discuss how to move forward including options such as appointing the city council to do double duty and function as planning commissioners until new PC members are appointed, appointing the five existing DR commissioners to fill the empty seats or to temporarily reduce the size of the PC from seven to five commissioners.

Burks is not panicking. "I'm 100 percent confident that we will be able to staff these commissions with fully qualified folks who will deliver a high level of service to our community," he says.

Editor's Note: The April 2 meeting was due to take place after this edition of Lamorinda Weekly went to print.

AUHSD board revises policy

... continued from page A1

They're leaders of different equity groups and clubs on campus, and often excel academically."

Of the 129 transfers at Miramonte, 58 percent are people of color.

The limits were proposed due to the district's classification as Basic Aid for the last three years, meaning that the local property tax allocation exceeds the Local Control Funding Formula.

Since Basic Aid districts do not receive funding per student, the estimated expenditures for interdistrict transfer students would cost the district an estimated \$1.75-\$2.25 million next year.

Superintendent John Nickerson said, "The board sees the value in interdistrict transfers, but without funding it creates a tremendous financial burden."

Students expressed that they were glad the vote was paused, but would continue to mobilize and speak out against what they see is an unjust, regressive step.

Academic Calendars

In other district news, a calendar task force explored alternatives and made recommendations on the upcoming academic calendars for the next two years.

For 2018-19, school will begin on Aug. 20, with the first semester ending on Jan. 7, and the last day of school on June 6.

For the following year, 2019-20, the school year begins a week earlier on Aug. 13 in order for the first semester to end before Winter Break on Dec. 20. School will dismiss for the summer on May 29.

Bell and Block Schedule

After a survey of the Acalanes Education Association members, Lori Tewksbury, president of the union, said, "The overwhelming majority of teachers polled said they would prefer no changes to the schedule."

One problem with the existing schedule was that the lunch break happens later in the day, but even that did not affect the decision to keep the schedule the same for the upcoming year.

Moraga parks and recreation department

... continued from page A4

The number of facilities – three public swimming pools, several sports fields, two community centers, and dozens of parks – is also not commensurate with what Moraga has to offer. Under Brandt's supervision, programs were conducted for older adults, tens of classes for all ages, and special events such as the June San Leandro Cherry Festival that attracts tens of thousands of people each year to downtown San Leandro.

Brandt also oversaw human services, making sure that the more vulnerable population in San Leandro got access to the services they are supposed to receive.

The new director says that she is aware that in Moraga volunteer groups have led many of the events such as the Pear and Wine Festival or Hacienda Nights. She says that she has started meeting with these groups and evaluating with their members what works and what does not. The triathlon was put on hold this year, because of limited staff and dwindling participation. Brandt plans to conduct a full analysis of the event and decide on the opportunity to revive it. She said

she would also reach out to neighboring recreation departments and discuss possible synergies.

On her plate in the very near future is the transformation of the Hacienda to allow the operation of a full-time restaurant. Brandt said that the council would review a proposition for a public-private partnership in April. If such a project moves forward, it means the amount of public space at the Hacienda will be reduced, but she is confident that her department will remain in the beautiful historic building and expects that the casita could be expanded to accommodate more activities.

Brandt lives in Danville with her family including three young children, ages 8, 6 and 1. The busy young woman finds the time to hike, which is one of her passions. Prior to San Leandro, she worked for the cities of South San Francisco and Redwood City and claims 20 years of experience in parks and recreation involvement. She came to California to complete her bachelor's degree, then her master's in public administration and has stayed out West ever since.



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SMC's beach volleyball gains traction
 ... continued from page A1



From left: Lindsey Knudsen and Payton Rund

and they maintain them now." The town has improved the sand on the courts, put in a drainage system and have put down permanent lines with adjustable nets.

All this has come together for a very successful season so far at Saint Mary's. The Gaels have a 9-2 record and are ranked 19th nationally. The top players on the team are juniors Lindsey Knudsen and Payton Rund. Says Browning: "Lindsey and Payton are two of the best players in the country. Last year, they were a formidable pair because you could not pick on one or the other. They have few weaknesses and they both play the entire game so well."

Besides Knudsen and Rund, senior Mary Hernandez, juniors Emily Bible and Morgan Hughes and sophomore Sarah Chase have all had successful seasons. Junior Alex O'Sullivan is the lone local on the team, from Albany and St. Mary's High School.

With the growth of club volleyball teams in the Lamorinda area, Browning is looking to recruit more locally: "When beach volleyball became an emerging sport in college and when scholarships became available, it became a real incentive to develop those skills. Though it has not become a sport with the high schools yet, with the growth of the club teams, the high schools may not be far behind."

In 2012, Eric Benisek and Todd Travis founded The Lamorinda Beach Volleyball Club after the NCAA made it a sport. Says Travis, who played volleyball at UC Santa Barbara: "We wanted to show everyone this new sport so we began the club. Our first summer, we only had two sessions, one for those in high school and one for the middle schoolers. We started out with 35 girls and have had a peak of 70 girls."

The club will do summer sessions and also some skill development clinics in the spring. "In the summer, says Travis, we work out twice a week and on Wednesdays we go down to Santa Cruz to compete against other clubs. It's a good way to measure the improvement of our players."

At the beginning, the participants of the club were exclusively indoor players who were just looking to work on conditioning and skill development but says Travis: "Now there are a number of players that are exclusively beach players. Besides having to be at least capable in all aspects of volleyball, they learn that communications is a skill they must develop, working with their partner and reading the game and that just comes with practice."

Saint Mary's will face San Jose State at 3 p.m. Thursday, April 5 at Moraga Commons.

When 40 schools adopted the sport, beach volleyball became a fully sanctioned NCAA championship sport in the 2015-16 school year, launching a single all-divisions national championship, encompassing 93 college teams with the numbers still growing.

When Browning approached the indoor team about playing beach volleyball in the spring, he received mixed reactions: "When we first brought up the idea of the players also playing beach volleyball, half were excited and half were not so sure. Now all of our volleyball players come in with the expectation and desire to play on both teams."

At many of the major universities, players will play exclusively on one team or the other. At Saint Mary's, there is one player who only plays beach volleyball, freshman Morgan Kendrick, a walk-on who is also a big supporter of the indoor team. Says Browning: "We recruit specifically for the indoor team and it is a bonus for us if the players have had experience playing beach volleyball prior to their arrival at Saint Mary's."

The two sports, obviously very similar, are still distinct, requiring at the very least, a different mindset.

According to Browning: "Unlike indoor volleyball, where players are very specialized, in beach you have to be a well-rounded player. You can't just be a passer or setter or hitter, you have to be able to do it all. The indoor game is much more of a power game. Beach volleyball requires much more finesse. You develop more ball control on the beach and players must have the ability to place the ball in the open spaces."

To learn the subtleties and nuances of beach volleyball, Browning was very fortunate to learn from two beach hall of famers, Mike and Patty Dodd, whose daughter Dallas played for Saint Mary's. The Dodds welcomed the opportunity to work with Browning. "Rob saw the benefit of beach volleyball for the indoor player," says Patty Dodd. "The biggest thing is the amount of reps. The beach player will touch the ball three times more often than in indoor volleyball. Some programs were apprehensive but now everybody is starting to play beach volleyball because a lot of players want to do both. Mike was able to direct them how to run practices and I worked as a volunteer coach. The main difference is that on the beach, you play narrow

Photo Saint Mary's College Athletics and vertical and the game is a lot slower with only two people covering the whole court. Indoors you pass wide and fast."

Patty, who runs a club team of her own in Southern California, speaks highly of how quickly Browning took to the beach game: "Rob is such a phenomenal coach and a quick study. He constantly asked why this and why that and picked things up very easily. I very much appreciate the foresight he had and the effort he expended to get the program up and running."

With the coaches in beach volleyball not permitted to coach during the game, Dodd sees this as another attraction: "They love being involved in every rally and they are autonomous and in charge of their game and with no coaches yelling at you from the sidelines, they love that as well."

With the two women teams, conditioning is more crucial on the sand: "You're involved with your partner on every play," says Browning. "With indoor volleyball, you may not touch the ball for several rallies. Beach players may have to play three matches in a day in a tournament. Our players are very self-motivated. They lift twice a week and practice a lot. Even a light practice in the sand can be exerting so conditioning is that much more important."

Though more demanding on a cardiovascular level, beach volleyball has fewer injuries. The sand is more forgiving and is easier on the players' knees. There are also less shoulder injuries because the players rarely swing 100 percent whereas indoors, the players are constantly swinging with full force.

Saint Mary's plays their matches at the Moraga Commons Park. Initially, the courts were very hard and Browning and Saint Mary's addressed the conditions: "We took it upon ourselves to rent a tiller to make the sand softer. Since then the town has redone the courts



Photo Matt Brown/USA Volleyball

~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Rube Goldberg challengers eat the competition for breakfast

By Cathy Dausman



Photos Cathy Dausman

Eleven teams of science students shied away from “simple” in their quest to design the most convoluted mechanical cereal dispenser ever during the 2018 Rube Goldberg Challenge at Stanley Middle School March 28.

Rueben Garrett Lucius Goldberg, aka “Rube,” was no rube by any means. The Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist was a Yankee Doodle Dandy (he was born on the Fourth of July) and Cal Bear. Although Goldberg died in 1970, his legacy endures in the form of an annual Rube Goldberg challenge

for science and tech minded students ranging in age from middle school through college.

Stanley’s contestants are volunteers from Mike Meneghetti’s engineering and robotics classes. Judges are provided by Lafayette Partners in Education. Meneghetti developed the program 18 years ago; competitions are held every other year.

As contestant Maggie Conklin promised, this year’s challenge was “the most complex way to start your day.” Contestants milked their moment in the limelight and their

audience ate it all up.

Alarm clocks were given a final alignment, cars and trains straightened in their tracks, strings tightened and cereal packages were locked and loaded. Suddenly it was snap! crackle! pop! as the Cocoa Crispies, Apple Jacks, Cheerios and Fruit Loops flew into bowls.

After 20 to 40 hours of teamwork, it was over in a matter of seconds. “It’s a privilege doing this,” said Meneghetti, who continues to emcee the contest. When it comes to Rube Goldberg, clearly nobody does it simple!



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Art rings a bell with congregation

By Pippa Fisher



Local artist Brian Enright created this modern sculpture using the original bell from Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Photo provided

Public art might be popping up all over Lafayette, but there are also notable private art pieces that residents might not have noticed such as the historic bell sculpture tucked away in a courtyard outside Our

Savior's Lutheran Church on Carol Lane. And this piece has special significance to the church.

Oakland artist Brian Enright, who grew up in Lafayette, explains that the bell featured in the sculpture was the one used in the bell tower of the original building built in 1947. "They haven't had a bell tower for 40 years or so," says Enright, adding that it was un-earthed in the past few years by the congregation and that they had been looking for something to do with it.

He was commissioned in 2017 to create a modern stand and "striker" for the original bell as part of the redesign of the central courtyard at OSLC. Using steel and redwood Enright created the 5-foot by 5-foot piece in his studio in Oakland.

"Brian has done a spectacular job with the piece and the placement," says Head Pastor Dan Senter. He says the tower and the bell were up there until it was torn down in the 1980s to begin the new building remodel. "Pulled from the rubble, it (the bell) has been lost in the basement for years."

Senter says that they think it might have originally come from an old steam locomotive before that.

"In the early days the hardest thing was keeping the teenagers out of the bell tower as pulling those old ropes to ring the bell was a favorite pastime," says Senter.

Bestselling author discusses choosing words wisely

By Lou Fancher



Kelly Corrigan Photo provided

In an era when difficult conversations are the norm, there's good reason to be grateful for Kelly Corrigan. Following her New York Times bestselling memoirs, "Glitter and Glue" and "The Middle Place," the Oakland author delivers 12 essays based on hard to say phrases in a new book, "Tell Me More" (Random House).

Corrigan is well known in the Bay Area as creator of Notes & Words, an annual benefit featuring music and literature luminaries in a program that raises proceeds for Children's Hospital Oakland. She is the host of KQED Radio's Exactly and a contributor to The Nantucket Project, a national organization that supports community health and well-being through small group conversations held in homes throughout the United States. She is married and has two teenage daughters.

Appearing March 23 before an audience of roughly 170 people gathered at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation's Distinguished Speaker Series, Corrigan demonstrated her signature verve and voracity for speaking the truth.

Honesty can be exactly what causes commotion in today's conversations held at family dinner tables, on the internet, in neighborhoods and throughout Congress and between countries. But laced with humor—adult appropriate, often self-deprecating and particularly appreciated by women and men in relationships, raising children or caring for aging parents—a keynote presentation by Corrigan is more likely to cause laughter or poignantly surprising tears than to deliver low blows.

Cutting herself out of a too-tight Lycra top, daily hygiene including (hilariously) the rarity of hair-washing and (tenderly) a pile of cut toenails, her husband's stop-it-or-else ultimatum concerning Costco clothing, parenting as "the ultimate improv," and taking two years to write a book that people tell her takes only an afternoon to read—the time it takes laundry to dry—and many more asides had the audience appreciating Corrigan's entertaining storytelling.

Divergent streams in Corrigan's life intersected and propelled her into an exploration of why the exact, right words at the right moment can make all the difference in sustaining positive long-term relationships. Contrasting "I'm sorry," and "I was wrong," she and her husband decided during a dinner table conversation, was vital because although the former can be false or flimsy, the latter is firm and unties people in a way that makes love and connection possible.

Corrigan thereafter embarked on a listening tour: keeping tab of phrases that held up, like "I don't know," which she said can seem "waffle-y or lame," but in one chapter of her book is revealed as admirable

and truthful.

The second stream was the loss of her 85-year-old father (chronicled in her memoir) and of a dear friend, Liz. Death or serious illness—Corrigan has had cancer and said her friend's death left her with survivor's guilt—that has a way of jolting a person into a re-examination of life and relationships. Corrigan said, "How many conversations do you go into and come out with different views and perspectives?" That's the beauty of (the phrase) "tell me more," which she used to good purpose with her teenage daughter.

"I love you" was a phrase so worn she wasn't certain she could add anything unique. But finding forgiveness embedded in the phrase, she exposes parallels and writes, "Immediate, unsolicited, sometimes underserved forgiveness—that is what turns the wheel of family life." In other words, despite the imperfections and reality of long-term relationships, saying "I love you" is foundational.

Laura Halpin of Walnut Creek said she felt a connection when Corrigan spoke about the loss of her best friend. "I lost one too. It was touching to hear her say that after a death, even simple things like doing dishes you used to do together can get emotional. Her words impacted my psyche. Isn't that why we read books?"

During a Q&A, Corrigan said her husband is always "the last eyes on the page before I hand it in. When he says it's good, I know it's ready." About her children she said that after 10 years of contemplation and writing she finally realizes that listening to her "profoundly ordinary kid" singing in the shower is one of life's most precious moments.

Five-year library volunteer Judy Kirkpatrick said she takes pride and pleasure in the library's approximately 10,000 programs presented over the last decade. "They have something for everyone: young, old, men, women, black, brown, white—everyone." The Lafayette resident liked Corrigan's emphasis on listening fully in conversations.

Arguably the most moving chapter, "No Words At All," pays tribute to silence. Used when enough has been said or when skin-to-skin touch reigns supreme during Corrigan's once-a-week visits to the children's hospital to hold premature infants, she reminds herself—and us—that blessings can be found in communicating with no words at all.



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From India to Lamorinda: One Sikh family's journey

By Sora O'Doherty



Visitors at this Sikh temple in New Delhi, India are welcome to partake of a meal prepared by volunteers from donated food. Photos Sora O'Doherty



Gulneer "Gary" Singh Sarang

If you walk into Wells Fargo Bank in Moraga, you may see a gentleman in a colorful turban. Most immediately recognize that Gulneer Singh Sarang, who goes by the nickname Gary, is a Sikh, not a Muslim. Sarang enjoys educating people about his religion, Sikhism, and he was recently invited to speak to his son's class at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. What was supposed to be a 15-minute talk ran to over an hour, as the children asked many questions. Sarang recalled, "They asked why we wear the turban and how long is my son's hair?"

The students were curious about arranged marriage and asked many general lifestyle questions. Sarang was prepared with slides and notes. "They were very interested in where the religion originated and about the Gold Temple. Founded by Guru Nanak, who was born in 1469, the Sikh religion is dedicated to helping the oppressed," Sarang explained. "Sikh temples are called Gurudwara, and they offer food to anyone who is hungry. There were lots of questions about the service of food at the temple: Why do they do it? Who donates the food?" Sarang said that many people will come in and make large contributions in cash and in kind (food).

As Sarang explained to the students, the Sikh religion is monotheistic, and respectful of other religions, believing that they are all seeking god. Like other Sikh men, Sarang wears certain ceremonial items, such as a bracelet, in addition to his turban. Some men wear short knives that represent the swords with which Sikhs defend



Donated food stores at this Sikh temple in India.

south tower. He was making coffee when his attention was drawn to a blizzard of papers outside the windows. "And as I looked," he remembered, "I saw that the papers were on fire." Told to evacuate via the stairs, Sarang was walking down. "When I reached 47th floor," he said, "there was a tremendous bang like nothing I'd had ever heard and the building swayed as though it would collapse." That was when the second plane slammed into the building around the 60th floor. "You don't run down 62 flights of stairs," Sarang said. "It was very orderly, but unreal. They directed us to the subway level and told us to walk away. I walked two blocks before looking back and seeing the building collapse like a pancake," Sarang recalled.

Sarang emphasized how kind the company was to them. "First they put us up in a hotel. They provided counselors, food, and offered transportation home.

"Having gone through the experience of 9/11," Sarang observed, "it further cemented my view of the unpredictability of life. How safe are we, how long will we live, does it really matter to be just financially successful, what about my family what are they going through ... are some of the questions that were repeatedly pounding my brain.

"My older brother who was then in Fremont, California, was a mental wreck till he had heard from me directly several hours later. That day it did not matter whether we were in New York, the hub of the world's financial activity, what car we were driving or what we looked like. I looked different, but no one aimed a racial slur or any rage towards me. Everyone wished to be safe and happy to be with their loved one. At the end of the day, that is exactly what really matters in life."

Sarang concluded, "I am so appreciative of the people of Lamorinda, who are very welcoming and willing to give a person from out of their community an opportunity to assimilate, to intermingle."

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Offering hope for girls once caught in sex trafficking net

By Diane Claytor



New Day for Children residents enjoy the sunset during an outing on a houseboat.

Photo provided

Sex trafficking of children, child prostitution. ... These are not subjects most of us want to think about, let alone discuss. We may read a headline or hear a news story. We'll feel profound sadness for the victims and great repulsion for the perpetrators and customers. But we'll then go on with our day, secure in the belief that this is a foreign country or inner city problem, not something that happens in upper middle class suburbs.

Kathy Wilson, spokesperson for New Day for Children, suggests we think again.

New Day is a nonprofit organization that provides hope for a new life to American girls rescued from sex trafficking. Working with New Day since its beginning almost 10 years ago, Wilson sadly

explained that commercial sexual exploitation of children — boys and girls — knows no demographic nor geographic boundaries. When asked how many children we're talking about, Wilson said she was reluctant to give numbers, because, as she said, "they don't really matter; even if it's 10, it's simply an intolerable situation."

Sitting in a Lafayette coffee shop, Wilson told of one smart, beautiful middle school girl who lived "within 15 minutes of here." Her parents both enjoyed professional careers; she was very involved in school and sports activities and appeared to be a very well-rounded and loved kid. But then she met two high school boys — maybe at Starbucks or the shopping mall — who com-

plimented her, suggested hanging out and soon convinced her that she could help them get money for dates by selling herself. Perhaps believing she was in love, she obliged — meeting up with men after school and on weekends. This went on for two years without her parents' knowledge. Driving to a Nevada casino and being sold for sex in a hotel caught the attention of the police and this poor, young child was rescued. "If this can happen with intelligent, involved parents, it can happen with anybody," Wilson explained.

Stories abound and each is sadder than the last. There are kids being locked up and those sold by family members. While many involve young runaways who get caught up with the wrong people,

Wilson reported that "most kids being sold for sex are in their normal lives — living with their families, going to school every day." And, to no one's surprise, social media plays a huge role.

Wilson relayed another story about a sweet young girl with very involved and loving parents. "At 12, she thinks she has found an online boyfriend who starts 'liking' her pictures, then sends private messages and pictures of himself." He soon asks for — and because she wants to please him — receives, more risqué photos. It's only when the FBI, conducting a nationwide sting, turns up on her doorstep does she learn that she was sending naked pictures of herself to a 60-year-old man posing as a teen-aged boy. Wilson noted that it could have been so much worse. "He could have suggested meeting and then raping her, or kidnapping and sexually exploiting her," she said.

New Day and their primary partner, Together Freedom (along with several other partners), provide shelter, education, medical care and therapy to help heal mind, body and spirit of these young girls who "have been rescued from child sex slavery," Wilson said. It is one of the few residential programs in the country, offering a safe and secure environment and boarding school format.

The cottage, located in a serene and secluded spot in Northern California, can accommodate up to 12 girls, 10-18 years old, suffering from the desperation of sex trafficking. "These girls will live in loving, nurturing family-like environments where they have a hope of recovering their lost childhoods and building trust," states New Day's website. Currently, there are six young vic-

tims living on the campus.

There is no limit for how long a girl may live at New Day, which, Wilson said, makes their program unique. While their average stay is 15 months, "we've had girls stay for over four years." The program is faith-based, but non-denominational. Referrals come from families, law enforcement and social services programs.

Because New Day is not a lock-down program and can only accommodate a small number, Wilson admitted that often times girls must be turned down, particularly if they're a flight risk. "When we first started," she explained, "we wanted to save everyone, to scoop these kids up and just give them love. It was a rude awakening when we realized we simply couldn't help everyone who needed it."

Wilson, who admits she is in a "world I never dreamed I'd have anything to do with," is passionate about New Day and all they have been able to accomplish. Seventy-seven girls have come through the program since its inception and, she proudly reported, "80-85 percent have stayed 'out of the life.'"

Funding for New Day comes primarily from donations and grants. "We ask families to pay, but if they can't, we don't turn away their daughter," Wilson explained. "We certainly could not run this program without the generous help from the community."

On April 14, a 5K Run/Walk for New Day will be held at the Lafayette Reservoir. For only \$35 (\$20 for kids) you can help restore the hopes and dreams of young girls who have thankfully been rescued from sex trafficking. For information or to register, please go to newdayforchildren.com.

'The Insult'

By Sophie Braccini

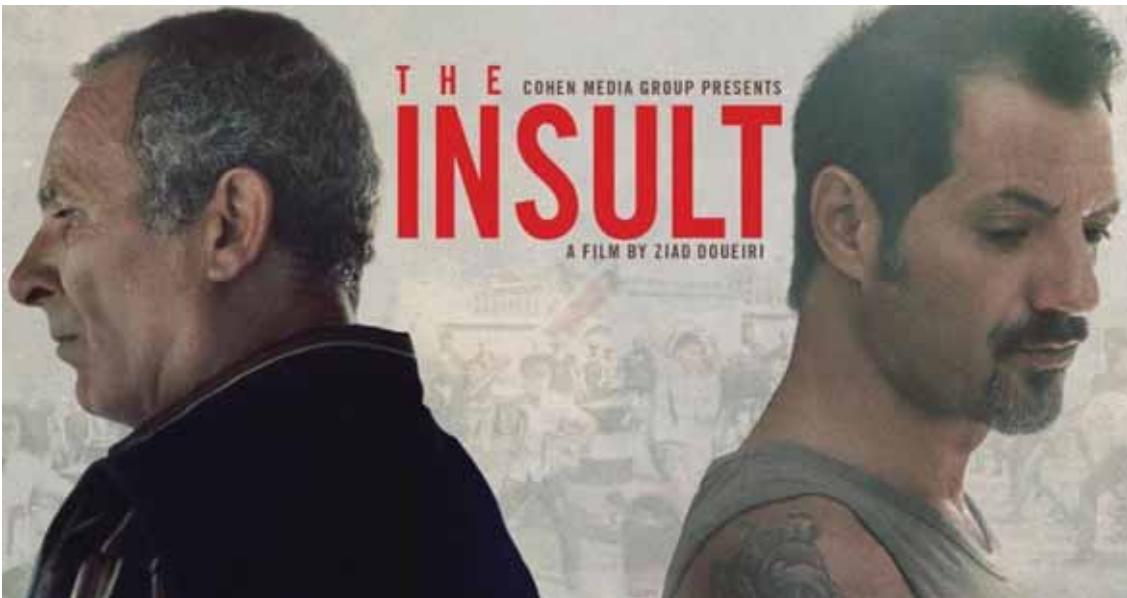


Image provided

"The Insult" may not be based on a true story, but it could be. Set in today's Lebanon, it shows how, because of years of unspoken frustration and resentment, a tiny incident could spiral into a nationwide uproar.

It is the sad testimony to the limitations of the human condition, trapped between religious sectarianism and historical movements. It is set in the Middle East, but it could equally be about any other human society in turmoil, where people have made old grudges a part of their identity, and feel righteous hating an entire group of "others" they

barely recognize as human. The movie ends with a glimpse of hope, when the two main protagonists can finally at last acknowledge the human condition of the other.

To enjoy this movie, it might be helpful to recall a bit of contemporary Lebanese history. Trapped between the Mediterranean Sea, Syria and Israel, Lebanon — which has been independent since 1946 — has been caught in the middle of the Israel-Arab wars, and wave after wave of Palestinian refugees have streamed into Lebanon since 1949. The movie only presents two groups

from this multicultural country, the Christian Lebanese and the Palestinians. Christians represent about 40 percent of the total population; Muslims represent 54 percent, half Sunnis and half Shites. Approximately 10 percent of the population is Palestinian (in recent years many have tried to immigrate to Europe), still living in camps, and rarely given a Lebanese citizenship.

Yasser, one of the two main protagonists, lives in a Palestinian camp near Beirut and works as a construction foreman in the capital. The name of the camp where he lives is not given, but

many still remember the Sabra and Shatila massacre in 1982 when hundreds if not thousands of civilians were killed by a Lebanese Christian militia, under the eyes of their Israeli allies. So when a minor disagreement erupts over a leaking gutter, and Toni, the Christian Lebanese, tells Yasser that Ariel Sharon (then Israeli prime minister) did not kill enough Palestinians, the verbal challenge between the two men comes to blows.

When one of the men ends up in the hospital, he decides to take the other to court. As the two adverse lawyers battle in the courtroom, important elements of the past between the two families are revealed, peeling layer after layer the difficult recent history of a country that was once a land of peace, the Land of Cedars where it felt good to live.

The courtroom portion of the movie includes all the ingredients of this genre: tension, emotions, unexpected revelations, and doubt about who is right and who is wrong. The two main actors are totally credible, each playing in contrasting registers, the contained Palestinian and the furious Christian.

The movie does not take sides at any point. It tries to shed a light

on a painful truth that has been buried under years of silence. For example it reminds people of the Sabra and Shatila massacres, but also of the 1976 Damour massacre when hundreds of Christian civilians were killed by Palestinian militia.

Ziad Doueiri, who directs this movie, is not afraid of tackling difficult cultural issues, as he did in 2012 with "The Attack," where the wife of an Arab Israeli surgeon blows herself up during a terrorist attack.

The well-mastered movie was rightly selected for the Academy Awards in the Foreign Language Film category. It was very well received in Lebanon because it brought the difficult relationship between Christian Lebanese and Palestinian refugees out into the open, as well as the open wounds left by the 1978 civil war fueled by Syria and Israel, where Christians, Sunnis, Chiites and Druzes groups tore at each other.

It contains a lot of food for thought closer to home as well.

"The Insult" will play at the Orinda Theatre as part of the International Film Showcase for at least one week, starting on April 6. For information, visit lamorindatheatres.com.

SUMMER CAMPS 2018

12th Annual Summer Camp Guide Part 2, Half-day Camps
(Lamorinda Weekly published Part 1, Full-day camps, March 7, 2018)

CREATIVE ARTS/THEATRE/MUSIC

Academy of Language and Music Arts/ ALMA (Orinda)

Private lessons in all instruments and in languages, including Italian, French, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese and ESL. Special summer group classes and performing ensembles, including rock combo, jazz combo, vocal ensemble, drum circle, theatre and acting skills. All ages and levels are welcome.
Phone: (925) 254-5056
www.alma-leap.com

Berkeley Rep School of Theatre (Berkeley)

This three week hands-on Filmmaking & Acting Intensive covers theory, pre- and post-production, and concludes with a final screening for family and friends.
Evenings from 6:30 -9:30 p.m.,
Dates: July 16 – Aug. 3 for entering grades 9-12.
Phone: (510) 647-2972
www.berkeleyrep.org/summer-intensive

Performing Academy (Lafayette)

Performing Academy offers a variety of 3-week production camps & 1-week camps for students aged 3.5-22 in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill. All experience levels welcome.
www.PerformingAcademy.com

Phone: (925) 385-0354

Sewnow! Fashion Design (Lafayette) see ad

Have a blast, learn to design, sew, and illustrate like a pro and walk away with unique personalized fashion items. Camps include fashionkit patterns and digital instructions, fabrics, notions, custom embroidery, and participation in our end-of-summer fashion show. One-week half-day camps for juniors (second and third grade), kids, and teens.
Dates: June - August
Phone: (925) 283-7396
www.sewnow.com

The Art Room (Lafayette) see ad

Week-long morning and afternoon summer camps. Artists will immerse themselves in three-dimensional work and gain experience with sketching, drawing, pastels, canvas painting, silk painting, ceramics, and creating collaborative artwork.
Dates: June-August
Phone: (925) 299-1515
www.theart-room.com

Town Hall Education Summer Camps & Classes (Lafayette) see ad

Town Hall Education is back for the Summer offering a variety of half day and full day camps for Pre-K-5th Graders, and production opportunities for Middle and High Schoolers. Titles include: Seussical Kids, Magic Treehouse, Bye Bye Birdie and Rozencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead.
www.TownHallTheatre.com

ACADEMIC/LANGUAGE/SCIENCE

Amazing Math Classes (Moraga) see ad

Weeklong sessions taught by experienced, funny teachers through the Moraga Parks and Recreation Department. Sessions include elementary school math and science, sports and statistics, algebra I, high school geometry, and algebra II. Contact head teacher Michael Adler or Moraga Parks and Rec Department. Individual or small group tutoring also available.
Email: m.adler@sbcglobal.net
Phone: (925) 888-7036
www.moraga.ca.us

Lamorinda School of Musical Arts (Orinda)

Joyful music classes where children as young as 4 years old can learn to sing and play the piano. Grammy Award winner Xiomara Di Maio is the director. She also teaches at Stanley Middle School. She is well known for her creative approach and playful way of teaching children.
Dates: August
Phone: (925) 878-5159
xiomydma@gmail.com

Saklan School (Moraga)

Summer @ Saklan provides culture, language and summer fun for ages 3-11. Mornings on campus are filled with enrichment in Mandarin, French, Japanese, Spanish and Italian. Afternoons are packed with summer fun, including field trips, swimming, art & music. Three-week sessions 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Full or half days, with extended care available.
Dates: June 11 – Aug. 10
Phone: (925) 376-7900
www.saklan.org

Spanish Immersion Summer Camps with Viva el Español (Lafayette) see ad

Learn or improve Spanish language skills through games, music, arts & crafts, science projects and cooking. During each week-long camp students learn vocabulary related to a specific kid-friendly theme such as Wondrous Outdoors at the Reservoir or Mission Impossible.
Phone: (925) 962-9177
www.vivaelespanol.org

Summer Bridge Math (Moraga)

This program, intended to be both fun and educational, is designed to reinforce previous math concepts, while introducing future ones. Manipulatives and interactive problem solving will be a part of each session. Groups of no more than nine students and will meet four times over the summer - led by Mr. Lorie, a JM math teacher.
Dates: various dates and times
www.lorietutors.squarespace.com

The Writing Studio - Camp Young Writers (Lafayette) see ad

Summer camps at The Writing Studio provide both classroom writing instruction and one-on-one sessions for grades 3-12. Writers step into a world of storytelling and essay-based expository writing, developing strong writing skills in the process.
Dates: June 18-July 6 and July 16-Aug. 10
Phone: (925) 385-0211
www.lafayettewritingstudio.com

EXPLORE THE WORLD OF ART THIS SUMMER!

- Sketching, drawing, pastels, canvas painting, silk painting, ceramics
- A variety of media and projects
- Students connect to the world around them
- Focus on endangered species, glaciers, and life on land and under the sea
- Three-dimensional work



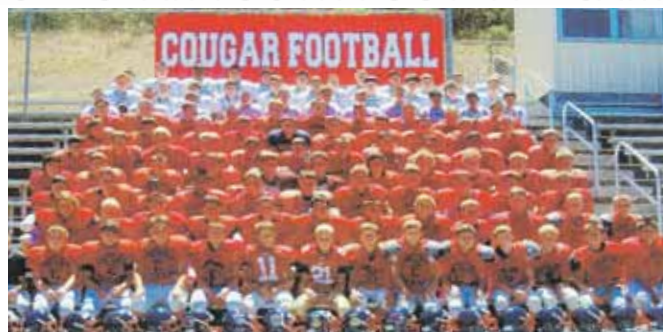
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*(Cost for morning or afternoon, not both)

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GRADES 4 – 8, SEPARATED BY GRADE

DATES: July 9 thru July 20 (M – F) TIMES: 1:30 – 5:00 P.M.
FEES: \$400 (T-shirt included)

REGISTRATION: www.cougarcamps.com
925/280-3950 x-5163, kmacy@auhsdschools.org

Amazing Summer Math Camps

- **The Wide World of Sports Statistics**
Play sports and calculate your statistics
- **Conquer Common Core Math**
Clarify/review current year's math and prepare for the next
- **Classes to Attack Algebra**
Prepare for all levels of algebra from pre-algebra to algebra II through games, art and humorous lectures
- **Get a Jump on Geometry:**
A fun, hands on class for high school students

**** **Warning** – These classes might trick students into believing that math is fun ****

If you have further questions feel free to contact Michael at m.adler@sbcglobal.net

Classes taught by teacher & experienced math instructor, Michael Adler

To enroll contact the Moraga Parks and Rec. Department at www.moraga.ca.us or call (925) 888-7036

Want a great tutor who is fun? Individual/small group summer or year round tutoring available
m.adler@sbcglobal.net



Spanish Immersion Camps

- ★ Week-long day camps
- ★ Choose from a variety of kid-friendly themes
- ★ Camps include games, arts & crafts, science, music, cooking and more!
- ★ Option for half or full day, with before and after care
- ★ Experienced, dynamic teachers



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- Skateboarding
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SUMMER CAMPS 2018 Half Day Camps

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One Week Introductory Sessions at San Pablo Reservoir and the Oakland Estuary (8:30am - 11:30am). No experience necessary!

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| San Pablo Reservoir Sessions | Oakland Estuary Sessions |
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| • June 18-22 | • July 16-20 |
| • June 25-29 | • July 23-27 |
| | • July 30-Aug 3 |

* Intermediate sessions available to athletes who have completed a prior one week introductory session or our middle school program.

Ideal for students entering 9th or 10th grade!

Learn More & Sign Up at www.oaklandstrokes.org



Half-Day SUMMER CAMPS 2018

SPORTS

Artemis Rowing (Oakland) see ad

Artemis Learn to Row camp held at the Jack London Aquatic Center introduces rowing to 6th through 12th graders. No experience necessary. Cost: Beginner — \$275 Experienced-Beginner — \$250

Dates: One week sessions starting June 11

Phone: (510) 542-9673
registr@artemisrowingclub.org
www.artemisrowingclub.org

Cougar Youth Football Camp (Moraga) see ad

The Cougar Youth Football Camp directed by Head Coach Kevin Macy for grades 4-8 is held at Campolindo High School. Cost is \$400 with all equipment including T-shirt supplied. Registration forms online.

Dates: July 9-20 (Monday - Friday, 1:30 to 5 p.m.)

kmacy@auhsdschools.org
www.campofootball.com

DONS Youth Football Academy (Lafayette)

The Dons Youth Football Academy will be staffed by current Acalanes High School Football coaches as well as a full complement of experienced high school and college players and a certified trainer and will teach fundamentals, develop skills, and help kids with the transition to tackle football in a fun, fast-paced, and non-contact environment.

Camp Dates July 9-12
5th - 8th Grade 1-4 p.m.
9th Grade 6-9 p.m.
www.acalanesdonsfootball.com

Lafayette Tennis Club (Lafayette)

Offering the finest and most modern method of tennis instruction, the camp is overseen by formally world ranked player Hunter Gallaway with instructors trained to assist all students in learning basic stroke fundamentals. Offering morning and afternoon clinics for Hot Shots (5-9) Juniors (10-13 and High School (14-16).
Dates: June 4 - Aug. 24

Phone (925) 937-2582
www.lafayettetennis.com

LMYA Swim (Lafayette)

LMYA Swim Team's Gutter Guppy Program focuses on teaching stroke technique to our youngest swimmers, preparing them for the swim team experience in a fun, low-key environment. Evaluations held June 4th & 7th, 5:30pm at Acalanes High School.

Register by 6/10.

www.lmyaswim.com

Miramonte Swim Club (MSC) (Orinda) see ad

Registration is now open for our 2018 Summer Swim Team, Spring Stroke Clinics, and Junior Gator Learn-to-Swim program. No club membership is required in order to participate. The summer team practices in the afternoons at Miramonte High School.

www.msccgators.org

Oakland Strokes (San Pablo Reservoir or Oakland Estuary) see ad

The Oakland Strokes summer program is a half-day summer camp open to any child sixth through 12th grade. The program is a "learn to row" program, focused on taking kids from never rowing, to being proficient, and teaching the basics and includes conditioning.
Dates: Various one-week sessions starting June 11.

Email: oaklandstrokes@gmail.com
www.oaklandstrokes.org

Randy Bennett Basketball Camps (Moraga) see ad

The Randy Bennett Day Camps held at Saint Mary's McKeon Pavilion are a great way for boys and girls ages 4-13 to receive top-class instruction on every aspect of the game. Throughout the week Coach Bennett will lead instruction on every aspect of the game. Morning and afternoon options available.
Dates: mid-June through mid-July

srmcmensbasketballcamps.com

Sherman Swim (Lafayette) see ad

Sherman Swim School is a family business which has taught swimming to over 39,000 students and has produced numerous diving champions. The combination of one-on-one instruction with patient, encouraging teachers, and extremely comfortable water (90-92 degrees), creates an ideal learning environment. Sessions are 3-4 weeks long.
Dates: T-Th or M-W-F schedules possible.
Phone: (925) 283-2100
www.shermanswim.com

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JULY 10 - 14
JULY 17 - 21
JULY 31 - AUG 4
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Thank you Advertisers!
Lamorinda Weekly.

Did we miss your favorite camp?
On May 16 we will list all camps and classes.
Call (925) 377-0977 or email wendy@lamorindaweekly.com.

The Lamorinda Weekly Summer Camp listings are not paid advertising. Our intent is to provide a useful reference guide. In the event we have inadvertently printed misinformation, please let us know. LW is not liable for errors or omissions.

Miramonte Swim Club
Lamorinda Youth Recreational Swim Team

- Fall & Spring Swim Clinics for all levels
- Summer Public Youth Swim Team for ages 4-18
- Summer Learn to Swim Program (Junior Gators)
- **No Membership Required**
- **Afternoon Practices**
- Practices and competes at Miramonte High School
- Experienced and dedicated Coaching Staff



Registration for Spring and Summer can be found on www.msccgators.org

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For more information email, call, or visit: www.sewnow.com



sewnow! 3534 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette (925) 283-7396 info@sewnow.com

SUMMER CAMPS 2018 Half Day Camp

Half-Day SUMMER CAMPS 2018

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS

Build a Peace Village (Orinda)

Orinda Community Church and Mindful Littles host JAMM (Joy, Art, Music and Meditation!) Camp June 11-15 from 9:30-12:30 for kids ages 4 through rising fifth graders. \$100 per camper. Sibling discounts available. To register visit orinda-communitychurch.org. Then click Youth and Children - Summer programs. Free for middle and high school volunteers.

Phone: (925) 254-4906

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church (Moraga) see ad

Oar you ready for a "Rockin' River Adventure?" Jump into an action-packed week of white water thrills! With campfire songs, backpackin' snacks, rockin' recreation and more, we'll learn to run the rapids of life with God. 9 am - Noon. Must be 4 (by June 1) through entering 5th grade. Dates: June 18-22 Cost: \$75; \$95 (May 1-June 1)

www.mvpctoday.org

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (Lafayette)

Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus Gear up for an adventure! At Vacation Bible Camp this year, we will anchor kids in the truth that Jesus carries us through life's storms through songs, stories, games, experiments, and more.

For 4-year-olds through completed fourth graders. Dates: June 11-15, afternoon Phone: (925) 283-8722 x234 Email: ryan@LOPC.org www.LOPC.org

Willow Spring Community Church (Moraga)

The VBS Summer Sports Camp, July 16-20 for grades 1-5. Cost \$50 Fun activities, music, crafts and much more. 9-12 a.m. Phone: (925) 376-3550 www.willow.springchurch.com

VARIETY

Carondelet High School (Concord) see ad

Whether your child is looking for educational, enrichment or sports programs this summer, Carondelet High School has it all! Our co-ed programs for students ages 7-17 include: Middle School Classes; Sports Clinics for Girls; Tech & Coding Courses; a Girls Leadership camp, and more. Registration is open now

www.CarondeletHS.org/Summer

City of Lafayette - Recreation Summer Camps (Lafayette)

Art, soccer, cheerleading, cooking, dance, science, engineering, LEGOs, tennis, Critters-N-Clay, music, robotics, basketball, carpentry, flag football, gymnastics, chess and more! Registration Begins April 9th. Dates: various dates and times available.

Phone: (925) 284-2232 www.LafayetteRec.org

Moraga Parks and Recreation Summer Camps (Moraga)

Check out the variety of camps offered through the Moraga Parks and Recreation Department for 2018. Featuring: Moraga Day Camp (Formerly Camp Hacienda), Bricks 4 Kidz, Techsplosion, Little Medical School, Coding Camp, Incrediflix, Kindercool, Skyhawks Sports, Math, Speech, Debate, and more! Registration is open now.

Phone: (925) 888-7045 www.moragarec.com

Orinda Parks and Recreation Summer Camps (Orinda)

OK Camp is the perfect place for your first time campers. Designed for 4-5 year olds, OK camp has a little of everything each week- art, sports, games, songs, music, dance, and more. Plus weekly themes like Superhero's, space, Fantasyland keep camp fun all summer long! June 18 - August 10, 9 a.m.-noon

Phone: (925) 254-2445 www.cityfororinda.org

Sienna Ranch (Lafayette)

Camp choices at Lamorinda's own ranch camp include morning Farm Hands and Nature and Horseback Riding camps as well as afternoon pottery, woodshop, archery, art and animals, horses and more. Serving campers entering grades PreK-8 with select teen programming, Sienna Ranch offers week-long half-day camp options.

Phone: (925) 283-6311 www.siennaranch.net



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The Writing Studio

3249 Mt. Diablo Court, Suite 101-A, Lafayette (925) 385-0211 www.lafayettewritingstudio.com

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church



Vacation Bible School June 18-22 9:00 am - Noon

Oar you ready for VBS 2018?! It's gonna be a **Rockin' River Adventure - Running the Rapids of Life with God!** Get ready for an action-packed week full of white water thrills! We'll sing campfire songs, munch on backpackin' snacks, and watch wild and crazy river skits set in a forest wilderness! With fascinating wildlife, rockin' recreation and awesome crafts our adventurers will love, this week will be big-water fun!

Children must be 4 years old through entering 5th

Camp cost per child: \$75 (April 1-30); \$95 (May 1-June 1) Registration closes June 1.

Register online today! mvpctoday.org

10 Moraga Valley Lane Moraga, CA 94556 925-376-4800



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CLASSES START JUNE 11 CarondeletHS.org/SUMMER



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Orion's most popular summer camp is back! During this camp students will geocache, hike in the redwoods, ride horses and yes-hike with llamas! The group will also learn social skills, build physical stamina and learn to adapt to new social situations. We are excited to offer another group the opportunity to experience this fun activity week! **A fun camp for 8th, 9th and 10th grade students.**

Phone: 925-377-0789

www.orionacademy.org 350 Rheem Blvd. Moraga, CA

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2018 National Charity League Class honored

Submitted by Terri Konsella



Photo Juleen Lapporte

The Lamorinda Chapter of National Charity League held its annual Senior Recognition celebration honoring its 25 graduating Ticktockers. The annual celebration at The Claremont Club and Spa marked the culmination of the NCL senior class' service to the community. These dedicated young women have been involved with the mother-daughter philanthropic organization since they were in the seventh grade, and collectively volunteered more than 5,000 hours over the past six years.

NCL's Lamorinda Chapter supports many local nonprofit organizations through its mission to foster mother-daughter relationships in a philanthropic organization committed to community service, leadership

development and cultural experiences.

A special thank you goes to Stri Zulch and Meagan Hagglund for co-chairing this memorable event, as well as co-presidents Roxy Klein and Stacy Crinks.

Members of the Class of 2018 include from left, front row(s): Ariella Zulch, Annie Midthun, Frankie Veverka, Rachel Brickman, Laurel Weikert, Caitlin Goldsmith, Azalea Kim, Sidney Vranesh, Katie Klein, Madison McDonagh, Ryan Hagglund, Ashley Holbrook; middle row: Ashley Dunn, Caroline Ricksen, Jessalyn Simon-Parker, Kathleen Immel, Kate Marvin; and back row: Emma Wiley, Emily Barlow, Carolyn Gagan, Erin Neustrom, Isabella Wentzel, Anna Heckler, Katrina Drake, Elizabeth Odell.

Lions Club recycles used glasses to help those in third world countries

Submitted by Fred George

Lions Club International, which sponsors used glasses recycling and sends used glasses to third world countries, has 12 pickup locations in the Lamorinda area. The glasses are sent to a warehouse in Vallejo, where they are cleaned, sorted by prescription and then placed in envelopes for shipment on the next Lions' glasses mission to deliver them to poor people in Central

America, South America and Africa. Lions had 10 such missions last year to these various countries. Moraga Lions Club member Fred George said he personally went on one mission to El Salvador, where 2,200 people who could not afford glasses were outfitted in the little town of Zacatecoluca. Eleven Lions members from all over the United States went, including three optometrists.

The pickup points in the Lamorinda area are as follows:

Lafayette:

Lamorinda Optometry, 3581 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Jeremy Ensor Optometry, 284 Lafayette Circle
Optometry Store, 958 Moraga Blvd.

Moraga:

Rheem Valley Cleaners, 568 Center Street (Rheem)
5A Rent-A-Space, 455 Moraga Road, Suite F (Rheem)
The UPS Store, 1409 Moraga Road, Suite 1
Moraga Hardware and Lumber, 1409 Moraga Way
Mechanic's Bank (inside Safeway) 1355 Moraga Way
Moraga Optometry, 1001 Country Club Drive, Suite E
Professional Eyecare, 1030 Country Club Drive, Suite A

Orinda

Optometrists, 20 Orinda Way
Orinda Association offices below Orinda Library

Celebrations

Local student named California National Geographic State Bee semifinalist

Submitted by Jill Marek



Lafayette sixth-grader Ben Marek was notified by the National Geographic Society that he is one of the semifinalists eligible to compete in the 2018 California National Geographic State Bee. The contest will be held April 6 at Cal State University, Fresno.

At the school Bees this year, students had to answer questions like these: The Appalachian Mountains run through which

state—Georgia or Mississippi? (A: Georgia); and The North Platte and South Platte Rivers meet in which state—New Mexico or Nebraska? (A: Nebraska).

This is the second level of the National Geographic Bee competition, which is now in its 30th year. School Bees were held in schools with fourth- through eighth-grade students throughout the state to determine each school champion. School champions then took a qualifying test, which they submitted to the National Geographic Society. The National Geographic Society has invited up to 100 of the top-scoring students in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense Dependents Schools and U.S. territories to compete in the State Bees.

Visit www.natgeobee.org for more information on the National Geographic Bee.

Community Service: We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Orinda Troop 303 honors three new Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Cathy Lambert



From left: Liam Glynn, Walker Lambert, and Evan Drager.

Photos provided



The Challenger flag is returned to Troop 514 on Dec. 18, 1986 by astronaut Guy Bluford (second from right) in a formal ceremony at Falcon Air Force Base, Colo.

Boy Scout Troop 303 in Orinda inducted three new Eagle Scouts – Liam Glynn, Evan Draeger and Walker Lambert – at an Eagle Court of Honor March 17 at St. Stephens Church in Orinda. To earn this highest advancement rank in Scouting, Scouts must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills, complete at least 21 merit badges and organize and lead a service project benefiting his community. These three Miramonte High School seniors joined the less than 4 percent of all scouts who achieve Eagle Rank.

For his Eagle Scout project, Glynn refurbished a stairway and railing at Orinda Oaks Park. The project included 12 Scouts who contributed over 160 volunteer hours and included planning, materials sourcing, budgeting, city approvals, excavating 31 steps over a 70-linear-foot area, prepping the area and reinstalling new steps/dirt, and sanding/painting related handrails. The project improved safety and accessibility to the park, while educating the young Scouts about construction, restoration through hands on learning.

Draeger planned and built a 16-foot by 4-foot footbridge over Wagner Creek in the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. The project involved 17 Scouts and 184 volunteer hours. Work included bridge design, site preparation, staining, bridge assembly, and final installation of the bridge and railings. It provided the Scout volunteers the opportunity to learn how to paint and use a variety of tools. This ADA-compliant bridge provides year-round access to historically-important parts of the Nature Area. It also affords, for the first time, equal access to mobility-challenged individuals.

Lambert designed and directed the installation of an automated irrigation system with a water efficient, solar-sync controller for the garden beds at his former elementary school, Wagner Ranch for his Eagle service project. This project included 19 Scouts and 178 volunteer hours spent digging 350 feet

of 12- to 18-inch-deep trenches, connecting, laying and burying irrigation pipes and elbows, and attaching fittings and drip lines for eight beds and planting areas. This project will allow the garden beds, used for math and science lessons for grades K-5, to grow and flourish year-round while greatly reducing teacher and parent volunteer time spent watering.

Among the special guests in attendance at this Eagle Court of Honor were Orinda's Vice Mayor Inga Miller, who presented each Scout with a proclamation declaring a special day to be designated in their honor and Steve Adams, committee chair from Boys Scout Troop 514 in Monument, Colo. Adams began the celebration with a presentation about the history of "United States Space Shuttle Challenger Flag" which he brought with him from Colorado. This flag was originally ordered by William Tolbert for his Troop from the Valley Forge Flag Company who had arranged for the flag to be flown briefly over the United States Capitol building in Washington, on Jan. 25, 1985. It was submitted to the NASA Johnson Space Center by the 2d Space Wing, for flight on a space shuttle. On Jan. 28, 1986, it was carried in the "official flight kit" of the Challenger space shuttle on its last flight. It was sealed in plastic and was next to some souvenir medallions being flown by one of the astronauts. As the Challenger wreckage was brought up from the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean, rescuers found this flag, still in its sealed plastic bag, intact and completely unscathed. The souvenir medallions had melted into a single lump.

Troop 514 is still in possession of the Challenger flag. They continue to display it for certain special public events and Eagle Courts of Honor. This special flag was used in the opening and closing of the Eagle Court with the presentation and retiring of the colors by Troop 303 Color Guard: Malcolm Tom, Graham Berger, Aidan Young, Alex Meckes and Nicolai Bell.

Fifth-grader takes 2nd in Spelling Bee



Nadia Mujaddidi, fifth grader at Del Rey Elementary School in Orinda, took second place at the countywide spelling bee on March 24.

Photo provided

THT offers special event with flavorful food - and a fun behind-the-scenes tour

By Sophie Braccini



Suzie Shepard, left, and Lauren McCabe Herpich get ready for a food adventure at Town Hall Theatre.

Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette will become the conduit between Jane Austen and food this month when curious patrons explore how Jane Austen's "Sense and Sensibility" is brought to life by the local theater's team, while

tasting local delicious food along the way. The unique two-hour event will also take participants back to the early 20th century, 100 years after "Sense and Sensibility" was written, when Town Hall was first built, becoming the first meet-

ing place in the budding enclave.

The idea to bring Local Food Adventures to Town Hall Theatre was sparked from a conversation between Lafayette entrepreneur Lauren McCabe Herpich and THT's Suzie Shepard. Herpich, a

Lafayette resident, started leading food tours four years ago, first in Rockridge, then in different Oakland and Berkeley neighborhoods, and now in Lafayette. Her desire is to enhance people's curiosity about their communities by indulging in their sense of taste. Shepard saw an opportunity to celebrate the creativity of women, focusing on writer Jane Austen, theater director Susan Evans, restaurant manager Laura Magu of Rêve Bistro, entrepreneurs Linda Hofmeister and Susan Rossi of Hofssi chocolate, and more.

The result is an eclectic, entertaining, educational and delicious evening that will take participants through the history of THT, from its erection in 1914 as a town hall for community gatherings to becoming a theater in 1947, and its importance today. After indulging in different foods by Rêve Bistro and drinks by the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association, that evening's explorers will go backstage to see some of the secret ingredients behind THT's next main stage production, "Sense and Sensibility."

Shepard says that Managing Director Dennis Markam was

somewhat apprehensive at first about letting prospective future audience members in on some of the secrets of a coming production. Creating a show, and fabricating the illusion of reality on stage for a few hours, requires a lot of technique and know-how. People will be able to access the mechanical room and explore some of the machinery, talk to the costume designer and learn the tricks used to create realistic costumes that sometimes have to come off and on very quickly. They will also engage in a conversation with Susan Evans, THT's artistic director who will direct this last show of the season, and learn about the vision of the novel she is bringing to the stage.

Other goodies will be offered along the way such as learning the proper way to taste authentic extra virgin olive oils and balsamic vinegar flavors inspired by Jane Austen's literary work.

The April 14 tour is unique and limited to 24 guests. Tickets are \$40 for subscribers and \$45 for non-subscribers, and are available through the Box Office at (925) 283-1557 or online at www.townhalltheatre.com/com-engagement/.

'Impressionism Times 2' at the Moraga Art Gallery

By Sophie Braccini



Jacqueline Proulx with her son and one of her grandsons on the exhibition's opening day

Photos Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Art Gallery always showcases interesting local artists, and once in a while, offers the unexpected pleasure of an international discovery. This is the case with the current exhibition, "Impressionism Times 2," which

showcases local artist of French-Canadian origin Jacqueline Proulx, along with a friend from her past, internationally recognized Canadian artist Rita Rodrigue, for their first Bay Area exhibition.

When Proulx and Rodrigue

were in college in Ottawa together, one of their most influential professors introduced them to impressionism. Both young women were touched at a deep level with how impressionism represents reality by focusing more on transmitting the feeling a specific scene is evoking than on its actual physical form. Proulx with her ceramics and Rodrigue with her paintings embarked on that road during the first steps of their artistic development.

Today, years later, the two friends are in what Proulx call the "Times 2" of their artistic expression, and what they are presenting at the Moraga gallery is the different products that started to grow in close proximity.

Proulx lived most of her life in Québec, and did not become a full-time artist until she took early retirement. She built her first ceramist studio in her Montréal condo, before purchasing a home on the beach on the Ile d'Orléans where the artistic community flourishes. When her son moved to California, Proulx started spending six months of the year here, until she became a grandmother and decided to settle in the East Bay for good. She says she found at the Moraga Art Gallery an open, friendly and supportive community of artists where she feels at home.

She is now delighted to practice her art at the Red Ox Clay Studio in Concord where she can work with a gas kiln that allows

for experimentation at very high temperatures. What she presents at the Moraga Gallery are delicately decorated and evocative ceramic pieces that are true to her love of impressionism. She recalls a recent trip to Monet's house in Giverny. The extraordinary feeling of evanescent yet eternal beauty coming from nature that she felt there is what she impresses on the clay, and shares with others.

That path down Giverny's alleys is not exactly that of Rodrigue. Earlier year's work of the renowned artist where still imbued with impressionism, but her later work as presented at the gallery has evolved toward abstraction.

Rodrigue is one of those few artists who have been able to live off their art from the start. She has a solid group of followers-collectors all over the world who appreciate and invest in her creations. The pieces presented at the gallery are striking and evocative mixed media conceptions. Each piece evokes a 3D totem, presenting different layers of photography, drawings, and plastic material. The visual effect plays with reflections, drawing the eye of spectators from a general vision of the piece to exploring the details of the intricate creation. Rodrigue says of her works that the image is transformed from the second to the third dimension - from the temporal to the atemporal.

Rodrigue has been featured



Painting by Rita Rodrigue

in solo and collective exhibitions numerous times in Canada, and abroad at the Museum of Modern Art in Seoul, South Korea, at the Fremantle Museum Arts Centre in Australia, and at the Galerie Art-Tournelle in Paris, France, as well as the Gallery La Aduana in Baranquilla, Colombia.

The show, which also includes the gallery's 13 member artists and several guest artists, runs until June 2. The gallery is located in the Rheem Shopping Center, at 522 Center Street, Moraga. Its hours are Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.moragaartgallery.com.

Local moms run for a good cause

Submitted by Laura Liu and Jamiel Liu



Front, from left: Jennifer Xu, Hanbin Liu, Mengzhi Hu, Peiyong Lo, Jin Yang, and Lan Yu; back: Juan Chen-Olsen, Liyan Hou, Ye Liu, Alice Zhang, Helen Li, Yan Heim, and Ada Ling. Photo provided

A group of 13 Lamorinda moms participated in the March 25 Oakland Running Festival. This time, however, it was for good reason.

It began when Yan Heim proposed the idea to two friends, Helen Li and Ye Liu, about fundraising for CALICO, the non-profit Child Abuse, Listening,

Interviewing, and Coordination center dealing with victims of child abuse, located in San Leandro (of which Heim is a board member). Li and Liu were

touched by Heim's passion for the abused children and decided that they wanted to do something to help.

Since all three women belonged to a local fitness group, they decided to form a running team and participate in the festival. Their goal? Raise \$5,000 for CALICO. They made an announcement through social media and the responses the trio received were overwhelming. Two weeks from the day of the race, they had already reached their initial goal of \$5,000. People from the local community, their friends and colleagues in both the States and China, poured out their support through pledges and donations. As the captain of the team, Liu decided to raise the goal to \$8,000, an amount surpassed soon after. The goal was then raised again to \$10,000. Just before day of the race, they reached their goal. However, it didn't stop there: on the day of the race, just

over \$12,500 had been raised.

During the endeavor, seven other women joined the team. Soon after, three more women joined the team. Collectively, they reached out to about 4,000 people. They participated in all the events: a few of them ran the 5K, others a half marathon, and four in the full marathon relay. One of the moms, Alice Zhang, even got her teenage son to volunteer for CALICO on the day of event.

According to Liu, "All of us were determined to run with the best of our abilities because we believe people will respond better when you put forth your best effort." Running with a cause is such a rewarding experience for us, like what another team member, who is the Champion of this fund raising effort, Juan Chen-Olsen said, "You are not just running to challenge yourself, but you are running to shed light into another's life! We are all together."

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ART

"Darker Shades of Red" provides a rare opportunity to revisit the Cold War Era through the exploration of the Soviet Union's official imagery through May 20 at the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art. The collection of 55 posters reveals the economic, social and political ideology of the Soviet Union during the Cold War. The Museum is open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum

Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery presents "Bio-Genesis" - Jill Taffet and Judith White Marcellini through April 7. New work by Taffet and White Marcellini explores the intersection of art and science. Their curiosity extends to the moment of creation and consciousness, and results in work that asks questions, and entertains. Immerse yourself in the projections and moving imagery of Taffet's hand-drawn cel animation. View with wonder the detailed paper sculptures of White Marcellini's creatures inspired by the Cambrian Explosion.

12th Annual Arts Ambassadors Exhibit, celebrating music and artwork from Orinda students. The Exhibition will run through April 15 at the Orinda Library Art Gallery, with a reception from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on April 12. Gallery is open for viewing artworks while mixing and mingling with the arts ambassadors.

MUSIC

University of California Alumni Chorus and Chamber Chorus presents Voices of Change II; We Must Have a Dream - A program commemorating the life and leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the 50th anniversary of his assassination at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 4 in Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley campus. Featured works are Undine Smith Moore's Scenes From the Life of a Martyr with narration by Noah Griffin, and the premiere of a new commissioned work by Paul Ayres with text from a sermon by Dr. King. Tickets: \$20 - \$15 - \$10 at Brown Paper Tickets (brownpapertickets.com), or at the door. www.ucac.net

Poetry/Music: Where Words and Music Meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 11 in the Orinda Library Auditorium. Join us for a delightful meeting of music and poetry ranging from Shakespeare to Robert Frost and Maya Angelou. The chamber jazz duo Poetry/Music combines poetry, exquisite music and visual images for a truly unique multi-media experience.

Treat yourself to a lively concert of up-tempo numbers, dance tunes, and instrumental jazz soloists under the direction of maestro John Maltester. Saint Mary's Jazz Band concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 13 at the Soda Center Claeys Lounge, 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. Open to the public- tickets \$5.

Pacific Chamber Orchestra director Lawrence Kohl presents "American Radio Hour" starting at 7:30 p.m. on April 21 at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church 49 Knox, Lafayette and at 2 p.m. on April 22 at the Bankhead Theatre 2100 First Street, Livermore. You will be the live studio audience for Scott Joplin's delightful rag-time hit "The Entertainer"; George Gershwin's sweet "Lullaby for Strings"; Charles Ives' amusing "Three Short Pieces" and Aaron Copland's masterful "Appalachian Spring". Tickets are \$10 - \$59 and for both locations may be purchased through the PCO website: PacificChamberOrchestra.org.

Voci Concerts Celebrate the Elements at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 15 at St. Mary Magdalen Church, 2005 Berryman Street, Berkeley and at 2 p.m. on April 21 at St Paul's Episcopal Church, 114 Montecito Avenue, Oakland. The concert will feature beautiful and dramatic choral music about Earth, Air, Fire and Water from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. Tickets: \$25 at the door, \$20 advance, \$15 students, free for chil-

dren 6 to 12. Available at the door or online at www.vocisings.org.

The Founder's Day Concert celebrates the anniversary of the creation by Rosamond Davis of the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society (CCPAS; www.ccpas.org) in 1974. This free concert features 10 different groups of performers and covers the spectrum of musical styles from classical, jazz, modern, and new compositions by members of the CCPAS. The concert will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. Saturday, April 21 in the Sanctuary of Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Boulevard, Walnut Creek.

THEATER

Town Hall Theatre History Guided by Local Food Adventures: The Powerful Jane Austen and The Women Behind Town Hall from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 14 at the Town Hall Theatre Company, 3535 School Street, Lafayette. Tickets: \$40 Town Hall Theatre subscribers; \$45 non-subscribers. Box office: (925) 283-1557; www.townhalltheatre.com

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Bay Area Kids' Book Fair - East Bay Edition from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 8. Free event with authors, illustrators, publishers, booksellers, educational programs, toys, comics, games and commercial vendors. Meet and greet Peter Rabbit, Geronimo Stilton and The Cat in the Hat. Storytelling, free Legos play and free arts activities at Acalanes High School, 1200 Pleasant Hill Rd., Lafayette. Free admission parking. www.BayAreaKids-BookFair.com

Helping Your Teen Navigate Difficult Decisions from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 10 in the Acalanes High School Library. Choosing between two or three colleges? Then this talk is right for you. Help teens feel more prepared to make that final college decision by learning a new way to think about making difficult choices and the trade-offs that often accompany them. The experts from Decide LLC will walk through a final-college-decision case study to impart their method for making difficult decisions that can help students move forward with clarity and confidence. Free. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/navigating-difficult-decisions-with-your-teen-tickets-44167272501>

Engender Playgroup for gender variant kids and their parents. Join us for a spring activity and playtime from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28 in Orinda. For location, please email Sandra at sandra@engendermow.org. For more information about the Engender organization, visit Engendermow.org.

OTHER

Find your best friend at Community Concern for Cats' adoption event from 1 to 4 p.m., April 7 and 8. Locations are Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information, see www.community-concernforcats.org.

Sarah Jones, Earthquake Consultant will discuss, "Preparation for the Big One" from 7-9 p.m. on Monday, April 9 at the April meeting of the Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County held in the Ball Auditorium at John Muir Medical Center - Walnut Creek Campus (1601 Ygnacio Valley Road). After the program, attendees will break up into three coping groups: stroke survivors without aphasia, stroke survivors with aphasia, and caregivers and families of stroke survivors -- each group led by a trained professional. For further information contact Ann Dzuna at 925-376-6218. Meetings are free and open to the public.

American Red Cross Blood Drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 11 at the Hacienda de las Flores, La Sala Building, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga. Schedule an appointment at Red Cross (sponsor code:

townofmoraga) or call 800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767). Contact Kelly Clancy or (925) 888-7040 for more information.

Giorgio Tavechhio, a Campo grad who is a kicker for the Oakland Raiders, will be the special guest speaker at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church Men's Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 11 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center. Tickets are \$25 via www.mvpctoday.org and must be purchased by April 4.

Do you wonder what is appropriate to wear at your age? Or, if you should let your hair grow its natural gray color? Learning a few age defying secrets can help you master a flawless image. Join owner of Lafayette Beauty and Certified Image Consultant, Carrie LaShell, for an interactive class and discussion on all the questions you may have on looking your best whether you're 30 or 75! The class will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on April 12 at Lafayette Beauty 3606 Mount Diablo Blvd in Lafayette. Cost: \$29 plus receive a \$15 gift card to Lafayette Beauty the night of the class. Call or email to reserve your spot. Space is limited. (925) 284-8600, carrie@suchsavvystyle.com

The Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC) announces that tickets are on sale for the Third Annual Lamorinda ShortDocs Film Fest, which takes place at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 15 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. Tickets are \$10 online in advance, and will be \$15 at the door.

Creative Aging: A Workshop in Renewal through Creativity at 10:30 a.m. Monday, April 16 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. Join us for a highly interactive experience that will help you access your creativity and open the way to greater awareness and satisfaction. Presented by Keith Torgan of Green Golly.

Grand reopening celebration at Sanctuaire Spa in Lafayette (formerly Marilyn Monroe Spa) from 4 to 8 p.m. on April 18 at 3589 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Explore the spacious 2,000-square-foot spa equipped with a relaxation lounge, sauna and steam rooms, single and couple treatment rooms, a hair and blow dry salon, and pedicure and manicure room. The first 70 attendees will receive a free swag bag from Jan Marini Skin Research.

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church invites you to "Remember, Renew and Refill—a Journey Through Grief," a workshop and luncheon to honor our lost loved ones from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 21. The event is free to high school and adult participants, however please RSVP by April 18 online at mvpctoday.org or by calling Colleen Giovanni: (925) 376-4800 x285. 10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga.

The annual Wine and Dine tour will be happening this year from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 1 in and around Theatre Square in Orinda. The very fun event includes sampling foods from new and long standing restaurants, a free glass of wine from the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association, live music with Lamorinda Idols, Sunjams, school groups and more. Tickets are \$40 at OrindaChamber.org, or, to support Orinda schools at OrindaEFO.org.

Area residents who own classic cars are invited to participate in the 11th annual Moraga Classic Car Show, which takes place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 12 as part of the 2018 Moraga Community Faire. The \$35 registration fee includes an entry ribbon, lunch for two, a commemorative photo, and a chance for owners to display their restoration work to the public. Prizes will be awarded. The registration deadline is May 2, but space is limited to 70 cars, so register early to secure a spot. To register, go to www.moragachamber.org/faire or, call Gloria at (925) 247-4473.

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Virtual Reality and Dogs at the Orinda Theatre

By Derek Zembrak

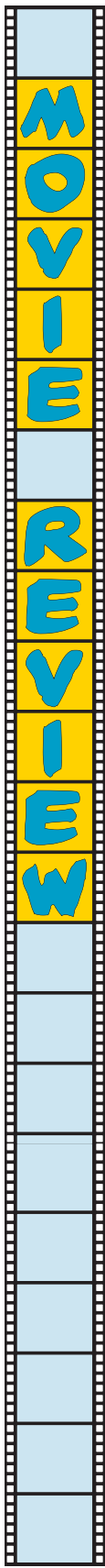


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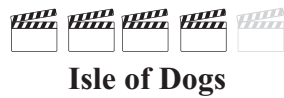


Image provided

The film "Ready Player One" starts out with the great Van Halen song, "Jump," playing in the background. What's not to like when a movie gets you rocking at the beginning?

Based on the bestseller science fiction novel from 2011 by Ernest Cline, "Ready Player One" is directed by Oscar winner Steven Spielberg. Set in 2045, with the world in chaos and nearing collapse, people find escape in a virtual reality universe called the Oasis. This world was created by a brilliant and eccentric individual by the name of James Halliday, who is portrayed by Oscar winner Mark Rylance ("Bridge of Spies"). When Halliday passes away he leaves his fortune to the first person to find the hidden digital Easter egg located somewhere in the Oasis.

"Ready Player One" is an entertaining film that pays homage to many Hollywood classics such as "Back to the Future" (yes, there is a DeLorean in the movie), "King Kong," "The Shining" and many more. As with any virtual reality video game there is so much to see. This movie should be seen on the biggest screen possible. It is good to see Spielberg get back to the genre that made him successful.

"Ready Player One" is rated PG-13 for sequences of sci-fi action violence, bloody images, some suggestive material, partial nudity

and language. It has a total running time of 2 hours and 20 minutes. Yes, a bit long to be in the Oasis.

"Isle of Dogs" is a stop-motion animated film from director Wes Anderson. As with previous Anderson films, like "Moonrise Kingdom" (2010) and "The Royal Tenenbaums" (2001), "Isle of Dogs" has that same quirky comedy style. The stop motion animation has the same feel as Anderson's 2009 Oscar-nominated film "Fantastic Mr. Fox."

This time around the movie takes place in the future and is set in the city of Megasaki, Japan where Mayor Kobayashi has ruled that dogs can no longer live in the city limits and must all be transported to Trash Island. Arika, a 12-year-old boy, is determined to save his dog, Spots. He travels to Trash Island and befriends a pack of dogs to assist him in locating Spots.

I truly enjoyed this film, but Anderson's style is not for everyone. There is a lot of Japanese in the movie, but Anderson chooses not to add subtitles, which adds to the film's quirkiness.

"Isle of Dogs" is rated PG-13 for thematic elements and violent images and has a total running time of 1 hour and 41 minutes. This movie is not for little kids.

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| | |
|---|---|
| April 6 Four Russian women and local Rotarian Dick Burkhalter with U.S. Activist Sharon Tennison, President of the Center for Citizens Initiatives, to forge a constructive relationship with the Soviet Union. | April 13 Club Assembly |
|---|---|

April hath put a Spirit of Youth in Everything. William Shakespeare

Lafayette Rotary Club

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www.rotarylafayette.org
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Not to be missed Not to be missed

OTHER ... continued

The 2018 Moraga Community Faire & Car Show will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 12 at the town's Rheem Valley Shopping Center - offering a wonderful opportunity for a "family fun day". Kid's Zone activities include pony rides, climbing wall, bounce house and basketball shoots. Grab a quick lunch at the food trucks, relax with a glass of local wine or beer and check out the over 70 amazing classic cars. Introduce yourself to over 50 local artists, business and organizations. Live entertainment will be presented all afternoon from the Saint Mary's Jazz Band to local Battle of the Bands winners. For more information, visit www.moragachamber.org/faire.

POLITICAL GATHERINGS

Lamorinda Republican Women Federated monthly luncheon from 10:15 to 1:30 p.m. on April 19 at the Orinda Country Club. The speaker is Timothy Donnelly, who is a Republican Candidate running in the primary for Congressional District 8. He has served as an assemblyman in the California State Assembly and has written for Breitbart. Cost of event: luncheon and speaker \$31; speaker only \$15; speaker only student discount \$5.

SENIORS

Creative Aging: A Workshop in Renewal through Creativity at 10:30 a.m. Monday, April 16 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. Join us for a highly interactive experience that will help you access your creativity and open the way to greater awareness and satisfaction.

GARDEN

The Walnut Creek Garden Club meeting will begin at 9:45 a.m. Monday, April 9 at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek. "Fifty Years in the Nursery Business and I Still Love to Smell the Roses!" Buzz Bertolero is well known in the community as the former owner of Navlets Nurseries. We invite you to attend a meeting. Questions: mslittle44@gmail.com

Lafayette Garden Club April meeting from 9:45 a.m. to noon on April 12 at Lafayette Veteran's Building located at 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Program: Aesthetic Pruning of Japanese Maples, featuring speaker Yuki Nora, who will share her extensive expertise about how best to care for these beautiful trees. The Japanese maple, when pruned well, has an essence of grace and elegance. www.lafayettegardenclub.com

Montelindo Garden Club March Meeting (third Friday of every month, September through May) will be at 9 a.m. Friday, April 20 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Presentation: The History of Mt. Diablo and its Open Space Preservation by Seth Adams, the Land Conservation Director at Save Mount Diablo. Since 1988, Adams has contributed to SMD's growth into a major force for conservation in the East Bay. Everyone is welcome.

The Lafayette Garden Club will hold its first garden tour in many years from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 12, at a series of five unique, private gardens in Lamorinda. The tour, Artful Gardens, also will include a pop-up market and a plant sale. The tour can give you good ideas of what you might want to do in your garden, to learn about new plants, and to have a fun day out with friends and family. The pop-up market, which will be located at one of the gardens, will offer a wide selection from local artisans featuring jewelry, ceramics, botanical art and specialty food items. The plant sale will include specimens propagated by club members. Tickets cost \$40 or \$35 each when four or more are purchased. lafayettegardenclub.com

Lamorinda Weekly
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Contact us:
Letters to the editor (max 350 words): letters@lamorindaweekly.com
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In Memory

Kathy Hillis Wood



Kathy Hillis Wood passed away on March 12, 2018 surrounded by her family in her home in Orinda, California from a six-month battle with lung cancer. Kathy touched many lives in her 74 years and will be missed and remembered by all.

Kathy was the eldest child of Fair and Charles "Chuck" Phipps of The Dalles, Oregon. Born on March 4, 1944 in Chicago, Illinois, she grew up in The Dalles, was a member of the high school National Honor Society and Homecoming Queen. She spent summers filled always with friends and family at her family's summer cottage on the beach in Neskowin, Oregon.

She married Allen Michael "Mike" Hillis in 1966, and lived in Bend, Oregon, where they reared their two children, Heidi and Greg. She married J. Roger Wood in 2005 and became step mother to Roger's children Heather, Whitney and Derrick. She graduated from the University of Oregon in 1966 with a BA in French and was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority where she made life-long friendships.

Kathy met the love of her life, Roger Wood, 1997, and they were married in 2005. After retiring from Wells Fargo Bank and moving to Orinda, Kathy assumed perhaps her favorite role: that of grandmother to her seven grandchildren from her two children and Roger's three children. Whether Kathy was going to the farmer's market or to a glamorous evening party, she always looked beautiful. With a strong sense of self, unwavering confidence and a gracious caring, she nurtured many friendships in Oregon, Utah and California.

Kathy is survived by her husband Roger, her sister Gayle Meredith (Ralph), her two children, Heidi Hillis-Koerber (Damien), Greg Hillis, and three step-children, Heather Wall (Tyler), Whitney Wood and Derrick Wood (Kirsten). And her much-loved grandchildren: Max, Sam, Ashley, Parker, Luke, Connor, and Sadie.

Our family wishes to thank our dear friends who have provided food, love and support. A Celebration of Life was held in Orinda, California March 31st.

Tis the season for this delightful, delicious dessert

By Susie Iventosch



Angel food cake with strawberries and white chocolate mousse filling Photo Susie Iventosch

Cooking Term of the Week

Clarified Butter

Clarified butter is butter made clear by heating and removing the milk solid sediment and the water from the melted butter, leaving only the pure butterfat behind. The reason for clarified butter is to remove the solids, which can burn or smoke, and the water which boils at a lower temperature and causes splattering when heated.

Angel Food Cake with White Chocolate Mousse and fresh strawberries

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup plus 2 Tbsp. sifted cake flour
- 1 ½ cups sugar, divided
- 1 ¾ cups egg whites (10-12), at room temperature
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 1 ¼ tsp. cream of tartar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- ¼ tsp. almond extract
- 1 recipe White Chocolate Mousse (recipe below)
- 1 pint fresh strawberries, leaves removed and thinly sliced
- 1 recipe bittersweet chocolate sauce and/or 1 cup of fresh strawberry puree (recipes below)

DIRECTIONS

In a medium bowl, mix together sifted cake flour with ½ cup of the granulated sugar. Set aside. In a large bowl combine egg whites, cream of tartar and salt. Beat on high speed of an electric mixer until soft peaks form. Slowly add remaining 1 cup sugar, 2 Tbsp. at a time, beating well after each addition. The egg whites will become shiny and very fluffy and stiff at this point. Stir in vanilla and almond flavorings. Gently, fold flour into the batter, ¼ cup at a time. Carefully mix, but do not beat.

Pour batter out into an ungreased 9- or 10-inch removable bottom tube pan and bake at 375 F 30-35 minutes for a 10-inch pan, or 35-40 minutes for a 9-inch pan. The cake will turn golden-brown and a bit crackly on top and will spring back when touched. Remove from oven and cool in pan, upside down for 30 minutes to an hour. (The points on the top of the tube pan are designed for resting the cake upside down, but if you don't have that kind of pan, simply invert it over a nice heavy wine bottle.) Once cooled, carefully slide a knife around the edges of the pan to loosen cake and remove from pan. Then slide the knife between the cake and the bottom of the pan and all around the tube

part of the pan. Remove cake from pan entirely. Rest on cooling rack. When ready to fill, cut cake in thirds, horizontally for filling.

White Chocolate Mousse

INGREDIENTS

- 2 egg whites, at room temperature
- ¼ tsp. cream of tartar
- 6 Tbsp. extra fine granulated sugar
- 1 cup heavy cream
- Optional: Whipped cream stabilizer (*see notes at end of recipe)
- 6 ounces white chocolate (Baker's packages this kind of chocolate, but be careful to not get the white, vanilla chips, but rather the white chocolate bar.)
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS

In a large metal or glass bowl, beat egg whites with cream of tartar until soft peaks form. Slowly add sugar, and continue to beat until shiny and stiff meringue peaks form. Set aside. Melt white chocolate in a sauce pan or the microwave. Cool to room temperature. Beat heavy cream until stiff peaks form. Slowly fold cooled white chocolate into whipped cream. Gently stir in vanilla. Then fold whipped cream mixture into meringue mixture. Cover and chill until ready to fill cake.

To Assemble Cake:

Remove angel food cake from the pan entirely, tube and all, and orient the cake with the widest part at the bottom or upside down. Then slice it into 3 equal layers horizontally. Remove the first two layers and set them aside. Place first layer on your cake plate. Spread 1/3 of the filling on top of the bottom layer, and place thinly sliced strawberries over the entire layer. Place second

layer on top of strawberries and repeat the process ending with the top layer of cake. Reserve final third of mousse for garnish. Dust the top of the cake with sifted powdered sugar and decorate with fresh flowers in the cavity. Serve with a spoonful of reserved white chocolate mousse and either or both bittersweet chocolate sauce and/or strawberry purée.

and all of the sugar was added, and the cake didn't rise nearly as much. It also lacked volume and flavor. While liquid egg whites are fine for breakfast, I don't suggest using them in an angel food cake!

As seasonal fruits become available, be sure to try this with your favorite berries or stone fruits, too!



Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com.

This recipe can be found on our website: www.lamorindaweekly.com. If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977.

Bittersweet Chocolate Sauce

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup of bittersweet chocolate chips
- 1/4-1/3 cup water
- 2 Tbsp. agave syrup
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS

Place chocolate chips in a small sauce pot. Add water, agave and vanilla. Heat over medium heat until all is melted. Bring to a boil and stir until well-incorporated. Remove from heat.

Strawberry Purée

Remove stems from 1 pint of fresh strawberries and wash berries. Place in a food processor and purée. Add a dash of sugar if berries are not very sweet.

NOTE* When using whipped cream in desserts it is a good idea to add a stabilizer if you want the cream to hold up for any length of time. If you plan to serve the cake within a few hours, no need to worry about this, but whipped cream begins to wilt or weep after several hours. However, with the addition of a stabilizer, it will hold up for days. I used a powdered stabilizer that I purchased at a cake decorating supply store for a wedding cake I made a couple of years ago, but you can also use bloomed plain gelatin to stabilize the whipped cream. Here is a link that illustrates how to do that: <https://ourbestbites.com/2015/11/how-to-make-stabilized-whipped-cream/>.

How well is your high school preparing your student for college success?

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

We all know that seats in the freshman classes at the University of California campuses are in more demand than ever. We have one of the best and most selective state university systems in the U.S. Parents deserve to know if their local high schools will effectively prepare their children for admission to one or more of its university campuses. They deserve to know that information quickly and easily. This article explains where to find some of the most basic information for your high school.

Admissions are more competitive than ever, partly because there are more competitive applicants than ever before. According to EdSource, a nonpartisan, nonprofit resource on K-12 and higher education in California, there has been a massive increase in the numbers and percentages of students meeting A-G Coursework requirements needed for admission to the University of California and California State University systems (<https://www.ucop.edu/aguide/a-g-requirements/>). Over the last five years EdSource reports that the number of A-G eligible applicants has increased by 28 percent.

Fulfilling A-G requirements is just a start to building a strong academic profile for college admissions, but it helps to know if your local public and private high schools have had success in guiding students to complete these minimal require-

ments. To learn how to use School Dashboard and find out how your high school performs on this measure of college readiness, read on!

Last month, the California Department of Education launched a School Dashboard. The Dashboard is intended to present parents and policy makers with more and better measures of educational quality in a user-friendly format. The Dashboard placed College and Career Preparation front and center as a measure for all students. But it did not make A-G information easy to find. This is a major flaw in the system, considering how UC and CSU campuses are among the target schools for many college-bound students and their families. This article is intended to help you find that information for your high school, or high schools you may be researching for your student.

First, go to California School Dashboard Home Page (<https://www.caschooldashboard.org/#/Home>). Enter the name of your school, and then press the 'Search' button. After you see your search results, choose your school. You'll come to a home page with four tabs (Equity Report, Status and Change Report, Detailed Report and Student Group Report). Now here's the tricky part. You must take a different path to find out how well your high school prepares its students to meet the required A-G requirements.

Click the tab 'Detailed Report.' You'll see a one-year purple color graph on the right that tells you what percentage of the Class of 2016 was "prepared" or "approaching prepared" for college. High numbers sound nice, but they tell you nothing about meeting A-G requirements.

Now click a link below that table on the right and you'll go to a page that will take you to the real story (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/>). Choose College/Career Indicator Reports and Data, enter the name of your high school again, select it and you will find those measures. Measure E gives you the number and percentage of students who completed courses that met the A-G requirements – you have to scroll down the page a bit to get to Measure E, but it is there!

I wish that this information had been at the very front of the School Dashboard for you (and for me) to find. I also wish that I did not need three detailed paragraphs to explain how to help you to find it.

It's important to know that our schools might be good in other measures, and also where there is room for improvement. This type of information along with parental pressure leads schools to offer programs that improve student achievements and graduation rates.

To learn more about how to build a comprehensive academic and extracurricular profile that goes well beyond A-G

requirements and make your student not only eligible, but competitive, read more about the top 10 factors that impact college admissions decisions at <http://www.doingcollege.com/resources/top-ten-factors-influencing-college-admissions/>.



Elizabeth LaScala, PhD, brings decades of admissions expertise to personally guide each student through applying to well-matched colleges, making each step more manageable and less stressful. She has placed hundreds of students in the most prestigious colleges and universities in the U.S. Reach her at (925) 385-0562 (office) or (925) 330-8801 (mobile), or online at www.doingcollege.com or Elizabeth@doingcollege.com.

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Strong season starts for Lamorinda volleyball

By Jon Kingdon

With 12 seniors and juniors on the roster, one would think that Acalanes would be perceived as a very experienced team. Not quite, according to head coach Mason Mulvaney: "We are pretty mature but we only start one senior, a freshman (Austin Kinnear), a sophomore (Nikolai Heffernan) and the rest of the starters are juniors so we are in a bit of a transition year." With a 6-3 record so far, it's a transition most teams would welcome.

The Dons have had to battle through a number of distractions early in the season. With the basketball team making the playoffs, access to the gym was limited. Says Mulvaney: "It's been a little bit of a process. We have had a lot of injuries and sickness. It's only been the last two weeks where everyone has been available."

Mulvaney has come to appreciate the willingness of his team to fill in and do what is necessary for the good of the team: "Collin Kerbach has moved to setter when starting setter Raymond Ko went down with a wrist injury. Kinnear, who played on a national championship club team, has also played setter and outside, doing whatever has been needed. It's been a great group that has been able to step up and fill the voids."

The strength of Acalanes would be their offense and hitting, taking advantage of their size and blocking at the net.

Mulvaney is looking for more consistency in general and improvement in their receiving service and specifically in passing: "With Kerbach our only returning starter, we've played up and down. I am looking for the consistency to build towards the playoffs so we will have to maintain a level of focus and improve internally."

With so many changes on the team, Mulvaney has come to rely on his two team captains, juniors Kerbach, a three-year starter and Alex Franke, a second-year player. Says Mulvaney: "Kerbach is my floor captain. He is the most experienced player on the team, a leader on and off the court. Franke brings a great attitude to the court. He is a very skilled, attacking player who is very positive and competitive."

The defense is led by junior Lane Altbaum, starting for the first time though it is the fourth year an Altbaum is the team's libero with Lane replacing his brother Brad who was the starter



Austin Kinnear (Acalanes)



Photos Gint Federas

the last three years. Junior Ethan Brown is an outside hitter that Mulvaney starts in the back to take advantage of his passing and his ability to swing from the back row.

Coming off an undefeated league season, Mulvaney is optimistic about the upcoming league season but is looking for more success in the post-season playoffs.

With Campolindo coming off a successful 2017 season (31-4) losing to Saratoga in the state tournament, most coaches would have concerns with losing so many graduating seniors. Not so for head coach David Chan. Chan only lost four players from last year's team and in his plan to not be caught short through graduation, has five sophomores and freshman along with 10 seniors and juniors on this year's team.

With a 14-4 record this season, team chemistry remains a strength, according to Chan: "The returning players are searching for their place in the program's history. They want to leave their mark alongside the other teams that have passed through the program. We are learning about the new players toughness and competitive drive."

Chan has put an emphasis on the team coming together: "With the addition of five new players,

three being freshmen, we have to build a trust and bond with one another. This comes with battling alongside each other day in and day out."

Leading the offense has been seniors Ryan Nagle and Grant Larsen. Also stepping up are two freshman, Ben Blakely and Jeremy Enriquez. Says Chan: "Ben and Jeremy have an aggressive, competitive nature and are acclimating to the varsity scene. Still we always emphasize balance and distribution to make sure everyone plays their role on the team."

With such a veteran team, there is no one strong, vocal leader, which is a bit of a concern for Chan: "Since we may lack vocal leadership, we are strengthening our nonverbal communication skills and maintain consistent, positive body language. Credit goes to the seniors as they are helping to guide the group as they search for their own leadership styles."

The Cougar defense is still a work in progress. Chan appreciates how important the libero position is and is still looking for someone to step up and take over that position: "We want our players to continue to compete for this role and the player who ultimately gets it will be the most driven and gritty competitor. We are not the biggest team so we will need to play some suffocating defense to give us a better chance to be successful."

Returning after a hiatus from coaching, head coach Manoa Koepka brings over 10 years of coaching experience to his first year at Miramonte. Coming off a disappointing 2017 season (2-15), Koepka is not looking back: "Last year's record does not matter to me. My goal is to build a culture among my players of giving 100 percent in everything they do. It can be tough but I believe the players are really coming along."

Having been hired only two weeks prior to tryouts and unable to attend any tournaments or jamborees has initially set back the Matadors but Koepka remains optimistic: "We're behind the curve regarding playing time but every time we play, we get better. We have a number of experienced and inexperienced players. What they all have in common is a fantastic and positive attitude, with everyone giving their best effort at every practice and game."

With this team, leadership among the players is crucial. Set-

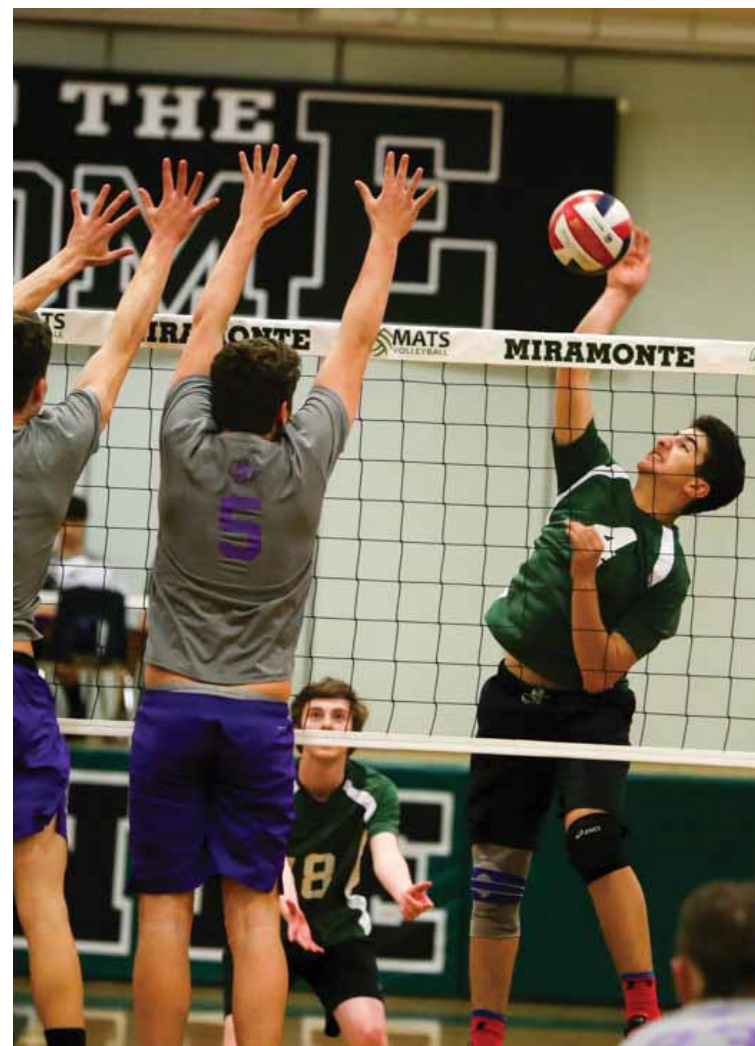
ter Wesley Ishizu and outside hitter Nick Luckenbach both bring a lot of experience from playing club volleyball. Says Koepka: "Their experience gives them the ability to help our more inexperienced players. It is like having a couple of extra coaches on the court at all times."

Leading the time in kills are Luckenbach and middle Evan Karrie-Kivel. Daniel Lucas and Spencer Lang are improving with each game. Faran Sami has been effective from the service line and Chris Huang has stepped up his game in hitting and serving. All the talent in the world will not work if there isn't a setter to put the ball in the right spot. Says Koepka: "I can't say enough about Ishizu's setting and running the offense. Our hitters have really started to take advantage of his ability to set away from block-

ers."

The Matadors defense is led by libero Ethan Luckenbach. Says Koepka appreciatively: "He is one of the best liberos I've ever coached, not only from a skill perspective but he is also very cerebral about the game. David Deng is also playing very tough defense." Koepka is looking forward to the return of Jon Holobetz who has missed the last two weeks due to injury.

Working out the kinks in a so far winless season has not set back his team, says Koepka: "The varsity and the JV teams have a really great spirit. They always have something positive to say and they want their teammates to succeed. It has really made the season fun so far. I am excited to see the boys continue their learning throughout the season."





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Concussion protocols instituted to save damage to brains

By John T. Miller



Photos Gint Federas

While an aging generation of athletes once joked about “seeing stars,” or “having their bell rung,” the current generation is becoming more aware of long-term damage as a result of concussions and taking extra precautions to avoid them.

A proliferation of sports medicine classes at the high school level, and a new set of protocols for recovery from a concussion have heightened awareness and safety nets around the injury, especially at the high school level.

Dr. Robert Mooney, a long-time Saranap resident who toiled in Kaiser Permanent's emergency departments for 30 years before joining Stat Med Urgent Care in Lafayette, says, “The goal is to get the athlete back to school and their sport as quickly and as safely as they can get there.

“The thinking on concussions has changed dramatically,” says Mooney. “At Kaiser, I saw many patients with concussions and it struck me that these patients had nowhere to go to seek relief from their symptoms.”

In his efforts to develop a concussion program after joining Stat Med, Mooney studied online through the University of Pittsburgh, where the book and movie “Concussion” was based. In the movie, and in real life, findings from slides of the brain of Pittsburgh Steelers Hall of Fame center “Iron Mike” Webster resembled patterns of Alzheimer's disease and punch drunk boxers.

“Over the last 20 years, some of the best literature has come out of the University of Pittsburgh,” says Mooney, “and the procedures on how to treat concussions has changed drastically.”

Currently, the California Interscholastic Federation has instituted protocols for recovery that sports teams in the state must follow. A student must first complete a five-stage recovery program called the Return to Learn Protocol, which prescribes guidelines for home, school, and physical activities. Mooney noted that it might take up to three weeks for a student to return to the classroom.

The student must next complete a Return to Play Protocol, with a certified athletic trainer, physician, or identified concussion monitor (a coach or athletic director, for example), initialing

each stage. Before beginning the protocol, the student-athlete must experience at least two symptom-free days.

A Chicago Tribune article cited studies by David Hovda, the director of the UCLA Brain Injury Research Center, who said that a concussion sparks a biochemical energy crisis at the cellular level that begins when the brain, traumatized by a collision, causes its cells to leak potassium and absorb calcium.

Tests on animals have found that a concussion causes calcium to enter the cells and gum up the mitochondria, which are mini-power plants that create energy for the cells. This causes problems because the cells need extra energy to reclaim the potassium they lost.

Hovda said most people need at least one to two weeks to recover from a concussion, though a “miserable minority” can take months. Brains that have not healed completely are liable to be damaged further with repeated

concussions, worsening the cellular energy crisis.

“If enough calcium comes in, it overrides the cell's ability to get rid of it, and the cell decides it's time to die,” said Hovda.

This can cause the organ to atrophy and shrink, leading to symptoms of dementia as found in Webster's brain.

In addition to CIF-sponsored sports, Mooney sees many concussions from snowboarding, skating and skateboarding, due to the unforgiving surfaces involved. One local high school student is recovering from a slip in the shower.

Soccer players record the most cases of concussions, according to Mooney, but that is related to the high number of participants in the sport. He also admits that many cases may go unreported.

He generally recommends no medications for patients recovering from a concussion, as well as avoidance of alcohol or marijuana.



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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.

Submit stories and story ideas to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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

LMYA Wins Big at March Madness Invitational



LMMA wrapped up its basketball season with a win in the league's annual March Madness tournament – the first time an LMMA team has emerged victorious since the invitational started nearly a decade ago. LMMA 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 LMMA 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.

LMMA 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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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 12 Issue 3 Wednesday, April 4, 2018



Cynthia Brian's April Gardening Guide ...read on page D12

Young Moraga artist launches home furnishings line with Anthropologie

By Kara Navolio



Moraga native and artist Bridgette Thornton.

Photo Terri Riggins

A career as an artist is a dream that many people may wish for, but not see it as a realistic way to make a living. Not so for 26-year-old Bridgette Thornton of Moraga.

After years of pursuing painting as a side interest, Thornton has shown it's possible to make a living doing what you love. Since May, four of her paintings are being sold through the retailer Anthropologie as prints as part of their Art & Wall Décor Collection. In July the company reached out to her to have some of her floral paintings converted to designs for their Home Product Line. Her Paint and Petals collection, launching this month, just in time for spring, is featured on duvet covers, shower curtains, melamine dinnerware, and about 20 other products.

Thornton, who grew up in Moraga and graduated from Campolindo High School in 2010, got excited about art in an eighth-grade art class at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. It was an outlet away from the pressures of school. After spending two summers taking pre-college art classes at the California College of Arts in Oakland, she got a taste of what attending an art school would be like.

She attended CCA after high school, but although her passion was painting, she chose graphic design as her major. "Graphic design was a path that seemed a more direct path to employment," stated Thornton.

... continued on page D6





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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

| City | Last reported: | LOWEST AMOUNT: | HIGHEST AMOUNT: |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| LAFAYETTE | 16 | \$725,000 | \$3,600,000 |
| MORAGA | 7 | \$775,000 | \$1,575,000 |
| ORINDA | 7 | \$850,000 | \$2,500,500 |

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

- 3348 Carlyle Terrace, \$975,000, 3 Bdrms, 1769 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 3-5-18
- 4176 Coralee Lane, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2009 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 3-2-18;
Previous Sale: \$745,000, 02-28-03
- 28 Crest Road, \$3,600,000, 7 Bdrms, 7007 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 3-1-18
- 905 Dewing Avenue, \$725,000, 2 Bdrms, 1349 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 3-2-18
- 3232 Elvia Street, \$1,275,000, 3 Bdrms, 2270 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 3-6-18;
Previous Sale: \$830,000, 09-05-14
- 1668 Foothill Park Circle, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2056 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 2-28-18;
Previous Sale: \$832,500, 11-21-12
- 1503 Huston Road, \$1,000,000, 6 Bdrms, 2158 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 3-6-18;
Previous Sale: \$900,000, 08-25-15
- 3364 Johnson Road, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1854 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 3-2-18
- 1205 Monticello Road, \$2,137,500, 5 Bdrms, 2370 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 3-5-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,525,000, 06-27-17
- 1148 Oak Hill Road, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1544 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 3-5-18
- 1107 Orchard Road, \$1,775,000, 3 Bdrms, 2331 SqFt, 2009 YrBlt, 3-8-18;
Previous Sale: \$599,000, 06-15-04
- 961 Reliez Station Road, \$822,000, 3 Bdrms, 1419 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 3-6-18;
Previous Sale: \$192,500, 07-17-87
- 854 Revere Road, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2382 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 2-28-18;
Previous Sale: \$420,000, 02-08-90
- 3090 Sweetbrier Circle, \$1,435,000, 3 Bdrms, 1649 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 3-8-18;
Previous Sale: \$900,000, 05-21-14
- 3326 Vaughn Road, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1152 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 3-7-18
- 1002 Woodbury Road #302, \$2,405,000, 3 Bdrms, 2931 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 2-27-18

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COMPASS

Young Moraga artist ... continued from page D1



"But then with the lingering effects of the economic problems of 2008-10, I saw that even the safe bet didn't ensure a job anymore. So I decided to throw all my eggs in one basket and switched my major to what I loved: painting and drawing." She sold her first paintings as a college student, but a career as an artist was still a dream.

During her college internships in the fashion industry, Thornton got the opportunity to see how art can work in the business world. She saw how a painting could be used to design textiles, and one of her own designs went into production. After college she worked at BCBG, an advertising agency in Los Angeles, and furthered her knowledge about how the creative arts can be used in business. Meanwhile, she continued painting on the side and submitting her work.

After two years of submitting her work to Serena & Lily, an interior decorating site that sells original art works, she was accepted and sold her first painting on their site in 2016.

By September she was ready to make art her full-time profession. She moved back to Moraga, and once again, threw all her eggs in one basket, renting a studio in Berkeley to paint full time.

When asked about her success as an artist, Thornton explained, "Some people think you are

born with a talent, but I disagree. It's something you have to put tons of work into. I enjoy the process of investing that time, instead of focusing on the end product. I read Malcolm Gladwell's "Outliers: The Story of Success," and I agree with the concept that it takes 10,000 hours to be really good at something." Thornton is well on her way to her 10,000 hours, as she spends 10-12 hours almost every day at her workshop at Maker's Workspace in Berkeley where she paints her floral canvases with acrylics and gouache (an opaque watercolor). She also believes in keeping her energy in the right mindset, as she explains, "I live life with an abundance mindset and staying positive." She uses a vision board as inspiration; there she posts images of others' work she admires and where she wants her career to go. "I hope Anthropologie is a stepping stone to accomplishing more goals," she adds.

Thornton also believes in inspiring other young people to follow their dreams. She has spoken to girls at the Santa Catalina School in Monterey and is open to speaking to other school groups in the Bay Area. Contact her through her website bridgettethornton.com or see more of her designs on Instagram: @PaintandPetals.

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... continued from page D2

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- 710 Augusta Drive, \$890,000, 2 Bdrms, 1464 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 3-6-18
- 97 Corliss Drive, \$1,453,000, 4 Bdrms, 2204 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 2-28-18;
Previous Sale: \$259,000, 06-23-83
- 22 Del Rio Court, \$1,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 3448 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 2-28-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,500,000, 09-22-06
- 148 Donald Drive, \$1,575,000, 4 Bdrms, 2594 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 3-8-18;
Previous Sale: \$525,000, 07-30-90
- 115 Hazelwood Place, \$1,496,000, 4 Bdrms, 2511 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 3-6-18;
Previous Sale: \$399,000, 05-24-91
- 1701 St. Andrews Drive, \$775,000, 2 Bdrms, 1262 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 3-2-18;
Previous Sale: \$558,000, 06-02-04
- 145 Warfield Drive, \$1,445,000, 4 Bdrms, 2466 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 3-8-18

ORINDA

- 10 Ardor Drive, \$975,000, 3 Bdrms, 1972 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 3-6-18
- 3 Buena Vista, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1343 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 2-28-18;
Previous Sale: \$686,000, 02-10-17
- 166 Camino Sobrante, \$905,000, 3 Bdrms, 1833 SqFt, 1935 YrBlt, 3-7-18;
Previous Sale: \$799,000, 10-27-17
- 112 Crestview Drive, \$1,310,000, 3 Bdrms, 2439 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 3-8-18;
Previous Sale: \$873,000, 06-08-16
- 44 Tarry Lane, \$2,498,000, 3 Bdrms, 3482 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 3-8-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,105,100, 02-12-16
- 15 Wilder Road, \$2,500,500, 5 Bdrms, 5023 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 3-7-18
- 19 Wilder Road, \$2,479,000, 4 Bdrms, 4284 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 3-7-18



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Cynthia Brian's April Gardening Guide

Weed, seed, feed

By Cynthia Brian

"Nothing is so beautiful as spring when weeds, in wheels, shoot long, and lovely, and lush ..." – Gerard Manley Hopkins



Dandelions in grass

While cleaning out our parents' ranch home I found a book published in 1918 belonging to my grandfather. The title is "The Herbalist" by Joseph E. Meyer, 1878-1950. The cover showcased a line drawing of an apothecary's garden. The first page warns in big bold letters "Special Attention: The botanical materials, medications, and recipes of this book are not intended to replace the services of physicians."

Being the major gardener and herbalist that I am, I was thrilled to discover this tiny tome filled with information that is pertinent over 100 years after publication to those of us who love to grow our own food. After reading about the anatomy of plants, the epitome of botany, and the medicinal uses of plants, I excitedly went into the garden to find weeds to feed me. Then of course, it was time to throw seeds to beautify what will become my late spring landscape.

Since the rain and hail we experienced in March, weeds are ubiquitous. Before seeding, weeding is essential. If you like to be adventurous while consuming a nutrition-



Mushrooms sprouting everywhere. Beware!

Photos Cynthia Brian

al boost, separate the dandelions from other discarded weeds. Dandelions originated in Greece and have been enjoyed as greens in salads or sautés for centuries. Dandelions provide calcium, vitamin K, vitamin A, E, riboflavin, and iron. The dried root is a beneficial home remedy as a diuretic, plus dandelions inhibit inflammation. Consider adding this food to your menu.

After a thorough weeding, it's time to seed the garden with beautiful flowers and delicious vegetables. Always choose quality seeds. Plant seeds in the correct light situations. Refer to seed packets for information when the most auspicious planting window is and where the plants will thrive. Make sure to prepare the soil properly by weeding and composting or buy good soil.

When planting indoors, choose a south or west-facing window to provide adequate light and warmth. Natural light is always best for helping seeds to sprout but you can always purchase grow lamps. Fluorescent tubes will work when placed two to four inches above the seedlings and left on for 18 hours per day. ... continued on next page



Crabapple tree in full bloom

If you are planting on a porch, be mindful of frosty evenings where you'll need to provide heat. Speed seed germination with a heat mat that you place under trays or containers and remove the heat mat once the seeds have sprouted.

A container for planting seeds can be anything that is at least two to three inches deep with a drainage hole. You can use milk cartons, cell packs, recycled plastic, or clay pots. Even old coffee mugs can be repurposed as long as you add gravel to the bottom. Get creative, repurpose, and recycle.

Keep the soil moist but not soggy. When a plant has two sets of leaves it's time to feed them with a half-strength fertilizer and get them to sunny locations outdoors as often as possible.

I prefer to sow directly in the ground and have experimented with seeding as early as March. However, my experience has instructed me to spread seeds when the soil is warm in late April, thinning as necessary. Follow instructions on seed packets for best

results. Keep in mind that you will not have 100 percent germination. Sow an amount of seeds that is several times the amount you wish for best results. For small seeds like arugula and greens, I carefully scatter attempting not to have the seeds clumped in one area. All plants need room to spread. For plants growing in cells or trays, I usually transplant in May and have found that these plants tend to do better than those that were planted in early spring. Planting in sets of odd numbers, three, five, seven, nine, or more provides a cohesiveness and richness of texture.

Growing a beautiful garden from seeds is easy and inexpensive. You may have to provide netting to keep hungry birds, roaming rabbits, and ravenous deer out of your yard.

Spring is a time to weed, seed and feed, both metaphorically and literally. I love experimenting in my garden and hope that a hundred years from now my books will be as relevant to readers as "The Herbalist" is.

... continued on page D14

Seeds to start indoors Seeds to sow in containers or directly in the garden: or in a greenhouse:

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|---------|-----------|--------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Broccoli | Eggplants | Arugula | Carrots | Greens | Nasturtiums | Penstemon | Squash |
| Brussels Sprouts | Peppers | Basil | Cilantro | Herbs | Parsley | Radishes | Sunflowers |
| Cabbage | Tomatoes | Beans | Corn | Kale | Parsnips | Spinach | Zinnias |
| Cauliflower | Perennial Flowers | Beets | Cucumbers | Melons | Peas | Swiss Chard | |



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for April

- **CONTROL** snails with organic treatments. You can hand pick them, put out bowls of beer, add copper tape to ornamentals, throw egg shells in affected areas, or scatter Sluggo. Eliminate watering at night when snails feed. They multiply and flourish in the wet and damp. In dry weather they will retract into their shells sealing off the opening with mucus. Snails can be dormant for four years.
- **RAKE** lawns to remove debris and aerate. If fertilizer is needed, this is the time to apply.
- **DON'T** eat the mushrooms growing in your yard unless you are certain they are edible. Consult a mycologist as many mushrooms are toxic and potentially fatal if ingested.
- **VISIT** Wildlife Earth Day at Wagner Ranch in Orinda on Sunday, April 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Several community organizations will also present earth-friendly endeavors. I will be autographing my newest book, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener" as well as talking about botanicals. For more information on this nature-lover's event organized by the naturalist guru, Toris Jaeger, visit <https://fwrna.org/wildlifefest/>.
- **PLANT** agastache, columbine, penstemon, salvia and trumpet vine to attract hummingbirds. When the threat of frost is finished, hibiscus, bougainvillea, and citrus can be planted.
- **BUY** discounted tickets to the June 15 Oakland A's versus Los Angeles Angels baseball game with a portion of proceeds benefitting the 501 c3 charity, Be the Star You Are® <http://www.BetheStarYouAre.org> or go find your seats to buy directly at <https://groupmatics.events/event/Bestar>.
- **EAT** your dandelions for a wealth of nutritional and medicinal benefits. An Italian proverb instructs, "He who wants to eat a good supper should eat a weed of every kind."
- **WALK** in the woods, a park or hug a tree to get your dose of forest bathing known as the Japanese tradition of shinrin-yoku.
- **SAVOR** springtime. It's the bugle baby for beauty, fragrance, and new life.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



Penstemon seeds can be scattered in a sunny location to attract hummingbirds.



Walk in a forest or hug a tree to get your dose of forest bathing or shinrin-yoku



Close up of a tulip magnolia flower.



Cynthia Brian enjoys the sea breeze

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, raised in the vineyards of Napa County, is a New York Times best selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's Radio show and order her books at www.StarStyleRadio.com.

Buy a copy of the new book, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener," at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store. Available for hire for projects and lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com

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