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SMC Gaels junior forward Jaylen Crim, center, takes a shot.

Photo Tod Fierner

## Saint Mary's soccer starts season strong

By Jon Kingdon

The Saint Mary's Gaels women's soccer team continued its strong start, winning four of their last five games. The team lost last season's leading scorer, Hannah Diaz, who graduated last year to play professional soccer, and it was late in the recruitment season when head

coach Travis Clarke came on board in 2015, so the Gaels currently have a lot of freshmen and sophomores on the roster, but Clarke is optimistic about the strength of the players and how that strength is starting to show. One player to watch is sophomore goalie Maleah Milner, who won the starting posi-

tion late last season and who Clarke calls very athletic and cerebral, saying he thinks she will develop into an elite college goalie. Other standouts include junior forwards Jaylen Crim and Jordyn Cunningham, who both are on pace for a great season. (See the full story on Page C1.)

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## Lamorinda EBMUD directors project continued water rate increases

By Nick Marnell



John Coleman Photos provided



Marguerite Young

The Lamorinda board members for the East Bay Municipal Utility District ran unopposed in the 2018 general election, so John Coleman and

Marguerite Young will retain their seats for the next four years, a period in which they foresee water rates continuing to rise for their customers.

"I am proudest of my efforts to accelerate the replacement of our distribution infrastructure, 4,200 miles of pipeline with an average age of 70 years," said Young, Ward 3 director. She pointed out the acquisition of Carr Ranch in Moraga and the major upgrade to the Orinda Water Treatment Plant as other major accomplishments during her tenure.

Young, whose ward includes Moraga and Orinda, said she will remain focused on the distribution pipeline, accelerating the pace of replacement to ensure reliable service and minimize main breaks. She expects to see pipeline and reservoirs being replaced throughout Moraga and Orinda prioritized based on risk

of failure, changing water demand and other benefits such as improving pressure for firefighting and coordinating with public road repair and repaving.

She acknowledged customers' frustration with disruptive EBMUD activities over the last two years. "We have stepped up our coordination with local jurisdictions including Moraga and Orinda, which I hope will lead to smoother operations and less community disruption during projects that of necessity tear up streets or disrupt traffic patterns. This is especially challenging in Orinda and Moraga with their narrow streets and limited detour options."

Young does not back down from the need to raise water rates,

citing that pipeline replacement "is very costly and is the major driver behind the rate increases that I've supported. I do expect our rates to continue to increase even while water use declines, as we come to grips with the need to address periods of water scarcity due to our changing climate and to upgrade our infrastructure to ensure that we can continue to deliver clean safe reliable water to our taps 24/7/365."

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