

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Family Service
3 & 4:30 p.m.

Traditional Service
7 & 8:30 p.m.

Carols, Candlelight, and Communion
11 p.m.

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Saint Mary's Guard Jordan Ford takes his shot at the Dec. 1 rivalry game against Cal.

Photo Tod Fierner

Saint Mary's trounces Cal in rivalry game

By Jon Kingdom

After a 30-year hiatus, the California basketball team deigned to make the 14-mile drive to Moraga to take on Saint Mary's Dec. 1 at McKeon Pavilion. Playing in front of a loud and highly partisan crowd, Saint Mary's defeated California 84-71, ending a four-game losing streak. It was a game that was not that close and it may be another three decades before California opts to return to Moraga.

The Gaels dominated in every aspect of the game. Saint

Mary's shot 60 percent from the field, outrebounded Cal 20-24, connected on 13, 3-point shots to Cal's seven and most telling, got 33 points from their bench to only 10 for Cal. With 15 minutes to go in the game, Saint Mary's had their biggest lead 57-32.

Breaking the team's losing streak was the most satisfying aspect of the game to head coach Randy Bennett: "You get beat down by losing four games in a row. However, our guys

kept believing in themselves, hanging together and trying to get better."

Guard Jordan Ford (16 points, 7 assists) saw a real difference in the team's play: "We played a lot harder. We're a young team and we're working hard every day."

Concerned with his team's defense, Bennett started Tommy Kuhse because "he's our best defensive guard."

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Hometown owner cares for Phairs

By Sora O'Doherty



Phairs in Orinda

Photo Sora O'Doherty

Joanna Guidotti grew up in Orinda and has strong ties to the community, even though she left to open Churchill Manor in Napa 30 years ago. She inherited a half ownership in Country Club Plaza from her father, attorney Aldo Guidotti, who was elected to the first Orinda City Council and twice held the position of mayor. Three years ago Guidotti, who also owns a half interest in the lot behind Phairs, purchased the Phairs property, including the old shop, which has been abandoned for 20 years, as well as the parking lot that stretches from Avenida De Orinda through to Camino Sobrante. Now Guidotti dreams of restoring the Phairs building to honor her father and to meet the needs of Orinda.

Since acquiring the property, Guidotti says that she has heard

from a lot of developers, but that they are motivated by the desire to make a profit, and that, she says, is not always compatible with serving the needs of the community. Guidotti recognizes that Orinda is not like Napa, where she has transformed an old, neglected home into a preeminent destination hotel, Churchill Manor.

When Guidotti first purchased the old Churchill home, built in 1889, people told her she was crazy, that the building was "on the wrong side of the tracks," in a bad neighborhood. But Guidotti had a vision, and in transforming the old home, she was also instrumental in the transformation of the neighborhood into Napa Abajo, now listed as a historical district in the national register.

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