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Photo Gint Federas

Miramonte girls soccer NorCal champions!

By John T. Miller

The Miramonte girls soccer team swept through the NorCal tournament to claim the championship, beating El Camino of Sacramento 2-0 before a home crowd March 2.

The Matadors got second half goals from Alison Whipple and Jordan Goularte while controlling the tempo of the game, outshooting El Camino 15-3. The

match was played in a light drizzle on a soggy field. Unlike other sports such as football and basketball, there are no state playoffs for soccer. According to head coach Barry McQuain, this may be Miramonte's first ever NorCal state championship.

"It was very sweet to be able to win on our home field with about 300 supporters cheering us on," said McQuain. "Perhaps in the near future the C.I.F. may allow a California playoff. That would be

a great game."

Miramonte earned the home field advantage by knocking off the No. 1 seed Liberty Ranch of Galt in the semifinals 3-2. Down 1-0 in the second half, Sabrina Grant scored their first goal on a header off a corner kick assist by Jordan Goularte. Taylor Walthall added two more goals on assists by Grant and Isabel Fine to secure the victory.

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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SMC student honored by MOFD for heroic lifesaving efforts



Photo Dennis Rein, MOFD

Courtney Newton speaks at the Feb. 20 MOFD board meeting. Fire Chief Dave Winnacker and President Steven Danziger look on.

By Nick Marnell

Courtney Newton rarely visits the Moraga Starbucks, but one 57-year-old man is undoubtedly grateful that she did the afternoon of Jan. 27.

As the Saint Mary's College student studied with her roommate in the coffee shop, a woman ran inside, asking if anyone knew CPR. Newton, recently recertified for CPR by the American Heart Association, responded immediately and ran to the outdoor patio.

She saw a man collapsed on the ground, bleeding from his mouth. His face had turned blue. He was unresponsive. "I yelled for one of the 15 or so people around me to call 911," Newton said, as she scanned the man's prone body and flipped him over on his back. She began compressions and using her CPR pocket mask, she administered three rounds of CPR before emergency responders from the Moraga-Orinda Fire District arrived, less than two-and-one-half minutes after dispatch. The crew took over and

used a Lucas device to deliver consistent, uninterrupted chest compressions. The patient was taken to the hospital and is expected to fully recover.

"Unequivocally, her actions helped save the man's life," said MOFD Capt. Brian Oliver, who directed the crew at the scene. "It's fantastic when someone responds to the moment. It takes a high degree of courage, and her actions were commendable."

Commendable to the degree that the MOFD board of directors publicly recognized Newton at its Feb. 20 district meeting, issuing a proclamation honoring Newton's lifesaving efforts. "When I received the report about this call, the crew obviously relayed the competency with which you provided the care," Fire Chief Dave Winnacker said to Newton. "But they mentioned over and over again the calmness with which you approached the scene. So, we're hiring!"

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Lafayette tackles issues of age-friendliness - Page A2

Town Hall Theatre opens with witty and thoughtful production - Page B1



Spring break, full day and overnight camps - Page B5.



Lamorinda boys soccer season ends - Page C1.



Tidying up for spring -- page D14



Fire Districts A8

MOFD director warns of fiscal emergency - Page A8



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Focus groups form to tackle age-friendliness of Lafayette



Photo Pippa Fisher

The Don Tatzin Community Hall was packed with people brainstorming ways to improve options for senior inclusion within the city.

By Pippa Fisher

The room was filled to capacity for the Feb. 20 Age-Friendly Community Kickoff event as residents came together to brainstorm ways in

which Lafayette could improve as a livable city to allow the full inclusion of people of all ages and abilities, particularly older adults.

AARP California Associate State Director Rafi Nazarians flew in from Southern Cali-

ornia to present the city with a framed proclamation of Lafayette's commitment to become an Age-Friendly Community under the criteria established by AARP and the World Health Organization, and stating that Lafayette has

been accepted as a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

One by one, speakers introduced the eight domains of livability. These speakers will be leading focus groups over the next few weeks to examine the following areas (domains): outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, work and civic engagement, communication and information, and community and health services.

For a 30-minute period the room was filled with chatter and laughter too as the community grappled with the prompted questions: What do you love about Lafayette? What are the current age-friendly needs, and what age-friendly needs do you foresee for the future? With suggestions ranging from the need for better transportation options to longer walk times on crossing lights, ideas were shared and recorded and will be assigned to the relevant domain over the next few weeks as smaller focus groups meet and work on the next steps.

Lafayette Senior Services Coordinator Maureen Neumann was pleased with the

strong turnout. "I was thrilled to see so many join us at the kickoff to have their voices heard. Excellent ideas, thoughts and suggestions were shared, many of which will hopefully be included in the end result: an action plan," she said.

Mayor Cam Burks was delighted with the event too, saying that the event represented the truly remarkable character and spirit of the city. "It was an amazing success with an absolutely packed room filled with community members who immediately rolled up their sleeves and dove right in to developing scope, strategies, ideas and approaches to improve the eight Domains of Livability in Lafayette."

Burks noted that the leadership of the senior services commission was extraordinary, saying "I'm grateful to Chair Terry Black and every one of our volunteer commissioners and city staff members for the profound impact they are making. Something very special happened in that room on Wednesday and it made me more proud of Lafayette than I've ever been."

No imminent plans to build on Lafayette BART-owned land

By Pippa Fisher

The city council kept the possibility of development on BART-owned property firmly on its radar at the Feb. 25 meeting, hearing from BART Transit Oriented Development Manager Abby Thorne-Lyman and BART Department Manager Rodd Lee, who reaffirmed the agency's commit-

ment to work with local officials on rezoning and gave assurances that there are no plans to develop the land currently.

Mayor Cam Burks explained that during his earlier phone conversation with BART General Manager Grace Crunican and Thorne-Lyman he received that same assurance and that he had re-

quested that assurance in writing.

Following the passage of state Assembly Bill 2923, which was signed into law last year and became effective as of Jan. 1, Lee explained BART is now mandated to implement it. The bill is designed with the intent of easing the housing crisis in the Bay Area by development of high-

density housing around transit stations. Lafayette lawmakers objected strongly to the idea that local control would be stripped from them. BART itself, Lee reminded the council, took a neutral position on the issue.


Thorne-Lyman explained that BART is now required to set standards for height, floor-to-area ratio and parking for all eligible properties, affecting 26 stations in three counties, by July 1, 2020. She said that the city will have two years to rezone to meet those standards.

Looking at the immediate future Thorne-Lyman explained that BART intends to


work with city staff and elected officials over the next couple of months, returning to its own board by late spring to provide a 10-year work plan regarding which stations they anticipate developing by 2029 when the bill sunsets.

Thorne-Lyman said that a statement indicating that they do not intend to build at the Lafayette station, barring some unforeseen circumstance, should come out by late spring. She stressed the difference between zoning the property and developing the property and noted that AB 2923 did not provide a mandate to develop.


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Photo Pippa Fisher

The city council contends that it is already doing its part in Lafayette to provide multifamily housing centered near transit, such as this recently completed development – a short walk to BART.



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council
 Wednesday, March 6, 6:15 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings
Acalanes Union High School District
 Wednesday, March 6, 7 p.m.
 AUHSD Board Room
 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
 www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Planning Commission
 Monday, March 18, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review
 Monday, March 11, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Arts & Science Discovery Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Lafayette School District
 Wednesday, March 13, 7 p.m.
 Regular Board Meeting
 District Office Board Room
 3477 School St., Lafayette
 www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

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Candell to recuse from Deer Hill project, three others reject call to recuse

By Pippa Fisher

The Feb. 25 city council meeting got off to a somewhat scripted start with four of the five city council members reading statements – one recusing herself and three others stating their intention not to recuse – as advised by legal counsel on any future discussion or decisions on the Terraces project.

The Terraces, the controversial 315-unit apartment project on a 22-acre parcel on Deer Hill Road, is expected to come before the city for approval this spring.

The development was first proposed in March 2011 but its application was suspended in 2014 in favor of alternative plans for a scaled back development of 44 single-family homes, a dog park, a playing field, a playground and tot lot. Local preservationist group Save Lafayette sued the city resulting in a referendum last June on the future of the revised project. With the defeat of Measure L, the developer O'Brien Homes resumed the original application for the apartments.

The council members' statements were read during the report from the closed session meeting and came following a barrage of letters from the developer's attorney Bryan Wenter of Miller Starr Regalia calling for Council Member Susan Candell to recuse herself from all matters concerning the Terraces, citing as a conflict her "long history actively opposing our clients' proposed 315-unit affordable apart-

ment project in Lafayette and even expressing personal hostility to our clients," in a letter to the city's attorney Robert Hodil of Coblenz, Patch, Duffy and Bass dated Dec. 5, 2018.

Candell, whose springboard to running for office was her involvement opposing first the apartments and then the homes, expressed great disappointment as she announced her recusal on the advice of her private attorney but noted that she retained the right to speak as a member of the public.

Candell pointed out after the meeting, "I was the number one vote getter, but yet, I'm now in the position that I am advised that I cannot represent Lafayette residents in a very important land use decision. I cannot express my disappointment enough."

Candell said that she worked hard to try to retain her rights to not recuse. "I believe my positions were and are based on legitimate principles and that I do not have an improper bias or motive towards the project. I also worked equally as hard to retain my rights to participate as a citizen, which they also tried to take away. According to the FPPC, I did retain my private citizen rights similar to those I would have if I had a financial conflict (which I do not have). I will work within these limitations. However, I will also retain my rights to consider and pursue all legal options."

... continued on Page A9

Council to keep talking gas safety; plans second meeting with PG&E, community and CPUC



Photo Pippa Fisher

Bollards remain in place where PG&E has been working to bury exposed pipeline along the Lafayette-Moraga Trail.

By Pippa Fisher

The Lafayette City Council spent a short time at their Feb. 25 meeting discussing next steps in the formation of a safety task force and what exactly that might look like. The subject will be on the March 11 meeting agenda.

Gina Dawson, co-founder with her husband Michael Dawson of Save Lafayette Trees, was disappointed that the item was included in the February meeting only as a continuation on the consent calendar.

SLT, a local organization which formed in 2017 in an attempt to stop Pacific Gas and Electric Company's planned tree removal program, which the utility wants to do as part of their Pipeline Safety Initiative since it claims the roots damage underground high transmission pipes and hinder emergency access, has been pushing for the formation of a safety task force with the idea that it would work with the city, the utility and the California Public Utilities Commission. Initially SLT involvement centered around planned tree removal, but it led the Dawsons to be increasingly concerned about a wider scope of pipeline safety issues. SLT is currently suing the city and the utility.

But should the city form a task force headed by the people who are currently suing them? What would such a task force

look like?

City attorney Mala Subramanian advised against having members of SLT on such a task force. And Mayor Cam Burks advised caution regarding the city taking it upon themselves to set up any type of regulatory body.

"The Dawson's have done a lot for the community in this space, and I am grateful for their efforts," Burks said later, but added, "We need to be careful as a city to not represent ourselves – or even give the appearance of representing ourselves – as an oversight or regulatory body when it comes to pipeline safety as we don't have the subject matter expertise to do so, and we certainly don't have a state mandate or authorities as a regulatory body in this space."

Gina Dawson is frustrated. "The city's consistent kicking of the pipeline safety can down the road is frustrating," she said. "The news ... from the city attorney that Save Lafayette Trees members could not be appointed to the task force because of pending litigation was surprising as this item has been on the agenda for many past council meetings. We sent initial purpose and proposal to the city a month ago and we've been discussing draft charters for the task force in good faith with Vice Mayor Mike Anderson since last summer – we're appreciative of his efforts."

... continued on Page A10



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LOWEST PRICE SOLD	\$650,000	\$706,000	\$740,000	\$675,000	\$745,000	\$800,000
HIGHEST PRICE SOLD	\$3,900,000	\$12,250,000	\$6,500,000	\$7,800,000	\$2,750,000	\$3,500,000
AVERAGE SALES PRICE	\$1,617,000	\$1,730,000	\$1,625,000	\$1,737,000	\$1,391,000	\$1,489,000

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Recent land movement results in closure of Canyon Bridge pedestrian access



Canyon Bridge pedestrian access closed

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

Mother Nature's periodic burst of storms has taken its toll around Moraga. One such instance involves the beleaguered Canyon Bridge area.

On Feb. 13, the East Bay Municipal Utility District notified the town of renewed land movement that initially damaged the original bridge in 2017. While the temporary bridge itself is safe and open to vehicle and bicycle traffic, the pedestrian crossing is provisionally closed.

"The pedestrian bridge crossing is a separate structure that is attached to the west side of the temporary bridge," said Moraga Public Works Director Edric Kwan.

"The asphalt (AC) pathway on the southern side, because of the current land slide, began to push against the end of the pedestrian bridge. The town quickly mobilized an on-call contractor to remove the portions of the AC pathway that were pushing on the pedestrian bridge crossing. The removal necessitated the temporary closure."

Town staff and geotechnical engineers have evaluated the situation and determined the bridge itself is structurally sound. Kwan assured that "the temporary bridge deep stitch wall piers and bridge abutments continue to function as designed, protecting the bridge from adjacent land movement."

As a precaution, Moraga

notified the East Bay Regional Park District of the closure. According to the EBRP website trail notification status, "Until further notice, the Valle Vista to Canyon Bridge section of the Lafayette-Moraga Trail is closed. When bridge access is not available, it does not leave access to the trail."

Kwan stated, "Any expenses should fall under the Federal Highway Administration's emergency relief program for the temporary bridge."

As the town continues to monitor the bridge and surrounding land during the ongoing rainy season, it anticipates that the pedestrian access will be reopened by May of this year.

Moraga Library HVAC woes continue

By Vera Kochan

While libraries are known for their quiet atmosphere, the Moraga Library has been a little quieter since the heating system malfunctioned on Jan. 12.

Public Information Officer Brooke Converse with the Contra Costa County Library said, "Pickups and drop-offs remain steady for this time of year, but patron visit times are shorter, and three children's story time sessions were canceled early on. We have since moved story time activities to the main program area." She added that space heaters have been strate-

gically placed throughout the library.

Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt gave a repair progress update during the Feb. 27 town council meeting, asking for council's authorization for Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg to award a construction contract to repair the HVAC system in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 from the Minor Capital Improvement Program.

Two separate contractors recommended that the full boiler needed replacement at a cost of roughly \$30,000. Brandt is in the process of obtaining a third contractor's opinion of

the situation.

The town manager has a threshold authorization of \$15,000 for the job. Any amount beyond that is above her authority. By asking the town council to grant her the authority to exceed that amount for repairs it is hoped that the process can begin much sooner.

Public Works Director Edric Kwan recognized that while the repair estimates came in at \$30,000, "the extra \$10,000 is important in order to have a slight contingency in case other problems are discovered in the course of repair." He added, "The funding

is identified in the Capital Improvement Project - a fund used for these specific cases. Whenever there's a failure of some of our minor assets we can come in there, utilize the money and make those necessary repairs."

Vice Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus questioned the thoroughness of the contractors' diagnoses by their "I can't make it work - it must be the boiler" assumptions.

Brandt assured Korpus that, "We have replaced main circuit boards and smaller circuit boards and have replaced everything that possibly could be replaced individually at this

point without proceeding and replacing the entire unit. The boiler is not getting power and the power is on."

Mayor Roger Wykle had paid a visit to the boiler room stating, "I can tell you the cabinet is fairly well corroded and the piping is corroded. It's got some serious issues inside of it."

Council Member Steve Woehleke had called the boiler's manufacturer and was told by a technician that he doesn't like the library's boiler model as it's a complex system with more components to it than average.

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Town Council

Wednesday, March 13, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, March 18, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, March 11, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Moraga School District Board Meetings

Tuesday, March 12, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us
See also AUHSD meeting page A2



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COMPASS

Consolidation of Design Review Board and Planning Commission in the works

By Vera Kochan

During the Feb. 27 Moraga Town Council meeting, Planning Director Derek Farmer put forth a consideration by council members to consolidate the Design Review Board

with the Planning Commission.

Farmer cited the benefits to the town in that the move would reduce staff time and costs, as well as enable Moraga to provide applicants with a streamlined planning

review process.

The Design Review Board's main functions are to review architecture and landscaping, while the Planning Commission handles land use elements.

... continued on Page A11

Parenting in the age of technology

By Vera Kochan

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School hosted a lecture entitled Media in the Middle on Feb. 21 aimed at helping parents of middle school kids unravel the mysteries behind popular apps, social networking sites and more.

Guest speaker Erica Pelavin, Ph.D., is a psychologist and licensed clinical social worker with over 20 years of experience specializing in bullying prevention, relational aggression, cybersafety and con-

flict resolution. She is also co-founder of My Digital TAT2, a nonprofit organization that helps schools and communities address issues and the use of technology in constructive ways.

Pelavin, as a mom in the digital age, doesn't just talk the talk, she walks the walk with her own kids, telling parents to "talk to your kids about what's going on in their social media. Stay connected with their interests." She adds, "Teach kids that they're responsible for their digital footprint. Let them

know that they have control over the device and to get help when they're in over their heads."

She stresses that it's important for kids to understand that privacy matters and to never give out personal information online. "Kids don't realize that whatever they put online can come back to haunt them as adults. They must consider where their information might end up and must never share passwords or electronic devices with others."

... continued on Page A12

Nominate a 2019 Moraga Citizen of the Year

Now is the time to consider who you would like to nominate for Moraga's 2019 "Citizen of the Year." The selection committee is made up of the 2018 Citizens of the Year Sam and Susan Sperry as well as representatives from the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, Saint Mary's College, Moraga Citizen's Network and the Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club.

The basic criteria for selecting this year's Citizen are:

1. The nominee must be someone who has given of their time, talent and energy to make Moraga a vibrant community, one where people want to live, work and shop.
2. The nominee must be someone whose body of work has brought the community together and makes folks proud to be Moraga residents.
3. Nominees may include any resident with a Moraga address other than paid public officials, current elected members of the Moraga Town Council, or other elected officials.
4. In making your nomination, please include examples of their contribution to Moraga.

Please email your nominations to nominations@lamorindaweekly.com or send them to "Moraga Citizen of the Year Nominations," Lamorinda Weekly, PO Box 6133, Moraga CA 94556.

The deadline for receiving your nomination is March 27. The celebration dinner will be held on Saturday, April 27 at Saint Mary's College Soda Center.

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Photos provided

By Sora O'Doherty

When the Orinda City Council scheduled a special meeting to receive a report regarding small cell wireless communications facilities, few residents probably understood that this issue is the subject of a huge international power struggle. According to the New York Times, "The United States believes that whoever controls 5G—the fifth generation of wireless communication—will have a global advantage for decades to come. The fear is that China is almost there." This fear led the Federal Communications Commission to issue declaration rulings and orders that essentially strip local governments of the power to regulate the installation of 5G sites. According to the Orinda staff report, several local jurisdictions have sued the FCC over its order because of the way it usurps local control, but staff advises that "the results of that litigation may not be known for many months, if not years."

In addition to the staff report, prepared by Senior Planner Mayank Patel and presented by Director of Planning Drummond Buckley, the council also heard a pre-

sentation by attorney Jonathan L. Kramer, head of Telecom Law Firm P.C. There was also public comment, primarily by residents opposed to 5G installations on the basis of safety.

The 5G facilities will be installed in public rights of way, affixed to existing pole infrastructure, such as street lights, traffic signals and utility poles or on new, purpose-built small cell poles. The 5G antennae, referred to in the industry as "small cells," cover only a very small area. Each small cell antenna services hundreds of square feet whereas traditional cell sites cover square miles. Further, cell phone service providers will not share the small cells, so that multiple facilities will be required for each provider. Verizon has told staff that they plan to apply for 87 small-cell sites in order to provide Orinda with full 5G coverage. Staff presumes that other wireless carriers will need a similar number of sites to provide service in Orinda.

Ann Goldman argued that the 5G facilities will blanket the area and make Orinda look like a military site. Nadine Whitman expressed concern about PG&E poles, in light of PG&E's recent bank-

ruptcy. She noted that a lot of cities are fighting the FCC regulation.

Ellie Marks, director of the California Brain Tumor Association which advocates for safe technology, said in a written submission that, while the council cannot base its decision on health, that does not mean that they cannot be educated on the science and health effects. She spoke about people with electro-hypersensitivity, which is named in the Americans with Disabilities Act. Marks said the Danville residents are unhappy with the ordinance that Telecom Law Firm helped the city write. She advocated for fiber optics to the home instead of 5G. However, 5G is about more than home connectivity. As the New York Times has explained, 5G is considered to be the "internet of things" that will control things as diverse as autonomous vehicles, industrial robots, and gas pipelines. Marks urged Orinda to adopt all or parts of the model code the California Brain Tumor Association has developed for towns and cities.

Other speakers spoke of the dangers and urged the city to look at alternatives, such as fiber optics, and several speakers offered negative comments about Telecom Law Firm, while Kramer countered that his firm wrote the ordinances for Hillsborough and Danville.

During council discussion, Council Member Amy Worth thought that it would be helpful to get copies of existing ordinances from cities similar to Orinda. Council Member Dennis Fay wondered what authority Orinda has to regulate 5G sites in the face of the federal regulations, but Kramer assured him that the city can still do a lot, since the city is allowed to set the aesthetic standards, which can affect the timing and placement of the sites.

The city could require undergrounding. "The companies will argue that that is not a reasonable requirement," however, he added. But he did note that if a project complies with the FCC laws, it cannot be denied by the city. "Your hands are tied," Kramer said. Mayor Inga Miller noted that 5G does not yet exist, citing an article from the New York Times, and that very big money is involved.

Buckley suggested that the council adopt an ordinance that references design guidelines. That approach would allow the design guidelines to be changed at a later date. Owing to the short timeline, he suggested an urgency ordinance, but said that such an ordinance will not act as a moratorium or a ban. City Manager Steve Salomon noted that the council had heard a lot during the meeting and that staff will work to craft something before the April deadline when the FCC regulations come into force. He suggested coordination with the League of Cities and with other cities. He added that it is unlikely that the composition or approach of the FCC will change in the next two years. Buckley said that the National League of Cities has something similar to a model ordinance.



City Council likes its priorities, but private road dwellers object

By Sora O'Doherty

There was a lot of excitement in the Library Auditorium Feb. 19 as the Orinda City Council discussed its priorities for the next two years, with downtown development and daylighting of San Pablo Creek among its top priorities. Those projects did receive enthusiastic support from speakers and the council. But excitement turned to emotional dismay when some of Orinda's residents once again asked the city to make solving the problem of Orinda's private streets its top priority.

During the council discussion on whether the council should agree to some forum for the discussion of the private roads issue, Mayor Inga Miller was clearly upset

as she proclaimed that "we're very strongly making a choice that we're going to do this (look into private roads) instead of working on the downtown, and this is an incredible disappointment to me." Other council members quickly reassured her that they were not choosing private roads over downtown development.

Last year the council had shocked private road residents when it rolled back the idea, supported by the Citizen's Infrastructure Oversight Committee, of forming a task force to look into the issue of private roads. Residents of private roads claim that 20 percent of the population of Orinda reside on private roads and have long been asking for a forum where ideas about addressing how private roads might be incor-

porated into the city could be discussed without the three-minute time limitation imposed at city council meetings. Since then, two new members have joined the city council, and they seem to be interested in hearing more on the subject. Vice Mayor Darlene Gee has been consistently sympathetic to the difficulties faced by private road residents. "I believe there is more community support for this than we might believe," she said, while assuring the mayor that she in no way intended to put private roads ahead of downtown development.

Council Member Dennis Fay stated that he is also concerned about drainage. "When I walked the city campaigning," he said, "there were places where city water dumped into private drains." Gee said that she was impressed by a candidate at the interviews for committees and commissions who said, "At the end of the day, we have to decide whether we are a community together or not." The mayor pointed out that the person who said that resides on a private road. Miller also repeatedly stated that the private road residents would no longer wish their streets to become public

because that would mean the installation of 5G communications sites in the public right of way.

Staff, in presenting the list of potential priorities to the council, was particularly interested if there were any that the council wanted to add or remove. It seemed that the majority of the council agreed that updating the pedestrian walkways and bicycle plans could be delayed.

The list of priority projects was broken up into four large categories: infrastructure, downtown, emergency preparedness and fiscal stability. Specific projects were then further categorized as city buildings and facilities, park improvements, transportation/drainage, and vehicles. The latter had just one proposed project: the replacement of the city's fleet of vehicles.

Council Member Amy Worth emphasized that the city needs to look at the completion of the public roads restoration project, as well as seeking a long-term funding source for maintenance of those roads. "We'll need to go back to the voters for public roads and drains," she said. "We have very limited funds," she added, noting that she didn't know what voter toler-

ance would be for additional taxes. The subject of raising additional funds to complete the projects of restoring the cities arterial and feeder streets as well as public drains was discussed in light of the coming conclusion of the half-cent sales tax. Any revenue raising legislation requires a two-thirds majority vote of the public, and private road residents have been suggesting that that threshold might be difficult to achieve without their support. The council will have to decide if it wants to seek another sales tax in an amount of one-half cent or greater, and what, if anything, the proceeds of such a tax could be used for.

Gee concluded by thanking both staff and the public for their presentations. "If we had all of the resources, we'd want to do everything in here," she said. She did suggest two additional items she would like to see adopted: a grant consultant to help the city find more money and a public information consultant. "We've made consistent improvement over the past five years," she noted, "but I think we need to uptick (communications because) we have a very sophisticated community."

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Author of "Don't Go Broke In A Nursing Home."



City Council

Tuesday, March 19, 7 p.m. Regular Meeting
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Orinda Public Meetings

Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 12, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, March 13, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Orinda Union High School District Board Meetings

Monday, March 11, 6 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda, www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2



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Time flies, but Steve Salomon will stay put

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council has agreed to remove the provision from City Manager Steve Salomon's employment contract that would have resulted in his term expiring in June. Instead, Salomon and the city have agreed that he will continue indefinitely, subject to termination by either side with notice. In order to ensure a smooth transition of city business, the new agreement is that the city will provide two-month's notice of termination and the city manager will provide six-month's notice of retirement, if feasible.

Salomon came to Orinda as an interim city manager following the retirement of Janet Keeter. He brought with him some 40 years of experience, including previously serving as Visalia's city manager for 17 years. He was Albany's city administrator, and city manager for the cities of Watsonville and Hercules. He also worked for the city of

Concord in a variety of positions and has served in numerous leadership positions within the California Redevelopment Association, Contra Costa City Manager's Group, and South San Joaquin Valley Division of the League of California Cities - City Managers' Department, and is a member of the International City/Council Management Association.

While Salomon was interim city manager, Orinda searched for a candidate to take on the position on a permanent basis, but they were dissatisfied with the candidates they reviewed. Salomon agreed to stay on for two years as city manager, working on a 90 percent full-time basis to allow for his long daily commute to Brentwood. That part of his contract remains unchanged. Previous contract amendments have provided for salary increases. It is anticipated that his contract will come back to the city council for a further review in the summer or fall.

Two new Wilder playfields add over \$6 million to Orinda balance sheet



Lamorinda Girls' Soccer Club playing at the Development Academy level.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda has resolved to take title to Playfields 4 and 5 at Wilder. The land, about 16.5 acres, is valued at \$987,600 and the improvements at \$5.74 million. Orinda has previously accepted Playfields 1 and 2, which included a tot lot, picnic area, pedestrian

pathways and parking lot. Playfield 3 has also been accepted and included lift stations, a bridge, two comfort stations, a guest house, a maintenance building and ballfield lighting. The Art and Garden Center is very close to completion, and the city expects to take possession of it this month.

Czech visiting student, arriving in August, seeks home for Miramonte fall/winter semester

After reviewing 15 essays from students in Tabor, Czech Republic, the Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation, together with Czech Klub Tabor, has selected a new student to spend six months in Orinda and study at Miramonte High School. Sixteen-year-old Erik Stoklasa will be the 19th student to visit Miramonte from Tabor.

Stoklasa was the hands-down winning candidate after the field had been narrowed to five and oral interviews were conducted. Stoklasa loves programming and sports. At home he started a course for high school students which teaches programming and presentation skills. On the athletic front, Stoklasa loves to run and has

completed a quarter marathon, in addition to playing tennis competitively for nine years. Last summer he participated in an international camping program on Cyprus for 14 days, where the dialog was in English. Stoklasa also had the opportunity to participate in the model European parliament, focusing on the European General Data Protection Regulation. He is also a beginning piano student.

Anyone interested in volunteering to house the visiting Czech student should contact Bobbie Landers by telephone at (925) 254-8260 or by email at bobbielanders@yahoo.com. - S. O'Doherty

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Director again warns of potential MOFD financial emergency

By Nick Marnell

Even with the approval of two new labor contracts retroactive to July 1, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District expects to reverse the general fund budget deficit of \$583,000 to a \$99,000 surplus for the current fiscal year, based on a midyear budget adjustment presented to the board at its Feb. 20 district meeting. And though the resultant increase to the general fund balance raises it to more than \$6.3 million, equal to 25 percent of budgeted revenue, director John Jex cautioned that the district was still far short of what it needs to safely operate.

The district approved new three-year contracts with its chief officers association and with its clerical and technical employees that run through

June 30, 2021. The additional \$72,000 expense of those two contracts was included in the surplus the district recognized for the current year.

But with the district forecasting losses over the next two years, after having added only \$99,000 to its general fund balance this year, Jex warned that the district may not be able to pay its current obligations come 2021.

"I hope the committee working on the long range plan recognizes that a plan for the next three years that shows expenses in excess of revenues is a trip to an eventual declaration of a financial emergency and reversal of all the financial progress the district has made during the last three years," Jex said. "This will eventually force the district to cut services in addition

to relying on an unreliable source of borrowed funds to finance current operations."

Jex was speaking of the district reliance on the Contra Costa County Teeter Plan, which advances the district its total property tax entitlement in July, whether collected or not. The advance to MOFD is repaid as the county collects the outstanding taxes, penalties and interest, per Bob Campbell, county auditor-controller. In effect, the county takes on the tax collection risk in exchange for the penalties and interest. "If the county somehow changed that, we'd have no money to pay the bills come July and August," said Jex, who maintained that having a general fund balance of 50 percent of revenue – equal to six months of operating expenses – is the

only way to avoid such a catastrophe. Neighboring fire districts project various general fund balance percentages of revenue for the current year ending June 30. San Ramon Valley Fire reports 91 percent; East Contra Costa Fire, 70 percent; Kensington, 66 percent; Rodeo-Hercules, 2 percent. The general fund balance of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District sat at 33 percent of revenue for the prior fiscal year.

Jex was the only director who did not approve the district midyear budget adjustments. The long-range financial plan that he spoke of, which is still in the works, is expected to be made public this spring, likely at a district financial workshop.

Fire Station 16 in Lafayette will not let Carman go quietly



Fire Chief Jeff Carman, left, addresses members of the ConFire Advisory Fire Commission

Photo Nick Marnell

By Nick Marnell

Talk about going full circle.

Fire Chief Jeff Carman's final Advisory Fire Commission meeting

evoked memories of his first meeting with the commissioners more than five years ago in that a problem regarding Lafayette was on the table. In 2013, the subject was the possible

Lafayette detachment from the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District over the city's frustration with the closure of Fire Station 16. On Feb. 25, the issue was the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's causing a potential delay in the station reopening.

No detachment occurred, of course, and the ConFire board in 2016 agreed to not only reopen Station 16 but to tear down the existing structure and build a new station from scratch. Construction has moved along, albeit slowly, for three years, with the district shooting for an April occupancy.

But a PG&E inspector balked at the placement of some of the power equipment at the station, despite the utility having already approved the model in use, according to Assistant Fire Chief Aaron McAlister. "If they hold their ground, that is a major problem," McAlister told the commis-

sion. Of concern to the utility is the location of the meter, which ConFire places inside each of its fire stations. "PG&E wants the meter outside the building, so they can have access," McAlister said. "But a fire station is different from a residential structure. A fire station is open 24 hours, every day, and PG&E can access our meters anytime."

"It's nothing different than what we have done at any of our other stations."

McAlister said that negotiations with the company are ongoing, and he is clinging to the April occupancy date that Carman relayed to the fire commissioners.

Carman retires from the district March 29, possibly days before the reopening of the fire station.

SMC student honored by MOFD for heroic lifesaving efforts

... continued from Page A1

Unfortunately for the chief, Newton plans to attend law school. She said this incident helped inspire her to

practice law in the health care industry. "I want to draft a policy that requires an AED in every public space, because I see the need," she said. The Moraga Starbucks does not have an

automated external defibrillator.

As befitting someone who exhibited such care for others, Newton deflected all praise to others. "I want to thank my parents for teaching me to

always do the right thing in times of need, to never be afraid and to always have courage," Newton said at the meeting.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors
Wednesday, March 20, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.
Visit www.mofd.org



ConFire
Board of Directors
Tuesday, March 12, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber Room 107,
Administration Building
651 Pine St., Martinez.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



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Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com

Lafayette Police Department:
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt 925-299-3221
Police Department Tip Line 94549Tip@gmail.com
Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com

Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, Mark Nagel 925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report



- Feb. 10 - Feb. 23**
- Alarms 61
- 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 18
- Traffic 119
- Suspicious Circumstances 13
- Suspicious Subject 35
- Suspicious Vehicle 35
- Service to Citizen 48
- Patrol Request/Security Check 21
- Vacation House Check 23
- Supplemental Report 18
- Welfare Check 14
- Vehicle violations**
- Abandoned Vehicle
- 3800 Block Quail Ridge Rd.
- 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 1100 Block Sierra Vista Way
- Knox Dr./Chapel Dr.
- 3400 Block Moraga Blvd.
- 3300 Block Moraga Blvd.
- Dewing Ave./Brook St.
- 1100 Block Sierra Vista Way
- Ac Pd Needed
- Deer Hill Rd./N Thompson Rd.
- Auto Burglary
- 900 Block Oak Hill Rd.
- 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 50 Block Lafayette Cr.
- 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 50 Block Lafayette Cr.
- 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 900 Block Mough Ave.
- 50 Block Lafayette Cr.
- 700 Block Moraga Rd.
- 1100 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.
- 1000 Block Sierra Vista Way
- 3200 Block Beechwood Dr.
- Exhibition of Speed
- Mt. Diablo Blvd./Village Center
- Hit And Run Misdemeanor
- 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

- 3300 Block Mildred Ln.
- 900 Block Mountain View Dr.
- Mt. Diablo Blvd./Lafayette Cr.
- 900 Block Mountain View Dr.
- Old Tunnel Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
- 1200 Block Quandt Ct.
- Reckless Driving
- Mt. Diablo Blvd./Oak Hill Rd.
- Deer Hill Rd./Happy Valley Rd.
- 700 Block Moraga Rd.
- Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.
- Moraga Rd./School St.
- 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Oak Hill/Eb 24 Off
- Vehicle Theft
- 1100 Block Pleasant Hill Cr.
- 600 Block Murray Ln.
- Other criminal activity**
- Fraud False Pretenses
- 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Grand Theft
- Mt. Diablo Blvd./Shreve Ln.
- Identity Theft
- 3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.
- Petty Theft
- 10 Block Shreve Ln.
- 200 Block Lafayette Cr.
- 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 600 Block Glenside Dr.
- Shoplift
- 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 100 Block Lafayette Cr.
- 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Vandalism
- 900 Block East St.
- 3600 Block Bickerstaff St.
- Nuisance to the Community**
- Disturbance-Domestic
- 3100 Block Somerset Dr.
- Drunk In Public
- Acalanes Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Loud Music
- Pleasant Hill Rd./Olympic Blvd.
- Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Loud Party
- 500 Block St. Mary's Rd.
- Phone Harass
- 1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.
- Public Nuisance
- 1000 Block Buchan Dr.
- Sierra Vista Way/Hidalgo Ct
- 10 Block Maloyan Ln.

- 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 1000 Block Dewing Ave.
- Pleasant Hill Rd./Acalanes Ave.
- 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 20 Block Olympic Oaks Dr.
- 3900 Block S Peardale Dr.
- 1000 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.
- School Assembly Check
- 30 Block Circle Creek Ct
- 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Other**
- H&S Violation
- 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Panhandling
- 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Threats
- 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 500 Block St. Mary's Rd.
- Violation Restraining Ord
- 1000 Block Via Roble

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report



- Feb. 19 - Feb. 25**
- Alarms 6
- 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 11
- Traffic 29
- Suspicious Circumstances 2
- Suspicious Subject 1
- Suspicious Vehicle 8
- Service to Citizen 16
- Patrol Request/Security Check 27
- Supplemental Report 6
- Vacation House Check 5
- Welfare Check 4
- Vehicle violations**
- Reckless Driving
- 1200 Block Rimer Dr.
- Corliss Dr./Moraga Rd.
- Other criminal activity**
- Commercial Burglary
- CVS
- Forgery
- 90 Block Buckingham Dr.
- Fraud Credit Card
- 50 Block Miramonte Dr.

- Fraud False Pretenses
- Police Department
- 90 Block Buckingham Dr.
- Grand Theft
- Not Available
- Harassment
- 300 Block Rheem Blvd.
- Identity Theft
- 30 Block Woodside Dr.
- Petty Theft
- 800 Block Country Club Dr.
- Not Available
- Nuisance to the Community**
- Loud Noise
- Los Perales Elementary School
- Loud Party
- 1900 Block Ascot Dr.
- 1900 Block Ascot Dr.
- Public Assembly Check
- Country Club
- Other**
- Mentally Ill Commit
- St. Mary's College
- Runaway Juvenile
- 100 Block Cypress Point Way



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

- Feb. 10 - Feb. 23**
- Alarms 54
- 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 11
- Traffic 56
- Suspicious Circumstances 6
- Suspicious Subject 11
- Suspicious Vehicle 2
- Service to Citizen 79
- Patrol Request/Security Check 17
- Vacation House Check 6
- Supplemental Report 10
- Welfare Check 9
- Vehicle violations**
- Accident Property
- Safeway
- 10 Block Orinda Way
- 10 Block Orchard Rd.
- Camino Pablo/Los Amigos

- 20 Block Altarinda Rd.
- Auto Burglary
- 90 Block Brookwood Rd.
- 10 Block Irwin Way
- Hit and Run Misdemeanor
- 100 Block Lucille Way
- Reckless Driving
- Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.
- Tc - Property Damage
- 20 Block Miner Rd.
- Vehicle Theft
- Wagner Ranch Elementary
- Other criminal activity**
- Identity Theft
- 10 Block Snow Ct.
- Residential Burglary
- 400 Block Moraga Way
- 10 Block Dolores Way
- Shoplift
- Safeway
- Nuisance to the Community**
- Disturbance-Domestic
- 200 Block Ivy Dr.
- 20 Block Orinda Way
- Shell Gas
- Disturbance-Fight
- Nations
- Loud Party
- 100 Block Lucille Way (2)
- Knickerbocker Ln./Candlestick Rd.
- Public Assembly Check
- Cvs (2)
- Public Nuisance
- 100 Block Canon Dr.
- Overhill Rd/Hillcrest Dr.
- Vandalism
- Windy Creek
- Way/Monkeyflow Ln.
- Camino Encinas/Underhill Rd.
- 30 Block Marston Rd. (2)
- Other**
- H&S Violation
- Orinda Way Jso Santa Maria Way
- Litter
- E Altarinda Dr./Harran Cr.
- Ordinance Violation
- 30 Block Barbara Rd.
- 10 Block La Cuesta Rd.
- Other Infraction
- Chevron
- Sleepy Hollow Ln./Lombardy Ln.

Lamorinda Catholic churches not immune from sexual predator clergy

By Nick Marnell

Three Roman Catholic priests who served as associate pastors at Lamorinda parishes appeared on a list of clergy “credibly accused of sexual abuse of minors,” released Feb. 17 by the Diocese of Oakland. Two of the priests worked at the Church of Santa Maria in Orinda and one had been assigned to St. Monica Church in Moraga. Allegations of sexual abuse of minors had been charged against at least one other priest who served in a Lamorinda parish, but though named in the Oakland report as credibly accused, he was not listed as having worked in Lamorinda.

According to information provided by the diocese, Robert Freitas served at St. Monica

from June of 1988 until March 1990, Gary Lagasse worked at Santa Maria in 1972 and Gary Tollner was assigned there in 1971-72. All three had been credibly accused of sexual abuse of minors.

“My first reaction in seeing the list of names of priests who have abused, is one of deep shame. These are monstrous crimes, committed by priests who are supposed to model virtue and grace, not sin and harm. By publishing this list, I am making an ‘Act of Contrition’ on behalf of my Church,” Bishop Michael Barber said in a statement.

Robert Ribeiro appeared in the diocese report but it made no mention of his 1971-80 tenure at St. Perpetua Church in Lafayette, where he was listed as having served in a 2018 report

on clergy sexual abuse in the Bay Area. The report was compiled by the Minneapolis law firm Jeff Anderson and Associates, which represents clergy abuse victims.

Three of the accused Lamorinda priests have died and in 2008 Lagasse was excommunicated, the most severe penalty administered by the Catholic Church. A fifth priest, who worked three assignments in the 1980s at Saint Mary’s College in Moraga and had been accused of fondling an altar boy, had the charges dismissed in 2017, according to the Catholic Sentinel.

“There has been no credible incident of abuse of a minor by a priest or deacon of the Diocese of Oakland since 1988. I can assure that today, no priest or deacon who is in active ministry in the Diocese of Oakland has a

credible allegation of abuse of a minor,” Barber said.

Officials of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests called the publication of the list a good first step, but said that the diocese still lacked transparency. “What the diocese should provide are not only all of the names of all who lived or worked in the diocese who are accused, but also their specific work histories, when the diocese first learned of the abusive behavior, and their actions towards that priest to limit the damage he caused then and could cause in the future,” Northern California SNAP representative Dan McNevin said.

The organization explained that, according to government

and law enforcement statistics, the average clergy abuse victim does not come forward until 30 or more years have passed. “If no one has come forward yet in the Lamorinda area, that does not mean that no children were molested there,” SNAP Northwest Leader Joey Piscitelli said. “I’ve talked to numerous clergy sex abuse victims that waited much longer than 30 years to come forward, and I urge anyone in the Lamorinda area who is ready to come forward to contact police.”

None of the priests named in this article had been accused of sexual abuse of minors while serving in the Lamorinda parishes.

Letters to the editor

A matter of education

In the February newsletter the MSD superintendent Bruce Burns cites the need to pay for teacher pensions as the primary reason the district must limit other spending. He thanks the Moraga Education Foundation for supporting art, music and PE programs and he gives as an example of cost control a reduction in special education.

So in Moraga climbing walls, and trombones are more important than the disabled students, who after all really don’t use them and probably won’t have important lives anyway. Is that how it is Mr. Burns? Cut the funds for those who have no options so that you can fund the latest educational fad or not take heat from the sports fans?

How mean spirited, how selfish to put the these things above giving help, kindness and the best opportunity possible to a group of our chil-

dren who need our care and protection. How we treat, how we care for, those less fortunate is the mark of our humanity. A donation for a climbing wall or a computer for your already well off children is just plain selfish when even one of our children carries a lifetime burden that we could ease in anyway.

David Gow
Moraga

Understanding destructive California fires – more than ignition sources

In the editorial, “Camp Fire revelation is last straw; PG&E must be replaced” (March 1), the Bay Area News Group again demonstrates it’s extreme bias against PG&E and its limited understanding of the complex issues surrounding the destructive California wildfires. It is overly simplistic and disingenuous to blame the utility for the terri-

ble California fires even if ignition sources are substantiated.

Ignition sources are part of the equation. There are many other reasons why the California fires caused loss of life and were so destructive, besides ignition sources. Prolonged severe droughts, spontaneity, extremely high intensity of the fires, climate engineering, and other anthropogenic causes were major contributors. These other factors need to be analyzed and understood. Most, if not all of these other factors, are not within the purview of PG&E.

Claiming that the utility “... cannot continue to exist in its current form” presupposes that the editors have the knowledge, experience and “knowhow” to address these complex issues. Clearly, they do not.

Chris Knief
Orinda

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 must be factually accurate and 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

Candell to recuse from Deer Hill project, three others reject call to recuse

... continued from Page A3

Following Candell’s announcement, Vice Mayor Mike Anderson, Council Member Teresa Gerringer and Mayor Cam Burks all read identical statements that during the closed session they gave consideration to claims (made by a letter from Save Lafayette) that they should also recuse themselves and said that after consultation with the city’s attorney they do not believe there is any reason to do so.

Save Lafayette contends that, based on the logic given that Candell should recuse, Burks’ involvement as chair of the “Yes on Measure L” campaign and Gerringer’s and Anderson’s endorsement and

support of the campaign should by the same token require their recusals.

In fact, says Candell, “The letter from Save Lafayette argues that this entire process is biased because the three other council members were not also forced to recuse, even though they worked very closely for a long time with the developer on Measure L.

“Letters were written describing residents’ dissatisfaction with council in this matter, which has done absolutely nothing to help support their fellow council member, me, during this process,” says Candell.

In a follow-up letter from Wenter to Hodil dated Feb. 28 in which the attorneys address what they describe as Candell’s

“material animosity” to the developer citing specific posts from social media, the developer’s attorney expresses deep concern that Candell intends to retain her right to speak as a private citizen and requests the name of her personal attorney.

The letter states, “We are deeply concerned about the role Council Member Candell apparently believes she can play opposing the project even as a private citizen, notwithstanding her acknowledged conflict of interest affecting our clients’ due process rights, and will address that critical issue separately.”

Burks said that it would not be appropriate for him to comment on anything related to city council closed session.

Lafayette BART-owned land

... continued from Page A2

In response to a question from Council Member Steven Bliss, Thorne-Lyman said that the bill requires rezoning all BART-owned land even if they have no plans to develop.

Burks considers this very good news for Lafayette, explaining that in his meeting, “I

once again reiterated to the BART general manager that Lafayette is not anti-development – that we are for smart, controlled growth in our downtown core area that involves high-density units, including affordable housing, near our public transportation – and that we have a strong, proven track record to

show we have been successful in this space. I indicated that we are against Sacramento stripping our local control in the land use and development space – as AB 2923 does – because we do indeed know how to grow in an appropriate way; a way that addresses and does our part vis-à-vis the Bay Area housing crisis.”

Moraga Library HVAC woes continue

... continued from Page A4

Woehleke recommended that, in the future, the library purchases a system with less bells and whistles to fix.

Korpus will ask her husband, an electrical engineer, to take a look at the boiler and possibly provide some diagnostic answers.

During the public com-

ment portion, Friends of the Library Board Member Jane Low cited additional existing maintenance issues. “The library is an old building. It’s not at the top of everybody’s list for maintenance. My concern is unless you make a lot of complaints, nobody really pays a lot of attention to it. I urge you to pay more attention to the library.”

The town council unanimously gave the town manager authorization to use funds in the Minor Capital Improvement Program not to exceed \$40,000 toward the Moraga Library HVAC repairs.

The library will remain open during the repair process, which is expected to be completed by mid-April.

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Meals on Wheels helps Lamorinda seniors stay in own homes



Meals on Wheels volunteer Greg Holm arrives at a home in Lafayette.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

Former firefighter Greg Holm used to know Lamorinda like the back of his hand. He feels

comfortable driving his own car around the small, twisty lanes of Lamorinda where he was volunteering to drive a Meals on Wheels route on Feb. 26. The

usual driver had a family emergency, but Holm was happy to step in to deliver meals to the 16 clients on the route.

At each stop, he would check his list to see what type of meal the client was to receive, and if there were any special delivery instructions, which there quite often were. Each client might get either a regular meal, which is low salt and low fat; a regular meal with fruit, which has less sugar; or a special meal for those on a sodium restricted regime, chiefly heart and kidney patients. To receive low sodium meals, a doctor's approval is required. In addition to the hot daily meal, some clients also receive a deli meal, a light lunch consisting of a salad, sandwich or wrap. These supplemental meals are really for those clients who have no other way of getting groceries, according to Nancy Raniere, nutrition services division manager of Diablo Region, the contractor that distributes meals for Meals on Wheels.

As Holm made his way through the route, he patiently waited for clients to make their way to the door. Often the door was open, with the instruction to come in to deliver the meal. If a client does not respond, and the door is locked, the meal cannot not be left for them. Sometimes Holm was warmly greeted by clients who were clearly delighted both to receive the food but also to have a chance to chat a little with the volunteer who delivered it, knowing that the volunteers are charged with looking out for the clients, and getting help if anything is amiss. A number of clients don't speak English, and several spoke only Russian.

Nancy, 87, has been living in Lafayette for three years, having moved up from Modesto three years ago to be closer to her family. Her daughter lives in Lafayette, her son in Dublin,

and another daughter lives in Castro Valley, while her "baby" lives in New York. She has eight grandchildren. Nancy has vision trouble, but manages to watch television with her huge glasses. Arthritis has twisted her hands and makes it impossible for her to cook. She enjoys the meals delivered, "very, very much. I like everything," she enthused. She receives one meal a day from Meals on Wheels. Her children stock her fridge and cook meals she stores in her freezer.

Carolyn, 70, has lived in Lafayette for two years after her social worker found her small apartment in a cul-de-sac. She currently has no family in the area, but her son, a church minister, is moving back from Florida soon. Born in Fresno, Carolyn started working for her father, who owned a trucking company in Las Vegas. She drove for him for several years, delivering construction materials. She was a cross-country trucker for 10 years and she became accustomed to eating sandwiches while driving. To this day, she really likes sandwiches, and she gets a deli meal in addition to the hot meal of the day. Carolyn has great difficulty moving about, and her son would like her to move in with him, his wife and their two girls, but she is happy on her own, and Meals on Wheels allows her to continue to live independently, which fulfills the organization's avowed purpose of enabling seniors to live on their own for as long as possible.

Rose, 84, lives with her husband, 88, in the same house where they have lived for 50 years. They raised six children, and have seven grandchildren, but their children are scattered, mostly in the military. Rose has her "kitchen cabinet," friends of her son who, now that she's older, are happy to help her out. Rose is retired from an insurance company in San Francisco, and her husband was a journeyman sheet metal worker. Rose had enjoyed cooking, but she had to give it up because of a leg ailment that makes it impossible for her to stand at the stove. The first thing to go from their diet was fresh fruit and vegetables, and she is especially happy to receive the meals from Meals on Wheels because she gets a balanced diet. She enjoys the volunteers who come in, deliver the food, and check on her and her husband. The volunteers, are "very pleasant people. I really appreciate them," she said, adding, "I've made a couple of friends!" Rose couldn't emphasize enough how much she and her husband appreciate the service.

Meals on Wheels of Contra Costa, Inc. subsidizes 2,200 meals daily in Contra Costa County and is a nonprofit coalition of all the public and non-

profit agencies, and senior citizen advisory groups involved in providing Meals on Wheels services to frail homebound elders in the county. According to Marti Carlson, community engagement specialist for the nonprofit, Meals on Wheels of Contra Costa, Inc. is the only agency in the county raising funds to provide the meals delivered to homebound elders served by the Meals on Wheels program.

Diablo Region delivers between 1,800 and 1,900 Meals on Wheels meals daily in Central Contra Costa County. Diablo Region, recently under the direction of Interim Executive Director Carrie Blanding, are the "boots on the ground," so to speak, delivering to individual clients and also checking out the CC Cafes at the Senior Centers, according to Raniere.

According to Community Engagement Specialist Marti Carlson, Meals on Wheels of Contra Costa, Inc., is the umbrella group that is responsible for the fundraising and they liaise with the county, which provides a nutritionist who makes up the menus each month, meeting federal guidelines for nutritional content.

In Lamorinda, one route covers Lafayette and another covers Moraga and Orinda. Each route has 16 clients, and delivery to both routes requires 10 volunteers, each driving one route once a week, since the routes are some of the longest in the area.

Volunteers seem happy to use their own vehicles, and can, but rarely do, declare their mileage as a tax deduction, according to Raniere. Each driver receives an hour of training and orientation. Before driving their first route, new drivers do a ride-along with an experienced driver. Volunteers sign confidentiality agreements, and security training agreements and drivers are mandated reporters of any situation they think is abusive. According to Carlson, there is always a need for more volunteer drivers, but there is also a long list of substitute drivers. Many local groups, such as local churches or Rotary groups, volunteer to drive. All volunteers are subject to background checks.

Meals are delivered to clients five days a week. On Friday, delivered frozen meals for Saturday and Sunday are provided for those who need it. Meals are also provided in advance of holidays. Meals on Wheels clients receive at least one meal for every day of the year.

Raniere says that the Lamorinda area routes are pretty stable, with people who have been on the routes for a long time. The most common reason people come off is because they are going to an assisted living facility, she added.



The Lafayette City Council is soliciting applicants to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission..

Planning Commission. This seven-member body is responsible for matters relating to land use and development in the city. The commission serves as an advisory agency to the City Council for administering the laws and ordinances governing the approval of general and specific plans, zoning text amendments and rezonings. The commission also hears and decides on applications for subdivisions, land use permits, variances, and ridgeline development. Members of the Planning Commission are required to be qualified electors of the City of Lafayette, and are selected on the basis of training, education, occupation and expertise. The commission reviews design drawings, construction plans and technical reports. The following are planning documents that commissioners must be familiar with to execute their duties. 1) Lafayette General Plan; 2) Lafayette Municipal Code, Title 6 -Planning & Land Use; 3) Downtown Specific Plan; 4) Downtown Design Guidelines; 5) Residential Design Review Guidelines.

Link to the application and additional information www.lovelafayette.org/pc

Individuals with questions may call Interim Planning & Building Director Greg Wolff (925) 299-3204. Completed applications must be received by 5:00pm March 29, 2019.



Lafayette Volunteer Opportunities

There are currently openings on the following Lafayette Commissions/Committees

- Capital Projects Assessment Committee (CPAC)
- Community Center Foundation
- Creeks Committee
- Crime Prevention Commission
- Downtown Street Improvement Master Plan Implementation Committee(DSIMPIC)
- Emergency Preparedness Commission
- Environmental Task Force
- Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission
- Planning Commission
- Senior Services Commission
- Transportation & Circulation Commission
- Youth Commission

For additional information visit the city's website: www.lovelafayette.org Hot Topics

Or e-mail City Clerk Joanne Robbins, jrobbins@lovelafayette.org

Application deadline March 31, 2019. Positions open until filled.

Council to keep talking gas safety

... continued from Page A3

Furthermore Gina Dawson says that by virtue of their efforts over the past two years, Save Lafayette Trees has already become an informal gas safety task force.

"We've researched for countless hours, spoken with pipeline safety experts, presented at safety conferences, and importantly, engaged with the CPUC. We helped instigate the development of the Lafayette Pipeline Safety Alliance – the collaboration of PG&E, CPUC, and the community (city and residents together) – all for improved gas pipeline safety."

Burks says he is eager to agendize the item. "The issues are complex and an open session, with public input, is necessary to understand solutions and strategies. I have made it clear over and over that my main concern is for the public safety of our community," he said.

At the same meeting both Gina and Michael Dawson expressed dismay over the city's Feb. 21 Almost Daily Briefing email which featured as its lead story an arti-

cle from the Northern California Record with the headline "Court grants PG&E's reconsideration and denies Save Lafayette Trees protected tree petition." Michael Dawson accused the city of giving an "erroneous and false" headline knowing that "distributing this story would give residents a false impression that PG&E had won a new ruling."

Subramanian responded by saying that the city cannot change a headline.

"The Almost Daily Briefing is a collection of published articles related to Lafayette. The city does not change the headline or content of any article, and simply presents the stories to the community so that people are aware of what is being written about Lafayette," said Jeff Heyman, communications analyst for the city of Lafayette.

"The article in question was published by a legal journal serving Northern California, and the city had no hand in authoring the article or its headline," Heyman added.

Michael Dawson was disappointed that the city did

not issue a correction. "This biased article was written by a national organization with a specific mission to enact business-friendly tort laws, and was falsely made to look like local news. Not only does the city need to vet their top story news links, they need to do a better job being honest and transparent in their communications."

Heyman says that the city will be submitting a staff report to the council detailing the Almost Daily Briefing production process at the March 11 meeting.

Meanwhile Burks says that the city is moving forward to arrange a second meeting with the community, the city council, the CPUC and PG&E. A previous meeting with these parties took place in November. They are currently looking at dates in March and Burks says it will include senior/high-level stakeholders who are in a position to make decisions.

"So the city is certainly not sitting on our hands – we are actively facilitating engagement/collaboration in the interests of public safety," Burks said.

Planning a gateway to open space and miles of public trails in the heart of Moraga

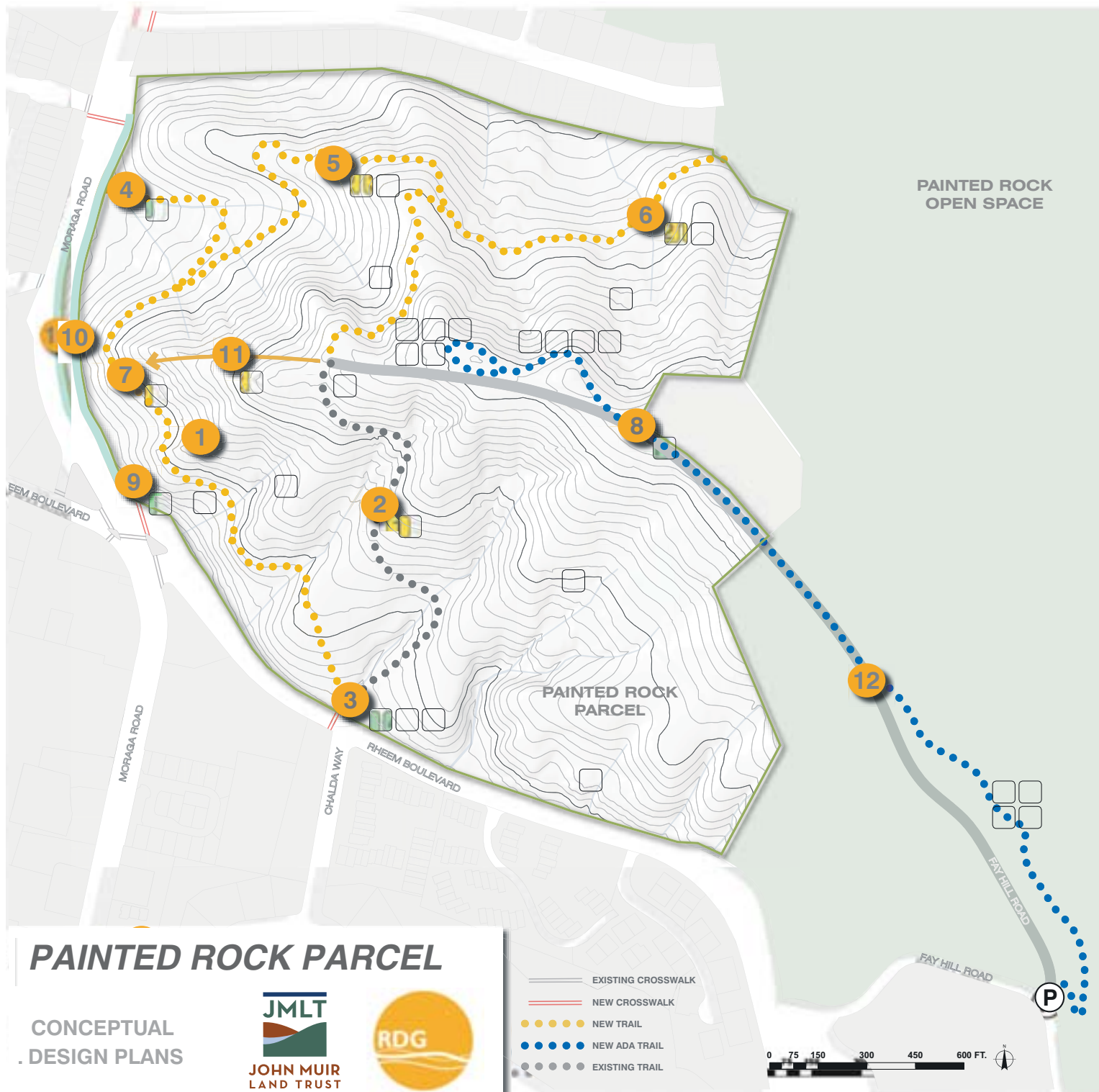
By Sophie Braccini

The vision to access hundreds of acres of open space from the Rheem Shopping Center and linking a busy town center to miles of trails and recreation opportunities could materialize this year, but the John Muir Land Trust, which has raised half of the necessary \$2 million to buy the Painted Rock property, is still short of funds. The JMLT is now relying on private generosity to close a deal that must be finalized by May of this year. A new matching grant could bridge the gap if the community rallies around this opportunity.

The 84 acres of vacant land located at the northeast corner of Moraga Road and Rheem Boulevard used to belong to Roger Poynt, who passed away over four years ago; his widow put the centrally located lot up for sale for \$11 million, but struck a deal with the JMLT for a fraction of that price to turn her property into wild space open to the public in perpetuity. Linus Eukel, the executive director of the nonprofit that has patiently acquired land all over the East Bay, explains that the trust was specifically interested in that relatively small parcel because it is a missing piece of a puzzle connecting open parcels preserved for wildlife and people's recreation in Lamorinda and beyond.

The JMLT is inviting locals to look at and discuss design concepts on Thursday, March 14 that are being developed by the Restoration Design Group. The informational session will be held from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at the Hacienda de las Flores in Moraga, with the design presentation scheduled for 6:30. People will see how a network of trails could link open spaces in Moraga with Rancho Laguna and Palos Colordos trails, as well as space north to Lafayette, west to Orinda as well as to the other hundreds of acres of open space toward the San Leandro Reservoir.

At the Feb. 27 Moraga Town Council meeting, members requested that an update from JMLT be presented at a coming meeting to see how close it is to reaching its goal and to see what else the town could do to support the effort. The town's mayor, Roger Wykle, explained that the council absolutely agrees that



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CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PLANS



- EXISTING CROSSWALK
- NEW CROSSWALK
- NEW TRAIL
- NEW ADA TRAIL
- EXISTING TRAIL



Courtesy JMLT - the Restoration Design Group

- 1 PAINTED ROCKS
- 2 EXISTING RANCH ROAD
- 3 RHEEM / CHALDA ENTRY, WITH NEW CROSSWALK
- 4 MEADOW ENTRY
- 5 MEADOW TO RIDGE TRAIL (GENTLE GRADE)
- 6 CONNECTOR TRAIL TO PAINTED ROCK OPEN SPACE
- 7 PAINTED ROCK TRAIL
- 8 ACCESSIBLE RIDGELINE TRAIL WITH PARKING
- 9 RHEEM / MORAGA ENTRY WITH NEW CROSSWALK
- 10 NEW SIDEWALK ON MORAGA ROAD
- 11 PAINTED ROCK TRAIL FROM RIDGE (WITH STEPS)
- 12 ACCESSIBLE RIDGELINE TRAIL EXTENSION

One of the conceptual designs possible for the Painted Rock (modified)

new donations and is being offered to encourage everyone to help get them across the finish line.

The March 14 meeting will be an important moment for the trust to make its case to residents about all the wildlife opportunities that will be opened to them when Painted Rock becomes public and trails are developed. Wykle says that he plans on attending the March 14 presentation and expects that other council members and staff will as well.

the acquisition of the Painted Rock area by the JMLT would be good. So far the town has not been able to contribute any funds to the campaign, but the council discussed during the recent council meeting the use of some of the Palos Colorados funds to support the Painted Rock acquisition.

The mayor noted, however, that the town has many unfunded and competing needs at the moment and the council has not reached a final decision. This is why, knowing the town's financial situation, Eukel and his development team are engaging the general public, getting some buy-in for future plans

and asking residents to "put skin in the game."

"Today, at end of February, we have raised \$1.45 million, of which \$350K is a challenge match for new gifts received by May 1," explained Eukel. He added that the challenge match comes from anonymous donors, and is very generous as it doubles

Miramonte girls soccer NorCal champions!

... continued from Page A1

A strong defensive effort helped the Mats defeat No. 4 Kingsburg in the first round of the NorCal tourney, with sophomore Angelina Basso scoring the lone goal. McQuain gave

credit to Whipple and Grant for their defensive efforts against a team with one of the highest scoring players in the state.

The NorCal championship game was nearly a repeat performance of the NCS playoffs, as Campolindo fell one game shy

of reaching the finals, falling to El Camino of Sacramento, 2-0. The Cougars previously upset No. 2 Sacred Heart Prep in Atherton 3-2 to make it as far as the semifinals.

Miramonte and Campolindo met in the NCS finals,

with the 2-1 match being decided on a corner kick that Walthall bent into the net untouched with no time left on the clock. Incredibly, it was Walthall's second corner kick goal of the game. Celia Campo scored the lone goal for the

Cougars.

McQuain gave credit to assistant coach Joe McMahon, who is in his third year with the program. "Joe was a big part of everything this year and we really couldn't have done it without him."

Consolidation of Design Review Board and Planning Commission

... continued from Page A5

Farmer noted a decline in the number of persons interested in sitting on the DRB. In 2017, there were nine DRB meetings mostly regarding one major item and a few more were only for additions to a single family home. In 2018, several members of the DRB moved over to the Planning Commission, and their vacated positions were never filled. Farmer has encouraged residents who are interested to fill those positions, but to no avail. The DRB needs a quorum to operate and it currently doesn't have one.

Farmer feels that the consolidation would benefit developers and applicants by saving them time and money. They wouldn't have to go back and forth between departments in order to get a permit. He stated, "We are a cost recovery department, and we bill staff time to the applicant."

According to Farmer, the

state of California doesn't require municipalities to have a DRB the way it does a planning commission. Orinda has already consolidated theirs and Lafayette is watching Moraga's process before deciding what route to take.

Members of the DRB agree that the consolidation is a good idea, and the level of additional work for members of the Planning Commission would be minimal. "It's not going to be a culture shock. These people (DRB members) know the town." Farmer adds, "And, because we don't have a DRB quorum this would be a good time to consider consolidating the DRB with the Planning Commission."

Moraga Chamber of Commerce President Bob Fritzky agreed with the recommendation, saying it would make doing business with Moraga that much more attractive to potential developers.

The consolidation would cost the town \$12,000 -

\$15,000 in legal fees to document. Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg noted, "We do have a budget for town attor-

ney costs, so that would fit in with our budget. It wouldn't be additional legal fees."

The town council unani-

mously agreed to allow paperwork for the consolidation process to begin.

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The Rescue One Foundation serves as the support group for the paramedic program of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

Letters of interest should be sent no later than March 18 and addressed to
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 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga, CA, 94556.

For further information about this position, please call (925) 376-6151.



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Moraga's Joint Legislative Town Hall a standing-room-only event



Photo Vera Kochan

From left: State Sen. Steve Glazer and Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan

By Vera Kochan

A packed house of attendees from the Lamorinda area came to hear what State Sen. Steve Glazer's and Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan's agendas were for California – and more specifically for Contra Costa County – at a Joint Legislative Town Hall hosted Feb. 28 by Campolindo High School in Moraga.

Glazer was a city council member and three-time mayor of Orinda. As senator for the 7th District, he serves Contra Costa and Alameda counties, which include 20 cities.

The newly elected Bauer-Kahan serves the 16th Assembly District which includes Moraga, Orinda and Lafayette. She is a Bay Area native who currently lives in Orinda.

Both Glazer and Bauer-Kahan began the new year with impressive legislative packages. Glazer is hoping

that some of his bills that didn't pass during Gov. Jerry Brown's administration may have a new chance under Gov. Gavin Newsome's leadership.

Glazer's legislative package of proposed bills includes: a state parks and beaches smoking ban with a \$25 fine; a \$4 billion higher education facilities bond act for construction and remodeling of existing facilities at UC and CSU campuses; renter's credit reform and expansion to provide financial relief to low- and middle-income families by increasing renter's tax credit; CalWORKS benefits for full-time students; a bill requiring transit operators to allow people to ride with their pets during emergency evacuations; a bill to prohibit landlords from requiring active-duty service members to pay last month's rent (in addition to the first and deposit) as part of the terms to rent; and restorative justice for the victim of a

crime. Bauer-Kahan wasted no time during her few months in office to come up with her own legislative package which includes: mental health diversion gun control prohibiting individuals from possessing firearms while under court-ordered treatment; removal of CalWORKS penalties for families whose children receive scholarships or rental assistance; a bill to protect college students by requiring out-of-state online (for-profit) colleges to abide by the same regulations that apply to in-state colleges; human trafficking victim confidentiality protections; Covered California application extensions; and increased illegal dumping penalties.

Audience members shared concerns about the condition of the BART system, specifically dirty trains, delays and increasing crime. Bauer-Kahan mentioned the addition of 100 new trains coming to the system with a larger rider capacity.

One audience member's comments elicited a smattering of applause from the rest of the crowd when he asked what was being done about all of the dead trees in the area creating a potential fire hazard. He was informed that any trees on privately owned land were the owner's responsibility, but if any trees are on federal land it's an uphill battle for cooperation.

For additional information, visit Glazer's website at <https://sd07.senate.ca.gov> or call his local district office at (925) 258-1176. Bauer-Kahan's website is <https://a16.asmdc.org> and her local district office number is (925) 328-1515.

Parenting in the age of technology



Photo Vera Kochan

Erica Pelavin, LCSW, Ph.D., co-founder of My Digital TAT2, Inc.

... continued from Page A5

Over the last 15 years, there have been huge advancements in social media technology. Facebook was created in 2004, and by 2005 the average user sent 35 texts a month. By 2016, the average person sent 2,022 texts per month. The first iPhone was released in 2007, with the first iPhone app following the next year. As of 2018, teens have access to 3.8 million apps.

Many of these apps can be dangerous places for middle-

schoolers to traverse. Pelavin says it's important as a parent to know what your kids are viewing on social media, but they can be defensive about their presence there. She suggests that parents express an interest in their child's favorite apps by asking non-threatening questions, and if the app is harmless enough, have the child explain the features and benefits of it.

Social media is a teen's outlet for coping with day-to-day life. "Teens use social media to connect with peers, investigate the world, try new identities and establish independence," says Pelavin. "If kids have struggles in the real world it may show up online. The same goes with their passions and interests. They search for fame and recognition. They're looking for acceptance, hoping to be noticed, struggling to stay relevant and are strategically posting."

Kids must understand the consequences of rumors, gossip and cyberbullying. Digital content can be taken out of context and words must be chosen carefully. Kids should only post positive things about themselves or others and remember that they can't undo a message once they hit "send."

Leaving a digital tattoo is virtually impossible to remove. Anyone has the power to be an ally to someone who has been cyberbullied by sending a message of support to the victim either publicly or privately. They can also report the bullying to an adult and refuse to participate in the attack. Bullying can only thrive when there is an audience.

According to Pelavin, kids must learn to balance digital use with device-free active and healthy activities. Many kids stay up late using their devices when they should be sleeping, thereby depriving them of quality awake time during school hours. She says, "Put devices to bed at least one hour before bedtime."

A fourth-grader she counsels told her, "My friend was sleeping over and we couldn't fall asleep. We Googled how to fall asleep, and it said, 'Get off of your device.'"

"Kids really do want forced family time – put all of the phones in a basket and have the 'no phones' rule apply to everybody during meal-time or other family activities," concludes Pelavin. "Our kids are watching us. If you abuse social media, so will they."

Info: www.mydigitaltat2.org or (650) 427-0059

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

'Brooklyn Bridge' a charming metaphor of human (dis)connectedness at THT



Photos Jay Yamada

From left: Terrance Smith and Emma Curtin in "Brooklyn Bridge" at Town Hall Theatre

By Sophie Braccini

Sacha, a 10-year-old girl going on 11, must complete an essential school assignment for the next day: an essay on the Brooklyn Bridge. She is alone that evening, her mother is at work and her father is long gone ... and she can't find a pen. Living in downtown New York in an apartment building where people don't know each other, she is going to venture out of her comfort zone and reach out to her quirky and colorful neighbors, discovering many truths along the way about human connectedness, solidarity and friendship. The craftily directed play, "Brooklyn Bridge," is a pleasure for the whole family that can be appreciated at different levels.

The Brooklyn Bridge is a testimony to human resilience and vision. It was built to bring together two neighborhoods that looked at each other across the East River, and it took 14 years to be built in the later part of the 19th century. Sacha loves the bridge and is in fact in awe of it; she knows so many facts about it, but beyond the ab-

sence of the pen, she has writer's block because she has not defined yet what the bridge means to her. By meeting her neighbors – Sam, a dental student; Trudi, a businesswoman with time management issues; John, a wheelchair-bound Brooklyn Bridge buff and Talidia, a Puerto Rican single mother with many children – Sacha discovers the importance of reaching out and connecting to others, and finally her vision of the bridge.

Young actress Emma Curtin is on stage almost non-stop, portraying a charming, smart, precocious but still naive pre-teen. The young actress can already boast a long list of achievements throughout the East Bay as dancer, singer and actress. As the lead in "Brooklyn Bridge" she brings a freshness of approach as well as impeccable craftsmanship. It takes skills to perfectly deliver the very lovely language used by playwright Melissa James Gibson, who has constructed a simple, straight narrative – using the classic unity of time, place and action, studded with humor. Curtin is simply excellent and

her fellow actors also rise to the challenge.

Kudos go to the direction by Graham Smith and scenic designer Liliana Duque Piñeiro. The actors move between floors, in and out of apartments, and there is even a visual rendering of the construction of the bridge that's quite poetic and inspirational.

People of any age will appreciate the play and might even, when they return home, decide to knock on the door of that strange neighbor they have never talked to before, even though they have lived there for years, and maybe there will be something they will learn from one another.

"Brooklyn Bridge" opened at Town Hall Theatre on Feb. 28 and will run through March 23. The team offers different events such as talk-backs with the cast and director on certain nights.

Tickets and details can be found at www.townhalltheatre.com/brooklyn-bridge.



Emma Curtin and Tom Reilly in Brooklyn Bridge at Town Hall Theatre.

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2019 Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest open for submissions



By Sora O'Doherty

In honor of the late Orinda resident and popular science-fiction writer Poul Anderson, high school students who reside or attend school in Orinda

will once again have an opportunity to compete in the annual Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest, sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library. There are four entry categories: Science Fiction/Fantasy, Essay/Memoir/Biography, and Poetry and Short Story. Students may submit no more than three entries and no more than one in any category. Submissions must be in by Friday, April 19 at noon.

Up to four winners will each be awarded \$500 prizes,

underwritten by the Friends of the Orinda Library, at the end of the school year. Entries are reviewed by a panel of local judges who are involved professionally in reading, writing or publishing. This year's judges are Pat Rudebusch, Janine deBoisblanc, Elizabeth Perlman and Inez Hollander Lake. Awards will go to the works judged best. There will not necessarily be one award in each category.

The winning entries will be posted on the Friends' website and inside the Orinda Library facility for all to enjoy. Winning entries from previous years are available on the Friends' website.

Applicants are required to submit a separate entry form for each submission. The writer's name must not appear on the submission but only on the entry form. Entries, which should include a

title, should be typed, double-spaced and include page numbers. Entries must be no more than 20 pages. Entries may be submitted as a hard copy or electronically attached to an email. Entrants must state that their submissions are entirely their own work, and must agree to winning entries being displayed at the Orinda Library and posted on the Friends' website.

Info: More information about Poul Anderson, along with contest rules and entry forms, can be found on the Friends' website, at <http://friendsoftheorindalibrary.org/writingcontest/>.

'Dark Figure of Crime,' a chilling cold case

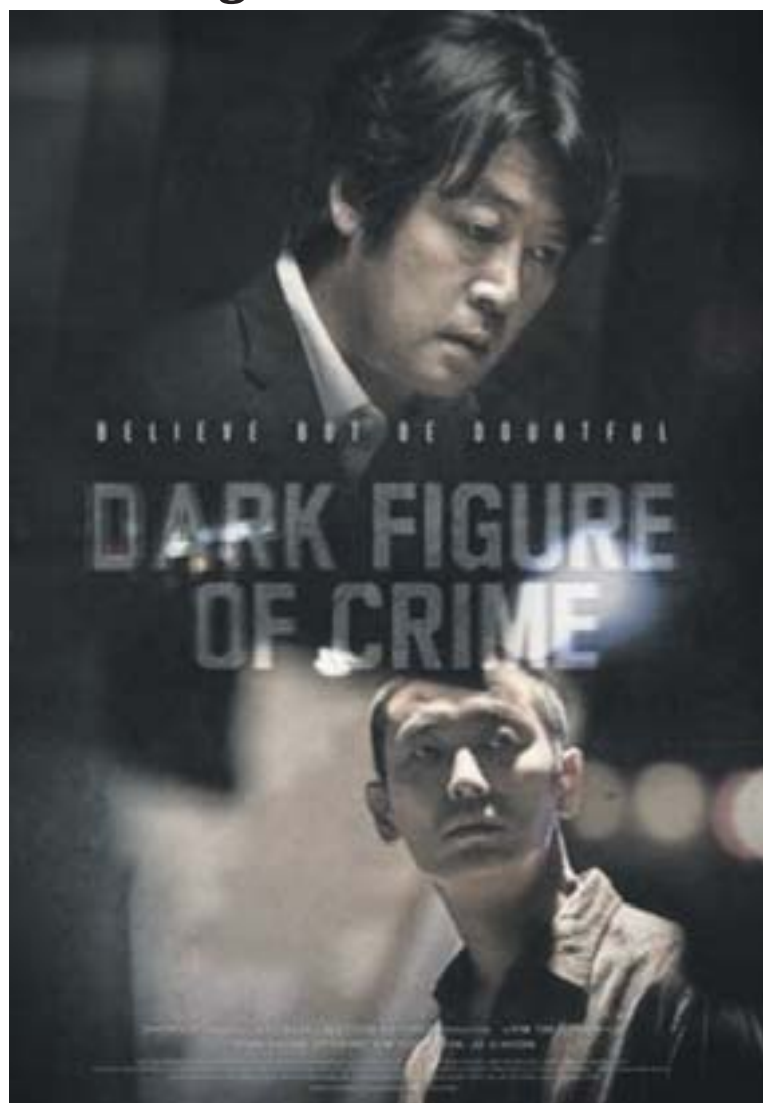


Image provided

By Sophie Braccini

A psychological thriller from South Korea, "Dark Figure of Crime," is this month's choice for the International Film Showcase in Lamorinda. Dark, convoluted and unnerving, this well-made and played film offers an interesting peek into this country's criminal judicial system, and delivers a chilling portrait of a smart and manipulative criminal, matched by a stubborn police officer.

Director Kim Tae-gyoon has a knack for spotting news stories that make excellent movies. In 2010 he wrote and directed "A Barefoot Dream" from a story he had seen on TV that became his country's nominee for the Oscars that year. This time around, he was inspired by a true crime story featured in a documentary. It is the true story of criminal investigator Hyung-Min (Kim Yoon-Seok) who through an informer meets Tae-oh (Ju Ji-Hoon) who pretends having been hired to bury a body 10 years prior. As Tae-oh is about to reveal where that body is, he is violently arrested by another police group for another mur-

der. A month later, the now prisoner contacts Hyung-Min again and confesses having in reality killed seven people; he will give the officer more detail if the officer comes back to visit him and pays him money.

The movie develops as the chess game unfolds between the two men. The cunning and often very annoying criminal, who has studied the law and knows how to exploit its fine print, leads the very patient and tenacious officer, a model of probity and humility, into a wild goose chase studded with false clues and half truths. What is the criminal's aim and what does he have to win in this game?

The Korean movie is no "Silence of the Lambs" and does not rise to that level of tension and horror. It is nonetheless at times violent, but is more focused on the need to seek justice and truth, even when the victims have fallen into oblivion, a topic that has recently become more prominent with the arrest of Samuel Little.

Tae-gyoon's direction is solid, with no frills or excess gore. Yoon-Seok is very credible as the relentless and unyielding investigator. An

American audience may have appreciated a deeper dive into the investigator's motivations and psyche. There are a few hints about his past, but possibly not enough to develop strong empathy for this character. Ju Ji-Hoon creates a very convincing villain.

Director Tae-gyoon said during a promotional press conference for the film that after he watched the TV documentary he drove the following day for five hours to the Busan region where the story happened to meet with the detective and his team. He met extensively with everyone involved and it took him five years to finish writing the film.

The result shows the meticulous puzzle work that went on within the confines of the prison walls and the mental games that went on, unraveling the lies of a murderer, and racking the nerves of the spectator, as any good thriller should.

"Dark Figure of Crime" will be presented at the Orinda Theatre for one week starting March 8, then will show at the Rheem Theatre in Moraga starting March 15.

Family Focus

Helping your child, 6 and older, cope with the death of a loved one

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

Some of the same guidelines mentioned in the last column about helping a young child cope with the death of a loved one apply to an older child as well. You will want your child to hear the sad news of a loved one's death from you, if possible. Pick a familiar setting to let your child know, such as home, and keep your message simple and direct.

What to Do:

In general, a child over the age of 6 will have some understanding about the permanence of death. He or she will need comfort, reassurance and encouragement to ask questions and to express his or her feelings. Stay close physically as well, since your presence and physical touch can be very soothing.

Try to answer questions honestly and simply. Sometimes a question contains a hidden meaning. You will want to verify its intent when responding, so that your child's needs will be truly satisfied. For example, when Avery wants to know what will happen to her dog when he dies, she may actually be seeking information about herself and the people in her life. After answering her question about her dog, a helpful follow up might be, "Is there anything else you want to know?" or "It's understandable that you're wondering about this."

Let your child know what

to expect. If the death of a loved one means changes in your child's life, head off any worries or fears by explaining what will happen. For example, "Aunt Sara will pick you up from school like Grandma used to." Or, "I need to stay with Grandpa for a few days. That means you and Dad will be home taking care of each other. But I'll talk to you every day, and I'll be back on Sunday."

Respect your child's possible reluctance to talk much about his or her loved one's death. Each child may have a different way of responding to loss. It is important for you, however, to continue to mention the person and reminisce about happy times or what you miss. Let your child see how you are coping by talking with your friends, seeking spiritual comfort, and crying and expressing sadness. As long as your emotions aren't too strong and alarming to your child, you will be providing a good example that it is natural to express sad feelings. You can say that it helps you to talk about the person who has died and to be sad. You want to clear the way for your child to talk or ask questions without worrying that you will become too upset.

Older children may turn to their peers for support and tell you they don't want to talk about the death. Avoid forcing the issue, and instead encourage your child to reach out to other adults whom they trust, such as a teacher or school

counselor. Try to maintain an emotional connection with your child, as well as physical (hugs, back rubs, etc.). He or she needs your support even if it's sometimes difficult to acknowledge it.

Encourage your child to attend the funeral or memorial service, and think of a way he or she can participate in order to feel included. But after you have explained details of what will take place, if your child is strongly fearful and reluctant to attend, try to honor these wishes. The graveside part of a funeral can be especially difficult for children. Remember, there is no right and wrong. Your child will most likely follow your lead, so if you are accepting and reassuring about the decision, then he or she will probably be at peace with it too.

Guilt

Children can feel guilty after someone close has died. Younger children often have magical thinking; they believe their own thoughts and behavior cause things to happen. If Brett was angry at his little sister at times and she died, then he must have caused her death.

Older children's guilt takes the form of wondering what they could have done differently, so their loved one wouldn't have died. Maybe their father wouldn't have had a car accident or a heart attack or cancer if they had only behaved better and hadn't caused him stress. Also, chil-

dren may feel guilt about being argumentative or mean to their father, or about ever wishing that he were dead or that they had a different father.

Children need continuous reassurance over time that they had nothing to do with a loved one's death. And they need to know that it is natural and normal to have been angry and upset with the person at times and to have occasionally harbored negative feelings.

Anger

Children may feel anger when a loved one dies. It can be directed at the person who died and abandoned them, or more often it is diffused and directed at anyone and everyone for all sorts of unpredictable reasons.

Provide outlets for your child to express his or her anger. Physical activities such as sports, dancing, yard work and gymnastics, and creative activities, such as writing or art are helpful. Encourage your child to talk with someone he or she trusts.

Older children are at risk for engaging in potentially destructive behavior. They may turn to drugs or alcohol to escape from reality, or lose interest in school or previously enjoyable activities. They may become sexually promiscuous and have frequent conflicts with family and friends.

Notify teachers, coaches, the school counselor, and any other adults who are significant in your child's life. Ask

them to let you know about any signs that your child may be struggling. And if your child needs more help, find a therapist for additional support.

You are instrumental in helping your child through the grief process, so it is essential that you take care of yourself during this time as well. As I've mentioned before, just as airlines tell you to first put on your own oxygen mask before you help your child, you need to allow yourself time, support, and self-care for your own grieving. This is the time to lean on others for help with tasks, childcare, and emotional support for yourself. It's often hard to have to ask for help from others, but it's also an important time to do so, for your own sake and for your family's.



Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a local marriage and family therapist. Contact her at (925) 376-9323 or margierye@yahoo.com. She is the author of "Treat Your Partner Like a Dog: How to Breed a Better Relationship" and "Appetite for Life: Inspiring Stories of Recovery from Anorexia, Bulimia, and Compulsive Overeating."

SMC grad student pens book about gang violence, revenge



Author Darrion Theodore Carlyle Photo provided

By John T. Miller

While many young writers finish a new book and languish away trying to find a publisher, Darrion Theodore Carlyle, a Saint Mary's College graduate student, jumped that hurdle by forming his own company.

His first piece of fiction, "Down By the Creek," published by Carlyle Enterprises, is an account of a young black male growing up amid gangs, insecurities, peer pressure and family responsibilities.

A synopsis of the book can be found on his website: "After an act of gun violence, Don Weiland's older sister dies. As Weiland tries to cope with this loss in a promising new environment, his old friends pressure him into joining a gang in order to get revenge on those who killed his sister." Carlyle lost a close relative when he was 16, so he understands the grief of a tragic death.

The author uses two different fonts in telling his story: one is the first-person voice of the younger Dontae, while the other is the high school version of the same person, although he now goes by Don. It would require a "spoiler alert" to tell you why. Carlyle also breaks convention by telling the elder's version in third person, but occasionally switches to first person "in order to get the reader in the character's shoes," he explains.

The writing is a little rough at times, with much of the dialogue in street slang, but some of the ensemble scenes with his "homies" ring true to life and sparkle with action and dialogue.

The high school Don attends corresponds to the medicine-based magnet school Carlyle at-

tended in Compton. The fictionalized Stevenson High is a magnet school for art.

"There was a lot of gang stuff around my school; Compton was known for it," says Carlyle, who renames the town Avalon for his story. "The school did a good job of keeping everything in focus. I didn't appreciate it when I was young but they did a lot for me and prepared me for college."

The book was cathartic for Carlyle, as he wrestled with issues of depression, grief and suicidal thoughts throughout his young adulthood. "Looking at my thoughts on the page through the characters I created allowed me to really see how I was feeling. Writing the book felt like it gave my life purpose."

Carlyle was born in Carson - a suburb of Los Angeles - to Jamaican immigrant parents who provided a nurturing upbringing. His mother was an English teacher and his father, an officer with the LAPD, taught him a healthy work ethic, especially through his hobby of gardening.

"There's a lot of tree references in the book," says Carlyle. "Planting a seed and watching it grow taught me how to nurture something. That process is a lot like writing my book."

Carlyle majored in English with a minor in Philosophy at UC Riverside. He wrote the book while substitute teaching in Los Angeles. Currently, he is working on his master's in creative writing at SMC, and substitutes in the Acalanes Union High School District. He is currently working on a collection of short stories and a short film, both of which should be complete in the summer of 2019.

Carlyle participated in last year's Spring Author Fest at Campolindo High School to talk about his writing, education and inspiration. According to the school's librarian Sarah Morgan, "The students were especially interested in him as he is young and relatable. They learned that if you find your passion, you can pursue it with specialized schooling and lots of practice."

"It was my mother's idea to start a publishing company for my book and others, so we looked it up and figured out how to do it," says Carlyle. "So far we've published four other author's work. It's exciting because you can also help many other people." The family-run business is called Carlyle Enterprises.

In order to publish, he talks to the author and they edit together. "It's helpful because the author is able to see how their book is working." The company does cover art, font style, artistic details, and registers it with the Library of Congress.

One of his favorite expressions, which serves as a banner on the website is: "Art is healing, art is expression, and art is communication." Deeply spiritual, Carlyle's personal advice is to "put faith in God and follow your dreams."

So far, Carlyle has donated many books to high schools, libraries and book clubs along with sales.

Info: For more information on purchasing, or to find out about the publishing side, go to <http://carlyleenterprises.com/down-by-the-creek/>.

City's Proclamation in Support of Rotary and New Day for Children



From left: Niroop Srivatsa, New Day for Children representative, Terry Ring, Nancy Hobbs and Mary Lou Till.

Photo Jeff Heyman

Submitted by Jeff Heyman

Last week, Lafayette interim City Manager Niroop Srivatsa presented the Rotary Club of Lafayette with the city council's proclamation recognizing Rotary's partnership with New Day for Children, an Alameda-based organization that strives to meet the unique needs of rescued girls who have been sex-trafficked, combining shelter, education and therapy to lift the girls out of their desperate circumstances. The mayor also proclaimed March 23 as Human Trafficking

Awareness Day in the city of Lafayette. That date coincides with a fundraising event that Rotary is holding to support New Day's work.

The Rotary Club's event, Swing to Freedom, is being held at Oakwood Athletic Club on March 23. The goal is to raise \$100,000 for New Day to help girls, ages 10-18, who are rescued from sex-trafficking in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, as well as from across the United States. Tickets cost \$175. Opportunities for corporate sponsorship are also available. Please contact Mary Lou Till for more information and tickets at (925) 212-4546.

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Miramonte student wins Moraga Lions Student Speakers Contest

Submitted by Fred George

The topic this year for The Moraga Lions Club's annual Student Speaker Contest Feb. 20 at the Moraga Library was "Freedom of the Press: what does it mean?" The winner this year was Miramonte High School senior Clara Wu, who is planning on attending Eastside College in Boston next year. Dan Hagan, Moraga Lions Club president, said he was impressed by Wu's expression and creativity, noting it was obvious that young people have strong ideas about current events. Lions' members were proud that they were able to provide the contestants with the opportunity to share their views and skill. The contest has six levels, and the winning student can win up to \$21,000 in scholarships. There is a total of \$103,000 awarded overall in scholar-

ships. The next level is the Zone level to be held March 15, starting at 7 p.m. at the Creekside Room in Rossmoor.



Miramonte High School senior Clara Wu with contest chair Fred George.

Photo provided

Troop 204 presents 2019 Eagle Scouts



Photo provided

From left, sitting: Jared Steuber, Nathan Sherman, Kevin Mlynek, Oliver Rotundo, William Condy, Matthew Montaquila; standing: Ryan Owens, Andrew Tso, Dominik Figone, Luke Vandenberghe, Thomas Judson, and Reid Fellner.

Submitted by Jill Montaquila

Lafayette Boy Scout Troop 204 will honor 12 young men who have achieved the Eagle Scout Rank, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America, on March 23 at 1 p.m. at Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive. This will be Troop 204's 66th Eagle Court of Honor.

To attain Eagle Scout, candidates must earn their way up the scouting ranks from Tenderfoot to Life Scout. Life Scouts must be active in the Troop for at least six months, earn at least 21 required merit badges, serve in a leadership position, show Scout spirit, and plan, develop and give leadership to others in an approved Eagle Service Project. In the addition to the requirements listed above, each of the Troop 204 Eagle Scouts has attended the annual 50-mile backpacking trips, including planning and leading a trek on a nine-day trip. They have hiked over 500 miles, and actively participated in annual Camporees.

William Condy constructed planter boxes for the garden at Burton Valley Elementary. Reid Fellner completed a beautification project at Acalanes High School consisting of landscaping planter boxes and planting new trees and shrubs. Dominik Figone con-

structed Wood Duck nesting boxes and installed them at the Colusa National Wildlife Refuge. Thomas Judson upgraded and improved the Third Grade Garden at Happy Valley Elementary School. Kevin Mlynek restored a trail, planted new bushes and built a retaining wall at Springhill Elementary School Garden. Matthew Montaquila made blankets for injured or sick children at Children's Hospital in Oakland and Walnut Creek. Ryan Owens built planter box cages at Springhill Elementary School Garden to protect fruits and vegetables from being eaten by animals. Oliver Rotundo constructed a drainage trench that diverts the flow of water to avoid flooding while creating a small-scale vernal pool to be studied by Springhill Elementary students. Nathan Sherman constructed PVC soccer goals for Trust in Education, to be sent to children in Afghanistan. Jared Steuber and his fellow Scouts trained homeless families in basic first aid and gave them first aid kits at Shelter Inc. in Martinez. Andrew Tso repainted faded safety lines for 24 classroom doors/areas at Lafayette Elementary School as well as planted shrubs in a bare section of the quad. Luke Vandenberghe built benches at Las Trampas pool in Lafayette where his family has swum for over 16 years.

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.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

Benefit concert for Congolese refugee family

A year ago, a family of eight was rescued from a West Uganda refugee camp by Catholic Charities and was brought to the United States to live. Sadly the family's father, Sadiki, was run over by a car while bicycling last fall and hasn't been able to work, so Sadiki, his wife Noela, and their six sons ages 2-14 are relying on social services and three church's support to survive: Lafayette United Methodist Church, St. Joseph Catholic Church of Fremont, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Danville.

In an effort to help this family, Don Keeble, who is the chair of Church Council and has been a member of chancel choir at Lafayette United Methodist Church for 20 years, is organizing a special concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 17 at the Lafayette church located at 955 Moraga Road. Donations for the family will be accepted at the free event.

The concert will feature Keeble, who released his first album, "It's All About Love," in 2015 and his second "Do Good, Be Well, Have Fun," and Dave Nachmanoff – a singer-songwriter, songwriting teacher, recording engineer and amazing musician who helped Keeble write his songs, recorded and engineered them and played almost all the instruments, and has a new CD called "Cerulean Sky."



"I've fallen in love with (this family) and had them over for several pool parties last summer," Keeble said, "they'd never been in a swimming pool! So many firsts for this family," added Keeble. "Come support them and enjoy some great music." -- J. Wake

Acalanes and Campo place 3rd and 4th in County Mock Trials Competition



Acalanes Mock Trial Team

Photos Meaghan Krakoff, CCCOE



Campolindo Mock Trial Team

Submitted by Jonathan Lance, CCCOE

For four weeks (seven evenings) 17 Contra Costa County high school Mock Trial teams have been battling it out with each other inside the superior courthouse courtrooms of Martinez during the 38th Annual Contra Costa County High School Mock Trials. Each school alternates, providing prosecution or defense teams.

As like their fellow Mock Trial Teams throughout the nation, the teams presented the case: *People v. Klein*. Unlike previous years when the case has involved murder or mayhem, this year's trial centered on social media. A local college student was charged with posting a criminal threat online, and then texting a false report to police – also known as "swatting." "Swatting" is the action of calling the police with report of a fake emergency.

The Mock Trial Awards Ceremony was held Feb. 21 at the Contra Costa County Office of Education, in Pleasant Hill. After Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools Lynn Mackey and Contra Costa County Board of Education President Mike Maxwell welcomed the crowd, and remarks given by Contra Costa County Superior Court Presiding Judge Barry Baskin, the Mock Trial coaches presented individual awards to their exceptional-performing students.

This year's top four teams were

ranked in this order: 1) California, 2) Alhambra, 3) Acalanes, 4) Campolindo. California High has now won back-to-back championships.

The honored guest speaker, Judge Barry Baskin, was on hand to address the large crowd with his accounts of this year's Mock Trials. "I can safely speak for a number of my fellow judges when I say, Mock Trials is our favorite time of the year. It is a delight to watch you all master the courtroom, and it's solely due to your dedication and hard work."

This year, approximately 75 Bay Area practicing and retired attorneys, senior law students and sworn judges volunteered their time to serve as Mock Trial Attorney Scorers and Judges. These volunteers represented judges from Bay Area Superior Courts, the California Bankruptcy Court, the California Supreme Court and the California Appellate Court. Attorney Scorers included Bay Area attorneys from county District Attorney and Public Defender offices, the State Attorney General's Office and the California Department of Justice. Also serving as attorney scorers were nonprofit, public, private and corporate attorneys. In addition, senior students from two Bay Area law schools also lent a hand in scoring.

For all the team and individual results, visit the Contra Costa County Office of Education's website and click on Mock Trial: www.ccoec.k12.ca.us.

SUMMER CAMPS 2019

Part 1, Spring Break, Full Day and Overnight Summer Camps
(Part 2, half-day camps, April 3, 2019)

SUMMER CAMPS 2019

Spring Break, Full Day and Overnight Summer Camps

SPRING BREAK CAMPS

Randy Bennett Basketball Camps (Saint Mary's College, Moraga)

see ad

The Randy Bennett Day Camps held at Saint Mary's College in McKeon Pavilion are a great way for boys and girls ages 4-13 to receive top-class instruction on every aspect of the game, led by Coach Bennett and his staff. Morning, afternoon and full day options available.
Dates: April 1-4
www.smcmenbasketballcamps.com

FULL DAY SUMMER CAMPS

Adventure Day Camp (Walnut Creek, San Ramon, & Alamo)

see ad

Celebrating 20 years! A traditional summer day camp for children ages 3-15. Swimming, horseback riding, sailing, skateboarding, woodworking, science, arts, sports, archery, drama, music, rock climbing, hiking, overnight camping, and camp games. Home transportation is available from most areas.
Dates: June-August (925) 937-6500
www.adventuredaycamp.com

Avid4 Adventure (Moraga)

This summer experience the power of authentic outdoor adventure. Avid4 Adventure's experienced instructors teach pre-K – 7th graders of all levels to climb, paddle, bike, hike and thrive in the outdoors. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. with before and after care.
Dates: Weekly, June- August (800) 977-9873
www.avid4.com

Bentley Summer Academy (Lafayette)

see ad

Bentley Summer Academy offers a wide variety of innovative courses for students first through 12th grade. The Academy runs from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., with extended camp options for families needing early drop-off or late pickup.

summer@bentleyschool.org
www.bentleysummeracademy.org

Berkeley Rep School of Theatre Summer Theatre Intensive (Berkeley)

Summer Theatre Intensive is an opportunity to become fully immersed in every facet of the world of theatre, regardless of experience level. The only requirement is an active mind open to imagination, collaboration, hard work, and, of course, lots of fun.
Dates: Theatre Intensive for entering grades 6-8, June 17 – July 12; entering grades 9-12, July 16 – Aug 9; Filmmaking & Acting Intensive for entering grades 9-12, July 15 – Aug 2.

Camp Awesome (Lafayette)

Camp Awesome is fun, flexible, and affordable. Open all nine weeks of summer:
Day (9 a.m.- 2 p.m.)
Early Care (7:30 a.m.)
Afternoon (2-5:30 p.m.)

Register by the day or week.
Dates: June - August

(925) 284-2232
www.LafayetteRec.org

Camp Doodles (Orinda, Berkeley, SF, Mill Valley)

see ad

At St. Stephens, Camp Doodles is an incubator for kids to grow their creative intelligence through making and art in a project-based, hands-on environment. New themes this year include Da Vinci's Footsteps, PVC Madness and Opposites Attract. We are ACA accredited and have been offering Bay Area camps since 2002. Dates: Weekly sessions June 10 – August 9.
(415) 388-4386
www.campdoodles.com

... continued on next Page

Cougar Football

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FULL GEAR YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMP

INSTRUCTOR: KEVIN MACY, HEAD FOOTBALL COACH
AT CAMPOLINDO HIGH SCHOOL

GRADES 4 – 8, SEPARATED BY GRADE

DATES: July 8 thru July 19 (M – F) TIMES: 1:30 – 5:00 P.M.
FEES: \$400 (T-shirt included)



FOR REGISTRATION GO TO:
cougarcamps.com

Get ready for summer!

It may only be March, and the rain is clouding our lives, but spring break and summer are just around the corner, and with that comes the wonderful opportunity for our children to experience some fantastic camps. In this issue of the Lamorinda Weekly, we kick off our annual guide to activities and programs in and around Lamorinda, featuring full-day camps and overnight camps. Look for our listing of half-day camps and programs coming in April.

Get your children ready to have the spring break and summer of their dreams!

**Think.
Make.
Do.
Doodle.**

Maker-art camps for kids 3+. Register at campdoodles.com

RANDY BENNETT BASKETBALL CAMPS
AT SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE

- SPRING BREAK CAMP**
APRIL 1 - 4
- DAY CAMPS**
JUNE 10-14 JUNE 17-21
JUNE 24-28 JULY 8-12
- FATHER-SON CAMP**
JULY 6 & 7
- HIGH POTENTIAL CAMP**
AUGUST 1 - 3

OPEN TO ANY AND ALL ENTRANTS, LIMITED ONLY BY NUMBER, AGE, GRADE LEVEL, AND OR GENDER.

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A traditional summer camp experience

Programs available at

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- The Dorris-Eaton School
San Ramon

Activities:

- Swimming
- Archery
- Sailing
- Kayaking
- Climbing
- Science
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- Skateboarding
- Music
- Tennis
- Art
- Sports
- Drama
- Biking
- Camping
- Hiking
- Canoeing
- Dance

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AGES 3-15

Half and Full Day Programs for Preschool Age
Swimming Music Crafts Drama Climbing Sports Hiking
Horseback Riding Dance Story Telling Games Enrichment

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Bus service available servicing Oakland, Piedmont, LaMornida, the 680 corridor including Dublin, Pleasanton, and Livermore

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SUMMER CAMPS 2019 Spring Break, Full Day and Overnight Summer Camps

TAKE SUMMER TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Exciting, innovative programming for grades 1-12

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LMYA swim

LMYA SWIM TEAM Registration Open!

- April Swim Conditioning begins **4/9**
- Summer Swim Team begins **4/30** (Register Early for Discounts!)
- Gutter Guppy Program begins in **June**

Want to Learn More About Us?

- Attend Swim Team Info Night on **3/12**
- Visit www.lmyaswim.com for details

www.lmyaswim.com

LEARN TO ROW!

Oakland Strokes Summer Rowing Camps
Boys and Girls Ages 12-17

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 10-14 • June 17-21 • June 24-28 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 8-12 • July 15-29 • July 22-26 • July 29-Aug 2

* 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

sewnow! fashion studio

Fashion Design & Sewing Camps

Kids & Teens - Beginner to Advanced - Half or Full Day - REGISTER NOW!

Learn to design like a pro, sew your own fashions, and make new friends!

Design and make your own unique fashion items to model in the fashion show: totes, shorts, and all new FashionKit projects! Extra full day options this year! Teens, Kids, and Juniors (2nd/3rd grade)

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

sewnow! 3455 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette (925) 283-7396 info@sewnow.com

FULL DAY SUMMER CAMPS ... continued

<p>Camp Galileo (Lafayette and Orinda)</p> <p>At Galileo, we mix day camp fun with hands-on projects in fields from science and engineering to the visual and culinary arts. Campers learn game-changing lessons, like the innovator's mindset, the power of collaboration and how to embrace rather than fear mistakes. Pre-K to entering 8th grades. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. with extended care available. (800) 854-3684 www.galileo-camps.com</p>	<p>Camp Kefli (Lafayette)</p> <p>Camp Kefli offers a wide range of programs that are appropriate to each age group, grades K-8, filling our two one-week sessions with fun. Some programs utilize the Temple Isaiah facility while others take place off site. We offer creative theme days and adventures that enrich and delight our campers. Dates: July 29-August 9 (925) 284-9191 www.temple-isaiah.org/kefli</p>	<p>Camp Orinda (Orinda)</p> <p>Camp Orinda offers a full-day traditional camp experience for active kids, looking for adventure. Each week features fun camp themes, games, crafts, and sports plus two awesome field trips, all expenses paid, to the places kids love throughout the Bay Area including Six Flags, Waterworld and more. Extended Care available. Dates: June 17- August 8 (925) 254-2445 http://orindaparksandrec.org</p>
<p>Lafayette Summer Music Jazz Workshop (Lafayette)</p> <p>This weeklong music workshop provides an intimate and inspiring environment for learning and playing jazz. Students, ages 11 to 80-years-old, receive master classes, improvisation workshops and jazz combos led by some of the preeminent, professional musicians in the field. July 14 is audition day. Dates: One week only, July 15-19 www.lafsmw.org</p>	<p>Moraga Day Camp (Moraga)</p> <p>Roll out the red carpet for 8 weeks of movie themed summer camp fun! Moraga Day Camp and Moraga Day Camp Jr. are for children ages 5-10 that will incorporate games, crafts, fieldtrips, and lots of other fun activities! Themes and field trips listed online. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; extended care also available 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dates: June 17 - Aug. 9 (925) 888-7045 moragarec.com</p>	<p>Randy Bennett Basketball Camps (Saint Mary's College, Moraga)</p> <p>The Randy Bennett Day Camps held at Saint Mary's College in McKeon Pavilion are a great way for boys and girls ages 4-13 to receive top-class instruction on every aspect of the game, led by Coach Bennett and his staff. Morning, afternoon and full day options available. Day Camps in June 10-14, 17-21, 24-28 Day Camp in July 8-12 Father-Son Camp July 6-7 smcmensbasketballcamps.com</p>
<p>Roughing It Day Camp (Lafayette) see ad</p> <p>Outdoor summer camp where kids make lasting friendships, learn new skills and thrive outdoors. Campers ages 4 - 16 spend the summer with the same age group which builds camaraderie and community. Outdoor activities with instruction for all ages and abilities. Free extended care and free transportation included. Dates: June - August (925) 283-3795 www.roughingit.com</p>	<p>The Saklan School (Moraga) see ad</p> <p>Provides culture, language and summer fun for ages 3-11. Mornings on campus are filled with enrichment in Mandarin, French, Japanese, and Spanish. Afternoons are packed with summer fun, including field trips, swimming, art and music. Three-week sessions 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Full or half days, with extended care available. Dates: June 10 - Aug. 9 (925) 376-7900 www.saklan.org</p>	<p>Sewnow! Fashion Studio (Lafayette) see ad</p> <p>Join your friends and Learn-to-Sew from the very beginning, or Intermediate sewists create a FashionKit capsule collection outfit. Camps include FashionKit patterns with digital instructions, fabrics, notions and embroidery. Suitable for kids in 4th grade and up. Half Day, Learn-to-sew, Teen only, and Full Day programs available. Fashion Show Sunday, Aug. 11 at 4 p.m. (925) 283-7396 www.sewnow.com</p>

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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 weeklong, full-day or half-day camp options. Dates: June 10 - August 16 (925) 283-6311 www.siennaranch.net

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

Learn or improve Spanish language skills through games, music, arts and crafts, science projects and cooking. During each weeklong camp students learn vocabulary related to a specific kid-friendly themes such as Wondrous Outdoors at the Reservoir or Secret Agent Camp. Full day, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Before/after-care available. Half-day options. (925) 962-9177 www.vivaeSPANOL.org

SUMMER CAMPS 2019

OVERNIGHT SUMMER CAMPS

Aspen Network Team Camp (Sierra Nevada Mountains)

see ad

Teens and young adults with social differences that include anxiety, spectrum behaviors, OCD, ADHD or Non-verbal Learning Disorder have discovered a safe space at our camp located in the beautiful Sierra Nevada Mountains of Northern California. Activities include river rafting, sailing on Lake Tahoe, backpacking, hiking and campfires.
Dates: July 8-11
(925) 262-3135 www.aspennetwork.net

The Randy Bennett High Potential Camp (Saint Mary's College, Moraga)

see ad

The Randy Bennett High Potential Camp is designed for boys entering 6th-12th grades who would like to achieve at the highest levels of basketball. Coach Bennett and his staff personally direct this overnight camp as they coach each participant as if he were a player at Saint Mary's College. Each athlete will participate in daily competitions, skill development, and scrimmages.
Dates: Aug. 1-3
www.smcmenbasketballcamps.com

Marin Ranch Camp (Petaluma)

Hosted by Walker Creek Ranch and the Marin County Office of Education, we offer all of the fun, traditional camp activities like canoeing, archery and sitting around the campfire roasting s'mores. Our well-trained team of counselors creates a nurturing environment where campers feel safe to step outside of their comfort zone, challenge themselves with new adventures and make new friends.
Dates: August 6 - 15
(415) 930-4649 www.marinranchcamp.org

Did we miss your favorite camp?

On April 3 we will list all half-day camps and classes. Reach 60,000+ in Lamorinda and advertise with us. 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.

Thank you Advertisers!
Lamorinda Weekly.

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.mscgators.org



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



Join us for
storytelling,
music, art, games
& TONS of FUN
- in español!

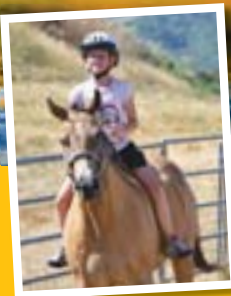
Several camps include fieldtrips to the Lafayette Reservoir!

www.vivaelespanol.org • 925-962-9177
Lafayette • Pleasanton • Mill Valley • And schools all over the Bay Area

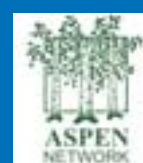


Lamorinda's Hometown Camp

Located at the Lafayette Reservoir • Ages 4-16
Free Transportation • Free Extended Care



Join us for a camp tour!
Roughingit.com 925.283.3795



www.AspenNetwork.net
Tel: (925) 262-3135

Summer Camp July 8-11

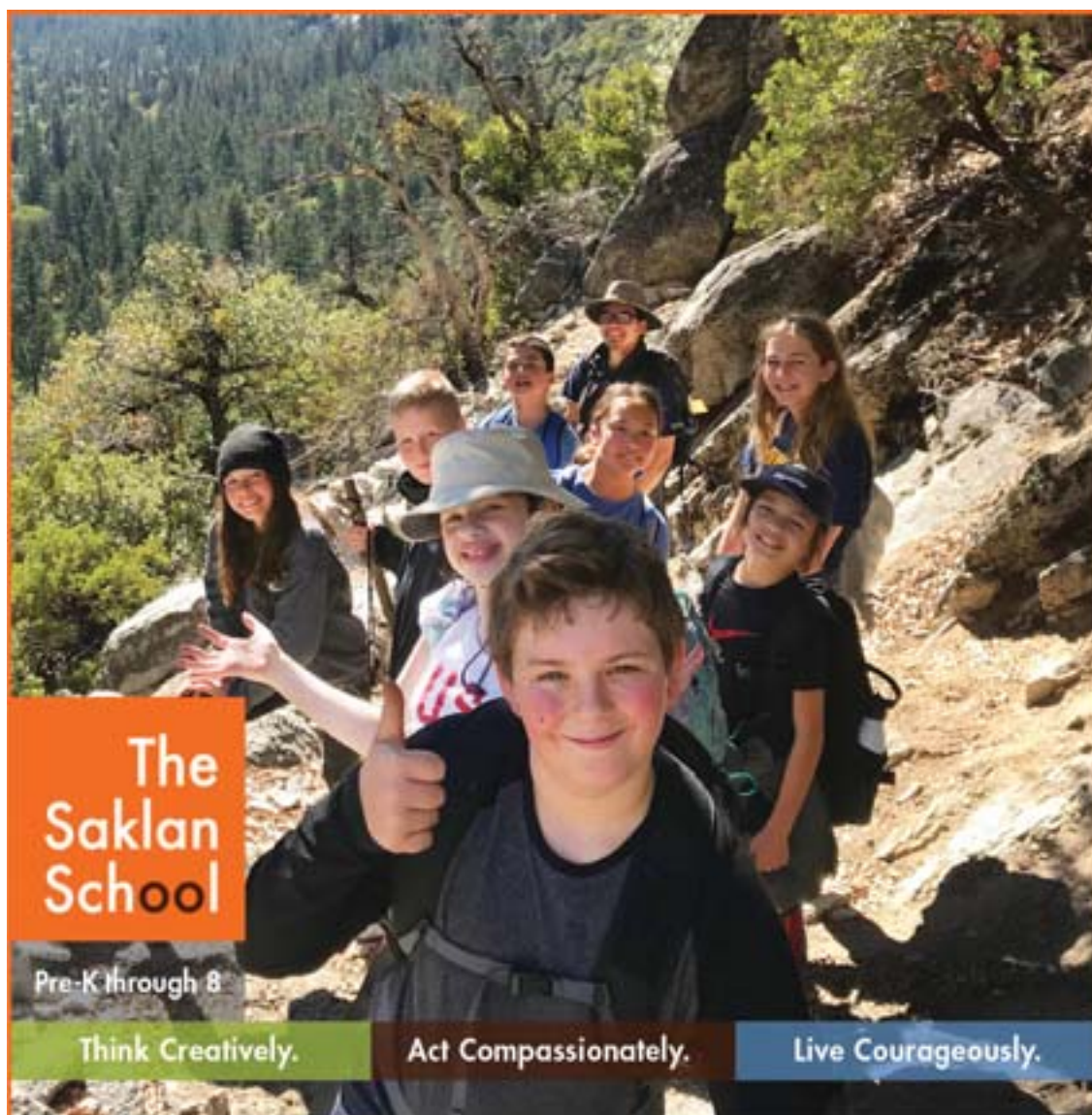
Aspen network is an exciting program for youth and young adults with social differences, which includes a great summer camp.

Located in the beautiful Lake Tahoe area



- Social skills
- Physical activity and endurance
- Self-determination
- Leadership skills
- Friendships and camaraderie
- Meeting challenges and personal goals
- Making smart decisions

Aspen network programs include: Living Community, Groups, Summer Camp and Weekend Programs



The Saklan School

Pre-K through 8

Think Creatively.

Act Compassionately.

Live Courageously.

Life Changing Education
Right Around the Corner

Contact us at admissions@saklan.org

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

ART

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art (SMC | MoA) is pleased to present two Spring Exhibitions, "Foad Satterfield: THINGS KNOWN" and "David Otis Johnson: NOCTAMBULANT." These exhibitions runs through June 9. For more information on programs and events, please visit www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum.

The Moraga Art Gallery announces the opening of "Into the Wood(s)" an homage to trees, opening on the first day of spring, March 20. Watercolor landscapes by Moraga's George Ehrenhaft, the show's featured artist, capture the arboreal splendor of Lamorinda and beyond – from the Pacific shore to peaks of the Sierra. The show's featured guest artist, Duke Herrero of Orinda, has created museum-quality wooden objects – utensils, table-top boxes, footstools, cutting boards, and more – all hewn and lovingly shaped from a variety of trees from everyday walnut and cherry to

exotic ipe and cocobolo. The show runs through June 1, with a free reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on March 23. The current show "A Sense of Place" is running through March 16. For more information, visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

Valley Art Gallery presents "Celebrating 70," a new exhibition for its 70th Anniversary running through March 15, 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek. www.valleyartgallery.org; (925) 935-4311

MUSIC

East Bay treble choir, WomenSing, is hosting an event to celebrate International Women's Day at 8 p.m. Friday, March 8 that will include a screening of the acclaimed documentary "Little Stones," a concert, and reception. The audience will have an opportunity to meet members of WomenSing at a reception after the performance. The event will take place at the Del Valle The-

atre, 1963 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Tickets: \$10 youth; \$30 general, lesherartscenter.showare.com/LittleStones

Cantare Con Vivo presents Messa da Requiem at 7:30 p.m. on March 16 at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Ave., Walnut Creek. The Cantare Chorale, 120 fabulous singers strong, will join with soloists and full orchestra to present one of the pinnacles of Western Art, Verdi's Requiem. This historical text has been assembled over several hundreds of years and remains relevant today in its addressing personal loss, hope, grief, joy, sorrow, mercy and acceptance. Tickets available online, by phone, or at the door: General \$38, Senior \$33, Student \$10. www.cantare-convivo.org; (510) 836-0789.

Gold Coast Chamber Players performances W.A.M. at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 16 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. There will be a pre-concert

talk at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$45 General, \$40 Senior (65+), \$15 Student. Purchase online: www.gcplayers.org; By phone: (925) 283-3728.

Christopher and Sandra Bengochea, Tenor and Soprano Duet, perform at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 16 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Walnut Creek. At St. Paul's, Christopher and Sandra Bengochea perform their collection "Songs of Love," including pieces from Puccini's "La Boheme," Verdi's "Rigoletto" and others. They will be accompanied by Simona Snitkovskaya, a doctoral graduate in piano performance from St. Petersburg Music Conservatory. Donation at the door: average \$20, Students \$10 (all are welcome regardless of donation).

Pacific Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Conductor Lawrence Kohl, performs Schubert's Octet, Ravel's Introduction and Allegro, and Francaix's Duet, at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 23 in the Community Hall

at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Tickets may be purchased for "Schubert - The Sublime" online at www.pacificchamberorchestra.org.

Campolindo Music Department presents "The Phantom of the Opera" March 15-17 and March 22-24 at Campolindo High School. Based on the 1910 horror novel by Gaston Leroux, "The Phantom of the Opera" is a thrilling and romantic account of the legendary Phantom, a musical genius who dwells deep beneath a majestic opera house in Paris. Tickets and showtimes at <http://www.campolindochoir.com/tickets/>

Saint Mary's College Music Department presents a solo piano concert by Bobby Mitchell, a young award-winning American international concert pianist, recording artist, composer, author and teacher at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 31 at Saint Mary's College Chapel. A reception will follow the free concert.

THEATER

"Wilder than Wild: Fire, Forests and the Future," a one-hour documentary, will play at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12 at the Town Hall Theatre on School Street in Lafayette. Sponsored by Sustainable Lafayette, the movie reveals how fuel build-up and climate change have exposed Western wildlands to large, high intensity wildfires, while greenhouse gases released from these fires contribute to global warming. This vicious cycle jeopardizes our forests and affects us all with extreme weather and more wildfires, some of which are now entering highly populated wildland-urban areas. General tickets are \$10 and are available via www.sustainablelafayette.org.

Diablo Ballet celebrates its 25th Anniversary with a world premiere fairytale ballet, Once Upon a Time at 6:30 p.m. on March 22 and 2 and 8 p.m. on March 23 at the Leshler Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Join Diablo Ballet on this fairytale adventure where you will meet Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Alice in Wonderland, Sleeping Beauty, Jack and the Beanstalk, Snow White and more. Children in attendance are invited to dress up as their favorite fairytale character and stay and meet the dancers after the performances. Single tickets are \$15-\$50. For tickets, call (925) 943-SHOW (7469) or visit www.lesherartscenter.org. For more information, visit www.diabloballet.org.

Town Hall Theatre Company presents "Brooklyn Bridge" by Melissa James Gibson, directed by M. Graham Smith through March 23. Tickets and showtimes are available at TownHallTheatre.com or by calling (925) 283-1557. The theatre is located at 3535 School Street in Lafayette.

Town Hall Theatre Company presents Playwright's Cagematch at 7 p.m. on March 24 at 3535 School Street, Lafayette. Five Playwrights enter but only one will emerge victorious. Join us as playwrights far and wide square off! Playwrights' CageMatch is a chance for playwrights to show their stuff in an audience-decided live competition. The only requirements for aspiring contributors were that the scenes had to be 20 minutes or less, have no more than four characters with gender parity, and be set in an apartment building in a large city anywhere in the universe. Admission for the Playwrights' CageMatch is \$5 (free to our subscribers), and tokens to vote will be sold for \$5. Box Office: (925) 283-1557; www.townhalltheatre.com


... continued on next Page

Lamorinda's Religious Services

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422
www.holy shepherd.org



9:30 a.m. CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP
10:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship in the Center for Ministry
visit <http://www.holy shepherd.org> for more details



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If you are spiritual and not religious, seek a loving, accepting community and are yearning for a deeper connection to Spirit, come and experience Unity of Walnut Creek.
Join us for Sunday Services:
9:30am Contemplative Service
11:30am Celebratory Service * Watch Online
For information about classes and other events, visit us online!

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1001 CAMINO PABLO, 925-376-6900
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Mass Times: Daily Mass Monday - Friday 9:00 am
Saturday - Confessions 3:30 - 4:30 pm / Vigil Mass 5:00 PM
Sunday - Masses at 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 am

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
A Loving Community
Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM
In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws



10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | www.orindachurch.org
"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"
Join us Sundays at 10 a.m. | Sunday School 10 a.m.

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Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 - 11 am
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm
ReadingRoom/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat. 10 - 12
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WORSHIP WITH US
Sundays, 9:30 am & 5 pm
Easter, April 21, 9 & 10:30 am



10 Moraga Valley Lane
mvpctoday.org
925.376.4800



St Stephen's Episcopal Church
66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda
254-3770. www.ststephensorinda.org
Sunday 8am, 10am



Lafayette United Methodist Church
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Turn plain rice to perfection: Dried Fruit and Nut Rice Pilaf



Dried Fruit and Nut Rice Pilaf

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

Multigrain rice medleys are really nice, if cooked well. The problem for me is that they often end up mushy, with some of the grains perfectly cooked, while others in

the mixture are either over- or undercooked. This is why I choose basmati rice almost exclusively these days, except when I'm making wild rice, which is my very favorite. Basmati rice cooks perfectly every single time I make it,

and I really like that. But, it's also a plain rice, so it needs some sprucing up from time to time to accompany certain dishes. A couple of weeks ago, I had a

hankering for Chicken Marbella from the Silver Palate Cookbook and made this rice pilaf to accompany it. The sautéed fruits and nuts beautifully complement the olives

and prunes in the chicken dish. I won't equivocate ... this rice is amazing!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup basmati rice
- 1 ¾ cup chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 shallots, thinly sliced
- ¼ cup slivered almonds
- ¼ cup pecan pieces
- ¼ cup raisins
- ¼ cup dried cranberries
- ¼ cup pepitas

DIRECTIONS

Bring broth to a boil and immediately add rice. Bring back to a boil, cover and reduce heat to low. Simmer until rice is cooked and fluffy. While rice is cooking, heat oil in a sauté pan over medium heat and add shallots. Cook until translucent and just beginning to turn golden-brown. Add raisins, cranberries, pecans, almonds and pepitas to the shallots in the pan. Continue to cook over medium-low heat until nuts and fruits begin brown just slightly, approximately 10 to 15 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Turn nut-fruit mixture into rice and toss to blend. Serve immediately or store in an airtight container to later reheat and serve.



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.

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

The 2019 Bookmark Contest sponsored by the Friends of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center will be open to all Lafayette students grades K-8 to enter their original artwork. The entry forms will be available beginning Feb. 15 at the Lafayette Library main desk, the Friends Corner Book Shop and at school libraries in the Lafayette School District and St. Perpetua School. The entry deadline is Friday, March 8. For more information please contact Kay Pekrul: kae865@hotmail.com.

Mindful Littles Kindness Book Club from 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 9 at the Orinda Library Garden Room. Read a book on a special kindness theme, practice heart-centered movements and mindfulness, and do a fun creative art project. Water and snacks for your kids. Please wear comfortable clothes. Ages 4-11. Parents/guardians are required with children. Register at: <https://mindfullittles.org/>

Spectacular Special Needs Party from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 16 at the Lamorinda All-Access Playground at Moraga Commons. Party entertainment, snacks and birthday cake await you! No RSVP needed. Just show up! These parties are free and made possible by SEED's generous donors. <https://seedlafayette.org>

Lamorinda Teens Read - the school libraries of Acalanes, Campolindo, Los Lomas, and Miramonte present "One Community, One Book" from Feb. 25 through March 29 when all four schools will read Nic Stone's latest novel, "Dear Martin" and multiple events will happen at the Contra Costa Library branches. Pick up a free copy of the book to keep in the school or local library.

OTHER

In partnership with the California Public Utilities Commission, MCE will hold an upcoming workshop from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 7 at 2300 Clayton Rd Suite 1150, Concord to learn about General Order 156. Commonly referred to as "Utility Supplier Diversity," this CPUC program encourages California investor-owned utilities to provide a fair proportion of total utility contracts and subcontracts to businesses that meet diversity qualifications. This program is open to women, minority, disabled veteran, and LGBT-owned firms representing at least 51 percent of the business ownership. MCE is hosting an informative workshop with guest speakers from the CPUC and the Supplier Diversity Clearinghouse. Together, we will speak to the purpose of this program, certification qualifications, and the

contracting opportunities available through the Clearinghouse. Refreshments will be served and parking will be validated. Seating is limited, so please RSVP by Feb. 28 at certifyamplify.eventbrite.com.

Saint Mary's College Guild cordially invites everyone to join them in their Festive St. Patrick's Day fundraiser evening of dinner, music, show, with silent auction from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, March 16 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center. The Frank O'Connor Band will feature a variety of Irish and American music. We will be entertained by the Rohan Murphy Irish Dance Academy. Join us for a traditional Corned beef and cabbage dinner - wine included at dinner - \$50 per person. All proceeds benefit SMC Scholarships. Make checks payable to: SMC Guild - Send to: Cynthia Kelly - 628 Augusta Drive - Moraga, CA 94556; (925) 388-0437.

Lafayette resident, Papa John Kiefer, will, again, offer workshops on "How to Raise Your Own Chickens." Topics will include raising young chicks, laying hen maintenance, and sustainable coop construction. Workshops are free and will be held in Lafayette from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 17. Reservations are required. Contact: chickenspapajohn@gmail.com. Location provided upon registration.

Say Something Workshop: How to Help a Friend or Family Member Living with Domestic Violence at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 23 at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda. Every year more than 10 million women and men are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. Come learn how to listen, talk and take action when someone you care about is being abused. Facilitated by Rev. Michele Robbins, an ordained pastor with a background in Family Relations. Her workshops focus on understanding the cycle of violence, types of power, abuser tactics, and how to talk with victims, including avoiding pitfalls and words that help. More info: shalompastor3@gmail.com.

Come see fancy Ferraris, Fiats and more! Saint Mary's College Department of World Languages and Cultures and the Dante Club invite the community to its Italian Cars and Culture event from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 31. Enjoy Italian Sports Cars and live folkloric Italian music by the band Pizzi Cali on the front campus lawn at SMC. Delicious food and ice cream will be available for purchase. Free. Email amr18@stmarys-ca.edu with any questions.

POLITICAL GATHERINGS

The Lamorinda Democratic Club will be hosting Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan for a legislative update from 7 to 9 p.m. on March 14 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. She will join a panel discussion focused on air quality: Coming Up for Air. Additional presenters include James Leach from Sustainable Lafayette and a representative from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). Free for members; \$5 for guests. Visit LDclub.org for more information or email info@ldclub.org.

SENIORS

Cooking: Eggs, Eggs and More Eggs by Byron Park Dining Services Team from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday, March 14 at Byron Park, 1700 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. In this demonstration-style class, you will be guided in the many ways the humble yet versatile egg can be prepared - from basic to complex, scrambled to soufflé! You will enjoy samples of the dishes and be given the recipes so you may recreate them at home. Space is limited; these classes fill up quickly. Please arrive early to allow time for parking. Cost: \$10. RSVP to Lafayette Senior Services by Monday, March 11: Seniors@LoveLafayette.org or 284-5050.

GARDEN

Walnut Creek Garden Club's March meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, March 11 at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road in Walnut Creek. The featured speaker, Liz Emmonds, will demonstrate how easy it is to manipulate plant materials to create interesting forms to take flower arrangements to a new and exciting level. Please email mslittle44@gmail.com with any questions.

Lafayette Garden Club will meet at 10 a.m. on March 14 at the Lafayette Veteran's Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. The meeting is open to all at no charge. The program for this meeting will be "Edible Gardening and Design" presented by author and Lafayette resident Stefani Bitner. She will offer up ideas and suggestions for our home gardens. Complimentary refreshments. The LGC has openings for new members so come by and enjoy!

The Montelindo Garden Club March meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, March 15 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Community Hall. Presentation: Chelsea Flower Show, Speaker: Barbara Norkus, who is an anglophile who has attended the world fa-

mous Chelsea Flower Show many times. She will share her music video from the 2016 show.

The Moraga Garden Club will hold its next meeting at 9:30 a.m., March 21, at the Holy Trinity Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga. The guest speaker will be Pamela Hester, from the Sloat Garden Center in Danville. The topic of her discussion will be, "Growing Vegetables in Containers." Free. Refreshments will be served. For more information, visit moragagardenclub.com.

The Orinda Garden Club presents Fire Resistant Landscaping by garden designer Kate Frey at 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 28 at the Orinda Library Auditorium. It's a given that homeowners want their landscapes to be aesthetically pleasing. Ecological considerations such as drought tolerance and habitat support are increasingly valued and showcased. Frey will discuss plant materials and techniques for creating a beautiful fire resistant landscape. Free.

Please submit:
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Service Clubs Announcements

Lafayette Rotary Club

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<p>March 7: Annabelle Hall. Propel A Cure. Support/Cure for Crohn's Disease</p>	<p>March 14: Chuck Kohler Survivor of Pearl Harbor</p>
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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Lamorinda boys soccer wrap-up



Nick Geannacopulos, Acalanes



Connor Gregg, Campolindo

Photos Gint Federas

By John T. Miller

Boys high school soccer in the area continues to be tremendously competitive, with all three local schools – Campolindo, Acalanes, and Miramonte – making it to the North Coast Section playoffs this year. Here's a rundown of each of their seasons and a brief preview of next year's hopes.

Campolindo (20-4-2; 10-2 league)

Head coach Shane Carney, who took last year off for the birth of his daughter, returned to lead the Cougars to a Diablo Athletic League title and a No. 2 seed in the NCS playoffs.

Their season ended with a 2-1 loss in the quarterfinals to (No. 7) Sir Francis Drake. Despite the disappointing end, the season represented tremendous improvement from the year before when the team won only two league games.

Campolindo was one of the highest scoring teams in the Bay Area, breaking the school record for number of goals in a season with 78. Senior Jose Carra-Hernandez led the league in scoring (14 goals, 9 assists) and was named the league's Offensive MVP. Another senior, Nathan Links was third in scoring (14 goals, 4 assists).

First team all-leaguer Connor Gregg, a senior, was named the team's Defensive MVP.

The team graduated 16 seniors, but according to Carney, "We kept 27 on the squad so we hope to improve and be

a contender by the end of next season.

Kellen Clancy (8 goals, 10 assists), a starter since his freshman year, will lead the offense next year, while anchoring the defense will be center back Jamiel Liu.

After splitting time in the goalie box with senior Lucas Allen, Joe Etheridge, who moved into the area this year, will, according to Carney, have the potential to be one of the top goalies in the area.

Vivek Lashkari, who tore his ACL and sat out his junior season, got special mention for his inspirational play, reestablishing himself as a starter and contributing a huge goal line save against Acalanes.

Acalanes (10-4-6; 7-2-3 league)

Much like Campolindo, Acalanes reached the NCS playoffs this year only to lose to a lower seed in the first round. (No.13) Pinole Valley prevailed over the fourth-seeded Dons 2-1.

Paul Curtis, in his 20th year as head coach, helped guide the team to a fourth-place finish in the tough 13-team Diablo League, but was disappointed with their high number of draws (3 in league; 6 overall), saying, "The boys tied a number of very good teams late in the season. They were all exciting matches."

The highlight of the season for Curtis was their comeback victory against Northgate to win the Winter Classic championship, rallying from down 0-3 to win 4-3 in regulation.

Top performers on the

year include First Team All-League senior Travis Stevenson (7 goals, 2 assists), and center mid player Nick Geannacopulos, a junior who was named to Second Team All-League.

Curtis mentioned the contribution of his three senior captains, including Eric Voss, an outstanding player in the middle, Bernard Adri, and Stevenson. "They did a great job leading throughout the season," said Curtis. "They brought the team together early and created strong bonds."

... continued on Page C4



Charlie McIntyre, Miramonte



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Girls' basketball season successes



Emily Huston

Photos Gint Federas



Mariella Crudele



Kate Schirmer

By Jon Kingdon

With Miramonte once again making it to the state tournament, and Acalanes making it to the second round of the North Coast Section playoffs and winning the league tournament for the first time in recent memory, it was an overall successful year for the girls basketball teams. Campolindo, having lost two key players to graduation, was a

team in transition that is looking to a more successful season next year.

"And just like that, the next season begins." With that statement, Miramonte head coach Kelly Sopak has moved on from the Matadors loss to Bishop O'Dowd in the second round of the state tournament by a score of 72-50. O'Dowd has proven to be an Achilles' heel for Miramonte, having lost to them three

straight games going back to last year's NCS final, this year's NCS final and in the final game this season.

In the loss to O'Dowd in the state tournament, Miramonte trailed at halftime by a score of 37-23 but battled back to tie the game at 48 all, after a layup by Emily Huston. O'Dowd went on to outscore the Matadors 24 to 2 the rest of the way. Senior Erin Tarasow led Miramonte with 13 points and Rebecca Welsh added nine points.

This was the first season that Miramonte played as an independent team and it, by all standards, should be considered successful, having finished the year with a 28-4 record.

As is his wont, Sopak went deep in his bench every game which enabled the team to withstand losing point guard Amerika De Los Santos to a knee injury and go on a 19-game winning streak prior to the initial loss to O'Dowd.

The success of the team was due to many factors, according to Sopak: "The team had tremendous character. We were all on the same page. We were a very resilient team with great kids. We played like we practiced. The team had a number of leaders by example but I will be looking for more vocal leaders that can take control."

Miramonte will be losing only two seniors, captain Emily Huston and Ashley Miller. Leading the returning 12 players will be Mia Mastrov, Erin Tarasow and Rebecca Welsh. It will be a

very mature team that will have eight seniors.

Head coach Michelle Sasaki concluded her second season at Acalanes with a 19-8 record and won the Diablo League going 9-1 in league play and making it to the second round of the NCS playoffs, losing an overtime game to Redwood.

With three more wins than last season, Sasaki attributed the improvement to the maturity of the team: "A lot of relationships were built and that was the foundation that we started with, getting to know each other. What I really enjoyed about the season was how the girls put the time in, taking it day by day and trying to evolve on a consistent basis and having one goal with everyone riding in the same direction."

With only nine players on the roster, the Dons were still able to utilize both size and three-point shooting to great effectiveness. Sasaki credited point guard Kaylee Pond with being the team's leader: "Kaylee brought a high basketball IQ and competitiveness to the court, constantly setting up the other players."

Complementing Pond in the backcourt was Lauren Kobashigawa. Sasaki saw great improvement in her game: "Lauren stepped into a leadership role this year. She peaked right when we needed her to and became more than a great shooter. She really improved getting to the rim and finishing and also defending well."

Acalanes will only be graduating one senior, Kate Schirmer, and will have a very mature team next season with six seniors: Kobashigawa, Pond, Lauren Frechman, Mikaela Valerio and Daphne Ganter. Along with underclassmen Gabby Schneider, Grace Gebhardt and Michelle Goll, it will be a squad with a great deal of experience.

"We want to move from good to great," says Sasaki. "It will take a lot of sweat and commitment from all of the returning players and the JV players that will be promoted to the varsity. It will take a lot of practice — there's no way around it starting in the spring through the summer and fall."

Sasaki is hoping that the success of this season will translate into a larger turnout for the team: "We had great student support this year, particularly for our last game against Redwood and I hope that type of energy will carry over and materialize with more people coming out to tryout and support the team."

Campolindo head coach Matt Kirby knew it was going to be a transition year having graduated last season's top two players, Haley Van Dyke and Ashley Thoms.

Though all the schools were limited at the start of the season from practicing due to the smoke from the fires, the Cougars were particularly hurt by the lack of practice, leading to a 7-19 record, said Kirby: "We were a team with a new coach and a lot of new players. It took a long time for the team to come together. Combining that with a very tough opening schedule really set us behind. Despite all of these things, the girls put forth a great effort in games and in practice."

Led by senior Mariella Crudele, the Cougars, after losing their first five games of the season, went on to win six of their next nine games. Kirby cited the character of the team: "Our seniors (Sara White, Jasmine Xiong, Zoe Crouch, Melia Van Kirk and Crudele) brought a great attitude and good leadership to the underclassmen."

Kirby remains optimistic for next year: "We'll be better just because the players will be more comfortable in their roles and will know what is expected of them. We will also have a more favorable schedule."

Despite losing a number of players to graduation, two key players will be returning, Kiana Thorson and Kate Brown. "Kiana showed great improvement and should be a force next year," says Kirby. "Kate was the brain trust of the team. The players looked to her to run the team and will be a returning captain. There are also players from our JV team that should be real factors next season."

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Lamorinda Boys Basketball roundup: Campo inches closer in state finals



Aidan Mahaney

Photos Gint Federas



Jayson Fernbacher

By Jon Kingdon

Campolindo extended their season March 2 to the state semifinals, winning their 25th game with a victory over Grant High School (Sacramento) by a score of 53-51 in the CIF state Division II tournament. Down by three points entering the fourth quarter, freshman Aidan Mahaney who had been having a cold shooting night hit three field goals for seven points, David Ahazie, who scored 14 points, returned to the game after bruising his hip to hit a key three-pointer to put Campolindo ahead 48-43 and Carter Mahaney scored seven points in the period, five of them coming on free throws late in the game to clinch the victory.

Aiden showed no hesitation in putting up his shots in the fourth quarter despite missing so many shots earlier in the game: "I've put in the time and I was confident that I would make the shots and I knew the team was confident in me."

Campolindo head coach Steven Dyer's goal was to improve the team's overall defense and they have given up five fewer points a game this season. "Defense was the key to our victory, holding Grant to 51 points," said Dyer. "We gave up a lot of size but we did well on the defensive boards. We played good team defense with all five guys working together. When you do the right things on defense and don't make mistakes, the other team is going to make mistakes. The players followed the game plan well."

Grant tried to pressure Campolindo all night but the Mahaney's handled the press avoiding any turnovers. Said Dyer: "Aiden and Carter put so much time in their game and it shows in how well they handled the ball."

Campolindo came into the game having played in 14 games that had been decided by five points or fewer which helped against Grant: "We're a young team and it's a process for the younger players to finish games. Even though we missed some free throws, we've been doing a better job closing out the close games."

Campolindo was slated to play in the state semifinal game against Serra High School on March 5 at Campolindo, after press time.

Miramonte

Miramonte made a major turnaround from last season improving their 9-17 record in 2018 to a 17-11 record this season, highlighted by a victory over Campolindo in the regular season and making it to the second round of the NCS playoffs.

Miramonte head coach Wayne Hunter promised that the Matadors were going to be an aggressive team that was going to set the tone and grind it out every game. He was true to his word: "It was fun coaching this group. We were one of the best defensive teams in the Bay Area shooting percentage wise. Our players did everything that we asked." Twelve times the Matadors held their opponents to 50 points or fewer, giving up an average of only 54 points per game.

Hunter gives much of the credit for the team's success to senior captain Jayson Fernbacher (16.3 ppg/3.6 assists/4.5 rebounds). "Jason really improved this year and was a great leader and model for the rest of the team," he said. "He's a 4.0 student that the players followed."

With only six players from last year's varsity, Hunter had a number of underclassmen step up: "We had a lot of JV players that really stepped up. Our team had a lot of chemistry. They were a very coachable group that bought into our system and really knew how we ran our offense."

Hunter will be counting on Niyi Olabode to replace Fernbacher next season: "Niyi can be a special player as our point guard. I'm also looking for some big contributions from a number of players on this year's JV team."

Matt Meredith, the quarterback for the Matador's football team, had a solid season. Though late coming to the team, with the football team in the playoffs, he going to be counted on to lead the team next year, says Hunter: "Matt is a no-nonsense guy who was a co-captain this year. He leads by example and the players follow him. Nick Watson, who started at the five, though undersized was the heart and soul of the team. He was out top defensive player and always took the toughest player on the other team. He made a number of key buckets and did a lot of things that did not necessarily show up in the statistics."

The bottom line, according to Hunter, was that "we left gyms letting



Scott Ruegg, Acalanes and Niyi Olabode, Miramonte

people know we were a scrappy team." **Acalanes**

Even with a 9-17 record this year, Acalanes head coach Sol Henik came away from the season with great optimism. Despite losing five players to graduation, only one of the seniors (Ian Archer-13.4) was among the top six scorers on team.

This was a team that played hard right to the end of the season. The Dons closed the season with two big wins from which Henik took great satisfaction: "Defeating College Park 85-76 after losing to them earlier in the season by over 30 points and then beating Las Lomas 65-62 on senior night, the first time I beat my former team, was a great way to end the season and is certainly something to build on."

Henik is counting on the core of sophomores (Scott Ruegg, Jackson Arisdumas, Joey Carrillo, Austin Kinnear) on this year's team to be the foundation for next year: "Scott was a captain this year. He played with such enthusiasm and joy, he's a pleasure to coach. He is

confident and poised and is not afraid of the moment. With improved defense and taking the ball to the rack better, he will be a complete player. Not only that, he is a positive influence on and off the court and is involved in leadership and extra-curricular activities at school. He embodies what we look for in a student-athlete." Carillo was the fourth leading scorer and was second on the team in rebounds and Kinnear will continue to provide good height.

Aris-dumas won the most improved player award though serving as a backup all season. "Jackson scored 20 points in the victory over College Park," said Henik. "He has an aggressive, football mentality and is a super competitor. He plays with no fear. I'm looking for the sophomores to have a good off-season."

Henik has already set a goal for next season: "We still have to be able to match up and beat Campolindo."



Carter Mahaney



From left: Harry Davis, Matt Meredith and Joey Carrillo

Lamorinda boys soccer wrap-up



Photo Gint Federas

... continued from Page C1

The Dons will lose seven seniors – out of 21 varsity members – but will have most of their defenders coming

back along with both goalkeepers. Curtis expects great things from starter Will Easley, who will return for his senior season, and backup Owen Myall, who will be a ju-

nior next year. The Dons gave up only 7 goals in their 12 league matches.

Curtis looks forward to next year, saying "There is a lot of talent returning along

with some strong support coming up from the freshmen and junior varsity who should incorporate well into the team."

Miramonte (9-6-5; 6-4-2 league)

Although finishing in the middle of the pack of the Diablo League, Miramonte head coach Masood Ahmadi pointed to tough games against the top three teams in the league—Las Lomas, Campolindo, and Ygnacio Valley—as indicative of their competitive nature this year.

They were one of only two teams to beat Campolindo in league, and they also put up a strong battle against (No. 1) Albany in the NCS quarterfinals, losing by a 3-1 score.

Ahmadi, in his fifth year at the varsity helm, said the team did well to get to the NCS tournament, and looks to a strong returning squad to continue the program's success.

Leading the team this year were seniors Conor Roemer, a 4-year varsity player Ahmadi credits with being "a great distributor with a tremendous work ethic running our possession-style game," and Luca Argast, another 4-year

varsity member who transitioned to outside forward this year. "Both Conor and Luca brought the right mentality to the game along with senior Yusef Mathkour who was an inspiration. We will miss them along with other graduating seniors Charlie McIntyre, Eric Heillmann, and Samuel Morganstein."

Junior Kent Barbir was the team's leading scorer (10 goals, 4 assists) and was named First Team All-League and the team's offensive MVP, while Simon Neuwirth-Stein, a sophomore, made Second Team All-League and was the team's overall MVP. Heillman was named defensive MVP and All League Honorable Mention.

Ahmadi mentioned other strong returning players for next year, including juniors Giovanni Sponzilli and Cayden Weiszmann, and sophomores Finley Jackson, Gregory Kornguth, and Adrien Argast. Jackson was named the Most Improved player.

"We look forward to the future and hope to remain close to the culture we've built in the program," says Ahmadi.

St. Perpetua's 6th grade American girls Claim League Championship



Back row, from left: coach Matt Vail, Dulci Vail, Madeline Martindale, Maddie Ingham, Leela Anzenberger, Addi Ames, coach Mark Del Rosario; front row: Campbell Evans, Natalie Frechman, Mylie Jaquet, Ella Del Rosario, Megan Churchill, and coach Brian Frechman

Submitted by Jane Smith

The St. Perpetua's sixth grade girls basketball team won the West Diablo CYO League Championship Game on Feb. 24. They were the only team from St. Perpetua (both boys and girls) to go undefeated through league, tourna-

ments, and interleague playoffs. The team faced a tough Santa Maria team in the championship game. The team moves onto Diocese playoffs in March and will face the fourth seed from East Diablo CYO.

Girls basketball Blitz team wins tournament



Submitted by Brian Ames

Lafayette-based AAU program Bay Area Blitz 2025 (sixth grade) won the largest youth girls AAU basketball tournament of the year in Southern California over President's Weekend, the SGV Invitational. The team had a dominating performance going 6-0 for the weekend beating the top AAU clubs

from the entire state of California and Seattle-based Tree of Hope in the championship game. The smallest margin of victory for the girls was 15 points throughout the tournament. Lamorinda residents Addison Ames, Sophie Chinn, Natalie Frechman, and Dulcinea Vail represented our area well down south.

8th grade Santa Maria girls are the CYO basketball National Division Champions



From left: coach Paul Liu, Stella Symonds, Grace Liu, Eva Logan, Charlotte Forman, Violet Herman, Tahra Minowada, Lauren LaCour, Nicole Lamison, coach Eric Lamison.

Submitted by Paradi Mirmirani

After an undefeated regular season,

the Santa Maria CYO girls basketball team won their playoff and finals games over the Feb. 23 weekend. They won 30-26 in the last game of their CYO basketball careers the next day.

St. Monica 8th grade American girls win CYO Championship



From left: Mina Wang, Camille Yabu, Anna Mooradian, Charlotte Arnswald, Kylie Williams, Catie McCauley, Allie Cummins, and Ava Garcia

Submitted by Eric Yabu

In a rematch of last year's championship, the St. Monica eighth grade American girls basketball team took the interleague title in a 45-44 nail biter, avenging its narrow loss to St. Raymond a year ago. After racing out to a 27-17 lead behind some 3-point

sharpshooting and strong defense, the St. Monica girls found themselves behind 37-32 with five minutes to go after a 20-5 run by St. Raymond. After gradually chipping away at the lead, the Spartans scored the game-winning basket on a short floater with 10 seconds to go before making one last defensive stop to hang on for the victory.

Submit stories to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 13 Issue 1 Wednesday, March 6, 2019



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide

... read on Page D14

Tidying up for spring



Photo Amanda Eck

By Amanda Eck

Raise your hand if you are ready for sunshine and warmer days! I am so very grateful for all the rain we have had, but my body is craving some vitamin D. As we inch closer to longer, warmer days my focus begins to move toward good old-fashioned spring cleaning. This act has become more mainstream since the release of the book “The Life-changing Magic of Tidying Up” by Marie Kondo, as well as her new series on Netflix.

Kondo created a method of organization called KonMari, which is a system of

simplifying and organizing your home by getting rid of physical items that do not bring joy into your life. I thought I'd share some tips for implementing the KonMari method.

1. Tidy all at once
2. Visualize the destination
3. Determine if an item “sparks joy”
4. Tidy by category, not location
5. Tidy in order

1. Tidy All at Once

Instead of cleaning one room a day, devote an entire day (or weekend) to tidying up. If you only tidy one room at a time over an extended period of time, it will wind up getting messy again in a matter of a few weeks or months.

This can feel overwhelming and many of us do not have the time to tackle our home all at once. But not to worry, Kondo encourages you to do what you can if you can't do it all in one day.

2. Visualize the destination

Before you start tossing things, take the time to visualize what your ideal lifestyle would be. Create a list of what you want your home to look and feel like. How do you want to live in your home? How do you want others to feel when they enter your home. Instead of just wishing “I want an organized and clean house” set a more emotional goal such as “I want to walk through my home and feel inspired, energized” or “I want to live in a zone of creativity.”

It sounds silly, but KonMari teaches that the more emotion you can bring will help you accurately visualize the home and lifestyle you want.

3. Determine if the item “sparks joy”

Kondo's lessons show that in focusing on what does not make you happy, you're only inviting unhappiness into your life. If you look around your home and focus on what you “don't” like in your home, you are only creating more negativity.

Instead, focus on what you love. What brings you joy? What makes you smile when you see it or what item brings about a positive memory when you look at it. By highlighting the items that bring you joy, the unenjoyed merely fall to the wayside.

Pick up an item, touch it and ask yourself if it “sparks joy” in your life. If not, set it aside.

KonMari states that you must touch every single item before you get rid of it. This is not the time to bring “rational thinking” into the mix.

... continued on Page D4

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	1	\$2,060,000	\$2,060,000
MORAGA	1	\$1,211,000	\$1,211,000
ORINDA	5	\$688,000	\$2,300,000

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

3246 Park Lane, \$2,060,000, 4 Bdrms, 4422 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 01-23-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,866,000, 12-28-18

MORAGA

208 Sandringham Drive, \$1,211,000, 3 Bdrms, 1923 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 01-23-19

ORINDA

9 Abbott Court, \$1,503,000, 4 Bdrms, 2570 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 01-14-19

73 Brookwood Road #8, \$688,000, 2 Bdrms, 1020 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 01-24-19,
Previous Sale: \$478,000, 07-01-14

429 El Toyonal, \$1,512,000, 5 Bdrms, 4159 SqFt, 2008 YrBlt, 01-24-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,425,000, 10-04-17

5 La Noria, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 3309 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 01-23-19,
Previous Sale: \$2,300,000, 12-17-18

22 Loma Vista Drive, \$980,000, 2 Bdrms, 1521 SqFt, 1934 YrBlt, 01-16-19,
Previous Sale: \$532,500, 10-01-90



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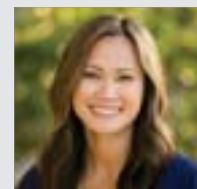
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Market Pulse

As the calendar turns to March we hope that most of the Winter rain is behind us and the sun will start to shine. The weekend after super bowl is the unofficial start of the Spring selling season and initial results are in. So far there have been few surprises and the market has picked up from where it ended last Fall.

Recently remodeled, commute friendly homes with functional yards continue to push the market forward. With a strong economy and a shortage of quality contractors, home buyers are still willing to pay a premium for homes that are move-in ready. Evidence of this are two of our recent listings that each generated four strong offers above asking with minimal contingencies.

Homes that need updating or homes in less desirable locations are taking longer to sell and are experiencing price reductions. Rising interest rates, the new Tax Plan and stock market volatility has led home buyers to be cautious with homes that do not check all their boxes. We expect this trend to continue in 2019 as home preparation, professional staging and a personalized marketing plan are critical for those looking to sell their home.

A wild card factor for the market for the second half of the year could be the new wealth generation from certain San Francisco based tech companies that are rumored to IPO in the near future. With names like Uber, Lyft, Airbnb, Pinterest and Slack going public it would provide additional liquidity to potential home buyers.

We look forward to hearing from you with your real estate questions.



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Tidying up for spring



Photo Amanda Eck

... continued from Page D1

Focus on how you “feel” about the item. Let your emotions guide you on determining if you are going to keep an item or not.

4. Tidy by category, not location

Most people store items that fall into the same “category” in various locations. For example, you probably have clothes in your closet, under your bed and in your dresser. So instead of tackling a closet or a dresser, tackle your clothes first. Pull out every single piece of clothing you own and lay it out in another room on the floor.

5. Tidy In Order

Kondo has come up with the ideal order in which you should tidy up. Start with clothes, then books/magazines, then papers, next Komono (misc. stuff), and finally sentimental items.

Separate everything out from each category and then into subcategories, which will make the process even easier. For example clothes can be subdivided into seasons. Books and magazines divided into “read” and “not yet read.” And if you are anything like me, the magazine piles are larger than the clothing piles! (It’s a sickness, for sure).

... continued on Page D12

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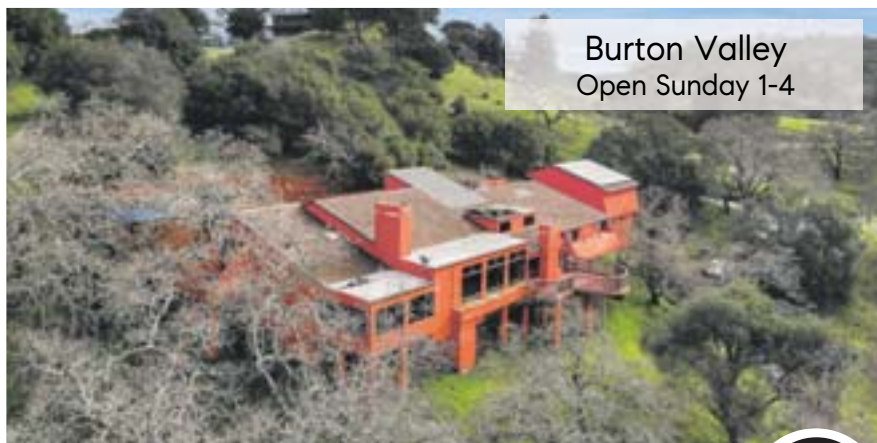


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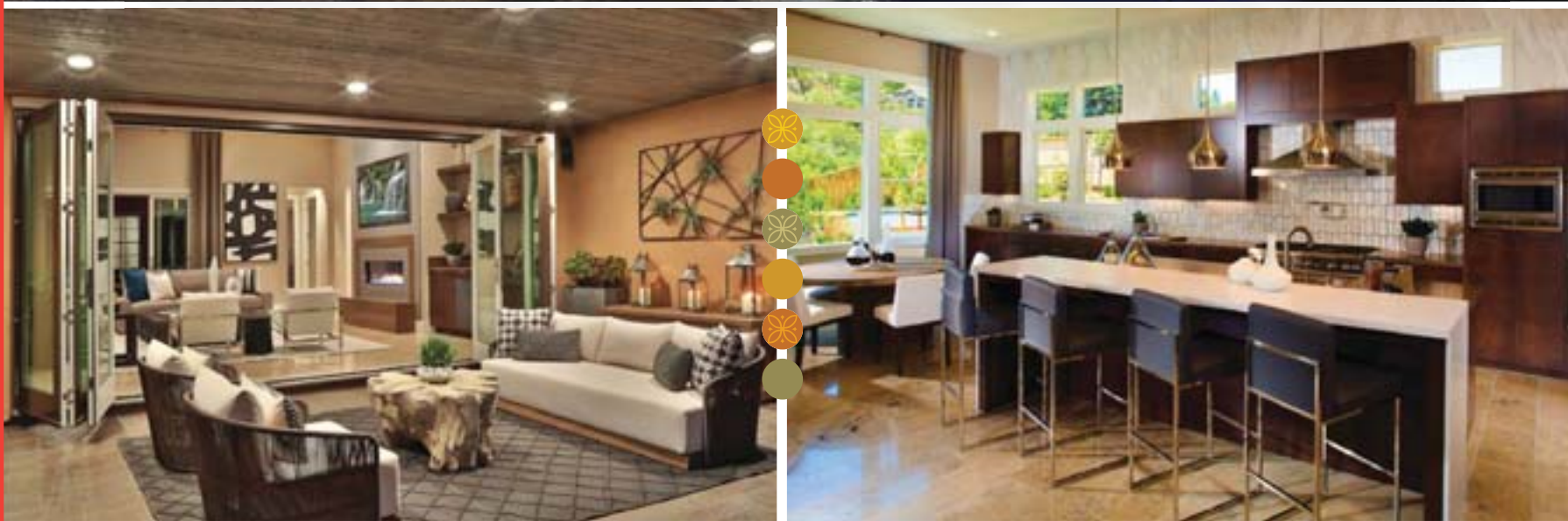
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Tidying up for spring



... continued from Page D4

As you are sorting and “feeling” items make sure to have a trash bag handy to toss items to keep you from hanging onto them “just in case.” If you struggle with an item, set it aside and come back to it. If you still wrestle with getting rid of an item because “it’s still good” or “Great Aunt Myrtle gave me that,” why not consider passing it onto someone else who might enjoy it. Shhh! We won’t tell Aunt Myrtle!

Hopefully these tips inspired you to get your KonMari on this weekend! And if not, do what I do; watch a few episodes of “Hoarders” on A&E to get you in the mood!

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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for March

Petal power

"Blossom by blossom the spring begins." – AC Shinburne



Rosemary in bloom cascades from a border.

Photos Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

Even on the darkest, dreariest, rainiest day, looking out my dining room window to my ever-blooming hillside garden gives me great joy. For the past two months, the daffodils and cyclamen have been in full bloom, now joined by the radiant pink blossoms of the Italian white peach tree, the purple fronds of lavender, and the delicate periwinkle flowers of vinca minor. My Meyer lemon tree is bursting with bright yellow fruit complementing the happy throats of the narcissi. Shamrocks are preparing their performance for St. Patrick's Day while the crocus and hyacinths are already popping. The petals are powered!

Spring is just around the corner, making this a great time to start thinking about sprucing up your garden. With just a little effort, you can make your entire property bloom! Even if you think you don't have a green thumb, try these quick and affordable gardening tips with easy ideas to suit every budget.

- Continue to pull weeds as they sprout. If you have a steep hillside, it is probably best to leave the weeds in place until the rains have halted to prevent erosion and mudslides.

... continued on Page D16



Purple spires of Pride of Madeira.



A simple birdbath accents a winter garden.

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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for March

Petal power



Although some people are allergic, Acacia trees explode with color.

Photos Cynthia Brian

... continued from Page D14

- Clean up existing plant beds by removing overgrown plants. Rake the leaves, adding them to your compost pile. This will make everything look neat and organized, and will allow your beautiful bushes and colorful petals to bask in all of their glory.
- Prune shrubs. Keep to a natural shape, avoiding turning them into a ball or square shape. Overgrown shrubs can invade walkways and patios as my boxwoods were doing. When pruned and tamed they look

classic and sophisticated, making a simple dressing for your yard and garden.

- Trim tree branches that hang too low and create hazards. A low tree branch not only gets in the way of walkways, it also poses the risk of falling, hitting or scratching someone. Low tree branches also serve as fire ladders helping to flame a blaze.
- Create a welcoming entrance with a couple of large containers filled with multihued plants. One of my peach trees is in a pot and it is blooming now. Bright colors

are fun and inviting, and having them placed at the entrance makes guests feel welcome. Containers filled with living greens create the statement that your home is well kept and cared for.

- Herbs cascading from a raised bed or a pot located outside your kitchen are utilitarian. My rosemary spills over a nearby wall and I have parsley, sage, and chervil ready for snipping to add to my culinary concoctions.

... continued on Page D18



Oxalis or shamrocks grow between the rows of vines.



Last chance to prune your grapes.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for March

... continued from Page D16

- If you plan to stay in your home for at least five years, consider adding a tree or two for significant impact. Bright saffron colored Acacia trees are blooming now and when their blooms are finished, the gray leaves offer intense interest. Trees keep homes cooler in the summer and offer you a place to rest in the shade. Before you purchase a tree, do your homework. Know how large the tree will get at maturity. Ask about its growing habits, root system, water consumption, flowers and/or fruits. You don't want to block views or have too much shadow for you or your neighbors. If you like to grow your own fruit, you can create a personal orchard with all of your favorites. With fruiting trees, you'll enjoy both flowers in spring and a crop to harvest. Plums and peach bloom this month. Cherry trees are filled with swollen buds.

- Check out seed packets at your local nursery. Do you want to have a wildflower garden? Attract pollinators like butterflies and bees? Plant a cutting garden? Seeds are relatively inexpensive and by scattering you'll breathe excitement into your landscape. Make sure to read the instructions carefully as some seeds must soak overnight or be scratched before planting, a step you can't afford to miss.

- On steep slopes, planting Pride of Madeira is a smart choice. It likes full sun, needs minimal water, if any, grows tall and wide, and produces beautiful clusters of purple-blue spikes inviting pollinators to visit. This Mediterranean favorite is deer resistant and does reseed. Plant at the back of your garden and make sure you have enough space for it as it matures into a very large specimen. Wear gloves when handling as the leaves can irritate skin.

- Install mulch to prevent weeds, retain moisture, and regulate temperature. A cool product that is worth investigating is called Landscape Rubber Mulch.

- Dress your landscape with ornamental grasses, bulbs and colorful annuals for a designer's touch. Primroses and pansies mixed into a border are especially pretty. I tuck bulbs into my beds all year long in anticipation of a stellar surprise every month of the year.

- Add a bench, table, and loungers to key areas. As the sun rises and crosses the horizon, I like knowing that I can relax in different areas of my garden or enjoy a picnic outside in nature. Sitting spots make a garden more inviting and friendly.

- Birdbaths and fountains are essential elements to a balanced landscape offering a place to drink and splash for our feathered friends. If you have room, a pond with a recirculating pump adds an atmosphere of Zen.

- For additional elegance and privacy, install a trellis, gazebo, gate, or pergola and plant climbers such as the trumpet vine, clematis or a fragrant climbing rose.

- Last chance to prune grapevines and fall bearing fruit trees such as apple and pears.

- With rain showers still on the horizon, be prepared for blossoms and petals to be knocked to the ground. I collect the stalks and blooms that have been pummeled to create fashionable and pretty indoor arrangements.

- Continue to pick up the fallen camellia blossoms until there are no camellias left on your shrub or tree.

- Get ready for St. Patrick's Day on March 17 by going green and buying a pot of shamrocks (Oxalis) for the table.

Gardens are set to explode with color as petals open to engage us in the forthcoming season of rebirth. The final days of winter have arrived and soon the warm breath of spring will empower us to start digging deeper.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing,



Close up of wild plum tree blossoms in a winter landscape.



Cynthia Brian continues to pick up fallen camellia blossoms.

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 her new books, Growing with the Goddess Gardener and Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store. Hire Cynthia for projects, consults, and lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com Donate to Fire Disaster Relief via Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3 at www.BethestarYouAre.org

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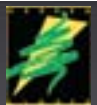
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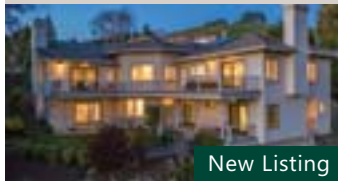


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