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From left: customer Tony Rago, stylist Nancy Taylor, customer Gil Lopez, owner Elroy Motta and stylist Bill McIntosh Photo Vera Kochan

The Moraga Barber Shop, a town institution for over 50 years

By Vera Kochan

The word “barber” comes from the Latin word “barba” which means “beard.” According to the National Barber Museum in Winchester, Ohio, “The first barbering services were performed by Egyptians in 500 B.C. with instruments they had made from oyster shells or sharpened flint.”

Thankfully, The Moraga Barber Shop, located at 1431 Moraga Way, in the Moraga Shopping Center,

has been using up-to-date implements to cut hair at the same location for 54 years.

Historically, the colors of the barber shop pole emerged during the Middle Ages when the shops also served as medical houses. Barbers were also considered surgeons and dentists, because of the tools and instruments they possessed. And, due to the fact that most of the population was illiterate, signs outside of businesses bore pictures more often than not.

The red in a barber pole represents bloodletting, while the white was meant to signify the bandages used to wrap the wounds. The blue is said to represent the non-oxygenated blood in the veins.

Moraga’s barber shop was originally owned by Jack Del Pozo, who started Jack’s Barber Shop in 1965. Second owner, Gary Cargile, purchased the business in 1985. The third and current owner, Elroy Motta bought the barber shop in 2000.

... continued on Page A11

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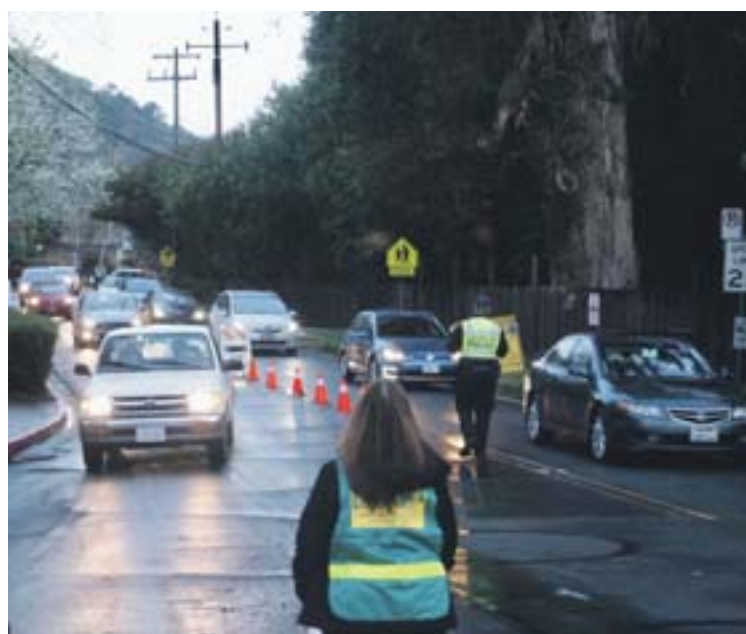
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COMPASS

Strong participation in Springhill evacuation drill



Police supervise the second wave of evacuated cars during the March 23 drill. Photo Pippa Fisher

By Pippa Fisher

In the dark and with rain falling at 6 a.m. on Saturday, March 23, well over 100 volunteers from 10 agencies shuffled into the gym at Acalanes High School to receive instructions for the emergency evacuation drill of Springhill Road. The Lafayette Police Department drone was at the ready, the mobile command center was set up and, with coffee and donuts on hand, everyone was ready and eager to get to work.

With the imagined scenario of wildfire approaching residences from Briones, the challenge was to get people out as effectively as possible. Lafayette’s drill comes on the heels of similar exercises in

Moraga and Orinda.

It was a deliberate decision to run this drill in the Springhill neighborhood. With only one road in and out, and nestled into the open space hillside of Briones, it is both lovely and potentially one of the most challenging areas in Lafayette for emergency services to evacuate in an emergency.

In the weeks prior to the drill Springhill Valley Homeowners Association President Paul Melmed and 10 volunteers went door-to-door visiting the roughly 250 homes, handing out informational fliers, largely helping the drive for Lafayette residents to sign up for Community Warning System alerts. During March alone, 209 residents registered to receive

CWS alerts. In the Springhill area 106 residents “opted in” to participate in the drill.

And at 7 a.m. those 106 residents received alerts to evacuate the area.

With volunteers fanned out along Springhill Road a fire truck led the first wave out. The road was closed at Pleasant Hill Road to west-bound traffic between 7 and 8 a.m. to allow the use of both lanes of the road in one direction only.

Fifteen minutes later a second wave came through with a simulation of 35 volunteers who were evacuated from the Girl Scout Camp all the way at the end of the road. As volunteers counted cars out, it appeared that a total of 98 vehicles took part in the drill. ... continued on Page A3

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Brown Avenue condos approved



View from Mt. Diablo Boulevard

Images provided



Aerial site view

By Pippa Fisher

The Lafayette City Council has approved the development of 13 condominiums in two, three-story buildings with two below-market rate units on the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Brown Avenue, replacing the existing structure currently used as an auto repair shop.

City council review was required in this instance because the project requested concessions and waivers under city and state density

bonus law.

The vote at the March 25 meeting was 4-1, with Council Member Susan Candell voting against the motion to adopt the resolution subject to modified conditions finding the project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

The council heard from Stefan Schnitzler of Branagh Construction who, along with architect Scott Thomsen from Left Coast Architecture, gave details of modifications made to plans since their last appearance before the city two

weeks ago. With tweaks made in the areas of on-street parking, moving laundry facilities into each unit, improvements to pathways, allowing enough egress and ingress for garbage pickup and slight changes in materials used to keep the more “rustic” nature of the neighborhood, Senior City Planner Payal Bhagat said that city staff recommended approving the project.

The project has prompted concern from residents who worry about increased traffic, lack of parking and who

are not happy with the three stories in the design, many claiming it goes against the General Plan.

Such concerns were voiced by several during public comment and were the subject of several letters from residents. Lafayette resident Deborah Callister had written, “It will set a bad precedent for building height on the east end of town, it eliminates commercial space – another bad precedent; it will do nothing to help provide much needed very-low or low-income housing in Lafayette; and we need to protect views of our green hills that we enjoy every day.”

However Vice Mayor Mike Anderson, having spent

time during the week meeting with residents, sought to explain more clearly that state legislation now forces height higher than in Lafayette’s General Plan.

“We have had our hands tied in terms of density bonus requirements as well as by a request by developers to basically waive certain conditions,” said Anderson, explaining that the state’s requirements allow that. “So the height and the setbacks in this particular situation are different than the General Plan or the specific plan area due to the fact that state legislative guidelines require us to do that.”

A timeline for the development was not available as of press time.

Search for city manager seeks public engagement

By Pippa Fisher

A handful of residents came out March 26 to give input on considerations for hiring a city manager. It is part of the city council’s effort to include as many residents as possible as it makes its decision in hiring the

next manager to take the helm in Lafayette.

Paul Kimura of Avery & Associates, the recruitment firm chosen by the city council, arranged the meeting. One of the conditions placed on the firm by the council was that it must seek public engagement in

several formats.

Kimura led the informal brainstorming session in what he described as “getting a flavor of the community.”

Though their numbers were small, the audience’s voice was still loud and clear.

“His/her vision should be



Photo Pippa Fisher

Paul Kimura leads a brainstorming meeting attended by a handful of Lafayette residents March 26.

consistent with that of the council,” said one.

From another, “We need a city manager who’s aware of issues around climate change and sustainability.”

Other comments included the need for strength of character, persuasiveness, kindness, determination, a master communicator, someone with connections at the state level, someone with specifically California experience, fiscally prudent, financially savvy, an experienced urban planner who will be inclusive.

Is this akin to finding a unicorn?

Kimura seemed undaunted.

He said he hoped to start with between 30 and 40 candidates and then to narrow it down to around five or eight candidates for serious consideration by the council. “We are about quality numbers, not raw numbers,” he said, explaining that they will be putting out a marketing brochure to advertise and will also go to their database.

The solicitation for community input will continue in the form of an online survey and phone calls.

Kimura anticipates the search and hiring will take between four and five months to complete.

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Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council
 Monday, April 8, 6:15 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings
Acalanes Union High School District
 Wednesday, April 17, 7 p.m.
 AUHSD Board Room
 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
 www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Planning Commission
 Monday, April 15, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review
 Monday, April 8, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Arts & Science Discovery Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Lafayette School District
 Tuesday, April 16, 7 p.m.
 Regular Board Meeting
 District Office Board Room
 3477 School St., Lafayette
 www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Former Mayor of 'Tatzin City' honored at packed dinner



Photo Pippa Fisher

The 2019 Citizen of the Year Don Tatzin (center) poses with his wife Ellen Reintjes and Sen. Steve Glazer at a dinner to honor Tatzin March 22.

By Pippa Fisher

This year's Citizen of the Year, Don Tatzin, was honored at a dinner March 22 at the Lafayette Park Hotel and Spa in front of friends, family and dignitaries.

Emcee'd by Interim City Manager Niroop Srivatsa, the longtime public servant of "Tatzintown" (one of several monikers for Lafayette along with Tatzinville, coined by Srivatsa for the evening) received several proclamations

and honors.

District 2 Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen found the perfect honor for the lawmaker who already has more proclamations than he could possibly ever display – a set of engraved kitchen utensils.

Now while creating his signature truffles, he will use a spatula inscribed "Don – always Smooths Things Over;" and a whisk inscribed with "Don – a Transportation Whisk Taker."

Strong participation in Springhill evacuation drill



Photo Jeff Heyman, City of Lafayette

... continued from Page A1

People were taking it seriously. Springhill resident Roni Melmed described a visceral reaction after the alert, as she got ready to evacuate. "My pulse was racing. This could actually happen here," she said.

Lafayette Chief of Police Ben Alldritt was very pleased with the level of community engagement and participation in the drill. "There are approximately 250 homes in the Springhill area and the number of participants was fantastic," he said. "I want to thank those that participated, getting up early on a Saturday morning, and supporting Police and Fire as we continue to evolve our evacuation plans."

Noting the number of volunteers who participated to make the drill successful, Alldritt thanked Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team, Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission, Contra Costa Sheriff's Office, Community Warning System, especially Livia Pop, OES & Search and Rescue, Reserve Deputies, Contra Costa County Fire, Moraga-Orinda Fire, Springhill residents and the

Springhill HOA and its board of directors and Lafayette City and Police Department staff. Surveys sent to residents and all drill volunteers following the exercise are currently being reviewed. Alldritt says they will use that feedback to improve.

"One of the big things out of this exercise was utilizing contra-flow traffic control as a method to evacuate people more quickly," says Alldritt. He points out the benefits of getting more residents engaged in registering for CWS, and understanding that this is the primary communications mechanism during emergencies, especially those that involve evacuation orders.

Paul Melmed said that he was very impressed with the dedication and expertise of the Lafayette Police Department and all the agencies involved. "It is so important to know that help will be out there in an actual emergency."

"Evacuating from our home in the early morning with emergency vehicles all up and down Springhill Road gave us a scary sense of what the folks in Sonoma and Paradise must have felt this past summer," said Paul Melmed.

Info: To register with the CWS for alerts residents should go to <http://www.cococws.us/>.



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MORAGA

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Phone: (925) 888-7022
Chamber of Commerce:
www.moragachamber.org
Moraga Citizens' Network:
www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

Moraga mayor declares Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month



Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

At the March 27 town council

meeting, Mayor Roger Wykle declared March as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month.

Americorps Vista volunteer, Chris Janssen, representing the Contra Costa County Medication Education and Disposal Safety Coalition, accepted the proclamation certificate.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, "Misuse of prescription drugs means taking a medication in

a manner or dose other than prescribed; taking someone else's prescription, even if for a legitimate medical complaint such as pain; or taking a medication to feel euphoria (that is, to get high)."

There are three classes of medication most commonly abused. Opioids, which are typically used to treat pain; central nervous system depressants, which are used to treat anxiety and sleep disorders; and stimulants, which

are often prescribed to treat attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Fentanyl, an opioid similar to morphine, but 50-100 times more potent, is used to treat patients with severe pain, especially after surgery, and sometimes as a treatment for patients with chronic pain in general. Its abuse has seen the greatest increase in overdose deaths within the last few years.

... continued on Page A12

Town of Moraga inspects private culvert and earth movement

By Vera Kochan

Out of an abundance of caution, Moraga police erected barricades on private property off Center Street near Rheem Boulevard over the weekend, after the town of Moraga became aware of earth movement at that

location, which is causing the ground to sink.

Although the depression is not in the public right-of-way, the town is concerned about potential impacts to Moraga's storm drain system as the movement is above the 96-inch storm drain culvert

that runs below the Rheem Boulevard and Center Street intersection and the Rheem Valley Shopping Center, according to a statement in Moraga's About Town newsletter: "The Town has obtained permission from the property owner to inspect the private culvert so as to

identify potential impacts to the functionality of the Town's infrastructure. In an abundance of caution, the area has been cordoned off." A video inspection of the culvert was scheduled for Monday, April 1. The Town hoped to obtain useful information from the

inspection despite the flow of water which may obscure visibility of the conditions in the culvert and stated it was acting with a sense of urgency and will continue to closely monitor the situation. Results from the inspection were not available by press time.

Moraga School District looks to fill void on school board

By Vera Kochan

Joe Rosenbaum, former board president of the Moraga School District, has resigned his position as he is moving out of the town of Moraga. Rosenbaum won a seat on the school board in the November 2016 election. As a result of the resignation, the MSD has begun the process to fill

the vacancy.

The new board member would be part of a five-member board and will hold the office beginning Tuesday, April 30, until the regularly scheduled governing board meeting in December 2020.

Anyone interested in learning about the responsibilities and duties of the position is welcome to attend an informational meeting at 7

p.m. Tuesday, April 9 in the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School library located at 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga.

Applications are currently being accepted and must be submitted no later than noon on Friday, April 19 to the Moraga School District Governing Board, 1540 School Street, Moraga, CA 94556. Ap-

plications are available on the MSD website www.moraga.k12.ca.us and at the MSD office. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Some of the applicant stipulations include: Must be 18 years old by April 30, a United States citizen, registered to vote, and a resident

within the MSD attendance boundaries. See the MSD website for a complete list of rules under the Application Procedure.

Any applicants who meet the requirements will be interviewed during the April 30 Governing Board meeting.

Info: For additional information call (925) 377-4101 or email: jbaier@moraga.k12.ca.us.

Peace, Love and Pancakes – an event for the whole family



Photo provided

A "check" to JBFC Schools from the 2015 fundraiser

By Vera Kochan

Brett Lorie, the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School math teacher behind the 10,000 Lunches Program to feed the homeless, has another worthwhile cause on the horizon. The Peace, Love and Pancakes fundraiser, entering its sixth year, benefits MainSpring's The Janada Batchelor Foundation for Children in Magu, Tanzania.

JBFC, named after its founder, Janada L. Batchelor, has a mission that "no child should have to grow up in extreme poverty. That's why we

take a holistic approach to change in East Africa by providing refuge for abused and abandoned girls, quality primary and secondary education, access to rural healthcare and economic opportunity through permaculture (permanent agriculture)."

Lorie stated, "My sister-in-law's brother (COO Seth Diamond), helps run the JBFC school in Tanzania. When he first began working there and told us about the school and the kids that they were helping, we decided to try to use that as a learning/helping experience for the kids at JM."

Peace, Love and Pancakes is a family dinner and movie event that takes place at 5:30 p.m. Friday, April 12 on the JM campus. Staff members, students and community members make hundreds of pancakes (regular and gluten-free) to serve with eggs, sausage and other accompaniments. On site, tie-dyed T-shirts will be on sale and possibly student art, as well. Later in the evening, the auditorium will host a screening of the movie "Spider-man: Into the Spider-verse."

... continued on Page A10



Town Council
Wednesday, April 10, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission
Monday, April 15, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Park and Recreation Commission
Tuesday, April 16, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Moraga School District Board Meetings
Tuesday, April 16, 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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Village ASSOCIATES

Moraga's 2019 Citizen of the Year announced



Fred Weil Photo Lamo archive

By Vera Kochan

Described as a person whose name is synonymous with Moraga and community service, Fred Weil has been named the 2019 Moraga Citizen of the Year. Some of Weil's many public service contributions have in-

cluded serving on the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board, the Moraga School District governing board and the Acalanes Union High School District governing board. He was also a founding director of the Moraga Education Foundation, Soda Aquatic Center director, and member of the Town of Moraga Park District Study Committee.

Weil was chosen from a list of several nominees by 2018 Citizens of the Year Sam and Susan Sperry, along with representatives from the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, Saint Mary's College, Moraga Citizen's Network and the Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club.

Nominees had to fit basic criteria, such as someone who has given their time, talent and energy toward making Moraga a vibrant community and someone whose body of work has made Moraga a great place to live. ... continued on Page A12

Campolindo High School's 2018-19 educator of the year selected



Photo Alexander Sastokas

Paul Verbanszky, Campolindo's Educator of the Year

By Vera Kochan

Paul Verbanszky, Campolindo's social studies teacher, was selected as the Acalanes Union High School District's Educator of the Year for the Moraga school.

Each year staff members from Acalanes, Campolindo, Las Lomas and Miramonte high schools nominate a colleague for the award. A committee of peers and administrators then vote in favor of one of the nominees.

Besides being a high school social studies teacher, Verbanszky also co-leads the District AGATE program (Acalanes Gifted and Talented Education) and acts as an advisor to the Campolindo Academic Decathlon team, which recently won the regionals and came in fifth in their division out of 28 schools in the State Finals.

Verbanszky didn't begin his working career as an educator. "I worked for a few years in various private sector jobs. A customer service rep for a credit company to legal assistant at a law firm to a consultant at a now defunct software design company.

... continued on Page A9

Moraga Community Foundation (MCF) Seeks Applicants for Board Positions

MCF a 501.c.3 organization was formed in 2015 with the goal of working with the community regarding projects that build a vibrant future for Moraga. MCF has demonstrated our community involvement by raising funds for the Town's security camera initiative and with the re-opening of the Rheem Theatre this past June. We now are looking for Directors that will take the Foundation to new level.

Individuals residing in the Moraga area or with their principle place of business in Moraga are eligible to apply.

MCF terms are for 2 years and applicants must be willing to operate under the by-laws of MCF. For more information, regarding MCF please go to www.moragacommunityfoundation.org.

Letters of interest must be received no later than Sunday, May 5th and emailed to applicants@moragacommunityfoundation.org. For additional information, call MCF Director Bob Fritzky at (925) 247-0171.



To Donate, go to: www.moragacommunityfoundation.org or: MCF, 1480 Moraga Road, Ste. C #191, Moraga, CA 94556

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Jim Colhoun | 925.200.2795
License # 01029160



ORINDA \$1,998,000

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Lisa Shaffer | 925.528.9278
License # 00996886



MORAGA \$1,430,000

1084 Bollinger Canyon Road | 4bd/2ba
Shirley Sutton | 925.285.6555
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WALNUT CREEK \$1,175,000

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City accepts new Art and Garden Center, but access issue remains; acceptance of other matters deferred



By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council voted 4-1 to accept the newly completed Art and Garden Center at Wilder at its March 19 meeting. Mayor Inga Miller, who pulled the measure from the consent calendar so that it could be discussed, voted no, owing to her concerns about accepting the building with the access issue being unresolved. Although the center has sufficient parking in the lot shared with the Wilder play fields, and an ADA accessible ramp from that parking lot, the problem is that access to the rear of the center is currently limited to emergency vehicles only, leaving the handicapped to navigate an ADA-compliant, but quite long, ramp up from the play fields parking lot. Deliveries of catering supplies for events at the center might also need to be brought up from this parking lot, although Director of Parks and Recreation Todd Trimble told the council that the emergency vehicle access can be used for deliveries as well as for emergency vehicles.

The original plan for the

center was for it to be located at the end of Wilder Road, the one public road in the Wilder Development, but starting in 2014 the plan was changed to bring the building up to the front of the valley, adjacent to the play fields. When the location was changed, no provision was made for access over the short length of Bigleaf Road from Wilder Road to the beginning of the driveway that leads to the rear entrance of the center. Currently, there are six approved parking spaces behind the center, but no legal access to them for the general public, although they could be used by Wilder residents. Additionally, the city would like to add another parking lot, providing 25 regular parking spaces as well as one for the handicapped.

The developer, OG Property Owner LLC, is offering the city an access easement over Bigleaf Road. However, residents of Wilder submitted written comments on the measure, asking that the council delay consideration of the access easement. In identical correspondence submitted by several Wilder

residents, they say that while they are not opposed to providing an access easement, they believe that it is unreasonable to expect the Wilder Homeowners Association to assume responsibility for the cost of maintaining the portion of the road in question. "We would like to see this portion of the Wilder private roads maintained in the same manner as the rest of our roads," the letter read. "In order to do this, we propose that the Wilder HOA controls the maintenance schedule of the area that this easement covers, and the City of Orinda pays its prorata share of the expenses," the letter continued. The council agreed to continue discussion of the easement until its next meeting on April 9.

City Manager Steve Salomon, meeting with Assistant City Manager and Director of Public Works Larry Theis and Trimble, telephoned the Lamorinda Weekly to answer questions regarding the nature of the negotiations, which have yet to be scheduled. Salomon stated that it is the city's preference to resolve this issue by exploring with both the HOA and also Wilder residents who are not currently members of the HOA solutions that would be of benefit to both sides. As the HOA currently has more representatives of the developers than the residents, Salomon wants to make it clear that the city will listen to the residents. Theis said that the city is pursuing the access easement as the most straightforward approach to the problem. He added that, in the absence of an access easement, the six approved parking spaces could be used by Wilder resi-

dents. Theis had earlier told The Lamorinda Weekly that the additional parking lot sought by the city could also benefit Wilder residents, who have limited parking available in the development. A large parking lot could be useful for private parties, he opined.

In addition to continuing the discussion of the access easement to April 9, the city also agreed to continue discussion of an extension for the developer to complete required improvements until December 2020. The extension would primarily allow the installation of sidewalks after houses are built. If sidewalks were completed prior to completion of home building, the developer said, they would be damaged during the completion of the homes. There are three categories of sidewalks under consideration: 1) the 3-foot sidewalks that were found not to be ADA compliant and need to be replaced with 4-foot sidewalks. The deadline for that is July 2019. 2) There were a few homes that were built but did not have sidewalks installed pending resolution of the sidewalk issue. Those sidewalks were installed by the end of 2018. 3) The remainder of the development, which was subject to an agreement with the city that sidewalks would be provided. Since the development agreement expires at the end of March, an extension is required. Although the next city council meeting is in April, it was not deemed to be a significant problem to continue discussion to that meeting.

Workshop on private roads planned, but details still unclear

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda City Council members agreed that there should be a workshop to allow for community input on the controversial issue of private roads, but they struggled to define what that workshop will be like. The city council should be present, they agreed, but should not be presiding. City council members should mostly listen, but will be allowed to talk. There should be a facilitator, but it should be someone neutral and nobody that City Manager Steve Salomon knows.

Orinda resident Charles Porges said that dialog should

be emphasized, and urged the council to include the subject of private drains in the workshop discussion. Joel Libove urged that private drains should be adopted first, and then private streets, all of which, he said, are entitled to be adopted. Or, maybe not adopted, but perhaps maintained, he added, noting that the real amount of funding required to adopt all private roads and drains needs to be determined.

Melissa Roeder said that there is a great deal to be discussed, and that she hopes the workshop will be a precursor to a task force. She worried that a facilitator paid

for by the city might feel pressure to favor city positions.

Vice Mayor Darlene Gee recommended that there be extensive notice of the workshop. "We need the biggest tent possible," she said. How to handle private roads, she said, is something that the community will have to agree on. "We don't have the resources to even complete and maintain the public roads," she said, indicating that future road maintenance fundraising will be required. Overall, she found the workshop a good start, and recommended that the city minimize its own presentations

and keep the costs of the workshop down. She also was not enthusiastic about the idea of staff presentations about potential costs because, she said, "not all of us agree with all of the information that has been presented by staff in the past," adding, "I don't agree with all the facts that staff have presented."

Salomon stated that in his 45-year career he has never been asked to deal with the issue of private roads. "It is really complex," he said, "and the more I think about it, the more complex it seems." Adopting private roads would create "tremendous liability," he said, but added, "There is a

tremendous need to level the playing field in terms of people's knowledge" about the subject.

Council Member Dennis Fay suggested that the concerns of the private road residents include fairness and fear of a catastrophic disaster. "We might be able to come up with some other solutions," he suggested, beyond a simple city adoption of private roads. He added, "I see this workshop as an opportunity to define the issues." City staff will return to the council at a later date with a plan for the workshop format.

<p>Orinda Public Meetings</p>	<p>City Council Tuesday, April 9, 7 p.m. Regular Meeting Library Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way</p>	<p>Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 p.m. Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563</p>	<p>Orinda Union High School District Board Meetings Monday, April 8, 6 p.m. Regular Board Meeting 8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda www.orindaschools.org See also AUHSD meeting page A2</p>
	<p>Planning Commission Tuesday, April 16, 7 p.m. Library Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way</p>		

City staff to present small cell urgency ordinance, April 9

At the Feb. 19 Special City Council meeting, staff reported on the federal regulations pertaining to wireless-communication facilities. In conjunction with the staff's report, Telecom Law Firm, PC made a presentation to the council to further explain the new federal regulations and the limitations they place on local authority to regulate small cell wireless facilities linked to proposed 5G wireless technology. Following a series of questions and public comments, the council directed staff to prepare an urgency ordinance and aesthetic standards for wireless facilities. Staff will present the proposed urgency ordinance and design standards at the April 9 Orinda City Council meeting.

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Neighbors rejoice after Linda Vista eyesore removed



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Neighbors were overjoyed when the partially deconstructed building at 6 Linda Vista in Orinda was finally demolished after a seven-year struggle. A small home had been left when its owner died, and was bought by a developer who wished to build a single-family home for his family. Neighbors objected to the size of the project, and the property was then sold. The remodeling project began, but went disastrously wrong. The building was left as an eyesore, taken down to the

studs. Eventually the property was repossessed, but the saga continued as the new owner, a Los Angeles company, investigated ways to recoup its investment. Now the property has been cleared of the building and the lot will be sold. In the meantime, neighbors held a party on March 24 with pets in tow, temporarily declaring the property The Linda Vista Dog Park.

– Sora O'Doherty

Orinda Watch sponsors town hall to protest CASA Compact and SB 50

By Sora O'Doherty

Master of Ceremonies Dr. Scott Zeller introduced three speakers at a crowded town hall meeting March 28 sponsored by Orinda Watch to present information about the controversial CASA Compact and California Senate Bill 50. The speakers – Zeld Bronstein, a freelance journalist and a former chair of the Berkeley Planning Commission; Susan Kirsch, the founder of Livable California; and Dennis Richards, a former Salesforce vice president and a member of the San Francisco Planning Commission who offered his comments as an individual, not as a San Francisco city official – and most public commenters were vehemently opposed to both, with the general feeling that the state of California was taking over housing issues for the nine-county Bay Area.

CASA stands for the Committee to House the Bay Area and is a project of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), which is the regional organization that channels federal transportation dollars to the Bay Area, said Bronstein. MTC administers more than \$2 billion annu-

ally for the Bay Area's surface transportation network, including more than \$600 million in bridge tolls.

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) is the regional land use planning agency, she explained. According to Bronstein, a 2008 state law forced ABAG and the MTC to collaborate on regional planning, and partly as a result, she added, "in 2016 the MTC engineered a hostile takeover of ABAG." She explained, "MTC intended to be a one-stop transportation and land use planning agency for the Bay Area."

Bronstein holds that "CASA was secretly convened in June 2017 by Steve Heminger, the recently departed ex-Director of MTC." She continued to state that the 53-person group was dominated by "big players in the Bay Area's real estate industry," as well as 12 local officials, two "token" environmentalist groups, "big tech," "big philanthropy," three equity advocates, the representatives of organized labor, two "vehement opponents of the California Environmental Quality Act," and one "genuine tenants advocate."

... continued on Page A10



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MOFD short-term finances sluggish, long-range forecast improved

By Nick Marnell

A conservative 10-year financial forecast shows the Moraga-Orinda Fire District with a lower than desired general fund balance, but a more upbeat projection has the district hitting its general fund balance goal of 50 percent of revenue by 2028. Dis-

trict administrative services director Gloriann Sasser presented the numbers at a March 20 public workshop, and the district board is expected to adopt the financial plan at its April 17 meeting.

MOFD revamped the format of its Long Range Financial Forecast, most notably lowering the outlook from 15

to 10 years. It also provided two projections – one using a 3 percent increase in annual property tax revenue, and the other using a 4 percent increase. Property tax revenue has risen on average just under 5 percent a year for the past four years.

Highlights of the forecast include the payoff of the \$13

million balance of the district pension obligation bond in 2023, and the continued funding of both the pension stabilization and retiree health care trusts. The pension trust was created to offset the unrealistic projections provided by the district pension administrator, the Contra Costa County Employees' Re-

tirement Association, which had forecast a 7 percent gain on its investments for 2018, far higher than the actual 2.7 percent loss.

MOFD also uses a more conservative formula to calculate its net pension liability than does CCCERA.

... continued on Page A9

Broschard formally takes over county's largest fire district

By Nick Marnell

The torch was passed from outgoing Fire Chief Jeff Carman to his successor, Deputy Chief Lewis Broschard, at the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Change of Command ceremony March 22 in front of dozens of friends, officials and family members.

"From the time I began here, I knew that Lewis would be my successor," Carman said, as the two semifi-

nalists for the fire chief position in 2013 became not only synchronous coworkers but good friends as well. "I hope he gets a deputy chief that he can count on as much as I have."

Broschard vowed to continue the positive momentum of the district, and promised to maintain the high level of public trust that the district has realized under Carman. He also said he will continue to advance one of Carman's top priorities as chief.

"Relationships are special and relationships are important, and I will continue to foster them," Broschard said. "I look forward to our becoming the premier fire district we all strive for."



Photo courtesy Steve Hill ConFire

Lewis Broschard's wife, Alyce, pins him at his swearing-in as ConFire's 12th fire chief.

ConFire reopens reserve fire station near Lamorinda



Photo courtesy Steve Hill ConFire

Reserve firefighters sworn in at March 11 reopening of Fire Station 19 in Briones

By Nick Marnell

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District added further protection from a wildland fire roaring into Lamorinda when it reopened refurbished Fire Station 19 in Briones, less than four miles from the Lafayette and north Orinda borders. The rededi-

cated reserve station lies in a rural area west of Briones Regional Park, and will be staffed by ConFire reserve firefighters.

"We are celebrating not only the reopening of Fire Station 19 but of the ConFire reserve program," said then-Fire Chief Jeff Carman at the March 11 dedication ceremony.

Battalion Chief Paul Silva and Capt. Sam Nichols revamped the reserve program, which had been placed on the back burner after the Great Recession, adding 11 new firefighters who went through an orientation program that included CPR, communications and wildland training. Each reserve must commit up to six hours a week at the station. "Someone will be here regularly," Silva told the attendees.

The station has been updated, and ConFire purchased and equipped a new Type 6 wildland firefighting engine dedicated for the reserve program. The small, nimble engine used in wildland settings like Briones will be the front-

line engine for the station, which also houses a Type 3 wildland firefighting engine. The Type 6 engine is the only one of its kind in the district.

"There were a lot of false starts, and there was a lot of frustration with the fire district," Carman said, as he tried to assure the local residents that ConFire is committed to staying in Briones and providing continuous service. "With all of the wildfire threats, I am much more relaxed knowing that we have coverage here."

Fire Station 19 is located on Garcia Ranch Road, just east of Bear Creek Road in Briones.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors
Wednesday, April 17, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.
Visit www.mofd.org



ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, April 9, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber Room 107,
Administration Building
651 Pine St., Martinez.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



Public Safety

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Emergency: 24 Hours
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours
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 March 10 - 23

Alarms	67
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	17
Traffic	177
Suspicious Circumstances	10
Suspicious Subject	25
Suspicious Vehicle	24
Service to Citizen	46
Patrol Request/Security Check	29
Vacation House Check	14
Supplemental Report	14
Welfare Check	11
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
Exhibition Of Speed	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.	
Grand Theft From Vehicle	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
1100 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
3600 Block Boyer Cr.	
Happy Valley Rd./Valory Ln.	
30 Block Lafayette Cr.	
Petty Theft From Vehicle	
Deer Hill Rd./1St St.	
Reckless Driving	
Reliez Station Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.	
1000 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Police Department	
Briones Regional Park	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Springhill Rd.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Wb Sr 24	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./1St St.	
Other criminal activity	
Commercial Burglary	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Fraud False Pretenses	
500 Block Silverado Dr.	
Grand Theft	
500 Block Silverado Dr.	
Happy Valley Rd./Deer Hill Rd.	
Identity Theft	
St. Marys Rd./Moraga Rd.	
3300 Block Las Huertas Rd.	
Police Department	

20 Block Camellia Ln. (2)	
Panhandling	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Petty Theft	
Wb Sr 24 At St Stephens Dr.	
Petty Theft Bicycle	
10 Block Wallabi Ct.	
Shoplift	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (6)	
Nuisance to the Community	
Harassment	
1000 Block Carol Ln.	
Loud Music	
3300 Block Kincheloe Ct. (2)	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Quandt Rd.	
Loud Noise	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.	
Wilder/Hwy 24	
3600 Block Chestnut St.	
Loud Party	
3400 Block School St.	
3900 Block Franke Ln.	
1000 Block 2Nd St.	
Public Nuisance	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Happy Valley Rd./Baker Ln.	
S Peardale Dr./Upper Happy Valley Rd.	
300 Block Castello Rd.	
School Assembly Check	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd. (2)	
Other	
Animal Cruelty	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Acalanes Rd.	
Brandishing Weapon	
3600 Block Deerhill Rd.	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Dependent Adult Abuse	
1900 Block Reliez Valley Rd.	
H&S Violation	
3300 Block Mcgraw Ln.	
Vandalism	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report March 12 - 25

Alarms	13
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	4
Traffic	128



Suspicious Circumstances	9
Suspicious Subject	5
Suspicious Vehicle	8
Petty Theft	48
Service to Citizen	
Patrol Request/Security Check	34
Supplemental Report	10
Vacation House Check	5
Welfare Check	7
Vehicle violations	
Accident Injury	
800 Block Villa Ln.	
Accident Property	
Iv Dr./Ardith Dr.	
Auto Burglary	
Rheem Valley Shopping Center	
Dui Misd	
Moraga Way/Camino Ricardo	
Excessive Speed	
Moraga Way/Moraga Valley Ln.	
Rheem Blvd./Fernwood Dr.	
Moraga Way/Moraga Rd. (2)	
Moraga Rd./Dolores	
Moraga Rd./Natalie Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Moraga Via	
Larch Ave./Wandel Dr. (3)	
St. Andrew/Cypress	
Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
1700 Block St. Andrews Dr.	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.	
Canyon Rd./Moraga Rd.	
St. Marys Rd./Rheem Bl	
Vehicle Theft	
300 Block Rheem Blvd.	
10 Block Bal Tusrol	
Other criminal activity	
Burglary	
Cvs	
Disturbance-Domestic	
70 Block Greenfield Dr.	
Identity Theft	
500 Block Moraga Rd.	
Shoplift	
Cvs	
Nuisance to the Community	
Juvenile Disturbance	
Safeway	
Loud Party	
Sanders Ranch Rd./Camino Pablo	
100 Block Draeger Dr.	
2000 Block Ascot Dr.	
Other	
Mental Ill Commit	
100 Block Danefield Pl.	

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report March 10 - 23

Alarms	44
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	10
Traffic	170
Suspicious Circumstances	3
Suspicious Subject	6
Suspicious Vehicle	12
Service to Citizen	58
Patrol Request/Security Check	35
Vacation House Check	8
Supplemental Report	9
Welfare Check	3
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
10 Block Country Club Plaza	
Starbucks	
Dui Misd	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Orinda Country Club	
Petty Theft From Veh	
Police Department	
Fish Ranch Rd./Sr 24	
Reckless Driving	
Bear Creek Rd./San Pablo Dam Rd.	
St Stephens Dr./Wb Sr 24	
Road Rage	
Camino Pablo/San Pablo Dam Rd.	
Other criminal activity	
Fraud False Pretenses	
300 Block Village View Ct.	
Identity Theft	
10 Block Estates Dr.	
Petty Theft	
10 Block Orinda Way	
Beverages And More	
10 Block Las Aromas	

Warrant Arrest	
California Shakespeare Festival	
Cvs	
Nuisance to the Community	
Harassment	
20 Block Glorietta Ct.	
Loud Music	
500 Block Miner Rd.	
Loud Noise	
500 Block Miner Rd.	
Loud Party	
Buena Vista/Moraga Way	
40 Block Estates Dr.	
Phone Harass	
60 Block Orinda Way	
Public Assembly Check	
Cvs (3)	
Sleepy Hollow School (2)	
300 Block Camino Pablo	
Wagner Ranch Elementary	
Public Nuisance	
100 Block Orchard Rd.	
School Assembly Check	
Miramonte High School (2)	
Other	
Accident Property	
Santa Maria Way/Camino Pablo	
200 Block Village	
Wells Fargo	
20 Block Orinda Way	
Ivy Dr./Ardith Dr.	
300 Block Camino Sobrante	
Brandishing Weapon	
10 Block Camino Del Monte	
Death Non Criminal	
10 Block Irwin Way	
Disturbing The Peace	
10 Block Casa Vieja	
30 Block Charles Hill Cr.	
10 Block Lost Valley Dr.	
Ordinance Violation	
Mira Loma/Via Farallon	
Dias Dorados Rd./La Cintilla	
Other Non Criminal	
Safeway	
Trespass	
Orinda Country Club	
Camino Sobrante/El Ribero	
300 Block Camino Sobrante	
Quarry Hill Rd./Quarry House Dr.	
Unauthorized Possession	
Starbucks	
Unwanted Guest	
400 Block Tahos Rd.	
Vandalism	
Rite Aid	

County agency reports challenges faced by Lamorinda municipalities

By Nick Marnell

Lamorinda municipalities provide sufficient public services but, though in good financial shape for the most part, are deficient in some areas, according to a Contra Costa County report that analyzed services provided by each of the county's 19 cities and towns and four of its community service districts.

The report, the Municipal Services Review, was published under the direction of the Local Agency Formation Commission, an agency that regulates boundaries and service areas in Contra Costa County. Categories covered in the document include demographic information, governmental structure, capacity to deliver adequate service and the financial condition of each public entity. "The MSR serves as a resource to help the public better understand how municipal services are provided," says the document introduction.

Likely of surprise to no

one is that in all three Lamorinda municipalities there are fewer jobs than there are housing units. Data in the MSR was compiled for 2010 and projected for 2040, with Lafayette and Moraga coming just under a 1:1 ratio of jobs-to-housing units by 2040.

Orinda projects at under 80 percent jobs-to-housing for the same period. Similar data was presented by all three Lamorinda municipalities as a rebuttal to the regional housing plan developed by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, which called for more housing units in Lamorinda.

Unlike the 2009 MSR, which provided an exhaustive listing of all government functions and services, the updated report also pointed out specific deficiencies in the management of each public entity.

Lafayette was noted for its capital spending not keeping up with asset depreciation, and failing to maintain current infrastructure needs.

According to the report, Lafayette has identified only \$1.7 million out of the \$2.3 million needed to maintain its roads at the pavement condition index of 77, exceeding the 75 target set by the MTC.

"City Engineer Mike Moran has been working with the Capital Projects Assessment Committee to develop cost estimates for the future maintenance of our roads in order to maintain the PCI at an acceptable level," said Niroop Srivatsa, Lafayette interim city manager. "CPAC and Mike will present their report and findings at the April 22 Council meeting."

Sharing the lower than acceptable PCI standard was Moraga, which was also cited for its shortage in capital funding. Broadband service delivered to the town as reported by the East Bay Broadband Consortium does not meet standards set by the California Public Utilities Commission, and the town's unfunded pension liability, which could increase from

\$250,000 to \$770,000 in four years, "may reduce funding for other priorities," according to the MSR. Moraga officials did not respond to requests for comment on the report by press time.

Orinda broadband service did not measure up to CPUC minimum standards, and the city CPI index was the lowest in Lamorinda at 60. The LAFCO report faulted Orinda for late issuance of its comprehensive annual financial report and recommended that the city "could incorporate changes to improve the transparency of its financials," finding fault with the readability of certain financial tables in the CAFR.

City Manager Steve Salomon blamed the late CAFR on the 2017 Miner Road sinkhole and its commensurate challenges, and also that Orinda went two months without a financial manager and changed city managers that year. "Orinda has been spending a huge amount of money on our roads. By next

year, the residential component will be complete, and the city is on a path to be one of the best-rated in the Bay Area," Salomon said.

Overall, the MSR's concluded that the Lamorinda municipalities appear to be in good enough financial condition to continue providing services and to accommodate infrastructure expansion, improvements or replacement over the next five years.

"MSRs provide a wealth of information," said Lou Ann Texiera, LAFCO executive officer. "The MSR's are interactive reports with input from the local agencies under review. LAFCO welcomes comments and input from the public."

All three Lamorinda agencies are expected to present the MSR's for review at public meetings, and LAFCO will hold its own public hearing April 17. The final MSR's should be available in June.

MOFD short-term finances sluggish, long-range forecast improved

... continued from Page A8

Rather than the 7 percent figure the pension plan administrator uses, the district assumes a 6.25 percent discount rate on future obligations and a 6.25 percent investment earnings rate, the same figure

MOFD uses to calculate its retiree health care liability. Between the required annual CCCERA payments and the money the district places into its pension and retiree health care trust funds, MOFD forecasts that it will pay down nearly \$35 million of its cur-

rent \$49 million net pension liability and \$11 million of its \$14.8 million retiree health care liability by 2029.

Using the forecast of a 3 percent property tax revenue increase, the district projects a deficit into 2022, partly due to pension bond and trust

fund payments, and its capital projects fund shows a deficit in eight of the next 10 years.

Through 2029 the number of district personnel remains at 78, including 57 on-duty firefighters and three battalion chiefs. The rebuild of Fire Station 41 and the dis-

trict administration building is planned for 2019.

The projection for the current fiscal year, ending June 30: Total general fund revenue of \$24.7 million, with expenses of \$23.5 million, and a general fund balance of \$6.4 million.

Campolindo High School's 2018-19 educator of the year

... continued from Page A5

I thought I was going to be a lawyer for a while, too, for I enjoyed the idea of defending the Constitutional rights of citizens, but did not pursue that direction."

After feeling that he needed to find a job that was less "life-draining" and something that he could feel passionate about, Verbanszky volunteered with America Reads, an organization that connects mentor readers with struggling third graders. After positive feedback from a

supervisor and students he decided to quit his regular job and become a substitute teacher. Finding the experience extremely rewarding, he went back to school for his teaching credentials and a master's in education, while working as a social studies teacher on an emergency credential at a low-income school in Southern California. He stated, "I went from depressed feelings and hating my job to waking up every morning happy to go to work - tired, but happy!"

While Verbanszky never

planned on becoming an educator (his music teacher father discouraged it), he enjoyed learning and working with others. He has now been teaching for 18 years beginning in 2001 and joined the Campolindo staff in 2004.

When asked what made him choose social studies as his field of expertise Verbanszky replied, "Ironically, it was a good teacher I had in college that inspired me to pursue history. I wanted to study everything, but I gravitated toward history classes. The people's

stories are what matter."

Verbanszky's wife, Stephanie, a science teacher at Campo, is thrilled about his recognition. They have two daughters who are pleased with his honor. "My third-grade daughter asked why I did not win sooner. My daughter in kindergarten admitted to being happy for me, but she apologetically also stated that she thinks her teacher is really good, too." He added, "Unfortunately, my parents are not alive anymore to witness my success despite my father's efforts of trying to

get me not to become a teacher."

The award came as a complete surprise to Verbanszky. He was on a field trip with his students when his wife texted him the news. His students feel it's a well-deserved honor.

Verbanszky will be recognized at the May 1 school board meeting along with the finalists from Acalanes, Las Lomas and Miramonte. He is required to write an essay, be observed and interviewed by the county committee in order to win at the next level.

Advertising

What's wrong with this picture? It isn't Lafayette!

SB50 would eliminate single-family home zoning, and parking requirements, within a half-mile radius of BART. **Lafayette's downtown could become solid high density housing.**

Ferry? Our commuter transit consists of BART and the Caldecott Tunnel, both jammed every day already. **SB50 includes no new transit to move workers from proposed high density housing here, to job growth centers west and south of us.**

Lafayette has "housing by right" on Mt Diablo Blvd. If SB50 becomes law, **ALL our downtown stores, restaurants and businesses could become housing complexes**, without adequate parking, shopping, or commute alternatives for Lafayette residents.

Read the fine print! Under SB50, ALL of Lafayette could be designated a "jobs-rich area" (actual jobs not required) and see single-family zoning, and parking requirements, eliminated. Does your household drive half a car?

Join Save Lafayette in defending the Lafayette we know and love. **Write or call today:**

Lafayette City Council
Cityhall@lovelafayette.org

Local Representatives:
Senator Steve Glazer
Sd07.senate.ca.gov
Phone: 925-258-1176
Assembly District 16
Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
a16.asmdc.org
Phone: 925-328-1515

Senator Scott D. Wiener
senator.wiener@senate.ca.gov
Phone: (916) 651-4011

SB50 infographic is copyright of the illustrator and can be found online at <https://i.redd.it/773bp0b081321.jpg>

Lafayette had jobs-housing balance before it was cool. Thanks to thoughtful city planning we enjoy a livable and walkable community, with varied housing stock and a thriving downtown. SB50 attempts to "balance" excessive growth of tech jobs elsewhere in the region, with mandatory high density housing here. **Save Lafayette proudly supports our City Council in resisting State encroachment on local control of land use.** We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit group; please visit us online at savelafayette.org.

If you're able to help financially please send your check to Save Lafayette, 3220 Ronino Way, Lafayette CA 94549.

Sun shines on spring wedding at the Res



Photo Pippa Fisher

Lafayette couple have a perfect sunny day for their wedding at the Lafayette Reservoir March 30.

By Pippa Fisher

With the iconic Lafayette reservoir as a backdrop, and under glorious sunshine, a local Lafayette couple tied the knot March 30 on the Rotary stage in front of family and friends. It's not an everyday sight up at the res, and although not a first for the park, it was especially meaningful to the couple.

The couple, Ginny Wehrmeister and John Quell, are known to many locally, having worked for years in theater and music right here in Lafayette.

It is a tale of two people destined to be together in what, it turns out, is a very small world. Despite having many of the same connections, knowing many of the same people and even attending some of the same events prior to meeting, it

took an online dating app for the two to finally meet in the fall of 2016.

"It still befuddles me that we knew so many of the same people but not each other," says Wehrmeister.

"Our very first date was at El Charro – I'll never forget when we were planning our first date and we realized we both worked in Lafayette. Realizing that he knew Rena Wilson and Renee DeWeese (co-founders of Performing Academy), longtime friends and future bosses of mine, and worked at Lamorinda Music – a place I frequented. It was mind-blowing," says Wehrmeister.

"We saw each other a total of six times that week – including a picnic lunch at the Lafayette Reservoir," remembers Wehrmeister.

"We probably crossed

paths a few times before we met since we worked in such close vicinity to each other," she says. In fact, Quell had taken a date to see "Play it Again, Sam" at Town Hall Theatre for which Wehrmeister won a Theatre Bay Area award.

Quell, originally from Norwalk, Connecticut, is the instrument repair technician at Lamorinda Music. A talented musician, he plays locally for a number of bands and is first chair alto sax player for the Walnut Creek Concert Band. He also plays clarinet and flute. Wehrmeister works right above Lamorinda Music at the Performing Academy as their program manager where she oversees all their after-school and summer programming and provides support to families, students, and teaching artists.

"It's funny, the repair tech prior to John ended up marry-

ing a Performing Academy employee as well," says Wehrmeister.

As it happened, the previous Lamorinda Music instrument repair tech was someone Quell knew from school in Washington where he worked for a time after graduation. "When he (the previous tech) moved to another job he reached out to me to apply. I came down and loved the store, (and) John and Colleen (McCormick), and moved down shortly after the interview and have been here since the fall of 2015," explains Quell.

Prior to working at the Performing Academy Wehrmeister, who grew up in Concord, worked at Town Hall Theatre. She explains "After graduation I moved home and found a job working as a teaching artist at Town Hall Theatre. I started out there doing whatever they would allow me - I costumed student productions, I was in a handful of their main stage productions and I taught the love of theater to ages 5-18 years old. I began working full time at Town Hall as a resident teaching artist and then later their director of education."

And it was on the same Rotary stage at the reservoir that Wehrmeister brought many of her THT students to perform at the annual Concerts at the Res over the years. "I've personally overseen about six Concerts at the Res," she says. "Town Hall was invited back every year, our students have performed everything from Gilbert and

Sullivan to Sondheim to Carol King. It's always a highlight to the start of summer."

The wedding was a truly local affair with Stanley Middle School music teacher Bob Athayde, playing piano. Wehrmeister explains that Quell met Athayde while working on the school's many instruments.

In yet another example of the small world in which they both knew the same people but not each other, Wehrmeister relates how local realtor and THT Board Vice President Tom Stack knew both of them separately. "Tom Stack met John at Lamorinda Music and learned John was interested in buying a house. Tom took John around when he first moved here and showed him real estate. Flash forward to two years later when I brought John along as my date to the Shelly Awards. Tom was very surprised – two worlds colliding," she says.

Stack says that Wehrmeister's contributions at THT were groundbreaking, noting, "The inroads she made into the community were spectacular. She was a big part of the family we have there. Operative word – family."

And yes, it was Stack who found them their home. "They are two fantastic people and putting them in there first home together was as good a feeling as you can get in my business. I couldn't be more happy for them," he says.

Peace, Love plus Pancakes – an event for the whole family

... continued from Page A4

Lorie and his team of many helpers, including Karlene Steelman, Moose Wesler and Sonya Twyman, are pleased that all of the

evening's proceeds go directly to the JBFC schools (www.mainsprings.org), who's motto is "Ending poverty – one child, one community at a time."

"We raise, on average,

around \$4,000 each year. We've raised over \$20,000 in the five years we've run the

event," Lorie proudly stated. "We encourage the school to use the money in the ways

that they seem best fits. In the past, this has gone to meals, scholarships and supplies."

Info: To buy advance tickets to the event, donate or for more information visit: <https://www.1000lunches.org/dinner>.



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Orinda Watch sponsors town hall to protest CASA Compact and SB 50

... continued from Page A7

Zeller said that the state is using a "sledge hammer approach where maybe a tweezer would do. Local control," he noted, "is really at risk."

Bronstein described the MTC as "rich, powerful, and feared." She gave a rapid-fire presentation filled with facts about the CASA Compact and Assembly Bill 1487, which focuses on housing development financing, but spoke so fast that a member of the audience pleaded with her to slow down. She responded that she couldn't because she had so much information to impart, although she did say that she would try.

Bronstein calls the resulting CASA Compact a coup because it was an ad hoc with no legal authority with access to large amounts of public funding to formulate major policies for the state legislature. She says that the CASA Compact assumes that selfish homeowners don't want new housing, that cities refuse to build housing, that onerous laws including local zoning and CEQA have strangled new housing production, and that the Bay Area must ceaselessly grow, "whatever the cost." Her proffered solution to the housing crisis is to stop approving new tech offices in the Bay Area.

Bronstein also spoke about AB 1487, which proposes to create a new, independent regional governmental agency, The Housing Alliance for the Bay Area, with authority to levy taxes, issue debt, and buy and sell land for housing development, and ACA-1, a California Constitutional amendment that would, among other things, lower the voter threshold from 66 percent to 55 percent to approve local general obligation bonds and special taxes for affordable

housing and public infrastructure projects.

Kirsch talked about meetings with legislators with the goals of education, information and advocacy, while Richards gave a PowerPoint presentation that focused on the specific effects of the proposed legislation.

Richards described the CASA Compact and SB 50 as a "classic top-down, autocratic, Soviet-style plan ... developed in backrooms." He warned that Orinda is particularly vulnerable because it is classified as a "jobs rich" community since the median income in the city is twice the state's median income. Under the proposed legislation, he claims that the building density of Orinda could potentially triple and that all of Orinda would be affected, not just the areas near the BART station. Attendees of the town hall were provided with form letters to send to their state senators asking them to "please kill the CASA Compact's SB 50 and related bills." During the meeting, Orinda City Council Member Amy Worth garnered some harsh criticism. Worth, an MTC commissioner, came to the podium to explain her positions.

The CASA Compact and related legislation were also discussed at the March 19 Orinda City Council meeting. City Manager Steve Salomon told the council that the mayors of Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga will meet to help coordinate the response of the local communities to the CASA Compact and SB 50 and related bills.

Worth said that the MTC and ABAG did not endorse the CASA Compact, and that ABAG is setting up an additional group to provide feedback. She said that there is a huge amount of momentum in Sacramento, where the governor in his inaugural address said that housing is

one of his priorities and stressed the importance of working with the authors of bills.

Council Member Dennis Fay pointed out that the CASA Compact means nothing if it is not implemented by legislation. He suggested that rather than straightforward opposition, "you'll do better if you can provide legislators with rational reasons why their bills don't get them where they want to go." He pointed out that San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara have a housing crisis because they have added 9,000 new jobs. But, he said, "if we build housing far away, we'll kill the transportation system." Contra Costa County has a 5:1 job to housing ratio, he continued, and Walnut Creek and Concord have been approving a lot of new housing.

Fay added that you can't get amendments unless you oppose a bill.

Darlene Gee stated that she is "deeply disappointed with the CASA Compact," which, she said, relies on sticks rather than carrots. She is deeply disappointed that it does not address transport issues, which, she said, are enormous. She said that she is also deeply disappointed that there hasn't been any effort to change the effects of Proposition 13 on commercial properties.

Mayor Inga Miller suggested that barriers should be removed to encourage the building of accessory dwelling units. She also noted that Contra Costa County needs jobs.

"We have empty office space," she said. "Bring us jobs and we'll build housing."

Worth agreed that moving jobs to the East Bay is particularly important, noting that the League of Cities is working hard to identify positions and that she is confident that Orinda

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Letters to the editor

Orinda and MCE

Would you like to have a choice in electricity providers other than PG&E? Local control over your electricity provider? Better options for renewable energy? Thirteen other Contra Costa cities including Lafayette, Moraga, Walnut Creek, Concord, Danville, El Cerrito, and unincorporated Contra Costa County offer MCE (originally Marin Clean Energy) as a second energy choice to residents and businesses. But Orinda has not yet given us access to choose energy providers.

MCE offers cleaner electricity than PG&E for slightly less cost. Adding MCE as an alternative electricity provider also includes the no-cost choice for each household or business to opt-out of MCE and continue to use PG&E with no change to existing rates.

Ask the city council to put MCE on the agenda for discussion. Call, write, or come to the next Orinda City Council Meeting, Tuesday, April 9 at 7:00 pm at the Orinda Library Auditorium. Write to the city council members c/o the City Clerk, Sheri Smith at ssmith@cityoforinda.org.

For more information about MCE go to: www.mcecleanenergy.org

Jim Ulrick
Orinda

North Orinda Fuel Break

I'm confused about [the March 20] front page article about the North Orinda Fuel Break. Your reporter, Nick Marnell, quotes Lucy Talbot as stating: "While a (fuel) break is a place to start, I have grave concerns that far too little is being done by our elected officials to address the very real threat of a fire danger to our Community." However, he precedes her opinion with his comment that as a candidate last November for the MOFD Board she had no firefighting background and therefore lost to a career firefighter.

Is Marnell implying that the fact that she was not a career firefighter disqualifies her opinion? If so, why did he include it in his article? He does not go on to agree or disagree; add confirming or contrary opinions. What's his point?

I happen to agree with her. Although I am another non-firefighter, I am someone who has been studying MOFD for a decade and have been actively keeping up on events. I have been concerned that possibly we are devoting resources on fighting fires (closing the barn door after the horse has left) that could be better utilized for prevention.

MOFD's current \$28 million budget includes \$623,000 for fire prevention but \$598,000 of that is for administrators and inspectors while only \$25,000 is for "exterior removal hazard." And

their ten year forecast only increases that \$25,000 by three percent a year while revenues are increasing at over \$1 million a year.

\$25,000 a year is not appropriate for the number one priority in CalFire's just released Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Report; fuel reduction projects.

It is great that we are getting the state to fund the Fuel Break this year, but what happens when 30-40 mph winds blow embers across the break? There goes North Orinda? Unless there is a major fuel reduction effort, especially in Orinda (and don't expect 7,000 individual homeowners to act in unison without serious incentives; which is another item on the CalFire priority list), we could be the next Paradise. Will the State fund those incentives or should we plan for those ourselves?

Steve Cohn
Orinda

Terraces of Lafayette

I feel compelled to respond to several false and misleading statements contained in Save Lafayette's ad in the March 20, 2019 edition of the Lamorinda Weekly.

Save Lafayette falsely alleges that O'Brien Homes would not "negotiate a compromise" with the community.

The truth is that O'Brien willingly accepted a compromise offer proposed by the city to build 44 single-family homes and provide the city with numerous community amenities (including a sports field, dog park, parking lot, and playground) instead of 315 apartments, but city residents voted down the compromise in the June 2018 election. As we stated during the Measure L campaign, we have the legal right to resume processing the apartments application, and, as we said we would, we did so after the election results became known.

According to Save Lafayette, O'Brien and its land use attorney are "retaliating" against Lafayette with "bullying and intimidation".

The truth is that O'Brien has worked with the city for eight years on this property, and we are doing nothing more than what we previously stated: resuming the apartments application after the voters rejected the Measure L compromise.

According to Save Lafayette, O'Brien has demanded that Susan Candell recuse herself from any involvement in the Terraces of Lafayette 315-apartment pro-

ject "despite, or because of, Lafayette voters' clear support for her leadership."

The truth is that it has been shown that Ms. Candell has frequently expressed bias against the project, and we exercised our due process rights by requesting her recusal, which she did. Our request had only to do with protecting our constitutional rights, not election results.

According to Save Lafayette, O'Brien "now demands (Ms. Candell's) silence even as a private citizen" even though she did recuse herself.

The truth is that an elected official who recuses him/herself cannot negate their publicly expressed position and resume their role as a private citizen as if they were not elected.

According to Save Lafayette, O'Brien "demands that the City accept only an 'addendum' to the 2012 (sic) EIR, thereby avoiding public review and input."

The truth is that an addendum is the legally-required document to follow a certified EIR when the project has not changed.

Dennis O'Brien
O'Brien Homes

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

The Moraga Barber Shop



Photo Vera Kochan

From left: Joan Bruzzone, Clark Wallace, and owner Elroy Motta

... continued from Page A1

Steady customer Clark Wallace from Orinda has been coming to the barber shop since 1965. "I helped broker all of Moraga with my dad."

Moraga Center owner, Joan Bruzzone said, "My husband and I worked with Clark and his father to purchase this area. There's still so much history in Moraga."

Motta, a Danville resident, began his journey as a hairdresser at the age of 24. He joked, "I got too slow and couldn't outrun the husbands, so I got into carpet cleaning instead." In 1992, he answered an ad in a newspaper for a barber's job in Moraga, "and here I am!"

Motta has loyal customers coming from all areas of the East Bay, such as Oakland, Danville, Concord and Pleasant Hill. Many more work in the area and stop in on their lunch breaks.

While most of the male clientele made self-deprecating comments about bald spots and receding hairlines, it was clear that they were steady customers. Jay Daniel of Moraga says, "I moved into the area in '98. I get on my bike and I ride here and do my shopping." Moraga resident Tony Rago says he's been coming to the shop since he was in first grade. "I keep coming back for the friendliness and the good haircuts." And Gil Lopez of Orinda has been a customer for 10 years: "I love the way Maria cuts my hair." Female clients are also welcome.

Customers are not the only

ones who have put in a lot of years with Moraga Barber Shop. The employees are longtimers, too. Bill McIntosh has been with Motta for 18 years, commuting all the way from Tracy. He states, "If it wasn't worth it, I wouldn't do it. It's a great shop with great customers." Hair stylist, Nancy Taylor, who has been with the shop for 9 years, says, "I like all the people who come here and it's a fun group to work with."

Motta hurt his back a few years ago and doesn't cut hair anymore, but he does take appointment only requests from some of his longtime customers.

When asked if there were any odd haircut requests, McIntosh volunteered, "We had some pretty wild Mohawks, and just last week there was a request for a mullet, because the kid lost a bet that Gonzaga would beat Saint Mary's in basketball."

There is a bit of a mystery at the barber shop. Motta has an extensive collection of airplane photos and models on the premises. "One day, about a year ago, when I came in the morning to open the shop there was a package left at the door. Inside was a model of a red bi-plane." He laments, "To this day I have no idea who made it or who left it there. If anyone knows, please contact me."

The Moraga Barber Shop is open Mondays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesdays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The shop is closed on Sundays. Info: (925) 247-1101

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Moraga mayor declares Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month

... continued from Page A4

Results from the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health show "an estimated two million Americans misused prescription pain relievers for the first time within the past year, which averages to approximately 5,480 initiates per day. Additionally, more than one million misused prescription stimulants, 1.5 million misused tranquilizers, and 271,000 misused sedatives for the first time."

Prescription drug abuse can strike young and old alike. Nearly 60 percent of adolescents and young adults

surveyed admitted to either buying or receiving prescription drugs, for non-medical use, from a friend or relative. More than 80 percent of older patients (ages 57-85 years) use at least one prescription medication daily which could result in unintentional misuse when combined with over-the-counter medicines, dietary or herbal supplements. These drug interactions along with age-related changes in drug metabolism can make misuse more dangerous to the elderly.

NIDA states, "Patients can take steps to ensure that they use prescription medications appropriately by: following

the directions as explained on the label or by the pharmacist; being aware of potential interactions with other drugs as well as alcohol; never stopping or changing a dosing regimen without first discussing it with the doctor; never using another person's prescription and never giving their prescription medications to others; and storing prescription stimulants, sedatives and opioids safely."

To learn more about prescription drugs and other drugs, visit the NIDA website at www.drugabuse.gov or call (877) 643-2644.

Moraga's 2019 Citizen of the Year announced

... continued from Page A5

A banquet in Weil's honor is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, in the Soda Center at Saint Mary's College. A Social Hour will begin at 6 p.m. (event tickets will include two free drink tickets for beer, wine or soft drinks). Dinner will be served at 7

p.m., followed by the formal program at 8 p.m.

Reservations are now available through the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, a co-sponsor of the event. The event ticket cost is \$60 per person, which must be paid in advance. (Tables of eight can be purchased for \$480.) To make reservations and

purchase tickets, visit www.moragachamber.org or contact Kathe Nelson: (925) 323-6524 or kathe@moragachamber.org. Deadline for reservations and payments is Monday, April 22. Seating is limited. Look for a feature profile of Weil in an upcoming issue of Lamorinda Weekly.

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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Local caterer works with White Pony Express to help the homeless



Photos Sora O'Doherty

The Morning Team, from left: Jennifer Dietsch, Sharon McGinnis-Girdlestone and Lindsay Robinson.

By Sora O'Doherty

If you live in Lamorinda, you have likely heard of Sharon McGinnis-Girdlestone. Ask anyone where to get a special cake, and they will recommend her Lovely Little Cakes. She also delivers sustainable, healthy meals weekly to her My Sustainable Table customers. Sonya Ginsburg works with McGinnis-Girdlestone on these businesses.

Working out of her commercial kitchen in Oakland, McGinnis-Girdlestone has had the opportunity to observe homelessness in a tent city a block or so away from her business. She has made a practice of delivering any leftover meals that she has to the people there. But seeing how great the need was, she wanted to do more. This desire and willingness to help led her to create Meals for Change. Her mission is to help end the disparity.

McGinnis-Girdlestone started making meals for the homeless in her own time, with her own money. But with her very busy life and three young children, that wasn't ideal. In 2014 she had started a community Facebook page called Lamorinda Families with the goal of bringing the community closer together. "Since this group started," she has written, "I've been in awe of some of the members. Truly wonderful givers, beautiful souls and strong willed, ball-busting do-gooders. A perfect combination!"

So she put out a call for volunteer cooks to come and cook meals for the homeless with her in her commercial kitchen once a week. She set up a Signup Genius account for Meals for Change and quickly filled up her needs through the end of April. Then she set up a GoFundMe account to pay for the ingredients, which she purchases from Whole Foods and

Sprouts Market. Within two weeks she had raised over \$2,400, enough to keep the program going for the next two months. Another local woman, Jaime Askew, decided to try to raise \$750 for Meals for Change. She is offering members of Lamorinda Families Facebook group organic soap sets for \$15, of which \$5 will go to the McGinnis-Girdlestone project.

On a recent Monday, two volunteers, Jennifer Dietsch and Lindsay Robinson, friends from Walnut Creek, spent their morning cooking lasagna for Meals for Change. From the time the kitchen opened at 10 a.m. they were busy boiling noodles and preparing the lasagna filling of ground turkey with fresh spinach, ricotta cheese, and a mix of shredded cheeses. The two large pans of lasagna, 40 servings, were delivered to White Pony Express, which brought the dishes to Parkhaven Community Church for its Wednesday night program.

White Pony Express was founded by Carol Conner in 2013 when she saw food being thrown into a dumpster, and then, a little later, she saw someone begging for food. It occurred to her that poverty is not about scarcity but rather a problem with distribution. She wanted to create a link between surplus and need.

Originally part of Sufism Reoriented, WPE quickly became independent and is not a religiously affiliated organization. The volunteer 501(c)(3) charitable organization now picks up and distributes food to 70 different agencies through Contra Costa County, where, according to Erica Brooks of WPE, it is estimated that over 10 percent of the population is living below the poverty line. WPE interviewed nonprofits which help the poor that needed food, especially fresh food, but that did not have the means to get it. WPE also contacted retailers who had surplus food to dis-

pose of, but did not have the means to distribute it. WPE became the link to get food from where it wasn't needed to where it was needed. Soon the organization started getting calls from retailers such as Costco, Nob Hill Foods, Starbucks and Whole Foods, wanting to schedule pickup. With funding from foundations, individuals and corporations, WPE was able to buy refrigerated trucks, now used to pick up hundreds of pounds of fresh food daily from retailers and deliver it to nonprofit organizations and schools.

Thus far, WPE has rescued and delivered over 8 million pounds of nutritious, fresh food. Seven days a week, 6,500 pounds of food is delivered at no cost through their network of more than 70 nonprofit partners, from large shelters to church pantries. More than 200,000 pounds of perfectly good, edible, nutritious, highly perishable food a month is diverted from landfills by WPE, saving over 200 tons of CO2 gas per month from entering the atmosphere. April is WPE's spring fundraising campaign.

According Brooks, when Parkhaven Community Church, one of their partners, needed meals prepared, WPE reached out to McGinnis-Girdlestone, and a win-win project was created.

McGinnis-Girdlestone and her friends cook the food in her commercial kitchen, bring it to White Pony Express, which then delivers the meals. Dietsch said that this was her first time working with McGinnis-Girdlestone, but she has worked for the homeless before through churches. When she decided to volunteer with Meals for Change, she invited her friend Lindsay Robinson to volunteer along with her, so they both signed up. "It's nice to give back when you can," she said.



Volunteers for Meals for Change can sign up for weekly cooking sessions at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040b4cada92fab9-meals>. Donations to Meals for Change can be made to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/wcsym-meals-for-change>. Further details about White Pony Express can be found online at <https://www.whiteponyexpress.org/>.

Student singers can register now for Lamorinda Idol

Submitted by Nejla Ackdoe-Pagey

Registration for The Lamorinda Idol singing competition is open now and runs through April 30. The competition is for anyone in kindergarten through 12th grade who is living or attending school in Orinda, Lafayette or Moraga. Auditions are being held May 9-11 and singers will be judged by a panel of community members who are experienced musical performers. Finalists and runners up will have fun opportunities throughout the summer for workshops (led by Rena Wilson, co-owner of the Performing Academy) and will also have the opportunity to perform at summer community events such as Orinda Park and Lafayette Plaza concerts and the Orinda Fourth of July Parade. Info: <https://lamorindaarts.org/lamorinda-idol-audition-registration-form-2019>



Moraga art exhibition all about trees



Woodwork by Duke Herrero

Photos Sophie Braccini

selected pieces that are set in the woods and use the presence of trees to infuse a serenity and soft poetry to his descriptive aquarelles.

Visitors will take a stroll from the imposing grandeur of Yosemite, to deeper undergrowth, to streams encumbered by fallen trees, until reaching the painting of a stump in the woods, an axe still set on its surface, the perfect transition to the second part of the exhibition, where the cut trees have now become planks and are given a new life through Herrero's woodwork.

Herrero said he took his first woodworking classes in college, but stopped for 30 years before taking it up again nine years ago. Within this relatively short period of time, Herrero has equipped himself with the tools and worked his craft to a level quite amazing coming from the home of a local resident. Not only does Herrero create lovely wood objects such as cutting boards, candle holders and wood utensils, but he also fabricates antique looking furniture and boxes featuring amazing quality marquetry using a variety of trees such as walnut, cherry or cocobolo. The day after the



exhibit opened on March 24, Herrero had already sold two-thirds of the pieces he had brought to Moraga. Luckily, he has many more creations to restock the gallery.

Herrero explained to his friends at the Moraga Art Gallery that his dental career required the same focus, hand-eye coordination, and attention to detail that are needed to make the perfectly adjusted wood inlays. He added that his art is a way to honor the spirit that once lived in the trees.

The gallery's show, which also includes work by its 14 member artists, will run through June 1. Hours are Wednesday through Sunday, from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Art Gallery's most recent exhibit, "Into The Wood(s)," is a springtime tribute to trees, featuring painter George Ehrenhaft and woodworker Duke Herrero at the Rheem Shopping Center in Moraga through June 1. At first glance, the works of these two very different artists and friends are appealing for their beauty and excellent craftsmanship, but the exhibition also invites a deeper reflection about the majesty and wisdom that trees bring into our lives – in nature and/or as material beautifying our living environment.

Ehrenhaft is a longtime member of the Moraga Art Gallery collective and has exhibited there a few times already. This time around, as he invited his woodworker friend Herrero from Orinda, he has



Painting by George Ehrenhaft

'Woman at War' – one ordinary woman's relentless fight for the environment

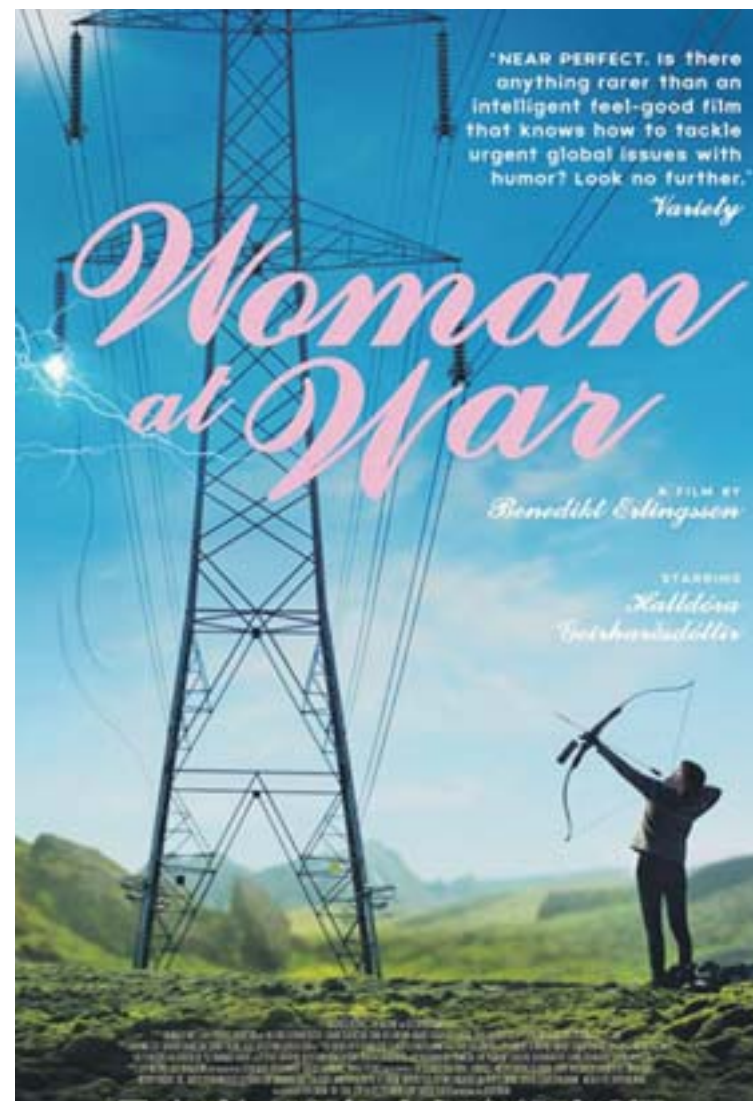


Image provided

By Sophie Braccini

It is the offbeat humor that creates the delightful pleasure when watching the film "Woman at War" ("Kona fer i strid"), starring Icelandic actress Halldora Geirhardsdottir and her limpid green gaze. In this story, Halla, a woman in her 50s, fights against an aluminum industry giant that is threatening the beauty of the Icelandic natural environment and polluting the grounds. With a single telescopic cable Halla cuts off electrical installations and blocks the entire production facility. Then starts a game of hide-and-seek with the drones that are sent to find the intruder.

"Woman at War" is much more than a film about a su-

perhero converted to ecology. This second feature film from Icelandic director Benedikt Erlingsson has neither sex nor blood, but is a political tale with quirky, sometimes rightfully biting humor.

Halla is soon nicknamed by the local media the mysterious woman of the woods, but all the while Halla leads a double life – sometimes a saboteur, and the rest of the time a charming and congenial choral master. Her life gets an added complication as she tries to adopt a baby daughter from Ukraine, and her twin sister is about to leave for India.

In the magnificent natural setting of Iceland, Halla the activist is followed by a group of

free jazz musicians, mute supporters of her cause. There are many interesting secondary roles surrounding Halla, most of whom do not know about her secret fight, and they are part of the many surprises that will delight viewers up until the end.

Erlingsson is a wonderful storyteller who has composed a rich saga in wild Iceland. Nature itself is a character in this movie. It can be hostile when it drenches Halla with icy showers as she flees, it can protect her when she finds a sheep hide to fool the drones, and it can heal with its warm springs.

Erlingsson is the heir of Icelandic medieval storytellers that wrote the long sagas of 12th century heroes. In this movie Erlingsson stages the life of ordinary people, who through single acts of bravery become heroes, at least for a brief moment. The director shows people who act more than they reflect. In "Woman at War," Halla's fight for the environment is acted out, not discussed. The name of Halla links to the rich history of Iceland: it is the name of a 17th century bandit who survived for 20 years in the highlands of Iceland.

Geirhardsdottir, who portrays Halla, is a surprising newcomer to the silver screen, at more than 50 years old. She was a well-known live theater actress, but had never been cast in a movie. Her presence, her beauty, as she transforms from a simple woman next door into a warrior, is unique and moving.

"Woman of War" is a must see. It is brought to Lamorinda as part of the International Film Showcase that features a notable foreign film almost every month in the East Bay. The movie will open at the Rheem Theatre in Moraga on April 12 for one week, and will show at the Orinda Theatre starting April 19 also for one week.

More information at www.lamorindatheatres.com.

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A flurry of Indian eateries offer plenty for vegans et al.



Aloo Naan at Naan Curry

Photos Jenn Freedman



Masala dosa at Saffron



Golden warrior at Baagan

By Jenn Freedman

The past few months have brought a handful of new Indian restaurants to Lamorinda. With them comes greater variety for all Lamorinda residents, including more plant-based options than ever before.

Most recently, Naan Curry opened in mid-February on the west side of Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Previously named T's Firehouse, owner Harjinder Singh is transitioning ownership to his son, Sahib Tiwana, and they have brought on new chef Farooq Multani. The updated menu boasts a handful of vegan appetizers and plenty of vegan entrees ... even their naan bread is uncommonly vegan. The vegetable karahi brings on the chili heat and maintains a perfect, firm texture. For a milder option, the saag aloo (spinach potato) is a good choice. And the aloo (potato) naan is an aromatic delight, stuffed with garlic and carom seed.

In Moraga, Indian-inspired vegan restaurant Baagan opened in November. "Eat the Way Nature Intended" is Baagan's slogan: the menu offers organic, healthy, plant-based meals like burgers, seasonal salads, and teas. Plus, two new items have just

been added to the menu: chickpea tacos, served with coleslaw and creamy cilantro sauce, and two varieties of samosas, keema (with lentils) and potato/pea.

Baagan's hot creamy lattes are also a standout: the Peaceful Panda with matcha green tea, ginger, and cashew milk is decadently warming, or for a decaf option try the Golden Warrior made with turmeric, cardamom, and cashew milk.

Family owned and operated Saffron is also a newcomer to Lamorinda, opening last October in Orinda Theatre Square. In addition to an extensive menu of North Indian favorites, Saffron also offers dosas, a staple of South Indian cuisine (currently only offered during lunchtime). The masala dosa is divine, stuffed with potatoes and spices and served with sambhar (a sweet and tart lentil soup) – a wonderful item for sharing as an appetizer. Another highlight is the mixed vegetable, with hint of natural sweetness from the peas and carrots offset with a spicy heat. Even the side of rice had an undeniable addictive though mild flavor.

Saffron follows a slow cooking method, so each dish takes 10-15 minutes to customize. For this reason, the restaurant is not totally bound to the menu – if you want

something specific or have a dietary restriction, just ask and they will always try to accommodate. In fact, they don't even mind if you call ahead to put in your request.

And finally, long-standing establishment Swad Indian Cuisine in Lafayette has been serving delicious, authentic fare for over 10 years. To start, Swad offers an entire vegetarian appetizer menu – try the assorted vegetable platter, which includes samosa, vegetable pakora (fritters), vegetable cutlet, and pappadum (lentil wafers). For entrees, the baingan bhartha (eggplant with peas) is delicate and silky smooth with a perfect balance of sweet and spicy. The dal makhani (black lentils) are satisfying and gingery. The saag aloo (spinach potato) has an impressive depth of savory flavor and spice. And the aloo gobi (potato cauliflower) is hearty and aromatic, with sweet notes from the onion.

With so many flavorful choices, plant-based eating has never been easier. Bon appetite!



Assortment at Swad

Rotary gala event supports victims of sex trafficking

By Pippa Fisher

It was a crowded scene at Oakwood Athletic Club Saturday, March 23 as the Lafayette Rotary Club hosted a benefit gala for local nonprofit New Day for Children, an organization which provides safe housing, school and therapy to girls ages 10 to 18 who are victims of sex trafficking.

Attendees came to the fun event in a generous mood and, with the help of Auctioneer Mike Jones from Charity Benefit Auctions, were encouraged to spend big money.

The Rotary had help from the Interact Students of Acalanes and the National Charity League Lamorinda Chapter.

Diners heard from a number of speakers including Rep. Mark DeSaulnier. Powerful testimony came from Mason Gizard, the son of a sex trafficking victim who told of his childhood experience and of being homeless.

Speaking publicly for only the second time Avery McBeth, a New Day for Children graduate, told her story

and testified that the organization had saved her.

"The Rotary did a fantastic job. It was well planned and well executed," said New Day for Children executive director Sharon Wood, adding, "I'm so proud of Mason and Avery."

New Day for Children opened its doors in 2009, providing long-term residential care. The organization has seen 85 girls through the program thus far. Although some girls have stayed as long as five years the average stay is closer to 15 months. It is one of very few such facilities throughout the country. New Day relies on donors, as it accomplishes its work without state or federal funding.

Support from the gala will be used to provide schooling, a safe place to live, medical, dental and vision needs as well as specialized therapy, including therapeutic horse camp for the girls.

Although a final count of money raised at the gala was not available before going to press, it is expected to be substantially over \$100,000, according to Wood.

Anyone interested in learning more about the organization can visit www.newdayforchildren.com.



Gala guests checking the silent auction items

Photo Pippa Fisher

NCL recognizes Acalanes Area Chapter's senior class for achievement



Photo Juleen Lapporte

Submitted by Susan Glynn

Members of the National Charity League, Acalanes Area Chapter, Class of 2019, were honored for six years of leadership and service to the community at its Senior Celebration held March 9 at the Diablo Country Club. The National Charity League is a mother-daughter philanthropic organization committed to community service, leadership development and cultural experiences. Over their six years, the class of 2019, along with their mothers, volunteered over 6,500 hours with 33 non-profit organizations across the East Bay. The Bay Area Rescue Mis-

sion, an emergency shelter that provides recovery programs and meals was highlighted and the event raised over \$4,000 for the organization. Members of the Class of 2019 include: bottom row, from left: Caroline Kallgren, Mackenzie Carlin, Sophia Lindgren, Abby Lapporte, Amanda Glynn, Tori Fleming; middle row: Blaire Murphy, Betsy Robison, Savannah DeCarlo, Sara Melohn, Juliette Benazra, Jackie Geannacopulos, Katie Clare, Paige Danforth, Avery Lyon; back row: Zoe Crouch, Christina Crum, Bridgette Schafer, Shae Silva, Maja Moran, Sydney Bagley, Layla Wright, Bri Hoover.

NCL Lamorinda Chapter celebrates seniors



Photo provided

Submitted by Barbara Gallagher

The Lamorinda Chapter of National Charity League held its Senior Recognition honoring its 21 graduating Tickers March 10 at The Claremont Hotel and Spa. The annual celebration marked the culmination of the girls' six years of participation in the mother-daughter philanthropic organization during which they collectively volunteered over 5,000 hours of service to

the community.

Members of the Class of 2019 include (from left, bottom row): Remy Moran, Grace Andronico, Kylie Walker, Anica Zulch, Sydney Yuen, Hannah Brown, Claire Gallagher, Phoebe Chandler, Eloise Engs, Lauren McAninch, Sophia Kosturos, Paige Guidotti, Molly Cronk, Olivia Hubbell, Nicole Huebner, Elsa Clever, Lexi Rowell, Paige Millham, Savannah Sherwood, Caitlin McDonagh and Camille Valvur.

OIS spring performance of 'Footloose' April 25-27



Country Cast and Crew during first day of rehearsal

Photos provided



Rock Cast and Crew during first day of rehearsal

Submitted by Jeanette Lipp

"Kick off your Sunday shoes" at the Orinda Intermediate School's Bulldog Theater during the musical "Footloose" – one of the most explosive movie musicals in recent memory that will burst onto the live stage with exhilarating results. Uniquely adapted specifically for youth performers, "Footloose" celebrates the wisdom of listening to young people, guiding them with a warm heart and an open mind. To the rockin' rhythm of its Oscar and Tony nominated top 40 score, "Footloose" is augmented with dy-

namic new songs for this fun stage musical. There are three casts, comprising approximately 80 OIS students along with an additional 17 OIS students serving on tech crew. Performances will run April 25-27 at the OIS Bulldog Theater, Thursday and Friday shows at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 2 and 5 p.m. The performance lasts approximately 90 minutes, with one intermission. To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.showtix4u.com/events/150>. Tickets are also available at OIS Theater one half hour prior to show times.

Burton Valley 4th Graders advance to NorCal Odyssey of the Mind tournament



Photo provided

Pictured clockwise from top left: Russell Gehrig, David Gallacher, Jake Solomon, Nate Marek, Tessa Dente, Meher Jeyakrishnan, and Sarah Weaver

Submitted by Emily Kleman

Da Galaxy Penguins, a team of fourth-graders from Burton Valley Elementary, placed second in their division at the regional tournament and advanced to the Northern California Odyssey of the Mind state tournament, where they placed sixth after competing against teams from all over Northern California on March 30 in Santa Rosa. The team of seven students spent months honing their problem-solving

and engineering skills. The culmination of this work was their original presentation, comprised of a story, costumes, props, scenery, and technical elements. The team's presentation required them to make a mechanical creature that underwent multiple changes to hide in plain sight. Their creative story described a child looking for the creature in an alien dreamscape. Coaches Jill Marek and Maura Nicolini coordinated team meetings, but were not permitted to offer suggestions or opinions on the team's ideas.

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.

In Memory

Frances Jane "Pat" Kessler



On Monday, November 19, 2018, Frances Jane "Pat" Kessler, loving wife and mother of three children, passed away at age 82. Pat was born on February 4, 1936 in Fresno, California to Clarinda and William Phillips. She received her BSN in nursing jointly from UC San Francisco and Berkeley in 1958 and was a practicing nurse specializing in public health newborn care for the County of Alameda for many years. On September 5, 1956 she married John Berthold Kessler in Yosemite National Park. They raised one daughter Ellie, and two sons, Bill and Steve.

Pat was preceded in death by her husband, John. She is survived by her three children and six grandchildren. A Celebration of Life will be held on April 13th at the home of longtime family friend, Barbara Conley. Parking is at El Nido Ranch Road just east of Charles Hill Rd exit. Donations in Pat's name may be made to The Yosemite Conservancy or AAUW STEM program in Auburn CA <https://auburn.ca.aauw.net/>. Please contact Ellie Kessler Vierra for further information at 916-591-8771 or ellievierra@gmail.com.

SUMMER CAMPS 2019

Part 2, Half Day Camps and Classes (Part 3, All camps and classes, May 15, 2019)

CREATIVE ARTS/THEATRE/MUSIC

Academy of Language and Music Arts/ ALMA (Orinda)

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www.alma-leap.com

Berkeley Rep School of Theatre (Berkeley) see ad

Summer Theatre Intensive
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Dates: Grades 6-8, June 17 - July 12; Grades 9-12, July 16-Aug 9; Filmmaking & Acting Grades 9-12, July 15 - Aug 2.
Phone: (510) 647-2972
berkeleyrep.org/summerintensive

CAPA's Summer Dance Camp (Moraga)

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Dates: Weekly sessions M-F, 9am-noon (aftercare till 1pm optional). Ages 4-7.
AJ@capadance.net
www.capadance.net

Lamorinda School of Musical Arts (Lafayette)

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

Performing Academy (Lafayette) see ad

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

Sewnnow! Fashion Studio (Lafayette) see ad

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 for Summer 2019. Fashion Show Sun. Aug. 11 at 4 p.m. Phone: (925) 283-7396
www.sewnnow.com

The Art Room (Lafayette)

Week-long morning and afternoon summer camps with a different theme each week! Artists will immerse themselves in multiple art projects, gaining experience with sketching, drawing, painting, mixed media, 3-D mediums, and creating collaborative artwork.
Dates: June-August Phone: (925) 299-1515
www.theart-room.com

ACADEMIC/LANGUAGE/SCIENCE

Social Circle (Walnut Creek) see ad

Social Circle is a unique program facilitated by licensed therapists. We do FUN social groups within the community for kids with special needs who struggle with everyday social interactions. Our program helps to bridge the gap between therapy-based learning to real life experiences.
www.socialcircleadventures.com
Phone: (925) 276-2405

The Saklan School (Moraga)

Summer @ Saklan provides culture, language and summer fun for ages 3-11. Mornings on campus are filled with enrichment in Mandarin, French, Japanese, 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.
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Phone: (925) 376-7900
www.saklan.org



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SUMMER CAMPS 2019

ACADEMIC/LANGUAGE/SCIENCE ... continued

Spanish Immersion Summer Camps with Viva el Español (Lafayette)

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 theme 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 also available. (925) 962-9177 www.vivaelespanol.org

see ad

Summer Bridge Math (Moraga)

This program, intended to be both fun and educational, is designed to reinforce previous math concepts, while introducing future ones. Manipulatives and interactive problem solving will be a part of each session. Groups of no more than 10 students and will meet four times over the summer - led by Mr. Lorie, a JM math teacher. Dates: various dates and times www.lorietutors.squarespace.com

The Writing Studio - Camp Young Writers (Lafayette)

Summer camps at The Writing Studio provide both classroom writing instruction and one-on-one sessions for grades 3-12. Writers step into a world of storytelling and essay-based expository writing, developing strong writing skills in the process. Dates: June 10- June 28 and July 8- Aug. 2. Phone: (925) 385-0211 www.lafayettewritingstudio.com

see ad

SPORTS

Artemis Rowing (Oakland)

see ad



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Cal Magic June Soccer Summer Camps are a joy-filled soccer experience for boys and girls ages 6-12. Our coaching staff ensures young athletes gain the sports knowledge and technical skills required for their next step in soccer while also learning life skills such as leadership, respect and hard work. Dates: June 10-14 www.calmagicsc.com

Cougar Youth Football Camp (Moraga)

see ad

The Cougar Youth Football Camp directed by Head Coach Kevin Macy for grades 4-8 is held at Campolindo High School. Cost is \$400 with all equipment including T-shirt supplied. Registration forms online. Dates: July 8-19 (Monday - Friday, 1:30 to 5 p.m.) www.cougarcamps.com

DONS Youth Football Academy (Lafayette)

see ad

The Dons Youth Football Academy will be staffed by current Acalanes High School Football coaches as well as a full complement of experienced high school and college players and a certified trainer and will teach fundamentals, develop skills, and help kids with the transition to tackle football in a fun, fast-paced, and non-contact environment. Dates: June 17-20 Incoming 4th - 8th Grade 2-4 p.m. www.acalanesdonsfootball.com email: acalanesblue@gmail.com

LMYA Swim (Lafayette)

LMYA Swim Team's Gutter Guppy Program focuses on teaching stroke technique to our youngest swimmers, preparing them for the swim team experience in a fun, low-key environment. Evaluations held June 4th & 7th, 5:30pm at Acalanes High School. Register by June 10. www.lmyaswim.com

Miramonte Swim Club (MSC) (Orinda)

Registration is now open for our 2019 Summer Swim Team, Spring Stroke Clinics, and Junior Gator Learn-to-Swim program. No club membership is required in order to participate. The summer team practices in the afternoons at Miramonte High School. www.msccgators.org

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JUNE 24-28 JULY 8-12

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JULY 6 & 7

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SPORTS ... continued

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

The Oakland Strokes camps provide excellent training for learning rowers in rowing technique, teamwork, physical fitness and endurance. Within a week, rowers will gain enough skill to row their first race!
Dates: Weekly sessions June 11 -29 at San Pablo Reservoir, Orinda; July 9 - Aug 3 at Tidewater Aquatic Center, Oakland
www.oaklandstrokes.org

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.
smcmensbasketballcamps.com

Sherman Swim (Lafayette) **see ad**

Sherman Swim School is a family business which has taught swimming to over 39,000 students and has produced numerous diving champions since 1961. The combination of one-on-one instruction with patient, encouraging teachers, and extremely comfortable water (90-92 degrees), creates an ideal learning environment. Sessions are 3-4 weeks long. 1, 2, or 3 days per week.
Phone: (925) 283-2100
www.shermanswim.com



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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



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church (Moraga) **see ad**

Have you dreamed of going on safari and seeing big game freely roaming the Serengeti? Hop in our Serengeti Safari jeeps to caravan from skits and music to crafts, snacks and rec and learn how God's love takes care of the animals and covers us, too! 9 am-noon. Must be 4 (by June 1) through entering 5th grade.
Dates: June 17-21
Cost: \$95; \$125 (May 1-June 1)
www.mvpctoday.org

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (Lafayette)

Roar: Life is Wild, God is Good! Gear up for an adventure! At Vacation Bible Camp this year, we will explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers kids through this life through songs, stories, games, experiments, and more. For 4-year-olds through completed fourth graders.
Dates: June 10-14, afternoon
Phone: (925) 283-8722 x234
Email: ryan@LOPC.org
www.LOPC.org

Willow Spring Community Church (Moraga)

VBS Summer Camp, July 15-19 for grades 1-5. Cost \$50
Fun activities, music, crafts and much more. 9 am-noon
Phone: (925) 376-3550
www.willow.springchurch.com

VARIETY

City of Lafayette - Recreation Summer Camps (Lafayette)

Art, soccer, media, cooking, dance, science, engineering, LEGOs, tennis, Critters-N-Clay, music, robotics, basketball, carpentry, flag football, gymnastics, chess and more! Registration Begins April 8th.
Dates: various dates and times available.
Phone: (925) 284-2232 www.LafayetteRec.org

Moraga Parks and Recreation Summer Camps (Moraga) **see ad**

Check out the variety of camps offered right here in Moraga for 2019. Featuring: Moraga Day Camp, Coding Camp, Doug's Drama, Little Medical School, Skateboard Academy, Incrediflix, Skyhawks Sports, Speech, Debate, and more!
Registration Opens April 5.
Phone: (925) 888-7045
www.moragarec.com

Moraga Summer Camps
10% Discount in April
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City of Orinda - Recreation Summer Camps (Orinda)

Camp Orinda, art, tennis, science, musical theater, chess, dance, flag football, engineering, coding, sewing, film making, music, medical & veterinary, robotics, public speaking, basketball, gymnastics, baseball, cooking, performing arts, comic book, creative writing, Orinda kids and more! Extended care available from 7:30am-6pm!
Register now!
Dates: June 10-August 9
Phone: (925) 254-2445
www.OrindaParksandRec.org

Sienna Ranch (Lafayette)

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

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mvpc kids

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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 continue through June 9. For more information on programs and events, please visit www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum. Explore mindful ways of engaging with art with Brother Camillus during a guided meditation and exploration into Foad Satterfield's abstract landscapes at 11 a.m. on April 30. Free. For more information see www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum or call (925) 631-4379.

MUSIC

Berkeley Chamber Performances presents The Mana Saxophone Quartet from 8 to 10 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9 at Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Avenue, Berkeley. Mana Saxophone Quartet imaginatively performs Bach, Mozart, Glazunov, Keuris and Glass on vintage instruments. Reception for all follows concert. Cost: \$30 General Admission; kids through high school, free; Higher Ed students, \$15. For more info see <http://www.berkeleychamberperform.org> or call (510) 525-5211 or email chiara9@comcast.net.

Barefoot Chamber Concerts presents 'Orchestrating the

Trio': music by Haydn, J.C. Bach, and Cimarosa from 6 to 7 p.m. on April 12 at Parish Hall of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Cost: \$15. For more info see <http://barefootchamberconcerts.com> or call (510) 220-1195 or email info@barefootchamberconcerts.com.

Devil Mountain Coffee House presents Jayme Stone Folklife at Devil Mountain Coffee House from 8 to 11 p.m. on April 12 at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. Banjoist, composer and instigator Jayme Stone bridges folk, jazz and chamber music, turning historical connections into compelling sounds. Cost: \$25 sug-

gested donation (children 6-15: \$5). For more info see <http://dmch.mduuc.org> or call (925) 934-3135 or email house-team@mduuc.org.

The UC Theatre Taube Family Music Hall presents The Music of Tom Petty for Kids from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 14 at The UC Theatre Taube Family Music Hall, 2036 University Avenue, Berkeley. The Rock and Roll Playhouse is an early and often first introduction to a child's lifelong journey with live music and rock and roll. Cost: \$17.50. For more info see <http://www.theuctheatre.org> or call (510) 356-4000 or email information@theuctheatre.org.

Saint Mary's College Guild's annual Spring Concert featuring the Lee Waterman Trio at noon on Wednesday, April 17, in the Soda Center at Saint Mary's College in Moraga. This jazz trio is led by the critically-acclaimed guitarist, composer and producer, Lee Waterman. The social hour commences at 11 a.m., followed by the concert at noon, and the luncheon at 12:45 p.m. All proceeds benefit SMC students seeking financial scholarships. Reservations: \$45 per person. Mail check payable to Saint Mary's College Guild to Shirley Bohuslav, 782 Augusta Drive, Moraga, CA 94556. (925) 376-0380

THEATER

Orinda Intermediate School Bulldog Theater stages "Foot-loose," April 25-27 at Orinda Intermediate School, 80 Ivy Drive. "Kick off your Sunday shoes!" One of the most explosive movie musicals in recent memory bursts onto the live stage with exhilarating results. Tickets are \$3-\$10. Visit www.showtix4u.com for show times and tickets. Tickets are also available at the door.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

April's First Friday Forum speaker, William Gee Wong, will bring a special perspective to the issue of immigration, among other issues, as he presents "Father and Son: Exclusion, Inclusion from China to Chinatown to America." Wong was born in Oakland and is called the "elder son of Asian American journalists." His book, *Yellow Journalist: Dispatches from Asian America* covers such issues social and racial justice, anti-Asian racism, immigration, media portrayals and politics. The Forum will take place at 1 p.m. on April 5 in the Sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Refreshments will be served at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. For further information call (925) 283-8722.

Join the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art (SMC | MoA) from 1 to 3 p.m. on April 6 as poets from the prize-winning online literary magazine of the environmental crisis, *Canary*, read their poems. Free. For more information see www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum or call (925) 631-4379.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

The Moraga Junior Women's Club will host the 37th Annual Spring Egg Hunt from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 13 at Moraga Commons Park. Featuring an epic egg hunt, ridiculously fun games, bouncy bounce houses, fanciful face painting and artsy crafts! Tickets are \$15/child (age 0-8). Order online at www.moragajuniors.org/events/spring-egg-hunt.

The Lafayette Rotary Club "Annual Candy Scramble" will be held at 10 a.m. on April 21 at Lafayette Plaza (corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Rd). This event is open to all children ages 2-through second grade. The park lawn will be covered with candy for the kids to put in their baskets. The youngest are always given extra time to get their share! The Bunny along with the Police and Fire Departments will be there to take pictures with the kids. And don't miss the Jonny's Donut Dive (for adults only).

... continued on next Page

Lamorinda's Religious Services

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Sundays at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.
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11:30am Celebratory Service * Watch Online

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unityofwalnutcreek.org



Sunday Sacrament Service at 10AM

Scripture Study & Youth Programs

Everyone welcome!

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



9:30 a.m. CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

10:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship in the Center for Ministry

visit <http://www.holyshepherd.org> for more details

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682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws

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www.christianscienceorinda.org

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Easter, April 21, 9 & 10:30 am



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KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Lamorinda Arts Council (LAC) will host auditions for their 14th annual Lamorinda Idol singing competition May 9-11 at the Orinda Intermediate School (80 Ivy Drive, Orinda). Registration for solo and group auditions is open through April 30. The singing competition is for anyone in kindergarten through 12th grade who is living or attending school in Orinda, Lafayette or Moraga. Singers outside of the Lamorinda area can participate in a group, providing the group has at least one member from Lamorinda. To learn more about LAC's Lamorinda Idol 2019 and register go to www.lamorindaarts.org/lamorinda-idol.

OTHER

The Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center presents "The Climate Crisis and Its Solutions" from noon to 1 p.m. on April 6 at 3932 Mt. Diablo Blvd. News headlines continue to remind us we are living in the hottest times ever measured, with increasingly severe consequences. The past five years have been the five hottest years ever recorded by weather instruments. California wildfires have reached unprecedented levels. And climate refugees marching in caravans have put pressure on our southern border. Is building a wall the right solution? Come learn the latest updates on the science, impacts and solutions. Bring questions and discover how you can participate in the growing number of solutions.

A cat who will steal your heart is only a rescue away. Community Concern for Cats is the local rescue that brings cats to you from 1 to 4 p.m. on April 6 and 7 at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information, see communityconcernforcats.org online.

Mobility Matters: Volunteer Driver Training Class from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on April 12 at 1035A Carol Lane, Lafayette. Are you interested in giving a senior citizen or veteran a ride to his or her medical appointment or grocery shopping? Can you spare a few hours every other week? Our volunteers give rides to individuals who cannot use other forms of transportation due to mobility issues. Mobility Matters is a nonprofit organization based in Contra Costa County. Please contact David Benet at Mobility Matters to register for the training class. Place is limited. Contact David Benet at (925) 284-2215 or david@mobilitymatterscc.com.

Cancer Support Community is offering free public tours of our open space in Lafayette. Drop in between 10 and 11:30 a.m. April 13 or June 8 to meet CSC staff, walk the site, and hear our plans for building a cancer community center. Location: south side of Mt. Diablo Boulevard, across from Lafayette Community Garden. Contact Libby Eppinga at lep-pinga@cancersupport.net or (925) 953-1216 for more information.

Health Care for All in California - Join us for a viewing of "Fix it," a 38-minute documentary that takes an in-depth look at our dysfunctional health care system from 7 to 9 p.m. on April 18 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church Sanctuary 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. This system is unaffordable for a third of our citizens, discourages health care professionals and suffocates our businesses. The viewing will be preceded by a short presentation, followed by a panel discussion and question and answer period. Free event but RSVP is requested: <https://tinyurl.com/HCAFixit>

Join the National Park Service (NPS) and the John Muir Association in celebrating John Muir's 181st birthday and Earth Day, during its annual Birthday - Earth Day event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 20 at the John Muir National Historic Site (NHS) in Martinez. The celebration, held rain or shine, features family-oriented activities, food for sale, live music including a bagpipe band, song performances by original cast members of the play Mountain Days, and exhibits by national parks and local environmental organizations. Parking and admission are free. For directions, please visit www.nps.gov/jomu/planyourvisit/directions.htm. For additional information, please visit www.johnmuirassociation.org or www.MuirEarthDay.org.

The giant spring book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Moraga Library will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 27 at the Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road. Books, CDs and DVDs of every category will be sold at prices ranging from 25 cents to \$3. Beginning at 1 p.m. a bag can be purchased for \$5 and filled with all the books it will hold. Proceeds from the sale go to fund library materials and programs, in addition to paying for staffing of the library's Sunday hours. Gait and Balance Affecting Your Daily Life with Valerie Watase, PT at 7 p.m. on April 30 at Lafayette Physical Therapy, 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite B110 in Lafayette. This is a free event, but space is limited, so please sign up at lafayettept.com/events or call (925) 284-6150.

Area residents who own classic cars are invited to participate in the 13th annual Moraga Classic Car Show, which takes place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 11 as part of the 2019 Moraga Community Faire. The \$35 registration fee includes an entry ribbon, lunch for two, a commemorative photo, and a chance for owners to display their restoration work to the public. Prizes will be awarded. The registration deadline is April 30. To register, go to www.moragachamber.org/faire or, call Gloria at (925) 247-4473.

15th Annual JF Kapnek 5/K Fun Run at 9 a.m. on May 5 at Miramonte High School. Along with a 5K run and a 1K children's run or walk, event participants will enjoy music, arts and crafts, food and prizes for the top finishers including certificates from

Dick's Sporting Goods, and Sports Basement. All participants will receive a commemorative T-shirt. Strollers welcome! The event supports early childhood education, nutrition and AIDS treatment and prevention programs for children and families in Zimbabwe. Visit www.kapnek-trustusa.org for more information and to register go to <http://jfkapnekusafunrun.eventbrite.com>. Onsite day of registration is also available.

Taste of Lafayette - Lafayette's Favorite Dinner Party! from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on May 14 in downtown Lafayette. The Taste of Lafayette stroll begins when ticket holders head out at their own pace to stop at any or all of the participating restaurants for sampling. Evening includes music throughout the stroll and a raffle supporting the Lafayette Community Foundation. Drawing for the raffle will be held at 7:45 p.m. at JPG@TheBank

GARDEN

Walnut Creek Garden Club presents Butterflies in Your Garden: Jim Spinello at 9:45 a.m. on April 8 at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek. Jim Spinello has raised butterflies since grade school. He will demonstrate how to raise the different species in our own gardens. His videos and slide show are amazing: 9:45 a.m. Business Meeting; 10:30 a.m. Social; 11 a.m. Program.

Lafayette Garden Club will meet at 10 a.m. on April 11 at Lafayette Veteran's Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Featured speaker will be Juanita Salisbury, Landscape Architect, who will show the importance and process involved in installing a public native garden/insect habitat. Her goal is to inspire and teach us "how to" for our homes and neighborhoods. The Lafayette Garden welcomes new members. Refreshments will be served.

The Montelindo Garden Club's April meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. on April 19 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Community Hall. Presentation: Edible Plants and Fruit Trees; Speaker: Katie Wong, who has been a Master Gardner and a board member for the Rare Fruit Growers and the Western Horticultural Society. She will share her passion for unusual fruits from around the world which can be grown successfully in the Bay Area.

Registration for the 15th Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, which will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 5 is now open. This award-winning, self-drive tour features 37 Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens that are pesticide-free, water conserving, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 60 percent or more native plants. Two of these gardens are located in Moraga. Pre-registration for the Tour is required. Cost: \$10 to purchase the garden guide; donations requested. www.BringingBacktheNatives.net, (510) 236-9558.



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Service Clubs Announcements

Lafayette Rotary Club

Step in on a Thursday and join us for our lunch meeting.
Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

April 4: Carol Carrillo Executive Director of Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC)	April 11: Carlos Reyes Recording Artist Harpists from Paraguay
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www.rotarylafayette.org
www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-CA

LAMORINDA SUNRISE Rotary
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APRIL MEETINGS

5: Paradise Fire Aftermath Photos by Tom Black	19: No Meeting
12: Club Assembly	26: Jim Davis - Member Story

Breakfast, Friday 7:00 a.m.
The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, CA
www.lamorindasunrise.com

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Cilantro-based sauce a perfect pairing for seafood this spring



Camarones en Mojo Verde (Shrimp in Mojo Verde Sauce)

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

Mojo verde, literally meaning “green sauce” in Spanish, is a condiment that packs a punch from the first taste of cilantro and garlic to the tartness of lime juice and sherry vinegar. Originating in the Canary Islands, mojo verde is primarily used to accompany fish or seafood, but is excellent with chicken, or even roasted potatoes. We first had it on a shrimp dish in a Spanish tapas restaurant and absolutely loved the sauce, so much so that I had to run home to try my hand at it. While there are variations, most include garlic,

cilantro, olive oil, lime juice, sherry vinegar and the optional finely diced peppers. While it looks quite a bit like chimichurri at first glance, it actually tastes very different. Chimichurri includes parsley, red wine vinegar and oregano, none of which are usually found in mojo verde. I marinated the shrimp in the mojo verde for several hours, before grilling them on the barbecue. You can also cook them in a skillet if you prefer, but the key is to get the shrimp seared without drying them out. Serve them on a pool of the mojo verde or drizzle the sauce over before serving.

Mojo Verde

(Makes approximately 1 ¼ cups sauce)

INGREDIENTS

2 bunches cilantro, leaves and tender stems
2 cloves garlic
½ teaspoon powdered cumin
½ teaspoon fresh ground black pepper
½ teaspoon sea salt
¼ cup sherry vinegar
2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
¾ cup olive oil
Optional: finely diced jalapeño

DIRECTIONS

Place cilantro in a food processor and process until finely minced. Add remaining ingredients and process until smooth. Stir in very finely diced jalapeños. Store in refrigerator until ready to use.

Shrimp

1 pound shrimp (I used large, 12-15 per pound size shrimp), peeled and deveined, tails on or off optional

1 ¼ cup mojo verde, split

Several cilantro stems with leaves for garnish
Marinate one pound of shrimp, any size you like, in 1/4 to 1/3 cup mojo verde for about 2 hours in a bowl or container. When ready to cook, skewer shrimp on wooden or metal skewers. Grill over medium-high heat for approximately 2 minutes per side, (depending on the size of your shrimp) or until done and slightly browned. Serve shrimp on a pool of mojo verde or drizzle sauce over. Garnish with extra stems of cilantro leaves.



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.

You can find most of the recipes published in the Lamorinda Weekly on our website.

Food tab: www.lamorindaweekly.com/html2/food1.html

Looking Good in Lamorinda

It's all about spring



Terry Kiskaddon models the Kimono style jacket from Moonlight.

By Moya Stone

Harper Greer is the latest boutique to open in Lafayette's La Fiesta Square. I stopped by recently and met the shop's owners, Terry and John Kiskaddon. The couple has been in the fashion business for over 40 years with stores first in San Francisco and then downtown Oakland. Terry studied fashion design and initially she did all the designing and had the clothing

made onsite at their SOMA location. Over time Terry added other quality lines, many of them local, to their retail store. Harper Greer specialized in clothing for plus-size women but after much demand they now offer unique fashions starting at size 4 to 24 for woman of all ages.

The store occupies half of the former Specialtees space, and in addition to mannequins, display cases, and racks of clothes there is an

unexpected accessory – a shiny black piano. Turns out that when John isn't utilizing his excellent customer service skills, he's tickling the ivories. Something else to catch the eye, hanging above the piano is an Art Nouveau style mural. Depicting John and Terry, among other well-dressed folk, the mural was painted by a friend and came with the couple from the Oakland



Wanda from Sugi models a festive Kimono in red.

Photos Moya Stone

store. When chatting about trends for spring 2019, the couple said colors of the season are coral and off shades of blue and we will see lots of texture, including mixed textures like a plain knit with a rib. John says that when it comes to fashion, “People are getting bolder.” Terry pointed out that the jumpsuit is big for spring and one thing that cannot be kept in stock is a Kimono-inspired jacket by Moonlight. Harper Greer is a nice addition to Lafayette and well worth a visit for some new spring fashions.

Kimono means “a thing to wear” in Japanese. The traditional Japanese Kimono silhouette has been influencing fashion since the 19th century. On now at the San Francisco Asian Art Museum is the exhibit “Kimono Refashioned,” an exploration of how the Kimono was and is used by fashion designers in western design. From fabrics to colors, images to shapes, past designers like Chanel and Madeleine Vionnet as well as modern designers Tom Ford and Issey Miyake, have incorporated Japanese aesthetics into their designs. The exhibit includes two galleries featuring over 35 garments from the Kyoto Costume Institute, dating from 1870 to today. Kimono Refashioned runs through May 5.

This fabulous exhibit reminded me of Sugi, a longtime Lafayette retailer located on Moraga Road, next to La Fiesta Square. I popped into the store and spoke with owner Wanda, who was happy to show me her selection of short and long Kimono in silk and cotton for

men, women and children. Kimono make great robes for summer as well as swimsuit coverups, evening party wraps, and a comfortable option for around the house. Wanda stocks modern and antique Kimono in solid colors and floral prints. A beautiful antique Kimono in silk would make a unique topper for a special evening out.

Switching from Japanese inspired to vintage, save June 23 for the Garden Party Tea and Vintage Fashion Show at Shadelands Museum in Walnut Creek. Sponsored by the Walnut Creek Historical Society, this is an opportunity to enjoy a tea luncheon in the gardens of the Shadelands Ranch Museum and view vintage fashions provided by Goodwill Bags, a volunteer auxiliary of Goodwill of the Greater East Bay. The group puts together a show featuring volunteer models donning 20-30 outfits from the mid-1800s to the 1960s. “The Garden Party Tea and Vintage Fashion Show is a new event for the Walnut Creek Historical Society,” says event chair Andy Wenzel. “If successful, we hope to make this an annual event like our holiday teas.” Tickets are \$50 and go on sale May 1 online at Eventbrite.com.

Wayside Inn Thrift Shop on Golden Gate Way in Lafayette is also featuring vintage fashions on May 21. Think good prices on summer dresses, skirts, blouses, handbags, jewelry and more.

Happy Spring and remember to go forth in style.

Moya Stone is a fashion writer and blogger at overdressedforlife.com.

Navigating mild cognitive impairment

By Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MA, MFT, CMC

Are you forgetting more and more? Do you have a family member who is bright, and still able to manage his or her finances, but seems to be forgetting not just names, but simple things like “Did I eat breakfast today?” or “What did I eat today?” If you are aware of this memory challenge, but it does not interfere with daily activities of living, you or your family member might have what we call MCI (Mild Cognitive Impairment).

MCI is diagnosed by a neurologist, memory clinic or neuropsychologist. A diagnosis of MCI does not mean you will have a progressive dementia like Alzheimer's disease; however, about 50 per-

cent of those with the MCI diagnosis end up with some form of a progressive dementia. The other 50 percent never progresses further than this simple challenge with memory; and of course in the process of diagnosis reversals, causes are corrected.

If diagnosed with MCI, the individual, his or her partner and/or a family member should visit with an Aging Life Care Professional, also referred to as a Geriatric Care Manager. The GCM will go over all the planning one should do when diagnosed with any potentially progressive illness. This entails going over with you the financial options/entitlements, housing options, legal tools, social engagement, physical wellness and local support or opportunities. Having a Geriatric Care

Manager as your advocate is similar to using a roadmap to navigate your present and future. It is also essential to have a proper medical evaluation to help reverse any of the biochemical imbalances or health challenges that can contribute to a memory challenge.

Staying engaged in joyful and pleasurable activities that keep the body and mind healthy is also important. A good life plan is ideal for us all, but even more critical for those with MCI, as it encourages you to:

- 1) Be engaged in social activities daily – Senior centers, brain enhancement classes, meeting friends, playing cards, learning new things, joining book clubs, and volunteering are all good ways to be active in your community.
- 2) Exercise daily – Aim for 30

minutes a day of aerobic activity at least three times a week. Perform balance and strength building exercises as well.

- 3) Eat a healthy anti-inflammatory diet – Limit red meats, sugar, alcohol, and processed foods. Add in healthy fats such as nuts, avocados, and olive oil while removing any trans and saturated fats. Also, add more veggies and fruit to your plate and hydrate with mostly water.

- 4) Have regular medical checkups – Be sure to check your hearing and eyesight annually as well.
- 5) Ask for help – If you feel depressed or otherwise affected by your MCI, don't be afraid to seek treatment (counseling and/or medication.) Enjoy your life!

Info:
<https://eldercareanswers.com>



Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MA, MFT, CMC, is a Licensed Family Therapist and Certified Care Manager. She has been practicing professional care management since 1984. Linda founded Eldercare Services, a full-service care management and home care company in 1989, which now employs over 200 caring people. Eldercare Services has been providing Bay Area families with care management, home care services (caregiving), advocacy, counseling, support groups and education for 30 years.

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Reid Fellner: a personal success story

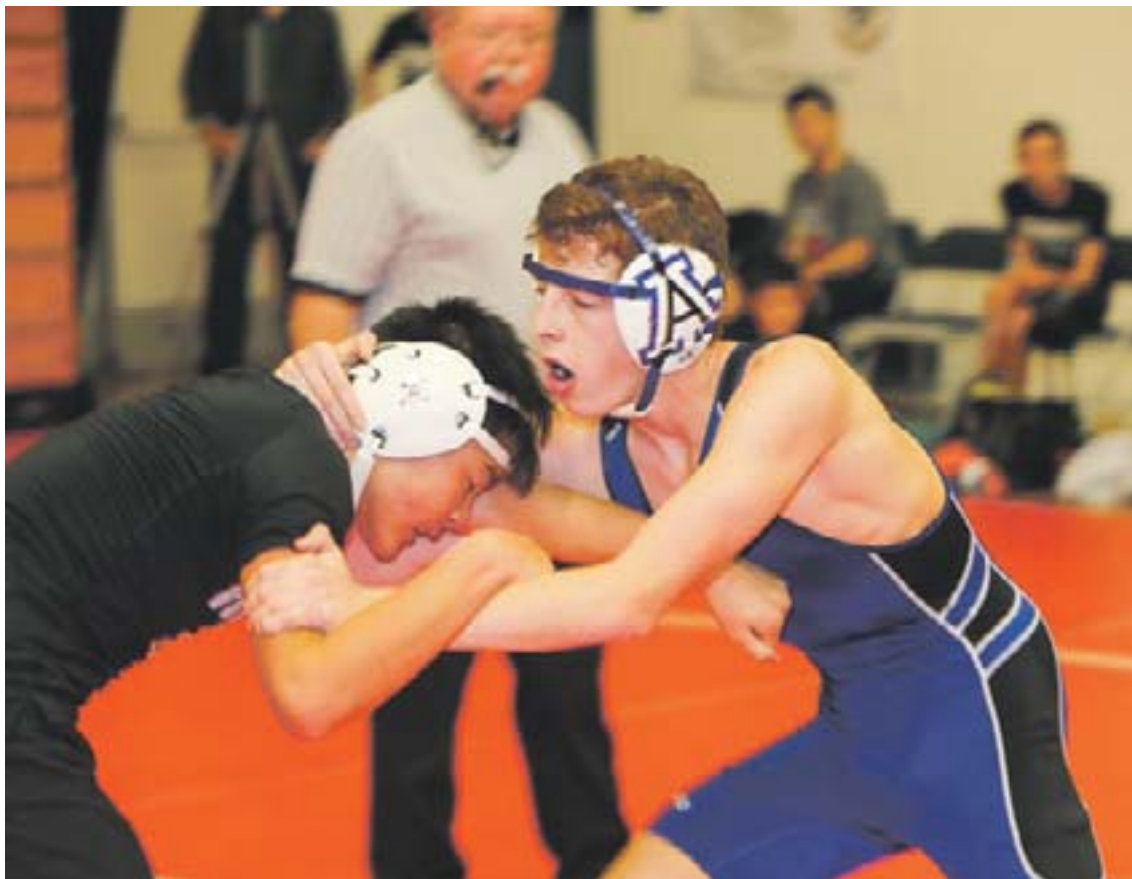


Photo Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

How often have you complained about having to use reading glasses or bifocals or whined about having to squint to see things in the distance? If you're ever looking for inspiration or if you want to get over feeling self-pity, there is no more appropriate area to look than the athletic world.

This past month, a high school senior named Jay Spencer from St. John Paul II High School won the Alabama State wrestling championship, though his vision is limited to just a corner of his left eye. Jack Olson, completely blind since the age of 12, was a long snapper for his high school football team and walked on to the University of Southern California football team and successfully made the snap for an extra point against Western Michigan.

Still complaining about not being able to find your glasses?

Reid Fellner is a junior at Acalanes High School. His vision began to fail when he was in the second grade and was ultimately diagnosed with a condition called Stargardt's Disease. It is characterized by macular degeneration resulting in a progressive loss of vision. Whereas normal vision is 20/20, Fellner's vision is about 20/400.

Fellner responds matter of factly to his condition: "My vision can be a problem but I try not to let it affect me. I use magnifiers to read and I am able to utilize the current technology which is improving all the time. I try to get through the best way."

Fellner comes from an athletic family. His sister Kate played lacrosse at UC Davis and his other sister Lucy is on the swim team at UC Santa Barbara so it was natural for Reid to play sports as well. Reid, who is also on the swim team at Acalanes went out for the wrestling team as a freshman: "I wanted to try something new. I fell in love with the sport and have been wrestling since then. I love that it is both an individual and team sport. As it turned out, it was also the easiest sport for me with my visual limitations."

There is one concession made to wrestlers that are limited visually. Both wrestlers must stay in contact with each other and if they separate, the match is stopped and then restarted. Cory Salmon has been a high school wrestling official since 1996 and has only refereed two matches in which one of the wrestlers was visually

impaired and has had far more matches in which a deaf wrestler was involved. "We start the match with both wrestlers having contact with each other, palm to palm," explains Salmon. "There was never any issue with the other wrestlers. It's just a subtle difference for them in not being able to break away from each other. Besides that, there is no difference in how I refereed those matches."

Acalanes head coach Micah Canestaro has been working with Fellner since his freshman year: "Reid has come a long way. When he began, he was more timid being new to wrestling and the physicality of it but he has always been a fighter and his heart has really stood out. He has become more offensive and physical. He never stops once the whistle blows to start the match until the end. The tenacity and the fight that he's learned is something that can translate to anything he does in life. It's beautiful to see that in a wrestler. He has unbelievable character and is very mentally tough and strong. He's just a good person to be around and everyone recognizes and appreciates that on campus. He's an inspiration to us as coaches and to the other kids as well."

Fellner wrestles at 145 pounds and appreciates how he has grown with the sport: "I have improved and am more comfortable and aggressive when I wrestle. I have become more confident and quicker and have improved my reaction time. Wrestling has helped me with my overall conditioning, leadership skills, working with a team and my overall physical skills."

Freshman Dashiell Fabela sees Fellner as someone to look up to: "Reid is a very positive person. He's very kind and thoughtful whenever he speaks. He is always trying to do better and I've never seen him be negative in any way."

Fellner's father, John, admired the way he handled the decline in his vision and the wrestling environment: "Reid has always been positive. It was actually harder on us than it ever was for him. It's a unique sport and Reid's coaches, teammates and the wrestling community as a whole has shown Reid great respect. It's been a hard, huge learning curve. Reid loves being involved in everything. He just keeps going and trying."

The character and drive Reid has demonstrated on the wrestling mat has also car-

ried over to his classwork at Acalanes. "I enjoy history and math though my favorite class is in leadership," says Fellner. "My other senses have improved. It's hard to see details on people's faces but I am able to recognize other people's voices."

The attitude that Fellner has brought to wrestling, he brings to his overall perspective of life: "I really enjoy meeting new people. I don't think about the difficulties with anything that I do. I'm constantly looking to improve."

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SMC women's basketball lose 65-61 in NIT second round



Megan McKay

Photos Tod Fierner

By Jon Kingdon

Completing the 2018-19 season, the Saint Mary's women's basketball team extended a streak that most teams would be envious of. The Gaels won 20 games for the eighth straight season and played in the National Invitational Tournament for the 10th straight year.

Head coach Paul Thomas saw it as a successful season despite finishing the year with two very frustrating games – a double overtime loss (78-77) to Gonzaga in the West Coast Conference semifinals and a second round loss in the NIT to Pepperdine (65-61) after leading 41-27 at the half: “We let some plays get away from us and allowed Pepperdine to get some momentum, which is always a huge part of the game. I’m very proud of the team and the coaches and all the work they put in. There is no other program that has been to the NIT 10 straight years and we got to host two of those games this year.”

It's been hard for Thomas to put those games behind him: “The losses still sting. It's too soon. I feel that we should still be playing. I feel good about our season but I will need some more time to let the losses absorb. Even after coaching for almost 30 years, these losses are going to stay with me for a while.”

Thomas has not been afraid to make changes and gives much of the credit to the team: “It's definitely the players. The consistency in our program has to do with the players and our coaches who do a great job in developing and teaching the players.”

Saint Mary's will be graduating three key players from this year's team: Sydney Raggio (12.8 ppg, 8.5 rpg), Megan McCoy (12.6 ppg, 7.5 rpg) and Carly Turner (6.0 ppg, 3.2 rpg). The three of them combined for 41 percent of the Gaels offense and 46 percent of their rebounds. Raggio and McCoy were both named first team all-conference.

Thomas appreciated the uniqueness of each player:

“Sydney had great skills when she came in and just flourished here. She won games for us due to her athleticism and skills set. Her ball handling skills the last two seasons enabled her to be a utility person even with her size and strength.

Meg really worked hard to reach her potential, developing her left hand and becoming a good three-point shooter. She was a great, vocal leader besides her scoring and rebounding ability. As for Carly, I've never been around someone who put so much time, energy and effort in returning from her knee injuries. I will never forget that or her. She always lit up a room.”

Yet it not their work on the court that Thomas has valued the most: “I will miss their intangibles, who they are besides their statistics. Numbers can be replaced but it's the people that are harder to replace.”

Returning to lead the team next year will be junior Jasmine Forcadilla, though she won't be available next Janu-



Sydney Raggio

ary as she rehabilitates from a serious knee injury. Until her return, sophomores Emily Coddling and Madeline Holland will be filling in for her. Tyra Moe and Claire Ferguson are being counted on to replace Raggio and McCoy in the front court. Two freshmen, Sam Simons and Taycee Wedin made substantial contributions this season as well. Simons was the team's third

leading scorer (11.1) and was named to the WCC All-Freshman team and Wedin (6.3) was third on the team connecting on 44 3-point shots.

With a good recruiting season so far, Thomas is looking for the team to take the next step up: “The program, if you look at it, has been pretty darn consistent. We just have to raise the bar a little.”



Sydney Raggio

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Board Position

The Moraga School District Governing Board is currently accepting applications for an appointment to its Board. The appointee will hold office from April 30, 2019 to December, 2020. For an application call (925) 377-4101 or visit www.moraga.k12.ca.us Applications are due by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Friday, April 19, 2019. Moraga School District - 1540 School Street, Moraga, CA 94556

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Lamorinda boys lacrosse moves ahead



Jean-Luc Axelrode

Photos Gint Federas



Charlie Hawkins

By Jon Kingdon

Last season, **Campolindo** head coach Colin Knightly was faced with a rebuilding year and set about creating “a long-term sustainable program.” Forced to use a number of underclassmen last year has led to a successful season so far for the Cougars with a 6-3 record. Knightly attributes much of the success to his current group of seniors: “They really wanted a senior year to remember so there was a lot of off-season improvement and they came into the season ready to play.”

The offense has been led by junior Jean-Luc Axelrode and seniors Cole Barlow and John Cirelli. “Cole and J.L. (Axelrode) have been very effective from the midfield positions,” says Knightly, “Johnny is an attackman who came back after taking off last year and he has been a great addition.”

The leaders on defense are seniors Paddo Buckley and Tommy Raftis and freshman Grayer Leenhouts. Though Raftis is a senior, it’s his first year playing lacrosse after coming over from baseball. “Tommy is super athletic and has been great on defense,” says Knightly. “We knew Grayer would be a good player coming in even though he was only a freshman.”

Matt Gagan who played goalie for the first-time last year, replacing an injured Brian Gross, has been solid in

the net says Knightly: “Matt has done a really good job in keeping the games manageable and has been making some very big, clutch saves.”

Knightly’s goal and philosophy is for the team to play a complete game: “We have to put together four quarters every game, not conceding or having a bad quarter. To win the war, you break it down into battles and each quarter is a battle. It’s how many battles we can win and we want to win every quarter.”

Acalanes

Becoming the head coach of an Acalanes team that barely lost the NCS championship game in the last seconds would normally be seen as stepping into a positive situation. However, when that team has graduated 17 seniors, it’s generally a time to rebuild. Despite a disappointing overall record, Acalanes placed third in the Diablo Athletic League with a 3-2 record.

Acalanes coach Peter Harris knew what was coming as he was previously the assistant coach for the Dons: “It’s been a hard adjustment but not an unexpected one. Acalanes has enjoyed a lot of success in the past but with a new coach and new styles, it takes a while for the players to adjust and get into it.”

It was not Harris’ intent to turn things over completely: “I’ve carried a lot of the same traditions over to this team and am building up the younger players to replace the players that graduated. There

was a lot of work to do and I had to get them comfortable with the new voice. There is a lot of talent and it’s defining the athletes into the process.”

The offense is being led by senior co-captain Jack Wickline and Will Schueler who Harris calls “two of the hardest workers on the team.”

Junior co-captain Carson Burrill and senior Reed Watson set the tone for the defense.

It is a dual package in the goal with junior Oliver Rundo and sophomore Henry Rogers. Each has their own unique skills, says Harris: “Ollie is left handed and very quick. Henry has been a shutdown goalie with great hands. Both are still competing for the starting spot and competing well.”

It’s the intangibles that Harris sees as the key for the team’s future success: “The key players on the team are the ones that up the work ethic and are willing to dig. As the players are learning the system, they are working together and understanding our looks and goals. To be successful the players need to set aside glory and hero ball for teamwork.”

Miramonte

After a successful 2018 season with a 14-4 overall record, a 6-1 league record and making it to the third round of the NCS tournament before losing to Acalanes, it has not been an easy transition for Miramonte, having lost 13 players to graduation.

down in a game, the team is working hard on and off the field and pushing themselves.”

Senior Charlie Hawkins has been the leader for the team on offense says McGovern: “Charlie has been very strong on the field and vocal off the field. We’ve been able to use him as a midfielder and attackman.”

Carson Essaboy has been a standout on defense for McGovern: “Carson is someone we can put on the best player of any team and he can play them one-on-one with little help.”

Sophomore Ryan Millham, in his first year playing varsity, has handled the pressure well. “Ryan has really stepped up,” says McGovern. “He plays really hard and gives it his all. He is loud on the field and leads the defense.”

With so many openings on the roster due to graduation, it has provided the opportunity for the underclassmen to step into starting positions. Two freshmen, attackman Mark Cheng and defenseman Ethan Berndt have been starting all season, with both showing great potential for the future.

With so many close losses this season, it’s never been a time for panic, says McGovern: “We’re a young team that’s really close. It’s been small mistakes that have hurt us in the close games. It’s just a matter of having everyone trusting their teammates and stepping up in the right spot for us to make the big jump.”



Jack Wickline

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On March 9th, the weather finally cooperated, and LMYA kicked off its Baseball & TeeBall season with an Opening Day Celebration at the Stanley Middle School Fields. The community was treated to games and activities, including parades and food trucks, and a fun tradition was established for the LMYA program under the guidance of the new LMYA Baseball Commissioner, Anthony Bishop.

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Lamorinda girls lacrosse teams show strength this season



Boo DeWitt

By Jon Kingdon

With a combined 12-2 record in the Diablo Athletic League, Miramonte (4-0), Acalanes (5-0) and Campolindo (3-3) are all in position to qualify for the post season tournament, if they don't knock each other off. Two of Campolindo's losses have come at the hands of Acalanes and Miramonte by a combined five goals.

After winning the NCS championship, **Miramonte** head coach Jackie Pelletier knew the "burden" that comes with success: "Our success over the past few years has made us a target. We're coming after the D1 schools. We are hoping to move up to Division I eventually."

Still Miramonte can't avoid making this something of a rebuilding year, having lost 10 players to graduation. With a 9-5 record and 4-0 in league play, the Matadors can feel good about their overall play, says Pelletier: "We've had to do a lot of work on the team's chemistry and had a lot of holes to fill but a lot of the younger kids have been stepping into leadership roles. We are a very fast and athletic team. You can teach the skills but you can't teach the athleticism."

Having to replace 75 percent of the team's starters from last year, Miramonte did have one player return from last year that missed most of the season with a knee injury, all-American Boo DeWitt (42 goals). "Boo has made a great return from her injury. As one of our captains she has been a great leader," says Pelletier. "Teams are face guarding her which is providing opportunities for our other players. She has improved on her draws and defense and is always working on the next thing."

It's not just DeWitt that is leading the offense, says Pelletier: "Emerson Bohlrig (33

goals) and Shaune Lundstrom (30 goals) along with Boo are learning to play together and all are top notch players that are working hard."

The defense is being led by sophomore goalie Mina Jenab. "Mina is extremely fast and quick in the net," says Pelletier. "She has a good first step. She has quick hands, can react fast and has a good reach. She is a great leader on the defense." Kiera O'toole is the backup to Jenab and has done a good job in learning from Jenab and pushing Jenab herself.

In front of Jenab is senior co-captain and defender Vanessa Lam, who is seen as the quarterback of the defense. With the graduation of Maise Mills who is now playing at Claremont-McKenna, senior Kennedy Pearce and sophomores Libby Hawkins and Nicole Van Stralen have stepped up along with Mills' sisters, junior Grace and freshman Bridget.

The team is still a work in progress, according to Pelletier: "We're still developing our chemistry. However, we're not a one-sided team. We have a lot of players that can score and set up each other. We have good depth and a lot of kids that can do it on both offense and defense."

Acalanes

So far it has been an easy transition for first year head coach Mary Doyle as she was the assistant coach last year for Acalanes: "We're building on the system that we put in last year, stressing on being unselfish and setting up their teammates, not necessarily being the scorer while having fun at the same time." The enjoyment level has been facilitated by the Don's 5-0 league record.

Doyle, who played lacrosse and graduated from Miramonte and UC Davis, appreciates the quality of her players: "They all have unique person-



Lauren Westergren

Photos Gint Federas

alities yet all are close and great friends. I have been able to learn what they like and don't like in how we do things. At the end of the day, it's their team."

The offense has been led by four key players – midfielders Lauren Westergren and Emma Workman and attackers Claire Gallagher and Grace Gebhardt, all of whom Doyle relies on for their talents and leadership: "They are my quarterbacks on the field. They all work well with one another and everyone looks up to them as the leaders of the team."

Sophomore defender Coco Fellner has been the standout on defense along with freshman Ellie Ives who has started every game: "Ellie is very confident," says Doyle. "She has really grown and is an integral part of our defense."

Olivia Pellegrini has been a very strong in the goal, says Doyle: "Olivia has really stepped up. She is very talented and has been working on her confidence. She has grown in running the defense and being able to see what is happening. She has been very vocal in telling the defenders whether to slide or crash, directing everyone and getting the entire defense to work together."

Doyle sees the strength of the team is its chemistry, yet sees room for improvement: "We need to consistently put two halves together, playing our best lacrosse for a complete game. I want them to have confidence in our system and each other, taking the game seriously but still having fun."

Campolindo

Though in her first year at Campolindo, head coach Devon Combe is familiar with her league opponents having had experience as a coach at Miramonte, besides having coached at Cal Poly as well.

With a roster comprised of

11 seniors and six juniors, two sophomores and four freshman, on the surface it would appear to be a veteran squad. Not quite, says Combe: "We're still lacking some experience. We have a lot of seniors that are playing on the varsity for the first time but it's all been helped by the respect and kindness the players have shown for each other."

The development of the team's chemistry was slowed by the soccer team advancing in the playoffs as there were six soccer players that did not show up for the lacrosse team until the second game of the season. Combe has seen a constant improvement in this area: "It's just taken a little longer for them to develop a chemistry with each other. The players love each other and they are all having fun. We're starting to hit our rhythm."

Campolindo's scoring offense, which is averaging over 10 goals a game, has been well distributed and is being led by underclassmen – freshman

Annie Cimperman (15 goals) and Kendall Keely (14 goals), sophomore Hanna Westphal (14 goals) and junior Kendall Monkars (16 goals). Devon Ortman is the team's assist leader with 10 and Combe sees as a key to their offense: "Devon is our bruiser. She plays midfield for us and is on of the best defenders in the Bay Area."

Co-captains Tori Fleming and Caroline Coates have held the defense together, says Combe: "We have great depth on defense and are able to interchange a number of our defenders. Tori really gets her teammates to rally around her on defense. They will scrape their knees for her. Caroline is currently out with a shoulder injury but is still helping to coach the defense from the sidelines."

The third co-captain is senior attacker, Julia Colombini (8 goals) who was one of the soccer players that was late in arriving but has not missed a beat.

Campolindo is only giving up an average of seven goals/game. Senior Olivia Hubbell has been a force in the net, according to Combe: "Olivia has kept us in many games. She is very good at the low shows and has a nice relaxed attitude."

As a former player at the University of California, Combe is able to empathize with her players in formulating her coaching philosophy: "I want strong teamwork. Each player learns the game differently and executes it differently. The strength and individuality of each players helps the team to unite and grow strong. Ultimately, the key to be successful is for the girls to remember that they're out there to have fun and to get something out of it."



Annie Cimperman

2018-2019 Girls DAL All League, Winter Sports

Photos Gint Federas

DAL All-League – Foothill Division Girls Basketball – 2018-19

Most Valuable Player
Kaylee Pond Acalanes

1st Team All-League
Lauren Kobashigawa Acalanes
Grace Gebhardt Acalanes

2nd Team All-League
Lauren Frechman Acalanes
Mariella Crudele Campolindo
Gabby Schneider Acalanes

Honorable Mention
Kate Schirmer Acalanes
Kiana Thorson Campolindo

DAL All-League Girls Soccer – 2018-19

Co-Most Valuable Offensive Player
Alison Whipple Miramonte

1st Team All-League
Devon Ortman Campolindo
Cecilia Campo Campolindo
Isabel Fine Miramonte
Olivia Grillo Miramonte
Sasha Sadoff Acalanes

2nd Team All-League
Ella Colombini Campolindo
Sabrina Grant Miramonte
Aliye Wingate Acalanes

Honorable Mention

Alex Ziem
Angelina Basso
Taylor Walthall
Savannah DeCarlo
Grace McCauley
Kate Cannon
Kate Carter
Samantha Hansen
Ivy Souza

Miramonte
Miramonte
Miramonte
Campolindo
Campolindo
Campolindo
Acalanes
Acalanes
Acalanes



Kaylee Pond



Lauren Kobashigawa



Mariella Crudele



Alison Whipple



Devon Ortman



Sasha Sadoff

NextLevel 5-6th grade champions



Submitted by Tim Jones

The Lamorinda Maroons won the Next Level Flag Football Championship at Campolindo High School. Coached by parent Rich Narido and student John Cirelli under the guise of Campolindo

coach Kevin Macy.

Players: Brendan Baldelli, Declan Dolorico-McPeake, Harrison Fuller, Health French, Ian Moore, Isaac Narido, Lleyton Osteen, Luc Narido, Quinn Flanagan, Tucker Jones, Ty Madsen and Zachary Tabibian.

5th Grade CYO St. Perpetua's American Diocese champions

Submitted by Debbie O'Brien Krackeler



Back row, from left: coach John Murphy, coach Debbie Krackeler; middle row: Eliana Murphy, Neve Murphy, Sarah Wright, Addison Dankworth, Clara O'Connor, Maggie Krackeler; front row: Victoria Hiatt, Carina Trento, Alexis Le; bottom row: Cameron Thornton

CYO basketball champions



Front row, from left: Griffin Tetz, Colin Rutzen, Cameron Atwood, Mitch Reichenbach; back row: assistant coach Stuart Reichenbach, Tommy Beckwith, Alex Bruno, Max Roberts, Reed Norton, Boden Rasmusen, assistant coach Peyton King, head coach Kelvin Tetz

Submitted by Ann Murphy

Follow their win of the Diablo West CYO basketball tournament National

League Championship on Feb. 24, the St. Monica's sixth grade boys National Team forged forward to capture the title in the Tournament of Champions, defeating St. John's 37-25.

5th grade 'All Lafayette' team wins third consecutive NL Championship

Submitted by Charlie Vezzali

The Fifth Grade "All Lafayette" team won it's third consecutive championship for the competitive Next Level program at De La Salle. The team has played together since the first grade and gone undefeated over the last

three seasons prompting the league to ask them to play up a grade or a combined sixth/seventh grade division next year.

Parent coach Charlie Vezzali, student coach four years in a row; Rocco Lociero, and parent coach Dan Ventrelle.

Pictured from bottom left: Illias "KJ" Kaplanes-Jones, Cody Michlitsch, Ben Pass, Rhett Hollyfield, Luca Vezzali, Alessandro Curletto; from top Left: Blake Robison, Leo McDonough, Grant Ricker, Brody Jones, Reid Habas and Ryan Ventrelle

Jenna Chan of Moraga advances to Elks Hoop Shoot National Finals

Submitted by Robert Chan

Jenna Chan of Moraga is one of 72 of the nation's best free throw shooters ages 8 to 13. Jenna's hard work and dedication have taken her from Moraga to the Elks Hoop Shoot National Finals in Chicago.

Last fall, Jenna entered in the 2019 Elks National Hoop Shoot Free-Throw Contest. Jenna advanced through the local, district and state levels of competition, sinking the most of 25 free throws in her division at each contest. With a score of 20 out of 25 at the West Regional Semi-Finals, on March 9, Jenna secured her chance to shoot on the foul line at the National Finals.



Karate Kid selected to represent USA Karate Team

Submitted by Thomas Westernoff

Karate & Fitness USA student Haze Mach won a coveted spot on the 2019 AAU/USA National. Haze, one athlete among 49 others, will compete in June at the WUKO World Karate Championship in Bratislava, Slovakia. Karate is now an Olympic sport and will be in the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, Japan.



Lamorinda Lions 2nd grade girls win indoor championship



Back row, from left: coach Amit Ahuja, coach Kenji Sytz, coach Kyle Lerch; middle row: Darcy Best, Regan Roy, Casey Lerch, Eloise Britton, Clara Sop; front row: Kelly Reidenbach, Ava Sytz, Leela Cargain, Soraya Ahuja, and Hadley Hastings.

Submitted by Taylor Mirner

Lamorinda Lions beat Richmond Academy 4-1 in the championship game on Sunday, March 17 in

Lafayette to claim the Lamorinda Youth Association Indoor Soccer championship for second-grade girls. This team went undefeated this season and has now won four straight league titles.



MOJAM 2019 skateboarding competition brings skating community together



Photo provided

Contestants gather at the March 16 MOJAM 2019 at the Moraga Skate Park.

Submitted by Gina McKenzie

The second annual MOJAM skateboarding competition, held at Moraga Skate Park on March 16, featured approximately 45 contestants across three age groups: 12U, 13-16, and 17 and over. MOJAM 2019 was organized by Jon Soto, Zach Francis and Karl Watson, who is the owner of Maxallure Skateboard and helped sponsor the event, which was free to all.

Soto is a local skateboarding dad who won his first skateboarding competition in 1976. Because skate competitions are such a different experience, Soto wanted young skateboarders to get to know the camaraderie and fun of a contest. He organized the first MOJAM in December 2017 at the Moraga Skate Park, which garnered approximately 25 contestants.

Skaters in each age group had a 1 minute, 15 second run to link together their best tricks as cleanly as possible, then the top five of each group made

the finals and got to take another run before winners were announced. The winners all took home a flashy DIY Medal, a Maxallure board and T-shirt, with first-place winners also getting a pair of Adidas shoes.

Soto will plan the event again next year at Moraga Skate Park – probably over the same weekend.

Winners:

17 and over

- 1st Ryan Bakonyvari
- 2nd Tyler Lorenzen
- 3rd Dominic Moore

13-16

- 1st Rico Cruz
- 2nd Matt Soto
- 3rd Pablo Harris


12 and under

- 1st Colby Ebner
- 2nd Drew McKenzie
- 3rd Brody Darin

The Mojam Girl Power award went to Milla Ohrbach.

There was also a best trick contest if you landed the best trick in a five-minute jam session.

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

... read on Page D12

Achieve divine design by avoiding these five common decorating don'ts



Make sure the area rug you purchase is the right size for the space, like in this home.

Photo provided

By Amanda Eck

After being in the design industry for over a decade and visiting a myriad of client's homes there are a few design mistakes I find quite often. Today I thought I'd share five common decorating mistakes. No judgment here, just

some tips that might be useful to you.

1) Art hung too high. I see this mistake often. It seems trivial, but even a piece of art hung a few inches too high can make a whole room feel "off." Many like to use the rule of thumb of hanging art at eye level, but I think even

that can feel off, especially if you're above average or below average height. I prefer to hang art in proportion to the furniture piece it is above (i.e. dresser, sofa, bed, et cetera). The size of the art will also make a difference. A larger piece will obviously be able to hang higher than a smaller one. For instance, if it's a sofa or a headboard, start with 5 inches to 8 inches between the top of the furniture and the bottom of the art. Also take into consideration the height of your ceilings. Lower 8-foot ceilings you may want less space between the furniture piece versus higher ceilings. I still prefer to err on the side of hanging the piece lower and closer to the furniture.

2) Decorating around something you don't love. I hear it all the time: "I don't love the oriental rug (or whatever) but it was my mother's (or it cost a lot of money) so I kept it." The problem with decorating around something you don't love results in a room you don't love. And if you read my article last month you know where I stand on this. It's okay to let those pieces go if you do not love them. Or at least move them to a space that you use the least. Life is too short to live with items that don't bring you joy.

3) Choosing color first. Without doubt, color is the biggest thing I find people get wrong. Color is not easy and most homeowners can find it challenging to select. A common mistake is choosing the wall color first before anything else is in the room. I always tell clients it is much easier to match a paint color to a fabric, a rug or art, than it is to match the fabric, rug or art to your wall color.

... continued on Page D4

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	10	\$995,000	\$3,848,000
MORAGA	6	\$390,000	\$2,225,000
ORINDA	10	\$1,050,000	\$2,525,000

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.

LAFAYETTE2427 Cherry Hills Drive, \$995,000, 4 Bdrms, 1855 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 02-22-19,
Previous Sale: \$825,000, 09-04-153366 Kim Road, \$3,848,000, 3 Bdrms, 2419 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 02-15-19,
Previous Sale: \$970,000, 03-22-17697 Los Palos Drive, \$2,875,000, 5 Bdrms, 3365 SqFt, 1947 YrBl, 02-22-19,
Previous Sale: \$410,000, 04-01-911455 Purson Lane, \$1,135,000, 3 Bdrms, 3378 SqFt, 1997 YrBl, 02-22-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,015,000, 09-09-16

4 Red Bark Court, \$1,705,000, 4 Bdrms, 2906 SqFt, 1961 YrBl, 02-21-19

639 Sky Hy Circle, \$1,620,000, 6 Bdrms, 3061 SqFt, 1978 YrBl, 02-11-19

1055 Silverhill Drive, \$1,395,000, 3 Bdrms, 3354 SqFt, 1989 YrBl, 02-20-19,
Previous Sale: \$695,000, 09-30-99

3318 Stage Coach Drive, \$2,075,000, 4 Bdrms, 3384 SqFt, 1983 YrBl, 02-12-19

3749 Sundale Road, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1295 SqFt, 1953 YrBl, 02-20-19,
Previous Sale: \$729,000, 05-22-07115 Wilderness Lane, \$3,365,000, 4 Bdrms, 4284 SqFt, 2017 YrBl, 02-22-19,
Previous Sale: \$4,195,000, 04-28-15**Moraga**2059 Ascot Drive #109, \$390,000, 1 Bdrms, 713 SqFt, 1971 YrBl, 02-20-19,
Previous Sale: \$265,000, 12-03-14

21 Dickenson Drive, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1591 SqFt, 1959 YrBl, 02-19-19

10 Doral Drive, \$959,000, 2 Bdrms, 2238 SqFt, 1978 YrBl, 02-11-19,
Previous Sale: \$372,500, 01-10-0176 Lynwood Place, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2971 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 02-15-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,650,000, 11-15-16120 Merion Terrace, \$1,205,000, 3 Bdrms, 2725 SqFt, 1988 YrBl, 02-20-19,
Previous Sale: \$985,000, 02-13-141795 Saint Andrews Drive, \$1,520,000, 3 Bdrms, 2828 SqFt, 1979 YrBl,
02-11-19, Previous Sale: \$1,125,000, 04-03-18226 Willowbrook Lane, \$2,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 3205 SqFt, 2017
YrBl, 02-21-19, Previous Sale: \$2,057,000, 01-29-18**Orinda**12 Bates Boulevard, \$1,425,000, 3 Bdrms, 1897 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 02-22-19,
Previous Sale: \$930,000, 11-14-13

58 Brookside Road, \$1,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 3190 SqFt, 1946 YrBl, 02-15-19

3 La Cintilla, \$1,249,000, 4 Bdrms, 2442 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 02-21-19

147 Las Vegas Road, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 3118 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 02-19-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,708,000, 02-15-08184 Moraga Way, \$1,565,000, 3 Bdrms, 2679 SqFt, 1941 YrBl, 02-19-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,215,000, 06-15-0614 Oak Road, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 2702 SqFt, 1978 YrBl, 02-12-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,295,000, 08-25-05

151 Ravenhill Road, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 2245 SqFt, 1982 YrBl, 02-22-19

235 Sundown Terrace, \$2,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 3802 SqFt, 1988 YrBl, 02-21-19,
Previous Sale: \$655,000, 06-01-89

8 Wanfleete Court, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1597 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 02-13-19

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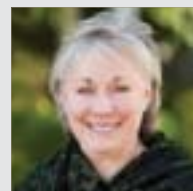
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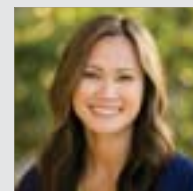
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Mortgage Rates Are Falling

As our Spring real estate market kicks into high gear potential homebuyers just got an early treat from the Easter Bunny with a big drop in interest rates. According to Bankrate.com latest survey of national mortgage lenders, the 30-year mortgage rate sank 27 basis points last week to 4.17%, the biggest weekly drop in a decade. The last time the benchmark 30-year rate was below this level was Jan. 3, 2018 when it hit 4.1 percent, according to Bankrate's historical data. Since last November mortgage rates have almost dropped a full percentage point when the benchmark rate was just short of 5.0%. While the above rates are national averages local lenders have recently quoted 30-year fixed rate jumbo loans at 3.75%, 10/1 ARMs at 3.25% and 7/1 ARMs at 3.125% (all with no points and fees).

This huge drop in rates comes on the heels of the Federal Reserve announcing last month to keep rates steady and signaling no more rate increases for the rest of the year. This welcome news comes just in time for the Spring market and a great opportunity to refinance your current mortgage.

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



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Achieve divine design by avoiding these five common decorating don'ts



... continued from Page D1

4) Choosing a rug that is too small for the space. I like to call it Rug Island. You know, where the rug floats in the center of the room not touching a single piece of furniture? I understand that rugs can be a large investment and many of us have kiddos and prefer not to spend a lot on a rug so we opt for an inexpensive 5 X 8 size. A great way to save on cost is to have a local carpet store make a rug out of broadloom. For living rooms a good rule of thumb is to either have all the furniture pieces on the rug or at least have all the front legs of the furniture on the rug.

5) Piecemeal decorating. Often times when I go to a consult the client is stuck moving forward because they started to decorate without a plan. Maybe they recently moved into their new home and quickly ran out to purchase a sofa and chairs or ordered a rug online and realized the color was wrong. Then they tried to use their existing coffee table but it now feels too small for the space. And now they find themselves struggling to make things "work." Decorating piecemeal or buying things one at a time is the most difficult way to decorate. Having a plan in place with room measurements and fabric swatches will ensure that less mistakes will be made. Even if you are unable to purchase all the items at once, it is still better to have the plan in place

and purchase as your time and budget allows. This is why clients love our Designer Day package, because they can hire us to create the plan and they are able to execute it when they are ready.

If you have made one or more of these mistakes please know that we've all been there! And when in doubt, Google it! There is a plethora of information at our fingertips that 15 years ago didn't exist. I'll leave you with one of my favorite quotes from designer Charles Eames: "The details are not the details. They make the design." Until next time dear friends!

As the Owner and Principal Designer of Lamorinda-based Amanda Carol Interiors, Amanda Eck believes your home's interior should be both approachable and well-appointed. She often asserts, "Beauty is a necessity."

With a distinct sense of style that mixes contemporary and classic design she fashions spaces that are both elegant and inviting. Her design aesthetic is inspired by anything visual but especially fashion, architecture and art.

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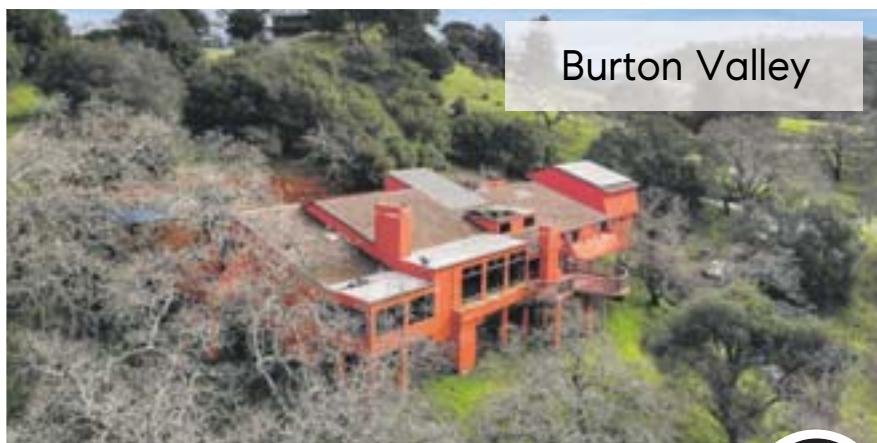
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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

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"Look for helpers. You will always find those who are helping." – Mister Rogers



Under a redwood tree, acid-loving plants flourish including ferns, azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons.

By Cynthia Brian

After sowing seeds of beets, arugula, Swiss chard and leeks, I sat on my small white wooden bench to watch. Within minutes a black and white king snake slithered by my foot sending shivers up my spine at the sudden surprise yet joy because I know that king snakes keep rattlers away. A tailless baby lizard scampered to a rock to bask in the sunshine, and a chorus of frogs croaked their mating calls, each attempting to outdo the other. Two moths flitted through the nasturtiums, a swarm of honeybees gathered on the rosemary, and a clew of worms tilled the

rich soil. A covey of quail called to one another, landing in my chestnut tree. My vegetable garden was alive with congenial visiting helpers.

For years Fred Rogers modeled the benefits of caring on his award-winning children's program, "Mister Rogers Neighborhood." The root principle of his teachings was to be a good neighbor and find helpers. Having friendly, helpful neighbors is good not only for humans but for plants and animals, too. We are all interdependent on one another for survival. To fully understand how important buddies are, we need to look no further than the kingdom of plants.

In gardening, we call this companion planting. Health and yields are improved when certain plants are grown together. Some plants will attract beneficial insects while others will repel destructive ones. Certain flowers, vegetables, and herbs grown together will produce more beautiful flowers and flavorful edibles than if grown in solitary confinement.

When planning your companion garden, for the team to thrive, it is important to consider these critical requirements. Determine if they enjoy the same type of soil (sandy, loamy, clay, silty, peaty), light exposure (shade, partial shade, full sun, partial sun), water (how much and how often), and pest control.

Soil: The ideal garden soil is loam as it is a balanced mixture of sand, silt, and clay with plenty of humus. To improve our clay soil, we need to improve the drainage and lighten the heaviness by adding copious amounts of organic matter. A combination of compost, mulch, and cover crops will enrich the soil, prevent erosion and minimize weed growth.

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Dutch iris amidst ferns.

Photos Cynthia Brian



A formal pruned rose garden with companion boxwood hedges begins its spring leafing.

... continued from Page D12

Light: Record where the sun is during different times of the day. Remember that tall plants will provide shade for smaller plants that need protection.

Water: Roots need oxygen to survive. Waterlogged roots rot. Vegetables require about one inch of water a week, columbines prefer a moist environment, while succulents succeed in drier soils. Determine your own watering personality then choose compatible plants accordingly.

Pest Control: One of the most exciting things about companion planting is how various plants can attract good bugs and deter the bad ones when surrounded by their friends. Alliums are terrific company for almost all plants except asparagus and beans!

When building your garden, think about building a community of friends.

Roses are jewels of the garden for at least three seasons, and, as with their mineral cousins, their beauty is enhanced when placed in the right setting. According to rose expert Michael Marriott, senior rosarian and technical manager of David Austin Roses Ltd. in Albrighton, England, roses are beautifully suited to mixed garden borders. The trick to combining roses successfully with other garden plants lies in knowing which will play well together. Although we don't normally plant roses with our vegetables, rose petals are edible. Gathered early in the morning, they make a tasty topping for salads and soups.

... continued on Page D14

Favorite Blue Perennials:

Lavender
Blue Eyed Grass
Monkshood
Aster
Bellflower
Cornflower
Delphinium
Sea holly
Geranium
Salvia
Pincushion flower
Veronica
Viola

Favorite Other Colored Perennials:

Agastache
Candytuft
Chamomile
Columbine
Penstemon
Black-eyed Susan
Sedum
Verbena

Favorite Biennial

Foxglove

Favorite Annuals

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Poppy
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Favorite Hedge

Boxwoods



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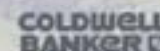
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... continued from Page D13

The best partners, he says, bloom exactly together or closely overlap. “The joy is in pairing flowers that play off one another when seen side by side in full bloom. The goal is to heighten peak bloom experiences. Extending the bloom season is a different exercise.

Here is a short list of his recommended rose partners.

When it comes to vegetable companions, we have a long list of allies and enemies. General rules advise avoiding planting in long rows or big patches to deter the pests. Instead, interplant with flowers and herbs to confuse the predators and attract the beneficials.

Marigolds are the workhorse of any vegetable planting as they discourage beetles and nematodes. The presence of calendula in any garden is a plus repelling nasty insects while the roots clean the soil by establishing active relationships with soil-borne fungi. Nasturtium, chives and garlic keep away aphids. Dill improves growth and flavor in all plants of the cabbage family including kale while mint will deter ants and cabbage moth and improve the flavor of peas. However, dill will retard the growth of your carrots. Parsley, carrots and parsnip attract praying mantis, ladybugs and spiders that dine on pests. Beans, peas and clover make nitrogen that enrich the soil.

Never plant corn and tomatoes near one another as the identical worm attacks both. If you want potatoes, plant horseradish in the four corners as protection and refrain from including squash, cucumbers or sunflowers in the same location as they all suffer from the same blight. If you are growing strawberries, prevent worms by creating a border of thyme and strengthen resistance to disease and insects with borage. Oregano provides general pest protection while basil ward off flies and mosquitoes while improving (no surprise) the flavor and growth of tomatoes.

Before you start your spring planting, consider the community you will be creating. The rains are continuing, the crabapples are blooming, and the willow buds are set to burst.

Fred Rogers said that maybe heaven is the connections we make while on earth. In gardening as in life, it takes a village.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



California King snake enjoys living in Cynthia's vegetable garden.



Blue-Eyed Grass is a native nectar plant for the Mission blue butterfly and a great companion for roses, clematis, and New Zealand flax.



Candytuft is a great border plant.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Buds of a willow tree are ready to burst open.



Cynthia Brian takes a break by the sea.

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.

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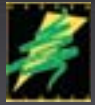
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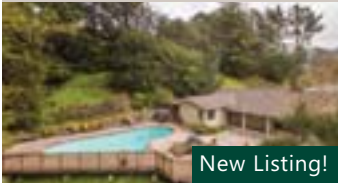
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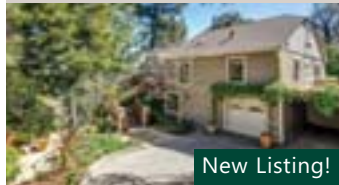
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