

# Letters to the editor

## Bean Counters 3, Visionaries 2

By a 3 to 2 vote last week the Moraga Town Council embarrassed the entire community and brought shame on local government by refusing to contribute a single dime to the John Muir Land Trust campaign to acquire the Painted Rock property.

JMLT has raised nearly \$1.75 million—all private donations—toward a \$2 million goal to purchase the 84-acre property for inclusion as the anchor of a 500-plus acre public hiking and nature preserve near the Rheem Shopping Center. JMLT was hoping the Town would contribute to partially close the funding gap—MUCH less than what Lafayette and Walnut Creek have contributed to JMLT for their open space acquisitions. But ANYTHING was too much for timid little Moraga.

Despite impassioned arguments by Mayor Roger Wykle and Council Member Mike McCluer favoring a contribution, the three nay-sayers: Kymberleigh Korpus and newcomers Steve Woehleke and Renata Sos, said no. They based their objections on fiscal uncertainties, mainly due to a new sinkhole on private property in the Rheem Center. Woehleke went so far as to propose an alternative “Walk-the-Talk” campaign to garner private contributions door-to-door; Sos offered to help. JMLT doesn’t need council members knocking on doors, hat in hand, on its behalf; it needs council members with the courage to make a small investment now for the long-term legacy of Moraga, even if it means taking a little heat in the short term.

The absurdity of all this is

almost indescribable. Painted Rock is Moraga’s most visible landmark—an icon for as long as anyone can remember. The fact that it can be acquired NOW instead of going on the market for development is almost miraculous. That the Moraga council would turn its back completely on helping make this acquisition is shameful. The funds to do this are NOT taxpayer money. They come from the yet-to-be built Palos Colordos housing development as compensation for an abandoned golf course. Previous council members who secured these monies envisioned them, in part, for recreational uses and open space acquisition.

At the Council meeting I challenged council members to choose between bean counting and vision. The bean counters won.

Richard Immel  
Moraga

### “Time is Running out”

Dear Lamorinda Neighbors  
A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to secure a world-class outdoor recreation site in our neighborhood is at our doorstep, but time is running out. The John Muir Land Trust has been offered the 84-acre Painted Rock parcel at the corner of Rheem Blvd and Moraga Road for purchase. This site has panoramic views of Mt Diablo and the East Bay with abundant wildlife and spectacular wildflowers; if acquired, the Painted Rock property will anchor a large 505-acre public open space. This would be a stunning new recreational resource providing miles of new trails and sweeping views for the community, and be a pro-

ected haven for wildlife. Once acquired, JMLT will provide maintenance of the property IN PERPETUITY and, with additional funding, have the opportunity to build a range of hiking trails and designated special areas (such as equestrian trails and bicycle trails), picnic areas, and bathrooms. Painted Rock was once offered for sale as a development site for \$15 million. JMLT’s project cost is \$2 Million but this offer will expire May 31. JMLT has a \$350,000 matching gift for new donations but this offer will expire May 1.

Community members, Community social organizations and Garden Clubs, local Foundations and Businesses have all come forward to fund \$1.73Million of the purchase price thus far, but we need one last push from the Lamorinda community to get to the finish line. While my hard-core hiking days are over, I look forward to sitting on a bench and watching the swooping hawks and eagles, and savoring the superbloom of wildflowers; and I relish the idea that the grandchildren of MY grandchildren will be able to do the same. But if we don’t act NOW, this precious parcel will slip through our collective fingers. The Town Council has decided they cannot allocate funds to this purchase, so it is time for all of us to pull together and make it happen. I ask you to do two things:

1. If it moves you as much as it does me and you see the advantage of having easy access to open space (and understand that your property value is enhanced by its existence, and that our local sales tax will be enhanced by the revenue brought in by hikers buying

lunch!) consider donating to the purchase, no matter how modest, by going to [jmlt.org](http://jmlt.org) and earmarking your donation to Painted Rock. Every dollar counts now  
2. Tell your friends, social network, and workplace! Many employers will provide

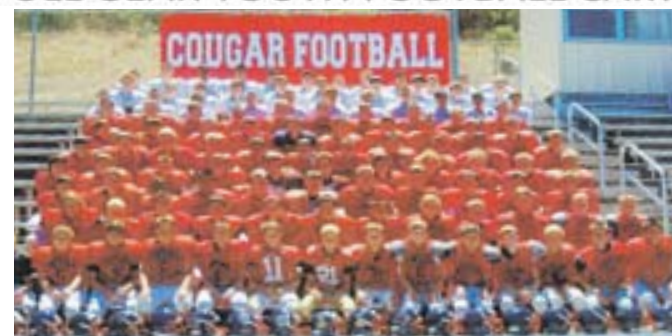
matching funds for charitable donations.

We can make this happen, friends.

Respectfully,  
Bobbie Preston  
Moraga

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer’s name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters 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](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) for submission guidelines. Email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com); Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

## FULL GEAR YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMP



INSTRUCTOR: KEVIN MACY, HEAD FOOTBALL COACH  
AT CAMPOLINDO HIGH SCHOOL  
GRADES 4 – 8, SEPARATED BY GRADE

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

FOR REGISTRATION GO TO: [cougarcamps.com](http://cougarcamps.com)

# Proclamation honors State Champs – Campolindo High School Boys Basketball Team



Photo Vera Kochan

## Campolindo High School Boys Basketball State Champs

### By Vera Kochan

Moraga Mayor Roger Wykle issued a proclamation designating April 10, as “2018-2019 Campolindo Boys Varsity Basketball Team Day,” in recognition of the team’s Division II State Championship honors.

The presentation was made during the town council meeting with the entire team and their coaches in attendance. Team members David Ahazie, Cade Bennett, Chase Bennett, Emmanuel Callas, Jake Chan, Rex Curtiss, Ryan Jeter, Aidan Mahaney, Carter Mahaney, Peter O’Donnell, Matt Radell, Peter Schmitz, Tyler Smith and Maxwell Weaver were guided to victory by head coach Steven Dyer and assistant coaches Drew McDonald and Chris Dyer.

During the championship game, Campo battled a heavily favored Colony High School from Ontario, California, in the grand setting of Sacramento’s Golden 1 Center. Colony typically averaged 71.8 points per game, but the Cougars man-

aged to disrupt their offense and rebound Colony 37-28, thereby soundly thrashing the southern California team 55-40.

During the proclamation presentation, a modest Steven Dyer was asked to say a few words to the crowd of proud parents and well-wishers: “I really think that this group did a good job of bonding throughout the year. Obviously, as the playoffs progressed we were playing our best basketball, so we really appreciate this honor.”

Much has been made of the fact that the Cougars are a basically very young team, losing only four seniors to graduation. They have been referred to as “the baby cougars.” However, if youth comes with this caliber of fitness, camaraderie, grit and determination to bring home a first-ever in the school’s 57-year history basketball state championship trophy to Moraga, then Campolindo had better make more room in the trophy case.

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



## Enjoyable Parenting

For parents of children ages 4-12  
Seminar and Workshop  
Saturday April 27, 9 am-Noon  
Lafayette Library - Community Hall

### PARENTING ISN’T AS SIMPLE ANYMORE...

If you could learn at least 10 Strategies for:

- \* Reducing stress in the home
- \* Helping your child succeed
- \* Teaching your children to solve their own problems
- \* Raising a child with grit and resilience
- \* Taking care of your own wellbeing

Would it be worth a three-hour, lively and fun, morning of learning, conversation, parenting tips, resources, gifts, and more?

### TO REGISTER: [ENJOYABLEPARENTING.COM](http://ENJOYABLEPARENTING.COM)

Cost is \$100 for an individual, and \$175 for a couple. Childcare is available 9:00 a.m.-Noon for kids 3-12. \$30/child. Space is limited.

This seminar, led by Jim Brommers Bergquist, a parent of two teenage daughters, and a career-long youth and family mentor who has worked with hundreds of families, could be called: “I wish I would’ve known this when my kids were young: lessons from my adventures in parenting.” Tanuka Gordon, Founder and Executive Director of Mindful Littles will also present a section on “Mindful Parenting.”

# BELIEVE WITH US

**JOIN US ON EASTER**  
**APRIL 21 AT 9 & 10:30 AM**  
Special Activities for 2 years–grade 5  
Nursery care also available

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church

# mvpcc