The Fog City Swampers opened the Concert at the Park series at Lafayette Plaza Park on June 7.

Photo Pippa Fisher

Outdoor summer entertainment opens in Lamorinda

By Sora O'Doherty

Residents of Lamorinda won't have to venture far from home to enjoy entertainment options this summer. Orinda will be offering a series of concerts, including the annual Opera in the Park, as well as five family-friendly movies. The Orinda concerts, at which food trucks will also be available, will be on Tuesday evenings, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., while the

movies will be shown on Thursdays, to coordinate with the regular Food Truck event held in front of the Orinda Community Center on the same night.

Moraga's concert series, which includes a dinner snack bar run by Moraga Park Foundation volunteers, will be on Thursday evenings at Moraga Commons, and Lafayette will continue its Rock the Plaza concerts on Fridays. All these options give Lamorinda residents the potential to hear a local

concert three nights a week!

The summer movies at Orinda Community Park begin at dusk. This year, families can enjoy the following films: June 20 - "Mary Poppins Returns"; July 11 – "Lego Movie 2"; July 18 – "A Dog's Way Home"; July 25 – "Incredibles 2"; and Aug. 1 – "How to Train Your Dragon: Hidden World."

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Private drone operator impedes MOFD firefighting efforts



Photo courtesy MOFD

B1-B8

By Nick Marnell

Crews from the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, Cal Fire and the East Bay Regional Park District extinguished a 1-acre vegetation fire June 7 on a steep hillside off of Canyon Road, about 200 yards east of the temporary bridge linking Canyon and Moraga. Aerial firefighting efforts were hampered because a privately owned drone flew over the incident site, preventing a helicopter from dropping water onto the burning vegetation.

We searched the area, but we were not able to locate the owner of the drone," according to Moraga Chief of Police Jon King. The chief said that people who fly drones are probably not trying to interfere with an incident, but they can cause major damage or injuries. In this case, had the drone flew into the windshield of the helicopter, a tragedy could have resulted.

"We were fortunate that the firefighters on the ground were able to get the fire under control," King said.

The blaze occurred the day the National Weather Service issued its first Red Flag Warning, an alert signifying that the temperatures, winds and low humidity conspire to create the potential for significant wildfires. "Had this incident been later in the season, it could have been disastrous," said MOFD spokesman Dennis Rein, who confirmed that there were no injuries and no homes were ever in danger. The fire remains under investigation.

"If you fly, we can't," Rein warned drone operators.

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Nonprofit momentum for Park Theater builds - Page A3

Fire Districts **A8**

Wildfire Evacuation Brochure info - Page A8

Life in Lamorinda

Pristine Petanque courts ready for community - Page B1



Sports

Star Lamorinda athlete profiles - page C1

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Our Homes

Soak in the aromas of favorite wines in the garden - page D1



LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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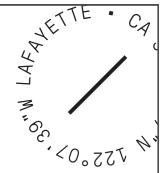
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Lafayette rainbow flag flies to celebrate LBGTQ+ Pride month



A sizable crowd was on hand to watch Mayor Mike Anderson raise the rainbow flag June 1, and officially declare June to be Pride month in Lafayette.

By Pippa Fisher

The city council voted at its May 28 meeting unanimously in favor of a proclamation to recognize June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning + Pride month in Lafayette. On June 1 Mayor

Mike Anderson raised the rainbow flag on the pole in Plaza Park, where it will fly for the entire month.

Before hoisting the flag in front of a group of more than 50 residents, Anderson made a few comments on the significance of the event which,

he noted that despite being 50 years since the Stonewall riots, is something "some cities not too far away are struggling to come to terms with" a veiled reference to Dublin City Council's recent, controversial decision not to fly a rainbow flag (a decision that

was subsequently reversed at a June 4 special meeting.)

Council Member Teresa Gerringer had asked to place a proclamation for council consideration in support of pride month and flying the flag in June on the agenda back at the March 25 meeting.

"I was asked during the campaign by Gwen Searer, a Lafayette resident, what I would do to support the LGBTQ people who live in Lafayette and let them know that they are welcome in this community," says Gerringer. "She specifically asked if I would push to have LGBTQ Pride flags flown in June every year and commit to declaring June as Pride Month in Lafayette."

Gerringer described it as a statement of our values in Lafayette. "It speaks to what our values are in terms of the community and providing an accepting place for all; that we represent all the residents of Lafayette and that we want to make sure that everyone feels welcome and included here," she said.

Searer, a transgender

woman with two daughters who has lived in Lafayette for eight years, described her decades-long struggles with depression before she transitioned. She asked that the city fly the flag "not for me. For the young people in our community who are at risk for bullying, discrimination and suicide.

"Please send a message that LGBTQ people are welcomed, respected and loved in our community," said Searer before the council's

This is not the first year that has seen the rainbow flag flying in June over the Plaza but this is the first time June has been officially recognized as Pride Month in Lafayette.

The Orinda City Council also presented a proclamation in support of LGBTQ Pride Month at its June 4 meeting and will be flying a flag in support of the LGBTQ community. The Moraga Town Council was expected to declare June Pride Month at its June 12 meeting.

City nails down timeline for selection of permanent city manager

By Pippa Fisher

The city council held a special meeting June 4 with Paul Kimura, principal of Avery and Associates, the executive search firm hired by the city to recruit the next permanent city manager following Steven Falk's resignation last year. It is likely that the position will be filled in early August.

Kimura brought all council members up to speed on progress and the process to

fill the position.

With much emphasis placed on transparency and inclusion as a city strategic goal, the council has pushed for as much public involvement as possible through the process. The recruitment firm has conducted community outreach over the past few months including a town hall meeting, interviews with members of the community and a community survey, which at the time of the meeting had received 67



Photo Jeff Heyman, City of Lafayette

The council discusses the process for selection a new city manager at the June 4 special meeting.



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responses.

Now that the filing period for applications has closed Kimura said that they had an applicant count of 35 individuals. He will be recommending through his own interviews with candidates a list of between 10 and 12 which the council will examine, narrowing the list to potentially around five for in-depth

interviews. The council spent time discussing ways in which it could involve the public in the interview process, while Kimura reminded council members that the decision can only be made by them. "This is the council's decision," he said, noting that it had been elected to make such decisions. "This is one of the most important decisions you will have to make." Kimura explained that a panel made up of city staff and members of the public would be advisory only and

said that he sees the public involved in only about 10 percent of his recruitments.

Council Member Steven Bliss suggested bringing together a panel of community members by reaching out to people who might be interested in serving in such a role for a lottery-style selection of five members of the public. Further details on this will become available over the next few weeks.

Council Member Cam Burks described this solution as "totally fair, honest and transparent."

"I'm proud of what we accomplished tonight as it connects exactly to our City Council Strategic Goal of Transparency and Inclusion," said Burks after the meeting. "Including the public in this process, in this transparent manner, is absolutely essential, and we accomplished that tonight."

... continued on Page A9



Lafayette **Public Meetings**

City Council

Monday, June 24, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings **Acalanes Union High School District** Wednesday, June 26, 7 p.m. **AUHSD Board Room** 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Planning Commission

Monday, June 14, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo

Design Review

3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Monday, June 24, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Arts & Science Discovery Center,

Lafayette School District Wednesday, June 26, 7 p.m. Regular Board Meeting District Office Board Room 3477 School St., Lafayette www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Nonprofit builds momentum in bid to 'Light up the Park Theater'



Photo Pippa Fisher

www.lamorindaweekly.com

The Park Theater Trust hopes to be able to purchase the historic building.

By Pippa Fisher

The city council heard a presentation May 28 from Tracey Farrell of the newly formed Park Theater Trust as momentum builds around the possibility of purchasing and operating the historic Park Theater cinema.

The 250-seat theater, built in 1941, has been closed since 2005 but Farrell says that reopening the Park Theater has remained consistently in the top four community concerns and is a priority for residents and local merchants. The building is currently on the market and TPTT is in negotiations with the sellers. But as TTPT Committee Member Tim Hennessey pointed out, despite talks with the seller, it could disappear: "We are up against the market."

In the fall of 2018 a small group formed a citizens' committee to get community

input and explore options for bringing the theater back to life. Now, eight months later, the group has an active email distribution list of over 50. In April 2019 it formed The Park Theater Trust and was awarded seed monies by the Lafayette Community Foundation. The group has applied to form a nonprofit 501(c)(3) which will allow it to fundraise on its own, but for now the LCF serves as its umbrella organization.

The trust looked at market data and found that (according to the Motion Pictures Association of America 2018 data) movie attendance is up 4 percent since 2016, despite Netflix and other home streaming options. TPTT looked at other independent, small theaters around the country and saw the benefits to local businesses in these locations

... continued on Page A9

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Is Lafayette going to the dogs?



Photo Pippa Fisher

Niroop Srivatsa reads to dogs and children at Bel and Bunna's during the Dogtown Downtown event June 1.

By Pippa Fisher

Every dog has its day - and that day in Lafayette was June 1, when the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce hosted Dogtown Downtown for the benefit of canines big and small. This year the annual event focused on highlighting the dog-friendliness of the downtown area.

Up and down Mt. Diablo Boulevard pooches and their people strolled and visited stores. Businesses handed out treats. Several adoption agencies along with other doggie groups had booths set

A highlight of the morning for the better-read pups and two-legged youngsters was a reading of doggiethemed books by Interim City

Manager Niroop Srivatsa who, shunning the ages-old advice never to work with animals and children, held both kids and puppies spellbound with her storytelling at Bel and Bunna's Books.

Srivatsa has been volunteering for ARF since 2005.

"Our golden Max had just died and we desperately needed another dog," says Srivatsa. "I immediately fell in love with that place and have been volunteering ever

She explains that she is a dog socializer who reads to dogs during adoption hours. "It helps to calm them and make them more adoptable. I truly believe that I have benefited more from this experience than my furry friends," says Srivatsa.

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Council approves pay raise for town manager

By Jennifer Wake

At its May 22 meeting, the Moraga Town Council approved by a 3-1 vote a salary increase of 8.5 percent for Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg to be retroactively effective March 12. Battenberg was hired March 12, 2018 at a salary of \$197,000, which was amended to \$206,020 on June 1, 2018 due to the town no longer paying a portion of Battenberg's employee contribution to CalPERS, in an amount equal to 5 percent of

the manager's salary. The most recent salary adjustment was to bring the manager's salary in line with other city managers in the Bay Area, to \$229,176, according to the staff report.

A letter sent to the council from Moraga resident Jeff LaBarge expressed his concern about the optics of such a salary increase, and asked the council to vote no on the increase to regain the town's confidence about how the council spends money.

"From my perspective, it looks like Cynthia is asking for

the salary of someone who manages hundreds of staff and a nine figure budget, even though she manages approximately 5 direct reports and a modest budget," LaBarge wrote. "She is holding a metaphorical gun to our head saying that she will leave to another town who will pay her more if we don't concede to her demands. All this is happening in the context of baseline performance. During her short tenure there is nothing notable that would imply she somehow will revolutionize the town to justify a premium

compensation. Nothing about the above situation should lead us to cave to the initial proposal and concede the full 8.5% raise without pushback."

Orinda City Manager Steve Salomon's contract, which runs to the end of June, includes a base salary of \$224,640 per year, with 90 percent health benefits, \$800 a month for a car, and other benefits. At the time of Lafayette City Manager Steve Falk's resignation in September 2018, his salary was \$253,683 plus benefits.

The council approved the

salary increase with Mayor Roger Wykle and council members Kymberleigh Korpus and Renata Sos voting yes, and Council Member Steve Woehleke voting no.

'Cynthia has only been here a year," Woehleke said. "I am used to using sustained performance as one of the main criteria for setting a salary. I would have expected to bring her up to a competitive objective maybe in two

Council Member Mike Mc-Cluer was absent.

Scammers prey on Social Security fraud fears

By Vera Kochan

The latest scam to hit the unsuspecting public involves Social Security numbers.

Most often the scam comes in the form of an automated, direct to telephone voicemail message announcing that "your Social Security number has been suspected for fraudulent activity. Call this number (scammers conveniently provide one) before we proceed with legal proceedings against you. Thank you and goodbye." The reason this reporter is able to quote the scammers verbatim is because she has received this

voicemail six times in the space of two weeks, sometimes twice a day.

Moraga Police Department Det. Kevin Mooney stated, "People fall for this because we're basically honest and believe others are too. That's why they're called 'confidence scams.' Most people are law abiding and want to make things right."

The victims are usually not specifically targeted, although attempts are made to take advantage of the elderly, especially those suffering from memory loss issues. Scammers sit in a large room making cold calls from overseas. The

Social Security scam is operating out of India.

While the elderly are most likely to fall prey to scams, teens and young adults are the next level of victims, with the threat of legal reprisals making them gullible targets. Mooney said, "We've had five to six people come to us just this year, crying because they've given thousands of dollars to these people. Never, ever, ever transfer any money to someone you don't know. Don't give Social Security or credit card numbers away,

and always verify everything." The IRS scam operates much the same way as the Social Security scam. Victims are told that they owe money, and if they don't pay the police will be knocking on their door.

And, as old as it may be, the call to grandma for bail money, because junior got himself into trouble with the law, is still a scam in circulation. This one opts to tug on a loved one's heartstrings.

"Lottery scams are popular, because people don't often remember if they've filled out a form in which merchandise is the supposed prize," Mooney said. "Scammers say for a small processing fee you'll get your prize. No legitimate organization will ask you for money to collect a prize.

"If you receive a scam phone call, don't press any of the buttons or prompts on your phone," Mooney explained. "There are sophisticated systems out there that can track information on you the minute you start to respond to the prompts."

Before responding to any suspicious scams or phone calls, Mooney stressed, "Don't panic. Call a friend or family member for advice before proceeding." When possible, always take down the caller's phone number and report it to the police.





Town Council

Wednesday, June 12, 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 26, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Room, 335 Rheem Blvd. Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, June 17, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Park and Recreation Commission

Tuesday, June 18, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting

Moraga School District Board Meetings

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga www.moraga.k12.ca.us See also AUHSD meeting page A2



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Public Works welcomes new assistant engineer



New Public Works Assistant **Engineer Sharon Chan**

By Vera Kochan

Moraga's Public Works Department has filled the assistant engineer position left vacant since June of last year.

Sharon Chan has joined the team full-time in April after working as a part-time contract engineer since November. Her most recent work experience has included the cities of Mill Valley and Fairfield, not to mention serving as a project engineer for the firm BKF Engineers.

It was her work with BKF

that brought her to Moraga's attention. Chan assisted Public Works Senior Civil Engineer Shawn Knapp to get the Caltrans funding for the New Canyon Bridge Project. Another of her specialties is

Chan commutes to work from her home in Solano County, and said, "I don't mind the drive. It gives me a chance to listen to the radio and relax."

working on encroachment

Stated Chan, "Working for both Fairfield and Mill Valley had good qualities, and I received a lot of land development experience. Mill Valley gave me the opportunity to work on sewer and repaving projects."

While earning her degree in civil engineering from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Chan interned for San Francisco County. She said, "I learned so much from all of the issues that go on in a big city."

Moraga may not come close to the size of San Francisco, but it most certainly has seen its recent share of infrastructure problems. Chan's experiences will serve her well for 2019 when her main focus becomes the surface seal rehabilitation project.

Moraga Arco armed robbery suspects captured in high-speed chase



Photo Vera Kochan

Arco gas station on the corner of Moraga Road and Rheem Blvd.

By Vera Kochan

The whole scenario was like something out of a movie or TV show, except that it actually happened in Moraga.

Around 8 p.m. on Sunday, May 26, during the Memorial Day weekend, three suspects arrived at the Moraga Arco Car Wash and Gas Station, 425 Moraga Rd., with the intent to commit armed robbery. The suspects, one female and two males, were all under 18 years of age.

Kurosh Ghassem, Arco's coowner, stated that his employee was ordered by the suspects to open the cash register and relinquish the tray as the female

pointed a gun to his head while one of the males held a knife to his chest. The third suspect remained in the car.

Once the suspects fled the gas station, heading toward Lafayette on Moraga Road, the employee called 911. Thus began a high-speed chase that took nearly 30 miles to complete.

According to Moraga Police Det.Kevin Mooney, the MPD shared the suspect and vehicle descriptions with other police agencies. Lafayette Police Department was the first to spot the vehicle, and so began the pursuit onto Highway 24 heading toward the 680 freeway north and eventually onto Highway 4 where it ended in Antioch after, at times, reaching speeds

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of nearly 110 mph.

The chase ended on a city street when the suspects crashed their vehicle into a civilian vehicle whose passengers escaped serious injuries. At this point, the driver exited the vehicle and began to flee on foot. Sheriff's deputies found it necessary to deploy a taser on the escaping suspect. All three suspects were taken to a hospital for examination before being remanded into custody at the Contra Costa Juvenile Hall in Martinez.

Mooney praised LPD saying, "The way Lafayette handled the whole thing was textbook." He also credits the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, California Highway Patrol, Pittsburg Police, Concord Police and Antioch Police Departments.

MPD officers Cpl. Russell Douthit and Craig Walker arrived on the scene where the gun and the cash tray were recovered.

Ghassem said, "My father wants to work with police to keep this from happening again." After an investigation follow-up with Mooney, Ghassem was assured that the MPD will step up its vigilance throughout town.

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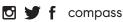
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Orinda reaches a settlement to open the 53 Rheem easement soon; pays property owners \$45,500

By Sora O'Doherty

Following a June 4 closed session, Orinda Mayor Inga Miller announced that the long-running controversy over the easement across the property at 53 Rheem Blvd. had been settled, avoiding threatened litigation. Property owners Kent and Dawnette DeSpain have agreed to grant the city an easement for pedestrians to walk the trail that leads from Rheem Boulevard to Parkway Court from dawn to dusk. Prior to the purchase of the property by the DeSpains, residents said that they had used the easement over the land to get to Glorietta Elementary School for some 40 years. But controversy flared over whether there actually was an existing easement, leading the DeSpains to install a locked gate, denying access to the easement for most of the past school year.

The city ultimately accepted the easement, and the property owners contested

the legality of that action, leading to prolonged negotiations.

Under the settlement, which is available to the public from the city clerk, the owners have granted the city a supplemental trail easement over the disputed trail. They will remove obstructions, including any gate, and will construct a privacy fence on their property, which will be their sole property and for the maintenance of which they will have the sole responsibility. The city will pay \$17,500 for fence, no matter what the actual cost to build it turns out to be. The DeSpains will use their best efforts to have fence constructed within 25 days. The city will also pay the DeSpains \$5,500 to defray the costs of surveyors, and a negotiated payment of \$22,500, which represents the value of the easement and the avoided legal costs that would have been incurred in litigation. Both sides will pay their own attorneys' fees.

Orinda will operate the

easement as a park facility. Since the trail is unlit, like a park, its use will be limited to dawn to dusk daily. No bicycles or motorized cycles, and no unleashed dogs are permitted, although leashed dogs are allowed. There will also be no equestrian use; the trail will be limited to pedestrian use only. When the trail is opened to the public, the city will assume liability and responsibility for the trail and its maintenance. City staff have also undertaken to email residents who sign up to let them know when the trail is open and ready for use.

Allison and John Banisadr, who used to live on Parkway Court, both attended the meeting to thank the city council for its hard work and determination to restore the easement between Rheem and Parkway Court. "We really appreciate your dedication," they said. "What you do, all your time, is well, well worth it in the eyes of the community," they continued, concluding that "even though

it seems a small thing, it is huge to the community."

Naomi Greenstone also appeared to thank the council for its work on the issue, which she said was "near and dear to my heart and my husband's heart." For years, she said, "we've been telling our son he could walk to school when he was in the fourth grade." Although he was not able to walk to school this past school year, she thanked the council for making it possible for him to walk to school

Council Member Amy Worth wanted to thank the property owners, who worked with city staff, and also to thank all the neighbors who conveyed how this was a matter of very, very high priority to them. Worth noted that the trail will be part of the safe routes to school and recreational facilities in Orinda. The council also approved a three-way stop at at Rheem Boulevard and Zander.

After ConnectOrinda Celebration, city council favors near-term projects



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Animated discussions about plans for ConnectOrinda were common at May 28 event.

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By Sora O'Doherty

A plan to show off one of the near-term projects for downtown Orinđa, the use of Vashell Way as a pedestrian area got washed out by wet weather, but was rescheduled and held inside on May 28. At the event, called the ConnectOrinda Celebration, the public was given another opportunity to discuss and comment on the projects that might be part of the final Orinda Streetscape Master Plan. Although not as well attended as some previous events, there was a good

turnout and members of the public engaged in animated conversations with staff and city council members. The results of this and the preceding events were then brought back to the city council on June 4 so that the council could provide guidance for the preparation of the draft Downtown Streetscape Master Plan to be brought back to

the council in September. The boards from the Celebration will continue to be up in the Community Center until July 4 for public viewing, according to Senior Planner Adam Foster. The project has the major goal of identifying projects with broad community support. Its main objectives are to connect the two sides of downtown for all users, support future pedestrian access along San Pablo Creek, preserve Orinda's unique sense of place, produce grant-eligible projects that can be funded. beautify downtown Orinda and build consensus for the final plan through robust community engagement.

One of the most popular projects from the beginning has been to improve access to San Pablo Creek. Among the most contentious were the large-scale projects of improving circulation between the two halves of downtown Orinda, the Theatre District and the Village. The council was unanimous in its belief that the large-scale projects should be deferred until a large traffic corridor study could be funded and conducted. Speakers appeared to be divided about the usefulness of the existing pedestrian access from the Village to BART for bicyclists.

Jaime Peterson said that he is a bike commuter, as is his wife, and that he regularly rides from home to BART. However, he said he never used the pedestrian bridge for bike commuting, nor did any of the cyclists he knows. "It's not a viable option," he said. Tandra Ericksen said that she favors the combined pedestrian/bicycle access, but mentioned that she believed that the current bridge does not meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Erickson also favors proposed parklets and would like more places in downtown to sit and enjoy Orinda's fine weather. On the other hand, Katherin Bernstein voiced support for the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists, but thought the cost is outrageous and asked for alternatives. She and her husband took the overpass which needs to be painted and shrubbery cut back and she did not see any problems with bicyclists and pedestrians using it. Kathleen Jenkins, citing statistics on the national rise in pedestrian and bicyclist deaths, suggested moving bicycles off Camino Pablo entirely. The council generally agreed that the existing bridge could be improved, perhaps raising the section currently at ground level up to the height of the elevated portion, and with other improvements to make the bridge more attractive.

... continued on next Page

Orinda Public City Council **Meetings**



Tuesday, June 18, 7 p.m. Regular Meeting Library Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way **Planning Commission** Tuesday, June 25, 7 p.m. Library Auditorium, Orinda Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, June 12, 6:30 p.m. Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563 Orinda Union High School District Board **Meetings**

Monday, Aug. 12, 6 p.m. Regular Board Meeting 8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda www.orindaschools.org See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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Arts Affair 2019



Photos Sora O'Doherty

Members of the Lamorinda Performing Academy Ensemble sing and dance at the Second Annual Lamorinda Arts Council's Arts Affair on May 29. Guests enjoyed award-winning speciality cocktails by the 2018 Mixology Winner Arthur Valderrama, appetizers by Genuine Goodness, and desserts by Shelbys.



Joy in Motion Boys Hi-Hop Class dance at the Arts Affair. Joy in Motion and the Lamorinda Performing Academy Ensemble are both Arts Partners of the Lamorinda Arts Council. Also on the program was a winning film from ShortDocs 2018, "Rainbow Harmony," Middle School Group Winner of Lamorinda Idol 2018, and B. Lynn Goodwin of Art Embraces Words, a new Lamorinda Arts Council Program. In addition, Lawrence Kohl of the Pacific Chamber Orchestra performed a clarinet solo.

After ConnectOrinda Celebration, city council favors near-term projects

... continued from Page A6

Another project liked by the council is the construction of a living landscape berm in the Theatre District to provide visual and sound separation from Highway 24. Staff noted that several long-term projects had been eliminated as financially infeasible, including an aerial gondola, tunneling behind the existing support structures for the highway, or widening the overpass supports, all of which would definitely require a corridor study. While Mayor Inga Miller agreed, she also pointed out that the city really needs to be looking at a complete fix, down the road, far out in the future. How-

ever, they need to be looking at how to maintain pedestrian safety and enhance bicycle safety in the meantime.

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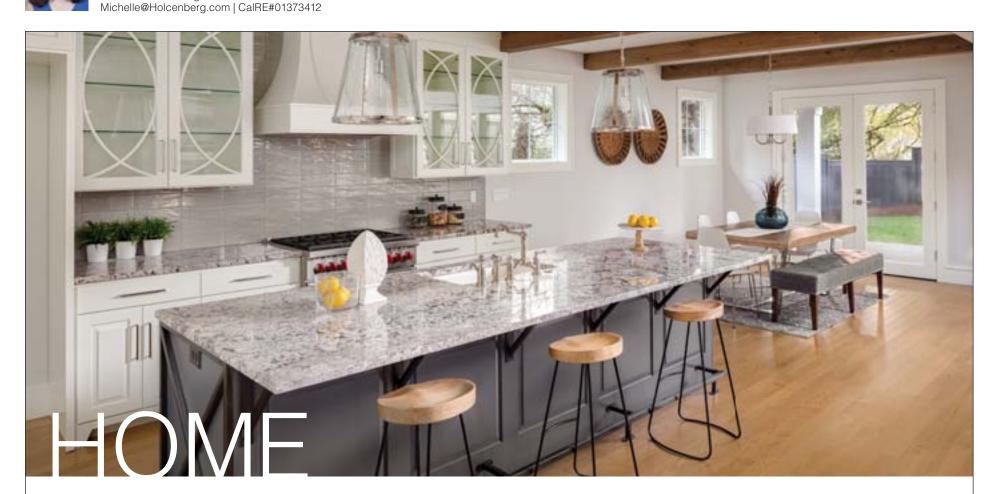






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LAMORINDA WEEKLY www.lamorindaweekly.com ConFire powers up to head off dangerous fire season ahead



Courtesy ConFire

ConFire bulldozer to work expanded schedule for fire season

By Nick Marnell

A comment from Steve Hill, public information officer for the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, sums up

what lies ahead this summer for much of Northern California – especially Lamorinda.

"We are anticipating fire behaviors that are at least as extreme and unpredictable as we have seen in the past two years in neighboring counties and across the state. There is every possibility – given the fuels situation and fire weather forecasts – they will be more extreme and unpredictable than in recent years," Hill said.

The district has beefed up staffing to handle the potential wildfire onslaught in Lafayette with the scheduled August reopening of Fire Station 16 and having placed Engine Company 16 into service in April, working temporarily out of Fire Station 15 on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. The reopened Fire Station 19 in Briones heightens protection against a wildfire raging over the hills into Lamorinda.

ConFire also added two new Type 3 wildland engines to its apparatus fleet and beginning July 1, Fire Dozer 220 will commence daily service. Many recall that the ConFire

bulldozer was a key player in the containment of the July vegetation fire near Buckingham Drive in Moraga, helping prevent the fire from rolling over the hill and causing extensive property damage. The district plans to put a second fire bulldozer into service later in the season.

In addition, working in conjunction with other fire jurisdictions across the state, ConFire will pre-position firefighting resources in high risk areas ahead of predicted fire weather.

The firefighters also refocus their own efforts for fire season. "Do not become complacent with our historical local fire problems. Tactics employed in the past may no longer be applicable to the problems faced today," Assistant Fire Chief Chuck Stark said via internal correspondence to his suppression personnel. "Anticipate the po-

tential for extreme fire behavior throughout this fire season, and base decisions on the current conditions."

Stark's advice applies to the public as well, as ConFire reminds all property owners to take nothing for granted this fire season and to do their part to protect their homes and businesses. "The most important person protecting a home or business is not the firefighter that arrives on scene during the wildfire, but instead the owner who takes necessary actions well before the fire season even starts," Hill said.

Two key mitigating actions for property owners include the creation of defensible space around their properties and the removal of unruly vegetation by the weed abatement deadline. For Lafayette, that deadline is June 16.

MOFD fire flow tax unchanged for 2019-20

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District May 15 held its fire flow tax for fiscal year 2019-20 to \$0.06 per fire flow unit, a rate the district has not exceeded since its 1997 inception.

A fire flow tax quantifies the risk of fire to a parcel. MOFD uses a complex formula to determine the number of fire flow units allotted to a parcel, but key variables in determining the figure are parcel size, the installation of a sprinkler system and construction type. In short, the more of a fire hazard a property is, the more "fire flow" water – is needed to save it.

The history of the MOFD fire flow tax is nearly as complex as its formula.

In 1980, voters in the Moraga Fire Protection District, to make up for district revenue lost due to Proposition 13, passed a special tax "not to exceed 6.0 cents" per fire flow unit, with proceeds used to fund operations and capital needs of the district and for other expenses "deemed necessary by the Moraga Fire Protection District." Twelve years later, Moraga residents voted to increase the tax to a maximum of \$0.30 per fire flow

As a condition for the 1997 consolidation of MFPD and the Orinda Fire District into MOFD, Orinda voters passed a fire flow tax as well, but the 1997 ordinance said that the Orinda rate "shall not exceed 6 cents" per fire flow unit. Orinda residents never voted to increase the maximum Orinda fire flow tax, and MOFD has declined to raise the Moraga fire flow tax above the \$0.06 that

Orinda pays, let alone to \$0.30.

The failure of the district board to raise the Moraga fire flow tax adds to the inequity some Orinda residents feel about the tax burdens placed upon each municipality for services received, as Moraga residents pay 19 percent of their property tax bill to the district while Orindans pay 23 percent, according to the latest MOFD Municipal Services Review. "We don't allocate our services based on what city it is," Board President Steven Danziger said. "Some people just don't

seem to understand that."

The district projects fire flow tax revenue for 2019-20 at \$548,000 from the Orinda Service Zone and \$536,000 from the Moraga zone. Orinda resident Steve Cohn appealed unsuccessfully to the MOFD board that "if the rate for the Moraga Fire Flow Tax was increased to the statutory limit of 30 cents, this would generate an additional \$2.1 million of revenue," which he proposed could be used for added fuel mitigation efforts.

The story behind the emergency preparedness and evacuation guide

By Nick Marnell

Board of Directors

Visit www.mofd.org

The idea to publish the Lamorinda Guide to Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation, delivered to residents' homes

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Wednesday, June 19, 7 p.m.

Go to the website for meeting

location, times and agendas.

Fire District Public Meetings

in late May, arose from a trip to Napa after the 2017 firestorm that burned 245,000 acres and destroyed more than 8,000 structures in Northern California.

As Duncan Seibert, pro-

ConFire

Board of Directors

gram manager of the Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team and chair of the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission, worked shelters in and around the North Bay city, he



Tuesday, July 9, 1:30 p.m. Board Chamber Room 107, Administration Building

saw that fire victims came to the shelters with nothing. "When the fire approached their back door, people had 15 seconds to get away," Seibert said. They arrived with no identification, no credit cards, no possessions whatsoever. The horrifying situations that Seibert saw at the shelters moved him to do something to help people bet-

ter prepare for an emergency. Thus arose the concept for the Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation guide, published by the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission. The booklet cost \$10,000 to produce and was mailed to 27,500 Lamorinda addresses, with 7,500 copies distributed

The booklet not only covers emergency preparation but also provides evacuation information, highlighting one of the most elegant public warning systems in the

... continued on next Page

Public Safety

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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 PRAYETT Department Incident Summary Report May 5 - May 18 50

Alarms 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 138 Traffic Suspicious Circumstances Suspicious Subject Suspicious Vehicle 13 Service to Citizen Patrol Req./Security Check Vacation House Check Supplemental Report 47 8 17 29 19+ School Assembly Check Welfare Check **Vehicle violations** Auto Burglary
3500 Block Plaza Way

Police Department 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Pleasant Hill Rd./Park Ln. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4) DUI Misd

Olympic Blvd./Reliez Station Rd. Hit And Run Misdemeanor Reliez Station Rd./Olympic Blvd. 1200 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd. Police Department 3600 Block Deerhill Rd. Brook St/East St.

651 Pine St., Martinez. For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org 4100 Block Leach Rd. Theff From Venici

3800 Block Happy Valley Rd. Deer Hill Rd./Sierra Vista Way 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Reckless Driving Police Department Mt. Diablo Blvd./Carol Ln. 900 Block Condit Rd.

Mt. Diablo Blvd./Acalanes Rd. Vehicle Theft 1200 Block Rose Ln.

Other criminal activity Mt. Diablo Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.

Forgery Sr 24 At Fish Ranch Rd.

Grand Theft 900 Block Hawthorn Dr. Oak Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24 Identity Theft

3400 Block Springhill Rd. 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 700 Block Old Jonas Hill Rd.

Panhandling 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Quandt Rd./Hillview Ln. Petty Theft 1200 Block Dunsyre Dr.

Quandt Rd./Candy Ct. 3300 Block N Lucille Ln. Shoplift 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Wb24/Acalanes

4000 Block Fiora Pl. 1100 Block Martino Rd. Reliez Station Rd./Beechwood Dr. Violation Custody Order Moraga Rd./Silver Springs Rd.
Nuisance to the Community

3300 Block Ridge Rd. Disturbance-Fight 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Disturbing The Peace Mt. Diablo Blvd./Carol Ln. Deerhill/Whole Foods

Disturbance-Domestic

Mt. Diablo Blvd./Acalanes Rd. Drunk In Public 3400 Block Golden Gate Way 3600 Block Deerhill Rd.

Harassment
Pleasant Hill Rd./Old Tunnel Rd.
Intoxicated Subject
1000 Block Circle Creek Ln.

Loud Noise 900 Block Risa Rd. 3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct. (2) Police Department Public Assembly Check 500 Block Glenside Dr. 900 Block Risa Rd.

Public Nuisance 900 Block Moraga Rd. Brook St./East St. Saranap Ave./Old Tunnel Rd. Withers Ave./Taylor Blvd. 500 Block Merriewood Upper Happy Valley Rd./Los Arabis Dr.

Vandalism 600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 900 Block Risa Rd. 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 100 Block Lafayette Circle

Animal Cruelty 1000 Block Buchan Dr.

H&S Violation 1000 Block Dewing Ave.

Indecent Exposure Reliez Station Rd./Olympic Blvd. Ordinance Violation 4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 4000 Block Happy Valley Rd.

Trespass Lafayette Cr./Hough Ave. Oak Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd. Unwanted Guest

Police Department 1St St./Mt. Diablo Blvd.





Service to Citizen Patrol Req./Security Check Supplemental Report Vacation House Check Welfare Check **Vehicle violations** Auto Burglary
10 Block La Salle Dr.
Excessive Speed
Donald Dr./Moraga Rd.

Moraga Way/St. Andrews Dr. (2) Lucas Dr./Moraga Rd. Home Goods Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd. Corliss Dr./Moraga Rd. Country Club Dr./School St. Moragá Commons Country Club Dr./St. Andrews Dd. Rheem Blvd./Fernwood Dr. Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.

Moraga Way/Camino Ricardo Hit And Run Misdemeanor 2000 Block Ascot Dr. Reckless Driving Moraga Country Club St. Marys Rd./Moraga Rd. Canyon Rd./Moraga Rd. Rheem Blvd./Fernwood Dr. 300 Block Moraga Rd.

Tc - Property Damage 300 Block Rheem Blvd. Vehicle Theft 20 Block Sea Pines

Other criminal activity Identity Theft 10 Block Wandel Dr.

Panhandling Safeway Petty Theft Safeway 100 Block Alta Mesa Ct.

Robbery Armed 400 Block Moraga Rd. Nuisance to the Community

Disturbing The Peace
Joaquin Moraga Int. School Starbucks Loud Music 60 Block Miramonte Dr.

Loud Party

Draeger Dr./Turk Dr.
1700 Block School St.
Public Assembly Check
Safeway
Rheem Valley Shopping Center (4) Public Nuisance 30 Block Carr Dr.

Vandalism 3900 Block Paseo Grande

Accident Property
Fernwood Dr./Rheem Blvd.
10 Block Bal Tusrol
Donald Dr./Moraga Rd. Corporal Injury Spouse 300 Block Corte Gabriel

Ordinance Violation Country Club Dr./St. Andrews Dr.



Department Incident Summary Report May 19 - June 1

Alarms 49 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) Traffic Suspicious Circumstances Suspicious Subject Suspicious Vehicle 6 Service to Citizen 45 Patrol Req./Security Check 12 Vacation House Check 6 Supplemental Report 10 Welfare Check **Vehicle violations**

Wells Fargo 60 Block Moraga Way 200 Block Overhill Rd. Safeway Grand Theft From Vehicle 60 Block Rheem Blvd. 100 Block Las Vegas Rd. to public safety agencies.

United States

Reckless Driving Miramonte High School Claremont Ave./Camino Pablo Moraga Way/Brookwood Rd. San Pablo Dam Rd./Bear Creek Rd. Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.

Road Rage Inc El Toyonal/Loma Vista Dr. Tc - Property Damage Camino Pablo/Monte Vista Rd. Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. Miner Rd./Camino Pablo

Vehicle Theft
Camino Pablo/Wildcat Canyon
4200 Block El Nido Ranch Rd.
Other criminal activity

Burglary 20 Block Tara Rd. 20 Block Orinda Way Commercial Burglary Beverages And More

Corporal Injury Spouse Camino Pablo/Moraga Way Grand Theft 100 Block Camino Pablo

20 Block Camino Don Miguel (2) 60 Block Via Floreado Identity Theft 30 Block Las Cascadas Rd.

Other Felony 50 Block Tara Rd.

Petty Theft
10 Block Theatre Sq 106
Residential Burglary
10 Block De Soto Ct. 40 Block Robert Rd.

Robbery Police Department Shoplift Rite Aid Warrant Arrest

Safeway Camino Pablo/Wb Sr 24 Chevron Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-Domestic Safeway Loud Music

100 Block Crest View Dr. 10 Block Martha Rd. Loud Noise

70 Block Meadow View Rd. Camino Pablo/Claremont Ave. Loud Party 60 Block Brookwood Rd. Public Assembly Check

Cvs **Other**

AAccident Property 50 Block Overhill Rd. Failure To Obey Camino Pablo/Wildcat Canyon School Assembly Check Miramonte High School

Vandalism 60 Block Moraga WayOrdinance

Violation 100 Block Las Vegas Rd.



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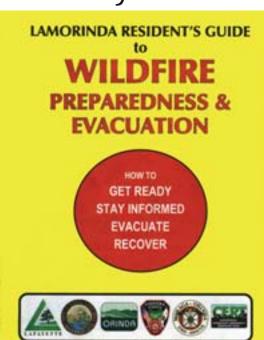
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The story behind the emergency preparedness and evacuation guide



... continued from Page A8

Roughly speaking, fire agencies have the knowledge to handle emergencies but have no authority to evacuate. Police departments have the authority to evacuate but have no means to communicate to the public. The ability to communicate emergency evacuation information to the public lies with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System, which alerts residents and businesses that may be impacted by an emergency.

In 2016, the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission established 18 evacuation zones in the city and posted the evacuation zones into the CWS computer. Lamorinda Community Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein mapped out the evacuation zones for Moraga (23) and Orinda (24) shortly afterward and delivered the data to the warning system. "What could take 15 minutes in the field now happens very quickly," Rein said.

For example, during a fire emergency that hits locations within Orinda Zones 4 and 5, the incident commander calls the police chief not with a request to evacuate a long list of street addresses comprising the affected area but with a request to simply evacuate Orinda Zones 4 and 5. The police chief calls CWS and tells the agency to issue the evacuation order for those two zones only.

The booklet contains pages of

evacuation information, including explanations of red-flag warnings, mandatory orders and what to do if trapped. But the most important thing that Lamorinda residents can do, according to Seibert, is to sign up with the county warning system. "Less than 25 percent of people in Lamorinda are registered with CWS," Seibert said. Registration at the CWS website should take no more than five minutes. and the booklet provides all the necessary information.

"The booklet we just put out is another piece of the preparedness puzzle. If people heed all of the information in the booklet, the whole community will be safer," Rein added.

Nonprofit builds momentum in bid to 'Light up the Park Theater'

... continued from Page A3

With a vision of seeking a self-supporting model as an artistic and cultural venue that would help revitalize the downtown and serve multiple generations through a wide array of programs from film screenings to live music and theater to kid programs and as a venue for special events, $\ensuremath{\mathsf{TPTT}}$ is working with multiple community stakeholders. Its plan includes having a commercial kitchen.

The theater would be owned by the nonprofit and run by a for-profit operator.

TPTT found out early on through a building assessment that the theater is structurally sound. Some work, including a new roof will be required. First steps will be acquisition of the property and the fourplex residences behind the theater for the \$2.95 million price tag followed by renovations that are expected to be in the region of \$1.5 million.

And it was with that in mind that Farrell finished her presentation by delivering the trust's three "asks" to the council.

Farrell asked for the

council's recognition and endorsement of the work they are doing and as part of that she asked that the city consider participating financially, exploring various ways to do

that. "We know there are many worthwhile projects the city is considering," said Farrell, "but we believe that, based on what we have heard these many months, bringing the Park Theater back to life in the way we envision has, perhaps of all of them, the most potential to positively impact the entire Lafayette community."

Farrell explained, "We are very grateful for the recent financial award from the Lafayette Community Foundation. It was a huge vote of confidence in our efforts. A city contribution would significantly boost our momentum even more as we prepare to launch our general fundraising activities and greater community

The trust also asked for the council to support the density transfer concept that was first proposed last summer as a way to facilitate property.

Finally Farrell asked that city staff be allowed to meet with them and discuss TPTT's potential participation in the Historic Overlay District, allowing staff to waive requirements of written permission from the sellers so they can in good faith gather the information they need to address

parking guidelines for discussions with potential operators.

Following the council's generally receptive comments and a point made by Council Member Steven Bliss that this project would hit many of the city's current goals including downtown vibrancy, commu-

Store It Yourself

nity input and engagement as well as multi-generational inclusion, the council agreed unanimously for city staff to respond to the three requests by TPTT and bring it back to the June 24 meeting.

TTPT expect to have their website up very soon at www.parktheatertrust.org/.

City nails down timeline for selection of permanent city manager

... continued from Page A2

According to the city's announcement, the timeline will be as follows:

- July 8 Avery will present its initial recommendation of candidates to the council. The council will decide which of the candidates presented it wishes to interview.
- July 19 The council will interview the candidates it selected from Avery's initial recommendations.
- hold subsequent interviews with the finalists selected after the first round of interviews. Community and

held with the finalists. All interviews will take place in closed session to ensure candidates' confidentiality. Kimura pointed out the risk of losing qualified candidates who could choose to opt out if their names were to become



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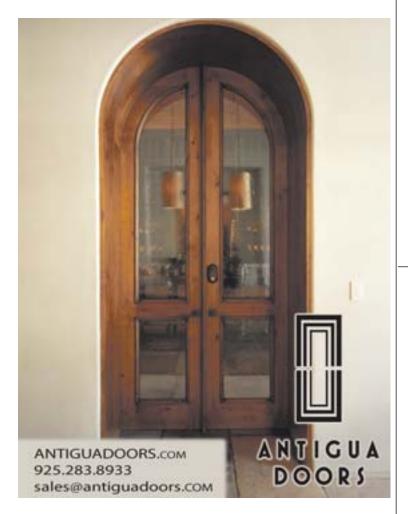
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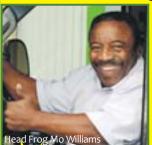
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Taco Bell reopens in Moraga



Taco Bell in Rheem Center open for business

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

After over a year of delays, the newly remodeled Taco Bell, located at 410 Moraga Road in the Rheem Shopping Center, officially opened on June 5.

Just in time for warm summer days, outdoor seating with purple umbrellas makes a noticeable first impression to arriving customers. The restaurant itself has undergone a from-theground-up remodel. The exterior is an updated version of the classic Taco Bell structure, while the interior boasts a modern décor with an old world twist and nod to Latin roots. Brown, off-white and black are the color schemes incorporated into the dark wooden tables and matching chairs along with subtly tiled floors and coordinating wallpaper. Higher tables located in the middle of the dining area offer bar

stool seating and Wifi.

The menu remains the same with a couple of new items and breakfast offerings. Besides ordering at the counter, a drive-thru window is available for diners on-the-go and there's also an ordering kiosk inside.

Taco Bell's District Manager Suzanne Kennedy officially put a stop to the rumors that the Moraga location was going to offer alcoholic beverages on the menu. "I don't know where that came from. We do have a Taco Bell Cantina in Berkeley that offers alcohol."

Kennedy gave a brief history lesson on Taco Bell's origins. The first location was built in 1962 in Downey, California. The oldest franchise in our area is located in Lafayette. She explained, "Taco Bell's corporate office makes each store remodel within a 20 year period. I don't know why they've never had Lafayette remodel, other than maybe it's a bit historic." Each remodel has to adhere to the basic structural integrity of Taco Bell's

aesthetic theme. Moraga's location couldn't have picked a better time to reopen its doors. Just in time for the NBA Finals, the "Steal a game, steal a taco" offer has been made official thanks to the Golden State Warriors "stealing" a win from the Toronto Raptors in Game 2 while playing in Toronto. On Tuesday, June 18 between 2 and 6 p.m. customers can get one free Doritos Locos Taco. Kennedy stated, "Taco Bell will also make that same offer during the World Series."

Restaurant hours are Sunday through Thursday 6 a.m. to midnight, and Friday and Saturday 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. The closing hours are tentative as this location adjusts to Moraga's taco craving needs.

A variety of summer entertainment opens in Lamorinda



At last year's Moraga concert

... continued from Page A1

The concert schedule for each location is as follows:

Orinda Concerts in the Park, with food trucks, will be held on the following Tuesday evenings, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.: June 18, Jet Blacq; June 25, West Grand Blvd; July 9, Flashback; July 16, Lamorinda Idol; July 23, Dirty Cello; July 30, Vintage Jukebox; Aug. 6, Site 6 Bank; and Aug. 13, Floorshakers.

Lafayette: Concerts at the downtown Lafayette Plaza Park are offered from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday evenings during the month of June, featuring Zebop! on June 14, Purple Haze on June 21 and the Keep on Trucking Band on June 28. Concert goers are encouraged to bring a picnic

supper and a blanket to sit

Moraga: Concerts in the Moraga Commons Park run every Thursday evening in the summer, including on the Fourth of July, with concerts start at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. The 2019 Schedule is: June 13, Retroactive Dance party; June 20, 3 Day Weekend Classic rock; June 27, Beatles Flashback, Beatles tribute band; July 4, House Rockers, rock and soul 11 performers (7 p.m. concert); July 11, Apple Z, smoking hot rock and roll; July 18, Foreverland, electrifying tribute to Michael Jackson; July 25, Mixed Nuts, hits from the '40s to present; Aug.1, Moonalice Bay Area '60s psychedelic rock; and Aug. 8, Bell Brothers, Country to

Photo Wendy Scheck American Rock. MPF volun-

teers will offer food in the

Snack Bar, which opens at 6

On Sunday, July 28, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Orinda Community Park, Solo Opera teams up again with the Orinda Rotary Club to present the club's 11th annual Opera in the Park. Sponsored by the Orinda Rotary, the free performance, which usually attracts at least 1,000 people, is an opportunity to hear professional opera singers perform favorite arias, duets, and ensembles, which organizers say will thrill even non-opera lovers. This year there will also be a few musical theater pieces added to the mix!

Letters to the editor

A response to recent letters on Climate Change

The science of climate change begins with John Tyndall in 1859. He measured large differences in the abilities of "perfectly colorless and invisible gases and vapors" to absorb radiant heat. So-called "greenhouse" gases, including CO2 and methane, transmit incoming solar radiation, but absorb long-wave infrared radiation reflected back from the surface of the earth.

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Svante Arrhenius in 1895 presented a paper to the Stockholm Physical Society titled, "On the influence of Carbonic Acid [CO2] in the Air upon the Temperature of the Ground." His "hot-house theory" of the atmosphere showed that without CO2, the earth would be extremely cold, and with more CO2 it would be hotter. By 1904, he became concerned with increases in atmospheric CO2 caused by burning coal and oil and calculated expected changes in temperature.

What we now know is that atmospheric CO2 and global temperatures have been relatively stable for the past 10,000 years prior to the industrial revolution. However, since the start of the industrial revolution in 1760, atmospheric CO2 has increased by 50 percent, from 280 to 415 parts per million – higher than at any time in the past three million years. And the rate of increase in atmospheric CO2 is currently accelerating. Scripps Institute of Oceanography: https://scripps.ucsd.edu/programs/keelingcurve/

In the late 1970s and 1980s Exxon and Shell Oil extensively researched the effects of CO2 from fossil fuels on the earth's climate. Shell, for example concluded "by the time the global warming becomes detectable it could be too late to take effective countermeasures to reduce the effects or even to stabilize the situation." When it became apparent that decreasing the release of CO2 would adversely affect profits, the companies started a concerted campaign to deny and cast doubt about the scientific findings, which continues to this day. https://biotech.law.lsu.edu/blog/Shell_Climate_1988.pdf

To further understand the earth's climate, see the following links: www.climate.gov/#understandingClimate

NOAA Antarctica 101: www.climate.gov/news-features/features/antarctica-colder-arctic-it%E2%80%99s-still-losing-ice

Jim Urlick Orinda

Periphery residents want to be seen

After a decade-long uptick in elementary school students' commutes increasing from 6 minutes to 30 minutes, residents in the northeast of Lafayette started organizing efforts to thwart WAZE users. Commuters from outside jurisdictions, as far away as Antioch and Brentwood, were using Reliez Valley, Lafayette district's school bus route and residential road, to bypass 680 and Taylor Rd. south during peak morning travel. We knew that in order to protect our district students' commutes, we needed multiple turn restrictions during school bus hours, some of which were eventually approved by District 5 County Supervisor Fed-

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

eral Glover.

Being that some of us live within a very illogical area of County, versus Lafayette, made finding support for our district kids very difficult. It took over two years and thousands of resident volunteer hours to get three out of the five requested signs approved. Our area is home to a triple-junction of county supervisory districts where we needed to appease 3 out of 5 County Supervisors often with conflicting motivations for their constituencies. And, even though we have Lafayette 94549 addresses and are within the Acalanes/Lafayette school districts, we are in an unincorporated portion of county and have a very outdated Pleasant Hill Sphere of Influence (SOI).

SOI is a bureaucratic map layer used by cities for future planning and ours has been outdated and illogical since at least 1988 when the Acalanes/Lafayette district boundaries were changed to correctly include us for reasons of topography, community identity, access roads, and commute patterns. Typically, SOI updates are initiated by city managers and county supervisors, but ours was overlooked and it has recently fallen on us to correct it. Having a logical SOI, a Lafayette SOI, versus a Pleasant Hill SOI, is one step towards unraveling the illogical boundaries that plague the northeast of Lafayette and make progress with respect to issues like circulation so difficult. Correcting the SOI is also a first step towards annexing to Lafayette if neighbors and the city of Lafayette come to see this as mutually beneficial.

We currently cannot vote in Lafayette city elections or on city referendums that often affect us and we share common community values with most Lafayette constituents whose city slogan is Green hills, Great schools. Our SOI application has been submitted to LAFCO, the public agency tasked with helping to facilitate logical boundaries. In the meantime, Pleasant Hill will not take a position on our SOI request and Lafayette City Council, voted 4-1 to oppose correcting the SOI, citing costs and already overburdened staff as reasons for their denial. This is leaving us frustrated and wondering who will represent our best interests? LAFCO will deliberate on our SOI request after June 4.

Kristen Altbaum Lafayette (unincorporated)





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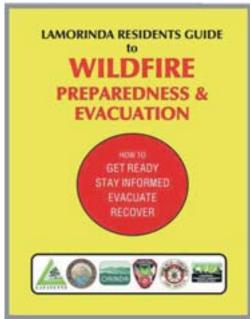


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Is Lafayette paradise, or the next Paradise?

Last week we all received this Lamorinda Residents Guide to Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation in the mail, reminding us that: "Six of the 20 largest fires in California's recorded history have burned in the last five years, and 10 of California's most destructive wildfires have occurred since 2015." Increased danger from firestorms is most acute at wildland-urban interfaces - what we all used to call semi-rural neighborhoods. In size, extensive open space and limited infrastructure, Lafayette shares many vulnerabilities with Paradise CA, before Paradise was flattened by last year's Camp Fire.





Traffic safety IS fire safety.

our families and our neighbors.

Lafayette's founders designed a small, self-sufficient City with a one-street downtown surrounded by mostly low-density residential neighborhoods. They could not have anticipated 21st century political demand for high-density housing, or the current elevated risk of fast-moving firestorms. Consequently Lafayette has few arterial streets and many narrow windy roads, serving thousands of homes along urban-wildlife interfaces. Whatever impedes first responder access and swift evacuation in the event of wildfire, imperils our homes,

The proposed Terraces of Lafayette would compromise public safety.

By further exacerbating traffic congestion around Deer Hill and Pleasant Hill Roads, the proposed 315-apartment Terraces of Lafayette would create significant unmitigatable health and safety hazards to our community. Lafayette must therefore require a rigorous Supplemental Environmental Impact Report on the Terraces, completed by a qualified consultancy of the City's choosing and subject to formal public review and comment. Instead the developer, O'Brien Land, has preemptively commissioned, from its own picked and paid consultants, an Addendum EIR, which is meant for "minor" corrections and avoids the public comment requirement. O'Brien's Addendum relies on traffic data gathered in 2009, and somehow neglects to mention the fact that the 22-acre Deer Hill parcel was designated a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, by ordinance of the City Council, in 2013. Cramming in 315 apartments, 672 parking spaces and multiple large multi-story buildings at a chokepoint intersection in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone is just poor planning. If a major fire event should occur in Lafayette, every household along the Pleasant Hill Road corridor would face potentially deadly delays in evacuation time and first responder access time.

Our City Council must insist on thorough, independent and current analysis before considering any application for the Terraces.

Please email cityhall@lovelafayette.org, and cc contact@savelafayette.org, to add your voice to those demanding sensible development that doesn't make our precarious fire situation worse. For more information please visit us online at savelafayette.org.





Save Lafayette is a nonprofit group of volunteers reliant on donated funds.

O'Brien Land can outspend us by orders of magnitude. If you're able to help financially, please send your check payable to Save Lafayette, 3220 Ronino Way, Lafayette CA 94549.

Lamorinda celebrates its graduates





Photos Gint Federas

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April Matthews



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Woodstock in Lafayette



Photo Pippa Fisher

By Pippa Fisher

The Fog City Swampers brought the sounds of Woodstock to the Plaza Park June 7. With plenty of tie-dye in evidence, the Chamber of Commerce transformed the Plaza

to mark the 50th anniversary of the famous festival.

The park was packed with all ages enjoying the music despite conflicts with graduations and Warrior's playoff basketball. Families picnicked, danced and enjoyed the cover band's sounds of Creedence Clearwater Revival. Old and young enjoyed the beautiful evening, the

first in the series taking place

every Friday evening in June.



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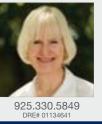


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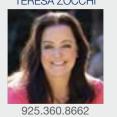


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Life in

Volunteers overhaul pétanque courts, welcome community to the sport

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A petanque player throws the ball from within a circle, attempting to get her "boules" closer to the target ball than her opponent's.

By Pippa Fisher

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Lamorinda Pétangue Club. And the courts have never looked better.

In fact the courts, which sit alongside the creek near the Lafayette Community Center amongst shady trees at 480 St. Mary's Road, have recently had a bit of an overhaul.

"We did all the work ourselves. We are all volunteers," explains Club Director Gilbert Sonet, with obvious pride in the beautiful grounds.

Sonet, who hails from Provence but has lived in the Lamorinda area for 30 years and worked in the restaurant industry, stresses that pétangue is a game for

"The outstanding feature of pétanque is that it brings together people of all ages, genders and backgrounds in a way unheard of in more physically demanding sports," says Sonet, noting that they always welcome visitors. "Our club members are a very friendly

Pétanque is easy to learn, so anyone can enjoy it from the first time they play. The basic rules are simple and easy to follow. To start playing, all that's needed is a set of metal balls (boules) and a wooden target ball (cochonnet). It is similar to bocce ball from Italy and lawn bowling

from England.

The club has boules available to borrow. Members welcome newcomers and encourage anyone interested to drop by when the courts are open on Sundays from 1 p.m., and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. until dusk. Sonet points out you don't have to be a member. "Games are open to everyone. We'll show you how to play."

Groups are encouraged to come by, says Sonet, and to bring a picnic to enjoy at one of the shady picnic tables as they try out pétanque.

Make no mistake however; some of their members are playing at a very high level. The Lamorinda Pé-



tangue Club regularly hosts other clubs from across the Bay Area and sometimes from further afield. In 2014 they hosted the National Pétanque Tournament, winning it for Lamorinda.

It is a family affair for Sonet. His son Noah has been playing since he was 4 years old. "He started with plastic balls," explains Sonet.

In 2017 the then-high school freshman represented the U.S. at the pétanque world championship in Marseilles, France. He will again be going to the world competition in Cambodia in November this year with his father.

Currently the Lamorinda Pétanque Club has about 48 members. Only a few are actually French.

Speaking French is optional.



For more information go to their website at http://lamorindapetanque.com/index.html.



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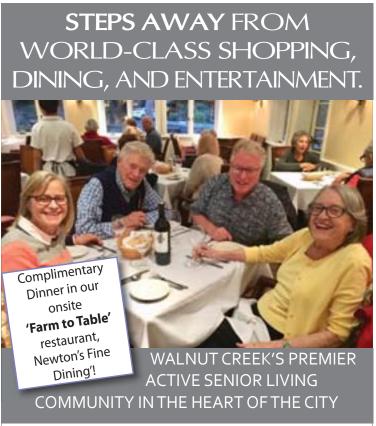
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Although some standouts, 'Women on the Verge' misses the mark



Photo Jay Yamada

Marah Sotelo as Candela in the musical "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown"

By Sophie Braccini

Pedro Almadovar's movie "Women On The Verge Of A Nervous Breakdown" was a cult movie of the '80s, fun, irreverent, provocative, and sexy; it ignited a whole generation of Europeans and Americans alike. Now the question is: Does the play presented at Town Hall Theatre live up to its title? Unfortunately not.

If you saw the movie, the musical adaptation presented by Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette will likely disappoint. Only one or two for the main characters have the passion and extravagance necessary to carry the play, while the rest is flat. For those who have never heard of the movie, the entertainment is fine, with some great music, clever staging and a few daring moments that will let them imagine what this could have been if faithfully captured.

The action takes place in Madrid in 1987. Ivan has just left Pepa, the woman he lived and worked with for many years. She is increasingly desperate, looking for him all over town, while Ivan's wife, Lucia is also looking for him to sew him to get back the lost years. In the meantime, Pepa's friend Candela finds herself entangled in

a passionate romance with a very dangerous person, and she tries to reach her friend with mounting desperation. It is a story of passion, with multiple funny twists. Everyone is hottempered and borders hysteria at times. In the original movie that was nominated for the 1988 Oscars, the talent of director Almadovar and his Spanish actors made it a deliciously deranged comedy.

The adaptation as a musical was created in 2010 on Broadway, and according to Wikidepia had mixed reviews and closed in January 2011 after 30 previews and 69 performances.

Is that play too ambitious for the local theater? Town Hall Theatre has not hesitated in the past to present very powerful production such as Margaret Edson's "Wit" or Tony Kushner's "Angels in America," and did it with mastery. Missing the mark here unfortunately comes from some being miscast. Not everybody is capable of channeling the latent extravagance necessary for this play to work. The only actress who is believable as "on the verge of a nervous breakdown" is Marah

Sotelo as Pepa's friend Candela. The best scene of the play is when she tries desperately to reach her friend on the phone; all is there, the energy, the presence, the over the top passion, and the humor. One would wish that other actors would have followed that lead and played at that level rather than the diligent and proper acting delivered.

The main male character, the womanizer Ivan, is played by Paul Plain, topped with the most strange orange mane. Is that an allusion to the current White House's tenant? It is hard to comprehend how all the women in the play fall over themselves for him. Sheila Viramonte as Lucia and Debbie Lynn Carriger, as Lucia's lawyer, have some good moments, though it is hard to really believe in their characters.

Martin Flynn's scenic design is clever and makes the best use of the relatively limited space on stage, with special mention for the rendition of a full-throttle chase in the streets of Madrid. The music by David Yasbek is very rhythmic and energizing, carried on stage by a talented group of musicians.

"Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown" will run through June 22. Tickets and more information can be found at www.townhalltheatre.com.

Saklan students perform 'West Side Story'



Submitted by Lori Anders

The Saklan School presented its 11th Annual Middle School Musical at Town Hall Theater in Lafayette May 17 and 18 with the Broadway Musical "West Side Story," School Edition with Grace Chaffey, the Music and Performing Arts teacher at Saklan directing the show.

"West Side Story" is based on Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" and takes place in New York City in the 1950s. The themes of this show tied in with the eighth grade Humanities curriculum

Photo Kim Anderson, Anderson DiFranco Photography and involve immigration and race relations, as well as generational gap issues; themes that are

incredibly relevant today. The middle school production is unique at Saklan in that the entire middle school collaborates to put together the show. From roles on the stage to stagecraft, costume design, sound, and stagehands – all students work together to put on this musical production. Throughout this process, students learn to identify on a personal level their characters, collaborate, and deepen their creativity and courage on stage.



Doggone Fun Fest planned for June 23

Submitted by Carolyn Mills

The Orinda Park and Rec Foundation is once again holding its Doggone Fun Fest from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 23 in the Community Park – a great event for kids and pooches alike. This free event will feature agility and obedience demonstrations, the sheriff's canine unit demonstration, many contests, the doggie parade (costume optional) and a raffle. Come join

Photo provided

Girls Scouts achieve 'trip of a lifetime' goal

www.lamorindaweekly.com



Photo Kara Navolio

The Planning Committee regularly meets at Papillon to plan their dream trip.

By Kara Navolio

What can 13 eighth-grade girls accomplish with determination and hard work? The trip of a lifetime, according to the Girl Scouts of Troop 32886.

The Troop, led by Nanette Heffernan, began raising money and planning their eight-day adventure to Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon, Las Vegas and Disneyland when they were in sixth grade. Six girls were part of the Planning Committee: Anie Heffernan, Audrey Garces, Chiara De-Pagne, Sarah Potter, Nia Jeyakrishnan, and Marisa Guerra Echeverria. Neither the girls nor the parents were convinced it could be done. "We just put down everything we could dream

of that would make our dream trip. There were no limits," said Guerra Echeverria. Potter added, "My mom said you guys are not going to be able to do this. None of the parents believed we could do it."

Jeyakrishnan chimed in, "but we proved we could do it!" Each girl was required, by a contract signed by all 13 girls and their parents, to raise \$1,000 completely on their own without parents contributing any money. They had to plan the entire trip, decide where to stay, and even arrange carpools. They earned money from a combination of projects that helped the community to the traditional cookie sales. Girls were also allowed to earn money separately through babysitting and

other jobs to add to their goal.

The girls, all Stanley Middle School students, started out with a Trash-athon. They got sponsors to pledge money for each ounce of trash they picked up. Every Wednesday after school they fished garbage out of Lake Merritt or picked up trash around Lafayette. They even unearthed a bicycle wrapped in a tarp. In all, they collected 3,000 ounces of trash and recyclables and earned \$3,000.

They also held car washes and garage sales. They collected aluminum cans and plastic bottles in their own neighborhoods and earned another \$2,000. In the three years of middle school, they earned \$7,500

through cookie sales. The troop, in total, earned \$15,000, enough for their dream trip, plus half of the cost for each of the four chaperones accompanying them.

The six girls on the planning committee all had specific jobs to do like getting T-shirts made for the trip, planning menus, getting ID tags made or coming up with a Code of Conduct. They earned badges such as "Financing Your Dream," "Budgeting," and "Public Speaking."

On a starlit night in the Narrows at Zion, the girls are planning to bridge from Cadettes to Seniors, the next level of Girl Scouting. Garces and Jeyakrishnan are making a video of memories for the occasion to document all that the girls have been through. Some of them have been in the same troop together since kindergarten at Springhill Elementary.

The girls presented their project to a meeting of Girl Scout leaders and have been asked to help other younger girls learn to do what they have done. Troop leader Nanette Heffernan added, "They are the first troop in this area to accomplish a project this big."

Their excitement was palpable as they prepared to leave on June 8. "None of us could have done this without the others," said De-Pagne. "We learned how easily your mind can be changed when you believe," added Anie Heffernan. There is already talk of a senior trip at the end of high school, and no doubt these girls will accomplish whatever they set their minds to.

Hedgebrook Writing Retreat offered at SMC June 15



Photo provided

Bestselling novelist, poet, and essayist Elizabeth Rosner

Submitted by Mike McAlpin

The MFA Creative Writing Program at Saint Mary's College and Hedgebrook, the prestigious women's writing organization, are collaborating again on Bridging: A One-Day Hedgebrook Writing Retreat for woman-identified, non-binary and genderqueer writers. Held on the Saint Mary's campus on Saturday, June 15 the fourth annual retreat is rooted in the studentcentered immersive writing approach of Hedgebrook and will feature a free keynote address by bestselling novelist, poet, and essayist Elizabeth Rosner.

Rosner's first book of nonfiction, "Survivor Café: The Legacy of Trauma and the Labyrinth of Memory," published in September 2017, was featured on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" and in The New York Times. It was a finalist for a National Jewish Book Award

and named one of the best books of 2017 by the San Francisco Chronicle. Her third novel, "Electric City," was included among the best books of 2014 by National Public Radio. Her poetry collection, "GRAVITY," was also published in 2014. "The Speed Of Light," Rosner's acclaimed debut novel in 2001, was translated into nine languages. Shortlisted for the prestigious Prix Femina, the book won several literary prizes in both the U.S. and Europe, including the Prix France Bleu Gironde; the Great Lakes Colleges Award for New Fiction; and Hadassah Magazine's Ribalow Prize, judged by Elie Wiesel. "Blue Nude," her second novel, was selected as one of the best books of 2006 by the SF Chronicle. Rosner's essays and poems have appeared in the NY Times Magazine, Elle, the Forward, and numerous anthologies.

During the retreat, attendees can benefit from the insights of accomplished writers in a panel on publishing and participate in workshops on topics such as Bridging Character and Plot: Finding Connection; Building Worlds When We Write; and Yoga for Desk-Dwellers: A Movement Class. The retreat will be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., with Rosner's keynote speech scheduled at 7:30 p.m. Cost: \$180 — Includes keynote by Elizabeth Rosner, choice of two of four writing workshops, happy hour reception (non-alcoholic options available), three meals with evening cake and coffee (vegan and gluten-free options available), and networking opportunities. Limited scholarships available.

For more details visit Bridging online at stmarys-ca.edu/hedgebrookretreat or contact retreat coordinators Ani Tascian at atascian@gmail.com or Mary Volmer at mvolmer@stmarys-ca.edu or at (925) 899-5117.





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NCL Acalanes Area Chapter reflects on incredible year of rewarding volunteer service



Denise and Kiki Rosson received the NCL Mother-Daughter Pair Service Award. Kiki also received the Merci Service Award. Both awards reflect their tremendous volunteer commitment over the past year.

Submitted by Laura Dillard

The Acalanes Area Chapter of the National Charity League held its annual Tea and Recognition Ceremony April 14 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center. NCL is a mother-daughter organization that focuses on philanthropy, leadership and cultural awareness. Each year this special event allows the organization to recognize and celebrate the volunteer service of its Chapter members. In the past year alone, the NCL Acalanes Area Chapter volunteered over 7,800 hours in the community serving many organizations including the Bay Area Rescue Mission, UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland, Shelter Inc., Lafayette Events and Tri-Valley Animal Rescue. The Senior Service Award was given to Michaila "Shae" Silva as the member of the Class of 2019 with the most cumulative service hours over her six-year NCL experience. The Merci Award was given to Kiki Rosson again this year as the member with the most volunteer service hours in a single year. Kiki served over 300 hours! Kiki and her mother, Denise Rosson, received the Mother Daughter Pair Award, having served over 140

hours in the community together. In addition, the Class of 2023 took the day of the event as an opportunity to collect many essential items for the residents of the Bay Area Rescue Mission.



Photo Juleen Lapporte

Michaila "Shae" Silva received the NCL Senior Service Award which celebrates her dedicated volunteer service over the past six years.

White Pony Express pushes to reach "Three Angel" \$300K **Matching Fund Challenge**

Submitted by Steve Spraitzar

Every day, 364 days a year, White Pony Express trucks deliver 6,000 pounds of surplus food to people who are hungry in local communities. In addition, WPE delivers 10,000 items of new or like-new clothing, toys, games and books each month to families in local neighborhoods. All of this is done free

Community support helps WPE continue these programs and expand its School Pantry Program, where the nonprofit delivers food to families who often don't have enough to eat. Among other programs, WPE continues to make deliveries of food and clothing to the survivors of the Camp Fire in Butte County - and much more.

WPE recently announced it has received an incredible opportunity. "Three donors, whom we consider to be 'angels,' including Luis Gerardo del Valle Torres, the Heart's Path Foundation, and the Gemmer Foundation have pledged \$300,000 in matching funds for all financial donations, grants and pledges received between April 15 and June 15," said WPE's Steve Spraitzer. "This means that WPE can raise \$600,000 in the next two months, taking a huge step toward achieving our annual fundraising goal of \$2 million."

If you are interested in making a contribution to help WPE with this matching opportunity, go to https://www.whiteponyexpress.org/3angel-match. For more information about WPE, visit www.whiteponyexpress.org

Correction

Our last edition the story "Camino Pablo wins the 28th annual Moraga Rotary Field Day" stated that Olivia Metz won 4 medals and 10 points but she actually garnered 5 medals with a total of 15 points (2 golds, 1 silver and 2 bronze).

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.

Campo senior recognized for Leo Club service and leadership



Eleanor Kim and Dan Hagan

Submitted by Dan Hagan

Eleanor Kim, a senior at Campolindo High School, received a \$1,000 scholarship for her community service and

leadership in the Leo Club at the school. The award was presented to Kim by Dan Hagan, a member of the Moraga Lions Club. Kim will be attending UC Berkeley in the fall.

Gold Award recipients honored

Submitted by Amber Thompson

Orinda-Moraga Girl Scouts honored their **Gold Award Recipients** at a special awards ceremony on Friday, May 17. The Gold Award is the highest award that a Girl Scout may earn. To get the Gold, a scout must first earn a Silver Award and complete a yearlong Leadership Journey (if she did not earn her Silver Award, she must complete two Leadership Journeys). Then, the scout creates a service project that reaches beyond the Girl Scout organization and provides a lasting benefit to the larger community. This project must be reviewed according to strict guidelines, and scouts submit a final report for approval by the Gold Award Committee at the Girl Scout Council. Congratulations to our three Gold Award winners: Mina Boozarpour, Sabrina Fojut, and Roger Wykle. Lilli Heutmaker.

Boozarpour's Gold Award project helps the homeless in our communities. She identified lack of education as a root cause of homelessness and poverty, and Boozarpour wanted to do more to help homeless children stay in school and succeed. She accomplished this by creating ready-to-use "Tool Boxes" that could be distributed to tutors working with underserved students, and she supplied them to Community Education Partnerships, a nonprofit organization that tutors homeless communities. Boozarpour's materials support CEP's program goals, and the collaboration will ensure that the grade-level and subjectspecific materials in her "Tool Boxes" will continue to reach those in

Fojut researched statistics around bicyclerelated injuries, and decided to focus her Gold Award project on bike safety. She planned a

special "Bike Safety Rodeo" at her local elementary school, and coordinated volunteers to help run the big event. She reached out to the Moraga Police Department and arranged for an officer to explain to students the proper rules of the road. Fojut also reached out to a maintenance expert who could show the children how to care for and repair bicycles. Over 50 students benefited from this service to the community — and will now ride



Photos provided

Gold Award recipient Mina Boozarpour from Girl Scout Troop 31361, pictured with Moraga Mayor



Gold Award recipient Sabrina Fojut from Girl Scout Troop 30550, pictured with Mayor Wykle.

safer for it. Heutmaker's Gold Award project was inspired by her love for dramatic performance. She wrote and directed plays in which elementary students could participate for free. During the process, she learned to organize volunteers, secure performance space, manage scheduling, and navigate setbacks. Lilli successfully brought two plays to stage for her students – at no charge - and she started a high-schoollevel club to continue this good work.

A wonderful weekend recipe: Chilaquiles with Tomatillo Salsa



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Chilaquiles with Tomatillo Salsa

Photo Susie Iventosch

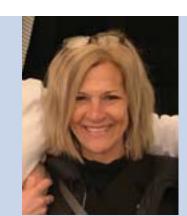
By Susie Iventosch

We just spent a week in Mexico, and I discovered a breakfast dish that is absolutely delicious!

I am not sure why I've never seen or tried it before, because it's practically on every menu. But for some reason it never caught my attention until some of our friends had it on one of their breakfast excursions. The dish is called "chilaquiles" and originally it was a dish with the purpose of using leftovers, but it's become a favorite breakfast dish for locals and foreigners alike, much like shakshouka is in the Middle East.

The origin of the word chilaquiles comes from the ancient Aztec Nahuatl language "chilaquilitl" meaning chili and greens. Basically, the dish consists of corn tortilla strips fried and simmered in either red or green salsa or enchilada sauce, and topped with crema or cheese, but can also be accompanied by eggs, shredded chicken, or beans. Of course, we had to try this at home and we made it with a green tomatillo-chili salsa. There is also a similar and popular Spanish and Portuguese dish called "migas," but this one is normally strips of corn tortilla or tostadas mixed in with eggs, cheese, onions and peppers and all scrambled together. In a future column, I plan to feature our cousin's delicious huevos rancheros, another popular Hispanic breakfast dish. His is unusual and especially tasty.

Unless you are really good at making your own tortillas, store-bought corn tortillas are perfect for this recipe. I have recently begun making my own tortillas, and I have the flour and flourcorn versions down pat. I'm still struggling a bit with the 100 percent corn tortillas, although I did use them in this recipe! They were just a bit thicker than I'd like. When I have those dialed in, I'll share the tortilla recipes, because once you try homemade tortillas, there is nothing quite like them and they are really fairly easy to make!



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

RECIPES Tomatillo Salsa

(Makes about 3 cups)

INGREDIENTS

- 16 tomatillos, husks removed
- 2 Serrano chilis, cut in half lengthwise with stems, seeds and veins removed 2 jalapeño peppers, cut in half lengthwise with stems, seeds and veins
- ½ cup finely chopped yellow onion
- ½ cup cilantro leaves
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 tablespoon lime juice, fresh squeezed
- 1 tablespoon olive oil

Salt to taste

For this recipe, I combined both raw and roasted veggies. I think it gives you a great balance of the roasted and fresh flavors, which are both so good in peppers and tomatillos. So, preheat the broiler to high and take 8 of the tomatillos, 1 Serrano chili, 1 jalapeño pepper and half of the chopped onion and place on a baking sheet. Place approximately 4-5 inches under the broiler and broil for about 4 minutes per side, or until dark blisters start to form on the skins. Remove from oven and allow to cool.

Meanwhile, rinse the remaining chopped onion in cold water for a couple of minutes and then squeeze the water out. This softens the potency of the raw onion. Coarsely chop the remaining tomatillos, chilis and peppers and place them in the food processor along with the rinsed, chopped onion, garlic and cilantro leaves. Process until desired chunkiness. Add the cooled veggies and continue to process. Stir in lime juice, olive oil and salt. Can be made several days ahead of time. Store in airtight container and refrigerate until ready to use.

Chicken

INGREDIENTS

- 2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 teaspoons chili-lime seasoning
- 2 tablespoons your favorite hot sauce

DIRECTIONS

Place chicken breast in a small casserole dish. Rub all over with olive oil and season with chili lime seasoning (Trader Joe's or Tajin both work well for this).

Drizzle a little of your favorite hot sauce over the top. Bake in 350 degree oven for approximately 35 minutes, or until done. Cool and shred with two forks. Can be made a day or two ahead. Wrap and refrigerate until ready to use.

Chilaquiles

(Serves 4 for breakfast) **INGREDIENTS**

- ¼ cup olive oil or canola oil
- 8 corn tortillas, cut into ¾-inch strips
- 1 red onion, chopped
- 2 cups shredded chicken, or 8 eggs (2 per person)
- 2 cups Tomatillo Salsa (recipe above) 1 cup grated mixed Mexican cheese
- ½ cup Cotija cheese or feta cheese
- ½ cup plain yogurt or sour cream
- 4 sprigs of cilantro leaves for garnish
- Extra salsa for garnish

DIRECTIONS

Heat oil in a large, heavy skillet such as cast iron over medium-high heat. Add tortilla strips and chopped red onion and cook until onions are beginning to caramelize and tortillas are becoming a bit crunchy and slightly browned on the edges. Pour 2 cups of the Tomatillo Salsa evenly over the top of the chips, followed by the shredded chicken. Turn heat down and cover to cook just until chicken and sauce are hot. (If using eggs instead of chicken, simply crack the eggs on top of the salsa and chips at this point, cover and cook until eggs reach desired doneness.) Sprinkle grated cheese evenly over the top and place lid back on the pan just until the cheese is melted. Remove from heat and sprinkle Cotija or feta cheese over the top and garnish with cilantro sprigs and a dollop of plain yogurt or sour cream. Serve immediately and pass the extra salsa on the side.



JM jungle party ushers eighth-graders into next adventure

Submitted by Amy Martinez

The eighth-graders at Joaquin Moraga enjoyed a special jungle-themed graduation party, "Let the Adventure Begin!" complete with a jungle cruise boat, a live snake petting zoo, an illusionist and food trucks to enjoy. DJ Ryan O was spinning the tunes and everyone enjoyed a lively evening to celebrate the end of middle school. The JM graduation ceremony was held on June 6 at Campolindo High School, with the adventure beginning for these graduates!

Photos provided



Performing Arts Seniors Recognition Day at Acalanes



Submitted by Janis Workmans

Acalanes High School held its

first ever Performing Arts Senior Recognition Day May 30 in the Big Gym to honor the following eight seniors who will be going on to major or minor in the Performing Arts in college: Isabelle Del Sesto (Screenwriting - NYU); Maverick Fabela (Music Performance USC); Gracie Guichard (Drama - Otterbein University); Katie Heaton (Set Design – Fordham University); Jonathan Le (Songwriting/Music Industry - Berklee College of Music); Natalia Mazeffa (Music Pro-

duction - San Francisco State University); Henry Plumb (Music Performance - Berklee College of Music); Emma Workman (Music Education/French Horn – University of Michigan).

For each of these talented students, being selected for one of these competitive programs represents the culmination of many years of hard work during their time at Acalanes. Most were required to submit to extensive auditions and portfolio presentations as part of the application process before being accepted into their chosen field of study.

Photo Gint Federas

Not to be missed



925-377-0977

Not to be missed



Not to be missed



ART

Lamorinda Arts Alliance announces "A Warm Palette" June 3-27 at the Lindsay Dirkx Brown Gallery, 12501 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon. Member artists dazzle with the warm colors of the season: yellows, oranges, reds and pinks. Other colors were always welcome, however; we were looking for the "warmest palette".

The Moraga Art Gallery's new show running through Aug. 10 will feature the work of Lafayette artistphotographer Lucy Beck, who "paints" floral portraits with light to show the astonishing variety of colors and shapes of small flowers in our gardens, fields and woodlands, and guest artist, Oakland ceramicist Tomoko Jarrell, who specializes in the design and creation simple, comely, Japanese-inspired functional and decorative vases, cups, bowls, and more. For hours

and more information visit www.moragaartgallery.com, call (925)376-5407.

Anne Morrison Rabe will be the featured Artist at Dr. Samadian's Center for Reconstruction and Implant, 23 Orinda Way suite 301, Orinda. The show will run from June 6 through the beginning of September. There will be a reception from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 13. Bring your friends and family to sip on wine and taste hors d'oeuvres as you walk through the office to admire her beautiful work! Dr. Amin Samadian is proud to have affiliated with the Lamorinda Arts Alliance for the opportunity to showcase the artwork of the organization's artists. For more information call (925) 254-2360.

The June exhibit at the art gallery at the Orinda library will feature acrylic paintings by Carla Gelbaum, photography by Jennifer Dzendzel, ceramics by Andrea Ciak, and jewelry and watercolors by

Dina Asna. The exhibit will run through June 30.

Valley Art Gallery presents "Around and About Mount Diablo," a new juried exhibition, through June 29. A competition juried by Timothy Horn, nationally acclaimed painter of the California landscape, "Around and About Diablo" presents 36 choices of artistic interpretation of the beauty of the iconic Devil Mountain and the vibrancy of the surrounding area. In addition the Gallery has assembled nearly 300 new pieces representing the best of the best by East Bay artists on our unique sliding walls — with all works available for sale or rent. Also on hand is a wide-ranging juried selection of locally created fine crafts and jewelry. www.valleyartgallery.org; (925) 935-4311

MUSIC

Lafayette's Rock the Plaza series, now in its 14th season,

takes place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday nights in June at Lafayette's Plaza Park at the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road. This summer, the special artist alley will open at 5:30 p.m. June 14: Zebop!; June 21: Purple

Kick off your summer at Saint Mary's 5th annual Music on the Lawn from 6-9 p.m. on Friday, June 14 on the Chapel Lawn, 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. Bring the whole family (and a blanket) to enjoy music, Damian's famous taco bar, and brats from local Canyon Club Brewery. Wine and beer are not included, but available for cash at the event. Event tickets \$20 per person for adults, \$10 for children. Purchase at: https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/ 5th-annual-music-on-the-lawn

California Shakespeare Theater presents its summer concert series, Echoes at the Bruns Amphitheater. The first concert will take place at 5:30

p.m. on Saturday, June 22 with headliners Thao & the Get Down Stay Down and Sudan Archives. Tickets: \$30 General Admission; calshakes.org/echoes. The show is open to all ages and is ADA accessible.

Lafayette Rotary, Aegis Living of Moraga, and the Rossmoor Big Band will be producing the annual Tribute to the Troops at the Lafayette Reservoir Band Stand from 5 to 8:15 p.m. on July 13. This free concert honors our troops and the Blue Star and Gold Star Mothers who support our troops. Lamorinda residents are encouraged to attend and bring a picnic and enjoy music from the Rossmoor Big Band and Lafayette's very own native son David Martin and Rob Ross from David Martin's House Party. Seating will be provided but attendees can also bring a blanket to spread out on the grass and enjoy the concert.

Moraga Commons Park Summer Concerts from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday evenings in the summer. June 13 features the dance party band Retroactive and June 20 will showcase the classic rock band 3 Day Weekend. Join your neighbors for a relaxing free concert. Bring your picnic blanket or lawn chairs to the grassy hillside in front of the band shell. Enjoy the music while your children enjoy the park. The volunteers of Moraga Park Foundation cook food with the Snack Bar opening at 6 p.m.

THEATER

California Shakespeare Theater opens its 2019 summer season with "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare, playing through June 16 at the Bruns Amphitheater in Orinda. Tickets will be available starting at 10 a.m. on the day of each show through TodayTix (todaytix.com) and the Cal Shakes Box Office (calshakes.org or 510-548-9666). Town Hall Theatre presents "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown" at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and at 2 p.m. on Sundays through June 22. TownHallTheatre.com for more info.

Saint Mary's College MFA in Dance Program presents Convergence, premiering thesis concerts at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 13 and Friday, June 14 at Saint Mary's College of California campus, LeFevre Theatre, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Convergence offers a kaleidoscope of perspectives on the human condition expressed in movement, theatre, music, poetry and design. Ticket link and more information:

www.stmarys-ca.edu/mfain-dance/performance

California Shakespeare Theater's "The Good Person of Szechwan" by Bertolt Brecht; translated by Wendy Arons; adapted by Tony Kushner July 3 - 21 at the Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. Single tickets start at \$20, with discounts available for seniors, students, persons age 30 and under, and groups. For more information and showtimes, visit www.calshakes.org.

... continued on next Page

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'On Borrowed Time' a feel-good movie from the United Arab Emirates





By Sophie Braccini

Efi Lubliner, the co-founder of the local International Film Showcase, is bringing "On Borrowed Time," an excellent comedy filmed in Dubai by director Yasir Al-Yasiri, to Moraga starting this weekend. Lubliner says he sought distribution of this film almost two years ago when he saw it at the Palm Springs International Film Festival because it is becoming increasingly rare to find well-done comedies that do not use triviality and support a good universal moral

The film, which is like a silly version of "Grumpy Old Men" in Arabic, charmed Lubliner. Here four old friends have given up hope as they are slowly but surely ending their lives in a retirement home, but something is going to happen that will shake their world and they will embark on a last adventure. Director Al-Yasiri said in an interview with "Emirates Voice" that he based his script on the short story of famous poet and celebrated songwriter Kareem Al-Iraqi and that it is an inspiring story of human adventure and unquenchable hope.

Lubliner agrees that the theme is universal and that the story of people wanting to continue to live to the fullest sense of the term despite age, would appeal to anyone. He very much enjoyed the actors who portray this quartet of rule-breakers, Abu Hassan the wannabe astrologer and ringleader; Abu Hamad, wheelchair-bound but still dreaming of recording a vocal album; General Talaat the retired general who speaks with military precision, but hides a tender side; "The Pharmacist," who deals prescription meds to his fellow retirees. The production lists a cast of very well-known talents from the area including Kuwaiti actor Saad Al-Faraj; Syrian star Salloum Hadad; and Emirati actors Mansoor Al-Feeli and Marie Al-Halyan.

Lubliner confirms that this is a film for all ages, as long as they can read subtitles.

The film was shot in Dubai, featuring well-known locations such as Atlantis The Palm and SEGA at Dubai Mall. Lubliner found it extremely esthetically pleasing and very well led by Al-Yasiri.

Editor's note: The reporter interviewed Lubliner for this article, but due to technical difficulties did not have the opportunity to see the film prior to press time, unlike when other International Film Showcase movies are reviewed.

The movie will open June 16 at the Rheem Theatre in Moraga for at least one full week; the film will not be showing in Orinda this month. Info: lamorindatheatres.com.

statement.

Not to be missed Not to be missed



Service Clubs Announcements



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

Lafayette Rotary Club

June 20: John Fenoglio-**Boy Scouts of America Scout Executive/CEO**

June 27: Nina Krebbs -**Caring for a Partner** with Dementia

www.rotarylafayette.org www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-CA



LECTURE & LITERATURE

KPFA Radio 94.1 FM presents Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Richard Wolff: 'Save Capitalism? Why? We Can Do Better' from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26 at First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. Richard Wolff will speak on the topic, 'Save Capitalism? Why? We Can Do Better,' answer questions and sign books. Hosted by Sabrina Jacobs. Cost: \$15 advance, \$18 door. For more info see http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4097650 or call (510) 967-4495.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Kindergarten Countdown: Playing, Motor Skill, and Selfhelp from 3 to 4 p.m. on June 15 at the Moraga Library. In a series of three workshops, we will explore and practice the skills your child needs to get ready for kindergarten. This session, we will begin by practicing our scissor skills, then we will finish up by getting active with Simon Says and Red Light Green Light. Register online or by calling the Moraga Library. Please do not bring younger siblings to this program—we look forward to seeing them in future years!

Teen Program-Summer Fun at 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 20 at the Moraga Library. Teen program with Summer Reading Challenges to work on and arts and crafts. All those in 6th - 12 grades are welcome. Snacks will be provided. Sterling Johnson the Bubblesmith at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 3 at the Moraga Library. Sterling Johnson will create a special, space-themed show with his remarkable hand-blown bubbles. He is the only person to ever put a bubble inside a bubble inside a bubble on stage without any tubes or straws, and the first person to walk completely through a bubble film. On this occasion, he will turn his talents out into the universe, creating a unique space-themed show you won't want to miss!

OTHER

Center is hosting Sharla Stevens-Webb, who will speak and hold a workshop on diversity at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 20 at 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. She believes that in our global society people forget that money is spent by people and that people are diverse. In this workshop you will learn how to connect with people from various backgrounds that will lead to more trustworthy relationships and greater revenue for your institutions. Learn the single word that can make or break your first impression. Cost: \$10 pre-registered / \$15 at door / \$5 MT. Diablo Peace and Justice Center and Our Savior's Lutheran Church members / free for students. Tickets available at http://ourpeacecenter.org or call the office (925) 933-7850.

Alzheimer's Association to **host** The Longest Day Event: Sunrise Stroll to End Alzheimer's Disease from 8 to 10 a.m. on Friday, June 21 at the Lafayette Reservoir, 3849 Mount Diablo Blvd Lafayette. The Longest Day is held annually on the summer solstice; the duration of this sunrise-tosunset event symbolizes the challenging journey that so many living with the disease and their caregivers are asked to endure. Walk around Lafayette Reservoir followed by a picnic. Water, snacks, and brunch provided. Recommended \$10 donation. Event Page: https://tinyurl.com/ sunrisestroll

The Orinda Park and Rec **Foundation** is once again holding its Doggone Fun Fest from 1 to 3 p.m. on June 23 in the Community Park. This event is free to the public and will feature agility and obedience demonstrations, the Sheriff's canine unit demonstration, many contests, the doggie parade (costume optional) and a raffle. Come join the fun. This is a great event for kids and pooches alike.

Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan hosts a free Lamorinda Fire Prevention and Preparedness Workshop

from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on June 27 in the Campo High School multi-purpose room. Receive updates on the new North Orinda Fuel Break, learn how to use the Community Warning System in case of wildfire or other emergencies, and get tips on preparing for the upcoming fire season. RSVP: asmdc.org/cf-events

Native living was all-age inclusive. Do you long to experience Native connective belonging to the land and would you love to experience this in the presence of the innocence of youth? Come, open your heart and receive this regenerative connection that had been ours from the beginning as we do many and all things Native. Saclan/Miwok Camp, 8 to 11:30 a.m. July 9-12. Cost: \$65; address: 3932 Mt. Diablo Blvd (across from and just west of the Lafayette Reservoir). To register for classes, please visit www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org. For more information contact us at: marthaharrislcg@gmail.com.

SENIORS

HOPE: Homeownership Protection for Elders with Victoria Snyder and Jessica Neugebauer, Contra Costa Senior Legal Services from 10:30 a.m. to noon on June 23 in the Sequoia Room, Lafayette Community Center. You will learn about tools and techniques to protect your home and its equity; why it is important to file your homestead declaration; and how you might qualify for a property tax postponement. To reserve your spot contact Lafayette Senior Services: Seniors@LoveLafayette.org or 284-5050. Members: Free; Non-Members: \$10

GARDEN

Lafayette Community Gar**den and** Outdoor Learning Center presents a discussion and brief walking tour highlighting Our Wonderful Native Plants, presented by Susan Agnew and Janet Thomas from noon to 1:30 p.m. on June 22. To register for the class visit www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org. Free.

Please submit:

Events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com Stories: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com Letters: letters@lamorindaweekly.com Opinion: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

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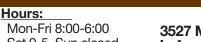
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Campo Basketball's David Ahazie

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Photo Gint Federas

David Ahazie in March at the CIF Championship game

By Jon Kingdon

By Jon Kingdon

"Third time's a charm," it's

torn anterior cruciate liga-

once on the left knee, the

Disheartening hardly

through: "Each recovery took

about a year and I played for

ACL again. That was frustrat-

ing. I liked to put in the effort

and see it pay off, so it was not

easy to see all the work I put

in to build back my strength

and then see it go down the drain again." After the third surgery, the doctors recom-

mended swimming or run-

ning track instead of soccer

since they were noncontact

sports with straight forward

movement.

about a month and tore the

speaks to what Doane went

third time a noncontact

injury.

ment in her knees in eighth

generally a reference to

Playing basketball was a stepby-step process for David Ahazie, which culminated in a state championship for Campolindo High School and his being named second team all-state. Ahazie, who also

played one year of football for Campolindo as a freshman before becoming focused exclusively on basketball, said the love of basketball came early: "I played in the small leagues around Moraga and on the ASA club team."

It was not until Ahazie

was a junior that he made the varsity squad. "David was a late developer," said head coach Steven Dyer. "He always had the talent but he was not a standout when I arrived his sophomore year. I thought that it would be best for him to play on the JV team to get the playing experience rather than sit on the bench with the varsity."

It was a simple formula for Ahazie: "When I started playing, I saw that I could get better if I put the work in. I was close to making the varsity as a sophomore but I had a good time on the JV team and it boosted my confidence."

Dyer saw the difference in Ahazie the next year: "David developed a lot over the summer. He played club basketball and I was pleased at how well he had developed. He really improved his shooting and became more consistent, playing with more confidence."

For Ahazie, it was "the competitiveness of the game and how I saw you could get better if you worked hard. That is what appealed to me

That attitude was soon made clear to Dyer: "I never had to tell him to play harder - not once - something I could not say about any other player on the team. It was David's intensity and how hard he played that made him special. He really understood how to be a good defender.

He was our best defender as a junior and really stood out as a senior."

Ahazie's record speaks for itself. The two years he was on the varsity, the team had a combined record of 48-18, and as a senior was named the league's Most Valuable Player, and was named second team all-state, averaging 16.5 points and 5.2 rebounds and, not to be overlooked, leading the team to a state championship.

The Cougars started slowly with a 4-3 record, but once again, it was a process that culminated in a championship, said Ahazie: "Early on, we had a number of injuries and we were always short of personnel. When we got healthy, it all came together as we got used to playing with each other. I knew we had a lot of talent and we just had to get organized. After playing together in a summer league, I knew that we could do a lot of big things. We were a family. No one tried to outscore anyone and we all pulled for each other."

Dyer echoed that sentiment: "David set the tone with his effort. He was a great leader by example with his effort and intensity. Even though he led the team in scoring, he was not a selfish

player and never looked for his own shot."

Ahazie appreciated what the coaches brought to the team: "Coach Dyer was a great coach and won a lot of games for us along with his assistants Drew McDonald and Chris Dyer. As a group they all helped us put it together."

Ahazie, who has lived in Moraga and now lives in Lafayette, takes away a lot from Campolindo: "It was always a safe place and in a great location. I made a lot of friends there. My favorite classes were in chemistry and contemporary issues. I'm going to miss my friends, my teammates and my coaches."

Campolindo's loss is Loyola Marymount's gain: "When I visited the campus, I could just picture myself there. Plus, my sister goes to USC and I'll be nearer to her. I am going to try and walk on to their basketball team, but if that doesn't work out I'll just play intramurals."

Dyer feels that Ahazie may be able to play at that level: "David still has room to improve and he has a shot to get a lot better in college."

If it's a question of effort, don't ever sell David Ahazie

Maddy Doane: a profile of perseverance



Though active in many sports while growing up in San Francisco, Canada and When someone uses the term moving to Lafayette in the fourth grade, ultimately settling in Moraga, Doane said something positive. Such was her first love had been soccer: not the case for Maddy Doane, "I did run track in elementary a senior at Campolindo High school but I was mainly fo-School. Doane would suffer a cused on soccer and thought it would be my only sport." Doane's speed was evident on grade, ninth grade and 10th the soccer field, playing right grade, all while playing soccer forward "where I could run – twice in the right knee and down the sideline and get to

> the ball." As it has turned out, soccer's loss has been track's gain. In just two seasons that Doane has run track for Campolindo, she set the school record for the 100 meters (12.05), 200 meters (24.66) and the 400 meters (55.52).

It was a slow but gradual process for Doane, says Campolindo head track coach Chuck Woolridge: "Maddy started her junior year being limited to running only three days a week. We were very tentative in her training so as to ease her back into athletic work after all the surgeries and it wasn't until she got into competition, where she felt comfortable going at full speed, that we realized what a talent she had."

Doane's success in track was something of a surprise for her as well: "I just wanted to start a new sport to stay active and in shape. I started track my junior year and ran cross country this fall. We have a great cross country team and it was a lot different from track. However, it kept me in shape and helped me with my endurance, particularly in the long sprints."

Woolridge was looking for more people to come out for the track team when he approached Doane, who was a student in his English class: "I did not know that she was fast but I knew that she was an athlete and I liked working with her. I would often encourage kids to come out for track and field if I knew that they were involved in athletics."

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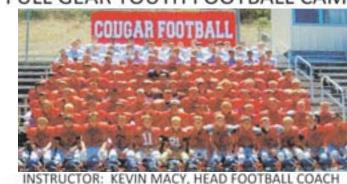
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Maddy Doane: a profile of perseverance



Photos provided

... continued from Page C1

Woolridge explained how Doane had to learn the technique that went into being a top runner, but Doane took the training seriously. "Chuck told me I had only been running on talent and not strength," Doane said. "I took that to heart and I began training a lot harder in the offseason with my sprint coach, Joey Woolridge (Chuck's brother). I learned to run on the balls of my feet so that my entire foot would not hit the ground and how I should pull my leg instead of pushing and use my arm swing. The first season was overwhelming. This year we had three very fast freshmen (Emily Hatch, Sarah Tabibian and Krystin Wilson) and one sophomore (Terryal Bell) and I took it upon myself to lead by example and show them what they needed to do to be successful. I took the responsibility to teach them what I knew and more.'

Woolridge attributes Doane's success to more than just her ability: "When the gun goes off, Maddy competes as hard as anyone I've ever

coached. The other thing that she has going for her is that she is the most efficient mechanically proficient form that I have ever worked with for a sprinter. Her geometry and the strength that she has developed over the years she participated in sports, and the ability to coordinate that is rare, and she was that way when she

The 400-meter race is very taxing and women did not compete in this event in the Olympics until 1964. It is a very challenging race for anyone, says Woolridge: "A great 400-meter runner has to go into the race expecting discomfort and the person that will win the race is going to be the one that is able to maintain and deal with the discomfort more than the others. Run this race and you're signing yourself up for some excruciating pain."

Competing in this event was a learning experience for Doane: "At the beginning, it was a bit of a struggle and it would scare me a lot. I ran out of energy and fell on the track as a junior. The barrier I got over this season was

knowing that I had the strength to take it out as hard as I could and to finish strong. I came to believe in myself mentally and became confident that I could finish the race."

Doane found a lot of support from her coaches: "I would not be where I am today without Chuck and Joey. Chuck puts up a tough personae but in the end, I knew he was proud of us and all that we accomplished. He assured me that I could persevere through the race, which was really meaningful and impactful to me. It helped a lot that he believed in me. Joey was there for me through the summer and winter. He taught me how if I put in the work, I would be successful."

Doane qualified for the state meet for the first time this year and finished 13th in the 200 meters and 11th in the 400 meters. Woolridge had nothing but praise for how well Doane performed at such a competitive venue: "We were very pleased at the way that Maddy handled it. It was her first time in a big meet like that. It's an incredibly intimidating environment, running against some of the top runners in the country and she handled it well. She ran a personal best in the 400 meters and tied her personal best in the 200

After such a successful senior season, Doane has made a verbal commitment to attend UCLA and run for their track team because "I wanted to get the best education and the best experience athletically."

Doane felt she was flying under the radar since she only started running as a junior, so she took it upon herself to get some exposure: "I contacted a number of coaches to put my name out there. My times were much better this year and coaches would start to contact me."

Unbeknownst to her, UCLA considered her a prospect when she began running her junior year, according to the Bruin's sprints and relay coach Curtis Allen: "One of our coaches, Danny Williams saw Maddy run and

told us that she showed a lot of potential. I personally saw her run and came away impressed with her talent. I met with Maddy and found her to be a determined, hard-working, motivated young lady. Plus the fact that she comes from such a good school and had really good grades, made her a great fit for our program. Since Maddy has only run track for two years, she has a great deal of room for improvement. We're not going to limit Maddy at all in which event she will focus on. I think her best race is the 200 but she can run the 400 and run a relay leg. She can do it all, but we'll figure it out when she comes here."

In the end, despite so many hurdles to overcome, Doane comes away from it all with a positive and optimistic outlook: "I am not the same person when I started running track. I just wanted to run, stay in shape and have fun, with no goals in mind for the season. Being able to change my perspective and put in the hard work and be successful has made it a great experience. After falling down so often and getting held back due to the injuries, I was really glad at what I was able to accomplish after so much devastation in my life."



2019 Acalanes seniors recruited to play their sport at the NCAA level



Submitted by Julia Bates

The following Acalanes High School athletes are going on to play an intercollegiate sport (club level sports are

Sydney Bell Eddie Burns **Johnny Choi** Alex Fellner Amanda Fingerut Alex Franke **Emily Gebhardt** Laurel Park Chris Rogers Lexi Rowell Jake Stone Max Stryker

Photo Gint Federas

not included). Divsions 1, 2 and 3 are Women's Tennis

Baseball Men's Water Polo

Track & Field Women's Water Polo Diving Mens Volleyball Swimming Volleyball Football Women's Water Polo Men's Water Polo

recognized.

Additionally, if it is a sport that is offered at Acalanes the student-athlete must have competed on the high school team for a minimum of two

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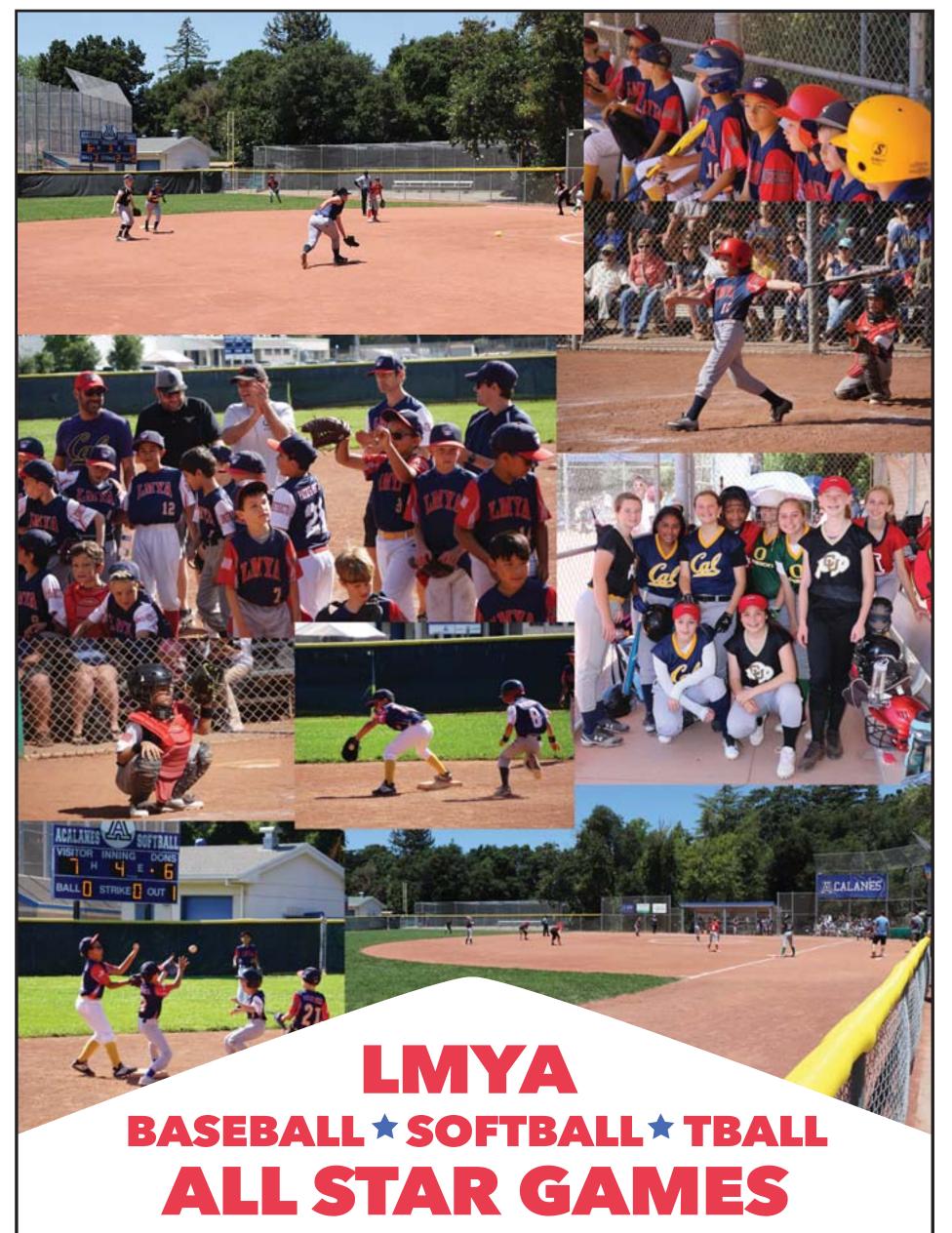
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The Acalanes softball field provided a great venue to celebrate the skills learned and the friendships made during another successful season of LMYA Softball, Baseball and TBall. Baseball Commissioner Anthony Bishop and Softball Commissioner Chris Palma incorporated new events into the season such as the Opening Day Celebration & Parade, Sunday Skills Clinics and the All Star games held on Sunday 6/1. LMYA parent Bryn O'Connor commented "The All-Star game at the end on the big field with the music and the uniforms was so special for the boys. This was our first year playing baseball and it was a great one!" Thank you to all of our volunteers, coaches and families for playing with us!

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2018-2019 Boys DAL All League (DAL Girls will be featured in the June 26 issue)

DAL All-League - Foothill **Division** Baseball - 2018-19 Most Valuable Player - Foothill **Division** Nick Kresnak Acalanes 1st Team All-League - Foothill Division Logan Hurd Acalanes Acalanes Davis Diaz Ioe Hollerbach Miramonte Nicolas Bamont Acalanes Miramonte Charlie Mollahan 2nd Team All-League - Foothill **Division** Tommy Thrasher Acalanes Campolindo Ryan O'Neil Brady Huchingson **Acalanes** Honorable Mention -Foothill Division Declan McMannus Miramonte **Eddie Burns** Acalanes Campolindo Lucas Allen Blake Bates Miramonte **Gold Glove** Adrese Azzani Miramonte Justin Liang Campolindo

DAL All-League – Foothill Division Boys Golf – 2018-19 First Team All-League – Foothill Division Will Condy Acalanes

Acalanes

Thatcher Hurd

Baron Szeto Campolindo
Joe Henderson Miramonte
Second Team: All-League – Foothill
Division
John Lagomarsino Campolindo
Tucker Gannon Acalanes

DAL All-League
Boys Lacrosse - 2018-19
First Team
Mark Cheng Miramonte

Jean-Luc Axelrode Campolindo Charlie Hawkins Miramonte Acalanes Jack Wickline Carson Burrill Acalanes **Second Team** Johnny Cirelli Campolindo Avery Howell Acalanes Cole Barlow Campolindo Paddo Buckley Campolindo Carson Essabhoy Miramonte **Honorable Mention** Marky Hensley Miramonte Reed Watson Acalanes Charlie Bettencort Acalanes Jake Ortiz Miramonte Wilhelm Schueler Acalanes Tucker Loughran Acalanes Campolindo Tyler Kivelson Tucker Shea Campolindo

DFAL All-League Boys Swimming – 2018-19 1st Team All-League

Alec Baker Campolindo Jack Larsen Campolindo Campolindo Mason Loyet Sean Percin Campolindo Campolindo Richard Zhang **Jackson Painter** Miramonte 2nd Team All-League Campolindo Garrett Dunn Matt Lanzara Campolindo Zach Le-Nguyen Campolindo **Honorable Mention** Marcus Longton Campolindo Soren Jensen Campolindo Ryan Lenahan Campolindo Aidan Vollmar Campolindo Will Barber Miramonte Blake Hoover Miramonte Campbell Strand Miramonte

DAL All-League - Foothill Division Boys Tennis – 2018-19 1st Team All-League - Singles
Cal Hunter Campolindo
Clemens Von Dongen
Ryan Everly Acalanes
Nick Bohm Campolindo
1st Team All-league - Doubles
Arjun Chhabra/Rory Miller

Campolindo
Dominic Davidson/Peter Aroner
Miramonte

Nick Broback/Shaan Saha Acalanes

2nd Team All-League –Singles
Liam Sullivan Miramonte
Nishad Elias Miramonte
Cole Brightbill Acalanes

2nd Team All-League –Doubles Ryan Benisadr/Leo Cardoza

Miramonte Henry Hutchinson/Andrew Tso Acalanes

Ethan Arroyo/Alan Zhou Miramonte

Honorable Mention -Singles
Josh Fleming Campolindo
Kaisei Avart-Oyang Acalanes
Nick Hwang Miramonte

DAL All-League Boys Track – 2018-19 1st Team All-League

Name School Event(s)
Edward Buckley Campolindo
1600M, 3200M

Trevor Sidlauskas Miramonte Discus Throw Johnny Choi Acalanes

High Jump Marcus Young Miramonte Pole Vault

Keaziah Smith Acalanes
Long Jump, 4x100 Relay

2nd Team All-League
Garrett Louie Miramonte
800M

Acalanes

Jake Delaney

4x100 Relay
Aidan Mosley Acalanes
4x100 Relay
Matt Miles Acalanes
4x100 Relay
Lucas Moore Campolindo
Discus Throw
Anish Visht Campolindo

Pole Vault
Chris Rogers Acalanes
High Jump, Long Jump

Honorable MentionNameSchoolEvent(s)Rayce WaltonAcalanes

800M
Cayden Hein Campolindo

1600M, 3200M
Irvin Chao Acalanes
Triple Jump

DAL All-League – Foothill Division

Boys Volleyball – 2018-19
1st Team All-League – Foothill
Division
Ben Blakely Campolindo

Alex Franke Acalanes
Phu Quy Ho Campolindo
2nd Team All-League – Foothill
Division
Austin Kinnear Acalanes

Austin Kinnear Acalanes
Colin Kirbach Acalanes
Nikolai Heffernan Acalanes
Josh Ewert Campolindo
Honorable Mention – Foothill
Division
Lane Althaum Acalanes

Lane Altbaum Acalanes
Ryan Yick Campolindo

DAL All-League – Valley

Division
Boys Volleyball – 2018-19
2nd Team All-League – Valley
Division

Christian Roy Miramonte
Ethan Luckenbach Miramonte
Honorable Mention – Valley Division
Michael Ishizu Miramonte

Soccer Champions



Front row, from left: Giulia Salemme, Sayaka Hirano, Chloe Quintella, Maddie Buckley, Addison Creson, Audrey Le-Nguyen, Camryn Salazar, Ainsley Murphy; back row: Ashley Van Pelt, Tatum Zuber, Rachel Kopelman, Anna Chard, Charlotte Dierks, Tahra Minowada, Gigi Betti, Addison Bailey, Micaela Franklin, Talia McCloy, and coach Tony Neto

Submitted by Paradi Mirmirani

The Cal Magic 2004 girls won the U15 Premier Cup Division of the Nor Cal 2018-19 State Cup Tournament on Sunday, June 1 at the Cosumnes River College in Sacramento. The score was tied at the half 0-0 but the girls persevered through the heat and scored a goal early in the second half. The next goal came just a few minutes before the end of the game and secured the

Moraga Mavericks 14U repeat as USSSA NorCal Champions

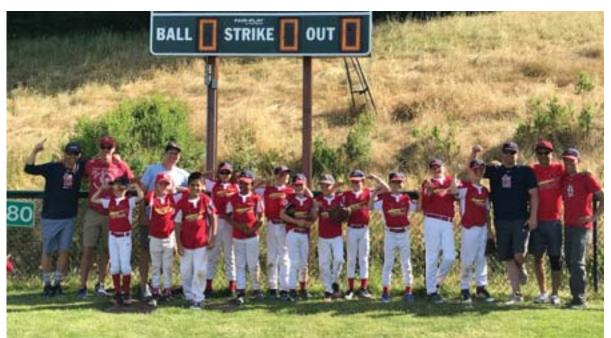


Photo Eva Fettig/Jim Rusconi

Back row, from left: Will Studebaker, Dylan Rusconi, Dash Weaver, Phil Jagard, Robbie Mascheroni, Nick Rogers, coach Ted Olson, Evan Olson, coach Mike Rogers, coach Dave Manousos; front row: coach Brent Meyers, Lucas Concepcion, Justin Meyers, Brendan Comerford, Adrian Blumberg, Charlie Hill

Submitted by Brent Meyers

The Moraga Baseball Association's Mavericks 14U baseball club secured their second consecutive USSSA Nor-Cal Championship over Memorial Day Weekend, defeating the Elk Grove Yard 8-3. The Mavericks - playing their final season in MBA - ran the table with a 5-win, 0-loss weekend and outscored their opponents 50-10. The victory brought the team to a 21-1-1 record this Spring and 42-2-1 over their last 45 games.



Cardinals Win Lafayette Little League AAA Championship

Submitted by Bianka Ahuja and Ali Krick

After an exciting, hard fought doubleheader with the Diamondbacks, the Cardinals won the Lafayette Little League AAA Championship game 8-7 on Sunday, June 2 at Buckeye Fields. The Cardinals are now moving on to represent LLL at the Tournament of Champions.

From left: Jason Lind, coach Bill Boselli, Tyler Lind, coach Ben Krick, Jackson Boselli, Naveen Ahuja, Preston Hilsabeck, Stefano Severo, Bryce Tuiasosopo, Jackson Tseng, Anthony Quinn, Trevor Krick, Nico Morando, Gage Svoboda, Blake Marshall, head coach Dan Quinn, Tony Severo, and Mitch Morando

Submit stories to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

(we prefer to receive your original photo file, minimum size: 200 dpi and 1200 pixels wide)

Lamorinda

OURHOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 13 Issue 8 Wednesday, June 12, 2019



Outdoor entertaining design ...

read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Sip into summer



A grouping of roses, calendula, and Nigella offers scents of summer.

Photo Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

"As the scent to the rose, are those memories to me." – Amelia C. Welby
Cooler weather has bidden a sweet goodbye, and warmer days beckon us to linger outdoors. My garden is ablaze with blooms and the aromas of scrumptious scents. My daughter Heather Brittany, also an avid gardener, is visiting and wants to learn more

by walking through the landscape with me. However, on this occasion, I am the student and she is the teacher as we stroll through the perfumed botanicals. Heather is a sommelier, a trained and knowledgeable wine professional working in an elite and innovative winery in Temecula.

With a glass of vino in hand and several varietals opened on the patio, she crushes leaves and pinches petals informing me of

the subtle flavors we may be experiencing as we sip our way through the backyard. We pick nasturtium, rose, mint, mock orange, cherry, lambs ear, calendula, Nigella, lemongrass, fennel and a sliver of an olive branch. We stick our noses in lilies, lavender and jasmine, inhaling deeply. We scoop a handful of soil and mulch to draw in the aromas of nature. Rosemary, sage, thyme, chervil, parsley, oregano and bay ... I haven't ever thought of them as essences of wine. At each stop, she encourages me to stop, breathe in, and imagine. "Touch the lambs ear. Feel the velvety finish of the Queen Elizabeth rose. Take a bite of fennel. Slow down. What do you see? What do you smell? What do you feel? What do you taste?"

I was born and groomed in the vineyards of Napa Valley where I learned farming and gardening skills from my parents and grandparents, yet I've never ambled in my private gardens equating my flowers and herbs with the wine I consume. Often I've been told that as a writer, I should be crafting the verbiage on wine labels. What has kept me from being creative in that format are some of the normal descriptions that I read on bottles. Leather, tar, asphalt, and tobacco are not ingredients that I choose to imbibe. But here, in my garden, I understand. We luxuriate in the multitude of floral opportunities to discover the subtleties of the fruit of the vine.

A whiff of a barnyard reminds me of my childhood riding horses, tending sheep, branding cattle, and raising chickens. Pine and redwood needles evoke the memories of Christmas. A shaving of St. Lucia nutmeg makes me nostalgic for Thanksgiving. Narcissus and jasmine are the smells of spring. ... continued on Page D15



COMPASS



ORINDA - Coveted Country Club NeighborhoodWithin a gated enclave of fine homes off Miner Road, this extraordinary estate features over 5,800sf of living space on a park-like 1.49-acres. 6BD, 6.5BA \$5,250,000



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Page: D2 OUR HOMES 925-377-0977 Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Lamorinda home sales recorded

| City | Last reported | Lowest amount | Highest amount |
|-----------|---------------|---|----------------|
| LAFAYETTE | 26 | Lowest amount | Highest amount |
| LAFATETTE | 20 | \$952,000 | \$2,800,000 |
| MORAGA | 9 | • | |
| | | \$736,000 | \$1,830,000 |
| ORINDA | 11 | \$575,000 | \$2,075,000 |

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

501 Bavarian Court, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 1968 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 05-02-19, Previous Sale: \$900,000, 02-21-12

875 Birdhaven Court, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 1749 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 04-29-19 3247 Camino Colorados, \$1,107,500, 3 Bdrms, 1168 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 04-30-19, Previous Sale: \$625,000, 10-21-09

1136 Camino Vallecito, \$2,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 3380 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 04-25-19, Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 03-08-04

3170 Condit Road, \$1,680,000, 3 Bdrms, 2190 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 04-24-19, Previous Sale: \$510,000, 03-05-99

4051 Fiora Place, \$1,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 2497 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 05-01-19, Previous Sale: \$1,450,000, 10-11-17

224 Happy Hollow Court, \$1,670,000, 4 Bdrms, 2165 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 04-22-19 4080 Happy Valley Road, \$2,600,000, 5 Bdrms, 4648 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 04-25-19, Previous Sale: \$950,000, 12-16-98

3913 Happy Valley Road, \$2,800,000, 5 Bdrms, 2914 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 04-24-19, Previous Sale: \$2,500,000, 10-17-16

871 Las Trampas Road, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 2201 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 05-02-19, Previous Sale: \$995,000, 07-10-15

70 Leslyn Lane, \$2,525,000, 5 Bdrms, 4626 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 04-30-19 3746 Meadow Lane, \$2,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2702 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 04-29-19 1000 Pine Lane, \$1,865,000, 4 Bdrms, 3176 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 04-26-19, Previous Sale: \$1,160,000, 06-13-14

3113 Ramada Court, \$1,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 2274 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 05-03-19, Previous Sale: \$659,500, 10-01-12

1751 Reliez Valley Road, \$2,250,000, 5 Bdrms, 3731 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 04-30-19, Previous Sale: \$1,120,000, 12-02-11

22 Shreve Lane, \$1,010,000, 4 Bdrms, 1962 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 05-03-19 761 Silver Crest Court, \$2,000,000, 5 Bdrms, 4488 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 04-29-19, Previous Sale: \$1,775,000, 05-09-05

1618 Silver Dell Road, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2099 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 05-03-19 3340 South Lucille Lane, \$2,015,000, 3 Bdrms, 1154 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 05-02-19, Previous Sale: \$700,000, 07-14-17

1280 Summit Road, \$1,841,000, 4 Bdrms, 2939 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 04-29-19, Previous Sale: \$1,550.000, 06-09-16

1281 Summit Road, \$2,575,000, 4 Bdrms, 2845 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 04-30-19, Previous Sale: \$1,675,000, 06-26-18

1321 Sunset Loop, \$952,000, 3 Bdrms, 1377 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 04-26-19, Previous Sale: \$569,000, 11-07-12

3554 Via Los Colorados, \$1,170,000, 3 Bdrms, 2818 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 05-01-19 3535 Wilkinson Lane #3537, \$2,662,000, 2536 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 05-03-19, Previous Sale: \$299,000, 10-16-01

3256 Withers Avenue, \$1,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2546 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 05-03-19, Previous Sale: \$775,000, 09-21-16

1205 Woodborough Road, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 4106 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 04-26-19, Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 07-05-02

MORAGA

110 Alta Mesa Court, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 2486 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 05-03-19, Previous Sale: \$870,000, 06-15-05

4 El Paraiso Court, \$1,900,000, 5 Bdrms, 3113 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 05-01-19, Previous Sale: \$1,099,000, 10-29-12

422 Fernwood Drive, \$1,785,000, 4 Bdrms, 2898 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 04-25-19, Previous Sale: \$1,650,000, 04-11-16



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Leslie Lomond 650.799.2110 leslie.lomond@compass.com DRF 01968517

Summer's the season for outdoor entertaining



Photo provided

By Amanda Eck

Well, ready or not, summer is here! And with that comes lots more outdoor entertaining. Here are a few fun ideas to liven up your outdoor space.

Bringing the Indoors Out

We've all heard the phrase bringing the outdoors in, but the reverse also holds true. Bring out your favorite pillows and throws when entertaining. Accent tables and decorative pieces can also be used for those

special outdoor occasions. We used an antique dresser to display all the sweet treats for my sister's bridal shower.

Ground the Space

Outdoor rugs are great for creating intimate seating areas and providing a punch of pattern and color. For great outdoor rugs shop FrontGate, Horchow, or Ballard Designs.

Ambient Lighting

When the sun sets, keep the party going with soft lighting. I love to use lanterns, candles and string lights. If you have a

nearby outlet, you could bring out some indoor lamps to set on the table or in a seating area.

Create a Focal Point

If you have a large blank space, either a wall or fence, add some outdoor art to create interest. I also love using mirrors outdoors to create the illusion of space and they can also lighten up a shaded corner with reflective light. Outdoor fire pits or a water feature also create nice focal points.

... continued on Page D12

Wednesday, June 12, 2019



110 CAMELIA LANE | \$1,795,000



537 THE GLADE, ORINDA | \$1,399,000



170 RAVENHILL RD, ORINDA | \$1,130,000



76 LA CUESTA RD, ORINDA | \$1,159,000



6 LLOYD LANE, ORINDA | \$1,385,000



8 SANTA LUCIA RD, ORINDA | 1,895,000



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Amy Rose Smith Village Associates 925.212.3897 amy@amyrosesmith.com www.amyrosesmith.com CalBRE: #01855959





JUST LISTED In Orinda





114 Goodfellow Dr, Orinda

Call for price details

5_{BEDS}

4BATHS

2,735_{SQFT}

Property details

Storybook home surrounded by oaks with an open living concept.





shannon conner

Shannon Conner 925.980.3829

shannon@ Shannonconner.com Shannonconner.com

villageassociates.com | @villageassociates | 925.254.0505 | It's Village. Of Course.







Lisa SchoenhouseLic. 01420876
925.788.4521
lisa@schoenhouseandmanter.com



schoenhouseandmanter.com

Miles Manter Lic. 01896801 925.788.0723 property@milesmanter.com



Orinda



110 Acacia Drive

\$1,488,900

Concord

PENDING

3 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 1,928± Sq Ft | 0.67± Acres

Privacy & tranquility, yet minutes from Orinda Bart. This custom home, designed by local Orinda architect Robert L. Klemmedson, is tucked in the crook of the canyon on an oak studded lot. Enjoying the Northern California lifestyle is easy in this Zen retreat with large picture windows, sliding doors, multiple decks and seasonal creek. An entertainer's delight with the living area being completely recessed lighting, hickory wood flooring and a natural stackstone faced gas insert fireplace. Your completely remodeled kitchen with stainless steel appliances, granite countertops and mosaic backsplash complete this perfect package.

www.110acaciadr.com

ve \$1,488,90

4 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 2,668 \pm Sq Ft | 0.29 \pm Acres

This stunning remodeled 1980s home is set on a corner lot near the Clayton border. The light and bright space with vaulted ceilings and dramatic statirs will certainly please. Entertaining is a breeze with the formal living and dining combination and the more casual, contemporary kitchen and family room, opening conveniently to the mature landscaped back yard with patio. The fabulous yard has been a labor of love and years in the making and creates an enchanting back drop to this perfect retreat. Lastly, located in an enclave of other newer, custom homes bordering open space it is the ideal neighborhood to come home too.

www.1175butternutway.com

1175 Butternut Way



156 Montecito Crescent

\$1,495,000

3 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 2,137 \pm Sq Ft | 0.51 \pm Acres

This light-filled one story custom mid-century home has been exquisitely remodeled. Perched on a premium corner lot there are breathtacking views of majestic Mount Diablo from the wall-of-glass windows in the living, dining and family room and spacious backyard. The stylist home boast vaulted ceilings, a wood burning fireplace, chef's kitchen, built-in breakfast nook, laundry room and ample storage. A stunning back yard showcases a large patia and hot tub shaded by a majestic canopied tree while the private front yard offers a tranquil retreat. Ideally located within walking distance to downtown Walnut Creek and BART.

www.156montecitocrescent.com

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\$897,500



PREMIER KITCHENS

Though we specialize in kitchens, our team is able to tackle any room you need with custom and quality cabinetry tailored for your space.

Schedule a meeting or give us a call!

(925) 283-6500

3373 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, CA 94549 info@premierkitchens.net www.premierkitchens.net







Once Upon a Time...

408 Tharp Drive, Moraga

Offered at \$1,195,000 | 408tharpdrive.com 3 Bed | 2 Bath | +/-1,689 Sq Ft | +/-0.28 Acre

Experience storybook charm throughout this delightful 3 bedroom / 2 bath turnkey home from start to finish. Character abounds beginning with the picturesque curb appeal, to the sun drenched living spaces, to the fantastic backyard. This home is guaranteed to capture your heart.







...and live happily ever after.



Lisa Brydon & Kristi Ives 925.285.8336 bi@brydonivesteam.com DRE 01408025 | 01367466

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COMPASS



Every home has a story. Let me tell yours.





403 Redfield Place, Moraga

4 Bed | 3 Bath | 2719 Sq. Ft. | \$1,749,000

Welcome to YOUR neighborhood home, where all your friends and family will love to gather.

Open Sunday June 16th. 1-4pm



Patti Camras 925.899.9282 patti.camras@compass.com DRE 01156248

REAL

📤 Patti Camras is a real estate salesperson licensed by the state of California affiliated with Compass. Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the state of California and abides by equal housing opportunity laws.

4 Oak Flat Road

4 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 3,007± Sq Ft | 0.66± Acres

Delightful custom built home on a lovely cul-de-sac ideally situated just minutes from Highway 24, downtown Orinda & Lafayette, and so much more! The fabulous traditional floor plan is highlighted by extraordinary views in a beautiful natural setting. Very special ...

4oakflat.com

\$1,795,000

Chris Swim Tracy Keaton Lic. 00943989 | 01051349 925.766.1447

GENUINE

EXPERTISE

ESTATE

chris@chrisswim.com chrisswim.com

COMPASS



Let Me Welcome You Home



Coming Soon: 258 Glorietta Blvd, Orinda

Call for details

Finola Fellner

925.890.7807 finola.fellner@compass.com DRE 01428834



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Summer's the season for outdoor entertaining



Bring out your favorite pillows and throws when entertaining.

Photos provided

... continued from Page D4

Planters

Pots of different sizes and colors can be a great way to add a pop of color to your outdoor spaces. They are perfect for small yards and easy to maintain seasonally.

Play with Color

Outside spaces are the perfect place for bright, bold colors. Have fun with different color combinations: turquoise and yellow, pink and orange, navy and magenta.

Don't Forget the Music

No need for a live band. With technology becoming more user-friendly and accessible, it's easy to create ambience with a iPhone and Bluetooth speaker. I have even seen clever outdoor speakers disguised as rocks.

Hope you enjoyed these ideas and use them for your next outdoor party! Until next time my friends!



An antique dresser displays sweet treats.

As the Owner and Principal Designer of Lamorinda-based Amanda Carol Interiors, Amanda Eck believes your home's interior should be both approachable and wellappointed. 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.

Visit http://amandacarolinteriors.com for more design ideas.



Lamorinda home sales recorded

925-377-0977

... continued from Page D2

MORAGA ... continued

- 21 Francisca Drive, \$885,000, 2 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 04-26-19, Previous Sale: \$175,000, 06-01-85
- 1198 Larch Avenue, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2102 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 05-03-19, Previous Sale: \$859,000, 08-01-03
- 275 Rheem Boulevard, \$925,000, 3 Bdrms, 1679 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 04-29-19 1288 Rimer Drive, \$1,830,000, 4 Bdrms, 3386 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 04-24-19, Previous Sale: \$531,000, 04-01-91
- 3832 Via Granada, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2078 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 05-02-19, Previous Sale: \$1,438,000, 05-05-16
- 526 Woodminster Drive, \$736,000, 2 Bdrms, 1352 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 05-03-19 **ORINDA**
- 325 Camino Sobrante, \$2,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2331 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 05-03-19, Previous Sale: \$1,240,000, 02-08-18
- 7 Darnby Court, \$1,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 2790 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 04-25-19, Previous Sale: \$1,395,000, 07-03-06
- 67 Davis Road, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 1772 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 04-23-19
- 77 Evergreen Drive, \$575,000, 3 Bdrms, 2759 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 04-23-19
- 66 Hacienda Circle, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 1790 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 04-22-19, Previous Sale: \$1,175,000, 08-21-18
- 160 Hall Drive, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2258 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 04-30-19
- 23 Kellie Ann Court, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 2236 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 04-29-19, Previous Sale: \$775,000, 05-09-01
- 19 Loma Vista Drive, \$1,351,000, 3 Bdrms, 1704 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 04-29-19, Previous Sale: \$1,040,000, 10-07-15
- 57 Meadow View Road, \$1,390,000, 4 Bdrms, 1918 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 04-26-19, Previous Sale: \$1,090,000, 06-21-17
- 41 Van Ripper Lane, \$2,075,000, 4 Bdrms, 2926 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 04-26-19, Previous Sale: \$465,000, 03-01-92
- 328 Village View Court, \$1,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 2080 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 04-24-19, Previous Sale: \$1,800,000, 03-28-18







Paul & Virginia Ratto

925.998.9501 virginia.ratto@compass.com rattoandratto.com DRE 00900621 | 01361537

25 MORAGA VIA, ORINDA

ARTISTIC BEAUTY IN THE GLORIETTA NEIGHBORHOOD

Stylish and elegant contemporary home with quality amenities and architectural touches. 5 Bedrooms, 4.5 Baths, approximately 3,369 sq. ft. with numerous Pella dual pane windows and doors, skylights, bamboo and cherry wood hardwood floors and separate au-pair set up with kitchenette. Nestled on a beautiful .35 acre lot in a serene and tranquil wooded setting with lovely views from the outdoor decks and direct access to the secluded yard from many rooms. Conveniently located just minutes to 12 years of excellent Orinda schools, Meadow Swim & Tennis Club, shopping, freeway and BART.

Offered at \$2,195,000. 25MoragaVia.com

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for June

PRUNE daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, bluebells, freesias, and other bulbs once the leaves have turned crispy yellow.

ADD companion plantings of Oriental poppies, allium, delphinium, daylilies, salvia and peony.

PHOTOGRAPH eggs in a bird's nest, but don't disturb the nest. The mother bird is alert and watching.

CELEBRATE National Pollinator Week June 17-23 by planting three new pollinator plants that will attract bees, butterflies, and birds. Try Nigella (love-in-a-mist), bee balm and fennel.

DIVIDE perennials before the weather is too warm. Alstroemeria, hosta, yarrow, aster and astilbe. Most perennials need dividing every three to four years to maintain annual blooms.

ADD three inches of mulch to your garden. If you have pine or redwood trees, gather the needles to mulch your roses, azaleas, rhododendrons, fuchsias, and other acid-loving plants. The mulch will keep the plants cooler and maintain moisture.

CONTAIN all mints in pots with saucers. Spearmint, peppermint, pineapple mint, catnip, and the rest of the mint family can easily become invasive when planted in the ground.

DEADHEAD roses at least weekly to encourage continual blooming.

BAIT for snails and slugs.

PLANT annuals in blocks of odd numbers—three, five, seven, nine, or more to create a more natural and aesthetically pleasing look to the human eye. To achieve this, you can plant the same variety of flowers in each odd grouping, or you can create color blocks with several similar varieties.

CUT bouquets of alstroemeria flowers for two weeks of vase life enjoyment.

WALK through your garden to savor the scents of a variety of plants.

PICK cherries as they ripen before the birds eat them all.

DO a second planting of beets, chard, beans, and radishes.

LISTEN to the serenading of the bullfrogs as they seduce with their song.

REPEL mosquitoes by emptying all vessels containing even a few drops of water. Add Dunks® to ponds or non-circulating water sources. Citronella and lemongrass plants supposedly help placed on the patio.

POUR a glass of wine and decipher the flavors that emanate from the garden.

COMMEMORATE dad on Father's Day with a gift from the garden and include a copy of my book, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener" available at

http://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store.

CELEBRATE the summer solstice on June 21 with a controlled

and safe bonfire. Did you know that the word "bonfire" derived from the words "bone fire" because bones were burned to make lime to sweeten the soil? In years past, bone fires, or bonfires were beacons to guide travelers on land and sea.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy Daddy's Day!



Drought resistant Graptoveria succulent cascades from a container.



Cut alstroemeria flowers for a bouquet that will last two weeks.



The flowers on an olive tree have no scent.



Stick your nose in a patch of sweet-smelling Oriental lilies.



Photos Cynthia Brian

925-377-0977

Velvety lambs ear in bloom attracts pollinators,



Cynthia Brian and Heather Brittany in a barnyard.

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 Are1® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's Radio show and order her books at www.StarStyleRadio.com.

Buy a copy of her books, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul, and Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store. Hire Cynthia for projects, consults, and lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com

... continued from Page D1

The sweet stench of aged compost and sensational swathes of fragrant roses and perfumed lavender offer spectacular sights and spice to the summer garden.

On our way back to the house we watch a small sparrow flit from my pine wreath at the back door. Upon careful inspection, we witness three tiny eggs nestled in a nest. We shoot a photo to remember our afternoon lesson. What a fitting finale from our spring into summer sipping expedition!

Pour yourself a glass of Bacchus's favorite beverage and walk around your garden indulging your senses with scents and memories. Slow down. What do you see? What do you smell? What do you feel? What do you taste? Sip into summer!





LAMORINDA'S LEADING INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE FIRM

ORINDA **New Listing**

64 Dolores Way

Nature at your doorstep! 3 bed/ 2 bath with super setting on a private knoll.

\$935,000



37 Underhill Rd

3 bed/2 bath updated home with hdwd floors, designer kitchen & detached 1 bed/1 bath in-law.

\$1,195,000



6 Lloyd Lane

Sunny, light-filled 2 bed/2.5 bath + office, a chef's kitchen, large living room & flexible floor plan.

\$1,385,000



537 The Glade

One level, 3 bed/2 bath patio home with vaulted living room, formal dining and modern kitchen.

\$1,399,000

ORINDA



11 Hacienda Circle

Open light-filled 3 bed/ 2 bath floor plan with oversized windows, updated kitchen and views.

\$1,495,000





9 La Senda

1st time on the market! Fabulous 5000+ sqft mid-century with views and dramatic entertaining areas.

\$1,850,000



8 Santa Lucia

Charming 5 bed/5 bath Spanish style home with quality features, craftsmanship & elegance.

\$1,895,000

ORINDA



11 Crestview Court

Bold, modern Mediterranean inspired villa. Ideal for privacy & luxury with stunning views.

\$2,100,000

ORINDA



573 Miner Road

Updated & remodeled 4 bed/ 3 bath with grassy yards, views and a great place to unwind.

\$2,195,000

ORINDA



383 Miner Road

East Coast meets West Coast! Updated Orinda Country Club Cape Cod home on 1.32 acres.

\$2,695,000

MORAGA



259 Lakefield Place

Spacious 5 bed/ 4.5 bath Moraga estate with new kitchen & appliances.

\$1,895,000

MORAGA



218 Willowbrook Lane

Beautifully designed 4 bed/4.5 bath. Dramatic entry, vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors.

\$2,195,000

LAFAYETTE



110 Camelia Lane

Happy Valley beauty with modern kitchen, remodeled baths and 3088 sq ft of living space.

\$1,795,000

I A F A Y F T T F



3660 Happy Valley Road

Extraordinary 5 bed/ 6.5 bath gated estate, with a pool & stunning backyard.

\$3,595,000

OAKLAND

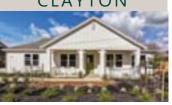


6951 Chambers Drive

Montclair charmer! 6 beds/3 baths with large flat lawn! Aupair/in-law unit with separate entrance.

\$1,235,000

CLAYTON



5679 Pine Hollow Road

Only 1 Left! Beautiful New Construction Single Story Home w/ 4 Beds + office on .35 acre lot.

\$1,168,000

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