

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Adam Dolberg shows his Black Lives Matter rock garden at the trail entrance near Stanley Middle School.

Photo Pippa Fisher

Stanley student undeterred in anti-racism effort

By Pippa Fisher

For one Lafayette boy who simply wanted to highlight Black Lives Matter with a rock garden along the trail near Stanley Middle School, his work has been turned into one of persistence and determination. That's because, despite finding his work vandalized on an almost daily basis, he refuses to give up.

Adam Dolberg, a 12-year-old student at Stanley,

says he was inspired to create his rock garden following the June 7 BLM rally in Lafayette which he attended with his mother, Becky Webster. Adam found the speakers' stories at the rally moving, and searched for a way he could do something. "I just wanted to support the cause," says Adam.

Adam explains that he wanted to do something to draw attention to BLM and the racism endured by Black, Indigenous, people of color. After hearing how a friend of his mother's in Sacramento created a rock garden, he decided to do the same.

Using small rocks he painted with individual letters, Adam spelled out "Black Lives Matter." Through word of mouth he encouraged others in the community to decorate rocks to add to his display located near the entrance to the trail by Stanley.

Adam checks his display every day and, since the very beginning, was finding most mornings that the rocks spelling "Black" were taken out of the message.

... continued on Page A10

Advertising



Letters to the Editor	A9
How to contact us	B4
Community Service	B3
Obituaries	B3
Classified	C1
Love Lafayette	C2

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Peter Liu, Ph.D.
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Assembly member supports extended AB 5 waiver for newspaper carriers

By Sora O'Doherty

Assembly Bill 5 was enacted Sept. 18, 2019 by the state legislature in an attempt to protect workers in the "gig economy," such as Lyft and Uber drivers. However, the broad wording of the legislation caught up many other professions, including artists, journalists, and newspaper carriers. As a result of an outcry from many of those professionals, they were temporarily exempted from AB 5, but that exemption is scheduled to expire at the end of 2020.

The publisher of the Lamorinda Weekly, Andy

Scheck, appealed to Assembly member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan during her July 31 "Breakfast with your Assemblymember" online event in Lafayette to exempt newspaper carriers from the provisions of AB 5, which regulates independent contractors. The bill's sponsor, Lorena Gonzalez, has introduced a cleanup bill, AB 1850, to exempt many of the disputed categories, including writers and editors. However, newspaper carriers have not been included in the bill.

Bauer-Kahan said that she supported extending the exemption for newspaper carriers. She explained that

both bills, AB 5 and AB 1850, are responsive to actions of the court and that a recent California Court of Appeals decision, Martel v. Hearst Communications, affirmed that newspaper carriers are employees and not independent contractors.

The complex litigation turns on legal matters such as who controls the worker. The Martel case was about the San Francisco Chronicle, however there are a variety of delivery methods in the industry, according to Scheck. The Lamorinda Weekly is delivered by a business that delivers other newspapers as well. Delivery of the Lamorinda Weekly oc-

curs once a fortnight, so cannot be made into permanent, full-time employment. While much of the newspaper industry is turning to digital, online publication, Scheck believes that many of his readers enjoy receiving the printed paper. Additionally, while revenues may support the digital production of daily papers, such revenues are not available to newspapers that publish less frequently.

The California Newspaper Publishers Association has written to Gov. Gavin Newsom seeking at least short-term relief, including extending the existing exemption that allows newspa-

per carriers to be classified as independent contractors, not employees. In its letter to the governor, the CNPA explained that the current COVID-19 pandemic has hit the newspaper industry hard, and that these economic effects, combined with the increased costs for newspaper delivery will wreak havoc on the industry. Newspapers face an average increase of up to 85% in distribution costs if the legislature does not extend the exemption. This will cripple the news industry and result in the closure of many more papers.

... continued on Page A10

Civic News A1-A10	Life in Lamorinda B1-B4	Sports C1-C2	Our Homes D1-D20
Moraga Center Specific Plan draws massive public input - Page A4	Lamorinda Village offers seniors free 'go bags' - Page B1	The complicated planning for fall and spring sports - Page C1	Front entrance refresh using Feng Shui - Page D1
Fire Districts A8			
Grand Jury and updated evacuation plans - Page A8			