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Maggie Hawkins, Campolindo and Alex Mould, Acalanes

Photo Gint Federas

Continuing domination for Lamorinda girls water polo

By Jon Kingdon

It was Mark Twain that said, “There are lies, damned lies and statistics” to describe the persuasive power of numbers. From 2016 to 2019 the numbers for the Lamorinda girls water polo teams are not only persuasive but overwhelming. The won-loss records for Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte was a com-

posite 254-64 for a winning percentage of 79.8%. The percentage jumps to 92.7% when the results within the Lamorinda spectrum are removed. Throw in four straight playoff appearances for each, three undefeated seasons and NCS championships (Acalanes-2, Miramonte-1), and the success of water polo in Lamorinda has been unstoppable.

Did someone say coronavirus? This forced a 499-day hiatus from the last game in 2019 to the first

practice of the 2020 season (Actually April 5, 2021). The extended layoff and limited preseason, forced an adjustment for each team’s preparation. We had some camps but had no scrimmages or full contact, said Acalanes coach Misha Buchel. “We’re using the early part of the season to shake off the mental and physical rust, getting the muscle memory back and getting back to processing information quickly when they’re in the water.” ... continued on Page A12

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Extensively renovated Orinda Theatre reopens April 30



Orinda Theatre lobby

Photo Derek Zemrak

By Sora O'Doherty

During the past year, while the COVID-19 pandemic prevented business as usual at the Orinda Theatre, owner Derek Zemrak has been working away with a small team to restore the landmark building to its 1941 glory. Throughout the building, theaters have been renovated, paintings restored, and carpets and tiles cleaned. When the theatre officially reopens on Friday, April 30, patrons will be able to appreciate all this work.

Zemrak says that he is allowed to reopen at 50% occupancy, but out of an abundance of caution, he is only reopening the main theater, which has a capacity of 750, at 25% occupancy. The first movies available will be “Minari” and “Nomadland.” Zemrak says he will adjust week by week to the requirements reported by Contra Costa County. Cine Cuvee will be open weekends only with outdoor seating under the marquee, but no indoor seating at this time.

All of the neon light fixtures in the building, some up to 80 years old, have been restored. In the process, neon light expert Greg King remarked, “I wish the black lights were back.” Zemrak was unaware of the black lights but did some research and discovered that the murals that decorate the theater were painted by famed movie theater muralist Anthony Heinsbergen, a Dutch immigrant who started a painting company in 1918 that would go on to employ nearly 200 people at its height.

One source states that the studio painted murals in 757 theaters in addition to hotels. The murals in the Orinda Theatre were supposed to come to life when exposed to black light. Zemrak got a small black light and shined it on the walls. To his amazement, the murals did in fact react to the light.

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Spring planting tips for local gardening enthusiasts - Page D1





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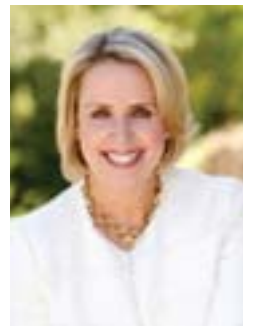
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Council considers potential Conflict of Interest violation

By Jennifer Wake

The Lafayette City Council at its April 12 meeting discussed its first potential violation of the Conflict of Interest Policy for Planning Commission and Design Review Commissioners since its adoption on March 26, 2018. The policy provides clear standards for members to avoid engaging in conduct that may pose an ac-

tual conflict of interest or the appearance of bias or a conflict of interest.

Design Review Commissioner Kristen Sidell's architecture firm Sidell Pakravan Architects, according to a staff report by city attorney Mala Subramanian, unintentionally worked on a project in late 2020 and early 2021 located within the city of Lafayette that both the property owner and firm believed

to be in the city of Orinda. "The property has an Orinda mailing address and it was only when the project was submitted to Orinda did the firm realize that the property was located in the city of Lafayette," the report stated.

The staff report recommended waiving the "inadvertent violation of the Policy and allow Commissioner Sidell's firm to bill for the work as requested," but

Council Member Cam Burks, who was involved in working on this policy in 2018, stated that Sidell's firm should have known what city this was located in and that it was a violation of the ordinance. "We passed this ordinance because there was a problem, and it was a systemic problem in this town," he said.

After an extended discussion among council members, as well as public comment

from Lafayette resident Bob McClain, who was asking for Sidell's resignation, Subramanian clarified that a violation of the policy only occurs if Sidell bills for the work completed before her firm knew the project was located in Lafayette and after she joined the DRC. Sidell agreed not to bill the city for the \$855 in fees and the matter was closed, with no further action required.

Mitigation measure at Brown Avenue and Deer Hill approved, artist's donation of custom birdhouses accepted



Photo courtesy city of Lafayette

One of many birdhouses by artist Greg Moeller that grace stop signs around Lafayette.

By Lou Fancher

The aesthetics and traffic concerns on city streets dominated discussions at the April 12 city council meeting. With a full quorum in attendance – Mayor Susan Candell, Vice Mayor Teresa Gerringer and Council members Carl Anduri, Cameron Burks and Gina Dawson – attention centered on a recommended replacement of 28 recycling and trash receptacles with high-capacity Bigbelly units and the planned addition of a signal at Brown Avenue and Deer Hill Road as part of the Terraces of Lafayette development project.

Engineering and Public Works Director Mike Moran began the discussion concerning implementation of a mitigation measure that obligates the Terrace project developer, O'Brien Land Company, LLC, to install a traffic signal at the Deer Hill Road and Brown Avenue intersection. In response to emails he received asking why the traffic signal was being discussed by the council while litigation was pending, Moran said the project had been

through the full review process and approved. Moving to implementation, he said, was "basically administration on what's already been approved."

In August 2002 the CEQA findings, mitigation and other aspects of the Terrace application were deemed adequate by the council, upholding an earlier decision of approval by the Planning Commission in June. Attorney Rob Hodil confirmed that the mitigation measure was previously approved and includes an agreement with Save Lafayette stipulating the group will be notified 30 days prior to any visible construction at the site. The one-month time frame would allow Save Lafayette to file a stop work injunction if they chose to do so upon notification.

Asked during a public comment period what would happen if installation of the signal had begun or was completed and the development project falls through or litigation prevents its completion, Hodil said such an occurrence was unlikely. He said the developer bears all costs other than city inspections and was

unlikely to invest the money and initiate the work involved in construction and installation the signal with litigation or any injunctions pending.

All of the public comments during the April 12 Zoom meeting spoke to preventing, or at the very least, allowing time for more consideration. Several people asked about a round-about option that had been considered, but not selected. Council reiterated the rationale for a signal, the availability of a prior public comment period and the 2020 approval of the overall project with the signal as a mitigating element. The council voted unanimously to approve implementing the mitigation agreement.

Turning to action in the downtown core, an immediate vote to approve the replacement of 21 duet and 7 public refuse receptacles with Bigbelly units – which utilize technology to increase efficiency with sensor-equipped waste and recycling stations – was deferred after Council Member Anduri questioned if enough time had been devoted to the decision.

... continued on Page A10



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Pippa Fisher

After nearly five years serving as the Lafayette city reporter for Lamorinda Weekly – and always one of the last people sitting in the back taking notes during city council meetings – Pippa Fisher, who announced her retirement from the paper in late March, was presented with a proclamation by members of the Lafayette City Council during its April 12 meeting thanking her for her hard work and dedication to making complex issues understandable.

“Journalism and profes-

sional (trustworthy) media/press is in my opinion, the most important pillar of public governance. What the Lamorinda Weekly and Pippa have done for our city is beyond words,” Council Member Cam Burks wrote about Fisher in an email. “I for one am extraordinarily grateful to them both for what they continue to provide to our constituents and fellow neighbors; even in our world filled with so many ways to communicate, more people look for that color newspaper in their driveway every other Tuesday night, than I could ever imagine.”

City Council members offered their thanks to Fisher, which coincidentally happened toward the end of the meeting. Council Member Gina Dawson ended her comments with an apology to Fisher: “Sorry to keep you to the bitter end.”
– J. Wake

LLLCF reopens doors thanks to foundation efforts



Photo provided

Author Erik Larson presenting his book, “Dead Wake,” to the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation audience several years ago.

By Diane Claytor

Libraries are once again open for browsing and checking out books. They may look a little different, Beth Needle, executive director of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation (LLLCF) reports. Chairs have been removed, computer stations have been placed further apart and, for now, there are no in-person story times or programs. “But,” Needle says, “you can once again talk to a librarian and look for books you want to read.”

The LLLCF was established to ensure that the Lafayette Library remains a vibrant resource for the local community, providing funding for programs and, according to Sarah Blumenfeld, LLLCF’s development and programs director, helping to keep the lights on and the doors open. “The Foundation contributes 52% of the library’s annual budget,” she notes, while the county contributes 34%. When the library is open, the county provides 35 hours of open library time per week; LLLCF funding adds another 19 open hours every week.

The Foundation has raised money to update the old computer lab, expanding it into a multi-purpose tech lab which, Blumenfeld says, is more of a STEAM lab than a fixed computer station room, complete with a 3-D printer. LLLCF has also updated and enlarged the children’s area of the library.

Pre-pandemic, the Lafayette library hosted close to 1,000 programs a year, attracting more than 35,000 people. By reinventing themselves during the past year with the introduction of the County’s Front Door Service, an average of 10,000 items were checked out every month from just the Lafayette library and “demand for on-line materials increased about 400%,” Blumenfeld reports. “Libraries have remained relevant because of the programming they’re doing.”

“Before COVID, many of our programs would fill the Community Hall, which holds 200 people. During COVID, we’ve actually attracted up to 500 people via Zoom to some of our programs,” Blumenfeld happily states. “The library promotes lifelong learning,” Needle adds.

... continued on Page A10

Correction: In the April 14 Lamorinda Weekly article, “City of Lafayette pays legal fees award following Brown Act violation,” the amount paid was \$113,118 (minus credit for costs), not \$133,118.



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, May 10, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette’s YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, May 3, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Design Review

Wednesday, April 28, 7 p.m. Zoom
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
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MORAGA

See public meetings schedule on this page and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

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Chamber of Commerce:
www.moragachamber.org
Moraga Citizens' Network:
www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

Town Council

Wednesday, April 28, 7 p.m.

Planning Commission:

Tuesday, May 4, 7 p.m.,

Park and Recreation Commission:

Tuesday, May 17, 7 p.m.,

Moraga School District Board Meetings:

Special Board Meeting Tuesday, May 11, 6 p.m.

www.moraga.k12.ca.us. See also

AUHSD meeting page A2

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

EBMUD to begin Moraga Creek Erosion and Flood Control Project construction

By Vera Kochan

The Canyon Road Bridge area will see two overlapping projects this summer. Besides the bridge's Phase II construction, the East Bay Municipal Utility District will begin its Season 1 stabilization of the hillsides below Augusta Drive and adjacent to the Moraga Creek. This follows the 2016 and 2017 landslides that occurred on EBMUD property alongside homes in the Moraga Country Club area.

EBMUD Associate Engineer/Project Manager Samuel Gambino and Manager of Engineering Services Elizabeth Bialek gave a game plan presentation during the April 14 town council meeting.

Using stitch piers that will penetrate through the slide plane and function as dowels between the sliding mass and underlying stable ground, a retaining wall system will be installed that will stabilize the hillside.

The construction will take place over two seasons. EBMUD's Season 1 will overlap with Canyon Road Bridge Phase II, with the installation of the lower and upper ends of the project near the bridge. Season 2 will continue the installation of the remaining portions of the lower and up-



Artist's rendering of completed Moraga Creek Flood Control Project

Image courtesy EBMUD

per walls.

Trees in the area will need to be removed and eventually replaced under the watchful eye of a biological inspector who will be on site monitoring potential disruption of nesting birds. Other environmental considerations will include the protection of riparian species such as raptors, whipsnakes, pond turtles, red-legged frogs, and tiger salamanders. To that end, an exclusion fence will be built around the perimeter

of the site with a one-way porthole so that animals can leave the area but not return until the project is done.

In order to protect the creek, drainage from the site will minimize erosion of stockpiles and adjacent native soil. There will also be temporary measures to prevent discharge of contaminated stormwater during construction, which may contain soil, sediment and concrete residue.

The contractor will be re-

quired to control noise and vibration levels during construction by muffling equipment, selecting quieter equipment or erecting noise barriers. Vibration will be monitored so as not to exceed threshold levels.

Season 1 is expected to begin this summer and end in the fall. Work hours will be Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information visit:

www.ebmud.com/moragacreek.

Comcast outage interrupts Moraga Town Council meeting a second time

By Vera Kochan

In the space of nearly two months, Comcast internet outages have disrupted service not only to residents in the Lamorinda area, but have caused confusion, aborted service and television screens to broadcast test patterns during a couple of Moraga's town council meetings.

The first incident of note was during the Feb. 10 discussion of the Bellavista subdivision improvements. Both Mayor Mike McCluer and Council Member Teresa Onoda disappeared from the Zoom broadcast. Any viewers who retained their internet service were informed that it was a Comcast issue by Police Chief Jon King. McCluer and Onoda were eventually able to phone in to the meeting, which was adjourned early due to the difficulty in conducting town business in that manner.

The second, and most recent interruption, occurred during the April 14 meeting when Vice Mayor Steve Woehleke disappeared from the Zoom screen. He, too, was eventually able to rejoin via phone. In both instances, Town Clerk Marty McInturf and Administrative Assistant Mary Jane Muller scrambled to record the meetings, in one form or another, for eventual viewing/audio playback by the public.

Silicon Connections President Mark Dahlen, whose company is the town offices' internet service provider, stated that many of his clients throughout the Lamorinda area, Emeryville and even the San Francisco Peninsula had lost their Comcast internet connection. He speculated that recent, sporadic outages could be due to so many people still working from home, school kids performing online assignments and an over-

usage of Zoom. He explained that Comcast does have backup generators on utility poles that are capable of delivering service for up to eight hours, but thieves have been known to abscond with them on a regular basis.

According to a CNN news report in 2015, fiber optic internet cables in the San Francisco Bay Area were cut so often that year that the FBI joined the investigation. According to the report, 11 incidents happened in the space of seven months, noting, "The individuals may appear to be normal telecommunications maintenance workers or possess tools consistent with that job role."

Downdetector.com stated that on April 14, 88% of issues reported by Comcast customers were internet related. Television disruption was 5% and total blackout involved 5%.

Comcast Senior Director

of External Communications for California, Joan Hammel, could give no details as to the Feb. 10 outage, "It's possible it was related to routine maintenance of our network."

However, Hammel was able to give more information on the more recent April 14 disruption. "The outage was caused by a vehicle incident that damaged our system. Our services started being disrupted at about 3 p.m. and services started being restored at about 8 p.m. that same evening. Roughly 20,000 customers in the East Bay were impacted. As always, we apologize for any service disruption for our customers. It is important for folks to sign up on the Xfinity MyAccount App. That is so useful, because they can access pertinent, timely information about the status of their services."

The exact address of the vehicle incident, according to Hammel, was in a residential

area of Walnut Creek. The Walnut Creek Police Department Public Log disclosed that the incident occurred "Time: 142602" involving "utility."

The old adage, "Misery loves company" couldn't be truer in today's internet-dependent society. Fastmetrics, a San Francisco Bay Area internet service provider, has some tongue-in-cheek suggestions for things to do when the internet is down: "Cry in the mirror; yell at your internet provider; nervously pace back and forth; repeatedly click refresh; complain to your local congressman; paint your feelings; stagger outside, become confused and disoriented by 'real world'; ask God 'Why me?'; stay calm by assuming the fetal position and humming quietly; and fill that nagging pit of despair in your stomach with donuts."

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Canyon Road Bridge's Phase II construction underway



Image courtesy Moraga Public Works Department

Artist's rendering of completed new Canyon Road Bridge

By Vera Kochan

The original Canyon Road Bridge, built in 1936, that connected Moraga with Canyon over the San Leandro Creek, was replaced by a temporary bridge following a damaging landslide that occurred near the area in 2017. Last year saw the completion of Phase I (installation of the new inbound lane) and the removal of the temporary bridge. The project was put on hold during the winter months in consideration of potentially construction-disruptive rain, which never really proved a factor this past season.

A Phase II update to the town council on April 14 was delivered by Public Works Di-

rector/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp, who briefly outlined the upcoming project's continuation. The new construction will address the installation of the outbound lane over the creek, while the foundation of the temporary bridge will remain, for now, to help secure and protect the new permanent bridge.

Additional features to the finished project will include pedestrian lighting, bike lanes, and a reopening of the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail between Valle Vista to Westchester (this pedestrian bridge section of the trail was closed by the town due to the landslide movement). An

overall landscaping and restoration of the site project will follow. Phase II is expected to be completed sometime in November.

According to Knapp's presentation, the Highway Bridge Program's approved costs, as of March 12, totaled \$11,937,250. HBP will fund \$10,568,047 and Contra Costa Transportation Authority Measure J – Major Streets Funding will contribute \$76,442 toward design and \$362,000 for construction. The town is budgeting to use \$780,000 from its Measure J (Return to Source) toward its contribution of costs.

Moraga Chamber bestows 2020 Business & Nonprofit of the Year honors



Photos provided

Award presentation to Canyon Club Brewery, from left: Moraga Chamber member Ron Haas, owner Kevin Hamilton, Chamber member Peggy Hall, CCB employee Kirsten Popcke, Chamber members Larry Tessler and Hannah Mattioda.



Moraga Chamber of Commerce board member Ron Haas (left) presents award to Moraga Rotary president Brian South.

By Vera Kochan

After an incredibly difficult year, during which time the entire world re-configured itself, the Moraga Chamber of Commerce picked up where it left off by awarding this year's Business of the Year honors to Canyon Club Brewery and Nonprofit of the Year accolades to the Rotary Club of Moraga.

The Chamber's criteria for nomination are: Practice good business strategies; support the Moraga community; serve as a good business role model; have good customer relationships; demonstrate ethical business practices; and be a member in good standing.

One of the newest businesses in town, Canyon Club Brewery located at 1558 Canyon Road, has quickly made its philanthropic mark in the community. Since opening its doors in July 2019, owner and Lamorinda resident Kevin Hamilton has used his signature product, beer, as the catalyst for many fundraising endeavors.

In October, CCB had created 25 kegs of a custom blend beer to serve across the Bay Area. All proceeds went to Notes for Hope in their mission to support breast cancer prevention. In the early days of shelter-in-place mandates, when folks were home do-

ing a lot of baking and supplies were running low at grocery stores, CCB created Pop-up Bodega. Because they were able to get regular deliveries from suppliers, CCB decided to order ingredients that were becoming scarce such as flour, chocolate chips, yeast, eggs, brown sugar, etc. Eventually, they also sold hand sanitizer (their own blend), gloves and the most coveted item of all – toilet paper. They even gave away a roll of TP with every to-go order.

CCB had also teamed with Campolindo Football Moms for Diversity and the Campolindo football team to hold an in-house fundraiser whereby 10% of all proceeds from the evening was donated to the Diversity and Inclusion Program.

They regularly partner with Saint Mary's College for the school's fundraising efforts; are involved in brewing a signature beer for the Ales for ALS cause; and are working with former Oakland A's manager Tony LaRussa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) to develop a special beer. Anyone who adopts a rescue animal should take a photo and submit it for consideration onto the beer's label.

Hamilton was shocked when members of the Chamber showed up at CCB with a plaque presentation: "It was really nice! When things got bad with COVID, it was the town of Moraga that kept us afloat. The town really saved us, and I think Moraga deserves this award." Where is the plaque now? "It's in our manager's office. We haven't found a permanent place for it yet. We'll probably build a wall where we can display it along with newspaper articles about us." For more information about Canyon Club Brewery visit: www.canyonclub.works.

Nonprofit of the Year honors went to the Rotary Club of Moraga. Historically, the global Rotary organization has been around for more than 110 years with a "network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves." There are over 35,000 clubs worldwide working to promote peace; grow local economies; fight disease; support education; save mothers and children; and provide

clean water, sanitation and hygiene.

Moraga's Rotary was established in 1967 and has assuredly done its duty in upholding the global organization's standards. Proceeds from the Club's most recent fundraiser, a Lasagna Dinner, were used toward installing security cameras at all Moraga School District campuses by June. They have also been collecting donations to equip all 110 classrooms with medical kits.

Additional community support comes in the form of: Funding and building the All-Access Children's Playground at Moraga Commons Park; annually funding the Brother Albert

Rahill/Moraga Rotary Endowed Scholarship at Saint Mary's College; provide two scholarships to the Camp Royal Leadership Camp; provide three Campolindo Senior Student College Scholarships; annually make over 300 Christmas stockings for children in Juvenile Hall; donate to the Moraga Education Fund; hold Rotary E-Waste Recycling and Document Shredding Events; support the Moraga Community Faire; award gift certificates to a Teacher of the Month; and that's just on a local level.

... continued on Page A11

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Wilder Owners Association sues city over memory care facility

By Sora O'Doherty

Shone Armstrong, the attorney for the Wilder Owners Association, filed a petition on March 9 for a writ of mandate in the superior court of Contra Costa County. The petition asks the court to set aside the city's approval of the Countryhouse Memory Care facility to be built at 1 Wilder Road by Agemark Corporation, 101 Upton Partners, LLC, and AMG & Associates LLC, are also named as

parties to the suit.

The Wilder Owners Association (WOA) maintains that the city has approved a development that violates the city's own general plan and municipal code in multiple ways, in addition to violating state law. The case maintains that the city improperly certified the environmental impact report for the project, which it alleges is inconsistent with the city's general plan.

The project has been in

the works for many years, and went through a number of reviews by the city that resulted in changes to arrive at the approved project that consists of 38 assisted living units in a one- to two-story, 32,084-square-foot congregate care facility on the lot between Wilder Road and Highway 24. Upon approval by the Orinda Planning Commission, the WOA appealed to the city council, which dismissed the appeal following a hearing on it in November 2020 that was

continued to January 2021.

The petition now filed opposes the project on many grounds, including that it violates the integrity of the open area beside Highway 24, which has been designated a scenic highway. Petitioners maintain that the project is inconsistent with the general plan and violates the California Environmental Quality Act.

The petition asks that the court issue a preemptory writ of mandate directing the city

to vacate and set aside their decision, issue a stay, a temporary restraining order, and injunctions restraining the respondents, which includes the builder, from moving forward with the development. The petition further seeks costs and attorney fees.

No hearing dates have been scheduled at this time. The petitioner has asked that the city prepare an administrative record of its actions to date.

Orinda follows other Bay Area cities; combines housing element with downtown planning

By Sora O'Doherty

Given the overlap between the Orinda Downtown Precise Plan, being developed by staff, and the upcoming housing element, the city council agreed to streamline the process by combining certain elements of the two plans. This should result in some cost savings, but also in a de-

lay of completion of the DPP. The council also decided to expand its current downtown development subcommittee to additionally cover the housing element. The two council members who are currently on the downtown development subcommittee, Inga Miller and Nick Kosla, were willing to take on the additional HE work. The council also approved the request for proposals for a consultant on the draft housing element.

Orinda staff have been working on the DPP for some time now. The city initially thought to outsource the project, but failing to receive satisfactory responses to a request for proposals, it was decided that staff could undertake the work. The DPP is intended to establish objective building standards for downtown Orinda. The plan is part of an effort to develop Orinda's downtown but is also intended to put in place objective standards that would give the city some control in the event that California passes legislation remov-

ing some planning discretion from local government.

The state requires that the HE be updated every eight years, with each city, town and county receiving a new RHNA number (the Regional Housing Needs Allocation) or the number of new homes that must be planned for during the planning period. The current HE is the fifth cycle, adopted in May of 2015.

Orinda's RHNA number for the planning period 2015-23 was 227 units. The sixth cycle must be adopted by January 2023 for the planning period of 2023 through 2031. Orinda's draft RHNA number is 1,359 units, although a final number is expected later this year.

Staff suggested to the city council that because the elements of the HE and the DPP are either overlapping or complimentary, the two projects could be coordinated. In particular, the California Environmental Quality Act analysis and the safety element could be coordinated, and the downtown subcommittee could be expanded to

include the HE, in addition to the DPP. One CEQA analysis and one Environmental Impact Report will be less costly, without the risk of duplicate efforts, and housing opportunity sites for both the DPP and the HE could be coordinated.

The council agreed with staff. An RFP will be issued by the end of the month, and there will be a joint workshop of the city council and the planning commission on May 11 to include such topics as an introduction to the housing element, a more refined schedule for the HE and the DPP, and preliminary analysis of the RHNA units and sites inventory. The workshop will be led by Jennifer Gastelum of Placeworks, who is currently assisting the city with HE pre-work such as site analysis.

At an earlier meeting on April 13, Orinda Planning Director Drummond Buckley introduced the staff report. He explained that work on the DPP started in January of last year and completion was expected by the end of this year or early next year. Fol-

lowing the issuance of the RFP, staff expects a consultant to begin work late June or early July. Factoring in a potential four-month review period by the California Department of Housing and Community Development, the HE must be adopted by December 2022. New city manager David Biggs told the council that the consultant hired will stay up to date on legislation to watch for potential impacts on the HE.

In public comment, Nick Warranoff emphasized that coordinating the DPP with the HE was his idea. "Given the overwhelming clarity of the presentation, coordination is the better option," he said, adding, "One could be surprised that it took a private citizen to suggest it."

Mayor Amy Worth pointed out that the housing element is an unfunded state mandate, which means that while communities are required by the state to comply, they receive no funding to do so by the state.

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Student activism welcomed by Orinda City Council; Styrofoam ban ordinance to follow

By Sora O'Doherty

A student group from Miramonte High School has been persistent in urging the Orinda City Council to ban Styrofoam takeout food and beverage containers, and the council has agreed to introduce an ordinance. The stu-

dents, including Devon Bradley, Sheng Shu, Leo Caradoza, Joseph Manio, and Alexis DeBusschere are members of the Miramonte Environmental Club that has been running a community-funded project launched last July to promote environmental sustainability and help restaurants during the pandemic. The group has been donating compostable takeout supplies to restaurants since July, and they believe they can continue to help restaurants until the proposed ban takes effect.

Styrofoam is not recyclable or compostable, decomposes in landfills, produced methane, and ends up in the ocean where it is consumed by animals that may eventually be consumed by people. There is an existing ban at the county level and 10 cities within the county also ban use of the material, including nearby Lafayette and Walnut Creek. The students propose that Orinda ban the retail use of Styrofoam takeout food containers

and cups, with some exceptions, including pre-packaged items, and Styrofoam ice chests.

In their presentation, the students said that Styrofoam contributes to the hole in the ozone layer and leaches into food from containers, especially when used for hot or fatty foods. This can lead to the consumption of styrene, a possible human carcinogen or neurotoxin. Only four restaurants were found to be using Styrofoam containers: Europa, Serika, Baja Cali and Sushi Island.

In response to a question from Mayor Amy Worth, the students talked about Project HEART, which stands for Help Environment Assist Restaurant Takeout. The project helps the restaurants by supplying compostable supplies, and the students believe that they could continue to help by supplying free supplies for a certain period using funds raised by their GoFundMe campaign.

All of the city council members commended the

students on their sustained effort. Members of the public, including Nick Waranoff and Latika Malkani, also praised the students and their project. Mayor Worth added her praise for Miramonte public speaking teacher Christine Plant who inspired the students. Warranoff offered to help draft the ordinance and Malkani offered to publicize the GoFundMe campaign. Senior Planner Adam Foster, who presented the staff report, told the council that he was working for the city of Lafayette at the time that they adopted their Styrofoam ban, and could work on developing the ordinance for Orinda, drawing from other local ordinances.

Council Member Nick Kosla wondered if the city could conduct a buy-back program to remove Styrofoam from the city, and if there is any safe way to dispose of it. Staff will bring the ordinance to a city council meeting for action soon.

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City Council Regular Meeting:
 Tuesday, May 4, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only

Planning Commission
 Tuesday, May 11, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only



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Wagner Ranch Nature Area is gearing up, welcoming students back



Toris Yeager feeds ducks at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area.

Photos Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

Excitement is building at Wagner Ranch Nature Area, a site for outdoor learning next to Wagner Ranch Elementary School in Orinda, where OUSD students have come back to outdoor learning at reduced numbers and some interesting projects are taking shape. There will be six weeks of summer camps, and a new project is hoped to provide revenue for the nature area.

The nature area is staffed by teacher and naturalist Toris Yeager and many volunteers who come each Sunday to work in the garden. Volunteers may be children or adults, and come from groups such as the Boys Team Charity, the National Charity League, Others First Middle School and the Miramonte Environmental Club. For many years Eagle Scouts have built projects at the nature area, such as bridges and bat boxes, which were found to house many bats last year when a controlled burn of the meadow at the nature area was undertaken. Boy Scouts recently enjoyed an overnight at the nature area.

Starting earlier this year, the nature area has been offering abbreviated versions of its usual programs, including Animal Camp, Rancho Days, and Pioneer Days to all students in the Orinda Union School District area four days per week. Limited to 14 students at a time, the programs have been running on an alternating Mon-

day/Wednesday, Tuesday/Thursday schedule.

Dr. Reg Barrett, a professor emeritus at UC Berkeley and a board member of the Friends of the Nature Area, has just begun conducting a year-long wildlife study project using motion sensitive cameras with about 12 high school students from four schools. The nature area is home to birds of prey, songbirds, ducks, bats, turtles, red-legged frogs, lizards, snakes, coyotes, opossums, brush rabbits and raccoons.

Another board member of the Friends, Jane Voll has been putting together richly detailed focus folders, starting with redwood trees, for teachers and interested visitors to the nature area. Another folder on oak trees is under development.

Arman Marchiel, an alumnus of the nature area who is now at UC Berkeley is preparing the olive grove for harvesting as an academic project. It is hoped that the grove will produce oil that can be sold to increase revenues devoted to the nature area.

Volunteers have been busy planting seeds, and seedlings are filling the greenhouse at the nature area, soon to be planted out into the carefully tended beds. Yeager is on hand to teach volunteers, many of whom are children, about the plants. For example, the three sisters refers to the indigenous crops corn, beans and squash. The three sisters not only help us, but they help each other. Corn sup-

ports the beans, and squash plants shade the roots of the others.

Yeager loves working with young people. She believes that they are going to lead, "they have the passion." There are three high school students, sometimes four, on the board of the Friends, who are very dedicated, and come every Sunday to volunteer, Yeager says. Two of the students attend Miramonte, one attends Monte Vista in Danville. Mallika Dandamundi, represents Miramonte and Talia Sandher represents Monte Vista. Another young volunteer is Brett Morici, who isn't on the board, but her mother, Yvonne Morici, works and teaches with Yeager. Morici built all the wire covers on the raised beds in the garden.

All fourth-grade students in the district recently concluded Native Studies at the nature area.

Third-graders are taking Animal Camp. Pioneer Days for fifth-graders ended in March.

The nature area will now be offering after school programs. While the nature area will not provide lunch, the children bring their lunches. They maintain 3 feet of separation with masks on, 6 feet with masks off to eat their lunches.

The Summer Camp program will begin on June 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every day for children ages 5 to 12. Another session is scheduled for three weeks in July beginning July 12. Currently the nature area is limited to 14 children at a time, but Yeager is hopeful that the number will be increased soon, perhaps to 20. In the future there are plans for an open house at the end of September, but more details will be made public later.

The natural area is supported in part by the Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area, as well as the Orinda Union School District. More info can be located on the Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area website, www.fwrna.org



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MOFD board adopts Community Wildfire Protection Plan, chipper program expansion



Photo provided

By Jennifer Wake

Following an incredibly dry winter, warnings of a devastating fire season ahead became all too real after the April 21 declaration of a drought emergency by Gov. Gavin Newsom for Sonoma and Mendocino counties. The Moraga-Orinda Fire District mitigation efforts are contin-

uing to move forward. The MOFD board of directors adopted the Community Wildfire Protection Plan at its April 21 meeting, after holding three community meetings to gather public input – one in Orinda Jan. 21, in Canyon Jan. 28 and in Moraga Feb. 4 – as well as several others held with community stakeholders.

The 65-page CWPP will offer a roadmap and a useful tool for the current year and will make the district “more effective and efficient in our ongoing efforts to reduce the community’s risk to loss from uncontrolled wildfire,” said MOFD Fire Chief Dave Winnacker.

A portion of the mitigation efforts outlined in the CWPP involve the chipper program, in which MOFD schedules services for fuel mitigation, responds to citizen inquiries regarding the program, and trains and supervises a two-person crew. MOFD has offered to manage the addition of one two-person crew assigned to the city of Orinda, without any additional charge for overhead and supervision. According to a staff report, the city will reimburse the district for the direct costs associated with the Orinda assigned crew.

“Seems to me it’s a no brainer,” said Director Jon Jex. “You’re doubling the

chipping service that’s desperately needed and demanded by the community at large, at no cost to the district other than coordinating, which basically eliminates the confusion ... in how you explain which chipper is going where.”

Staffing the chipper program has become challenging, according to Winnacker who said they were competing for labor with other entities that were perceived as more prestigious or offered a step up to being hired. “In November we had a robust list,” said Winnacker, but staff have since left to pursue other employment opportunities. Given MOFD’s challenge of hiring and maintaining fuel mitigation specialists, an option was presented to the board to contract with a third party vendor. “It will come at a cost,” Winnacker said, “but the value to the community and avoiding two competing chipper programs ... make that worthwhile.”

In response to Treasurer

Steven Danziger’s question if existing staff can handle the workload involved, the chief said, “This is a good use of resources and the efficiency of running a single program that’s currently established. It’s hard to overstate the value of harnessing that efficiency and putting an additional chipper in service within the same system.” The board unanimously approved the chipper program expansion.

In addition to the chipper program, the CWPP offers extensive guidance to reduce structure ignitability and fuel hazards as well as detailing strategies for reducing risk within the Wildland Urban Interface.

The Draft CWPP will now be presented to the County Board of Supervisors and Cal-Fire SCU. Upon their adoption and approval, the CWPP will go into effect. According to Winnacker, “[District 2 Supervisor] Candace Andersen’s office has been heavily involved in the process.”

To view the entire CWPP, visit <https://www.mofd.org/our-district/fuels-mitigation-fire-prevention/community-wildfire-protection-plan-cwpp>. For other fire safety information, visit Fire Safe Council (www.firesafecouncil.org); California Fire Alliance (www.cafirealliance.org); or FireWise (www.firewisesa.org.za/index.php)



Four Orinda restaurants burglarized in early hours

Four restaurants in Orinda were burglarized between 1 and 2 a.m. on April 24. The affected businesses had little cash on hand – only coins – but the burglars broke glass doors and stole registers or cash drawers. The thieves hit Maya, Europa, Reem’s Steaks and Loard’s Ice Cream. At least one wore no gloves and left

fingerprints; images were captured on CCTV and security videos. Owner Susie Reem believes that the criminals may have been using drugs for some time nightly after the 76 gas station across Moraga Way closed. Nations Giant Hamburgers, which was open until 1 a.m., was not hit. Alex Masarweh,

owner of Maya’s, was philosophical; this wasn’t the first time he’d been burglarized. But he said, “This was my first day off in two months, and look where I am!” He watched as the broken glass was being replaced.

– S. O’Doherty

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

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, May 19, 6 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, May 18, 1 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



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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, David M. Cook 925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org
Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report April 4 - April 17



Alarms 32
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 14
Traffic 71
Suspicious Circumstances 9
Suspicious Subject 16
Suspicious Vehicle 16
Service to Citizen 23
Patrol Req./Security Check 44
Pubic/School Assembly Check 1
Supplemental Report 18
Vacation House Check 10
Welfare Check 18
Ordinance Violation 6
Vehicle violations
Accident Property
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
80 Block David Dr., Moraga
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
3300 Block Deer Hill Rd.
Police Department
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Mountain View Dr.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
15t St./Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
Reckless Driving
Hastings Ct./Hilltop Dr.
Happy Valley Rd./Deer Hill Rd.
St Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr.
3300 Block Springhill Rd.

Mt. Diablo Blvd./El Nido Ranch Rd.
Other criminal activity
Commercial Burglary
3400 Block Golden Gate Wy
Computer Fraud
100 Block Secluded Pl.
Fraud Credit Card
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3200 Block Ameno Dr.
Fraud False Pretenses
10 Block Toledo Ct.
4100 Block Coralee Ln.
Grand Theft
3100 Block Teigland Rd.
Grand Theft From Vehicle
900 Block Condit Ct.
3200 Block Ameno Dr.
Identity Theft
3200 Block Ameno Dr.
Petty Theft
1000 Block Brown Ave.
3700 Block Sundale Rd.
10 Block Hilldale Rd.
700 Block Old Jonas Hill Rd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
30 Block Sanford Ln.
3100 Block Sunridge Ct.
Petty Theft From Vehicle
3900 Block Happy Valley Rd.
Residential Burglary
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Shoplift
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
Theft Access Card
3300 Block Ridge Rd.
Warrant Service
20 Block White Oak Dr.
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
100 Block Lafayette Cir.
1000 Block Miller Dr.
Disturbance-fight
Laurel Dr./Garden Ln.
Loud Music
Reliez Valley Rd./Echo Springs Rd.
900 Block Janet Ln.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Loud Noise
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.
El Curtola Blvd./Old Tunnel Rd.
Loud Party
3300 Block Springhill Rd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Public Nuisance
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Wy
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
Oliver Ct./Moraga Rd.
Vandalism
Police Department (2)
3600 Block Boyer Cir.

Other
Covid19 Violation
900 Block Dewing Ave.
Fire/Ems Response Info
900 Block Village Center
Intoxicated Subject
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
K9 Outside Assist Request
400 Block Santander Dr., Sra
Violation Custody Order
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report April 6 - April 19
Alarms 11
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 3
Traffic 45
Suspicious Circumstances 2
Suspicious Subject 6
Suspicious Vehicle 5
Service to Citizen 30
Patrol Req./Security Check 25
Supplemental Report 6
Vacation House Check 0
Welfare Check 5
Pubic/School Assembly Check 2
Vehicle violations
Accident Property
Larch Ave./Canyon Rd.
Auto Burglary
1600 Block Locust St., Wcr
Excessive Speed
Canyon/Del La Cruz
Moraga Way/School St. (2)
Moraga Way/Miramonte Dr. (2)
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (2)
Moraga Way/Zill
Rheem Blvd./Chalda Way
Moraga Rd./Sky Hi
Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr.
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.
Canyon/Camino Pablo
Rheem Blvd./Stewart Ct.
Moraga Way/Moraga Rd. (2)
Moraga Rd./Lucas Dr.
Reckless Driving
Rheem Blvd./Center St.
Campolindo Dr./Moraga Rd.
Moraga Rd./Canyon Rd.
Tc - Property Damage
Pinehurst Rd./Canyon Rd., Can
Vehicle Theft
Not Available



Other criminal activity
Grand Theft
1400 Block Moraga Way
400 Block Center St.
Identity Theft
10 Block Lynch Ct.
Petty Theft
2100 Block Donald Dr.
Shoplift
1500 Block Canyon Rd.
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbing The Peace
Campolindo High School
Loud Music
10 Block Thune Ave.
Not Available
Loud Noise
Campolindo High School (2)
2100 Block Ascot Dr.
Loud Party
200 Block Paseo Bernal
2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Public Nuisance
Calle La Montanncampolindo D
Vandalism
90 Block Courter Ln. (2)
Moraga Commons Park
Ascot Ct./Ascot Dr.
Other
Brandishing Weapon
200 Block Rheem Blvd.
Mentally Ill Commit
Campolindo High School
Trespass
St. Marys College
ORINDA POLICE
Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report April 11 - April 24
Alarms 38
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 8
Traffic 40
Suspicious Circumstances 1
Suspicious Subject 10
Suspicious Vehicle 7
Service to Citizen 70
Patrol Req./Security Check 71
Supplemental Report 10
Vacation House Check 0
Welfare Check 7
Pubic/School Assembly Check 4
Vehicle violations
Accident Injury
80 Block Dairy Creek Ln.
Camino Pablo/Los Amigos

Accident Property
Miner Rd./Camino Don Miguel
100 Block Orchard Rd.
30 Block Tappan Ln.
Auto Burglary
20 Block Irwin Way (2)
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
10 Block Sunnyside Ct.
10 Block Sunnyside Ln.
Reckless Driving
Wilder Sports Fields
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.,
Tc - Property Damage
Detroit Ave./Monument Blvd., Con
Vehicle Theft
10 Block Charles Hill Cir.
St. Stephens Cir./El Nido Ranch Rd.
600 Block Fox Run
Other criminal activity
Fraud False Pretenses
200 Block Monte Vista Ridge
Grand Theft
10 Block El Camino Moraga
70 Block Charles Hill Rd.
Identity Theft
Police Department
10 Block Santa Maria Way
Panhandling
Camino Pablo
Residential Burglary
70 Block La Cuesta Rd.
Shoplift
Camino Pablo
Warrant Arrest
Coral Dr./Ardith Dr.
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbing The Peace
El Nido Rch Rd./Charles Hill
Bear Creek Rd./Camino Pablo
St. Stephens Dr./Eb Sr 24
Public Nuisance
Camino Sobrante
1 Block Orinda Way
70 Block Coral Dr.
Vandalism
Bear Creek Rd./Camino Pablo
Other
Failure To Obey
Nb Camino Pablo Appg Camino
Fireworks
700 Block Moraga Way
100 Block Brookside Rd.
El Nido Ranch/St. Stephens
H&S/Pos Paraphenalia
Camino Pablo/Clairemont Ave.
Revoked License
Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante
Trespass
70 Block Via Floreado
10 Block Risa Ct.
Unwanted Guest
10 Block Theatre Sq 106
Violation Restraining Order
500 Block Moraga Way (2)



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New fitness facility takes working out to maximum levels



Photo Vera Kochan

F45 Training facility in Rheem Valley Shopping Center

By Vera Kochan

F45 Training, a high-intensity, group workout gym has recently opened its doors at 535 Center St. in Moraga's Rheem Valley Shopping Center, utilizing the former Mycra Pac building.

The "F" stands for functional training, which is a combination of circuit and HIIT (High-Intensity Interval Training). This style of working out is geared toward everyday movement, but the individual pushes themselves to maximum levels

with less periods of rest in between. The "45" stands for the total amount of minutes for a sweat-dripping, heart-pumping workout.

Owner and operator Kristen Morcos has been a Certified Trainer since 2013. "I've been involved with sports all my life. It's what made me decide to start training people," she said. "I wanted to wake up every day and make people healthy and happy."

In 2016, Morcos opened

her first F45 in San Mateo. Last year she and her husband moved to Moraga during the pandemic and welcomed a new baby in September. She was not daunted by the fact that a 24 Hour Fitness was located on the next block. "They don't offer what we do. F45 provides personal training in a group environment at a fraction of the cost."

The workouts are modified for each individual – regardless of age. It's designed for people to participate six days a week, and there's a mixed regimen on a daily basis with a possibility of 45 different types of sessions.

"We're huge on community, and we don't have mirrors inside," said Morcos. "It's so that you focus on you and the team training atmosphere." All of F45's instructors are called coaches, and are experienced trainers.

"I want to bring health and fitness to the community," Morcos stated. "It's so important to have that right now."

For more information visit: www.F45training.com/moraga.



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LLLC reopens doors thanks to foundation efforts

... continued from Page A3

"We try to bring interesting and enriching programs, most of which are free, to Lafayette. Things you may not expect to happen in a small town library because we've always been a small town library that thinks really big."

The popular Distinguished Speaker series has continued throughout the past year via Zoom. Until further notice, this program will continue to be virtual with Joyce Carol Oates and the winner of the fifth annual Joyce Carol Oates prize appearing on 5.

One of the programs Blumenfeld is most proud of is bringing children's authors into the Lafayette schools.

"With so much social unrest last summer, community groups were creating equity, diversity and inclusion programs," she describes. "In partnership with the city, we've been bringing in guest authors to provide a virtual story time to our elementary students." She notes that they look for books "about unsung heroes, people who have done amazing things so we can introduce children to this new history. Teachers and school librarians have been thrilled to have these enriching programs brought to their virtual classrooms."

There have already been six or seven of these presentations and each author has done a story time for the kids. The LLLCF donates a copy of each book to all four elementary schools as well as a copy

to the Lafayette library. Jeff Gottesfeld, author of "Twenty-One Steps: Guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier," was the most recent guest author, reading his book to almost 250 fifth-graders earlier this month. (Gottesfeld is also virtually presenting this incredible book through the Distinguished Speaker program on May 20.) Blumenfeld was so excited to bring this book, with its strong civic message, to the students and Gottesfeld reports that the reception from the kids was great. "I was supposed to talk for about 50 minutes but even after the bell rang, approximately 40 kids stayed online to ask more questions."

For more information on the LLLCF and its programs, or to donate, go to LLLCF.org.

Mitigation measure at Brown Avenue and Deer Hill approved, artist's donation of custom birdhouses accepted

... continued from Page A2

Concerned about the appearance of public spaces along Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Anduri suggested the involvement of the Public Arts Committee would be appropriate.

Moran said research he has conducted on allowable alterations and Bigbelly units observed in neighboring cities (such as Walnut Creek) show modifications such as wraps or painting the industrial containers exteriors can be made. Moran noted that capacity issues and the mixing of trash with recyclables in the existing Republic receptacles despite color-coding and markings on the exteriors means high-use areas have overflow issues and contamination is frequent when people mistakenly mix trash and recyclables. The result? More trash is left on the ground and street or is ending up in landfills. Especially in highly populated areas like Plaza Park, the Bigbelly high-capacity units that use solar power to compact cans, track internal capacities and maintain safety features will require lower maintenance and

through this and other ways outlined in the staff report will reduce carbon emissions.

A decision was made to move the item to the April 26 meeting after more research is completed regarding permissions and the cost of artistic wraps or paint to improve the aesthetics of the replacement receptacles.

One item relating to both aesthetics and traffic not pulled from the consent calendar for conversation was a report and recommendation from the Public Art Committee to accept the donation of custom birdhouses created and installed at various locations in Lafayette by artist Greg Moeller.

The PAC reviewed a letter of complaint regarding birds and squirrels occupying the birdhouses and deemed Moeller's public art installations did not violate any municipal codes. Furthermore, the report states the birdhouses are compatible with the city's aesthetics and natural environment and a cooperative arrangement with the artist as to maintenance and future installations has been agreed upon.

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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This year we are offering an advertising opportunity for families of graduates to go with a list of all graduating seniors that we will publish in our May 26 issue.

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Letters to the editor

Concern over Lafayette traffic circle for cyclists

I was shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Joe Shami, Lafayette resident and local cycling legend. He was struck by a car in the traffic circle at the intersection of Pleasant Hill Road and Olympic Blvd and died of his injuries. Joe was an extremely experienced cyclist and is famous for having bicycled up Mt. Diablo 500 consecutive weeks in a row.

I believe that part of the blame for this tragedy lies with the decision to install the traffic circle at that intersection, which has no provisions for cyclists. I have been bicycling along that route to work for 9 years and prior to the traffic circle, there was a 4 way stop. Bicyclists traveling east could stay on the right shoulder and continue on to the bicycle lane on Olympic Blvd.

When the traffic circle was being proposed, reportedly there was a desire to connect the Lafayette-Moraga Trail with the Iron Horse Trail in Walnut Creek to facilitate bicycle traffic. However, the final design proposed by the City Council for the traffic circle included no accommodations for cyclists at all. An alternative, much safer design was offered by the Bike East Bay organization (<https://bikeeastbay.org/events/city-lafayette-pleasant-hill-roundabout-public-meeting>), however the Lafayette City Council went ahead with a very car-oriented traffic circle that makes no provision for cyclists. When riding through this intersection, cyclists must take the lane with cars, with no area dedicated for cyclists. I have felt much less safe going through this intersection since the traffic circle was installed.

Every year I stop at the various "energizer stations" in Lafayette that support Bike-To-Work Day. Those stations are supposedly to encourage people to make bicycling to work a regular habit. We are told using a bicycle instead of a car will help combat climate change. But those of us who try to bicycle to work regularly are continually disappointed by the lip-service paid to improving the infrastructure to make bicycling safer.

Eric Bain
Lafayette

PG&E priorities

Regarding "PG&E work continues in downtown Lafayette" (April 14, 2021), PG&E's boilerplate statement of safety being "PG&E's top priority" belies a history of uneven engagement and communication in Lafayette.

The article should have stated that PG&E is working on

13 sections of the pipeline where significant corrosion merited immediate repairs. In total, PG&E found 69 areas of corrosion in just one pipeline mile during recent testing on the high pressure pipeline downtown. Testing was initiated only after the resident Gas Safety Task Force requested CPUC do an audit of PG&E gas operations in Lafayette.

We wish legally mandated pipeline testing had been a priority over discretionary PG&E programs, like tree removal. Trees have never caused a gas transmission pipeline accident for PG&E, while corrosion of pipelines continues to be one of the leading causes of incidents. Significant portions of high pressure, vintage pipeline in Lafayette remains untested.

The Task Force has worked for years to help PG&E focus on real-world safety issues in Lafayette, identifying significant risks that PG&E later addressed. These include dangerous exposed pipeline spans in high fire zones including the Springhill Neighborhood and Briones; exposed pipeline along the highly trafficked Lafayette-Moraga trail that blocked a seasonal stream; adding important cathodic protection to protect against corrosion; pipeline testing; and more.

We ask PG&E to continue to focus on mitigating major causes of gas pipeline accidents: corrosion, incorrect operation, and excavation dig-ins. PG&E should complete in-line testing of all transmission pipelines in Lafayette; better identify High Consequence Areas, a designation for higher safety standards, especially in high wildfire zones; and work to reduce dig-in accidents, which average more than once per month in Lafayette. We agree PG&E's top priority should be safety. There's still a lot of work to do, and we're counting on PG&E's partnership on the real gas safety issues to make this a reality.

Michael Dawson
Lafayette Gas Safety Task Force member

Enough is Enough

I spoke at a Lafayette City Council meeting in September 2018 to protest a Tree Removal Agreement with PG&E. PG&E cited safety as the primary reason that they needed to cut down 272 trees along the Lafayette-Moraga Trail, Reservoir Rim Trail, and some neighborhoods and backyards. This list included many old, heritage oaks. The main reason for my opposition, and the opposition of others, was simple: PG&E had not shown any correlation, evidence, or data that showed that cutting down trees near gas lines enhances

our safety. In fact, they failed to give one single example of where a tree had caused a gas leak or pipeline accident or any other problem. I was pleased to see all of the research by the new group Save Lafayette Trees uncovering real, honest ways that our safety could be enhanced, such as having automated shut-off valves. And I applaud the City of Lafayette for setting up a Gas Safety Task Force. But, unbelievably debate about trees has persisted for 2 1/2 years and PG&E continues to press for cutting them down. Enough is enough! I ask again that PG&E focus on real gas safety concerns and that the City of Lafayette do whatever they can to finally preserve all 272 trees and put this issue to bed.

Steve Richard
Lafayette

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

Moraga Chamber bestows 2020 Business & Nonprofit of the Year honors

... continued from Page A5

Internationally, the Club provided housing, care and education for a group of children in Sierra Leone who became orphaned due to an Ebola epidemic. They are also helping to build the first Lumumba Children's Library and Learning Center in Goma, Congo, a city of over 1 million people where most children don't attend school regularly. Add to that, another current project in Tecpan, Guatemala where Club members will travel to install concrete floors in homes that have only dirt floors.

Rotary Club President Brian South was conducting a member meeting on Zoom when Moraga Chamber of Commerce Board Member

Ron Haas had asked for a moment to discuss Chamber business. Much to the surprise of the approximately 25 attendees, he proceeded to notify the group that they were the Chamber's Non-profit of the Year recipient. "We are excited, pleased and honored to receive this award," stated South. When asked where the award would be displayed he chuckled, "Right now it's on my office wall."

South is very proud of the organization's achievements in Moraga and beyond. "We're actively looking for new members to help serve the community." He encourages interested parties to visit their website, www.moragarotary.org, for more information and click onto "Contact Us."



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Continuing domination for Lamorinda girls water polo

... continued from Page A1

With such a compressed season, Miramonte coach Lance Morrison knew that the team would have to hit the ground running. "We're doing our best to get organized, having to adapt and roll with what we have," Morrison said. "There is a certain energy on the team right now. We're not taking any moment for granted."

Campolindo coach Kim Everist attacked the changes head-on. "We had a team meeting and explained how everything about this year is about being adaptable and adjusting," Everist said. "I just really want everyone to have a

great time with the team and building off of that."

Acalanes

There are two numbers that stand out for Acalanes: 59 (5-0 this season) – the team's consecutive win streak – and 1,266, the number of days since their last loss on Nov. 8, 2017.

Even with several all-league returning players, the graduation of three-time All-American Jewel Roemer has left a big hole for Acalanes. "Jewel directed the traffic in the pool, and this has left a void to be filled," Buchel said. "That void is going to be filled by everyone through communication and action."

There are seven first and

second team all-league players returning to the team: Ava Donleavy, Claire Rowell, Alana McCartney, Marty Beth Heffelfinger, Alex Mould, Heidi Heffelfinger and Caroline Schirmer.

Buchel will be calling on his players to play both offense and defense. "Our versatility has been a real asset and we still have the players that can do multiple things," Buchel said. "Our defenders can post up and our outside shooters can defend. Claire is the best counterattack player in our section. Alana is our 'Swiss army knife' being able to do a little bit of everything. Heidi is big, strong, and fast and will

provide us with the height that we've had in the past. Caroline and Alex are our primary defenders who can play both ends of the pool."

Donleavy, a four-year starter was chosen co-outstanding goalie of the league last year. "Ava's strength is her ability to direct traffic along with her goalie skills," Buchel said. "She is a great shot blocker and has a great range of passing. We've never had a big game where she was flat or off her game. She always brings it."

Miramonte

Morrison is keeping Miramonte's eyes on the prize. "We're going to be a good, competitive team," Morrison said.

"Ever since we won the NCS in 2017, we've been trying to build back into that caliber. We're going to be a good, competitive team and we're going to have a lot of success."

Morrison's game plan is simple: "We're going to let the pieces fall where they may but we're going to remember one thing: "We're a team and nothing works unless we all work together."

This is a young team with a lot of experience. Two sophomores had outstanding freshman seasons: Lindsay Lucas was the co-outstanding goalie of the year and Meghan McAninch was chosen second team all-league.

... continued on Page A13

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Continuing domination for Lamorinda girls water polo



Alexa Carter, Acalanes



Shayne Clancy, Campolindo goalie

Photos Gint Federas



#14 Kaia Levenfeld, Campolindo

... continued from Page A12

"Lindsay is solid in every way," Morrison said. "She's consistent and doesn't let anything rattle her. She's determined, fierce and does not let things get her out of her zone. Meghan is very gifted on offense but is also an all-around player. She is very intense and competitive."

Seniors Fiona Young (1st team all-

league) and Mackenzie Murphy (2nd team all-league) are key players on offense. "We're really excited to have Fiona out there to lead the team. She will be facilitating a lot of our offense and keeping us organized on defense. Mackenzie did a lot for us last year. Sophomores Aly Lurie and Dena Ennis are both good post-up players."

With the short preseason there are a lot of positions that are not set, Morrison said: "We're looking to get every-

body a role. Nothing happens unless we learn to work together. We have a lot of players that are going to contribute."

Still, it's his senior class that Morrison is counting on to provide the leadership and stability on the team. Along with Young and Murphy, Morrison highlighted Courtney Coleman, Anna Hillen, Kate Rochio and Devon Byrne for recognition. "They have all contributed four years to the team and our program wouldn't be what it is if it wasn't for their effort and sacrifice."

Campolindo

With transfers and freshmen on the Campolindo roster, developing a familiarity among the players was the first goal for coach Everist. "We're talking a lot about getting to know each other and they all seem to get along with each other," Everist said. "They're open minded and they all want to learn."

With everything else going on, Everist learned that the team did not have a goalie on the roster. Sophomore Shayne Clancy, a field player, stepped up and has been quickly developing as the team's goalie. "Shayne had never played in the goal before and opted to fill that role," Everist said. "We went through this with Haley Hunter (now playing at Indiana) who was also a field player. Shane is super competitive and is really composed without highs and lows. She has done a great job in her first two games and

she may have found her calling."

The offense is led by Tallulah Clancy who was all-league as a junior and will be playing for Brown next year. "Tallulah is very offensive minded and a great leader," Everist said. "She loves to post up and enjoys the contact and physicality that really gets her going along."

Senior Reese Whipple has been a force inside. Maddie Sumner, who will be playing for UC Davis next year, is a lefty playing on the 4-5 side. Maggie Hawkins has been very strong on defense but, according to Everist, "She has to make things happen in the front court as well."

If there was a positive to the coronavirus, it allowed Elizabeth McGrath who was coming off an injury and would not have been able to play in the fall to recover and be able to play in the spring.

Two freshmen, London Menard and Grace Gafni, will be getting playing time this season. "They've done a really nice job so far," Everist said. "As they keep improving, they're going to be playing more."

What's been most important to Everist and the team is just being in the pool. "We want to make the most of every moment," Everist said. "I just really want to have a great time with the team and I'm building off that. We're going to play, improve and compete. We only can control what we can control."



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Extensively renovated Orinda Theatre reopens April 30



Photo Derek Zemrak

Restored to 1941 original, Orinda Theatre features work of famous theatre muralist Anthony Heinsbergen (1894-1981).

... continued from Page A1

He proceeded to install black lights to illuminate the murals, being very careful to keep it close to the paintings and not to shine it on patrons. Some of the paintings lower down on the walls do not react to the black light because they were repainted after the theater sustained water damage in 1986. The murals reflect themes of earth, wind, fire and water. In the lobby, the chandelier and carpets were cleaned. As they started taking things down, Zemrak and the small group of people who stayed together through the pandemic began to find out the history of things in the theater and to restore them. In the ladies lounge the make-up stations received new LED lighting. When patrons are leaving the theaters, on their way out they would see an opaque white panel over the doors. When they took it down, Zemrak was amazed to find that there were blue and yellow neon lights that hadn't been visible since 1986, even though the lights had been turned on. Originally the panel was an exit marquee that would have announced upcoming movies, but Demrak doesn't have lettering for the area. He says that Heinsbergen wanted you to walk into the theater and see blue and gold, and see it again when you left, and now you can see it again. The outdoor marquees will again return to advertising current films, but the center panel will continue to be rented out to announce birthdays and anniversaries. Other upcoming events at the theater include the Psychotronix Film Festival which will be held May 1, in the 189-seat theater. Zemrak says this event sold out pretty quickly. On May 30 the theater will host a concert by local group George and the Cool Katz, who promise to take you down memory lane with your favorite tunes from Elvis and Johnny Mathis; country to rock & roll. For information, visit orindamovies.com.

ANNUAL COMPOST GIVEAWAY

HOSTED BY RECYCLES MART AND REPUBLIC SERVICES





Bring 5-gallon buckets, cardboard boxes or other strong containers. NO BAGS. Republic Services provides staff to shovel compost into your containers. Residents can take up to 50 gallons of compost (ten 5-gallon buckets), while supplies last.

Follow state protocols: You must wear a mask and come at your scheduled time to allow for social distancing. Those who come without a scheduled pickup time will be turned away.

Reserve your time. Registration required:
www.recyclesmart.org/ICAW21

This event is open to: Lafayette, Orinda, Moraga, and RecycleSmart residents only.

Saturday, May 8th, 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. (registration required)
Event hosted in Lafayette. Register for event information.

~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Campo diver teaches English on the side



Photo Vera Kochan

Campo Men's Varsity Diving Team senior Daniel Zabronsky

By Vera Kochan

With the lack of competition due to COVID restrictions, Moraga's Campolindo High School senior, Daniel Zabronsky, has been channeling his energy into teaching English to students in Colombia, South America.

Zabronsky first began his serious foray into the world of water sports in the eighth grade (after years of recreational swimming with his friends), when he began competitive swimming at Sherman Swim School in Lafayette and the Moraga Country Club. "After a while I thought that swimming was boring. I used

to do flips on my trampoline, and after seeing the divers at Sherman I decided to try it. I liked to do the diving flips, and I spun fast and did good jumps." After lots of hard work, Zabronsky was moved up to the club's competitive team.

As a freshman at Campo, Zabronsky became a member of the Men's Varsity Diving Team, specializing in the 1-meter and 3-meter springboard along with the 5-, 7- and 10-meter platform. He recently received a personal best score of 413.5 points for the 1-meter. Social distancing mandates have cut into his typical training schedule and all high school competitions,

but Zabronsky manages to get approximately two days a week, "on and off," of workouts in at Sherman or Acalanes High School.

Like many graduating seniors who are currently studying online, Zabronsky's hopes of being recruited to a college team have faded due to a hiatus of certain types of sports. "Almost no one wants divers and very few are even recruiting swimmers. I'm hoping that wherever I go, I can make it as a walk-on." Looking to major in finance, his 4.35 weighted GPA (calculated after adding extra points for honors or Advanced Placement courses), has already gotten him accepted to Boston College. He's keeping his options open while waiting to hear from other East Coast institutions. "My dad is from New York."

Zabronsky is fluent in Spanish, thanks to his parents, Andrew and Angelika, who have been taking the family for visits to his mom's native Colombia every summer since he was a toddler. "We would stay on my grandparents' ranch near Medellin every summer, and I used to play with a lot of the kids in the area."

While English grammar is taught in the schools there, conversational English is not. Zabronsky's mother decided to rectify that for the local kids about four years ago. "My mom likes helping people, and she wanted to help them out, too. She wanted them to be the first in their families to get a good education." To that end, his parents purchased laptops and arranged for internet service.

The generosity didn't end there. Zabronsky has himself

become an English tutor to the friends, ages 12 to 19, that he once played with as a child. There are no books or tests. The lessons are via Zoom, and he teaches conversational English to at least one friend a week for an hour, in addition to helping them with homework from their school's English classes. "It's to help them with a better future," he explained.

Zabronsky's eighth-grade sister, Isabel, did her share of "tutoring" by speaking in

English during visits to Colombia. He's hoping she will take over for him when he heads off to college.

One of the Zabronsky family's success stories is 19-year-old Julian. "He's fluent in English and he wants to go into accounting. He's very driven, and he's already in college. His family is so poor – they work in the fields," stated Zabronsky, who is very proud to have been a part of Julian's dreams of a better life.

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RCFE #079201006

Spicy, nutty and moist morning glory muffins hit the mark



Spicy Morning Glory Muffins

Makes 18 regular 2-inch muffins

INGREDIENTS

Dries:

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
 3/4 cup whole wheat flour
 1 1/4 cups light brown sugar
 2 teaspoons baking soda
 1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
 1/4 teaspoon cardamom
 1/4 teaspoon allspice
 1/4 teaspoon cloves
 1 teaspoon salt

Liquids and Goodies:

1 cup canola oil
 3 large eggs
 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
 1 cup carrots, (peeled and grated)
 1 Granny Smith apple, peeled, cored, and grated
 1 cup crushed pineapple (drained of juices)
 1 cup raisins (reconstituted in boiling water for 15 minutes and squeezed dry)
 1 cup coarsely chopped pecans
 1/2 cup unsweetened, shredded coconut

Crumb Topping

1/2 cup flour
 1/4 cup brown sugar
 1/4 cup oats
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
 1/8 teaspoon cardamom
 2 tablespoons canola oil

Mix all dries together in a bowl, including oats. Stir in oil until the mixture is crumbly, resembling a crumb topping.

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 F. Line two muffin tin pans with paper liners. Spray liners lightly with cooking spray. Mix all dries in a bowl and whisk together to blend well.

In a separate large bowl, mix together oil, eggs, vanilla, carrots, apples, raisins, pecans, pineapple, and coconut to incorporate all ingredients.

Add dries to the egg mixture and stir well with a wooden spoon to incorporate everything together. Spoon into muffin liners, filling to 1/4-inch from the top. Sprinkle crumb topping over each muffin.

Bake for 25 minutes, or until a cake tester comes out clean or the tops of the muffins spring back when indented with your finger.

Remove from oven and cool on a cooling rack.

Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator or freezer until ready to serve.

To serve, wrap in foil and heat through or serve cold or room temperature.

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. Or visit <https://treksandbites.com>



Morning Glory Muffins

Photos Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

I just adore morning glory muffins. They are my favorites — full of spices, nuts, fruit, and even carrots. Many bakeries make great morning glory muffins, but the best I've ever had were those from Stacey Cakes bakery in McCall, Idaho because they have the warm spice of cloves and cinnamon and they're made with oats and all sorts of goodies. And, they are huge, made in the jumbo muffins tins. Actually, they might be a little too big, since I'm inclined to eat the entire thing in one sitting!

A few recipes have made their way into our kitchen, but

they always seem to have come up short ... until now. With the goal of creating the perfect morning glory muffin, I assembled all of the ingredients I thought should be in a muffin and went about my work. After a few attempts, I think this is it. At least my family thinks so and I hope you will too. This one calls for crushed pineapple, which makes the muffins really moist, but it doesn't stop there. We also added grated apple and carrots, unsweetened coconut, pecans, plumped raisins and oats. And, then, we topped it all with a crumb topping.

Top 'o the morning (glory) to ya!

What you don't know about college costs can cost you big time!

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

Whether you are comparing financial aid awards from acceptances or entering the college admissions cycle for the first time this fall, you should gather the most accurate information that you can about college costs. Otherwise, your child's dream school could turn into a financial nightmare long after she has received her degree. Two things to watch out for as you consider your college list and your choices from the acceptances that you receive: your estimated cost of attendance and student loan debt.

Colleges determine their cost of attendance based on the charges that you will see on your bill: tuition, fees, room and board as well as estimates for charges not on your bill, such as books and transportation to and from home. However, your actual estimates will not always line up with the school's estimates. Colleges notoriously underes-

timate costs for clothing, transportation and books. They also ignore expenses that every student or their family is likely to have; for example, I have never seen a college estimate costs for a cell phone, software or a laptop, even though they are essentials that college students use every day.

Whether you are at the start of the admissions cycle, or about to choose a school, take a look at the college's estimated cost of attendance. Admissions and financial aid offices should have this information posted on their web pages. Accepted students should see it on their financial aid award letters. Then make your own estimates for the expenses that will not appear on your bill. You might trust the school for an estimate about books, since you have not bought them before. But you should know the actual amounts that you would spend on virtually everything else. The college's charges plus your estimated expenses are your true cost of attendance.

Colleges do not openly publish the average indebtedness of their recent graduates on their websites unless the average is well below the maximum that a student may borrow under the Federal Student Loan program. Today, that maximum is \$27,000 plus interest for undergraduate borrowers; the rate now is 2.75% for four years, \$31,000 for five years if it takes you that long to finish your degree. One way to think about this is to consider the fact that the monthly payments for a recent grad are likely to be about the same as they would be to finance a brand-new Honda Civic for five years.

Federal Parent PLUS Loans are a common way to finance a college education. But beware, they will be costly, even at the start. If you have received acceptances, you may see Parent PLUS loans mentioned on the award letters. The maximum Parent PLUS loan amount you can borrow is the cost of attendance — as estimated by the college — minus any other fi-

nancial assistance your child receives. So, if a school has an estimated total cost of \$75,000 for the year, you can borrow up to that amount. However, these loans have origination fees in excess of 4%. Over \$3,000 of your principle would go right back to the lender. The interest rate on Parent PLUS loans is 5.3% fixed for the life of the loan. If you are approved for a PLUS loan, you are expected to begin repaying it after you receive the money. You can request deferments when hardships happen, but the full debt must eventually be repaid with interest.

Colleges make it too easy for parents to apply for Parent PLUS Loans and make it too easy for them to borrow more than they should. While they might help to make a dream school more accessible, they certainly do not make it more affordable. Take on too much debt through PLUS or private student loans and you will likely pay for your child's college education past the time you had hoped to retire.



Elizabeth LaScala, PhD personally guides each student through each step of selecting and applying to well-matched schools for undergraduate and graduate school study. Over the past two decades, Elizabeth has placed hundreds of students in some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the U.S. The number of clients taken is limited to ensure each applicant has personalized attention. Contact Elizabeth early in the process to make a difference in your outcomes. Write elizabeth@doingcollege.com; Visit www.doingcollege.com; or Call: 925.385.0562.

Students and community respond to help monarchs in peril



Photos provided

Saklan sixth-graders Sadie Zippin and Sonia Perkins show their monarch poster.

Submitted by Bobbie Preston

The Moraga Garden Club has partnered with Saklan School, Campolindo High School and Saint Mary's College to support its Pollinator Habitat Gardens, supplying them with milkweed plants (for monarch

larvae) and nectar flowering plants (for the adult monarchs) and educational resources.

Saklan sixth-grade science teacher Vickie Obchain is currently teaching a unit on climate change and endangered species. Sixth-graders participated in a "Vote with your Change" to select the favorite endangered species. Each student selected an endangered species to learn about, determining where they are located, the level of threat, why the species is important, and what while happen if they become extinct. They then did a poster presentation to the whole sixth grade, and a "Species Election," with each penny equaling one vote.

"Our election ran at our school last week. The students promoted their species with posters, fliers and stickers asking the students to vote for their favorite species; either the Beluga, Adelle Penguin, Monarch Butterfly, Arctic Fox, or the Red Panda," Obchain said. "All students were incredibly passionate; sharing the need to save their species."

Obchain said it was a tight race, but the monarch butterfly won the election. "After a week of having students generously vote, we raised \$400 between all the different species (which will be donated to a national organization which helps conserve these species)."

Two students, Sadie Zippin and Sonia Perkins, who chose monarch butterflies said, "We had no idea the Western Monarchs had decreased by 99%. We know lots of other people don't know that and we want to educate people. And they are really beautiful!"

Campolindo students in the School Garden planted milkweed April 19 donated by Moraga Garden Club, as part of their Earth Day Celebration. Campo teacher Justin Seligman and Librarian Sarah Morgan are the advisors for the School Garden.

Moraga is on the flyway for monarchs and is only eight miles from an overwintering site at Lake

Merritt. Planting native milkweed in home gardens, along with flowering nectar plants, supports this fragile population. Names of donors of \$500 or more to the Moraga for Monarchs will be listed on a metal plaque at the site, but the deadline to be added to this plaque is May 31.

For more information, email moragaformonarchs@gmail.com.



Campo students in the School Garden plant milkweed on April 19.

Troop 32193 honors 2020 Gold Award Girl Scouts



Elizabeth Paul with dad, Ben Paul.

Photos Jennifer Davis

Submitted by Joan Toney

Lafayette Girl Scout Troop 32193 celebrated the achievements of its 2021 graduating seniors, Leda Abkenari, Deja Cooper, Lauren Davis, Emilia Gutman, Alex Hascall, Miriya Huie, Elizabeth Paul, Madison Payne, Sydney Rohrbough, Shelby Suppiger, Charlotte Toney, and Chloe Parmelee (class of 2020), in a March 21 garden ceremony. Almost all 12 members have been Girl Scouts since Daisy Scouts, earning over 50 skill badges and achieving Bronze and Silver Awards, the highest achievement for Girl Scouting in fifth and eighth grades. In the fall of 2020, members Elizabeth Paul and Charlotte Toney achieved their Gold

Awards, the highest rank for high school Ambassador Girl Scouts, involving over 80 hours of work and leadership on their chosen project. Additionally, both young women were honored by Girl Scouts of Northern California in a virtual Gold Award ceremony in January.

Elizabeth Paul drew inspiration for her Gold Award project from her experience teaching children at Congregation B'nai Tikvah's religious school. During the COVID shutdown, religious schools moved to virtual learning and Paul noticed students were falling behind in their Hebrew reading skills. She created an eight-week "Summer Tutoriam" program aimed at teaching anyone, regardless of age, how to read Hebrew. She



Charlotte Toney with mom, Joan Toney.

trained a group of 11 Jewish teens on how to tutor, communicate professionally by email, and how to utilize different Hebrew reading resources. By the end of the summer, 30 students had shown improved reading speed, confidence tackling challenging words, and mastery of the language on par with their religious study peers. Due to its success, this program will continue to run every summer at Congregation B'nai Tikvah for students and any others interested in learning or improving their Hebrew language skills.

With funding from community donations, cookie sales, and garage sales, Charlotte Toney designed her Gold Award project to assist Hope Solutions in

fully furnishing and outfitting four apartments for formerly homeless families. Toney led a team of volunteers to move furniture and set up the apartments prior to the tenants moving in. In addition, she organized and cataloged a storage unit for overflow donations, updated the "needs list" for future donations, and created a list of community members with businesses that could donate furniture on a regular basis. She was proud to partner with Hope Solutions in their efforts to provide supportive housing to at risk and homeless families in Contra Costa County.

Saint Mary's College Guild pushes forward with fundraising efforts



Photo provided

From left: Karen Cain, Guild president; Diane Buick, treasurer; Millicent McCormack, St. Patrick's event chair and publicity chair.

Submitted by Millicent McCormack

Fundraising for Saint Mary's College scholarships has been extremely difficult due to the pandemic, but the Saint Mary's College Guild's St. Patrick's Day Raffle was a huge success, with the sale of five baskets filled with Irish treasures. The Guild was able to raise \$3,195 effortlessly, said Mary Poppingo, SMC Liaison and Assistant Vice President for Alumni & Community Engagement.

The Guild is now focused on its

May Raffle, which will feature a delicious dinner for four along with two bottles of wine from Towne Bakery & Café (valued at \$150). Tickets and donations are due by May 10 and the drawing is scheduled for May 12.

This year more than ever the community's help is needed to attract and retain qualified students at Saint Mary's College, said Poppingo. Ticket cost: 1 ticket for \$25 or 2 for \$40. Send checks (made out to SMC GUILD) to 1928 St. Mary's Road, PMB 3002, Moraga, CA 94575. For more information, call Karen Cain at (925) 323-9912.

In Memory

Ronald Sylvio Ertola

Resident of Moraga

July 22, 1930 - April 4, 2021



Ron Ertola was born in North Beach, San Francisco to Sylvio and Bruna Ertola. He graduated from Galileo High School, where he was an All City Basketball and Baseball Athlete. He was inducted into the Galileo Athletic Hall of Fame. He was awarded a dual scholarship for both sports to the University of San Francisco by legendary Coach Pete Newel. He was also offered a professional baseball contract by the Brooklyn Dodgers at the age of 16. He was later invited to Spring training by the Pittsburgh Pirates. While at Galileo he met the love of his life, Joan Lucchesi. They were married on December 1, 1950. They were happily married for 49 years, until Joan passed in June 2001. Ron was Joan's primary

caretaker and never left her side while she battled Parkinson's Disease.

Ron and Joan moved to Moraga in July 1960, where they raised their two boys. Ron coached many of his son's athletic teams. They enjoyed many vacations at their lake house at Lake Wildwood. Ron enjoyed golfing, fishing, boating and spending time with friends and family. He was a successful businessman and founded his own company, State Surgical Supply in 1970, which he later sold to McKesson in 1997.

Ron is survived by his sons Brad (Jamie) and Pat (Jan) along with grandchildren Brad (Michelle), Anthony, Andrew, Kelsey, Nicholas and great granddaughter Ava. Along with his loving partner of 14 years, Marilyn Van Stralen. Ron is preceded in death by his brother Walter Bresciani, his mother, father and his wife.

Private Services are pending, due to the pandemic.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to:

The Multiple Sclerosis Society@

WWW.NATIONALMSSOCIETY.ORG/DONATE and fill out the form for "a gift in your loved ones memory". If you prefer to mail your donation: Send a check to The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, 4153 Northgate Blvd. #6, Sacramento, CA. 95834. Include the name of honoree ("in memory of...") and the name and address of person(s) you wish to notify re: the gift.

Lamorinda Weekly

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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.

Not to be missed

ART

Lamorinda Arts Alliance announces the exhibit "Slice of Life" at the aRt Cottage in Concord, May 4 - June 25. The concept of everyday life and adapting to the new normal has taken on an especially poignant meaning during the COVID-19 crisis. "Slice of Life" is about reflecting a moment, an era, a part of everyday life or an exceptional memory. The reception is pending Contra Costa County COVID-19 regulations. Located at 2238 Mt. Diablo Street, Concord. Open Tuesday - Friday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Lamorinda Arts Alliance is an organization of local artists and friends who reside or work in the area. www.laa4art.org

The Moraga Art Gallery's new show pays an "Homage to Nature." During stressful times like these art and nature can provide a measure of solace. "Homage to Nature," highlighting the work of two member artists wedded to the natural world. In etchings and monoprints with a distinctive Asian flair, Lafayette's Pat Prosek renders stylized classic cranes doing what they are meant to do: fly, nestle, groom themselves, wade, search for food, etc. A handsome four-paneled screen, "Love and Long Life," a traditional theme in ancient Asian art, serves as the centerpiece of the display. 432 Center Street in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center, open from noon to 4 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

<http://moragartgallery.com>, moragaartgallery@gmail.com, (925)376-5407

Lafayette Art Fair features sculptors' work. A May 8 Art Fair from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. will feature artists Bill Gian and Doug Heine, two of many talented sculptors who have their works displayed outside and in the Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery on the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road in Lafayette.

Art Embraces Words: Call for Writers & Visual Artists - Theme: "Courage & Heroism." Writers paint images with words. Artists tell stories with color. Together they enrich our community. Emerging writers and visual artists are invited to apply to be presenters at this free live program on Sunday, May 30 at 2 p.m. <https://lamorindaarts.org/art-embraces-words/>, email literary@lamorindaarts.org or call 925.359.9940

Art Gallery at the Orinda Library, May 1-30 "California Impressionism & Sailboats". The Lamorinda Arts Council is excited to announce the partial reopening of two exhibit spaces at the Library gallery. Look for paintings on two wood walls as you enter the Library. View Sydney Cheney-Thomas' oil paintings with the theme "Sail Away." Lisa Gunn's plein air paintings recall California Impressionism. All COVID-19 precautions observed. You can also see the artwork online at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/.

Art Gallery at Wilder, May 1 - 30 Virtual Exhibit: "Around the World in 12 Portraits". View Annie Jacquemet-Barrington's oil paintings, many of which are based on photographs of people from around the world. Her husband, Michael Barrington, known for his humanitarian work, often returns from faraway places with intriguing photographs of people involved in these projects. Many of these photos inspire her portrait paintings. Virtual solo show at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/.

MUSIC

Saint Mary's College, Performing Arts: Student Music Recital. Free, On Demand April 21-May 31 stmarys-ca.edu/studentrecitals21. Please join us for our last virtual music recital for Spring 2021. This performance will feature a wide variety of vocal performances including music by Sarah Bareilles, Smokie Norful, Elton John, and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. These are live and unedited performances filmed by our students! Previous Spring '21 recitals are available on the same link.

Saint Mary's College, Performing Arts: Choir Film. May 15 at 8 p.m. Live-streamed Release Watch Party. On Demand through May 31. Contributions welcome. stmarys-ca.edu/choirspring21. Music videos including Earth, Wind & Fire's Fantasy, Björk's New World, Clean Bandit's

Rather Be, and some newly created videos.

LITERATURE

Author Rachel Michelberg visiting Orinda Books. Her first book, "CRASH: How I Became a Reluctant Caregiver," comes out on April 27 from She Writes Press. Michelberg will appear at Orinda Books on May 19, 7 p.m., where she will be in conversation with Mark Lukach. Michelberg's memoir tackles a pervasive dilemma in our culture: the moral conflicts and societal expectations involved in caregiving for a disabled or cognitively impaired family member.

OTHER

International Film Showcase. IFS will open in Orinda is on May 14 with the USA premiere of "Riders of Justice" from Denmark. To start with and observing the COVID-19 restrictions, we will play at the middle size theater restricting attendance to 50 people at each screening. There will be three screenings per day at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. No screenings during the week. The film has won several awards, many nominations and received very high marks from about 5,000 people on IMDB. It is starring Mads Mikkelsen. Synopsis: Markus, who has to go home to his teenage daughter, Mathilde, when his wife dies in a tragic train accident. It seems like an accident until a mathematics geek, who was also

a fellow passenger on the train, and his two colleagues show up. Trailer: <https://youtu.be/j90kx5teGBQ>

The Orinda and Danville Christian Science Churches are presenting a free webinar "How Spiritual Perception Brings Healing." Alex Fischer of Paris, France will give an overview of Christian Science. Hear examples of prayer based healings. 11 a.m., May 8. Healing101Talks.org.

Climate Change: Causes, Consequences and Solutions is the topic for the webinar presentation by David Seaborg for First Friday Forum on May 7 at 10 a.m. He says, "We must solve the problems of climate change for many species to survive and for society to survive. Human survival depends on us solving the problem soon. Time is short." Seaborg is founder and president of the World Rain Forest Fund. Locally, he serves as director of the Seaborg Open Space Fund. Registration is required and may be made at lopc.org/firstfridayforum and then click on the registration link.

Audition Videos for Lamorinda Idol due May 15. Young singers in grades K - 12th are invited to submit in their audition videos by May 15. There are seven categories based on grade levels. Finalists are announced June 1. Visit www.lamorindaarts.org/idol-2/ to submit or email idol@lamorindaarts.org

Lamorinda SuperShorts Movie Challenge: Deadline May 14 at Midnight. Ever made a video? Use your phone to record a G-rated 3-minute or less video. It should be set in your home or outdoor location in Lamorinda. Entry categories are youth to adult and family collaboration. Submit by May 14 at midnight on FilmFreeway. Live online event announcing Winners May 19 at 7 p.m. Visit www.lamorindaarts.org/SuperShorts to learn more.

"Taste of Lafayette" Restaurant Stroll! Tuesday, June 22, 5 to 8 p.m., Downtown Lafayette. Yes, you saw that correctly! The Lafayette Chamber is preparing for its first community event of the year, the Taste of Lafayette! Tickets are now on sale, \$50 early bird through May 31, \$55 thereafter. The "stroll" begins when ticket holders head out at their own pace to stop at any or all of the participating restaurants for sampling. Open-air shuttle bus will be provided. Will call and bar will be at Lafayette Plaza Park from 5 to 8 p.m. Evening includes music throughout the stroll. Tickets are limited and the event will account for any state/county health and safety guidelines. Please note you may be required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative test result within 72 hours of the event. High risk or those not feeling well should not attend. Face coverings will be required unless immediately eating or drinking. This is a fundraising event for the Lafayette Chamber and the Lafayette Community Foundation. Purchase Early Bird Tickets at <https://lafayettechamber.org/taste/>

GARDEN

This year's Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour starts Sunday! If you haven't already, now is the time to register. The free, virtual 17th Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour will take place on Sundays May 2, 16, and 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.. This award-winning tour, which will be kicked off with a presentation by the inspirational Doug Tallamy, feature 25 beautiful native plant gardens, Q&A sessions with garden hosts, "Ask the Experts" opportunities, garden design and plant selection information, and more. www.bringingbackthenatives.net

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Boys water polo teams happy to be back in the pool and competing



Kyle Rosenblatt, Acalanes

By Jon Kingdon

With so little time to prepare for the season, it's been a difficult adjustment for all the coaches. They've been forced to try and balance game preparation and technical preparation while also focusing on fundamentals. Covering all the details as to what the teams are going to do offensively, defensively, counter attacking, handling 6-on-5 and 5-on-6 situations are being handled as a work in progress.

Regardless, Miramonte head coach James Lathrop was simply glad to be back coaching. "We're grateful just to have a season," Lathrop said. "There's a sense of urgency when you have a short season that mirrors what you have at the end of your season on a normal year because we're already into the last month. We're having fun practicing and working hard together. Everyone is in the same boat and the great thing about our guys is that they're really engaged."

Miramonte has had to forgo competing against traditional, out of sections opponents like Newport and Harvard-

Westlake. "In some ways this season is fun," Lathrop said. "Now it's like every game is a rivalry game and having the opportunity to get up and play a rival every time is also a really cool thing."

The Matadors graduated several talented players which has created opportunities for players to step up. "The key to this team is our depth with a huge senior class. You can't replace a Jackson Painter (now playing at Stanford) and the others but we're trying to do it collectively. We have a lot of guys that can score a goal and guard the attackers. Everyone is going to get a look."

Owen Venstreillen has replaced all-league goalie Oliver Von Karl in the net. "Owen has been on the varsity and has been a strong player and I look forward to his leading our team," Lathrop said. "He has a great attitude. He's a good communicator and has taken the lead in practice with the younger goalies as well."

Senior co-captains Adam Ting, Will Coons and Will Hollerbach were all-league last season and have taken on the leadership role as have the rest



Brock Zamanian, Campolindo

Photos Gint Federas

of the seniors. "Everyone has been willing to either adjust to a stronger offensive role or focus more on defense. That's what has stood out about the team to me. We do have a couple of underclassmen on varsity, and we're looking to incorporate them and just have a fun season and compete as hard as we can."

Acalanes
Taking over a team for the first time is difficult enough for a new coach. It becomes that much more difficult when you only have the shortest of pre-seasons to put your imprimatur on the team. Still, Acalanes head coach Lincoln Haley is not unfamiliar with water polo in Lamorinda having previously been an assistant coach at Miramonte.

Rust seems to be the operative term for the spring teams who had not played a competitive game since 2019. "We only had one scrimmage (against Miramonte) which was the first time our players got to play in over 500 days," Haley said. "You could tell that there was some rust on the players but they're fully getting back together."

Haley's philosophy is to get back to basics. "I believe in fundamentals, working from the ground up," Haley said. "Hard work is important and sometimes you just have to grind it out. If we can do that, I have confidence in our guys."

The Don's offense is led by senior co-captains, Jay Mills, who was second team all-league last year, Peter Archer and sophomore Andrew Sappall. "Jay is looking good and is really enjoying the season," Haley said. "He's a great leader and the guys really take to him. Andrew has a lot of potential that we're bringing out of him. I'm excited to see where he is going to go." Senior driver Liam Stephenson has also borne the mantle of leadership.

The defense is led by co-captain Eli Berkowitz, Haley said. "Eli is our vocal leader. He directs the other players and is a very smart player who's the guy that will remind me of things that I have forgotten to mention and keeps everybody accountable. Peter Archer and Kyle Rosenblatt have both been solid and given us a lot of depth."

Senior goalie Parker Tomp-

kins is the captain and the vocal leader on the defense. Sophomore Harrison Labrosse should also see some time in the goal as well.

The roster has a strong sophomore class that Haley is counting on to build for the future. "They have been doing a great job," Haley said. "They will be setting the foundation for the future and should keep getting better and better."

Haley is optimistic as to where the Dons are headed: "This is a solid group that I have a lot of confidence in. They play hard and have each other's backs. They really support each other and I've found that Acalanes is a great community to be a part of."

Campolindo
Yuri Hanley, a former Campolindo and UC Davis water polo player, is now serving as the Cougars head coach along with longtime coach Miles Price. "It's like a changing of the guard," Hanley said.

Hanley is not one to mess with the previous success of the program. "The program is pretty similar because Miles was the head coach when I was playing here," Hanley said. "We will stress hard work, teamwork, and fundamentals. I am trying to add my own spin to it with what I learned from playing at UC Davis along with what I've learned from these coaches."

Last season, Campolindo started the season off with an 8-8 record and went on to win the NCS championship. This year, Campolindo has also started slow with a 203 record but that is not a concern for Hanley: "I'm not worried as how we've started. It's how we finish. We're learning each day about what we can do and are trying to put it together from there."

... continued on Page C2

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Photo Baldwin Lee

Volleyballers win Western National Qualifier, headed to Nationals

Submitted by
Baldwin Lee

The NorCal Volleyball Club 18s are headed to USA Volleyball Nationals in style, earning a bid by finishing first at the Sierra National Qualifying Tournament in Reno from April 9-11 in their division. Laser-focused NorCal did not lose a single set in the last two days, including

sweeping in their final matches against teams from Oklahoma and Southern California. Their gold finish gave them a golden ticket to nationals in Columbus at the end of April. Local players on the team are Libero Brianna Lee (first row, third from left), Outside Hitter Molly Mitchell (fourth from left), and Opposite Hitter Kate Dendinger (sixth from left). The NorCal team has

qualified for nationals every year the tournament has been held since they were 12 years old, so this is a final trip together. Dendinger, Lee, and Mitchell also helped their Campolindo High School team finish first in Northern California and runners-up for all of California in Division One last school year, up against the largest schools in the state.

Boys water polo teams happy to be back in the pool and competing

... continued from Page C1

As with Haley, Hanley was hampered by the short preseason. "It was definitely a learning experience getting thrown right into it," Hanley said. "We use the preseason for chemistry and learning about each other so we're

doing everything on the fly. The players are willing to work with each other, which I have loved to see so far."

The offense is led by Brock Zamanian who has been a standout and should improve with the return of Ben Carson, who is coming off an illness. Hanley is also

impressed with the junior class because "they're all excited and chomping at the bit to play."

The defense is led by perpetual all-star junior West Temkin. "West has been our anchor on the defensive end," Hanley said. "He has a high skill level and takes each

game as an opportunity to get better. He is a great communicator and sets the tone defensively."

It's a combination of attitude and skill that Hanley appreciates most from the team. "Our speed and quickness allows our team to get up and down the pool

better than the other teams," Hanley said. "Our players have a great mindset and they're ready to attack every day. As we continue to figure out the team's chemistry and the tendencies each player has, we will keep building on each other's strengths."

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Home repair advise

read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

May flowers ... without the showers



Photo Cynthia Brian

Bearded iris, daffodils, and Bergenia frame a fountain that invites birds to bathe.

By Cynthia Brian

"My garden is my most beautiful work of art" – Claude Monet

We've all heard the adage, "April showers bring May flowers!" We have the flowers this year, but April precipitation did not materialize. This year is lining up to be the third driest year in the history of California. And that means that we must be more diligent than ever to prepare our properties for a season of increased wildfires.

I have been weeding my property with every spare minute since February. It is essential to pull out weeds by the roots, else they return promptly. This is round three and the resulting garden is looking beautiful. I've been experimenting with mixing flowers of iridescent pinks with buttery yellows and pumpkin orange accented by sky blue and bold purple. The palette has taken on an Impressionistic essence of which Monet would be proud.

April and May have always been my favorite months because of the plethora of blooms, birds, and fragrances. The perfume of the jasmine permeates the morning air, the lilac scents the afternoon sunshine, while the wisteria and mock orange infuse the evening with glorious aromas. My two thornless Lady Banksia rose bushes with their profusion of creamy double-petaled flowers have commandeered 30 linear feet of a fence as well as twined to the tops of a plum and chestnut tree. The flowering cherry tree showcases puffy blossoms resembling pink snowballs. The mock orange tree's white blooms are candy for the bees. The cerise flowers of the Western redbud tree offer a gorgeous contrast to the unfurling green leaves of the honey locust trees. Under a canopy of pines and surrounded by white calla lilies and lacy hemlock, a New Zealand hawthorn brightens the verdant scene with clouds of blush blooms. Bearded irises in a variety of colors are delicate and fragrant. Azaleas and camellias thrive in the shadow of the redwoods. Freesias, tulips, daffodils, calendulas and anemones continue their carnival of blooms. Despite the lack of rain, the spring display is splendor in the grass.

In many parts of the country, people wait until after Mother's Day to start planting their vegetables but because of the warmth of this season, I advise that you get started soon. Getting children involved with planting vegetables and herbs will encourage them to eat what they plant.

... continued on Page D10

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	6	\$1,150,000	\$2,525,000
MORAGA	3	\$628,000	\$1,235,000
ORINDA	4	\$1,300,000	\$1,850,000

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

3217 Acalanes Avenue, \$1,898,000, 4 Bdrms, 2848 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 03-12-21

920 Hawthorne Drive, \$1,905,000, 4 Bdrms, 2497 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 03-08-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,012,000, 04-12-04

3150 Mars Court, \$1,150,000, 5 Bdrms, 2465 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 03-09-21

2424 Olympic Boulevard, \$2,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1524 SqFt, 1945 YrBlt, 03-10-21,
Previous Sale: \$840,000, 08-07-15

3393 St Marys Road, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 1674 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 03-09-21

3177 Stanwood Lane, \$2,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 3591 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 03-10-21,
Previous Sale: \$985,000, 03-16-07

MORAGA

1423 Camino Peral, \$628,000, 2 Bdrms, 1116 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 03-12-21,
Previous Sale: \$219,500, 08-01-90

1380 Camino Peral, \$755,000, 2 Bdrms, 1126 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 03-10-21,
Previous Sale: \$555,000, 06-05-14

1844 Saint Andrews Drive, \$1,235,000, 3 Bdrms, 1819 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 03-12-21,
Previous Sale: \$715,000, 06-02-11

ORINDA

56 Camino Del Diablo, \$1,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2291 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 03-08-21,
Previous Sale: \$826,500, 11-20-02

23 Donald Drive, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 2034 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 03-12-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,261,000, 07-24-17

43 Parklane Drive, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 1428 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 03-09-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,060,000, 08-31-18

11 Southwood Court, \$1,825,000, 3 Bdrms, 2432 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 03-12-21,
Previous Sale: \$1,550,000, 08-22-16

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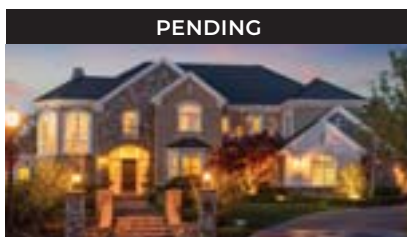
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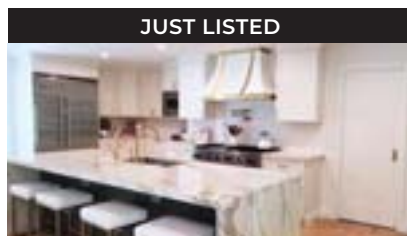


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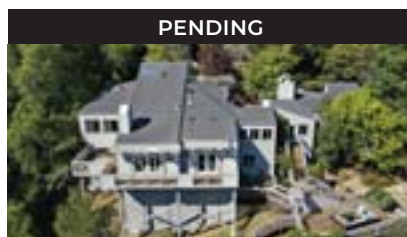
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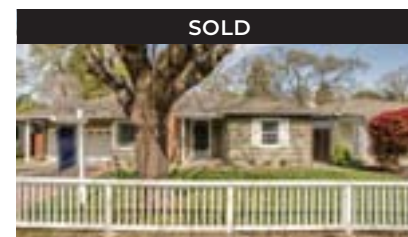
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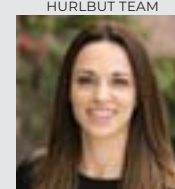
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Slipping and sliding

By Jim Hurley

When the key stopped working on the driver side door of my old Ford Ranger, after 10 years and 175,000 miles, I called the dealer's parts counter to ask about replacing the lock.

"Don't do that yet," the Parts-Guy said, "Get a can of Tri-Flow and spray the heck out of the lock." (I think we all understand that he did not literally say "heck.") Tri-Flow, what an epiphany! I had already sprayed the lock several times with the ever-popular WD-40. The first time it worked OK for a bit, the second time not so much, the third time had me calling the Parts-Guy. Tri-Flow worked beautifully and the lock worked for another two years.

Tri-Flow versus WD-40; aren't they the same? Not really.

Thanks to great marketing, WD-40 has become a household name. By the way, WD-40 stands for Water Displacement - 40. It was the

40th version in a series of the manufacturer's experimental formulas. It is basically a silicone and oil lubricant combined with a spray propellant intended to repel water, and leave a rust reducing film. It works very well at that. The downside to WD-40 is that it tends to collect dust forming a sticky sort of grime that eventually contributes to the friction, rather than reducing it. Initially bicyclists loved to spray their bike chain and gears with WD-40 to help them go faster. What they found was that the accumulated grime actually wore out the chains and gears faster.

Tri-Flow is a Teflon-based lubricant which repels dust as well as water. It sprays on much the same as the other stuff but works better at loosening sticky parts and keeps things cleaner. Unlike the silicone in WD-40, the Teflon in Tri-Flow tends to settle in the solution, so you need to shake the can before you spray. If you can't find Tri-Flow at your local hardware store, check the bike shop. Bi-

cyclists love this stuff. I don't carry WD-40 in my tool kit anymore; Tri-Flow is much more versatile.

Now that we've fixed your squeaky hinges and sticky locks, let's talk about sticky doors. One of the most common calls I get in the Lamorinda area is about doors that don't open or shut easily. There are several reasons why this happens. (I may have another article about that later.) But one common problem is that the jamb has slightly shifted just enough that the door is tight against it. The best lubricant I've found for that bind is paraffin wax. Some people use candles, but I buy blocks of paraffin wax that are sold with canning supplies in the house-



Photos J. Wake

Tri-Flow can be used to fix a sticking sliding glass door.

wares department of hardware stores and better grocery stores. Rub the paraffin along the edges of the door (or window) and the jamb: you won't see it, but it works wonderfully to reduce friction. I rub paraffin on the bottom edges of old dresser drawers to help them slide (new furniture has metal rollers). It will also quiet a noisy fan belt on your car. Do Teslas have fan belts or am I dating myself?

Tri-Flow and paraffin wax can help relieve much of the unwanted friction in your life. I recommend practical mindfulness and meditation for the rest.

Jim Hurley is an independent handyman with over 25 years of experience in residential repairs. Hopefully this free advice is helpful to someone attempting Do-It-Yourself home repairs. The information presented is intended for informational purposes and for use by persons having appropriate technical skill, at their own discretion and risk.



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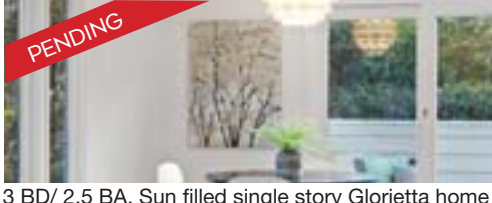
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4008 Canyon Road, Lafayette \$2,750,000



4 BD / 4.5 BA. Happy Valley Hideaway on 1/2-acre lot!
 Pool & updates.
 Tom Stack 925-878-9964 Lic #01501769

826 Skywood Road, Lafayette \$2,495,000



4 BD / 3 BA, .79-acre lot. Private oasis with pool, views,
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63 Moraga Via, Moraga \$1,885,000



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1009 Larch Ave, Moraga \$1,249,000



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1535 D Ashwood Rd, Martinez \$549,000



3 BD / 2.5 BA
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3801 Ardley Ave, Oakland \$925,000



2 BD/1.5BA Updates, cute yard.
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 www.christinemason.me
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327 Maryal Rd, Pleasant Hill \$1,175,000



3 BD / 2 BA Fantastic Rancher
 Represented buyer
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407 Monticello, Walnut Creek \$1,475,000



4 BD / 2 BA, single level, 2371 sq ft. Resort living,
 pool, tennis court. vimeo.com/533111142
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3266 Ptarmigan Dr, #4A, Walnut Creek \$979,000



2 BD / 2 BA 1521 SF. stunning level-in condo in Rossmoor
 with Mt. Diablo view!
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2 BD / 2 BA
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3 BD | 1 BA | ± 1118 Sq Ft | \$1,285,000

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

May flowers ... without the showers



A Western redbud is in full bloom.

Photos Cynthia Brian

... continued from Page D1

After researchers spent time with children in Central Texas who had gardens and gardening classes at their schools, they discovered that the nutrition of both parents and children improved.

Also, those who participated began enjoying more vegetables.

If you are planning a vegetable patch, buy pint or quart size containers of your favorite vegetables. Don't attempt to plant everything you see at the nursery. Only plant what you and your family love. For example, for my spring veggie garden, I've planted nine varieties of tomatoes as I'm a tomato snob. I only eat tomatoes in season and prefer only tomatoes that I, a friend, or a family member grows. Also planted are eggplant, zucchini, cucumbers and peppers. Already growing are a plethora of herbs including basil, oregano, fennel, sage, thyme, dill, cilantro as well as leafy greens of arugula, sorrel, lettuce, and sugar snap peas, artichokes, onions, chives, strawberries and broccoli.

Make sure that you rotate your crops from year to year so as not to deplete the soil. Most summer vegetables require a minimum of six hours of sunlight. Read and follow the instructions that come with your plant.

Another beautiful, long-flowering, and excellent fresh-cut for arrangements is the dahlia. Although they are supposed to be deer-resistant, the deer that graze around my property seem to find them delicious. I don't advise dahlias to be planted in areas where you have marauders. Dahlias produce large, colorful blooms and are a welcome addition to any garden. Here's how to get them started in

your landscape:

1. Choose a well-drained area with plenty of sunlight.
2. Plant the tubers after the danger of frost have passed.
3. Dig a hole about a foot deep and amend with compost or potting soil.
4. Place the tuber flat and cover with the amended soil.
5. Make a patch of dahlias spaced 12-36 inches apart for maximum impact.
6. Water immediately.
7. After sprouting, pinch off the side buds to allow the central blowers to be larger.
8. Deadhead as flowers fade to maintain blooming.

Because of the arid times in which we are living, make sure to cut all tall wild grasses, trim limbs up from the ground six to 10 feet to prevent fire laddering, and clear a safety zone around your home. Clean out gutters, remove debris, be cautious when barbecuing and careful around the fire pit. Keep gardens irrigated, watering early in the morning or early in the evening. Be diligent and responsible to help prevent a fire from igniting. Pray for rain yet be prepared for drought.

Mother's Day is approaching and a welcome gift for mom can always be found in the garden. Consider a bubbling fountain, birdhouse, or colorful annuals to plant. Make a simple arrangement using flowers from the garden accompanied by a garden book that will be treasured always. Whatever you do, let your mom know how much she means to you whether it is through a virtual visit or an in-person brunch, picnic or walk. Moms love the little remembrances and deserve accolades, at least once a year!

Spring is the time to savor the beauty surrounding you. If you've ever been to Giverny in France, you will know that Monet was not exaggerating about his garden being his most beautiful work of art. He was inspired by nature and you can be too. Be an artist and create your masterpiece in your garden.

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



A pretty Mother's Day arrangement of white roses, purple mums, berries, and eucalyptus leaves.



A thornless Lady Banksia rose climbs trees and cascades over fences.



Under a canopy of pines, a New Zealand hawthorn shines amidst the calla lilies and hemlock.



Cynthia Brian in the spring garden with yellow freesias and blue woodland hyacinths.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is available for hire to help you prepare for your spring garden. Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at www.StarStyleRadio.com.

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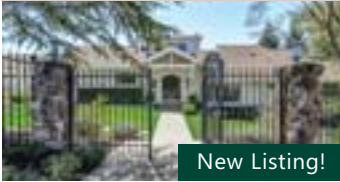
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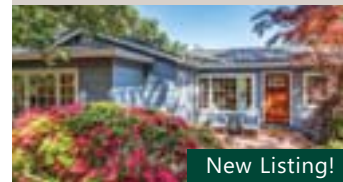
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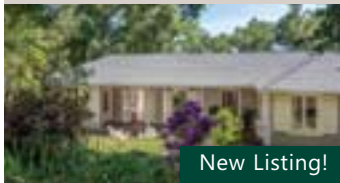
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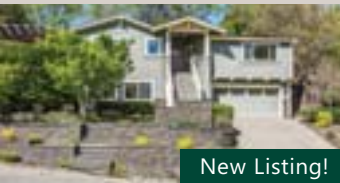


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