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Campolindo's outside hitter, senior Audrey Baumer Photo Gint Federas

Lamorinda volleyball teams make playoffs; Miramonte advances to NorCal regionals

By Jon Kingdon

With all three girls volleyball teams making the playoffs, after suffering through the pandemic this past spring, it would have to be acknowledged as a successful season in Lamorinda: Campolindo was 10-0 in league play and finished the season with an overall record of 16-10 and making it to the second round of the Division I NCS Championship; Acalanes finished with a 12-11 record after losing in the first round of the Division III NCS Championship; and Miramonte with a 15-4 record lost in the third round of the Division III NCS Championship.

Miramonte
 Despite last year's abbreviated season and an 8-16 record the year before, head coach Leslie Ray's optimism prior to the start of the regular season proved prescient. "The players bought into the system, and we became more of a team," Ray said. "They came to understand that each player had a role on the team. Our practices were competitive, and they had the mindset that every game mattered."
 Though the loss in five sets in the NCS semifinals to Archie Williams High School was painful and disappointing, the pain was ameliorated in that

since it was a semifinal game in the tournament, it qualified Miramonte to play in the Northern California Regional Championship. "We were prepared to play Archie Williams and we stuck with our system, not allowing any distractions to get in our way. The girls played with great heart, and it was a back and forth match all evening. All of the girls were super excited to get into the playoffs," Ray said. "I've had to work to keep them focused by telling them that going into the playoffs is a new season and that every time we play in these games, we have to play like we're behind."
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Quincy's Dixie Fire Base Camp, from left: Jacob Airola, Dan Elbanna, Travis Dulli, Keith Larson and Jon Bensley

Local firefighters describe deployment during this year's historic fire incidents

By Vera Kochan

The firefighters with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District are not only charged with keeping Lamorinda safe, they choose to volunteer in other jurisdictions when blazes become out of control for local fire companies, like the historic Caldor and Dixie fires.
 Moraga Station 42 Captain/Paramedic Jacob Airola and Firefighter/Paramedic Katy Himsl, along with Orinda Station 43 Captain/Paramedic Jon Bensley and Engineer/Emergency Medical Technician Steve Rogness are just some of MOFD's personnel who volunteered for deployment to the season's most terrifying fires.
 This year, Airola responded to three incidents in the capacity of Safety Officer, spending 16 days in August at the Dixie Fire and 16 days between late September and early October during the Caldor Fire. He also assisted the Governor's Office of Emergency Services with COVID-19 prevention and outbreaks within the State Operations Center for eight days in June.
 "A (Line) Safety Officer primarily focuses on preventing injuries to those working at the incident," explained Airola. "These include interventions such as traffic control measures, identifying/creating escape routes and safety zones, and writing incident reports to prevent future injury/accidents from occurring."
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Working as Engineer during LNU Complex, firefighter Katy Himsl drives through a flaming landscape. Photo provided

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Council updated on recent housing legislation, SB 9 and SB 10

By Jennifer Wake

In an effort to gain a better understanding of how Senate Bill 9 and Senate Bill 10 – which allow additional units to be added to existing residential lots – will affect housing in the city of Lafayette, city attorney Mala Subramanian outlined key factors from both bills at the Oct. 25 council meeting.

SB 9 and SB 10 will go into effect Jan. 1, 2022. SB 9 allows a residential lot of a minimum 1,200 square feet to be split, resulting in two lots of approximately the same size with the potential to add two 800-square-foot ADUs on each lot. SB 10 allows a city to voluntarily adopt an ordinance to upzone any parcel up to 10 residential dwelling units, but is not mandatory. Both SB 9 or SB 10 are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

and SB 9 units cannot be used as short-term rentals.

According to Subramanian, the city may only deny an SB 9 lot split “if the county building official finds that the resulting housing development project would have a specific, adverse impact on public health and safety or the physical environment and there is no feasible, satisfactory mitigation.” Parcels cannot be located in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, unless “fire hazard mitigation measures pursuant to existing building standards or state fire mitigation measures apply to the development,” Subramanian said.

Several factors were of top-most concern to council members, including overstepping existing hillside ordinances and whether real estate speculators could take advantage of the new laws to subdivide lots, pretending to

be single-family owners. Mayor Susan Candell asked if the city could find out if the applicant was a person or an entity, and Council Member Gina Dawson asked about the need for a lot of recording to keep track of lot splits down the line. Planning Director Greg Wolff said the information would be put into title reports and “it would be a declaration that the lot was created due to this provision and it can only be done one time.”

When Council Member Carl Anduri asked Subramanian about parcels subject to the hillside ordinance, she explained that the lot split would be ministerial and would trump the existing hillside ordinance, if the parcel qualifies for SB 9. “That would be terrible to the extent I can’t fully verbalize,” Anduri said. “That’s just a horrible result.”

Subramanian noted that residents cannot build on conservation easements and Wolff added that submittal requirements need a map showing all easements on the property.

Wolff said he is on a working group with colleagues in Orinda, Moraga and surrounding areas to discuss objective standards and they are advocating for a subcommittee to be formed and to hire a consultant to help.

Since neither bill included an affordability clause, Subramanian said density bonuses including waivers and concessions could apply. “It starts triggering at 15% of units, so less units on a property could trigger density bonus waivers and concessions.” She noted that when implementing the ordinance, council could reit-

erate that there is a maximum of four units allowed under SB 9. Subramanian said the council can impose objective standards, but it does have to permit two 800-square-foot units on the property.

“We would need to quantify these things when we look at objective standards,” Dawson noted. Planning Commissioner Greg Mason, during the public comment portion of the meeting, asked if Subramanian will be drafting something for the planning commission about conservation easements, and asked if tree ordinances are still objective standards. “Tree ordinances,” said Subramanian, “would apply to the extent their objective standards qualify.” Mason also had questions about Junior ADUs and that approval process as well as how to address parking restrictions.

Lafayette resident Bob McClain wondered about the impact of SB 8 (the Housing Accountability Act), which allows one unit on the property, with SB 9, and David Clark brought up housing overlay zones, which are added layers on top of existing zoning ordinances that provide incentives for developers to build housing, particularly affordable housing, within specific districts. Candell noted that the city already has a housing overlay zone, which could be utilized.

Resident Grace Dixon asked if the city could provide examples of how SB 9 and SB 10 would apply in each neighborhood. “There’s a lot of confusion,” she said. “The normal person on the street doesn’t understand.”

Jeremy Levine noted that because of existing ordinances, SB 9 might involve

hundreds of houses, not thousands. Another resident asked if single-family home projects need to go through design review any longer.

“Is design review done? No,” Subramanian replied. “But objective standards are the issue. There may be different levels to this component.”

Vice Mayor Teresa Gerlinger asked if staff will come back with outlines of objective standards, such as setbacks, height limits and parking restrictions, as well as clarification on overlays. City Manager Niroop Srivatsa recommended using planning and design review commissions to establish some of the standards because they have worked on almost all the applications that will come before the city, and the council can lend policy direction and serve on the subcommittee to monitor it, but the work would be done by the commissions, staff and consultants. Candell and Anduri will serve on the subcommittee. The main goal for council would be to draft an implementation ordinance, looking at existing hillside and creek-side ordinances, the affordability issue and units in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Eliot Hudson, during public comments, urged the council to draft objective standards “as aggressively as possible” and to think about the character of the community, like building materials.

Wolff said the city has already started getting inquiries about SB 9.

More discussion was planned for the Nov. 8 council meeting, which will be covered in a future issue, since the meeting occurred after press time.



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LafSD Superintendent announces June 2022 retirement

In recent a message to Lafayette School District parents and guardians, Superintendent Richard Whitmore announced that he has notified the governing board that he will not seek to extend his contract, which will end June 2022.

Whitmore expressed his gratitude for all the work staff has accomplished during the pandemic and noted that par-

ents and guardians will be hearing from Governing Board President Rob Sturm about timelines and processes for a superintendent search. There will be a town hall scheduled in January to present the State of the District and to update the community about the search and transition.

- J. Wake

School safety initiatives move forward



Photo provided

Lafayette Mayor Susan Candell, left, and Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan hold a giant check for \$238,000 to be used for the Safe Route to Acalanes High School project.

By Jennifer Wake

School safety continues to be a top priority for the city of Lafayette. On Oct. 22 Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan presented Lafayette Mayor Susan Candell with a giant check valued at \$238,000 to be used for the Safe Route to Acalanes High School project which, when constructed, will provide students and families with a safe method to walk or bicycle to and from school, during peak commute times, without having to cross dangerous on and off ramps to California Highway 24.

In addition, Lafayette School District Rapport Chair Katy Foreman and Street Smarts Diablo/511 Contra Costa Project Manager with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority Kirsten Riker gave a presentation at the Oct. 25 city council meeting about the Street Smarts Program, funded by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority which focuses on biking, pedestrian and driver safety throughout Lafayette.

The goal of the Street Smarts Program is to create a citywide campaign, Riker said, including all K-8 schools in the Lafayette School District, as well as private schools, and to engage new drivers at the high schools. Students Grace Goldberg, Dylan Andersen, and Will Palmer read the pledge as part of the presentation.

Lafayette resident Abby Fateman, during the public comment portion of the meeting, requested that the main focus of the citywide pledge change to drivers, since she noted that drivers “have the greatest capacity for death and injury.” Some of the recommendations in the pledge include putting away cell phones, always looking to the right before turning right,

never passing stopped or slowed vehicles at crosswalks and always allowing pedestrians to finish crossing in the crosswalk before proceeding. “What we’re seeing on the streets is adults are killing adults, by people driving their cars,” Fateman said. “That’s one of the critical ways we are failing; in the way cars interact with bicycles and pedestrians.”

Fateman also noted that elected officials need to help make the community safer, with safer infrastructure and joining programs like Vision Zero – a strategy to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries among all road users, and to ensure safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all – and other safety initiatives. At the Oct. 12 city council meeting, Tim Haile of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority discussed Vision Zero and noted that CCTA is working with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to collect data and analyze where hot spots are and identify, prioritize, evaluate and implement projects.

In a letter to the city council, Eric Law, who serves as the project lead for the Safe Routes to Acalanes High School project, noted that five out of the last six fatalities were 100% caused by drivers failing to follow the law and be aware of cyclists and pedestrians. “The safety issues on our streets are caused by drivers speeding, failing to yield to pedestrians at crosswalks, and failing to share the road with cyclists,” he wrote. “We need the literature to focus on distracted drivers as they are the number one killer of pedestrians and cyclists in our community.”

The final draft of the pledge was to be presented to council at the Nov. 8 meeting, after press time.



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Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, Nov. 22, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, Nov. 15, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Design Review

Wednesday, Nov. 24, 7 p.m. Zoom
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
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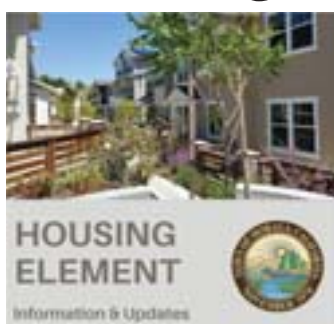
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Sat. Nov. 13, 10 a.m. Community Workshop

Wed. Nov. 17, 6:00 p.m. Town Council Meeting



Concert Pianist Bobby Mitchell to perform at Santa Maria Church Orinda

December 4th Saturday, 7 pm

Bobby Mitchell, Prize Winning International Concert Pianist, returns to the Bay Area Free Concert. Saturday, December 4th 7 pm, Santa Maria Church, Orinda. Recognized and performing on nearly all continents, he is an American pianist, living in Germany, whose interests dazzled audiences in 2019 with his music in the here and now as well as the more standard classical repertory. Sponsored by Vicki Nakamura JHRussell Real Estate Group DRE #00685265. Donations can be sent to: <https://fundraising.fracturedatlas.org/bobby-mitchell-pianist>. Call 925-254-5287 *925-708-1915 for information



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Town council finally agrees on a new member appointment

By Vera Kochan

After the failure at two town council meetings and several attempts to appoint a replacement to fill former council member David Stromberg's resigned seat, white smoke could figuratively be seen rising from the town offices on Oct. 27.

With a Nov. 8 deadline looming to avoid a costly special election, the four seated council members once again tackled the issue of whether to appoint Sona Makker or Kerry Hillis to its fold.

To start things off, Mayor Mike McCluer offered an "alternative to the gridlock." He began by, once again, stating his feelings on the pros and cons of both candidates. While the pros were extremely flattering to either, the cons were a repetition of Makker's newness to Moraga and her lack of government

experience within the town. With regards to Hillis, McCluer was worried about his flexibility and listening skills on issues.

McCluer offered up an alternative in the form of a direct appointment by suggesting Fred Weil for the open position. Lauding his many accomplishments, McCluer noted Weil's eight-year membership on the Moraga Elementary School Board; 13 years on the Moraga-Orinda Fire District's governing board; 13 years on the Acalanes Unified School District Board; the founding director of the Moraga Educational Foundation; an attorney with land use experience who supports open space; and 2019 Moraga Citizen of the Year. McCluer added, "He's been described as fair-minded; a good listener; ethical; and seeks group decisions."

Council Member Renata

Sos brought up the fact that the town council had received an "avalanche" of comments from the community in support of making an appointment of either Makker or Hillis during the evening's Oct. 27 session. She felt that "the community has spoken loud and clear." Sos also referred to Council Member Steve Woehleke's comments from a prior meeting regarding the importance of the council working together, and in doing so, which of the two applicants would make a better fit with the current council. "We need to make a decision based on the cards that were dealt to us," Sos stated, while agreeing that if there were not two viable candidates to choose from, putting Weil into the mix would be a possibility.

Council Member Teresa Onoda was in agreement with Sos and added that "the people have spoken."

McCluer made a motion to schedule a special meeting for the following week to interview Weil as a potential direct appointment.

Woehleke agreed to second it on the basis of a significant effort to set the wheels in motion, "although, I know where it's going" as far as the final vote stands.

A split second before the vote, Sos made a substitute motion to appoint Makker to the town council with Onoda seconding.

McCluer asked that the Weil motion be voted on "out of respect" and requested Sos to withdraw her motion in order to get a vote on it.

Sos responded, "Respectfully decline."

With the motion on the table to appoint Makker as the new Moraga Town Council member until the November 2022 election, the vote was unanimously in favor.

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New council member, Sona Makker, ready to serve the town

By Vera Kochan

After waiting through three separate town council sessions, Sona Makker was unanimously appointed a member and will assume office on the Moraga Town Council Nov. 10.

Understanding that the small field of contenders was narrowed down to two within minutes, Makker submitted a letter to the council members after the second meeting, reiterating her interest in the position and informing them that she continued to educate herself on the workings of Moraga. "My intent with the letter was to demonstrate that I was listening, and will continue to listen." Waiting for the final decision was stressful, but motivating, she said.

Makker has an easy way for people to remember how to pronounce her name, "it rhymes with slacker." It was part of her tagline when she ran for student office, "Vote for Makker, she's not a slacker."

Born in Tracy, Calif., to immigrant parents, she watched them volunteer in schools and neighborhood groups all while holding down jobs and raising four kids. "I always knew I wanted to do the same and feel so honored to be able to step into local government and represent communities and demographics that have not historically been represented on the council."

Newly married to her husband Matt, the isolation of the pandemic helped them to realize the importance of living in a "close-knit community that would allow our family to flourish and find a peaceful place to call home," stated Makker. Taking regular walks in the Commons and noticing chalk-written messages along the trails about inclusivity made them optimistic. "We feel very lucky to have found that here in Moraga."

A technology policy attorney with a BA in sociology from UC Berkeley and a Juris Doctorate from Santa Clara



Photo provided

New Moraga town council member, Sona Makker

University School of Law, Makker was heavily involved with the Parks and Rec Department in Tracy. During her tenure, she realized that something as apparently inconsequential as what type of snacks to provide for the kids in their after-school program became an important decision, considering that some students might not be able to afford a healthy choice.

Her experience in Tracy prompted Makker to consider a position on Moraga's Parks and Rec Commission, but her heart was set on becoming a council member. "When I was made aware of the open vacancy in the council I was immediately interested and began investing time and efforts to putting my best foot forward in the application and interview."

During the town council appointment interview process, Makker was often referred to as "too new to the town" to be considered for the position, having lived here for only two years.

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Town Council
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 Wednesday, Nov. 24, 7 p.m.

Planning Commission:
 Tuesday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m.,
Park and Recreation Commission:
 Monday, Nov. 15, 7 p.m.,
Moraga School District Board Meetings:
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www.moraga.k12.ca.us

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Animal Services and Fish & Wildlife agencies overwhelmed with calls from the public

By Vera Kochan

In October, Lamorinda Weekly received an email from a concerned resident wanting to draw attention to a dead deer that had been lying along the side of Moraga Road between Moraga and Lafayette for what she had determined to be approximately two weeks. Others on social media mentioned they had seen the animal within that same time period. The resident had apparently called public agencies for its removal – which did not come swiftly.

According to Contra Costa County Animal Services Department Information Officer Steve Burdot, “For quite a while we had only one person covering the entire county for deceased animal removal. The pandemic played a big part in that. We’ve recently added a second person.” Typically animals are removed anywhere between four to 72 hours of receiving the call, but with staff shortages the times have lengthened.

The CCAS website (www.ccasd.org) states: “We prioritize all of our Field Service calls based on public safety. Deceased animal reports will be handled as quickly as possible, though it

may take up to seven days for removal. Please note that CCAS will not perform deceased animal pickups in areas that pose a safety risk to our officers. These areas include crawl spaces, attics, cliffs, condemned buildings, creek beds, hillsides and other unsafe locations.”

Despite the record-breaking rainfall from the “bomb cyclone” that recently hit the Bay Area, experts say that the drought is not over, and La Nina conditions are expected to continue this winter. This comes as bad news for creatures great and small, because wildlife will continue to come down out of the hills to forage for food and water within our neighborhoods.

Sightings of feral pigs tearing up lawns in search of grubs had been occurring in San Ramon, Lafayette and Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School during late September. While the term “feral” gives one the impression of porkers foaming at the mouth with a crazed look in their eyes, the definition refers to an animal that lives in the wild but is descended from domesticated specimens. They could have escaped from a captive environment and are now living as a wild animal.

During a September ABC7

News interview about the recent feral pig problem, California Department of Fish & Wildlife Information Officer Ken Paglia stated, “Their food resources will dry up, so they’ll start to expand their search for food and water; and they’ll end up in people’s yards and gardens. If a wild pig or a group of wild pigs destroys your property you can file a Wildlife Incident Report on our website (https://wildlife.ca.gov), and one of our staff will reach out to you and discuss options.”

In the summer and fall months of 2020, Moraga and Lafayette experienced an eight-month spree of coyote attacks by one animal, not to mention several others that were caught and later determined not to be the main culprit. The many sightings stemmed from the species’ search for food and water, according to wildlife experts.

For anyone who has found an injured wildlife animal contact the Lindsay Wildlife Hospital Hotline at (925) 659-8156 or visit: https://lindsaywildlife.org/found-animal/. They accept and treat all native California wildlife with the exception of turkeys, red foxes, adult deer and a few others. They recommend that you call ahead to confirm.

New council member, Sona Makker

... continued from Page A4

To allay any fears as to her commitment to the job she poured over town agendas, documents and staff reports in addition to taking meetings with towns-people. “There’s a learning curve, as with any new position, but I feel confident that I will be able to get up to speed quickly. I am leaning into being new, offering to bring a fresh perspective and coming into discussions with curiosity and inquisitiveness.” She appreci-

ates the current council’s “objective advice and recommendations.”

Planning on having an open-door policy (or “open email inbox”), Makker hopes to engage with other young, working professionals to encourage involvement in local government.

When asked whether Makker is giving any thought to running for election in November 2022, she replied, “Right now I am focused on the work of getting integrated and ramping up to make ef-

fective policy decisions as a council member. That’s my number one priority. It’s a bit early to make a commitment, but I am certainly evaluating what’s coming next to continue to be involved in the long-term.”

Much-loved Moraga mail carrier retires



Grant Bond on his last day of work

Photo provided

After 33 years of delivering the mail, Grant Bond hung up his postal hat on Oct. 23. Pictured on his last day at work, heading out to his route one last time, Bond said he will miss the people he developed friendships with during his time on the job. “Many customers took a personal interest in me and my family,” Bond said. “My favorite thing was sharing photo cards of me and my wife and two kids every year with many of my customers. My faith in God

and my family sustained me through many long days of work. The heartfelt expressions of gratitude I received on my final days of work was overwhelming. I am happy to look back on my career as a mail carrier with gratitude.” Bond is looking forward to spending more time with his family during his retirement and, for now, is enjoying relaxing and doing projects around the house.

– J. Wake

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Refuse collection rates rise again; no relief for private roads

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council discussed another increase in solid waste collection fees for Orinda residents at the Nov. 2 city council meeting. The proposed increase will be voted upon by the members of the Joint Powers Authority RecycleSmart. Orinda Mayor Amy Worth and Council Member Inga Miller represent Orinda on the JPA.

The 3.88% increase will be effective March 1, 2022. Based on container size, the rate increase is estimated to increase monthly garbage rates by an additional \$1.85 for the smallest container to \$3.96 for the largest. The rate increase also includes an increase in the vehicle im-

part/street maintenance component.

The council received public comment from Doug Stella, a resident of Wilder where most of the residential streets are private. Stella pointed out that "the fee charged to the garbage company should reflect the wear and tear of all the roads in Orinda – both public and private." He suggested that "the city should allocate the money collected back to the residents that live on roads not maintained by the city so we can maintain them." Stella added that he will use his vote to help remedy this inequity.

Stella's message prompted discussion by the council, including the two

representatives to the JPA. Miller said that she had asked if there is a way to legally be able to collect for wear and tear on private roads and was told that there was not. Vice Mayor Dennis Fay said that the increase is based on damage to public roads only, but for roughly 80% of Orinda residents the actual cost will be under \$2 a month.

Council Member Darlene Gee said she was disappointed that there doesn't seem to be any ability to appear to be more equitable to private road residents. She said she is empathetic with private road residents, and doesn't think it is practical that they haul their garbage down to a public road to

avoid damage to their roads caused by garbage trucks, which, Gee added, cause the most damage to roads.

Speaking generally about the increase, Gee said the rate increase won't be very popular as "people see rates go up while service goes down." Noting that collection is now taking two days whereas before it only took one, she added, "the board needs to emphasize that as rates go up performance needs to return."

There was also a brief discussion of the upcoming contract renewal for collection services and the possibility that lighter weight trucks that would be less harmful to the roads could be on the horizon.

New mural on library wall will literally put Orinda on the map

By Sora O'Doherty

The nature of Orinda, from plants to animals to topography, will grace the south wall of the Orinda Library next year in a mural commissioned by the Friends of the Orinda Library. The \$100,000 mural by Ink Dwell, artist Jane Kim's Bay Area studio that explores the wonders of the natural world, will be funded by the Friends of the Orinda Library, the group that raised the money to build the library 20 years ago.

President of the Friends, Nancy Ross-Madnick, presented the plans for the mural to the city council on Oct. 19, as an item for the good of the city. The mural features plants and animals that are native to Orinda and a map of the city's streets and topography. It will cover the south wall over the entrance to the garage and wrap around onto part of the front wall facing Orinda Way.

Starting work in the spring of 2022, Ink Dwell will take an estimated six weeks to paint the mural on the building using a very durable paint. According to Ross-Madnick, the mural artist is very experienced with other locations with challenging weather. With at least four layers of clear coat on top of the mural, it is anticipated to last at least 30 years. The library building is currently owned by the Friends for the next 30 years, after which the city will take over the ownership of the building.

Katie Rittmann, an experienced fundraiser, joined the board of the Friends and she's in charge of fundraising for this project. Thus far, the Friends have spent about a year working on the project, and have contracted with Ink Dwell to create the design. The Friends paid for the design with the help of the Orinda Community Foundation. Ross-Madnick told the Lamorinda Weekly, "When we found out what the budget is, all the board members contributed." Ross-Madnick says that the Friends are confident that they will raise necessary funds.

The mural features the



Image provided

Mock-up on building

ecosystem flora and fauna that are particularly unique to Orinda, such as river otters, and also topographical lines and a map of the city streets. The mural is meant as an educational tool for people and to beautify Orinda. There will be brochures and there will be signage to identify the animals and plants. There will also be a freestanding sign honoring the donors to the wall with some additional explanatory text. Further, the Friends and the city will have information about the mural on their websites.

Ross-Madnick speculated that the mural might be visible from BART, since a number of trees have been cut down for fire safety. It will definitely be seen from the pedestrian bridge leading from the BART station to Orinda Village.

At the city council meeting, public speaker Nick Waranoff raised the issue of liability. In response to his written comments, the city was named as an additional insured in the mural contract. Ross-Madnick explained that there is a very extensive agreement between the Friends and Ink Dwell known as an Artwork Commission Agreement. The agreement contains specifics about insurance, liability, graffiti. Insofar as graffiti goes, Ross-Madnick says that Ink Dwell has the ability to clean it off, but to date there has never

been any graffiti issues at Orinda Library. "As a greater Bay Area company, Ink Dwell will be here to help us," Ross-Madnick concluded.

Because the city will eventually own the building and provides the maintenance for the building, the Friends have chosen to donate the mural to the city now. At the meeting, the city council accepted the offer from the Friends of the Orinda Library to fund the mural and authorized the city manager to sign a letter of agreement with the Friends.

Under the agreement, the city will be painting the exterior wall of the parking garage off-white, which will be the basecoat for the mural. In addition, Orinda is planning to paint the entire building in 2022-23, which will be paid for by the city.

On Dec. 4, the Friends are having a book sale and will be commemorating the 20th anniversary of the building and officially launching the mural fundraising.

According to the Friends, donations for the mural are most easily received by mail at Friends of the Orinda Library, P.O. Box 152, Orinda, CA, 94563, and they ask that contributors please note "mural" in the memo line on the bottom of your check. For further information, contact Mary Kate Rittmann at krittmann@hotmail.com.

More ways to support the Friends of the Orinda Library can be found on their website:
<https://friendsoftheorindalibrary.org/membership/>

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	City Council Regular Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only	Planning Commission Tuesday, Nov. 23, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only	Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission Regular Meeting Wed., Nov. 10, 6:30 p.m. By Teleconference Only
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United Against Hate Week Nov. 14-20



By Sora O'Doherty

The city of Orinda adopted a declaration that Nov. 14-20 is United Against Hate Week – a campaign created by Bay Area cities in response to white supremacist rallies in Berkeley and San Francisco in 2017. This year, the cities of Orinda and Lafayette, the town of Moraga, and local school districts have joined the effort.

In introducing the matter as an item for the good of the city at the Nov. 2 city council meeting, Mayor Amy Worth noted that it is critical to know how important it is to not

stand by in the face of hateful speech or actions.

Council Member Inga Miller said that Orinda has always been a community of neighbors. "When you hear about incidents," she said, "it is heartbreaking." She added, "Most people are welcoming and compassionate. When there are incidents that don't embody that; it is so important that we gather together and support the persons harmed." Things have been especially difficult during the pandemic, a time of social isolation. Miller speculated that perpetrators are often led by suspicion fed by fear, but the United Against Hate movement wants people to feel empowered to come forward.

As part of the campaign, there will be signs available for display in stores and homes. Available signs say either Orinda United Against Hate or Lamorinda United Against Hate. Other localities have their own signs. City Manager David Biggs directed members of the public interested in obtaining a sign to publicinfo@cityoforinda.org

It's goats for now for Orinda Oaks Park, not cattle

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda will be proceeding to hire goats to reduce vegetation at Orinda Oaks Park for fire safety for the next year rather than cattle. The city council considered the matter which was presented to them by city manager David Biggs on Nov. 2. Biggs explained that city staff has been evaluating the options of having either goats or cattle grazing the 120-acre park to achieve a higher than minimum standard of vegetation clearance. After discussion, the council unanimously agreed to a one-year pilot goat grazing project.

Biggs explained that in either case, the public would still have access to the trails that cross the property. Cattle would be present for most of the year, as they are on property owned by Moraga that borders the Orinda land. Goats would be present for more limited time periods. Goats require temporary fencing that would be moved around the property as the grazing was underway, while

cattle require more permanent fencing. Cattle grazing is more economically beneficial, with a 10-year projected cost of only \$90,000, while the 10-year proposed cost for using goats is \$618,000.

City staff reached out to get opinions from neighboring property owners about past experience with cattle grazing, and received 39 responses. The responses were generally more favorable to goat grazing, with over 25% favoring cattle grazing and over 69% favoring goat grazing, even given the additional expense of goat grazing.

Jim Landau wrote to Biggs to express his serious concerns about cattle grazing, having lived beside the park for over 40 years. In the past, when cattle were grazed on the land, they could not be adequately contained, and frequently broke out. He also expressed concerns about the dangers presented by cattle, and the damage done by compacting the ground. Goats, on the other hand, eat everything, including vegetation that cattle will not eat, can handle grazing on

steep slopes, are more easily contained and present for shorter periods of time. Landau concluded, "We strongly feel that goats provide a better solution, reducing fuel load while disturbing the integrity of the land least. Cattle have been tried before. The residents did not like the effect. Let's try something different this time."

Biggs said that the city has one proposed contract for goat grazing, but would like to get two more. Council Member Nick Kosla asked how long it would take to do just perimeter versus the entire park but was told that wouldn't provide additional benefit over mechanical clearing. Council Member Dennis Fay said the SSTOC was concerned that using goats rather than cattle can cost a lot more over time but Council Member Inga Miller pointed out that cattle may have more latent costs, damage to people, damage to cattle, etc. Mayor Amy Worth said, "We need to look at environmental science to care for this land donated to the city."

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Local firefighters describe deployment during this year's historic fire incidents



Photos provided

MOFD personnel at Dixie Fire Base Camp in Quincy, Calif., (from left) Steve Rogness, Jon Ford, Dennis Rein and Brian Oliver



Photo Jacob Airola

Home from deployment, Jacob Airola and wife, Lindsey, take a much needed break in Santa Cruz



Firefighter Katy Himsl removes a source of fuel during the Rim Fire.

... continued from Page A1

While Airola didn't have to evacuate any residents, he did have to assist firefighters on two separate occasions to find escape routes and safety zones. He was heartbroken to learn that one of the firefighters within his proximity had been burned while falling onto 600 degrees of burning ash. "Everyone understands firefighting is inherently dangerous," he stated. "However, we train, plan and operate to provide the safest possible outcomes. In my role, I felt personally responsible for everyone's safety and well-being."

He gained valuable experience by working fires on a much larger scale with varying topography. "There's no way to simulate these types of fires; one can only get better by going out of county and doing the work." Airola noted that the

fires were burning trees that were alive as well as dead, and the live ones burned just as easily. Spot fires began without wind a quarter mile away from containment lines.

Airola says his wife is very supportive of his career. They both focus on the positive impacts of his job with their children as opposed to the dangers. Grateful for modern technology, he is able to keep in touch with his family during meals, story time and special occasions.

While he and others are deployed, Airola appreciates how local firefighters who remain in the community step up to the plate and work overtime to backfill their positions.

Himsl either volunteered or was part of an Initial Attack deployment to over a dozen fires throughout California. She's worked on the Rim Fire, Camp Fire, Quail Fire and LNU

Complex Fires. Each deployment ranged between one week to 16 days.

She was involved in evacuations for the Lake and Quail Fires and served multiple duties as a line medic, firefighter or engineer, driving fire engines. Himsl also triaged properties for structural protection, performed fire attacks, bump and run (moving ahead of the fire to extinguish spot fires), back firing or mopping up after the fire has burned through an area, driving while maintaining the engine, establishing water supply and assuring a safe way out of the area by means of egress.

"We have been in some 'hairy' and uncomfortable areas of terrain with unpredictable weather changes involving wind patterns and ignition points in particular," said Himsl. "However, with training and experience seeing how fire reacts, the more you see these fires first hand, you learn to quickly anticipate the fire behavior itself. With that being said, being in a temporary relief area watching 200-foot flame lengths come towards you then burn 360 degrees around you, needless to say you quickly develop a newfound respect for Mother Nature and realize how small you are in the midst of such an awe inspiring event."

Himsl's various deployments have helped her to gain untold experience with fire management: "From reading fire behaviors, working and performing duties under extreme pressure, getting to practice these skills in real time and the experience gained can not be replicated. I personally

have grown as a firefighter from being able to work with some amazing people and learn best practices."

She appreciates the love and support from her family. "There's always a heavy burden not only of being worried about our safety and well-being but also that we make it home to our families at the end of the deployment." Himsl noted the anxiety loved ones experience listening to news reports of the fires while sometimes not being able to communicate with them for days on end due to their front line locations.

Feeling the duty to aid people in "my home state," Himsl is "humbled constantly watching communities come together in such a painful time of loss and devastation. These are the reminders ranging small to large of the importance of being kind and loving to our neighbors in need."

Bensley served as a Safety Officer for the River Fire (10-days), Caldor Fire (15-days) and CAL OES at the Mather, Calif., headquarters (1-2 week rotations, seven different times throughout the year). He was also assigned as the Engine Captain on a type 3 strike team for the Dixie Fire. Strike teams are five engines and a strike team leader.

"The drought and the record dry fuel moistures have created extreme fire behavior rarely seen," explained Bensley. "We base our actions on current and expected fire behavior, so we always have primary, alternate, contingency and emergency plans for changes in the environment we work in. We travel all over California and sometimes other states assisting in suppression efforts, so over time you get to experience different terrain, fuel types, and unique local weather patterns that influence fire behavior."

Bensley also acknowledged the difficulty of leaving the MOFD area to fight fires. "It's

very hard on the fire spouses at home. They have to handle everything: kids, school, sports, the house. If something happens, they're on their own."

"Each time I go out I learn something new that helps me in my profession," Bensley added. "I love getting to meet and work with new people and helping communities in their time of need."

Rogness deployed to the Lava Fire (8-days), River Complex (8-days), Dixie Fire West Zone (16-days) and Dixie Fire East Zone (16-days). "On all four assignments I worked as a Geographic Information Systems Specialist," he explained. "I created and updated maps on a daily basis for crews to use while navigating the fire." Rogness created maps for operations, evacuation, public information, pilot, air operations, planning, briefing (the large 6'x 8' maps you see on the news), progression, web maps, transportation and topographic tile map packets. His resident evacuation maps came into play during the Lava, River and Dixie fires.

Unlike "boots on the ground" firefighters, Rogness spent long hours as a GIS surrounded by computers in a trailer providing vital information to the men and women on the front lines, the most challenging of which was in the early stages of the Lava Fire. "Preparation is the key to success. I learned most from that incident. Downloading base data, setting up the file structure and initiating map layouts in advance makes the workload manageable as the demand for maps in the early stages is the greatest."

Rogness gave credit to four additional MOFD members working with him on the Dixie Fire (East Zone): Fire Chief Dave Winnacker as Division, Dennis Rein as Liaison, Jon Ford as Communications Technician and Brian Oliver as a Public Information Officer.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors
Wednesday, Nov. 17, 6 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire
Board of Directors
Regular Meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 7, 1 p.m.

For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



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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, Ryan Sullivan 925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org
Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report
Oct. 17 - Oct. 30

Alarms	58
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	32
Traffic	84
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	14
Suspicious Vehicle	10
Service to Citizen	61
Patrol Req./Security Check	39
Public/School Assembly Check	20
Supplemental Report	30
Vacation House Check	3

Welfare Check	17
Ordinance Violation	1
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
1000 Block Windsor Dr.	
800 Block Mariposa Rd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1200 Block Del Arroyo Ct.	
Dui Misd	
Eb Sr 24 At Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Grand Theft Veh Parts	
3300 Block St Marys Rd.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Windsor Dr./Old Tunnel Rd.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1000 Block Carol Ln.	
3500 Block Boyer Cir.	
Reckless Driving	
1100 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.	
Avalon Ave./School St.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Wb Sr 24	
Moraga Rd./School St.	
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.	
Wb Sr 24 At Oak Hill Rd.	
Stolen Vehicle Recovery	
Eb HWay 24/Appr Phill Rd	
Tc - Fire And Amb Enroute	
Dolores Dr./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Tc - Minor Injuries	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Tc - Property Damage	
Reliez Station Rd./Olympic Blvd.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Reliez Valley Rd.	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Reliez Station Rd./Richelle Ct.	
Olympic Blvd./Reliez Station Rd.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Rancho View Dr.	
Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.	
800 Block Moraga Rd.	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Silverado Dr./Merriewood Dr.	
Vehicle Theft	
900 Block Paulson Ct.	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Other criminal activity	
Computer Fraud	
Police Department	

900 Block Dewing Ave.	
Fraud Credit Card	
3100 Block Old Tunnel Rd.	
Grand Theft	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Carol Ln.	
Identity Theft	
600 Block Doreen Way	
900 Block S Thompson Rd.	
Police Department	
Panhandling	
3600 Block Deerhill Rd. (2)	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Petty Theft	
1700 Block Toyon Rd.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Shoplift	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (5)	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbance-domestic	
3500 Block Terrace Way	
3200 Block Sweet Dr.	
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3300 Block Mildred Ln.	
Disturbance-fight	
Los Palos Dr./Glenside Dr.	
Disturbing The Peace	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Drunk In Public	
3600 Block Deerhill Rd.	
Loud Music	
3200 Block Glenside Dr.	
600 Block Los Palos Dr.	
Loud Noise	
900 Block Leland Dr.	
1000 Block Magnolia Ln.	
Loud Party	
Cowan Rd./Hilldale Rd.	
Vandalism	
1000 Block Leland Dr.	
3300 Block Vaughn Rd.	
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.	
Other	
Mentally Ill Violent	
10 Block Mountain View Pl.	

Phone Harass	
600 Block Doreen Way	
Trespass	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Trespass W/ Vehicle	
3200 Block Stanley Blvd.	
Violation Custody Order	
Police Department	
Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report	
Oct. 19 - Nov. 1	
Alarms	9
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic	32
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subject	0
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service to Citizen	24
Patrol Req./Security Check	14
Supplemental Report	7
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	5
Public/School Assembly Check	1
Ordinance Violation	0
Vehicle violations	
Accident Property	
300 Block Rheem Blvd.	
Seven Eleven	
Rheem Blvd./St. Marys Rd.	
Excessive Speed	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.	
Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr., Ori	
Moraga Rd./Lucas Dr.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd.	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.	
Moraga Rd./Canyon Rd.	
Augusta Dr./St Andrews Dr.	
Rheem Valley Shopping Center	

Safeway	
Vehicle Theft	
1400 Block Moraga Way	
Other criminal activity	
Child Abuse	
100 Block Natalie Dr.	
Identity Theft	
10 Block Crockett Dr.	
1000 Block Del Rio Way	
Shoplift	
1500 Block Canyon Rd.	
Safeway	
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbance-domestic	
700 Block Augusta Dr.	
Loud Music	
1700 Block School St. (2)	
300 Block Moraga Rd.	
Loud Noise	
1200 Block Moraga Way	
700 Block Moraga Rd.	
Not Available	
Loud Party	
10 Block Corliss Dr.	
900 Block Augusta Dr.	
Other	
Fire/Ems Response Info	
Hacienda	
H&S Violation	
Francisca Dr./Josefa Pl.	
Unwanted Guest	
10 Block Warfield Dr.	
Violation Custody Order	
St. Marys College	



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report will be back soon

Letters to the editor

Maintaining Lafayette's character

Your article concerning the Oct. 14 Lafayette Homeowners Council meeting quoted resident Lauren Herpich as saying, "When the General Plan Advisory Committee [GPAC] was first talking about a mission statement, there was a resounding outcry that we are not semi-rural anymore." Lafayette City Manager Niroop Srivatsa is quoted as saying that she has never seen such a significant shift in community expectations concerning growth as there is today.

While no one can deny Lafayette's downtown has changed, Ms. Herpich is dead wrong concerning the values of most Lafayette residents. And while "expectations" about what growth will occur have perhaps changed due to the constant harangue of housing advocates, the bias of Lafayette government toward development, and dictatorial legislation from Sacramento depriving communities of local planning control, Ms. Srivatsa's comment is dead wrong if she means to suggest that Lafayette residents desire growth.

In fact, in a recent GPAC "Community Values" survey, the responses concerning the de-

sired physical character of Lafayette, registered far more than any other, were that Lafayette residents fervently wish to maintain the small town and semi-rural aspirations of Lafayette. "Semi-rural" was the fifth highest rated value desired by Lafayette residents (342 of 688 responses), exceeded only by "safe"(450), "great parks and trails" (417), "family-friendly" (375) and "encouraging open space" (347). "Limit growth" immediately followed "semi-rural" (322). That survey inexplicably did not offer "small town" as a response option, but scores of respondents wrote it in anyway. "Semi-rural" received ten times the favorable responses as "encourage growth" (34 responses) and "encourage a more urban experience" (30). Hundreds of written comments were consistent with those numeric responses, particularly concerning the fervent desire to maintain Lafayette's unique character, and not become another Walnut Creek. Comments concerning a later draft Mission Statement were materially similar.

So, despite the constant screaming of advocates and legislators that Lafayette residents are despicable elitists and racists

(which is not true), and that Lafayette owes it to the world to destroy itself, Lafayette residents continue to love the character of their town, however it is described, and deeply wish to maintain it.

Eliot R. Hudson
Lafayette

The cost to cross

Can it be true that a short bike lane in the MEDIAN of Pleasant Hill Road is being considered? Which would be a few hundred yards long, from Mt. Diablo Boulevard to Deer Hill Road? Which would cost \$3.1 MILLION? So the first cyclist's little ride would represent \$3.1 million. The second ride would represent \$1.5+ million. If 10 people a day used it, 365 days a year, it would take 840 YEARS to pay for itself, if we assume each ride is worth \$1 of our tax money. (Hard to believe? Check my math).

Of course, that figure is true only if there are no accidents, deaths, or other untoward costly events, caused by cyclists and pedestrians crossing CAR TRAFFIC to REACH this obscene little boondoggle, or to get to the other curb, and then suing the city.

Oh wait, maybe 20 people a

day would use it and it would only take four CENTURIES to earn its keep.

Please tell me I'm going to

wake up and find this is just a terrible dream.

Linda Riebel
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

Lamorinda volleyball teams make playoffs

... continued from Page A1

The tone for the offense was set by seniors Casey Roy, Natalie Kurtz and Lauren Cunningham and juniors Amber Chu and Ruby Martin this season. "Amber has been our No. 1 hitter since her freshman year, and it has been an honor seeing her grow and being a part of the process. Lauren really stepped up in the middle for us. We needed someone that was actively moving and getting to the ball, and she earned that spot during practice. Ruby became a starter in midseason when we needed a big blocker on the right side."

Julia Berg and Catherine Devlin led the offense as the team's setters. "Julia was my go-to setter when we ran a 5-1 offense and Catherine was my second setter when we ran the 6-2 offense," Ray said. "Kaylen Ishizu did an excellent job as a setter coming off the bench and playing some defense on the right side."

Miramonte's liberos were sophomore Nicole Tuszynski and junior Annika Blas-Cedeno. "Nicole did a tremendous job for us," Ray said. "Annika was phenomenal for us coming off the bench, playing for Casey Roy in the back row and it helped our offense tremendously."

The Matadors were scheduled to play their first-round Division III playoff game Nov. 9, after press time.

Campolindo

After moving up to Division I, coach John Vuong has always made it a point to compete against the top competition prior to league play. The Cougars began this season with a 2-4 record and went 14-6 the rest of the season. "We started to build confidence as the year went on," Vuong said. "It was hard at first because as a team, we had not really played together so we had to build that connection. It took over half the season to figure out the players and who was doing what. At that point, our confidence grew and we began winning more and realizing that we had the ability and potential to be a good team."

After defeating Vintage High School in the first round, Campolindo came up short to the third ranked San Ramon Valley (17-25, 25-27, 25-27). "We lost to a great team and battled to the end," Vuong said. "We did not give up. That's the name of the game. Sometimes it goes our way and sometimes it goes the other team's way."

The Cougars will only be graduating six seniors, returning 10 underclassmen. "We'll miss them all as I have been with them for a long time, and they always competed hard." Vuong singled out outside hitter Audrey Baumer among the seniors: "Audrey stayed focused and poised. She was the

anchor of our team."

Baumer took a short- and long-term perspective to the loss. "This was the second year that we were in Division I so we had a lot to live up to," Baumer said. "We prepared really well but it just wasn't our night. I'm going to miss the competition and being on a team with such an amazing group of girls that loved to play together."

Vuong made it clear to the team what they should take away from the SRV game: "This was a game for the younger players to learn from. The next time you play in a game like this, your mental state will be different - I guarantee it. The last two years with the coronavirus, it hurt everybody across the volleyball community in trying to figure things out. We're restarting and our seniors have planted the seeds for the underclassmen. From here on, I'm sure it's going to become easier for us."

Acalanes

When Acalanes started the season losing four of their first five games, head coach Haley Walsh was not worried, and her confidence was borne out when Acalanes was 11-7 the rest of the season. "It was just working out the kinks, coming off of a COVID season and adapting to some sort of normal which was stressful for the girls at first," Walsh said. "By the end of the season, they were more balanced on things which then translated onto the court."

The depth for Acalanes on offense and defense proved to be very valuable as various starters went down with injuries. The offense was led by senior Aly Kirke and juniors Kate Olin, Ryann Jones, and Hannah Hageboeck. Emma Johnson returned from an early season injury and became a starter on the outside, becoming a key factor in the team's offense. "Kate, Ryann and Hannah should only get better next year," Walsh said. "Freshman MaeLin Mason did a great job filling in when Emma was out, and senior Bela Yanakieva was a force in a lot of games in the middle."

Senior setters Rachel Zhang, Mara Korzeniowska and sophomore Monica Dikova all competed for playing time. Korzeniowska was hurt early in the season but came back and contributed as well.

When Lyanne Wang was lost early in the season as the team's libero, Jade Profilio became the starting libero. Georgia Winkler also lined up as a libero along with playing as a middle and as an attacker. Profilio stood out in the playoff game with 37 digs, an outlandishly high number.

"Next year our strength will come out of the back row," Walsh said. "I'm looking forward to see the competition

next year between Lyanne and Jade. I'm also excited to see all of our returners in the middle and on the front line."



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Parent and guardian concerns about childhood COVID-19 vaccine addressed at Town Hall

By Jennifer Wake

In an effort to address questions from parents and guardians following the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's emergency authorization of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11, Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools Lynn Mackey facilitated a town hall Nov. 4 on Zoom with a panel of health officials and pediatricians.

Contra Costa Health Services Deputy Health Officer, Dr. Sofo, Mekuria, opened the town hall with sobering statistics about COVID-19 and kids. Nationally, more than 2 million cases have occurred over the course of the pandemic in the 5-11 age group at the time the COVID-19 vaccine was approved. A recent CDC study showed that cases and hospitalizations in general were 10 times higher for unvaccinated adolescents than in vaccinated adolescents. Since the pandemic began for 5- to 11-year-olds, there have been 8,000 hospitalizations in that age group nationwide, with 120 residents un-

der age 18 hospitalized in Contra Costa County. In the last 18 months, Mekuria noted, 680 patients under age 18 have died from COVID in the United States.

Of the many questions received on Zoom from participants, Mackey pulled the most common concerns for the panelists to discuss, such as why children should need this vaccination if they are healthy and COVID symptoms are typically mild.

Dr. Robin Meezan, Medical Director of Pediatrics with John Muir Health, recommends the vaccine and said even if the condition is often mild, it's still important to protect children and those in our community who have underlying conditions.

Dr. Rahul Parikh, who is a pediatrician and assistant physician-in-chief with Kaiser Permanente, said this is an important conversation to be having in the community. "In an age when we have a vaccine that's 90% effective, which is unprecedented after two doses, it becomes sad and senseless when you can help prevent disease in your child." COVID is simply a virus that wants to get into a body and replicate, he said.

"Think about COVID not just as a me and my family question, but about all of us and how we can protect our communities."

Dr. Dipti Perot, family practice doctor and a Lifelong Medical Care COVID team provider, added that around 30% of kids hospitalized with COVID did not have underlying conditions, and for those who had COVID "there is no guarantee you'll have antibodies after resolution of infection. Just because you've had COVID doesn't mean you won't get it again," she said, "and we

have seen that it was much worse the second time around for all ages."

Many participants asked why you can still get sick after being vaccinated. Dr. Chris Farnitano, Health Officer of Contra Costa Health Services, said the COVID-19 vaccine is much like the measles vaccine, where boosters are required and rare outbreaks among the vaccinated are typically mild. "The COVID vaccine is like that; it cuts the risk of getting severe COVID and being in the hospital or dying by 90% – no vaccine is 100% effective." Later, Farnitano noted that every one of the 680 deaths of children is a tragedy, and there have been so many other children who have been left without a parent due to COVID.

According to Perot, COVID in the last year is No. 6 in the top 10 causes of death for kids, and it's a vaccine preventable death. Over 5,000 children have ended up in ICUs with an inflammatory syndrome and left with severe disability. "It's become so politicized. ... We have to look at each other and protect each other," she said. "As COVID continues to circulate in our communities, every person, especially the unvaccinated, becomes a reservoir for these new variants."

In closing, Mackey noted that there are currently no mandates for the COVID-19 vaccine in the 5-11 age group in Contra Costa County schools. She added that future town hall discussions are planned and they will post answers to the many other questions asked during the town hall at www.ccooe.k12.ca.us. To schedule a vaccination, you can visit cchealth.org or contact local retail pharmacies or health care providers.

To view the entire Town Hall presentation on YouTube, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FkZxbLT3KNI>

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Local woman helps rescue wildlife after oil spill



Photo provided

Moraga resident Jean Yim, seen here gavaging a Western Grebe with specially prepared fluids and nutritional support after the pipeline oil spill off Huntington Beach in early October.

By Sora O'Doherty

When in early October thousands of barrels of crude oil were released from a pipeline into the Pacific Ocean about five miles off the coast of Huntington Beach in Orange County, the Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) called up volunteers and staff to come to the site to save wildlife endangered by the oil spill. Moraga resident Jean Yim was called up as a field stabilization supervisor and traveled south on Oct. 6 to help. When she ar-

rived, she found a lot of people already hard at work looking for animals on the beaches and in the wetlands.

Yim was there to help stabilize any animals that were found and brought to the field stabilization group, which was located across the street from the beach at the Wetland and Wildlife Care Center, a member organization of OWCN.

She and her team worked 14-hour days, from sunrise to sunset, for just over a week. When she left, someone else took over her position. During the incident, 34 live birds were

brought in and 22 were able to be released. Unfortunately, there were also 82 dead birds found, including cormorants, many types of grebes, gulls and others. Six dead mammals were also retrieved, as well as one live whale dolphin. The live birds included snowy plovers, western grebes, gulls, sanderlings and a brown pelican, among others.

"It was an incredible experience to work with so many trained colleagues who have a deep passion for the welfare of animals," Yim said, "and it was incredible to see the outpouring of response from the community in the area." Yim described the support for the wildlife workers from the local community affected by the spill. OWCN workers were inundated with food for the staff, who could select from a room full of donated items if they felt hungry.

Yim started as a volunteer with the Lindsay Wildlife Experience in 1999 and became part of the staff a couple of years ago. She is currently the wildlife rehabilitation coordinator for the nonprofit. She started with OWCN during the Cosco Bousan spill in the San Francisco Bay. Although that spill happened at approximately the same time of year, in early November 2007, it had a more devastating result for wildlife. More than 6,800 dead birds were documented from that incident.

OWCN is a statewide collective of trained wildlife care providers, regulatory agencies, academic institutions and wildlife organizations working to rescue and rehabilitate oiled wildlife in California. Their mandate has been expanded to include not only marine incidents, but also in-

land incidents. For each incident there is a legal process to identify who the responsible party is. That party then has to pay for the cleanup. To date, the OWCN has responded to more than 75 spills throughout California and cared for more than 10,000 oiled birds, mammals and reptiles/amphibians. They have also provided essential support nationally and internationally for large-scale emergencies, including the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the M/V Rena spill in New Zealand, and the Prestige spill in Spain.

From her experience

working for OWCN, Yim says, "One of the things I'm really impressed with is how well OWCN responds to oil spills." Yim explained that their process is to always improve upon the lessons they learn, and remarked upon how agile OWCN is at making improvements so they can better help wildlife in the future.

You can learn more about OWCN at <https://owcn.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/about>

Editor's note: in the interest of transparency, it should be noted that Yim is this reporter's daughter-in-law.

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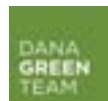


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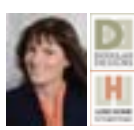


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Strawberry fans will fall in love with this luscious layer cake



Fresh Strawberry Layer Cake

Photo Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

I recently had a visit with one of my friends, who had just come from a bicycle tour in Natchez, Mississippi. She asked me if I'd ever had strawberry layer cake. Apparently it is a famous dessert in Mississippi (I've yet to visit Mississippi), and she couldn't get enough of it. I'd never actually eaten strawberry layer cake. She raved about it, so I decided it was time to give it a try!

This little project turned into three different cakes, four batches of frosting, a batch of strawberry curd and two batches of homemade strawberry purée to get things just right. It was definitely worth it and I think this is finally the perfect combo of light cake with a perfect crumb, luscious strawberry purée reduction and oh, so strawberry-tasting buttercream frosting with a hint of cream cheese.

What makes this cake so delicious is that it's made with real strawberry purée reduction, which gives it a natural and intense strawberry flavor. Of course, if you can find juicy, ripe fresh strawberries, those are ideal, but I found that frozen strawberries were excellent in the strawberry reduction. Simply take one pound of frozen or fresh strawberries or even a combination, cook them with some sugar, sieve out the excess pulp and you have a beautiful strawberry sauce

that can be used in both the cake and the frosting, or even all by itself over your favorite vanilla frozen concoction.

When it comes to making strawberry cake, there is a caveat. Strawberries turn kind of a brownish-gray color when baked in a cake, so you are going to have to add a little bit of food coloring in order to have an appealing cake. It's best to use gel coloring in baked goods, because it holds its color in the baking and you use much less of it, so it doesn't interfere with the liquid quantities in the cake. I used Sunny Side Up Bakery "deep pink" squeeze gel color for my cake and frosting. It took about 5-6 drops to get this pretty pink color, but you can adjust for your own personal preference. This gel coloring is available at Hobby Lobby, but Michael's also carries cake decorating supplies and should have a pretty pink, as well. Also, if you like all of the wavy decorative swirls on the top and sides of the cake, pick up a #824 open star cake decorating tip, the complementary coupler, and a pastry bag.

This cake is not a simple project, but it's fun and worth the time, especially if you are a big strawberry fan. Be sure to make your strawberry puree reduction ahead of time, so it is completely cooled by the time you make the cake. You can speed the process along by chilling it in the freezer for about 10 minutes, but be sure not to freeze it!

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>



Strawberry Layer Cake with Strawberry Buttercream Frosting

INGREDIENTS

Strawberry Purée Reduction

1 lb. fresh or frozen strawberries, stems removed and quartered
3/4 cup granulated sugar
2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice

Cake

3/4 cup butter, softened to room temp (6 oz or 1 1/2 sticks)
1/2 cup strawberry purée reduction (recipe above)
1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
4 large eggs, at room temperature
3/4 cup milk, at room temperature
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
Pink gel food coloring (5-6 drops, or as many as the color you like requires)

Strawberry Buttercream Frosting (this recipe makes enough to both frost and decorate the cake)

1 cup (2 sticks of 8 oz.) unsalted butter, at room temp
4 oz. cream cheese, at room temp
8 cups (+/-) powdered sugar, sifted
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/4 cup strawberry purée reduction
2 drops gel food coloring

DIRECTIONS

Strawberry Puree Reduction - make ahead of time

Place berries, sugar and lemon juice into a saucepan. Slowly bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring frequently. The juices from the berries will create enough liquid to form a sauce. Continue to cook on a low boil for about 10 minutes, or until berries are very soft.

Remove from heat and strain sauce through a strainer, pressing the solids through the strainer to create a thick sauce or puree. Use a spatula on the bottom of the strainer to capture any strawberry puree that is coating the outside of the strainer. Discard any strawberry pulp that doesn't get through the strainer.

Bring the strained puree to a low boil and cook until reduced to about 1 cup of puree. This sauce will be thick enough to coat a spoon. Remove from heat, and cool to room temperature. Use part in the cake and part in the frosting.

Strawberry Cake

Butter the bottoms and sides of two 9-inch cake pans and dust with flour. Preheat oven to 350 F. Sift all dries together into a small bowl. In a separate bowl, mix milk, strawberry puree reduction and vanilla extract. Set both aside.

In a large mixing bowl, or in the bowl of your mixer, place butter and beat on high speed until creamy and light colored. Slowly add sugar and continue to beat until well-integrated and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each. Scrape the sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula as you go. Add dries and liquids to butter mixture, alternately, beginning and ending with dries.

Divide batter evenly between the two 9-inch cake pans.

Bake for about 20-25 minutes, or until a cake tester comes out clean when inserted into the middle of the cake. Remove from oven and cool for about 5 minutes. Then, turn cakes out of the pans and directly onto a cooling rack. Once cool, refrigerate for about 30 minutes and then sliced each layer in half horizontally using a long bread knife or a cake slicing knife. (Chilling the cakes makes slicing them a bit easier.) If the cake layers are significantly domed on top, flatten them out by cutting the rounded part off the top using the same knife.

Strawberry Buttercream Frosting

While the cake is baking, begin the frosting. Place softened butter into the bowl of your mixer. Beat until fluffy. Slowly add powdered sugar and cream together until the mixture is like a paste. Stir in vanilla extract. Now alternate with the remaining powdered sugar (reserve 1/2 cup of the powdered sugar for fine tuning later) and the strawberry reduction puree until both are used up, beating well after each addition. Finally, beat in the softened cream cheese. If you feel the frosting is too soft, add a bit more powdered sugar, and if you feel it's too stiff, add a splash of milk or a bit more strawberry puree. Frosting consistency will depend upon the softness and moisture content of the butter, so it's always good to be a bit flexible when making it. Also, you can totally make this frosting without the cream cheese, if you prefer.

To Assemble Cake

Take the bottom of one of the cake halves and place it on your cake platter. Spread a thin layer (about 2 tablespoons) of the strawberry puree reduction over the cut side of the cake. Allow that to sink in. Then, add a layer of frosting right on top of the puree.

Place the top half of that layer right on top of the frosting. Spread more frosting on top of that half. Repeat the pattern with the second layer of cake ending with the top of the cake on top.

When all four cake layer halves are in place, frost the entire top and sides of cake with a thin layer (a crumb coat) of frosting using a frosting spatula, to smooth out the cake and to cover up any crumbs. Now, you can add a bit more frosting over that before decorating with the swirls.

Using a #824 open star cake decorating tip inserted into a pastry bag with the matching coupler, start making your decorating pattern using sort of wave-like patterns to cover the top and bottom edges of the cake.

Serve with a scoop of vanilla or strawberry ice cream. Also, a drizzle of homemade chocolate sauce is delicious on this cake!



'Hive' - a portrait of a woman survivor in the aftermath of war



Image provided

By Sophie Braccini

In the film from Kosovo, "Hive," presented in Orinda by the International Film Showcase, the

director zooms in on the repercussions on a family after the disappearance of the father, during the war against Serbia. No need to show violence and mass killing to im-

press on viewers the devastating effects of war. To our brains that cannot really fathom the anguish behind the phrase "50 people disappeared during the war," it is easier to empathize with a woman whose husband never returned, but whose death was not ascertained either. She alone will refuse to continue to live a half-life spent waiting for an illusive return. She will stand up against the rules of the patriarchal rural society that has pinned her down to a submissive widow's role.

Fahrije's husband has disappeared during the Kosovo war. She lives with her two teenage children and her father-in-law, who is confined to a wheelchair. The family is struggling to make ends meet. In order to support them all, Fahrije becomes entrepreneurial and starts with other women in her village a production of canned specialty goods. But in the traditionally patriarchal village where she lives, her attempts at independence and her leading of other women is disapproved of and she has to face increasingly hostile reactions.

"Hive" is Blerta Basholli's first feature film. It is based on Fahrije Hoti's true story that started 20 years ago. After the Kosovo war's ethnic massacres and displacements, many people of Albanese origin disap-

peared. The absence without a body is particularly difficult for Fahrije and her family. The father of the missing husband does not want to give up hope and refuses to even undergo tests to help identify a corpse; the children do not want to see their father's tools go because it means that they have given up hope; even Fahrije who fights to build a new life, when confronted with proofs of death, falters and refuses to acknowledge the inescapable truth.

Yllka Gashi plays Fahrije, the resilient woman who learns to drive when others do not dare, who goes to town by herself to promote her business even if she might be insulted for it. A woman who is an agent of change in her village, involving other widows in her business and quietly defying the patriarchy. Director Basholli who, like her actress, grew up in Kosovo during the war, said in an interview with CineEuropa that she met with the real Fahrije Hoti several times to understand her story

and also to meet the women in her community, to get a feel for the dynamic of that hive. Gashi who plays Fahrije was involved in the project from the start and also met her alongside Basholli.

The camera films Fahrije in her everyday life. It follows her every move showing how her patient and relentless activity is the means for establishing her dignity and escaping her condition as a victim, as a poor woman, as an inferior. With this beautiful movie that won the Grand Jury Prize, the Directing Award, and the Audience Award in the World Cinema category at the Sundance Film Festival, Basholli painted the portrait of a resilient woman, a survivor, a quiet warrior of peace.

The movie will open at the Orinda Theatre Nov. 12 for at least one full week, with screenings each day. Limited seating. Proof of vaccination required at the door. Tickets: www.OrindaMovies.com

A brief history

Kosovo was an independent region of Yugoslavia from 1945 to 1989. After the collapse of Tito's communist republic, Serbia under Slobodan Milošević annexed Kosovo. From 1997 to 1999 the war between Serbia and the Kosovo separatists led to the death of 10,000 people and the displacement of one million. Today, the south of the country that is populated mostly by Albanese has declared its independence, while three provinces in the north where the majority of the population is Serbian want to be reunited with Serbia.

Lafayette Troop 224 welcomes all boys and girls



Some members of Troop 224

Photo provided

Submitted by Chan Whiting

Troop 224 is in recruitment mode and encourages boys and girls to join. The troop is holding their next recruitment event at their Scout hut (located at the back of Happy Valley Elementary) at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 15. Parents and

prospective Scouts can come to the open house to learn about the scouts' experiences, such as backpacking through Desolation Wilderness for 50 miles; freewheeling down a mountainside on a mountain bike or simply sleeping out under the stars.

The boys and girls have a multitude of fun and exciting activities lined up for the

coming year; from a bioluminescent kayaking trip in Tomales Bay, to a week of wet and wild activities on Catalina Island. Additionally, for the older scouts, they are all looking forward to camping on Hawaii's Kilauea volcano and exploring the Big Island's Kona coastline.

Troop 224 prides itself on having the Scouts themselves provide their own leadership within the division of their patrols, with parents only there for safety and support. The Troop commits to using a combination of virtual platforms and/or social distancing methods to keep everyone safe, while continuing to provide a healthy and stimulating set of activities, building character and having them be prepared for life.

Contact Troop 224 for information on these events or to join the Troop at struchenadams123@gmail.com or www.troop224lafayette.com/.

Acalanes DAR Chapter to place wreaths on 290 veteran graves at Lafayette Cemetery



Photo Yoni Mayeri

Submitted by Vanessa Crews

Each year millions of Americans come together to remember the fallen, honor those who serve and their families and teach the next generation about the value of freedom. This gathering of volunteers and patriots takes place on Dec. 18 in more than 2,500 local and national cemeteries in all 50 states as part of National Wreaths Across America Day.

There are 290 veterans

buried in the historic Lafayette Cemetery, and this is the second year the cemetery has participated in the National Wreaths Across America Day. Local members of the Acalanes Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) are raising funds to place a wreath on each veteran's headstone. To sponsor a wreath, please visit: www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org/CA0565.

Vanessa Crews, DAR member from Orinda, re-

called a recent trip to the American Cemetery in Normandy, France. "I stood among thousands of crosses marking the graves of fallen patriots of World War II and felt overwhelmed with grief and gratitude for the supreme sacrifice these men and women made for the freedoms I enjoy today. It's an honor to participate with Acalanes DAR members and Wreaths Across America to sponsor wreaths for our veterans in the Lafayette Cemetery."

There will be a ceremony at noon on Dec. 18 at the Lafayette Cemetery, located at 3285 Mt. Diablo Blvd., with wreath laying following the ceremony. The free event is open to everyone. All veterans, active-duty military, and their families as well as the local community are invited and encouraged to attend and learn more about Wreaths Across America's yearlong mission to Remember, Honor, Teach. COVID-19 County Health Guidance protocols will be followed, including mask requirements, to keep our community safe.

Please visit <http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org/CA0565> for safety regulation updates. For more information, contact Terry Lucido at (650) 804-2564, tlachenb@aol.com, or visit Acalanes DAR at www.Acalanes.CaliforniaDAR.org.

Music and dance at Saint Mary's College



Photo provided

Local residents will have three exciting opportunities in November to enjoy dance and music at Saint Mary's College.

The Davalos Dance Company on Nov. 13 at 8 p.m. will perform "Chocolate," an exploration of the sacred cacao bean. The free dance performance uses Mayan and Aztec creation stories to uncover the origins of chocolate and the healing energy of it. The event will begin with a ritual on the LeFevre Terrace and then move inside for more dancing prior to an outdoor dance party at the end of the evening. RSVP to cdavalos@stmarys-ca.edu

The Saint Mary's College Dance Company will offer its dance concert, "Murmurations," a dance performance created by seven senior choreographers from the Class of 2022, with guest artist and alumna Micah Sallid at 8

p.m. Nov. 18 and 19 and at 2 and 8 p.m. Nov. 20 at LeFevre Theatre. Tickets are \$8-\$15 (www.stmarys-ca.edu/murmurations).

And the Saint Mary's Instrumental Ensemble is scheduled to perform its fall concert at 8 p.m. Nov. 22 entitled "Mystic Embers" featuring the music of Jennifer Rose, Astor Piazzolla, J.S. Bach, Jeff Herwig, and Brian Belmagas. Additionally, the SMC Jazz Band will be featuring the music of Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Lee Morgan, and Henry Mancini. SMC Jazz Singers will also be singing a number of toe-tapping jazz tunes. Tickets are \$8-\$15 (<https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/mystic-embers>). - J. Wake

Correction: In the Oct. 13 Lamorinda Weekly article, "Local nonprofit helps Afghan refugees in resettlement," the last name of Miramonte students was misspelled. Selma and Nilab Ahmed recently started a Keeping Our Promise club at Miramonte High School and have recruited classmates to tutor Afghan children aged 12 to 17. According to their father, the two sisters are looking for volunteers to tutor not only refugee children but adults as well, who wish to improve their English or learn about American culture and history. The Ahmed sisters can be reached at kopmiramonte@gmail.com



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In Memory

Linda Marie Borrelli
Sept. 15, 1939 – Nov. 2, 2021



Linda Marie Borrelli, 82, a devoted and loving wife, mother and grandmother passed away Tuesday, Nov. 2. She was born on Sept. 15, 1939 in Bakersfield, Calif., the daughter of Lois and Leslie Heath. Funeral mass will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 10 at St Monica's Church in Moraga. Reception will follow in the Peace Room. She is survived by her husband Gary Borrelli, sons Matthew, David (Ann): grandchildren Annika, Dominic, and Daniel. Preceded in death by her brothers Joe and Leslie Heath.

Linda grew up on a farm in Oakdale, Calif., and from those early years it engrained in her the love and passion she had for her community and country. She graduated from Oakdale High School in 1957 as the leader of her cheerleading squad and continued her education at the University of California. She met the love of her life while working in Oakland and married Gary on June 15, 1963 and they shared an incredible life over the next 58 years. They were blessed with two sons and Linda was able to shine in her role as a mother and eventually a grandmother. But most of all she is most remembered for her infectious smile and friendly outgoing personality.

Linda was a founding pillar of the Moraga community for over 50 years. Her list of accomplishments and service contributions are a testament of her love and dedication to the town of Moraga. She was a founding member of the Moraga Junior Women Society. She was a board member and active participant in the following associations: The Moraga Rescue One Foundation, The Moraga Fire District, Moraga Parks and Recreation, executive director of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, president of the St. Monica's Parish Council, and she was awarded the Moraga Citizen of the Year in 1993.

Not to be missed

Not to be missed

Not to be missed

Not to be missed

ART

Lamorinda Arts Alliance Announces "Inspired by the Greats" - a member show at the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library, Dec. 2-31. The "Inspired by the Greats" theme gave 30 local artists the opportunity to pay tribute to influencers each artist counts as "great" for them.

Art show at Orinda Books. November features the paintings of Lisa Gunn, who has long had a prominent artistic presence in Orinda. Gunn's style is a "California Impressionism" involving plein air, landscapes, and abstracts.

The public is invited to an outdoor reception honoring sculptor Rue Whittaker who will answer questions about "Indigo Animal and Dame Eleanor Marmot" on Saturday, Nov. 20, 2-4 p.m. in front of the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, Orinda.

shine event. All COVID-19 precautions observed. For more information about APPC visit www.artspaceorinda.org; visit LAC online at www.lamorindaarts.org

MUSIC

The acclaimed East Bay Vocal Ensemble Voci presents the holiday concert "Message of Peace: Beloved Seasonal Gems" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11 at St. Perpetua Catholic Church 3454 Hamlin Road, in Lafayette and at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 at St. Mary Magdalen Church 2005 Berryman Street, in Berkeley. Price: \$15-\$30 - Buy Tickets Today at VociSings.org.

Prize winning young international pianist and artistic director of France's "En Blanc et Noir Music Festival" Bobby Mitchell returns to Lamorinda and dazzles audiences at Santa Maria Church in Orinda at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4. Free. Donations accepted (www.FracturedAtlas.org BobbyMitchellPiano). For info, call Vicki Nakamura (925) 708-1915.

Berkeley Chamber Performances presents "Milou Trio and Friends". The concert will be available from Monday, Nov. 22 - Sunday, Dec. 5, 2315 Durant Avenue, Berkeley. Please join the Milou Trio and Friends virtually! Milhaud: Sonatine for Clarinet and Piano; Poulenc: Sonata for Piano Four Hands Ravel: Piano Trio; Cost: \$20. For more info see www.berkeleychamberperform.org or call 510-525-5211 or email info@bcpl.org.

Berkeley Symphony presents Berkeley Symphony Special Chamber Concert: "Stuart Canin & Friends" on Sunday, Nov 21, from 4 to 6 p.m., at Piedmont Center for the Arts, 801 Magnolia Ave, Piedmont. "Stuart Canin & Friends" will feature Canin on violin along with pianist Helene Wickett, performing works by Shostakovich, Stravinsky, & Beethoven. Cost: \$35. For more info see www.berkeley_symphony.org or call 510-841-2800 or email tickets@berkeley_symphony.org.

St. Paul's Concert Series presents violinist Heeguen Song and cellist Peter Myers in a live performance. This performance will be broadcast online from St. Paul's Episcopal Church 1924 Trinity Avenue, Walnut Creek, on Saturday, Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. We also have limited seating for in-person attendance. Online Live Link Provided through Website. Contact: Deborah Webster 925-297-0134, ConcertSeries@stpaulswc.org, https://stpaulswc.org/concert-series/

Pacific Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Conductor Lawrence Kohl, presents a concert production of Handel's Messiah with soprano Hope Briggs, mezzo-soprano Kindra Scharich, tenor Jonathan Smucker, and bass Kirk Eichelberger and the Pacific Chamber Orchestra Chorus with Dwight Stone, Chorus Master. Performances are Saturday, Nov. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road in Pleasanton and Sunday, Nov. 28 at 3 p.m. at Bankhead Theatre, 2400 First Street in Livermore. Tickets online at pacificchamberorchestra.org.

THEATER

California Academy of Performing Arts returns to the stage! Kick off the holiday season with a Moraga tradition. CAPA's "The Nutcracker" runs Dec. 2 - 5 at the Campolindo Performing Arts Center in Moraga. Join us for this special narrated ballet! Tickets go on sale Nov. 8. Visit capadance.net to grab your seat.

OTHER

Lafayette's Community Conversation No. 3 about Race and Equity. Thursday, Nov. 18, from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Community Hall at the Lafayette Library. Using the Equity lessons from the AUHSD, we will explore definitions of race and equity, the importance of multiple perspectives, and the best tools for engaging in challenging conversations about race and racism. This event is sponsored by Lafayette DEIB Committee in support of Lamorinda Cities' United Against Hate Week.

Hospice East Bay is proud to be celebrating its 35th annual Tree of Lights: Lafayette, Tuesday, Nov. 16, 5:30 p.m.; Moraga, Sunday, Dec. 12, 5:30 p.m.; Orinda, Saturday, Dec. 4, 4:30 p.m. www.hospiceeastbay.org/tol

Free carwash on Saturday Nov. 13 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at 3776 Via Granada Moraga. It's completely free and facilitated by missionaries and members from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Toys for tots toy drive. Drop off toys from Nov. 1 to Dec. 10, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lafayette Community

Center Main Office 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. Toys should be unopened and in original packaging.

Teen Talent Showcase submissions are free and open to all teens (11 & Up) and young adults! Just fill out the Registration Form and submit your audition video. Deadline to submit is Nov. 21. https://abrighterday.info/events/teen-talent-showcase-lafayette-youth-commission/

The Lafayette Hillside Memorial is hosting its annual Veterans Day Vigil at 5 p.m. Nov. 11. Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4137479233. Meeting ID: 413 747 9233

GARDEN

Lafayette Garden Club Nov. 11 meeting will start at 10 a.m. in the Veterans Memorial Bldg. 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette. Laurel Winzler, floral designer and owner of Flaurel Design, began her career working for the SF Symphony preparing welcome bouquets for visiting conductors and musicians. SF Symphony is still her client today! She presents "Festive Holiday Decor" with an emphasis on materials that can be sourced locally or in your own garden. There is no charge to attend. For details please Contact: LGCMembershipCommittee@gmail.com.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda's Religious Services

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH Sanctuary WORSHIP SUNDAYS AT 11:00 A.M. Staying home? Join us at OSLC.NET for our Sunday Livestream at 9:00 AM, or view it anytime on our YouTube Channel. 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549 | (925) 283-3722 | Spirit@oslc.net

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church mvpc JOIN US SUNDAYS AT 9:30 INDOORS & ON THE PATIO OR ONLINE AT MVPCTODAY.ORG

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Lafayette United Methodist Church Experiencing and Expressing God's Love View On-demand Worship Services at YouTube.com/LoveLUMC Visit www.theLUMC.org for updates on in-person services 955 Moraga Rd., Lafayette | 925-284-4765

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Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422 www.holyshepherd.org ONLINE WORSHIP SCHEDULE Facebook Premiere Community Worship every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Go to facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/ WORSHIP SCHEDULE In person worship at 9:30 a.m. Live stream on facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/ Visit our website to access the current and recent sermons.

ST MARK'S CHURCH OF ORINDA & MORAGA Sunday Service at 10 a.m. 451 Moraga Way, Orinda www.stmarksorinda.org | (925) 254-5965 All Are Welcome

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Lamorinda girls golf succeeds as teams and individuals



Photo Jon Kingdon

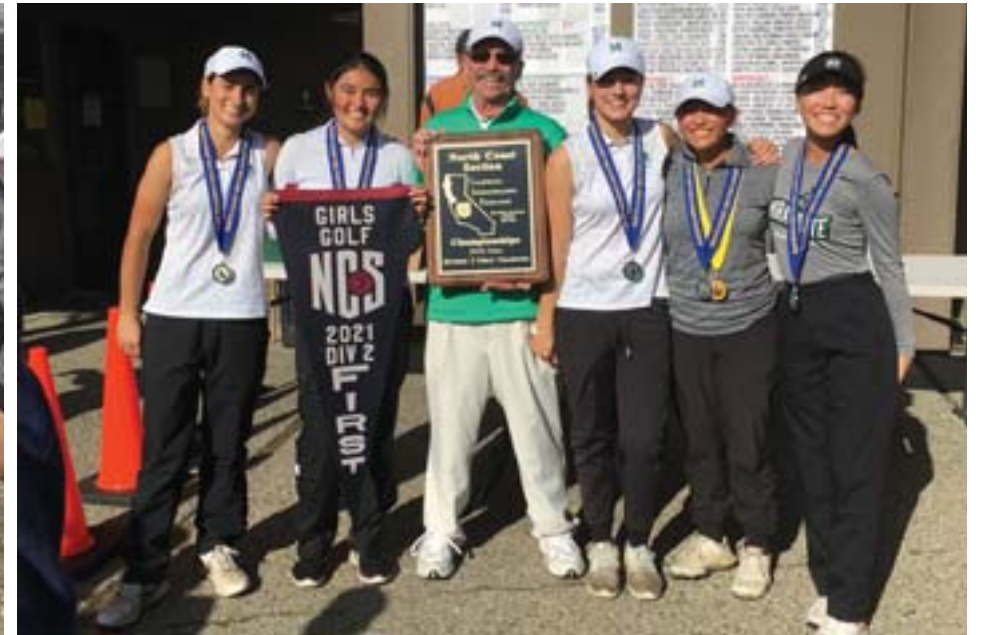


Photo provided

Acalanes team with one player from Campolindo at the NCS championship, from left: Ainsley Murphy (Campolindo), Emmi Cronin, Haley Chelemedos, Juliet Becker, Kendal Becker, Makena Chelemedos, Hana Chelemedos

2021 Miramonte Lady Matadors, North Coast Section Girls' Golf Division II Champions, from left: Courtney Scheingart, Vera Nguyen, Coach Doug Senz, Katherine Scheingart, Kaylen Tu, Lia Toyama

By Jon Kingdon

Showing no ill-effects after going through a season where the pandemic was at the forefront of everyone's mind. The Lamorinda girls' golf teams just concluded the year with great individual and team success. The teams were well represented on the Diablo Athletic League Foothill Division All-league list.

Miramonte had six All League players (1st teamers – Kaylen Tu, Courtney Scheingart and Katherine Scheingart, 2nd teamer Lia Toyama and Honorable Mentions Vera Nguyen and Tallulah Brooks-Williams). Acalanes had three players (2nd teamers Makena Chelemedos and Haley Chelemedos and Honorable Mention Kendal Geddes), as did Campolindo (2nd teamer Ainsley Murphy and Honorable Mentions Chase Obsitnik and Anna Mooradian).

A week ago, the Division I NCS tournament was held at the Diablo Creek Golf Course in Concord. Miramonte, which had earlier won the Division II tournament, was ineligible to compete as a team but had all of their players represent the school as individual golfers. Acalanes made their first appearance in the tournament as a team since 2015 and Ainsley Murphy was Campolindo's sole representative.

It was a dominating year for Miramonte and their first-year head coach Doug Senz. After going undefeated, winning the league dual match and tournament titles, and the Division II championship, their first since 2015, it was topped off by the team's performance in the NCS tournament. Since they were ineligible to compete as a team in the NCS Division I tournament, the Miramonte golfers were only able to compete as individuals and all shot very competitive scores: Tu-70, C. Scheingart-76, Toyama-82, Nguyen-82 and K. Scheingart-86. There was a great deal of satisfaction knowing that had they been eligible as a team, they would have placed second with a combined score of 396 behind the Foothill team which shot a team score of 388. Tu finished third overall individually, qualifying her to play in the NCGA/CIF Northern California Tournament which occurred after this issue went to press.

"We had a great group of golfers that were even better young ladies that were a plea-

sure to coach," Senz said. "They were a blueprint for teamwork and camaraderie. I was so proud of the girls, not only with their camaraderie but the way they would help out the players on the other teams with suggestions on club selection and where to hit the ball on our home course."

Besides the talent on the team, the unity of the team was also a strong factor in their success, said Tu. "I'm going to miss the camaraderie of the team and the dynamic that we have. We're all very close friends. Everyone can be funny. When you can hang out and joke around, we became more like family. It really made me happy to be on the team."

Toyama, also a senior, echoed Tu's feeling about the team. "It was the way that we worked together bonded as a team. It really helped and encouraged us to get to where we ended up as a team. We were able to communicate well and help each other in practice and in competition. Doug was always there for us, giving us lots of encouragement."

Senz also acknowledged David Solomon, the head professional at the Orinda Country Club and his staff and members, which allowed the team to use OCC as their home course: "The experience of being so warmly welcomed and then being able to play at such a quality facility made us a much better team."

Acalanes
Cassidy Mulholland and Ken Lorge, both teachers at Acalanes, have taught and coached for many years, but this was their first time coaching the golf team. Replacing longtime coach Tim Scott, they hit the ground running, winning 6 of 10 dual matches and qualifying for the NCS tournament for the first time since 2015. Egos were not an issue for them, Lorge said: "We just divided it up 50-50 with no definitive division of labor."

Historically, not a lot of girls would come out for the Acalanes golf team but this year the Dons had the numbers and talent for each match. "We were able to run six players when needed (with the top five scores counting)," Mulholland said. "Some schools had as few as one golfer so to be able to line up six players was advantageous for us."

The Dons team was comprised of four juniors and two

freshmen. With no seniors, leadership was key with co-captains, juniors Makena Chelemedos and Kendal Geddes. Juniors Emmi Cronin and Juliet Becker along with freshmen twins Haley and Hana Chelemedos filled out the roster.

Leadership was important for such a young team. "Our captains were able to help out the younger players and it was definitely a learning experience for the team," Lorge said. "It was nice for the players to learn and be successful at the same time. For Makena, with her two younger sisters, it did make for an interesting dynamic though the twins are both very mature for freshmen."

The most surprising development for the team was the play of Becker who took up the game for the first time during the pandemic. "Juliet made incredible progress in a very short time," Mulholland said. "She's already close to breaking 50 which is a pretty remarkable accomplishment."

After going winless last season, the team was particularly excited to be competing in the NCS tournament. "The girls were stoked and excited with their success and being able to reap the rewards for their efforts," Lorge said. "This is brand new for them and I think they like this much better."

The Dons finished ninth out of 21 teams in the tournament, with a combined score of 438. This was an 18-stroke improvement from the DAL championship two weeks earlier where they competed on the same course.

Makena Chelemedos particularly enjoyed the season af-

ter competing under such difficult conditions last season: "I liked being the captain, being able to help the team and especially my sisters. It all came together this year because we were all very close and with the work of our coaches Cass and Ken," she said. "We really did miss Tim for sure, but we were able to get more practice in and were a lot more committed. We just put in the hard work, and it really paid off in the end."

Campolindo

In team golf, you're only as strong as your weakest link. Unable to produce a competitive fifth golfer, it was not a successful season on a won-lost level for Campolindo but one with individual accomplishments.

Head coach Gary O'Neill was just one player short of being a consistently competitive team. "It was a tale of two cities," O'Neill said. "We had five excellent players but lost one with injuries. We were just short of a couple of players to be a competitive team. Our other five players (four who were freshmen) were brand new to the team. This was the smallest team I've had in terms

of numbers in the eight years I've been coaching. Still, it was really a fun group to be with."

Senior Ainsley Murphy was a team co-captain and the only Campolindo player in the NCS tournament by finishing in the top 18 in the prior qualifying tournament. Chase Obsitnik, the other co-captain, was unable to play in the qualifying tournament, not feeling well that day and junior Anna Mooradian also played in the tournament but was done in by the wet conditions on the course. Senior Alyssa Lewis-Smith missed making it to the tournament by one stroke.

After battling through the bad weather at the NCS tournament, Murphy was still able to look back on her career with great affection: "It was great that I was able to make it to this tournament. One of the most special things for me was playing for Gary and John (Banister), my coaches for the past four years. From my freshman year, they helped me grow as a player. I learned a lot about myself, and I made a lot of good friends with my teammates."

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2021 MOL fifth- and sixth-grade undefeated Super Bowl Champions



Photo provided

Front row, fom left: Chase Nickens, Colin Schlicht, Jake O'Brien, Hawken Walterspiel, Ollie Loscotoff, Oliver Routsis-Falk, Kirin Kester, Cade Winter, Rocco Del Santo, Brady Cooper; back row: Head Coach Steve O'Brien, Assistant Coach Carl Bergez

Submitted By Melissa O'Brien

The fifth- and sixth-grade undefeated Washington Football Team marched to victory beating the Seahawks in a close contest 20-19. The game was a back-

and-forth fight to the very end. Chase Nickens led the WFT with three touchdowns. Cade Winter sealed the victory by knocking down a game-winning touchdown on the last play of the game.

Lafayette girl competes in karate tournament in Romania



Photo provided

Amaliya Nalitikina with coach Thomas Westernhoff

Submitted by Thomas Westernhoff

Lafayette Karate & Fitness USA team member, 13-year-old Amaliya Nalitikina, competed in the ninth World Karate Championships in Cluj-Napoca, Romania in September representing the AAU/USA National Karate Team along with National Karate Coach Sen-

sei Thomas Westernhoff, Chief Instructor at Karate & Fitness USA.

Amaliya participated in the Advanced Black Belt Divisions Kata and Kumite in International Competition taking the Silver Medal in Kata (forms) and, although she fought hard in the Kumite division even scoring the first two points, she fell short losing her match 4-6 against Poland.

2021 seventh-grade MOL champs



Photo provided

Top row, from left: Jackson Boselli, Tyler Winkles, Coach Troy Winkles, Matthew Lee, Nolan Shindle, Ben Cohen, Tres Buster, Henry "Frank" Silveira, Coach Bill Boselli; bottom row: Carson Mucha, Luke Dafferner, Jonah "smalls" Imberg, Mason McCartt, JT Goett.

Submitted by Bill Boselli

Congratulations to the seventh-grade 2021 MOL Broncos who squeaked out a 20-14 win over a formidable Dolphins team on Saturday, Oct. 30 at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School field when Tres Buster caught a three-

yard touchdown pass in the corner of the endzone from quarterback Tyler Winkles with seven seconds left in the game to solidify the Superbowl win. A special shout out has to go to super fans Carolyn Wrinkle and Marcha Winkles for their incredible support all season long as well as the sign.

JM seventh-grade girls' volleyball team wins local rivalry game



Photo Irene Jai

Pictured are the members of the winning JMIS team. Front row, from left: Leah Campbell, Violet Fok, Sadie Jai, Daniela Cazares; back row: Clementine Damon-Espinas, Rory Cruz, Kendra Moon, Coach Alannah Buyce, Emma Pastore, Greta Kenderski, Kayla Moon, Karisa Ewing, Brooke Robles.

Submitted by Mark Pastore

Last month the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Seventh-Grade Girls

Volleyball team defeated Stanley Middle School and Martinez Junior High, en route to winning their league championship tournament.

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The next big competitive sport of ... pickleball?



Photos John T. Miller

Luke Brightbill, a junior at Acalanes, returns a serve at a recent practice with other Bay Area high school students. If the students want to enter tournaments they currently must compete against adults.

By John T. Miller

What, you might ask, is the next big sport to hit the competitive circuit? The answer could just be pickleball.

A large portion of the population may still be wondering, pickleball?

But for over an estimated 4 million people, pickleball is an exciting new sport that is fun to play and growing in

popularity and competitiveness. As of 2019, the USA Pickleball Association tracked nearly 8,000 pickleball locations, with an average of about 110 new locations being added every month.

The game is a cross between tennis, volleyball, badminton, and ping pong and is played on a court that is one-fourth the size of a tennis court. Singles and doubles play use the same size court,

employing a plastic ball that resembles a sturdy whiffle ball—with about 40 holes—and a paddle that looks like an oversized ping pong paddle. The paddle can be made of plastic with a graphite skin layer, or of carbon with the cheapest paddles made out of wood. The net is slightly lower than for tennis.

Locally, when the tennis courts at Orinda Community Center Park were last resurfaced in 2013, two new pickleball courts were lined in – one on either side of the existing tennis midcourt line. Interest died out shortly afterward, but Drew Diefenbach, who runs Paragon Tennis at the site, was encouraged a couple years ago by some friends to include pickleball in his lessons.

Diefenbach, a graduate of Miramonte High School ('03) has a master's degree in sports psychology from JFK University, coaches tennis at Acalanes High School, and is a USTA High Performance Coach. He now runs pickleball clinics through the city of Lafayette at the Community Center multi-use rink, which serves lacrosse, roller hockey, basketball and pickleball. When not used for clinics, there are six courts for public use at the Center.

"Pickleball is definitely the number one choice," says Diefenbach, "and the interest has grown tremendously since

last year." Diefenbach has traveled and competed nationwide in the sport and has organized leagues, locally.

Pickleball has been offered as a unit in the high school P.E. programs locally for the last 15 years, but the students use the full-sized tennis courts for lack of a pickleball layout.

Pickleball was founded in the summer of 1965 by Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell and Barney McCallum on Bainbridge Island, Washington. Within days, Joan Pritchard came up with the name "pickle ball" – a reference to the thrown-together leftover non-starters in the "pickle boat" of crew races.

An alternative version has it that the game was named after the Pritchard's dog, a Cockatoo puppy named "Pickles." According to the Pickleball Portal, the story has it that once they started playing, the dog would pick up the plastic ball and run off the court with it.

There are holes in this theory, however, since the dog didn't arrive until

two years after the game was invented. Perhaps the dog was named after the game?

Diefenbach is hopeful that the game can be presented as a high school sport in the area – much like lacrosse was last decade – and plans to start up a club team at Acalanes to gain traction. "The students could play coed and it could provide a lot of unity in the school," he says. "There's some top-notch high school players in the area who have to compete at the adult level in order to enter any tournaments."



Brightbill demonstrates size of paddle and ball.

Orinda resident closes in on record for most consecutive Boston Marathons run by a woman



Photos provided

Celebration at the Christian Science Plaza at the Reflecting Pool in Boston.

By Jon Kingdon

Starting in 1985, as regular as clockwork, Orinda resident, former teacher and current nurse, Patty Hung, made an annual trek to Massachusetts to run in the Boston Marathon. Hung's attempt to run in her 35th consecutive Boston Marathon in 2020 did not come about for over two years as the race, like so many other events, was canceled due to the coronavirus.

Though the 2021 Marathon was further postponed from its usual April 19 starting date this year (Patriots Day) to Oct. 11, the 124th Boston Marathon returned to its former glory and for Hung, it was a case of the more things change, the more they stay the same. "The crowds were amazing," Hung said. "It was great to have them out there cheering for us after not being able to do so during the pandemic. It was just like another holiday."

The Boston Athletic Association went the extra mile to ensure the safety of the runners, requiring proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test for every runner prior to being allowed around the other competitors. The race started seven months later than normal to make sure that all the rules and regulations were in place. For the first time, the race was run with a staggered start, further insuring the safety of the runners. All were assigned different colors contingent on their previously established marathon times.

The first group of rated runners to run after the seeded runners was the red group along with the members of the quarter century club (those with 25 Boston Marathons to their credit which included Hung) followed by seven other colors. "Starting out in the red group with so many top runners was fun," Hung said. "We got passed quickly but it was special to start off with the rest of the red group. "Everyone had to wear a

mask right up until the race began," Hung said. "Everyone had to wear a mask right up until the gun sounded and the race began," Hung said. "After that we took off our masks and there were baskets for the runners to throw our masks into. Everything was done very efficiently, and it was amazing how safe we all felt."

With over 18,000 people officially entered and 15,374 finishing the race, Hung ended with an official time of 5:34.25. "Conditions for the marathon were excellent," Hung said. "My time wasn't great, but I felt really strong and healthy. My training was very indicative of what I was going to run so I wasn't disappointed. I was a little too comfortable and enjoyed all the festivities because it was so beautiful. I did wear a shirt that was a little too warm. It bothered me at the beginning of the race, but I told myself to put it out of my mind and just run and that is what I did."

Hung's strategy came from the many years of experience along with established traditions developed over the years in running in Boston. "My cousin, as always, prepared a big lasagna dinner and I stopped as I always did half-way through the race to give kisses to my cousin Jackie, Nancy, Hannah and Drew. Hannah is a newscaster for the Hub in Boston and did a story on me and it was fun to see it and feel famous, seeing myself on TV."

As for the race, Hung looked forward, as she always did before to her favorite landmark, the huge CITGO sign that when seen showed her how close she was to finishing the race: "I went out fast and the hills then slowed me down though I still felt strong throughout the race. When I can see the CITGO sign, I know it's the last four miles of the race," Hung said. "When I reached that sign, I knew there was only a mile to go to the finish line. I love to see that



Hung's family, from left: Sons Erick and David, Hung, partner Don, and Grandson Gavin.

sign."

Hung is looking forward to running two more marathons knowing that after the second marathon she will hold the record for the most consecutive marathons run by a woman with 37. This will break the record of 36 by Andrea Hatch who has held the record since 2013. She is also looking forward to running with her sons Eric, who has

run four other marathons, and David, who is training to qualify to run with her for the first time next year.

Hung has already laid out her training plan for her 36th marathon: "I am looking to improve my speed and finish the race in under five hours. I may hire a trainer, but I know I can do it. I have the stamina and God willing, I will continue to stay healthy."

Lady Mats make it happen at NorCal Invitational 2021



2021 NorCal Girls Water Polo Invitational Champions

Photo provided

Submitted by April Murphy

The Miramonte Varsity Girls Water Polo Team, with a record of 20-0, won the Invitational last month. Coach John Roemer said: "At North Cal Championships the girls played ex-

tremely well. The tactics we are using take time to understand. This fast paced high tempo offense is very effective with current rules. We are just beginning to understand how effectively it can be when run properly. I'm so excited to see how we continue to improve on our play this season".

Art Embraces Words: Costumed literary and artistic characters present lively program



Photo Elana O'Loskey

Lafayette artist Ellen Reintjes (appearing as a Border Collie) presents her 13.5" x 49" acrylic painting with a baseball theme, "All Stars in the Family."

Submitted by Elana O'Loskey

While the skies were overcast and the air a bit chilly, the mood was warm on Oct. 30, and the costumed characters stole the show at Art Embraces Words. The free program, sponsored by the Lamorinda Arts Council, was held outdoors in the Amphitheater at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center. Because the LLC Foundation shared their roomy double marquee complete with lights, comfy chairs, podium, easels, portable mic and speakers, guests were sheltered and comfortable.

This ongoing program features emerging writers who read from their work surrounded by original artwork from local artists placed on both sides of the podium. Both writers and artists were introduced by Emcee and LAC outgoing president Denise Nomura. They spoke about their work for 10 minutes each plus time for an audience Q&A. Program Co-Chair Natalie Samuels Wheeler explained it this way: "Writers paint images with words;

artists tell stories with color. Together they enrich our community."

Artist Ellen Reintjes of Lafayette was difficult to recognize in her Border Collie costume, but when she displayed her 13.5" x 49" work entitled "All Stars in the Family," all became clear. There are six portraits in the work and three of them are border collies. See more of her work at www.bayareastudioartists.com/ellen-reintjes/.

Writer Dita Basu of Walnut Creek explained that the silk fabric of her traditional Bengali ceremonial dress is literally imprinted with stories from Bengali history and folklore. She read from her work-in-progress fictional novel, "Dreamcatcher," about a young Bengali girl's outing on a train trip.

Characters appearing at the event included artist Gustave Courbet (1819-1877); artist Yayoi Kusama (1929-); Queen Noor of Jordan; Hillary Clinton, promoting her new mystery book; Dorothy Parker (1893-1967) who gave out cards with her most famous quotes such as, "The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity."; Doctor

Strange, visiting from the Marvel Cinematic Universe; Daisy Buchanan from "The Great Gatsby" and two Steampunk era women from London.

Orinda Starlight Village Players (www.orsvp.org/) costume judges Jill Gelster, Beth Hooper and Laura Matin-Chapen announced the costume contest winners as they distributed 12 prizes from local businesses, including Tutu's Food & Drink; CA Writer's Club, Mt. Diablo Branch; Diablo Writers' Workshop, LAC Mixology Saloon Box Team and Amphora Nueva Lafayette. Orchard Nursery Lafayette provided brightly colored Chrysanthemums which were given to attendees to take home. LAC volunteers on hand included board member Sue Farmer, Josephine Sabolboro, Isabella Pier, interns Ava Tran and Ricky Gjertsen, Jr. and curator Bill Carmel.

Art Embraces Words is made possible by a generous grant from the Lafayette Community Foundation. Visit www.lamorindaarts.org/art-embraces-words/ to learn more, including access to videos of recent webinars.

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OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 15 Issue 19 Wednesday, November 10, 2021



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Butterflies are free



Photos Cynthia Brian

A majestic monarch lands on a zinnia.

By Cynthia Brian

"If a butterfly flutters its wings in Brazil, could it cause a tornado in Texas?"~ Edward Lorenz, meteorologist

Almost everyone has heard of the "butterfly effect." Originally based on weather and climate predictions, it has become a metaphor for the effects of chaos theory – the concept that small events can have huge widespread consequences.

As I was driving home from work one late

October day and listening to a radio program chronicling the rapid extinction of many species on our planet, I was struck by the comment that 99.9% of monarch butterflies have vanished from the West Coast.

Only a few years ago, I had enjoyed a glorious November morning in Pismo Beach among thousands of monarchs fluttering through the gum trees at Monarch Grove.

Knowing that the Moraga Garden Club had a goal of revitalizing the monarch butterfly population with its "Moraga for Monarchs" mission, I drove straight to Rancho Laguna Park to investigate the progress of the project. I was blown away at how quickly the area had developed from barren land to a lush, organic, ecologically beneficial beauty basin. The co-founders, Julie Stagg and Bobbie Preston, are quick to point out that this has been a community project of love with support not only from the members of the Moraga Garden Club, but from the town of Moraga, Saint Mary's College, Moraga Garden Center, Moraga Park and Recreation Foundation, numerous service organizations, and wildlife experts.

The "Moraga for Monarchs" goal is simple: repopulate monarchs throughout town while providing public monarch habitats, educating citizens, and providing plants to support monarchs and other pollinators in private landscaping.

Following their lead, every gardener can easily invite a bevy of beneficials to take up residence in the garden. Their website is a cornucopia of ever-evolving information about nectar plants, milkweed gardening, building a habitat, as well as supportive plants that are currently being installed in the Rancho Laguna Park Monarch Garden.

By first planting nectar plants that bloom February through April followed by monarch-specific nectar plants for blooming in October and November, a garden will be attractive to pollinators in all seasons. Besides butterflies, bees, birds, hummingbirds, lady beetles, bats, and other helpful insects will be darting and swooping through this nourishing landscape.

When I visited, swaths of cosmos in several colors had grown to over eight feet high. Purple, salmon, and chartreuse zinnias shone in the sunlight. Black-eyed Susan, purple verbena, Agastache, lobelia, sage, mints, yarrow, and butterfly bush were hosting bees and butterflies, including several monarchs. A trickling rock waterfall powered by the sun offers a sweet drink to the flyers. The water feature is flanked by a river rock dry creek that provides a sunning area for the butterflies surrounded by cosmos, zinnias, and lobelia as an artful caterpillar stands watch.

... continued on Page D10



A heart of love on a zinnia shines brightly blooming with the Black-eyed Susan.



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ORINDA	8	\$600,000	\$3,200,000

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- 38 Chapel Drive, \$1,738,000, 3 Bdrms, 2128 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 09-24-21, Sale: \$195,000, 07-01-80
- 916 Dewing Avenue #A, \$925,000, 2 Bdrms, 1245 SqFt, 1992 YrBl, 09-22-21, Sale: \$503,000, 04-17-12
- 3495 Echo Springs Road, \$1,290,000, 3 Bdrms, 2132 SqFt, 1975 YrBl, 09-22-21, Sale: \$565,000, 12-26-00
- 592 Francis Drive, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1836 SqFt, 1967 YrBl, 09-24-21, Sale: \$925,000, 05-25-18
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- 1091 Orchard Road #B, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1561 SqFt, 1933 YrBl, 09-21-21, Sale: \$725,000, 09-20-06
- 12 Park Gate, \$1,775,000, 5 Bdrms, 3258 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 09-21-21, Sale: \$1,335,000, 07-31-17
- 2975 Rohrer Drive, \$2,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 4110 SqFt, 1985 YrBl, 09-22-21
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MORAGA

- 108 Danefield Place, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2145 SqFt, 1968 YrBl, 09-23-21
- 4 Dolores Court, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1984 YrBl, 09-23-21, Sale: \$760,000, 09-12-16
- 107 Merion Terrace, \$1,335,000, 3 Bdrms, 2029 SqFt, 1986 YrBl, 09-22-21, Sale: \$551,500, 07-24-00
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- 180 Ardith Court, \$1,740,000, 3 Bdrms, 1696 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 09-21-21
- 118 Bates Court, \$3,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2632 SqFt, 1965 YrBl, 09-23-21, Sale: \$1,571,500, 04-04-07
- 73 Brookwood Road #16, \$600,000, 2 Bdrms, 1020 SqFt, 1962 YrBl, 09-21-21
- 5 Buena Vista, \$1,720,000, 3 Bdrms, 2034 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 09-24-21, Sale: \$1,950,000, 07-12-21
- 26 La Cuesta Road, \$1,750,000, 3 Bdrms, 2591 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 09-20-21, Sale: \$1,100,000, 08-19-05
- 55 Loma Vista Drive, \$1,950,000, 4 Bdrms, 3009 SqFt, 1964 YrBl, 09-24-21
- 8 Lost Valley Drive #A, \$1,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 1591 SqFt, 1970 YrBl, 09-23-21, Sale: \$819,000, 07-10-13
- 1 Stein Way, \$1,760,000, 4 Bdrms, 2601 SqFt, 1959 YrBl, 09-21-21, Sale: \$303,000, 12-01-90

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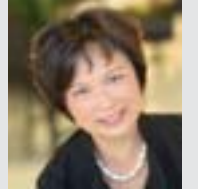
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CHERYL HATA



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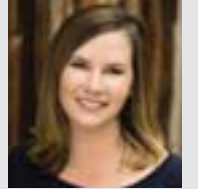
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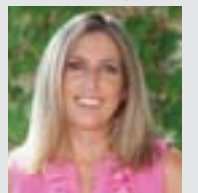
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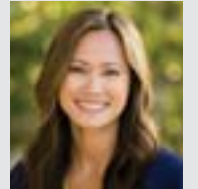
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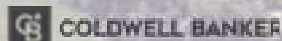
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- Orinda Design Review Board and Planning Commission Member and Chair
- Orinda Schools Parents Clubs and Site Council member for 12 years
- Lamorinda Youth Sports Coaching
- Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center Volunteer for 17 years
- Center for the Education of the Infant Deaf Volunteer for 5 years
- Founding member and Past Commander- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post#8083 for Lamorinda and Walnut Creek and Past Commander of District #10 [S.F., Alameda and Contra Costa counties] VFW
- Member of the Building Board for the Veterans Memorial Building-Lafayette
- Volunteer of the year in Orinda for 2009-10



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The month before the holidays and all through the house ...

9 no-stress tips for truly enjoying the holidays



Give the gift of time together. It's always the perfect gift.

By Jennifer Raftis, CPO®, Certified Professional Organizer

After an unpredictable year, I am looking forward to spending some extra quality time this season with my family and friends. The pandemic is far from over so our typical holiday season might look a little different this year. If we have learned anything, it's flexibility, resilience, and adaptability. For many of us, the past year and a half has highlighted the value of time with loved ones. So, my goal this year is to de-stress the holidays.

Here are a few of my favorite tips to help you really enjoy this holiday season so you can focus on what's important to you.

1) Order gifts early: You'll avoid the stress of last-minute shopping. Keep in mind, that we are seeing major supply chain disruptions and delays this year, so it's even more important to shop early.

2) Give the gift of time together: It's always the perfect gift. We all learned during the time of COVID how valuable time is with loved ones. Purchase experiences instead of things – tickets to a theater or sporting event, art or cooking classes, a day at a theme park, etc. Check out @SFBucketList on Instagram for a unique list of things to do together in San Francisco.

3) Create master grocery lists: Plan your meals now, create a shopping list for each of your Thanksgiving and holiday meals, and store it on your computer. This saves my clients so much time not having to re-write the grocery list every year.

4) Get your guest room ready: Make your guests feel welcome – create a calm and cozy space with a soft throw on the bed, fresh linens, a water bottle, fresh flowers, or a flickering LED candle, etc.

5) Simplify holiday decorating: Declutter as you decorate, really think about your holiday décor – what you use, what you don't, what you love, what you keep just because you feel you should. Discard and donate decorations that don't light up your life, rather than storing them for another year. After you decorate this year, take photos so you can easily recreate your decor next year. Take a photo of each decorated room and the front of your house too. Print the photos and put them in the labeled storage box with each room's decorations. Next year, decorating will be so easy – and everyone can help because you have the photos!

6) Declutter the kids' toys: Now is the perfect time to go through your children's rooms – discard any items that are broken or missing pieces and donate the items they have outgrown that other children may enjoy.

7) Give back: There's nothing quite like the feeling of giving back to your community, and it's a great lesson to teach our children. Taking time to volunteer at a food bank or participate in an adopt-a-family program can brighten the holidays for others and for you too!

8) Talk to your family: What tradition does your family most enjoy? Have everyone tell you the must-do tradition that they like the best. What traditions does nobody really care about anymore? We can make ourselves crazy trying to do it all. Perhaps it's time to add a new tradition and let go of some old ones. You may be surprised that the tradition you've been bending over backward to fit in is something nobody really cares about anymore.

Here are a couple of new ideas: Play a game of high-low at your holiday dinner – ask everyone their high and low experience of this past year – you will be amazed at the conversations that these questions inspire. Make holiday dough ornaments with the family – my adult children still love this. Purchase scratch-off lottery tickets for the stockings or for each day of your holiday.

9) Don't forget to plan quiet time: And put it in your calendar! Kids need quiet time and so do adults. The holidays can get busy. We're often good about scheduling the things we need to do but forget to block out time for ourselves. Watch a holiday movie, enjoy a leisurely cup of tea or hot chocolate, grab a cozy blanket and read a book (alone or with the kids), make a puzzle, etc. Give yourself and your family the gift of quiet time.

Wishing you the happiest of holidays!



Take photos of your decorations, so you can easily recreate them next year.

Images Shutterstock

Professional Organizer, Jennifer Raftis, CPO® founded Efficiency Matters, LLC to help you with all of your organizing needs for your home and business. She is a Certified Professional Organizer and an active board member with NAPO, National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals. She is also an independent representative for The Container Store and has expertise in designing closets, garages, pantries, playrooms and more.

In addition, she is a Corporate Organizing and Productivity Consultant and has worked with Fortune 500 companies across the U.S. Another large part of her business is move management especially working with seniors who are downsizing. She and her husband have lived in Moraga for 30 years, raising 3 kids and working countless volunteer hours with many local non-profit organizations and schools. Jennifer@efficiencymattersllc.com, 925-698-3756 www.efficiencymattersllc.com



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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Butterflies are free



The solar-powered rock waterfall and the artistic caterpillar.

Photos Cynthia Brian



The pergola provides a centerpiece and shade for the fenced garden.



A close-up of a gorgeous deep pink zinnia.

... continued from Page D1

Milkweed is growing to feed the caterpillars. Passionflower vines twine up the wooden pergola and wood chip paths meander throughout the plantings. Signage has thoughtfully been installed throughout the beds to instruct visitors on the species planted. The habitat is fenced to keep out hungry predators as well as people. Soon

benches will be installed so that visitors can rest and watch. Volunteers maintain the garden, carefully pulling out the insidious bindweed, and lovingly pruning, deadheading and sowing.

There is something magical about witnessing the flight of a butterfly as it gathers pollen on its legs and disperses it as it flits from flower to flower. Everyone can enjoy a butterfly waystation next spring by planning

now. If you want to erect a Monarch and pollinator oasis, check out the resources provided by the Moraga Garden Club in collaboration with the Xerces Society and Monarch Joint Venture at moragagardenclub.com/moraga-for-monarchs.

Here is a list of milkweeds and other plants that you'll want to consider recommended by the Moraga for Monarchs garden.

MILKWEED

It is recommended to only plant California native milkweeds.

Approved for Lamorinda

Narrow Leaf (*Asclepias fascicularis*)

Showy (*A. speciosa*)

California (*A. californica*)

Woolly (*A. vesta*)

Heartleaf (*A. cordifolia*)

Not Advised for Lamorinda

Common Milkweed (*A.*

syriaca)

Butterfly Weed (*A.*

tuberosa)

Tropical Milkweed (*A.*

curassavica)

Other Milkweed

SUPPORTIVE PLANTS

Agastache

Anise Hyssop

Bee Balm

Black-eyed Susan

Brodiaea

Butterfly Bush

California Brittlebush

Catmint

Ceanothus

Coyote Mint

Coral Bells

Cosmos

Echinacea

Goldenrod

Hairy Gum Plant

Lavender

Liatris

Lithodora

Lobelia

Lupine

Meadow Blazing Star

Mint (several)

Monkey Flower

Oregon Grape

Passionflower

Passion Vine

Penstemon

Rosemary

Salvia

Sage

Scarlet Monardella

Seaside Daisy

Snake Lily

Sweet Joe Pye Weed

Sunflower

Tithonia

Verbena

Yarrow

Zinnia

Butterflies may be free, but the Monarch is on the possible extinction list. We all need to do our part to save our planet by saving our pollinators. We already know that bees are dwindling and so many other critical species are endangered. Start pesticide and insecticide-free gardening habits. By being

proactive with organic gardening practices and establishing healthy habitats, we will all enjoy our personal paradises while supporting our garden guardians.

I dream that when a butterfly flutters its wings in Lamorinda, it will cause peace throughout the world.

Nature lovers are welcome. The Moraga for Monarchs Butterfly Garden is free. For more information on Moraga for Monarchs or to donate, visit

<https://www.moragagardenclub.com>

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



This Monarch fluttered from zinnias to Black-eyed Susan flowers.



Purple Agastache and purple zinnias at the Moraga Butterfly Garden.



Salmon zinnias in the Monarch Garden.



Cynthia Brian

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is available for hire to help you prepare for your winter 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.

Buy copies of her books, including, Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, and Be the Star You Are! www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store. Receive a FREE inspirational music DVD and special savings.

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8 Avis Court

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Pending!

21 Scenic Drive

Single-level 3 bed/ 3 bath located in beloved Glorietta neighborhood. Sits on almost half an acre w/ views of the hills!

\$1,495,000

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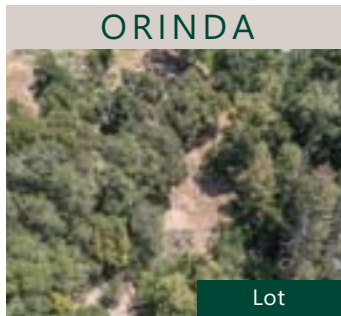
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73 Brookwood Road #43

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LAFAYETTE



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22 White Oak Drive

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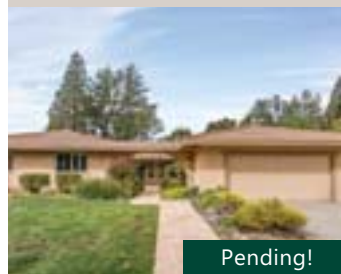
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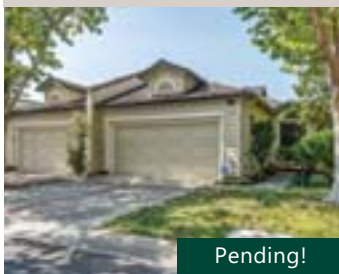
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34 San Pablo Court

Special 4 bed/ 2.5 bath located in The Bluffs neighborhood w/ gorgeous gardens, pool/spa, & private backyard.

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WALNUT CREEK



Pending!

310 Beacon Ridge Lane

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