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Photo Baldwin Lee

From left, Campolindo Coach Phil Freeman, Madison Lee, Hannah Ripper and Miramonte Coach Louis Suba smile after the girls qualify for the state tournament.

Lamorinda wrestlers compete at NCS; Ripper and Lee make it to state

By Jon Kingdon

There were 13 boys from Lamorinda (Acalanes-8, Campolindo-5) who qualified Feb. 18 and 19 for the North Coast Sectional tournament at James Logan High School. At the same time, there were 13 Lamorinda girls (Acalanes-3, Campolindo-9 and Miramonte-1) who arrived at Albany High School with the same goal: make it to state. For the girls, it was a matter of finishing among the top four wrestlers in their weight class.

In the end, there were just two wrestlers from Lamorinda still standing, qualifying for the state tournament: Miramonte's Hannah Ripper (132) who finished in first overall, pinning her final opponent in 50 seconds and Campolindo's Madison Lee (138) who finished in fourth. At that point, their coaches and parents quickly grabbed their phones to make room reservations in Bakersfield.

Though not the first wrestlers from Lamorinda to have advanced on to the state tournament, Ripper and Lee are the first females to take that next step. Ripper can technically claim to be the first, having

qualified 20 minutes ahead of Lee.

After winning her first three matches by pins at the state tournament, Ripper lost her next two matches to the eventual winner and No. 1 seed and then pinned her final opponent to finish in fifth place. "Hannah had an incredibly strong finish," Miramonte head coach Louis Suba said. "She's an unbelievable competitor and it was a great tournament for her."

As the first female from Lamorinda to place at the state meet, Ripper is also the first wrestler from Miramonte to place since Mike MacDonald's third place finish in 1999.

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Orinda digs into planning for next housing element cycle

By Sora O'Doherty

With a much higher number of housing units to provide for in the next cycle of the Housing Element than the last, Orinda's city council gave serious consideration to a staff update on Feb. 15. In addition to the staff report, the council received a presentation by its consultant, Placeworks.

Planning Director Drummond Buckley told the council to expect the draft Housing Element at the end of March. Buckley also had a presentation about potential sites outside the downtown area and on the subject of density bonuses.

Orinda has been assigned 1,359 Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) units for the 6th cycle Housing Element, up by 1,132 from the current housing cycle requirement of 227 units.

Orinda exceeded its RHNA number for the fifth cycle, with 291 total building permits having been issued. The Housing Element, which will be in effect for eight years, must be adopted before January 31, 2023. Staff recommends adding an additional 25% buffer, bringing the total number up to 1,506, which would include 734 units of very low to low-income housing, 215 units of moderate housing, and 557 units of above moderate housing.

The Housing Element, which is required by state law for all cities, towns and counties in California, does not require government to build housing, but to provide for the

possibility of housing with planning and zoning. Jennifer Gastalum of Placeworks explained that the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has really been ramping up enforcement beginning in southern California. She also explained that the effects of new laws on the Housing Element is not yet known, partially because promised guidance from HCD is not yet available. These new laws include SB 8, the Housing Crisis Act Extension, and SB 9, under which up to two primary units will be allowed by right on all single-family-zoned lots. Although this could potentially double the number of potential new housing units, the city cannot rely on SB 9 units until the HCD guid-

ance becomes available.

Orinda has existing residentially zoned sites that can be counted in the sites inventory without any rezoning, including 64 units at Santa Maria Church and 583 currently vacant residentially-zoned sites. In addition, the planned Vista Verde Senior Housing project of 52 units is pending approval and the approved Wilder CountryHouse Memory Care project would provide another 38 units. That project recently withstood a court challenge, (see story Feb. 16) but may be subject to further litigation prior to breaking ground.

Accessory dwelling units (ADUs) are estimated based on previous building permit history. This allows the city to add a total of 64 ADU units to

their count, which still leaves a shortfall of 707 housing units that need to be found in the city and rezoned.

In November 2021, staff presented a number of potential sites to the council that can be rezoned in order to meet the RHNA, and made an online tool available to the public to allow them to offer their views on apportioning the remaining RHNA among the potential sites. These sites include the area covered by the upcoming downtown precise plan, including the downtown commercial and office zoned districts. There are four churches in Orinda that have large-surface parking lots, as well as the eastern and western parking lots for BART.

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Universal lunch & brunch program reaches Lafayette elementary schools

By Sharon K. Sobotta

As a working mom of a 9-year-old who attends Lafayette Elementary School, a 12-year-old who attends Stanley Middle School and a 16-year-old who attends Acalanes High, Lorena Perez is always on the go. Perez begins each day by prepping lunches for her kids before the daily hustle of getting them to their three separate schools and getting herself to her case management job in Berkeley on time. By fall 2022, parents like Perez can breathe a little easier as the Lafayette School District prepares to roll out universal meals to all children in August.

Although the Biden administration had extended the universal free lunch program through the 2021-22 academic year, elementary schools in the Lafayette district had been left out due to the lack of infrastructure. However, with the rollout of California's universal school

meals program for the 2022-23 academic year, the Lafayette school district is gearing up to participate. Beginning in fall, all 3,200 children in the district will be offered a late morning snack and lunch. The food will be prepped at Burton Valley and Lafayette elementary schools and will be transported to the other elementary schools, following a code of safety regulations. Burton Valley already has a fully functioning kitchen and will begin piloting the program this April. Lafayette Elementary School will undergo kitchen renovations this summer so that it's ready to go by August.

LafSD Superintendent Richard Whitmore says this is an important statewide program that may be more relevant here than people think. "It's great to see the state taking steps to make it (the universal meal program) happen."

Parents like Perez couldn't be more thankful. "This is something to celebrate," Perez says. "Now I

don't have to spend chaotic mornings packing three separate lunches." Perez says she won't miss Choice Lunch, the current vendor. "When they adjusted their prices (to the ala carte model), it was costing me nearly \$10 per kid. That adds up to \$150 a week or \$600 a month. We couldn't afford it anymore."

As a single mom of three Happy Valley students and one Stanley middle schooler, Anna Connolly says the lunch program will save her time and money. "I'll be able to be more present with my kids and less stressed in the mornings," Connolly says. "And it will be a big financial help."

Faten Refaat is the mother of two LES students, who will soon have access to the universal meal program, and one Campolindo High School student, who already has access. Refaat says she's a little bit underwhelmed with the food being served to her high school daughter and she's hoping for less processed food and more

fresh food.

"I don't care about the quantity, but I care about the quality," Refaat says. "If it is junk food or food that is highly processed with things like corn syrup and sugar, I'd prefer them not to have it."

Refaat, whose family is Muslim and doesn't eat pork, says she's hoping that the school district will provide options that accommodate dietary restrictions and preferences. "I really hope they offer fresh foods with options for all kids," Refaat says. "(If this is the case) my kids will be happy to enjoy meals with their friends at school."

While the vendors for fall haven't yet been finalized, Whitmore says he believes healthy options will be provided.

"There's detailed federal requirements for anyone participating in the national nutrition program. Meals need to be balanced. There needs to be fruits and veggies included, Whitmore says. "We've moved far beyond the days when former President

Ronald Reagan considered ketchup a vegetable." Whitmore says he has faith that the vendors will be mindful of dietary restrictions and preferences. "Vendors work really hard to listen to family and student voices about restrictions and needs, so I expect there to be good sensitivity to that."

Ann Kim, principle of Lafayette Elementary School, couldn't be more excited about the rollout of the brunch and lunch program. Kim says in addition to feeding children, the meal program has the capacity to enhance education and serve as an equalizer. "Children who have full stomachs are more engaged and able to focus on their school work and this also carries over to their social emotional well-being," Kim says. "Our district, along with each of our schools, has a focus on equity for our students. A program such as this ensures that all students have equal access to one of the most basic of human needs: food."

Two recipients, Thomas and Fraser, awarded Lafayette Citizen of the Year



Bill Fraser Photo Sara Regan



Janet Thomas

February has been awarded to not one, but two exceptional residents: longtime science teacher and crusader for environmental sustainability Janet Thomas, and Bill Fraser, whose astute guidance and deep humanity as an athletic coach and Scouts leader has influenced generations of young people in the community.

"I had a trifecta of Janets on the day I was phoned," says Fraser. "I found out about the award in a phone call from Janet Cronk, a previous Citizen of the Year winner. I was on

my way to Acalanes High School for the girls lacrosse team photos. I was floored. I never would have given thought to being honored like that. It's humbling. I thought she was calling me to refer someone to be a client because I work at Morgan Stanley. I'm also married to a Janet and another Janet was awarded along with me. It's a trifecta."

Janet Thomas, responding in an email writes, "Every two or three years my four siblings and our partners try to spend a week together. I was with

them in a big house near the ocean when I opened my gmail account. There were two messages. One was from vice mayor and friend Carl Anduri, and one was from (Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Executive Director) Jay Lifson, entitled with the subject heading 'Greetings from Jay at the Chamber. You will want to open this NOW.' Both were nice notes of congratulations and it was special that I was with my siblings to share the news."

... continued on Page A3

By Lou Fancher

The 2021 Lafayette Citizen of the Year announced in mid-

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Two recipients, Thomas and Fraser, awarded Lafayette Citizen of the Year

... continued from Page A2

The citizen award recognizes a Lafayette resident – or in this case, residents – who demonstrate a commitment to improving the health, wellbeing and lives of people in the community. Special emphasis is placed on individuals whose actions, time and energy brings people together; uniting the community in ways that crosses generations and rises above or actively works to mitigate false divisions related to economic status, education, race, religion or other factors.

Lifson says both award winners this year were selected in part due to their many years of service. “Janet had been nominated so many times, we had a lot of historical documents,” he said. About Fraser, he said, “Bill Fraser grew up here in Lafayette. He graduated from Acalanes in 1975. He is described as a Champion of coaching. It doesn’t matter if its football, lacrosse, Boy Scouts or Little League, Bill gives from the heart. He does it for the greater good for young men and women in our community.”

Fraser has held leadership or coaching positions in the Lamorinda area for over 20 years. Referring to his work with youth in the Lafayette Little League, MOL football, Acalanes girls lacrosse, Acalanes football programs and Scouts, people who nominated Fraser said he is tireless, generous, positive and empowering. His volunteer activities on various boards and commissions receive equal praise and earnest statements about the under recognition of his role and impact as a mentor to people of all ages.

Thomas has been a galvanizer for decades and proves in a long list of achievements to be foundational to Lafayette as a progressive city when it comes to the environment, healthy living and well-being. Having established a long career at Campolindo and Acalanes as an Environmental Science and Chemistry teacher, she retired, but Lifson says “she got her second wind and has not stopped.” Not stopping had Thomas working to create the Lafayette Community Garden & Learning Center, championing the Lafayette Farmers’ Market and volunteering as a founding member of Sustain-

able Lafayette. She with others created the city’s Environmental Task Force and is currently chairing the city’s Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee.

Asked to share perspectives on the last few years during the pandemic and thoughts that bring hope into the picture of the future, Thomas says, “This has been a difficult past two years for most, especially families with children and service workers. Not only have we all been faced with concerns about COVID, but growing political polarization, social inequities and climate change are very real. I am so glad that schools have opened again but know that teachers, families, healthcare workers, many businesses and others need our continued support as they get back to a new normal. Our community of Lafayette – neighbors and friends, the natural environment, the community garden, my family – continue to be dependable sources of peace, joy and grounding for which I am very grateful. I’m thrilled that we’ll be opening the community garden to the public again March 12th.”

Fraser says, “After two years of what we’ve all been through, together and separately, it strikes me as almost poetic to receive this award. Being with young people who had been basically locked in their houses, starting camps of 12 young people and one coach, outdoors, gathering once or twice a week for an hour – immediately I and the other coaches realized how important psychologically this was for kids. We played by the (county) rules and the sheer joy on these kids’ faces was not lost on any of us. I remember coming out of that and going into the winter of 2020, when it wasn’t clear if in spring 2021 the state would allow high school sports to play at all ... and then they did. It wasn’t a normal season, but it was something. Now, a year after that with the lacrosse team right now, it’s important that every girl athlete has the best season ever. It’s poignant to me, because you just don’t know what will happen.”

Hope it seems, for the two award-winning citizens, arrives in looking back just long enough to gather energy and excitement for continuing the good work they do in the community.

Lafayette Town Council authorizes subcommittee to pursue purchasing property for public use

By M.D. Jones

For several years the Lafayette City Council has been searching for a potential property that could be developed for use as city offices and other civic purposes without success, according to a staff report presented by Administrative Services Director Tracy Robinson at the Feb. 14 council meeting. The city has been leasing their city offices and has held \$5.2 million in reserve as part of the City Offices Fund. During its Dec. 13, 2021 meeting, the council discussed the possibility of using the Fund to purchase a property – or several properties – in downtown that could be used for a public purpose and potentially appreciate in

value.

At the Feb. 14 meeting, staff recommended that the council authorize a subcommittee consisting of Mayor Teresa Geringer and Vice Mayor Carl Anduri, who would work with the city manager, the administrative services director and a real estate consultant to identify potential properties and discuss options with owners before returning to the council to seek approval for an offer.

The purpose of the recommendation, according to the staff report, is for the city to not lose its purchasing power as the price of real estate increases and interest rates are low, currently between 1%-2%.

... continued on Page A8



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, March 14, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, March 7, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
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Design Review

Wednesday, March 9, 7 p.m. Zoom
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Town approves Moraga Road Drainage Improvement Project



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port from Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp and Senior Civil Engineer Farah Khorashadi, "The desired engineered solution would contain the runoff and channel it to existing or new storm drain inlets without constructing improvements in Laguna Creek on the east side and possible seasonal wetlands (low areas of open space or shoulder) along the west side of Moraga Road, that are considered habitat for possible endangered species." By designing drainage improvements in the existing Moraga Road area the town will cut down on expenses.

By Vera Kochan

In anticipation of a normal year of rainfall, Moraga's Public Works Department is attempting to stave off the Moraga Road flooding that occurs as a result of the runoff from the Painted Rock open space area. An approximately 500-foot length of the street near Rheem Boulevard experiences the runoff causing an inconvenience to drivers and cyclists.

The town council unanimously approved awarding a professional services agree-

ment for engineering design services to CSG Consultants (Pleasanton, Calif.) in the amount of \$57,500, including a 15% contingency of \$7,500, during its Feb. 23 meeting. The Fiscal Year 2021-22 Adopted Budget includes this project which will involve improving drainage on the east side of Moraga Road between Dolores Court and Hansen Court. The project is expected to take two years to complete with an estimated budget of \$303,500 coming from Fund 770 Storm Drain Impact Fees.

According to a staff re-

The consultant's costs will include a Research and Data Review (collecting various reports and information); Site Investigation and Surveys (field investigations to assess existing conditions); Utility and Public Coordination (consult with various utility companies in the event that relocation of utility equipment is necessary); Plans, Specifications and Estimates (are due to the town for construction advertisement by July 2022); and Construction Support (assist the town during the construction bid process).

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Local Road Safety Plan in the works

By Vera Kochan

The State of California is federally required to have a Strategic Highway Safety Plan aimed at reducing traffic accident fatalities and serious injuries on its public roads. To that end, Moraga's town council unanimously approved the hiring of Pleasanton-based TJKM Transportation Consultants to develop a Local Road Safety Plan.

During its Feb. 23 meeting, council members agreed to award \$51,355 (which includes a 15% contingency of \$6,698) to TJKM to create the plan. Funding for the study is within the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Adopted Budget of \$85,000. The Highway Safety Improvement Program Grant (Fund 005) will provide \$40,000 toward costs with Measure J (Fund 210) taking care of the rest.

According to the staff report by Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp and Senior Civil Engineer Bret Swain, "The SHSP, and a LRSP, are developed to address the 4 E's of traffic safety: Engineering, Enforcement, Education, and Emergency Services. California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) establish guidelines for the preparation of a

LRSP."

TJKM has broken up the project into tasks. Task 1, Visioning, Project Initiation, and Management, will entail the development of a vision statement for the LRSP; include attendance at 3-5 virtual stakeholder meetings; include attendance of 2-3 town council meetings; attendance at community engagement meetings; preparing materials for all meetings; and provide budget and work progress updates.

In Task 2, Document Review, TJKM will review pertinent documents designed to help establish goals for improved safety accommodations for motorists and pedestrians. Much of the review will pertain to guidelines set forth by Moraga's General Plan, Caltrans, SHSP, the United States Department of Transportation and FHWA.

The third Task is Data Collection, in which TJKM will examine the latest available five-year collision history in order to investigate before identifying potential countermeasures. They will also conduct a field review in order to get a grasp of Moraga's roadway network and collect roadway characteristics such as travel patterns, roadway width, speed (posted and actual), traffic volumes, curves and roadway classifications.

Task 4, Collision and

Roadway Data Analysis, will involve the review of data with regards to predominant collision types and the roadway features that may have been in place. The characteristics will be reviewed to determine if there were flaws in the roadway designs.

In Task 5, Propose Ordinances and Policies, TJKM may offer suggestions as to new ordinances and policies in order to enhance local road safety.

Task 6, Countermeasure Selection, involves proposing countermeasures based on the information gathered in various scenarios dealing with collisions identified, roadway design and conditions. Countermeasures could include signals at intersections, roadway segments and the use of crash reduction factors.

Developing Safety Projects is Task 7. TJKM will create a prioritized list of safety projects and will include cost estimates, mapping and a cost/benefit ratio of proposed safety improvements.

Lastly, Task 8 is the presentation of the administrative Final Local Roadway Safety Plan to town staff and Caltrans for comments and revisions.

It is hoped that TJKM completes the LRSP in time for the town council's July 13 meeting for adoption.

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Planning Commission:
 Tuesday, March 15, 7 p.m.,

Park and Recreation Commission:
 Monday, March 21, 7 p.m.,
Moraga School District Board Meetings:
 Tuesday, March 8, 6 p.m.
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Free Seed Library comes to Moraga



Photo Vera Kochan

Something for everyone at the Moraga Seed Library

By Vera Kochan

As winter turns to spring, amateur gardeners everywhere begin to make plans for the appearance of their yards. Buying already developed plants can be costly, so the Moraga Library and the Moraga Garden Club are sponsoring a Seed Library that allows patrons to “check out” flower, vegetable and herb seed packets for free (only six per visit).

The first seed library began at the Berkeley Ecology Center in 1999. It was called the Bay Area Seed Interchange Library (BASIL). The first seed library that was offered in a public library was located at the Gardiner Public Library (Gardiner, N.Y.) in 2004. The concept became so popular that the idea has spread throughout the world at hundreds of libraries, with the United States taking the lead. Even college libraries

have joined the program.

The Moraga Seed Library’s official opening was Feb. 15, and in just three days at least 85 people came by to “check out” approximately 280 packets of seeds. MGC collected over 2,500 seed packets from more than 20 vendors and garden groups. Thanks to the efforts of BSA Scout Troop 402 (one of the largest all-girl troops in the nation), who helped stamp, sort and alphabetize the seed packets prior to placement in three separate card catalogs, patrons could easily look through labeled drawers and find exactly what they were looking for, if not more.

“Teaching kids to garden and where their food comes from is the way to start them off on a lifetime of healthy eating,” stated Bobbie Preston, Moraga Seed Library’s founder. “It sounds hokey, but kids eat what they grow and love what they grow.” To that

end, the Moraga Library has provided gardening-related books for enthusiasts to check out or purchase, as well as many free pamphlets to help get novices started.

Some first-day “customers” were searching for seeds that didn’t need a lot of maintenance. “I came to get native plants and flowers,” said Ferenc Kovac. “They don’t require much water. I’m trying to plant things to take the place of lawn. I’m looking for unusual seeds that look like fun.”

Andrew Ku was interested in growing thyme and other ground covering plants. His fledgling business specializes in selling succulents that he’s grown himself. He plans on donating the profits to organizations that are into preserving and restoring native plants.

“I’m very impressed with the large assortment of seeds for vegetables, flowers and herbs,” stated avid gardener and Lamorinda Weekly reporter Sora O’Doherty. “I’m also delighted to see how much information on growing the seeds is available as part of the Seed Library.”

Additionally, there’s a comprehensive chart available for anyone interested in growing plants that help support the monarch population. While not all of those particular seeds are in the Library, the information is noteworthy. There are plans to add a basket of native California pollinator seeds that will attract bees, butterflies, insects and birds to a garden. “While the Rancho Laguna Monarch Garden was begun because the monarchs were in trouble, I’ve become committed to protecting all our pollinators,

many of which are endangered,” explained Preston. “And, the way we do that is to protect and expand their habitat. Helping my neighbors grow flowering and productive gardens is my way of making our community a supportive one for all pollinators.”

Community Library Manager Rita Carrasco and Adult Services Librarian Janae Diaz have been a big help to Preston with regards to getting the project off the ground. Carrasco noted that a variety of patrons from individuals to couples and even families stopped by to browse the seed selections. A favorite choice for kids was carrots. “People were enthusiastic, grateful and excited,” she said. “It’s

bigger than we anticipated! It exceeded our expectations. It seemed like people came in for the Seed Library and stayed to check out a book.” So far, the most popular vegetable seed choices were beans, squash, lettuce, carrots, peas, kale and chard. All of the herbs were sampled with basil and parsley in the lead. The most prevalent flower choices were milkweed, zinnias, poppies, daisies, sunflowers and sweet peas.

Preston is certain that “those gardens will be beautiful and bountiful and engaging the kids of Lamorinda. Supporting the pollinators is a real win-win.”

For more information, email MoragaSeedLibrary@gmail.com.

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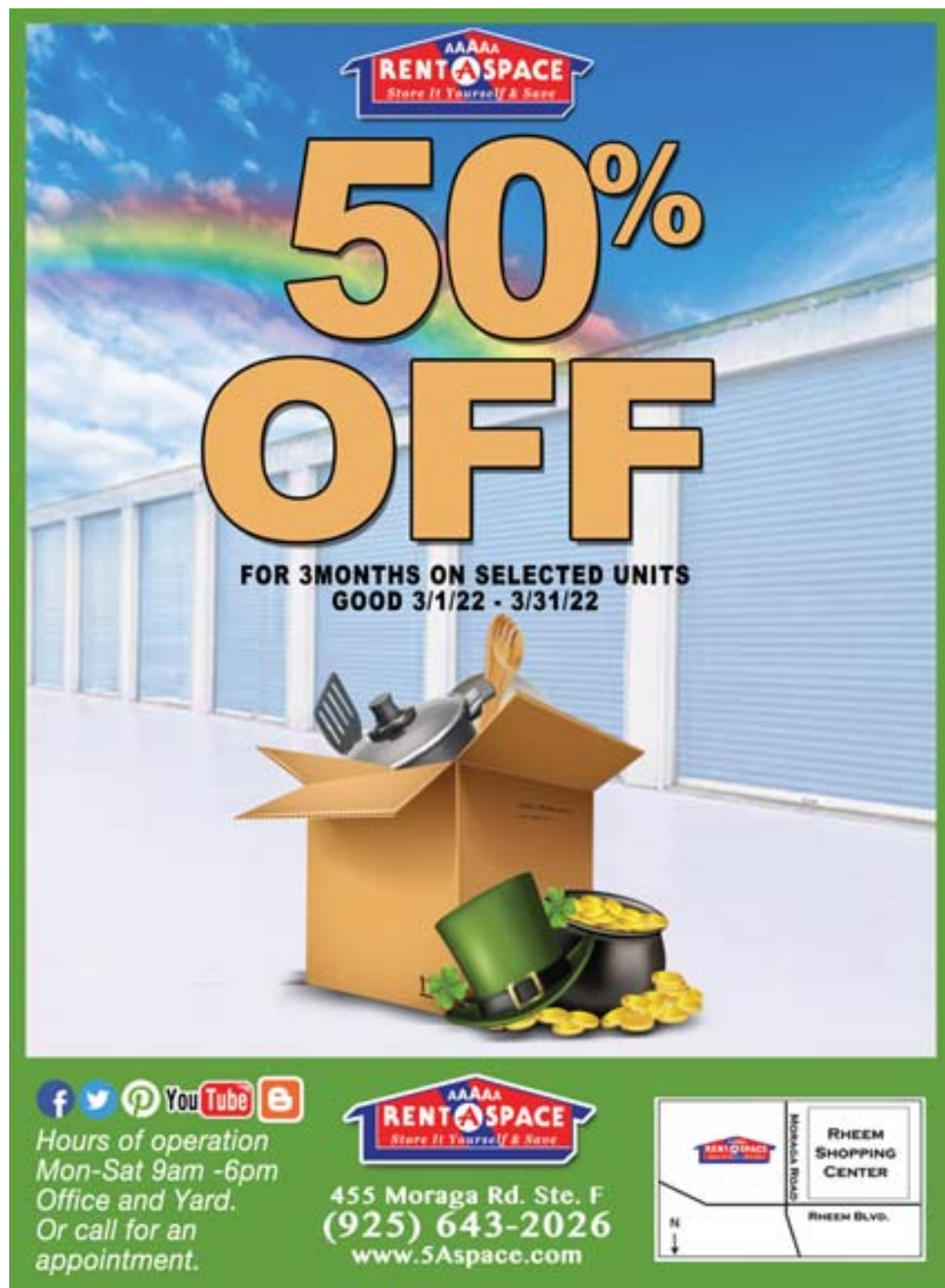
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MCF makes \$100K donation to town to begin ADA-compliant restroom procurement



The Moraga Town Council during its Feb. 23 meeting authorized the purchase of the Moraga Commons Park Premanufactured ADA Restroom Structure from the Public Restroom Company at a cost of up to \$397,000. The Moraga Community Foundation has committed to fundraising the entire cost of the new restroom and the foundation made an initial donation on Feb. 23 in the amount of \$100,000 to enable the town to procure the structure. According to a staff report presented by

Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt, the new structure will replace the original main restroom at Moraga Commons Park, which was built in 1974 and does not meet current Americans with Disabilities Act standards. The premanufactured restroom design will include four ADA-compliant stalls, one ADA drinking fountain, with roof overhangs at both ends over the doors. Construction is scheduled to begin in the fall/winter. — J. Wake



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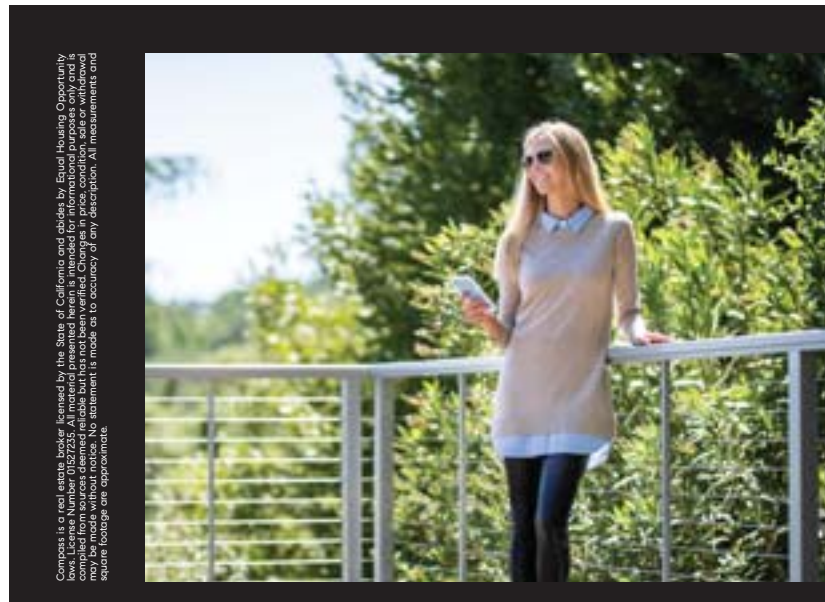
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Council hears about Caltrans plans for maintaining Highway 24 corridor



Photo Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

Once again, Orinda eyes a balancing act, this time between fire safety and maintaining the scenic highway designation for Highway 24. Shawn Casteel, Caltrans Agricultural Biologist and Acting Senior Environmental Planner, presented an update to the Orinda City Council on fuel mitigation work in the Orinda corridor on Feb. 15. He explained Caltrans' expanded approach to vegetation management and answered questions put by the council.

Casteel said that a new part of their program is an annual workshop for Caltrans to get input from fire departments. In public comment, Charles Porges asked if the workshop were open to the public. Casteel got back to the city after the meeting and confirmed that the workshop is, in fact, not open to the public.

Another new element of

the area where 74% of fires start (per Caltrans data)," Winnacker said.

During the council meeting, the question was raised whether Highway 24 was protected from having billboards by its status as a scenic highway. The answer was that while that is true so long as a highway is deemed to be scenic, changes in the environment of the highway might endanger its scenic status, and, in that case, billboards would become a possibility along the roadside.

Casteel laid out Caltrans' workflow. Beginning with a workshop on March 2, the annual vegetation control plan will be due on April 1. Annual tree inspections will follow in mid-June. Casteel compared the project to managing a really big farm. Caltrans is responsible for over 40,000 acres. The portion of Highway 24 that traverses Orinda is approximately four miles long.

Vice Mayor Inga Miller and Council Member Amy Worth both spoke about how important it is to the city of Orinda to maintain the scenic highway status for Highway 24, (as well as Highway 13, which was not under discussion). Miller said that she "wants to make sure that we know about anything that threatens the scenic highway rating for Highway 24 and that we take actions to maintain our visual corridor without billboards." Worth asked about the status of oak trees, to which Casteel replied that oak trees are a valued tree for Caltrans, and it wants to preserve them.

Worth agreed that oaks perform very well in fires, as opposed to non-native trees. She asked if the scenic highway designation precluded

billboards. That question was taken up by Sheryl Sablan, Caltrans environmental maintenance office chief, who explained that it is all about maintaining the scenic character of the highway. "If we clear cut it, it would take us out of the scenic highway designation," she said. "That is one of the reasons why we don't want to do that."

Council Member Darlene Gee wondered about longer-term replacement of vegetation in addition to fuel reduction and maintenance, but she was referred to Caltrans' landscape architecture department for such inquiries.

Orinda Mayor Dennis Fay acknowledges the importance of using Highway 24 as a fire break. "It would be nice to know when you are going to do it, the time frame, which types of trees will be removed," he said, adding, "basically, what you are going to do and when you are going to do it." Casteel replied that after the preparation of a fuel reduction action plan by the contractor, a detailed list of work to be performed will be available. Caltrans is currently working through the process of selecting a contractor.

Chief Winnacker, in comments after the meeting, noted that "the California Streets and Highways Code does not appear to address the removal of ground fuels and dead trees as grounds for revocation of the Scenic Highway designation. This has previously been stated by Caltrans' representatives, specifically that the scope of work they are undertaking would not be grounds for a review of Highway 24's inclusion in Section 263.3 of the Streets and Highway Code."

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Orinda digs into planning for next housing element cycle

... continued from Page A1

Orinda Union School District has two potential sites, one an undeveloped portion of the Miramonte High School property, and the other a vacant portion of the Sleepy Hollow Elementary School property. However, the latter site may only be accessed via a vacant parcel on Bear Creek Road, owned by the East Bay Municipal Utility District. That site could potentially also be developed concurrently with the Sleepy Hollow site.

The church sites, excluding the ones currently either approved or pending approval, could account for another 126 units. The OUSD sites could potentially account for another 235 units, and government-owned sites could potentially provide another 1,548 units. However, over 1,000 of those units would be on the BART parking lots and, after considerable discussion, those sites were deemed inappropriate for the next housing cycle, although they could well

be used in a future housing cycle.

In response to public input, staff recommended lowering assumed building heights from 55 to 45 feet and decreasing assumed building density from 85 dwelling units per acre to 30.

In response to questions about the potential for housing on the BART parking lot sites, Buckley explained that Orinda BART is unique because the land is actually owned by Caltrans, and the Orinda station is categorized as an automobile dependent station. Developing housing on the site could result in very few parking spaces remaining. Gastelum added that there is no shovel-ready plan for housing on the BART sites, so recommended not including them in this cycle.

Economic consultant Jason Moody was asked about how the housing element might affect the financial development of downtown. Council Member Nick Kosla wondered, "Do we have to

turn our whole downtown into a housing development, and if we do, will we get any of the benefits we want?" Moody responded, "I don't think your entire downtown is going to be converted into housing," adding, "It is particularly difficult to build housing where there are existing viable uses."

One issue that needed to be decided was whether or not the city should do the required rezoning before Jan. 31. Council Member Amy Worth said, "It's really important that we show good faith to HCD," and agreed that the city should proceed with the rezoning by Jan. 31. Worth also said that she would reach out to Caltrans about their parcel for potential housing.

City Manager David Biggs thanked the council. "It's great that we are getting people to engage," he said, adding that the goal is to have something that HCD will approve. "We need to make a good faith effort and, at the end of the day, come up with something that works."


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	City Council Regular Meeting: Tuesday, March 15, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only	Planning Commission Tuesday, March 8, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only	Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission Wednesday, March 9, 6:30 p.m. By Teleconference Only
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Art Gallery at Wilder hosts a lively exhibition in March



Photo courtesy Bill Carmel

Artist John Barry demonstrates trAction painting at the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival.

By Sora O'Doherty

The art gallery at Wilder Art & Garden Center will be returning to some in-person events this month. The featured artist for March, Bill Carmel, will be honored at a reception on Sunday, March 6 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Although the gallery is still generally closed to the public owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be in-person viewings, which can be arranged by emailing curator Aniston Breslin at wildergallery@lamorindaarts.org. The exhibition at the Wilder gallery will include work from

public art projects done with community partners. The pieces entitled "Festival Wheelies" were done with Danville artist John Barry, creator of the trAction painting process. The work was painted during the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival by dipping Barry's rollerblades in paint, then making lines and marks on canvas. (Barry ex-

plains his technique in a Youtube video, at <https://youtu.be/Dn0hloFNWDM>) Another piece on display in March is Carmel's Veil Tapestry, which was created by asking people to paint sacred words on a large traveling canvas. For more information, visit www.lamorindaarts.org/current-exhibits-wilder/

Orinda library gallery features High School Visual Arts Competition

The 19th Annual High School Visual Arts Competition, hosted by the Lamorinda Arts Council, will be live in the Orinda library gallery during the month of March. There will be an awards ceremony, open to the public, on Thursday, March 10 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the gallery. Cash awards and merit citations will be presented to artists in four categories for this juried show. The categories are 2D: painting, drawing, printmaking, mixed media, collage; 3D: ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, construction; photography: traditional film and digital photography; and the Lamorinda Arts Alliance digital art category, which is for two-dimensional artwork that is produced or manipulated on a computer platform and then printed on paper, canvas or other material.

The competition is open to students who live in or attend public or private high schools in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. The exhibition will continue to be displayed virtually on the Lamorinda Arts Council's website from April 2022 to April 2023. For further information visit www.lamorindaarts.org/vac or call (925) 359-4490. - S. O'Doherty

OUSD breaks ground on new multi-purpose room at Sleepy Hollow Elementary



Photo Sora O'Doherty

From left: OUSD Facilities Director Stuart House, Board Member Jason Kaune, Board Member Cara Hoxie, Superintendent Aida Glimme, Board Vice President Hillary Weiner, Board Member Liz Daoust, Board President Carol Brown, Principal Patsy Templeton and OUSD Director of Business Services Regina Webber.

By Sora O'Doherty

On a sunny Valentine's Day morning, the Orinda Union School District broke ground to start building a new multi-purpose room at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School. The new building was conceived in response to a plan by Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief David Winnacker to provide a fire-resistant building where students and staff could shelter in the event of a wildfire. Another

part of that plan was the installation in 2019 of a 10,000-gallon water tank, which would enable a fire engine to pump water over the building while a fire passed through the area. The 7,000 square foot state-of-the-art building will provide space for physical education, school assemblies, lunch and performances, and features large roll-up doors to provide for indoor-outdoor events. It is expected that the building will be ready for use by Aug. 1, 2023.

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MOFD chief discusses Shaded Fuel Break project and the coming fire season



Photo courtesy MOFD

Red Flag Warnings may come early this year.

By Vera Kochan

Due to the lack of rain this winter, the fire season and its conditions are coming much sooner this year. In preparation for Lamorinda's worst-case scenario, Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Dave Winnacker gave a detailed presentation during the Moraga Town Council's Feb. 23 meeting.

MOFD has firmed up the area of the Shaded Fuel Break project that was made possible by the \$6.3 million grant recently received from the California Climate Initiative through Cal Fire. The project "will start at Highway 24 near Cal Shakes, on the north side of 24 at the Wilder off ramp; and work its way down the western side of Wilder subdivision; wrap around the area known as Lost Valley by the

PG&E [Pacific Gas & Electric] substation; then around the country club running up along the high ground on Flicker Ridge," explained Winnacker. "So really, moving between Lost Valley, the country club and the community of Canyon; making its way down to Canyon Road; following Canyon Road down to the Valle Vista Staging Area; and then wrapping around the neighborhood by J.M. [Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School]; around Sanders out across to Saint Mary's [College]; and then across through areas just immediately east of the GHAD [Geologic Hazard Abatement Districts]; and terminate at Sky-Hy at the Moraga-Lafayette line." Winnacker stressed that only dead or dying trees will be removed in addition to any limbing-up of the lower portions of trees that are close to the ground.

"We will essentially put a large catcher's mitt around West Orinda and South Moraga," continued Winnacker. "We're happy to report that we have been in a collaborative manner with Cal Fire, who's been putting in for a project on this year's CCIS grant cycle to extend that work out around Rossmoor."

Additionally, the MOFD Board has two proposed new ordinances in the works. One

ordinance is to extend the very high Fire Hazard Severity Zone to districts that are Wildland Urban Interface Fire Areas where enhanced fire-safe construction has gone into effect. The second ordinance involves the expansion of fuel mitigation requirements for undeveloped parcels which currently reside within the Fire Code. The property owners must maintain fuel breaks where those parcels end so that wildfires will not spread onto the lands of another, which is a violation of the Fire Code and a state law.

MOFD is also asking residents to begin doing a fire assessment check of their yards early this year. Look for dead trees and fuel that will carry the fire such as dead brush or overgrown grass. Winnacker noted that Republic Services will provide a second green bin for free, and they will make multiple green waste pickups for free as well. Also remove mulch from within 2-feet of the house. Residents are encouraged to sign up for the Community Warning System (www.CWSalerts.com) for future evacuation exercises or in the event of an actual emergency.

For additional fire information visit MOFD's website: www.MOFD.org.

Lafayette Town Council authorizes subcommittee to pursue purchasing property for public use

... continued from Page A3

The city would hold on to this property and convert it to public use while it waits to find property more suitable for city offices and a civic center.

Three considerations were key to this discussion. First, according to the staff report, by law the city is not allowed to invest in real estate if it is not actively being used for public purposes. In other words, it is not able to "land bank" property and keep it vacant. However, choosing a public purpose incorrectly could result in the city not being able to sell the property when it identifies a more suitable property.

According to the report, "selling the asset and elimi-

nating a use to which residents have become accustomed in order to develop a civic center/city offices may prove to be unpopular ... even if we try to make absolutely clear to the public that the property is being acquired with funds from the City Offices Fund. ... This will need to be taken into consideration." An example of this type of a scenario would be turning the interim property into a public gathering space, public parking, or gallery. If, after several years of the public enjoying use of the space, the property is sold to a developer, it could be anticipated that there would be public outcry.

The second consideration involves legal constraints and timing issues the city might face when selling a property.

According to the staff report, "there are legal constraints on the city when it disposes of property, particularly property that has been used for parks." In addition, according to city attorney Mala Subramanian, it could take some time to sell the property since under current law the city would be required to go through the process of offering it up to affordable housing groups and other public agencies and possibly spend some time going through negotiations. Furthermore "should the laws change and there be certain requirements imposed on the city we'd be stuck with that and so that's something to consider."

Finally, the third consideration related to financing of the interim property. Accord-

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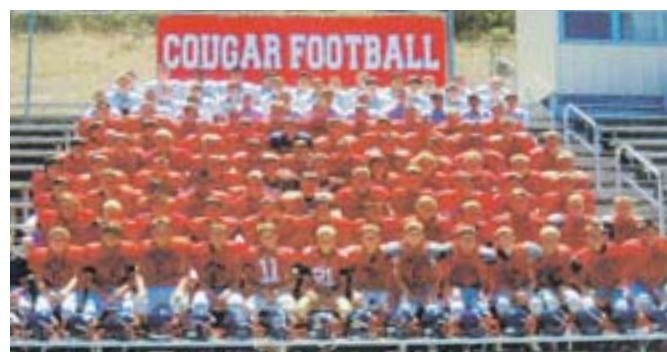
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ing to the staff report, in addition to the initial costs to acquire the property and make it "fit and ready" for the proposed public use(s), estimates of on-going costs for maintaining and staffing the property need to be considered as well. These costs, as well as the cost of potential financing for the property need to align with the current amount the city is spending to lease its office space.

Robinson noted that extensive financial analyses have been done, adding that there "are absolutely avenues for the city to borrow money, similar to a mortgage. Net present values definitely show that over a long period of time, it's much better to be able to own than to rent."

In her report, Robinson pointed out, however, that there is a chance that "we may now be in a real estate bubble, and there is a possibility that the value of any property acquired may decrease rather than increase."

Grace Dixon and David Clark, during the public comment portion of the meeting, were both excited about the concept.

Council Member Gina Dawson said her ask would be to explore financial instruments "to make the most of the money that we do have and maximizing it as much as possible." Council Member Wei-Tai Kwok was also supportive of the activity to set this up.

Anduri said that the first thing the subcommittee will be looking for are properties to invest to hold the value of the City Offices Fund. "If in the course of doing this we locate a property, either an existing fully-built property or land that we can develop, I certainly see us looking at options to develop it and look at financing methods, and bring those to the council."

The council voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation to authorize the subcommittee, which will be coming back with a report.

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- **February 28:** Review of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Housing Element Update.
- **March 1, 8, & 15:** General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) meetings on sites where housing could be planned for.
- **March 7:** Public Hearing for the Draft EIR for the Housing Element.
- **March 21; April 4 & 18; May 9 & 23** Additional Meetings to Review the Draft Housing Element.



Questions? Email generalplan@lovelafayette.org or call (925) 284-1976.

Lafayette Community Conversations on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

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If you have ways your neighborhood welcomes newcomers, or ideas you think we should try, please come share them. We will also talk about how some of these ideas or others might help newcomers in apartments or other high density housing complexes also feel welcome in Lafayette.

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For questions: please contact LafayetteDEIB@gmail.com

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Cougar Youth Football Camp (Moraga) see ad

The Cougar Youth Football Camp directed by Head Coach Kevin Macy for grades 4-8 is held at Campolindo High School July 11-15 & July 18-22. Cost is \$500 with all equipment including T-shirt supplied. Registration forms online. Register at www.cougarcamps.com

Lady Mats Girls Basketball Camp (Orinda)

The Lady Mats camp will focus on teaching basketball skills and fundamentals. The camp will have sessions in August for 3rd to 5th grades and 6-8th grades. All camps will be run at Miramonte HS by the Miramonte coaching staff and current and former players. Dates: 7/25 - 7/29 and 8/1 - 8/5. vwirthman@hotmail.com Phone: (510) 504-5683

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Ages 6-12. Have fun exploring creeks and ponds, meadows and woods and discovering the oldest ranch in Orinda, the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. Also enjoy hikes, climbs, games, and crafts. This is a fully outdoor, unplugged and in-nature experience! Half-day and full-day options. Counselors-In-Training for grades 8-9. www.fwrna.org contact Brad: FWRNATreasurer@gmail.com, (925) 348-6707

Randy Bennett Basketball Camps (Moraga) see ad

The Randy Bennett Day Camps held at Saint Mary's College in University Credit Union Pavilion are a great way for boys and girls grades K-8th to receive top-class instruction on every aspect of the game, led by Coach Bennett and his staff. Morning, afternoon and full day options available. Day Camps in June 13-17, 20-24, 27-July 1 / July 11-15 (K-6) www.smcmenbasketballcamps.com/

SMC Soccer Camp (Moraga) see ad

SMC Soccer Camps include a variety of camps tailored for all ages and abilities! We offer half-day and full-day Youth Camps and Elite ID Camps. Saint Mary's College is very fortunate to have some of the finest collegiate coaches in Northern California. Head Coach Theresa Romagnolo hand selects and trains her staff, composed of top-level coaches and collegiate players. All instructors have been chosen for their extensive knowledge of the game and their enthusiasm to work with young athletes. Register at www.smcwomenssoccercamps.com.

Did we miss your favorite camp? On April 4 we will list all half-day camps and classes. Reach 60,000+ in Lamorinda and advertise with us. Call (925) 377-0977 or email wendy@lamorindaweekly.com.

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March 2022 Weekly Speakers

4: Budd Mac Kenzie: Afghanistan - US Withdrawal Education Impact
11: Annie Murphy Paul: Author, The Extended Mind
18: Pearce Godwin: Founder, Listen First Project
25: Bobbie Landers and Kent Long: Saving The Joaquin Moraga Adobe

Letters to the editor

Moraga Renters, Workers, Students Need to Weigh In

If you work, live, or go to school in Moraga, give your opinion over what types of housing need to be built in the near future. Go to MakeMoragaHome.org to fill out the survey (available until March 15). Also subscribe

for updates and stay involved!

To learn more about policies to make housing less

expensive, email InclusiveMoraga@gmail.com.
Ashley Coates, Co-Founder
InclusiveMoraga

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

Legislation introduced to clamp down on illegal dumping

By Sora O'Doherty

Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, who represents Lamorinda, has introduced legislation in response to a surge in illegal dumping in California. "The illegal dumping of trash, furniture, mattresses, appliances, and toxic materials is out of control in both our rural and urban areas – it isn't just unsightly, it is putting the health of our communities and environment at risk," according to Bauer-Kahan. "Every Californian deserves the right to live in clean, garbage-free neighborhoods."

The subject of illegal dumping along Highway 24 in Orinda was recently discussed by the Orinda City Council, and Council Member Amy Worth said that she had personally examined materials illegally dumped near the Wilder development and concluded that they contained refuse from municipal road works.

The bill, which builds upon existing legislation, would raise fines on illegal dumping of commercial quantities up to \$5,000 for a first conviction, up to \$10,000 for a second conviction, and up to \$20,000 for a third or

subsequent conviction. Currently the law provides for fines of up to \$1,000 for a first conviction, up to \$1,500 for a second conviction, and up to \$3,000 for a third or subsequent conviction.

Additionally, the bill, AB 2374, would give judges discretion to require the convicted to pay for the removal of their illegal dumping, suspend the business license of any individual convicted of dumping waste connected to their business, and allow for that person's name and name of the business to be publicly displayed as convicted of illegal dumping.

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SMC Museum of Art opens two new exhibits



Mid-20th Century "spirit spouse" from Republic of Cote d'Ivoire "Blolo Bian"



Mid-20th Century fertility figure from Ghana "Akua Ba"

Photos Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

"Stock" and "Power & Purpose" are two new exhibits currently featured in the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art. Both installations are poles apart from each other in content, but like-minded in their thought provoking natures.

Artist Andrew Mount is an SMC faculty professor whose works make up the "Stock" exhibit. According to the museum, "The word 'stock' could be a product, an amount of something, or a constituent part of a corporation." Wordplay is a big part of this exhibit's running theme, and if words are not visible in the art itself, then symbols are scattered within it that subliminally remind the viewer of contemporary monetary institutions. If all of this sounds puzzling, keep in mind that aspects of the exhibit are meant to be analyzed and prove thought provoking.

"Stock is a solo exhibit about wealth and debt that invites the viewer to participate in how these symbols are cycled through time," Academic & Engagement Curator Britt Royer stated. Many of the hidden messages are obvious, as in the very first work, which is titled "Stocks," where words such as "default," "punish" and "debt" are allowed to be ink-stamped onto a wall by patrons through interactive methods.

"Real Property" is another "hidden meaning" type of exhibit that uses not only

words, but popular symbolism to represent corporate influence, all disguised as various medieval coats of arms. As is typical of most modern art, the intended meaning of this exhibit's pieces may not be overtly obvious, but they are fun once you get the gist of where he's headed.

The other exhibit in the art museum is "Power & Purpose: Reflections on the African Art Collection," the artifacts of which are part of SMC's permanent collection and displayed in honor of Black History Month. It is guest curated by Kathy Little, Ph.D., provost with California Institute of Integral Studies.

The installation is meant to highlight "the nearly 40 objects that speak to notions of beauty, hierarchy, motherhood, masculinity, spirituality, sustainability, rites of passage and diversity that permeates the continent in both its traditions and cultural practices."

Seventeen tribes are represented through the 18th, 19th and 20th century artifacts in the exhibit, and while they can be considered works of art, the original intent of many of the pieces was to serve a spiritual or medicinal purpose. One such piece from mid-20th century Ghana is a fertility statue ("Akua Ba" meaning Akua's Child) made of wood, glass and beads. Royer explained that it was commissioned by an infertile woman who was instructed by a priest to carry it on her back the way one

would carry a baby. Even though Akua was mocked by fellow villagers, eventually the woman did conceive a child. Other women of the tribe began to adopt the practice.

Another piece, from the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire is a wooden Blolo Bian (Male Figure), also from the mid-20th century. The Baule people believed in a "spirit spouse," a likeness that stood in for a deceased spouse. Anyone experiencing physical or emotional distress sought the advice of a diviner who might make a determination that a deceased partner is jealous of the living spouse. As such, a wooden replica of the deceased would be commissioned and offerings must be given to the spiritual partner with instructions that the figure must be cared for regularly.

There's also an interactive room with a large map of Africa that displays the tribal locations where each of the artifacts came from. Included in the room is some information on Restitution and the opportunity for patrons to post their views about the topic on a wall. The opposite wall has an "ancestral altar" dedicated to the memory of ancestors with mementos or meaningful tokens from their lives. The exhibit explains that many cultures have such altars where the grieving can take a moment to remember their loved ones with peace and love.

"Stock" closes May 8; "Power & Purpose" closes June 19.

High school musicals return to the stage this spring



Rehearsal for Campolindo's "Cinderella"

Photo Cindy Cattell

By Jenn Freedman

Full scale, live theatrical productions are back at Lamorinda high schools this spring, after two years of improvising (at recording studios, outdoor amphitheaters, and more) during COVID. However, while California Gov. Gavin Newsom announced on Feb. 28 the state will stop requiring masks in schools as of March 12, the date falls after many of these high school productions are

scheduled to begin. The Acalanes Union High School District is urgently requesting the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to allow the performers to take to the stage unmasked, similarly to what other extracurricular activities are already doing.

"We believe the change [to the public health guidance] would have significant and lasting benefit for California's students by allowing them to perform unmasked. Perform-

ing Arts has not had the strong and coordinated advocacy like sports has had through 'Let them Play,' organizations like CIF (California Interscholastic Federation), and professional athletes. These students deserve the same consideration and opportunities," Superintendent John Nickerson wrote in a letter to Dr. Sohail Sud, co-lead for Safe Schools with CDPH.

"Our job as theater artists is to tell a story," Miramonte's director Heather Cousins explains.

"Our storytelling is severely compromised if the audience cannot distinguish who is speaking and talking, not to mention the physical exertion required to dance in heavy costumes under hot lights."

Regardless of the decision to mask or unmask, the shows will go on ... and the music and theater departments are planning all-out productions, complete with large casts, full sets, costumes, student pit orchestras, props, lights, and more.

... continued on Page B2

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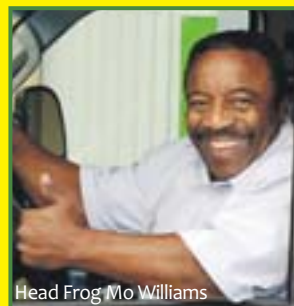
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Take a chocolaty dive into this dense and delicious dessert



Fallen Chocolate Soufflé Cake

Photos Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

This cake is rich, dense, and definitely very chocolaty. Made with a full pound of bittersweet chocolate, eggs, a little sugar and Amaretto, it is decadent and delicious. We love to serve it with raspberry coulis and a dollop of vanilla whipped cream. The original cake was one my mother-in-law made for family gatherings. She found it in the newspaper as one of the featured desserts at the iconic Chanterelle Restaurant in Manhattan. We have made a few changes, substituting brown sugar for white, Amaretto for orange or coffee liqueur, and all bittersweet chocolate in place of the combination of semi-sweet and unsweetened. I hope you enjoy this cake as much as our family does!

We also make it in two smaller springform pans when we want to freeze some for later

or if we have a smaller group that we are serving. This cake freezes well, and all you need to do is completely wrap it in plastic wrap before freezing it. Be sure to let it chill for a few hours in the refrigerator before wrapping it up for the freezer. When you want to serve it, remove it from the freezer, remove the plastic wrap and thaw it out for an hour or so before serving.

Because the cake is made with beaten egg yolks and beaten egg whites, you want to be very careful when folding the chocolate and eggs together. You don't want to deflate the eggs you've worked so hard to whip up! Also, due to the eggs, the cake will puff up when it's baking and as it cools, it will fall and that's what makes the cake so dense and rich. I just don't want you to be surprised as your 3-inch cakes falls to one and one half inches in height!

Fallen Chocolate Soufflé Cake

(Serves about 20 small but perfect slices)

INGREDIENTS

16 oz. Bittersweet chocolate chips, or bars, coarsely chopped
1 cup unsalted butter, cut into small pieces
1/4 cup Amaretto (or your favorite liqueur like Kailua, or Cointreau)
9 large eggs, separated and at room temperature
3/4 cup light brown sugar
1/2 cup heavy cream (beaten for garnish)
Dark chocolate shavings

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 F. Butter the bottom and sides of a 10-inch spring-form pan, or two 7-inch springform pans. Dust the bottom and sides with flour. (This really helps prevent the cake from sticking to the pan.)

Melt chocolate and butter together in a saucepan over low heat, or in the top of a double boiler. Stir until smooth. Remove from heat and cool to lukewarm. Stir in vanilla and Amaretto.

Meanwhile, beat egg yolks with brown sugar until very thick and the mixture forms a ribbon when beaters are removed. Gently fold chocolate mixture into the egg yolks.

Beat egg whites in your mixer, or in a bowl with clean and dry beaters until stiff peaks form. Gently fold the egg whites in three batches into the chocolate-egg yolk mixture. Do not over mix or beat the mixture, because you want the air to stay in the mixture.

When just blended, pour the mixture into the prepared pan(s). Bake 25-30 minutes for the 10-inch, and 20-25 minutes for the 7-inch pans, or just until the center of the cake is barely set and still a little bit jiggly. Remove from the oven and cool completely. Refrigerate at least an hour, or overnight before serving.

When ready to serve, slice cake and serve with a dollop of unsweetened whipped cream (or barely sweetened with a little Amaretto or whatever liqueur you used), and chocolate shavings. We make our chocolate shavings by running a potato peeler over a bar of dark chocolate and it works out well, but if you have another method, that is great too!

Raspberry Coulis

(Makes about 1 cup of coulis +/-)

INGREDIENTS

12 oz. fresh raspberries
1/2 cup granulated sugar
2 tablespoons water

DIRECTIONS

Make a simple syrup by whisking the sugar and water together in a small pot. Bring the mixture to a boil and continue on a low boil until the sugar is dissolved and the mixture is slightly thickened. Remove from heat.

Meanwhile, place rinsed raspberries into the food processor. Pour warm simple syrup over the berries and process until smooth.

Strain the mixture through a mesh sieve to eliminate the seeds, pressing down through the sieve with the back of a spoon. Use a rubber spatula to scrape the strained sauce into the receptacle bowl. Mixture will cool down through the straining process. Pour into a container with a tight-fitting lid and set aside if using soon, or refrigerate until ready to serve.



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>

Hope & proactive joy

By Linda Fodrini-Johnson

"Hope Springs Eternal." That saying is from "An Essay on Man," by Alexander Pope. People always hope for the best, even in the face of adversity. This is what we want to hang onto and something I try to help all my clients find. However, in the midst of pain, this "elusive hope" can be a blur and be forgotten.

Waiting and wishing for a change in our physical health, mental health or relationships can bring us down. Often, we hear that it is not time for a procedure. We may think it is not time to bring in help to a family member or even the time to move a loved one into senior living. The latter often involves denial or resistance from us and/or the person we are concerned about.

Then there are those illnesses that have no treatments to cure such as: Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, some cancers and cardiac diagnoses as well as some relentless mental health challenges to name a few. I should add "grief" to

this list as well.

Spiritual individuals even have difficulty connecting with God when pain, dependence and disappointment seem to be about every waking moment. So, what do we mortals need to do? Where will we get our substance to go on each day? Individuals question their faith and, during this time of COVID, many houses of worship are not as open as they were. Many feel excluded and forgotten, especially those who don't do Zoom or can't get to the only service that might be too early for a disabled individual to attend.

There is no one answer for us to find joy despite adversity. In my career I have met many individuals that somehow survived many trials and tribulations during their long lives and still are filled with joy. There are two common themes that I have seen in these people: one is gratefulness and the other is to seek joy in the moments. In their gratefulness they are also generous with their time to talk to others or give financial support to causes dear to

their hearts. I am going to call these people the "Resilient."

Seeking joy is much more a proactive move than expecting joy to just happen. True, occasionally we are surprised by nature or an unexpected gift or visit. The resilient actually seek out joy; they read positive daily meditations, they read the comics, they listen to uplifting music or anything that ever brought them joy. They find a way to still stay connected to that passion. A sailing enthusiast might not be able to sail due to vision or mobility, but they can still get to the water and watch, smell the air or feel the sand or a moving dock, not with regret, but with gratefulness and joy.

Forest bathing, known as shinrin-yoku in Japan, is a therapeutic, meditative practice of reconnecting with nature and being distracted by any of those "joy stealing" feelings. It usually starts with a breathing relaxation exercise and then a walk/stroll or even just sitting in a wooded area. See the resources section of my newsletter for a great book that will guide you in "forest bathing." During

my daily walks I look for shapes and geometry in the nature; I also love to focus on the colors in the sky and clouds.

February is thought of as the month of love because of Valentine's Day, but if you are burdened with a life challenge, it can be a sad time, especially if you have had a major loss or have a serious health challenge. This month I challenge you to seek "Joy" if only for a few moments beginning today and then seek just a few more such moments on each day to follow. Find someone to confide in and be your companion on this journey of seeking joy in the snippets of life.

Dr. Atul Gawande in his book "Being Mortal" (a good read) says we want to live till we die – not die years before. This is what you do: you plant the seeds of joy. They won't cure or fill the scars of life, but they will allow you to live and smile.

The next free Zoom Class for Family Caregivers will be at 11 a.m. April 8 on Dementia: From diagnosis to home care. If you are concerned

about someone in the early stages of memory loss, this class is for you. Just send me an email www.LindaFodrini-Johnson.com and I will put you on the list.



Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MA, MFT, CMC, is a Licensed Family Therapist and Certified Care Manager. She has been practicing professional care management since 1984. Linda founded Eldercare Services, a full-service care management and home care company in 1989. Eldercare Services is now a division of Home Care Assistance and continues to provide Bay Area families with care management, advocacy, counseling, support groups and education.

High school musicals return to the stage this spring

... continued from Page B1

And the students are excited! "I've been looking forward to this year's musical for the past two years, and it has not disappointed. The rehearsals are such a special space to me; the long hours spent singing and dancing with all my friends are what I've missed so dearly during COVID," Senior Ruby Vanhouten at Campolindo shares.

First up, Acalanes High School will be performing "Beauty and the Beast" in early March. "It is incredible to have everyone together again and be able to stage a musical! The performing arts is all about collaboration and working together to create a performance. Not being able to simply be in the same room for almost a year and a half was so difficult, but it makes coming back together something to celebrate more than

ever before," director Lauren Gibson says.

"And so much of what we do is driven by the students. We have a student director, a student producer ... it's almost like a leadership class. They learn all sorts of social skills that pertain to everyday life; it's a whole experience. It's not just about the actors, it's about the stage, and the lights and every detail that brings the production together," Co-producer and technical director Ed Meehan explains.

"Beauty and the Beast" will run March 2-5. Tickets can be purchased at www.ahsperformingarts.org.

Campolindo High School will feature "Cinderella." Unique to Lamorinda schools, Campolindo leverages the help of parents to bring their shows to life. "We have an amazing community of students and parents who come

together to create our shows. More than 150 students and nearly as many parents help out in one way or another to bring our show to the stage," producer and musical director Mark Roberts shares.

"The students have been incredibly resilient and ferocious in their appetite to present artistic work in spite of enormous challenges," Roberts adds.

Stage director David Pinkham explains one of the challenges of a two-year hiatus: "We've lost some significant continuity in the program, with students who were sophomores in the last production now jumping right into the leadership position as seniors. The community we build between the cast members, crew, orchestra and staff is the most valuable part of the entire process, so we've been working hard to bridge the conti-

nity gap and bring along the freshmen and sophomores."

"Cinderella" runs March 11-13 and 18-20. Tickets can be purchased at www.cam-pochoir.com.

Miramonte High School's spring musical is "Pajama Game." This 1950s classic is a love story set amongst a labor dispute in a pajama factory. "After doing a few contemporary musicals, we wanted to expose our students to something more classical, and coming out of the pandemic, we wanted a lighter, happier tone," explains director Cousins.

Miramonte has a unique model for musical theater. To participate in the musical, students must enroll in the Musical Theater Workshop class. "We adopted this model years ago and it has been working very well for us ever since. One of the benefits is knowing exactly who will be

in the show before the school year even starts. That is helpful when it comes to choosing a show," Musical director Meredith Hawkins says.

In addition, the costumes, props, lights, sound, and set are entirely designed and created by students enrolled in Miramonte's Stagecraft program.

The Miramonte show runs March 10-13 and tickets are available at showtix4u.com.

The music and theater departments welcome the Lamorinda community to support their programs by attending the live performances this spring.

The district had not received an update from CDPH on masking for the performing arts before press time.

Campolindo High School Jazz Dinner Dance returns for an evening of dining, dancing, and chance



Performers at last year's Dinner Dance

Photo Kevin Goto

Submitted by
Sofia Anna Reed-Gomes

Performing arts, and specifically instrumental music, are an important part of providing our youth with a well-rounded

education. In fact, achievement in music education has been established as being a strong causal factor in math and reading excellence amongst students. The March 26 Campolindo High School Jazz Dinner Dance at Creekside Commons in Lafayette raises

funds to support the wonderful jazz and instrumental music programs at Campolindo High School in Moraga.

The event will feature Campolindo's Music Director Johnny Johnson, the Campolindo Jazz Band, and over 10 combos, which will play an eclectic mix of jazz and big band music. Local Lamorinda businesses such as TuTu's of Lafayette Fiesta Square or Outdoor Supply Hardware in Moraga reach approximately 150 dinner guest families by sponsoring donated items that are assembled in creative baskets and raffled to generate proceeds for the music program. This year the Jazz Dinner Dance Committee is targeting a Gourmet Herb Garden Kit, Night Out in Fiesta Square, Picnic Basket for Two Wine and Cheese Sampler, and other concepts. Between appetizers, dinner, and dancing, winning

raffle numbers are drawn throughout the evening for the lucky number holders to select a basket of their choice to take home.

All are welcome for this evening of dining and dancing. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://bit.ly/JazzDinnerDance>.

Community Service: We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

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Miramonte student advances in Lions speech contest



Olivia Bersot, Lion Fred George and Thomas Quinnild.

Photo Sarah Morgan

Submitted by
Robert Murtagh

The Moraga Lions Club hosted two talented speakers who competed in the 85th Annual Lion's Club Student Speaker's contest on Feb. 1. Thomas Quinnild from Miramonte High School and Olivia Bersot from Campolindo High School amazed the small audience at the Moraga Library. Both stu-

dents wrote and delivered excellent speeches on this year's topic: "How can kindness reunite our country?"

Quinnild was awarded first place and will move to the next level of competition with winners from all the Lions Clubs in Alameda and Contra Costa County.

For more information about the Annual Speech Contest or more Lions events, contact Lion Dana Glasgow, (925) 283-6921.

In Memory

Joseph F. Cloidt

(1929 – 2022)



Joseph Fredrick Cloidt, who lived 47 years in Orinda, died peacefully in his sleep at the age of 92 on Jan. 26 in Reno, Nev. Known to his friends and family as "Joe" he was born on April 17, 1929, in Great Falls, Montana, the only child of Joseph Cloidt Sr. and Marie Tebeau Cloidt.

Growing up in Great Falls, Joe was very active in sports and excelled at football. Upon graduating from high school in 1945, he received a scholarship to play for the University of Washington. A popular student-athlete, Joe was a member of the Delta Tau Delta Fraternity, captain of the football team, and a recipient of All-Pacific Coast football team honors. In his junior year, he was awarded the Guy Flaherty Medal – the highest tribute for a Husky Football player. It is

awarded annually to the player voted "most inspirational" by his teammates. In his senior year, the U.S. Army came calling, and he was drafted into the Korean War where he served the Central Intelligence Corps (CIC). Following a two-year stint for Uncle Sam, Joe married Jacqueline Lewis of Fairview, Montana in 1954. He earned a Professional (master's) degree in Petroleum Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines. During his 38-year career at Standard Oil (later Chevron), he was the engineer in charge of drilling for the state of Alaska, was on the foreign staff in San Francisco, and later negotiated international contracts for the Patent Department.

Joe is survived by his wife, three daughters (Kim, Kendall, Courtney), son-in-law (Joe), and three grandchildren (Wes, K.C., Jacqueline). He was preceded in death by his parents, his grandparents, and his beloved aunt.

The family is planning a Memorial Service in Montana later in the year.

In Memory

Oscar Nance Travland, Jr.

July 17, 1937 – Jan. 23, 2022



Oscar Nance Travland, Jr. of Palm Desert, California, passed away on Jan. 23 with his wife and daughter by his side. Born in Beeville, Texas on July 17, 1937 to Oscar and Melba Travland, he was one of five children. His parents owned the airport in Beeville, and thus began Oscar's love of aviation (he earned his pilot's license at 17). He graduated from Sul Ross University with a Bachelor of Science degree, and moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico to begin his career in the automobile industry. While living in New Mexico, Oscar served in the United States Air Force National Guard.

Oscar returned to Texas as a corporate Learjet pilot. It was in El Paso that Oscar met and married Patricia Busch, and where they started a family. With their three children, they enjoyed weekend sailing in nearby Elephant Butte where Oscar was Commodore of the El Paso Sailing Club. Oscar's passion for sailing continued when they moved to Orinda, California in the early 1970s. Oscar loved sailing in the San Francisco Bay, raced sailboats along the California coast, and was a member and officer at the Metropolitan Yacht Club. While in Northern California, Oscar was a nationally recognized, award-winning Nissan dealer.

Oscar and Patti moved to Irvine, California before ultimately retiring in Palm Desert. During retirement, Oscar loved being a grandpa, playing golf, riding his Harley Davidson with friends, and staying involved with the Bermuda Dunes Airport. In his home's garage, Oscar built a two-passenger single engine airplane from the ground up, which he later piloted. After moving to Sun City Palm Desert, building and flying remote control airplanes with friends and traveling with his family provided much happiness. He cherished annual summer vacations in Hawaii with his family, as well as family reunions in Fort Davis, Texas.

Oscar is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Patti Travland, and his three children and their families: son Grant Travland and his wife Rosemma (children Drew and Jake); daughter Tracy McCarthy and her husband John (children Nolan, Kevin, and Dylan); and son Sonny Travland and his wife Lindsay (children Urban, Ledger, McGraw, and Trainor) and Sonny's former wife Alison Smalley (children Henry and Lindsay). Oscar is also survived by his four siblings: Margaret Blackman, Lewis Travland, Larry Travland, and Patricia Hodgins. A private service was held at Rose Mortuary in Rancho Mirage, California.

In Memory

Rose Lee Tom

March 11, 1927 – Jan. 24, 2022



Rose Lee Tom, a longtime resident of Moraga, California, died Monday, Jan. 24, 2022 in Gilroy, California from problems due to heart and kidney failure. She was 94 years old.

Rose was born in Oakland, California on March 11, 1927, the youngest of four children and the only one of the family to be born in the United States. She attended schools in Oakland, graduating from Oakland Tech High School in 1945. She next went to UC Berkeley receiving her Bachelor of Science degree in January 1949. At Cal she met John, an engineering student who had just been discharged from the Army. They were married on Easter Sunday in 1949.

Rose and John raised their family in Oakland and she became very active in their sons' school, helping in the classrooms and driving on field trips. She served as Cub Scout den mother and was the president of the Jefferson Elementary School PTA. In 1996 the family moved to Moraga, where she continued as a school volunteer. Rose became involved in the Femeiners (a group of wives of civil engineers), the Scottish Rite Ladies Club, and, with several friends, founding the Moraga Garden Club. She was active in the Moraga Historical Society, volunteered at the Moraga Library and served as an elder at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. Rose had many hobbies such as knitting, sewing and reading, and was particularly proud of her beautiful garden. Later Rose got her real estate license and worked for many years as a realtor. With John she has traveled around the world, visiting all continents with the exception of Antarctica. In 2019 she and John moved into Merrill Gardens, a senior community in Gilroy to be nearer to her eldest son Larry.

Rose is survived by her husband John, her two sons Larry and Russell, daughters-in-law Kathy and Susi, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Rose's life will be held at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, 10 Moraga Valley Ln., Moraga, CA 94556, on Saturday, March 5 at 3 p.m. Donations can be made in her honor to the Moraga Garden Club, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society or Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

Acalanes DAR awards Good Citizen Scholarships to three local students



Christine Mlynek, Sofia Raja, Adriana Colón Photo provided

Revolution honored three high school students chosen by their schools as the 2021-22 Good Citizen winners. A High Tea and Award Ceremony was held on Saturday, Feb. 5, where the three students were awarded a scholarship, a U.S. flag that had been flown over the U.S. Capitol in their honor, and a certificate of recognition. The tea was hosted by chapter members who set the tables with their personal china and served delicious homemade tea sandwiches, cookies, fruit, and other sweets.

Christine A. Mlynek is Acalanes High School's winner. Mlynek also won the optional essay portion of the Good Citizen Scholarship program, and she read her essay aloud at the award ceremony.

Mlynek enjoys tutoring children of immigrants in English as a second language, she is president of the Acalanes Environmental Club, and she co-founded the all-girl BSA Troop #402. After graduation, Mlynek will attend either the Coast Guard Academy or the Naval Academy.

Sofia C. Raja is Bentley School's winner. During the pandemic, Raja worked after-school hours at her family's restaurant, and she launched a student newspaper, The Bentley Times, to keep students connected and informed while they studied remotely. Raja is also a counselor at her church's summer camp, and after graduation she hopes to pursue a career in science and technology.

Adriana E. Colón is Campolindo High School's winner. She is active in the National Charity League, is the president of the Women's Awareness on Campus Club, and is a peer tutor for an AP U.S. history class. After graduation, Colón hopes to attend the University of San Diego or Barnard College, and then follow in the footsteps of Ruth Bader Ginsberg to obtain her JD and practice law.

The members of the Acalanes Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution are delighted to reward these high school students for their leadership and good citizen qualities and wish them well as they embark on the journey into new adventure and follow their dreams.

Submitted by Louise Diracles

The Acalanes chapter of the Daughters of the American

New Troop 224 Eagle Scouts announced



Photo provided

Submitted by Elizabeth Dietch

Hird, and Zach Robb – for achieving Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout. To become an Eagle Scout, a candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demon-

strate leadership and Scout spirit, and successfully complete a community service project.

Dietsch, a senior at Acalanes High School restored a failing 12,500 brick courtyard for his church, Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church in Walnut Creek. He led a large group of volunteers to dismantle the old courtyard, clean and stack all of the bricks; 90% of the bricks were reusable. A contractor re-laid the bricks and Dietsch monitored the progress over two weeks. Everyone learned a lot about bricks! The courtyard is now used several times a week for outdoor services and other activities.

Goyert, a junior at Acalanes, designed and constructed two benches and came

up with a plan to solve the rodent issue at Jelly's Place. Jelly's Place is a no-kill animal shelter in San Pablo, California. Jelly's Place has a special place in Goyert's heart since his family rescued their dog, Elvis, from the shelter. He knew that for his Eagle project he wanted to help the shelter that has given so much to the community.

Acalanes junior Hird designed and led the construction of a Western-themed chicken coop for Animal Assisted Happiness, a nonprofit organization. This small therapeutic animal farm near San Jose focuses on enriching the lives of youth with needs and has a wide range of animals from guinea pigs to goats and llamas. Hird's chicken coop was the very first one constructed for the farm's Wild West Chicken Village and

is now home to a flock of happy chickens!

Robb, a junior at Acalanes High School, chose to support the Acalanes football program which he has been part of since his freshman year. He led over 20 scouts in building a 10'H x 12'W x 3"D, four-tiered storage system and added five additional shelves underneath a pre-existing workspace. These improvements have provided the coaches and players with a more accessible, organized, and clean equipment shed.

The Eagle Scouts were recognized for their achievement at an Eagle Court of Honor ceremony on Feb. 27 at the Contra Costa Country Club. Troop 224 is currently accepting boys and girls as new members. For more information visit www.troop224lafayette.com.

Troop 224 BSA of Lafayette honors four Scouts – Nigel Dietsch, Hunter Goyert, Benjamin

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Not to be missed

ART

The Moraga Art Gallery announces the opening of a spirited new show, "Singularities," a title derived from the unique visions of the show featured member artists: Orinda's Linh Kang and Walnut Creek's Susan Erickson. Feb. 2 to April 10, also consists of paintings, etchings, prints, ceramics, jewelry, woodworking, glasswork and photographs by the gallery's other members and additional guest artists. 432 Center Street in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center, open Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. www.moragaartgallery.com, or call 925-376-5407.

The 19th Annual High School Visual Arts Competition is both live in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library for the month of March and virtual on the Lamorinda Arts Council website from April 2022 to April 2023. Join the students at their awards ceremony on Thursday, March 10 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Cash awards and merit citations will be presented to artists in four categories for this juried show. Hosted by the Lamorinda Arts Council, it highlights artwork from all high school students who live or attend public or private high schools in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. For information visit www.lamorindaarts.org/vac or call 925.359.4490.

New show "Wintermission" by Gallery Artists at Valley Art Gallery 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek. Through March 5. www.valleyartgallery.org; (925) 935-4311 or valleyartgallery@gmail.com.

Not to be missed

MUSIC

Pacific Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Conductor Lawrence Kohl, presents "Words!" with the chamber orchestra version of Gustav Mahler Symphony #4 and William Walton Façade: An Entertainment. Marnie Breckenridge will be soprano soloist for the Mahler and the reciter for the Walton. Performances are Saturday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Auditorium theater of the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda and Sunday, March 27 at 3 p.m. at Bankhead Theatre, 2400 First Street in Livermore. Tickets online at pacificchamberorchestra.org and additionally for the Livermore performance by calling 925-373-6800 or visiting the Bankhead box office at 2400 First Street in Livermore

Crowden Music Center presents Community Music Day on Sunday, March 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in person and online, at Crowden Music Center, 1475 Rose Street, Berkeley. Community Music Day is a free musical carnival for all ages! San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, Instrument Petting Zoo, & more. In-person/online event. Cost: Free. For more info, see www.crowden.org/community-music-day/ or call 510-559-6910 or email concerts@crowden.org.

Berkeley Symphony presents Berkeley Symphony Chamber Concert III on Sunday, March 6, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Piedmont Center for the Arts, 801 Magnolia Ave, Piedmont. Six extraordinary Berkeley Symphony musicians, including composer/arranger/violist Darcy Rindt, explore classic and contemporary music. Cost: \$35. For more info see www.berkeleysymphony.org or call 510-841-2800 or email

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Free concert Celtic harp, Irish songs, improvisation, storytelling. The Celtic harp has a broken and troubled thousand-year tradition which Patrick Ball now revives in the 21st century, reviving the ancient art of minstrelsy and story-telling at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 20 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton.

LITERATURE

Bookmark contest is back! FLLLC invite all Lafayette K - 8 students to create an original bookmark illustrating a favorite book. Entry forms will be distributed to Lafayette public schools and St. Perpetua School. Additional forms will be available at the Lafayette Library and the Friend's Corner Book Shop. The contest opens on Feb. 11 and all entries are due at the library by March 4. Winners will be announced on April 27 at the library. Winning bookmarks will be on display at the library and book shop, and will be handed out to library patrons as well. Start creating!

THEATER

Cal Shakes is excited to announce two world premiere interpretations of Shakespeare's classics this season—"Romeo y Juliet" by Karen Zacarias and "Lear" by Marcus Gardley. Tickets will go on sale in the spring. For now, join Cal Shakes on March 19 at 5 p.m. for "Here We Go!" — a one-hour virtual fundraiser and season launch event to celebrate a 2022 season that's not to be missed. Learn more and register for free at <https://calshakes.org/>.

Not to be missed

Town Hall Theatre Lafayette announces second in their "new voices" series—"amé monos // let us love each other" by Linda Maria Girón April 1, 2 & 8, 9 at 8 p.m. TICKETS: \$25. April 9 is a Pay-What-You'd-Like performance.

OTHER

AAUW-OML is sponsoring a Girls4STEM webinars for high school girls. Sheryl Mordo, P.E., B.S., Civil Engineering from UC Davis, will talk about her career path from math classes in high school to a career as a construction project engineer and manager at Intuit, one of the world's largest business software companies, with an internship at DisneyWorld along the way. Her webinar is on Sunday, March 6 at 4 p.m. Get more information at <https://oml-ca.aauw.net/girls4stem-webinars/>

Acalanes High School Class of 1971 - 50 year reunion. April 9, at the Coop in LaFiesta Square. For more information please contact: Katrina Neblett Silvani 71Acalanes@gmail.com

The Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School PTA DEI committee and iKind will present its new quarterly movie series "Towards Belonging" on Friday, March 4 which will feature the film "Try Harder" at 7 p.m. at the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Library, following a 5:30 p.m. dinner in the JM Pavilion from Burma 2. RSVP and order dinner at <https://tinyurl.com/5n8kfk4>

Lafayette Community Conversation #4 on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, hosted by the Lafayette Community DEIB

Not to be missed

Committee. March 10, 7 – 8:30 p.m., Lafayette Library – Don Tatzin Hall.

United States-Mexico Relations Topic at LOPC First Friday Forum. What do we really know about the neighboring country to the south of us? To help us better understand Dr. Juan Carlos Ruiz-Guajardo will present "Mexican Culture in the Context of the United States Mexico Relationship" at First Friday Forum (FFF), March 4 at 10 a.m. Registering at lopc.org/first-friday-forum is required. Then you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining this free webinar sponsored by Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church.

Sustainable Lafayette and Project Earth host free screening of the film "Idle threat" at Town Hall Theatre on Saturday, March 12 at 11 a.m., 3535 School St., Lafayette. RSVP at TownHallTheatre.com. Tickets are limited, first-come-first-served. "Idle Threat" follows its director/producer George Pakenham as he brings the attention of New York motorists to the dangers caused to the environment by idling cars. Following the film, Project Earth will lead a youth panel to discuss the film and ways we can combat the effects of vehicle exhaust on a local level.

GARDEN

Moraga Garden Club Presents: Kate Verhoef "Gardening through a Child's Eyes" on March 17 at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Verhoef is a parent and urban farmer who has worked and volunteered as outdoor classroom instructor and consultant, and a 4-H leader. She will share her experiences and guide you through the challenges, rewards and fun of instilling love of the natural world in your children. The meeting is free and will start with a 9:30 a.m. Social with light refreshments. Masks required. No children, please. For info and to register, visit www.moragagardenclub.com

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Lamorinda Weekly

is an independent publication for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA. 25,000 printed copies; www.lamorindaweekly.com

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Publishers/Owners: Andy and Wendy Scheck; andy@lamorindaweekly.com, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Editor: Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com
Sports Editor: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Advertising: 925-377-0977, Wendy Scheck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Staff Writers: Vera Kochan; vera@lamorindaweekly.com, Sora O'Doherty; Sora@lamorindaweekly.com, Jon Kingdon; sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Digging Deep: Cynthia Brian; Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com
Food: Susie Iventosch; suziventosch@gmail.com
Contributing Writers: Conrad Bassett, Sophie Braccini, Diane Claytor, John T. Miller, Fran Miller, Jenn Freedman, Mona Miller, Kara Navolio, Moya Stone, Margie Ryerson, M.D. Jones, Linda Fodrini-Johnson, Lou Fancher, Jeff Gomez, Chris Rauber, Sharon K. Sobotta
Photos: Tod Fierner, Gint Federas
Layout/Graphics: Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.
Mailing address: Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556
Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 925-263-9223; email: info@lamorindaweekly.com
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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Acalanes girls win NCS Championship



Acalanes High School girls basketball NCS Champions

Photo Jon Kingdon

By Jon Kingdon

Acalanes, a team with no seniors, starting four freshman for most of the season and finishing last season ranked 294th in the state, came into this championship game ranked 44th and ran away with a dominating 57-37 victory over Northgate.

Having defeated Northgate two times earlier in the season by 20 and 23 points, the main concern for Acalanes' head coach Margaret Gartner, prior to their third meeting this season, was the possibility of her team being overconfident. "We talked about how it's tough to beat a team three times in a season so how we started out in this game was key," Gartner said.

After scoring the first two points six seconds into the game, it was simply a matter of not looking back. The Lady Dons were clearly in control leading by 17-3 at the end of the first quarter and 28-10 at the half.

"I'm not sure we can play a better half," Gartner said. "That was spectacular and some of our shooting was awesome. The last time that we had played Northgate, we had seven turnovers in the first quarter, and I told our team we couldn't do that again."

In their previous two games versus Northgate, Sophie Gartner, Dulci Vail and Karyss Lacanlale had all missed some time, but the team was very healthy though junior guard Sophia Alvarado suffered a shoulder injury in pregame and was forced to watch the game with her arm in a sling. "This was the first time we had everyone together, so I didn't want the team to be overconfident," Gartner said.

That was advice that Northgate could have used. The Dons forced Northgate into committing 29 turnovers, 19 in the first half, which speaks to Gartner's philosophy on the importance of her team's defense. "Right from day one, it was always about defense for us,"

Gartner said. "You can't count on your shot going in, but you can count on effort, defense and rebounding. So, in every practice, we work on 1-on-1, 1-on-2, 2-on-2, getting up and down the court."

Freshman Sophie Chinn was in the zone on offense, leading Acalanes with 31 points, including seven 3-point field goals, highlighted by a 35-footer at the end of the third quarter. Chinn was all over the floor on offense, either bringing the ball up the court, shooting from the wing and playing the post inside. She also had several steals on defense and led the team with 13 rebounds. "Sophie loves to guard our opponents' best player," Gartner said.

Chinn's ability to fill several positions has been a key to the team's success. "During COVID, Sophie would play point guard though I was a little worried about not getting as many rebounds," Gartner said.

Despite having a roster with no se-

niors, the team came together quickly. "From the start of the season we worked really well together and bonded as a team," Chinn said. "That was reflected on the court, and we have always been ready to come out and play."

Junior Emily Du assumed a mantle of influence with the underclassmen this season. "As the oldest player on the team, I've taken leadership role," Du said. "It's been really fun making a connection with my teammates who are not in my grade and my coaches. I've really learned from the best about leadership."

When a team will press and fast break all game, like Acalanes does, the players had better be in top shape. "We were running the track everyday and lifting weights," Du said. Everybody was dedicated to the team, and it became their first priority. "It was then that I knew we were going to be really good. It was made clear to us that our conditioning would make the difference between winning and losing games."

The team's conditioning was once again an important aspect in the victory. "We knew that we could wear Northgate down if we could make them work 90 feet," Gartner said. "We just wanted to outwork them and hoped that the ball would go in on offense."

The loud and boisterous crowd was appreciated by the players and coaches alike. "We all worked together tonight as a team," Chinn said. "We had so many fans with us, and it really helped us on offense and defense. The crowd was great. Everyone was into the game and their reaction after every shot we made was awesome."

The Acalanes fans did have a negative effect on the game for the Dons in the fourth quarter. Someone in the crowd threw a ball at a Northgate player which resulted in a technical foul called against Acalanes. With 5:30 to go in the fourth quarter, the officials called the players together at midcourt to calm things down. "They told us to have a clean game and to continue playing," Chinn said. "We should ignore the fans and keep working hard on the court."

When Gartner was asked if they were going to take time to celebrate the NCS championship, her answer spoke volumes as to the commitment she and the team had to the upcoming state tournament: "Actually, we're going to practice tomorrow. Back to the gym!"

Campolindo boys win NCS Championship in nail-biter



Photo Will Bergen

By Jon Kingdon

If it's possible to say that a 51-50 vic-

tory was closer than it looked, it was Campolindo's win over De La Salle in the NCS championship last Friday night.

It all came down to a missed free throw by De La Salle with 0.6 seconds left in the game that was rebounded by Aidan Mahaney that sealed the vic-

tory for the Cougars, their 21st straight win and going into the upcoming state tournament with a 27-1 record.

Mahaney led the scoring for Campolindo with 18 points, followed by starting senior Cade Bennett and Justin Yasukochi, who came in off the bench, each scoring 13 points.

Campolindo head coach Steven Dyer was not surprised at how Yasukochi elevated his performance. "Justin knows how to play in big games," Dyer said. "He is experienced and is big shot maker and we have all the confidence in the world going to him, knowing he can step up."

As has often been the case, in their last two games, Campolindo displayed the ability to come from behind in the fourth quarter. "It's both mental and physical toughness," Dyer said. "A lot of the things that we've gone through this year, you can't replicate in practice - trying to close out games, make free throws and holding the ball. The playoffs have shown how good our league was this year. Clayton Valley won the D1 championship, Northgate beat Dublin and Miramonte, as we know, is really good. The top four teams in this league have all been battle tested."

On to the state tournament.

Acalanes girls soccer comes up short in 1-0 loss to Branson in NCS Championship

By Jon Kingdon

It was anticipated that the Acalanes (20-1) and Branson (20-3-1) game on Feb. 26 was going to be a defensive struggle. Each team led with defenses that averaged giving up only .33 goals per game.

As it turned out, an early goal by Branson, the only goal of the game, set the tone, but it was not without controversy.

Acalanes had an early scoring opportunity when Branson's goalkeeper was caught out of position. Addie Bailey took a shot and what appeared to all but the officials, a Branson defender jumped up and with her hands blocked Bailey's shot from going in, depriving the Dons of an early penalty shot.

Acalanes head coach Nick Barbarino made his feelings known to the officials. "Obviously, I got upset and I ran down the sideline asking how they could not see was an obvious hands penalty," Barbarino said.

To further the Dons' frustra-

tion, on Branson's next trip down the field, they scored on a corner kick that ended up hitting the cross bar and barely crossing the goal line. That proved to be Branson's last real scoring opportunity.

From that point on, Branson was primarily focused on doing all they could to prevent an Acalanes score and expended little effort in trying to score themselves. "It was really frustrating after Branson scored so early in the game and having to trail by one goal the rest of the day," junior midfielder Tatum Zuber said. "They weren't really playing soccer. They were just trying to take everything out of their half of the field, and it was aggravating because we wanted to play soccer and they were just kicking the ball out of their end of the field."

Barbarino knew that they were facing a tough defense. "They had a very good goalkeeper, and their defense was solid. They were well coached and disciplined and once they got their goal, they were able to sit back a little bit and

make it difficult for us."

The Dons came into the game averaging 4.3 goals per game and had not been shut out all season. It was a day when "close" was the operative term for the Acalanes offense with Addie Bailey, Emmi Cronin and Natalie Means just missing scores. "We had about 10 shots on goal, and we looked like the only team that was going to score from the run of play," Barbarino said. "Some days it's just not your day and today definitely wasn't ours."

The Branson field was not what one would expect to be played on for a championship game. The game moved to the afternoon because the facility had no lights and bleachers had to be brought in for the spectators. It was also a smaller field than Acalanes and most teams were used to playing on. The field was the minimum size allowed at 55 yards wide and 100 yards long, which was 10 yards shorter and 7 yards narrower than the field at Acalanes.

"We had expected the

smaller field but when we first walked up, it really did look like a smaller field," Zuber said. "We had two good practices on Thursday and Friday, and we went into the game with a good idea and sense what the game would be like."

Barbarino accepted the situation, but he did not have to like it: "The smaller field somewhat neutralized a lot of what we like to do but they had to play there as well, so credit to them in getting the goal that they needed."

If there was any consolation for the Dons, it was knowing that after a 3-5-3 season in 2020-21, the Cougars were ranked as the 577th team in California by MaxPreps and heading into the game versus Branson, they had risen to 64th by MaxPreps.

"Last year, we had 16 seniors that had graduated and four players that had their club season overlap with our season, and they didn't want to risk injury, so we basically had a brand-new team last

year," Barbarino said. "It actually worked out well for us because we got a year for the players to get used to each other and have some fun. What last year showed the girls was how you can go from a high to a low, and it ended up motivating them to show that last year was a fluke and to get back to where we were the prior year."

Even with the loss, Acalanes qualified for the next round of playoffs, the NorCal Regionals. The key to be successful next time for Zuber was simple: "We need to get the first goal. We worked really hard throughout the entire game, and we need to score off the chances that we created."

Barbarino did not want the players to forget how they felt after this game. "We were sitting there, and we decided that we did not want to feel like this again," Barbarino said. "We played well enough to win the game. Unfortunately, soccer is tough."

Lamorinda wrestlers compete at NCS; Ripper and Lee make it to state

... continued from Page A1

Lee was 1-2 at the state meet, highlighted by her pinning her opponent on the second day. "Coming here and winning a match by pinning her opponent was a real accomplishment," Campolindo head coach Phil Freeman said. "To pin someone in the first division, at the state tournament, is a great accomplishment. It was the capstone of her entire high school career, going out on a high note."

Despite its being Freeman's first season at Campolindo, he already knew the way to Bakersfield having coached at other schools, the most recent, Liberty High School.

Not lacking for confidence, when he first met with the team, Freeman announced for all to hear: "What we are going to do is win all of our dual meets. We're going to have the best girls' program in history. We're going to have multiple NCS placers and we're going to state."

As they say, "It ain't bragging if you do it," though there had to be some relief for Freeman when Lee fulfilled his final prediction. "When I said that we would be very successful, I'm not sure that everybody neces-

sarily believed me because I saw some raised eyebrows," Freeman said. "I'm happy that we're going to state, that we had several section placers and that we won our division."

For Lee, her success at NCS was overwhelming. "As soon as I got off the mat, I started crying," Lee said. "I thought back to the team's banquet my freshman year when Louis (Suba, the Campolindo coach then) said that someday I would make it to the state meet. Actually, my goal was just to make it to day two of the NCS so making it to state is just gravy and I'm super happy that I got to this point."

The other Campolindo girls that competed were Isabelle Lurie (108) who went 4-3, placing in sixth, as well as Natalia Kalas, KT Thompson, Cheryl Potter, Camilia Baxter, Piper Lalli, Isabelle Zabronsky and Charlie Rose.

The seven boys from Campolindo that qualified for NCS included Ohio Paris (106), who finished in eighth place, and Chase Yang (138), Daniel Thaler (152), Walker Johnson (170), Gavin Juni (182), and Shane Harris (220).

Competing at NCS should prove to be valuable training for everyone, according to Freeman: "The experience will make them better

wrestlers. To go to a big tournament, even if you're only there to watch it, will allow them to have the 'been there, done that' feeling the next time they go to a tournament. It takes away some of the intimidation and it becomes something that they can feel that they should do every year."

For Suba, it was a matter of quality over quantity at the NCS with Ripper being the only qualifier among the boys and girls, and he was effusive in his praise for Ripper. "Hannah is an amazing athlete," Suba said. "She is a natural talent who is strong, fast and loves to wrestle. You can teach her a move and by the end of practice, she will have it down. She understands leverage and how to use her body to control her opponent. Hannah is very coachable, pays attention to all the details, and makes all the adjustments she needs to and that's what makes her great."

Ripper gave credit to her first coach at Miramonte, Jason Rosiak and Suba. "I feel very proud to have won the NCS and to make it to state," Ripper said. "Jason was a great guide for me and managed what I needed to get to the top. Coach Suba pushed me physically and mentally and made me want to grow after each defeat and work

and want to get better. They were both people that I needed to ultimately win the NCS and make it to the state tournament."

"We started out with only 10 wrestlers led by Hannah and Jack Hughes," Suba said. "Jack Riley got hurt late in the season, but has shown the talent to succeed along with Carter Camp (162) who brought a jujitsu background to the mat and finished second at the JV league tournament."

Suba was particularly excited about the future for Willie Gilmore (126). "Willie was incredible for a freshman," Suba said. "He finished the season with a record of 20-10 and came in sixth at the league tournament. He is wrestling obsessed and should make NCS next year."

Along with Ripper returning for her senior season, freshmen Alice Crapsy (162) and Gianna George both showed good potential for next year.

Acalanes head coach Greg Weitzman's team went 5-1 in dual meets and was well represented at the NCS tournament. "I'm really proud of our team with our seven boys and three girls that wrestled in the post-season. At the NCS, we had some really awesome wrestling. Freshman Sam Whipple (220) and

Lucas Haase (145) both made it to the second day, each going 3-2. They put in a lot of hard work with all of the twists and turns due to the COVID virus. To see them at the end, having fun and wrestling their best was just awesome to me as a coach."

The other qualifiers from Acalanes were Hunter Goyert (132), Lucas Ross (138), Matt Soto (152), Zach Robb (285) and Miles Garcia.

Olivia Banks finished in eighth place at the NCS, Anya HaasHollenbeck (108) was 302 and Dakota Goyert (101) had a 1-2 record.

Weitzman also appreciated how valuable the experience was for everyone: "It was immensely powerful for our seniors, as a capstone and final moment of their high school wrestling careers. It wasn't just one or two people but to have 10 of our wrestlers, more than half of our team, was phenomenal to see. It was great to see the camaraderie and how excited it was for our underclassmen and seniors. We are going to be doing a lot of interest building to replace our seniors. If we can have a good off-season and get the kids doing some free style and practicing, we will be coming in next year with kids that will have gotten some real mat time."

St. Perpetua 8th-grade American team wins championship



Photo provided

Back row from left: coach Brad Hilsabeck, Graham Schlicht, Joshua Elerts, Tucker Jones, Isaac Copen, Cody De La Cruz, and coach Chris Dodge
Front row from left: Preston Hilsabeck, Leo McDonough, Peyton Beld, Gavin Beers and Gavin Dodge

Submitted by Andrea Hilsabeck

The St. Perpetua 8th grade American basketball team finished the league season 11-0 and won the championship game against CCOP last month.

St. Perpetua's 6th-grade boys win 2021-22 Interleague National Division Championship



Photo provided

From left: Frankie Rocca, Coach Brian Rocca, James Ceridono, Blake Anderson, Kiran Ouk, Coach Ketya Ouk, Alec Schwartz, Grant Cortez, Finn Hogan, Jonah Holloway-Butts and Kirin Kester

Submitted by Jeni Kester

St. Perpetua's 6th grade boys basketball team SP4 won the 2021-22 Interleague National Division Championship.

Third-grade Orinda boys undefeated champions



Photo provided

Top row, from left: Jax Keene, Boden Buster, Oliver Colner, Greyson Aranoff, Aiden Jaynes and Xavier Portet; bottom row: coach Chip Kelly, Robby Hatton, Jackson Noga, Dex Kelly and coach Brian Noga

Submitted by Brian Noga

Orinda Santa Maria CYO third-grade boys, the Blue Bandits, won the Tri-Valley CYO Boys National Basketball Championship and ended an undefeated season, which also included two tournament championships.

CYO 8th-grade girls place first in National Division



Photo provided

From left: Teia Adler, Maegan Eichenberger, Milla Orbach, Cate Reichenbach, Sophia Howe, Zara San Gabriel, Camilla White, Phoebe Wood and Kate Liu; not pictured coaches Paul Liu and Paul White
Submitted by Ann Murphy

Taking the National Division title for the third time consecutively, the Santa Maria girls CYO basketball team is the 2021-22 season champion, coached by Paul Liu and Paul White.

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Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 16 Issue 1 Wednesday, March 2, 2022



Handyman Jim Hurley's New Home Primer
read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Designing for drought



Red Chinese lantern is a perennial.

By Cynthia Brian

"That which surrounds you is within you." ~ Karl Schmidt

Days of heat followed by days of near-freezing cold! Out of nowhere, a beautiful hailstorm covers the ground in white pebbles. The weather forecasts sunshine or cloud cover, but no rain in future days. According to the New York Times, the seven hottest years on record globally were experienced in the last seven years. The atmospheric river of December provided a respite and a hopeful prospect for drought relief. January, February and March are traditionally the wettest months here in California, but this year, January and February were the driest in years and March isn't looking much better. Maybe the Irish leprechauns will exert their magical powers to make it rain on St. Patrick's Day!

Designing for drought:

As I gaze upon my peach tree blossoms intermingled with crabapple buds blooming much too early, I admit that I am basking in this



Calla lilies are perennial charmers.

Photos Cynthia Brian

early spring. Although I am an eternal optimist who imagines positive outcomes, if we want our gardens to survive and thrive, we need to design for the drought. Here's how to get started now to be ready for whatever transpires as the months warm.

1) Check for leaks. Make sure that your outside pipes are insulated against freezing. Water expands when it freezes causing pipes to burst. Even a tiny 1/8-inch crack could spew 250 gallons of water per day. If you witness wet spots, water running along driveways, or puddles, investigate for a leak. Check hose bibs for drips, replace washers, and routinely inspect automatic sprinklers and connections.

2) Amend the soil. The foundation of every garden is the soil. The ideal soil drains quickly while storing water. For drought toleration, add several inches of rich, organic compost to encourage deep root formation while trapping moisture. Make your compost by adding kitchen scraps, eggshells, coffee grinds, tea leaves, shredded newspaper, leaves, lawn clippings, fish bones, aged manure, non-diseased weeds, and other organic matter to a bin or pile.

... continued on Page D12

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	6	\$1,500,000	\$12,000,000
MORAGA	4	\$550,000	\$1,875,000
ORINDA	3	\$1,525,000	\$3,725,000

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

LAFAYETTE

84 Bacon Court, \$1,885,000, 4 Bdrms, 2453 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 01-20-22,

Previous Sale: \$995,000, 10-27-05

3820 Happy Valley Road, \$12,000,000, 6 Bdrms, 9281 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 01-18-22

984 Hawthorne Drive, \$1,860,000, 3 Bdrms, 1580 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 01-12-22,

Previous Sale: \$1,054,000, 08-26-16

2858 Kinney Drive, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 1227 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 01-10-22,

Previous Sale: \$1,285,000, 05-06-21

3376 Las Huertas Road, \$1,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1800 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 01-21-22

1330 Summit Road, \$2,850,000, 3 Bdrms, 2372 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 01-12-22,

Previous Sale: \$350,000, 11-01-87

MORAGA

1911 Ascot Drive, \$1,100,000, 2 Bdrms, 1455 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 01-21-22

2145 Donald Drive #1, \$550,000, 2 Bdrms, 1225 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 01-10-22,

Previous Sale: \$118,500, 03-01-88

6 Sparrow Court, \$1,720,000, 3 Bdrms, 1704 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 01-19-22,

Previous Sale: \$1,240,000, 09-16-21

38 Sullivan Drive, \$1,875,000, 3 Bdrms, 1734 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 01-13-22

ORINDA

58 Camino Del Diablo, \$3,725,000, 4 Bdrms, 4070 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 01-10-22,

Previous Sale: \$435,000, 05-01-86

158 La Espiral, \$1,525,000, 2 Bdrms, 1300 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 01-13-22,

Previous Sale: \$805,000, 06-18-13

8 Patricia Road, \$1,725,000, 4 Bdrms, 2513 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 01-19-22,

Previous Sale: \$650,000, 04-26-00



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New home primer, Part 2



On demand water heater

Photos Jim Hurley

By Jim Hurley

In Part 1 of the New Home Primer – or things that everyone should know about their house – we covered your water and gas main valves, so now let's go on to locating your water heater. Some homes may have two, which I typically see when a master suite was added as an extension.

There are two types of water heaters: Tank or On Demand.

Tank heaters have a pilot light which must be lit for them to stay hot. If your hot water is running cold, your pilot light is out. How to relight the pilot? I found several videos on YouTube regarding this

process. Also, PG&E provides a pilot light service, if you can't get it lit yourself, but you will have to wait until they get there.

Old tanks eventually wear out, and usually the first sign of this is water dripping from the bottom. If there is water dripping from your tank heater, turn off the filler valve above it and get a new heater before the leak becomes a flood.

The tankless, or On Demand water heater is becoming more popular in homes. They are literally high-powered burners that heat the water as it flows through the line when the tap is opened. It never runs out of hot water (unless you forget to pay your gas bill). There is no pilot light because they use electronic ignition, but must have electricity to run. If your On Demand hot water is cold, make sure it's plugged in and there is power at the outlet.

Our last stop in the New Home Primer is your electrical panel, or panels. Find the electrical meter on your home. Open the cover to the box under or beside the meter and look at the breaker switches.

... continued on Page D10



Electrical panel




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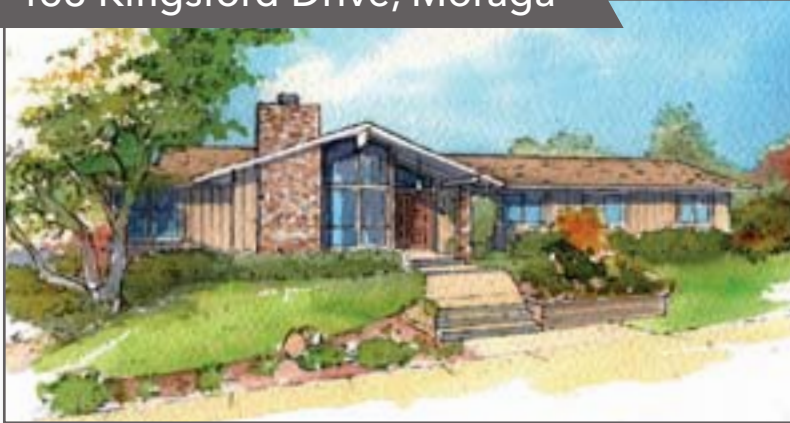




JUST LISTED

RESORT-LIKE LIVING IN RHEEM VALLEY MANOR

468 Kingsford Drive, Moraga



4 bed + office

3.5 bath

2,600+ sq ft

0.34 acre

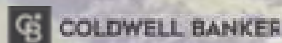
**Offered at
\$1,799,000**

Located on one of Moraga's most desirable streets, this single-story home has a flat yard with a gorgeous pool, sport court and large undeveloped area. The living room has a vaulted ceiling, fireplace and floor-to-ceiling windows. There is a formal dining room and an eat-in kitchen with maple cabinetry and granite countertops, as well as a 3-car garage and laundry room. Updates include dual-paned windows, newer furnace and air conditioning and plantation shutters. Centrally located near the Lafayette-Moraga Trail, Moraga Commons Park, shops and top-rated schools.

www.holcenberg.com

Michelle Holcenberg
CB Top 100 East/North Bay Region

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This Gorgeous Mid-Century home boasts walls of glass, stunning views and an edible garden featured in Sunset Magazine. As you step into the home, you are drawn into the formal living room with vaulted ceilings, walls of glass and breathtaking views. The open floor plan allows for a comfortable flow between the kitchen, family room, dining room and bar. This 2,991 sq ft home lives primarily on a single level with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms on the first floor. Up a flight of stairs, you will find the office/bonus room with floor-to-ceiling windows and gorgeous views.

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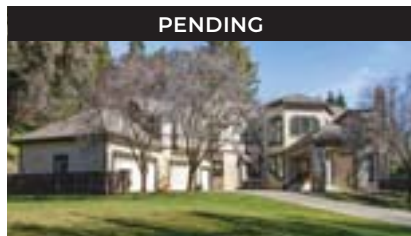


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COMING SOON

31 CREST DRIVE, LAFAYETTE
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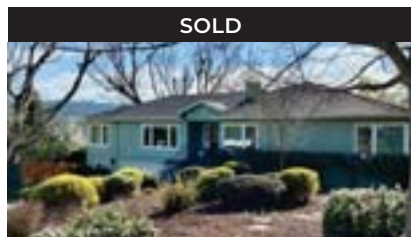
PENDING

2900 ROHRER DRIVE, LAFAYETTE
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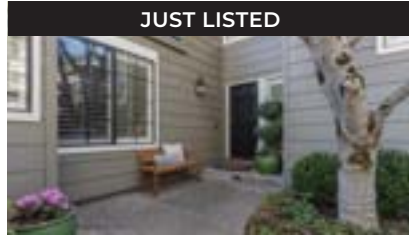
PENDING

1854 POPLAR DRIVE, WALNUT CREEK
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SOLD

69 HILLCREST DRIVE, ORINDA
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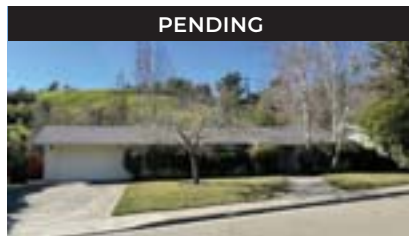
JUST LISTED

3 BERKSHIRE STREET, MORAGA
OFFERED AT \$1,350,000
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PENDING

3107 SANDALWOOD COURT, LAFAYETTE
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750 CAMINO RICARDO, MORAGA
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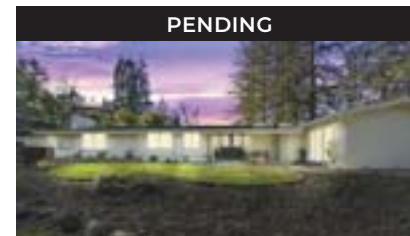
SOLD

771 SOLANA DRIVE, LAFAYETTE
PRICE UPON REQUEST
JULIE DEL SANTO | 925.818.5500



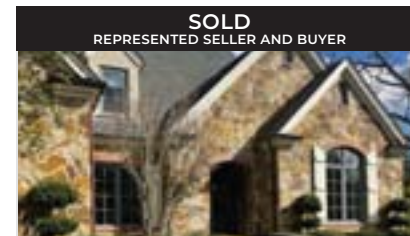
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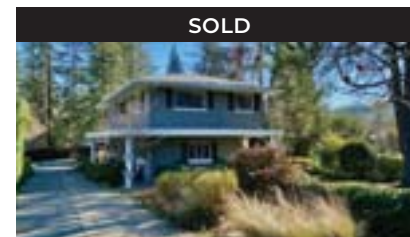
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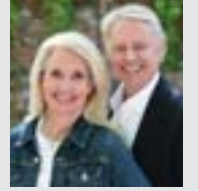
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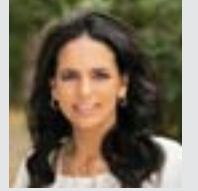
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Stunning estate nestled in the heart of Happy Valley offering private living on lushly landscaped grounds. Behind the gated entrance sits the wood shingled home with timeless design and modern touches. Open floor plan features family room/ kitchen great room with large island, stainless steel appliances, coffee bar and an abundance of natural light. Primary suite on both floors, with bonus flex space upstairs. Main floor primary bedroom boasts fireplace and bathroom including dual vanities, oversized soaking tub and views of the garden with dedicated entrance to open yard retreat area. Upstairs includes additional spacious bedrooms and open play area. Gorgeous, park-like backyard boasting sparkling pool/spa & waterfall, built-in kitchen with barbecue and fridge, custom tree houses, mature landscaping, oversized of grassy area and covered patio ideal for entertaining.



JULIE DEL SANTO
BROKER/OWNER
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julie@dudum.com
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New home primer, Part 2

... continued from Page D4

One will say “Main.” That is the one to switch off if you see sparks, smell smoke, or someone throws a toaster in a bathtub full of water. Depending on your electrical layout, the main breaker panel may have a multitude of additional switches marked with their purpose, or a few larger switches marked as Sub A, Sub B and AC (Air Conditioner). These larger breakers mean you have another (Sub) panel somewhere inside the house with smaller breakers inside. It is very good to locate these boxes, and make sure you can access them when the power goes out in one area of the house.

The important thing to know about breaker switches is how to reset them. Most of the time the breaker switch will indicate it has popped when the switch is centered between On and Off. To reset the breaker, move the switch all the way to the Off position then back to On. If it pops again, go back into the house, and unplug any appliances that are near the outlet that is not working. Then try the switch again. If it continues to pop, leave it off until you or your handyman/electrician can locate the short in the circuit. Occasionally an older breaker will pop but the switch will not move back to center. If the power is out in one area of the house, and none of the breaker switches are at center, you will need to click each switch off and then back on to find the one that popped.

The electrical code requires that circuit breakers be labeled by purpose, (Lights, Plugs, Refrigerator, Disposal, Etc.). Some but not all electricians will conscientiously identify which switch controls what area of the house. However, you should never assume that the labels are correct. If you are working on circuit, always verify that the power is off at the junction box, despite what the breaker label says.

My fervent wish is for everyone to enjoy many trouble-free years in their new homes. But the dad in me says it doesn't hurt to be prepared for emergencies. You never know.

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



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Contact Chris & Tracy today for more information



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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Designing for drought



Sedum illuminates with mustard yellow flowers. Photo Cynthia Brian

... continued from Page D1

Do not use human, dog, or cat feces. Don't disturb the lower levels of the ground to allow worms and micro-bacteria to do their jobs of aerating and feeding the earth. In a drought, double and triple digging techniques are not recommended.

3) Water well. To stay healthy, most plants need at least one inch of moisture per week. The best way to save your plants as well as conserve water is to water deeply and infrequently.

The penetration of the water encourages deeper roots that are more resistant to drought conditions. A good rule of thumb is to water until the dirt has a hint of shine. Lawns and bedding plants require a

drink to a depth of six inches while perennials, trees, and shrubs need closer to 12. Plan to irrigate either early in the morning or evening when absorption will be maximized, and evaporation minimized. Just as humans rejuvenate from a good night's rest, plants do most of their growing at night. Traditional overhead sprinklers can lose half of their effectiveness to evaporation, run-off, and overspray. Drip and soaker hoses are the best bets for deep soaking to the root zone. Soaker hoses may be covered with mulch making them invisible. When water is restricted prioritize rationing by watering, in this order, newly planted trees, shrubs, and perennials; newly seeded or repaired lawns; plants with exposure on windy sites or in sandy soils; and flowering vegetables.

4) Mulch. Three inches of mulch will insulate your plants from the heat, cold, and elements. Mulch keeps the ground cooler, maximizes water retention, reduces evaporation, and improves the appearance of your landscape. Mulch includes pine needles, straw, leaves, wood chips, bark, and even gravel. As it decomposes it becomes compost and enriches the soil. When that happens, it is time for a new top layer of the mulch of your choice.

5) Weed. Weeds steal moisture and nutrition from neighboring plants. Pull or cut down unwanted weeds.

6) Stop fertilizing. If you plan to fertilize this season, do it now while the weather is still cool, and dew is apparent. Feeding while it is raining is the best prescription for plant wellness. If you fertilize without sufficient water, the roots will burn, and the plants will die. Fertilizing encourages new growth and new growth will stress your already stressed specimens. As the weather warms, refrain from fertilizing again until rain is forthcoming.

7) Plant for drought. I'm a big believer in bulbs. In our temperate climate, you dig a hole, plant, forget, then be awed when bulbs pop up and bloom. Daffodils, calla lilies, freesia, hyacinths, Dutch iris, and many others are all excellent spring-blooming bulbs that require minimal care and reap huge bloom benefits. For summer flowering, plant gladiolus, Naked ladies, agapanthus, Asian lilies, tuberous begonias, dahlias, iris, and canna. Succulents offer a magnificent maintenance-free drought investment. Succulents come in many shapes, sizes, and colors with beautiful blooms and little water requirements. Sedums are spectacular as groundcovers or upright attracting bees and butterflies. Jade, echeveria, senecio, haworthias, aconium, and ice plant all have varied textures and attractive flowers. Unlike cactus, succulents don't have thorns, making them a favorite for rock gardens.

Don't forget to plant edibles. A small 4-foot by 8-foot bed can be planted with plenty of nutritious vegetables and herbs to feed a family of four. Decide what you enjoy eating and plant only those to avoid watering vegetables that you won't consume.

Surrounding me now is plenty of sunshine and within I feel sunny and bright. Yet, I'm counting on the luck of the Irish to bring a bit of Emerald Isle precipitation to the shores of California this St. Paddy's Day! In case there isn't that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, I'm designing for drought.



Peach blossoms mingle with crabapple buds.



Succulents and fountain grass.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Goddess Gardener Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for March

FERTILIZE hungry lawns to strengthen roots, resist cold, heat, and high traffic when weather is wet. This feeding will help combat the stress of drought.

AERATE your lawn. The soil is compacted from winter rains and foot traffic. Leave the plugs to add nutrients back into the grass.

CONTINUE to protect frost tender plants

POUR chamomile tea around the base of newly planted seedlings to eliminate fungus growth.

CUT boughs of camellias to use in a bowl or arrangement.

PAMPER yourself with an exfoliating and moisturizing facial from your garden. Squeeze lemon juice from your Meyer lemon tree into a bowl and mix with lavender petals and 1/4 cup olive oil. Home brewed spa experience in 20 minutes.

CONTINUE to compost, compost, and compost. This is the single most important ingredient of growing a great garden. Buy an inexpensive compost bin from your local waste service.

SPADE six inches of rich compost into your vegetable garden in preparation for the next season's plantings.

SCATTER a canister of California poppy seeds for a carefree, drought-tolerant golden showstopper.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Cream and yellow daffodils will multiply.



Rosemary bush with blue blooms.



Cynthia Brian sits on a green hillside.

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



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8445 Wildcat Drive

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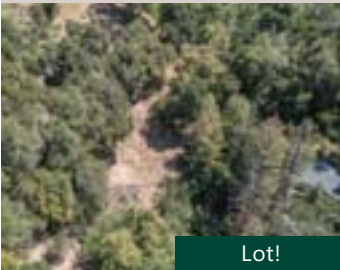
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23 Kittiwake Road

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651 Evelyn Court

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LAFAYETTE



Sold!

3172 Stanley Blvd

Charming 4 bed/ 2.5 bath home conveniently close to freeway & BART w/ great outdoor living & entertaining!

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LAFAYETTE



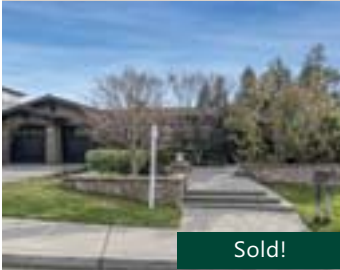
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MORAGA



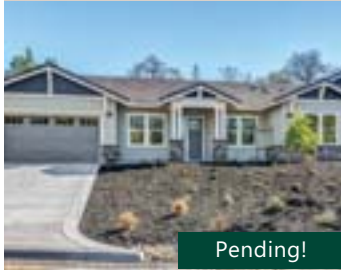
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