

Daughters of the American Revolution holds ceremony for upcoming anniversary

Submitted by Vanessa Crews

On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This occasion provides Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) members, as descendants of the generation that secured American independence, the remarkable opportunity to celebrate the longevity of the democratic experiment for which our ancestors fought, not even knowing if the new nation would survive. Locally, the Acalanes DAR Chapter marked the upcoming anniversary with the dedication of a bronze marker at the Lafayette Memorial Veteran's Center on April 20. The ceremony included the Presentation of Colors by the VFW Post 8063 Color Guard, and remarks by Contra Costa Supervisor Candace Anderson.

The marker celebrates the brave Patriots who founded our nation and is a reminder of their courage and conviction. Members of the Acalanes DAR Chapter are descendants of more than 100 individuals recognized by the DAR as American Patriots. They are among the thousands of ordinary people who supported the cause by supplying the army from their farms, participating in local governance, signing an oath, or military service.

Seldom recognized for their contributions, women were among America's patriots, caring for the wounded, feeding the troops, and taking on the responsibilities of husbands and fathers away on military service. They boycotted British teas and fabrics, instead spinning and weaving their own materials, and concocting herbal teas.

Women were particularly vulnerable to plundering and property destruction by invading troops. Two women, Sarah Scott and Elizabeth Anderson, are among the patriots of the Acalanes Chapter members. They were widows, managing their own farms, who furnished supplies for the army and risked retribution from British troops.

Acalanes Chapter member, Vanessa Crews, encourages local families to explore their own family histories in preparation for the upcoming 250th anniversary, saying, "I was amazed and delighted to learn about the role my ancestors played in founding the nation. More than 60% of Americans have ancestors who lived in America during the Revolutionary War; there could be a Patriot in your family too. The DAR has expert volun-



Photo provided

teers connecting women and their patriot ancestors."

DAR has 190,000 members in approximately 3,000 chapters across the country and several foreign countries. DAR members promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism via commemorative events, scholarships and educational initiatives, citizenship programs, service to veterans, meaningful community service, and more. For additional information about DAR visit www.dar.org.

Deep Space Sea Leopards advance to Worlds

Submitted by Dory Coombe



Photo provided

The Lafayette Elementary Odyssey of the Mind Team is thrilled to share that they qualified both for the state and Worlds tournament, after their Deep Space Structure held 365 pounds and they gave a funny and creative performance about space. The team included Kate Lordan, Mackenzie Renno, Adam Brown, Graham Brown, Calder Yang, and Dory Coombe. Their Coaches

were Amy Coombe and Austin Yang.

The Odyssey of the Mind program gives kids the opportunity to use creativity to become problem-solvers as a team. Each team selects a problem that they work together to solve over four to six months. The Lafayette Elementary team selected a problem that was space themed and included a balsa wood structure

that was tested for how much weight it could hold. They learned to think creatively in order to stay within their budget for props, write a funny script, and test which structure design would hold the most weight.

Coach Austin reflects, "It was fantastic to see the team apply their creativity to solving problems. They accomplished so much. Amy

and I are really proud of the hard work they put in this year." Team member Adam Brown shared "I loved testing out different structure designs and also getting to know my teammates better."

Odyssey of the Mind is really fun and challenging; the Deep Space Sea Leopards encourage you to join an Odyssey of the Mind team at your school.

Author Katie Hafner speaking at the May Sweet Thursday Author Series

Submitted by Laurie Miles

Ethan Fawcett gets a letter from a bike touring company, asking him to not sign up for another trip. So begins 'The Boys', Katie Hafner's taut and utterly delightful debut novel. When introverted Ethan Fawcett marries Barb, he has every reason to believe he will be delivered from a lifetime of soli-

tude. One day Barb brings home two brothers, Tommy and Sam, for them to foster, and when the pandemic hits, Ethan becomes obsessed with providing a perfect life for the boys. Instead of bringing Barb and Ethan closer together, though, the boys become a wedge in their relationship, as Ethan is unable

to share with Barb a secret that has been haunting him since childhood. When Ethan takes Tommy and Sam on a biking trip in Italy, and it becomes clear just how unusual Ethan and his children are - what it will take for Ethan to repair his marriage. It is a character study, social commentary on pan-

demic isolation, and an incredible journey back to center.

Katie Hafner was on staff at The New York Times for ten years, where she remains a frequent contributor, writing on healthcare and technology. She is the author of six works of nonfiction covering a diverse range of topics,

including the origins of the Internet, computer hackers, German reunification, and the pianist Glenn Gould. 'The Boys' is her first novel.

Join the Sweet Thursday Author Series on May 16 at 7 p.m. in the DTCH at the Lafayette Library & Learning Center to hear the discussion with the

author, Katie Hafner. Register to attend in person at www.tinyurl.com/sweet-May2024. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for coffee and sweets. This program is presented by The Friends of the Lafayette Library.

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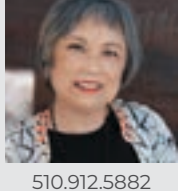
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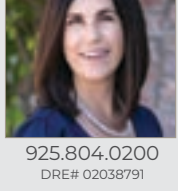
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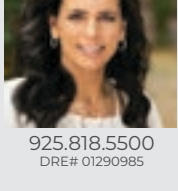
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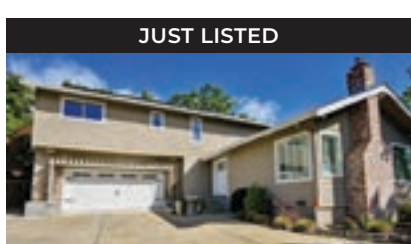
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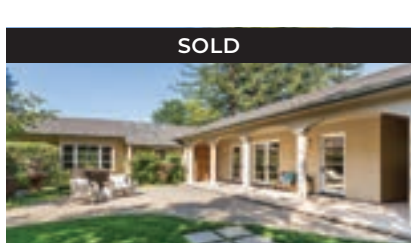
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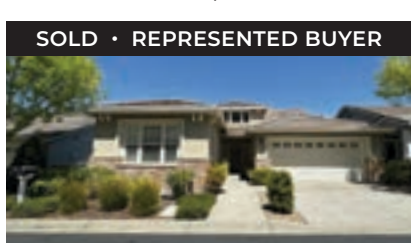
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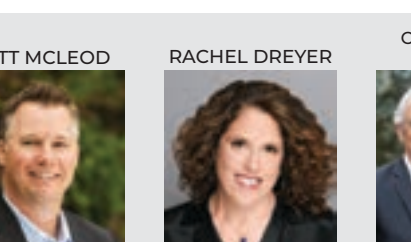
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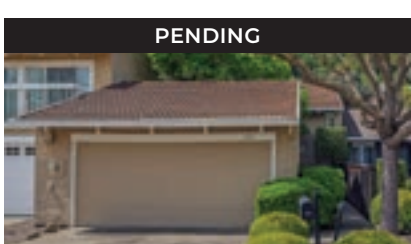
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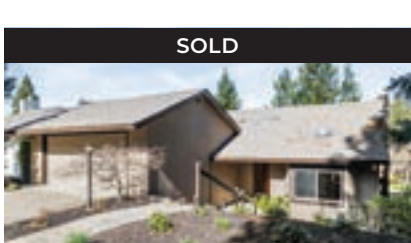
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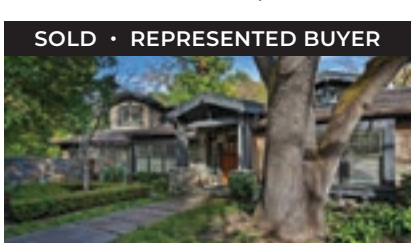
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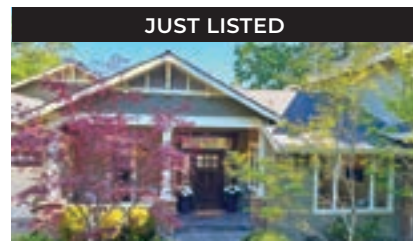
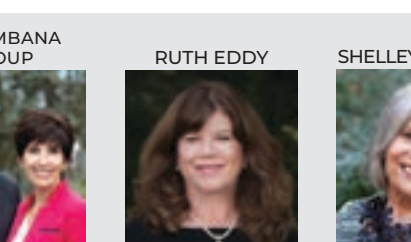
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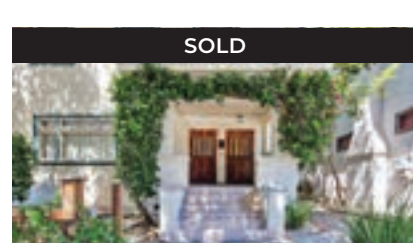
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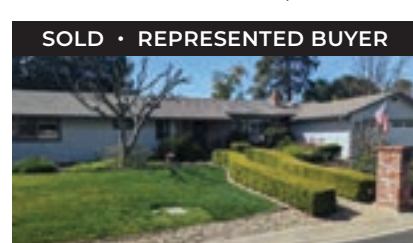
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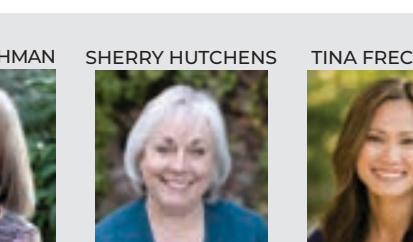
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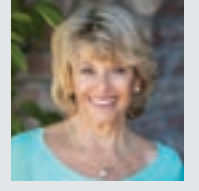


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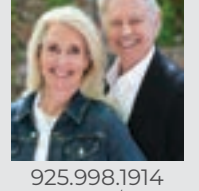
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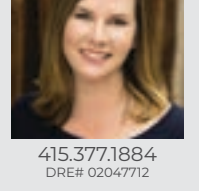
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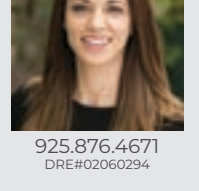
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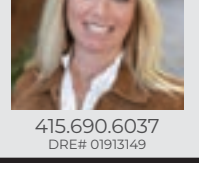
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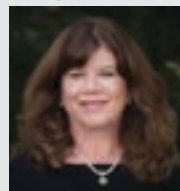
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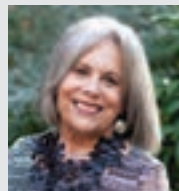
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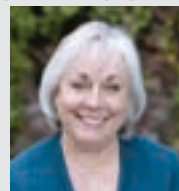
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