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Photos Sora O'Doherty

Orinda's 40th annual Fourth of July fest

Parade, food, book sale, fun run, music, and more

By Sora O'Doherty

The 40th official celebration of Independence Day will be kicked off in Orinda with a burrito breakfast—a change from the usual pancake breakfast—from 7:30 to 10 a.m. at Library Plaza. At 7:55 a.m. there will be a flag raising ceremony, and 8 a.m. will mark the start of the Fun Run for a Reason. At 9 a.m. the Library book sale begins, and the parade itself starts in the Theatre District at 10 a.m., continuing on to the Village side of town.

Following the parade, there will be music in Orinda Community Park beginning at 11:30 a.m. The Czech Tabor/Orinda Sister City Foundation will be hosting a beer booth, and food will be provided

by four food trucks: Golden Gate Gyro, El Gran Taco Loco, Ike's Grill, and Ceviche & Co.

Billed as the "best hometown parade and community events, the day will be presented by The Orinda Association in partnership with many generous sponsors and volunteers. The City of Orinda also provides assistance.

This year the Orinda Association has resurrected the student-designed commemorative Fourth of July T-Shirt for 2024. This year's artist is Kellen Ha, a fourth grader from Wagner Ranch. His winning design is a flag filled map of Orinda and an image of the iconic Orinda Theatre.

4th of July activities in Moraga

In the Commons Park

- 11 a.m.: dog parade
- 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.: community booths
- 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.: inflatable jumpies
- 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.: food, wine, & beer booths
- noon - 4 p.m.: family activities
- On stage at the bandshell
- 6:45 p.m.: National Anthem & Mayor's Welcome
- 7:00 p.m.: House Rockers (concert)
- 9:30 p.m.: Firework Spectacular (start time is estimated)

Registration and info at: www.moragarec.com

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Canyon's phone service restored as Moraga gets hit

By Chris Lavin

After more than a week without landlines, AT&T has restored service to more than 100 residents of Canyon. Thieves had cut and stolen about 500 feet of telephone cable along Canyon Road near Moraga, presumably to sell the copper within it.

The most recent cutting and theft of phone line occurred near the intersection of Moraga Road and Corliss Drives in the early hours of June 28.

"It's an epidemic," said Jonathan Goodwin, who has lived in Canyon for 32 years.

"Theft and vandalism of critical communications infrastructure are serious matters that disrupt essential services for our customers, public safety and the community at large," AT&T said by email. "We're actively working with local law enforcement as they investigate to find those responsible."

AT&T is trying to find the culprits. The company is offering a reward of \$10,000 for specific and detailed information that leads to arrest and conviction for copper cable thefts or the attempted sale or purchase of stolen copper cable in Contra Costa County. ... continued on Page 5



Photo Chris Lavin

Maryann Hardwicke of Canyon holds her "spaghetti" nest that didn't route phone or Internet service for 12 days. The rest of the community suffered, too. "It was terrible," she said.

Historic day for Orinda: Friends of Joaquin Moraga Adobe now own the building

By Sora O'Doherty

Although the building isn't quite ready to regularly open to the public, the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe held a ribbon cutting ceremony and preview on Saturday June 29, to celebrate the purchase of the building. Visitors, including Orinda Mayor Darlene Gee, were allowed to enter the building and admire the amazing rehabilitation of the oldest existing building in Contra Costa County. The ribbon was cut by Bobbie Landers, who instigated the drive to save the Adobe, and Board member Lance Beeson, who is a direct descendant of the Moraga family.

Unable to attend the Saturday ceremony, State Senator Steve Glazer came on the preceding Friday to present to the board of the Friends a check for a \$250,000 State Park grant, to reimburse half of the purchase price of the building. ... continued on Page 6



Photo Sora O'Doherty

State Senator Steve Glazer, center, presents a check to the Directors of the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe. From left to right, Bobbie Landers, Margaret Beck, Teresa Long, Lance Beeson, Jeff Boero, Kent Long, Tania DeGroot, and Peter Capri.

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