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There were extra credit points to be awarded to JM students who came dressed for the feast. Here, teacher-turned-"Pilgrim" Fran Strykowski is surrounded by a group of young "Native Americans" — from left: Camie Home, Taylor Cardenas, Strykowski, Ava Tajbaksh, Ivey Merrill; front: Gabby Thompson

Photo Andy Schreck

## 215 Reasons to be Thankful

By Cathy Dausman

Over 200 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School eighth grade students enjoyed an outdoor Thanksgiving meal last Thursday as the culmination to their history lesson about the very first Thanks-

giving. Foods teacher Jill McTaggart popped four cleaned and brined birds into school ovens early that morning while students and parent volunteers assisted later with

decorating, set up and serving. "They're just so anxious [to eat]," said parent Sue Tenerowicz, serving the meal for her second Joaquin Moraga child. "Look at their big eyes," said another. ... continued on page A12

**Quote of the Week:**  
*"Institutions are built to succeed or fail, but people are built to remember."*

Read Letters to the Editor, page A8

Advertising

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## Supervisor Gayle Uilkema Announces Retirement

By Cathy Tyson



Gayle Uilkema at the annual Board Reorganization Lunch at the Lafayette Veterans' Memorial Building  
 Photo Carol Yates

After serving as a Lafayette City Council Member from 1978 to 1997, with four years as Mayor, Gayle Uilkema, currently in her fourth term as a Contra Costa County Supervisor and Chair of the Board, recently announced her retirement. She'll continue to represent District 2 which encompasses Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda along with Danville, Alamo, San Ramon and the western portion of Walnut Creek until the end of her term in January 2013.

Having been in public office for over 33 years, she's ready for a change. "It's time," said the Supervisor, who wanted to decide on her own terms when it was time to retire. "There's an old saying - if you enjoy what you do...you'll never work another day in your life. I value public service so much...it's something I've always been drawn to."

"I chose this time of Thanksgiving to announce my retirement because I'm so grateful and want to give thanks for the opportunity to hold the public trust all these years." She added, "I've had a career full of wonderful experiences." After her

term ends, she's not exactly sure what the future holds, and plans to use the next fourteen months to figure it out.

Prior to her years of public service, Uilkema was an Adjunct Professor in the field of Public Administration and has taught graduate school at Cal State East Bay, JFK University and UC Berkeley.

The biggest change she's seen in public life aside from what she calls "the current financial distress" is regional emergency preparedness. She recalls that after September 11 everyone recognized the real need for a regional system to meet the needs of the public in an emergency. "I remember years ago when I was a teacher - emergency planning was the first thing to go," said Uilkema. Primarily funded with federal grants, Uilkema serves on the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Regional Interoperable Communication System (EBRCSA). Their mission is to own and operate and maintain a state-of-the-art communications system for public agencies in Contra Costa County and Alameda County.

... continued on page A12

### Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

#### Preserving the Stories of Tibetan Elders



By Lou Fancher  
 The Dalai Lama looks on as Marcella Adamski settles into an office chair to talk about her life and the Tibetan Oral History Project that has taken over an entire room in her Moraga home. ...read on page B2

### Sports C1-C3

#### Miramonte Boys Reclaim NCS Water Polo Title



By Marissa Harnett  
 The high school water polo season came to a close in a dramatic North Coast Section tournament. The NCS tournament began on November 2 and concluded on Nov. 12, ... ..read on page C1

### Our Homes D1-D8

#### All in the Family: Second Generation Homeowners



By Cathy Dausman  
 Local realtors tout quality of life in Lamorinda, and residents tend to stay put. Some have even moved into the house they are proud originally owned. They are proud Second ... ..read on page D1