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Photo Vera Kochan

A Ukrainian flag with "Peace" written on it stands near the top of the hill behind Lafayette Mayor Teresa Gerringer, who speaks to residents at the March 6 vigil.

Lamorinda residents gather for 'Vigil for Peace in Ukraine'

By Vera Kochan

Sponsored by The Lafayette Hillside Memorial (formerly known as the Crosses of Lafayette), a solemn gathering of approximately 70 Lamorinda residents came together in solidarity to participate in the March 6 "Vigil for Peace in Ukraine."

According to the LHM website, the hillside across from the BART station is a "sacred place of reflection and remembrance; a protest against forgetting. It is a place to recognize, honor, and commemorate individual national service contributions. The memorial is

also a place that encourages individual and public reflection on those contributions, and the otherwise unintended, unseen, and unexamined costs of war."

The crosses and other symbols representing various religions first began appearing on the hill in 2006, keeping a devastating tally of American service members killed in combat. As of Feb. 24, the nearly 8,000 wooden monuments serve a new meaning: to remind anyone passing by that Russian forces had invaded Ukraine. Perched near the crest of the hill stands a large wooden Ukrainian flag with the word "Peace" written on it.

The hour-long vigil was a somber occasion, more so for this reporter who is a first-generation Ukrainian American with family members still living there. LHM Board Members Janet Thomas, her husband Ramsay, and Kay James spoke briefly, and Lynn MacMichael read a poem by Fred Norman; Lafayette Mayor Teresa Gerringer announced that city council members voted unanimously to fly the Ukrainian flag in Plaza Park to show support for the Ukrainian people; John Lennon's song "Imagine" was played during a moment of silence and reflection;

... continued on Page A14

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Saint Mary's headed to Portland for First Round of NCAA



By Jon Kingdon

In front of an enthusiastic crowd of students and alumnae at the University Credit Union Pavilion March 13, Saint Mary's was awarded the fifth seed (their highest ever seed) in the NCAA East Regional which ironically will be played, to the extreme satisfaction of the team and fans alike, in Portland, Oregon this coming Thursday. This is the eighth time Randy Bennett has taken the Gaels to the NCAA tournament and the first time they'll be playing a tournament game on the West Coast. They will face the winner of the Wyoming and Indiana game which will be played on Tuesday in Dayton, Ohio. With a victory, Saint Mary's will be playing the winner of the UCLA-Akron game on Saturday.

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Photo Tod Fierner

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Lafayette city council considers rezoning of BART parking lots - Page A2

Public Safety

Burglaries at Rheem Shopping Center - Page A8

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Rotary members offer handyman support to seniors.

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Showing support for Ukraine in the garden - Page D1





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COMPASS

Council considers possible rezoning of BART parking lot property



Image provided

By Lou Fancher

Alternative approaches and

decisions related to Assembly Bill 2923, a 2018 State of California law that requires the

upzoning of BART-owned properties and the development of transit-oriented, multi-

family housing had the Lafayette City Council grappling Feb. 28 with a difficult decision: to proactively direct staff to immediately begin to prepare draft zoning regulations and objective standards for the planning commission and city council to consider at a future date, or to take no immediate action and simply allow AB 2923 to automatically be enacted on July 1.

The city of Lafayette is charged with finding 2,114 units as part of Association of Bay Area Governments' Regional Housing Needs Allocation and provide the required "buffer units" to account for development projects that fail to meet the allocation numbers, which would total approximately 3,400 residential units. Development of the BART-owned parking lots would add 825 new dwelling units in the downtown core.

After a brief introduction by Planning and Building Director Greg Wolff, Consulting Planner Jean Eisberg led the council through an explanation of AB 2923, which, as it applies to Lafayette, involves upzoning the city's BART-owned parking lots to allow development housing projects with a minimum residential density of 75 units/acre and height of up to five stories. At 11 acres, the property has been given the lowest density under BART's "Neighborhood/Town Center" classification that includes in addition to its density and height standards, one parking space per unit.

There are two maximum-case growth scenarios being reviewed as part of the Housing Element Environmental Impact Report: a Distributed Scenario and a Downtown Only Scenario.

... continued on Page A3

Draft EIR for Housing Element discussed at special joint meeting

By Lou Fancher

The Lafayette City Council was

joined Feb. 28 by city staff and members of the Planning Commission and the General Plan Advisory Committee to

review the draft Environmental Impact Report for the city's sixth cycle Housing Element Update.

To meet the RHNA allocation of 2,114 units and provide the required "buffer units" to account for development projects that fail to meet the allocation numbers, Lafayette must plan for a total of approximately 3,400 residential units. Scenarios were exam-

ined at more than one location with the Draft EIR addressing distributed sites beyond the downtown core and a second scenario with downtown-only housing. By analyzing and sharing the preliminary environmental impacts, along with mitigating actions that can be made, Luke Evans, Lafayette's CEQA consultant and project manager hired to develop the housing element draft, said

decision-makers and the public can better understand and provide comments while the final draft is being completed.

Evans presented an overview of the project and project alternatives, and identified four potentially significant issues likely to experience significant, adverse effects. The short list began with aesthetics.

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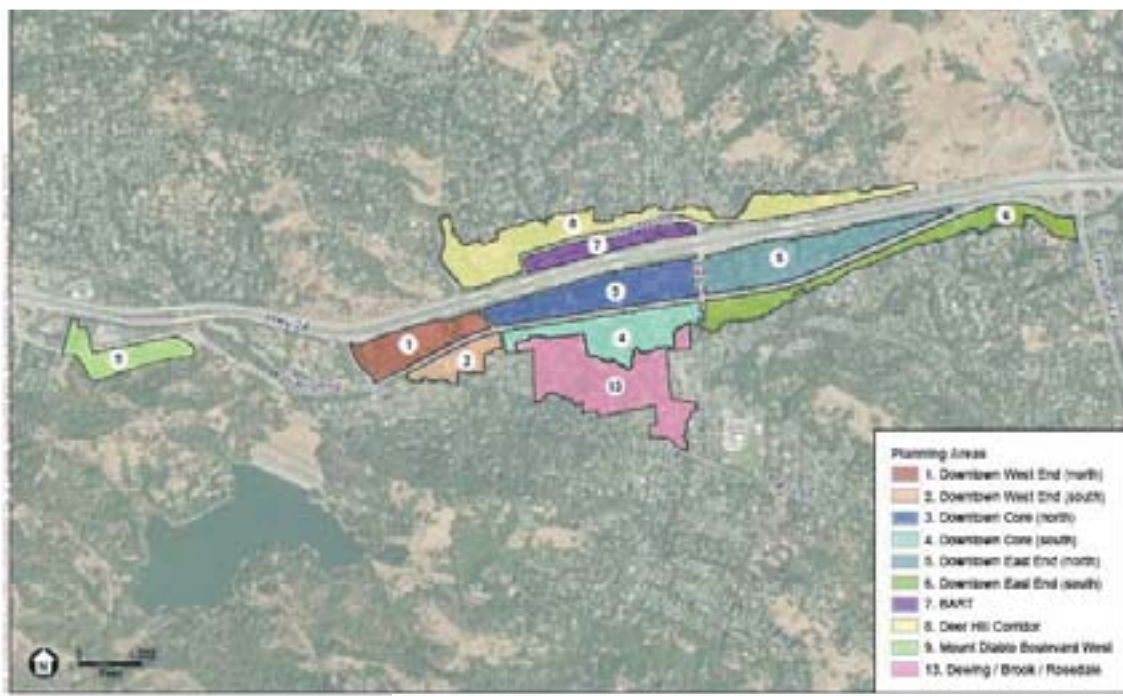


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Students protest LGBTQ legislation in other states



Photo provided

Students gather during the March 11 walkout at Acalanes High School.

The current and future leaders of the Queer Student Alliance (QSA) at Acalanes High School – Fae Goertzen, Malia Eads, Ash Lee, Emerson Brown, and Autumn Long – organized a walkout at 10 a.m. March 11 on campus to protest against anti-LGBTQ legislation in Georgia, Iowa, Texas, and Florida.

“In Florida, HB1557/SB1834, which was nicknamed the ‘Don’t Say Gay’ bill, would ban discussion of LGBTQ+ topics in school, essentially erasing LGBTQ+ history from curriculum,” Goertzen said. “The bill encourages parents to sue any school they believe violated this bill. In Texas, Governor Greg Abbott interpreted the Texas child abuse laws to include

gender-affirming healthcare (puberty blockers, hormone therapy, gender-affirming surgery). Parents and doctors who continue to provide these services have been interviewed by Child Protective Services. Lastly, in Georgia and Iowa, new bills are being introduced to completely ban trans women and trans kids from participating in sports.”

The group hoped the walkout would raise awareness, and show they stand in solidarity with the LGBTQ students who are affected by these bills. They are also asking Rep. Mark Desaulnier and Sens. Alex Padilla and Diane Feinstein to introduce national youth protection bills. – J. Wake

Council considers possible rezoning of BART parking lot property

... continued from Page A2

The distributed plan proposes density and height increases for sites inside and outside the downtown, with densities from 35-50 du/ac in the downtown, 75 du/ac on the BART-owned AB 2923 sites, and up to 20 du/ac along Deer Hill Road and at the West End (“DeSilva Site”). The Downtown Only Scenario focuses increased densities only in the downtown, resulting in density and height limit increases from 35 du/ac to as much as 115 du/ac in order to meet the city’s mandated RHNA allocation, but does not include the BART sites.

Public comments about the BART development option concerned reduced parking availability, increased traffic, a potential decrease in property values, school enrollment challenges, and the BART site being in an established fire hazard safety zone.

Importantly, BART has not designated Lafayette as a fast-track priority in its Transit-Oriented Development plans. With limited BART staff available to work exclusively on TOD projects, Lafayette would have to convince BART there is public support for TOD, demonstrate market conditions are favorable for multi-family housing near the BART transportation hub, and offer alternative plans related to parking, among other items.

Vice Mayor Carl Anduri brought up an issue outlined in the Housing Element Environmental Impact Report presented earlier (see related story Page A2), in which it stated that “if the BART sites are not rezoned ... the city could not use the sites to accommodate any units to meet the housing element requirement and those units would have to be distributed else-

where.”

Wolff said that “if the city were to take no action with respect to [AB] 2923 and those TOD standards went into effect by default, staff believes based on BART’s 10-year work plan, and Lafayette being identified beyond that 10-year work plan into the 2030s, then we would be hard pressed for HCD to accept the BART site to accommodate RHNA, since development would not occur within eight years.”

Reiterating that the main purpose of the meeting was to decide whether to prepare a draft with the standards or to allow AB 2923 to run on autopilot and be enacted on July 1, Eisberg said going forward with a draft ordinance would allow the council to prepare extra planning studies that aren’t required by state law including use requirements, such as whether to allow commercial office or retail development on the site; open space guidelines that determine a development’s private, common and public open spaces; and design standards having to do with building and site design.

Mayor Teresa Geringer asked staff if they had heard anything during the discussion to change their recommendation to have staff begin preparing a draft ordinance with rezoning and objective design standards for future consideration by the planning commission and city council. Following a “no” from Wolff, the council voted unanimously to approve the recommendation.

Staff will present updates as to their progress at the March 28 meeting and on an ongoing basis during the coming months.



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, March 28, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, March 21, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Design Review

Wednesday, March 23, 7 p.m. Zoom
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
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Town Council: Wednesday, March 21, 7 p.m.
Planning Commission: Tuesday, April 5, 7 p.m.,
Park and Recreation Commission:
 Monday, March 21, 7 p.m.,
Moraga School District Board Meetings:
 Tuesday, April 12, 6 p.m. www.moraga.k12.ca.us.

Town Council and Planning Commission hold joint meeting to discuss housing opportunity sites and rezoning options



One example of multi-unit housing

Photo provided

By Vera Kochan

California state law is requiring all cities and towns to up their housing quota during the sixth cycle Housing Element period between 2023-31. As municipalities grapple with the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), it has been determined by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) that Moraga must come up with 1,118 units to fulfill its quota. This figure is nearly five times higher than the 229 units required during the fifth cycle between 2015-23.

The March 2 joint meeting between the town council and planning commission was called to provide staff with rezoning possibilities and where to focus on prospective housing sites. According to the staff report by Planning Director Afshan Hamid and Barry Miller of Barry Miller Consulting, "The availability of housing sites is

one of the major factors considered by the state of California when they review the Housing Element. If the state finds that Moraga does not have adequate sites to meet the Town's 'fair share' of the region's housing needs, it will not certify the document. Cities and towns without certified housing elements are subject to fines, penalties, litigation, and even the potential loss of local control over planning and building decisions."

Of the 1,118 necessary units 318 are very low-income units, 183 are low-income units, 172 are moderate-income units, and 445 are above moderate-income units. More than 100 sites within town were evaluated with staff sending out letters to hundreds of property owners where potential new housing could be a considered. It was also determined that there were no viable sites outside of the Moraga Center Specific Plan and Rheem areas for zoning to a higher density. However, depending on the type of housing and its usage, Saint Mary's College could conceivably be included as imaginable new housing sites. Also, any projects that are currently in developmental stages are acceptable by RHNA standards.

There are zoning policy issues that will have to be revisited in order to increase

Rheem Center's maximum density in R-20 from 20 to 24 units per acre. The mixed-use and multi-family residential areas of the MCSP would also need to see a density increase to 24 dwelling units per acre. Additionally, many areas are not even zoned for residential housing.

Council members and planning commissioners agreed that Rheem Center is probably the best first choice for new housing in that its close proximity to SMC wouldn't add too much traffic to the town's main corridors, and it would allow for three evacuation routes in the event of an emergency. SMC as a choice for RHNA housing should also be explored and would provide a win-win scenario with regards to more student participation within the Rheem Shopping Center, thereby increasing the much sought after town-gown relationship. MCSP was recognized as a necessary source of additional housing, but with less enthusiasm.

The town reported that over 700 residents had responded to the housing survey as of March 9. Taking all considerations and suggestions into account, staff will continue to move forward and conduct future meetings and updates that include the community's input. For more information visit:

www.makemoragahome.org.

2022 Moraga Citizen(s) of the Year Nominations Requested

Do you have a person or couple in mind for the Town of Moraga to honor as 2022 Citizen(s) of the Year?

Selection criteria are as follows:

- Cannot be a current elected member or paid staff of the Town Council, the Town or any other local public agency (e.g., School District or Fire District);
- Must have a Moraga mailing address;
- Nominees should be persons who:
 - (1) have given their time, talent and treasure to help make Moraga a vibrant community, one where people want to live, work and shop; and
 - (2) bring the community together and make us proud to be residents of Moraga.

Please email your nomination to nominations@lamorindaweekly.com or mail it to Moraga Citizen of the Year Nominations, Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road Suite C # 202, Moraga CA 94556.

The deadline for receipt of nominations is Wednesday, April 6, 2022.

A celebration dinner will be held on Friday, May 6 in the Soda Center at St. Mary's College to honor the winner. The 2022 Moraga Citizen of the Year Award is co-sponsored by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, St Mary's College, the Lamorinda Weekly and the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley.



The Town of Moraga is conducting a survey about housing in our community. Your feedback is important and will help shape important decisions about Moraga's future. Please take a moment to participate! The survey will remain open until March 31, 2022.

1. Turn on your smart phone camera
2. Hold your phone in front of your preferred language QR Code below
3. The survey web address will open on your phone---click the link
4. Complete the survey and click "DONE" when you are finished!

You can also take the survey by going to www.makemoragahome.org



ENGLISH



ESPAÑOL



中文

Spring arrives on Moraga Way



Photo Vera Kochan

If there are daffodils, it must be nearly springtime. Once again Moraga Valley Kiwanis members and their families took to the scenic corridors of town to plant 1,350 bulbs along Moraga Way near the Moraga Country Club (pic-

tured). They had additional help from members of the Moraga Garden Club in the planting of 150 daffodil bulbs around the Moraga Library sign along St. Mary's Road. - V. Kochan



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SMC gets permit to upgrade baseball stadium



Photo provided

By Vera Kochan

Good news for Saint Mary's College baseball players and their fans. Moraga's Planning Commission unanimously approved the necessary permit needed to green light the construction of a new 4,324-square foot, 21-foot 10-inch tall stadium that will include a new Entry Plaza and re-designed landscaping at 1928

St. Mary's Road.

In addition to a presentation by Moraga Assistant Planner Mio Mendez, SMC's Vice President for Facilities Sarah Speron and Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics Mike Matoso were also on hand with their own presentation during the March 1 planning commission meeting.

Originally, a new stadium was anticipated in the Campus Master Plan during 2017. The

vision was to build a 950-seat stadium in a grandstand-style building with spectator seating, dugouts, a press box, concession areas and 12,390 square feet of enclosed space to include locker rooms, athletic offices, a conference room, and general storage. Matoso stressed that SMC's new stadium was meant to be built completely by donor funding.

... continued on Page A13



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2023 - 2031



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Rules enable Orinda to use federal stimulus money

By Sora O'Doherty

Administrative Services Director Doug Alessio on March 1 presented his first budget to the Orinda City Council, which was a mid-year budget review. One issue that has been uncertain was the allowable use of funds coming to the city from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Orinda is scheduled to receive \$4.7 million, but had not yet budgeted it because it was unclear if the city could add the grant to its general fund.

The ARPA contained a number of provisions intended to ease the fiscal suffering caused to Americans by the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the ways the act seeks to affect the economic situation is to help to offset economic losses to local government revenue caused by the pandemic. However, it was a requirement of the act that in order to spend the federal money on general government, a local government had to prove a revenue loss due to

COVID. Under the newly published rules, the first \$10 million to be spent on general government is exempt from revenue loss test. The city's entire award falls under that. Since Orinda will be receiving less than \$5 million, they do not have to prove any loss. Therefore Orinda plans to put the grant into its general fund.

The grant is to be received by the city in two parts, so Orinda is currently budgeting for the first \$2.4 million. Alessio announced increase expenditures of \$100,000 for Information Technology Assessment and Strategic Plan and \$50,000 for implementation of a Records Management System.

In addition, the city will be spending \$3 million on storm drain improvements. These improvements had been targeted to be funded from Measure R funds. The application of federal funds to this project will free up some Measure R funds to be used to improve wildfire sustainability. In addition,

\$80,000 of Measure R funds will be used for enhanced evacuation analysis, which directly applies to emergency preparedness. Measure R funds are kept separate from the general budget.

In general, Alessio said that for the first six months of the fiscal year property and sales tax revenue was better than the previous year, but traffic fines were down some \$40,000. Unexpected expenses included \$100,000 storm damages to city hall and the community center. City Manager David Biggs identified some continued general economic impacts from the pandemic and other national and global events. These include the necessity to fill key management vacancies and adapting to changes in the workforce and labor market.

Council Member Amy Worth agreed with applying these one-time funds to capital programs, because they are one-time funds and there won't be any further revenue from this source. Vice Mayor Inga Miller congratulated the

new administrative services director on his first budget report, finding it succinct and easy to follow. She also thanked all who were involved in securing the federal funding.

Council Member Darlene Gee echoed the vice mayor's comments thanking staff and Alessio. She noted that she was especially happy about moving forward with IT work. "It's very good to see where we are later in the pandemic," she said. "I feel very good about where we are, we continue to be very stable" and able to maintain the city's reserves.

Mayor Dennis Fay thanked staff for articulating in the report that we have more flexibility with the money and "don't have to jump through hoops." And City Manager David Biggs explained that the new regulations eliminate the fear that the federal government could come back and audit the city 10 years later. Biggs also thanked senior accountant Nancy Dangle, who does a lot of this work for the city.

Residents ask Orinda to join Marin Clean Energy

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda Mayor Dennis Fay joined a Zoom meeting on March 7 organized by Carol Weed of 350 Contra Costa to hear a presentation by representatives of Marin Clean Energy. MCE representatives Leanne Hoadley and Mariela Herrick gave the presentation to explain how MCE works.

Orinda has on several occasions declined to join the community choice aggregator (CCA); neighboring Lafayette and Moraga are already members of the joint powers authority. However, the Orinda City Council recently requested a new staff report, which will be presented to them, probably in the latter half of April according to City Manager David Biggs.

MCE was the first community choice aggregator in

California following the passage of Assembly Bill 117 in 2002, that allowed the formation of local, not-for-profit government agencies to take over electricity generation services, offering customers a choice about how their electricity is generated. Energy distribution remains the purview of the Pacific Gas & Electric Co.

Currently in Contra Costa County 15 cities have joined MCE, while four have not. MCE has 37 total member communities across four counties: Marin, Napa, Solano and Contra Costa. There are now 24 CCAs in California. MCE's mission is to address climate change by reducing energy-related greenhouse gas emissions.

MCE is governed by its board of directors, composed of 30 elected officials. Fay was interested to hear that a community may choose to be

represented on the MCE board by another director. Thus, for example, it would be possible for one director to represent the interests of Orinda along with Moraga and Lafayette. Moraga is currently represented by Town Council Member Teresa Onoda and Lafayette by City Council Member Gina Dawson, both of whom also serve on MCE's technical committee.

According to Weed, MCE is cleaner and often cheaper. She has started a petition at change.org to ask the Orinda City Council to join MCE. Both MCE and PG&E offer different choices about the source of electricity. MCE offers three choices: light green, which is at least 60% from renewable resources, deep green, which is 100% from renewable sources, and local sol, which is 100% produced from local solar power.

The current open enrollment period for MCE ends on July 1. If Orinda does not choose to join by then, the city would have to wait for the next open enrollment period. In response to questions at the MCE presentation, Hoadley said that MCE does the heavy lifting to help cities join. She said that there is a standard "join MCE" ordinance available. In answer to other questions, she affirmed that a city that joins can opt out of receiving their own energy from MCE but leave the choice open for residents.

Mayor Fay suggested that MCE reach out to meet with Orinda City Manager David Biggs, adding that he would encourage Biggs to meet with them. Hoadley confirmed after the meeting that MCE is putting together a list of frequently asked questions that will be submitted to Orinda.

Information about PG&E's energy sources may be viewed at this link: www.pge.com/pge_global/common/pdfs/your-account/your-bill/understand-your-bill/bill-inserts/2020/1220-PowerContent-ADA.pdf

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High school club wants city to consider Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge

By Sora O'Doherty

Kaitlyn Roach, president of the Miramonte Climate Action Club, spoke to the Orinda City Council March 1 during the public forum and asked the city to consider participating the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge, a program run by local organization Sustainable Contra Costa. The challenge is a grassroots program that encourages local residents to take daily actions that can reduce the carbon footprint in their communities. "My club and Sustainable Contra Costa would like to partner to make presentations to groups in Orinda," Roach said.

She pointed out that the challenge is 100% voluntary and requires no staff commitment from the city. Roach said that 40% of carbon emissions in the United States comes from basic household activities. "Our club," she added,

"was inspired to bring this challenge to the city of Orinda after seeing the success by city of Moraga, which has had this program since October 2020." Roach reported that over the last 16 months Moraga has had 500 households sign up and as a result has eliminated 400 tons of carbon dioxide emissions, saved 100,000 kilowatt hours of electricity and saved 700,000 gallons of water.

"I really think that we can have similar success in Orinda," she said. Eight other Contra Costa County communities are involved in the challenge.

Orinda Mayor Dennis Fay responded that he would like to hear more about this, and, making it a matter initiated, asked staff to do a very quick overview of this on a future agenda. Council Member Amy Worth seconded the matter.

For more information: <https://cleanercontracosta.org>

City Council Regular Meeting:
 Tuesday, March 21, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

Orinda City Council/MOFD Meeting
 Wednesday, March 16, 5 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

Planning Commission
 Tuesday, March 22, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

Finance Advisory Committee
 Wednesday, March 23, 6:30 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

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Annual Poul Anderson writing contest is now accepting submissions

By Sora O'Doherty

The Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest is held each spring, sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library. The contest is open to all students who reside and/or attend high school in Orinda.

The contest is named in honor of the late Poul Anderson, a popular science-fiction writer and Orinda resident, who was a true friend to the community for 40 years.

Students may submit one entry in any of the four categories for a total of not more

than three entries. The deadline for submissions is April 15. The four categories are Science Fiction/Fantasy; Essay/Memoir/Biography; Poetry; and Short Story. Entries are judged by a panel of local writers and residents. Awards will go to the works judged

best. There will not necessarily be one award in each category.

Up to four winners will each be awarded cash prizes at the end of the school year,

underwritten by the Friends of the Orinda Library. The winning entries will be posted on the Friends' website and inside the Orinda Library facility, for all to enjoy.

More information about the contest, including submission requirements, can be found on the Friends of the Orinda Library website, <https://friendsoftheorindalibrary.org/writingcontest/>

EBMUD will strive to put lessons to work in soil removal

By Sora O'Doherty

East Bay Municipal Utility District's Ward 3 Director Marguerite Young attended the March 1 Orinda City Council meeting to explain to the council and Orinda residents how EBMUD plans to remove soil from the Briones area with fewer problems for the city. Casey LeBlanc, senior engineer, told the council that EBMUD has "taken the lessons learned from 2018 about issues brought up by the community to put in place accommodations that will hopefully be welcomed." Acknowledging shortcomings from the earlier work, he vowed, "We plan to do better this time."

The project is intended to move an excess of trench soils collected from EBMUD pipe work, such as installation and maintenance. The soils have been stored beside the Briones reservoir at a site in use since the 1960s. The haul route plan goes over Bear Creek Road, south on Camino Pablo, then onto Highway 24. EBMUD plans to reuse most of the soil at Oyster Bay Regional Shoreland in San Leandro for recreational use. Some soil will also go to Martinez.

In 2018, EBMUD hauled off a large quantity of the soils. This year, the improvements include: half as many trucks being used; fewer truck trips per day; reduced work hours; no queuing, idling or parking on local roadways at any time; monitoring trucks along the haul and identifying and removing haulers that do not abide by the rules. While in 2018 trucks could arrive at the site at 6:30 a.m., this year the hours will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, with an earlier end time of 3 p.m. on school days. All soil loads will be required to be covered. In addition, EBMUD is exploring options to reduce the use of the Briones stockpile site.

The Utility District has reached out to the city as well as residents concerning complaints about the 2018 project. Council Member Amy Worth told EBMUD, "I am heartened to know that you are trying to improve on last time," and she thanked them for identifying East Bay locations where the soil can be used to benefit the park district.

Members of the public also commented that the plan looks like a big improvement over 2018. Council Member Inga Miller thanked EBMUD, which she termed, "Orinda's biggest neighbor." She emphasized how important roads are to the city, which

has invested heavily in repairing them. Council Member Darlene Gee shared her concerns about public safety. "We have a lot of bicyclists," she said, "and more people now than ever are walking or using alternative means of transport." She also thinks that perhaps people are not being as careful as they should be because of the much-reduced traffic during the pandemic.

Director Young summed up by saying that "Orinda is the heart of EBMUD, you are

very important to us. I'm not going to lie, it's still going to seem like there are a lot of trucks going down the road when this is going on, but we'll try to mitigate the impacts as much as possible."

Public inquiries should be directed to Kathryn Horn, EBMUD Community Affairs Representative at construction-east@ebmud.com or call (510) 287-2053. EBMUD will confirm the final plan with the city manager and staff before commencing work.



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MOFD Volunteers reinstall weather station for the upcoming fire season



Three members of the Moraga Orinda Fire Districts' Communications-Support volunteer group recently helped reinstall a portable Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS). Charlie MacNulty (Moraga), Jason Matthews and Carol Bergren (Orinda) assisted MOFD Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein with the project. With fire season quickly approaching, collecting a good baseline of fuels and weather information is important, according to Rein.

The station, which was donated to the fire district by the Rescue One Foundation in 2019, was taken off line last fall for maintenance. When operational, the station collects data on relative humidity, air temperature, fuel moisture, fuel temperature, wind speed and direction, peak wind gust and direction, solar radiation, and rainfall hourly. The station can be queried by fire managers in the field via radio to provide real-time data during an emergency.

"The District is working on wild-fire preparedness projects year-round," Rein commented. "We need every homeowner's help to manage their property and keep our communities safer. Fire season will be here before we know it." - S. O'Doherty

For more information on how to prepare for fire season visit:
www.mofd.org/our-district/fuels-mitigation-fire-prevention.

The data from the station is available to the general public here:
https://mesowest.utah.edu/cgi-bin/droman/meso_base_dyn.cgi?stn=TT612

Photo provided

The portable Remote Automated Weather Station.

Rheem Shopping Center businesses burglarized under puzzling circumstances

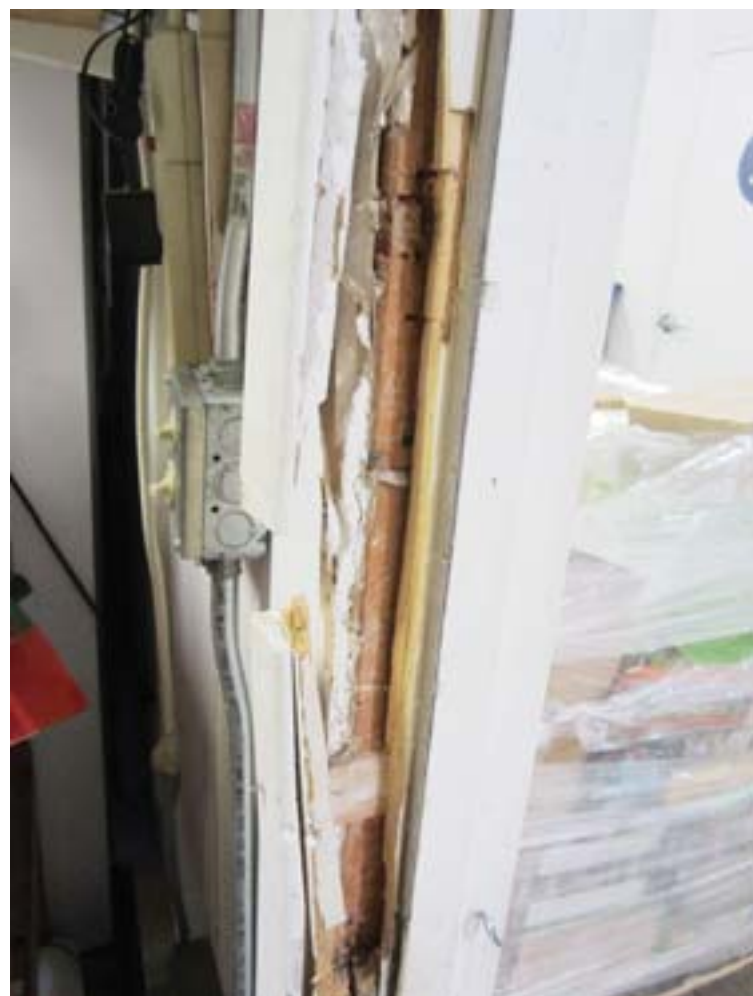


Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

Seven offices or businesses situated along Rheem Boulevard in the Rheem Shopping Center experienced burglaries within moments of each other, either late evening on Feb. 17 or early morning Feb. 18. According to the Moraga Police Department, reports were received of the incidents on Feb. 18, and police responded to discover that while seven businesses were broken into, only three had items missing. MPD proceeded to notify other law enforcement agencies in the area.

Rheem Valley Pet Shoppe owner Jennifer Lenfestey seemingly had the most puzzling break-in of all seven businesses. "They somehow kicked or punched in the back door and stole my cash, checkbook and electric key fob that allows me to run the software."

That's not the odd part of the burglary. Lenfestey made

a unique discovery in the shop's recycle bin. The thief/thieves had placed into the bin stacks of mail and check registers from the other burgled businesses along with a brown manila envelope labeled "Sam" containing more than 10 black and white or color family photos. The pictures all had dates from between 1961-1970, along with handwritten captions on the back of each describing the photo's scenario. The name "Sam" was written on several of the pictures.

Stranger still, Lenfestey replied, "I got a call just days after the burglary telling me that two of my checks were found in a gutter in San Rafael."

The Moraga Chamber of Commerce was another office that was burgled. During the March 9 town council meeting, Council Member Mike McCluer reported, "I attended the Chamber of Commerce board meeting. They had a robbery in their office in

Rheem. Their office was ransacked. Their laptop was stolen; the checkbook was stolen, so they were scrambling to get the checks changed and stop orders and signature cards, so it's been difficult."

A few days following the burglaries, Lafayette Police served a search warrant in Concord related to burglaries that had occurred in Lafayette on Feb. 13, according to MPD Chief Jon King. "During the service of that search warrant, property from several burglaries, including the ones in Moraga on Feb. 18, were recovered.

"Additionally," King added, "a subject at the location was arrested for a burglary warrant that was obtained by Moraga Police for an incident that occurred on Jan. 28." All of the burglary cases from both Feb. 18 and Jan. 28 have been submitted to the Contra Costa County District Attorney's office for review and charging.

Thieves gained entry by forcing open Rheem Valley Pet Shoppe's rear door.

Please...

RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

...thanks

Correction: In the March 2 Lamorinda Weekly article "MOFD chief discusses Shaded Fuel Break project and the coming fire season," information provided by MOFD Fire Chief Dave Winnacker regarding Republic Services' green bins and extra pickups required the following clarification: Republic Services customers can request up to four yard waste or recycle bin clean-ups per year (you must call to schedule one week prior to pickup and you must only use paper or BPI-certified compostable bags), and customers can upsize their 64-gallon green cart to a 96-gallon cart for free (as long as you don't already have the larger size), but second green cart is not free.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors
Wednesday, March 16, 6 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire
Board of Directors
Regular Meeting: Tuesday, April 26, 1 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org
(http://64.166.146.245/agenda_publish.cfm?id=&mt=ALL)



Public Safety

Emergency response:
Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com
Lafayette Police Department:
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt 925-299-3221
Police Department Tip Line 94549Tip@gmail.com
Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com
Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan 925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org
Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Feb. 20 - March 5

Alarms	57
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	18
Traffic	172
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	22
Suspicious Vehicle	9
Service to Citizen	33
Patrol Req./Security Check	16
Public/School Assembly Check	20
Supplemental Report	26
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	26
Ordinance Violation	1
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
1100 Block Oak Hill Rd.	
3200 Block Marlene Dr.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
900 Block Risa Rd.	
3400 Block St Marys Rd.	
900 Block Risa Rd.	

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
El Nido Ranch Rd./Sunnyhill Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
Reckless Driving
Moraga Rd./Rowe Pl.
Glenside Dr./Reliez Station Rd.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24
Deer Hill Rd./Oak Hill Rd.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Taylor Blvd.
Moraga Rd./Moraga Blvd.
El Nido Ranch Rd./Eb Sr 24
Stolen Vehicle Recovery
1100 Block Hillcrest Dr.
Tc - Property Damage
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Acalanes Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Other criminal activity
Computer Fraud
1000 Block Carol Ln.
Fraud False Pretenses
3100 Block Somerset Dr.
Identity Theft
Police Department (2)
Petty Theft
3200 Block Sweet Dr.
3500 Block Wildwood Ln.
Legion Ct./Acalanes Rd.
4000 Block Legion Ct.
Petty Theft Bicycle
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Petty Theft From Veh
3500 Block Terrace Way
Residential Burglary
800 Block Topper Ln.
Shoplift
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
500 Block St. Mary's Rd.
Vehicle Theft
1100 Block Bacon Way
1000 Block Windsor Dr.
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
3400 Block Golden Gate Way
1000 Block N Thompson Rd.
100 Block Lafayette Cir.
Loud Music
800 Block Rosedale Ave.
Loud Noise
3600 Block Mosswood Dr.
Loud Party
3400 Block St Marys Rd.
700 Block Los Palos Dr.
3200 Block Park Ln.
Public Nuisance
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Glenside Dr./Los Palos Dr.

Oak Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.
Foye Dr./Moraga Blvd.
3600 Block Mosswood Dr.
Avalon Ave./St Marys Rd.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.
El Curtola Blvd./Saranap Ave.
Vandalism
1200 Block Quandt Rd.
900 Block Moraga Rd.
Other
K9 Outside Assist Request
90 Block Montecello St., Bpo
Threats
600 Block Doreen Way
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
1000 Block Lindsey Ct.
1000 Block Laurel Dr.
Violation Custody Order
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Violation Restraining Order
1000 Block Miller Dr.
800 Block Acalanes Rd.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Feb. 22 - March 6

Alarms	14
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic	41
Suspicious Circumstances	2
Suspicious Subject	2
Suspicious Vehicle	3
Service to Citizen	31
Patrol Req./Security Check	30
Supplemental Report	15
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	3
Public/School Assembly Check	9
Ordinance Violation	1
Vehicle violations	
Accident Injury	
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.	
Excessive Speed	
St Marys Rd./Rheem Blvd.	
Rheem Blvd./Center St.	
Rheem Blvd./Chalda Way	
Rheem Blvd./Park St.	
Moraga Way/Coral Dr., Ori	
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.	

Moraga Way/Villa Ln.
Campolindo High School
Moraga Country Club
Tc - Property Damage
20 Block Orinda Way, Ori
Campolindo High School
Other criminal activity
Commercial Burglary
Not Available
Fraud Credit Card
1500 Block Canyon Rd.
Fraud False Pretenses
1500 Block Canyon Rd.
Grand Theft
10 Block Hetfield Pl.
30 Block Sarah Ln.
Grand Theft From Veh
30 Block Kazar Ct.
100 Block Shuey Dr.
Grand Theft Veh Parts
400 Block Millfield Pl.
Petty Theft
Moraga Commons Park
300 Block Rheem Blvd.
Theft Access Card
Not Available
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
200 Block Birchwood Dr.
Ascot Ct./Ascot Dr.
Disturbing The Peace
200 Block Donald Dr.
Camino Pablo/Rimer Dr.
Loud Music
Not Available
Canyon Club Brewery
2100 Block Ascot Dr.
700 Block Moraga Rd.
Not Available
900 Block Augusta Dr.
Loud Noise
2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Loud Party
Not Available
Public Nuisance
Safeway
Vandalism
Top Of Fayhill Rd
Other
Harassment
1900 Block Ascot Dr.
Mentally Ill Commit
100 Block Walford Dr.
Unwanted Guest
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.
Violation Custody Order
2100 Block Donald Dr.

ORINDA POLICE

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Feb. 20 - Feb. 26

Alarms	19
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	4
Traffic	55
Suspicious Circumstances	2
Suspicious Subject	4
Suspicious Vehicle	1
Service to Citizen	25
Patrol Req./Security Check	17
Supplemental Report	0
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	5
Public/School Assembly Check	5
Ordinance Violation	2
Vehicle violations	
Accident Injury	
80 Block Loma Vista Dr. Ori	
Reckless Driving	
Miner Rd./Oak Arbor Rd.	
10 Block Via Farallon	
St Stephens Dr.	
Moraga Way/Valley View Dr.	
Glorietta Elementary School	
El Corte/Moraga Way	
Other criminal activity	
Fraud False Pretenses	
Police Department	
Grand Theft	
Southwood Dr.	
Identity Theft	
300 Block Overhill Rd.	
Residential Burglary	
20 Block Glorietta Ct.	
Shoplift	
Moraga Way	
Nuisance to the Community	
Vandalism	
Theatre Squar	
Other	
Battery	
10 Block Oak Arbor Rd.	
Impersonation	
100 Block Moraga Way	
Revocation Of Probation	
Wilder/Hwy 24	
Unwanted Guest	
Orinda Way	
Violation Restraining Order	
500 Block Moraga Way	

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Letters to the editor

A note of thanks to Mr. Bill at Ace Hardware Moraga

My name is Rylan Gottschalk, and I am from Girl Scout Troop 33780 in Moraga. Our most recent project is our Bronze Award, in which we help our community with a specific service project, making a lasting effect. We are building cat shelters out of plastic barrels for a local animal shelter called Jelly's Place in San Pablo. We contacted Mr. Bill, the owner of Ace Hardware in Moraga, and asked for supply donations to paint the barrels. He was more than willing to give us the paint that we needed, and on top of that, he gave us a \$50 donation to support our project and Jelly's Place. This is an incredible act of kindness and generosity, and I hope this community recognizes how giving and humble Mr. Bill is. He gives back to this community every day, and he deserves to be acknowledged for what he does.
Rylan Gottschalk
Moraga

Orinda must oppose housing mandates

Gross negligence and inattention have become — in the area of the Orinda's housing — the hallmarks of the Orinda City Council. "Orinda has been assigned 1,359 Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) units. . .," according to the Lamorinda Weekly (March 2, 2022). In the same article, City Council Mem-

ber Amy Worth is quoted as saying: "It's really important that we show good faith to HCD [Department of Housing and Community Development of California] and agreed that the city should proceed with the rezoning by Jan. 31."

The extra housing comes from a demand by the State of California. The Orinda City Council has presumably refused to object to RHNA's plans. Instead, the city meekly goes along with whatever the State of California demands in terms of new housing. Currently, California is experiencing a severe drought. Extra housing will do nothing to conserve precious water. In addition, extra housing will make evacuation from a local wildfire more difficult.

On Jan. 20, 2022, I wrote Orinda's mayor, Dennis Fay, stating that extra housing in Orinda "is not in the interest of Orinda's residents." To date, I have not received a reply from the mayor. Is he afraid to respond to his constituents? If I had not paid my local property taxes, I am sure that I would have heard from the mayor or someone else in government.

Orinda, in conjunction with other local communities, must oppose housing mandates from the State of California. Decisions on housing and local zoning for housing should be made by local government, not the state government.
Richard Colman
Orinda

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

Saint Mary's headed to Portland for First Round of NCAA

... continued from Page A1

Bennett was hard pressed to keep from smiling over the seeding and location of their first game. What was his first reaction to the news? "It was exciting, and it was fun, even having to wait until the last bracket to find out where we would be playing," Bennett said. "We were prepared for anything but everyone's excited about playing in the West at Portland."

Bennett could not help but appreciate how special this season has been considering how difficult things had been the prior two seasons. "It's fun to get rewarded," Bennett said. "Two years ago, our seniors missed out on the tournament because it was canceled due to the COVID virus. Then last year we had a half to two-thirds of a season, playing without any fans, and it was just funky. To hear our name called and to be playing in Portland just capped off a two-year process and I'm extremely excited, especially for our older guys because of what they've gone through."

Sixth-year graduate student, Tommy Kuhse, also saw this season as the capstone to a two-year season with a lot of bumps along the road. "Coming into this year, we really felt good about our chances. We just kept growing and getting better and better as a team. We're playing our best basketball at the

right time. It's super cool that we have the highest seed in Saint Mary's history, but we have bigger goals."

Kuhse has been called upon to fill many roles this season. He started the first 13 games of the season and then became the team's sixth man for the next 11 games and returned to the starting lineup for the team's final six games. His performance was not overlooked by the West Coast Conference as Kuhse was named first team all WCC and the sixth man of the year.

"I'm glad that Tommy wanted to come back," Bennett said. "He really improved and he's just a great story. His attitude was tremendous about becoming the sixth man and it really helped our team. After moving him back into the starting lineup, I let him create the narrative for how this season would conclude because I want him on the court against our opponents' two best guards. I wish I could say I knew that it was going to turn out as well as it did, but I didn't."

As this is Bennett's 15th time that he has taken Saint Mary's to the post season (seven NIT's), he knows what the key is for the team which will be playing for the first time in nine days. "The biggest thing is to be going in fresh," Bennett said. "If you go into the game fatigued, it makes it hard to win the game. We practiced twice last week,

and we'll start again this week."

The team's motto, 'Gritty Not Pretty,' which was originated by junior Kyle Bowen, was emblazoned on T-shirts given away to all by the school. "Kyle really put it into perspective as to what we wanted to be as a team," Kuhse said. "We battle on every possession so there are no easy buckets, and pride ourselves on that. We have some of the toughest guys I've ever met on this team and that became our identity and it's what made us so good."

Logan Johnson also credited the team's success to that attitude: "Gritty Not Pretty" is what we stand on. It's the hard work that we put in all those days in the off-season, like starting at 6 a.m. and doing our run workouts. For us, that's everything that term stands for."

Bennett also was pleased when the University of San Francisco made it into the tournament as a 10th seed. It was recognition of the depth of the West Coast Conference, but for Bennett it was more about their coach, Todd Golden. "We fight and scratch all year long but there's mutual respect for our teams. For me personally, it's for Todd Golden as well. He was a Gael for four years and a captain of that team, so I'll be pulling for them."



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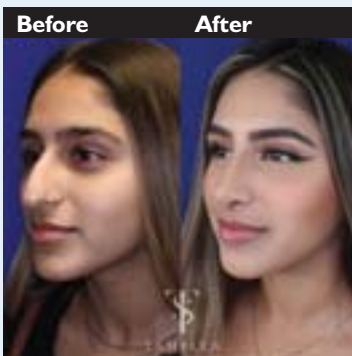
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Getting styled by Diablo Barbers in downtown Lafayette



Photo Jon Kingdon

Diablo Barber owners Gabriel Colorado and Angelo Gerosolimo

By Jon Kingdon

Lafayette has once again attracted a new upscale barber shop. Located in downtown Lafayette at 3557 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Diablo Barber Co. has been in business for three months. It's has long been the aspiration of co-owners, Gabriel Colorado, and Angelo Gerosolimo to own and operate their own barber shop.

Following graduation from the Urban Barbers

School, where they originally met, and three years of cutting hair in San Francisco, Colorado and Gerosolimo began working at Sharp Barbers in Lafayette for five years. It was then that Colorado and Gerosolimo opted to make the big jump into ownership, bringing along Dustin Lowenthal who began as an intern at Sharp.

"It was just a dream for both of us; the time was right," Colorado said. "We were at a point in our career

where we were looking for what's next. We had been working with friends of ours at Sharp for a long time and had seen how they did things. We thought we could do things a little differently and we wanted to show how we would do it. The people at Sharp were amazingly supportive."

Diablo Barbers was designed by Colorado and it is still a work in progress. "I hired my cousin who's a contractor and we collaborated on the project," Colorado said.

The shop can handle all types of clients ranging from 1-year-olds coming in for their first haircut, elementary and high schoolers, businessmen and senior citizens, providing haircuts, hot towel and lather shaving. "We also will have women that will come in for a haircut, most of whom will want something more along the lines of the masculine haircuts," Gerosolimo said. "We want to stick within our realm. If somebody sits down and we know that we can't accomplish what they are looking for, we have salons that we will recommend in those instances."

In shops like Diablo Barber Co., it's far more than a new customer sitting down in the chair, asking for a haircut. "With a new client, we will have a discussion about what they want," Colorado said. "It's up to us to ask the right questions to make sure that we're both on the same page, making certain that when we finish, the haircut is what they wanted."

With the more outlandish requests, they will confirm that they are clear on what the clients are looking for. "If

we are asked to do something that, based on our professional opinion, is going to look 'off,' we will put in our two cents," Gerosolimo said. "The bottom line is that we're here to please the client. What we do is a service and we're happy to service them. Our goal is to give them what they want and to make sure that they're happy."

Another aspect the Diablo barbers are alert to is that head shapes can be unique, according to Gerosolimo. "People may request a hair style in a picture that they brought in. However, the person in the photo may have a round head and the person sitting in the chair may have a square head and a different type of hair so we have to make those adjustments to make the client see the same haircut he saw in the picture. We are also looking into getting into hair coloring and will be bringing in a barber who's already educated on color so he will be passing on his knowledge to us. People are doing a lot more with color so it's up to us to catch up and keep up with the industry and constantly learn the new things."

The shop makes available complimentary beverages for all ages, ranging from water, juices, soft drinks, beer on tap and hard liquor and, of course, a lollipop at the end.

There are eight chairs and five barbers employed at Diablo. "We wanted to create a space where we could bring in barbers and pass on our skills to them," Colorado said.

The location of the shop is just what Colorado was hoping for: "We have been averaging about five walk-ins a

day and word of mouth has been great for us. Every barber is independent, so they make their own hours. We do groomsmen packages and can travel to a local wedding or someone's house."

In Diablo, there are two main themes on the wall: sports and barber history. Colorado's in-laws owned a number of restaurants in the Bay Area, including McCovey's and Crosby's in Walnut Creek where he was able to borrow San Francisco Giants photos and a large photo of Bing Crosby, which emblazon the walls of the shop.

It was not until Colorado was attending barber college that he learned his grandfather and great grandfather were barbers. There is a big frame containing old time photos, their barber equipment, an old barber book and bow ties which they wore back then.

As with many things, the more things change, the more they stay the same and so it is in the barber industry.

"About every 10 years these trends turn over and you then get people coming in looking for other things," Gerosolimo said. "We may try and push people towards the newer trends, but we are able to do little bit of everything. Right now, we're doing, shockingly, a lot of mullets, a style which had died down in the 1990s and was something that we thought we'd never see again, but everything cycles back."

Diablo Barber Co. is open Monday through Saturday, though the hours fluctuate so it's best to make an appointment online at Vagaro.com/diablobarberco

Draft EIR for Housing Element discussed at joint meeting

... continued from Page A2

If there are any increased densities, particularly in the downtown area, Evans said there would be unavoidable impact to the visual environment and scenic vistas that people may find objectionable. Buildings can be designed to be attractive, he said, but the aesthetic changes to meet the housing requirements would be considerable. A second area of environmental impact related to air quality metrics associated with large construction projects due to emissions. Evans again said negative air quality impacts could not be avoided, even with mitigation requirements in place.

Cultural resources was a third factor with significant possible change that could impact historic buildings, although there are no prospective projects currently involving historic property in Lafayette. Importantly, buildings older than 45 years are age-eligible for designation as historic landmarks. There are no stated guarantees such properties might not be affected or would be excluded in Housing Element projects. Lastly, all future housing developments located more than a mile from mass transit hubs – in Lafayette, the BART station – now require that transportation evaluations focus on and measure vehicle miles traveled per day (MTD). Both the distributed and the downtown-only scenarios under consideration by council include projects that might result in higher MTD metrics.

Questions asked by council began with a request for specific information about operational air emissions after projects are completed and health risks rising from the sites proximate to Highway 24. Evans said the former might actually decrease and the impact from the highway

would be "diluted out" and not significant.

Asked about the three other areas of primary concern and if different locations would alter the conclusions drawn, he said the draft EIR alternative sites he analyzed showed only MTD might be affected in locations outside the BART location. The other environmental impacts would remain largely the same regardless of the choice between distributed or downtown-only scenarios.

Planning and Building Director Greg Wolff clarified that a dedicated page on the city's website allows anyone to view the draft, which was published on Feb. 18. (It is available at love-lafayette.org/ceqa.) Evans said each public comment will receive an individual response. If someone raises a comment that addresses an EIR inadequacy that proves to be accurate, the final draft will be revised accordingly.

When Council Member Susan Candell expressed concern about a ladder truck the Contra Costa Fire Protection District says it needed for emergency services to serve taller buildings in Lafayette, and that current fire stations couldn't accommodate a ladder truck, Evans said if the current fire station isn't able to accommodate a truck, that would be a separate issue the city would have to discuss under CEQA.

Vice Mayor Carl Anduri said budget increases requested of the council in July 2021 during the EIR process were in part related to evacuation analysis and resulted in \$161,000 being added to the budget. Evans said legal nuance made the issue complex, but the basic threshold for CEQA is whether or not a project would conflict with or impair an evacuation plan. The Housing Element update at this time does not interfere

with the execution of the city's established evacuation plans, he said.

Evans and city staff said decisions about allowing or restricting accessory dwelling units as well as related updates, requirements and standards will be included in the Housing Element plan but will not be addressed in the EIR specifically. Likewise, future mitigation measures such as utilities needed due to increased density or for other reasons related to new development projects are in the city's overall planning, but cannot be anticipated in detail until a given project demonstrates a need.

During the public comment portion, Eliot Hudson said the city's current housing element plans were not adequate to address increased density. He said a small fire near the Lafayette tennis courts during which an evacuation route near Acalanes High School was "nearly impassable" proved his point. "The fact that the city 'might' update its evacuation plan to be compliant with state law would have been totally meaningless (on that day)," he said.

The draft EIR, an over 500-page document, is available online and summarizes all environmental impacts in 17 categories. The draft is being shared with the public for just over 45 days ending April 4. A March 7 Planning Commission meeting accepted verbal comments from the public and Evans emphasized people can continue to communicate their comments to the city in written form at any time up to April 4.

Mayor Teresa Geringer said staff would be looking into scheduling an additional public comment meeting and information will be made available to the public.



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Winners of 2022 high school visual arts competition announced



Photo courtesy Lamorinda Arts Council



Photos Sora O'Doherty

Best of Show in the 2D category, Katie Lee "Controlling the Youth"

By Sora O'Doherty

From the hundreds of artworks submitted for the annual Lamorinda Arts Council high school visual arts competition, judges selected nearly two dozen winners, who received certificates of recognition at a reception at the Orinda Library gallery on the evening of March 10. The reception was well attended, as one of the first in-person live events since the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions. While masks were not required, most attendees continued to wear masks in the

close environment. The Bentley School Jazz Band entertained on the Richard Heggie Plaza.

The exhibition will be on display at the Library gallery through the month of March. After that, it will remain on display on the Lamorinda Arts Council's website for a year.

The Best of Show award went to Katie Lee, a senior at Bentley for her piece entitled, "Controlling the Youth" in the 2D category. Her teacher is Kelsey Jones. Other awards in the 2D category included: 1st Place – "Pieces of Identity" by Natalie Mangani, Las Lomas,

First Place in the 3D category, Emma Ngo "Get Yourself Together"

10th Grade, Teacher: Jessica Jurgens; 2nd Place – "Distance" by Kallie Cheung, Las Lomas, 12th Grade, Teacher: Jessica Jurgens; 3rd Place – "I'm So Blue All the Time" by Ava von Behren, Bentley, 12th Grade, Teacher: Kelsey Jones. Honorable Mentions went to "Untitled" by Andrea Liu, Bentley, 11th Grade, Teacher: Kelsey Jones; "Gateshead" by Kaitlyn Yasumura, Carondelet, 10th Grade, Teacher: Darla Sur; and "Daucus" by Claudia Cruse, Campolindo, 12th Grade, Teacher: Heidi Cabra.

In the 3D category, awards went to 1st Place –

"Get Yourself Together" by Emma Ngo, Campolindo, 11th Grade, Artwork Created Independently; 2nd Place – "Owlberry" by Indie Lee, Miramonte, 10th Grade, Artwork Created Independently; and 3rd Place – "Summoning" by Holden Bennett, Bentley, 9th Grade, Teacher: Aram Muksian. Honorable Mentions were given to "Societal Confinement" by Emile Starkweather, Bentley, 12th Grade, Teacher: Michelle Cho; "Body Image to the Core" by Kate Lee, Bentley, 12th Grade, Teacher: Kelsey Jones; and Untitled (Hammer) by Walter Yip, Bentley, 11th Grade, Teacher: Aram Muksian.

Photography Awards included: 1st Place – "Ambiguity" by Emma Ngo, Campolindo, 11th Grade, Teacher: Collette Sweeney; 2nd Place – "Ataraxia" by Avery Sims, Bentley, 11th Grade, Teacher: Aram Muksian; and 3rd Place – "Self Portrait of a Pianist" by Sydney Zhang, Campolindo, 11th Grade, Teacher: Collette

Sweeney. Honorable Mentions were awarded to "Driving in the Rain" by Leonardo Siu, Bentley, 11th Grade, Artwork Created Independently; and "Untitled" by Leyla Nabipour, Campolindo, 11th Grade, Teacher: Collette Sweeney.

The Lamorinda Arts Alliance Digital Art Awards were as follows: 1st Place – "Different Perspective" by Jeanette Lavoie, Campolindo, 12th Grade, Artwork Created Independently; 2nd Place – "Explosion of Color" by Irene Yoon, College Prep, 11th Grade, Teacher: Yousun Kim; and 3rd Place – "Chronic" by Charles Platt, Miramonte, 11th Grade, Teacher: Stacey Churchill. Honorable Mentions in this category went to "Bending Dimensions" by Benjamin Randall, Bentley, 12th Grade, Teacher: Aram Muksian; and "Purple" by Vivian Tolajian, Campolindo, 9th Grade, Teacher: Collette Sweeney.



Photo John Brown

Park District lifeguards wanted for 2022 swim season

Submitted by Jennifer Vanya

The East Bay Regional Park District is actively seeking 50 new lifeguards for the 2022 swim season at its 10 East Bay swim facilities, which include lakes, lagoons, and pools. All new lifeguard positions are seasonal, full-time positions from May through September. Anyone 16 and over before April 23 are encouraged to apply. Starting pay is \$20.17 per hour.

There are four different testing dates scheduled on Saturdays and Sundays during the last two weekends in March. Participants will be asked to swim 550 yards in under 10 minutes, carry a rescue board 50 feet, retrieve three dive rings under 4-7 feet of water, tread water for two minutes using only their legs,

and retrieve a 10-pound brick from under water. There will also be a short informal interview after successful completion of the swim test on the same day.

Participants who pass the tests will be invited to the Park District's Lifeguard Academy beginning Saturday, April 23, where they will receive paid training and certification in open water lifeguarding. The Lifeguard Academy takes place over five consecutive weekends in April and May, with the swim season beginning in late May for most facilities.

"Promoting water safety

Testing Schedule

- Saturday March 19th, Mills College, Oakland
- Sunday March 20th, Mills College, Oakland
- Saturday March 26th, Granada High School, Livermore
- Sunday March 27th, Granada High School, Livermore

More Information and how to apply, visit: bit.ly/2022EBRPDLifeguard

and educating park visitors on how to safely recreate in, on, and around the water is paramount in what a lifeguard does," said East Bay Regional Parks District Aquatics Manager Pete DeQuincy. "Working as a lifeguard is one of the few ways a young adult can give back to their community and learn about public service."

Lifeguards can work at any of the Park District's swim facilities throughout cities in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, such as Antioch, Concord, Livermore, Hayward, Castro Valley, Oakland, Alameda, and Berkeley.

SMC gets permit to upgrade baseball stadium

... continued from Page A5

Enter COVID, which threw a wrench into donation momentum, so the college was willing to downsize from its initial plans.

Mendez's staff report states, "SMC desires to replace temporary bleachers with a more permanent structure to represent the Class A college sport facility needs. A permanent baseball facility will cement SMC as a Class A facility with the regional athletics program, attract potential donors and allow the college to be more competitive in recruitment. The existing SMC buildings

are mostly Spanish Colonial Revival, and the new baseball stadium will match the campus architecture."

The modified new stadium will consist of 662 seats as a prefabricated structure, a press box and open-air seating. It will be built on the existing baseball field which stands adjacent to the Joseph L. Alioto Recreation Center and will eventually become part of the 60,000-square-foot rec center's master plan. The new 18-foot Entry Plaza will be located along the southern end of the facility, and enhanced landscaping will be placed along the eastern and western sections. Addition-

ally, SMC has plans to install new netting and poles to a height of 65-feet for safety purposes to prevent foul balls from leaving the field area and striking anyone outside of the stadium. No additional parking will be required and there are no immediate plans to install lights for night games.

The staff report also assures that "the project design does not generate adverse conditions of noise, shade, shadow, light or glare that would be detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of the campus population or the broader Moraga community."

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DRE# 01221153

Lamorinda residents gather for 'Vigil for Peace in Ukraine'

... continued from Page A1

followed by a closing prayer from Pastor Dan Senter of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette. Every now and then a passing car would honk its horn in solidarity.

The crowd was made up of people who had varying reasons for being there. While all came to show their support, a few had personal reasons for attending. Liz from Lafayette, who asked that we not use his last name, has a son who works for the United Nations and is currently in Kyiv, Ukraine's capital. His wife is Ukrainian, but has fled to

Switzerland with their children for safety (it is the reason their names are being omitted from this article). A Ukrainian woman cried as she told this reporter that her mother is still there, and we hugged through tears with the mutual understanding of people who share the same pain that only those living through it can begin to comprehend.

Still others, with no Ukrainian family ties but a compassion for its beleaguered people, felt compelled to join the vigil. "I am here in Lafayette at the crosses to support my friends who are Ukrainian," stated Moraga

Council Member Teresa Onoda. "It breaks my heart -- what they're going through." Added LHM Board Member and Lafayette Council Member Gina Dawson, "We're very glad to make the opportunity to have a vigil where people can come out and support the people of Ukraine."

Those who have family in Ukraine who attended the Lafayette vigil said that the overwhelming support from gestures such as this, no matter how big or small, do not go unnoticed and are more appreciated than words can say.

For anyone wishing to make a donation to help in the humanitarian aid for Ukrainian people, included is a list of reputable charitable organizations:

NOVA Ukraine (based in Palo Alto, CA): <https://NOVAUkraine.org>

International Committee of the Red Cross: <https://www.icrc.org/en/donate/ukraine>

UNICEF: <https://www.unicef.org/ukraine/en>

World Central Kitchen: <https://donate.wck.org>

Catholic Relief Services: <https://www.crs.org/>

Doctors Without Borders: <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/>

International Medical Corps: <https://internationalmedicalcorps.org/>

International Rescue Committee: <https://www.rescue.org/>

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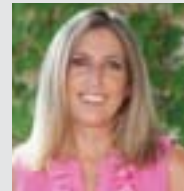
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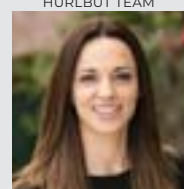
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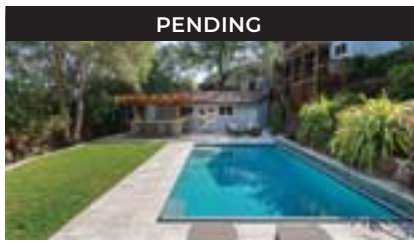


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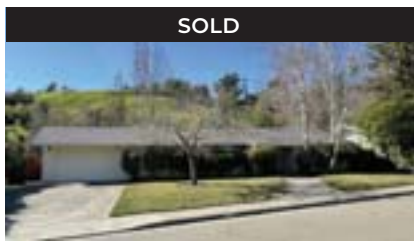
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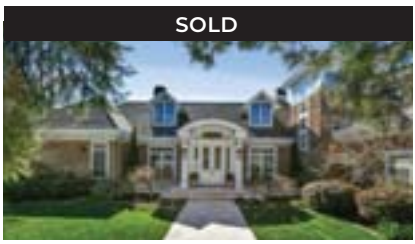
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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Rotary volunteers offer free home maintenance for seniors



Photos provided

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Home Team manager and volunteer repairs a ceiling fan for a local senior.

By Diane Claytor

What started with a loving son helping his elderly father with small projects around the house grew into a popular, highly successful Rotary-sponsored free home maintenance service for seniors.

The Rotary HOME Team was the brainchild of Hays Englehart. Like many adult children, Englehart would regularly visit his widowed father. “I’d walk in the door, give him a big hug, chat a little and then he’d hand me a list of things around the house that needed attention,” Englehart recalls. “He’d sit there with his cup of coffee or glass of wine and ‘supervise’ my work. We’d talk, laugh, spend quality father-son time together.”

Englehart credits his dad for teaching him about tools and “fixing stuff so I could become a good handyman.” After his father passed away, Englehart began thinking about other seniors who might not have a handy person nearby, “someone to change a light bulb or fix a leaky faucet,” he says. As a longtime Rotarian, he began wondering if some of his fel-

low Rotarians would be willing to join him in volunteering to perform these simple tasks for seniors.

In 2010, Englehart made a presentation to his local group, the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club. “Seniors often need help and we can be that help for minor maintenance issues,” he remembers saying. “We’re not professional plumbers or electricians,” Englehart emphasizes. “But we can replace a light bulb or smoke detector battery. We can fix a leak or tighten a joint. We can perform those small tasks that might cost more than \$100 just to have a professional show up.” Lamorinda Sunrise Rotarians agreed.

Englehart connected with Episcopal Senior Communities (ESC; now named Covia, a Front Porch Partner), an organization that actively supports seniors by offering numerous services and resources. He met with Tracy Powell, ESC’s vice president of community services, who helped come up with the name, HOME (Home Maintenance for the Elderly) Team. Powell remembers thinking this was “one of those programs that re-

ally shines ... a great resource for helping seniors stay safe in their own home.” ESC became the facilitator for the program, taking the calls for maintenance requests. This partnership lasted more than 11 years. Today, Lamorinda Village serves as the call center; Kathryn Ishizu, executive director, says her nonprofit organization is honored to be a part of this incredible service that allows seniors to age in their own home.

In addition to providing free maintenance services, Englehart notes another benefit for everyone: simply meeting with older residents. “ESC provided a red flag checklist, something we still use,” he reports. “Everyone is trained to look for potential problems: hoarding, excessive dirt, food insecurities, falling hazards.” All volunteers are taught to keep their eyes and ears open, Englehart explains. If they see possible problems, they are asked to advise their team manager, who can help provide additional resources to the senior.

There are no requirements, other than being an older adult, to call on the Rotary HOME Team. “I don’t care what a senior’s financial situation is,” Englehart states, “if they can no longer safely climb a ladder to replace a light bulb, we’re happy to do it for them.” There are 65 members in Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, and all volunteer on the HOME Team. “If someone isn’t handy with a screwdriver, he or she can certainly be a driver,” Englehart notes.

Six Saturdays a year, Rotary HOME Team volunteers receive the maintenance request lists and go out in pairs to handle those minor repair issues: fix a leaking toilet, repair a sticky door, adjust cabinet drawer pulls, change smoke alarm batteries. “We’re usually in and out in about 30 minutes,” Englehart reports.

Seniors who have used the Rotary HOME Team services are beyond pleased. Betty LaPorte, an 87-year-old Lafayette resident, had a door that wouldn’t close. Two Rotarians came out one Saturday morning, took a look, got their tools and within 30 minutes, the door was fixed. “They came when they said they would, did a great job and

were absolutely charming,” LaPorte says. “It’s often so hard to find someone to do a small project like this.” Angie Anastasion, who has had several odd jobs performed by the Rotary HOME Team, states that the volunteers were “cheerful, professional and very respectful of our property.”

While Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary began the program 12 years ago, 33 other area Rotary clubs – mostly in Contra Costa County but as far south as San Diego – have adopted it. It was designed, Englehart explains, so any Rotary club in the world can make it their own.

“It’s a win-win for everyone,” Englehart proclaims. “It’s one of the best feel-good things we’ve ever done and everyone who has participated absolutely agrees.” Englehart, a recently retired financial planner, says he’s more proud of this program than just about anything else he’s done.

For more information or to request free basic home maintenance for seniors, please call 888-204-5573 or go to rotaryhometeam.com.



Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Home Team volunteer Mark Lewis repairs a senior's light switch.

DRIVING



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by Clark Thompson

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Stuffed Baked Eggplant features a bounty of vegetables, perfect for spring



Stuffed Baked Eggplant

Photos Susie Iventosch

Stuffed Baked Eggplant

Serves 2 for a Main Meal

INGREDIENTS

Veggies :

- 1 large whole eggplant (cut in half lengthwise and remove the pulp with a knife or grapefruit spoon, leaving about 1/2-inch shell. Keep the skin on the shell. Save the eggplant you've removed from the shell to bake with the other veggies.)
- 1 medium zucchini, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1 yellow onion, peeled and sliced or chopped
- 2 shallots, peeled and sliced lengthwise into long strips
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 6-8 medium-large cremini mushrooms, cut into quarters or sliced
- 12 cherry tomatoes
- Salt, pepper and lemon pepper, to taste
- Italian herbs, optional
- 2-3 tablespoons olive oil

Topping:

- 3/4 cup wheat germ
- 1 cup grated Parmesan
- 1 1/4 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 tablespoon melted butter
- 1/2 cup or so of milk or half and half (just enough to make a paste out of all of the crust ingredients.)

Mix all topping ingredients in a bowl and set aside until the veggies are ready to spread over the stuffed eggplant halves. If you find you need a little more liquid to get to a paste consistency, just add enough to make a thick paste. If you have extra topping, save it and use it to top roasted tomatoes or any other veggie you like to roast. It's so delicious!

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400 F. Prepare a baking sheet that has 1-inch sides with cooking spray.

Spray or oil the bottom of a separate casserole dish and place the hollowed out eggplant shells with the cut side up, in the casserole dish. Set aside for now.

Toss all of the veggies except the cherry tomatoes, with the olive oil, salt, pepper and lemon pepper. You can also add Italian herbs if you like at this point.

Spread the seasoned veggies out on the prepared baking sheet. Roast for about 20-25 minutes, or until they begin to soften and just start to turn brown on the edges. Turn the veggies with a spatula about halfway through the cooking. Toss in the cherry tomatoes, and roast for another few minutes. Remove veggies from the oven.

Reduce oven temperature to 350 F.

Transfer the roasted veggies into the hollowed out eggplant shells. Fill the shells as full as you can.

Spread the wheat germ-parmesan-nut topping over the top to cover the veggies in the eggplant.

Bake for about 35 minutes, or until the crust is golden brown and the eggplant shell is cooked. Serve hot.

You can eat the entire thing, shell and all!

NOTE: Here is a link to "The Vegetarian Epicure," if you decide you'd love to have a copy for yourself!
<https://www.amazon.com/Vegetarian-Epicure-262-Recipes/dp/0804170541>



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>

By Susie Iventosch

The other day I found a beautiful eggplant at the store and immediately knew how I would prepare it. This recipe is based upon one we've been making for decades from the original "The Vegetarian Epicure" by Anna Thomas, first published in 1972. I am sure many of you have some well-used recipes from this book as well. The pages in my copy are all stained, torn and tattered, but how I still love this cookbook!

Over the years, I have changed the recipe and now just oven roast all of the veggies together before stuffing them into the eggplant shells. The original recipe calls for cooking them in stages, and layering them into the shell, but I love them all mixed together anyway, kind of like a ratatouille. You can use any size eggplant you like, and it depends upon whether you want to serve this as a main or a side dish. I like to use a great big

eggplant, and it serves two people nicely for an entrée. If you find smaller eggplants, they would make perfect sides. We have also added cremini mushrooms, zucchini and shallots to the veggie assortment, because all of those flavors are so amazing when roasted together and they complement the wheat germ-Parmesan-walnut crust so well! Anyway ... this is my version of the dish and if you'd like to see the original, pick up a copy of the book at a local book store or order on Amazon (link provided).

Just a fun little note, when I last made it, my husband said, "Nah, I don't like eggplant and that doesn't sound like something I'd like." I thought, great, all the more for me! But, then after tasting it as a side to some grilled salmon, he admitted how much he loved it and has since asked for it again. (So much for hogging the whole thing to myself.) I hope you love this as much as we do!

Looking Good in Lamorinda

Finding fashion at 50 and beyond



Influencer/stylist Francie Low



Cotton dress by Fenini available at Harper Greer



It's the Year of the Dress at Luck.

Photos provided

By Moya Stone

Recently I had the pleasure of meeting and chatting with Lafayette resident Francie Low. Readers might know Low from her memoir, "Alive and Fixable: A Road to Love and Recovery," which tells the story of her husband's arduous journey back to health from a serious bicycle accident. Since the publication of the book in 2018, Low has started a new chapter in her life and it's focused on one of her favorite topics: fashion!

As a fashion influencer and stylist, Low has been inspired by the women she met over the years she worked in local boutiques. Repeatedly women said to her that once they hit age 50, they had to change the way they dress. "They lost their confidence," she explains. "Or they wanted to reestablish themselves." These women still wanted to be fashionable, but they no longer knew what "fashionable" meant for them. That's where Low can help. In 2021 she launched OhSoFancyFrancie, a blog and Instagram account documenting outfits that she creates for women of a certain age who don't want to look like a grandma.

Low hunts for fashionable

clothing, and then styles what she's found on herself. She posts the looks she has created and lets her followers know where they can buy the featured items. Low says that she's like a curator. "I'm trying on. I know how it fits. I take the guesswork out of shopping." She believes that women can wear what they want. Distressed jeans, for example, are a hot item right now and she advises that 50-plus women could wear a less distressed pair of jeans paired with a frilly blouse. "It's all in the way you wear it."

This year Low has started to offer styling services that range from a full closet clean-out to finding the right outfit for a special occasion. She says that helping clients with fashion brings her joy. "When you can find that perfect thing and they're so happy, it's like the best feeling in the world." Check out Low on IG #ohsofancyfrancie and <https://ohsofancyfrancie.com>.

Spring officially arrives later this month and with it come new looks in fashion. Cropped cardigans, gingham dresses, and silky, shiny fabrics are some of what's trending. Low tells me she's excited about wide-leg jeans and she's searching for the "perfect" non-wrinkle slip dress (a retro

look from the '90s). As for shoes, according to Low, slides are going to be a big hit this season.

"At last travel is starting up again and ladies need and want new clothes," says Terry Kiskaddon from Harper Greer in Lafayette. With that in mind, Kiskaddon is offering lots of dresses in bright colors and separates, such as crop pants with wider hems. T-shirts with "punchy iconic prints" are popular with guests and vests are "flying out the door." Starting April 1 - 4 Harper Greer is hosting a trunk show with the brand Alembika, which is known for chic, edgy designs.

Lorin Platto, proprietor of Luck boutique in Lafayette, says that it's the Year of the Dress. "There are so many pretty dresses right now, most with some form of ruching and feminine sleeve or strap detail." Platto has stocked "tons of dresses for all ages and body types." To top the dresses Luck has cardigans and fun accessories "from bags shaped like shells to clear plexi shoes."

I've been watching the new television series "And Just Like That," a spinoff from the 1990s hit show "Sex and the City," starring Sarah Jessica Parker as NYC stylish writer Carrie Bradshaw. Much has

been said about how the now middle-aged Carrie and her circle of friends are being portrayed, but it's the costuming that have many of us tuning in and anxious to see how Carrie handles fashion in her 50s. In my opinion she's just as quirky, but more covered up. Costumers Molly Rogers and Danny Santiago say that some of the clothing they used is

vintage, some are repeats from the original show, and many are rented from brands such as Chanel and Oscar de la Renta. "And Just Like That" is currently streaming on HBO Max.

Whatever your age ... Go forth in style!

Moya Stone is a fashion writer and blogger at www.overdressedforlife.com.

Natalie Baszile to speak at Orinda Community Church



Photo provided

Submitted by Lani Shepp

Natalie Baszile the author of "Queen Sugar," which has been turned into a television series on the Oprah Winfrey

Network, and editor of "We Are Each Other's Harvest" which is a collection of essays, interviews, photographs, and poems about Black American farmers will speak at 4 p.m. March 20 at Orinda Community Church as part of its annual public lecture on a current meaningful topic. The presentation can be attended in person at the church at 10 Irwin Way, Orinda or live-streamed.

Registration is required and in-person seating is limited. Live-streaming is unlimited. To register go to Orinda-communitychurch.org, click on the lecture button and follow the instructions. The discussion is free.

Four pillars of Orinda honored by trees planted at the Old Yellow House



Photo Sora O'Doherty

From left: David Nelson, James Wright, James Hale, Toris Jaeger, and Natalie and Peter Stewart (representing the de Laveaga family).

By Sora O'Doherty

James Wright, who nearly a decade ago bought and restored the Old Yellow House, an historic property in

Orinda, is in the process of converting it to a museum of sustainability. On Saturday, March 12, there was a ceremonial tree planting on the grounds in honor of four significant members of the community and to launch the edu-

cational use of the property.

David Nelson is the grandson of the family that preserved the Old Yellow House in 1918. The building was intended to house railroad workers on the California Nevada Railroad. The structure was never occupied by the company, however, owing to its bankruptcy at the end of the railroad era. The Charles Nelson family lived on the property from 1918 through 1966, after which the property was left vacant and unaltered until purchased by Wright in 2012.

Toris Jaeger is the creator and educator at the Orinda Nature Area, located beside Wagner Ranch Elementary School. For over 30 years, Jaeger has been teaching Orinda students in the outdoors environment. She is an advocate of the experiential way of teaching.

James Hale is also a naturalist and environmental guardian of Contra Costa County. Affectionately known as Doc Hale, he has been a professional vertebrate zoologist, certified wildlife biologist, ethnobiologist, and ecological consultant for 46 years. Hale is currently living at the Old Yellow House as its resident naturalist, and will be presenting a number of lectures this summer, ranging from

county wildlife to the cultural and natural history of San Pablo Creek.

The de Laveaga family was represented at the tree planting by Erin Stewart and her children, Natalie and Peter. According to the city of Orinda's website, Edward Ignacio de Laveaga established the town site as Orinda in the 1920s. He was the son of San Franciscan Miguel de Laveaga, who, with his brother Jose Vicente, had purchased about 1,200 acres in the area in 1897. Having survived the 1906 earthquake and fire in San Francisco, de Laveaga preferred life in Orinda. The de Laveaga family home, caretaker cottage, working barn and other surrounding buildings, known as "Bien Venida," were built in 1888. In 1915 the main house burned to the ground and, apart from some more modern improvements, was rebuilt very much like the original. There have been de Laveagas living on the property since 1888. In the late '1990s the property was purchased by family members Connie de Laveaga Stoops and her husband Bob and Marty de Laveaga Stewart and her husband Dave. A decades-long project of restoring all of the buildings from new foundations to new roofs and all of the interior spaces is ongoing.

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GCCP presents ¡Caliente! March 19



Photo provided

Submitted by Pamela Freund-Striplen

The Gold Coast Chamber Players present ¡Caliente!, the third of a five concert series, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March

19 at the Don Tatzin Community Hall at the Lafayette Library. The live concert will be recorded and all ticket holders will have the option for unlimited online viewing from March 21 to July 1. Proof of vaccination is required and N95 masks will be provided.

¡Caliente! features leading Bay Area musicians including Spanish clarinetist and composer, José González Granero, who has held the position of Principal Clarinet with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra since 2010. Mr. Granero has garnered many prizes for his compositions and recently was awarded first prize for

the Villiers Quartet New Works Composition Competition in London. He will be performing his own works and chamber music transcriptions. Joining Mr. Granero is California Symphony Concertmaster Jennifer Cho who also performs with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. Other members of San Francisco Opera Orchestra, violinist Dian Zhang and cellist Peter Myers join violist Pamela Freund-Striplen and pianist Julie Nishimura.

The program offers a sizzling exploration of the dynamic range of leading Spanish composers. Granero's

haunting Paisajes for clarinet and strings and virtuosic Canto y Danza for solo clarinet are juxtaposed with the passionate Piano Quartet op. 67 by Joaquin Turina and the Piano Quintet by Enrique Granados. Granero's arrangement of Manuel DeFalla's Seven Spanish Popular Songs and Kreisler's arrangement of Granados' Spanish Dance No. 5 "Andaluza" for violin and piano round out this appealing program.

Tickets: \$15-45 tickets online or by phone: (925) 283-3728; www.gccpmusic.com

'Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom' a gem from high altitude

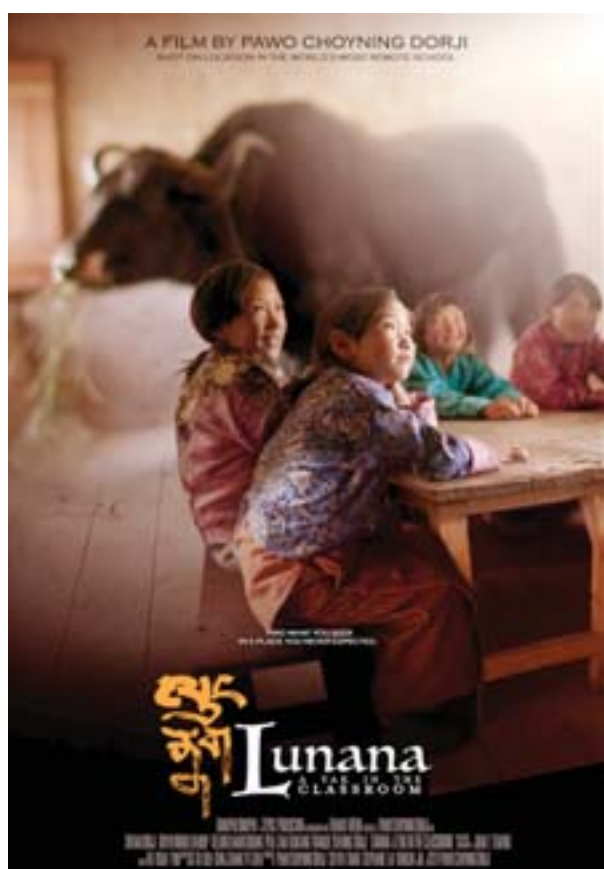


Image provided

By Sophie Braccini

It is the first time that Orinda's International Film Showcase presents a film from Bhutan. The small country known for measuring its people's happiness rather than its GDP was not known for its movie

production. This is changing with the emergence of this lovely gem, "Lunana" – almost a docu-drama, set in the most remote school in the world. We follow the main character, Ugyen, in his discovery of a most beautiful place on earth, steeped in natural beauty and in simple yet profound spirituality. He will discover himself and his true nature as he let himself gradually be immersed in the purity of the place. What he will do with this discovery may be left as a mystery.

Ugyen is a spirited and impatient young Bhutanese man who wants to become a singer. His plan is drawn out: a visa for Australia is on its way; he just has to complete a last assignment as a teacher to extinguish his obligation toward his government. This time, he is sent to Lunana, a Himalayan village of a few hundred people sitting at 11,200 feet above sea level. It is said to be the most remote classroom in the world. Ugyen reluctantly leaves for a long bus voyage followed by a five-day hike in the mountains. When he arrives in the village with no electricity, no internet and extremely rudimentary accommodations, his first reaction is to tell the welcoming villagers that he cannot stay. In an interview with IMDb, first-time director Pawo Choyning Dorji explained that Ugyen personifies the youth of Bhutan. He said that thousands of young people are leaving the country for the U.S., Australia, or London. As a Bhutanese, he is wondering where a country that is losing its educated and capable people is going. He wanted to take his main character in the opposite direction, to the most remote place.

There is something of a miracle about this movie. Filmed on a shoestring in Lunana, a real place that does not have electricity, with a cast and crew of first-timers, some of whom had never seen a movie, the film is now an Oscar contender.

All along the feel of authenticity is overwhelm-

ing. This is what Dorji wanted. He wanted the crew and cast to go through this experience and live the life of the highlander. He also incorporated into the script elements of the lives of his actors, so the script was constantly evolving. He decided to shoot in a linear fashion so that the actors could grow with their characters. The result is both endearing and moving. Ugyen's spiritual journey as he meets and connects with different villagers is also well depicted. From a disrespectful non-believer, he starts to question and reconnect with the ancient belief system that has shaped Bhutan as a Buddhist nation deeply respectful of all living creatures.

Bhutan is a very small country with a population of only 700,000, landlocked in the Himalayas between China and India. In 1971 it decided to measure its progress in terms of Gross National Happiness (GNH), not in terms of Gross National Product (GNP). The four pillars of national happiness when creating legislation are good governance, sustainable socio-economic development, preservation and promotion of culture, and environmental consideration. It is said to be the only country in the world with a negative carbon footprint.

Bhutan was isolated for centuries. Dorji explains that his country looked at Tibet gone to China and Sikkim gone to India, saw that countries like theirs lost their independence and as a result closed up to protect their way of life. It was only in 2000 that television and internet entered Bhutan. The impact of globalization was drastic and overnight. This movie is about that, the transition from traditional to modern and the question of keeping one's belonging and meaning.

"Lunana" is a nominee for Best International Feature Film at the 94th Academy Awards. It opens for one week on March 25 at the Orinda Theatre. For tickets, visit orindamovies.com.

White Pony Express launches Ukraine relief program; Earth Day donations matched

By Sora O'Doherty

In addition to its Food Rescue Program that connects surplus food to those who need it most, nonprofit White Pony Express (WPE) has undertaken a project to aid Ukrainian refugees. WPE is collecting medical supplies, hygiene products and toiletries, over-the-counter medications, non-perishable food items, high-quality new clothing, undergarments, shoes, and diapers. WPE is receiving information directly from Poland about what is most needed by the refugees, and is working with several other nonprofits out of Los Angeles to transport the items to the Polish relief agencies for use among the

Ukrainian refugees. WPE is shipping these items to trusted organizations serving the over two million refugees who have fled Ukraine.

White Pony Express was recently cited in California legislation aimed to reduce food waste and improve the environment. A generous donor has offered to match all donations up to \$250,000 made by Earth Day, April 22. Donors are invited to support WPE's mission to fight climate change, protect the environment and invest in the earth for generations to come. In its current campaign, WPE invites people to celebrate Earth Day by supporting its efforts to reduce climate change emissions by rescuing high-quality food and delivering it to hungry neighbors.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, food waste pollutes the air to the same extent as global road transport emissions. The U.S. discards more food than any other country in the world: almost 40 million tons each year and 40% of the food produced in the U.S. is thrown away. Food that is produced but never consumed wastes the water and energy required to produce it and creates massive amounts of methane.

This solution not only prevents the dangerous environmental impacts of food waste, it can also wipe out food insecurity for good.

Information about all of WPE's programs can be found at <https://www.whiteponyexpress.org>

JM Leadership class helps underserved students



Submitted by Rebecca Metz

The eighth-grade Leadership class at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, taught by Irene Contreras, just raised \$500 in response to a Crayola Crayon drive by local nonprofit, the Sydney Paige Foundation. This donation will help Sydney Paige purchase the important school supplies they provide to thousands of underserved students locally and nationally. Also pictured is Founder and CEO of Sydney Paige, Courtney Brockmeyer, and Executive Director, Tenaya Garrett. For more information about the Crayola Crayon drive, please visit <https://donate.sydney Paige.org/crayons>

Photo provided

Troop 243 recognizes 2022 Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Julianna Haase

Troop 243 of Lafayette held an Eagle Court of Honor on Feb. 26 at Lafayette Christian Church to honor Noah Tristan Yeager, Lucas John Haase, Zack Santos Lara, and George William Rogers, each of whom were recognized for earning BSA scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout. Achieving this rank requires the completion of 21 merit badges, holding positions of increasing leadership within the troop and completing a community project on behalf of the public or non-profit organization. This Court of Honor continues Troop 243's long history of developing young leaders, dating back to the troop's first Eagle Scouts in 1964.

Officials in attendance included Ron Wecht, Unit Commissioner for Briones District and Andrew Dale, District Exec-

utive for the Golden Gate Area Council. During their years with Troop 243, the Scouts gained practical life and outdoor survival skills through numerous summers at Camp Wolfboro, many overnight camping and backpacking trips, snow camping, public speaking and learning how to safely handle small arms at the shooting range.

As a requirement for earning their Eagle Scout rank, the scouts completed the following service projects: Zack Lara spearheaded a community-wide food drive to combat food insecurity in Contra Costa County; George Rogers led a team of scouts in upgrading Stanley Middle School's musical instrument and equipment storage facility and performance stage; Noah Yeager worked with local soccer teams and schools to collect and send soccer gear and equipment to families in Afghanistan; and Lucas Haase created a web-based mental

health resource based on survey results from Lamorinda teens to help them un-

derstand mental health issues and how to locate available resources.



Photo provided

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.moragaart-gallery.com, or call 925-376-5407.

Lamorinda Arts Alliance is pleased to announce its member show "Wellness & Wellbeing" at the John Muir Health Auxiliary Gallery at John Muir Health, Aspen Center, Walnut Creek, April 11 - May 19. Soak in the power of healing through art at the Lamorinda Arts Alliance exhibit. Wellness and wellbeing are reflected in the artwork, creating an ambiance of healing which is important to the patients, their families and friends, staff, volunteers, and healthcare practitioners. The show features 22 artists and 36 original artworks in pastels, oils, acrylics, watercolors, etchings, photography, mixed media, and collage.

Valley Art Gallery announces newly juried show "Talking Pictures" by Gallery Artists March 19 - May 7. Free, open to the public. 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek. www.valleyart-gallery.org; (925) 935-4311

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.

Free concert Celtic harp, Irish songs, improvisation, story-telling. 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.

The acclaimed Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble presents Sacred Baroque, featuring Pergolesi's masterwork Stabat Mater and other choral treasures on Sunday, April 3 at 4 p.m. at St. Perpetua Catholic Church, 3454 Hamlin Road in Lafayette and on Saturday, April 9 at 8 p.m. at St. Mary Magdalen Church 2005 Berryman Street, in Berkeley. Voci will be joined by Jubilate Baroque Orchestra and soloists Elysha Massatt and Lisa Sanders. The program also includes

treasures from Archedelt, Hasse, Legrenzi, Palestrina and Porpora. Tickets: \$15-\$30 at VociSings.org

Cantare, an Oakland-based non-profit community choral organization, presents Brahms' Requiem. The Choral and full orchestra, under the direction of Maestro David Morales, will be joined by soloists Shawnette Sulker, soprano, and Torlef Borsting, baritone. Before each of the seven movements of the Requiem, young speakers from the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center will share original poetry highlighting the themes of loss, death, grieving, comfort, promise, and possibility. Friday, March 25, at 7:30 p.m. Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Ave, Walnut Creek. Tickets online at www.cantareconvivo.org, by phone at (510) 836-0789, or at the door.

Berkeley Symphony presents Symphonic I: RENEW Video Recording on March 5-31, a virtual/online event, 1942 University Avenue, Suite 104, Berkeley. The recording of our symphonic concert, RENEW is available to watch from the comfort of your home. Tickets start at \$20. Available until March 31. Cost: \$20, \$35, \$55. For more info see <https://overture.plus/patron/Berkeley-Symphony> or call 510-841-2800 or email tickets@berkeley-symphony.org.

Gold Coast Chamber Players, classical concert, ¡Caliente! a sizzling exploration of Spanish favorites March 19, at 7:30 p.m. Pre-concert interview with the composer at 7 p.m. Don Tatzin Community Hall at the Lafayette Library 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Tickets: \$15-\$45 Pamela Freund-Stripplén, (925) 283-3728.

LITERATURE

Natalie Baszile, author and TV writer of Queen Sugar and We Are

Each Other's Harvest-Celebrating African American Farmers, Land and Legacy, will speak on March 20 at 4 p.m. at Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. This public lecture is free in-person and live streaming. Register at: Orindacommunitychurch.org.

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/>.

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.

Shotgun Players presents The Lost Ballad of our Mechanical Ancestor on March 28 at 7 p.m., March 29 at 7 p.m., at Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave, Berkeley. A Champagne Staged Reading, where we give the actors just enough tech and staging and let adrenaline do the rest. Tickets only \$15 including bubbly! Cost: \$15. For more info see <http://shotgunplayers.org/online/article/30th-csrs> or call 510-841-6500 x303 or email boxoffice@shotgunplayers.org.

Pan Theater Improv Comedy Show at Town Hall Theater. Pan performers will present class theater games including improvised author, 2nd choice, 3 headed expert interview, poetry reading, and for-

eign film trailer. The night will also include topic dive and an improvised 10-minute play. Friday, March 25 at 8 p.m. Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St., Lafayette. Tickets: \$30 pre-sale, \$35 at-door.

The Orinda Starlight Village Players will be holding auditions, by appointment only (email info@orsvp.org), for OrSVP's season April 3 and 5. Actors will be asked to read from scripts. Prepared monologues will not be required. As of now, masks and proof of vaccination will be required. OrSVP, willing to train, is also actively searching for volunteers interested in stage managing, running lights and sound for performances. The first production of the season will be Agatha Christie's "Towards Zero," directed by Beth Hooper. Performances are set for June 3 through July 2, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:30 p.m.; Thursday, June 30 at 8 p.m.; and a Sunday matinee June 26 at 4 p.m. Rehearsals start in April. For information, visit www.orsvp.org, email info@orsvp.org or call (925) 528-9225.

Del Rey Elementary proudly presents "Seussical Jr.!" Come and support fourth- and fifth-graders as they bring the Cat and the Hat and other Seuss favorites to life. Performances are Thursday March 24 at 7 p.m., Friday March 25 at 7 p.m., and Saturday March 26 at 2 & 5 p.m. Cost is \$10. Link to purchase tickets: www.showtix4u.com/event-details/62416

The Performing Arts Department of Saint Mary's College presents the Saint Mary's College Dance Company annual spring dance concert "In the Slipstream." Being in the slipstream refers to the "turbulence behind a moving object that pulls us along." The concert features Modern/Contemporary Dance, Tap, West African, Dance Theatre, Asian Dance and Ballet Folklorico. The evening culminates with a tribute to our graduating seniors called "Reposar la Juventud en la Victoria (Standing in Your Victory)." Thursday, May 5, 8 p.m.; Friday, May 6, 8 p.m.; Saturday, May 7, 2 p.m. (also live-streamed) Saturday, May 7, 8 p.m. LeFevre Theatre, 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. For more information, contact Tara Sundry, Performing Arts Department Coordinator & Events Manager at (925) 631-4670 or tms8@stmmarys-ca.edu.

OTHER

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 Junior League of Oakland-East Bay (JLOEB) invites families to Touch a Truck at Balestrieri Family Farm, Briones. Touch a Truck is a hands-on family event that provides the opportunity for kids to explore vehicles of all types, including public service, emergency, utility, construction, landscaping, transportation, delivery, and just plain cool or unique trucks — all in one place! There will also be live music, wine tasting, food trucks, crafts and a raffle of exclusive goodies. Event details: Tickets: \$10 for kids (under 2 FREE), \$15 for adults Purchase tickets at <https://bit.ly/Touchatruck> Time: Saturday, April 23, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Address: Balestrieri Family Farm, 6140 Alhambra Valley Road, Briones, www.jloeb.org/truck.

Redistricting--Results and Challenges. Every 10 years we redraw the district lines on our public offices using data gleaned from the Census. The "one person, one vote" doctrine requires electoral districts to be apportioned according to population - making each district roughly equal in population. Join a Zoom meeting on Thursday, March 17 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. to learn how California's non-partisan commission completed the work that will determine who will represent you in Congress and the State Legislature. Hear from a panel of experts on how these efforts were managed. The program is sponsored by the League of Women Voters Diablo Valley, the League of Women Voters West Contra Costa County, and the Contra Costa County Library. Contact programs@lvwdv.org for more information. <https://ccclib.bibliocommons.com/events/62151d86f5fa432800042b9e>

Lamorinda's Religious Services



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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Campolindo closes out historic four-year run with semifinal loss in state tournament



Aidan Mahaney

Photo Will Bergren

By Jon Kingdon

In what the Campolindo boys' basketball team was hoping and anticipating would be their penultimate game of the season, the open division state semifinal game became their final game when they lost to Modesto Christian by a score of 56-53. The game came down to a final long distance shot by Aidan Mahaney that came agonizingly close to putting the game into overtime.

Entering the game, Campolindo was averaging 63.5 points per game, connecting on 48.7% on all their shots and 40.1% of their 3-point shots but had an off night from the floor sinking only 32.2% of all their shots and 21.9% of their 3-point attempts. Mahaney led the Cougars with 27 points followed by Shane O'Reilly-9, Clay Naffziger-8, Matt Radell-7 and Logan Robeson-2.

Trailing 34-25 at the half, the Cougars, as they have done all season, stepped up their game after making halftime adjustments. "We switched one matchup with Shane (O'Reilly) and Matt (Radell) on their two big guys," Coach Steven Dyer said. "It was more about how we had to win with effort plays and be the smarter team which we weren't in the first half. We started getting more stops in the second half and playing possession by possession, not trying to make a 10-point play. I think we did a decent job of that."

Campolindo took their first lead of the game, 43-42 with 0:55 left in the third quarter and their final lead 47-46 with 2:34 left in the game. At that point Modesto scored 10 of the next 11 points.

With Modesto leading 48-47 with 1:50 left in the game, Modesto's Jamari Phillips scored the next eight points for the Crusaders but drew a technical foul for taunting after his last basket with 15.5 seconds left. Mahaney converted the two foul shots. Campolindo then inbounded the ball to Mahaney and he quickly hit a 3-point shot to close the margin to three. Phillips was then fouled with 9.8 seconds left in the game and he missed the one foul shot, but Modesto got the rebound. Phillips was fouled again, and again he missed the foul shot. This time Campolindo got the rebound and called time out with 3.2 seconds left.

There was no question who was going to take the last shot for the Cougars. Mahaney took the inbounds pass in the backcourt and just after he crossed the mid-court line he took a 40-foot shot with time expiring. The dramatic shot hit the backboard, rim, backboard and rim before falling off to the side. Did the shot feel good when it left his hands? "Absolutely it did," Mahaney said. "I believe I'm going to make every shot but this one was tough. I've never ended my season on a loss. Just looking at the scoreboard, it didn't feel real. It's tough, but I feel I can leave with no regrets, and I can leave with my head held high for this game, this season and for this program. It's going to be tough to get over this one."

The close loss was difficult for Dyer and the team to accept. "When you're with all these guys for so long, it's obviously emotional," Dyer said. "We thought we had a good chance to win, and we didn't get it done. Sometimes basketball's like that and tonight it wasn't our night. It's a remarkable accomplishment what this team has done. I'll be able to soak it in probably a little bit more in the coming weeks."

Mahaney felt that the way the team battled to the end exhibited the character of the team. "That's what we play to and that's what we're about," Mahaney

said. "Never give up and play within the team. A lot of teams could have folded then. It speaks to the culture we've created and all that we went through led by Coach Dyer, all the coaches and our seniors, to get it done. This one's tough but I'm proud of my guys."

Despite the loss, it was still an opportunity to appraise the team's performance over the last four years. A Division II state championship in 2019, a Division I co-state championship in 2020 (game canceled due to the pandemic), 15-0 in 2021 in a season with no playoffs and concluding this season with a 28-2 record.

At the end of the 2018 season, Campolindo was ranked 583rd in the nation and 67th in California. Prior to the Modesto game, the team was ranked 45th nationally and fifth in the state by MaxPreps, numbers that Dyer takes great pride in. "These past four years brought Campolindo to unprecedented heights," Dyer said. "Now people know Campolindo. When I first got here, people knew us in our league, then they knew us in the Bay Area, then they knew us in the state and now they know us in the country. That should say a lot about what this senior class has done for us."

Mahaney flashed back on how long he had been teammates with his fellow seniors, center Matt Radell and guard Cade Bennett: "Matt has been setting pick and rolls for me since the third grade. I've been playing with Cade since kindergarten, playing at Lafayette Elementary School. It's been wild and we've been doing it for a long time. Matt and I won AAU national championship in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Then, as freshmen, we came to Campolindo and accomplished what we did these past four years, coming one game short from accomplishing some truly historic stuff."

Mahaney, who will be playing for Saint Mary's next year, intends to maintain his relationship with the Cougars. "I'll be back to Campolindo whenever I can for practices and games," Mahaney said. "We have a lot of really good players. Coach Dyer is a tremendous coach, and one player doesn't define who we are. It's a culture and a team. We've done big things and I expect those things to continue to happen."

Dyer shares that optimism: "These guys have the highest possible standards so our program will work to get back to this point and replicate this as best we can. The guys that are coming back have a great model of how to do it."



LMYA 3 VS. 3 TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS

LMYA held its season ending tournaments on February 26. Here are some of the Champions.



William Stoltzfus
Ajay Sekhon
Matthew Njaa
Connor Dunton
Cole Carlson
Mason Chang
Eytan Brosh
Coach Vijay Sekhon
Coach Tom Chang



David
Luca
James
Nate
Henry
Pierce
Nils
Coach Patrick
Coach Marco



Josephine Hastings
Karyme Navarro
Angali Kesiraju
Maya Jones,
Mila Robinson
Coach James Hastings
Coach Sandeep Kesiraju
Coach Anthony Jones



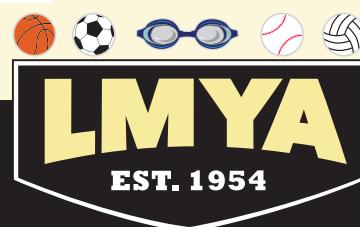
Adelia Corso
Mozelle Smith
Alexa Walker
Addison Hubinger
Michela Werner
Finley Fogel
Avery Hughes
Coach Mark Corso



Madelyn Maurer
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Clara Sargent
Audrey Pierce
Juliana Bellusa
Abigail Crossland
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Coach Kevin Dunphy



Charlotte Smith
Ellis Vukasin
Hayden Holloway
Mia Grover



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Taycee Wedin's assault on the record books



Taycee Wedin

Photo provided

Setting 3-point shooting records was something that Wedin seemed destined to break going back to her days growing up in Milwaukie, where she was trained by her mother Kelli, herself a top player, a good shooter and her eventual coach in high school. "Before high school, I worked my whole life to get those shots. My mom was a big reason for that, always getting me in the gym even when I didn't want to go. She would push me to go, and she would set up shots with me every single day. And it was having a love for the game. It became a muscle memory for me, getting those reps up and going into the gym every single day."

While conceding that the Bay Area is "a little different" from Milwaukie, Oregon, it was the Saint Mary's environment and the unceasing efforts of the Gaels head coach Paul Thomas that drew Wedin to Moraga. "The atmosphere and the people and Saint Mary's are very similar to my high school," Wedin said. "When I came here on my visit, I really bonded with Coach Thomas and the team. Coach was one of the few coaches that stayed in contact with me after I tore my ACL and I really appreciated that."

Besides Wedin's character, Thomas had to have been impressed with Wedin's high school accomplishments on the court - four straight Northwest Oregon Championships, never having lost a league game, two state championships, first team all-state selections in 2017 and 2018 and second team in 2015 and 2016.

Thomas was prescient about Wedin's future success when he first saw her in high school. "I don't remember exactly when I said this to Taycee during the recruitment process, but we had talked about her setting the record here. The other special thing about Taycee, in all the games that she has played here over the last four years, she has never had an extended slump and she has had teammates that have obviously helped her along. She's been extremely consistent in her craft and that speaks volumes for what she has been able to do because everyone in the country knows what she is capable of. Everyone talks about doing the work, but she goes out there and does it."

Wedin, who was just named second team all WCC, will graduate with a degree in kinesiology and sports

management and will be returning for a fifth year, as so many other college student-athletes were able to, due to the pandemic. It's obviously been a positive experience for Wedin as her sister Addison followed in her footsteps, having entered Saint Mary's this year but redshirted due to an injury. Playing alongside her sister was another inducement for Wedin to return for her fifth year.

"I'm very close with my family and they know how I feel about Saint Mary's. Addison has obviously been following me since I first came here. She knew all my ups and downs at Saint Mary's. Ultimately, she bonded with the coaches the same way that I did."

Jontelle Smith, the Saint Mary's Gael whose 3-point record of 268 Wedin broke against Santa Clara on Feb. 7 graduated in 2010 and was coached by Thomas. She bore no ill will toward Wedin. "Everybody feels a certain way when someone breaks their record," Thomas said, "but Jontelle is super proud of Taycee and happy for her, having watched her enough to know that she earned this."

The all-time NCAA record for 3-point shots is 497, which is held by Kelsey Mitchell who graduated from Ohio State in 2018. After Mitchell, the list of 3-point shooters in the record books drops down to 350, with only 32 players having made that list. Wedin only needs 49 more 3-point field goals to make that exalted list.

Wedin has evolved as a player into far more than just a shooter. "The coaches have done an amazing job of developing me," Wedin said. "They've worked with me every year and I believe that I have grown a lot as a player. I know that people see me as a shooter, but I have to do more than that to produce for my team."

Thomas concurs with Wedin's assessment of overall talents on the court: "Beyond adjectives that I have in my vocabulary as to what type of teammate she is, she does everything. She is a Gael and understands our way and our relationship has grown since the time we began recruiting her and she is a great extension of all our coaches. She understands what we want and that's what leaders do."

By Jon Kingdon

With a minute and a half left in the Gaels' last home game this season against the University of Pacific, Taycee Wedin broke a record that may have seemed inevitable when she stepped onto the Saint Mary's campus four years ago. When she sank her sixth 3-point shot that evening, the 299th of her college career, she became the most prolific 3-point shooter in West Coast Conference history, surpassing Gonzaga's Jessica Malone who had owned the record since 2002.

This was not the first time Wedin has set such a record. Prior to Saint Mary's, Wedin owned the same record in high school in the state of Oregon, having connected on 359 3-point shots during her high school career at LaSalle Prep in Milwaukie, Oregon.

St. Monica 4th-grade American Girls capture West Diablo CYO basketball championship



Photo Ana Moon

From left: Vivian Welch, Aria Salvi, Ava Rickson, Avery Zwakman, Sierra Romagnolo, Sydney Osteen, Logan Crosson, Lizzy Gilbert, Abigail Moon

Submitted by Marino Salvi

After a 6-3 regular season playing a grade up in the fifth-grade national division, the St. Monica fourth-grade American Girls won the end of season

tournament to capture the silver bracket championship last month.

The team was coached by Marino Salvi, Eric Moon and Jerry Gilbert, and ended the season with an overall record of 12-5 including winning the MVP Preseason CYO Tournament.

Undefeated St. Monica 7th Grade Girls CYO Champions



Photo provided

Submitted by Maureen Matthews

The St. Monica seventh-grade girls overcame many obstacles to maintain a perfect 11-0 record and win the Basketball CYO Championship. Infrequently fielding a complete team for

games, the Spartans even gritted out a narrow victory with only four players in the second half of a league game in December.

The girls' relentless pressure, crisp passing, and clutch free throws carried them to a championship win over a talented and taller St. Isidore squad on Super Bowl Sunday.

photos by Kim Lockett

LMYA Baseball, Softball & Teeball OPENING DAY 2022

LMYA held its Opening Day at Springhill and Acalanes. Coaches from the National Academy of Athletics, trained the Baseball/Tee Ball players at Springhill; while the Acalanes softball players held a clinic for LMAYA players.

www.lmyasports.com

Rain or Sunshine Run Club athletes take medals at Brazen Victory Race



Photo provided

Submitted by Diane Batchelor

About 18 Stanley Middle School students make up the Rain or Sunshine Run Club. The young athletes trained three days a week for seven weeks to race in either the 5K or 10K at the Brazen Victory Race in Richmond, Feb. 26. Their training runs took them around the Lafayette Reservoir, along the Lafayette/Moraga trail, through the neighborhoods and up into the Lafayette Community Park.

Notable performances in the 5K: Nikola (3rd), Taejin (5th), Thomas (7th), Russell (9th) overall. While the girls took top 10 overall in the female division. Nora (2nd) Shriya (3rd), Bhavana (4th), Aureilia (6h) and Zoe (7th). Extra hardware came home with many placing top 3 in their age groups. Close to 250 participants took part.

In the 10K Lauren and Colbie rocked the course placing second and third females overall with Clark and Mathew placing fifth and ninth overall.

The Rain or Sunshine Run Club team, from left: coach Diane, Vincent, Aureilia, Shriya, Bhavana, Nora, Colbie, Lauren, Robert, Thomas, Mathew, Taejin Zoe, Russell, Clark (missing): Jr. coach Haelee, Jasper, Nikola

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Contact us:
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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, Linda Fodriani-Johnson, Lou Fancher, Jeff Gomez, Sharon K. Sobotta, M.D. Jones

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
website: www.lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

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



Nature's gifts

... read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Boots on the ground!



Cynthia Brian's newest flower gardening boots.



The perfect colors of Ukraine in a single plant, the Dutch Iris.



Photos Cynthia Brian

Yellow calendulas are edible.

By Cynthia Brian

"I'm fed up with old men dreaming up wars for young men to die in." ~ George S. McGovern

"Lose yourself in nature and find peace." ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

How much can a gardener accomplish without the proper boots? To be a successful gardener, we need the right tools. Sturdy boots are an indispensable ingredient for keeping steady and safe on any terrain. Although my gardening wardrobe varies with the seasons, the one item that I'm never without is my garden boots. Over the years I've worn out numerous pairs of cowboy boots, rubber boots, and mud boots, but none were pretty or stylish. My Christmas gift this year from my daughter and her husband was two pairs of decorative, yet highly func-

tional gardening boots. These boots are beautiful, comfortable, waterproof, and quick cleaning, as they must withstand all types of ground, but not battlegrounds.

They are not combat boots.

Wearing my pretty and protective boots, I wonder about the boots of the brave people of Ukraine, both military and civilian, who are courageously fighting against the Russian aggressors. In unanimity with this valiant nation, I am dedicating this season to the colors of blue and yellow. Glory to the heroes!

We can all spring into solidarity by planting blooms for the brave. Choose a combination of specimens from both color spectrums that best represent how you feel. Make sure to check compatibility with light, moisture, and growth habits.

... continued on Page D12

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**Lamorinda home sales recorded**

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	10	\$1,315,000	\$3,995,000
MORAGA	3	\$437,500	\$1,254,000
ORINDA	3	\$515,000	\$1,550,000

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

- 9 Burnt Oak Circle, \$2,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 2250 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 01-31-22, Previous Sale: \$1,441,000, 04-24-17
- 3219 Glenside Drive, \$1,660,000, 3 Bdrms, 1603 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 01-31-22
- 23 Greentree Court, \$3,995,000, 4 Bdrms, 3486 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 02-04-22, Previous Sale: \$1,750,000, 11-03-20
- 1108 Martino Road, \$1,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 2409 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 01-24-22
- 3605 Mosswood Drive, \$1,315,000, 3 Bdrms, 1573 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 01-26-22
- 1085 Orchard Road, \$1,560,000, 3187 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 01-24-22
- 1553 Rancho View Drive, \$3,957,500, 6 Bdrms, 5187 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 02-02-22, Previous Sale: \$2,669,000, 03-15-07
- 1702 Toyon Road, \$2,375,000, 5 Bdrms, 2958 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 02-04-22, Previous Sale: \$1,325,000, 04-20-16
- 1036 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$1,800,000, 2 Bdrms, 1787 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 01-31-22, Previous Sale: \$965,000, 02-06-07
- 1220 Woodborough Road, \$2,262,000, 4 Bdrms, 3573 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 01-31-22, Previous Sale: \$560,000, 02-01-88

MORAGA

- 2121 Donald Drive #9, \$437,500, 1 Bdrms, 756 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 01-28-22, Previous Sale: \$392,000, 04-29-21
- 25 Francisca Drive, \$1,254,000, 2 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 01-25-22, Previous Sale: \$580,000, 06-17-13
- 461 Woodminster Drive, \$815,000, 2 Bdrms, 1474 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 01-31-22, Previous Sale: \$435,000, 04-24-12

ORINDA

- 67 Brookwood Road #6, \$515,000, 2 Bdrms, 897 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 01-28-22, Previous Sale: \$377,000, 08-27-08
- 183 Canon Drive, \$1,550,000, 5 Bdrms, 2292 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 01-28-22, Previous Sale: \$221,000, 06-01-85
- 24 Northwood Drive, \$1,000,000, 2 Bdrms, 1583 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 02-02-22

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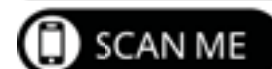
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Nature's gifts



Highly flammable and invasive French broom



Native Soaproot lily

Photos Toris Jaeger

By Toris Jaeger, Naturalist

Every day I am aware of the gifts from nature – sunlight, air, water, flora and fauna. The sun is a very powerful energy source. It gives energy to all living things, and we can use sunlight to reduce pollution from fossil fuels.

Fauna, including microorganisms, fungi, and animals such as tiny bees, people, and great blue whales are part of the tapestry of life. Flora, including algae, grass and redwood trees, capture power from the sun and are the foundation of Earth's food web.



Deer nibbling Soaproot leaves

Now that it is spring and daffodil time in our area, be on the lookout for plants that were important to Native Peoples. In the Orinda Nature Area soaproot lily is beginning to flower. Look for the tall thin stems with delicate white flowers growing in

meadows and on grassy hills.

Many local tribes collected these useful plants and shaped their coarse brown fibers covering the bulbs into small brushes. The first people of our area pounded the bulbs to make a soapy juice. The liquid contains saponins that form a lather when mixed with water. The lather can be used for washing hair, thus giving rise to the name “soaproot.” The observant people discovered that the soapy liquid used for washing stunned the fish in the stream nearby causing them to float to the surface where they could be collected for food. Roasting the bulbs broke down the saponins, and the local Miwok people ate the bulbs for winter food. This useful plant grows at the edge of the meadow in the Nature Area and can be spotted as you hike the trails of the region. At sunrise and sunset, you might see deer eating the lily leaves!

I would like you to help me spread the word about a common shrub in our area. This month the hills are bright with the yellow flowers of French broom. It is easy to spot the large patches of yellow spreading through neighborhoods. Every year, hundreds of volunteers in the region's parks work diligently to remove this invasive weed.

Many residents do not know that this pretty bush is highly flammable; sometimes it is called “fireman's nightmare.” The seeds and leaves are poisonous to wildlife and the shrub crowds out other plants. If you find it in your yard, please remove it – you will be doing your neighbors and wildlife a favor by getting rid of a toxic fire hazard. For many years, I have led groups of volunteers in the Nature Area in pulling up French broom and other invasive plants.

... continued on Page D10

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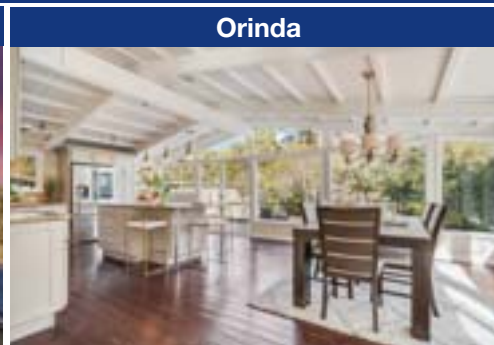


5 La Noria \$3,200,000

This Stunning Orinda Country Club Mid Century Modern Estate with amazing views closed in 10 days over asking!

Laura Abrams
www.5lanoria.com

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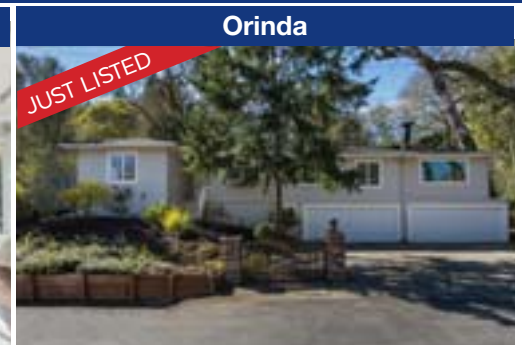


11 Dos Encinas \$1,998,000

WOW! Fresh Mid-century Modern in Excellent Location. 5 bedrooms 3 full bath, 2468 sqft, 0.31 acre totally flat.

June Young
https://bit.ly/11_Dos_Encinas

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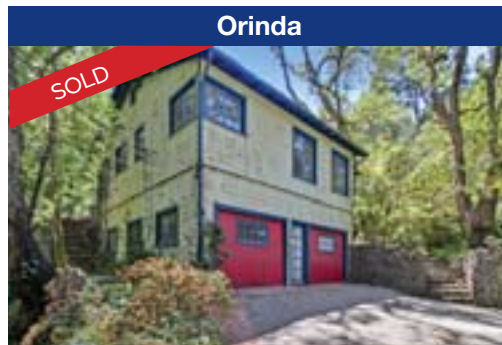


75 Stanton Avenue \$1,575,000

First time on the market in 46 years! Charming Orinda Rancher / Cottage style residence. Close to downtown but very quiet and peaceful!

Laura Abrams
www.75stanton.com

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125 Canon Dr \$1,350,000

This unique park-like property is comprised of two separate lots being sold together!

Ana Zimmank
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407 El Toyonal \$1,305,000

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www.407eltoyonal.com

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3908 Paseo Grande \$1,899,000

Single-story Campolindo home with 4 bedrooms + office and flat yard. Updates throughout. Vaulted ceilings, dual-paned windows, hardwood floor.

Michelle Holcenberg

925-324-0405



1519 Camino Peral Offered at \$637,500

Upper Condo views, light bright



6049 Outlook Ave \$899,000

Charm-filled 3BR | 2BA bungalow in the Millsmont neighborhood! 2-car garage; bonus room; generous backyard. Remodeled in 2014. Mary Beth MacLennan/Tony Conte

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3136 Ptarmigan # 6 \$910,000

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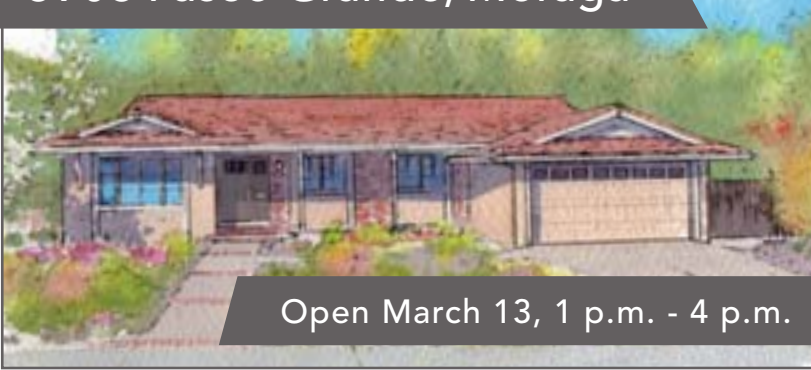
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Find your new spot just in time for summer. This beautifully updated single-story home with a flat yard is located in the Campolindo neighborhood, close to the Cabana Club. The home features hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, kitchen with light-wood cabinetry and quartz countertops that opens to the family room, and a large living/dining room. Come take advantage of top schools and an idyllic neighborhood.

JUST SOLD

109 Ascot Ct. Unit C, Moraga
Updated 2 bed/1.5 bath townhome.
Listed for \$525,000. Sold for \$675,000 with 15 offers.

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Nature's gifts



Volunteers in the Nature Area remove French broom.

... continued from Page D4

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is a great source of information about protecting endangered native plants. On Sept. 28, 2021,

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the CNPS sponsored AB 223 into law providing new protections for the beautiful dudleya species that are being collected from our rocky coastal cliffs. Plant poachers have been illegally collecting thousands of these succulent plants and selling them across the world via social media. Varieties of dudleya succulents are in danger of extinction yet are very popular in drought resistant gardens. Please do not purchase dudleya via the web unless you determine that the plants are legal to own.

The California Native Plant Society is a nonprofit organization working to save and celebrate California's native plants and habitats via science, advocacy, education and horticulture – www.cnps.org.

If you are interested in helping clear invasive plants, volunteer hours at the Nature Area are Sundays between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. All are welcome; volunteers under the age of 10 must bring a parent with them. Twice a year the Nature Area hosts a Sunday festival for the public. We are hoping to resume these festival days when the dangers from COVID subside.

My wish for you all is that “Nature touches you today and every day.”

Friends of the Orinda Nature Area is a nonprofit dedicated to environmental education and conservation of the 18-acre Nature Area, which the Orinda Union School District owns. For information, visit www.fwrna.org.



French broom that took over a field at the Nature Area.



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New Listing - 1003 Woodbury Rd. #108, Lafayette

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Enjoy the best of downtown Lafayette living! Single-story end unit at the popular Woodbury community offers two bedrooms, two baths, a beautifully appointed kitchen/great room and an incredible level of fit and finish. Close to the Lafayette reservoir, Oakwood athletic club, Hwy 24, BART, top-rated schools, downtown shops and restaurants.



Terri Bates Walker

C. 510.282.4420 | Cal RE #01330081

TerriBatesWalker@gmail.com

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Boots on the ground!

... continued from Page D1

Plant in a pot or create the Ukrainian flag in a grand gesture of unity with any of the varieties listed.

BLUE	Liriope	Hydrangea	Verbena	Forget-Me-Not	Calendula	Zinnia	Golden Star
Dutch iris	Nepeta	Pansy	Buddleia		Roses	Dahlia	Hellebore
Bearded iris	Agastache	Petunia	Hibiscus	YELLOW	Margarite	Forsythia	Daylily
Hyacinth	Lupin	Blue-Eyed Star	Lilac	Crocus	Shasta Daisy	Hibiscus	Sunflower
Periwinkle	Aquilegia	Grass	Anchusa	Lantana	Calibrachoa	Echinacea	Hollyhock
Delphinium	Aster	Salvia	Baptisia	Bearded Iris	Gladiolus	Aquilegia	Lupine
Phlox	Brunnera	Angelonia	Gentiana	Dutch Iris	Pansy	Baptisia	Primrose
Lavandula	Crocus	Agapanthus	Plumbago	Shamrock	Petunia	Ligularia	Sedum
Lavender	Geranium	Heliotrope	Ajuga	Yarrow	Tithonia	Chrysanthemum	Mustard
Clematis	Rosanne	Sweet pea	Scabiosa	Daffodil	Rudbeckia	Coreopsis	
Campanula	Echinops	Lobelia	Veronica	Tulip	Marigold	Gaillardia	



Each yellow flower of the spiny sowthistle weed will scatter 1000 seeds!



Periwinkle climbs a fence.



A sprouting blue freesia.



Yellow yarrow.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Although I don't know of any weeds other than the dayflower that boast the blue color, many unwanted plants have yellow flowers. Keep in mind, what some people consider a weed, others enjoy as a medicinal herb, wildflower, or pretty plant. Weeds are plants growing where they are not wanted. Some species that many gardeners consider weeds are sold as garden favorites in garden centers. You decide what you want to allow to thrive in your garden. Seeds from weeds are spread by wind, water, and birds, quickly and effectively. If you have

weeds, it is best to pull them out by hand by the root as soon as possible and before they go to seed as they can take over a huge area in a very minimal amount of time. Many of these weeds are considered invasive and noxious as they are difficult to control, and they displace welcome plants. Also, be aware that any plant could be poisonous if ingested. Never take a taste sample of a plant unless you are certain that it is safe.

... continued on Page D15

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Boots on the ground!



Photos Cynthia Brian

Daffodils are everywhere and a happy sign of peace.

... continued from Page D12

WEEDS with Yellow Flowers

Dandelion
 Spiny Sowthistle.
 Yellow Hawkweed
 Woolly mullein
 Golden clover
 Creeping buttercup
 Butterweed
 Goldenrod
 Loosestrife
 Ragwort
 Cinquefoil
 Creeping Jenny
 Yellow burr weed
 Spanish broom
 St. John's Wort
 Skeletonweed
 Flat-top goldenrod
 Yellow Toadflax

Velvetleaf
 Black Medic
 Goat head wee



A lane of sky-blue delphiniums.

I am saddened and outraged by the aggression and devastation Russian forces have and continue to inflict on this independent nation, specifically targeting innocent civilian populations, hospitals, and schools. In addition to prayers, positive thoughts, and donations to relief organizations, spring into solidarity with Ukraine and exhibit blue and yellow now and until this unjustified war is resolved.

Our boots are made for walking and while my boots are on my grounds, as I garden, I stand for Ukraine.



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Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Garden Reminders

PLANT early blooming pollinators including California poppy, chives, larkspur dianthus, lupine, pea, viola, and sweet alyssum.

GOPHERS are breeding. Be on the alert to eradicate these destroyers.

START your spring gardening by improving the soil. Gardens are often missing the microorganisms and nutrients needed for a thriving crop.

RE-SEED or plant a new lawn during this spring weather. Commence weekly mowing for sturdier growing. For best results, do not use a leaf bag but instead, allow the clippings to compost on the grass naturally.

FERTILIZE fruit trees and flowering shrubs with a high nitrogen solution.

DIVIDE perennials such as daylilies and agapanthus.

CLUMP flowers together in areas measuring four feet diameter or more to attract bees, butterflies, and birds.

CLEAN fountains, ponds, birdbaths, and other water features to welcome our flying friends home for the warmer weather.

CELEBRATE spring on March 20, the vernal equinox. The day and nighttime hours equal exactly 12 each.

SET a bowl of yellow and blue fruits such as lemons, grapefruits, bananas, grapes, and blueberries to remind us that freedom isn't free, we fight for it.

FIND peace in nature.

SHOW solidarity with Ukraine and democracy by embracing a garden filled with blue and yellow flowering plants.



blue hyacinth



Meyer lemons hanging.

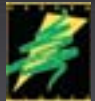
Photos Cynthia Brian



Cynthia Brian stands in support of Ukraine.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy Spring. Triumph for Ukraine and the world!
 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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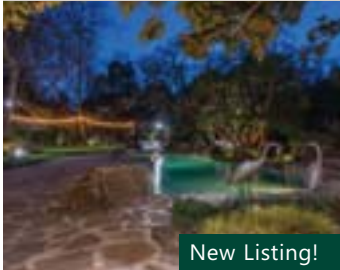
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ORINDA



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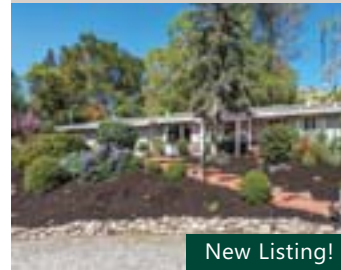
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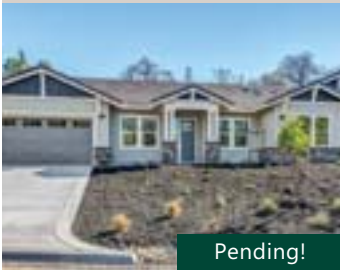
New Listing!

778 Las Trampas

Charming 3 bd/ 2 bath w/ gourmet kitchen, updated bathrooms, & family room that opens to private quiet yard.

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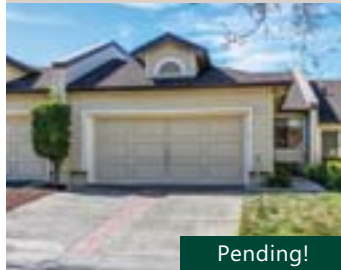
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49 Amigo Lane

New construction 5 bed/ 3.5 bath home in desirable Walnut Heights neighborhood w/ open floor plan & beautiful finishes!

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Pending!

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Amazing small gated community townhome w/ 3 beds/ 2.5 bath w/ beautiful views of hills, walking trails, & easy freeway access!

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PLEASANT HILL



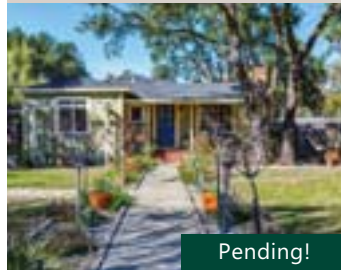
Pending!

241 Western Hills Drive

Lovely 2 story 3 bed/ 2.5 bath duet on .23 acres in the heart of Pleasant Hill! Light & bright w/ many upgrades!

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