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Art in Public Spaces Committee Chairperson Teresa Onoda stands beneath "The Fisherman" sculpture at Moraga's West Commons Park.

Photo Vera Kochan

'The Fisherman' makes big splash in West Commons Park

By Vera Kochan

There's a new art installation in Moraga's West Commons Park (across Moraga Road from Moraga Commons Park), and Art in Public Spaces Committee Chairperson Teresa Onoda is anticipating more to come.

"The Fisherman" by artist Tony Zorich (tonyzorichart.com) was reviewed and approved at a joint meeting of the APSC and the Park and Recreation Commission in May, and a month later got a thumbs up from the town council. It is the first work of art to grace the new park, and as such the loaned piece has been placed in a perfect spot for maximum appreciation by joggers and walkers alike.

"West Commons Park was created with the understanding that it was to be a passive park, which is perfect for sculptures," explained Onoda.

Zorich, a resident of Danville, Calif., was approached about the project more than three years ago. According to his bio, "I spent my working years in real estate."

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History and humanity collide in Steve Falk's 'California Story'



By Lou Fancher

During the first few weeks of the COVID-19 shutdown, a weed field of worries erupted in the mind of former longtime Lafayette city manager Steve Falk. He worried not only about his own health, but about his wife, adult children, other family members including his parents—and friends, colleagues, people he knew worldwide, even total strangers whose stories were told in the news and on social media.

Accustomed to the steady beat of a

career that had him serving Lafayette as city manager for 28 years—in several "codas," Falk was hired for interim city administrative positions in Hercules, Richmond and Oakland—he knew he needed a project to fill the hours of empty time during the pandemic lockdown. A long-considered idea of writing a book about California began to percolate. California, he thought, was a state loaded with vast, plunderable history. With few clear thoughts about the form or narrative for the book, he was at first spinning wheels in his head more than writing

words on a page.

Perhaps it was a pandemic nightmare about mortality and lost stories—his family's or those of other families, or of California's—that played itself out during one night. Or, perhaps it was the tag line of an oral history project he had participated in that haunted him with its "get the stories before they're gone" warning. Whatever the reason, Falk says in an interview that a lightbulb lit up. "I woke up one morning with the big idea. I could write a story about my family that tells a larger story about California at the same time. That was the genesis. I remembered stories my dad and grandfather had told me. I wanted to write those stories down before they were lost forever."

The result is "California Story," a serial memoir that in 39 chapters published online tells the true story of his family's history and cross-stitches those stories with highlights of California history. Beginning with his grandparents, Art and Marion Falk, "two dustbowl

refugees who fled Nebraska during the Great Depression to pursue the California dream," and in 1930 arrived in Bell, California, each chapter takes its journey in different California locations; suburban Lakewood, Coachella Valley, Disneyland, San Luis Obispo, Fresno, Los Angeles, Yosemite, Lafayette, Berkeley, San Francisco, Oakland, Palo Alto and more. Along the way of tracing his roots, Falk finds broader stories to tell that in summary could be said to illustrate the richness and complexity of the state. Beginning with the swift, visceral opening of Chapter 1, a surfing drama that reads like an epic myth and immediately establishes Falk's literary tone, chapters chronicle personal stories as they address California's public transit systems, city management, land and business ownership, commercial development and residential zoning codes, the Loma Prieta Earthquake, skiing in the Sierra, and much more.

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See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
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COMPASS

Planning Commission recommends water conservation ordinance



By Jennifer Wake

The Lafayette Planning Commission at its Sept. 6 meeting discussed a city-initiated amendment to the Lafayette Municipal Code adding a new chapter titled “Water Efficient Landscaping” to implement the state mandate requiring local jurisdictions to implement water efficient landscape design and irrigation practices.

According to the staff report presented by Assistant Planner Joshua Muller, the

Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELo) is a state regulation designed to prevent water from being wasted on irrigated landscapes. “The law is important because about half of the water directed to urban areas is used on irrigated landscapes,” Muller noted in the staff report. “The MWELo was created in 1993 from the 1990 Water Conservation and Landscaping Act and was updated in 2015 at the height of the drought. Additionally, Article 8 of SB 1383 requires MWELo

compliance as related to compost and mulching.”

In 2015, the State of California adopted Executive Order B-29-15 which tasked the Department of Water Resources to update the MWELo regulations to increase water efficiency standards for new and existing landscapes through irrigation systems, graywater usage, onsite storm water capture, and by limiting the portion of landscapes that can be covered in turf, according to the report.

... continued on Page A3

Ashley Dias’ legacy lives on



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A plaque commemorating Ashley Dias was erected Sept. 2 in honor of the heroic crossing guard who lost his life Sept. 8, 2021.

By Sharon K. Sobotta

When Ashley Dias left for his post as a crossing guard outside of Stanley Middle School on Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021, he told his mom he’d see her in a bit. That was the last time Gloria Dias saw her son alive.

“I kept listening for the door and watching the clock and I wondered why he was so slow in getting home,” Gloria Dias recalls. “And then I got a call from John Muir hospital

telling me that my son was there and I should come.”

Ashley’s siblings cautioned his mom that things must’ve been bad, but she didn’t believe it would be that bad. When Gloria got to the hospital, she was met by her daughter Vanessa, who she remembers crying hysterically. “That’s when a social worker came to me and asked me to go upstairs and identify my son’s body,” Gloria says. “It broke my heart. I lifted the covers and he was still warm,

but covered in bruises.” As Gloria stood there in shock trying to make sense of the loss of her son, an EMT approached her and told her something that she says gave her a little bit of peace. “He told me I’m sorry your son died, but he was a hero. He said that if it wasn’t for Ashley, his little girl would have been dead, as he showed me her picture.”

But more tragically, Gloria says, is that if it wasn’t for someone driving recklessly, all lives could have been spared. “The grandmother who ran Ashley over already had the kids she was picking up in the car. Even if she was running late, late is better than never. I will never get to see my son again.”

In 2021 Ashley Dias became one of some 7,845 pedestrians killed in the United States. The number of pedestrian deaths rose to a 40-year high, according to the Governor’s Highway Safety Association. This statistic has people across the nation rethinking how to keep people on foot safe. The fact that Dias died

while patrolling the streets to keep other pedestrians safe around schools has Lamorinda residents grappling with the same issue. “I’m advocating for there to be a safety awareness day in honor of my son, Ashley Dias,” Gloria says. “It’s a time to really remind people to slow down and drive safe.”

On Friday, Sept. 2 nearly 100 Lafayette residents, city officials, friends and family gathered in downtown Lafayette to remember Dias and bear witness to the unveiling of a plaque in his honor. The plaque reads: ‘In memory of courageous crossing guard Ashley Dias, who was struck and killed by a vehicle on September 8, 2021 while protecting children in a crosswalk in front of Stanley Middle School. Let this be a solemn reminder of drivers to please slow down and let our children and community be safe.’

Lafayette City Attorney Mala Subramanian worked with the Dias family to determine the verbiage of the plaque. Subramanian says the message on the plaque is a

good reminder not only for drivers when they’re behind the wheel but to people in the world at large. “I think it’s important to remember to slow down. That’s an important theme for life.” She added that she’s been awestruck by the strength and perseverance of the Dias family since they lost Ashley.

While Ashley Dias has in a way become a poster child for the cause of slowing down, his family and friends want him to be remembered for much more than that. Dias lived and worked in the field of biotech in San Francisco until he moved back to his childhood stomping grounds of Lafayette during the pandemic to lend a hand with his mom. “My colon collapsed after my second dose of the vaccine and I needed a helping hand,” Gloria says. “Since he was working remotely he came back. He took good care of me and helped me get to my appointments and made me meals that looked like they were being served in a restaurant.

... continued on Page A10

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* per public records

Lafayette Art & Wine Festival returns Sept. 17-18 for 25th anniversary



One of the biggest draws to downtown Lafayette returns Sept. 17 and 18, with four stages and over 20 bands, 300 artist and craft booths and four kid zones as part of the 2022 Lafayette Art & Wine Festival produced by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the city of Lafayette and Eckersstrom Productions. Complimentary bike valet parking will be offered at 81 Lafayette Circle and there will be free shuttle rides from the free festival parking in the BART parking lot.

"I'm very excited about this year's festival," Brian Aiello, Festival Entertainment Chair since 2000, said. "I feel so fortunate that we are able to host an event like this that has such a wonderful history of great music, outstanding art, and a beautiful setting that is truly second to none. We'll have bands that have been performing with us for over a decade, along with some new sounds that I think people will love to see and hear."

Appearing for the first time this year will be New York Jazzman Kyle Athayde "who is putting together an awesome set with some heavy cats that will really get some attention; Maroon Vibe – a Maroon 5 tribute – will be pumping out some fun and contemporary pop, and golden-voiced Matt Owens will be belting out Eagles hits with his band Midnight Flyer," Aiello said.

"Of course there will be our anchors (because after all,

no Lafayette Art & Wine Festival could be complete without them): Spazmatics (is there possibly a more fun show – I think not), ZEBOP! with their faithful Santana tunes led by the incomparable Antonio Marquez, East Bay Mudd throwing down their great mix of funk and R&B (the only band I've seen that can get a conga line going at 2 in the afternoon!), and Lafayette's own Other Peoples' Money – OPM – that has been holding down the Saturday night closing spot for at least the last 10 years.

"All these plus so many more awesome bands that come together to make the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival the go-to festival!"

The Festival is family-friendly and dog-friendly. Well-behaved, leashed family dogs are welcome, but typically happiest during cooler – and less crowded – morning hours. Festival proceeds support local community programs like Lafayette Partners in Education ("LPIE"), and other nonprofits, but much of the Festival experience is free, including admission and all four stages.

Check the website for maps, music schedule and a current update on the safety policy at the time of the event. The Festival committee will follow all required health and safety procedures and requirements set by Contra Costa County and the State of California. <https://lafayettefestival.com> - J. Wake

Planning Commission recommends water conservation ordinance

... continued from Page A2

Projects are triggered for MWEL0 when they have 500 square-feet of new building with a landscape or new landscaping that did not exist before or 2,500 square-feet of rehabilitated landscaping. "Landscaping" is considered planting areas, turf areas, and water features (pools, spas, ponds, waterfalls, fountains, lakes, and artificial streams).

In a video presentation to the Planning Commission, Muller outlined the purpose of the ordinance, which would help to create hydrozones that include plants with similar characteristics such as water requirements, rooting depth, and climate suitability and would also address proper irrigation methods to increase water efficiency.

"We won't make people

rip out their lawns," Planning Director Greg Wolff said of the new requirements at the meeting. "This is the trigger of the California building code ordinance, so Lafayette is coming on board to state law."

While the ordinance states it would go into effect 30 days after the City Council approval, Wolff noted that any enforcement of the ordinance would likely not begin until after the first of the year.

The Planning Commission unanimously voted to adopt Resolution 2022-14 recommending the City Council adopt an ordinance amending Title 6 of Planning and Land Use, establishing a new Water Efficient Landscaping chapter consistent with the requirements outlined in the California building code. Commissioner Gary Huisinigh was absent.



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, Sept. 26, 7 p.m.
Teleconference via City of Lafayette's YouTube Channel:
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 7 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
<http://bit.ly/LoveLafayetteYouTube>

Design Review

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m. Zoom
Teleconference Meeting via Love Lafayette YouTube
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MORAGA

See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

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Town approves legal services agreement for representation regarding PCB contamination

By Vera Kochan

The Regional Water Quality Control Board in 2015 issued a Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit regulating the polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) discharges in storm and dry weather runoff within Contra Costa County and all of its cities and towns. As such, Moraga is required to implement PCB source and treatment control measures along with pollution prevention strategies (including green infrastructure). The county and its cities will share the costs and most likely spend a collective total of approximately \$94 million. Moraga's anticipated share amounts to roughly \$4.22 million.

According to an Aug. 24 staff report presented to the town council by Moraga Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg and Town Attorney Michelle Marchetta Kenyon, PCBs "are a group of manufactured chemicals that have been determined to have carcinogenic effects on fish, wildlife and humans. Over the many years that PCBs were manufactured, they were released into the environment through intentional disposal in landfills or through accidental spills and leaks."

The report continues, "Because PCBs are highly persistent in the environment and do not degrade easily, PCBs continue to leach, leak, off-gas,

and wash into wastewater and stormwater systems to this day."

A report from the County Executive's Office of San Mateo stated, "PCBs are known or suspected to cause a wide range of cancers including non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, breast cancer, liver cancer, gallbladder cancer, gastrointestinal cancers, pancreatic cancer, and skin cancer. They are also implicated in numerous non-cancer health problems including cardiovascular, endocrine, gastrointestinal, hepatic (liver), immune, neonatal, neurological, ocular, and reproductive harm."

The Monsanto Company, founded in 1901, as an American agrochemical and agricultural biotechnology corporation, eventually went on to produce almost 100% of all PCBs used in the United States until their manufacture was banned by the Toxic Substance Control Act of 1976.

In the 1950s, the U.S. Navy refused to buy Pydraul 150, a Monsanto product for use in its submarines, after Navy tests revealed that it killed all of the rabbits exposed to the vapors.

Monsanto's most recent negative news headlines involves dozens of successful, multi-million dollar lawsuits against their weed-killing product Roundup, a glyphosate-based herbicide introduced in the 1970s and proven to cause cancer and other diseases.

The city of Long Beach has filed a national class action settlement against Monsanto. However, many counties and municipalities are opting out, preferring to initiate their own litigation against Monsanto in order to better cover the expensive cost of treatment control measures ordered by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) as authorized by the Clean Water Act. If the town had opted into the City of Long Beach class action settlement,

its insufficient share would have amounted to approximately \$22,024 - far below the anticipated costs of control measures.

Eight other cities within the county (Brentwood, Concord, Danville, Lafayette, Martinez, Oakley, San Pablo and San Ramon) have opted out of the class action settlement and have joined the county in pursuing an individual settlement.

The Moraga Town Council at its Aug. 24 meeting unanimously approved a legal services agreement with Sher Edling LLP of San Francisco, a legal firm specializing in public agency representation concerning environmental cases. Both Contra Costa County and San Mateo County, among others, have retained their legal services in the Monsanto matter.

Under the Legal Settlement Agreement, "Sher Edling will receive as compensation for its services between 7.5% and 18% of the net recovery the town receives in the litigation, depending on what stage of the litigation the recovery occurs," explains the staff report. "Sher Edling will front all litigation costs and will be reimbursed for those costs from any recovery the Town receives in the litigation before attorneys' fees are calculated. Both the attorneys' fees and litigation costs are contingent, meaning the Town will have no obligation to pay the firm for its services or reimburse the firm for any litigation costs in the absence of a recovery in litigation."

Since the town attorney's office will assist in and oversee the litigation by providing help with document gathering and responding to recovery requests, estimated legal fees and costs for these services could run approximately \$5,000 to \$10,000.



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'The Fisherman' makes big splash in West Commons Park

... continued from Page A1

I came back from Europe 20 years ago, inspired by the Impressionist paintings I saw there. I wanted to paint beauty and mostly landscapes. I got sidetracked from oil painting in 2006, when I went to Burning Man Festival and started doing sculptures. This sculpture was from my fourth time at Burning Man Festival."

"The Fisherman" has blue eyes and is primarily white holding a silver fish. Both pieces total approximately 150 pounds; the head is about 3 feet tall, and the hand is approximately 9 feet tall.

Passersby are left to ponder over several possible scenarios such as: Did the fisher-

man get pulled into the "water" by the fish; did the fisherman give up using his pole and decide to jump in the "water" after his prey; or did his boat overturn inadvertently making him a fisherman? Of course, it's entirely possible that "The Fisherman" is a metaphor far deeper than the "water" he is swimming in. In any case, he clearly catches his prize.

"This park is the perfect canvas for exhibiting art in public spaces," Onoda stated. "It helps to create a visual experience almost like an outdoor art museum."

For more information contact Art in Public Spaces at: tonoda@moraga.ca.us.

Town Council: Wednesday, Sept. 14, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 28, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission: Tuesday, Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m.,

Park and Recreation Commission:
Monday, Sept. 19, 7:00 p.m.,

Moraga School District Board Meetings:
Tuesday, Oct. 11, 6 p.m. www.moraga.k12.ca.us.





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Moraga Commons



PG&E webinar updates latest wildfire safety efforts



Photo courtesy PG&E

Unsafe weather conditions could prompt the need for a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS).

By Vera Kochan

Hoping to bring some peace of mind to a wildfire-weary public, Pacific Gas & Electric Company held a Community Wildfire Safety Program Webinar for its customers on Aug. 30. The interactive virtual event covered 2022's safety efforts and information regarding Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) notifications.

On hand to discuss various aspects of PG&E's goals and answer any questions from the viewing public were: Vice President of Electric System Operations Mark Quinlan; Senior Manager of Customer Engagement and Strategy Vanessa Bryan; Director of Local Government Affairs Anna Brooks; Supervisor of Vegetation Management Joshua Coleman; Senior Public Safety Specialist Rich Noonan; and Senior Manager of Customer Strategy Dave Meier.

PG&E noted that of the 5.2 million customers it serves, approximately 494,000 are located within High Fire Threat Districts (HFTD). System-wide, of the 108,200 overhead distribution line miles in service, nearly 28,100 are located in HFTD; and of PG&E's 18,900 overhead transmission line miles, about 5,800 are in HFTD.

With regards to enhancing fire detection, PG&E has a map that helps communities plan and prepare for a potential fire response (pge.com/firewatch). The map pulls data from six satellites which monitor California from space. The information is updated every five minutes; the public can search any town or city; and can view recent Cal Fire incidents, Red Flag Warnings, live wind lines, weather stations and more.

Brooks discussed what's new for wildfire safety in 2022. PG&E is working to prevent potential fires by undergrounding wires; expanding Enhanced Powerline Safety

Settings (EPSS); refining and reducing impacts of PSPS; conducting 1,800 miles of enhanced vegetation management; and installing additional high definition cameras and weather stations.

PG&E is striving to provide better customer support through expanding eligibility; helping vulnerable customers through their Fixed Power Program; expanding local information through the PSPS Planning Map and pge.com; and monitoring their "Report It" mobile safety app.

Brooks added that PG&E is undergoing the largest effort in the United States of undergrounding 10,000 miles of power lines. This effort is the best long-term solution in reducing the risk of wildfires by 99%. There are plans to increase the output each year (pge.com/undergrounding). This effort, along with overhead hardening and line removal, will make the system more resistant to wildfire risk and severe weather situations. The work will also include stronger poles and larger crossarms.

Coleman discussed routine and enhanced vegetation management by explaining that PG&E has increased its safety clearances between power lines and surrounding vegetation in high fire threat areas. In 2021, it cleared 1,983 miles of vegetation. The 2022 plan is to complete 1,800 miles. To date, 1,102 miles have been cleared.

Noonan explained the technology behind EPSS. PG&E's powerlines have equipment that allows it to turn off power within one-tenth of a second if a tree branch or other object strikes the line. This feature can help to stop a wildfire from starting and has shown a 73% decrease in reportable ignitions this year with the EPSS-enabled circuitry. Customers are expected to experience such outages during the fire risk season between May to

November and will be notified through automated calls, texts or emails as to when power will be restored. Since an EPSS event is unpredictable, PG&E is not able to provide advance notification, but it is expanding eligibility for generator rebates and backup power transfer meters.

PSPS conditions include a variety of situations: low humidity levels (30% and below); forecasted high winds (above 19 mph and gusts above 30-40 mph); Red Flag Warnings (issued by the National Weather Service); conditions of dry material (on the ground and low moisture content of vegetation); and on-the-ground real time observations (by PG&E personnel). PSPS events are declining thanks to continual modifications made to the PG&E system. In 2019, there were seven events; 2020 had six and 2021 had five events. The average outage durations respectively were 43 hours, 35 hours and 31 hours. PSPS outage notifications will come to customers in the form of an automated call, text, email, social media and news outlets.

PG&E offers Community Resource Centers (CRC) that are open during PSPS or EPSS events where customers can access resources and up-to-date information. The centers offer personal and medical device charging; mobile battery chargers; ADA-accessible restrooms; Wi-Fi; bottled water and snacks; cooling/heating stations; seating and ice (pge.com/crc).

For tips or information on how customers can stay safe in the event of an emergency visit: safetyactioncenter.pge.com.

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Orinda City Council continues San Pablo Creek restoration project discussion

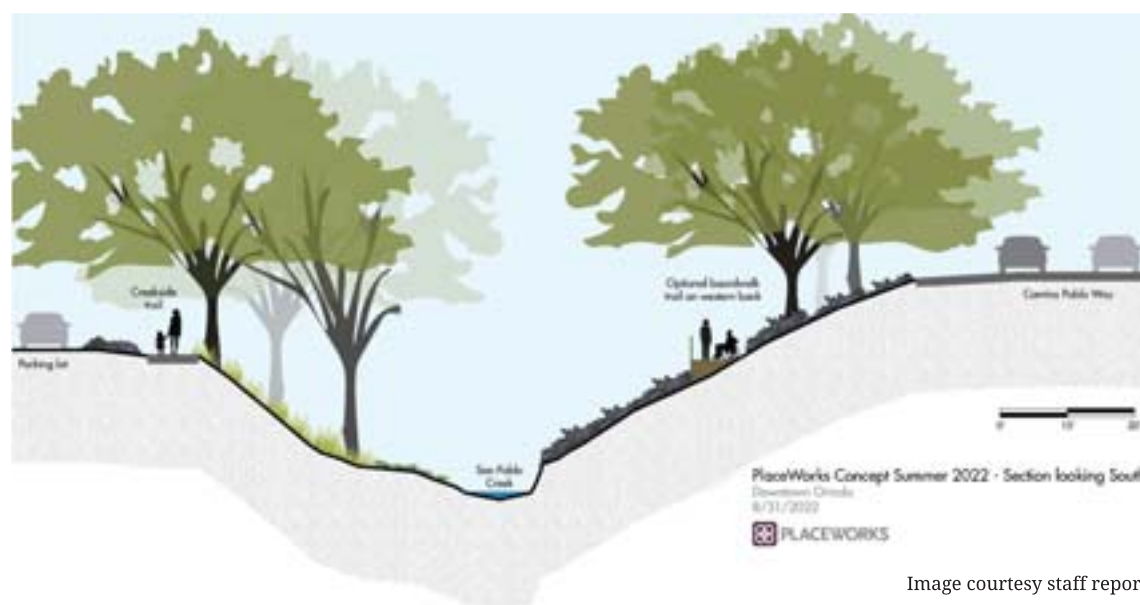


Image courtesy staff report

By Jennifer Wake

Further discussion regarding downtown development and creek restoration continued at the Sept. 6 Orinda City Council meeting. The proposed creek restoration project is part of the Downtown Precise Plan (DPP), which encourages revitalization in downtown Orinda. The DPP process began in January 2020 and has a target com-

pletion date of December 2022.

In December 2020, the City Council awarded a contract to PlaceWorks for San Pablo creek restoration analysis as a component of the DPP; the contract was amended to include a topographic survey and hydrology study in March 2021. The report included a review of a creek restoration concept developed in October 2019 by FlowWest for the Friends of Orinda Creeks (FOC).

“The city has been considering how to improve San Pablo Creek since at least 2000,” Planning Director Drummond Buckley said. “The city didn’t put any investment into this issue until the PlaceWorks study.”

According to a staff report presented by Buckley, the 2019 FOC concept proposes meanders and a creekside trail that would result in grading over property lines and into the rear parking lots of multiple existing businesses. Following completion of the topographic survey and hydrology study, PlaceWorks developed a creek concept that keeps the channels relatively straight rather than meandering like the 2019 FOC concept.

Questa Engineering Corp. principal/senior hydrologist Syd Temple, who was involved in the hydrology study, noted that adding meandering to the creek design would require widening the channel to add capacity to the flow and thus avoid flooding.

The PlaceWorks concept results in no net rise in flooding, provides improved trail access, and limits the extent of channel grading, according to the report. This plan would still result in the loss of parking and encroach into private property, but to a lesser degree.

Buckley noted that the challenge with the FOC concept, because it relies on private property, “it’s like putting a puzzle together and you’d need approval from all of the property owners to move forward with the project.” Buckley also mentioned how most sites are constrained by power lines across the parcels.

The PlaceWorks Spring 2022 concept proposes restoration features that are similar to the 2021 FOC Phase 1 Concept plan. Rock weirs are proposed to create step pools that facilitate fish movement, and the channel is kept relatively straight.

“Riparian restoration zones are included on the east bank near Santa Maria Way and on the west bank near the Safeway culvert to further enhance the existing habitat along the creek,” the memo stated. “Restoration activities include removal of invasive ex-

otic species and establishment of additional native tree, shrub, and groundcover species compatible with the riparian and upland conditions along the creek corridor. Generally, the channel maintains its original alignment and overall grade; however, the right bank is lowered so that it can facilitate a creek-side trail and enhanced floodplain connection. By keeping the channel alignment and providing channel cross-section expansion to impacts of channel bed improvements and enhanced vegetation offset any hydraulic impacts to the 100-year floodplain.”

Other proposed improvements in the PlaceWorks concept include a creekside trail, an optional bridge and boardwalk, seating and furnishings, interpretative signage, and riparian habitat improvements.

During the Public Comment portion of the meeting, several members of Friends of Orinda Creeks expressed their desire to be part of the conversation and plans going forward.

According to the memo presented by PlaceWorks’ consultant team Principal Isabelle Minn and Associate Designer Spence Koehler, following approval of the DPP and the associated California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document, additional research into property ownership and easements would be necessary: “Owners of private property that may be impacted by creek or trail improvements would need to be informed and consulted, with potential City facilitation, to provide input and work as a group toward future implementation.”

Construction documents should be developed for the trail, creek channel improvements, and restoration plantings, PlaceWorks added. “Channel improvements, such as rock weirs and bank stabilization, should be refined to minimize tree removal or damage. As part of advancing the proposed concept and developing schematic design (35 percent), the City should continue to coordinate with the FOC.”

Once a schematic design concept has been developed, PlaceWorks noted it would be necessary to conduct a project-level environmental review for the creek improvement project under CEQA and seek necessary permits from natural resource agencies.

An overview of the DPP, including links to prior meetings and its relationship to the City of Orinda’s 6th Cycle Housing Element, can be found on the dedicated website for these projects:

<https://www.planorinda.com>. The entire PlaceWorks memo regarding San Pablo Creek restoration can be accessed in the Sept. 6 city council agenda packet at <http://orindaca.igq2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=2101&Inline=True>

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City Council Regular Meeting:
 Tuesday, Sept. 27, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only
Planning Commission
 Tuesday, Sept. 27, 7 p.m. By Teleconference Only
Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission
 Wednesday, Sept. 14, 6:30 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

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Thousands converge downtown for Orinda Classic Car Show



Thousands streamed to Orinda Village on Saturday, Sept. 10, for the 18th Annual Orinda Classic Car show. "Keep on Truckin'" was the theme of this year's show, which was presented by the Orinda Association and benefits the Seniors Around Town transportation program. Young and old alike enjoyed the vintage vehicles, everything from MGs to Ferraris as well as classic American cars, many that harkened back to the 1950s, the heyday of car culture. Shelby Cobras, a Ford engine-powered British performance car, an example seen here in blue, were particularly popular with the crowd.



Photos Jeff Heyman

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Suspect still at large after attempted kidnapping outside Stanley Middle School

At approximately 8 a.m. on Sept. 2, Lafayette police officers were dispatched to a report of a suspicious person who had grabbed a 14-year-old girl near Stanley Middle School in Lafayette.

Upon arrival at Stanley Middle School officers learned that an unknown white male approached the girl who was walking to school on Monroe

Avenue after being dropped off by a parent.

The man asked the girl if she was alone, then grabbed her by the shoulder. The girl attempted to break free from his grasp, but he kept a firm grip. The girl was eventually able to break free and run away. She contacted school officials, who notified law enforcement.

The suspect is described as a white male adult, approximately 40 years old, heavy set, 5'8" to 5'9" tall, with stubble facial hair. He was wearing a grey hooded sweatshirt with a white shirt underneath and dark-colored pants. He was driving a white 4-door sedan with stock wheels and mud spray on the driver's side of the vehicle.

The investigation is ongoing by the Lafayette Police Department and the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff. As this occurred in a residential area, investigators are asking residents in the area to check their home security cameras to see if the suspect or vehicle were captured.

Anyone with any information or video of this incident is

asked to contact the Lafayette Police Department at (925) 283-3680 or through police dispatch at (925) 646-2441. For any tips, email: tips@so.cc-county.us or call (866) 846-3592 to leave an anonymous voice message.

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 Aug. 21 - Sept. 3

Alarms	32
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	15
Traffic	54
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	18



Suspicious Vehicle	9
Service to Citizen	47
Patrol Req./Security Check	19
Public/School Assembly Check	11
Supplemental Report	16
Vacation House Check	30
Welfare Check	13
Ordinance Violation	2

Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary
3200 Block Stanley Blvd.
900 Block Mountain View Dr.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 Block 1st St.
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Reckless Driving
Moraga Rd./Old Jonas Hill Rd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Brown Ave.
30 Block Lafayette Cir.
900 Block Moraga Rd.
Sierra Vista Way/Deer Hill Rd.

Tc - Property Damage
1st St./Deer Hill Rd.
900 Block Moraga Rd. (2)
1000 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Elizabeth St.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Vehicle Theft
900 Block Dewing Ave.
3500 Block Plaza Way
3500 Block Terrace Way

Other criminal activity
Commercial Burglary
1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.
Fraud False Pretenses
Police Department
100 Block Peaceful Ln.
Grand Theft
500 Block Mcbride Dr.

Grand Theft Veh Parts
3700 Block Mosswood Dr.
1600 Block Springbrook Rd.
500 Block Mcbride Dr.

Identity Theft
3300 Block Beechwood Dr.
Police Department

Panhandling
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Petty Theft
1100 Block Glen Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Upper Happy Valley Rd./Oleander Dr.

Deer Hill Rd./Oak Hill Rd. (3)

Residential Burglary
10 Block Dollis Park Rd.

Shoplift
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
4000 Block Natasha Dr.
El Curtola Blvd./Saranap Ave.
3200 Block Marlene Dr.
Glen Rd./Nordstrom Ln.

Disturbance-fight
3400 Block School St.
Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.

Disturbing The Peace
3200 Block Los Palos Cir.
80 Block Lafayette Cir.

Drunk In Public
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Loud Music
4100 Block Canyon Rd.

Loud Noise
Mosswood Dr./Highland Rd.

Public Nuisance
3200 Block Old Tunnel Rd.
1100 Block Magnolia Ln.

Orchard Rd./Ewart Dale
1100 Block Oak Hill Rd.
20 Block Hidden Valley Rd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.
300 Block Saranap Ave.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Via Roble/Dolores Dr.

Vandalism
700 Block Las Trampas Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
10 Block Greenvalley Ct.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Other
Extortion
1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.

Fireworks
Sunset Lp./Meek Pl.

H&S Violation
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.


K9 Outside Assist Request
5000 Block Winchester Dr., Oak
300 Block Jennifer Dr., Mma

Loitering
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Threats
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Unwanted Guest
1100 Block Sunset Lp.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report will be back





ORINDA POLICE

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report will be back

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors
Special Meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 21, 5 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors
Regular Meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 11, 1 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org
(http://64.166.146.245/agenda_publish.cfm?id=&mt=ALL)

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"Please join me in supporting Greg Hasler for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) board. Greg supports the three fundamentals of a strong fire district: a laser focus on fire prevention (utilizing innovative technologies), strong financial planning, management and oversight, and respect for and support of our committed firefighters and paramedics. Greg's long-term residency in Moraga has asserted his belief in a strong and independent fire district. Moreover, his years as a CPA will be invaluable to the board as they plan for the district's long-term financial health.

Please, do what is right for Moraga's safety and our fire district's future: Elect Greg Hasler, MOFD board."

Anne Obsitnik
Co-chair, Bluffs Firewise community

HaslerforMOFD.com

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Letters to the editor

Anonymous fear mongering can't win the hearts and minds of Lafayette residents

Having recently moved back to Lafayette, we were shocked to see a bright yellow flyer taped to a utility pole at St. Mary's and Moraga Roads on a recent morning walk.

With no group or affiliation listed, it boldly shouted a hysterical warning about the Lafayette School District, "Shhhh... WHAT THEY WON'T TELL YOU!" Upon review, it contained information out of context and links to anonymous web pages in what appeared to be a thinly veiled attempt to stir worry, fear, intimidation, and mistrust among our community's parents and students.

The flyer was posted on a corner frequented by students and parents walking to Stanley Middle School and Lafayette Elementary School. We have come to learn it was also distributed outside of a Lafayette School District parent education night in August.

Regardless of your views on the roles and responsibilities of public education, we are troubled by this misguided attempt to "inform" Lafayette residents. Is Lafayette a community that now silently tolerates fear mongering through this kind of odd, anonymous propaganda?

When our community has important topics to discuss, we should hear directly from elected local leaders and candidates. We need civic debate and discussion through public and transparent channels - not through anonymously posted outrage and hostility. And when we see nebulous, incendiary innuendo distributed in public, it is our responsibility to question the motivations of those spreading the information and to wonder why they won't have their identities attributed to the content.

We hope that in this election season, Lafayette models what it means to openly discuss and debate issues that are on peoples' minds - even when it's uncomfortable - in the public spaces and places designed to do so. We also hope that each individual local candidate will take a public stand against this kind of propaganda. It sits squarely in opposition to the character building which parents and schools work on daily with our children. Let's model what it looks like to take responsibility, be accountable for our words and actions and think critically!

Jon Deane and Laney Whitcanack Lafayette

Lind, Larsen, and McSorely for the Lafayette School Board

I am writing to ask for your support in voting for Sarah Lind, Neils Larsen, and Robb McSorely in the upcoming election for the Lafayette School Board. I have a son at Burton Valley Elementary School and a daughter at Stanley Middle School. I am a former teacher in the district and have worked with the youth in our community in many capacities. I currently substitute teach in our Lafayette schools and care deeply about the future of our students.

Like many parents, I had never been to a school board meeting until our schools were forced to close their doors in March of 2020. At that point I spent many evenings attending board meetings and was disillusioned by the apparent disconnect between the voices of the families and the decisions of the board.

Lind, Larsen, and McSorely have children in our district and are dedicated members of our community. They are focused on partnering with parents and teachers to keep their voices and the student needs at the center of their decision making process. They believe in keeping our students safe, promoting academic excellence, and fiscal responsibility (which includes responding to the enrollment declines our district experienced over the last few years).

Join me in voting for Sarah Lind, Neils Larsen, and Robb McSorely for the Lafayette School Board. Tracy Morrison Lafayette

In Support of Mike Roemer for MOFD Director

I've known Mike Roemer for almost 20 years through my lifelong friendship with his son Conor. Mike is deeply knowledgeable about fire safety through his years of volunteer work and has a proven track record in community leadership from his years in the DA's office. Even more important, Mike cares deeply about his neighbors and has a sense of integrity befitting a reputable community servant. At a time when fire safety in Lamorinda is more critical than ever before, we must elect leaders who will prioritize community safety and wellbeing above niche special interests. I'm confident that as a MOFD Director, Mike would look after the safety and best interests of all Orinda and Moraga residents in the same way he does his immediate family, and would devote fair and analytical deliberation to each and every decision. I hope to never see the day that Orinda is seriously threatened by wildfires, but the reality is that we face growing danger with the passing of each and every year. Now, more than ever, we need protectors on the MOFD board to ensure that our community is ready for all eventualities. Based on my almost 20 years of being around Mike, I can confidently say that if you value safety and integrity, and you want a MOFD director who will make the same decisions for the community that he would for his own family, then voting for Mike is the easiest choice you'll make during this election cycle.

Declan McManus Orinda

Steven Danziger for MOFD Director

As a 50 year resident I have seen many changes in our area. One of the most dramatic changes in recent years has been the amount of property clearing that has been done, particularly along the evacuation routes. The MOFD Chief and the Fire Board have done a great job to make us all safer from wildfire. I believe we are very fortunate to have Director Steven Danziger as District 3 representative on the Board. Steven has impressed me with his understanding of the issues, his leadership, qualifications and responsiveness. Steven understands local government particularly operations of a Fire Agency.

Steven is running for reelection against an opponent who does not appear to have any experience in public service or fire. Steven has over 35 years in government including twenty years as Administrative Manager for the Oakland Fire Department. Steven was MOFD Board President for two terms and is now Vice President. Additionally, he is a MOFD Ambassador, member of the CERT Team, Chair of the Orinda Parks and Rec Commission, volunteers at the Orinda Library and the Orinda Nature Area at Wagner Ranch. If that isn't enough Steven is a Red Cross Super Donor who has organized blood drives and will soon make his 100th donation!

Steven knows the fire service at every level including operations. There is still much to be done and I know Steven is ready to continue the efforts to make our community safer. Please join me in re-electing Director Steven Danziger to the MOFD Board.

John "Bob" Heath Orinda

Michael Roemer for MOFD Board

We have been residents of Orinda for the past 20 years where we have raised our family. Our children have attended Glorietta Elementary, OIS and Miramonte. We have enjoyed living in this great Lamorinda community having developed many deep and long lasting friendships. One of our dear friends is Michael Roemer who is running for a seat on MOFD Board.

We have know Michael and his beautiful family, his wife Julie, children Conor & Erin from the day when our children

attended Glorietta Elementary school over a decade ago. Michael has many strong qualities that makes him an ideal candidate to not only serve but do an amazing job in making our community an even safer place to live and raise a family. Michaels strong intellect, his integrity, humbleness, desire to make our community and the world a better place to live, truly sets him apart.

Join the Akazawa Family in supporting the Roemer family. Michael is a rare type of leader of which we strongly need more of, please elect him to serve on the MOFD Board.

Kindly Dean & Catherine Akazawa Orinda

Public Comment on the Downtown Precise Plan (DPP)

Downtown Orinda as we have known it will be destroyed. The Vision, Guidance and Zoning proposed are not appropriate for Orinda to retain its village character. These documents are crafted to benefit developers and current landowners to destroy existing structures and build tall buildings with almost no parking in the DPP area. The economic reality is that commercial revitalization is not possible in Orinda - as is demonstrated by vacancies and stalled projects.

It is nonetheless realistic to encourage lower income housing to be developed outside the DPP particularly by increasing the allowed density on church properties and increasing the permissible size of auxiliary dwelling units (ADUs).

Orinda is and should remain a family-oriented bedroom community with excellent schools and not try to compete with adjacent cities for businesses.

I strongly object to what is proposed.

Charles Porges Orinda

Support for Sturm, Smith and Foreman

The upcoming election for the Lafayette School District Governing Board has drawn deserved interest, with six candidates vying for three seats. For a community which prides itself on "Green Hills, Great Schools," it is imperative that the most qualified candidates serve our youth. Lafayette has three outstanding candidates to move our schools forward at this critical juncture: incumbents Rob Sturm and Dave Smith, and parent leader Katy Foreman.

Rob Sturm is in his second term as the District's Governing Board President. Under Rob's leadership, the Board significantly increased its meeting schedule to provide transparency and an opportunity for public input, led policy development resulting in new and un-

precedented fiscal reserves for the District which will mitigate any future challenges in state funding, kept student learning in the forefront with high expectations for academic excellence, and engaged in critical dialogue about diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging for all students and all families.

Dave Smith joined the Board in June 2021 after active parent involvement and a leadership role in the 2020 parcel tax election. Dave's participation in the Board has resulted in an increased focus on parent voice, new enthusiasm for sustainability initiatives, and an unwavering commitment to continued improvement in student achievement alongside the need for a focus on student wellness. He has been a foundational voice in efforts to highlight kindness in our schools and in the Lafayette community.

Katy Foreman has been a non-stop volunteer in the District, leading the Lafayette Elementary PTA, the District-wide parent committee, and connecting to policy issues through her work on the regional Las Trampas Council of PTA. Katy was the key planner for successful advocacy weeks that have brought elected officials into our schools to hear directly from parents. She led efforts to support traffic and safety improvements around schools, distribute COVID-19 home test kits, and served on the District-wide DEIB committee. Through her volunteer work, she has become an expert on school finance and policies.

These talented individuals representing the best of Lafayette deserve your vote and the opportunity to continue their service to our schools.

Karen Mulvaney Lafayette Citizen of the Year 2011 Lafayette Library Foundation Board 2006 - Present Tom Mulvaney AUHSD Board 2006-2014 LPIE Board 2006-Present

Lafayette School Board Endorsement

To my fellow Lafayette resi-

dents: I support and endorse Katy Foreman, Dave Smith and Rob Sturm's candidacy for the Lafayette School Board and I want to share why. This November there will be three board seats open on our Lafayette Governing Board and who they are filled by will have a deep and lasting impact on our children's educational experience. As an involved school leader and former PFC President at Springhill Elementary, I have witnessed firsthand the opposition to valuing diversity in all forms, especially during board meetings the last few years. For me, our community's diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) efforts in the schools matter. Supporting the creation of a culture of inclusion and belonging and preparing our children for the diverse world they are entering is important to me personally and I believe it is important for our community too. Dave and Rob have demonstrated to me time and again through their actions on the board to date that they are allies. Katy, while a new candidate, is deeply committed to DEIB efforts and I have personally spent countless hours with her in workshops and community building initiatives. I believe that supporting any candidates besides Katy, Dave and Rob would mean a major step backwards in terms of the progress and positive impact we've made as a community on DEIB matters.

It is important that Katy Foreman, Dave Smith, and Rob Sturm be elected because the other candidates and their vocal supporters have made it clear that they want to reverse the momentum we've built. Their "Back to Education" platform is an insult to the current teachers and administration in the district, and principally against what our family stands for. My hope is that you dig a little deeper into the details of all the candidates and what they stand for and who they stand with. To me the choice is crystal clear. Vote Katy, Dave and Rob!

Jeni Kim Lafayette

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. Lamorinda Weekly reserves the right to refuse publishing a letter submission. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556

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Ashley Dias' legacy lives on



Photo Sharon K. Sobotta

... continued from Page A2

When he heard they needed crossing guards at school, he didn't hesitate to help. That's the kind of person he was."

Eleven-year-old Angelique Dias-Vanni is Ashley Dias's niece. She attends sixth grade at Stanley Middle School and passes the crosswalk where her uncle lost his life each day. Angelique says she has many fond memories of hiking and taste testing yogurt. "We've gotta keep moving forward in life," Angelique says. "But I'd like people to remember to drive safely. Don't drink and drive. Don't text and drive. Drive carefully and pay attention."

Three of Ashley Dias's childhood friends took turns at the mic sharing a little bit about the Ashley that they knew and came to love – a guy with a sense of humor, who accepted people as they were and kept people around him smiling. Kieren Guller traveled all the way from Arizona for the unveiling of Ashley's plaque. While Guller thinks it was heroic of Ashley to put himself in between a moving vehicle and children, he wants Ashley to be remembered for much more than that.

"I moved around a lot as a kid and never really planted roots or knew quite where I belonged," Guller says. "When

I met Ashley, it was pretty much life changing. It was like I found my home."

Guller's mom died when he was just 8 years old. After that his family moved to Concord because they could no longer afford to stay in Lafayette. "My dad fought hard to keep me in the school district but it was hard. I could definitely feel the difference between my family and the families in town who had money," Guller recalls. "Ashley's family just opened their door to me. It didn't matter that he had more than I did. He never put money above our friendship. He made me feel like I belonged."

History and humanity collide in Steve Falk's 'California Story'

... continued from Page A1

The writing tone stretches its range; moving with Falk's skillful handling from humor to pain to pathos to straightforward just-the-facts reporting.

In two of the most personal chapters that Falk says were the hardest to write, he pays tribute to two lives lost: his brother and brilliantly talented painter, Bret Falk, in 2006, and a dear friend, Chris Newton, who died at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. "The most difficult part was writing about the two people who passed away," says Falk. "It was intimidating to try to

capture the entire character, the 360-degree view of these people on paper. I knew it would be impossible and I just had to hope it was good enough."

On the flip side, writing about his children and his spouse was celebratory. "They are superlative in every way. I love no creatures more than them. I was literally smiling at the keyboard," he recalls.

In addition to emotion, Falk's writing process involved the structure a person might expect of a city manager accustomed to planning, schedules and agendas. He purchased a deck of 3 x 5 cards and started writing titles for the stories he remembered. He carried them around, quickly adding to the collection until he had 40 stories. "I gave myself one week for each story. I had a schedule where I sat down and wrote from 8 a.m. to noon, doing half days. I didn't adhere exactly to that, but it took me about 40 weeks to write 40 chapters." Consolidating two stories into one chapter and organically weaving stories of California into each, the combination of facts and personal voice reveal larger, universal themes that address home, family, identity, faith, parenting, love, death, convictions, ethics, philosophies. An undercurrent of the pandemic is a silent partner as each topic suggests a summation—or simply, how our human experience due to COVID gained urgency and our values reached heightened intensity in the face of mortality and an eventual "The End" to every story.

Chapter 35 is largely concerned with the Terraces of Lafayette, a 22-acre project

that proposed to be the largest single development in the city's 50-year history and became a decade-long battleground. Ultimately, the story and Falk landed on the pages of The New York Times. Having fought the good fight for years, Falk eventually tendered his resignation in part because he recognized his true nature and determined an exit was best. "That was one of the easier chapters to write because it was fact-based. But at the same time, it serves as the climax for the book project. The material after that is the wrap-up because in that chapter I come to this challenging set of ethical decisions. I have to decide what it means to have a conscience. In some ways, it's the summation of a lot of parts about me that I lay out in previous chapters."

With the final chapter of the series arriving on Sept. 18, Falk has planned a community cupcake party. "I reserved the Madrone Picnic Area in Roberts Regional Park in the East Bay hills on that day for a COVID-safe gathering to talk about the project, maybe read a few chapters, and visit with each other."

After that, his plans are to continue as lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley, in the Goldman School of Public Policy. "It's a class called City Management. No surprises there," he says. And writing more chapters? Other than figuring out how to convert the existing series and add a paywall and continuing to paint, another artistic endeavor he has for years pursued, Falk has no definite plans. His family—and California history as it continues to roll out—may soon say otherwise.

To read "California Story," visit www.californiastory.net/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

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Moraga resident has tree stump turned into a work of art



Photo Vera Kochan

Owner Dolores Austin is dwarfed by her new redwood eagle sculpture

By Vera Kochan

Over 60 years ago, in a brand new subdivision of Moraga, property owner Dolores Austin decided to plant the beginnings of a redwood tree. What seemed like a good idea at the time turned into a structural nightmare as the eventually massive tree's roots began to encroach on the house's

foundation.

Austin was resigned to the fact that the tree must go, but not before she did some research into creative possibilities. While visiting family members near Lake Almanor in Northeastern California, she noticed many examples of carved tree stumps resembling eagles, bears or other forms of wildlife. She discussed her

ideas with the tree landscaper she had chosen to cut down the redwood. He in turn, recommended a wood carving artist he knew from previous jobs.

Having her heart set on an eagle carving, six months ago Austin consulted with sculptor Glen Sievert who has been creating art out of dead or dying tree stumps for over 25 years. His company, Chainsaw Art (chainsawtreeart.com), has created masterpieces throughout Northern California. Sievert's website explains, "When a tree must be taken down, it can leave a noticeable absence. Glen specializes in re-imagining that space and carving tree stumps into new, unique pieces of art."

According to Austin, Sievert met with the tree removal team to discuss how much of the stump to leave before they did their part of the job. "It was all done with chainsaws, and he brought his own tools," she explained. "It took him a couple of days to do it. Except for the marble eyes, it's all tree." The work of art stands approximately 8 to 9 feet in height with a base circumference of about 6 feet. The tree is still alive, as is evidenced by the new branch growth sprouting near the bottom of the sculpture.

With an added touch of whimsy, Austin has placed solar lights resembling an alligator and a frog looking up at the eagle with expressions of awe. Her neighbors most likely first had the same look on their faces, because she remarked, "They all love it!"

Racers compete for charity in JF Kapnek Fun Run



Photo Casey Scheiner

The Chinyakare Ensemble performs during the JF Kapnek Fun Run at Moraga Commons.

By Casey Scheiner

Local running enthusiasts descended upon Moraga Commons Aug. 28 to participate in the JF Kapnek Fun Run, a 5-kilometer event to raise money for food and education for children of Zimbabwe.

The first JF Kapnek Fun Run since 2019, the race saw many modifications during its hiatus, including a location change from Miramonte High School to Moraga Commons and the addition of a carnival with games, a bouncy house, and a rock wall. The original charitable spirit of the race – to reduce poverty and mortality and improve education and health for the children of Zimbabwe through the JF Kapnek Trust – plus other traditions such as a kids run/walk and an arts and crafts table with face painting, is what has kept altruistic joggers coming back since 2003.

"We're a fundraising arm for the Kapnek Trust in Zimbabwe, which improves child health by establishing preschools that give kids vaccines, medicine and food," JF

Kapnek Executive Director Daniel Robbins said. "The Fun Run is a cornerstone of our fundraising efforts. It helps raise community awareness to increase donations. Plus, this event alone generates enough money to refurbish and run two preschools."

In addition to raising money for Zimbabwean kids, the 5K highlighted Zimbabwean cultural customs. Most prominently, it featured the Chinyakare Ensemble, an Oakland group dedicated to performing traditional Zimbabwean music and dance. "Music is a universal language, so we love to share it," DeLisa Branch-Nealy, a member of the Chinyakare Ensemble, said. "We've performed at the Fun Run since it began."

The music enthralled many younger participants, as an abundance of kids danced to the tunes. Additionally, the children enjoyed the new additions to the Fun Run. "We wanted to add more activities for the kids, so we started a carnival with sports games, a rock wall, and a bouncy house obstacle course," race organizer Amy Campbell ex-

plained. "It allows us to connect with a wider range of people."

"I've been doing this run since I was in elementary school," Mackie Hall, now a sophomore at Campolindo High School, said. "I love that I get to run for a good cause."



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If you or someone you know might be interested in further information, I can be reached at (925) 935-8646. For more information about the retreat or about me or my practice, my website is

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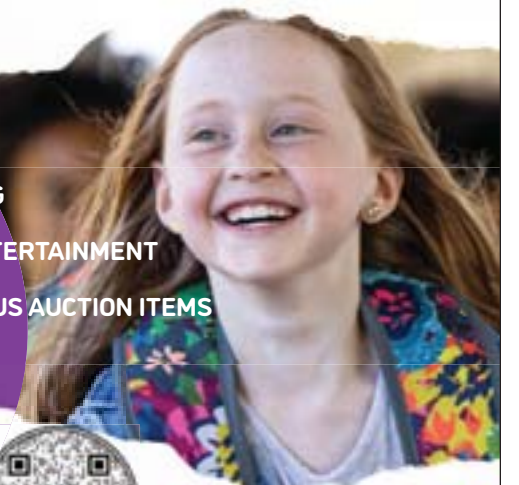
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A 'Pear-fectly' delicious dessert, ripe for the season



Chocolate Pear Cake
By Susie Iventosch

Photos Susie Iventosch

Our Lamorinda Weekly publisher, Andy Scheck, sent me this pear cake recipe and it sounded very intriguing. Made with fresh pears, cocoa powder, chocolate chips, quick oats, blond raisins, and a wee bit of whisky or rum, it is a fun one to try! Andy enjoys cooking, and he loves using seasonal produce, so when pears hit the produce stands, he finally took an opportunity to make this cake. He'd been meaning to try this recipe for years, but had never gotten around to making it until just now. The original recipe comes from a German cooking enthusiast who posted it online many years ago.

We made the cake and thought it was delicious. The only thing we would do differ-

ently next time, would be to cut the pears up into bite size pieces and layer them in the middle of the batter, or mix them into the batter, so that the pears are evenly distributed. Using halves makes a nice presentation, but we'd love to have more cake and pears together in each bite. We also added a bit of salt to the ingredients.

We used red crimson pears in our cake, because they were the only ripe ones we could get our hands on at the moment, but if you have time to let the pears ripen, use your favorite pears for this cake. Bosc, D'Anjou, or Bartlett pears are all great for baking. Be sure that the pears are ripe, but firm. You don't want them to be mushy for baking.

If you give this cake a try, we know you will enjoy it! So

many delightful flavors together. The oats, even though there is not much in the recipe, give a certain texture and flavor that combines well with the rest of the ingredients!

*Note – I converted this recipe into cups and ounces from the original, which was in metric measurements, ergo the slightly unusual quantities.



INGREDIENTS

2 lbs. pears (about 3 large pears) ripe, but firm
5 1/2 tablespoons butter (5.3 oz.)
3/4 cup sugar (Andy used raw sugar, I used granulated sugar, but I also think brown sugar would be great)
3 large eggs
1/2 cup milk
2 1/4 cups plus 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
3 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon unsweetened cocoa powder
1 teaspoon cinnamon
5 tablespoons quick oats
2/3 cup dark chocolate chips or shredded chocolate
1 tablespoon golden raisins
1 tablespoon rum or whiskey
Powdered sugar for dusting the top of the cake

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 F. (Andy baked this cake at 380 F, but I found 350 worked perfectly in my oven.)
Grease or spray an 8-inch square baking dish.
Soak the raisins in in the rum for about 15-20 minutes. Peel and halve the pears and remove the core.
Set aside.
Mix all dries (flour, baking powder, salt, cocoa powder, and cinnamon) together in a small bowl. Set aside.
Cream butter and sugar together in a mixing bowl until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs until incorporated. Add milk and dries alternately, beginning and ending with dries.
Stir in oats, raisins, and chocolate chips and mix well.
Turn about 2/3 of the batter into the prepared baking dish. Arrange pears face down right on top of the batter and gently press down a little bit. Then, cover the pears with the remaining batter. You may not be able to completely cover the pears, but that's okay. Alternatively you can chop the pears into bite-size pieces and spread them evenly over the bottom batter and then cover them with the remaining batter.
Bake for 50-60 minutes, or until a cake tester comes out clean. Remove from the oven and cool. Dust with powdered sugar.

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>



Looking Good in Lamorinda Let's talk autumn attire

By Moya Stone

Back in June I attended a garden party in celebration of wool. Hosted by Lafayette resident April Ward, the gathering was in honor of the 2021 winners of the California State Make It With Wool Competition.

Make It With Wool (MIWW) is a state and national fashion design and sewing competition sponsored by the American Sheep Industry. Founded in 1947, the competition website says it seeks to "Promote the beauty and versatility of wool fabrics, fibers, and yarns." The MIWW California State competition is coming up on Nov. 12.

Ward has been MIWW California State Director for two years and she is currently hard at work raising the profile of the competition. An accomplished seamstress herself and a winner of MIWW when she was in high school, Ward says she felt back then that the competition was a chance to step outside her sewing comfort zone. "This meant learning new techniques or improving on my existing techniques," she comments. "It also may have meant trying out a different type of wool fabric or a challenging pattern."

This year Ward and Marissa Sanchez, the 2022 Junior National Winner, have hit the road attending American Sewing Guild meetings and 4-H related events trying to encourage new entrants.

Eighteen-year-old Sanchez is from Brentwood and has been sewing for nine years.

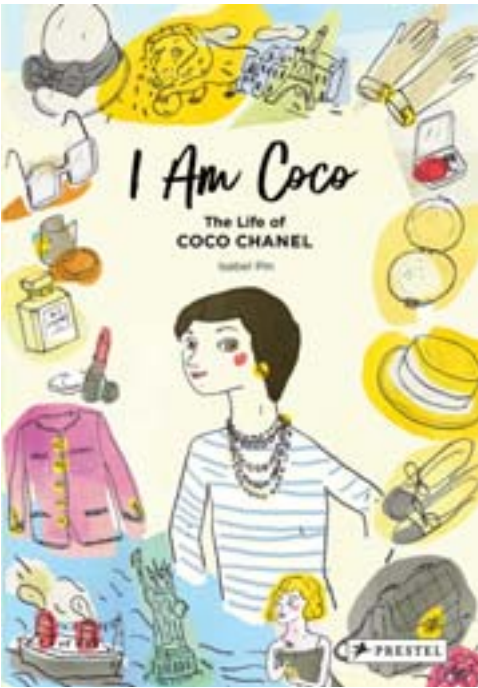


Image courtesy of Prestel Publishing.

She got involved with MIWW through 4-H and she enjoys working with wool because it's both warm and breathable. "I can create warm coats for the winter and dresses perfect for spring," she says. Sanchez's winning outfit is a houndstooth wool coat and a sheath dress. "Her outfit is stunning," says Ward, "and everyone is impressed with her sewing skills."

Sanchez says her favorite part of competing is meeting new people and learning about their sewing techniques. A tip she offers to anyone interested in competing is don't forget to test your fabric to make sure it's at least 60% wool. "And of course have fun sewing," she says.

MIWW is open to pre-



Photo provided

Knit-a-long Cardi at Busy Stix in Lafayette.



Photo Moya Stone

Marissa Sanchez MIWW 2021 National Winner Junior Division.

teens through adults and all fabric and yarn used must be at least 60 percent wool. Three judges will look for excellence in presentation and appearance, construction, and marketability. Entries are due by Oct. 15 and there will be a fashion show at 2 p.m. on Nov. 12 at the Orinda Masonic Center. For more information visit www.makeitwithwool.com or contact April Ward at april.ann.ward@gmail.com.

Busy Stix yarn shop in Lafayette has joined with Clinton Hill Cashmere for a KAL (knit-a-long): The Classic Cardi Edition. Starting Sept. 20, knitters will tune into to the Clinton Hill Zoom class for three sessions and knit a cardigan sweater. Busy Stix will be open and tuning in as well, so knit-

ters can gather at the shop for some social stitching. The Clinton Hill KAL kit is available through Busy Stix (at a discount). Call the shop for more information (925) 284-1172.

All this wool talk has me itching to pull on some autumn attire and according to Marie Claire magazine, the big trend this season is equestrian. Think blazers with elbow patches, capes in herringbone wool, tweed riding caps, boots, and stirrup strap leggings (remember those in the '90s?). Even for the non-horsey set, it's the look to sport! Although this trend is "inspired by" equestrian, Dover Saddlery in the Moraga Rheem Shopping Center offers the real thing.

Fashion icon Coco Chanel once said, "My life didn't

please me, so I created my life." And what an adventure that was! Chanel's life is told for young readers in Isabel Pin's latest book, "I Am Coco: The Life of Coco Chanel" (Prestel Publishing). An award-winning illustrator of more than 40 children's books, Pin gives an overview of Coco from her beginnings as an orphan to her remarkable success as an innovative fashion designer. The text is concise and enhanced by Pin's whimsical illustrations. This is a fun fashion read for kids age 6 to 9 and adults too.

Enjoy the cooler weather and go forth in style!

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

Gold Coast Chamber Players opening is all about Italy



Luigi Piovano

Photo provided

Submitted by Pamela Freund-Striplen

Who doesn't love Italy? The mu-

sic, the food, the people! It all starts Opening Night, Friday, Sept. 23 when leading Italian musicians perform exclusively with the award-winning Gold

Coast Chamber Players. Luigi's Italian Feast and Concert, a unique and enchanting GCCP fundraising event, follows on Sunday, Sept. 25.

The Friday concert is a blockbuster all-Brahms program and features the Principal cellist of the Santa Cecilia Orchestra, Luigi Piovano. Piovano is one of the most sought-after cellists throughout the world and will be performing on his 330-year-old cello. The romantic program is well suited for Piovano to perform with his wife, Grazia Raimondi, one of Italy's leading violin soloists. Joining them is violinist Livia Sohn, pianist Bernadene Blaha, and violist Pamela Freund-Striplen. Single tickets and discounted sub-

scriptions are available at gccpmusic.com.

Later that weekend on Sunday, Sept. 25 is Luigi's Italian Feast and Concert, in a lovely Lafayette backyard garden. You'll dine alfresco under the new moon and enjoy an intimate concert celebrating the finest Italy has to offer while supporting the Gold Coast Chamber Players. Luxury ingredients imported specifically for this event are transformed into a feast by Luigi - a chef and cellist extraordinaire. Proceeds benefit GCCP educational programs in local schools and its concert series, voted Diablo Magazine's Best of the East Bay, ensuring live music remains an integral part of our community.

Only a few seats remain. Tickets: gccpmusic.com

Four more Gold Coast concerts are included in the 2022-23 Season: "Folk Inspired," "Connections in Time," "Cello Extravaganza," and "Souvenir," each with world-renowned musicians with a unique theme. These Gold Coast adventures have great audience appeal and provide an opportunity to meet musicians in an intimate setting.

All concerts are at 7:30 p.m. and are held at the Don Tatzin Community Hall at the Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. For tickets and complete concert details, visit gccpmusic.com or call (925) 283-3728.

'The Good Boss,' a wry comedy at the Orinda Theatre



Image provided

By Sophie Braccini

"The Good Boss (El buen patrón)," a Spanish movie that represented its country at the 94th Academy Awards and has received 30 international awards, makes its Contra Costa debut at the Orinda Theatre on Sept. 23. Ferociously entertaining and fast paced, it portrays Julio Blanco a paternalist business owner played by Javier Bardem (Academy Award winner for Best Supporting Actor for his performance the Coen Brothers' film "No Country for Old Men"). Viewers will love to hate Blanco, the manipulating and charming demi-god who will stop at nothing to get his way.

Blanco is as odious as he is charming. The charismatic leader inherited from his father a professional scale manufacturing company and it is clear that he has learned to handle people from an early age. The movie takes the spectator on a 10-day voyage as the boss will do anything to remove all obstacles on the road to getting the last missing award for his company's brilliant track record. Blanco is struggling with protesting workers, a clueless wife, and a production director on the verge of

a nervous breakdown. He is confronted with a situation spiraling out of control and grappling to find good and very bad solutions to have his way no matter what. He is obviously someone with whom no one says no to and who cannot deal with frustration.

The movie opens as the debonair and all-powerful boss explains how he runs his business like a watchful father taking care of his children. A father who has his favorites, and who points out the ugly ducklings. He is the benevolent boss that employees in distress can call upon when they have family issues; and he is the one who does not hesitate to manipulate and threaten if someone's private life risks to upset the balance of the company. As he explains to a sacked longtime worker, "sometimes you have to trick the scale to get the exact weight." He is also the obnoxious womanizer who does not hesitate to court the new very young intern.

This comedic satire shows that businesses are no democracy. The boss rules, for the good of all and for his own, not hesitating to amputate what he sees as a diseased part, in the name of the survival of the whole body. Blanco perceives

himself as above the law, acts accordingly and probably has a very clear conscience.

Bardem brings to this role a natural geniality, and wins the spectators over, until the menace seeps through and his portrayal of total selfishness and insensitivity flourishes. His powerful stature dominates the cast as his position in the company dominates others, but the supporting cast reveals other excellent actors. Almudena Amor as Lilita, the young intern Blanco covets but who outsmarts him, or Manolo Solo as Miralles, the desperate and out of control production manager, create lively and interesting characters, as well as many others.

The movie was directed and written by Fernando León de Aranoa, a prolific director who has won multiple awards. In an interview with the AU Review he said that he wanted to explore labor relations in a way that would balance drama and humor. The result is totally up to par.

"The Good Boss" will open at the Orinda Theatre for at least one week starting on Sept. 23. Tickets and further information at www.internationalshowcase.org

Student loans that make sense

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

Student loans are often viewed negatively, in part because they are associated with the rising cost of higher education. Yet many students could not go to college without the help of a loan.

When college students borrow judiciously, they can build a sound credit history, add value to their lives now and prepare for their future. Some families who can pay full college costs choose to have their student take out loans to fund college so the student can be a stakeholder in their own education. Other families borrow to relieve the strain of tuition payments, even if they do not qualify for need-based aid. The key is for students to use loans wisely, so they end up with a manageable debt, while building and maintaining a good credit history.

One way for students to conservatively manage their debt is to borrow no more than the maximum allowed through the Direct Student Loan Program administered by the US Department of Education. Di-

rect Subsidized Loans are available to undergraduate students with demonstrated financial need. Direct Unsubsidized Loans are available with no requirement to demonstrate need. Subsidized means that the federal government pays the interest while the student is enrolled at least half time in school and for the first six months after they graduate. Unsubsidized means that the student pays the interest while they are in school and after graduation until the loan is paid off.

If a student qualifies for an interest-subsidized loan, the aggregate total allowed is \$19,000 over four years in college. A student who does not qualify for subsidized loans may borrow up to \$27,000 in unsubsidized loans, also over four years. Colleges that receive federal money for these kinds of student loans administer the loans through their financial aid offices. When a student has demonstrated financial need, the college's financial aid office can award a combination of interest-subsidized and unsubsidized loans, but the aggregate

amount of debt cannot exceed \$27,000.

The interest rate for Direct Student Loans is fixed for the 2022-23 academic year at 4.99%. The Department of Education provides very clear and annually updated guidelines to the affordability of college and reasonable levels of college debt (see: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/subsidized-unsubsidized>). A handy tool to estimate the annual salary one needs to pay back a specific amount of loan can be found on FinAid's website (see: <https://finaid.org/calculators/loanpayments/>). For example, if a student accrued a debt of \$27,000, he or she would have to earn about \$35,000 annually to make a monthly payment of about \$290 over a 10-year time span required to pay off the debt.

Financial aid offices might also award Direct Parent PLUS Loans. These, too, are federal loans, only parents are the borrowers. Parents may borrow up to the estimated total cost of attendance for college, including tuition, fees, room and

board and incidentals such as books, less any financial aid the student received. Eligibility for Direct Parent PLUS Loans is based on a credit check. Interest is charged during the entire period of the loan. The interest rate for these loans is 7.54%. There is also an origination fee of 4.228%, which is deducted from the principle. Three types of repayment plans are available, depending on the parent's income and creditworthiness as well the total amount borrowed (see: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/plus/parent>). Depending on the plan, parents may pay off their debt within 10 to 30 years.

Parents who are considering Parent PLUS Loans should be careful to consider how much they want to borrow for each year that their student is college. When the annual cost of attendance at some highly selective private institutions is approaching \$90,000, excessive student loan debts may put parents' retirement at risk. So, parents, like students, should also borrow judiciously to maintain good credit and prepare for their future.



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Elizabeth LaScala, PhD, brings decades of admissions expertise to personally guide each student through applying to well-matched colleges, making each step more manageable and less stressful. She has placed hundreds of students in the most prestigious colleges and universities in the US. Elizabeth attends conferences, visits campuses and makes personal contacts with admissions networks to stay current on the evolving nature of college admissions. She and her professional team offer resume development, test preparation, academic tutoring, value analysis, merit and need-based scholarship search and more.

New children's book addresses complex issues of kindness and inclusivity

Nobody likes a bully. Not even in the animal kingdom!

Lamorinda author and Lamorinda Weekly columnist, Cynthia Brian, debuts her first book in the children's picture book series, "Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures," with her charming true-life cadre of characters and endearing illustrations by Jensen Russell in "No Barnyard Bullies," a colorful book about learning to be kind and inclusive.

"No Barnyard Bullies" follows a pampered piglet who lives in an apartment as she is re-homed to a barnyard filled with a variety of happy critters. Thinking that she is the Queen, she bullies the other animals until she is stopped by

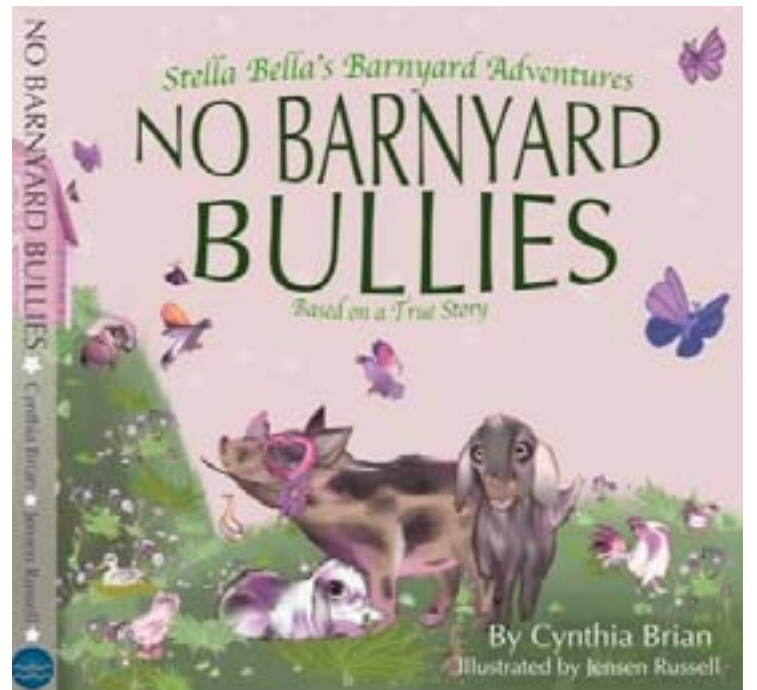
a tiny bunny who defends a three-legged goat from her attacks. Everyone is equal in Stella Bella's barnyard where bullies are not tolerated, and inclusivity is the paramount number one rule. Colorful, animated illustrations of the characters bring the prose and poetry dialog to life with timely and timeless tales that are relatable to humans.

The goal of "Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures" is to instill in children wonder and awe of Mother Nature and her creatures as they participate in the escapades of the wild kingdom. Children are encouraged to love themselves exactly the way they are while living in peace and harmony with a

barnyard of many colors and beliefs. Family is about whom you love and who loves you. In the series, the true tales will emerge from a variety of different animals, all with a prescription for living as better humans.

Brian will be selling and signing first editions of the book at the Be the Star You Are! booth at the Pear and Wine Festival on Saturday, Sept. 24 at Moraga Commons Park in Moraga.

Books are also available at these online stores: www.BetheStarYouAre.org and www.CynthiaBrian.com - J. Wake



Moraga Community Service Day scheduled for Oct. 1-2



Submitted by Mike McCluer

The town of Moraga has a rich history of community service,

residents rolling up their sleeves to help people in need and to make Moraga and its extended community a better place. Of these ideals was born the Moraga Community Service Day project, with the singular goal of bringing the townsfolk together to assist those in need, and help beautify our schools and town. This is your opportunity to help Moraga; to care, give and connect.

This project is sponsored and led by several Moraga Community groups, including Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Garden Club, Moraga Chamber of Com-

merce, Moraga School District, Campolindo High School, and Saint Mary's College.

This weekend event encourages all Moraga families to sign up and volunteer 1-3 hours on Saturday or Sunday and truly help people in need as well as the community of Moraga. Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek have held similar events with great success for their communities.

A few key projects include: donating food for homeless, low-income families, isolated seniors and foster children; painting planting pots

with messages of kindness and personal expression of caring delivered and donated to various local seniors organizations; helping the Moraga School District with beautification at multiple campuses through gardening and cleaning; planting new shade trees in the front and side of the Commons Park Bandshell for greater sun safety and enjoyment; participating in sustainable gardening projects at Campolindo High School and Saint Mary's College; donating blood to help those needing blood infusions to save lives; helping lo-

cal seniors with projects, errands and socialization; and fire abatement and trail clearing locally to safeguard our local residents.

These selected projects and more represent a great opportunity for Moraga residents and families to show their caring by volunteering time, resources, and working with fellow civic minded residents to enhance our great inclusive community.

To view all the projects and sign up for your favorite one or to donate, visit <http://moragaserviceday.org/>

AAUW-OML Sneakers 4 Scholarships



Photo Bonnie Fend

The American Association of University Women (AAUW), Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch is collecting sneakers in order to raise money for local scholarships. Pictured from left: Jill Eberhard, Mary Ann McLeod, Joan Foster, Laura Wittenberg, Linda Bochte and Jill Fernald.

Submitted by Bonnie Fend

Are your sneakers taking up too much room in your closet? Donate them to AAUW-OML (American Association of University Women - Orinda Moraga Lafayette branch) who will reuse and recycle them and earn money for scholarships for local high school seniors at

Miramonte, Campolindo, Acalanes and students in the Saint Mary's College High Potential Program. These scholarships are based on community engagement. You can help by dropping off your old, out-of-date or new sneakers at one of the following locations: Moraga Hardware, Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building and Rossmoor Gym. Info (925) 963-4523.

Campolindo tennis player continues to fight food insecurity



Jake Hammerman teaches tennis lessons for donations.

Photo provided

Submitted by Zoe Broussard

For the third year in a row, Lafayette teen Jake Hammerman spent his summer vacation helping fight hunger faced by older adults by teaching young children how to play tennis.

When COVID-19 hit in 2020 and upended everyone's summer, Jake created Impactful Tennis – an initiative that met two needs. He knew that Meals on Wheels Diablo Region helped deliver meals to elders who are food insecure and he recognized there would be an increasing demand from seniors who were affected by the pandemic. Also, with most youth activities closed, he saw a way to use his skills as a varsity tennis player to get young children outdoors, learning how to play tennis.

Impactful Tennis gave lessons for free, and in turn, parents made a donation in any amount to Jake's GoFundMe campaign to benefit Meals on Wheels Diablo Region.

The first summer, with just three teen instructors, he surpassed his \$10,000 goal raising \$15,000 in the first four days of lessons. In the summer of

2021, he increased the number of instructors from his varsity tennis team at Campolindo High School and again met with tremendous success.

Jake just completed his third summer of Impactful Tennis, with twice as many instructors giving 268 lessons and raising \$11,125. In total, Jake has given 808 lessons and raised \$34,725.

"I'm so glad this money is going to a terrific cause and am grateful that I found a way to contribute," says Jake.

Jake's efforts earned him an interview on Good Morning America, and he was awarded the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors 2022 Youth Hall of Fame Volunteerism Award, which recognizes young people who have a commitment to service and community.

"The demand for meals remains high as the senior population continues to increase," says Caitlin Sly, Executive Director of Meals on Wheels Diablo Region. "The funds that Jake has raised from Impactful Tennis has had a significant impact, allowing us to deliver more meals to more elders. He's an amazing young man."

In Memory

Beverly Waugh

Sept. 16, 1960 – Aug. 21, 2022

Beverly Waugh was born on Sept. 16, 1960 in Joliet, Ill., and passed away at the age of 61 on Aug. 21, 2022 in Lincoln, Calif.

Beverly is preceded in death by her father Terry Waugh. She is survived by her mother Kaye Morgan Andrews of Lincoln, Calif.; sisters Karin Williams (Danny) of Loomis, Calif., and Natalie Waugh Donnelly (Adam) of San Francisco; nieces Katherine Williams of Roseville, Calif., and Mary Williams of Portland, Ore.; cousins, Ron Morgan (Joyce), Deanna Siemsen (Keith), Stuart Waugh (Lily), Geoffrey Waugh (April) and Stephen Waugh.

Bev graduated summa cum laude with her bachelor's degree in business administration from California State University, Hayward, and shortly thereafter earned her MBA from UCLA's Andersen school of management.

For 20 years, Beverly worked at various financial institutions including Bank of America, Dow Jones, Charles Schwab, and others. Her responsibilities grew with each position. Fifteen years ago, Bev left the corporate world and started All Ears Pet Sitting based in Orinda, Calif. She absolutely loved being a business owner and caring for clients' pets. It was her true calling.

Beverly was fortunate to travel all over the world with her mom, Karin and many friends. There are too many favorite places and memories to list. When not traveling, she also enjoyed fostering many rescue dogs and cats, including a few "foster fails" who became permanent family members.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to The Milo Foundation at 220 S Garrard Blvd, Richmond, CA 94801 (milofoundation.org; non-profit tax id 68-033-7858).

The time and place for a gathering to celebrate Beverly's life will be shared shortly online at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/lincoln-ca/beverly-waugh-10899132>

Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley donation helps offset fireworks cost



Photo provided

Submitted by Barry Behr

Dick Courtney with the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley recently presented a donation from the Kiwanis Club to Moraga's Director of Park and Recreation Breyana Brandt. The donation will go towards underwriting the cost of the

fireworks at the Fourth of July Celebration earlier this year. The Club would like to thank all who participated in its fundraising events this year making it possible to reinvest in our communities.

For further information about the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley you can visit <https://moragavalleykiwanis.org>

In Memory

Cindy Marshall



Cindy Marshall died suddenly but peacefully on April 27, 2022. A resident of Moraga for 37 years, she had moved to an assisted living facility in Concord.

Born in 1927 in a small Pennsylvania town, Cindy grew up in many places, including China, where her father, an officer in the Navy, was stationed. After her parents divorced, Cindy and her mother moved to San Francisco. She attended Lowell High School and developed a lifelong love of opera and classical music.

After high school Cindy married and settled in Marin County with her husband and two sons. She had a daughter to her second husband and lived again in San Francisco. Another divorce left Cindy a single mom. She moved to Oakland to take a job managing a dental office. Eventually she left that position to pursue her love of jewelry and her talent for sales, working as a salesperson for Shreve & Co and later for Zales. After moving to Moraga, Cindy ran her own antique jewelry business selling at shows around the Bay Area. In retirement she volunteered for Leftovers Thrift Shop in Walnut Creek where she thrived managing the jewelry donations.

Youthful and stylish, Cindy was the bright star in every room and she will be greatly missed. Preceded in death by her two sons, she is survived by her daughter Moya Stone (Richard), daughter-in-law Lori Bacigalupi (James), grandson Forrest Bacigalupi, granddaughter Serene Bacigalupi (Paul), and great-grandson Leroy D'Avino. Cindy will be interred at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Lafayette.

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

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

Submit stories or story ideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

ART

The exhibit Born to be Wild at the Main Street Arts Gallery in Martinez, showcases the artwork of 23 Lamorinda Arts Alliance member artists through Oct. 16. Lamorinda Art Alliance member Ruth Stanton curated this exhibit of abstract and representational 2D and 3D artwork that is both colorful and captures the essence of adventure and wildness in nature. Open House Reception on Saturday, Sept. 10 from 3-5 p.m. Main Street Arts Gallery, 613 Main Street in Martinez open Wednesday - Saturday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Music

Pacific Chamber Orchestra presents "Courageous" – music from the heart of Europe. Immerse yourself in the beauty, courage and folk wisdom of Dvorak's Serenade for Strings (Czech & Slovak Republics), Kossella's In the Mountains (Ukraine), Kilar's Theme from the movie "The Pianist" (Poland, and more!) Purchase tickets at www.pacificchamberorchestra.org/calendar for concert to be held at St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Orinda on Sept. 17 at 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) Adult ticket price is \$48; Student ticket price is \$20.

Irish Music Concert at the Veterans Memorial Building in Danville Friday, Sept. 16. A concert of traditional and contemporary Irish music. The concert celebrates the Friendship City relationship between Danville and New Ross, Ireland, from which O'Neill's father James emigrated. Acclaimed Bay Area musicians Cormac Gannon, Erin

Thompson, and Steve Gardner will sing and play a variety of instruments, including the fiddle and uilleann pipes. Tickets are only \$20 at <https://eugeneoneill.org/>.

Gold Coast Chamber Players concert: Brahms Reunion. Friday, Sept. 23, at 7:30 p.m. Pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. Don Tatzin Community Hall at the Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Johannes Brahms Sonata for cello and piano, No. 2 in F Major, op. 99 Piano Quintet in F minor, op. 34. The concert will be recorded for online viewing beginning Sept. 30. Single tickets \$15-45; Online: www.gccpmusic.com, by phone: (925) 283-3728 Discounted subscription packages also available.

Art Embraces Music: Saturday, Sept. 24, 8 to 9:30 p.m., Lafayette Community Hall. Musicians take us places in a language without words. Artists tell stories with form and color. Together they enrich our community. Ensemble ARI takes the stage surrounded by original artwork and streaming video; thus art embraces the music. <https://lamorindaarts.org/art-embraces-words-events/>.

Stone Student Scholarship Concert at Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Saturday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m., Suggested Donation:

\$15-20 General; \$5 Student; Children free. Dwight Stone is a local artist and performer encouraging and initiating concert performances in the Bay Area.

Theatre

Orinda Starlight Village Players present: George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion" through Oct. 1. Fridays, 8:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 8:30 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 25, 4 p.m. and Thursday, Sept. 29, 8 p.m. Outdoor Theater, Orinda Community Center Park, 28 Orinda Way. www.orsvp.org/

Literature

Orinda Books and Firewise Orinda present on Saturday, Sept. 17 at 2 p.m. Katherine Blunt, author of "California Burning: The Fall of Pacific Gas & Electric & What It Means to America's Power Grid" who will be in conversation with Carol Pogash. 276 Village Square, Orinda, www.orindabooks.com, info@orindabooks.com, (925) 254-7606

Sweet Thursday Author Series is starting on Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. in person in the Don Tatzin Community Hall at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Author Kirsten Chen will be discussing her new book "Counterfeit." This free event is sponsored by the Friends of the Lafayette Library. Register at tinyurl.com/sweet-Sept22.

Other

The 2022 Lafayette Art & Wine Festival will be held Saturday, Sept. 17, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 18, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in downtown Lafayette. The Festival offers complimentary bike valet parking at 81 Lafayette Circle. Driving? The Festival is an easy walk or free shuttle ride from free Festival parking in the BART parking lot. Music on four stages features some of the Bay Area's top cover bands. <https://lafayettefestival.com>.

AAUW OML Showcase Meeting with speaker from CCC D.A.'s office talking about social justice Tuesday, Sept. 20 - 9:30-11 a.m. at Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda, 925.254.4906, www.orindachurch.org

AAUW-Orinda Moraga Lafayette will welcome Brandon Parks, Chief Assistant Public Defender, Contra Costa County on Sept. 20, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. to speak on "Advancing Equity in Justice in Contra Costa County." Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda.

Pear and Wine Festival Moraga Commons on Sept. 24, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. A community event celebrating the Town's heritage and fall harvest. This family friendly event features

kid's activities, community booths, fall harvest treats, and more.

Mocktails & Cocktails Sunday, Sept. 25, 3 to 5 p.m. Join those who love art, literature, music and everything in between at The Coop, 32 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. Time for some artsy conversation with Ani Breslin and Elana O'Loskey of the Lamorinda Arts Council. No host bar. Just show up. Look for our framed poster of a crazy art lady - that's us! No host bar. Email literary@lamorindaarts.org.

Garden

Montelindo Garden Club, membership open to all, Friday, Sept. 23, Shannon Fitzpatrick from Sloat Garden Center will help you transition your garden into the new season with a talk on "Fall Color in the Garden." Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mount Diablo Blvd. For COVID requirements visit the website below. Doors open at 9 a.m., attendees must be seated by 9:45 a.m., meeting begins at 10 a.m. This event is free and open to the public. For additional information visit the website at montelindogarden.com.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda Weekly

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Lamorinda's Religious Services

Lafayette United Methodist Church
955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 thelumc.org
Sunday 10am in person worship
We are a church that strives to love as Jesus loves. Our congregation welcomes, includes, and affirms everyone on their journey of faith regardless of race, ethnicity, age, economic status, physical and mental ability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

ORINDA Community Church
10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | www.orindachurch.org
"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"
Sunday Service 10 am or join us online.
Mondays 9:30 am Centering Prayer in the Chapel
Wednesday 10 am Contemplative Worship in the Chapel

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church Presents:
FAITH AT THE MOVIES
June 19 - September 4
Join us for LOPC's popular summer sermon series as we connect compelling scenes from our favorite movies to meaningful bible passages.
lopc.org/movies
In Person/Livestream Worship at 10:00 a.m.

WILLOWSRING community church
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www.willowspringchurch.com
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ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH
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Sunday Services and Sunday School 10-11 am
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm
All are welcome
www.christianscienceorinda.org

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422
www.holyshepherd.org
ONLINE WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Facebook Premiere Community Worship every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Go to facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/
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LAMORINDA SPORTS

SMC's Chase Jones drafted by NOLA in Major League Rugby

By Jon Kingdon

With limited success, going back to the 1930s, there have been several attempts to create a professional rugby league in the United States. As a rule, if a college rugby player was looking to play professionally, they were forced to look overseas where there were many options to choose from. Since 2018, Major League Rugby has shown steady growth to a point that there are now 13 teams, and they recently held their draft on TV.

In the last five years, Chase Jones has been a mainstay on the Saint Mary's rugby team and a top student in the classroom, receiving two degrees – an undergraduate degree in business administration and his master's in business administration.

"That was a real highlight for me," Jones said. "With those degrees from Saint Mary's, I'm set for life. I was

able to enter into the graduate program and a lot of my classes crossed over so staying the fifth year enabled me to graduate with both degrees."

Jones had a second dream fulfilled on Aug. 18. That was when he learned that he was the fifth player taken overall in the draft by the NOLA Gold rugby team located in Metairie, Louisiana (a suburb of New Orleans). "I was watching the draft with my family and buddies," Jones said. "It was unbelievable to hear my name called out. You don't expect anything like that to occur even when you've been told it's going to happen. When it comes to achieving the opportunity to pursue your dream, it just didn't seem real."

There are many reasons why someone begins to play a sport like rugby. In Jones' case, it was because he was not a good basketball player, and his mother did not want him to play football because she was

concerned he would get injured.

"I've been wanting to play a professional sport ever since I started playing sports," said Jones, who grew up in Davis, Calif. "Growing up, I thought about playing for the Sacramento Kings or the 49ers. I didn't make the freshman basketball team and I needed to play a sport because sports have always provided a structure for my life," Jones said. "I saw a poster in the school hallway that said full contact rugby and that's how I found out about it. I'm a sweetheart but I enjoy using my strength and being aggressive and I was instantly hooked on the sport."

Jones told his mother that rugby was like soccer, and she did not get to see him play until his second season. "It was then she saw her first game of rugby," Jones said. "At that point, I was already head over heels in love with the sport so there was no way I was going to let her tell me I couldn't continue to do it, and the rest is history."

Jones played for Coach Andy Malpas at Davis, which was one of the few public schools that had its own rugby team. Jones played there his first two years and then it merged with Dixon High School to become a premier club team.

At that point, in picking a college, fate and Jones' father intervened. "I was going to go to Western Washington to play Division 3 rugby, because they were offering me more money and I had had a really good visit to their campus," Jones said. "My dad said that they would help me out if I went to Western Washington, but would not pay the whole thing, but if I went to Saint Mary's, they would pay the full tuition. As a senior in high school, I admit I was pretty ignorant as to the opportunities that were being presented at Saint Mary's. My dad just helped me make the right decision there."

Saint Mary's head coach Tim O'Brien was not at all familiar with Jones at that point. "Chase just showed up when we were practicing and then came to a match the next Saturday and he then announced that he was coming to Saint Mary's," O'Brien said. "He felt that this was a great spot for him, with or without rugby." Jones was bit of a late



Chase Jones

Photo Karen Drinkwater

bloomer, measuring 5'11" as a freshman and growing to 6'4" by his senior year though only weighing 185. "Believe it or not, I'm the runt of my family," Jones said. "My dad is 6'7", my mom is 6'0", my older brother is 6'10" and my 16-year-old sister is 6'1. I'm 230 now so I am the heaviest."

How does one put on so much weight in just a couple of years? "Non-stop eating and weight room work," Jones said. "My first two years at Saint Mary's, I put on 30 pounds of muscle – I'm now about 230 and hope to be 240 beginning my pro career."

That may be only scratching the surface, according to O'Brien: "With Chase, the NOLA team has picked up a kid that has an enormous upside and his ability to contribute will be significant. He still has room to grow, and he won't be maxed out for another five or six years."

In coming out for the rugby team at Saint Mary's, Jones was soon to learn that everyone was starting from scratch with O'Brien. "Tim is not concerned with anyone's history," Jones said. "What matters is what you do with the Saint Mary's white T-shirt that has your last name on it. He wants players who want to be there and not to have to drag someone over. Of course, he was very encouraging and once I got there, like everyone else, he gave us everything we needed. It was then that he put us through the wringer making us prove ourselves. Tim's been incredibly influential in my life."

O'Brien came to appreciate Jones as much off the field as he did as a player. "Chase just understands the game and how it works and at times he can be like a coach on the field," O'Brien said. "Plus, he really understands, from going to school here and paying the tuition, the economics, and the importance of his education. That being said, he is comfort-

able now to try and go out and play pro rugby."

In talking with rugby players at every level, the one word that comes up consistently is camaraderie. "At Saint Mary's, it was like we were a family," Jones said. "A lot of those boys will be in my life forever. In that environment, it makes it so much easier for you to put your body on the line for each other. I'm definitely looking to build that at NOLA."

Jones, a lock flanker, is currently rehabbing from a shoulder injury suffered in the Cal semifinal championship game but still went back to Louisiana for preliminary work with the team. "It's a matter of learning the system and the team and to create some camaraderie so that we can hit the ground running rather than trying to figure each other out right before the season," Jones said.

With all of the distractions that went on the past few years, O'Brien sees it in a way that may help Jones' pro career. "Chase has not played a lot of rugby the last few years due to the pandemic and having missed some games with injuries so there is not a lot of mileage on his body," O'Brien said.

Jones is already familiar with some of his teammates and there are a number of Gaels on the various teams in the league: "I played with Aaron Matthews and Dino Waldren at Saint Mary's, and they are on the NOLA team, and I know a couple players in the league," Jones said. "Rugby is a small, tight-knit community. Eventually, everyone knows everybody."

In his time at Saint Mary's, there were undefeated seasons though no national championships after those seasons due to the coronavirus and this year the team made it to the national championship coming up short against Army, though Jones did not play due to his injury. ... continued on Page C2



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2022 MATS FOOTBALL GAME SCHEDULE

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9/2	VS. Encinal	10/14	VS. Benicia
9/9	VS. Skyline	10/21	@ Las Lomas
9/16	VS. Oakdale	10/28	@ Acalanes
9/23	VS. Mt Eden	11/4	VS. Campolindo



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Lamorinda girls volleyball teams look to continue their success from last season



Photo Ann Murphy

5 Amber Chu, 88 Nicole Tuszynski, 20 Kaylin Ishizu and in front Kaitlyn Roach

By Jon Kingdon

Coming off last season where Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte all made the playoffs, each of their coaches are approaching the season with feelings ranging from cautious optimism to outright confidence. There has been mixed success early as the teams are utilizing the early non-league games to work out the kinks and develop the necessary chemistry so vital in league play.

Miramonte

After head coach Leslie Ray's first season, the Matoradors were ranked 448th in the state. With a 17-5 record last season which included four post-season victories, Miramonte concluded the season ranked 91st in the state.

Despite the loss of six players that played big roles to graduation, there are still a number of key players that have returned led by league MVP and co-captain senior Amber Chu, the team's leading scorer last season.

Along with Chu, there are a number of last year's backups that have stepped up into starting roles. Senior co-captain Annika Blas-Cedeno has moved from libero to the front line along with seniors Bella Yun and Kaitlyn Roach

and her sister, sophomore Amanda who will play in the middle.

Leading the defense is junior co-captain libero Nicole Tuszynski and the omnipresent Chu and backup libero senior Adriana Pureco. "Nicole has stepped up in her role as the libero and she runs the back line," Ray said. "Everything goes through her, and everyone gets out of the way when she calls for the ball."

Last year's setter Julia Berg who led the team with 299 assists last year is out this season due to an injury so Kaylin Ishizu, who was fourth on the team in assists last season, will be running the team's offense.

After opening the season with a loss to California, Miramonte rebounded with a 3-0 win over Berean Christian. "Since that loss, we've been really going at it and I've been breaking it down to make them see and to remind them how we had started off slowly last year as well," Ray said. "We've learned to let that loss go and move forward. Now it's building our team dynamics with the same common goal - making it out of the league where everyone has gotten better and more competitive. We have a lot of work to do but

as long as we believe in what we do and stick with our system, we'll be fine."

The key for Ray is to have everyone working together on the court. "It's a team sport but when all those bits and pieces get used on the court together, that's when it becomes special," Ray said. "If the girls come together on the court, it will be hard for any team to beat us. If we play good defense, we can play and outwork any other team and that's our No. 1 goal."

Having only played two games so far (1-1), the Matoradors will be playing in the Dougherty and Stockton tournaments later in the season.

Campolindo

This is the season that John Vuong has been waiting for since the onset of the COVID crisis. Not only are the Cougars a talented team but after two years, there was finally a normal offseason. "This is the first season without having to deal with any aspect of the pandemic," Vuong said. "There were a lot of uncertainties as to how the kids were developing and what their capabilities would be the last two years. Coming into the season, I know what we have now and I'm very happy with what we've got and it's just exciting."

With a 4-2 record, Vuong is particularly pleased with his front line despite the losses of Brittney Soun who opted to focus on beach volleyball and sophomore Emily Knutson who is out with a knee injury. The group is led by senior Charlotta Bell, sophomore Aveya Stone and freshman Makenna Crosson.

"This can be the best group of pin hitters I've had at Campolindo," Vuong said. "Charlotta is one of the best if not the best player in our league and can play defense and is a great passer. Aveya did not play much her freshman year due to an injury and has shown she is going to be a big contributor. Makenna's the only freshman on the team. She has good height, has been playing well and has a high volleyball IQ." (Crosson comes by that honestly as her father is the head coach of the women's volleyball team at the University of California.)

The setters are seniors Olivia Woo and Anna Dendinger. "Olivia is a return-

ing starter and we converted Anna to the setter position this year and they will be running the team this year." Rachel Andre who played JV last season should also see playing time and gain experience for next year.

Vuong is also counting on the leadership of the team's captains, Wiseman, Dendinger, and Bella Montero. "They've been around the program for a long time and understand our culture so the underclassmen really respect them," Vuong said.

With a competitive non-league schedule, it's a matter of the team coming together. "For us to be successful we have to play every point like it's the last one and that's the mindset we have to operate under," Vuong said. "We're just trying to figure out the right combinations. "We have what it takes to be competitive and successful. They just need to learn how to play with the player next to them. I'm very excited for this year and the future is great with the underclassmen we have coming up."

The 4-2 Cougars will learn where they stand nationally by competing in the Durango Fall Classic (Las Vegas) on Sept. 16 and 17. The tournament will be made up of 64 teams, most of whom are ranked nationally with each team playing 4 to 8 games over the two-day period.

Acalanes

For the first time in her four years at Acalanes, head coach Haley Walsh has a roster that has been coached exclusively by her and her staff. "It's been good getting to this point and knowing that everything you taught them is instilled in their play," Walsh said. "Many of them have been playing together for as long as six years with high school and club teams so you can tell they're very comfortable and trust each other."

With a 6-5 record, the strength of the team is in the front line which has a lot of depth with Ryann Jones (59 kills), Katelyn Olin (50 kills), Hanna Hageboeck (39 kills), MaeLin Mason (35 kills), and Apple Walton (15 kills).

"We really try to push running the right side in the middle as much as we can so that the outsides don't have as many blockers in front of

them," Walsh said. "They're all really strong hitters along with Ava Bunton who also has been working on outside who will be a great addition as she continues to learn from the players ahead of her."

At this point of the season, the goal is to figure out which lineup provides the most chemistry and togetherness and who can be relied on the most on offense, defense, serving and other skills. "We've been focusing on running a lot of plays now that we're comfortable with the girls and likewise, which we hadn't been able to do in the past," Walsh said.

Walsh has been running a 6-2 offense with two setters senior Mara Korzeniowska and sophomore Emma Seelenbacher. "Both of them are doing very well so we've been able to get more hitters in," Walsh said. "Emma is also new to the sport, but her raw potential is phenomenal. It's just a matter of her trusting in her skills because she is a good setter, and the players enjoy hitting off her."

Senior Georgia Winkles is the veteran on defense and is joined by juniors Mika Bocobo and Ava Bunton. "Georgia led the team last year in digs," Walsh said. "We expect strong numbers out of Mika who has elevated her game in making the transition to the varsity." Backup libero Jade Profilio, Jones and Hageboeck will also be factors on defense.

Lyanne Wang, after suffering a broken hand last season, is the starting libero. "Lyanne and Jade Profilio have been dominant in the back row in as either liberos or defensive specialists," Walsh said.

It's the little things that Walsh is looking to address. "We're looking forward to getting better in closing out our matches," Walsh said. "Last season we were not good finishing. We've really been emphasizing following all the way through on all of the points in every game and in each match. This is such a great, goofy group so sometimes it's hard for them to concentrate or rein it in. But if we can focus, we've proven that we're a strong team that will keep up with the top teams."

SMC's Chase Jones drafted by NOLA in Major League Rugby

... continued from Page C1

Still, the ultimate highlight for Jones was not the end result but the process in getting there.

"The biggest takeaway that I'll keep with me for the rest of my life was embracing the suffering," Jones said. "If you want to be really good at some-

thing, you're going to have to go through the hardest struggles and you're going to have to just put your head down and say, 'You know what? I'm going to get through it.' Tim taught us how to control our body when we were suffering the most, pushing us all to the point where we were on the side of the hill thinking we're

going to be sick, feeling dehydrated and physically exhausted. But we were with our brothers, and it just shows that support through hard times creates a bond that is unbreakable."

O'Brien did not argue the point. "There is a bit of shared suffering for sure," O'Brien said. "Chase is one of those

guys that's all about it. He had some days when he needed support and wanted to understand what was occurring. As long as he was clear as to why we were doing things a certain way, he was fine."

It's never easy for a coach to lose a player of Chase's caliber to graduation. "Chase's graduating is a big loss for us,

both as a player and as a person," O'Brien said. "I will miss his personality and his contributions on and off the field. You could see playing is a joy for him and he is a good dude to be around."

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Thousands converge downtown for Orinda Classic Car Show



Lining Avenida De Orinda and Orinda Way in Orinda, the annual Orinda Classic Car Show featured some 175 American and European cars and trucks, many with their hoods open so that their engines could be closely inspected by the curious. The always popular event also provided entertainment, such as the singing duet Colette and Vivian, who perform as "Biggie Smalls," seen here belting it out on the bed of a classic pickup truck. The show was a big attraction for families of all kinds, including the "stroller hounds" and their mom, a show-stopping favorite.

Photos Jeff Heyman

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Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 16 Issue 15 Wednesday, September 14, 2022



Simple steps to an organized home

read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Some like it hot!



Photos Cynthia Brian

Bougainvillea thrives in hot weather.

By Cynthia Brian

“What dreadful hot weather we have. It keeps one in a continual state of inelegance.” ~ Jane Austen

In July 1808 when Jane Austen was 33, the Central England Temperature series which dates back to 1659, recorded the second hottest month on record with temperatures around the country reaching between 97-105 degrees. Following this oppressive heat wave, a thunderstorm so violent that hail stones were up to a foot long, destroyed structures, and killed

people and livestock.

I normally adore hot weather. In the past, I was one of those people that liked it hot. Then Labor Day weekend 2022 happened! Wow! Throughout the many years that I’ve lived in Lamorinda, I don’t recall a time when temperatures reached 109. Friends in Southern California reported temperatures of 119 degrees. This excessive heat strained the power grids as people attempted to keep cool.

Throughout the United States and the world, horrific environmental tragedies are occurring including floods, fires, droughts, famines, heat waves, disappearing glaciers, and so much more with global warming and climate change accelerating. Scientists at UCLA and elsewhere are predicting a mega-storm in California in the next few decades that will be unlike anything anyone has ever experienced. They are calling it “the other BIG ONE” as it will be as destructive, deadly, and costly as any earthquake dumping over 100 inches of precipitation in non-stop atmospheric rivers throughout the state.

Yet today, suffering from extended heat and water scarcity, viewing our parched gardens, it’s hard to imagine a winter super storm. As a lover of nature and Goddess Gardener, I am acutely aware of the crisis we face. It is prudent to prepare.

I am watering twice a week, less than the district water mandate of thrice per week. As I do my best to never waste a drop of H₂O, buckets are maintained in showers and sinks, sprinklers have been checked, leaking valves repaired, my garden has been mulched, trigger nozzles are attached to every hose, and the driveway and patio are swept. Despite these earnest efforts, the month has been challenging to keep landscaping alive.

You are not alone if your lawn is brown

and crunchy. Mine is as well. I suggest applying enough water to keep the roots alive. When the rains come this winter (and let’s pray we get them without the torrential atmospheric rivers that we experienced last season), and with a bit of fertilizer later in the fall, your lawn will bounce back. It is ugly now, so patience is required. If you are tired of battling growing a beautiful green lawn in a drought, make sure to contact the water district as there are rebates for replacing turf with sustainable, drought-resistant landscaping.

... continued on Page D12



The deep throat of the naked lady will wither in the heat.

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	17	\$655,000	\$8,810,000
MORAGA	12	\$520,000	\$2,515,000
ORINDA	9	\$400,000	\$2,850,000

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

125 Bacon Court, \$1,765,000, 3 Bdrms, 2453 SqFt, 1976 YrBl, 07-25-22

3310 Beechwood Drive, \$1,258,000, 2 Bdrms, 872 SqFt, 1942 YrBl, 08-02-22

940 Dewing Avenue #C, \$825,000, 2 Bdrms, 1260 SqFt, 1982 YrBl, 07-28-22,
Previous Sale: \$160,000, 04-01-88

983 Hawthorne Drive, \$1,375,000, 3 Bdrms, 1278 SqFt, 1941 YrBl, 08-01-22,
Previous Sale: \$725,000, 05-07-09

20 Hidden Valley Road, \$1,725,000, 2 Bdrms, 2001 SqFt, 1949 YrBl, 08-05-22

1510 Huston Road, \$655,000, 2 Bdrms, 844 SqFt, 1947 YrBl, 07-26-22

3 Joplin Court, \$1,585,000, 4 Bdrms, 1742 SqFt, 1964 YrBl, 08-03-22

837 Las Trampas Road, \$2,861,000, 4 Bdrms, 3569 SqFt, 1996 YrBl, 08-05-22

1030 Lindsey Court, \$1,975,000, 4 Bdrms, 2003 SqFt, 1953 YrBl, 08-02-22

3353 South Lucille Lane, \$1,750,000, 3 Bdrms, 1847 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 07-25-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 07-09-18

3241 Marlene Drive, \$761,000, 2 Bdrms, 1160 SqFt, 1972 YrBl, 07-29-22

1409 Meadowlark Court, \$2,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 2974 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 08-04-22

1259 Redwood Lane, \$8,810,000, 6 Bdrms, 6453 SqFt, 1986 YrBl, 07-27-22,
Previous Sale: \$6,500,000, 07-12-17

3568 Silver Springs Road, \$1,795,000, 3 Bdrms, 1650 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 07-25-22,
Previous Sale: \$925,000, 04-16-09

3378 Springhill Road, \$1,710,000, 5 Bdrms, 2636 SqFt, 1985 YrBl, 08-05-22,
Previous Sale: \$48,000, 07-01-79

1755 Toyon Road, \$3,350,000, 5 Bdrms, 4861 SqFt, 2005 YrBl, 08-01-22,
Previous Sale: \$2,500,000, 09-23-08

28 Warwick Court, \$2,305,000, 3 Bdrms, 2395 SqFt, 1962 YrBl, 08-03-22

MORAGA

5 Brandt Drive, \$2,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 3113 SqFt, 1986 YrBl, 08-05-22,
Previous Sale: \$480,000, 09-01-86

5 Camelford Court, \$2,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1462 SqFt, 1959 YrBl, 08-01-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,285,000, 06-16-21

1481 Camino Peral, \$730,000, 2 Bdrms, 1265 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 07-26-22

67 Corte Del Sol, \$1,576,000, 4 Bdrms, 1946 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 07-26-22,
Previous Sale: \$133,500, 12-01-78

6 Cortes Court, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 1760 SqFt, 1961 YrBl, 07-25-22

13 Doral Drive, \$1,340,000, 2 Bdrms, 2142 SqFt, 1978 YrBl, 08-05-22,
Previous Sale: \$740,000, 08-05-10

... continued on Page D13

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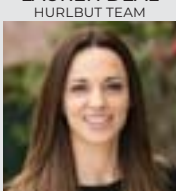
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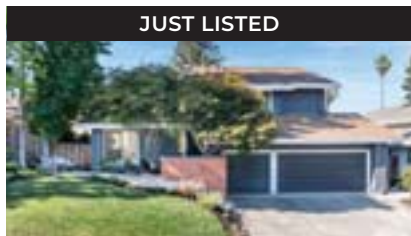
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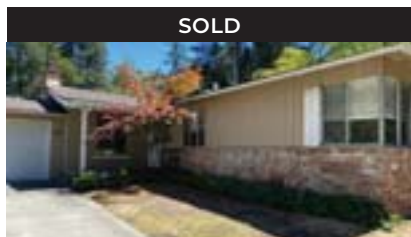
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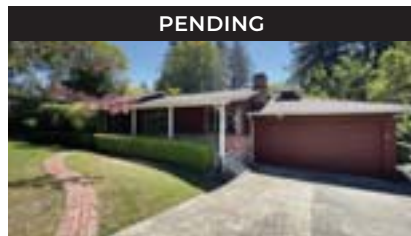
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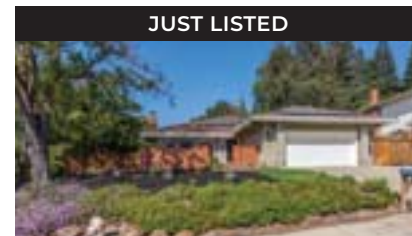
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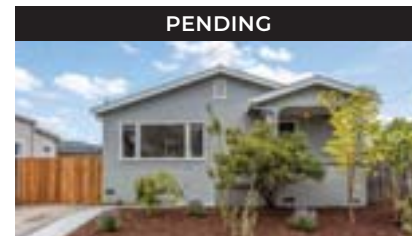
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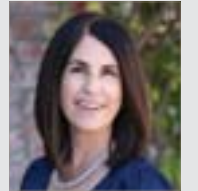
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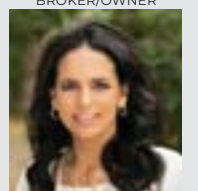
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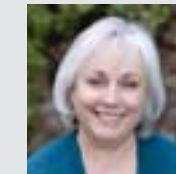
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What does it mean to have an organized home, really?



Photos provided

By Jennifer Raftis, CPO, Certified Professional Organizer

When you think of organized spaces, do you immediately have visions of neat and tidy items lined up perfectly in matching containers on shelves? If your home doesn't look like these picture perfect, Pinterest-worthy images, does that mean that your home is not organized?

Maybe and maybe not!

The truth is that an organized space actually has nothing to do with looking perfectly neat or tidy; that's just a bonus. The question is, does your space function efficiently for you? Efficiency does matter!

I describe "being organized" as being able to find an item when you need it. It's that simple. Think about what happens when you can't find an item (a really important item) ... frustration, stress, aggravation. Now think about how you feel when you are able to retrieve it immediately – life is so much easier – game changer! Once you understand the concept of being organized, it will produce a gratifying sense of calm and clarity.

Every item in your home needs to have a designated place where it is stored.

A place for everything and everything in its place (turns out that Grandmother really did know best).

Whether it's a single item or a category of items, you can become more organized by following a few simple guidelines:

Every item in your home has to have a designated place where it is stored and everyone must know the location. A good example is your kitchen. Think about the plates, glasses and silverware. Everyone in the home knows where to find and put back

these items and they never get lost (except when your teenager leaves a plate under the bed). Kitchen storage is fairly straightforward, but other items tend to get randomly stuffed wherever you have space in your home – and then you can't find them when you need them again.

Store items in a location close to where you use them. In most cases, this is obvious as you probably wouldn't keep tools in the bathroom or toilet paper in the kitchen.

Store items in direct relation to the frequency of use. Anything you use often should get the best real estate.

Frequently used items should be easy to reach. If you want your kids to put back their clothes or toys, is it easy? If the dresser drawers are overstuffed with clothes, kids won't be able to easily put clothes away, which is often why they are left on the floor. With young kids, it can be helpful to have pictures on the bins or drawers where the items belong. Labeling storage can be helpful for adults too.

If you want your kids to pick up their clothes or toys, make it easy.

Common pitfalls to organizing

As a professional organizer, I have found many common ways people getting hung up trying to get organized: You buy lots of containers (because it's fun and they are cute) before you measure or even know what quantity you are storing; you purchase the same item again and again because you can't find it – this is a good sign that you need to designate its "home;" you shop because it feels good (retail therapy) but already have too much of that item (clothes?); or you purchase every organizing book and latch onto phrases like "only touch it once" or "keep it only if it sparks joy" in hopes it will change your life forever..

Staying organized

Overbuying can be the biggest downfall to staying organized. Being mindful of your shopping can be helpful. Ask yourself these questions before you hit the purchase button:

Do I really need this item? (Remember that you are the only person that can answer the question, "Do I have too much?") Do I have room for this item? If you can't close your dresser drawers or it's hard to fit another shirt in your closet, can you remove some items first? Chaotic spaces can cause a



lot of stress. Where will this item live? Many of my clients like to shop at Costco (hoping to save money), but if Costco quantities do not fit in your house or cause your space to be overcrowded, it might not be as important to save a couple of bucks. Another example is large holiday décor; make sure you have the room to store it because it is being stored for 11 months.

Anytime you bring an item into your home, it can be helpful to know the answers to these questions in order to decide if you really want the responsibility of owning it.

Whether or not you have too much, not enough, or just the right amount of stuff, if you know where to find it, you are organized. Congratulations!

Professional Organizer, Jennifer Raftis, CPO® founded Efficiency Matters, LLC to help you with all of your organizing needs for your home and business. She is a Certified Professional Organizer and an active board member with NAPO, National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals.

She is also an independent representative for The Container Store and has expertise in designing closets, garages, pantries, playrooms and more. In addition, she is

a Corporate Organizing and Productivity Consultant and has worked with Fortune 500 companies across the U.S. Another large part of her business is move management especially working with seniors who are downsizing. She and her husband have lived in Moraga for 30 years, raising 3 kids and working countless volunteer hours with many local non-profit organizations and schools. Jennifer@efficiencymattersllc.com, 925-698-3756 www.efficiencymattersllc.com





525 Kite Hill Terrace, Orinda



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www.daveschurhoff.com
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\$3,775,000

www.24OrchardRd.com



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4 Bedroom | 2 Bath | 2113 ± SQ FT | Offered at \$1,795,000

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Orinda



233 Village Gate Rd 2,395,000
 Stunning Orindawoods townhome with 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths remodeled throughout. Private deck with serene views.

Michelle Holcenberg 925.324.0405
 holcenberg.com Lic#01373412

Orinda



19 Candlestick Rd \$1,895,000
 Sophisticated Architect designed Contemporary home with views, outdoor entertaining, flat lawn and located on a cul-de-sac.

Laura Abrams 510.697.3225
 19candlestick.com Lic#01272382

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308 Rheem Blvd \$1,895,000
 Fabulous expanded rancher on an acre with an amazing private fenced rear yard, large enough to add a pool and still play soccer!

Laura Abrams 510.697.3225
 308rheembld.com Lic#01272382

Walnut Creek



1349 Running Springs Rd, #7, \$629,000
 Elegant 2BR/1BA custom remodel in Rossmoor! Tree-lined views from every window. High-end finishes throughout! Large open balcony plus a fabulous enclosed sunroom. Must see!

Mary Beth MacLennan 925.324.6246
 1349runningspringsroad7.com Lic#01480008

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1456 Rancho View Dr \$3,295,000
 A home for all seasons is available for the first time in 30 years! Enjoy gorgeous views of the Carquinez Straits from the pool deck while entertaining friends and family or close the gate and disappear into your private, secluded and airy retreat. The kitchen is spacious and designed to please any avid cook, while bringing the outdoors in through the generous great room. The primary en-suite was redesigned to create a sanctuary with an incredible spa-like bath. Outdoors, the pool & spa take in stunning views as a fountain gurgles, adding to the peaceful ambiance. Majestic oaks, the jewels of the property, arch their limbs and mature redwoods line the property. Olives, figs and plum trees fill the orchard.

Kelly Crawford Team 925.998.5599



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Offered at \$2,395,000

Stunning Orindawoods townhome entirely remodeled with top-of-the-line finishes throughout. Gourmet chef's kitchen with vaulted ceiling and great room. Spa-like primary bath. Private deck with serene views. Not to be missed.

COMING SOON



36 Greenfield Drive, Moraga

VIEWS FOR DAYS

4 bed, 2 bath, 2,474 sq ft

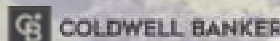
Gorgeous views from this Corliss-area ranch home with pool and oversized family room perfect for entertaining. Centrally located close to top schools, shopping and the park. A great spot to escape the heat.

Both homes open Sep. 18, 1-4 p.m.

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2:30pm - 4:30pm **Big Jangle**
5:00pm - 7:00pm **Spazmatics**

Sunday, September 18

- 11:00am - 12:30pm **Maroon Vibes**
1:00pm - 3:00pm **ZEPOP!**
3:30pm - 6:00pm **Sun Kings**



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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Some like it hot!



Despite the high temperatures, the garden is restful yet colorful.

... continued from Page D1

Proven Winners has just asked me to trial two of their newest developments,

Estrellita Little Star™ Bouvardia and Chicklet™ Orange Trumpet Bush. I am always thrilled to test any new cultivar but because of the heat, I've asked them to not send the plant samples for a couple of weeks until the weather, hopefully, is cooler. If you are waiting to transplant, my suggestion is to postpone putting anything in the ground until the days are nippier, nights are warm, and rain is on the horizon. I currently have four big containers consisting of two avocado trees, a banana tree, and a red rose that need to be moved to their forever spot, yet I dare not attempt to replant them now. Last spring, I transplanted three avocado trees which perished during the summer heat even though I was attentive. Trees take three to five years to acclimate to their new environs. Timing the transition is tricky, yet imperative.

My "hot" news is that my first children's picture book, "No Barnyard Bullies," based on true stories from growing up on a farm and adopting and rehoming animals, is published. I will be selling and autographing the first edition at the Pear and Wine Festival at Moraga Commons Park in the Be the Star You Are!® booth on Saturday, Sept. 24 from 11-3 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the arts, culture, and literacy charity empowering women, families, and youth. Our gratitude to Lamorinda Weekly and MB Jesse Painting for sponsoring the booth. Hope to see you there. For more information, visit Events at <https://www.bethestaryouare.org>.

In this late summer weather, we may feel inelegant and perhaps a



These containers are waiting to be transplanted once the rains begin.

bit dreadful. It's hot, hot, hot. But it could be worse ... like a flash flood or hail stones as big as a football. Stay cool, hydrated, and shaded.



This sedum in bloom resembles pink shooting stars. Photos Cynthia Brian

Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

Moraga ... continued

- 144 Draeger Drive, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2181 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 07-25-22
61 Hardie Drive, \$1,732,500, 4 Bdrms, 2449 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 08-04-22,
Previous Sale: \$2,475,000, 02-08-22
115 Merion Terrace, \$1,389,000, 3 Bdrms, 1819 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 07-28-22
1850 School Street, \$2,515,000, 5 Bdrms, 2628 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 08-01-22
800 Villa Lane #3, \$520,000, 2 Bdrms, 952 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 07-28-22
14 Warfield Drive, \$1,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 2441 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 07-29-22

ORINDA

- 63 Ardilla Road, \$1,710,000, 4 Bdrms, 2276 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 08-03-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,190,000, 02-25-14
57 Bobolink Road, \$1,975,000, 3 Bdrms, 2055 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 08-01-22,
Previous Sale: \$670,000, 07-01-02
115 Canon Drive, \$1,575,000, 3 Bdrms, 1908 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 07-26-22,
Previous Sale: \$799,000, 06-06-03
17 Easton Court, \$1,280,000, 3 Bdrms, 1975 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 08-03-22
138 Fiesta Circle, \$2,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2231 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 07-29-22,
Previous Sale: \$975,000, 12-21-20
86 La Espiral, \$2,180,000, 4 Bdrms, 3516 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 08-01-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,728,000, 03-21-17
23 Overhill Road, \$2,480,000, 4 Bdrms, 2467 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 08-05-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,450,000, 11-21-17
6969 Skyline Boulevard, \$400,000, 2 Bdrms, 1251 SqFt,
1949 YrBlt, 08-04-22
39 Valley Drive, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 3384 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 08-05-22



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Cynthia Brian's Mid-September Gardening Guide

- Autumn is less than two weeks away. It is time to buy the spring bulbs you wish to plant. Visit your local nursery or order from catalogs for your favorite blooms:

Van Engelen Dutch bulbs: www.vanengelen.com

John Scheepers beauty bulbs: www.johnscheepers.com

White Flower Farm: www.whiteflowerfarm.com

Spring Hill Nursery: www.springhillnursery.com

Breck's Direct from Holland: www.brecks.com

- Save Energy from 4 to 9 p.m. as extreme heat is straining California's grid.

- Water containers daily if the soil is dry. Test by putting a pencil or stick a few inches into the pot. If the pencil comes out dry, it's time to water. If moist, skip it.

- Climate emergencies are on the rise. Heed these warnings offered by Lamorinda emergency services:

- Sign up for alerts on your smartphone with the Contra Costa County Community Warning

System- <https://alerts5.athoc.com/SelfService/CCCCWS/Register>

- Include the CWS emergency notification number (925-655-0195) in your favorite contacts so you will receive messages when your phone is set to "do not disturb". For directions on how to do this

visit- <https://www.lamorindacert.org/resource/cell-phone-do-not-disturb/>

- Know Your Zone! Contra Costa County is divided into evacuation zones. Knowing your zone will allow you to quickly identify your neighborhood's evacuation status and know when it's safe to return home. Find your zone here- <https://cwsalerts.com/know-your-zone/> Don't forget to save the



Watermelon crape myrtle is spectacular on the tree but does not make a good cut flower.



In a shady location, yellow begonias shine.

Photos Cynthia Brian

information where you can find it in an emergency.

- Review the Lamorinda Resident's Guide to Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation.

<https://lamorindacert.org/evacuate/documents/LRGWPE.pdf>

- Contact the water district to inquire about a rebate if you decide to replace your lawn with drought-resistant landscaping.

- Deep-soak established trees, especially if signs of distress are evident. Deep-soaking prevents roots from rising to the soil surface.

- Irrigate deeply early in the morning or as late as possible in the evening when the temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation.

- Refrain from planting any new plants during a heatwave. Wait until mid-fall or whenever the days become cooler, yet the soil is still warm.

- Stay hydrated. Make sure your animals have plenty of water, too.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



Cynthia Brian on a warm sunset evening.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is available for hire to help you prepare for your fall 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. Her newest children's picture book, No Barnyard Bullies, is available now.. Buy copies of her books, www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store. Receive a FREE inspirational music DVD and special savings. For an invitation to hang out with Cynthia for fun virtual events, activities, conversations, and special perks, buy a StarStyle® NFT at <https://StarStyleCommunity.com>. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com
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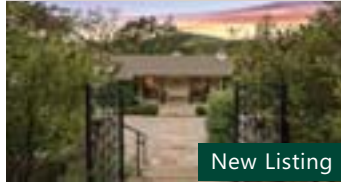
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ORINDA



New Listing

24 Orchard Road
Gorgeous Santa Barbara-inspired home on 1-acre lot in beloved Glorietta neighborhood features one of the most extraordinary yards!
\$3,775,000

ORINDA



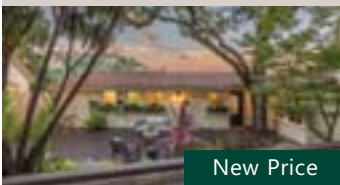
15 La Cuesta Road
Fabulous large-scale living 5 bd/ 4.5 ba home perfect for a family with fine features of craftsmanship and charm!
\$3,450,000

ORINDA



7 Hilldale Court
Gracious 3602 sq.ft. home + huge bonus rm on .96 acre. Level yard, pool, garden. Large farmhouse kitchen!
\$2,695,000

ORINDA



New Price

60 Tarry Lane
Enjoy privacy & spectacular views from this 5 bd/4 ba beautiful and spacious Sleepy Hollow Mediterranean!
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ORINDA



New Listing

525 Kite Hill Terrace
Sought after Orindawoods! 4 bd/ 2.5ba, 2437 sqft home .97 acre. Open floorplan w/ spectacular views! A must see!
\$2,195,000

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131 Meadow View Road
3 bdr charmer! Fabulous .7 ac estate setting! Sought after neighborhood! Expansion/ADU potential!
\$1,650,000

ORINDA



Lot

0 Camino Del Monte
Desirable lot in El Toyonal neighborhood. Located minutes from Hwy 24/BART, award winning schools, & downtown!
\$225,000

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Lease

19 Woodcrest Road
Fabulous Glorietta location! Spacious, light & bright 4 bd/ 2.5 ba home with high ceilings and beautiful views!
\$6,300/mo

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1336 San Reliez Court
Rare opportunity on .75 acre lot with 5 bd/ 3.5 ba 4098 sq.ft. in the heart of Springhill!
\$2,195,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

16 Diablo Circle
Nestled on a quiet street in Hidden Valley 3 bd/2 ba rancher convenient to the amenities of downtown Lafayette & Orinda!
\$1,795,000

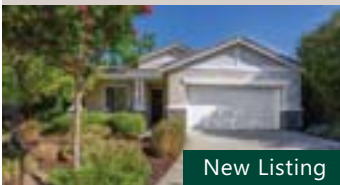
LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3338 Sweet Drive
Single-level updated 3 bd/ 2 ba rancher on a ridgeline street is charming & move-in ready!
\$1,495,000

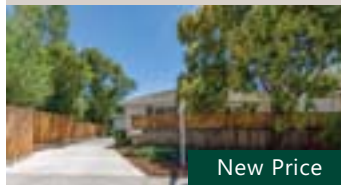
DANVILLE



New Listing

45 Lily Court
Exceptional single story 3 bd/ 2 ba home w/ open floor plan that is light & bright ideal for entertaining & day to day living!
\$1,495,000

MARTINEZ



New Price

628 D Street
3 bd/1 ba downtown Martinez property situated on a creek & close to town, trails, schools, shops & more!
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6094 Ashwell Way
Spacious 4 bd/ 3 ba home overlooking the hills in the lovely Hiddenbrooke neighborhood!
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