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FJMA's Kent Long presented a signed contract and check for \$10,000 to John French, treasurer of J & J Ranch LLC, on April 18 to purchase the Moraga Adobe in Orinda, along with 2.3 acres of adjacent land. The check was the first installment of FJMA's \$500,000 payment to J & J.

Photos Ohlen Alexander

Adobe Deal Sealed

New details on terms of Moraga Adobe purchase released

By Laurie Snyder

A new page in the narrative of the Moraga Adobe was added by the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe and J & J Ranch, LLC at a joint press conference April 18. Held high on an Orinda hill under a spectacular blue spring sky, the event gave those attending a rare chance to go behind the adobe's protective fencing

to learn about long-term plans for the site.

FJMA and J & J announced April 3 that they had reached agreement for FJMA to purchase the adobe and 2.3 acres of adjacent land for \$500,000, which will enable conservation of the "view shed" – an area in front of the home from which Orinda's earliest settlers looked out over the area's rolling hills

and valleys. According to Orinda planning director Emmanuel Ursu, "Per the agreement, Lot 12 will be shifted southeasterly out of the view shed of the adobe. The lot on which the adobe is situated will become larger and both Lots 12 and 13 become smaller. The project still contains 13 home sites."

... continued on page A12

Quote of the Week:

"The public is demanding this kind of thinking. They expect us to be smarter than we have been." Read Fire News, page A9

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Property Rights or Historic Preservation for Lafayette Adobe?

\$2 million teardown?

By Cathy Tyson

Controversy swirls around one of the few remaining Monterey Colonial Revival adobe homes in Lafayette. The four bedroom, 3.5 bathroom home sits on a level 1.8 acre lot with a lily pond, guest house and white picket fence. It was listed for sale in November, 2012 for \$2.2 million and closed at \$1.95 million on Dec. 31, according to public records. A group of supporters have launched a Facebook page called "Save Lafayette's History" to rally around the 3,000 square foot home, built in 1936 on Las Huertas Road.

The original land is composed of two lots, created in 1916 as part of Rancho Laguna De Los Palos Colorados. Lot one was purchased in 1935, fronts Las Huertas Road and is a generally square shaped; lot two, purchased in 1952, is an irregular rectangle along the back of lot one bordered by Las Trampas Road. ... continued on page A3



Photo Cathy Tyson

Life in Lamorinda

B1-B12

Move Over, Hollywood

Moraga may soon be known for more than pears and wine.



Sports

C1-C3

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Our Homes

D1-D12

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Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, April 29, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, May 6, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, May 13, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.
Del Valle Education Center, 1963
Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek.
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, May 8, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
Stanley Library
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
Phone: (925) 284-1968

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org



Design Tweaks for Downtown KB Home Project

By Cathy Tyson



Lafayette Town Center Phase III, Option 1 south elevation

Image provided

It was down to the wire when the Lafayette city council finally conditionally approved the multi-story 72-unit KB Home condominium project slated for the gravel parking lot behind Panda Express; a Dec. 6, 2012 deadline was firmly spelled out in the Process Agreement that governs the project. While that deadline was firm, and progress had been made on the architectural plans, there were concerns about a number of design

details that hadn't been finalized to everyone's satisfaction.

The project was conditionally approved based on a complete set of plans that the design review and planning commissions can fully support. Six specific design directives were itemized to clarify what the city is looking for in the structure. The project had an initial informal study session in February that demonstrated positive progress, but further refinement was needed,

said senior planner Christine Sinnette.

Although there have been significant adjustments to date, the design review commission again reviewed the most recent set of updated plans and met with the architect and developer to give feedback. One design directive stated, "Incorporate a grand gesture or organizing element." Although the applicant responded with an entry pavilion that was taller and had a gable roof, city

planning staff agreed with the commission that "it needs to be grander and less commercial looking."

The project is making headway and KB Home senior vice president Ray Panek was gracious about the constructive criticism. "We heard about more finite details that we need to work on." Going forward, the applicant will schedule another study session incorporating suggestions heard at this meeting to iron out design wrinkles.

Future of Bike Park and Manzanita Building Still Uncertain

Spoiler alert: more discussion before decisions

By Cathy Tyson

A standing room only crowd filled with bicycle enthusiasts, along with bike park opponents, commented on the proposed 1.8 acre park tentatively planned for a hillside near the baseball fields of the Lafayette Community Park. With a history of emotional input at past bike park meetings and recent lobbying by both sides—including a nolafayettebikepark.com website, coupled with a flurry of pro and con email—Mayor Mike Anderson cautioned the

audience up front that, "this is an important democratic process, not a rally," and asked attendees to refrain from clapping and outbursts.

After hours of passionate public testimony, the city council was slated to make a decision April 8 on a proposed re-building of the 60-year-old Manzanita building and controversial bike park. The full house at the Community Hall had dwindled substantially prior to the final word on both projects that came close to midnight.

If these topics sound familiar, it's because they were both up for discussion at a meeting in March, but since the Parks, Trails and Recreation department was scheduled to present its annual Capital Improvement Plan in April, a vote was postponed until the CIP could be reviewed. The CIP is a long range planning tool to help manage projected revenue and prioritizes projects; the current construction boom in Lafayette has boosted funding paid

by developers in park facility fees.

Along with the bike park, the Manzanita building at the Lafayette Community Center was listed as a priority project in the CIP due to its rapidly deteriorating structure. The Parks Trails and Recreation Commission looked at a number of options and recommended a complete tear down of the building and in its place a more functional, flexible structure that would cost \$1.8 million.

... continued on A11

Lafayette Police Department Crime Statistics

Two-week period:
March 31-April 13
Alarm responses (90)

Burglaries

- **Auto (4)**
Mt Diablo Blvd (2)
Pleasant Hill Rd
Glorietta Blvd

- **Commercial (2)**
Mt Diablo Blvd
- **Residential (2)**
Cambridge Dr
2nd Street
- DUI (2)**
Mt Diablo Blvd
Moraga Rd @ Tofflemire

- Grand Theft (2)**
Mt Diablo Blvd
Silverado Dr
- Petty Theft (10)**
Mt Diablo Blvd (2)
Roxanne Ln
S Lucille Ln
Burton Dr

- N Lucille Ln
Carol Ln (2)
Palo Alto Dr
Brook St
- Stolen Vehicle (3)**
Mt Diablo Blvd
- Traffic Stops (168)**

- Vandalism (2)**
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Property Rights or Historic Preservation for Lafayette Adobe?

... continued from page A1

The city was slated to discuss an application by the new owners, Charles and Denise Rosson, for a lot line revision because both lots are under single ownership and if re-configured, street frontage and possible improvements would be easier. Due to lack of a quorum, the matter was rescheduled to May 20.

If approved, the new orientation would split the parcel lengthwise into two parcels - one with the existing home and a 34,000 square foot undeveloped parcel. With the new location of the lot line, the home doesn't meet setback requirements. Current owners want to demolish it; the city has offered to work with them to allow a variance, thus preserving the home. At this time, the new owners are not pursuing that option.

Current zoning would allow the property owner the right to develop the second lot, now reconfigured to a more lengthwise orientation running from Las Huertas to Las Trampas, in the future if it meets all the zoning requirements.

The property was sold by the estate of Marjorie McAllister Stolley. Mrs. Stolley lived in the home for the vast majority of her adult life, until she was just shy of 100. She married first husband Sumner McAllister in 1931. The young couple enlisted the help of locally prominent architect Berkeley Reede Hardman to design the home and they moved in when the home was completed in 1936. McAllister died in 1968. Marjorie remained in the home, and later married Bruno Stolley in 1971. She continued her tenure even after Bruno Stolley's passing in 1994. Mrs. Stolley was a well-known and popular figure in the neighborhood; she had four children, 13 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Supporters of preserving one of

the few adobe homes in Lafayette are irked that the current owners originally told the estate they wanted to live in the home, but as of Feb. 1, just months after purchasing it, filed an application for a lot line revision that would include the demolition of the home. According to a representative of the Stolley estate, when the home was purchased by the Rossons structural reports were completed and some minor repairs addressed. At the time of the sale, the buyers included a letter that stated they wanted to make it their family home.

"They have initiated a campaign to inform the neighborhood that the home is not structurally sound enough to endure an earthquake and must be torn down," said Joanna Mylin who is spearheading the Facebook campaign.

Supporters are trying to get it on the National Register of Historic Places in order to prevent the proposed demolition. One of the criteria specifies that the home is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of history. McAllister lived in the home while obtaining patents for synthetic rubber during World War II. He ultimately became an executive with Shell Oil and was a polymer chemist. Another possible claim to fame is prominent architect Berkeley Reede Hardman, who designed a former sorority house at UC Berkeley formerly occupied by Phi Omega Pi, then Delta Phi Epsilon on Le Conte Avenue.

Lamorinda Weekly made several unsuccessful attempts to reach the Rossons through their contact person Mike Branagh. The Lafayette Planning Commission will discuss the matter at its May 20 meeting, which will start at 7 p.m. in the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

Please submit Letters and Opinions:
letters@lamorindaweekly.com



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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, April 24, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 8, 7 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
 1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, May 6, 7 p.m.
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

Design Review

Monday, May 13, 7 p.m.
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District
 Tuesday, May 14, 7:30 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate
 School Auditorium
 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us
 Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



Police Report

Alleged fence jumper, 4/15/13
 Cops responded to an anonymous report of a suspicious person seen jumping over a back yard fence and entering a residence on Augusta Drive. Police secured the perimeter and waited for a K9 unit to respond. Although there was a thorough search, nobody was inside the home and the homeowner didn't discover any valuables missing.

Suspicious circumstances, 4/15/13
 Perhaps residents are on high alert; someone called in about a car parked on Wandel Drive with a man inside at 7:50 a.m. Cops came and determined the subject was part of a work crew at a nearby residence.

Attempted theft, 4/14/13
 A 17-year-old white male entered Safeway after 1 a.m. and left the store with a bottle of Crown Royal Whiskey. He was confronted by employees in the parking lot, returned the whisky and sped off in a waiting vehicle.

Driving around late at night, 4/14/13
 A Toyota 4Runner was traveling around Campolindo Drive and Moraga Road for several minutes after 3 a.m. Cops saw the car park on Lenelle Court. Turns out, the car was full of teenagers who were out on the mean streets of Moraga without their parents' knowledge. They told the police they were driving around because they thought they were being followed. The kids called their respective parents who came to take them home.

Pool party, 4/12/13
 Cops received a tip on a loud party at the pool area of Miramonte Gardens, allegedly 50 people, possibly not Miramonte Gardens residents, drinking and urinating in the bushes. Cops found approximately 15 St. Mary's students who were cooperative, but alas were attempting to barbecue without a resident in attendance. Officers stated the party's over and hung out until all the student non-residents left.

Residential burglary, 4/12/13
 Unknown suspects broke into a Campolindo Drive home at some point during the day by forcing open a locked rear door. The suspect(s) stole electronic devices, money and jewelry that totaled approximately \$12,000.



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Developing Bollinger Valley

By Sophie Braccini

The field has been primed for a familiar battle. On April 17 the Moraga Planning Commission received and commented on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed development of 126 homes in Bollinger Valley. This first public step is only the beginning of what promises to be a long series of meetings.

On one side is the land owner—the Bruzzone family, represented by David Bruzzone and planner Dick Loewke—who wants to be granted the right to build enough homes to balance the enormous investment the site will require. On the opposing side are residents of Moraga and Lafayette, diversely impacted by the proposed project, seeking to stop, or at least minimize, the development.

Large numbers of residents came to the presentation of the lengthy DEIR for the 186-acre parcel located to the northeast of Moraga, prepared by consultants Hauge Brueck who proposed five alternatives, ranging from 121 homes to none, and studied the possibilities for mitigating impacts on the environment—from natural resources, to traffic, schools, views and noise.

“Alternative three (37 homes) would be a superior option because some of the existing conditions of the

valley (such as creek banks collapsing and landslides) would be remedied,” said Rob Brueck, who added that all of the other alternatives would have unavoidable impacts. He cited traffic and air pollution as impacts that could not be remedied; and visual impact, wildlife and vegetation disturbance, exposure to geological hazard, depletion of ground water supply, noise levels, impacts on Moraga intersections, as those that could be mitigated.

The landowner had 10 minutes to present the project. Some 40 years ago, the same owner developed the Bluffs, the adjacent property where a similar sized project was built. Loewke explained that developing this new parcel would solve some of the problems of the Bluffs. For example, this neighborhood has only one road to enter or exit toward town; the new project adds an Emergency Vehicle Access (EVA) road that would serve both neighborhoods. The EVA would start as an extension of an interior loop road on the site and follow an existing fire road to a point that terminates at St. Mary's Road in Lafayette.

Loewke said that the project, now in its 12th year of behind the scenes preparation with experts and Moraga staff, would require an investment of \$34 million, a cost that could not be

supported if the number of homes is too small—that cost includes the reconstruction and widening of Valley Hill drive, the EVA, public utility connections, grading, and the construction of water detention basins. He presented the 126-home proposal under which structures would be massed toward the western and northern part of the property, close to ridge lines, leaving the wooded southwestern area undisturbed.

“From St. Mary's Road, you can see the lower hills that separate the site from the surrounding landscape, but you can't see any of the interior of the site, and you can see the ridge line of Las Trampas in the background,” said Loewke to demonstrate the minimal visual impact of the development.

Twenty-five residents of Moraga and Lafayette lined up to list issues they felt the DEIR did not adequately address. First was the impact of the new development on Bollinger Canyon Road, an aspect that was not included in the present version of the DEIR. “No one mentioned fixing Bollinger Canyon Road,” said Bluffs resident Judy Howard. “That road is a disaster; I can't imagine more cars on that road. And I was almost hit many times turning right from Joseph Drive onto Bollinger Canyon.” Plan-

ning commission chair, and Bluffs resident, Frank Comprelli added that this intersection is located just after a blind curve and that traffic impacts there should be studied in the EIR.

Lafayette residents added concerns about the impacts on St. Mary's Road and added that Lafayette could deny the owner the creation of an EVA that would exit within its city limits.

The project would require major grading—the removal of 1.5 million cubic yards of soil to create a plateau where the homes will be built. Resident Suzanne Jones said that if you were to expand that amount of soil across a football field it would be 700 feet deep. Jones also pointed out that the General Plan requires that development conform to the natural topography of a site.

Some asked that the EIR consider not only the impact of this development, but of developments that are already approved on key elements like traffic impacts for Lafayette and Orinda, and the Moraga school system. “There are about 1,000 new dwelling units approved for development in Moraga, and none of those have been built yet,” said resident Lynda Deschambault. “That's about 10,000 additional trips a day.”

... continued on page A11

Road Repairs Coming this Summer

By Sophie Braccini

Public Works Director and Town Engineer Edric Kwan is ready to start spending the proceeds from Moraga's new 1 percent sales tax, which went into effect April 1, to repair roads. At the April 10 meeting of the town council he presented a contract with Harris & Associates to manage the summer road repair campaign. The program will start July 1 and is likely to impact many neighborhood streets.

Harris & Associates will also take charge of an extensive public outreach campaign aimed at minimizing daily commute pain. The total budget for this 2013 campaign is \$650,000, with \$250,000 coming from the Measure K sales tax. A detailed list of affected roads will be available

next month.

Kwan took advantage of the Rubberized Pavement Grant Program and got the town of Moraga a CalRecycle Grant for \$126,000. This money has to be used for two project types – Rubberized Asphalt Concrete (RAC) and Rubberized Chip Seal. The rubberized cape seal treatment is a layer of liquid asphalt binder blended with recycled tire rubber embedded with small aggregates or chips (rubberized chip seal) and coated with a microsurfacing seal. “The microsurfacing seal provides for a smoother finish and riding surface with no loose aggregates,” indicated Kwan in his presentation to the council.

Some members of the council remembered when the town used this


technique on Moraga Road two years ago—the result was disastrous and the treatment had to be completely redone. “Harris & Associates have extensive experience in this technique,” answered Kwan, acknowledging that impeccable timing and adequate temperatures are required to successfully apply the seal.

The other funding for the summer road repairs come from Measure J (\$100,000) and the gas tax refund (\$200,000). The \$250,000 coming from Measure K is the non-leverage part of the sales tax's revenue stream. The council agreed at the beginning of the year to leverage about half of the revenue from the sales tax and borrow \$7 million that would be repaid over a 20-year period.

“We are finalizing the list of roads,” commented Kwan. “First we are checking with the utility companies to see what their plans are for work so we don't repair roads that will be excavated shortly thereafter.” With the list of roads to be repaired will come the outreach plan that will include a dedicated web page where residents will be able to find detailed work schedules, road segment by road segment. “We also chose Harris & Associates because they have a lot of experience with communication in similar communities.”

When the sales tax revenue is leveraged, a more structural repair campaign will start in 2014 with a preliminary budget of \$2 million for that year.

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Planning Commission Approves Creative Home on Hillside

By Sophie Braccini



Graphic provided

The Moraga Planning Commission decided on April 15 to grant conditional use and hillside development permits to the house proposed by architect James Wright on a

hillside with a 52 percent slope at 1800 Donald Dr. in Moraga. Despite opposition from some of the neighbors, the commission determined that the three-level, two-story futuristic

building would be concealed in the existing vegetation and anchored in bedrock.

"I am concerned that this development could create a precedent," said commission chair Frank Compelli. The undeveloped lot on which the home is proposed was created in the '60s; planning director Shawna Brekke-Read confirmed that such a lot would be considered non-conforming today and would not be approved, mostly because of the slope. Developments are not permitted in Moraga on slopes that are more than 20 percent, unless a hillside development permit is granted; the commission found Wright's design elegant and safe enough to approve the special permit. ... continued on page A11

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Olsen Honored



Dick Olsen at home in Moraga. Photo Sophie Braccini

Dick Olsen was recently named Moraga's Citizen of the Year for 2013. Olsen is a multi-talented gentleman who has served in many volunteer capacities for the town, starting in the '70s as a founding member of Citizens Incorporating Moraga and serving on the town's first Design Review Board. He was a Moraga Fire District Commissioner for 12 years; most recently he was the chair of the Revenue Enhancement Committee. He will be honored May 3 with a dinner at the Soda Center on the Saint Mary's College campus. The program starts at 6 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$45 per person. Reservations are required and can be made by sending a check to Kiwanis of Moraga Valley, 8 Thune Ave., Moraga, CA 94556. S. Braccini

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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Thursday, April 25, 9 a.m.
Special Meeting
Community Room, City Hall
Thursday, May 7, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 14, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Finance Advisory Committee

Wednesday, April 24, 6 p.m.
Community Room, City Hall,
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District
Monday, May 13, 6 p.m.
OUSD Office
25 Orinda Way, Suite 200
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org
Phone (925) 253-4200

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Orinda Police Department crime statistics will be published as new monthly data becomes available. Look for the April compilation in our May 8 issue.

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The Slings and Arrows of Orinda's Roads

Orinda debates how best to allocate sales tax funds

By Laurie Snyder

To pave or not to pave? That is the question. Whether to use Measure L funds to raise a few of Orinda's worst side roads up from lunar landscape status to good Pavement Condition Indexes (PCIs) – or to prevent a greater number of less axle-jarring byways from further fragmentation – that is the headache defined.

The Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission has wrestled with this since voters hiked the sales tax by one-half percent in November. The grappling continued in earnest at the April 16 Orinda City Council meeting as the commission proposed its Policy and Criteria for Selecting Streets for Repair Using Measure L Sales Tax Funds. "Even with this additional funding," reads the report, "current budgetary constraints and the poor and deteriorating condition of Orinda's roads require the City to apply budgeted funds only to those roads where the most benefit for the most residents can be obtained."

The CIOC report outlines two sets of standards. The first—Criteria for Developing the 10-Year Program for Measure L Funds— would create

a road renovation list for update every two years. To be rehabilitated, street segments must be classified as residential, have a StreetSaver program PCI calculated as 15 or less, and be among the more heavily used residential roads with a minimum daily traffic volume of at least 300 vehicles as verified by actual traffic counts. Under the Biennial Program for Measure L Funds, streets would "be drawn from the list of road segments [updated annually] in the 10-year program," and "fairly distributed among the neighborhoods of the City of Orinda."

Nearly 20 Orindans – mostly residents of Lost Valley, which has a PCI of 16 – voiced concerns. Several came armed with road condition photos and traffic count data; one posted video footage on YouTube (to view, search for "2012 Road Survey PCI" at youtube.com).

"I'm heartened to know that we're looking at objective data," said resident Jonathan Myers, who urged that pedestrian safety be added to benchmarks. With Lost Valley's poor roads and considerable volume of pedestrian traffic, he said, there is "a

lot of opportunity for people to get hurt." Elizabeth O'Shea asked whether consultants or staff conduct PCI surveys, and suggested that the biennial criteria needed to be fleshed out further.

Vince and Janet Maiorana questioned the validity of the criteria, presenting data that roughly 66 percent of Lost Valley Drive "is classified as Very Poor with no road life left." Others spoke of gravelly spots on blind curves, veering cars, and perilous patches traversed gingerly by hikers, bicyclists, and walkers. Terming his road "a failed street," Jim Fleming added that one road considered for Measure L repairs – Zander Drive – "is like a superhighway compared to Lost Valley." He argued that Lost Valley merits attention since it is the only point of ingress and egress, and is an EVA (Emergency Vehicle Access road).

In response, council member Sue Severson empathized but counseled that other areas such as Charles Hill also need work. Each council member asked staff and CIOC chair Dennis Fay probing questions, including how PCIs are calculated and by

whom, why 300 was the minimum daily traffic volume chosen, why pedestrian safety did not seem to be a weighting factor, and whether or not there is a standard policy on how traffic counts are done.

"We thought about safety, we looked at pedestrians," said Fay, who explained that the CIOC was hoping to help create objective and consistent standards. "There were many criteria considered, many weightings.... In the end, we opted for something simple."

At deliberation's end, the council directed the CIOC to take resident concerns into account when fine-tuning the criteria before returning for further review. To get a head start and be ready to start construction as soon as possible, council members also authorized staff to begin the bid process for hiring the consultants who will assist with engineering design for 2014 Measure L and Annual Paving projects with contracts to be reviewed by early June. To better understand how these actions may affect your neighborhood, listen to the April 16 audio on the city's website and attend future CIOC meetings.

Street and Sidewalk Improvement Projects Added to Capital Improvement Plan

By Laurie Snyder

At its April 16 meeting, the Orinda City Council gave staff the go-ahead to apply for more than \$1 million in grant funding to help facilitate three Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects for 2014 to upgrade roads, bikeways, and walkways. While grant applications by the city are not new, the current process will be different, according to the staff report, because "many of the usual grant programs have been rolled into the OneBayArea Grant (OBAG) program." A deadline of April 19 was established for the OBAG application process by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and Association of Bay Area Governments.

Of the three CIP projects discussed, Ivy Drive's Pavement Rehabilitation would require the largest outlay with a projected total cost of \$636,000. Delayed from 2012 due to funding issues, Ivy Drive could be improved from Fiesta Circle to Moraga Way with the help of \$551,000 in Statewide Transportation Plan (STP) Funds "allocated to Orinda for road improvement projects. Under the conditions of the STP a project has to be a collector road." The remainder would be covered by gas tax matching funds.

Walkers on Coral Drive between Eastwood and Ardith and on Ivy between Risa Court and Fiesta might experience safer routes to school if the city can also effect \$95,000 in sidewalk improvements by using \$70,000 in TDA Funds and \$15,000 in Transportation Improvement Fees with remaining costs also funded by gas taxes.

And, if the city secures its hoped-for \$445,000 OBAG funding for Crossroads Area Streetscape Improvements, pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers may finally find it easier to coexist thanks to planned modifications. Because the design for Brookwood Road's rehabilitation was completed under an earlier, unfunded pavement rehabilitation project, construction could begin once design for the Bryant Way connection and sidewalks are completed – if the OBAG funds are awarded. "Per OBAG requirements eligible projects have to be in a Priority Development Area (PDA) for a project that will be for local streets and roads preservation and bicycle and pedestrian improvements," according to the staff report.

Council members voted 5-0, authorizing staff to proceed with grant applications for all three projects.

Lacy to Lead California Parks and Recreation Society



Photo Ohlen Alexander

For the Good of the City – and the state. Recently appointed as

President of the California Parks and Recreation Society's Board of Directors (www.cprs.org), Michelle Lacy, Orinda's parks and recreation director, was honored at the April 19 Orinda City Council meeting. "We always knew you were a star," said Mayor Amy Worth as she praised Lacy for her leadership at home and across the state. Founded in 1946, the California Parks and Recreation Society serves as a best practices resource for more than 4,000 parks and recreation professionals statewide. "For a new employee to receive this much support, it's overwhelming," said Lacy as she thanked city leaders and residents for their continued support. *L. Snyder*

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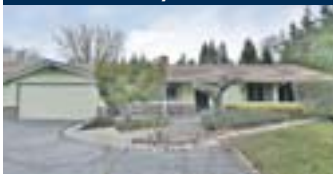
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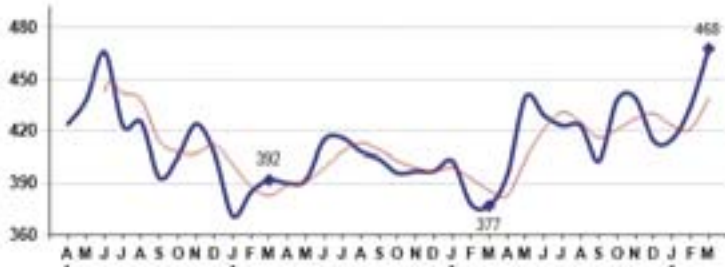
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Earth Day at Wagner Ranch



Earth Day will be associated forever more with long-time critter crusader, Gary Bogue, thanks to the City of Orinda which honored Bogue by declaring "Gary Bogue Day" at this year's Wagner Ranch Wildlife Festival April 21. Described by the New York Times in 2004 as "the Ann Landers of California wildlife, the former curator of the Lindsay Wildlife Museum and retired Contra Costa Times columnist was praised for his life's work in inspiring the public to learn more about and preserve their natural world. Bogue, who wrote three children's books, educated, amused and inspired readers of all ages through his popular columns while raising millions of dollars to support such organizations as the Muir Heritage Land Trust and Save Mount Diablo. He was also honored in September 2012 with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF). From left: U.S. Congressman George Miller, Bogue, Orinda City Council Member Victoria Smith, and Orinda Mayor Amy Worth. *L. Snyder*



Photos Ohlen Alexander

This Eurasian Eagle Owl, who wowed animal fans of all ages at this year's Wagner Ranch Wildlife Festival, arrived in San Francisco's East Bay in 2003 at when she was just 7 weeks old. Born and bred in captivity in Missouri to serve as an education animal, she is a cousin to the Great Horned Owl of North America, and has been described by her caretakers at Native Bird Connections as "quite personable" and "an enthusiastic bather" who will bring toys and even breakfast with her as she "dips and flutters, shakes and shimmies" in the water.

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Scott Winburne DRE# 00466182

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Lynn Molloy DRE#01910108

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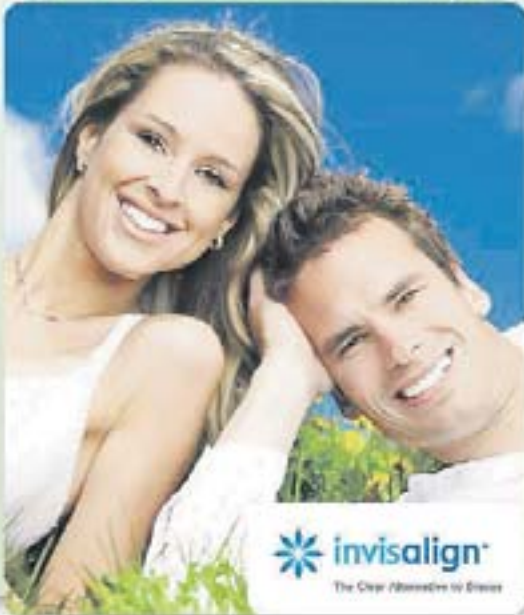
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More Volunteers Needed for Triathlon

At least 10 more volunteers are needed to help with traffic safety for bicyclists riding from Campolindo High School to Canyon School and back from 7 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 27 during the Moraga Treeline Triathlon. Volunteers must attend a one-hour traffic safety class at 7 p.m. on either Wednesday or Thursday, April 24 or 25 at the Hacienda de las Flores in Moraga. If you can help, contact Wesley Ayers at wesleyayers1@aol.com.

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Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community!



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 should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. **email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com**; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

I would like to contact Mary Mark, whose Letter to the Editor was published in your April 25, 2012 issue.

Hi Mary,

I grew up in Moraga and graduated Campolindo High back in 2001. Since leaving Moraga for Tri-Valley at that time, I got married and now have two beautiful children. I took a job in Lafayette last December and being in this area has brought back many good memories.

I was saddened to hear that Fudge Alley closed a few years ago and I never got to visit Frank one last time. I believe 2003-2004 was the last time I visited him with my wife (then girlfriend). I had been in contact with the leasing office and owner of Shish Kabob Show at the time Fudge Alley had closed to possibly come in and take some pictures, but before I could make arrangements, they had already gutted the place out.

My heart sank and I still regret not being able to go back, speak to Frank, and take some lasting pictures. To my surprise, there are no photos of Fudge Alley that I can find online. It's as if a part of my childhood died. Not to sound melodramatic, but growing up in Moraga, Fudge Alley was one of the most memorable places for me as well as Rheem Valley Bowl, which was sadly torn down when I was in high school.

I found and read your "Letter to the Editor" and you had said you were able to take some photos of Fudge Alley. If it isn't too much trouble, I would love to get a copy of those photos to frame along with the Lamorinda Weekly article about Frank. You can reach me at jesskyi@gmail.com or (510) 566-0119. Thank you for your time.

Warm regards,

Jess Yi

Editor and Members of the Lafayette Community:

I am writing to ask for your cooperation in an ongoing issue we are experiencing on the campus of Stanley Middle School. As many of you know, many different groups come to the Stanley to use our fields and facilities. In addition to more than 500 students that participate in afterschool Stanley athletics, we serve a host of athletic leagues, including LMYA, LMSC, Little League, MOL, and many others.

For years we have had a policy that prohibits any dogs on our fields at any time; but consistent enforcement of this policy has been difficult, with many dog owners using the field areas after school business hours or on weekends. We are working with Lafayette city agencies and our school resource officer, Larry Seliga, to explore how this policy can be effectively communicated and followed, but that requires effort from everyone. Many dog owners we speak to claim they are not aware of our policy, despite the clear signs in our main parking lot and reminders from staff. What we now have is a growing group of dog owners who regularly use our field to exercise or walk their dogs--dogs most often off leash and running freely on and around our campus.

This has had an increasingly negative impact on the academic and overall climate of Stanley School in several ways. There have been increasing incidents of our middle school students' days being interrupted when they have stepped in dog poop and must clean their shoes or find a new pair. These students are missing crucial amounts of time in class. For a two-week period in March, we had seven students impacted by this avoidable situation, and the rate of incidents is growing. This does not speak to the impact it has on our dedicated PE department, who use the field as their "classroom" and must manage games and activities that are impacted significantly by the dogs.

Perhaps most concerning, we have now had multiple reports of dogs off leash who have bitten or knocked over children on the field -- children who are there for a sports practice and who have the right to feel safe and secure in participating in their respective sport or activity. Luckily there has not been serious physical harm, but the emotional toll on these students and families is heavy and very real. As Principal of Stanley School, my first job is to make sure everyone is safe and ready to learn.

As attractive a place as our field is to our neighbors and nearby dog-owners, I implore you to adhere to our policy, and find other places for your dog walking and exercise. Thanks for your cooperation in making Stanley Middle School a place that is safe and welcoming to everyone.

David Schrag, Principal

Tri-City Parking Lot Inauguration

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Mike Metcalf, Steve Glazer, Amy Worth, Dave Trotter, Mike Anderson, John Sutter, Don Tatzin, Inga Miller (hidden) and Kathleen Kolmann.

Photo Sophie Braccini

It was a perfect afternoon at Moraga Commons Park. The air was warm and redolent of the scent of spring. Representatives from Lamorinda's three communities -- mayors, managers, staff and supporters -- appeared relaxed and happy to celebrate, together, the completion of the new 29-space parking lot that now

borders the park along Moraga Road.

"It is just a parking lot!" said Mayor Mike Anderson of Lafayette, "but the symbol is bigger than that. It is an example of cooperation between our three staffs, and maybe common road projects will be next." *S. Braccini*



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Commissioner Fears Boards Will Not Pass Consolidation Plan

By Nick Marnell

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District includes an Advisory Fire Commission, made up of seven fire commissioners – one appointed by each of the five county supervisors and two at-large members appointed by the Internal Operations Committee of the county Board of Supervisors. The commission meets bi-monthly, and its members advise the supervisors on district budgeting, expenditures, personnel and long-range planning.

Bill Granados is the commissioner of District 2, which includes the city of Lafayette. Granados has been on the advisory board since 2002; his four-year term expires in June. He recently discussed issues facing the fire district with *Lamorinda Weekly*.

LW: Until the 1990s, when the power was shifted back to the county, the commission had far more authority to handle fire-related matters. What does the fire board have the authority to do?

Granados: We have the authority to settle county weed abatement issues, and we have the authority to memorialize fire stations and to recognize individuals.

LW: ConFire chief Daryl Louder retires in October. Do you have anyone in mind to replace him?

Granados: My preference is that Chief Louder would stay. He's the best fire chief we've had in 10 years. He is very intelligent, and has terrific rapport with his staff and with the union; unfortunately, not with the media. And he has had some highly publicized issues with the board of supervisors. The supervisors will hire a consulting company to find his successor; the candidate will most likely be a chief from a small or similar-sized district or an assistant fire chief of a large district.

LW: At the April 8 Advisory Commission meeting, Louder said that "the public expects us to be smarter than we've been in the past." Is there a new, 21st century model in the works for a fire district?

Granados: We are researching a lot of ideas. A public safety department? That model may work for a

city, but not for a district. A part paid/part volunteer district? Volunteers we have now cannot enter a burning building. They're not trained to do that. An engine and an ambulance at each station? That would add expense. But, everything is on the table.

LW: The county hired Fitch and Associates to do an assessment of ConFire's operations. What ideas do you think may come out of their report?

Granados: The Fitch Report may be a waste of money. They're going to suggest that we need to come up with alternative forms of funding, which we already know we have to do.

LW: What is your outlook for the fire station consolidation plan with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District?

Granados: The decision to combine ConFire's station 16 with MOFD's station 43 is a no-brainer. The vote of both boards to continue negotiations – which were each 3-2 in favor – should have been unanimous. In fact, I don't think that either board is going to approve the merger; but I hope that they surprise me.

LW: Why do you say that the merger may not be approved?

Granados: Because of political and personal agendas. Political, as in, someone is getting special treatment; where is my share? And personal, as in, someone on the MOFD board doesn't trust ConFire because of their financial problems. Well, the MOFD has financial problems too. Who owns the station, who runs the station; none of that should matter. Serving the public comes first.

LW: How challenging has it been the last few years for ConFire to maintain its level of service to the public?

Granados: We've gone from 31 companies to 24. But despite the cutbacks and the financial problems, the firefighters care about what they do. They take pride in their work. And they are committed to delivering superior public service.

The next Advisory Fire Commission meeting is June 10 at the ConFire Administration Building, 2010 Geary Road in Pleasant Hill.

Lamorinda Fire News Briefs

By Nick Marnell

Advisory Fire Commission

The fire station consolidation plan and Fire Chief Daryl Louder's retirement announcement highlighted the April 8 meeting of the Advisory Fire Commission of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District.

Louder said that county counsel and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District were fine-tuning a joint powers agreement to cover the purchase and operation of a new combined fire station 46. He expected the agreement will be completed in time for the May 7 meeting of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors.

Louder said he will ask the board for the district's \$7,500 share of the deposit for the proposed fire station and also for seed money to be used for the station's site study.

The commissioners asked Louder how he would sell the Lafayette/Orinda station consolidation plan to other areas of the fire district. "That it's a long-term strategic solution," he said. "The public is demanding this kind of thinking. They expect us to be smarter than we have been."

Louder said that the district has no fallback plan if the merger is not approved. ... continued on page A12



Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Meetings

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District holds Board Meetings on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. Any exceptions will be posted in advance.

Next meeting:
District Special Board Meeting - April 24, 2013, 7 p.m.

Orinda Community Center, Room 9, 28 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563
(Go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for location and more information)

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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 can be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Preschoolers Visit Moraga Royale

Submitted by Jennifer Gerst



Photo provided

A group of enthusiastic 3-year-olds from the Nurtury Preschool visited residents of Moraga Royale recently. The children sang special Valentine's Day songs and invited the residents to join them in drumming on oatmeal-box drums. They presented each of their new senior friends with a colorful plant in a hand-decorated pot, and they left a giant Valentine for all to share. Nurtury Preschool is a ministry of Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, and the children are all part of Miss Jennifer's class.

Miramonte Student Production Benefits "Free The Children"

Submitted by Samuel Shain



Photo provided

Nearly 50 Miramonte students, from freshmen to seniors, will take the stage tomorrow night as part of the variety show Peformers for Progress – a cabaret-style production filled with singing, live music, acting, dancing and even an enthralling magic trick. Another 14 students will work behind the scenes on the production team, helping with concessions, ushering, lights/sound, stage

managing, and acting as house manager.

Co-producers Samuel Shain and Amrita Newton ran the auditions for the show and facilitated the production. "The audition process was simple," Shain said. "Sign up for a time on the choir door, fill out an audition sheet, and perform the piece. Anyone in the entire school that is a student could audition."

Since the show is cabaret-style, each act prepared themselves individually. "We were not in charge of monitoring their progress," Shain said, but he noted the students did have a final tech/dress rehearsal to get the production team comfortable with the show.

Proceeds from the show will benefit "Free The Children," a non-profit that engages youth to fulfill their potential to become agents of change. "A lot of work goes into finding a suitable charity," Shain said. "We do our research through several charity search engines. Every charity Performers for Progress has donated to in the past has a mission that creates a long-term positive impact. This year we decided to support our school leadership's charity: Free the Children. We respected its mission, and thought it would be a great way to work collaboratively with the school."

Performers for Progress was co-founded in 2007 by Madeline Vann and Emilyn Kowaleski. Performances are at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 25 and Saturday, April 27 at the Miramonte High School Theater. Tickets are \$6 for students, \$12 for adults, and are available at the box office. For more information about "Free The Children," visit www.freethechildren.com.

NCL Honors 2013 Graduating Seniors

Submitted by Jill Nerone



Front row, from left: Gina Nerone, Marina Pazos, Christina Romak, Natalie Garrett, Claire Winter, Karen Ranstrom, Sara Torchio, Gigi Axelrode, and Erika vonNovak. Back row: Emma Jones, Kelly Martin, Madeline Bush, Jane Baffi, Lauren Andronico, Taylor Nielson, Kendall Kovalik, Abbey Healey, Sarah Parsons, Alyssa Parsons, Jenna Reynolds, and Alison Pietrykowski.

Photo Deanna Wentzel

The Lamorinda chapter of the National Charity League, Inc. – a non-profit organization of mothers and daughters who join together in community involvement through participation in philanthropic activities, along with leadership and cultural events – recently honored its 22 graduating seniors who began their service to the community, along with their mothers, after joining the chapter in

seventh grade. The 2013 class of the Lamorinda Chapter, which includes girls from Orinda, Moraga, and Lafayette, dedicated thousands of hours of community service over the past six years to over 30 local organizations such as the Contra Costa Food Bank, Loaves and Fishes, Monument Crisis Center, Special Olympics, Blue Star Moms, the American Cancer Society, Cal

Shakes, J.F. Kapnek Pediatric Aids Foundation, Las Trampas, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and the Shorebird Nature Center. These volunteer activities help forge a lifelong commitment to community service, and deepen the bond between mother and daughter through these shared activities. For membership information, please visit www.nationalcharityleague.org.



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Civic News Lafayette

Future of Bike Park and Manzanita Building Still Uncertain

... continued from page A2

Prior to making a decision on either item, city council members focused on the controversial bike park, questioning the increased costs – due to unexpected pricey environmental reviews, now up to \$342,000, and annual maintenance costs that could range from \$5,000 per year to more than 10 times that amount. Additional concerns ranged from the red-legged frog, allegedly sighted in 1994, to safety, city liability, insurance coverage and emergency response times.

Public comments were all over the map. The first of many public speakers stated, “A fear campaign is alive and well in Lafayette.” Geoff Bellinger, a resident since 1971, described a flyer making the rounds filled with “considerable dis-information” that was “misleading folks.” Jorge Torres called it a “BMX park to nowhere,” other opponents suggested a soils study, questioned the overall expense, and worried about a lack of parking among other things.

Each council member had a unique perspective on the situation. Longtime civic servant and city council member Don Tatzin recalled that back in the early 1980s he was chair of the recreation commission when the land that was to become the Community Park was first purchased—everyone celebrated and the new park built a sense of community; but the proposed bike park has been divisive. “I’m not sure that there’s an obvious way out of this conundrum,” he said. “I don’t think we can resolve all of those issues tonight.”

New city council member Traci Reilly has three active boys, aged 11 to 17 – so she’s familiar with driving them to various activities. She’d like to look at other options, preferably sports fields; and to see if it is possible to partner with other organizations, such as schools, to leverage city funds.

Offering a long-term point of view, council member Brandt Anderson opined that while it is true costs have gone up, the bike park’s cost is less than what the city paid for the Community Park bridge, and a fraction of the cost of Buckeye Fields. While some residents are concerned about the proposed amount of earth moved to make the bike park, roughly 2,000-3,000 cubic feet, Anderson pointed out that is substantially less than the 63,000 cubic feet that was moved for the soccer fields. However, he agreed that there are “still some questions to answer.”

The council’s other new member, Mark Mitchell, is concerned about safety and soils, and is in favor of a continuance.

Anderson commented that while he liked the proposed location, the “cost is a little crazy.”

Ultimately city council members decided there were too many outstanding issues at this point to make a firm decision one way or the other, so they opted to continue the matter—giving city staff and council liaisons more time to analyze scope and firm up expense estimates for another presentation to the council at a later date.

Civic News Moraga

Planning Commission Approves Creative Home on Hillside

... continued from page A5

Town staff also supported the application and gave a detailed description of the unusual project: the proposed 4,270 square foot single-family residence would step down the hillside with access via a driveway bridge with parking on the upper level, approximately 13 feet below Donald Drive. The upper level would include two single-car garages and entry halls for stairways and an elevator. The 2,647 square-foot middle level, or mezzanine, would include the main living area and a cantilevered back deck. The 1,278 square-foot lower level would include two bedrooms, two bathrooms, and 718 square feet of shell space. The circular bridge driveway off of Donald Drive would lead directly to the garages, and a guest parking area, on the top level.

Everyone who spoke, even some of those opposing the project, declared that they found the design very appealing. “I love this house, I wish I’d live in such a home one day,” said Donald Drive resident Lynda Deschambault, after stating that this was the wrong place for the house because the slope is too steep and its mass too big compared to the surrounding neighborhood.

The owner of the house directly below the new home also asked the commission to deny the permits, invoking safety concerns in a seismic area, drainage concerns, and adding

that the house does not comply with the spirit of the General Plan that seeks to limit developments on hill-sides.

Commissioner Teresa Onoda said that she had lived in Montclair for many years and that this type of home on a steep hill with a garage above it was commonplace; her concerns were the house was three stories and did not fit in with the neighborhood, and that it would sit on too steep a slope.

All of the commissioners praised Wright for the ingenious design that requires very little grading and is conceived to hide the home in the woods. They were concerned with structure’s potential visual impact at night—the front of the house is all glass—but the issue was not serious enough to cause them to withhold their support.

The vote was unanimous to move the project along. Brekke-Read asked that the developer get an additional conformity stamp from the Design Review Board when all plans are final.

Neighbors have 10 calendar days, from April 15, to file an appeal of the decision.

After the meeting, Wright indicated that the owner of the parcel does not intend to build the house himself, but intends to sell the property with its approved plan. He hopes that the new owner will want to work with him to finalize the plans and build the home.

Developing Bollinger Valley

... continued from page A4

“We always look at things in a vacuum,” agreed commissioner Stacia Levenfeld. “The EIR needs to look at the cumulative effect of all those developments on traffic and schools.”

Other concerns that residents felt had not been addressed by the DEIR included the impact on wells and springs currently used by residents of the valley, impacts on wildlife and native vegetation, additional noise, air and traffic impacts during construc-

tion, and impacts to adjacent farmland, pedestrians and bicyclists.

After the meeting, Bruzzone said that Orinda, Lafayette, and Moraga took actions in the past that eliminated additional roadway connections for Moraga residents. “The original General Plan assumed those new connections wouldn’t be made, and approved our planned population (anticipated to be in excess of 22,000) based on our existing current roadway network,” he said.

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From Front Page

Adobe Deal Sealed

... continued from page A1



Visitors to the Moraga Adobe feel a sense of history oozing from the grass and old trees and surrounding one of Contra Costa County's oldest historic structures. Completed in the 1840s by Joaquin Moraga, the adobe was restored in 1941 by Katharine Brown White Irvine, widow of James Irvine and a member of the James Irvine Foundation's first Board of Directors. Photo Ohlen Alexander

As part of the \$500,000 purchase price, FJMA will "pay up to one-half of the cost of restoration of the adobe to its original 1840's configuration and preparation of the site for public access as a museum and history learning center," and will also establish "a fund for ongoing maintenance and operation," said FJMA representatives. J & J will cover the remaining half of the restoration costs, according to the firm's president, Matt Branagh.

J & J's Michael Olsen, who praised the decorum of negotiations, observed that finalization of the deal simply came down to having an official group to help bring things together, adding that the agreement "concluded to the benefit of us all."

Additional terms released at the press conference stipulate that the learning center will be open to the public up to 30 days each year, and that FJMA will have up to three years from the day on which the Orinda city council approves revised plans for the J & J project to complete its payment to J & J. If FJMA is unable to raise the necessary funds, ownership of the adobe will pass to the J & J Ranch homeowner's association for likely operation as the private Adobe Community Clubhouse described in prior planning documents - but at least ensuring that the adobe would still be preserved and maintained for future generations.

As a result, J & J must now submit updated plans to the planning commission, explained Ursu. "After we receive revised plans the environmental review process will start. According to the draft schedule prepared by our CEQA [California Environmental Quality Act] consultant on the project, it will take approximately nine months to prepare an EIR [Environmental Impact Report] for the project. Planning commission hearings will likely not be held until early 2014." Ursu added that the city council authorized staff to retain the consulting firm of Lamphier Gregory to prepare the EIR.



Regarding work on the actual historic structure, said Ursu, "The developer may submit a plan to restore the adobe with its subdivision application or it may submit a restoration plan separately after the subdivision application is considered."

The members of Protect Adobe Lane (PAL), an advocacy group concerned about the environmental impact of both renovation and future operations on site, plan to follow the city's review process closely.

FJMA president Kent Long thanked the Orinda city council and Moraga town council for their support, and hinted at additional events to come as he brought to mind grand celebrations with music and dance once held on the adobe grounds. "We'd like to tap into that tradition," he said of plans to host FJMA's first fandango and fundraiser. More information will be available on the FJMA website as details are finalized: moragaadobe.org.

Moraga's mayor, Dave Trotter, expressed confidence that the communities of Moraga and Orinda will come together to raise the funds needed to make the adobe's restoration happen.

Lance Beeson, a direct descendant of the Moraga family, added, "It's time that this property becomes part of the public. ... It is the founding structure of the entire valley."

Lamorinda Fire News Briefs

... continued from page A9

"You're leaving too soon," said Commissioner Ed Haynes as the board recognized Louder's October retirement. Commissioner Barry Cunningham complained that the chief had been poorly portrayed by the media. "You shouldn't have been criticized for doing your job, since so many of your tools were taken away," said Cunningham.

Fitch & Associates
Financial issues have plagued the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, forcing it to consider options for providing fire service. Property tax revenue has dropped, and a district parcel tax ballot measure did not pass in 2012. The message is clear from the taxpayers: they will not increase their contributions to fund ConFire, station closures or not.

Faced with the reality of these fiscal limitations, the Board of Supervisors recently authorized Fitch and Associates, a Platte City, Mo. public service consulting company, to conduct an evaluation of ConFire operations. The company will analyze all aspects of the fire agency, including fire suppression, prevention and disaster response, and will recommend options for a more efficient fire service model. The project is expected to be complete in January 2014.

This is the third contract with Fitch and Associates the board of supervisors has authorized in the past 18 months. In October 2011, a \$95,000 contract was awarded to evaluate and identify potential new funding sources for the county's Emergency Medical Services. An additional \$198,500

was contracted in December to conduct a study for the county's EMS Modernization Project. And the fire district evaluation contract is \$170,000; that cost will be borne by the county, not ConFire, according to Jackie Lorrekovich, ConFire's chief of administrative services.

Canyon Multi-Agency Wildfire Meeting

Townpeople and officials gathered at Canyon Elementary School on April 10 to explore the challenges that a major wildfire presents to both the community and the fire agencies.

Lamorinda Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein described how a major disaster was averted during a wildfire in an isolated southern California community similar to Canyon, thanks to cooperation between residents and the fire agencies. Contra Costa County District 2 Supervisor Candace Andersen discussed emergency preparedness planning. And Moraga-Orinda Fire District division chief Stephen Healy detailed how residents can coordinate an evacuation, including the use of Reverse 911, and PulsePoint, a free smartphone app that lets users view emergency activity as it is happening.

Healy emphasized a life-saving basic: "When we say evacuate - please go!"

"There are things that you can do to save your home," said MOFD fire chief Randall Bradley. He challenged the community to take him up on an offer to have the MOFD conduct a free fire prevention assessment of their properties.

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First Classic Film Hall of Fame Scheduled to Open in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



Hall of Fame illustration

Provided

Derek Zemrak wants Moraga to become a prominent place for movie lovers. The founder and president of the California Independent Film Festival Association (CAIFFA), which operates the historical New Rheem and Orinda theaters, Zemrak and his cinephile partners are establishing the first Classic Film Hall of Fame at the Rheem Theatre.

The Hall of Fame will open May 3 to honor those who made films during Hollywood's golden years, underscoring the love of the movie theater's founder, Hollywood aficionado Donald Rheem.

"It is not a well known fact that Donald Rheem was friends with William Randolph Hearst, and that they both loved entertaining Hollywood celebrities," said Zemrak as he released the news of the hall April 9. Rheem was one of the largest shareholders in Paramount Studios during its infancy. At one gala Hollywood opening at Hearst Castle, Rheem went to see the in-home theater that Hearst built. It is said that Rheem told Hearst, "Very impressive, but wait until you see what I'm going to build."

Rheem went on to build both the Orinda and Rheem theaters in 1941 and 1957. The Moraga theater was the first of its kind to be built in a shopping center; it was originally a one-screen theater, and from the beginning was seen as a feature to build a community around. "Donald Rheem was a visionary," said Zemrak, "and we are going to continue this vision of celebrities and nostalgia."

While there are classic film archives in the United States, there is currently no hall of fame for any actor, producer, director, or musician – nothing to honor the men and women who created the films. Why Moraga? "Because of Donald Rheem's vision and love of movies," said Zemrak, "and because of the great Hollywood history we want to preserve."

The Hall of Fame will start on the ground floor of the theater. A "Walk of Fame" will be created with stars along the downstairs and upstairs hallway floors and pictures of hall of fame inductees displayed on the walls.

"Next to each inductee's picture there will be an interactive device, like an iPad, that will display a video presentation of the star's life," said Zemrak. Additionally, the fourth upstairs theater will be used as a museum to display memorabilia – some from Zemrak's personal collection and some from the inductees or their descendants.

The Classic Film Hall of Fame will add new honorees semi-annually during the Classic Film weekends – the first Classic Film Festival is scheduled May 10-12 and will be held at both the Rheem and Orinda theaters. (See related column on page B6.)

The current list of celebrities scheduled to attend the opening include Mickey Rooney, who will answer questions after the screening of "National Velvet," and Cloris Leachman, winner of eight Emmy awards, who will give a presentation after the showing of

"Young Frankenstein." The daughters of Lou Costello and Boris Karloff will also attend.

The Rheem Theatre recently installed two digital projectors and was outfitted for hearing impaired viewers. The plans for an elevator have been submitted to the Moraga Planning Department. The CAIFFA is still in negotiations with the theater's owner to get a long-term lease for the property.



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SMC Production Deftly Tackles Tough Topics

By Lou Fancher



Saint Mary's College cast rehearses "Lie of the Mind."

Photo Andy Scheck

Saint Mary's College Associate Professor Frank Murray has no fear.

What else would cause a theater director working since 1988 in the performing arts division of a small, private college to stage playwright Sam Shepard's "A Lie of the Mind," a blistering, inextricably tangled tale of two families?

Perhaps Murray would prefer "courageous" to "no fear,"—which leads directly to the crux of the play's attraction for Murray and long-term fans of Shepard's hypnotic word-smithing: language.

"I wrote my dissertation on Beckett and Shepard," Murray says, in an interview prior to the eight-member cast's second-half run-through.

Murray saw the last show of the original 1985 play's run in New York, where it ran nearly five hours and he says, was "at times, excruciatingly slow." SMC's version is the revised, just-under-three hour production.

Yet the function of "Lie's" language, how it butts up and wrestles against the action, despite the lengthy delivery he experienced in 1986, fascinated him.

"It think there's disorientation caused (by the words). There's simultaneous past and present; there's not seeing what has happened in a 25-year old relationship; there's a woman who's been beaten nearly to death saying, "He is my heart, about her attacker," Murray says.

At the play's center are Jake and

Beth, a married couple whose difficulties have pinnacle at the depths of a life-threatening beating the young husband has avenged upon his spouse. They've retreated to their separate families; not so much for recovery as to gird their loins and lingering animosity for post-trauma life.

"It's a play about theater as much as it's about two families. It says to us, "What does theater do for us?" Murray suggests.

In addition, he might be asking the young actors a related question: "What does biting into a world of contrasts—dark/light, lies/truth, male/female, hate/love, laugh/cry, forgive/resent—teach you about yourself and your world?"

... continued on page B7

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Czech Children Saved from Nazis

Documentary screening at Orinda Library Theater to shed light on 1939 rescue

By Laurie Snyder

"The important thing is that one should not become indifferent to the suffering of others. That one should not stand by and just raise one's hands and say, 'There is nothing I can do. I'm just one little person.' Because I think that what every one of us does matters."

Commentary by Holocaust survivor, Margit Meissner, in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum video, *Why We Remember the Holocaust*



Mother taking out her child from the train at the Wilson station in Prague. Photo provided

Germany's annexation of the Sudetenland. Winton's heroism remained unknown until the discovery in the attic by his wife, nearly 50 years later, of a suitcase containing photos and transport plans for the children. Although many of the children's parents perished at Auschwitz, the little ones Winton saved grew up to work for the World Monetary Fund, government agencies, universities, and the media. One, Ben Abeles, invented propulsion systems for the Voyager and Cassini rockets.

The film screening could not come at a better time. April was designated as Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month by the California Legislature in 2010. It was also recently the time of Yom Hashoah with Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance days scheduled across the globe.

Students and families are particularly encouraged to attend the screening of "Nicky's Family," which begins at 5 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person. Proceeds will benefit Orinda's Sister City program, which was initiated to help the residents of Tábor in the Czech Republic to strengthen their emerging democracy. For information about the screening or the Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation, please contact Bobbie Landers: (925) 254-8260.

The Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation will present a special screening April 28 of a film about a time when there was indisputable evil in the world – before and during World War II. But, unlike so many films and books which recount the horrors of this era, "Nicky's Family" is an inspiring story about one ordi-

nary man's compassion and bravery in response to the genuine wrongs being committed around him.

Produced by Menemsha Films (www.menemshafilms.com), this acclaimed documentary details the 1939 rescue of more than 600 Czech and Slovak children by Nicholas Winton, a young British citizen, following

Yom HaShoah – Days of Remembrance Resources

Learn more about the Holocaust and what you can do help end genocide and other mass atrocities worldwide:

Digital/Web Resources:

- Enough Project: www.enoughproject.org/
- The Righteous Among the Nations (YadVashem database of rescuers): http://db.yadvashem.org/righteous/search.html?language=en
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum – Online Exhibitions: www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/
- USC IWitness (USC Shoah Foundation video testimonies of Holocaust survivors and other materials for teachers of students ages 13 to 18): http://iwwitness.usc.edu/SFI/About.aspx

Books:

- "Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy," Eric Metaxas
- "Man's Search for Meaning," Viktor E. Frankl
- "Night," Elie Wiesel
- "The Last Jew of Treblinka: A Survivor's Memory 1942-1943," Chil Raichman
- "The Nazi Persecution of the Gypsies," Guenter Lewy
- "The Pink Triangle: The Nazi War Against Homosexuals," Richard Plant
- "The Reawakening," Primo Levi

Moraga Woman Always in the Wings

By Cathy Dausman



Kathy Ferber looks over a scrapbook from the early 1950s. Ferber travelled with her mother for three years during her mother's performances as Adelaide in *Guys & Dolls*. Photo Cathy Dausman

Kathy Ferber remembers always being "in the wings," immersed in a whole family of theater people. "Theaters were my playground," she said. They still are. Ferber has acted in Walnut Creek productions of Contra Costa Music Theater, Diablo Light Opera Company, Crossroads and Festival Opera, and she was nominated for a Shellie for her role as Mrs. Fezziwig in the Lafayette Town Hall production of "Scrooge."

By day, the Moraga resident works at California State, East Bay. By night, she could be Mrs. Henry Higgins, Mrs. Fezziwig, the "Our Town" stage manager, the minister's wife in "Footloose," Aunt March in "Little Women," or in "The Sound of Music" as Sister Berthe, singing "How Do You Solve a Problem like Maria?"

Just days ago, Ferber relinquished Sister Berthe's habit. This performance, like so many before, was a loving tribute to her talented family, especially her mother, actress Pamela Britton.

Ferber's stage heritage began in earnest when her grandmother Ethel Owen became a radio soap opera actress in shows including "Ma Perkins," "Helen Trent" and "Suspense!" A WW I widow with an elocution degree from Northwestern University, Owen sought the work to support her three children. "She was so versatile!" Ferber said.

Owen strongly discouraged Ferber's mother from becoming an actress; yet she made her way to New York City in 1943 and found voice work as Jackie Gleason's mother-in-law on "The Honeymooners" radio show.

Ferber's mother chose Pamela Britton as her stage name. Britton au-

ditioned for a role in the original theater production of "Oklahoma!" and became an understudy for Celeste Holm's Ado Annie character, later assuming the role.

MGM Studios discovered Britton and brought her to Hollywood as a contract player, where she performed in movies opposite Frank Sinatra, Gene Kelly and Kathryn Grayson in "Anchors Aweigh" and Edmond O'Brien in "DOA." Britton was back on Broadway in 1947, playing Meg in "Brigadoon."

About that time the married Britton found she was expecting her only child. When Ferber was 5, her mother was cast as Adelaide in a national travelling production of "Guys & Dolls." Britton brought Ferber along and the pair crisscrossed the U.S. while mother performed for three years. The show ran for six months at San Francisco's Curran Theater and mother and daughter lived at the Clift Hotel. Ferber remembers dashing up and down the alley connecting the Curran and Geary Theaters to watch performances at one or the other.

Ferber learned the "Guys & Dolls" script so well watching from the wings she could chide actors for missing lines or cues. When Ferber became a student at UC Berkeley, she took some theater classes. Still she decided not to become a full-time performer for the sake of her children.

"I'm not going to make [acting] a career," she said. "I just like doing it." But once her sons went off to college she began auditioning for roles in regional theater.

Early on, Ferber was in the chorus of "Brigadoon." "It was a tribute to my Mom," she said. After that, the die was cast: Ferber was addicted.

She auditioned every year for one or two shows, dedicating six to eight weeks for rehearsals and four or five weeks for performances per show. She credits her "understanding and kind" husband Stan Ferber for allowing her to indulge in her love of theater. She still relishes being behind the scenes.

"Nothing is more fascinating than to watch a show come together technically," Ferber said, "watching sound, light, set, orchestra and costume crews weave their magic and turn the show into a beautiful piece of art. Every [live] show is different and the audience energizes the actors."

The Ferber showbiz legacy continues with sons Mark and Alan, professional musicians who've played for Broadway shows. "Alan has even been [in theaters] where his grandma played," Ferber said excitedly. She also loves "talking shop" with son Michael and watching her granddaughter, the upcoming fifth generation of Ferber theater people, perform.

"We could become the von Trapp family!" Ferber exclaimed.

The show, indeed, must go on...



Kathy Ferber (right) joins fellow actress Krissy Dorn of Orinda in costume for *The Sound of Music*. Photo courtesy Kathy Ferber

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New paintings by two of the East Bay's most vibrant contemporary landscape artists. Reception, Sunday, June 2, 2 – 4 pm

It's Official!

Orinda's Del Rey Elementary School received official word that they earned a Guinness World Record after 402 students completed a five-minute choreographed school-wide hula hoop workout March 25. The hula hoops were donated to Community Education Project which provides equipment to underprivileged schools throughout the Bay Area. As the Guinness website says, that's "Officially Amazing!" View the Del Rey record online, at www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/7000/largest-hula-hoop-workout. C. Dausman



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Top Talent at the Third Annual Lafayette Music Festival

By Cathy Tyson



Stevie Coyle at Mighty Fine Guitars

Photo Provided

A constellation of fine musicians are getting together for one night only at the historic Town Hall Theatre Saturday, May 4. The oldest continuously operating theater company in Contra Costa County is a non-profit, and while the board runs the facility like a business, they rely on the generosity of citizens to keep the doors open. "The Lafayette Community Music Festival brings together longtime local musicians who donate their time and talents for the benefit of Town Hall Theatre and its many programs. These musicians have played on big stages with big name acts, and we are honored and touched by their willingness to support Town Hall Theatre," said Tom Stack, vice president of the board of directors. "It's a great local event that brings the community together. Please make plans to come, we appreciate everyone's support." Every dollar raised goes toward continuing quality programs, like Main Stage productions, education programs,

music and comedy events.

Local musical guru Stevie Coyle of the Waybacks and Mighty Fine Guitars, former members of the Steve Miller Band, David Denny, Jack King, Brian Hough, with their brand of "acoustic Americana" will be there as All Night Flight, Paul Cotruvo & Friends of high energy dance band Cover 2 Cover, and Eenor of Primus will grace the stage.

Bring your checkbook and keep an eye out for the silent auction of rock and roll and sports memorabilia, donations from local merchants and more; all proceeds from the evening go directly to the Theatre. Doors open for the Lafayette Community Music Festival at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 4. Tickets are \$30 and are available online at BoxOffice@TownHallTheatre.com, over the phone at (925) 283-1557 or in person Wednesdays through Fridays from 4 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 2 to 4 p.m.

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Not Everyone's Doing It!

By Sophie Braccini



Photo Sophie Braccini

For a few days last week the three Lamorinda high schools had a mysterious "78%" sign displayed on their campuses. Some wondered what it meant. The graduation rate? No, it must be higher than that. The meaning was disclosed April 19: 78 percent of freshmen and juniors drank no alcohol in the last 30 days (according to the most recent California Healthy Kids Survey).

"We wanted to reinforce a positive social norm about drinking," said Jamie Rich of the Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition, who was helped in the campaign by students from the high schools' Students Against Destructive Decisions club or the leadership group.

Both Miramonte and Acalanes have a SADD club. Miramonte's SADD was created by Steven Shepard, Drew Anderson, Bennett Stehr, Matt Matheny, and Will Suller in the fall. "They have been buddies for years," says Shepard's mother, Laura Taxler. "They play football together and wanted to change the attitude that says you have to drink to have fun and be cool."

Their first objective was to raise awareness about alcohol safety. SADD recommends students call Orinda Taxi if they are too drunk to drive, and encourages people to call 911 if they're at a party and someone appears to be in distress. "It will never be held against you, even if

you are under the influence and over 18," said the group. According to California penal code 11376.5 a & b "it shall not be a crime for a person to be under the influence ... if that person, in good faith, seeks medical assistance for another person experiencing the overdose."

SADD's second objective was to show that it is possible to have a fun social life without alcohol. "They organized events where kids wouldn't feel pressure from their peers to drink in order to fit in," says Taxler. She cites a recent movie night at Miramonte that was alcohol-free and fun.

Miramonte SADD, with close to 40 members, decided to back Rich's campaign to support positive social norms. They made the "78%" signs and hung them across the school. Then on April 19, during a school assembly and talent show, Shepard and Kady Richardson revealed the meaning of the figure during intermission.

Since there is no SADD group at Campolindo High School, the leadership class took the project over and last Friday sent an email to all of the teachers revealing the meaning of the figure before telling their classmates.

Acalanes High School junior Bailey McQuain has been involved with SADD since it started last year. "We've met with Jaime (Rich) regularly," says the student.

... continued on next page



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The Great Senior Debate: Do I Stay in My Home or Move to Retirement Living?

By Linda Fodrini-Johnson

Options exist today that our parents and grandparents never had. Baby Boomers will be more inventive in finding options for living in retirement.

The questions I receive from clients who are pondering this decision include: "How do I make this decision?" "Where do I begin?" And, of course, "What are my options and what will it cost?" Often, arriving at an answer is not a simple process.

The choices run the gamut from living in your own home to living on a cruise ship. However, as we plan for longer lives, we cannot deny the reality that our health or vitality might not be what it is today. Individuals need to make these decisions always with a plan "B" in mind for the "what ifs" of a longer life.

The first question I ask clients is, "What gives your life meaning and value?" The answer will help lead us to other questions whose answers will ensure quality of life. If music is a value and you play an instrument now, but can't in the future for some physical reason, consider a retirement setting that either has musical venues or that is in close proximity to cultural offerings. This solution will keep an element of what gives your life quality, no matter what choice is made.

If you are an individual or a couple without adult children to assist you in making decisions – your pre-planning is even more important. It will be vital for you to choose individuals that can make decisions for you based on your wishes and values. Those who have adult children still need to communicate your wishes, but children usually know their parents likes and dislikes and can, in a pinch, make a decision based on mom or dad's history.

Most of us are aware of options in our area such as the retirement community of Rossmoor - where you purchase a property, but all care is secured by you and not provided by the community. This is much like living in your current community with more specific activities and support systems, such as transportation, but without the home and grounds upkeep, which is provided by your monthly fees. Some retirement communities have choices that offer congregate living with or without personal care. Most often the service in congregate living is meals and housekeeping.

The next level of care in apartment-like living is Assisted Living, where you can be fully independent and get assistance only when you need it and for the time you need it.

Assisted Living today provides an array of options that can include Hospice Care and Dementia Care in secure settings.

A newer option in retirement living is Cohousing and the closest community is in Pleasant Hill. You purchase your condo and share social events and meals once or twice a month with fellow residents – building a supportive community for times of need – sometimes with a skill bank, where residents exchange talents to help one another.

Cohousing can be designed for those over 55 and some are for all ages.

Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRC) is another option where you "buy-in" with a large sum, securing your ability to stay in the community and be cared for in all three, sometimes four levels of care: independent, assisted living, dementia care and skilled nursing care. The large sum that you put forth at entry is for insurance to cover the cost in all these levels of care. A monthly fee is still assessed for living expenses, social activities and many other amenities that vary from community to community – we have several in the Bay Area and this option often appeals to those without family and those who just don't want to move when needs change. There is an age limit for enrollment and some individuals with a progressive illness can be denied admission.

Most retirees want to stay in their current home if it meets their needs and they can manage the upkeep and layout of the home when they require additional support. This has been the number one option of the individuals and families that I have worked with for the past 30 years as a Professional Care Manager (PCM). My job usually starts with bringing in care when needed and in connecting individuals to local professional services or experts. The most important aspect of a PCM is advocating, as necessary, for clients in all areas of their life that affect quality. This could mean finding everything from home retrofitting, to Meals on Wheels or finding the visiting veterinarian. It could mean being the advocate in the ER and arranging for the next level of care when necessary, with the goal of getting the individual back to home.

A newer option will soon be available for those who live in the Lamorinda area. This is the option of being connected to the Lamorinda Village - a self-managed organization to assist with the vetting of services and exchanging of talents. It provides

opportunities for socialization, education and volunteering, but most important, a support system that will allow neighbors to help neighbors stay in the community they love. A small annual fee is assessed to connect services to members.

Plan for the life you desire with advocates you choose who will make it happen for you should the "what ifs" of a longer life get in the way.



Linda Fodrini-Johnson is a licensed marriage, family and child counselor, a certified care manager, and is the executive director of Eldercare Services. She is an advisor on the new Lamorinda Village Task Force that will assist seniors to stay in their own neighborhoods and homes.

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Samira Davi is a Nurse Liaison for ManorCare Health Services in Walnut Creek. Samira has over 10 years of experience working in health care in Contra Costa County, which has gained her a wide view of what is important to the health care consumer. She will be posting common questions and comments in each issue of the Lamorinda Weekly. You are welcome to contact Samira directly at 925.270.8766

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Struggling with this question?

Linda Fodrini-Johnson has created a checklist that can help you with your decision of staying in your home or looking outside your current home. Email DanielleG@EldercareAnswers for a copy. For more information on the Village concept, visit www.vtnetwork.org and for information about the newly forming Lamorinda Village, visit www.lamorindavillage.wordpress.com.

Not Everyone's Doing It!

... continued from page B4

"She told me about the 78 percent campaign over the phone, and I told the idea to our group and we decided to participate."

McQuain says her objective was to try to make a difference in her school, raising awareness about the dangers of drunk driving and drinking in general.

"I don't think that there is a direct pressure on kids to drink; it is more indirect," she says. "If you are at a party, people think that everyone does it, and you feel left out if you don't." That's why she thought the idea of the "78%" signs was so good – to show that in fact a vast majority of kids don't make it a habit to drink. McQuain says that most people

thought it was cool, but they had a hard time believing it. "That's because everyone thinks that everyone drinks, but it's not the case," she says.

Lamorinda's three city councils signed a proclamation declaring April Alcohol Awareness Month. In Orinda, the proclamation was not only given to Rich, but to Miramonte SADD. In Lafayette, the proclamation was given to local SADD president Austin Franklin and to McQuain.

"With that 78 percent figure, kids saw that drinking is not a prevalent behavior among their peers," says Taxler. "It's not nerdy not to drink; in fact, you are in a super-majority if you don't."

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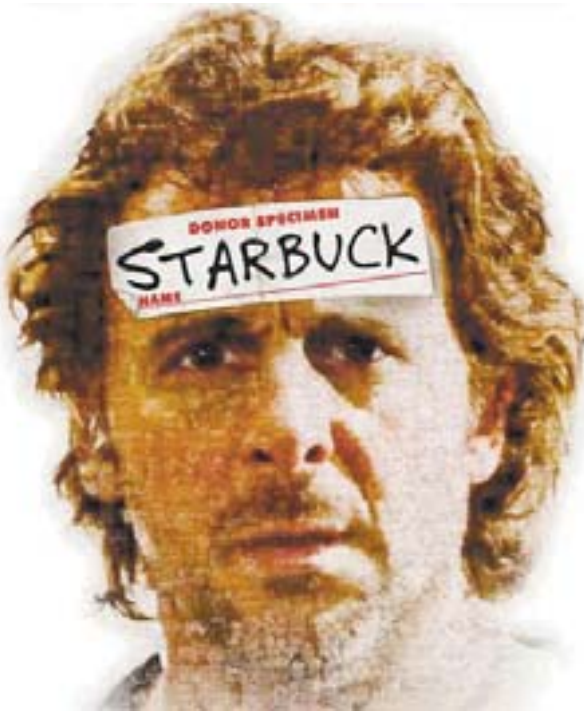
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See it Before the Hollywood Remake

"Starbuck" arrives in Orinda

By Sophie Braccini



Patrick Huard



Photos provided

Already an international blockbuster and a future Hollywood remake, the crowd pleaser of a movie "Starbuck" comes to Orinda from Quebec for one week starting May 3. The Canadian flavor is something you won't want to miss in this efficient comedy about what it means to be a father.

The story begins when David Wozniak, played by Patrick Huard, discovers that he has fathered hundreds of children, now in their early 20s – the result of the multiple sperm donations he made in his youth. Wozniak is 42, going on 19, when he hears the news: more than 100 of his 'children' are suing to have his identity revealed. An irresponsible and immature though likeable individual, he learns at the same time that his girlfriend is pregnant. His journey through the exploration of these different "fatherhoods" ultimately makes a man of him.

Scenarists Martin Petit and Ken Scott, who also directed the movie, used the North American legal void regarding the anonymity of sperm donors to talk about what it means to be a father, to be part of a family, and to dis-

cuss the place of men in this new paradigm procreation techniques have created. But this is not an intellectual movie; it is full of fun scenes, mostly carried through by Huard whose charming clumsiness and desire to do the right thing land him in very difficult situations.

Wozniak is known to the fertility clinic and to his children as Starbuck, named after the legendary Canadian bull Hanoverhill Starbuck that had an almost perfect genetic code and revolutionized artificial insemination. As of today, the bull is the best sire ever recorded by the Artificial Insemination Center of Quebec. But are you a father because someone carries some of your genetic material? The movie tends to say yes.

The hero is surrounded by fathers: his own dad, now a widower; his brothers; and his best friend, who has four kids and no wife. At times Petit and Scott push fatherhood a little too much, which creates some oddities in the scenario. Wozniak's children refer to their 'adopted families' when they talk about those who raised them, but when there is sperm donation it is likely that the biologi-

cal mother is raising the child. But where are the mothers in the movie? Starbuck appears to be an omnipotent being, the sole creator of hundreds of kids, a feat that borders on machismo.

Some of the children Wozniak meets seem to be caricatures of themselves, with somewhat miraculous outcomes following their brief encounters: the wannabe actor gets the role of his life; the drug addict straightens up without medical help; the struggling street singer finds an audience.

"Starbuck" is still a fun, feel-good movie, even if it may have sacrificed some plausibility for a good ending. In the U.S. the movie rights have been purchased by Steven Spielberg and a remake is on its way under the direction of Scott. It is rumored that Vince Vaughn might be cast as Starbuck with the action taking place in New York City – much different from the original locale, the Montreal neighborhood called Mile-End, a multicultural area with specific style, colors and buildings that add to the good vibe of "Starbuck."

For more information, visit internationalshowcase.org.

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Classic Film Festival Weekend

By Derek Zemrak



Mickey Rooney



Boris Karloff



Abbott and Costello

The stars will be shining brightly on the weekend of May 10-12 in Lamorinda at the first semiannual Classic Film Festival and Hall of Fame ceremony. Described below are a few of the events occurring that weekend.

Do you remember going to the movies to see a double feature? Well take yourself back in time at 1 p.m. May 11 at the Orinda Theatre to watch the "Boris Karloff Double Feature" – two movies for the price of one! First on the bill is "The Raven" followed by "Frankenstein," which is hailed as one of the best horror films ever made. An added bonus for this event will be Sarah Karloff in person for a Q & A. She will also present never-before-seen footage of her father, Boris Karloff. I recommend taking along the grandkids to share in this experience.

What would a classic film festival weekend be without screen legend Mickey Rooney? Mickey is coming! He will be at the Orinda Theatre at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 11 for a special screening of "National Velvet." Mr. Rooney will be doing a Q & A prior to the movie. "National Velvet" was the film that made Elizabeth Taylor a movie star at the age of 12. This promises to be a special Hollywood night in Lamorinda!

Is comedy your thing? The Classic Film Festival has you covered with "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein" showing at noon May 12 at the Rheem Theatre. The screening includes special guest Chris Costello, daughter of legendary funny man Lou Costello. Ms. Costello will be doing a Q & A about growing up Costello style.



Cloris Leachman Photos provided

After that event, the queen of comedy, Oscar winner, Golden Globe winner, eight-time Emmy Award winner and 2003 California Independent Film Festival Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Ms. Cloris Leachman will make an appearance at the Rheem Theatre at 3 p.m. May 12 for a special screening of Mel Brooks' classic comedy "Young Frankenstein." The Q & A will be hosted by the Bay Area's Favorite Film Critic, KRON 4 movie reviewer, Jan Wahl. Any event with Ms. Leachman will be an afternoon to remember with a whole lot of laughs.

All proceeds from the Classic Film Festival and Hall of Fame induction weekend go to benefit the digital conversion fund for the Rheem Theatre. The latest information about the Classic Film Festival and Hall of Fame weekend can be seen at www.lamorindatheatres.com.

Derek Zemrak is a Film Critic, Film Producer and Founder of the California Independent Film Festival. You can follow Derek on Twitter @zemrak for the latest Hollywood news. Derek is the host of Real to Reel on TRadioV.com live at 6 p.m. every Tuesday.

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DIAMOND CERTIFIED

Winners at CCC Science and Engineering Fair

Submitted by Theresa Maloney



Grace Carlson (3rd Place)



From left, Jonathan Oncena, Michael Chappell (4th Place), and Keyon Wozniak.

Five St. Perpetua Junior High School students - Michael Oncena - attended the Contra Costa County Science and Engineering Fair in March, with Chappell and Carlson placing fourth and third respectively.

Acalanes Student Wins Miss Teen Oakland/San Jose Title

Submitted by Sandra Williams



India Williams of Lafayette was crowned 2013 Miss Teen Oakland/San Jose April 6 at the Scottish Rite Auditorium in Oakland. Williams competed in the Miss Teen division ages 16 through 19 and displayed her personality, poise, and interviewing skills for the Oakland/San Jose judging panel during the competition. As winner of the Oakland/San Jose pageant, Williams won a five-night, six-day trip to Orlando, Fla., where she will represent Oakland/San Jose and surrounding communities at the 2013 National Competition.

Photo provided

SMC Production Deftly Tackles Tough Topics

... continued from page B2

And in program notes, Murray breaks the "fourth wall" of theater to pose questions for the audience: "What secrets do we harbor? What damage are we willing to do in the name of bending reality to our desire? How do we learn to tell the truth when it is so painful?"

It sounds arduous, but fortunately Shepard is around to save the day and swoop us into high humor with brilliant, plain-speaking language. The script is not belly laughter inducing; instead, its dry wit tends to sneak in at the edges, ruffling funny-bone feathers just enough to cause a knowing smile.

"I'm not going to fight with you. I didn't come back for that," the actor playing Sally says to her brother, Jake.

"Oh, why not? What else are we gonna do?" he replies.

With proper timing, the line is funny and reveals in a mere nine words a lifetime of sibling rivalry, bickering and contradictory collusion.

"What (a character) is saying doesn't go along with what is happening," Murray says. "The love is fractured by violence, but the way they talk about each other is all about deep connection."

Adding to the characters' haunting, fractured internal worlds is a broken, lattice-style set by Michael Cook. The impression it makes is worn and layered and stripped of pretense, despite the skirted easy chair and mildly oriental rug. A rifle is mounted above the door; a nearby, seriously-large deer's rack suggests a hunter is willing to shoot to kill.

But what these families want, along with relief from their miseries, is to be heard and understood. It's a universal desire, an international pastime. And Shepard is at his best: constructing a play capturing both the pathos and the ironic pathway out of self-centric existence.

"What the play tells us is that we have to get outside of ourselves in order to experience ourselves," Murray concludes. "For those who can, they have a chance."

"Lie of the Mind" opens tonight and runs through Saturday, April 27 with shows at 7 p.m., and a matinee at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 28 at the Saint Mary's College LeFevre Theatre. For more information and reservations call the Saint Mary's College Theatre Box Office at (925) 631-4670. Tickets are also available online at www.brownpapertickets.com.

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Four Lamorinda Schools Named CA Distinguished Schools

Submitted by Jonathan Lance

Campolindo and Miramonte High School, as well as Stanley Middle School and Orinda Intermediate School, were among 13 schools named by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson as California Distinguished Schools in Contra Costa County for their "strong commitment and innovative approaches to improving student-academic achievement."

The program recognizes elementary and secondary schools in alternating years. Distinguished Schools must meet a variety of eligibility criteria, including designated federal and state

accountability measures, and they must provide an in-depth description of two Signature Practices that their staff members believe have contributed to the success of their students. For applications that are accepted, each school receives a site visit by a team of local educators to validate the full implementation of the Signature Practices described in the application.

Local school visits were conducted in March by a team of 20 educators from the Contra Costa County Office of Education, augmented by two retired administrators and three district principals. The local

Distinguished Schools program is coordinated by Peggy Marshburn, chief communications officer, Contra Costa County Office of Education.

Distinguished Schools are honored at regional award ceremonies, where the state superintendent of California Public Instruction presents each school with a 2013 Distinguished School plaque and flag. The events and awards are funded by donations from many California corporations and statewide-educational organizations.

For more information about the Distinguished School program, visit www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/cs/.

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TEEN SCENE

Green Teens

By Konnie Guo

We are probably all aware of the environmental issues that threaten the entire world. However, to what extent do they actually affect us? The EPA states that there are a variety of environmental problems, encompassing waste, carbon emissions, climate change, and pollution. Most, if not all of these, have direct consequences on every single person on this earth.

In particular, teens have shown great concern about the environment, and have been striving to take greener and cleaner measures. In order to reduce their individual carbon footprint, some ride their bikes to school in lieu of driving cars. Others opt out of bringing a brown paper bag for their lunch, using reusable sandwich wrappers instead. Alison Bogy, a sophomore, explains her part in being eco-friendly: "I always make sure to place recyclable items in the correct bin. It might not seem like much, but it really makes a difference!"

Miramonte High School's Environmental Club consists of a group of students dedicated to saving our environment. They meet once a week during lunchtime to discuss potential activities they can do to spread awareness, reduce waste, and promote recycling. Samuel Shain, president of the Environmental Club, says, "As teens, we are future leaders, and it is our responsibility to keep the world as clean as we can. At Miramonte High School, the Environmental Club teaches that through the simplest of actions, one can make a profound impact on our environment."

Ending today, Earth Week took place April 17-24.

During this time, Miramonte's Environmental Club hosted an activity for each day of the week, ranging from announcing facts and trivia to creating a video encouraging green habits. Earth Week was a great time to promote awareness and action to the rest of the student body.

We need to save our earth, and doing that requires participation from all of us. Everybody is responsible to some extent, and we need to do everything in our ability to reduce our individual impact. There are many ways to take action, but the simplest can be found in these three words: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Konnie Guo, a sophomore at Miramonte High School, is a member of Club BTTYA, an avid reader, and during her spare time, enjoys playing the piano, doing volunteer work, and practicing the three R's.



Teen Scene is YOUR voice. If you have something to say or have writing skills and want to be part of our Teen Scene team, email our Teen Coach, Cynthia Brian, Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com.

The opinions expressed in Teen Scene are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

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Cooking with Kids?

By Susie Iventosch



The "BRiC"

It's a wonderful thing when your kids come to the rescue to save the day! Normally, when we travel, I have the food column prepared ahead of time; or at least the recipe has been tested and photos taken. But this time I was not quite as prepared as usual, and had no time to test the recipe I had in mind or take the photos. With a looming deadline I had been racking my brain on what to submit when an email arrived from my two sons' roommate, Shane Roland, introducing me to "The B.R.C." The recipe was a new dessert creation that he and my younger son Joel had been testing and perfecting, along with multiple photos of the entire process. It's just awesome having kids who love to cook!

They call this concoction The B.R.C., pronounced 'brick,' but standing for Brownie/Reese's/Cookie, and I

truly hope it is not brick-like, but rather soft, chewy and delicious! Also, I've taken the liberty of renaming it The BRiC, because I prefer words to contain vowels.

The history of this dessert dates back to Shane's birthday in November, when we were visiting the kids in the Chicago area. I love to make birthday cakes, and asked Shane what kind of cake he would like. He responded that his favorite combination is chocolate and peanut butter, so Joel and I altered our traditional cocoa cake by adding peanut butter chips, chocolate chips and quartered Reese's Peanut Butter Cups to the cake batter. All of this was topped with a chocolate-cream cheese-peanut butter frosting. They gobbled it up and have been working on an everyday substitute that young 20-somethings could make in between basketball, school, jobs and studying. This meant

taking some shortcuts like packaged brownie mix and ready-made cookie dough, of which mother does not normally approve. But, being in my needy condition, how could I complain?

So, what you see is exactly what they prepared, though Joel assured me that using homemade cookie and brownie dough would not hurt the flavor one bit! Having not prepared these myself, you are on your own this time, but the boys have been experimenting with this for a while now, and seem quite pleased with the results! They did say that the reason for baking them at a low temperature is so the cookie at the bottom does not get overdone while the brownie is getting done.

Good luck and bon appetit!



Susie Iventosch is the author of Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, www.amazon.com, and www.taxbites.net. 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.

The BRiC (Brownie/Reese's/Cookie)

(Makes 8-10 in large-sized muffin tins)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 package brownie mix (the boys don't have a particular brand, but like either milk chocolate or "thick-fudgy" brownies)
- 1 package cookie dough (peanut butter or chocolate chunk), or your favorite homemade cookie dough
- 8-10 Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
- 1 jar caramel sauce (optional)

DIRECTIONS

- Grease large sized muffin tins well. Prepare brownie mix and set aside.
- Press two squares of store-bought cookie dough into the bottom of each muffin tin, forming the base layer. If you use homemade, this would probably be about two tablespoons of dough.
- Place unwrapped peanut butter cup upside down, right on top of the cookie dough.
- Drizzle 1/2 to 1 teaspoon of caramel sauce over peanut butter cup.
- Spoon brownie batter over the first three ingredients in each cup, allowing the batter to come about 1/2 to 2/3 to the top of the muffin tins. Bake any excess brownie batter separately.
- Bake at 300-325 degrees for approximately 25 to 30 minutes, or until brownies are done. (The boys say that you need to bake these at a fairly low temperature, so the cookie doesn't get overdone while the brownie is getting done.)
- When done, turn out of muffin tins and serve with a scoop of your favorite ice cream.

Submit stories and story ideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda Weekly

is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA

Contact us:
 Letters to the editor (max 350 words): letters@lamorindaweekly.com
 Sport events/stories/pictures: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
 Art, theater, community events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
 Business news or business press releases: business@lamorindaweekly.com
 School stories/events: schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com
 General interest stories/Community Service: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com
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Most Frequently Viewed Stories From Our Last Issue:

- Jack Zembsch: A Little Person with a Big Voice
- Masters Swim Meet Celebrates Community
- YouTube Notoriety for Lafayette Man
- Caring is Not Enough for Lafayette Resident
- Disappointing College Admissions Results? Read On!
- DFAL All-League
- Looking Good in Lamorinda Bright and Fun Fashion Trends for Spring
- Local High School Donations Help Teens in Need
- business riefs
- Moraga Adobe Purchase Appears Likely

If you wish to view any of the stories above go to www.lamorindaweekly.com and click the link below the story.

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ART

The Moraga Art Gallery's new show, "Divine Inspiration," includes paintings of Saint Mary's College by resident artist Barbara Hudler Cella, and stone and glass crochet beadwork by guest artist Mona Bourell. The show, which runs through June 1, will include works by the gallery's 14 resident artists and several guest artists. The gallery is located in the Rheem Shopping Center at 522 Center Street, Moraga. For more info, visit www.moragaart-gallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

A free reception with hors d'oeuvres, adult beverages and live music, will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 2 at BMW Concord,

1867 Market Street, Concord to honor 12 Artists from Lafayette Gallery featured at the BMW-Concord dealer showroom. Join them and view the artworks on display. Titled "Road Show," the paintings, photographs, collages and ceramic wall hangings were all created by local artists from the Lafayette Gallery. The art will not only be hanging on the walls, it will include jewelry and ceramics, prints and paintings, displayed in and around the latest models from BMW. For more info, call (888) 707-2860, or visit bmwconcord.com.

New Saint Mary's College Museum of Art Exhibitions. Building a Collection: Selections and New Acquisitions, May 5 – July 14, includes Western landscape paintings by Al-

bert Bierstadt, Armin Hansen, George Inness, William Keith, Lorenzo Lattimer and others; European paintings, statuary, and works on paper by Honoré Daumier, Albrecht Dürer, Francisco Goya, and others; works of modern and contemporary artists; Russian icons and ethnographic objects around the world. Marc Chagall: Stories of the Bible, May 5 – July 7, features 16 etchings from one of his greatest bodies of work: the Bible series from the 1930s. SMC Senior Art Majors Thesis Exhibition, May 5 – May 25. There will be an opening day talk by museum director Carrie Brewster from 2 to 2:45 p.m. Sunday, May 5. Admission: \$5 adults, K-12 free. Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For info, call (925) 631-3379 or visit www.stmarys-ca.edu/saint-marys-college-museum-of-art.

student-run variety show – at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 25 and Saturday, April 27 at the Miramonte High School Theater. Tickets: \$6 students; \$12 adults. Available at the box office. (See article page A10)

The Acalanes High School DramaDons theater group presents The Arabian Nights May 1-4 at the Acalanes Performance Arts Little Theater, 1200 Pleasant Hill Rd., Lafayette. A favorite for all ages. Showtime is 7:30 p.m.; doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$10 general, \$7 students. Tickets may be purchased online at www.ahsperformingarts.org or at the door. All proceeds benefit the Acalanes Performing Arts Boosters - Drama Discipline.

Diablo Ballet concludes its 2012-13 season at 8 p.m. Friday, May 3 and at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, May 4 at the Shadelands Arts Center Auditorium, 111 N Wiget Ln., Walnut Creek, with the Company's popular Inside the Dancer's Studio series, featuring George Balanchine's legendary Stars and Stripes Pas de Deux. Tickets: \$29 - \$38. For more info, visit www.DiabloBallet.org or call (925) 943-1775

Part of Playwrights' Theatre series in the Old Barn at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in Danville Sunday, May 5. The Cherry Orchard is an important example of how Chekhov and other European dramatists influenced the writings of Eugene O'Neill. Presented by Eugene O'Neill Foundation in partnership with the National Park Service. Tickets: \$25. For more info, visit www.eugeneoneill.org or call (925) 820-1818.

Company C Contemporary Ballet presents its innovative spring program Thursday, May 9 at 8 p.m.; Friday, May 10 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, May 11 at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, May 12 at 1 p.m. at Leshler Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Cost: \$23-\$45. For more info, visit www.companycballet.org or call (925) 943-7469.

"The Lady From The Sea," a staged reading of Henrik Ibsen's play of romance and self-realization at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 19, part of Playwrights' Theatre series in the Old Barn at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in Danville. The play is an important example of how Ibsen and other European dramatists influenced the writings of Eugene O'Neill. Presented by Eugene O'Neill Foundation in partnership with the National Park Service. Tickets: \$25. For info, visit www.eugeneoneill.org or call (925) 820-1818.

Town Hall Theatre closes out its 2012-2013 Season with William Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure." Set in a fictionalized Vienna, the local government instates laws to control a populace that it feels has fallen into moral decay. The production will run May 25 - June 15, with previews on May 23 & 24. It is rated PG for some suggestive moments. Contact Town Hall Theatre Box Office for tickets at (925) 283-1557, or purchase online at www.TownHallTheatre.com.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Young Adult author Yvonne Prinz will discuss two of her books including "All You Get is Me" and "The Vinyl Princess" at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 25 in the Arts & Science Discovery Room at the Lafayette Library.

Beyond nuclear power in Californian: a presentation and discussion with Jerald Brown, Ph.D at 7 p.m. Friday, May 10 at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, Owl Room, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek; a potluck dinner proceeds at 6 p.m. Dr. Brown will make a presentation on the World Business Academy's Safe Energy Project with the goal of replacing the San Onofre and Diablo Canyon nuclear power plants with green energy projects, thereby reducing the risks of cancer for those living near the reactors. Suggested Dona-

tion: \$20 and dish to share if attending potluck. No one turned away for lack of funds. For more info call (925) 933-7850.

Orinda's own Cinda Crabbe MacKinnon will read and discuss her new novel "A Place in the World" at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 18 at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, Orinda. For more info, call (925) 254-7606, email orindabooks@thegrid.net or visit www.orindabooks.com.

Celebrate the publication of "Brenda Corrigan Went Downtown" with local writer Donna Kaulkin at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 19 at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square. Champagne and Nibbles will be available along with the reading and signing. For more info, visit BrendaCorriganWentDowntown.com

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

The 8th Annual Lamorinda Idol auditions are coming! Created and sponsored by the Orinda Arts Council, Lamorinda Idol is a singing competition open to kids K-12th grade as of spring 2013, who either attend school or reside in Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette. Entries may be made by soloists or groups. Auditions will be held May 16 - 18, when finalists and runners-up will be selected by a panel of three judges. Registration for auditions will be from April 1 - 30 at www.orindaartscouncil.org. Finalists will perform at Orinda Theatre Sunday, Sept. 8. Category winners will receive cash prizes, the Audience Award winner will receive a special prize and all finalists will receive gift certificates.

SEED's (Special Education Enrichment Development Foundation) annual fundraiser is almost here! Celebrate Cinco de Mayo and raise money to help our kids from 6 to 11 p.m. Friday, May 3 at the Walker Residence at 910 Reliez Station Rd., Lafayette. Tickets: \$25 (includes delicious Mexican favorites such as: made to order tacos, burritos, and quesadillas, dessert from Doodle Cakes and unlimited margaritas, sangria, beer and soda). Purchase tickets in advance at SEED's auction website: seedauction2013.weebly.com.

Incoming kindergarten-age children and their parent(s) can come to enjoy a casual conversation with school administrators and staff, discussing our kindergarten program and common topics including kindergarten readiness, emotional maturity, creating smooth transitions and more at St. Perpetua's Taste of Kindergarten from 9 to 10 a.m. May 3. To register for this event, visit stpsparenteducation.eventbrite.com.

7th Annual Moraga Community Faire will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 11 in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center. This annual event is planned and organized by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce. The core of this community gathering is its businesses, coming out to meet and greet the public. Other attractions will include a classic car show, wine tasting from our local vineyards, cool music from our schools' bands on our stage, and oodles of activities for the kids.

Make-A-Wish's 4th annual family, dog and stroller-friendly 5K walk will take place from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday, June 1 at Saint Mary's College, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Walk day includes food and entertainment, with a focus on wish-granting and wish children! Registration, breakfast and entertainment will be from 8 to 9 a.m.; the walk starts at 9 a.m. and ends about 10 to 11 a.m. with food, entertainment and BYO picnic. For more info, call (415) 982-9474 or visit www.sf.wish.org.

... continued on next page

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda's Religious Services



Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422 www.holyshepherd.org



8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship Service
9:40 a.m. Education for all ages
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
Coffee Fellowship at 9:15 and 11:45 a.m.
Childcare available for ages 5 and younger



St. Giles Episcopal Church An Inclusive & Affirming Community

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In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws



Lafayette United Methodist Church

955 Moraga Rd., Lafayette,
284-4765, office@thelumc.org

Worship	Sunday	10 am
Children/Youth Sunday School	Sunday	10 am
Youth Fellowship	Sunday	6 pm

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Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church
Sunday Worship 9 & 11:00 a.m.

Programs for children & youth

49 Knox Drive | Lafayette | www.LOPC.org | 925-283-8722

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Sunday Service and Sunday School	10 - 11 am
Informal Wednesday Meeting	7:30 - 8:30 pm
Reading Room/Bookstore	M - F 11 - 4; Sat 10 - 1

www.christianscienceorinda.org

Lafayette Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Each Sunday, one kid brings an item for "Sunburst Surprise." Pastor Steve gets five minutes to dream up a message that ties the surprise object in with our faith and goals. Some call it the week's top sermon.

9:30 a.m.—Education for youth and adults. 11 a.m. Worship
584 Glenside Drive, Lafayette lccdsciples@gmail.com

THEATER

Support the students of Miramonte High School in their endeavor to support "Free the Children" by coming to watch the spring Performers for Progress performance – a high school

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

OTHER

Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church Taize' service is the last Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Come for a respite from the holiday rush to refresh your spirit in the candle-lit sanctuary, where the quiet songs, silence, and scripture with no sermon invite you to be still. Child care is provided if there are at least three children and two business days notice. Email Susan Wentworth at childcare@LOPC.org. More questions? Contact Nancy@lopc.org.

Mount Diablo Adult Education (MDAE) has a large selection of excellent woodworking courses for the spring. Hand Tools course teaches how to select, set up, maintain, and use the most necessary hand tools in a workshop. Twelve classes offered from 1 to 4 p.m. Friday, April 12 through June 28. Students may register online at www.mdusd.k12.ca.us/adulted/life-longeducation.htm or at the Pleasant Hill MDAE office on One Santa Barbara road, Room 210.

Lafayette United Methodist Church will be having a huge rummage sale from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 26-27 on the church campus, 955 Moraga Rd., Lafayette. They will have jewelry, clothes, books, house wares, furniture, toys and much, much more. Come find that special treasure! Questions? Call (925) 284-4765.

Volunteer a few hours from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 27 in the Garden Room of the Orinda Community Center to learn about Sudden Oak Death including preventative measures, and how to identify possibly infected trees from UC expert and research scientist Dr. Matteo Garbelotto. Also assist in the survey for infected trees in areas of your choice, collect suspect leaves during times and in areas of your choice. Dr. Garbelotto's lab will analyze the leaves over the summer and post the results in October on his website. For more info on SOD and results of previous surveys, visit Dr. Garbelotto's website: www.sodblitz.org.

Chinese Art and Chinese Calligraphy from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 30 in the Arts & Science Discovery Room at the Lafayette Library. The Contra Costa Chinese School will be at the library to teach the basics of brush handling, brush strokes and ink preparation for Chinese art and for Chinese calligraphy; learn brush strokes and construct Chinese words.

It is that time again. The Lafayette Community Foundation (LCF) is accepting grant applications from local non-profits for its spring grant cycle. LCF invests in programs and projects that promote and enhance the civic, cultural, educational and environmental health of Lafayette and beyond. The deadline to submit a grant for the spring 2013 cycle is April 30. For more info, visit the Lafayette Community Foundation website: www.lafayettecf.com.

Emergency Preparedness for Individuals and Families from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, May 2. Emphasis will be on earthquake preparation, but the information applies to other emergencies as well. Bring pencil and paper. Materials will be provided. Neighborhood Captains' Training will be from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 9. Classes will be held at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Rd. in the Elderberry Room (back parking lot). Classes are taught by the Emergency Preparedness Commission. Free. Register at (925) 284-2232. For more info, call the Commission at (925) 299-3220 or email csurges@lovelafayette.org.

A free Bike Commute Workshop will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 2 at the Lafayette Public Library & Learning Center, in the Arts & Science Classroom. This one-hour workshop will cover skills, basic gear, and rules of the road. This is a great introductory workshop for people who are new to bicycling or interested in learning how to enjoy safe and comfortable bike commuting. Sign up for the workshop is required. For more information and to sign up, please contact Bart Carr at bart@sustainablelafayette.com.

Area residents who own classic cars are invited to participate in the 5th

Annual Moraga Classic Car Show from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 11 (as part of the 2013 Moraga Community Faire). The \$30 registration fee includes an entry ribbon, lunch for two, a commemorative photo, and a chance for owners to display their restoration work to the public. Prizes will be awarded. The registration deadline is May 1. The car show is sponsored by 5A Rent a Space and CVS Pharmacy. To register, visit www.moragachamber.org/faire or call (925) 247-4629.

The Moraga Barn is excited to announce that its beautiful and historical building is now available for event rentals! The Barn is the home of a new community event called PopIn at the Barn! The PopIn events will be themed, unique and fun events occurring throughout the year. The first PopIn, an open house and market, will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 4.

Join the National Park Service for a free campfire program Saturday, May 4 at John Muir National Historic Site (NHS) in Martinez. The program begins at 7 p.m. and lasts roughly 1.5 hours. Rangers will lead the group in songs, skits and stories to celebrate the legacy of John Muir, one of the greatest naturalists and conservationists the United States has ever known.

The Hacienda Foundation of Moraga presents the 5th annual Cinco de Mayo Fiesta from 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday, May 5 at the Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga. The fiesta will feature live Mariachi music, gourmet Mexican food and drinks, available for a nominal charge. Activities for children of all ages include tortilla making, piñatas, and jumpy houses. Free parking will be available at the AAAAA Storage parking lot on Moraga Road. A shuttle van will run between the lot and the Hacienda during the hours of the fiesta. Admission: \$5 per adult. Children are free. The Cinco de Mayo fiesta is sponsored by the Hacienda Foundation of Moraga and the Town of Moraga. All proceeds from the fiesta will go to the restoration of the Pavilion area at the Hacienda. For more info, visit www.haciendafoundation.org/events.php.

See what Valley Stitchers and Fiber Arts Guild members did with the challenge to make something related to "Birds of a Feather" at their luncheon beginning at approximately 9:30 a.m. Monday, May 6 at Faith Lutheran Church, 50 Woodsworth Lane, in Pleasant Hill. Cost: \$5. For more info, visit www.valleystitchersguild.com or call Sheila at (925) 945-1338.

Californians live in a drought state and water is vital to all aspects of life. Join others for a roundtable discussion "Water: From Crisis to Opportunity" from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 8 at the Lafayette Public Library, 3491 Mt Diablo Blvd., Oak Conference Room. Learn about how companies are inventing new technologies, the ideas being created to address these problems, and the opportunity for investors to support these efforts. Free. Refreshments will be served, and reservations required. To RSVP, call Allan Moskowitz (510) 215-6700.

Lafayette Rotary's Concert at the Res will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 11 on the new stage at the Lafayette Reservoir. Come enjoy the sounds of the Big Band of Rossmoor, Stanley Symphonic Band, Acalanes Jazz Ensemble, Bentley Jazz Ensemble and Lamorinda Theatre Academy's Stevie Coyle Strings. Special Guests—Oakland Westlake Middle School Town Hall Troupe. The new stage is located a few hundred yards to the left of the parking lot. The concert is free but food and raffle ticket sales support Lafayette Schools and Rotary projects.

The 6th Annual Campolindo Hall of Fame Dinner takes place Saturday, May 11. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the event starts promptly at 6:30 p.m. at Back Forty Texas BBQ in Pleasant Hill. Coach Kevin Macy will be honoring Sean Irving and Pat Galligan from the class of 2004 and Bob Wilson, Coach and Athletic Director at Campolindo High School. Macy will also be honoring the 2012 Team for their outstanding season. This dinner sells out each year so please contact Valerie

Durantini at v.durantini@sbcglobal.net or (415) 999-6116 if you are interested in attending.

Contra Costa Kops for Kids will hold its 7th annual Run Walk/Wheelchair Race at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 18 at the Willows Shopping Center, 1975 Diamond Blvd., Concord. The Run/Walk/Wheelchair Race features 1 mile, 5K and 10K races. There will be wheelchair races held in each category in addition to the run. The event will feature a live band, and proceeds from the race will go to Contra Costa Kops for Kids. To register for the race, please visit www.active.com. For more info, please visit www.contracostakopsforkids.org or call (925) 827-1998.

Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation's Animals on Broadway will be Sunday, May 19 at the Broadway Plaza in Walnut Creek. Kick off the event by joining the one-mile fundraising Pet Walk. Pet Walk begins at 10:30 a.m. sharp (registration is from 8:30 to 10 a.m.). After, stay and enjoy an array of booths, mobile adoptions, face painting, a Pet Wellness Fair, Walnut Creek Police K9 Unit demonstrations, live music, and crafts for kids from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more info, visit www.arf.net.

Tour Lafayette's finest eateries at "Taste of Lafayette" from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 21. Gather at the Plaza Park in downtown Lafayette first to enjoy a glass of wine and appetizers and then stroll down Lafayette's Restaurant Row on Mt. Diablo Boulevard or take the shuttle bus up and down the boulevard. Twenty-two local restaurants and catering companies will be participating — each stop, a "taste." Tickets available through the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, 100 Lafayette Circle, Suite 103 via lafayettechamber.org or call (925) 284-7404.

SENIORS

Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 meets the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School St., Moraga. Social hour at 11 a.m., lunch at noon. The May 1 after-lunch speaker will be Brother Dominic of Saint Mary's College, a very engaging speaker who will discuss the Christian Brothers who, 150 years ago, created Saint Mary's College in San Francisco and its evolution to Moraga. For membership information, call Larry at (925) 631-9528.

GARDEN

Once again, The City of Walnut Creek and The Gardens at Heather Farm are teaming up to present a free workshop, "Discovering a Sense of Place (Part II)" with Patrice Hanlon, GHF garden manager and Susan Handjian from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 27 at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. Explore Walnut Creek's "Creek Walk." Each session includes activities or walks to explore watersheds, plants, animals and insects that live in our area. Workshops can be taken individually or as a series. Pre-registration required. For info, visit gardenshf.org.

The Ninth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 5. This free, award-winning tour features 40 Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens that are pesticide-free, conserve water, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 60 percent or more native plants. This self-drive tour showcases a variety of gardens, from large parcels in the hills to small lots in the flats. Native plant sales and talks are offered at select gardens. Space is limited and registration is required. This tour will fill; register early to ensure a place. Volunteers are needed. Please register or volunteer at www.bringing-backthenatives.net. For more info, contact Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net or call (510) 236-9558 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. (See story page D1)

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Restaurants

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Rustic Tavern Soon to Open in Lafayette

By Sophie Braccini



Chris Amsden and Tressa and Gary Rust at the new Rustic Tavern bar.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Before chef Gary Rust and his wife Tressa got married, they worked together with friend Chris Amsden at Lark Creek in Walnut Creek. After the couple's brief stint in San Diego and the welcoming of two children, the Rusts' friendship with Amsden was still going strong. Now the three have decided to build a restaurant of their own together, Rustic Tavern, which opens May 1 at 3576 Mount Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette.

Gilbert Sonet is a veteran of the local food scene and he knows what it takes to make a restaurant a success. "All the people I find space for have been very successful," says the commercial real estate broker and restaurant consultant. "Lafayette is the best place to open a restaurant when you've mastered your art and have a good commercial sense. For Rustic Tavern, the place to be is Lafayette, with its educated residents and eclectic food scene."

The Rusts and Amsden took the plunge, the restaurant occupying the former Roya's Garlic Garden location. And they're doing it all on their own: investing their own money; utilizing contractors from their family to remodel; and lending a hand themselves for finishes. "We wanted a look that will be authentic and relaxed," says Tressa Rust who will be directing the front part of the restaurant, "and we are adding an outside patio with plenty of flowers to take

advantage of the large sidewalk."

Of course what makes or breaks a restaurant is the quality of the cooking, and Rust has no worries about her husband's ability. After all, she says that before she fell in love with the chef, she fell in love with his cooking – and many others did, too. "I remember when we were working together for the first time at Lark Creek," she says, "my customers were coming back asking for his Fish of the Day. I started to realize that he had followers who were coming back just for him."

The chef cooks fish so well because he was a fisherman many years ago; Rust tired of the very hard life at sea and chose the much easier (wink, wink) life in the kitchen. "I must always have had that love of food in me," he says, "from the time of my grandfather's vegetable garden and the dishes that came from his harvests."

Rustic Tavern will have a Fish of the Day on the menu, but that's only the beginning. Rust and Amsden are being very particular in their choice of farmers for the best meats, vegetables and fruits – an easy task due to their experience – and they are choos-

ing fishermen and fishing practices that produce wonderful fish with minimal impact on the environment, since some species can be overfished. Rust is planning a creative menu that will change with the seasons.

"My cooking has a European flair," he says. "It is not super high-end, but it will be very pleasing for people who like to eat quality, organic and delicious food."

Amsden will preside over the bar, mixing cocktails and entertaining guests. He will also keep an eye on the eclectic drink list that includes beverages from all over the world including a gluten-free beer.

The three friends are very excited about their project and so are the Rust children. "My 6-year-old daughter loves to come in and play hostess," says the proud mom. "She says, 'Welcome to Rustic Tavern, would you like to be seated by the window?' and she and her brother are our official dessert testers."

They, too, are looking forward to May 1.

Lamorinda Weekly business articles are intended to inform the community about local business activities, not to endorse a particular company, product or service.

New Name, New Beast Car, Same Great Service



From left, the gentlemen who built and will drive the modified 1964 Ford Galaxie: Eric Dove, Buzz Weldy, Joe Thompson, Rene Aguirre and Chirs McCoy. Photos Cathy Tyson

Krysten Laine and Rene Aguirre decided to change the name of their beloved Urban Suburban to The Mechanic located at 3328 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette because they work on more than just SUVs; they wanted their new name to reflect their broad focus on foreign and domestic

cars, restoration and fabrication work. To showcase their talents they are also launching the Triple Nickel Resto Race Fab team, and debuted their creation - a muscular modification of a 1964 Ford Galaxie, now an "off-road Baja beast" – at a recent "south of the border" themed party, prior to taking



off for their first off-road race, the Baja 1000 – an adrenaline-filled, dusty, challenging adventure around the Baja peninsula that is not for the faint of heart. Owners, builders and racers were on hand at the party to answer questions about their year-long Baja project. C. Tyson

business briefs

Storyteller Named Small Business of the Year
3506-E Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, (925) 284-3480



Inside the new store

Photo Sophie Braccini

Lafayette's iconic children's book store, The Storyteller, was recently chosen as the Small Business of the Year by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. "For many of us, being able to walk into a bookstore with our children, and getting lost in the magical world of children's stories is something that is still cherished," said Chamber Executive Director Jay Lifson. "Not only is The Storyteller a top notch store with great selections for children and young adults, they employ the friendliest knowledgeable sales staff around." The store experience includes puppet shows, story telling and gift wrapping. Linda Higham, a former local school teacher, has owned her bookstore for over 20 years. About her secret to success, she says, "My employees are educators and librarians who are dedicated to children's literature, and the surrounding community is loyal to our store." The store just moved from Lafayette Circle to the Shops at Plaza Center, just behind Peet's and Whole Foods. Higham will be honored at the 13th Annual Contra Costa Council Small Business Awards Luncheon Friday, May 10 at the Hilton Concord. For information, contact Linda Carlson at (925) 284-7404 or linda@lafayettechamber.org.

Moraga Employee of the Month



Connie Kuhlmann

Photo provided

Connie Kuhlmann, a Moraga Royale assistant director who has dedicated her work life to helping seniors, has been named the March Moraga Employee of the Month. As assistant director at the local assisted living facility, Kuhlman oversees the care and well-being of its 94 residents. During her eight years on the job, Kuhlman has found a special place in the hearts of Moraga Royale seniors, due to her unwavering dedication to making their lives better. "Connie always finds time to address the concerns of all those involved in making Moraga Royale a fun, supportive and truly caring home for our elderly," said Dianne Wilson, Moraga Royale executive director. In winning the award, Kuhlman received a \$50 gift card to Safeway as well as a \$50 gift certificate to CVS Pharmacy from the award sponsors, the Rotary Club of Moraga and the Chamber of Commerce.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Honors Two Associates
5 Moraga Way, Orinda, (925) 253-4600



Susan Schlicher



Andi Peterson

Coldwell Banker in Orinda recently honored two of its leading sales associates: Susan Schlicher and Andi Peterson Brown. Schlicher earned membership into the company's International President's Circle, a prestigious honor bestowed upon the top Coldwell Banker sales associates worldwide and Brown earned membership in the company's International Diamond Society. "Membership in this elite group is achieved by the most talented and knowledgeable real estate professionals in the industry," said Rick Turley, president of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. Brown is an Orinda native who joined Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in 2009. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Magna Cum Laude from UCLA and was a member of the 2008 USC Lusk School of Real Estate's Ross Fellowship program. Schlicher has been associated with Coldwell Banker for seven years and has consistently been in the Top 100 sales associates for Coldwell Banker, having also obtained the "President's Circle" Award and the "Elite" award for 2011. She and her husband have lived in Lafayette for 37 years, where they raised their family, and she has been involved in many community organizations.

Two Local Nursing Homes Get Five-Star Rating:

Rheem Valley Convalescent Hospital & Rehabilitation
Grace Healthcare of Moraga
348 Rheem Blvd., Moraga, (925) 376-5995
Orinda Rehabilitation and Convalescent Hospital
11 Altarinda Rd., Orinda, (925) 254-6500

In a recent ranking of nursing homes by U.S. News & World Report, Grace Healthcare of Moraga and Orinda Rehabilitation and Convalescent Hospital of Orinda received five-star ratings for performance in health inspections, nurse staffing, and measures of medical quality of care.

New Branch Manager Announced at Prudential
8 Camino Encinas, #100, Orinda, (925) 244-1933

Pete Sabine, a longtime real estate professional, has been named branch manager and director of company-wide business development at the Prudential California Realty Orinda office. In addition to overseeing sales professionals and managing day-to-day operations, he will be involved in teaching, training and coaching the company's agents to success. Sabine began his real estate career in 1985 in Orinda and his family heritage goes back three generations in the Lamorinda area. For more information on the Prudential California Realty in Orinda, please visit www.pruca.com.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact **Sophie Braccini** at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com

News from the three Chambers of Commerce
Lafayette

Partnering with GiftCards.com, the chamber is launching a program to drive more traffic to Lafayette Chamber of Commerce merchants with a Lafayette-branded community gift card that can be purchased online at www.lafayettechamber.org, www.GiftCards.com, or at individual business/merchant websites. The annual cost of the community gift card is \$59. Chamber members can also create their own branded gift card for \$199 a year in addition to the community card. To sign up for this program, please contact GiftCards.com representative Ken Seagle at ken.seagle@giftcards.com. Enrollment ends May 10.

Coffee with Mayor Mike Anderson from 8 to 9 a.m. April 26 at the chamber office. Join Anderson for a conversation about Lafayette's hot topics including the new medians on Mt. Diablo Boulevard on the east end of town and the potential ban on plastic bags.

Save the date for Lafayette's 11th Annual Taste of Lafayette from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 21 beginning at Lafayette Plaza. Go to LafayetteChamber.org to see the fun video from last year and reserve your tickets.

Moraga

The 7th Annual Moraga Community Faire will be held May 11 in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center. The core of this community gathering is its businesses, coming out to meet and greet the public. Other attractions will include a classic car show, wine tasting from local vineyards, cool music from school bands on the stage, and oodles of activities for the kids (crafts, bounce houses, contests, etc.) Registration is open until May 1 to all Moraga Chamber of Commerce members and to Moraga-based businesses. If you have questions about your eligibility, contact Ellen Beans at ellen.beans@gmail.com.

Orinda

Susan Martin was elected vice president and Roy Hodgkinson was elected director to the 12-member chamber board of directors. Martin has a healthy history on the chamber board, has demonstrated leadership and reason, and knows how to set an example of rolling up her sleeves to get the work done. Hodgkinson, an Orinda resident since 1995 with his wife, Barbara, had a 40-year career in information technology including service with Mutual Life of Canada, Bank of America, Kaiser Permanente, NetApp, and with several startups in various technical, management and consulting roles. Among Hodgkinson's strengths are project management, interpersonal and partner communications, team building, strategic and contingency planning. Since retiring in August 2012 he has worked hard on his golf game and explored opportunities to contribute as a volunteer and leader in not-for-profit organizations.

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Dons Edge Cougars to Remain Undefeated in DFAL

By Hunter Hewitt



Photo Ohlen Alexander

He may not be Al Pacino in *Any Given Sunday*, but Acalanes boys' lacrosse coach Brent Ringwood sure can give an inspiring halftime speech.

After a sluggish start against rival Campolindo, the Dons bounced back in the second half and captured a key Diablo Foothill Athletic League win in Moraga on April 19.

Led by senior attacker Connor Doyle, the Cougars built up a 5-3 lead early in the second quarter. Although Acalanes entered halftime with a 7-6 lead, Ringwood wanted more from his team, and attempted to motivate his players during the intermission.

With his best Pacino impression, he did just that.

"We came out flat and started really slow," said junior Robbie Stern, who scored four goals in the game. "Coach (Ringwood) gave us a nice halftime speech and that got us going. We came out in second half on fire and ready to play."

With a newfound energy, the Dons (11-4, 7-0 DFAL) outscored Campolindo (6-7, 4-3) by seven goals

in the second half and secured a 16-8 victory to remain undefeated in league play. Senior attacker Wes Greason added three goals in the winning effort.

Despite the unfortunate loss, Cougars head coach Drew Welch was proud of his team's effort.

"We came out really strong and played well in the first half," Welch said. "It was a good fight, but they got the better of us. They are having a great season. Hopefully we will be able to see them again in the playoffs."

Acalanes' top competition in the DFAL race is their other rival school, Miramonte. The two teams met on April 12, and although the Dons came away with an imposing 16-2 win, it was the Matadors' (8-6, 6-1) only loss in league play.

With five league games remaining for each team, the title is still up for grabs.

"Our first goal is to stay undefeated in league and win the DFAL," Ringwood said. "If we can get past that, then we will look ahead to the

playoffs. We had a couple of humbling losses earlier in the season that really helped us focus and we are playing well right now."

In a game that could potentially determine the league champion, Acalanes and Miramonte meet again on May 7 in Lafayette. It will be the last game of the regular season for the Dons, while the Matadors will play their final game on May 10 when they host Alhambra.

Welch hopes Campolindo can win its final five regular season games and have a "full head of steam" entering the playoffs. Although the season hasn't played out exactly how he hoped it would, he is still excited for the future of the program.

"We have some great senior leadership this year, but it has also been really exciting to see some of the younger classmen step up," Welch said. "We have a lot of freshmen and sophomores that have been contributing this season."

All three schools will likely compete in the North Coast Section Division II playoffs, which begin on May 14.



Photo Christian Hugener

WCC Co-Champions Prepare for WCC Tourney Tomorrow

By Michael Sakoda



Jenny Jullien



Catherine Isip

Photos Tod Fierner

Saint Mary's women's tennis team enjoyed an impressive season and now gears up for the WCC tournament. The Gaels finished the season as co-WCC champions with Pepperdine and

Santa Clara. It was the team's second WCC title in four years, and the second in school history (the first came in 2010).

Although finishing in a three-way tie, the Gaels No. 42 rank-

ing will give them the top-seed and a two-round bye in the tournament, which begins on April 25 at the University of San Diego.

... continued on page C2

Cougar Football

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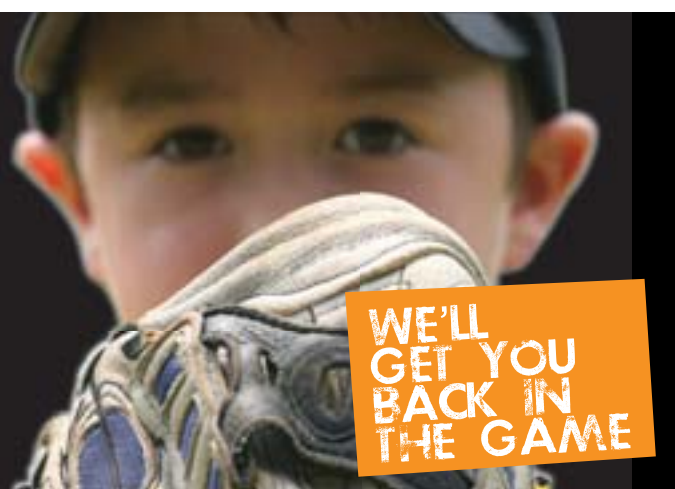


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Boys' Volleyball Growing but Faces Challenges

By Marissa Harnett



Reece Yamamoto #14

Photos Ohlen Alexander

Boys' volleyball teams in Lamorinda vary in experience. While Campo and Acalanes have been building their teams for the last several years, Miramonte's team is new after a four-year hiatus.

All three Lamorinda teams faced-off for the first time in league play last week. Campolindo came out on top, beating both Acalanes and Miramonte. The Cougars are undefeated in DFAL action (4-0) and boast a 27-2 record overall. Acalanes (2-3) defeated Miramonte (1-5) on April 19 in straight sets, 25-16, 25-14, 25-18.

Despite the new program, Miramonte head coach Daniella Inzerillo is impressed with the talent and diversity of her team. "Having such a mix of athletes playing this sport keeps it exciting and allows the team to grow every practice," Inzerillo explained. "We have basketball, soccer, tennis, and football players on the team that are all coming together to form a solid volleyball team."

The brand new Mats team faced the six-year strong, defending NCS champs, Campolindo on April 17. The Cougars jumped out to a 5-0 lead. Miramonte appeared intimidated, but after a few long rallies the Mats notched some points of their own. Still, Campo took the first set 25-8.

Miramonte's energy increased in the second set. Campo jumped to an early lead again, but the Mats managed to come back to within one

point. After Campo pulled ahead a second time, Miramonte senior Matt Ent served four consecutive points, bringing the score to 11-12. Miramonte could not hold on, though, and the more experienced Cougars surged, taking the second set 25-14.

The third set was a repeat of the first set, and Campo won the match 25-8, 25-14, 25-8.

Despite graduating six seniors last

year, Campo head coach David Chen credits his experienced players with creating a solid foundation. "We have been very fortunate to have had a skilled group of athletes the previous year to stabilize our program," he said.

The program has had its growing pains, however. "They are enjoying the success of our previous athletes' struggles and heartbreaks," Chen explained. "Having our current players respect the success and the journey to get here, while still asking them to re-define themselves and take the program to a whole new level has been the biggest challenge."

Acalanes had a good turnout for their team this year. While the demand for a second JV team existed, the Dons could not obtain a second coach, and so were unable to utilize that talent.

Head coach Mason Mulvaney remarked on the wide variety of athletes that came out to play this year. "The talent is a mixed bag, I have some very experienced leaders of my team, Dan Inouye and Ben Savage are my captains, both are all-league players," he added, "I also have some new guys who are great athletes but are new to the sport."

Due to such differing levels of ability, results vary accordingly, but Mulvaney sees positive progress.

The rivals will match up again in May.



WCC Co-Champions Prepare for WCC Tourney Tomorrow

... continued from page C1

"We've put ourselves in a good position," said Saint Mary's coach Lisa Alipaz, looking ahead to the post-season. "We're the highest nationally ranked team in conference, so if there's a tie with records, it goes to national ranking."

The Gaels finish a regular season filled with "firsts" with a 12-8 overall record and a 7-1 conference record. Junior Jenny Jullien became the school's highest ranked player ever when she reached No. 18 in the country (she finished the season at No. 20), and the Gaels tallied their first win against a top ten opponent when they defeated No. 7 Stanford on February 16.

"It's been a bit of a roller-coaster," Alipaz said of the season. "We've had some amazing highs—the win over Stanford was probably the highlight of my ca-

reer—and we've had some lows, but we've managed to stick together and find ways to get together. I think the best is yet to come for us."

The Gaels team wrapped up their impressive season on April 14, clinching a share of the WCC title, by defeating Loyola Marymount 4-3 in a nail biter.

Senior Catherine Isip and her partner, junior Audrey Leitz, were the only Gaels tandem to notch a win in doubles.

"It was tough watching courts one and three go down," Isip said. "But luckily my partner and I pulled it through." This was only the fifth match for Isip and Leitz as a pairing, but so far, the two have gone undefeated.

In singles, the Gaels showed their strength. Jullien recorded a 6-1, 6-1 win at number 1, while jun-

ior Jade Frampton earned a 6-1, 6-3 win at number 4.

Isip was the next to wrap up, and on Senior Day, she walked off the court a 7-6, 6-2 winner over. "I lost to (Parravi) last year," said Isip. "It felt really good to beat her."

But the match wasn't over. With the score tied 3-3, Isip's doubles partner had dropped her first set 4-6 on court six. While Isip and her teammates cheered her on, Leitz rallied, taking the second and third sets 6-2 and 6-3, winning the match, and clinching a share of the title for the Gaels.

"It's been an up and down season," Isip said after her last match at the Korth Tennis Complex. "It's bittersweet, but I couldn't have asked for a better ending. Seeing my doubles partner clinch for us, it was amazing."



Audrey Leitz

Photo Tod Fierner

Seals Make Waves with a Win

Submitted by Jon Zuber



Photo provided

The LBA Seals won the 11U Open Derby Tournament in Sunnyvale with two great wins on April 14.

Top Finish in Snowy Conditions

Submitted by Richard Metzgen



Photo provided

Maximus Metzgen, a third-grader at Wagner Ranch, came in fourth overall in the USASA (USA Snowboard Association) National Championships held at Copper Mountain, Colorado.

The USASA Freestyle Ski championship was held on full size features, including SkierCross, Half-Pipe and Slopestyle. Metzgen performed tricks 30 feet above ground in the 22-foot half-pipe during the championship.

Heavy snow on the last day of the championships hampered Metzgen's chances in the National Slopestyle competition.

Metzgen was crowned North Tahoe Slopestyle champion during three months of qualifying tournaments, making him eligible for the national competition.

Spring Break on the Rugby Pitch

Submitted by Doug Pearson



Photo provided

Bottom row, from left: Greg Austin, Jackson Oxner, Tristan Tzortzis, Nick Krozek, Jack Geary, Anthony Bradley, Will Kalmbach, Guy Barrons, Jackson Oh; middle row: Osei Walker, Carlo Frick, Oscar Beckinger, Owen McNamara, Brandon Hein, Nick Pearson, Matt Healy, Dominc Bradley, Cayden Hein, Matthew O'Brien, Cooper Davis; back: Coach Lyell Warren, Coach Erik Leuteneker, Coach Doug Pearson, Coach Gary Hein

The Lamorinda youth rugby teams concluded their season by participating in a tournament at Wilder Fields on March 30. Over 60 teams from Sacramento and the Bay Area participated in the tournament. About 90 athletes represented Lamorinda on the two U8 and two U12 Open teams, along with U10 Light, U10 Open, U12 Light teams that en-

tered. The Lamo U12 Open team concluded its undefeated season with a third place finish in the tournament. The Lamo U12 Light team won the tournament and received first place medals.

The Lamorinda Middle School teams conclude their season with a tournament on April 21 in Dixon.

Bruin Bound

Submitted by Clay Kallam

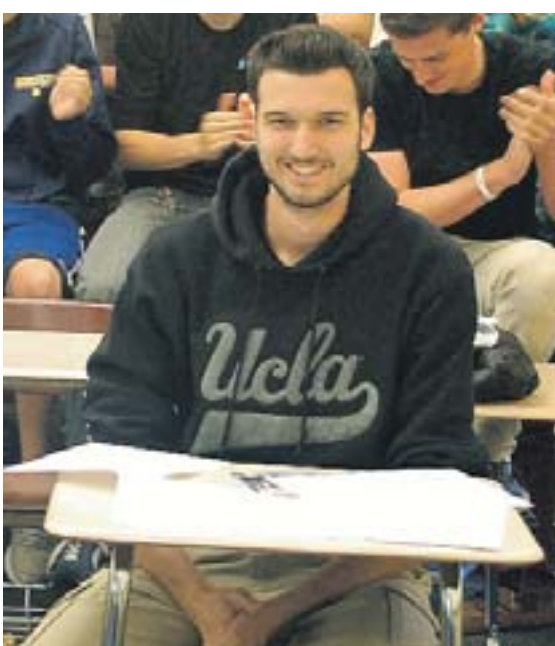


Photo provided

Eric Sprague, a 6-8 senior hitter for the top-rated Bentley men's volleyball team, signed a National Letter of Intent with UCLA on April 17.

Sprague has helped the Phoenix rise to the top of the BCL-East standings, and they are one of the favorites to win the North Coast Section title this spring.

Submit stories to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com (we prefer to receive your photo file, minimum size: 200 dpi and 1200 pixels wide)

Strokes Crews Make Finals

Submitted by Steven Johnson



Photo provided

Oakland Strokes Womens Junior JV8+: Indigo Catton, Tara Bozzini, Abby Vare, Caitlin Olson, Caroline Carper, Marie Johnson, Katie Ware, Madelynn Prendergast and Lauren Elizabeth Noga.

Oakland Strokes sent six crews south to San Diego's Mission Bay to compete in America's Premier Spring Regatta, the San Diego Crew Classic on April 6-7. This year 422 crews from 140 clubs in 27 US states and three countries participated.

The first final was the Junior Men's Lightweight 8+ rowing for the Shimano Rowing Dynamics Cup on late Saturday afternoon. The crew, including Lamorinda rowers Eli Morley (Bentley), Ben Peterson (Campolindo) and coxswain Hannah Christopher (Miramonte), finished fifth with a time of 6:30.43.

The remaining Oakland Strokes crews raced Sunday afternoon.

Varsity 8+ women have been battling Marin all season for first place, and this time Marin came out ahead besting the Strokes' team, including Alia Shafi (Acalanes), Lizzie Pate (Miramonte), Ellen Pate (Miramonte), Camille Triebisch (Campolindo) and Laura Rosas (Miramonte) by 3.54 seconds to take the Gilman-Mulliken Cup.

In the Junior Mens Varsity William Robinson Memorial Cup Grand Final, the Strokes qualified for final with the second fastest time of the day and finished third, behind a crew that included Erik Johnson (Miramonte), Kevin Chang (Bentley), Cubby Parker (Bentley) and coxswain Karmi Chan (Miramonte).

Two Oakland Strokes Junior Women's boats qualified for their JV final with the Strokes "A" boat winning the race to bring home the ZLAC Rowing Club Trophy. The winning boat's roster included Indigo Catton (Campolindo), Tara Bozzini (Acalanes), Marie Johnson (Miramonte), and Katie Ware (Acalanes). The Strokes JV "B" boat finished in fourth place with a roster that included Isabella Calderon (Miramonte), Olivia Klinkenberg (Acalanes), and Hanna Stenovec (Miramonte).

The Junior Men's JV 8+ was the last of the Strokes crews to compete on Sunday and finished fifth with Aubert Marcu (Miramonte) and coxswain Brenna Lowrey (Miramonte).

OBA Celebrates Opening Day

Submitted by Laura Limson



Photo provided

From left: Joe Torbati (Orinda Motors), Micah Elias, Christopher Butner, Greg Kornguth, and Jeff Joyce (Orinda Motors).

Orinda Baseball Association held its annual Opening Day ceremonies at Wagner Ranch on March 2 celebrating 29 years. Nearly 350 players participated. Orinda Motors served as the Title Sponsor for the seventh consecutive year.

Positive Coaches

Submitted by Tracy Fu and M. Woodward



Photo provided

For their positive impact on youth athletes, Ron and Don Heidary were awarded the coveted "Double-Goal" Coach award at Positive Coaching Alliance's 12th Annual National Youth Sports Awards sponsored by Deloitte and Liberty Mutual. It is presented to coaches who strive to win while pursuing the more important goal of teaching life lessons through sports. The Heidarys are the co-founders/head coaches of Orinda Aquatics and coach Campolindo and Miramonte. The central tenet of their program is "Character First."

PCA is in partnership with nearly 2,000 schools and youth sports organizations nationwide, impacting nearly 5 million youth. "Don and Ron help youth athletes win in and out of the pool," said Jim Thompson, founder and CEO of Positive Coaching Alliance.

Don Heidary also serves on the Boards of the American Swim Coaches Association and Pacific Swimming and both brothers speak nationally and internationally on developing high-character teams and athletes.

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 07 Issue 4 Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Bringing Back the Natives Goes Hands On

By Sophie Braccini



The Sorensons' creek restoration

It is quite remarkable, driving along Sleepy Hollow streets on the way to Bob and Stephanie Sorenson's, to witness the number of homes that have foregone front lawns for native/Mediterranean/low-irrigation plant displays. While most of them are not part of this year's annual Bringing Back the Natives Tour on May 5, they are testimony to Lamorinda residents' growing desire to save water and conform to native vegetation.

The Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour encourages such efforts, allowing residents a way to

visit some of the most beautiful native gardens around. This year there will also be a series of hands-on 'Select Tours' offered before and after the free self-guided tour, where participants can learn techniques to help them create their own native gardens.

"I had the idea of the Select Tours for people who want to see more gardens or who want to learn something about a specific theme," says tour organizer Kathy Kramer. "The objective is to help people move ahead, on their own." For example, six months ago the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour held



The Home Designer with Brandon Neff ...read on page D8

a "Mow no Mo'!" sheet mulching workshop at Craig Somberg's garden in Lafayette, and 1,750 square feet of lawn disappeared in one day.

Kramer said that people came with their gloves and shovels to help and to learn how to do it. Afterward, Somberg's garden was ready for drip irrigation and a Smart Timer to be installed, and for the plants to get into the ground.

There are some old favorites on this year's tour, like Al Kyte's garden in Moraga. Kyte has been a native gardener for 40 years and has a wealth of information. There are also several new Lamorinda participants on the tour, including the Sorensons.

Bob Sorenson was raised in Orinda and grew up by a creek; he moved to his current house in 1989. "I wanted to buy a home with a creek and to be part of nature," he said. "The creek behind my house must have been grazed by cattle at some point and was invaded by weeds. I started learning about the native plants and over the years replaced the weeds with natives."

It took Sorenson 10 years to restore the creek to its original state. As he learned about native plants, Sorenson also collected seeds in the San Pablo watershed and learned to propagate the plants. Once the creek project was complete, he started talking to his wife about replacing the front lawn.

At first she was happy with the European-looking front lawn, but as her desire to attract birds and wildlife to her garden grew, she learned that native plants are the best way to do it. "She gave me the okay 18 months ago," said Sorenson. He planted native oaks as the backbone of the garden. Then Sorenson started collecting more seeds and propagating more plants.

...continued on page D4

Lynn Molloy

presents:



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	15	\$660,000	\$3,190,000
MORAGA	8	\$305,000	\$1,575,000
ORINDA	8	\$809,000	\$2,019,000

Home sales are compiled by CalREsource, 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

25 Amber Lane, \$720,000, 3 Bdrms, 2398 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 3-26-13;

Previous Sale: \$220,000, 09-27-88

3197 Andreasen Drive, \$1,335,000, 5 Bdrms, 2972 SqFt, 1957 YrBl, 3-13-13

3477 Black Hawk Road, \$1,810,000, 5 Bdrms, 2798 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 3-22-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,625,000, 10-23-08

3645 Boyer Circle, \$1,230,000, 4 Bdrms, 3537 SqFt, 1988 YrBl, 3-19-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,495,000, 05-01-07

3960 Franke Lane, \$1,795,000, 4 Bdrms, 3305 SqFt, 1985 YrBl, 3-21-13;

Previous Sale: \$250,000, 04-23-84

3517 Hamlin Road #A, \$1,680,000, 6 Bdrms, 3508 SqFt, 1977 YrBl, 3-26-13;

Previous Sale: \$45,000, 01-02-98

3674 Happy Valley Road, \$3,190,000, 3 Bdrms, 5242 SqFt, 1988 YrBl, 3-22-13;

Previous Sale: \$3,650,000, 10-12-06

23 Julie Highlands Court, \$1,390,000, 4 Bdrms, 3813 SqFt, 1998 YrBl, 3-19-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,170,000, 04-15-02

815 Las Trampas Road, \$1,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 3382 SqFt, 1948 YrBl, 3-13-13

914 Oak Street, \$660,000, 3 Bdrms, 1971 SqFt, 1942 YrBl, 3-19-13;

Previous Sale: \$860,000, 06-22-05

1699 Pleasant Hill Road, \$905,000, 3 Bdrms, 1860 SqFt, 1942 YrBl, 3-14-13

437 Ponderosa Court, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 3396 SqFt, 1984 YrBl, 3-19-13;

Previous Sale: \$300,000, 03-07-05

3219 Rohrer Drive, \$875,000, 4 Bdrms, 1711 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 3-13-13;

Previous Sale: \$625,000, 07-30-12

3399 St. Marys Road, \$725,500, 3 Bdrms, 1882 SqFt, 1979 YrBl, 3-26-13;

Previous Sale: \$384,000, 09-16-98

3182 Teigland Road, \$680,000, 5 Bdrms, 3229 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 3-26-13;

Previous Sale: \$130,000, 01-31-92

MORAGA

722 Augusta Drive, \$710,000, 2 Bdrms, 1464 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 3-21-13;

Previous Sale: \$748,000, 10-29-07

86 Brookfield Drive, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2121 SqFt, 1964 YrBl, 3-20-13

35 Merrill Circle #S, \$1,315,000, 4 Bdrms, 3263 SqFt, 1991 YrBl, 3-25-13;

Previous Sale: \$739,000, 08-27-91

128 Miramonte Drive, \$550,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBl, 3-19-13;

Previous Sale: \$457,500, 09-20-10

50 Sarah Lane, \$1,575,000, 4 Bdrms, 3687 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 3-26-13;

Previous Sale: \$167,500, 02-21-80

26 Williams Drive, \$1,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 2557 SqFt, 1985 YrBl, 3-14-13;

Previous Sale: \$906,000, 02-27-04

ORINDA

67 Alta Vista Drive, \$1,267,500, 3 Bdrms, 2199 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 3-14-13;

Previous Sale: \$565,000, 04-08-97

105 Ascot Court #B, \$305,000, 2 Bdrms, 1191 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 3-15-13;

Previous Sale: \$175,000, 07-09-93

657 Augusta Drive, \$690,000, 2 Bdrms, 1552 SqFt, 1976 YrBl, 3-15-13

28 Bates Boulevard, \$949,000, 3 Bdrms, 1865 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 3-26-13;

Previous Sale: \$960,000, 09-29-06

9 Bel Air Drive, \$2,019,000, 6 Bdrms, 4013 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 3-21-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,802,000, 02-25-04

49 Dolores Way, \$809,000, 3 Bdrms, 1448 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 3-12-13

172 Ivy Drive, \$860,000, 3 Bdrms, 1872 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 3-13-13;

Previous Sale: \$660,000, 06-30-03

25 La Cintilla, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2550 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 3-19-13

41 La Cresta Road, \$955,000, 3 Bdrms, 1823 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 3-15-13;

Previous Sale: \$905,000, 06-14-07

428 Miner Road, \$950,000, 4 Bdrms, 2384 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 3-22-13

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Bringing Back the Natives

...continued from page D1

"I propagated 6,000 plants over a one-year period," he said. "Ninety percent of the plants in my front yard meadow I grew myself." All the Ruch Grass of the front lawn came from the propagation of a single plant that was growing in the creek.

At this time of year, the front yard is a lush and charming tapestry of greens and little flowers. Cow parsnips (Hera-

cleum maximum) are about to bloom and are quite dramatic.

"The garden will change over the year; that's what native gardens do," said Sorenson. "In six months we'll cut the grasses back and it will come back next spring. It will keep evolving." Sorenson added that he does not plan to water the garden and just lets it "do its thing."

place her own front lawn with a beautiful native flower display.

"(The Sorenson's) garden is a fine example of the creativity of the people in our region," said Kramer. "Every year I feel blessed to discover new gardens, some of them that have been planted by people who came to the Tour a few years ago." Last year the Tour attracted more than 6,000 visitors; 14,257 garden visits were made on the day of the tour.

According to Kramer, 75 percent of registrants who attended a previous Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour said they changed their gardening practices because of their participation.

Kramer is not surprised by the spread of the native gardens in our region, even if it is not yet considered the standard look. "A four-year study of water use, green waste generation, maintenance hours, and maintenance labor costs between a traditional garden and a California native plant garden was conducted by the city of Santa Monica," she says.

...continued on page D5



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Flowers in Elizabeth O'Shea's garden in Orinda



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"Mow no Mo" residents tear up Craig Somberg's lawn

"The results of this study showed that the native garden used one tenth of the water that the traditional garden did; generated less than 40 percent of the green waste; took 20 percent of the time to maintain; and cost 75 percent less to maintain than the traditional garden." (See <http://www.smgov.net/Departments/OSE/Categories/Landscape/Garden-Garden.aspx>).

Registration for the free tour closes April 27. This allows Kramer to send every participant a guide that includes the garden addresses, maps and directions as well as a schedule of presentations offered that day. This year, a walk-in sign up was added at the KYTE house, 57 Corliss Dr. in Moraga, where people can pick up the guide to continue the tour from there.

Cost for Select Tours – "How to Install a Netafim Drip Irrigation System and SmartTimer, Plant California Natives, and Receive up to \$500 for Doing So!" from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 18 and "How to Remove your Lawn, Select Native Plants, and Design a Water-conserving, Pesticide-free Garden That Attracts Wildlife" from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 19 – is \$30 per person/tour. Pre-registration for Select Tours is mandatory.

For more information and to register, visit www.bringingbackthenatives.net.

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The Home Designer

Do Your Homework

By Brandon Neff

In light of the current job market, millions of Americans are still out of work, and many Bay Area professionals are choosing to launch their own home-based businesses and take the reins of their employment futures firmly into their own hands. If we are asked to make lemonade out of lemons (and this is shaping up to be another banner lemon of a year economically), then regaining control of your own destiny is key to navigating this lopsided economy. Truly, home offices are quickly becoming both a necessity and a refuge. If you're like many of your contemporaries, and looking to take back some power, I have a few tips on how to create a work space at home to keep you competitive with all of those C-level posers on Wall Street. So, before you go back to that card table you call a home office, take some A-list design inspiration and create yourself a comfortable and beautiful space to build your empire.

Keeping your at-home, work zone comfortable, yet practical and chic is the key to successfully creating an office that can help you grow your business. However, as most home offices need to fulfill several functions – like guest bedroom, dining room or the space you store your better half's family heirlooms – interior real estate is usually at a premium, and knowing how to effectively lay out your room is key. Read on.

Stay focused. It's important to keep visual clutter to a minimum. Choose storage boxes in one color for all of your magazines, receipts and office supplies – russellandhazel.com offers great, colorful options. These can be displayed on your desk or shelving – keeping needed papers at the ready – while giving you easy clean up at the end of your tasks. If, like many, your office doubles as the family dining table, keeping your office clutter under wraps will help you take a visual break from your office responsibilities while not at work. Most importantly, respect your home office, and the sacred space you've created, by separating work activities from home activities while on the clock. Minimizing distractions will increase productivity and allow you to accomplish your professional goals.



Create a relaxing and beautiful work zone without a desk - just add your laptop or tablet.

Photo courtesy Brandon Neff Design

...continued on page D10



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F. Schlatter, MD, Lafayette, CA - 2012
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James Florey, MD and Pat Gary, MD, Lafayette, CA - 2010



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The Home Designer

...continued from page D8



Create a corner office of your own using comfortable furnishings and plenty of natural light.

Photo courtesy Brandon Neff Design

Go for color. Choose an inspired wall color to increase your productivity. Studies show that women feel depressed in offices painted white, beige or gray, so stick to hues that turn up the energy volume. By the way, orange and purple tend to turn off the guys. Greens, soft blues and yellows, along with rich reds, both invigorate the mind and increase imagination and focus. Try painting just one wall a revved-up shade as a focal point, or take that color even higher and paint the ceiling. Additionally, set up your desk next to natural light – artificial lighting tends to dull productivity, and can stress your nerves after prolonged periods. However, where bulbs are unavoidable, dim the lights – run, don't walk to your local hardware store

and buy a dimmer. Good lighting is essential in an office, and making sure you can control the brightness is key when transitioning from day to evening. Skip the fluorescents, and get halogen bulbs – they more closely mimic natural daylight – giving you and your office a prettier glow. Better yet, for a sexier office try amber bulbs – instant facelift!

Make it personal. Take advantage of creating a work environment that's designed just for you by keeping furnishings, decorative objects and art that you enjoy close at hand. I believe how you work is inspired by where you work, and how you live. Choosing to set up shop at home gives you the opportunity to create a work environment that brings out your best. Personalize your work space with things you love. Look, you can't keep your head buried in your desk all day, so surround yourself with photographs and mementos that make you smile when you come up for air. If you're sharing the space with your partner, ask him or her to incorporate meaningful pieces to harmonize your individual tastes.

Do double duty. If your office also serves as the guest/media/ironing/needlepoint room, choose furniture that serves two purposes. Smaller scale sofas that double as sleepers, or futon-style chairs that unfold offer you a place to sit and catch up on reference reading by day, and offer your unexpected visitor a place to crash. Look for smaller-sized pieces known as "condo" scale furniture that allows you more options for a floor plan that suits your needs. Also, as technology improves, and smaller, more portable devices are available, you may choose to do away with a traditional desk and chair set up, and build an office around a cozy chair and ottoman – hey, if you're going to work in your pajamas you might as well be reclining! (This is meant to be a joke; if you're not willing to dress appropriately for your profession, even at home, you're not taking it seriously.)

Go back in the closet. If space is really limited, annex your closet as a cozy office niche. Remove the doors, slide in a stylish desk, install simple shelving in place of the clothing rod and voila! For added light, mount plug-in adjustable sconces over the desk to save space. And, for even tighter spaces many furniture sellers are producing freestanding armoires that transform into a workstation with storage – just add a comfy desk chair.

As always, purchase the best quality you can afford, and don't scrimp on treating yourself to a little luxury - a simple sterling cup to hold paperclips, or a stack of monogrammed note cards will remind you of your victories along the path of your own private, corporate ladder.

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349 Tharp Drive
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3394 Angelo Street
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3216 Judith Lane
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