The Saint Mary's Beach Volleyball team can be found at the Moraga Commons for practice and games.

Photo Tod Fierner

SMC's beach volleyball gains traction

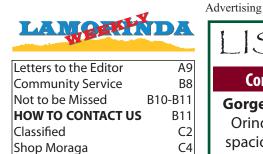
By Jon Kingdon

each volleyball came into existence in the 1920s in Santa Monica with six on a team. Two-person sport, initially calling it "sand volleyball." volleyball teams began in the 1930s. The sport steadily grew with various tournaments and pro circuits, eventually becoming an Olympic sport in 1996 with 42 countries represented.

Browning accepted the challenge of becoming part of this tium, playing each other and not requiring extra coaches growing sport: "In 2013, I sent an email to all of the local colleges and universities and said we should do this

In 2010, the NCAA made it an "emerging" women's together because the only way they will approve it is if we can control our expenses. Along with Pacific and Stan-Saint Mary's College head volleyball coach Rob ford, we took the lead and formed a Bay Area consoror scholarships."

... continued on page A12



Gorgeous Moraga/

Orinda hills view, spacious, updated, 5 Bedrooms in Moraga

Spectacular

Golden Gate Bridge/ San Francisco Skyline view, 3/2 in Berkeley

Big Rossmoor Valley view, beautiful 3/2, 618 Red Wing, Walnut Creek

Angie Evans Traxinger

Realtor 925-305-8677 CalBRE# 01828901

Joan Evans Realtor 925-260-7555 CalBRE# 01168111



Lafayette commissioners' mass resignation causes consternation for some

By Pippa Fisher

ithin a couple of days after the city council's 3-2 vote to adopt an uncompromising policy intended to end any impropriety or perception of impropriety in the planning and the design review commissions, five of the seven members of Lafayette's planning commission had resigned. Whether or not that is cause for panic depends very much on one's point of view.

Proposed by the newest recruits to the council, City Council Member Ivor Samson and Vice Mayor Cam Burks, "Version A," a tough reform on the policy which would demand resignation plus a oneyear post-service period of exclusion rather than the current practice of recusal in cases of conflict of interest, was adopted at the March 26 city council meeting. With Mayor Don Tatzin and Council Member Mike Anderson voting against it, Council Member Mark Mitchell's decision to vote for version A made it a reality.

The decision comes after months of discussion, and input from members of the public overwhelmingly in favor of a resignation policy.

Attorney and Lafayette resident Scott Sommer

says he and many other Lafayette citizens welcome the reform. "Hopefully qualified citizen commissioners will soon be appointed, the PC will be functioning better than ever and this regrettable phase of Lafayette city government will be over."

Sommer says there have been six commissioners from the DRC and PC who have personally appeared for clients before their own and other commissions, even the city council, which he points out is a misdemeanor under the California Political Re-

The Fair Political Practices Commission fined former DRC Commissioner Tim Ward for advocating for a client to his other DRC commissioners. Former PC Commissioner Allen Sayles is now under investigation by the FPPC for appearances for clients in 2015 and 2016.

Architect and former DR commissioner Gordon Chong talks in an emailed letter to the council, of seeing developers "who were well-schooled at co-opting ... the process at each level including the addition of commissioners as 'design consultants' to the initial/ preferred architect team." ... continued on page A11

AUHSD board revises policy banning interdistrict transfers, approves new calendar

By John T. Miller

by John 1. Miller	
Reason	Total
Curricular reasons	36
Parents work in the area	36
Older siblings	16
Recent move out of area	14
Bullvina	3

Reasons for transfers (2017-2018) (Data limited -reasons not disclosed by some districts)

collective sigh of relief could be Aheard in the classrooms, hallways and offices of the Acalanes Union High School District after the school board voted to revise their policy to ban inmeeting.

The board decided to grant admissions for the 2018-19 school year, with a cap of 50 interdistrict transfers in all, and will revisit the issue for the 2019-

20 school year in the fall. After more consultation with community members and a review of alternatives, they will ultimately vote on a potential ban

by Dec. 7. Over 30 speakers spoke against the ban, most of them students, including some of the transfers themselves. Speaker after speaker emphasized that the interdistrict transfers are scholars, leaders, citizens and friends who make AUHSD a stronger and more pluralistic district. No one spoke in favor of

Zahra Hasanain, a senior at Miraterdistrict transfers at their March 21 monte High School where nearly half of the 274 interdistrict transfers attend, said, "Interdistrict transfers have been some of the most interesting, kind, and helpful people I've met on campus.

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Civic News A1-A12

Stormwater fee debate continues – page A5.

Fire Districts

Local connection for many in MOFD – page A8.

Life in Lamorinda B1-B12 Camps

Science in action at Stanley Rube Goldberg event - page



Fun-filled half-day summer camp

listings –

page B5.



Lamorinda high school volleyball season starts strong -

page C1.

B5-B7 Sports



Moraga artist's work featured in home decor page D1.

Our Homes

