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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

Beach volleyball came into existence in the 1920s in Santa Monica with six on a team. Two-person 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.

In 2010, the NCAA made it an "emerging" women's sport, initially calling it "sand volleyball."

Saint Mary's College head volleyball coach Rob Browning accepted the challenge of becoming part of this growing sport: "In 2013, I sent an email to all of the local colleges and universities and said we should do this

together because the only way they will approve it is if we can control our expenses. Along with Pacific and Stanford, we took the lead and formed a Bay Area consortium, playing each other and not requiring extra coaches or scholarships."

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Advertising

LISTINGS WITH A VIEW

Coming Soon:	Coming Soon:	Sold
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

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Lafayette commissioners' mass resignation causes consternation for some

By Pippa Fisher

Within 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 one-year 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 Reform Act.

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

Reason	Total
Curricular reasons	36
Parents work in the area	36
Older siblings	16
Recent move out of area	14
Bullying	3

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

A collective sigh of relief could be heard in the classrooms, hallways and offices of the Acalanes Union High School District after the school board voted to revise their policy to ban interdistrict transfers at their March 21 meeting.

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 the ban.

Zahra Hasanain, a senior at Miramonte 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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