

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Jacqueline Samaniego (Acalanes) scored second place in girls competition (29 divers).

Photos Gint Federas



Josiah Klock of Campolindo takes first at May 7 NCS Diving Championships (26 divers).

Photos Gint Federas

Lamorinda divers score big at NCS; three head to state meet

By Jon Kingdon

Taking a dive is generally a pejorative term when it refers to sporting events. It was just the opposite for the Lamorinda divers in the North Coast Section Diving Championships May 7 at the Concord Community Pool. Of the 29 girls and 26 boys who qualified for the NCS, six were Lamorinda divers.

For the boys, two of the divers qualified for the state tournament – junior Josiah Klock (Campolindo) who came in first and senior Deivi Moretti (Mira-

monte) who came in second. Sophomore Daniel Zabronsky (Campolindo) came in seventh. For the girls, Jacqueline Samaniego (Acalanes) was the sole qualifier for state, finishing second. Junior Haley Tang (Campolindo) came in 16th and freshman Alexia Dunlavey (Acalanes) came in 18th.

Klock, who finished in fourth place last year, was excited about coming out on top this year: “Winning feels great after putting in so much work. It was a tough competition and I’m going to do the same things I’ve been doing in preparing for the

state tournament.”

Will Haynes is the diving coach for Acalanes, Campolindo, Miramonte and Las Lomas and explained why Klock was so successful: “Josiah made a great transformation from last year. He is more muscled, well balanced and very consistent. He is able to move the diving board and get a lot of energy. He always has good form and as a junior has another year to improve.”

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MOFD makes history with all-female engine company

By Nick Marnell

For the first time in the 22-year history of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, an all-female crew was assigned to a shift, with acting Capt. Janet Brandi-Routt partnering with acting engineer Julie Murphy and firefighter-paramedic Katy Himsl. The landmark engine company worked out of Fire Station 42 in Moraga on May 8.

“I’m actually surprised it’s taken this long for it to happen,” said Brandi-Routt, a 21-year district veteran. According to Brandi-Routt, having the required job classifications fall in such perfect alignment was the reason that the all-female crew finally came together. She and Murphy are regularly assigned to Station 42, and when Himsl pulled the overtime shift to fill a crew vacancy, district history was made.

MOFD has been ahead of the curve in the employment of female firefighters for many years, and earlier this decade, prior to a retirement and a firefighter moving to

a district nearer her home, nearly 10 percent of the district suppression roster included women. Today, three of the 48 district fire suppression personnel are women, still above the national average of 4 percent.

“It’s good for the community,” Himsl said. “People know that Julie and I grew up here, and they like seeing us on the job.” Murphy added that it is empowering for young girls to know that they have role models in a traditionally male occupation.

“Moraga-Orinda has always been forward thinking and has always recognized equal opportunity,” said Vince Wells, Local 1230 president. “This (landmark event) was especially significant considering the small size of the district.”

Jerry Lee, the battalion chief on duty that day, reflected his pride in the close-knit ties among all district personnel. “Member diversity has never been a problem here,” Lee said. “This milestone is just another example of great things going on in our organization.”



Photo Andy Scheck

From Left: Katy Himsl, Julie Murphy and Janet Brandi-Routt

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