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New tea shop in Orinda attracts all ages



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Ada and Hadley Nolen waiting for their wintermelon lemonade tea at Sharetea, Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

Since its grand opening at the end of February, Sharetea in the newly remodeled building

at 41 Moraga Way in the Theatre District has been attracting tea drinkers of all ages. Sean Yee holds the franchise from Sharetea, a long-standing company that originated in Taiwan.

The Orinda shop offers an extensive menu of drinks including ice cream drinks, hot tea and, of course, boba tea. Customers can choose from fruit teas, milk teas, fresh milk with black, green or oolong tea, matcha, coffee, and cocoa. There are signature, non-alcoholic mojitos, brewed hot teas, and ice blended teas with pearls, pudding, ice cream or jellies. Customers can select the desired level of ice, the level of sweetness, ranging from 30 to 100%, and toppings, which cost an additional 75 cents. Creama adds \$1.25 to the base prices, which range from \$4 to \$5.75.

Yee says that the classic milk tea with pearls and the Thai iced tea with pearls are really popular. He adds that his customers range over all ages and all ethnicities. "It's not just an Asian thing!" he says. In the afternoon, the shop tends to be busy with children and teens, while on the weekends, families come in. During the day, business people stop by for a drink. Yee currently employs 18 staff members. Yee himself can be found serving tea, and his wife also helps with the business, when she is not working at her part-time job as a human resources manager. Yee, who spent 12 years working as an attorney while his wife has worked in the food and beverage industry all her life, grew up in Orinda and his parents and two sisters still live here. Sharetea is Yee's first franchise.

Voters reject half-cent sales tax increase for transportation

By Sora O'Doherty

Measure J on the March 3 ballot failed to garner the two-thirds vote required to pass a revenue measure, although it did exceed half the vote. Therefore, for the third time, Contra Costa voters refused to extend the half-cent sales tax dedicated to transportation. Nevertheless, the current half-cent sales tax for transportation, adopted by the voters in 2004, will continue until 2034. The ballot measure had been supported by every municipal council in Contra Costa County, as well as by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors.

Orinda Vice Mayor Amy Worth is also an ex officio

commissioner of the Contra Costa County Transportation Authority. "At this point," she said on March 10, "we are waiting for all the returns." She acknowledged that the vote may have been influenced by economic concerns with the market and in particular the effect the coronavirus will have on the market. However she said that the CCTA will just see how to keep moving forward with all programs. "We have another 16 years of the programs to do," she explained, "but there is no capital funding." Further complicating matters, in order to qualify for state or federal matching funds, she said, you have to have local money. Without it, there may

not be funding to do the larger projects.

Another complicating factor is that right now, the CCTA is covered by special legislation that allows them to exceed the 2% local cap on sales tax. That legislative exemption ends on Election Day in November. Although CCTA could go back to the voters in November, Worth deems that unlikely. Before a new measure could be brought to the public after November, new legislation would be required to allow CCTA to exceed the sales tax cap.

The CCTA board was scheduled to meet on March 18.

March 3, 2020 Unofficial Election Results

Updated Friday, March 13, 2020, 2:44:46 PM

J - CONTRA COSTA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY, 2/3 required to pass

Yes 146,058 50.60% No 142,586 49.40%

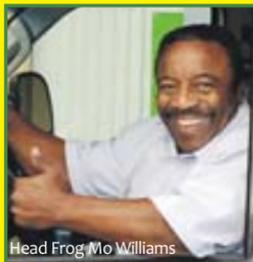
M - MORAGA SCHOOL DISTRICT, 2/3 required to pass

Yes 4,734 70.27% No 2,003 29.73%

L - LAFAYETTE SCHOOL DISTRICT, 2/3 required to pass

Yes 8,977 72.60% No 3,388 27.40%

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In Memory

Jeanette Margaret Bergfeld

1924-2020



Under a full moon in Leo, the soul of Jeanette Margaret Bergfeld (nee Carroll) took to the high winds of February 9. She was welcomed into Heaven by God, Nana, Poppo, Earl, Greg, Mary Jane, Hal, Bill, Charles and many other cherished relatives and friends. She was born in Grand Junction, Colorado and came to the Bay Area as a baby. She grew up with her large, happy family on 41st Avenue in Oakland and attended St. Elizabeth's Catholic School. She was a great beauty with naturally curly hair and twinkling blue eyes. She danced the jitterbug with her brothers and crowds would gather

to watch. She graduated from Providence School of Nursing and was proud of her skills. At a USO dance she saw a handsome soldier, Earl, and while he was dancing with another, she tapped him on the shoulder and said "Wasn't this our dance?" It was love at first sight, with marriage and five darling kids to follow, Carol, Greg, Jim, Sally and Dede. The family moved from Berkeley to Moraga in 1960 and her home on Larch Avenue was where all the neighborhood kids congregated. She would say "Set another place at the table, there's always room for one more!" She is survived by her children, eleven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, her wonderful younger sister, Nancy, and many nieces and nephews. Jeanette was spoiled and sassy and wild and loving and can never be replaced. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at St. Monica Church, Moraga at a future date.

In Memory

Kevin R. Montoya, aka "Hadztse"

September 5, 1969 – January 31, 2020



Kevin R. Montoya, aka "Hadztse", his family given Indian name, passed away on January 31, 2020, in San Francisco. Kevin was born on September 5, 1969, in San Pablo to parents Robert or "Bob" and Donna Montoya. Kevin's father Bob was a Pueblo Indian of Laguna, N.M., a heritage Kevin embraced. He was raised in Napa where he attended St. John's Lutheran School and graduated from Vintage High School in 1987.

Kevin would continue his football career at San Francisco State where he played for 2 years. He then transferred to play football at UNLV. He returned to the Bay Area to attend the University of California at Berkeley where he majored in Economics. While at "Cal" Kevin joined Theta Delta Chi fraternity where he would make many lifelong friends.

After graduating from Cal Kevin worked as a Wealth Advisor for Dean Witter-Morgan Stanley working his way to becoming a Senior Vice President of the firm. During his years in San Francisco Kevin and his wife, Nicole, enjoyed living in the Marina District. It was Kevin's father who introduced Kevin to his favorite San Francisco teams, the Forty-Niners and the Giants as Bob worked in concessions at Candlestick Park. Kevin was a lifelong fan of the two local teams.

Kevin and his wife, Nicole, moved out of the city in 2003 to raise their two children in Lafayette. They became active members in their community serving as Lacrosse coaches, Soccer coaches, volunteers at their swim club, HOA presidents, classroom volunteers, team managers and more. Their children attended Happy Valley School, Stanley Middle School and are now both at Acalanes High School. Kevin loved talking about his children and was so very proud of them. They were his pride and joy.

Kevin is survived by his wife Nicole, son Robert (17) and daughter Katherine (15) of Lafayette; his brother Steven of Albuquerque, N.M., and his sister Melanie of Napa. He will be very missed by all that really knew him.

A Celebration of Life Service was held at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church on Saturday, March 14, at 2:00 p.m.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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