

Sweet Event at the Mercantile

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The rush for sweets: Powell's opens the doors at Lafayette Mercantile

Alessandra was visiting from Berkeley when she got the lucky bar. "I got some good chocolate here," says the young 3rd grader, showing a bar of Scharffenberger chocolate. "I have tons of bubble gums, M&M and sour Jelly Bellies." In the store, she found a 1961 DVD for her daddy and a birthday card for her younger brother. Kacey, a freshman at Acalanes High School, was

lucky that parent Richard got a Golden Ticket. He shared it with her. "It's fantastic here," said the Walnut Creek resident, "they have collections of sweets for all ages and all at the same place." Adults can get hard-to-find candies like Flicks, wax lips, Big Hunks and Razzles; you have to be a certain age to know why those are special.

At 5pm sharp the store opened to the public. There was

a rush of exited children and teens. In a time of fight against children obesity one could wonder about the value of such a store. "This is totally part of childhood," said a mother who'd rather stay unnamed, "kids won't come here everyday, but it's a fun place for an occasional treat, just to put a little more sweetness in our lives." Lafayette resident Laura Easley, Ella's mother, is adamant, "I'll probably be back once a week for myself; I love this place." Obviously the charming and slender mother needn't concern herself about her silhouette.

"We have a small non-sugar section in the back of the store that will grow," says Didi, "our sorbet from Gelato Classico in Concord are 85% fruit and one of our ice creams is sugarless." Pleasure without the guilt! Is that reasonable?

Powell's Sweet Shoppe is located at 3591 Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

Walking & Pampering for a Cause

By Cathy Tyson

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce member Amy Davanzante, owner of Pamper My Party, wanted to make a difference. She's donating 30% of all sales during the months of April and May to ten members of the Bella Donna Social Club, a local women's group, to help with their fundraising requirement of \$18,000 for their team in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer.

It seems like a great idea, helping women feel better via her pampering parties and helping to fight breast cancer at the same time. Davanzante started her business three years ago to provide a luxurious spa experience to women in the comfort of their own homes. Her business, Pamper My Party provides spa services to groups usually for baby and bridal showers, but she's even done a menopause party. "Taking care of yourself is

vital, and I think social support for women is important," said Davanzante. Choices of treatments include massage therapy, hand and foot treatments, collagen masks and more.



The Avon Walk for Breast Cancer will be held in nine cities across the country. The San Francisco Walk, on July 12 - 13 starts in downtown San Francisco and continues across the bridge and alongside the Sausalito waterfront. The money raised is managed by the Avon Founda-

tion, a registered charity to advance access to care and finding a cure for breast cancer. A chunk of that money stays locally, San Francisco General Hospital and UCSF received \$1.25 million, Marin County Department of Health received \$400,000, Contra Costa Health Services received \$200,000 along with a number of other organizations in years past.

The savvy Avon Foundation emphasizes returning funds to Walk locales and places a priority on reaching low income, elderly, minorities and the growing number of folks with little or no health insurance.

For more information on the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, go to www.avonfoundation.org. For more information on Pamper My Party, go to www.pampermyparty.com

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Miramonte Performs Les Mis
By Andrea A. Firth



Max and Daniel Coleman rehearsing for Les Misérables at Miramonte. Photo provided by Miramonte. "The immense talent of the Miramonte students makes this possible access to the... The major difficulty with the role is demonstrating my age," says Max. "The age difference between my character and me is about 50 years! Another difficulty

is that I have to show that I am dying of consumption (tuberculosis) throughout the entire play." Max and his fraternal twin brother Daniel, who plays Thenardiers the corrupt innkeeper in the play, have been performing since they were and mom could not sing these wretched songs. "The themes of Les Misérables are courage and unyielding belief." He clarifies that the role did not come easily but he was found ways to perform today. Les Misérables is being performed at the School Theatre in (Orinda) on 15 at 7:30 pm, 22 at 7:30 pm, 22 at noon. Tickets purchased at High School Theatre or at the



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