

JOIN US!
 7TH ANNUAL SUMMER
WINE FESTIVAL
 SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2011
 Saint Mary's College
 2-5 p.m.
 \$35 per person until August 7
 (\$45 thereafter)
 Register today at stmarys-ca.edu/wine or
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SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA

Young Soldier Welcomed Home from Afghanistan

By Cathy Tyson Photo Doug Kohen



With over twenty flag-festooned motorcycles driven by Warriors' Watch Riders honking horns, dolled up cars and trucks, and a very shiny tricked-out blue corvette carrying the guest of honor – it was hard to miss the Welcome Home

Celebration for HM3 Corpsman David Polse on a recent Friday evening. Patrons at Chow restaurant were as surprised as Polse when this colorful parade came to escort him to the surprise gala at his home.

Master of Ceremonies and Diablo Valley Flag Brigade Co-Founder Bryan Welden greeted everyone, "They make sacrifices so we can enjoy a free America. We're here to honor our military upon their return." ... continued on page A8

Quote of the Week:
 "June 28, it was raining in the master bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, dining room and family room."
 Read Letters to the Editor, page A10

Advertising

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LAMORINDA

Town News	A2 - A9
Letters to the Editor	A10
Sports	B1-B4
Schools	B5
Shop Orinda	B6
Life in Lamorinda	C1-C10
HOW TO CONTACT US	C2
Service Directory	C4
Not to be Missed	C8
Food	C9
Classified	C9
Our Homes	D1-D12
This Week Read About:	
Fix Our Roads	A2
Historical Hacienda Photos	A5
Revised Senior Housing Plan	A6
Bottoms Up!	B4
The Verona Project	C1
Jazz for Joplin	C2
Police Cadet Program	C3
Parents, Teens, and Alcohol	C5
Summer Food Fun	C9



Photo Doug Kohen

The Spirit of Competition Alive at 45th Annual Lafayette City Meet ...read on page B1

Orinda Property Tax Revenues Down 3%

By Andrea A. Firth

After wrestling to balance the City's budget in June, the Orinda City Council will have to find \$94,000 to close a newly discovered revenue shortfall due to a less than optimistic property tax report from the County Assessor's office. Current property tax revenues, which are based on taxes collected in the 2010 calendar year (reported property tax runs about 18 months in arrears), are down 3% as compared to 2009. ... continued on page A6

Sports/Schools B1-B6

Value by Design: Understanding the Artistic Student

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

What educational direction to take is ultimately a personal decision based on an individual's interests, strengths and needs. A Bachelor in Fine Arts (BFA) may be well worth the time and investment if it adds a firm foundation of skills to talent you already possess and... read on page B5

Life in Lamorinda C1-C10

Local Authors Fill Shelves at Orinda Books

Lamorinda is home to a wide variety of talented authors. Whether you're shopping for a children's book, or in the mood for an entertaining summer romance or something to enlighten and educate, there is probably a tome penned by a local author that's just what you're looking for. ... read on page C1

Our Homes D1-D12

Gathering 'Round the Railroad

By Diana LaScala-Gruenewald

Under a flowering and tree lined hummock, a lumberjack loads up the bed of his truck. A moose, stock still near a curtain of waterfall, regards a downstream fisherman whose knees are deep in a glassy pool. read on page D1