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Kevin Bernie tells his story while standing near one of 300 Redwoods he planted in Moraga.

Photo Andy Schreck

Moraga's Johnny Redwood Seed

By Cathy Dausman

Arbor Day is April 27, but what's that got to do with Moraga? Just ask Kevin Bernie. Bernie's family calls him Don Quixote, but instead of tilting at windmills, he spent years planting redwood trees in the town.

Those trees are a fitting tribute, said Bernie, considering the town's original name of Rancho Laguna de los Palos Col-

orados (Ranch of the Lake of Redwoods). But why did a Saint Mary's College graduate, and businessman with a law degree invest in the future by planting 300 seedlings that can grow to 300 feet tall? "I had a thing for trees," he said. A thing, indeed.

Bernie recounted the California East Bay history of the late

1800s, when post-gold rush inhabitants nearly stripped the Berkeley hills bare of their native redwoods. He learned to love the beautiful Muir Woods redwood groves, and the "magnificent" grove in Sequoia National Park south of Yosemite. Bernie wasn't out to save the world; he only wanted to "plant the tree."

... continued on page A12

Quote of the Week:

"Please thank anyone from the police force, fire fighters, town council and volunteers...who make Moraga the best place that I have ever lived."

Read Letters to the Editor, page A9

Advertising

New Lamorinda Listings ~ Additional Information on Page D4



Lafayette - \$1,850,000



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Fire Station Open House Sparks Interest

By Cathy Tyson



MOFD Fire Fighter Adam Goodyear from station 45 helps Mason Batt (4) of Orinda out of the fire truck. Big sister Miranda Batt (6) follows. Photo Andy Schreck

Was it the sunshine, the Farmers' Market right down the block, clever Dalmatian bouncy house, or the lure of a hot dog lunch that made the Spring Open House for the Moraga Orinda Fire District the place to be on a recent Saturday? Young families with pre-schoolers were in abundance, ready to check out the fire trucks on display at the downtown Orinda Fire Station.

Darcy Musso, the mother of Ty Bruton, an enthusiastic 4 1/2 -year-old, reported her son's always wanted to be a fireman. With a much needed boost to the driver's seat, he got his wish - however briefly. A number of their family members are police and fire personnel, said Musso.

Decked out in a firefighter-superhero ensemble, complete with red plastic fire hat, snappy red cape, and red high-tops, 2 1/2 -year-old Avery Coats from Orinda was obviously thrilled to be the man/boy behind the wheel. It's not every day a toddler gets to "drive" a massive paramedic unit. ... continued on page A11

MOFD Board Considers New Option to House Administrative Staff

By Lucy Amaral

The Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board of Directors once again revisited the concept of consolidating its administrative staff into one building and renovating Station 41 in Moraga. At the April 18 Board of Director's meeting, Fire Chief Randy Bradley noted several options that had been discussed before, then ended up recommending a new option.

A facilities report approved by the MOFD Board in April, 2011 cited the need to retrofit Station 41 in order to bring it up to ADA standards. The report also addressed administrative staff needs. ... continued on page A11

Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

Poetry - A Team Sport

When poetry, chalk, and youthful enthusiasm collided, Laurie Snyder was there. B1



Sports C1-C3



SMC Golf Wins!

A first-ever WCC title, won on a long shot. Rebecca Eckland has the story. C2

Our Homes D1-D12



Kitchen Tour

Roslynn Aragon Stenzel previews the Lafayette Juniors' Kitchen Tour D1