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St. Patrick's Evening of Dinner, Music and Show with Silent Auction emceed by Dick Callahan, 5:30 to 10 p.m., Sunday, March 15 at the Soda Center at Saint Mary's College. Traditional corned beef and cabbage (chicken fettuccine) dinner. Wine included at dinner. Cost: \$45 per person - inclusive. Musical review: Beach Blanket Babylon. Sponsored by Saint Mary's College Guild. Call Cynthia Kelly (925) 388-0437 for reservations.

We Walk for Noah benefitting **George Mark Children's House** and in memory of Noah, who was 4 1/2 months old when he passed away from complications from Biliary Atresia, a rare childhood liver disease. The walk begins at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, March 15 at the Lafayette Reservoir. Registration available online at www.FierceLittleWarrior.com.

Moraga Women's Society will feature a speaker from Eldercare Services, who will discuss "Safety in the Home" at 10:45 a.m. Monday, March 16. All are welcome to attend this free event. The Society is also holding an Antique Appraisal Event by Michaan's Auctions from 3 to 7 p.m. Friday, March 20 at Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Hours by appointment. Cost: \$20 for two appraisals or \$25 for three. Receive a verbal appraisal by certified appraisers for fine art, Asian art, coins and stamps, furniture and decorative arts, and miscellaneous. For info, call Jean Glaser at (925) 376-7961. Appraisers donate their services. All proceeds benefit Moraga schools.

"The Old Yellow House" **Historical Society Fundraiser** - Join us at 7 p.m.

◆ **Not to be missed** ◆

Thursday, March 19 for an evening to learn more about Orinda's history, the making of Net Zero Homes, and harnessing natural energy from the sun, earth, and rain, Orinda Theatre, 4 Orinda Theatre Square. James Phillip Wright has resurrected the Old Yellow House to showcase green architectural construction and natural energy systems. Cost: \$12. (See related story page D1)

"Timbuktu" - Award winner and Oscar nominee is making its Contra Costa premiere at the Orinda Theatre March 20. Not far from Timbuktu, now ruled by religious fundamentalists, Kidane lives peacefully in the dunes with his wife Satima, his daughter Toya, and Issan, their 12-year-old shepherd, spared from the chaos of Timbuktu. But their destiny changes when Kidane accidentally kills Amadou, the fisherman who slaughtered "GPS," his beloved cow. "Timbuktu" is Mauritania's first entry for the Best Foreign Language Film Academy Award.

Lafayette Hiking Group will hike the George Miller Trail, Martinez. The group meets at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot of Lafayette BART's main entrance on Saturday, March 21 before carpooling to the trailhead. Bring lunch or snacks, water, layered clothing, good walking shoes, sun protection and money to contribute toward gas, bridge tolls and parking (\$3). Distance: six miles, moderate. Leader: Michael Johnson. For info, email LafayetteHiking@comcast.net. Another hike from Bear Valley to Arch Rock, Point Reyes National Seashore is scheduled for Saturday, March 28.

The Elfenworks Center for Responsible Business at Saint Mary's College of California is hosting a half-day conference on Business and the Challenges of Inequality from 12:30 to 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 27 to bring together people in academe, business, government and the general public to engage in a thoughtful dialog on this topic. Tickets: \$20 for general public; \$10 Saint Mary's alumni; free for current faculty and students. For more details and to RSVP, visit <http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/business-and-the-challenges-of-inequality>.

USA Synchro will host the 2015 U.S. National Synchronized Swimming Championships April 1-4 at SODA Aquatic Center in Moraga. Around 30 teams from all over the country, including two international teams, Canada and Puerto Rico, will travel to Moraga to compete. The championship will consist of solo, duet, team and combination events. The championship will also feature the 2015 U.S. Senior National Team. Find out more, including a schedule, at www.usasynchro.org.

Registrations are being accepted for the Moraga Classic Car Show. Area residents who own classic cars are invited to participate in the 7th annual Moraga Classic Car Show, which takes

place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 9 as part of the 2015 Moraga Community Faire. The \$30 registration fee includes an entry ribbon, lunch for two, a commemorative photo, and a chance for owners to display their restoration work to the public. Prizes will be awarded. The registration deadline is May 1. To register, go to www.moragachamber.org/faire or call Gloria at (925) 247-4473 or Jason at (925) 788-3889.

SENIORS

Sons In Retirement - Branch 116 welcomes guests to socialize at monthly luncheon beginning at 11 a.m. Monday, March 16 at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. The speaker will be Bernat Rosner, author of "An Uncommon Friendship," which tells the unique story of two youths trapped on opposite sides of the Holocaust. For lunch reservations, call (925) 322-1160. Cost: \$15.

Art of Balance presentation by physical therapist Anne Randolph. If you are worried about falling or are at risk of falling, you should know about activities that improve balance. Learn how to gain increased balance and avoid the risk of falling from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 25 in the Elderberry Room, Lafayette Community Center. Cost: free for members; \$10 non-Members.

GARDEN

Get Your Garden Growing from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 15 at the Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center, 3932 Mt Diablo Blvd. Topics include building raised beds and prepping your edible garden for spring. This class is free; however, a \$5 donation is appreciated to support education programs. To register for classes or for more info, visit www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org.

Moraga Garden Club will meet at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, March 19 at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Social hour at 9:30 a.m., meeting at 10 a.m. featuring speaker Johanna Silver, associate editor/gardening of Sunset Magazine, who will discuss "Behind the Scenes in the Sunset Test Gardens." Non members are welcome.

Montelindo Garden Club will meet at 9 a.m. Friday, March 20 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda, featuring Howard Arendtson, owner of H. Julien Designs, Berkeley. Visitors welcome. For info, visit www.montelindogarden.com.

Spring into Spring at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21 at the Lafayette Community Garden. As the earth turns to spring, the garden plants all curl toward the sun. Enjoy story time, discovery and crafty curls.

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**Service Clubs
Announcements**



Explore Lamorinda Rotary clubs The heart of Rotary is our clubs- dedicated people who share a passion for both community service and friendship. Learn about Lamorinda's Rotary clubs.

A global volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

Please join us at our new location
THE LAFAYETTE PARK HOTEL
on Friday mornings at 7am.
For more info, please email us at
lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

March 13: Come and learn more about what's going on in Lafayette from our speaker Lafayette Police Chief Eric Christensen.	March 20: Theresa Harrington, education reporter for the CC Times, will speak to us about linked learning and best educational practices.
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Please join us for a great speaker and breakfast!!

Lafayette Rotary Club

Step in on a Thursday. If you are interested in joining Rotary we welcome you to join one of our lunch meetings. Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

March 19: Mo Levich and Frank Como will present "King David Suite", a song written by Lionel Hampton and arranged by Frank Como.	March 26: Troy Feddersen will present the craft of brewing beer. "Beer is proof that God wants us to be happy" Benjamin Franklin
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www.rotarylafayette.org

MOVIE REVIEW

'Chappie'

By Derek Zembrak



Image provided

Chappie is not a kid's film. It is not "Short Circuit" or "ET." "Chappie" is rated R for violence, language and nudity. The story, if you can call it that, takes place in the near future where a man-made mechanical police force patrols for crime. Gangster thugs steal Chappie (Sharlto Copley) - one of the robots - and reprogram him to become a criminal gang member.

Neill Blomkamp, a South African native who previously directed "Elysium" (2013), "District 9" (2009) and "Stargate G5-1," directs "Chappie." All I can say is his films have been deteriorating over the years. "Chappie" is a movie with totally unlikeable characters. It is sad to see quality actors such as Oscar nominees Hugh Jackman ("Les Misérables"), Sigourney Weaver ("Gorillas in the Mist,"

"Working Girl," "Aliens") and talented young actor Dev Patel ("Slumdog Millionaire," "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel") take acting jobs just for a paycheck. They could not have read the script and said, "This is a great project; sign me up."

The following is an example of how low this film takes us. In the opening scene the thugs are running away from the police and their street thug language is so bad, vulgar and difficult to understand that even though they are speaking English, Blomkamp tries to help the audience relate by adding subtitles to the dialogue.

Jackman is so miscast that you can see his discomfort on the screen. In one scene, while staking out the gang members, he is running around in his "Reno 911" shorts as the audience giggles. This is an embarrassment for him and his career.

I gave up during the pit bull dog-fighting scene and decided to leave the theater. I only wasted one hour of my life that I will never get back, instead of two. "Chappie" should have been destroyed at the script stage and never seen the light of day. Don't say I didn't warn you about this pile of scrap metal junk!

Be sure to watch, Real to Reel every Sunday at 2:30 p.m. on KOFY TV20, the Bay Area's only talk show about "Everything Entertainment in the Bay Area," hosted by Derek Zembrak and Leonard Pirkle.