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# **Pickleball**

... continued from page A6



People play Pickleball at Orinda Community Park.

After the wind calmed it was decided menting on the ease of play, remarked that on-court objects could also be to that "the hardest part was keeping the blame. Rookie Dave Wolden became the first player to draw our attention to an obstructive pine needle, which he claimed was responsible for his missed return. I was skeptical at first, but after badly missing my serve I was forced to conclude that this pesky pine needle had most likely blown over with the wind and lodged itself under my shoe, wrecking havoc on my traction.

During the entire two hours we only took breaks to re-erect the windembattled net and we only stopped when the Parks and Rec Department needed its equipment back. Despite dripping with sweat one player, com-

score," and added. "I'll be here next Thursday!"

I believe Pickleball's popularity also lies in its accessibility. Aging tennis players will find that the sport offers a comparable experience to tennis, but that the shrunken court demands less impact while still offering good exercise. Young athletes will appreciate the economy of Pickeball gear in comparison to other sports equipment.

It's worth mentioning that a few spectators stopped by, no doubt amused by the novel sight, as I had weeks before. Considering Pickleball's continued expansion, one wonPhoto provided

ders how big its future might be. The USAPA is optimistic, pointing to the upcoming first-ever professional live broadcast of the Pickleball National Championship as a sign of the sport's explosion. According to a USAPA representative, the organization sees Pickleball becoming an Olympic sport sooner rather than later. Who knows, yesterday's spectator could be tomorrow's paid Pickleballer.

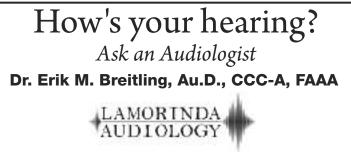
Pickleball is played at Orinda Community Center Park from 2 to 4 every Thursday, excepting rain and holidays. Cost: \$3 for Orinda residents; \$4 for non-residents. For info. visit www.cityoforinda.com, Parks and Recreation Department, adult programs.

# **Olive Lovers Rejoice!**

### Orinda Olive Festival happens Oct. 4

Leverything olive, from the studies programs for K-5 Orinda chemistry of olive oil to how to make olive branch crowns and wreaths or create olive-inspired recipes, at the 6th Annual Orinda Olive Festival from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4 at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area, 350 Camino Pablo in Orinda. This free, family-friendly event, sponsored by the Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area, celebrates olives, of course, as well as the historic Wagner Ranch, which includes its 130-year-old Mission Olive Grove. Optional donations the-Love-for-Olives-in-thissupport outdoor, hands-on envi-

amorindans can learn about ronmental science and social Unified School District students. Multiple vendors will offer samples of olives, olive oils and vinegars, docents will provide tours of the 18-acre property, and there will be arts and crafts, games, food and live music for everyone to enjoy. For more information, visit http://fwrna.org. (See Susie Iventosch's Sharp Cheddar Olive Beer Bread recipe in the Sept. 9 Lamorinda Weekly archives at http://www.lamorindaweekly.co m/archive/issue0914/Showing-Cheesy-Beer-Bread.html.) J. Wake



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