

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY



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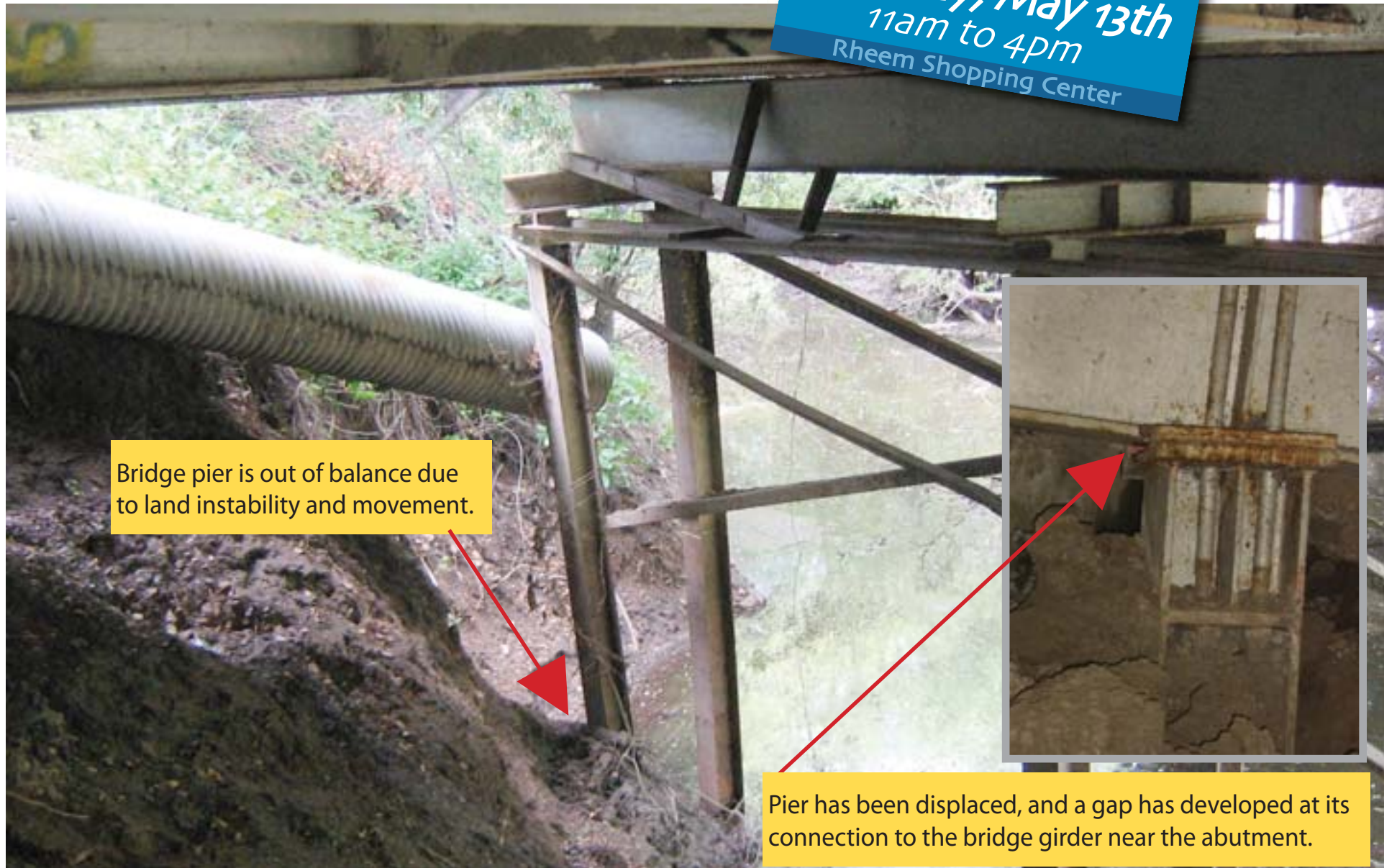
Pony Rides  
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11th Annual  
**MORAGA COMMUNITY FAIRE & CAR SHOW**  
Saturday, May 13th  
11am to 4pm  
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A landslide reached and damaged the Canyon Bridge foundation.

Photo provided

## Canyon bridge closed indefinitely

By Sophie Braccini

When the Canyon bridge closed quickly and surprisingly on the evening of April 18, it impacted more than just drivers in local communities. Currently, not even pedestrians or bicyclists are authorized to cross the bridge that commands one of the only five exits out of the town of Moraga, prompting the town to declare a state of emergency. The situation is particularly frustrating for the neighboring

community of Canyon (see story below), and it presents several important challenges for Moraga: How unstable is the upslope hill which movement destabilized the bridge, what is needed to permanently stabilize it, should a temporary bridge be installed, how much will it cost, and is someone to be blamed for the closure? The town says its first priority is to reopen a passage between the communities. The bridge is closed indefinitely.

Moraga Town Manager Robert Priebe said that on Monday, April 17 his staff was contacted by EBMUD engineers who were placing instrumentation on the landslide that started in January of last year. "They noticed some visible movements (closer to the bridge) and called us," Priebe said. ... continued on page A11

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## School access is the No. 1 concern for Canyon residents

By Nick Marnell



Everyone is welcome, but they'll have a tough time getting there. Photo Nick Marnell

The closure of the Canyon bridge may present an inconvenience to Moragans seeking a traffic-free route to Oakland, but to Canyon residents, the closure poses a serious life safety issue. "On April 18, the town of Moraga precipitously closed the Canyon Road bridge, endangering the Canyon community and especially the Canyon school students," Canyon Elementary School board member Brian Coyle told the county Board of Supervisors, his statement an allusion to the opening sentence of Pulitzer Prize-winning "The Bridge of San Luis Rey." He said that Moraga has demonstrated engineering incompetence by not providing a temporary walkway, and he asked the supervisors to assume authority of the project. Moraga closed the bridge indefinitely after it determined earth movement had compromised the structural integrity of the bridge. School Principal Lucia Sullivan also requested that the county step in. ... continued on page A12

## Local experts try to predict Lamorinda's retail future

By Victor Ryerson



The panelists from left, Steve Falk, Irene Chen, Tomas Gomez-Arias, Steve Salomon and Larry Tessler. Photo Amer Budayr

Restaurants, along with spas and salons, may be the key to Lamorinda's retail success in the future because they are "internet proof" and inherently require the presence of the customer. That was the consensus of five local business, government, and academic experts who offered their perspectives on the future of Lamorinda's retail business community at The Lamorinda Business Forum program, "The Future of Retail: What Will Downtown Look Like 10 Years from Now?" ... continued on page A10

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Moms' groups still play together – page B1

Young Acalanes softball team scores big – page C1.



Kitchen tour reveals some delicious designs – page D1.