

LAMORINDA WEEKLY



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Photo Gint Federas

Best sports pics of 2017

Sports photography is not a forgiving art. Capturing emotion, movement, a specific play or the right player can make the difference between print and cut – and not many visual artists face a throng of athletes rushing at them at full speed, either, so this art form is not for the faint of heart. But Lamorinda Weekly sports photographer Gint Federas, who takes up to 1,200 shots per game, knows when you get it right, it's golden, like in this instance, when Federas captured the euphoria of the Campolindo High School foot-

ball team winning the NCS Championship on Dec. 1.

"I stood in front of Campo's likely path as it makes for a more dramatic shot," Federas said. "The team lined up at the 40-yard line, but Campo fans lined up on the goal-line. I took photos from the 50 yard-line, then ran around to the 20 yard-line expecting something might happen. That's when the whole team started running at me."

Federas says he has never been knocked over ... yet. "There have been a few close calls in football games on the

sidelines. I keep both eyes open when shooting to adjust to the action faster, and get out of the way when bodies come hurling my way."

Lately Federas says he's been teaching his son Andrew the art of sports photography. "He has been knocked over more than once when a sideline tackle knocked his legs out from under him." (See Lamorinda Weekly's best sports photos of the year on page C2.) - J. Wake

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State throws down caution flag over tower repair plans

By Nick Marnell



Photo courtesy EBMUD

The base isolator design being considered by the East Bay Municipal Utility District to retrofit the Lafayette Reservoir outlet tower has received lukewarm support from a state regulatory agency.

The California Division of Safety of Dams this summer released new classifications and ratings for its statewide jurisdictional dams and the agency found that, of the 22 dams owned by EBMUD, all received a satisfactory rating but one: the Lafayette Reservoir. DSOD said that the Lafayette dam can be

operated safely in current conditions, but the reservoir outlet tower was vulnerable to a seismic event. Though EBMUD had planned to retrofit the tower by 2022, the state agency said the proposed timeline was unacceptable, with continued delays "increasing the potential risk to public safety."

EBMUD and its consultants worked on several models for retrofitting the tower and submitted the base isolator option to the agency for review in August.

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LimeBike coming to Lamorinda?

By Sora O'Doherty



Photo provided

LimeBike is a relatively new company that launched last January. The company provides rental bicycles in many locations in the U.S., including college campuses and cities. The scheme is different from others because LimeBike doesn't use docks or racks. Customers can locate the bikes with an app that uses GPS technology to show where available bikes are located, and can then take the bike for a rental charge of \$1 per half hour, leaving the bike locked at their destination for another user to find and use.

LimeBike is investigating whether its product is suitable for communities such

as Orinda, Lafayette, Moraga and Walnut Creek. A LimeBike representative presented its plans to the Orinda City Council on Dec. 19. The obvious appeal to the council is that the city is not required to make any financial contribution to this plan, and there is no need to build or allow special racks for the bikes, which are, predictably, painted a vivid lime green.

Should the company decide to proceed, and the governments of those jurisdictions approve, LimeBike would launch what would probably be a six-month trial period to see how the service fares.

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