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Nurtury PRESCHOOL AT MVPC

OPEN HOUSE

Friday, February 21st

9:30AM

See our Open House

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Hank the horse walks into the Roundup, then critiques Carole Sinclair's pool stance on a recent visit to the saloon. Photos provided

A horse walks into a bar...

By Pippa Fisher

What's to be done at the local saloon when there's no hitching post? Why, ride 'em right in, of course. It is certainly not an everyday sight, but that's what a posse of eight cowgirls led by Farmyard Darlings co-founders Kim Berry and Carole Sinclair, did Jan. 20 in a joint celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Berry's birthday at the Roundup Saloon in Lafayette.

Before popping into the Roundup for a cold one, the girls had lunch at American Kitchen, 'parking' their horses at meters, making sure they

had put money in first, naturally. Staff from nearby Tutu's brought carrots out for the horses. And then it was on to the Roundup for a game of pool and a drink with their well-trained horses beside them.

Berry, who owns the Lafayette-based country home style store Farmyard Darlings with Sinclair, says, "It's a great tradition that we started several years ago when Farmyard Darlings moved to 20 Lafayette Circle."

Berry explains they wanted to find a way to really engage with the community, "And we thought what better way to do that than to ride through town on horseback and see the smiling faces of

both young and old as we walk on by. Some of these people have never seen and/or even been able to touch a horse and we gave them that opportunity."

Sinclair says they try to ride downtown once a month or so. Like Berry, she loves all the people they meet, for whom this might be their first experience with horses.

"On the way downtown, a sweet 6-year-old came running out of her house on School Street yelling that this was the happiest day of her life!" says Sinclair. She explains the sight of the horses really does engage the community, young and old.

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Controversial housing bill SB 50 fails to pass senate

By Sora O'Doherty

The California Senate failed to pass Senate Bill 50 Jan. 30, effectively killing the controversial housing bill for this legislative term. The vote was 18 in favor, 15 against, and six "no vote recorded." Among those voting against were Sen. Steve Glazer, representing Lamorinda in his district.

Orinda city council members did not have one good thing to say about proposed SB 50, and could not see how it could be improved by any amendment, and remain

implacably opposed to the bill, which would largely remove local control of housing development in California. SB 50 is, according to Mayor Darlene Gee, "a Pandora's box of disaster." The city council will be sending a letter to that effect to the legislature, and in particular to the district offices of Glazer and Assembly member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, who also represents Lamorinda. According to her staff, Bauer-Kahan remains opposed to SB 50.

Lafayette Mayor Mike Anderson wrote to bill sponsor

Scott Weiner, copying other officials including local representatives, stating that the city could not support SB 50 without amendment. Anderson particularly called out the bill for failing to address the problem of the lack of jobs located near housing. Anderson additionally pointed out that the bill is unclear as to what would be required in very high fire hazard severity zones, such as portions of Lafayette.

"The City of Lafayette is in a VHFSZ and a jobs-rich area, so does

this mean that SB 50 would allow for unlimited density in areas that are at the highest risk for wildfire?" he queried. "It is critical that SB 50 not allow for development that could potentially put residents in direct risk during a climate related disaster," he concluded. Although Anderson tried to praise the goals of the bill, he also stated that SB 50 should be amended to provide priority for affordable housing to those that work within a half-mile of a proposed development.

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