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From left: Jessica Youn (University of Michigan), Grace Bell (Wesleyan University), Addison Byrne (Savannah College of Art and Design), Addison Braitberg (University of Colorado Boulder), Casey Scheiner (Davidson College), Matthew Chan (University of California, Berkeley), Asher Patel (Cornell University), and Jason Wagner (University of Waterloo, Ontario) Photo Emma Wong

Miramonte holds “Senior Day” for class of 2024

By Emma Wong

On the morning of May 21, aromas of burritos, bacon, and muffins wafted from the Miramonte High School cafeteria as graduating seniors shared a breakfast. Donning college merchandise, students participated in Senior Day -- part of the Senior Spirit Week -- to send off the Class of 2024.

Heading Senior Day planning efforts was parent Joy Braitberg. “Prior to this year, I chaired Grad Night for one of my kids who graduated in 2019,” Braitberg said. “In the fall, the Parent’s Club was looking for someone to chair Senior Week, and I volunteered.”

Braitberg worked closely with the Parent’s Club, Leadership, and Miramonte’s administration. The Class of 2024 parent advisors — Mia Dennis, Lani MacKenzie, Ellie Attwood, Heather Leal, and Lisa Bal-

lantyne — also played key roles, planning and raising funds to host not only Senior Week, but also all other events for this cohort of students.

“We hosted a myriad of fundraisers, including mom and parent parties, raffles and auctions, Casa Orinda chicken dinners, finals care packages, lei sales, and Halloween Boo Bags,” Dennis said. “Parents have also donated to the class activity fund every year.”

After breakfast, students viewed a reflective slideshow, then meandered over to the theater for a practical life advice session given by Wellness Center Coordinator Salvador Avila. Avila reminded seniors of the importance of mental health after high school, sharing tips on how to manage stress in the tumult of college life — including getting enough sleep and

practicing positive thinking. “As a member of the Miramonte community, I’ve had the privilege of observing and interacting with our students, seeing firsthand their potential and the unique challenges they face,” Avila said. “My decision to speak to the senior class stems from a deep understanding of their experiences ... from my own journey through high school.”

An alumni panel of Miramonte graduates answered questions about life after graduation — such as what college freshman year would be like, or their biggest regrets about high school. Additionally, students engaged in a Kahoot! trivia about the history of Miramonte.

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Proposed 66-unit apartment building draws crowd to Moraga meeting

By Vera Kochan

In what was merely the first of five expected meetings regarding a proposed 66-unit residential apartment building, to be located at the corner of School Street/Country Club Drive, nearby residents packed into the Planning Commission meeting on May 21 to voice their opinions.

In order to inform any property owners within a 600-foot radius of the site and any who might be affected by potential, additional traffic on connecting streets, Planning Commission notices were mailed out as a courtesy on May 9 to inform recipients of the informational session. While no action was being taken during the May 21 meeting, it gave residents the opportunity to voice their opinions regarding the project. Those who couldn’t attend sent in emails which, after only two days, numbered 12.

The applicant, Outdo Country Club



Image provided

Drive of Lafayette, requested that the Planning Commission’s meeting would be an introduction and informational session. Moraga Planning Director Afshan Hamid reminded the standing-room-only attendees that the town is required through the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) to add 1,118 new housing units during the 6th Cycle Housing Element. Failure to do so could result in a loss of amenities and funding, as well as relinquishing certain controls to the state. ... continued on Page A4

Lafayette Community Day 2024

By Jeff Heyman

It was a day of clean up and community last Saturday, June 1, in Lafayette. More than 200 volunteers turned out for Lafayette’s third annual Community Day, a partnership between the Community Foundation of Lafayette, the City of Lafayette and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. The day was devoted to service and celebrating all things Lafayette.

Volunteer teams fanned out across the city to clean up sidewalks, parks, roadways and creeks. Above, Will Elder (far right), chair of the Lafayette Creeks Committee, led committee members, City staff and volunteers in a



Photo Jeff Heyman

project to remove nonnative, invasive plants along the West Reach of Lafayette Creek. The group collected 22 bags of material, making that portion of the creek, just east of Risa Road on Mount Diablo Boulevard, an even more beautiful spot to visit. It’s all about community here in Lamorinda.

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