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Siesta Valley Bowl's Spring Bash featured the opening "groovetronica" act, Free Moment on May 30.

Photos Craig Isaacs, BlueGoo Photography

Siesta Valley Bowl now live in Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

Siesta Valley Bowl, which has taken over the outdoor performance location that for decades housed Cal Shakes, went live on Saturday, May 30 with a "Siesta Valley Bowl Spring Bash."

The show started at 6 p.m. and concert goers were invited to dance and enjoy good food and drinks and good times under the stars at the al fresco venue. The main act, Burning Down the House – the Bay Area's Talking Heads tribute band – played at 8 p.m. following openers, The Wayhighs – a San Francisco East Bay-based psychedelic rock and

rhythm band – at 6 p.m. and Free Moment, a Bay Area "groovetronica" act that blends electronic, rock, and improvisational music at 7 p.m.

The following weekend, on Friday, June 5, Siesta Valley Bowl offered its inaugural show, featuring singer/songwriter Jonathan Richmond with Tommy Larkins on drums. Currently the venue has concerts scheduled through October.

The schedule includes: Thursday, July 2, Eddie Roberts, Stanton Moore and Robert Walter the Breaks and the Headhunters; Thursday, July 23,

DakhaBrakha; Saturday, July 25, Stanley Clarke; Friday, Aug. 7, Jake Shimabukuro; Saturday, Aug. 8, Re-birth Brass Band & Soul Rebels; Friday, Aug. 21, Earthless and Primitive Ring; Saturday, Sept. 12, Beats Antique; Saturday, Sept. 19, Jerry's Middle Finger; Tuesday, Sept. 22, Cecile McLorin Salvant; Saturday, Sept. 26, Al Di Meola; Friday, Oct. 16, Steep Canyon Rangers; and Saturday, Oct. 24, Super Diamond.

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Miramonte Boys Lacrosse wins first NCS Championship

By Jon Kingdon

To paraphrase Charles Dickens, the Miramonte lacrosse season was the worst of times and the best of times. The Matadors began the season with a 3-7 record, scoring 7.6 goals per game and giving up 7.7 goals per game. They would go on to win 10 of their next 11 games, averaging 11.3 goals per game and only giving up 3.7 goals per game.

Though the team certainly played better in the second half of the season, there were other reasons for the team's slow start, according to assistant coach Thomas Duffy. "This was a tale of two seasons. We started with two starters recovering from an off-season injury or surgery. We then lost our starting midfielder and unquestioned leader, Derek Youn, to a severe ankle sprain the night before our first game. Derek was a four-year starter and three-year co-captain, so losing him early was huge for us. At various points we had six our 10 starters out with injuries or illness."

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Miramonte Championship Lacrosse team

Photo Linda Youn

Civic News

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City of Lafayette:
www.lovelafayette.org
 Phone: (925) 284-1968
Chamber of Commerce:
www.lafayettechamber.org

Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council: Regular Meeting: Monday, June 22, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall
Planning Commission: Monday, June 15, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall
Design Review: Monday, June 22, 7 p.m.
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Arts & Science Discovery Room

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Lafayette's Capital Improvement Program presented to City Council

By Gwyneth Lee

Director of Engineering and Public Works Mike Moran presented the Capital Projects Assessment Committee (CPAC) Annual Update and the proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 to the Lafayette City Council during its May 11 meeting. The presentation reviewed recently completed projects, ongoing infrastructure improvements, and budget priorities for the city's five-year capital plan through 2031, which guides major investments in roads, pathways, public facilities, traffic systems, and stormwater infrastructure.

Moran began by highlighting several projects completed during the past year. The 2025 Road Paving Project resurfaced sections of St. Mary's Road between Glenside Drive and Rohrer Drive and Mt. Diablo Boulevard between Acalanes Road and El Nido Ranch Road. In addition to roadway improvements, the project included Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility upgrades and



Mt. Diablo Boulevard paving at Acalanes Road and SR 24 on- and off-ramps

Photo courtesy City of Lafayette

new bus drop-off areas. The city also completed a 450-foot ADA-compliant pathway along Pleasant Hill Road near Springhill Elementary School, addressing long-standing pedestrian accessibility concerns and unsafe parking conditions in the area.

Additional facility improvements included replacing the Police Station's aging roof and a significant portion of its HVAC ducting system before the onset of the rainy season. Moran noted that the work was necessary to maintain the building's functionality and prevent future maintenance issues.

Moran also discussed several projects currently underway throughout the city. One of the most significant is the 2026 Road Paving Project, which Moran described as Lafayette's largest residential paving effort in more than a decade. The project will involve repaving more than 20 residential streets, a strategy that restores roads to a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) of 100 and extends their lifespan, versus surface sealing which has been used in the past but only raises the PCI about 10 points and usually only lasts five to seven years.

Other ongoing projects include the Smart Signals Project, which is expected to go out to bid in summer 2026. The project will modernize traffic signal controllers and vehicle detection systems throughout Lafayette while adding battery backup systems to key intersections

downtown and along Pleasant Hill Road. Construction has also begun on the long-awaited BART Pedestrian Pathway and Bike Station project. While progress has been slower than anticipated, Moran said work is finally underway and could continue for another year.

Several projects, however, have encountered unexpected delays. The School Street, Topper Lane, and St. Mary's Road Pathways Project, originally scheduled for construction in spring 2026, has been postponed until 2027 due to environmental review requirements involving Caltrans and concerns raised by Native American tribes regarding the project area. The Aqueduct Pathway Project has also stalled despite available funding for design work. Moran explained that East Bay Municipal Utility District has objected to proposed grading, retaining walls, and bridge abutments within its right-of-way, creating significant challenges for moving the project forward.

A major portion of the presentation focused on the proposed Fiscal Year 2026/2027 CIP budget and the city's five-year infrastructure outlook. The proposed budget totals approximately \$6.99 million and includes several major investments. Roughly \$4 million is allocated toward the 2027 Pavement Maintenance Project, which will repave 11 streets throughout Lafayette. Another \$1.25 million is proposed for Stanley Boulevard and

Quandt Road traffic-calming improvements and sidewalk construction. The city also plans to spend \$500,000 on hillside stabilization work at Hastings Court before roadway improvements can occur.

Additional funding includes \$150,000 to replace a failed corrugated metal storm drain located within a city easement near the Lafayette Cemetery. Moran explained that the deteriorating drain poses flooding risks to a nearby apartment building and requires immediate replacement.

Throughout the discussion, Moran emphasized the importance of maintaining Lafayette's roadway network. The city's five-year pavement management strategy is designed to maintain a PCI score of approximately 75, which is classified as "Good" and remains among the highest roadway condition ratings in Contra Costa County. To achieve that goal, Lafayette plans to invest between \$3.5 million and \$4 million annually in pavement maintenance through 2031, keeping the city's overall PCI score between 74 and 79.

Council members expressed support for the proposed CIP and the city's continued focus on infrastructure maintenance and long-term planning. Following the presentation and discussion, the City Council voted unanimously to approve the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Capital Improvement Program and authorize its proposed funding sources.

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Lafayette celebrates America's 250th anniversary

Submitted by Suzanne Iarla

To commemorate the nation's 250th anniversary, on Thursday, July 2 the City of Lafayette is hosting a two-part community celebration combining family-friendly activities and a documentary screening at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center in the amphitheater and Don Tatzin Community Hall to mark the 250th Anniversary of America's Declaration of Independence: From 4 to 6 p.m., all ages can enjoy

games, crafts and other activities, including signing a giant copy of the Declaration of Independence, and learn more about the Marquis de Lafayette; and at 6 p.m., hear a brief presentation by Lafayette Historical Society President Mary McCosker on how the city's Lafayette name came to be, followed by a screening of "Lafayette: The Lost Hero," a one-hour documentary on the Marquis's extraordinary life

and contributions to American independence.

All ages are welcome and refreshments will be available. The event is presented by the City of Lafayette, in partnership with the Lafayette Historical Society, Lafayette Library and Learning Center, the Acalanes Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and All Ages Recreation Downtown (AARD).

More details at LoveLafayette.org/250th.

Free fun for all ages in Lafayette

By Sharon K. Sobotta



Grace Dixon helps two Lafayette youth sharpen their pool skills.

Photo Sharon K. Sobotta

Eleven-year-old Hazel's interest was piqued when she walked by a few kinetic sand tables outside of a place that had ping-pong, pool and foosball tables inside while she was on a walk in downtown Lafayette with her mom and brother.

"I asked what this place was and got invited to come inside and play, so we did," Hazel explained as she pieced together a beaded bracelet while her brother sharpened his pool shot with the help of Grace Dixon, the co-founder of All Ages Recreation Downtown. "I love how it's so open and it has inside and outside space that you can gather with your family or neighbors."

This kind of feedback affirms the vision that Dixon and her daughter Eden Hall had when they brought their grand idea of free fun and an all ages rec center to life.

In 2023, Dixon and Hall started offering pop-up fun in public spaces and events like Rock the Plaza, Trick-or-Treat Street and just random, feel-good Sundays in under-utilized parking lots. The first year they did a few dozen events, the second year, the number doubled and the concept kept growing until they served (or played with) 10,000 people.

When Dixon's

daughter returned to Princeton that fall, she used the data to make the case for the formation of a nonprofit centered around accessible and free recreational fun for all, while Dixon found an old beauty salon situated in the center of downtown Lafayette to house the fun. With the help of friends, Dixon spent 38 days renovating the space into what is now an all ages rec space, open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 3561-A Mt. Diablo Blvd.

"The FAQs are: Is it free? Yes. Is it for all ages? Yes. Do I have to sign in? No. Do I have to pay a membership fee? No," Dixon explained.

So, why bring this gem of a rec center to the heart of downtown?

"The downtown resident income is half as anywhere else in Lafayette, downtown residents are twice as diverse as anywhere else in Lafayette, and not shockingly, downtown has the greatest density," Dixon explained. "This is where we need to have recreational fun."

Downtown is where the nearly 30% of Lafayette residents who are renters reside. This stat coincides with the number of rent-burdened households or households who spend more than a third of

their income on rent in Lafayette. Dixon remembers navigating rent and child-rearing in Lafayette back when she was a single mom.

"I used to have a piece of paper that I would move from apartment to apartment, and stick to the fridge that said 'free fun'," Dixon said. "Even with a good income, it took everything just to raise my son in Lafayette. I swore after the birth of my second and then my third that I would do everything I could to make free fun possible for all ages."

It's also timely that free fun for all ages is available with expanded hours of playtime now that the school year has ended and summer vacation has commenced.

A Gallup poll indicated that around 45% of youth lack access to summer engagement activities due to cost. Dixon hopes that the All Ages Recreation Downtown Den and Gallery equipped with ping-pong, pool, board games, outdoor kinetic sand, Legos and jewelry making stations can help bridge the gap and keep people engaged, connected, off their phones and having fun.

"If people want to help, the best thing they can do is come and play here," Dixon says. "That way we can show that there is interest in grants."

Dixon says the free fun even helps the local economy. "If people are able to do something here downtown for fun, they might want to visit a local shop or get lunch," she noted. "And that's good for everyone."

For other budget friendly fun in Lafayette, the Town Hall Theatre has a variety of classes with scholarships and payment plans available. In the meantime, Dixon would be thrilled to see folks show up at 3561-A Mt. Diablo Blvd. for a game, a craft, a conversation, an unlikely connection and just some good old-fashioned in-person fun.

For more information, visit <https://allagesplay.org/>

Rock the Plaza concerts kick off summer fun

Lots of rock 'n' roll revelers gathered to enjoy tunes performed by Jimbo Scott & Yesterday's Biscuits at 6 p.m. Friday, June 5 at Lafayette Plaza as part of the annual Rock the Plaza concert series – the first of three free concerts offered in June. Many audience members dined on picnic items while sitting in chairs or on blankets brought from home, while others simply stood swaying or dancing to the music and kids played games like badminton and jumped rope.

Performances are held Fridays from 6 to 8 p.m. during the month of June (none on June 19), and will feature The Kyle Athayde Dance Party on June 12 and Lamorinda Idol Finalists on June 26.

Presented by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, with the help of many other sponsors and partners, including the City of Lafayette, the Rock the Plaza Concert Series is the Chamber's pre-show for the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival.

For more information, visit



Photo J. Wake

lafayettechamber.org/rock-the-plaza/.

Moraga Park Foundation's Summer Concert Series will start on Thursday, June 11, featuring the Sun Kings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Commons Park (info at <https://moragaparks.org/summer-concert-series/>). And Orinda kicked off its Summer Concerts in the Park on June 4, sponsored by the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation and sup-

ported by the Orinda Community Foundation, Rotary Club of Orinda, and City of Orinda. The concerts will be held Thursday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center Park through September to accompany the Thursday Night Food Trucks with Taste of the World Market (info at <https://www.cityoforinda.gov/calendar.aspx?EID=587>).

– J. Wake



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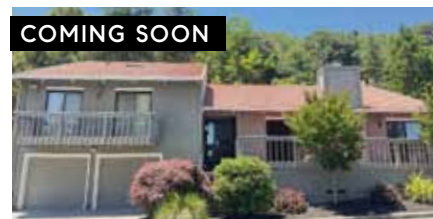
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 Phone: (925) 888-7022
Chamber of Commerce:
 www.moragachamber.org
Moraga Citizens' Network:
 www.moragacitizensnetwork.org
Town Council Meeting,
 Wednesday, June 10, 5:30 p.m.,
 Council Chamber
Planning Commission Meeting,
 Tuesday, June 16, 6:30 p.m.

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Residents provide valuable feedback during Livable Moraga Walking Tour

By Vera Kochan



Livable Moraga Walking Tour along the half-mile corridor

Photo courtesy Moraga Public Works Department

The Public Works Department held a May 16 Livable Moraga Road Walking Tour between Donald Drive and Corliss Drive. Its purpose was to collect feedback from not only residents but anyone who traverses the half-mile corridor.

The concept of roadway changes went before the public as far back as 2013, in the form of mailed surveys, but the project was shelved for the better part of 10 years. Current focus will include: lane configuration feasibility and benefits, traffic analysis results, safety benefits, and emergency response.

According to a Traffic Study Worksheet provided by Director of Public Works/Town Engineer Nate Levine, "In order to solve existing safety issues, a lane reconfiguration is recom-

mended between Corliss Drive and Donald Drive, with the four-lane section converted to a three-lane section with a two-way left turn lane and Class IV bike lanes."

A traffic analysis showed that a lane reconfiguration "would not significantly impact traffic flow." Additionally, "a signal at the intersection of Moraga Road and Corliss Drive is recommended based on 2024 data, and estimated 2044 traffic volumes." Such a signal "would improve safety by eliminating dangerous side-swipe crashes." Pedestrian safety would also be improved.

Between 2018-2023, a total of nine injury crashes occurred on Moraga Road where "less than a quarter of drivers were obeying the 35 mph speed limit." A

lane reconfiguration would reduce the opportunity for speeding. "Prior studies have shown that crashes could be reduced by up to 46% at intersections, and bicycle crashes reduced by up to 36%" with improved bike lanes.

Emergency response operations are expected to improve thanks to increased maneuverability options for first responders.

Eleven participants showed up to take the Walking Tour and were asked to fill out a questionnaire afterwards. Respondents were asked: Do you currently feel safe along this section of Moraga Road? All responded in the negative when it came to pedestrian and cyclist safety, citing speeding vehicles and lack of sidewalks as the reason.

Question 2: Do you find the proposed improvements favorable or unfavorable and why? Every respondent found the proposed improvements favorable. Comments were split on discussing pedestrian/cyclist safety or vehicle safety with some mention of a traffic light at Corliss being a good idea.

Question 3: Do you feel that the proposed improvements will change or benefit the way you travel on Moraga Road? How So? Several of the responses alluded to the possibility of giving bike riding a try again, while others suggested that driving would be safer.

Question 4: Do you

feel that the proposed improvements to Moraga Road would make it safer to travel by vehicle, bike, or walking? Responses heavily favored all three forms of travel experiencing safety improvements.

Finally, Question 5: Do you have any thoughts specifically about Segment 3 improvements that you'd like to share? A traffic light at Corliss Drive was stressed, as was the urgency of implementing the entire project in general. Other responses included, "Even though biking culture is not very strong, efforts to encourage biking can only come after road improvements are done. People will come if you build it." Also, "How about a crosswalk at Devin that blinks when people are trying to cross." Two suggestions mentioned the idea of trees strategically placed for either aesthetic appearances or to act as a pedestrian refuge from the sun.

"As part of the Livable Moraga Road project," Levine noted, "the Town of Moraga will hold an Open House to give residents another opportunity to learn more about the proposed Segment 3 concept, review supporting traffic and safety information, and provide feedback. The meeting is scheduled for June 23. The location and additional details will be posted on the project website as they become available: <https://www.moraga.ca.us/LivableMoragaRoad>."

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Grocery Outlet opening falls behind schedule

By Vera Kochan

The much-anticipated opening of the new Grocery Outlet in Moraga's Rheem Valley Shopping Center has prospective shoppers collectively holding their breath.

The November 2025 groundbreaking ceremony was the beginning of a full speed ahead process that would occur in three stages. The first stage involves underground work, such as site preparations, utility installation, and foundation construction. The next stage is construction of the 17,404-square-foot building. Lastly, interior elements are added like shelves, cash register stations, etc. Unfortunately, the store's targeted opening of mid-2026 will have come and gone as is evident by the current state of visible construction.

"We have been diligently trying to move construction forward as quickly as possible," stated U.S. Realty Partners, Inc. Director of Construction Susana Jagodzinski. "Unfortu-



Unforeseen delays hinder Grocery Outlet construction

Photo Vera Kochan

nately, the past few months have been really tough due to a lot of rainy weather, sewer line complications, and added issues from the County. Those extra delays are unfortunately pushing out the Grocery Outlet grand opening to early 2027. We are still

hoping to improve this timeline, but at the moment, this is where things currently stand."

On another note, shoppers are witness to a face lift that the other stores are experiencing at the center. Scaffolding in front of building facades owned by U.S.

Realty Partners, Inc. have been erected in order to bring the rest of their properties up to Grocery Outlet's eventual standards.

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Director of Public Works position filled internally

By Vera Kochan



New Director of Public Works/Town Engineer Nate Levine
Photo Vera Kochan

The Town of Moraga didn't have to look very far in order to fill the vacated position of Director of Public

Works/Town Engineer. Nate Levine, who previously held the role of Senior Engineer, acted in the interim post after

Shawn Knapp's announced retirement became effective Dec. 30, 2025. He officially dropped the "interim" title on May 4, when he took over the reins of the department.

Before coming to work for the Town, Levine was a project manager and department lead for traffic transportation services with Sandis, a civil engineering firm, that partnered with Moraga during the Corliss Drive Safe Routes to School Project approximately three years ago. That collaboration is what put him on the Town's radar. "I'm appreciative of Shawn for that opportunity," he stated.

One might consider Levine to be homegrown given that he grew up in Orinda (where his parents still live), attended Miramonte High School, and currently lives in

Moraga with his wife, Deb, and their son, Warren (4-1/2). "It's a unique opportunity to do my job in the town where I live," he observed. "When there's a problem, since I live here, I can relate."

Levine's decision to work for the Town was a no-brainer. "As engineers we really like to see that what we do benefits the people we work for. The fact that I live here helps me to shape and give back to family and friends."

Some current projects include: 2025/2026 Street Rehabilitation Project; Moraga/Canyon Road Complete Streets Project – SS4A; and Moraga Way Safety and Connectivity Planning Study (meant to evaluate the 4.7-mile Moraga Way corridor that stretches from Moraga Road to the Orinda BART station to improve safety and con-

nectivity for walking, cycling, driving, and transit).

With regards to public works and future projects, Levine explained, "We're at the stage where we've had a lot of feedback for the past 10 years through surveys or requests. It's been a while, and we'll have to look into securing funding, because we have limited resources." As a graduate of California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, Levine holds a license in both civil and traffic engineering – something he likes to joke about as being the only public works director in Lamorinda who can make that claim. As such, his dual licenses will help Moraga avoid outside contractors.

"I've worked with Nate a number of times on projects, and I knew he'd be a great addition

to the Town," stated Knapp. "I looked for someone with complementary skills, and as a small agency we have to do it all. Nate comes with a background in traffic and civil engineering, so he's uniquely qualified in that respect. I thought he'd be a great addition to Moraga."

Despite having a lot on his plate work-wise, Levine deals with other "plates" such as those on adult softball league fields. He plays an average of three to four games a week in order to unwind.

"We've gotten a lot done in the past five months," said Levine. "We have two vacancies, but we have a great staff, and we've focused our priorities and are still on track. It's been rewarding, and we have a lot to show for it in a short period of time."

Town establishes Ceremonial Flag Display Policy

By Vera Kochan

After staff presented Moraga Council members with two flag display policies (traditional governmental or governmental ceremonial) during the April 22 meeting, Council chose to adopt the Ceremonial Flag Display Policy. However, the details and criteria were yet to be decided.

Town Manager Scott Mitnick's May 13 staff report to the Council noted that in the past governmental flags such as the United States and State of California flags have been displayed at Town facilities. "The ceremonial flag framework set forth in the proposed administrative policy and resolution confirms that Town flagpoles are governmental facilities for official Town speech. They are not forums for public expression."

Furthermore, the new policy

would give the Town control over ceremonial flag requests by requiring Council approval and would apply "clear criteria to exclude partisan, electoral, ballot-measure, and private commercial displays. This establishes a defined process and reduces legal and administrative ambiguity."

Any requests for ceremonial flag displays must be initiated by either the mayor, a council member, or the town manager. Third party requests will not be accepted, and all requests will be subject to approval by the Town Council whose decisions will be based on the following criteria: The display represents an expression of the Town's official governmental sentiments; the flag does not promote a political party, candidate, ballot measure, or private commercial interest; the display is

consistent with applicable federal and state laws governing the use of public flagpoles; and the display is limited to a maximum of 30 consecutive days per calendar year for any single ceremonial flag. Hours of display will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The adopted policy will serve as a guideline to staff with regards to compliance with the United States Flag Code which includes flag protocol, half-staff observances, flag care, and departmental responsibilities. The policy, as drafted, identifies the ceremonial Pride Flag for annual June (Pride Month) display at the Town offices. A private group has already donated a flag which will be displayed this month.



Pride Flag to fly outside of Town offices throughout June.

Photo Vera Kochan

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City Council Reg. Meeting:
Tuesday, June 16, 7 p.m.
Orinda Library Auditorium

Planning Commission Regular Meeting:
Tuesday, June 23, 7 p.m.
Orinda Library Auditorium

Planning Commission Regular Meeting:
Tuesday, July 14, p.m.
Community Center Room 7
Orinda Library Auditorium

City of Orinda:
www.cityoforinda.org
Phone (925) 253-4200

Chamber of Commerce:
www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:
www.orindaassociation.org

Celebration of Life for Dave Ricketts



Dave Ricketts passed away unexpectedly on April 12, 2026, while serving in the Dominican Republic.

Known in Lamorinda as a beloved pastor at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church for 19 years, for building homes in Mexico with local youth, and as "The Snake Guy," safely relocating rattlesnakes from neighbors' yards, Dave will be remembered for his larger than life personality, booming voice, and infectious laugh. He went above and beyond in service and loved deeply.

A Celebration Of Life

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Contributions to the Ricketts family can be made via the QR code

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Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda high schools get new principals

By Sora O'Doherty

Three of the four high schools in the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) have just been appointed new principals.



Colin Malcolm
Photo provided

In Lafayette, Colin Malcolm will be taking the lead at Acalanes High School, moving up from associate principal. In Moraga, associate principal Robyn Harrison also was promoted to principal of Campolindo High School, and in Orinda William Schloss, who goes by Bill, takes the helm at Miramonte High School, while former principal Ben Campopiano has moved to the Orinda Union School District to serve in the administration.

The district will now move to appoint new associate principals at both Campolindo and Acalanes. Las Lomas Principal Brian Sullivan, who moved from Donald Rheem Elementary School in Moraga last

year, will continue to serve at the Walnut Creek high school, which is part of AUHSD.

Bill Schloss is new to the district, coming to Orinda from Cupertino High School in the Fremont Union High School District. Before that, Schloss served for many years in Southern California as a longstanding employee, teacher, teacher leader and then principal in the Whittier Union High School District.

Appearing before the AUHSD Board on June 3, Schloss said that he was happy and excited to be bringing his experience to the district. He praised the foundation laid by former principal Ben Campopiano. "Ben's work has really laid a fabulous foundation for student support and success at the school," Schloss said, "and I'm just excited to keep the ship moving forward." He added that he looks forward to working collaboratively with the other principals.

Robyn Harrison, who moves up to the lead role at Campolindo, echoed the concept that the principals work collaboratively. She added that it is a great honor to be a female in the capacity of high school principal. "I'm hoping that our fe-



Robyn Harrison
Photo Sora O'Doherty

male students are able to see that we aren't limited and that we have opportunities," she told The Lamorinda Weekly in an interview, adding that she wants to be both a role model and a strong advocate for women.

Harrison praised the staff at Campolindo, as well as the parents, who she noted have been "beyond kind and supportive." The staff, Harrison said, "are amazing, caring, and they really take education seriously." Overall, she concluded, the goal is to expose students to a rigorous curriculum and also to have them grow as good people.

Harrison has five children, ranging in age from 27 years old to just turning 4. One of her children is a student at Campo. The new principal noted that three years ago she started at Campolindo along with the rising graduating class, which includes her

daughter. "This is a very special class to me because we all started together," she noted. Harrison says that she is already planning her commencement speech.

One new trend that Harrison has observed lately is the hacky sack craze. Popular in the 1970s, hacky sack is seeing a revival. "It's awesome to see," Harrison explained. "Phones aren't in hands, and the kids are invested, focused, and displaying a competitive spirit."

Colin Malcolm was a biology teacher before serving as a house principal at James Logan High School in the New Haven Unified High School District. Having spent a year as the associate principal of Acalanes High School, Malcolm told the board that he is "very excited to continue my journey at Acalanes and continue to move the school in the right direction."



William Schloss
Photo provided



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Lamorinda schools seem to be doing well on election day measures

By Sora O'Doherty

The California Primary Election on June 2 had the benefit of clear skies and lovely weather. Voters attended their local polling places either to cast the ballots or to drop off "vote-by-mail" ballots they had prepared earlier. As well as voting for state officials, voters chose to support local schools.

Lafayette School District's Measure H appears to be passing with a very comfortable 74.55% of the vote in unofficial results from election night, updated on Friday, June 5. The bond measures require a two-thirds majority to pass. Moraga School District's Measure I seems on its way to victory as well,

with the yes vote standing at 69.50%.

Orinda did not have a bond issue on the ballot, having completed a lot of work on facilities under earlier bonds. In March of 2023 the district also secured a \$295-per-parcel parcel tax to preserve small class sizes and maintain core academic instruction.

The Acalanes Union High School District proposed a parcel tax measure in 2025, but it fell short of the required two-thirds majority. The board is considering whether or not to try again on the November 2026 ballot.

A bond measure for the Walnut Creek School District appeared to be falling short of reaching the required two-thirds majority as of the last ballot count, with the yes vote at a little over 64%. Moraga, Lafayette, Orinda and Walnut Creek schools all feed into the Acalanes Union

High School District. There was also a bond measure on the ballot for the Contra Costa Community College District, which appears to be failing to reach the required 55% majority, with the yes vote currently at just a little over 49%.

Similarly, Contra Costa County voters rejected Measure B, which would have imposed a 0.625% sales tax to raise \$150 million annually to backfill federal funding cuts to health care and other essential services. However, voters did embrace Measure A, which will continue the County's Urban Limit Line through 2051, passing with over 69% of yes votes.

July 2 is the target date for the county to certify the final results of the election.



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Montclair Photo

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Coast-to-Coast relay crosses through Lamorinda, celebrating country's 250th anniversary

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda and Lafayette will be on the path of the American Discovery 250 Relay next month. The American Discovery Trail is the country's first coast-to-coast trail, and the American Discovery Trail Society decided to mark the country's 250th anniversary with a relay from America's most populous state to America's first state, with the slogan, "One trail, one nation, 250 years in motion."

The relay from California to Delaware will take almost five full months, beginning on July 1 in Point Reyes and ending on Thanksgiving Day in Cape Henlopen, Delaware. It will cover the 6,800-mile trail and cross 15 states.

Participants in the relay can use any form of non-motorized transport, from walking or running, to bicycles and horses and perhaps even wheelchairs, and will carry three batons containing copies of the Declaration

of Independence.

Local runner and co-founder of the American Discovery Trail, John Fazel will be participating in the relay across California from Point Reyes to Lake Tahoe. The first few days of the relay participants will go from Point Reyes to the north end of the Golden Gate Bridge. After crossing the bridge, participants will then cross to Treasure Island by rowing large rowboats across from San Francisco. They will proceed on the east span of the Bay Bridge to Berkeley.

The path will continue up the Berkeley Hills to Inspiration Point, then come down into Orinda, where participants will pass by Wagner Ranch Elementary School and on to Briones Regional Park on the way to Sacramento. From Sacramento the relay will continue to Lake Tahoe, before leaving California. It will take about two weeks to cross California.



Photo provided

No one will cover the entire route to Delaware.

As the trail heads eastward, it divides at Denver and takes two routes to Cincinnati, one more northerly and the other more southerly. The relay will cover both routes. The daily sections of the relay will be determined based partly on the terrain to be covered. Some segments will be as long as 50-70 miles and therefore more suitable for bicycles. Others will be steep and mountainous and more suitable for walkers and runners.

Dave Whitson, who is in charge of the relay,

points out that some of the sections are restricted. For example, going through Muir Woods there is a cap providing that only 50 participants may do that section, while only 25 can do the Bay Bridge segment. Thus far Whitson says, nearly 1,000 people have signed up to do the event and some segments are fully booked.

To find out more about American Discovery Trail and the relay, visit <https://discoverytrail.org/america-250-relay> where you can also sign up to participate.

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Siesta Valley Bowl

..continued from Page A1

In addition to musical events, the organizers plan to feature some community events. On Sunday, June 7, there was a celebratory picnic to commemorate the new collaboration between Siesta Valley Bowl and the Friends of Orinda Nature Area. Campbell

Foster, Siesta Valley Foundation chairman and founder welcomed the event to introduce the partnership with the group, which will be conducting some science-based events with youth citizen scientists on the grounds.

Toris Jaeger, who for 40 years served as the Naturalist at the Wagner Ranch Nature

Area, was scheduled to be in attendance.

Siesta Valley has also provided more information about future performances at the venue. New stadium seats have arrived and according to Siesta Valley they are quite comfortable, so no need to bring any chairs, although visitors are reminded that it does get unexpectedly chilly, so clothing layers are recommended.

No outside food or beverages are allowed. The venue offers food and drink for purchase.

After the inaugural show, parking will no longer be free; payment will be required for all on-site parking. However, free parking will be available at the Orinda BART station, and shuttle services will operate between BART and the Bowl approximately every 10 minutes for a small round-trip shuttle fee. Accessible parking will continue to be avail-

able on site with a valid disable parking placard. For more information, visit Siesta Valley's website, at www.siestavalleybowl.com.



Audience members enjoy the laid back atmosphere at the recent outdoor performance.

Photo Craig Isaacs, BlueGoo Photography

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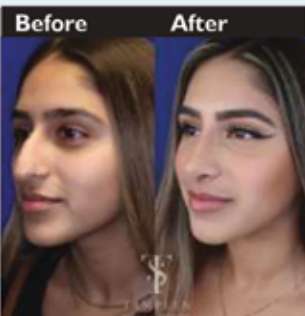
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MORAGA COMMONS PARK

MOFD reveals which areas will be inspected for compliance

By Sora O'Doherty



Image courtesy MOFD

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District announced the start of annual inspections in the community. Each year the district carries out inspections of homes to ensure compli-

ance with the fire code. MOFD encourages residents to prepare for inspections by reviewing whether their properties meet the published abatement require-

ments. This year MOFD has hired two new inspectors.

Inspections will focus on selected areas in Moraga, Orinda and the unincorporated areas of the district.

Inspections will start with evacuation routes. From May 26 through June 19 inspectors will focus on such routes, including St. Mary's Road, Moraga Road, Moraga Way, Rheem Boulevard, Glorietta Boulevard, Camino Pablo, Miner Road, Camino Sobrante, St. Stephens Drive, Overhill Road, Canyon Road, and Lombardy Lane.

In Moraga, on June 23 and June 24 the area between School Street and Canyon Road in Moraga will be inspected. From July 20 through July 31 inspectors will visit the area which includes Camino Pablo between Rimer Drive and Tharp Drive down to Quail Xing and over to Sky View Court.

On June 22 inspectors will review homes in unincorporated area number two, which is off Skyline Blvd and includes Starkville Court.

A number of areas in Orinda will also be inspected this year. The

area that includes Monte Vista Ridge Road and Claremont Avenue off Camino Pablo will be inspected from June 25 through July 2, while the area behind the Orinda Country Club which includes Manzanita Drive, Acacia Drive, and Los Altos will be inspected between July 6 and 10. The Charles Hill and Diablo View neighborhood will be inspected between July 13 and July 17.

To help residents get ready, MOFD offers a free confidential assessment through the Community Wildfire Safety

Ambassador Program. This assessment can help identify ways to improve defensible space, home hardening, and overall wildfire preparedness. The assessments do not result in any information being reported to MOFD.

Residents of Moraga and Orinda and the unincorporated areas may visit www.mofd.org/wildfire-ambassador to request a free assessment.

Board of Supervisors appoints Aaron McAlister to lead Con Fire

Submitted by Lauren Ono



Photo provided

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors on May 12 appointed Aaron McAlister as Fire Chief of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (Con Fire), which covers Lafayette.

McAlister has served with Con Fire since 2016 and most recently served as Deputy Fire Chief of Administration, overseeing Communications/Fire Dispatch, Information Systems, Support Services, Finance, and Human Resources. Prior to that, he served as Assistant Fire Chief and played a key role in strengthening the District's operational readiness, facilities, staffing, and regional coordination.

Before joining Con Fire, McAlister served as Fire Chief for the City of Dixon.

McAlister replaces Chief Lewis Broschard, who retired in March after more than 30 years in the fire service, including 18 years with Con Fire. Broschard briefly returned in an interim capacity to support leadership continuity during the transition.

MOFD Demonstration Garden work begins



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Work has begun on a demonstration garden at Moraga-Orinda Fire District Station 42 on Moraga Road across from the

Rheem Shopping Center. Upon completion, the garden, a joint project of MOFD and Contra Costa Master Gardeners, will

exhibit materials and ideas for fire safe landscaping. - S. O'Doherty

Street Rehabilitation Construction Project to affect several of Moraga's main roads

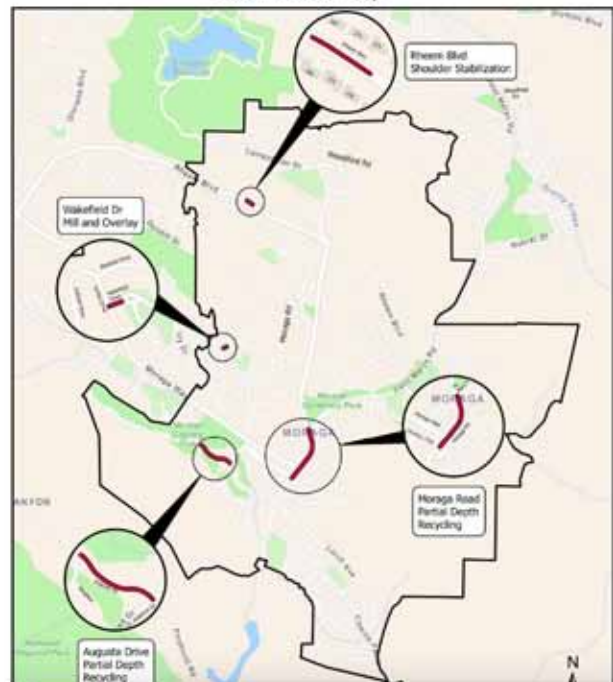
By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Town Council passed a measure approving the 2025 and 2026 Street Rehabilitation Project (CIP 25-401, CIP 26-401) during its May 27 meeting. In doing so, a construction contract not to exceed \$1,769,908 was awarded to Bay Cities Paving & Grading, Inc. of Concord, Calif. The project will involve several of the Town's main roadways.

A staff report by Director of Public Works/Town Engineer Nate Levine, Assistant Engineer Yao Miao, and Engineering Technician Jared Kerr noted that combining the 2025 project with the 2026 project "into a single construction contract was intended to reduce mobilization costs, improve unit pricing through larger bid quantities, coordinate construction more efficiently, and deliver the planned street rehabilitation work during the 2026 construction season."

The Project will include the following five street segments that have been recommended for rehabilitation: Augusta Drive (St. Andrews Drive to Spyglass Drive), Rheem Boulevard (264 Rheem Blvd. to 276 Rheem Blvd.), Moraga Road (St. Mary's Road to Moraga Way), Canyon Road (Moraga Way to Country Club Drive), and Wakefield Drive (22 Wakefield Dr. to Corliss Drive).

The Augusta Drive, Moraga Road, and Canyon Road segments of planned treatment will consist of 3-inch Partial Depth Recycling (PDR) with 1.5-inch Mill & Overlay (M&O). The PDR will require "digging down about 6 inches and using some of



the existing asphalt material to form a new base material, and then you put asphalt on top of that," explained Levine. "It's a really nice, robust, and cost-effective repair." M&O uses heavy machinery that grinds and removes the top 1.5 to 2 inches of existing asphalt, preventing the new layer from raising the surface level. Fresh hot-mix asphalt is then laid down, graded to a smooth finish, and compacted using heavy rollers.

The Rheem Boulevard project's planned treatment will entail shoulder stabilization only, and Wakefield Drive will not involve any PDR, but will go through a 1.5-inch M&O.

The Project went out to bid in April 2026, with an Engineer's Estimate of \$2,138,062. Of the five

received bids, Bay Cities came in the lowest. The family-owned business was founded in 1946, and has completed similar projects for several local municipalities including Oakland, Berkeley, Hayward, Martinez, Pittsburg, and Orinda.

The Town intends to notify affected residents and property owners before construction begins, which is expected to commence in June or July 2026, pending contract execution, contractor scheduling, submittal review, and coordination with related work.

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12 young women from Scouts BSA Troop 402 earn Eagle Scout rank

Submitted by Alexis Coyle



Pictured, back row: Addison Van Veen, Subhiksha Balaji, Anika Kesiraju, Campbell Dean, Elizabeth Sullivan, Kaitlyn Yee, Lane Massa; front row: Colbie Freese, Lana Ruan, Daphne Wang, Elisa Jorgensen, Caitlin Coyle Photo David Cowen

Scouts BSA Troop 402, one of the largest all-girl Scout troops in the United States, celebrated an extraordinary milestone this spring as 12 young women earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest achievement in Scouting. The Scouts were recognized at an Eagle Court of Honor on April 17 in Moraga.

Scouts demonstrate leadership, outdoor skills, and service through a major community project benefiting a nonprofit or public organization. The Eagle Scouts and their projects included: Addison Van Veen (Campolindo) held a community beach volleyball tournament benefiting the Bay Area Crisis Nursery, raising more than \$3,000 in diapers, formula, and baby supplies; Anika Kesiraju (Campolindo) constructed dog beds and a ramp for the animal shelter Jelly's Place in San Pablo; Caitlin Coyle (Campolindo) created a welcoming outdoor

space with seating, tables, and planting for the Stanley Middle School Wellness Center in Lafayette; Campbell Deane (Acalanes) organized a Halloween carnival for children and families at the Lafayette Care Collective; Colbie Freese (Campolindo) led volunteers in recording oral histories of female veterans for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project and organized a mentorship event connecting high school leaders with younger girls; Daphne Wang (Campolindo) led the creation of a mural at Campolindo inspired by the iconic Japanese wave painting; Elisa Jorgensen (Campolindo) led the planting of eight fruit trees at Valley View Elementary School in Richmond and organized the decoration and donation of 40 canvas tote bags for students; Elizabeth Sullivan (Berkeley) led the construction of a children's playhouse and mural donated to Mus-

tard Seed Preschool in Berkeley; Kaitlyn Yee (Campolindo) organized volunteers to create and donate 150 art kits for children receiving care at John Muir Hospital in Walnut Creek; Lana Ruan (Monte Vista) designed, constructed, and installed 20 boot scrapers in Walnut Creek Open Space; Lane Massa (Campolindo) partnered with Leveling the Playing Field to collect more than 900 pieces of sports equipment for underserved communities; and Subhiksha Balaji (Emerald) led volunteers in creating 50 tie blankets for unhoused individuals served by the Trinity Center in Walnut Creek. "These Eagle Scouts represent the very best of Scouting's values of leadership, service, and commitment to community," said Scoutmaster Heather Tzorsis, leader of Troop 402. "Their projects have made a meaningful difference across the East Bay."

Scouts BSA Troop 204 honors four new Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Brian Cooney



2026 Lafayette Troop 204 Eagle Scouts: Jack Cooney, Zach Kwan, Sam Freeling, and Hudson Williams Photo Mika Watanabe

Scouts BSA Troop 204 honored four young men who achieved the Eagle Scout award, the highest rank in Scouting America, on March 21 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette. Troop 204 has awarded this special honor to 454 scouts since 1935.

To attain the rank of Eagle Scout, a scout must earn his way up the scouting ranks - from Tenderfoot to Life Scout. As a Life Scout, he must be active in the troop for at least six months, earn at least 21 merit badges, serve in a leadership position and show scout spirit. In addition to requirements listed above, each scout has attended the annual 50-mile backpacking trips, actively participating in annual Camporees, con-

structed and slept in snow caves and camped in the wilderness. As a final step they must plan, develop and give leadership to others in an approved Eagle service project that is helpful to any religious institution, school, or community.

Jack Cooney (Acalanes) led an online and in-person donation drive for needy families in Contra Costa County through the Brighter Beginnings program. Zach Kwan (Las Lomas) completed a golf equipment collection drive with the First Tee of Contra Costa to help collect and refurbish clubs for golf students in the local community. Sam Freeling (Acalanes) built a new display case and refurbished existing display

cases in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center at Acalanes High School. Hudson Williams (Las Lomas) managed a team and coordinated materials to repaint and refurbishing the historic playground markings at Buchanan Airport in Concord.

Troop 204 Lafayette extends its heartfelt congratulations to these exemplary scouts for their outstanding achievements and contributions to their communities. These projects embody the spirit of scouting and uphold Troop 204 Lafayette's tradition of service and leadership. For more information, please visit <https://www.troopweb.host.org/Troop204Lafayette/Index.htm>



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Get Involved: Volunteer in Lafayette Design Review Commission Planning Commission

The Lafayette City Council is seeking applicants to fill two upcoming vacancies on the Design Review Commission and one current vacancy on the Planning Commission.

Design Review Commission

The five-member Design Review Commission is responsible for matters relating to the aesthetics and physical appearance of the city. The commission advises City staff, the Planning Commission, and the City Council, and acts on applications for design review, including residential and commercial development projects. The City Council can appoint individuals who are not residents of Lafayette to gain desired expertise on the Commission.

Planning Commission

The seven-member Planning Commission is charged with development of the General Plan, implementation and administration of the Zoning Ordinance, and review of development applications. Planning Commissioners must be residents of the City of Lafayette.

Volunteers are interviewed and selected based on education, training, and experience related to the subject matter of each body.

Applications are now being accepted. Submit by June 15, 2026 for first review.

Lafayette citizens interested in these volunteer opportunities and application go to: LoveLafayette.org/VolunteerApp or e-mail cityhall@lovelafayette.org

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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Quilting group's gifts help foster kids 'feel special and treasured' moving forward

By David Scholz



Members of the Foster Kids' Quilt Group. (Standing, left): Tina de Man and Mary Carpenter; (sitting, left) Susan Dague, Sandi Cummings and Rubin Villa Senior. (Standing, right): Charlotte Sproul, Sally Socolich and Sue Bass, and (sitting, right) Sharon Castro and Gloria Leinbach.

Photo David Scholz

As foster kids age out of the system each year, they face new challenges.

To remind them they are loved and supported, metaphorical hugs are woven into warm bed covers crafted by local quilters that are accompanying them on their journeys forward.

First Place for Youth, an organization committed to helping young adults through this critical life change, are the primary recipients of the quilts created by the Foster Kids' Quilt Group.

Many of these young vulnerable adults, age 18, must assume the responsibilities of living on their own with few support services to help them develop the skills required to live independently, said group leader Sandi Cummings.

"It is our hope that the quilts provide some color to their surroundings and give a sense of people caring for them in their new beginnings," she added.

Ten years on, the group of artisans who do their work at home con-

tinue to meet regularly on the second Thursday of each month in a space down the alley from the Cotton Patch in Lafayette. Members sift through donated fabric they need for future projects, see what others have been working on, and display those quilts that are ready to be distributed.

"It's a great show and tell," said Cummings. "It's also a chance to share ideas, help with technical problems and enjoy friendship."

Three years ago, the

group decided to start keeping count of the quilts it was making and to the surprise of members they produced approximately 160 quilts each year during that span.

"There is need, we just need to fill it and we do," said Mary Carpenter of requests for quilts from various groups like Vietnam War veterans and patients undergoing cancer treatment.

Even during COVID, the group met to continue crafting colorful gifts of love for current

and former foster kids who are transitioning to a safe place to live, getting their first job, and pursuing a continuing education in the world beyond the foster care system.

"When we are making these quilts, we can be their families," said Sue Bass.

What started as nine enthusiastic quilters in the Foster Kids' Quilt Group who were attracted by Cummings' original posting on the Cotton Patch bulletin board, has grown to 20.

Anywhere from 12 to 15 participants, all shop patrons, turn out for the group's monthly gatherings.

The team's individual pieces are then assembled, or what is called sandwiching. Tina de Man and Carpenter with their specialty long arm machines handle putting together the quilt sandwich's three layers: the quilt top, the middle batting insulating layer, and backing fabric with edging for the final appearance.

Bass, as a teacher, expressed a special affinity for foster kids having seen them move in and out her classroom through the years.

"To be able to make [quilts] for them and give them something from the kindness of my heart in that quilt," said Bass, "hopefully it makes them feel special and treasured."

Susan Dague tried to empathize with those receiving the quilts for their beds that they can cuddle up with and get warm. "Someone cares. A stranger cares enough to do all their work and gives it to me for nothing,"

"That warms my heart as it much as it warms theirs," she said.

"It is just as good for us to make them as the kids who get them," Dague continued. "We are saying goodbye to a lot of stuff that is really gorgeous."

Carpenter chimed in, "The meaning of life is to find your gift, and the purpose of life is to give it away,"

"This is our gift to give away," Dague added.

Mysterious monument stands guard in front of History Center

By Vera Kochan

For those unfamiliar with its location, the History Center can be found just around the right-side corner of the Moraga Library. Standing guard at the Center's door is a rusty, iron "monument" measuring 1-foot square by 3-feet in height and weighing 400 pounds. Probably the most interesting feature, besides the California grizzly bear molded into the top, are the many bullet holes dotting its exterior.

According to Moraga Historical Society (MHS) records, "This monument was one of the original county line markers. In 1895, the

marker was placed close to what is now the intersection of Fish Ranch Road and Grizzly Peak Boulevard. Similar markers had been originally placed elsewhere along the county line." That county line marked the boundary between Alameda and Contra Costa.

There is an explanation for all of the bullet holes. "In the early part of the 20th century, there was a bounty on coyotes," stated MHS. "The coyote hunters often used the marker for target practice."

When the Grizzly Peak roadway was first paved in the early 1930s,

the marker was removed from its position and unceremoniously dumped down the side of an embankment. It was later rescued by two teenagers on horseback.

Where the marker disappeared to, and for how long, remained a mystery until it popped up again in the form of a donation to MHS. Signed paperwork noted the addition to the Historical Society's collection of "1 Alameda/Contra Costa County Boundary Marker" from George L. Hemphill of Lodi, California on July 29, 2000.

The marker was installed in its current location in November

2001. MHS paperwork noted, "The marker is of special interest to our Society, because Fish Ranch Road up to Grizzly Peak Blvd. is within the boundaries of our Rancho Laguna de los Palos Colorados."

Special thanks to MHS President Susan Sperry.



Bullet holes riddle historic boundary marker (the Alameda County side).

Photo Vera Kochan



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Acalanes DAR marks America 250 with Lafayette Commemoration and Living History Program

Submitted by Vanessa Crews



Acalanes officers Terry Lucido and Vanessa Crews with Steve Bowman and Russ Kaiser.

Photos Allison Cook

The Acalanes Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) brought Revolutionary history to life in early April with a dynamic program and public commemoration honoring General Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette—all part of the chapter's ongoing participation in the nationwide America 250 initiative.

The day began with a chapter meeting featuring a living history presentation by Russ

Kaiser of Haslet's Delaware Regiment and Steve Bowman. Together, the two reenactors offered a vivid comparison of Continental Army and militia soldiers during the Revolutionary War.

Kaiser, also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, appeared in the full uniform of a Continental soldier in Haslet's Delaware Regiment. He explained that much of the equipment used by American troops—including uniforms and

weapons—was supplied by France in support of the Revolution. His wool uniform, worn in multiple layers over linen undergarments, illustrated the harsh realities faced by soldiers marching in summer heat and humidity. He described the extensive gear carried by a typical Continental soldier, including a canteen, ammunition, musket, and a shoulder bag known as a haversack, along with a pack containing food, bedding, and sometimes tenting materials.



Young American Patriots Fife and Drum Corp prepares for the procession.

In contrast, Bowman portrayed a rifleman serving under General Daniel Morgan, wearing lighter, homespun clothing in natural beige and brown tones that provided both comfort and camouflage. His long rifle, made in the American colonies, demonstrated superior accuracy compared to the standard musket. He also displayed a smaller personal pouch used by riflemen—commonly called a “possibles bag”—which carried essential tools and supplies.

The presenters demonstrated the loading and firing of both weapons, noting that a musket could fire approximately four shots in the time it took to load and fire a single rifle. However, riflemen often operated from behind trees or cover, targeting British officers whose distinctive uniforms made them visible on the battlefield, while musket-bearing troops fired in coordinated lines toward advancing enemy formations.

Participants formed a short procession to the

nearby Lafayette statue, led by the Young American Patriots Fife and Drum Corps. Parade participants—many carrying and waving small American and French flags—accompanied the march, adding to the celebratory and patriotic atmosphere.

The ceremony concluded with musical selections by the Fife and Drum Corps, including “La Marseillaise,” “The Star-Spangled Banner,” and “Yankee Doodle,” celebrating the historic alliance between France and the United States.

Irene Lois Shabel

June 6, 1927 - May 7, 2026

In Memory

Irene Shabel of Moraga passed away peacefully at her home on May 7, 2026.

Irene grew up in Riverside, Calif., and attended Pomona College where she met her first husband, John McEldowney. Together they had four daughters.

After their divorce Irene moved to Moraga and married Ray Shabel in 1970.

Irene's passion was gardening and playing bridge, which she did for over 50 years. She truly enjoyed her many hours spent in her beautiful garden. She was a very good cook, which her family appreciated.

Irene and Ray traveled to all 49 states in their RV and loved seeing the history here and around the world.

Irene is survived by her daughters Susan, Carol, Ellen and Joan (Clemens), and three stepdaughters, Susan (Randy), Anne, and Kathy.

Irene was a loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother, thoughtful friend, and neighbor. She will be deeply missed.



Sandra Sue Thompson

50 yr. Lafayette resident
Dec. 30 1939 - April 12, 2026

In Memory

On Sunday April 12, Sandy Thompson passed away from a fall and a subsequent surgery. She was born in Tucson, Ariz. and moved to California with her husband in 1964, landing in San Francisco, then Alameda, and finally, Lafayette. Graduating from the University of Arizona in 1962 with a degree in Education, she taught fourth grade for a while, then spent time raising her boys. Later, she worked as a bookkeeper, travel agent and then administrative assistant for the nonprofit, Contact Care, retiring 1993. She and her husband, George, enjoyed travel and visited many parts of the world with many of their long-term friends, the couple played bridge, Mexican Train, and attended monthly dinner/movie outings. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, George “Lee” Thompson, sons Michael and David (Mona), granddaughters Rebeca (Alex), Rachel Anseimi (Kris) and Grace, great grandchildren Benny, Piper, and Ivy; and brother, John Lewis (Jeannine). A Celebration of Life is planned for a future date. Sandy's sense of humor, smile, and love will be greatly missed. She is gone but will never be forgotten.



Get Involved:
**Help Shape the Future of Mobility
in Lafayette**

**Apply to Serve on the City's New
Multi-Modal Mobility Advisory Committee**

The City of Lafayette is seeking community volunteers to serve on a new temporary advisory committee that will help shape the future of walking, bicycling, transit access, and downtown mobility.

The Committee will provide coordinated community input on key transportation and mobility projects, including the Mt. Diablo Corridor Multi-Modal Mobility Study, Aqueduct Pathway Project, BART Station Access & Circulation Study, and other related initiatives. Because these projects are interconnected, the Committee will help ensure that recommendations are coordinated, reflect community priorities, and support a long-term vision for mobility in Lafayette.

We are seeking Lafayette residents with an interest or experience in transportation, planning, accessibility, road safety, business, or community advocacy.

The Committee is expected to meet every one to two months over an 18 to 24 month period beginning in Summer 2026.

**Applications are now being accepted.
Submit by June 15, 2026 for first review.**

Learn more and apply at:
<https://www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/commissions-committees/multi-modal-mobility-advisory-committee>

Lafayette citizens interested in these volunteer opportunities and application go to: [LoveLafayette.org/VolunteerApp](https://www.lovelafayette.org/VolunteerApp) or e-mail cityhall@lovelafayette.org

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Not to be missed

Art

The Moraga Art Gallery's new exhibit "Connectivity" is on view through Aug. 16. Free reception for the public to meet the artists, enjoy wine, music, and light snacks on Saturday, June 20 from 5 to 7 p.m. The Gallery is located at 432 Center Street in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center and is open noon to 5 p.m., Wednesday to Sunday. For more information visit http://www.moragaartgallery.com or call 925-376-5407.

Anthony's Custom Picture Framers is pleased to present "The Sounds of Art," a collaborative art show featuring local artist Peter Baron and special guest Ryan Price on bass and guitar on Sunday, July 12 from 2 - 5 p.m. at 1020 Brown Ave in Lafayette. Peter Baron's art has been featured in galleries, restaurants, festivals, and magazines such as Art in America and Art News. His paintings and drawings reflect an eclectic mix of styles and influences. Admission is free.

Orinda Library Art Gallery's June Exhibit featuring watercolors and botanical watercolors is open through June 27. The gallery is located at 26 Orinda Way and is open every day except Sundays. www.lamorindaarts.org

Theater

Youth Open Mic June 14, 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Chicken Pie Shop, 1251 Arroyo Way, Walnut Creek. Immerse yourself in a world of poetry, prose, visual arts and creative writing at this free event for teens aged 13 - 18 to read their creative work or 2D artists to display their art (easel provided). Questions? Email elanao@mac.com.

The Orinda Starlight Village Players presents "The Murder of Roger Ackroyd," Mark Shanahan's all new adaptation of the classic Agatha Christie mystery directed and designed by Matt Cardigan-Smith June 5 through July 4 in the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater (located at 28 Orinda Way in Orinda). Set in an English village in 1926, the widowed Mrs. Ferrars is found dead by apparent suicide and shortly after her fiancé, the most prominent man in town - Roger Ackroyd, is found dead, rumors start to run rampant. https://www.orsvp.org/the-murder-of-roger-ackroyd

Lamorinda Improv Theater is back for another evening of quick wit, big laughs, and unscripted fun as LIT students take the stage—with plenty of audience suggestions – in a high-energy performance at the historic

Not to be missed

Orinda Theatre at 8 p.m. on June 19. This showcase is the graduation party for LIT students, who have spent months honing their instincts, sharpening their timing, and mastering the art of "making stuff up." Tickets are \$20. Available at the Orinda Theatre website or https://www.litimprov.com

Town Hall Theatre Company presents "Tiny Beautiful Things" based on the book by Cheryl Strayed and adapted for the stage by Nia Vardalos through June 27 at 3535 School Street in Lafayette. Tickets available at www.townhalltheatre.com/tiny-beautiful-things for \$25.

Lee Osorio's "Prison-town" directed by Richard Perez, returns for two encore performances as a co-production with Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette. Past Artist in Residence, playwright, and actor Lee Osorio performed his play last year to sold-out audiences. This important and timely play delves into the complexities of a town relying on an immigrant detention facility as its life blood resulting in moral challenges that lead to apathy and activism in the face of the dehumanizing of others. Friday, July 3 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, July 5 at 2 p.m. at the Town Hall Theatre, Lafayette. Tickets available at www.townhalltheatre.com for \$30.

Other

More than \$38 million is available countywide to support students as they make college and career decisions ahead of graduation and approximately 41% of public high school stu-

dents in Contra Costa County are eligible for a CalKIDS Scholarship worth up to \$1,500. Administered by the ScholarShare Investment Board under the California State Treasurer's Office, CalKIDS provides scholarships to eligible California public school students to help pay for college or career training. Students and families can visit CalKIDS.org to check eligibility and, if eligible, follow the steps to claim their scholarship.

Middle and high school students living or attending school in California's 10th Congressional District are invited to submit an original application written in any programming language, for any platform (desktop/PC, web, tablet, mobile, raspberry Pi, etc.) as part of the 2026 Congressional App Challenge. Submissions are open now through 9 a.m. PT on Monday, Oct. 26. For more information or help submitting an app, please call (925) 933-2660. To learn more about the CAC, register, and submit your app please visit https://www.congressionalappchallenge.us/students/student-registration/.

Queer Faith Festival, a free LGBTQ+ interfaith community celebration Sunday, June 14 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette. Festival activities will include live performances, interfaith speakers, drag artistry, community organizations, kids' activities, the Kona Ice truck, food offerings, and opportunities for reflection and conversation. The event is free. 1035 Carol Ln, Lafayette. Website: www.queerfaithfestival.org

Join the Orinda com-

Not to be missed

munity, Miramonte Boosters, and MatsNation on Friday, June 26, as we celebrate Miramonte alumna Sabrina Ionescu—WNBA and Olympic champion, record-setting three-point shooter, and one of basketball's most inspiring leaders. A free, all-ages community celebration takes place at Miramonte High School from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., and includes a gymnasium dedication at 5:30 p.m. featuring Sabrina herself! The evening continues with a ticketed VIP reception at Moraga Country Club. Learn more at matsfund.org/all-project/gymnasium.

Sweet Thursday will discuss "The Peach Seed" with Anita Gail Jones on Thursday, June 18 at 7 p.m. at the Lafayette Library. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for guests to enjoy coffee and sweets. Her debut novel, "The Peach Seed" explores the repercussions of a single choice and how an enduring talisman challenges and holds a family together. The program is free, but registration is required by logging into www.tinyurl.com/sweet-june2026.

Sustainable Contra Costa is Calling for Sustainability Award Nominations - Do you know an individual, nonprofit, government program, school, or business that deserves to be recognized for their good work? The Leadership in Sustainability Award nominations are open now and will close on July 3rd. Nomination form: https://www.tfaforms.com/5219122

Free Summer Concerts Thursdays 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Moraga Commons Band Shell. Lord's ice cream will serve from the lawn at every concert; while the Moraga Lions and Moraga Kiwanis clubs will serve beer and wine from the bandshell. Taste of the World Market and Ofie's Kitchen food trucks will be on hand to provide food options too. Upcoming concerts: Sun Kings, June 11, a Reggae, a Beatles tribute band; Purple Ones, June 18, a Prince tribute band; and Refugees, June 25, a Tom Petty tribute band. For the full schedule see https://moragaparks.org/summer-concert-series/

Rock the Plaza is a free concert series held at Lafayette Plaza on Fridays in June from 6 to 8 p.m. Bring a blanket or chairs, grab some take-

out, or pack a picnic to enjoy during the concert. Featured bands & performers: J, June 12 - The Kyle Athayde Dance Party, and June 26 - Lamorinda Idol Finalists. For more event information, visit: https://lafayettechamber.org/rock

Thursday Nights in Orinda. Turn your summer into a weekly celebration on Thursday nights through September at the Orinda Community Center Park located at 28 Orinda Way. With events rotating throughout the season, there's always something to enjoy. Upcoming events: The Lion King 10 on June 11, music by the Good Time Collective Band on June 18, and a theater performance by the Orinda Starlight Village Players on July 2. Go to www.cityoforinda.gov/778/Thursday-Nights-in-Orinda for the full schedule.

Hacienda Nights brings the community together for live music, local food vendors, family activities, and relaxed outdoor fun under the trees at the Hacienda De Las Flores once a month on Tuesday evenings from June through August. Guests are invited to grab dinner from a rotating lineup of food trucks and vendors, enjoy drinks and desserts, connect with neighbors, and soak in the atmosphere of one of Moraga's most scenic gathering spaces. Bring a blanket and enjoy a picnic in the park on Tuesday, July 7 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Hacienda de las Flores Park great lawn, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga.

Fourth of July

Fourth of July Parade in downtown Orinda 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 4. Arrive early to find a good viewing spot. The parade begins in the Theatre District and continues to the Village side of town. Following the parade, there will be a carnival and music in Orinda Community Park beginning at 11:30 a.m. with food trucks and beer booths.

Fourth of July festivities at Moraga Commons Park run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a dog parade, inflatable jumpies, games, live music and entertainment. The fun resumes at 7 p.m. with a free concert at the bandshell featuring Neon Velvet followed by fireworks around 9:30 p.m.

Please submit community events to: calendar.lamorindaweekly@gmail.com

Lamorinda's Religious Services

ORINDA Community Church 10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | www.orindachurch.org "No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!" Sunday Service 10 am or join us online. Mondays 9:30 am Centering Prayer in the Chapel Wednesday 10 am Contemplative Worship in the Chapel

Lafayette United Methodist Church 955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 thelumc.org Sunday 10am in person worship We are a church that strives to love as Jesus loves. Our congregation welcomes, includes, and affirms everyone on their journey of faith regardless of race, ethnicity, age, economic status, physical and mental ability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church A welcoming and loving community of faith that learns, grows, and serves TOGETHER 49 Knox Drive • Lafayette, CA Sundays 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. LOPC.ORG In person & Streaming

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422 www.holyshepherd.org ONLINE WORSHIP SCHEDULE Facebook Premiere Community Worship every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Go to facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/ WORSHIP SCHEDULE In person worship at 9:30 a.m. Live stream on facebook.com/HSLCOrinda/ Visit our website to access the current and recent sermons.

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette Sundays at 10 a.m. Serving Lamorinda since 1960 www.stanselms.us

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Join us in person or on Facebook and YouTube livestream services every Sunday at 9:30 AM We are an LGBTQ+ affirming, RIC church! 1035 CAROL LANE, LAFAYETTE, CA 94549 www.OSLC.NET 925.283.3722 SPIRIT@OSLC.NET

St Stephen's Episcopal Church Worshipping, Learning, Serving www.ststephensorinda.org

ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH 24 Orinda Way (next to the Library)-925-254-4212 Sunday Services and Sunday School 10-11 am Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm All are welcome www.christianscienceorinda.org

St. Perpetua Catholic Church & School 3454 Hamlin Rd Lafayette, Ca 94549 Parish office 925.283.0272 School office 925.284.1640 www.stperpetua.org office@stperpetua.org Building a vibrant, welcoming, and missionary parish community centered on Jesus Christ Pastor: Fr. Jimmy Macalino Business Manager: Gianni Manzono School Principle: Molly Gotchet Daily Mass M-F 9am, Sat-5pm, Sun-9:30 & 11:30, Check website for details

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Lamorinda Spirit Van Celebrates 20 Years of Service to the Community

Submitted by Riki Juster



Community members and dignitaries gather to celebrate the Spirit Van anniversary.

Photo Craig Isaacs, BlueGoo Photography

The Lamorinda Spirit Van recently marked its 20th anniversary, celebrating two decades of providing essential transportation for older adults and residents across Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda.

The Spirit Van currently operates a fleet of five vehicles with a dedicated team of volunteer drivers and dispatch staff, coordinating thousands of rides each year to medical appointments, grocery shopping, exercise classes, social visits, and community events. In 2025 alone, the program provided over 5,200 rides, reflecting both rising demand and the organization's con-

tinued commitment to meeting it.

The anniversary celebration brought together riders, volunteers, staff, partners, and local officials to recognize the impact of the program and the people who make it possible and included a heartfelt tribute to Mary Bruns, the visionary who launched the Spirit Van and devoted 16 years of tireless dedication to building and nurturing the program.

Often described as the "spirit" behind Spirit Van, Bruns' legacy was honored through the presence of her daughters, who attended in her place and shared reflec-

tions on her deep commitment to the community and the lasting impact of her work.

As the organization looks ahead, its mission remains steady: to ensure that transportation is never a barrier to connection, dignity, or quality of life.

Lamorinda's Gift of Sight: Local nonprofit heads to Zimbabwe

Submitted by Nitin Ravikumar

For the past four years, Lamorinda neighbors have quietly been part of something remarkable. They've dropped donated eyeglasses into collection bins at local libraries and community centers. Businesses like Tangelos Froyo and Loard's Ice Cream have hosted fundraisers. Friends and families have spread the word. And one Campolindo High School student has turned all of it into a mission that now spans three continents.

Nitin Ravikumar, a rising senior at Campolindo, founded I Spy A Good Pair of Eyes in 2022 with a simple goal: get donated glasses to people who can't access or afford them. Since then, his all-volunteer nonprofit has sorted and graded thousands of pairs by prescription and delivered them through clinically supervised events — first in rural Tamil Nadu, India, in partnership with the local Rotary Club, and in July 2025 in Mérida, Mexico, alongside the Mérida Foundation.

This July 16-18, the organization takes on its largest effort yet. Ravikumar and his team will travel to the Chiredzi region of rural Zimbabwe to provide free vision screenings and prescription eyeglasses to an estimated 400 to 450 students, par-



Nitin Ravikumar

Photo provided

ents, teachers, and community elders over three days. The trip is made possible through valued partnerships with the Fambisa Isizwe Foundation and the Council for the Blind Zimbabwe, which is providing licensed optometrists and all clinical equipment.

What sets the effort apart is its focus on lasting change. Beyond fitting glasses, the team will provide preventative eye-care education to students and train local teachers to spot vision problems, leaving behind kits so communi-

ties can keep getting glasses to children long after the team departs.

"The Lamorinda community built this," Ravikumar said. "Every pair of glasses we hand out carries this community with it. Now we're taking it to the next level — together."

Residents who'd like to support the mission can learn more and donate through the GoFundMe linked at www.ispyagoodpairsofeyes.org, or contact Nitin at ispyagoodpairsofeyes@gmail.com.

Joybound receives 25 kittens displaced from Orange County emergency

Submitted by Chelsea Blackburn



In response to a recent emergency in Orange County involving an imminent chemical explosion threat and the evacuation of tens of thousands of households within a 1-mile radius, animal welfare organi-

zations, including Joybound People & Pets, coordinated the safe transfer of animals to support public safety operations.

To make room for displaced pets, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to

Animals (ASPCA), in partnership with Orange County Animal Care and Joybound People & Pets [1], transferred 25 kittens from Southern California shelters to Joybound's Walnut Creek campus. The transfer is

part of a broader regional effort to ease shelter overcrowding and create space for displaced pets as emergency response operations continue.

"This coordinated effort shows how emergency management agencies and animal shelters can work together in a crisis," said Miguel Abi-hassan, chief programs officer at Joybound People & Pets. "By working together across organizations and regions, we can relieve pressure on overwhelmed shelters, ensure animals receive immediate care, and support broader public safety needs. Even after the immediate danger passes, the strain on local systems can remain. By stepping in early, we can help stabilize the situation and support long-term recovery."

The ASPCA is serving as a key logistical

partner, coordinating transportation and communication between agencies. The effort followed an initial request to assist with more than 100 cats and kittens in need of placement as Orange County shelters faced capacity strain. As emergency resources were mobilized for evacuations and public safety readiness, local shelters came under added pressure to care for displaced animals and pets belonging to affected residents. By transferring adoptable animals out of the area, Joybound and its partners are helping free up critical space and resources.

Upon arrival at Joybound, all incoming animals will receive: Com-

prehensive veterinary examinations, vaccinations and preventative care, including deworming, spay/neuter procedures if needed, ongoing medical treatment if concerns are identified. Healthy animals may become available for adoption within days, helping move them into homes quickly while preserving capacity for ongoing emergency support.

Community members can support the effort by adopting, fostering or donating to help care for incoming animals. Updates on animal availability will be posted on Joybound's website Joybound People & Pets after intake and medical clearance.



Photo provided

Saklan School partners with Moraga Art Gallery for annual Student Art Exhibition

Submitted by Emily Williamson

The Saklan School proudly partnered with the Moraga Art Gallery to present a vibrant and inspiring student art exhibition May 1-6, marking the second time Saklan's Annual Art Show has been held off campus. The event proved to be a resounding success for students and the broader community.

"The opportunity for our students to have an authentic audience for their art, and experience

the joy of sharing their creative endeavors with the wider community, is greatly appreciated," said Lauren Haberly, Art Teacher at The Saklan School. "We are honored to partner with the Moraga Art Gallery to showcase the creativity and talent of our young artists."



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The no tears way to tackle the tiers of a wedding cake

By Susie Iventosch



There are many things I am not an expert at: making wedding cakes, frosting wedding cakes, and decorating wedding cakes among them. But despite my lack of formal expertise, I have made a handful of wedding cakes over the years for friends and family. This most recent one — my fifth — was especially meaningful because it was for my daughter, Courtney, who was married on May 2.

To build my confidence before creating my own daughter's wedding cake, I watched many YouTube tutorials and one of my favorites was by Anthony Gregorio of Global Sugar Art (<https://globalsugarart.com/>). I was so inspired by his work that I ordered all the decora-

tive flowers for the cake from Global Sugar Art — rose buds, rose sprays, and both green and white hydrangeas. They arrived carefully wrapped in protective foam and were almost too beautiful to touch.

In the end, the cake turned out even better than I had hoped, thanks to Courtney's dear friend Mark Miller who stepped in with his wonderful eye for design. I had never made a cake for 180 people, but now that I have survived the experience, I honestly think I would do it again — especially with the help of those beautiful Global Sugar Art flowers — and Mark!

One of the trickiest parts of building a wedding cake is figuring out how to scale recipes for

multiple tiers. I concluded that the simplest approach was to use my standard 8-inch cake recipe as the baseline. For each additional two inches in diameter, I doubled the recipe. So, for this cake's 10-inch tier, I doubled the recipe, and for the 12-inch tier, I quadrupled it.

The smaller tiers required working backwards. Instead of halving the recipe for the 6-inch tier and quartering it for the 4-inch tier, I simply used one recipe to make both the 4-inch and 6-inch layers together.

One helpful tip when working with different-sized pans is to keep the batter depth consistent across all tiers. In other words, if your 8-inch pans are filled about

two-thirds full, aim for that same batter height in every pan regardless of size. This helps ensure the cake layers bake evenly and maintain similar proportions throughout the finished cake. In addition, you want to use a bread knife to cut the domed top part of your layers, so that the top of each layer is flat. Those scraps make for delicious snitching!

And while I may never call myself an expert wedding cake baker, I will say this: there is something deeply special about creating a cake for someone you love. Especially when that someone is your daughter.

Wedding Cake

INGREDIENTS

Dark Chocolate Wedding Cake

(Recipe for a 2-layer/8-inch Tier)

- 11 oz. unsalted butter (softened to room temp)
- 1 3/4 cups granulated sugar
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 4 oz. bittersweet chocolate, (60% cacao) melted and cooled to room temp
- 5 large eggs (at room temp)
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 4 tsp. baking powder
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup nonfat plain Greek yogurt
- 1/2 cup dark chocolate chips

Buttercream Frosting and Pistachio Filling

- 2 cups unsalted butter at room temperature (4 sticks or 16 oz.)
- 1 3/4 lbs. powdered sugar, sifted
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon vanilla powder (this helps keep the frosting whiter than using vanilla extract)
- 1/4 cup tablespoons cream or milk +/-
- 1/2 cup pistachio butter for the filling

DIRECTIONS

Cake Directions

Line two cake pans (8-inch for this recipe) with parchment paper rounds. Spray the tops of the paper and the sides of the cake with cooking spray. Preheat oven to 350 F. Sift together flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, and salt. Set aside. Melt bittersweet chocolate and cool to room temperature. Set aside.

In a large bowl or in the bowl of your standing mixer, beat butter until fluffy and light yellow in color. Slowly add both sugars and continue to beat until creamy and well-integrated. Beat in vanilla extract. Beat in cooled, melted chocolate. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each and scraping down the sides of the bowl as needed. Add flour mixture and milk, alternately, beginning and ending with flour. Fold chocolate chips into the batter.

Evenly distribute the batter into the two prepared pans. Fill each pan to about 2/3 full. I use a kitchen scale to make sure I have the same amount of batter in each layer. Adjust each layer as needed by spooning a little bit in or out of the pan.

Bake for 35-40 minutes, rotating cake layers front to back about halfway through the baking. Test cakes with a toothpick inserted into the center of each layer to make sure the cake is done and you get a few crumbs and not a bunch of sticky batter.

Remove cakes from oven and cool on a rack for about 20 minutes. When cool enough to handle, invert cakes to remove from the cake pans and continue to cool on the rack. When completely cool, you can begin to assemble the cake or you can wrap each layer carefully in plastic wrap and then inside a baggie and freeze for up to a couple of months before frosting, decorating, and serving.

Frosting/Filling Directions

In a large bowl or the bowl of your standing mixer, beat the room temperature butter until light and fluffy. Add vanilla powder and mix well. Slowly beat in powdered sugar, alternately with milk until all the sugar has been incorporated. Scrape down the bowl as you go and be sure to gather up any powdered sugar at the bottom of the bowl that has not been incorporated into the frosting. You may need slightly less or slightly more milk, just keep an eye on the consistency so that it isn't too soft, but will spread easily. When you pull your spatula out of the bowl, it should leave soft peaks of frosting. Also, by beating the sugar into the butter at a slower speed, you can more easily avoid creating air bubbles in the frosting.

Make the filling by blending 1/2 cup pistachio butter or cream into 1/3 of the buttercream frosting until well blended.

Assembling the Cake

For each tier of your wedding cake, place one layer on a cardboard cake round sized to fit the diameter of the cake. Spread the filling over the bottom layer. Invert the second layer and place it bottom side up on top of the filling and press down to make sure the cake is even. At this point, you can chill the cake by putting it in the freezer for about 20 minutes before frosting the crumb layer all over the cake. Freezing or chilling the cake makes this next step much easier.

Place your cake tier on a cake turntable, and, using an offset spatula, spread half of the frosting completely over the top and sides of the cake, being careful to make it as smooth as possible. Use a bench scraper to help even out the frosting. This coat of frosting is just the base, so it doesn't have to be perfect. Once you are satisfied with this step, chill the cake again before applying the final coating of frosting.

Using the same offset spatula and bench scraper, apply the final coat of buttercream frosting all over the top and sides of the cake. Having your cake on a cake turntable will help you to make the frosting smooth and even.

Chill the frosted cake again until you are ready to assemble and decorate the cake and repeat this process with each tier that you plan to make.

For the final cake assembly, place your largest tier on the cake plate or platter that you plan to display the cake on for your event. Insert about 6-8 cake dowel rods into the area of the bottom tier that the next tier will set upon. So for example, if you have a 12-inch bottom tier, the cake dowels will be placed into the circular area the size of the 10-inch layer, which will sit directly on top of these dowels. This helps to hold the layers firmly in place without sinking into each other. Repeat this process with each tier.

Finish the seams between tiers by piping frosting to cover the gaps using whatever decorative tip you like. I used a plain round one to make dots, but you can use open star tips or whatever decorating tip that is aesthetically pleasing to you.

Once the wedding cake is assembled, it's time to position the flowers. We used plastic cake picks to cover the wires from the flowers and inserted them directly into the cake wherever we wanted to place the flowers. This keeps the wire from going directly into the cake. Don't worry ... a professional cake server will know about these and remove them when cutting and serving the cake.



Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com. This recipe can be found on our website: www.lamorindaweekly.com If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977. Or visit <https://treksandbites.com>



Photos Becky Dean, Studio Ostendo, Co.

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Beach Volleyball participation and talent in Lamorinda continues to increase

By Jon Kingdon



Campolindo Sophia Wilson going up for the ball.

Photo Josh Uziel

CAMPOLINDO

In its fourth year of beach volleyball, Campolindo has its largest roster ever with 26 players, but it is a very young team with only three seniors and a large number of freshmen on the roster.

It's a sport that co-head coach Laura Rockwell says the players learn from their coaches on how to play but also learn as much by themselves on the court. "We're only able to coach them during timeouts and changeovers so it really helps them build their own strategy and empowerment.

"With only two seniors on the roster, and a large freshman class, there is a solid foundation for the future of the team. With only two players on the court, the amount of touches is way more than they get indoors. We want them at the end of the season to know in the core of their being that they improved on x, y, z which is what they set out to do."

Unlike indoor volleyball, on the beach, you need to have well rounded skills, a high court IQ and the ability to see your opponent's weaknesses and avoiding their strengths. "Our girls are really passionate about indoor and some more so with beach volleyball," Rockwell said. "Some of the girls lack experience with beach volleyball and are learning and playing a sport they

love."

There is a real strategy in pairing up the players, often pairing a taller and shorter player, but the key component is often their ability to connect with each other.

Campolindo's number one team is two sophomores, Hanna Raczynska and Sophia Wilson, this being Wilson's first year on the beach team. "They are very strong, all-around players, offensively and defensively," Rockwell said. "They are evenly matched physically and have good chemistry. They really hustle and show a willingness to make the play and work together."

Their second team is senior Evey Uziel and junior Molly Herrington. "Evie is a shorter but well-rounded player," Rockwell said. "She is an excellent teammate that has excellent visibility on the court and great control of the ball to put in locations where the opponent is not. Molly is a very well-rounded player and athlete with great communication and hustle that can make the best out of any situation."

Two juniors trying beach for the first time, Rory Cruz and Dior Duru, have made the adjustment to the beach very well, showing excellent drive, hustle, and a willingness to learn.

Others who have stood out have been junior Sadie Jai, who has proven herself with her

shots and ball placement, and sophomore Megan Sugiyama who has really improved and is showing a lot of promise.

Leading the 12 freshmen on the roster, are Grace Thiel, Katherine Deng, Leila Azzani, Lexie Gilmore, and Darcy Best, developing their offense, defense and setting skills and taking ownership on the court.

In the DAL tournament, Las Lomas came in first and the teams of Raczynska and Wilson finished in second and Uziel and Duru came in third.

ACALANES

In her third year as the Acalanes head coach, Nicole Kuhnle wanted a commitment made by her players by insisting that they choose to play beach volleyball or with their indoor club team during the season. "Our roster has grown to 17 players with a large number of freshmen and sophomores, who have been very excited to play beach," Kuhnle said.

As a personal trainer and pain free performance specialist, Kuhnle brings her own philosophy to coaching, "I'm big in nutrition, and so I really try to instill healthy habits in them, starting with their warmups. Our bodies are only as good as we are mobile, healthy, and feeling safe. I am a coach that puts the athlete over the wins and I believe in building

character with our team, pushing them appropriately, making sure that they focus on doing things correctly and the wins will happen."

Sydney Scovic, a junior, has been the leading player for the team and has already committed to playing for Tulane University after she graduates. She also plays indoor for Acalanes but prefers playing beach: "I just love being outside and not in an indoor convention center with a ton of whistles and you're in and out of the game. It's great conditioning on the sand and it's allowed me to jump higher when playing indoor volleyball."

Matching the players appropriately is also important to Kuhnle: "I try give each team a hitter and a defender though that is not always possible."

Mira Clark and Fran Barbano are both well rounded players. "Mira is scrappy, sees the court really well, moves the ball around and is very good on defense. Fran is also well rounded and is a good shooter. It's a matter of looking at how well they will work together."

Sydney Scovic has also been paired with Barbano. "Sydney has good height and hitting power and is our best consistent blocker. She is a good setter and is working on improving her passing."

Krystina Merkelo and Shaelyn McCall work well together. "Shae is a well-rounded player that can see the court, places the ball well and is a good communicator and is very supportive to her partners. Krystina is just a little firecracker that is scrappy and can move. She finds a spot on the court and is always positive and has a lot of potential."

Stella Larkin and Ella Meewes are also complementary of each other. "As a team, they move the ball around well and both can cut and shoot. Ella can hit on the ball and also shoot whereas Stella is fast and has shown overall improvement since she started."

Kuhnle has seen constant improvement with the team: "The players have shown a much better understanding of beach and being able to anticipate what could happen. They have improved their option shots and are seeing the court and moving the ball around a lot better and doing better with serve and

receive."

MIRAMONTE

This is Miramonte's first year with a beach volleyball team and its first year in the league and is being coached by Miramonte indoor volleyball coach Sylvia Colucci.

"We've had a great turnout with 25 girls trying out and had to cut the roster down to 14 girls," Colucci said. "Half of our team is made up of freshmen and it's a team that is hungry for the game. I had some parents reach out to me about starting a beach volleyball team and so I decided to take it on. I'm so excited for Miramonte to have this program start this year. We have such a great group of young female athletes that are very fit, so they've been able to get their sand legs fairly quickly and what better way to get fit and do something you love, then to be outdoors?"

Colucci sees a lot of positives with the teams that she is putting out on the court. Miramonte's first team players are two freshmen, Gianna Kaspari and Lucy Targonski. "They're both great indoor players and have great volleyball IQ. They know each other well and they communicate incredibly. They're very different players so bringing them together as a defender and a blocker works amazingly well."

The number two team players are also freshmen, Olivia Morrow and Madeline Stout. "Surprisingly, they did not come over from indoor volleyball; they are tennis players though they knew the game coming in and they done a great job in adjusting

to the sport. They're good friends so that is something that helps their team chemistry, which is fantastic."

Maddie Young, a junior, has been a leader and a very solid player and Olivia Gotts, another freshman who played on the Miramonte indoor team has really stepped up. "Olivia has shown herself to be a player that really hustles and is able to partner with anybody."

What is the most important thing that Colucci says the girls need to learn? "Communication, 1,000%. I've told the girls that their skill levels are high but that we need to work on our communication and how we show up as teammates because we're playing as an I versus a we. It's about an entire team and how we support each other, showing up, pushing, communicating, and motivating each other which is what is going to carry the team forward. We're looking towards when they start having NCS playoffs for beach volleyball which at that point will be our goal."

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Led by Campolindo, Lamorinda track teams represented at state track meet

By Jon Kingdon

CAMPOLINDO

After a regular season that was highlighted with any number of personal and team records, the post-season for Campolindo proved to be just as successful. Starting with the league tournament where the boys and girls both finished first, to the Tri-Valley Meet and Meet of Champions which led to a solid number of athletes that headed to the state tournament in both track and field events.

The boys 4 x 800 relay team and pole vaulter Malik Li and the girls 4 x 100 and 4 x 400 relay teams, and Jasmine McCasland running 400 meters, Claire Andrzejek 800 meters, and pole vaulter Sophia Moore all made it to the state tournament.

The boys relay team of Chase Mickens, Thomas Riley, Caden Ehrhorn and Cody De La Cruz finished in fifth with a time of 7:48.2, a school record. "Having battled illness and injuries in prior weeks, to have the team put it together and finishing ahead of all of the other Northern California teams was a really great way to end the season," said assistant coach Andy Lindquist.

This was the first time that Campolindo was represented by a boy and a girl pole vaulter simultaneously at the state meet. Moore was the only sophomore to finish in the top 10 and her vault of 11'10" was the second highest in school history.

McCasland, who finished third in the 400 meters at the MOC also ran on both the 4 x 100 and 4 x 400 relay teams. Sarah Graves and Emma Stimmler also ran on both relays with Ilinca Galatanu, the fourth runner on the 4 x 400 and Moore the fourth on the 4 x 100.

"Across the board, we've had crazy improvements from top to bottom," Lindquist said. "Sophomore Denzel Parker made it to the Meet of Champions finals and finished tenth,

freshman Thomas Riley, in his first year running the 800 ran 1:57 and made it to the MOC finals and helped our 4 x 800 relay make it to state. Carter Cook made his first NCS in the 1600 finishing fifth, another phenomenal improvement curve from last year to now. At the top end Claire Andrzejek, went from being a solid runner last year running 2:16 in the 800 to now running 2:09 in the MOC and finishing in 12th at state. Emma Stimmler had a breakout year in the 100 and 300 hurdles along with running the relays."

Lindquist saw this as a season without peer. "If you just look at the paper results at the NCS and State, the eight school records we broke, our sending the most athletes ever to the state championship, by those metrics, this has been our most successful season of all time. Credit goes to all of these athletes from top to bottom for having a phenomenal season."

ACALANES

With the boys and girls track teams both finishing in second at the DAL Meet and the boys finishing in second at the Tri-Valley Meet and the girls in sixth place, head coach Joe Escobar was very optimistic heading into the Meet of Champions.

"We brought 14 members of the team to the MOC which was the most that we've had in a long time. We just have really incredible kids that work really hard. We've raised the bar and have asked a lot of them and they've done whatever they needed to do to get where they are right now."

The 4 x 100 relay team for the boys led by Matthew Schwarz, Ilias Kaplanes-Jones, Jackson Boselli and River Lockwood and the 4 x 400 team of Julian Hood, Benjamin Mickelson and Lockwood had been solid all season as was the girls 4 x 400 team of Cam Thornton, Olivia

Kemp, Tori Hiatt, and Isabelle Agnost. "It's the same thing that we told the team that came in second at the state tournament a couple of years ago: The whole is greater than the sum of its parts," Escobar said.

Unfortunately, Lockwood who came into the MOC having broken the school record with a time of 39.06 in the 300-meter hurdles, pulled his hamstring crossing the finish line on the 4 x 100. "That definitely hurt us," Escobar said. "He was on the 4 x 400 and was unable to run the hurdles as well." With Boselli stepping in for Lockwood, they just missed making it to state though they did run under 3:20 for the third time in team history.

Others who made it to the MOC were Ilias Kaplanes-Jones who ran the 100- and 200-meters races and long jumped, Boselli and Schwarz who ran the 200 meters, Benjamin Mickelson the 400 meters, Harry Zimmerman the 1600 meter, Miles Moore who pole vaulted and Deonte Littlejohn who threw the shot and discus.

Cam Thornton ran the 400 meters, Nevis Murphy the 1600 meters, Olivia Kemp the 300-meter hurdles and Amari Hollins who became the first girl from Acalanes to make it to the meet as a discus thrower.

In the end, the only two to make it to state were Kaplanes-Jones in the long jump and Littlejohn in the shot and discus. "Deonte has always been great, owning the team record in the discus and has made great strides as a shot putter," Escobar said. "Ilias had a great year and made it to state on his last jump."

Kaplanes-Jones would finish in 18th with a jump of 21'11.25 and Littlejohn would finish in 11th in the discus (168'1") and 17th in the discus (52-9.75)

With a number of freshmen and sophomores moving up next season along with Jake Mikalis who was the



Acalanes' Deonte Littlejohn throws the discus at MOC, qualifying for the State Meet.

Photo Jon Kingdon

only freshman on the varsity competing in both track and field events along with juniors like Boselli and Mickelson and Campos, Agnost and Hollins on the girl's side, there's a lot to look forward to.

MIRAMONTE

In his first year as the Miramonte head track coach, Robert Kennedy made it clear what he wanted for his team. "I wanted to create an environment where the kids feel safe and they're having fun while raising their energy. When you have high energy, you get more output in practice and there's more sense of urgency."

Kennedy, who ran track at the University of California, brought his experiences to the athletes. "I wanted to show them how this can open up doors to new possibilities like going on to compete in college. We've raised their level of competition so it wasn't always just a team atmosphere and that has resulted in us setting a lot of personal records and making it to the Meet of Champions."

Qualifying for the Meet of Champions were Logan Letulle who ran

the 3,200 meters in 9:56.59, Alex Howe who put the shot 46'09 and high jumper Max Pickett who previously had jumped 6'1" at the Tri-Valley Meet. "Max broke a number of personal records this year."

Leading the girls at the MOC was their 4 x 100 relay team of Amaya Kennedy, Mia Cortesio, Kate Knight, and Olivia Durinck, all of whom will be returning next year and ran a time of 49.67. Knight also ran the 200 meters in 25.61 and Durinck ran the 400 meters in 58.98. Cortesio had a 4'10" coming into the meet and Jaya Patel pole vaulted 9'11" and triple jumped 33'02". Senior Milla Ohrbach qualified for the State Meet for the third year in a row finishing in second in the discus (131'07") and third in the discus (37-10.5) but opted instead to attend her graduation.

"Milla is a real powerhouse that brings pure athleticism to her events and uses a little bit of everything to her advantage," Kennedy said. "Jaya is just a freshman and had a great year putting marks way out there. You give her information and she just internalizes it and makes

it happen."

Durinck finished in 14th at the Meet of Champions and Isabel Mickel finished in 13th in the 3200 meters at the Tri-Valley Meet. "Olivia is the faster runner on our team," Kennedy said. "Kate Knight is a great athlete who also plays soccer. She is all about track now and has dedicated herself to refine her sprinting technique and she has a lot more in the tank."

With a solid group stepping up from the Frosh-Soph team, Kennedy is very optimistic about the team's future along with the experience his athletes went through at the Meet of Champions. "For most of our athletes that made it to MOC, this was their first time at a large scale meet and got a taste of what it was like to compete at a major event but were able to handle the pressure well. I want my team to be able to have those experiences so every time we show up, it's giving them the confidence that they can compete with those athletes and when next year comes around, they can step up and meet the moment."

Miramonte boys lacrosse

..continued from Page A1

The coaching staff also played a major role in Miramonte's turnaround. With head coach Jake Azevedo periodically being called away for his job as a firefighter, new assistant coach Drew Virk brought a wealth of lacrosse experience to the program.

Virk, who played lacrosse at the University of Maryland and coached a number of years in college, introduced new offensive and defensive concepts that elevated the team. "Drew was critical to our success this season," Duffy said. "He brought his playing and coaching experience to the team and once they fully adjusted to his systems and the team got healthy, everything began to click."

After spring break, Miramonte was able to get everybody healthy and were able to evolve and concluded the league season with a 6-1 record, earning them the third seed in the Division 2 NCS tournament.

The Matadors would go on to defeat Sonoma Valley 16-5, Piedmont 7-6, University 7-4, and top seeded Terra Linda 13-4 in the championship. Miramonte had lost to

Piedmont and Terra Linda early in the season, 7-6 and 6-3 respectively, which made those victories all the more satisfying.

The championship marked a historic breakthrough for the program. In Azevedo's first three seasons, Miramonte was eliminated in the second round each year. This season, however, the Matadors captured both their first NCS semifinal win and the program's first-ever NCS championship.

"Jake and I came in together in 2022, just after the COVID years and all of the starters on this year's team, except for Derek Youn who started as a freshman, began on the JV team in 2023. They all grew through the program and to see them go from playing junior varsity to winning the championship made for an emotional post-season banquet."

The leaders on offense were sophomore Trey Murphy 57G, 21A, juniors E.J. Ho 29G, 36A, and Bowden Blakely 27G, 12A and seniors Youn 23G, 6A, and David Roman 26G, 5A. Thomas had 5 goals, Youn 4 goals, Ho 2 goals and Blakely and Roman each had 1 goal in the Terra Linda

game.

Murphy was chosen as the team's offensive MVP. "Trey was our stalwart on offense despite missing some games with an injury," Duffy said. "With his great speed and shot placements, he had 12 games of 4 goals or more and scored in every game he played."

David Roman, who also played on the Miramonte football team, won the Team MVP at the team banquet. "David was the glue that held the team together from start to finish," Duffy said. "He was a classic two-way middle (offensive and defensive midfielder), being fourth on the team in goals scored, second in caused turnovers and third in ground balls. Without David, none of this would have happened."

The defense was equally responsible for the team's success as evidenced in the victory over Piedmont. With Youn out early with an ankle sprain, E.J. Ho scored the go-ahead goal halfway through the fourth period and the defense stepped up, shutting out Piedmont the rest of the game.

The defense was led by seniors, co-captain

Charlie Hwang and Andy Su, and junior Sam Gugel. "They were a phenomenal defensive unit that really came together," Duffy said. "Charlie was first on the team in caused turnovers and second for ground balls. Sam was third on the team in caused turnovers and ground balls and Andy was the calming force on the inside."

Junior goalie Bowie Hillstrom was a unanimous choice for all-league goalie. "Bowie saved 75% of the shots in the championship game, many of which were on the doorstep. He is very athletic and makes himself big between the pipes which was a real key for his success."

With the team graduating 10 seniors, Duffy remains optimistic about the team's future, "It's fair to say that we're going to lose a lot with graduation but we have a large junior class and Trey Murphy returning."

Karate & Fitness USA team achieves big success

Submitted by Thomas Westernoff



Superstar Adam Tam takes three Golds at AAU Karate Championships National Qualifier - Chicago, Ill.

Photo provided

Karate & Fitness USA team from Lafayette returned home triumphant from the AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) Region 6 Karate Championships and USA Team Qualifier held in Chicago, Ill., over the May 3rd weekend. AAU is the largest sports organization in the country.

A small but mighty group of only four athletes, the team delivered an outstanding perfor-

mance - earning a total of 11 medals in Kata (forms) Kumite (sparring) Kobudo (weapons).

This year's event featured participation from over 40 karate schools from across the nation, making it one of the most competitive AAU regional qualifiers. Individual achievements included Adam Tam (3 gold), Leslie Valentine (2 gold, 1 silver) and Mariah Santos (2 gold).

LMYA CHAMPIONS 2026

Congratulations to all of our players and thank you to all of the coaches, refs, and parents for making this another great LMYA Spring Sports season!



4th Grade Girls Volleyball - HERMOSA BEACH

(Front Row L to R): Rosemary McCoy, Catie Mae Hawkins, Grace Speron, Frankie Toben, Haley Puljiz. (Back Row L to R): Coach Patrick Nackord, Olivia Nackord, Claire Stevens, Farren Sharp, Kaylee Ng, Valentina Burns, Elle Wilson, Coach Ryan Toben.



5th Grade Girls Volleyball - BOCA RATON

(Front Row L to R): Juliana Tyndall, Sabeena Bezold, Gia Romagnolo, Atlanti Pereyda, Ava Bailey. (Back Row L to R): Coach Alex Romagnolo, Assistant Ashlyn McCoin, Charlotte Prentiss, Sonia Bhat, Ellie Porter, Coach Kathy Maratukulam, Coach Brent Tyndall. (Not pictured): Caroline Phelps, Lily Rojas.



6th Grade Girls Volleyball - HAMPTON BEACH

(Front Row L to R): Olivia Jennings-Dean, Skylar Ali, Emilie Fratarcangeli, Morgan Andersen, Ellie Deal, Kyla Bronson, Vivian Kircher. (Back Row L to R): Coach Briana, Lily Hedlund, Julia Parsons, Mirabel Peters, Avery Jaeger, Sophia Vimal, high school helper Sydney, Coach Jackie. (Not pictured): high school helper Francesca.



7th/8th Grade Girls Volleyball - SAN DIEGO

(Front Row L to R): Callie MacKenzie, Marlowe Bernier, Aerin O'Rourke, Sophie Smith. (Back Row L to R): Coach Josh Smith, Riley Wallis, Suri Valiyye, Sofia Thompson, Reese Andron, Finley Bernier, Addison Hill, Alexa Walker, Coach Matt Bernier. (Not pictured): Eldana Melaku.



3rd/4th Grade Boys Baseball - IRON PIGS

(Players): Addison Zheng, Cayden Quinones, Emmett Wakeman, Maceo Johnson, Nikita Panchenko, Austin Dimitruk, Enzo Siegel, Evan Divakuruni, Judah Friedman, Mason Gutierrez, Santiago Cantù-Gonzalez. Coach Jason Quinones, Assistant Coach Grandpa Quinones, Team Mom Athena Quinones. (Not pictured): Satya Palakurthy, Zayden Wegener.



5th-7th Grade Boys Baseball - IRON PIGS

(Front Row L to R): Lucca Cardena, Ryan Rodriguez, Henry Branagh, Vishnu Shanbhag, Elisha Savinovich, Bodhi Feldman, Logan Lawall-Ng, Jerry Hu, Nathaniel Salsler-Smith. (Back Row L to R): Assistant Coach Daniel Feldman, Caleb Milanes, Coach John Branagh, Wesley Branagh.



10U Girls Softball - MICHIGAN

(Front Row L to R): Lucy Gerhard, Zoya Mian, Chloe Greenlee, Maddie Keehn, Evie Johnson. (Middle Row L to R): Lucia Fleming, Erin Kim, Sarina Gordon, Elena Young, Isabella Haugh. (Back Row L to R): Coaches Tim Fleming, Ricky Gordon, Tyler Young, Eric Haugh. (Not Pictured): Gianna Collins, Allegra Mar, Lena Bird.



www.lmyasports.com



14 Lamorinda rowers bring home medals from Southwest Regionals

Submitted by Joel Flory



Women's Varsity 8+ gold-medal winners

Fourteen Lamorinda high schoolers brought home medals from the USRowing Southwest Youth Regional Championships over the weekend of May 1-3. Their wins helped Oakland

Strokes record two historic gold medals and qualify 10 boats. The qualifying boats, including nine of the 14 Lamorinda athletes, are now headed to the USRowing Youth National Champi-

Photo Jennifer Zhang-Wheeler

onships in Sarasota, Florida, in June.

Acalanes junior Ingrid Flory of Lafayette rowed in the six seat of the Oakland Strokes Women's Varsity 8+, which won the gold

medal, the club's first Women's V8+ regional title in 12 years.

The Men's U17 8+, coached by Sean Gibel, also took gold, the club's first-ever win in the event's A Final. Three Lamorinda rowers were in the boat: Campolindo's Cole Grakauskas of Moraga in the two seat, Campolindo's Ryan Koray of Moraga in the four seat, and Head-Royce's Hawk Coulston of Lafayette in the six seat.

"What I'm most proud of is the culture this squad built, working hard, being coachable, and lifting up their teammates," said Sean Gibel, the Oakland Strokes Men's U17/U16 Coach.

Five more Lamorinda athletes qualified for Nationals in other Oakland Strokes boats. Leela Grimaud of Mira-

monte High School (Orinda) coxed the silver-medal Women's 2V 8+. Four Lamorinda rowers were in the Women's 3V 8+, which qualified for Nationals by finishing fourth in the 2V A Final: Harper Jaffe and Paige Sovocool of Miramonte High School, Alexis Kolovyansky of Acalanes High School, and coxswain Laila Shahsavari of Miramonte High School.

Acalanes sophomore Campbell Deane of Lafayette also brought home a medal: she rowed in the three seat of an Oakland Strokes 4V crew that took silver in the Women's Youth 3V 8+ A Final, earning a regional medal (this race is

not a Nationals-qualifying event).

Four more Lamorinda athletes were in the Oakland Strokes Men's 3V 8+, which took bronze in the Men's Youth 3V 8+ A Final: Campolindo senior Liam Dinwiddie of Lafayette in the bow seat, Campolindo junior Wyatt Schmah of Moraga in the four seat, College Prep junior Adam Fibrich of Moraga in the six seat, and Miramonte sophomore Brenden Lee of Orinda at coxswain. The boat earned a regional medal but does not advance to Nationals.

For more information, visit oaklandstrokes.org.

Please submit sport stories/ pictures to: submit.lamorindaweekly@gmail.com

Camino Pablo wins 31st annual Moraga Rotary Field Day

Submitted by Tony Schoemehl

Camino Pablo athletes won the 31st Annual Moraga Rotary Field Day held recently at the Joaquin Moraga field, amassing 86 points. Los Perales won second place with 71 points, followed by Rheem with 43 points and Saklan with 9 points. The high point boy was Winston Hoang, a third-grader at Camino Pablo with 16 points, and the high point girl was Madison Pola, a third-grader at Los Perales with 13 points. Medals and points were given to

the top three finalists in each event.

Moraga Rotary Field Day Chairman Tony Schoemehl gave a big thank you to the men's track team and women's basketball team from Saint Mary's College who helped conduct and judge the events, and to the teachers who encouraged their students to participate. The events consisted of sprints, sack races, long jump, baseball throw, Frisbee throw, basketball throw, and relays.

Schoemehl anticipates many more athletes will join in the 2027 event as more teachers and students will want to enjoy this fun event. The Field Day continues the Moraga Rotary tradition of hosting a mini track and field meet for third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders in Moraga schools, but which was suspended during 2020-2023 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

About 170 students participated this year, down from 345 athletes in pre-COVID years.

Moraga Rotary is a 58-year-old service club within Rotary International, and meets most Tuesdays at noon at La Finestra restaurant. To inquire about membership, or for further information, check out the website: moragarotary.org or call (925) 890-1059.



Relay winners at 31st Moraga Rotary Field Day.

Photo provided

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Moraga ART Gallery
A New Exhibit Featuring Angelica Samame, George Ehrenhaft and guest artist Linda Yoshizawa

The public is invited to a reception June 20th, 5 - 7 pm. Meet the gallery artists, guest artists, enjoy live music, light refreshments and maybe take home some art.

Closes August 16

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