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Wednesday, May 27, 2009



What's the Buzz in Lafayette? The Buzztones are Back! By Cathy Tyson

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Mats Advance in NCS Play

PRSRT STD U.S.POSTAGE **PAID** AD-VANTAGE and delivered to 24,200 homes and businesses in Lamorinda. return to: Lamorinda Weekly • P.O. Box 6133 • Moraga, CA 94570

That's why the Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the "Try Lafayette First Thank You Party." Residents are invited to Plaza Park on Friday June 5 to enjoy complimentary refreshments and the fabulous retro sounds of the Buzztones. Merchants truly appreciated the support of long time customers who really did make an effort to shop Lafayette first.

The very popular local band is reuniting for a few special events including this celebration of resi-

Verything old is new again. Customer loyalty and supporting your town never go out of style.

dents' support of local businesses. Dedicated shopper and supporting your town never go out of style.

dents' support of local businesses. Dedicated shopper reunion, even a band reunion—this martin. The band came together in 1979, changed the is a love fest you don't want to miss.

> It's also a chance to meet the merchants who keep Lafayette so vital, and possibly rub elbows with former classmates and Buzztone fans from Acalanes, Miramonte and Campolindo who have stayed in the area since their respective glory days of high school.

> Locals of a certain age probably remember fondly Wednesday nights at Abernathy's in Walnut Creek, waiting in lines out the door to listen to the Buz

line-up in 1981 and went their separate ways in 1989, although "We've all stayed friends."

"We have this weird, wonderful relationship, like four wacky brothers with great chemistry. When we sing together there's this magic that happens," said Martin, referring to the Buzztone vibe of humor, antics and fun. Many residents know him as David Van Overveen, son of Jop and Irene Van Overveen.

... continued on page 2

New Listing in Orinda

Charming Ranch-style home nestled into one of the best professionally landscaped .54 acre lots in the Orinda Country Club. This home is sunny, open, airy and has great light all day long. A one-level home, it offers wonderful views of Las Trampas and other local hills through many windows. Enjoy a modern kitchen, three spacious bedrooms, and two baths. There are dual pane sliders and walls of glass in the master suite, family and living rooms This home is terrific for adult and family entertaining.

April Matthews Village Associates 93 Moraga Way, #103, Orinda, 925-254-0505

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LAFCO to MOFD,

Moraga, and Orinda—Keep Talking

By Andrea A. Firth

21

epresentatives from the town of Moraga, the city of Orinda, and the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) drew a collective sigh of relief as a subcommittee for the Local Agency Formation Commission of Contra Costa County (LAFCO) decided to defer recommendations to annex the MOFD or the city of Orinda to ConFire, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. Although the three agencies (MOFD, Moraga, and Orinda) have not been in complete agreement about all things related to fire service delivery financing over the past year, the triumvirate had collectively rejected any attachment to ConFire—a large metropolitan fire agency which serves nine cities and several unincorporated areas stretching from Lafayette to Martinez and San Pablo

While the LAFCO subcommittee must take their recommendations to the full Commission for adoption, any annexation to ConFire in the near future seems unlikely. ... continued on page 7

Woman Marine Corps Vet Shares Story of Service

By Jennifer Wake

Thile history often focuses on how women filled openings at factories as 'Rosie the Riveters' during World War II, more than 300,000 women served in the military between 1941 and 1945.

In February 1945, when the war was still raging in Europe, Catherine Sinnott (who was 21 years old at the time, and who now resides in Lafayette) decided to help her country. She had finished three years at UC Berkeley, and knew that she could take advantage of the G.I. Bill, which offered college or vocational training funding for returning World War II veterans, so she did something many of her friends never would

have considered. She joined the Marine Corps Women's Reserve.

Soon after, Sinnott found herself at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina with hundreds of other women recruits, and thousands of men preparing for deployment

While more than 70,000 women were part of the Army and Navy Nurse Corps during World War II, hundreds of thousands of women served in other military branches and filled many jobs, including those in all aspects of food service, transport, mechanics, as guards, and as members of marching ... continued on page 10

Lamorinda Moms 'Best of Lamorinda' Winners

By Stephanie Kusinski

Lamorinda Moms is a social and support club for parents with children under five in the greater Lamorinda area. The organization strives to help members enrich their lives through cultivating new friendships, personal and professional growth, and community involvement. Since 1995, Lamorinda Moms ...

Read on page 8

Historical Homes of Lafayette



By Cathy Tyson

And the winner of the 'oldest house still standing' in Lafayette goes to the charming red home that's been sitting comfortably on the banks of the Lafayette Creek for about 149 years. The "Daley House," at 3306 Moraga Boulevard near Carol Lane, looks amazingly well-preserved, although there is some ... Read on page 7

Lafayette

Lafayette

Calendar

City Council Community Center, Manzanita Room

500 St Mary's Road Thursday, May 28, 5:30pm Continued consideration of the Draft Downtown Strategy and Specific Plan

Monday, June 8, 7pm

Planning Comm. Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road

Thursday, June 4

Design Review Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, June 9

Senior Services 3:30pm Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, May 28

City of Lafayette: http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us Chamber of Commerce: http://www.lafayettechamber.org



Holes in the Ceiling, 5/11/09 An administrator from Michael Lane Preschool called Lafayette Police to report property damage to their shade structure. An unknown suspect had burned two 4-6" holes in the material roof of the structure by tossing lit matchbooks onto it. The school has been experiencing frequent property damage over weekends. Individuals have been drinking alcohol on the property and kindly leaving their empty bottles behind so the tots can collect the deposit fees. The school requested extra police patrols in the area. Damage to the structure is valued

High Speed Chase, 5/13/09 Police attempted to stop a vehicle for failing to stop for a stop sign on Acalanes Road. Speed Racer fled in his vehicle and a 16.7-mile chase ensued. Multiple police units and agencies were involved in the pursuit with speeds over 50 mph on city streets and over 100 mph on the highway. The Demon on Wheels was eventually arrested a few blocks from his home in Orinda.

Don't Sleep on the Curb, 5/14/09 Lafayette Police observed the suspect laying on a curb on Golden Gate Way. Police made contact with the subject and noted his speech was slurred, his eyes were red, he couldn't walk and had a strong alcoholic odor on his breath. Further, the suspect thought he was in San Francisco and was heading to his home in Lafayette. Since the suspect was unable to care for himself, Police arrested him for public intoxication and gave him a lift to the Martinez Detention Facility.

Pipe and Crystals, 5/16/09 Lafayette Police stopped a vehicle on Mt. Diablo Boulevard for no front license plate. A search of the vehicle revealed a small plastic bindle containing a crystal-like substance. Upon searching further, Police also shockingly discovered (gasp) a glass smoking pipe with a crystal residue in it. An analysis confirmed the substance was methamphetamine.

Lamorinda Community



Lafayette Not Keen on Potential Traffic Impact of New Moraga Plan

By Cathy Tyson

danagreen@rockcliff.com

oncerned about traffic impacts on their roads from the Moraga Center Specific Plan (MCSP), the Cities of Lafayette and Orinda shared the cost of hiring TJKM, a transportation consulting firm, to analyze data from Moraga's traffic consultant, Fehr and Peers (F & P). Basically the TJKM review does not agree with the figure for external trips - that is the number of trips outside of Moraga that F & P found, by approximately 50%. In a nutshell, how many drivers are staying within Moraga to pick up kids from school, go grocery shopping and so on and how many of those drivers will be exiting town via Orinda or Lafayette?

The Lafayette City Council recently drafted a letter to Moraga's Mayor noting, "Lafayette continues to have serious concerns regarding the EIR's methodology, assumptions, conclusions and mitigation measures and maintains that the EIR fails to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

..... The EIR fails to fully analyze impacts on the streets and intersections in Lafayette and offers unrealistic or ineffective mitigation measures that are inconsistent with the Lafayette General Plan."

At issue is the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) of the Moraga Center Specific Plan. On April 20th, the Moraga Planning Commission recommended Alternative 4 which consists of 560 residential units, 90,000 square feet of retail, 50,000 square feet of office space and a small hotel

as well as an assisted living facility.

"Based on standard ITE (Institute of Transportation Engineers) trip generation rates, TJKM estimates that the Moraga Center Specific Plan would generate approximately 522 inbound and 488 outbound trips during the p.m. peak hour. However, F & P's projected trip generation shows 251 inbound and 243 outbound project trips during the p.m. peak hours. These EIR project trip increments are approximately 50 -52 percent less than the comparable outbound and inbound trips respectively based on standard ITE rates. This indicates that the MCSP project is likely underestimating the impacts of the project," notes the May 8, 2009 report of TJKM to the City of Lafayette.

Dana Green Presents... Four New Reasons to Love Lamorinda! Orinda: New to Market and Fabulous... **26 Claremont Avenue, Orinda** Extensively remodeled 4BD/3BA in great Orinda location! Perfect for moving up or down \$899,000 Trail Neighborhood Perfection in Lafayette... 3322 Beechwood Drive, Lafayette Rebuilt in '04, don't miss this delightful 3BD/2BA w/ detached office & park-like yard! \$950,000 Cheerful Traditional Charmer... **36 Olympic Oaks Drive, Lafayette** Delightful 2329+/sq. ft. in private gated Olympic Oaks Community on .46 level lot! \$1,149,000 afayette: Charming Architectural Retreat... 1 Rimrock Drive, Lafayette **Experience Berkeley** through the Tunnel! 3166 +/- sq. ft. updated 4BD/ 2.5 BA on 1.2 acre serene property. \$1,299,000

Next Steps for the Downtown Strategy

By Cathy Tyson

NEXT STEPS WORK PLAN AND SCHEDULE		June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1. City Council decides on model for Revised Draft Plan - 5/9								
2. Staff and Plan consultants revise Draft Plan based on Council model								
3. EIR consultant selection process (to follow requirements per grant)								
4. Agencies review EIR Notice of Preparation (30 days)								
5. Planning Commission, Advisory Committee receive Revised Draft Plan								
6. Planning Commission reviews Revised Draft Plan for EIR preparation								
7. EIR consultant undertakes preliminary Draft EIR research								
8. Planning Commission holds Draft EIR scoping meeting - 7/16								
9. EIR consultant prepares Draft EIR								
10. Public review of Draft EIR (45 days)								
11. Planning Commission holds Draft EIR public hearing								
2. Planning Commission reviews Revised Draft Plan for final revisions								
13. EIR consultant prepares Final EIR								
14. Staff and Plan consultant prepare Final Plan								
15. Final EIR public review								
16. Final Plan public review								
17. Planning Commission considers Final EIR for recommendation								
18. Planning Commission considers Final Plan for recommendation								
9. City Council certifies EIR								
20. City Council adopts Final Plan								

Chart is part of the document "Continued consideration of the Draft Lafayette Downtown Strategy and Specific Plan" found on the City's web site at http://lafayette.waterware.com/docushare/dsweb/View/Collection-404

fter getting off to a some-Awhat contentious start at an all day public forum to gather input from citizens on May 9, the two meetings the following week were substantially more collegial, but there still is a long way to go the get

a final version of the Downtown Strategy and Specific

Plan adopted. The Next Steps Work Plan and Schedule chart above outlines the twenty steps to an anticipated December approval. Milestones along the

way include Planning Commission reviews Revised Draft Plan for EIR preparation in late June, early July, Staff and Plan consultant prepare Final Plan in late October, early November, to City Council adopts Final in mid-December.

Throughout the process the

public is welcome to comment. "The Council completed its development of a Project description for the EIR in terms of heights and densities in each of the Plan's districts. The Council also agreed to lesser inten-

sity and higher intensity alternatives for the EIR," said Ann Merideth, Community Development Director. "The Plan will be revised by early summer and the EIR will be prepared thereafter."

Indeed height has been a sticking point for many residents, the Lafayette Homeowners Council (LHC) as well as the Planning Commission. The LHC recently proposed that properties along Mount Diablo Boulevard 25 feet tall would be allowed, and 35 feet could be conditionally approved. What most everyone does agree on is the irregularity of heights along Mt. Diablo is what makes the area visually interesting. Translating that into zoning language will surely be challenging.

"We need to find a way of putting in regulations that encourage differences as you walk down the street," said Council Member Brandt Andersson. "The Planning Commission report is a good starting point."

"Try Lafayette First"

Community Celebration!!!

The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Invites

Everybody to be their Guest at a

Free BBQ and **Music by the Buzztones**



When: Where:

Time:

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(at the corner of

Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo) 5:00 pm—8:00 pm

www.lafayettechamber.org

The Buzztones are Back to Try Lafayette First!

... continued from page 1

Not only is the band reuniting, but long ago school rivals - Van Overveen/Martin from Acalanes and fellow bandmate Alan Thiele from Miramonte -- can relive some of their musical history back in the neighborhood where it all began. Rounding out the quartet, Ken Cooper and Dan DeShara are also from the area. Martin got his start playing at the Happy Valley sixth grade graduation and at a Kiwanis Pancake Feed. He went on to become involved in Jazz Band at Stanley and sang in the choir at Acalanes.

"Try Lafayette First Thank You Party," Friday June 5 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., Plaza Park at the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road. The Buzztones will also be performing at the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival on September 20.

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Moraga

Calendar

Town Council 7:30pm Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo Wednesday, June 10

Planning Comm. 7:30pm Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive

Monday, June 1

7:30pm Design Review Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive Monday, June 8

7:30pm Park & Rec Hacienda, Mosaic Room 2100 Donald Drive Tuesday, June 16

Liaison 8:00am Fire Station

1280 Moraga Way Friday, June 12

Town of Moraga online: http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us Chamber of Commerce: http://www.moragachamber.org



Projector stolen, 5/18/09 At 4:30 in the afternoon two officers were dispatched to the Rheem Theater on a report of a theft of a digital multimedia projector that had gone missing from projection room number one. The room was kept unlocked and there were no signs of forced entry. Officers attempted to locate fingerprints, but were unsuccessful. Maybe it walked out of a bad movie?

Commercial burglary, 5/17/09 Fifteen Apple iMac laptop computers were stolen from the Saklan Valley School library. The estimated value of the laptops is \$12,000.

Car burglary, 5/17/09 Police were dispatched to the back of Loards Ice Cream on a report of a car burglary that had just occurred. Victim had parked her car fifteen minutes earlier and went into the shop. She had returned to her car shortly after 9:00 and found her front passenger window broken and her purse removed. Estimated total value of loss \$850. No witnesses or cash involved.

Found drugs, 5/15/09 Officers responded to a report of found drugs and paraphernalia on Corte La Rado. The reporting person turned over the suspected illegal drugs. They were later placed into evidence for destruction. If the drugs are yours, feel free to contact police for pick up.

Lamorinda Community

Moraga Center Specific Plan **Moving Toward Consensus**

By Sophie Braccini

(Editor's note: On May 27th the Moraga Town Council is scheduled to review the Planning Commission's recommendations as outlined in this article. Please check our website, http://www.lamorindaweekly.com for an update.)

******* Think we've made a little progress and I am encouraged," said Moraga Town Manager Mike Segrest, commenting on the May 18 Planning Commission meeting at which the Moraga Center Specific Plan (MCSP) was discussed. For the first time, and after years of discussions, it seemed that the Town and principle property owners -- the Bruzzone family -had achieved a framework for the future development of the MCSP. If approved by the Town Council, the May 18 consensus will establish a critical milestone for realizing the future of downtown

A few days earlier, on May 13th, the Town Council meeting saw the usual level of confrontation between the Town of Moraga and

the Bruzzones, as the number and types of housing were discussed. The Council was reviewing the Planning Commission's previous recommendation to limit the number of dwelling units in the MCSP to 560, Option 4 of the different alternatives that had been studied.

Council Member Ken Chew clearly stated that his job was not to make sure that property owners make money, but that our citizens are heard, and he favored the construction of no more than 400 dwelling units. Council Member Karen Mendonca supported Chew's position. Mayor Dave Trotter and Council Member Mike Metcalf supported zoning that would allow 560 units, noting that, "it seemed reasonable."

... continued on page 12

Moraga Specific Plan Triggers **Traffic Concerns from Neighboring Cities**

By Sophie Braccini

raffic issues surrounding the Moraga Center Specific Plan (MCSP) took center stage at the May 13 meeting of the Town Council as the two neighboring cities of Lafayette and Orinda sent strong signals about their concerns regarding the impacts of the plan on their own travel times. The method used by the Consultant, Fehr and Peers (F&P), to calculate traffic takes into account the type of housing planned and assumes that residents will shop more locally if provided with an adequate mix of retail stores. The cities of Orinda and Lafayette have challenged these assumptions.

The MCSP addresses the 183 acre area located northwest of the Moraga Road/Moraga Way intersection and covers the existing shopping center plus about 90 acres of undeveloped land. Under current zoning, the undeveloped area could accommodate 366 single-family homes. The MCSP, which is in effect a large re-zoning effort, would comprise between 400 and 720 dwelling units, 90,000 sqaure feet of new retail, and 50,000 sf of new

office space.

Lafayette and Orinda sent letters, supported by traffic reports developed by transportation consultant TJKM, to the Town of Moraga that seriously challenged the finding of Moraga's traffic expert. During the Council meeting, F&P was asked to respond to Lafayette's concerns (Orinda's letter was received after the 13th). "They are comparing apples and oranges," said Rob Rees of F&P as he went down the list of Lafayette's findings, refuting one after another.

According to Rees, Lafayette's main difference is a failure to take into account the real usage of the units. Lafayette argues that a worst-case scenario approach should be used when planning for traffic impact.

"There is significant difference between the (Moraga) EIR (Environmental Impact Report) and the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) standards in term of trip generation," wrote Joy Bhattacharya from TJKM

... continued on page 12

Moraga Improves Accessibility for Disabled Residents, but Challenges Persist

By Sophie Braccini

oraga's newly-formed Americans with Disabilities Act Advisory Committee (ADAAC) met on April 27 for its second quarterly meeting. The three-member group took up two issues, addressing a question about a sidewalk on a portion of Moraga Road, and recommending the adjustment of the curb cuts at the corner of Moraga Way and Moraga Road. Even when that

curb improvement is completed some challenges will remain for residents with disabilities as they travel through the town.

The ADAAC was formed to review and report to the Town staff on issues affecting accessibility within the public pedestrian rights of way throughout Moraga and on the prioritization of funds available for accessibility improvements. The

committee's creation was part of the settlement of a law suit brought against Moraga (and other communities) regarding lack of access for individuals with disabilities.

Moraga residents Anne Reed and Tim McInerney volunteered to serve on the committee with Jill Mercurio, Town Public Works Director and Engineer.

... continued on page 6

Former Mayor Mike Majchrzak Memorial Fund



hen Michael Majchrzach passed away on May 5, one of his last wishes was to create a fund to sponsor student interns with the Town of Moraga. Majchrzach's wish was not a surprise to those who worked alongside him as he served consecutively on the Design Review Board, Planning Commission and the Moraga Town Council for twenty years. He served three terms as Mayor and was voted Citizen of the Year in 2007.

"He loved the people, the town, the fireworks and he loved being Mayor," said his wife Beth at the May 13 Town Council meeting at which a resolution recognizing

Majchrzak's role was approved, "and it was hard for him the leave the Council." She added that Mike had struggled with illness for years but never wanted to give up.

Council Member Mike Metcalf, who served with Majchrzak on both the Planning Commission and the Council, remembered how Majchrzach understood planning like no one and he praised the man's fairness and patience. Mayor Dave Trotter, who had also served with him on the Planning Commission, added his voice to Metcalf's continuing, "He was a friend, a leader, a colleague and I will miss him."

At a service held in Majchrzak's memory on May 8 at St.

Monica's Catholic Church, Trotter spoke of the Mike Majchrzak Memorial Fund to Sarah Cory, the wife of Moraga's first Mayor, Mike Cory. She immediately wrote a check for \$300 to the Fund.

"It is so very appropriate -- really a case of passing the torch -- that the first contribution to this fund, honoring our former mayor Mike Majchrzak, would be from the wife of our first Town mayor," said Trotter, "the Town Council and I are hopeful that folks will commemorate Mike Majchrzak's service to the Town by giving generously to the fund being established in his memory."

To contribute, contact the Town Manager at 888 7121

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Prayer.....8:00am

Traditional.....9:00am

Contemporary......10:30am

Children's Church...10:30am

Youth Service......10:30am

Young Adult Service..7:30pm

Weekly Activities Include:

Community Bible Study....10am

REVERB (youth).....7pm

BLAST! Kids Club.....6pm

Wednesday:

Friday Night:

Sunday Service Times:

"My favorite thing about Willow Spring Church would have to be the people.

They are very friendly and welcoming and just all around great people to surround yourself with. They help make it feel like home to me!"

-Noah Weingarten, Regular Attender

Willow Spring Church

Voted "Best Place to Worship" in Moraga -The U.S. Local Business Association

Upcoming Sunday Mornings At WSC May 24: "Unleashing the Kingdom of God, Part 2" May 31: "The Church's Greatest Enemy" "The Way of Reconciliation" June 7:

"After visiting Willow Spring the first time, I was brought back because of how comforted my soul felt. I feel as if I have started my life, because being involved with this church has led me to begin my walk with God. New beginnings,

new life!"



Jessica Herron and Dylan, **Regular Attenders**

"The same man who denied Jesus three times... ultimately became one of His greatest spokesmen." -Pastor Brad, GodThoughts, Vol. 2*

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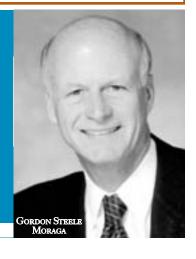
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Orinda

Lamorinda Community

Orinda

Calendar

City Council 7pm Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, June 2

Planning Comm. 7pm Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, June 9

Community Room at City Hall
22 Orinda Way 22 Orinda Way

Thursday, June 11 Mayor's Com. Liaison 8:30am Community Room at City Hall

22 Orinda Way Monday, June 1

City of Orinda: http://www.cityoforinda.org Chamber of Commerce: http://www.orindachamber.org

 local businesses upcomming events



Contraband in pants, 5/20/09 Unknown male suspect entered Longs drugstore and removed unnamed property valued at \$40. The suspect was seen placing merchandise into his trousers, then left the store without paying and fled to a newer white Mazda. Alleged thief can afford a nice car?

D.U.I. 5/18/09 An Orinda resident was speeding and making unsafe lane changes in town, then preceded onto Highway 24 where his unsafe lane changes continued. When he was pulled over at eastbound Highway 24 and St. Stephens Road, the officer noticed a strong odor of alcohol. A field sobriety check was administered, resulting in .17 % - which is more than double the legal limit. This fellow, who was old enough to have teenage drivers, should have known better.

Falling down drunk, 5/17/09 A cop saw a man stumbling into traffic on Moraga Way, and watched him fall face first into the bushes at El Camino Moraga. He was contacted by the officer while remaining bushbound. The 49-year-old white male Orinda resident said he had been drinking at a friend's house in Lafayette. Perhaps it was his horizontal position, the "overwhelming" odor of alcohol, or maybe his slurred speech, that led the officer to give this fellow a blood alcohol test that resulted in a staggering .32% - four times the legal limit.

Theft at Longs, 5/15/09 An unknown suspect walked into Longs via the front door and preceded to the employee-only break room. He rifled through two purses that were left on the floor, stealing an undisclosed amount of cash, then walked back out the front door. The suspect was wearing baggy jeans and a white tshirt – that narrows it down.



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privacy of this classic estate. Zoned R20, potentially subdividable.

Theater Square Changes a Done Deal

By Andrea A. Firth

The Hattersleys.com

change is underway, and the empty storefronts that have plagued the rear section of Theater Square may be no longer. "The changes before us are reasonably balanced and forward thinking," stated Steve Glazer as he and his fellow Orinda City Council members voted unanimously to re-zone parts of the ground floor of Theater Square and amend the City's agreement with the owner, GLL Properties. These changes will broaden the types of businesses that can lease space on the first floor of Theater Square beyond retail outlets and restaurants and allow banks and medical, dental and professional offices to occupy space in the back of the Square.

"We want the opportunity to lease the [vacant ground floor area in Theater Square] and the new agreement and the amendment to the zoning designation is going to make that happen," stated Chris Quiett, the representative from GLL Properties, in his comments to the City Council. Quiett acknowledged that reaching the agreement took almost two years, but he was satisfied with the outcome. "Everyone

seems to be pushing in the same direction," he added.

Everyone included the new owners of the Orinda Theater, James Sheehan and Tom Peterson, who were also on hand to encourage and support the Council's decisions. The preservation and commercial viability of the Orinda Theater, which the City identifies as an important focal point for the community, has been a key element of the discussion during the City's negotiations with the Theater Square owners. Sheehan and Peterson recently entered into a 15-year lease agreement with GLL Properties. Laura Abrams, a leader of the Lamorinda Film and Entertainment Foundation—a group of Orinda residents committed to the survival of theater, also expressed her organization's support of the Council's decision. "I think the language of the agreement supports and protects the long-term viability of the theater," stated Abrams, adding that commercial success for the new operators and sustainability of the theater are contingent upon controlling the rent and increasing attendance.

Orinda Theater Picket Line

By A. Firth

Over the past two weeks, some patrons of the Orinda Theater have found that after getting in line to purchase movie tickets, they then have had to cross the line—that is the picket line. Union projectionists have been picketing outside the Orinda Theater during evening show times on Fridays, Saturdays,

and Sundays, and they will be there "for as long as it takes" according to Jason Mottley, the Business Agent for Local 169 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees. According to Mottley, two members of Local 169, a projectionist/technician who had worked for at the theater for 13 years and a projectionist/theater manager who had worked at the theater for 4 years, were given a one-day notice regarding the theater's ownership change and termination of their employment.

Mottley described a preliminary offer from James Sheehan, who took ownership of the Orinda Theater with partner Tom Peterson on May 7th, of one eight-hour shift a week as not a viable employment option and insufficient for the union workers to maintain quality operations at the theater. Per Mottley, the two projectionists had been working 30 to 35 hours per week before

Sheehan, who has worked with union projectionists at other theaters, indicated that he and his partner are willing to negotiate with the projectionists, but that the contract will require new terms similar to union contracts that projectionists have with independently-operated theaters in Berkeley and Albany. Mottley indicated hat there had been no direct communication between the parties over the past two weeks, and he was unable to comment on the proposal.

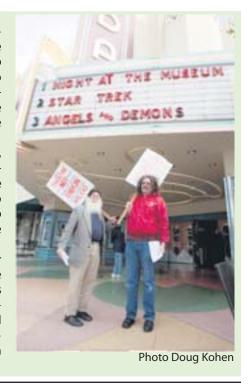


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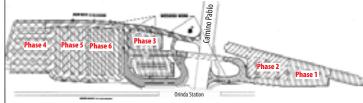
David Collins, Orinda

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Orinda BART Parking Lot Repaving Starts in June

By Andrea A. Firth



Orinda BART parking lot repavement phases. Paving will not necessarily occur in order of the phase numbers Map courtesy of San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART)

✓Orinda Bay Area Regional Transit (BART) parking lots may want to think about walking, biking, or finding a ride to the station this summer. Starting in early June, the parking lots of the Orinda BART station will be repaved and re-striped. The total number of available parking spaces will be reduced by an average of 235 spaces a day for up to twelve weeks until the project is completed.

"There will be an impact on parking, but it is less significant at this time of year because BART rid-

ommuters who use the ership is lower in June and July as compared to other times of year," says Linton Johnson, Chief Spokesman for BART. Still, Linton encourages parkers to consider using alternate transportation to get to the Orinda station or using another station if they have to drive.

> The Orinda BART repavement project will be completed in six phases lasting for one to two weeks each. Monthly parkers will be relocated to other reserved parking areas during the project. The order that the paving phases will be completed is yet to be determined.

Crest View Drive Residents Ask Council to Reconsider and Repave—Now Please

By Andrea A. Firth



Photo provided

eclassify, reprioritize, and repave our road was the mantra of the forty-plus Crest View Drive residents who attended last Tuesday's Orinda City Council meeting. As a few wielded signs for their cause, Jerry Loeper, a 14-year resident of the city and a former Orinda Planning Commission member, spoke on behalf of the neighborhood requesting the Council to allocate emergency repair funds to fix some of Crest View Drive's most problematic potholes and to reclassify the residential street as a collector street. Designation as a collector street would put Crest View Drive higher on the list of Orinda roads that are repaved annually through the city's pavement

management program or possibly make it eligible for repaving and repair through additional Federal Stimulus Package funding should those monies become available.

Crest View Drive, a 1.2 mile long cul de sac (possibly the longest residential cul de sac in Contra Costa County), which has not been repaved in over twenty years (or possibly twice as long as that according to some Crest View residents) provides a classic example of the significant infrastructure problems that face the city. Drivers from the 125 single-family homes located on Crest View Drive and it's four secondary cul de sacs (Crest View Terrace, Hilldale Court, Culver Court, and Crest View Court) dodge potholes and suffer bone-jarring jolts each day as they travel the street to and from their homes according to one resident. "We are not asking for special treatment," added the resident as he addressed the Council. "We understand that you have to apply funds fairly. We just ask you to look at the road, what it does, and the role it plays in our community."

Having recently taken a drive up the steep incline of Crest View Drive, Council Member Amy Worth sympathized with the residents regarding the dismal state of their street surface, but a solution to the Crest View Drive problem was not forthcoming. "The pot of money [that we have to fix our

roads] is only so big," stated Mayor Sue Severson. With an annual budget of just over one million dollars for street repavement and an emergency repair fund of \$200,000 a year, there is a very limited supply of funding to address a significant amount of need.

City Manager Janet Keeter explained that the reclassification of Crest View Drive from a residential street to a collector had recently been reviewed by the Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission—a group of residents appointed by the Council to evaluate the allocation of infrastructure funds and advise on prioritization which determined that the residential road did not meet the criteria to be designated as a collector despite an average daily traffic count of over 1,000 trips per day. There seems little opportunity for Crest View Drive to be repaired in the near future without reclassification. and the cost to repave Crest View Drive from end to end is estimated to be \$400,000. The residents remained upbeat and committed to their cause and expressed their past and continued support of bond measures to address Orinda's infrastructure needs. Because the comments from the Crest View residents were part of the public comment session and not a scheduled meeting agenda item, the City Council made no formal response.



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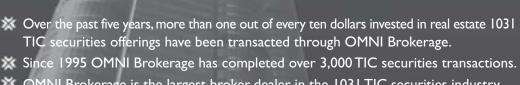
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New Book Highlights Family Histories of Lafayette

By Rosylyn Stenzel Lafayette

The cover features a painting of Jennie Bickerstaff's home. Bickerstaff was one of Lafayette's first schoolteachers, and her home was located where Diablo Foods is today Photo provided

business owners in Lafayette. As

Eames comments, "They showed

entrepreneurial spirit, where a cou-

ple - a husband and wife - may have

an idea, take a gamble and just

an example of that entrepreneurial

spirit with the founding of Bill's

Drugs. After graduating in 1957

from Idaho State University School

of Pharmacy, Eames worked in San

Pablo at three different pharmacies

at the same time before being ap-

proached to open his own phar-

macy. In 1959 with help from

partners and family, Acalanes Phar-

macy opened on Mount Diablo

Boulevard on the site where Round

at his pharmacy; working seven

days a week with only three days

off his first year. Hard work and

business savvy eventually paid off,

and in 1964 he began acquiring

with around 80 pharmacies ac-

quired throughout the years. In

1993, Eames sold Bill's Drugs to

Long's Drugs but kept ownership

Bill's Drugs was established

Eames clocked in long hours

Table Pizza is today.

other area pharmacies.

Eames and his wife Karin are

make it happen."

Julie Sullivan

Hot off the presses is a new book on the history of Lafayette titled, "Voices of Lafayette; A Collection of Oral Histories." Conceived by long-time resident and local business owner Bill Eames, and written by his assistant and writer Julie Sullivan, the book highlights past business owners and old families of Lafayette.

"Voices of Lafayette" includes over 50 stories spanning over 100 years. The book was five years in the making with Sullivan conducting the interviews. She writes, "Originally this book was designed to record the history of the businesses that used to operate in Lafayette, but it became much more, encompassing the stories of the families who founded the city, who beautified and governed it, and who left their unique mark on Lafayette."

The book is rich with interesting individual family histories reminiscent of days when Lafayette was a rural, agricultural town where everyone knew each other. Throughout "Voices of Lafavette" are inspiring success stories highlighting the ambitious spirit of early

of the Lafayette building which Long's leases. His offices are there today on the second floor where he houses an extensive historical collection of pharmacy memorabilia.

www.lamorindaweekly.com

In addition to the business stories are personal accounts of prominent and long-time Lafayette families. As in William McNeil's Family, they trace their roots back to the founding of Lafayette. McNeil's great-great-great grandmother Margaret Allen was Lafayette's unofficial first lady. In 1846, Allen and her family joined the wagon train led by Lafayette's founder, Elam Brown. McNeil is quoted, "The Brown Party made it over the mountains in time, but they were only a week ahead of the Donner Party, who got caught in the snow."

In addition, McNeil's grandfather Robert Elam McNeil owned Lafayette's Pioneer Store from 1902 – 1935 which was located on what is now Golden Gate Way. Next door to where the Pioneer store was, McNeil still owns the Geils Building, the former location of his parent's home.

Finally, the stories in "Voices of Lafayette" are a glimpse of times past; diverse in their biographies. But one common theme ties their experiences together, their love for Lafayette.

Publishing of "Voices of Lafayette" was made possible by Bill and Karin Eames. He writes, "This book is dedicated to the business people who live and worked in Lafayette. Lafayette has been very good to me ever since I opened Bill's Drugs here in 1959. This book is one small way for me to repay the 50 years of goodwill and friendship I've experienced." All proceeds from the sale of the book benefit the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation. It is available for purchase at the Lafayette Library.

Please send story ideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com









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LAMORINDA Community

Moraga Improves Accessibility for Disabled Residents, but Challenges Persist

... continued from page 3



(L-R): Moraga Town Engineer/Public Works Director Jill Mercurio, Anne Reed and Tim McInerney Photo Sophie Braccini

Reed is a Human Resources director who has strived to make sure that a disability would not stand in the way of the hiring of a qualified individual. When asked how many people in Moraga are considered disabled, she replied, "The question is not how many people are disabled, but rather can how all of us make sure that those with disabilities can live a full life."

McInerney commutes daily to his Berkeley job in his electric wheelchair, using public transportation, including the increasingly shrinking bus system.

The ADAAC agreed to recommend that the Town improve two curb cuts at Moraga Way and

Moraga Road. "The work has not been completed yet because of the extra cost added by storm drains that have to be relocated in order for proper curb cuts to be put into place," explained Mercurio.

The total cost is higher than the current ADAAC budget. "I am budgeting a total of \$40,000 for the installation of the curb ramps at Moraga Way at Moraga Road/Canyon Road," said Mercurio, "the design is completed and I'm hoping to reduce the overall cost by bidding and constructing it with another project that has a similar storm drain/ADA curb ramp situation.

The project will be proposed

to Council as one of the capital projects they evaluate during the budget process."

The committee also addressed a letter it received from former Mayor Lynda Deschambault, who asked that they look into completing the sidewalk along the north side of Moraga Road, between Devin Drive and Ascot Drive. "With the installation of the stop lights at Ascot, the town has improved accessibility for the residents all the way to Rheem," Deschambault wrote, "completing the few missing feet of sidewalk along the road would make sense."

As Mercurio explained it, the construction of sidewalks is the re-

sponsibility of individual homeowners. Cities such as Concord have adopted ordinances that require residents to complete sidewalks in front of their properties if such walkways are present along more than 50% of the path. The committee unanimously agreed to both send a letter to the few property owners who have not built a sidewalk along that portion of Moraga Road and to ask the Town to study a sidewalk ordinance.

"Regarding installation of sidewalk on properties that are a gap in an existing sidewalk network, I have that on my list of things to go to Council in the future," confirmed Mercurio.



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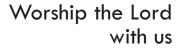
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etter to the Editor Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and town (please give us your phone number for

verification purposes only), and should be 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for length or legal considerations.

email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Dear Editor:

Re: Native Plants vs. Lawns

A gardener can easily conserve water, reduce energy-use, save money and still have a lovely garden. Native plants ugly? I love my manzanitas, ceonothus and wildflowers (dominated by easy California poppies), but EBMUD and the California Native Plant Society (go to their Native Here Nursery) can suggest a wealth of other choices (including summer bloomers like penstemons and fuchsias). Once you establish such a garden, you will discover it not only makes gardening easier, but also will provide the satisfaction of conserving and recycling resources without thinking.

Hiring a landscaper costs no more for a drought-tolerant garden than for any other style of gardening and saves you money in the long run - because your lawn uses more fertilizer, water and energy than any other area in your garden. A power mower is a gasoline guzzler and smog emitter -- and imagine your neighborhood with the sound of birds singing instead of high-decibel noise! If you plant for our Mediterranean climate, pests (and hence pesticides) and fertilizer will also be minimized.

But you don't have to hire anyone and you don't have to totally get rid of your lawn. You do need at least a basic plan, however, like: place large shrubs behind smaller plants, sun lovers together etc. You can begin by shrinking the edges of your lawn and frame the front yard with borders or shrubs for a pleasing effect.

Cinda MacKinnon (Environmental Scientist)

P.S. More environmental facts: Fertilizers and pesticides require a large amount of energy to produce and transport - thus burn fossil fuels and add to global warming. Pesticides linger in the soil and end up in the creeks. EBMUD reports that the main contaminants of our Lamorinda creeks - which flow to two drinking water reservoirs - are from residential use of pesticides and fertilizers.

Editor:

When citizens of Lafayette decided to consider incorporating in 1968, full details were communicated to its residents, of what the town would be, functions its government would assume - and, by absence of what it wouldn't be responsible for, left all other desired activity to volunteers. Essentially, government would accommodate Public Safety, Planning and Public Works. Appropriate citizen "commissions" would be established to serve as unpaid supporting resources for paid city staff's functions. The key to all this was that voters authorized "what" our city was to be - and, "how" it would be governed. Only rarely have these benchmarks been violated. Now however, a critical "outsider intrusion" on our "2nd P" is in progress - i.e., a "Downtown Strategic Plan" conceived be a 500,000 consulting firm...in effect, is moving in on Lafayette's outstandingly capable Planning Commission's "turf." This letter doesn't expound full details of the "Draft Plan" - only to note - in several areas, it totally contradicts Lafayette's very essence...its "semi-rural physical setting," "urbanizing" high rise structures the length of downtown Mt. Diablo Blvd, downtown concentrations of "affordable housing" (here comes Section 8), downtown creek and park developments, a new through street between Mt. Diablo Blvd and Rt 24. In short, making us a small-scaleWalnut Creek. Most troubling is the "cultural slant" of DSP - it reflects all the social spin of an earlier attempt by the County Supervisors, to impose its "Shaping Our Future" (SOF) version of the UN Agenda 21 "Smart Growth" concept. This, a scheme which would have given the BOS full control of land use in all 19 county jurisdictions. Fortunately, when citizens fully understood "transit villages", eliminating single family dwellings in core areas - and, other social engineering schemes, the \$750K venture was abandoned. But - only because the public got "wired in." And, so it should be re DSP - the public needs to be provided full details of "the how and who" of DSP's authorization, its "funding OK," why it would potentially displace a very recent update of Lafayette's General Plan (by a very capable Planning Commission). And, most critically important - failure to put to a 2/3s vote, any acceptance and/or implementation of a Plan, allowing city bureaucracy to radically alter Lafayette's "founding base."

Donald Lively Lafayette

Dear Editor,

"Kudos to the Lafayette Juniors!" On Saturday the Juniors had their 10th Annual Lafayette Kitchen Tour. My cottage was one of the homes on the tour and I would like to express my thanks to this group of dedicated hard working women for a job well done. There was not a stone let unturned as they prepared my cottage and garden for the Kitchen Tour and luncheon in the back garden. They left me at ease when you think that 600 people will be walking through your home and when the tour was complete everything was immaculate both inside my cottage and the garden. If you are approached to have your home on the tour I would encourage you to get involved with this dedicated first class group of women. Thanks again to the Juniors for a job well done!

Jim Peacock Lafayette

Public Forum

Editor's note:

In March of 2008, music teacher James Toland was charged with several counts of committing lewd acts with a minor. The charges were dropped after a preliminary hearing when Contra Costa County Superior Court Judge John Sugiyama ruled that evidence obtained under a search warrant was inadmissible. Charges were re-filed and Toland was back in court in November, 2008. Sugiyama dismissed the charges, stating that he found no evidence of lewd intent. The prosecutor moved to have a second judge review the complaint (as allowed under California Penal Code.) Superior Court Judge John Laettner reviewed the preliminary hearing transcript and, during a hearing in Martinez on March 12, reversed Sugiyama's ruling and reinstated nine of the original ten charges, sending the case back to Sugiyama's courtroom. Toland has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

This case has been very controversial and has generated much concern among local parents and students with differing perspectives. The opinions expressed below are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

The following letter was mailed to the following members of the Town Hall Theatre Board on May 11th. It was signed by 32 members of the Lamorinda community. To date, the signers have received no response.

To the Board of Directors and the Advisory Board, Town Hall Theater Company of Lafayette: Dennis Erokan, Clyde Long, Sven Ryge, Bett Mickels Tokar, Richard Dent, III, Joe Faber, Amy Goodheart, Dave Pinkham, Lynn Carey Zampa, Ray Bland, Judy Carney, Ed Stokes, Ron Tarica, Jeff Witt

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are writing to bring to your attention a sensitive matter involving the theater and the Lamorinda community. The theater calendar published online indicates a rental for a "Choir Concert" at 7 PM on Sunday, June 14th. We want to make certain that you are aware of the purpose of this "Choir Concert" and the ramifications of allowing this event to take place at the Theater. This event is actually a fundraiser to solicit donations to pay the fees of private attorneys to defend James Toland, a vocal coach who has been charged with molesting three Campolindo high school boys during private lessons at his home and who is scheduled to appear in court on May 19th to set a date for trial on those charges. Attached to this letter is a copy of an email notice/invitation to supporters of Mr. Toland describing the details of the planned event which is hailed as a "wonderful way to cap a wonderful weekend" and as a "tribute" to Mr. Toland. Debating Mr. Toland's guilt or innocence is not the purpose of this letter. That is, and always has been, the purview of the court. What we wish to impress on you is how traumatic this process has been for the three boys and their families. No one who listened to their testimony in court could fail to have been moved by their sin-

cerity and their obvious suffering. These boys did exactly what responsible adults teach their children to do when they feel they have been touched inappropriately. They took a great risk in talking about the alleged assaults and showed extreme courage in describing and demonstrating the precise nature of the touching in open court. These boys have faced open and thinly-veiled hostility from supporters of Mr. Toland in that courtroom, in their classrooms and in choir rehearsals and now they are going to be faced with this 'benefit concert'. Their own classmates will be performing, and their classmates' families will be there contributing money and time-shares to pay tribute to the man that is about to stand trial for molesting them. Surely you can understand why we believe it would be extremely inappropriate for your worthy organization to host such a divisive event. Your mission statement envisions a theater company "that serves the community in a socially and educationally responsible manner." Allowing this event to take place in the theater would be socially and educationally irresponsible. Clearly this "benefit concert" will only add to the trauma already suffered by the boys, their families, friends and other community members who love and support them. But what may be worse is the message that would be sent to young people in our community. Does a theater group that provides so many great programs for local youths really want to appear to be supporting someone charged with molesting young people in our community? We truly hope that you will reconsider your decision to rent the theater facility for this purpose. It is not in keeping with your mission or your valued role in the community. In view of your upcoming fundraising event, it seems particularly inappropriate to make the theater, which is largely supported by the Lafayette/Moraga community, available for such an emotionally charged event that has divided this community. We recognize that the supporters of Mr. Toland have every right to choose to donate to his legal defense. However, a community theater, designed to serve the community and be supported by the community, is not an appropriate venue for a fundraiser for someone about to stand trial for molesting members of that community. Trish Bare and Gordy Erspamer, Mike and Julie Wirth, Kelley L. Yanes, The Clemens Family, Jim and Dana Dawson, Lisa and Michael Monroe, Sabrina Majzoub, Jamie and Brad Ertola, Cindy and Will Cogswell, Cheryl and Joe Cushing, Jeff and Eldeen Shields, Patricia & Gary O'Neill, Gayle & Mike Leksan, Phil and Marybeth Henningsen, Shivaun Wraith, Leslie

and Murray Kalish, Emily and Peter Markavage, Barbara and Rick Graziano, The Tringale Family, Moraga, Linda Wu.

f you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda or one of its cities that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section.

Just send your letter to letters@lamorindaweekly.com and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.

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First place mustard flower closeup

Photo Robert Johnson



B ob Johnson and Doug Kohen were awarded First and Second Place at the Sixteenth Annual Napa Valley Mustard Festival Photography Contest - Digital Category on March 28, 2009. The long time friends and frequent Lamorinda Weekly photographers credit their willingness to travel the road less taken for their success. They both acknowledge each other in helping their skills grow.

The two met when their kids joined swim team. "I remember thinking, that this guy has a big lens too," Johnson recalls. They struck up a conversation and their friendship and talents grew. The kids are now college age, but many vacations together have been captured

Johnson's winning photo shows a macro view of mustard flowers in full bloom. Its precision speaks to his skill in lighting, exposure, focus, and depth of field. All traits his patients no doubt appreciate when they visit him in his oph-

thalmology practice. "I hang a lot of my photos in my office, so it's sort of my own personal gallery," Johnson says with a smile.

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Kohen's photo captures a weather beaten hand preparing to clip a vine. The photo was an idea that came to him when the two approached workers in a field at a winery. "They invited us in, let us taste wine straight out of the cask, and introduced us to the owner," Kohen

The festival is designed to celebrate the culture of the Napa area. In an attempt to boost tourism from January to March, special events involving food, wine, and art are held. The grand finale of this year's event was held at the Mumm Napa winery in Rutherford. Known as the Photo Finish, it awards the prizes to the winning photographers.

Along with their highest awards, two additional photos claimed honorable mentions from the 310 entries placed this year. "I thought Doug's photo would win," Johnson ponders. Kohen gratefully returns a compliment then both agree that even without accolades they would continue to shoot. "(Winning) gives affirmation to our fragile egos," Johnson adds with a chuckle.

After some prodding, Kohen recounts his meeting with the woman who purchased his photo. "She was weepy," he recalls, "she said when she first saw the photo; it reminded her of her father working so hard in the field." She hugged him and thanked him for taking this photo. "That's better than any award I could ever win," Kohen says with a smile.

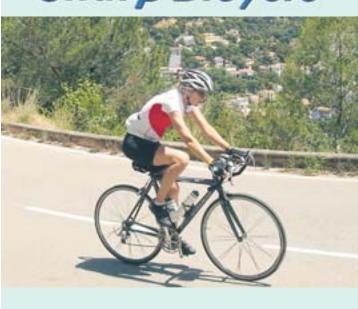
When asked where the future of their photography will take them, Johnson says, "possibly a book of

www.rnjphotography.com



www.dckimages.com fine photos." The two have already self-published a book of photos from a trip to the Galapagos Islands. Kohen agrees, "Photography gives you a reason to explore...that's where I see it taking (us)."

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MOFD Faces Possible Further Budget Cuts

By Lucy Amaral

ith the failure of the recent state propositions to pass, the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) is bracing for possibly more cuts to its own budget. At the Board of Directors Meeting, held May 20, Fire Chief Pete Nowicki said that the State of California might need to borrow eight percent of the MOFD property-tax revenue to help offset the state's deficit. That cut could equate to nearly 1.2 million dollars for MOFD's 2009-2010 fiscal year budget.

In a May 14, 2009 news release regarding California's financial concerns, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger said that if the proposition failed, the option of

borrowing two billion dollars from local governments and special districts like MOFD would need to be added to the budget proposal to help shore-up the state's pending deficit. These borrowed funds would be paid back over the next three years.

"We are already reducing costs to bare bones," Nowicki said. "We will have enough in reserves to carry us through until we are paid back, but all operations will remain stagnant over that three year period until we receive pay-

The Board directed Nowicki to send a letter to the Governor on behalf of the Board indicating their displeasure with the Governor's decision to suspend Proposition 1A(2004), which protects District funding. They will also put a more formal resolution on a future agenda for possible adoption.

In other financially-related actions, the MOFD Board approved the 2009-2010 fire flow tax rate for the Moraga and Orinda fire zones, moving to maintain the current rate of 6.0 cents in Moraga and 6.0 cents in Orinda. The Board also declined the Orinda City Council's request to participate financially in the hiring of an independent consultant to further study the MOFD, as well as the District's

proportionality and equity issues. LAFCO to MOFD, Moraga, and Orinda—Keep Talking

... continued from page 1

The LAFCO subcommittee did, however, strongly encourage the MOFD, Moraga, and Orinda to actively explore ways to address the infrastructure challenges (from both water supply and road access) that may impede effective fire service delivery across the fire district and particularly in Orinda.

The LAFCO subcommittee members discussed the recommendations proposed in the Municipal Service Review (MSR) with representatives from the MOFD, Moraga, and Orinda to gain local insight on the impact of the proposed recommendations. [The MSR is a state-required, comprehensive review of the fire and emergency medical service providers for a given area.] Gayle Uilkema, who is the LAFCO Vice Chair and the County Board Supervisor for District 2, which includes both Moraga and Orinda, was alarmed by the MSR's reference to a proposal from Orinda's Revenue Enhancement Task Force (RETF) to reallocate fire district funds to address Orinda's infrastructure needs. "When people vote to support fire taxes, they expect the money to be spent on fire and medical services," stated Uilkema. The other members of the subcommittee concurred that LAFCO did not want to encourage the transfer of funds from fire dis-

tricts to other agencies. "Essentially they want to pick the Fire District's pocket to fix Orinda's roads," stated Dick Olsen, a longtime Moraga resident and a former Moraga Fire District Commissioner. Art Haigh, an Orinda resident and a member of Orinda's RETF, countered that delivery of adequate fire service in Orinda is heavily impacted by the sufficiency of the water flow and the condition of the roads, and Orinda's Mayor Sue Severson added that Orinda's situation was unique due to the extremely poor road conditions throughout the city. In response, the LAFCO subcommittee members acknowledged that the availability of adequate water supply and road access, while not specifically within the fire district's responsibilities, are inextricably linked to fire service delivery. The subcommittee recognized the communities' desire for local control and planned to recommend that the agencies work together. "We encourage the fire district to work with the other agencies, because the roads, water, and electricity are all essential to fire service delivery," stated LAFCO

member Dave Piepho. "We've got to

work together. The State and the County are not going to fix our prob-

lems," he added. While the options of the MOFD or Orinda being annexed to ConFire were moved off the table, the subcommittee did discuss, in general terms, the concept of consolidating fire districts across the County. LAFCO Executive Director Lou Ann Texilra explained that LAFCO is not empowered to initiate annexation, but the Commission can initiate mergers, consolidations, and the formation of new fire districts. "LAFCO receives their directive from the State, and it is a very powerful Commission," stated LAFCO member Helen Allen. "But our decisions can only enhance fire service," added Peipho, who in addition to serving on LAFCO works as a firefighter in a consolidated district in Alameda. Piepho noted that cities and towns can be part of a consolidated district and still maintain high levels of service. "We [LAFCO] are venturing into unchartered territory which is very uncomfortable for a lot people" he stated. Piepho added that members of LAFCO would be attending a conference focused on fire district consolidation during the first week in June.



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Rainy Day Spot: Studio Grow – Berkeley or Concord

Swim Lessons: (TIE) Sherman Swim School – Lafayette

Summer Camp: Seedlings Preschool – Lafayette

Bike Routes: Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail

Weekend Getaway for the Family: Lake Tahoe

Family Vacation Destination: *Hawaii – all islands*

Local Amusement/Theme Park: Oakland Zoo Amusement Park

Family Cruise: Disney Cruise Lines

Hiking Locations: Lafayette Resevoir

Ski Resort: Northstar-at-Tahoe resort

Walk/Hike with Kids: Lafayette Resevoir

Birthday Party Location: Home

Drop-in Daycare: Tot Drop

Local Beach: Crissy Field

Children's Birthday Cakes: Safeway

Dance Lessons: *Kids 'N Dance – Lafayette*

Kid's Haircuts: Ms. Karen's – Lafayette

Petting Zoo: Little Farm at Tilden Park

Picnic Spot: Lafayette Reservoir

Storytime Location: Orinda Library

Music Class: *Music Together – all locations*

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Lamorinda Moms Vote: The Best of Lamorinda And the winners are...

Submitted by Stephanie Kusinski

amorinda Moms is a social and support club for parents with ✓children under five in the greater Lamorinda area. The organization strives to help members enrich their lives through cultivating new friendships, personal and professional growth, and community involvement. Since 1995, Lamorinda Moms has evolved to become one of the largest parenting organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area, with approximately 570 members. The club hosts dozens of activities and events each month, and provides valuable resources to parents in the Lamorinda area. To learn more about Lamorinda Moms, including how to join, please visit us at www.lamorindamomsclub.org.

Approximately every two years, Lamorinda Moms has conducted a survey to determine member favorites in a variety of categories including raising kids, health, and entertainment. In addition to creating a resource list for our members, we also publicly recognize the outstanding local vendors. We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2009 survey here. Methodology:

The 2009 survey categories evolved from the year's previous and suggestions suggestions from the general membership were added. The general membership were invited to nominate their favorites in each category and voting selections were compiled from those nom-

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inees. Nominees did not need to be located within Lamorinda but must serve our community. An online survey was then created in which the entire membership was invited to vote once over the course of three weeks.

Winners were those that received the most votes. There were four close votes where two winners were selected.

Local winners will receive a letter informing them of the win, as well as information about Lamorinda Moms. We hope this survey serves as a valuable resource to both to our members and to the community at large.

Style and Fitness: Feel good, look good!

Vacations and Recreation: Family Friendly Spots!

AND Little Dipper Swim School - Pleasant Hill, Walnut Creek, Concord

Day Spa: Claremont Resort and Spa – Berkeley

Dermatologist (incl. cosmetic laster, photo, botox): Dr. Kristen Walker – Orinda

Facial: Claremont Resort and Spa - Berkeley **Gym:** Renaissance Club Sport – Walnut Creek **Haircut:** Entourage Spa – Orinda **Hair colorist:** Entourage Spa – Orinda **Manicure/Pedicure:** Lavande Nail Spa – Lafayette

Massage: Clarmont Resort and Spa – Berkeley **Pilates Studio:** *Dailey Method – Lafayette* Waxing: Entourage Spa – Orinda

Yoga Studio: Renaissance Club Sport - Walnut Creek

Other Organized Fitness Class: (TIE) Bar Method – Walnut Creek or San Ramon AND Oakwood Athletic Club – Lafayette

Food, Dining, Drinks and Fun: Because we all need to get away sometimes.

Brunch: Chow - Lafayette

Carryout: Chow – Lafayette

Chinese Food: *Uncle Yu's Szechuan – Lafayette* Cocktails: Va de Vi Bistro and Wine Bar – Walnut Creek

Café: Chow – Lafayette

Dancing: Petar's Restaurant – Lafayette **Delivery:** Round Table Pizza

Desserts: *Teacake Bakeshop – Lafayette* **Family-friendly Dining:** (TIE) Chow – Lafayette AND Pizza Antica – Lafayette

Golf Course: Tilden Park Golf Course – Berkeley **Indian Food:** Swad Indian Cuisine – Lafayette **Italian Food:** Pizza Antica – Lafayette **Japanese Food/Sushi:** *Kane Sushi – Lafayette* **Live Music:** Summer Concert Series at the Park – Moraga **Live Theater:** Lesher Center for the Arts – Walnut Creek Middle Eastern Food: La Mediterenee – Berkeley

Mom's Night Out Spot - Va de Vi Bistro and Wine Bar - Walnut Creek

Movie Theater: Walnut Creek

Outdoor Dining: Va de Vi Bistro and Wine Bar – Walnut Creek

Romantic Dinner: *Postino Restaurant – Lafayette* Romantic Weekend Get-away: Carmel **Pizza:** Zachary's Pizza – all locations **Seafood:** *Yankee Pier – Lafayette* **Steak:** Ruth's Chris Steak House – Walnut Creek

Thai Food: Siam Orchid - Orinda

Health and Medical: Staying healthy.

Adult Dentist: Dr. Steven Russell – Orinda **Ob/Gyn:** Dr. Stephen Wells – Walnu Creek

Pediatric Dentist: Dr. Neil Katsura – Aloha Pediatric Dentistry Orinda and Berkeley **Pediatrician:** Dr. Michael Malone – Lamorinda Pediatrics Lafayette **Primary Care Physician/General Practioner:** Dr. Mary Miller – Orinda

Home, Garden & Other Professional Services: **Everything but the kitchen sink!**

Drycleaner: Orinda Cleaners

Florist: Orchard Nursery and Florist – Lafayette

Grocery Store: *Trader Joe's* Party Supplies: Boswell's

Pet Grooming: *Pampered Paw's – Lafayette* Place to get cards (e.g. Birth Announcments, Holiday, etc.): tinyprints.com **Plant Nursery:** *Orchard Nursery and Florist – Lafayette*

Veterinarian: Lafayette Animal Hospital

Pregnancy, Maternity and Newborn Resources:

Lactation Consultant: Day One – Walnut Creek

Maternity Clothes Shop: *Mimi Maternity* **Sleep Consultant:** *Dr. Noelle Cochran*

Infant Specialty Items Shop: (TIE) Day One AND Nurture Center

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Life in LAMORINDA

Culinary Art at Artisan Bistro, Lafayette

Seen In Harper's Bazaar Magazina

By Linda U. Foley

with this ad



Tew places and good eats are the top of the news in foody Lamorinda. Artisan Bistro is the newest iteration of a quaint, historic building and California/French cuisine in Lafayette. This is Chef John Marquez's—a local boy with a culinary degree from DVC-first restaurant. Just opened in March, his reputation already defines him in terms of organic local produce and creative cooking. To produce everything in house eventuallyfrom butter and ice cream to

bread—is the Bistro's artisan focus. I don't have a reservation, but the young waitress graciously seats me on the sun porch. It is lunch time

When my coffee arrives, I am pleased to see that it is French press and hot, not two things that often happen simultaneously. Cream arrives eventually.

I try to make a selection from the interesting menu but feel slightly distracted "eavesdropping" on so many conversations. I take a look at the plates passing me by all of which look intriguing and artfully displayed. A scramble of gaping slick mussels. Plump, succulent, marinated beets. A star burst of endive and frisee salad. A dark round chocolate cake with an explosion of something white and rich curling above. Usually saving my calories for either wine or dessert, I taste the bread which arrives in a nifty bronze wire basket. But my European taste buds crinkle snobbishly at the soft baguette lacking character. Probably something to be corrected in due time.

The menu offers an array of dishes from artichoke soup with marcona almond and mint pesto, to monkfish wrapped in bacon. I decide on lighter fare and order the baby spinach salad with anchovies and then goat cheese cake. Love the white anchovies, my favorite, and wished there'd been more, vinaigrette was very light and the homemade crou-

amino acids in a sports beverage.

Among the preferred forms are

branched-chain amino acids (va-

leucine,

line,

Artisan Bistro, 1005 Brown St., Lafayette, 925-962-0882 tons most plentiful. The cheese cake looked like something one would see on the cover of Bon Appetit. While too pretty to eat, I'd expected a different crust, and the "goat" deceptively tasted like cream cheese.

I meet Marquez in a kitchen which, in my view, is just big enough to cook for a normal-sized family. The heat is staggering but, amazingly, everyone keeps their cool and no one collides with each other entering and leaving the kitchen like figures rotating on a cuckoo clock. Chef John Marquez appears to be too young to have carved such a resounding culinary career path which includes Bridges, Picasso (Las Vegas) the French Laundry, Per Se (N.Y.), Coi and Fringale in San Francisco.

The restaurant seats about 60 inside and about 40 on the patio which would probably receive a lift from some plantings. Lunch and dinner menus are similar; the latter includes herb crusted rack of lamb (\$25) and rib eye steak (26). A favorite appears to be croquemadames and croque-monsieurs, a classic French sandwich of toasted bread, jambon de Paris ham and a mild Gruyere. For more information including a solid wine list go to http://artisanlafayette.com/home.html.





Summer Heat, Sports and Nutrition

"When you're thirsty it's too late to think about digging a well" Japanese Proverb

By Dr. Theresa Tsingis, D.C., M.S.

s we head into the intensity of s we nead into the interior, says fun, it's wise to have both common sense and access to knowledge from studies of exercising in warm temperatures. Let's outline a few basic nutrition pointers for athletes,

weekend warriors, and families:

Most people are slightly dehydrated, especially if coffee and alcohol are on their list of daily consumed beverages. It's a little known fact that fluid loss of as little as 2% of body mass cause changes in body temperature. Unfortunately, the sensation of

thirst often lags behind the hydration levels needed for health and good athletic performance. Water may be an adequate replacement fluid for shorter events, but for longer ones a good electrolyte, carbohydrate and protein replacement drink is much better. Studies show that pre-exercise hyperhydration can significantly improve endurance and performance. Note though, that it is also harmful to drink excessive water, which can cause a dangerous condition known as hyponatremia. How much is enough and not too much? One way is to observe your urine output. If it is dark yellow, there is probably dehydration. If the urine is light yellow and no weight loss of over 2% after exercise, fluid intake is probably at a good level. Weight gain after exercise and symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, headache and malaise are symptoms of hyponatremia, which demands medical attention. Electrolyte sports drinks, when consumed moderately, can balance body fluids and help maintain energy. Some of those drinks are healthier than others (hint: look tificial flavors and colors). The critical key here though, is moderation and monitoring of symptoms.

and busy. The building has received

a facelift outside and in. Colorful

Picasso-esque artwork (by the

Chef's uncle John Earl) hangs on

the Bistro's mustard colored walls

which, unfortunately, are not sound

proofed. The erstwhile Kaffee Bar-

bara and the subsequent Gigi's had

the same noise issue, however, to

many, din is in as in "instant atmos-

phere." Probably not good for a

quiet romantic outing, unless you're

dressed in licorice and brandy-

wine-I mean, black and bur-

gundy— adroitly wends its way

between the closely spaced tables.

The good sized wait staff

• *Magnesium* – Many adults do not consume even the RDA (350 mg. elemental) for magne-

this mineral plays a critical part in

over 300 chemical reactions in the

body. Some symptoms of magne-

sium deficiency are migraines,

muscle cramps, PMS, joint pain,

palpitations, and anxiety. Exercise

further depletes magnesium stores,

but most sports drinks don't include

it because it can cause diarrhea. The

average American diet is deficient,

since magnesium is found in small

amounts in nuts, seeds, vegetables

and whole grains. The solution?

Supplement with an absorbable

form such as magnesium glycinate,

aspartate or chelated magnesium.

When inspecting a supplement bot-

tle, note that the "elemental magne-

sium" amount listed is the relevant

number. Taking 400 to 600 mg. of

elemental magnesium in divided

doses can alleviate deficiencies;

consult with a nutritionist or med-

ical doctor if you have any preex-

down during exercise and be con-

verted to sugar for the brain's en-

ergy supplies. This muscle protein

can provide up to 10% of the en-

ergy of sustained exercise if not pre-

vented. To avoid this situation,

supplement via small amounts of

Protein – Muscles can break

isting conditions.

isoleucine), which readily convert into fuel and therefore help spare muscle breakdown. In the critical two hour time period after exercise, studies have shown that refueling with both carbohydrates and protein results in significantly greater muscle gain and recuperation than with

> alone. drates Other considerations regarding muscle building and repair include the body's ability to digest protein. If one of your goals of exercise is muscle building and it is not happening, digestive enzymes may help.

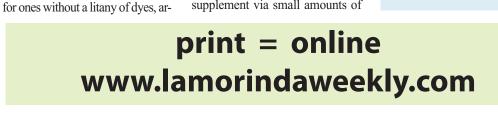
carbohy-

Summer fun is what great memories are made of. Add to that fun by following sunscreen advice and keeping yourself healthy from a nutrition perspective!



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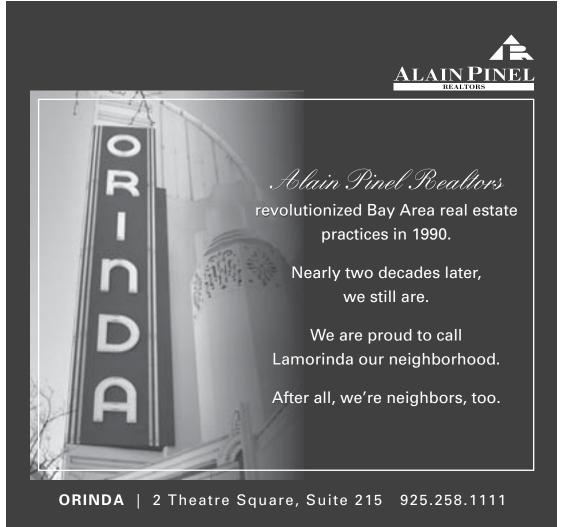
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Not to be missed

Moraga Movers Monday, June 8, 4pm social hour; 5pm dinner. Guest speaker, Shari Simon, president of MEF (Moraga Education Foundation) will explain the interneed of the younger and the older ("Movers and Shakers") for each other in the educational scene. For reservations please call 376-6622 (before 5 pm, June 3.) Place: Soda Center, St. Mary's College, Moraga. \$15 covers dinner (including gratuity and tax), payable at the door.

The 10th Annual Three Quarter Century Club Luncheon will be held June 10th at the Orinda Community Church. All Orinda residents 75yrs old or older are invited to attend the free gala. call John Fazel at 925-324-2017 or e-mail Runmtns@prodigy,net. Seating is limited and reservations are required.

Please submit events to:

calendar@

lamorindaweekly.com

Lafayette Senior Services Events-500 Saint Mary's Rd, Lafayette A min. \$1 donation at the door would be appreciated. Call (925)284-5050 to reserve a spot:

Monday, June 1, June 22, 1:30 - 2:30pm

Bi-Monthly Caregiver Support Group with Companion Care. Drop-ins welcome. Monday, June 29, 10:30am - Noon

Surviving Change You Didn't Ask For. Join bestselling author and executive coach M.J. Ryan for a session on how not to merely survive but thrive in change. Wednesday June 10, 12:30 - 3:00pm

Tea Dancing with Karen and Michael; \$2 covers refreshments.

Wednesdays, June 3, June 10, June 17, 12:30 – 3:00 PM

Physical Therapist Anne Randolph- Workshop. Please call (925)284-5050

Thursday June 4, 1:00 -2:30pm

Embracing Aging with Story and Movement

Thursday, June 11, 10:30am – noon

Positive Living Forum-features eminent speakers on a wide range of topics that will stimulate and guide participants towards a more ideal and positive life experience. Drop-ins are welcome.

Friday, June 5, 1:30-2:30pm

Rapturous Fiddling with Mark Shaw. Drop into our "Hot Club" for fiddle music that is passionate and fun. Some of it will reflect European jazz styles of the thirties ala Django Reinhardt and Stephan Grapelli, old time Chicago and New Orleans jazz, and vintage fiddle music tinctured with the green of the Irish countryside. Light refreshments will be served

Fridays, June 5 and June 19, 1:00 - 2:30pm

Self-Discovery and Aging - Creative Writing Workshop

Friday, June, 26, 11:30am-12:30pm

Art of Balance workshop: learn how to improve your balance and stop worrying about falling. Learn exercises to improve your balance and feel confident walking on any surface.

LAMORINDA Seniors

Woman Marine Corps Vet Shares Story of Service ... continued from page 1



The Marines had a separate

Sinnott had been studying

training program and facility for fe-

male recruits and many of the

women Marines, like Sinnott, filled

jobs to free up men to enter combat.

nutrition dietetics at Berkeley, so

decided to become a cook and spent

eight months at Lejeune in the mess

hall using cooking pots as big as

bathtubs, stirring food with spoons

our brows would sizzle when it

dripped on the grill while meat was

Marine Corps Reserve Colonel

Mary V Stremlow, who wrote

"Free a Marine to Fight: Women

Marines in World War II," many fe-

male recruits had a difficult time ad-

justing to military life, which began

the day after arriving at Lejeune

were kind of competitors, tradi-

tionally not working in teams,"

Sinnott said. "World War II

shocked women out of the tradi-

tions. Everyone worked for the

"Before the war, women

with a 5:45 a.m. reveille.

war effort."

"It was so hot, the sweat from

According to retired U.S.

the size of boat oars.

frying," Sinnott said.

Upon arrival, Sinnott said they boxed up their civilian clothes and mailed them home. "We marched hard and did lots of calisthenics," she said. "We learned words that were used in the Corps: 'the galley' for the kitchen, 'portholes' for windows, 'the head' for the bathroom . . . We were taught

According to Stremlow, when women were allowed into the Marines in 1943, many of the drill instructors (D.I.s) were not happy about having to shape up a bunch

the Marines were way better than

anyone else."

of women with a war going on. By mid-1944, however, Stremlow said open hostility gave way to "some sort of quiet truce and it wasn't long before the women's competence, self-assurance, sharp appearance, and pride won over a good many of their heretofore de-

tractors." "Most of the men were really nice, but they teased us," Sinnott said. "They would ask funny questions. One guy asked me, 'Do women Marines wear khaki skivvies?' And the D.I.s (and all the training) was very strict."



Marine Reserve uniform in 1945 Photo provided

After her time at Lejeune, Sinnott was sent to Camp Pendleton in California, where she served an additional four and a half months before the end of the war. She then returned to UC Berkeley before transferring to UC Davis, where she earned her bachelor's degree in home economics.

Her family has continued the military tradition Sinnott started 64 years ago. Sinnott's grandson joined the army two weeks before the attacks on the World Trade Center, going on to serve in the wars in Iraq and

Sinnott currently belongs to the Women Marines Association and continues to meet quarterly with approximately 30 other female World War II veterans who live in the Bay Area.

There are approximately 200,000 women currently on active duty in the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. "Women Marines today do almost everything the men do," Sinnott said. "Our boot camp was tough, but theirs is really tough."

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Seniors Receive Community Commitment Awards

Submitted by Beryl Anderson, Eldercare Services Levich with Lamorinda Trans-

en senior citizens from Contra Costa County were recipients of the 7th Annual Mary Shockley Memorial Award For Outstanding Service on Tuesday, May 26th. Among the honorees were Wendy

portation, Mary Miller at the Lafayette Senior Center and Yolande Rowe from Moraga Movers who were honored for their work with their peers and communities at the ceremony and luncheon. The event promoting the crucial volunteerism of seniors was held at the Pleasant Hill Community Center and include a keynote speech,

"Building Community through Volunteerism: International Perspectives on Senior Activism and Involvement," delivered by Dr. Mary McCall of Saint Mary's College. The Central Contra Costa County Senior Coalition and Pleasant Hill Senior Center sponsor the annual awards to highlight the vital contributions that senior volunteers make to society.

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Excerpts from the nominations:

Wendy Levich, Lamorinda Transportation

Wendy Levich volunteers for the Lamorinda Spirit Van, driving Lafayette seniors on Wednesday errands in Lafayette. When asked how she came to volunteer for us, she said she always like doing a challenging job that others might hesitate to take on and enjoys working with seniors.

From our passengers: "About Wendy...Shopping on Wednesday is always fun. We accomplish more than I think possible in such a pleasant and fun way. She is such a delightful person and takes such good care of us. We try not to let her carry everything, but she lugs all of our packages anyway.

Mary Miller, Lafayette Senior Center In the Lafayette Senior Center, Mary Miller, has exhibited fer-

vor in support of all seniors in a multitude of directions. She has served as a member of the Lafayette Senior Commission for five years, is currently a member of the Lafayette Senior Housing Task Force, the Senior Coalition, and the Contra Costa for Every Generation. She is the Historian for the Friends of the Lafayette Library and the past board member of the Diablo Valley league of Women Voters. We love Mary's Irish twinkle, her tendency to remind us calmly of our core intent when the conversation heats up, and the roll up sleeves attitude she displays however tiring her day has been.

Yolande Rowe, Moraga Movers

Yolande Rowe has been a key member of the Moraga Hacienda Seniors for many years as well as president several times. In 2007 she approved a subcommittee to plan the organization's future. This decision led to a complete revitalization accompanied by a dramatic growth from 200 to well over 350 members. Part of the allure for new members was the name change to Moraga Movers. She is presently the liaison to Saint Mary's College where our monthly lunches and dinners are held. Yolande epitomizes giving and service as she continues her pivotal role.

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Historical Homes of Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson



The oldest home in Lafayette, Effie Herrick's place at 3306 Moraga Blvd



Barbara and Ray Peters in front of their home on Martino Road Photo Cathy Tyson

nd the winner of the 'oldest Ahouse still standing' in Lafayette goes to the charming red home that's been sitting comfortably on the banks of the Lafayette Creek for about 149 years. The "Daley House," at 3306 Moraga Boulevard near Carol Lane, looks amazingly well-preserved, although there is some controversy about its actual age. The County Assessors office has 1850 as its origin as a barn, the current owner agrees with that date and notes that in 1860 it was converted into a home – which is also noted on the Assessors records

1914 and Leroy Stark helped to rebuild it, but that couldn't be verified.

Obviously in the intervening 149 years, plumbing, wiring and modern conveniences were installed. Although it's hard to pin down an exact date, the beautiful redwood paneling in the living room has been there for many, many years. Somewhere along the line, more than a few years ago, a homeowner installed a brick patio and small retaining wall in the backyard that is still functioning today, although the earth has shifted under it.

Fifteen years ago Effie Her-

Photo Cathy Tyson just a few blocks away with her realtor to go house-hunting in Danville, when she spotted this place with a for sale sign out front. 'Stop!" she said, she just knew this was exactly what she was looking for, a perfect home for her expansive

Three unrelated people have come forward to tell her there is one, possibly two friendly ghosts living in the house. This comes as no surprise, as she's heard very loud scratching in the second story area. "I'm not scared, just curious," she said. She would pound right back thinking it might have been an animal, but the noise continues. Rumor has it there were two deaths on the

collection of country antiques.

To put this home in context, the year the original barn was built, 1850, California officially became the country's 31st state. When the barn was converted to a home in 1860, President Lincoln was elected and Pony Express riders stopped in Lafayette for fresh horses.

Perhaps the original owner was on Elam Brown's fourteen family wagon train in 1847, that made it through Donner Pass just days before the party of the same name got stuck. So far no one's talking.

If you ask Ray and Barbara There is some indication it burned in rick was leaving her former home Peters, they believe the Moraga

Boulevard place burned, giving them 'oldest house in Lafayette' status. The weathered original plaque on the front of 1324 Martino Road says "1876 Fred Easton." An immigrant from Italy, Fred Easton built the house, grew and sold fruits and vegetables. The following owner, Nat Martino bought the farmhouse from Easton along with 90 acres in 1919. The original working farm had at one point apples, grapes and pears and more growing on the property.

In addition to the charming house, there is a two story garage with an office on the second floor and a separate shop where Ray keeps all of his tools and some of the original signs from the property. In 1978 when the Peters moved in, the upstairs toilet broke and made quite a mess on the floor below. Barbara, who was "perfectly happy" with their prior home in Pleasant Hill, had some second thoughts at the time. Maybe it was the peeling paint or the pink trim, even their pals at the time commented, "It isn't as bad as it looks."

Fast forward to 2009, there's a large bountiful garden that Barbara tends to, a fully modernized kitchen, and bright, fresh yellow paint. The bathrooms were updated a few years ago by Acalanes woodshop teachers during their summer school hiatus, but still retain farmhouse details.

Marechal Duncan, Vice President of the Lafayette Historical Society, has been an invaluable help in tracking down information on these very special historical homes. "What got me started on this was a water color painting of the Merryman house," (811 Topper Lane), donated to Marechal by one of Joan Merryman's sons. Although the colors used compliment the palate of his living room, he and wife Doris plan to donate it to the Friends of the Library, to be on display in the new library.

Additional information on either of these homes is appreciated; please contact Cathy Tyson at cathy_tyson@yahoo.com or (925)

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Senior Softball



Photo Doug Kohen

Lafayette's first annual coed Senior Softball Game and picnic was rained out, but players were greeted on the rescheduled date, May 15, to brilliant sunshine. Lots of food and drink were available for players and fans. Tim Palmer, pictured above, enjoys the catch!



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Ageless Tai Chi Ch'Uan – Training For A Lifetime By Marilyn Cooper



Marilyn Cooper, Low Tiger posture in Stern Grove, 2009 Photo provided

ai chi is good for everyone, voung, old and middle aged, male and female, but has special relevance for people over fifty. After the late twenties, the peak age for recreational and professional athletic performance, reflexes become slower and tissue becomes less resilient. While the mind and spirit can continue to develop, our physical bodies have reached their prime and now need to start to conserve rather than just continue to expend.

Pain, fatigue, and longer recovery time are indicators that it is time to learn tai chi. Tai chi puts you "in the zone" without pounding and straining. It increases circulation, energy, longevity, positive thinking, balance, immunity, co-ordination, bone density, flexibility, and when taught properly, provides protection from injurious assault.

Like its grandmother art qigong -- tai chi's primary function is qi cultivation. The word cultivation describes the way tai chi and qigong practitioners work - methodically, and in accordance with nature -- like the farmer who stores seed, prepares the soil, and rotates crops to preserve sustainability.

Qi is loosely defined as energy, or "the life force that animates all matter." When qi is cultivated, it flows. When it is blocked, it stagnates, like a pool of water with no fresh, incoming source and no drainage. While tai chi cannot replace a need for emergency surgery or psychotherapy, it can provide self-healing factors that reduce physical and/or mental trauma, and speed up recovery if surgery is nec-

The mind leads the "qi" and blood follows qi. The increased circulation comes from the slowness combined with the sinking of the weight. The growth is from the bottom up, like a building, or like a tree, ring-by-ring, making it rooted, reliable and long lasting.

Once learned, tai chi is fun to practice, and safer than other types of exercise. Like driving on an icy road, if you go slowly, nothing too bad can happen. Tai chi's positive side effects are often unexpected, such as the letting go of old issues. This is from relaxing, opening the channels, and allowing the energy to flow.

Imagine sinking into a warm

bubble-bath, and letting go of all your stress. This is a part of the state you are in while doing tai chi or gigong, except you are fully clothed, standing up and immersed in air, not water. Relaxation is one essential component, but it is the nature of tai chi movement that gives you energy and inner strength - centered, grounded and rooted.

Practitioners enjoy richer, wiser lives from taking the time to learn and practice tai chi. The ease of execution comes from focusing on where you are coming from to get to where you are going, not from trying to be where you are not. You always have to be firmly sunk and rooted on the back leg to achieve the light step on the other leg to advance to the next movement. You can never get ahead of yourself, literally and figuratively.

Bob Feole:

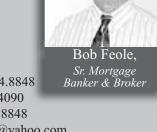
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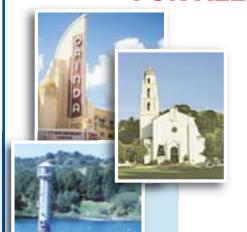
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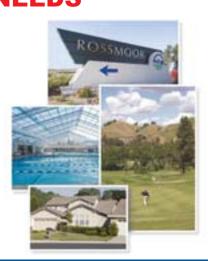


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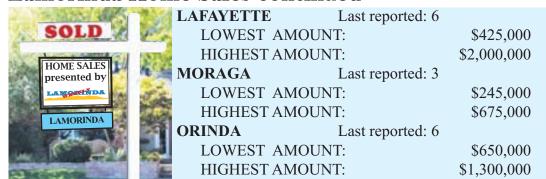




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Lamorinda Home Sales continued



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3577 Boyer Circle, \$745,000, 3 Bdrms, 1158 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 4-30-09 1 Casa De Cima, \$1,355,000, 4 Bdrms, 2515 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 4-21-09 3720 Highland Court, \$750,000, 3 Bdrms, 1232 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 4-30-09 1010 Hunsaker Canyon Road, \$425,000, 3 Bdrms, 1768 SqFt, 1922 YrBlt, 4-27-09 3386 Mildred Lane, \$598,000, 3 Bdrms, 1541 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 4-28-09 1107 Rahara Drive, \$2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 3352 SqFt, 2005 YrBlt, 4-24-09

MORAGA

1984 Ascot Drive #B, \$255,000, 2 Bdrms, 1233 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 4-22-09 1996 Ascot Drive #B, \$245,000, 2 Bdrms, 1066 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-29-09 14 Buckingham Drive, \$675,000, 3 Bdrms, 1560 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 4-29-09

ORINDA

34 Descanso Drive, \$925,000, 4 Bdrms, 2340 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 4-30-09 21 Eastwood Drive, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1953 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 4-28-09 1 Las Mesas Path, \$800,000, 2 Bdrms, 832 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 4-23-09 68 Loma Vista Drive, \$880,000, 4 Bdrms, 1802 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-29-09 2 Valley View Drive, \$1,300,000, 5 Bdrms, 3297 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 4-24-09 29 Whitehall Drive, \$650,000, 3 Bdrms, 1458 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 4-29-09

NO Forclosures in Lamorinda reported



Moraga Specific Plan Triggers Traffic Concerns from **Neighboring Cities** ... continued from page 3

"It's true that standard ITE rates are higher than the ones we used," admitted Rees, "but that's because those rates are not applicable here, they were determined in Washington, not looking at the different local factors." Rees explained that the rates F& P used take into consideration senior housing, student and faculty housing, and workforce housing. "These types of residents generate much less trips than the single

family residence," he added

The second difference of approach between the communities is the way they look at retail. Moraga Town Manager Mike Segrest consistently states that the fact that 75% of the dollars spent by Moragans goes to other cities is a mark of a lack of adequate retail in town. Therefore the MCSP will want to seek local stores that will fulfill local needs, "There is no Costco in the future

of Moraga," said Rees, explaining that the MCSP is what is called an "in-fill" project, meaning that it will attract mainly lo-

On the other hand, when Lafayette sees 90,000 sf of new retail, they calculate that there is enough space to attract the "big box" retailers that have a regional appeal and generate more "going to the freeway" traffic.

Moraga does not deny that their plan will have an impact on the neighboring communities: "Some of the intersections are so heavily impacted already that adding just one more trip a day will degrade the level of service," said EIR Consultant Rob Brueck. who further stated, "If the area we are talking about was developed to the capacity that is in the General Plan today, 339 single family homes would be built. That alone would generate more traffic than the development that is proposed today."

The Town seemed confident that, if the dispute should ever come before a court of law, Moraga would prevail. Town Council and the Planning Commission continue to advocate sensitivity to the needs of their neighbors and plan to continue discussions.

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Moraga Center Specific Plan Moving Toward Consensus



Map courtesy of www.maps.google.con

Council Member Howard Harpham asked the property owner what would be the number of housing units needed to allow him to successfully develop the Moraga Center area. In response, Dick Loewke, planning consultant to the Bruzzone family, stated the right number of units was somewhere between 560 and 720. When asked to share the studies that justify these figures, he answered "there was

In absence of an economic study that would determine the right number of dwelling units, Segrest proposed that the impact of traffic could help determine the number of housing units acceptable in the MCSP. "Traffic is clearly one of the main concerns that surround

this project," he said.

Confronted with unanswered questions, the Town Council sent the plan back to the Planning Commission for its May 18 meeting.

In the meantime, the property owner and Town staff met to discuss the plan. At the May 18 meeting, Loewke proposed refinements to the MCSP that would allow greater flexibility to the 560 housing unit option.

The consultant explained that flexibility was a key to the success of a plan that will take years to be built and will have to adapt to economic situations that no one can really anticipate.

Loewke advocated flexibility to vary the mix of senior, work force and compact single-family

housing units, while respecting peak commute limits for external traffic volume (inbound in the morning and outbound in the afternoon) as defined in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Planning Commissioner Bruce Whitley was the only one that night to express reservations. He said that increasing flexibility could result in the construction of a larger number of units. Because he was concerned with the risk of changing the character of the town, he said he would favor sticking with the previous 560 dwelling unit plan. His position failed to sway other colleagues on the Commission and the motion to approve the compromise was passed.

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Tick Tock Store in Moraga

Rheem Shopping center (by the Rheem Theatre) 354 Park Street 376 1888 Brian Nguyen knows about clocks and about hard work. He's been running a clock store in Walnut Creek (by Lunardi's) for 8 years, and opened on May 11 a new store in Moraga. In order to minimize overhead, he mans the Moraga store mostly week-ends and evenings and can be found in Walnut Creek the rest of the time. Nguyen's specialty is clock and watch repair, antiques as well as new ones. He will take care of replacing the battery of your wristwatch as well as resuscitating your 18th century grandfather clock. The Nguyens have been in this business for three generations, and Brian learned the craft from his grandfather and father. The Moraga store is open on Sunday and Monday and evenings Tuesday to Saturday 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. "I'm very excited to do business in Moraga," said Nguyen, "I knew the town because I had many customers from Lamorinda that I can now serve locally."

Mosaic Financial Partners, Inc

Mosaic will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony for on June 11 at 4:30 pm with the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. Meet at 3620 Happy Valley Rd., Suite 100.

Brittany Comes to Shore in Orinda

Laurent Le Barbier makes traditional crepes to order at the Orinda Farmers' Market. "Bretons" are a people of peasants, fishermen and merchants. Their culinary tradition mixes hearty dishes and seafood, that is both simple and very tasty. Le Barbier comes from generations of "Bretons" who used to make crepes in the fireplace and worked markets around the Golf du Morbihan. At the market, he serves salty Savory crepes (organic buckwheat flour, gluten free) with a variety of toppings including the traditional "complete" Ham & Cheese & Egg, vegetarian options like the Brie-Pesto & Tomato, or seafood treats like the Smoked Salmon-Crème Fraiche-green onion & dill. For desert, ask for the sweet crepes (all purpose flour) with butter, sugar & lemon or apple confit with caramel sauce among other specialties.

Rubens Nunnemaker LLP moves to Lafayette

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Rubens Nunnemaker LLP is a Certified Public Accounting and Consulting firm. Partners Sharon Rubens and Steve Nunnemaker have more than 30 years of combined industry experience and have earned a reputation for providing quality service over the last two decades. Sharon Rubens grew up in Lafayette and Steve Nunnemaker lives in San Francisco. Rubens Nunnemaker LLP offers experienced service in all matters of accounting and taxation, IRS problem resolution, estates and trusts, business formation, financial planning and investment, real estate and business sales. "We have always had many clients who live in Lafayette and Lamorinda," said Lisa Silva, who works for the company, "as our firm evolved, we found ourselves working with more clients in Lamorinda. Lafayette is the perfect central location for our client base. We also feel that Lafayette has sophisticated individuals and businesses that we can really help."

French For Fun Featured on Local TV

3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite B100 283.9822 www.frenchforfun.com The French immersion school was nominated and selected by the Best of the Bay TV production of channel 4. A crew of 4 cameramen and interviewer spent 5 hours at FFF on Friday March 20th to shoot a presentation of the school. "Since we wanted to showcase our students, we had invited all our classes from the baby circle to the literature club to participate," said headmistress Catherine Jolivet, "the teachers and I had prepared various activities, plays, songs, etc...The filming was very organized, the kids were very excited as well as the parents." The video aired 3 times on the Best of the Bay on May 21st, 23rd and 28th. It can be viewed online at Best of the Bay TV for one year.

Patti Camras Organizes Speed-networking for Women

Real estate services 253-4609 www.patticamras.com On May 8 Patti Camras organized her first speed-networking for women, an event where she invited women with whom she had been doing business on a regular basis and would gladly refer.



Photo Wendy Scheck

wanted to create an environment for networking so that these terrific women professionals could find out about each other," said Camras, "I strongly believe that people who own their own businesses understand the benefit of networking, and now more than ever, we need each other to keep our businesses vital in today's economy." "The event was fun and very well organized," said Wendy Scheck from Lamorinda Weekly, one of the 24 women who attended the event," She had us talk with each other and move around every 5 minutes. It was kind of an enterprising thing to do." Camras plans to host another event in September after the school year starts.

Patti Camras and guests

News from the Three Chambers of Commerce Small Business Awards



The Small Business Award recipients and Chamber officials (left to right): Carlos Rangle, Candy Kattenburg, Javier Galdon, Edy Schwartz, Ron Palsa (second row), Jay Lifson, Steve Palsa Photo courtesy of Moraga Chamber of Commerce

Three Lamorinda businesses were recognized at the Contra Costa Council's 9th Annual Small Business Awards:

Minuteman Press, Moraga UPS Store and Shelby's.

On May 15 the Contra Costa Council gave business awards to 10 Contra Costa small business owners, all nominated by their local Chamber of Commerce. The awards recognize the business owners' success in developing an outstanding business and their contribution to the community.

"Ron and Steve Palsa moved their business, Minuteman Press, from Walnut Creek to Lafayette about 6 years ago," says Jay Lifson, Lafayette Chamber CEO, "they took a chance on Lafayette and bought the building next to the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa on the East end of Mt. Diablo Blvd. What happened next was a partnership that resulted in one of Lafayette's most successful businesses and a community member that has never stopped supporting our city."

"A few years ago, with a dream to own their own business, Javier and Jacqueline Galdon searched for an affordable franchise opportunity in the Bay area, and they happened upon the Mailboxes Etc/UPS Store in Moraga," says Edy Schwartz, President of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, "with no background in shipping or retail, but with a lot of support and guidance from the previous owner and the franchise, three years later, the UPS store has become an indispensable 'office' for many home based businesses in Moraga.' "The Orinda Chamber unanimously chose Shelby's to receive this award," says Candy Kattenburg, Executive Director of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, "it's not unusual that when you walk into Shelby's you are greeted by the owner Carlos Rangel and if you glance over to the kitchen area you can wave hello to (the other owner) Chef Arno Kober. It's Orinda's local 'hang out' and if you haven't tried Shelby's you should stop by on a nice day to sit outside and experience great dining."

afavette Chamber of Comme

- Top Ten Small Business Trends for 2009 Friday, May 29 12:00 p.m. The Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce invite the business community to attend a special luncheon with featured guest speakers Steve King and Carolyn Ockels. For registration to this event, please visit www.lafayettechamber.org. Cost is \$25 and space is limited.
- Try Lafayette First Thank You Party Friday, June 5 5:00 pm 8:00 pm - Plaza Park. (see story page 1)
- Shop Lafayette Working group, Tuesday June 9 at 8:00 a.m. in the Chamber offices
- Chamber mixer on June 10 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Pizza Antica, 3600 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette.

Moraga Chamber of Commerce

Chamber meeting on Friday May 29 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Hacienda. Members of the Union Bank of California will be speaking on issues directly affecting the local business climate

Orinda Chamber of Commerce

- May 28, Orinda celebrates Cal Shakes 35th anniversary and throws a big party, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Theater Square in downtown Orinda. The free event is opened to the public and will offer a whole array of attractions.
- Chamber breakfast meeting, on Thursday, June 25 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at Village Pizza 19 Orinda Way Orinda. Cost \$10.00 at the door. This is a relaxed coffee hour in which chamber members can mix and mingle, share ideas, and exchange business cards.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact Sophie Braccini at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com or call our office at 925-377-0977.

Mycra Pac Designer Wear Creating Clothes in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



Customers in Mycra Pac coats "fight" over a bag, as Sharon Huebschwerlen (left, in yellow) looks on Photo Sophie Braccini

hen Sharon Huebschwerlen walks around her building in the Rheem Center, she makes it a point to greet each and every one of the 21 team members of her "business family." They are all busy creating and marketing the line of Myra Pac outerwear that's put Moraga on the fashion map.

A graduate of Miramonte High School and UC Berkeley, Huebschwerlen spent most of her professional life in the fashion industry as a buyer for large companies such as Casual Corner and Macy's. When the company she was with moved its headquarters to New York, she decided to stay in the Bay Area and create her own trademark. Her idea was to design a highend travel wear line that was elegant, reversible, water-repellant, and wrinkle free. That was Mycra Pac, and the year was

Now Huebschwerlen travels the world, studying trends and looking for innovative fabrics. "I create the models, with the team," says the business woman, "and we can count on our suppliers to produce our exclusive brand." Mycra Pac's line is one of the last to be completely manufactured in the US. "Twenty years ago many brands were made in the U.S.," says Huebschwerlen, "we continued that tradition because it allows us to be on top of the quality of the products we manufacture." The colors and prints are made to order by Milliken in North Carolina out of a fabric manufactured by Dupont; the fabric is cut in San Francisco and eleven sewing shops in the Bay Area assemble the garments and acces-

All in all, 180 jobs rely on Huebschwerlen's business acumen. Mycra Pac offers five different lines a year and participates in fashion trade shows in nine different US locations. Huebschwerlen's biggest customers are Nordstrom's in the US, Holt Renfrew in Canada, Selfridges in England and Isetan in Japan. Mycra Pac can be purchased on- line and in a network

of smaller specialty stores all over the country.

At this time, Mycra Pac is working on its Spring 2010 line. "We love colors, innovative designs and creative patterns," says Huebschwerlen, as she shows some of her new creations such as an elegant black faux-fur coat on one side, raincoat on the other, a shocking pink raincoat and one of her best selling items, a long raincoat with a pleated hood. Huebschwerlen believes that what makes her brand unique is the mix of quality and creativity of the offering. "When we sell a coat, it is guaranteed for life," says Huebschwerlen, "we have a few coats come back every year and we're happy to replace them. But our quality is such that we can stand by our products and make this kind of promise."

Like the whole industry, Mycra Pac has now entered the troubled waters of an economy in recession. "The women who buy our products continue to travel and want to do it in style," says Huebschwerlen, "but our small retail stores are hurt by the credit crunch, they lose their lines of credit and we are concerned about the survival of some of them who have been doing business with us since the begin-

ning." Huebschwerlen is not worried about her own firm. The whole team is getting ready for the semi-annual sale that attracts to Moraga customers from all over California. "I do not want to see my production in discount stores," says Huebschwerlen, "we'd rather sell our previous season's items at a discount to

our neighbors and friends." This year, the spring sale will start on June 10 and last five days. 5000 coats and accessories will be offered at a 20%- 60% discount from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday and from 11a.m. to 4 p.m. the four other days.

"It is a lot of fun to have people come here every year, the parking at Rheem gets full, and everyone gets super excited," says Huebschwerlen, who expects to sell almost everything this year, like in the years past.





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School Governing Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District Board Room AUHSD Office 1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette

Wednesday, June 3, 2009 at 7:30

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Lafayette School District LAFSD Office 3477 School Street, Lafayette Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at 7:00

Moraga School District Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga Tuesday, June 9 at 7:30

Orinda Union School District OUSD Office 8 Altarinda Road, Orinda

Monday, June 1 at 6:00, (special Meeting on Budget) Monday, June 8 at 4:00

Moraga Schools, SMC Remain Open After Swine Flu Cases Confirmed

ast week, Moraga School Dis-⊿trict Superintendent Rick Schafer announced the District's first confirmed case of H1N1 (Swine Flu) by a fifth grade Rheem Elementary School student. Four

Saint Mary's students were also confirmed to have the virus by the Contra Costa Public Health Department. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates that most U.S. cases are not severe

at this time, and on May 5 changed its policy regarding school closures. Schafer spoke with the Contra Costa County health department, which stated that the Contra Costa Health Services, the State Department of Public Health and the CDC have been constantly monitoring the H1N1 Influenza outbreak, and "while Contra Costa Health Services will continue to closely monitor the situation, we have been advised by Contra Costa Health Services that our schools may remain open at this time," Schafer wrote. Saint Mary's students affected were advised to stay home for seven days, or for one day beyond the conclusion of symptoms, whichever is longer. For information on ways to prevent contracting or spreading the illness, you can visit the CDC Web site at http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/. For H1N1 updates, you can call the Con-

tra Costa Public Health Department

hotline at (888) 856-0564.

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Moraga Education Foundation Presents Fun-Filled Musical Evening



amilies came out to enjoy beautiful weather and great performances by choruses from Moraga's three elementary schools and the Campolindo Chamber Singers, as well as by the JM Symphonic Band and chamber groups from the Campo Instrumental Pro-

gram. The audience was also treated to short performances by the Campo Beginning and Advanced Drama classes and a display of student artwork and crafts. Two renditions of "The Hills of Moraga" -- an original song by K-5 music teacher Carol St. Claire that several years

worth of Moraga students know by heart - floated happily over said hills. JM's Director of Musical Program, Adam Noel, said it was "a pleasure to see so many in the Moraga community out on the lawn during the MEF Showcase concert." Photo Andy Scheck

Four Lamorinda Students Recognized as "California Arts Scholars"

Submitted by Robin Moore

avid Beal and Caety Klingman of Miramonte High in Orinda, Jason Long of Acalanes High in Lafayette, and Ruthie Shapiro of Campolindo High in Moraga are among 13 Contra Costa County students recognized as "California Arts Scholars" by the state's InnerSpark program.

The California State Summer School for the Arts (InnerSpark) is a rigorous, pre-professional, monthlong training program in the visual and performing arts, creative writing, animation and film for talented artists of high school age. InnerSpark provides a supportive environment in which students hone acquired skills and explore new techniques and ideas for an intense

and exciting learning experience. Many of the students will participate in an intensive pre-professional training program at the California State Summer School for the Arts which will be held at the campus of the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia.

The Contra Costa County students recognized were Acalanes High School students Christianne Burns (Music-Vocal & Theater) and Madeline Sharafian (Animation).

Peace through Art & Writing Challenge—2009

vive students from Acalanes High School and two from Miramonte were among 70 middle and high school winners of the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center's "Peace through Art and Writing Challenge." The Center held its 12th annual awards dinner at the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church on May 2. Students were asked to write or create art on the following topic: "President Obama

inspires hope, calls for change, and advocates unity of all people. With these ideals in mind, if you were the President, what measures would you implement to advance world

Lamorinda winners for Creative Writing were Joshua Bulos (Acalanes - 2nd place) and Aaron Plotkin (Acalanes – 3rd place). Essay Awards winners included Devin Finzer (Miramonte – 2nd

place) and Clara Tsao (Miramonte -3rd place) and Art Awards went to Kyle Trujillo (Acalanes - 2nd place), Jill McGlynn (Acalanes -3rd place) and Jen Reich (Acalanes 4th place). The challenge winners were awarded cash prizes contributed by the Schmidt Family, the George Miller Youth Fund, David and Barbara Johnson, Mountain Camp II inc., and Peace Center Donors.

Kids N Dance Gives Impressive Performance

Submitted by Sheryl Cardiff



Pictured are: Jenna Kisner, Clara Kobashigawa, Abby Morrris (as Annie), Emily Rasmussen (back row); Lauren Kobashigawa and Kara Mickas (front row)

lot of hard work and fun paid off for the actresses performing in the Kids N Dance musical Annie. Girls ages 6 to 12 from the Lamorinda area started rehearsing in January under the guidance of Carol McMackin and Kris Mueller. Practicing one hour a week for five months proved to be ample time for a couple impressive performances, which took place on May 15 and May 16 at the auditorium in the Orinda Library. The Kids N Dance Studio is located in Lafayette on 3369 Mt. Diablo Blvd. and can be reached at 925-284-7388.

Technology Tapped to Teach from Afar By Jennifer Wake



os Perales Elementary stu-✓dents are used to seeing computers in classrooms, and have even teleconferenced on Skype or viewed online blogs with friends and family, but last month they used part of class time to check in online with their teacher, who was beaming stories about her global warming research during a two-week expedition to Nova Scotia, Canada.

Fourth grade teacher Millie Tang set off on this adventure on April 12 as part of an Earthwatch Institute expedition to monitor mammals and climate change on the rugged shore of Nova Scotia, north of the state of Maine. During her stay, Tang communicated with students through video conferencing tools such as Skype and online

One student, Amanda Dunning, was proud that Tang was chosen to participate in the research, while Gabriella Asuncion said it was fun to interact with her teacher who was so far away.

While Tang said she learned quite a few interesting lessons on this expedition, one work that stood out was tracking down and identifying animal waste – or poop – then physically counting and recording it on a tracking sheet. "Why count poop?" Tang said. "It's an indicator of a specific animal's population density in an area." She and other researchers also trapped animals,

weighing them, checking for age, and marking them, before releasing

"We saw a lot of pictures, and heard Mrs. Tang got over her fear of touching poop," Molly Bobrovitch said.

Lauren Williams thought it was interesting to realize how much you can learn from studying an animals' waste, like what they ate and how much of it they ate. Much of what Tang taught her students upon her return revolved around the predator-prey cycle, and its importance when researching how climate change might be affecting a certain species.

Hayden Hunt said he learned that by studying an animal's waste, you can find bones of different animals they ate and learn more about the predator-prey cycle.

Tang learned that it's the smarter animals that survived through the short harsh winter and the lesser weaker animals were either picked out by its predator or died in its 'home.'

"The results we saw out in the field really show glaring data there is climate change affecting the smaller mammals, which are good indicators of environmental change or climate change, and habitat degradation and environmental pollution," she said.

After returning, Tang not only discussed the changes she saw in Nova Scotia, but how her students can make a difference here in Lamorinda. Tang rallied students together to walk to school, and challenged students to come up with at least one conservation pledge. "This gives them a chance to think of how they want to contribute to a sustainable environment, and be more proactive with what I have taught them."

Fourth grader Russell Alger is planning on recycling more, instead of "throwing away everything since it's a long walk to the recycle bin." Hayden Hunt plans to turn off lights and unplug computers not in use that are using 'ghost power.'

Justine Bon now has a better understanding of how climate change is affecting animals in Nova Scotia and Antarctica, and Sara Ryerson wants to work harder to help the environment.

"The student pledges are not a promise to their teacher, but more to their own environment," Tang said.

Each year, Earthwatch recruits close to 4,000 volunteers to collect field data in the areas of rainforest ecology, wildlife conservation, marine science, archaeology, and more. Through this process, they educate, inspire, and involve a diversity of people, who actively contribute to conserving the planet. Tang's fellowship was sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank.

Local Teams Head to 'Odyssey of the Mind' World Finals **Submitted by Joni Binder Shwarts**



Glorietta Elementary School Odyssey of the Mind coaches Kent Grelling and Chow Chen stand behind fourth grade teammates Eli O'Brien, Maia Shwarts, Christian Schillinger, Andrew Chow, Dylan Wallerstein, and Jordan Grelling Photo provided

fter winning regional and state Odyssey of the Mind competitions, local students will head to the world finals at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa on May 27 to compete against teams from across the country.

Three Orinda teams from Glorietta Elementary, Orinda Intermediate School, and Miramonte High School as well as one team from Lafayette's Happy Valley Elementary School qualified for the World Finals.

Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that "provides creative problemsolving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then

bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and world level."

Thousands of teams from throughout the U.S. and from about 25 other countries participate in the program.

The Glorietta team chose to engineer a structure made from just eight grams of balsa wood that was able to withstand "shockwaves" of weights being dropped onto it. The structure held 280 pounds before it collapsed.

The OIS and Miramonte teams both competed in the "Superstition" Problem where students created and presented a performance that included two documented superstitions, an original superstition created by the team, and the events that caused the original superstition to come to be.

In order to qualify for the World Finals, teams had to place first or second in the state. Competitive teams are judged on their solution to questions that are standardized internationally as well as their inventiveness in presentation, style, execution, and originality.

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Acalanes Student Awarded \$10K Scholarship



Danielle Rasooly Photo provided

calanes High School senior A Danielle Rasooly was recently recognized by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation as "one of the country's most outstanding high school seniors," receiving a \$10,000 Regional Coca-Cola Scholarship for college after demonstrating "academic and civic excellence" in her school and community.

Rasooly was one of 252 high school students who competed for the 52 National Scholarships of \$20,000 and 200 Regional scholarships of \$10,000 during the Coca-Cola Scholars Weekend, held April 2 through April 5 in Atlanta. Scholars were chosen from an initial applicant pool of more than 74,000 representing approximately 23,000 high schools nationwide.

During the Scholars Weekend, the 2009 class of Coca-Cola Scholars interviewed with a National Selection Committee representing education, business, government and arts leaders from across the country.

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Arrest Made After Death of Miramonte Student

By Lee Borrowman

oseph Loudon, a sixteen yearold sophomore at Miramonte High School and member of the school's track and football teams, was pronounced dead at midnight Saturday, May 23rd at Kaiser Medical Center in Walnut Creek. Loudon had reportedly been bingedrinking at a party near his home on Hillcrest Drive when he was found by friends, unconscious in a hallway. Police say that alcohol poisoning is the likely cause of the young man's death.

"There were massive quantities of alcohol at this party," said Orinda Police Chief William French. Police did not find any drugs on the premises.

According to French, the owners of the home in which the party was held were out of town, several hours away, on Saturday night. The party was hosted by two people, age eighteen and nineteen years old. 18-year old Patrick Gabrielli, a junior at Miramonte, was arrested on charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and giving alcohol to a minor. He was subsequently released on \$5,000 bail.

French would not say if there would be other arrests but confirmed that there is an ongoing investigation. "That's what we're doing today," he said Monday, "conducting more interviews, trying to find out if there were (additional people) responsible." There were only about a dozen people in the house when police and paramedics arrived. "It's usual for them to scatter when they hear sirens," said French, who would not say whether those who remained appeared to be intoxicated.

Why did this happen? French frequently raises the broader issue of the choices that we as a community make as to how we address the issue of teenage drinking; whether we look the other way or even allow teens to drink in our homes because 'they're going to do it anyway.' On Monday morning he added, "Everyone makes an individual choice. There was no indi-

cation of forced drinking, no hazing. Even at sixteen, you make choices. The suspect also made a conscious choice to host the party. He bears some responsibility for what happened."

According to the Centers for Disease Control, 45% of teenagers drink alcohol, and of those who drink, 64% admit to binge-drinking.

Anyone with information about Loudon's death is urged to contact the Police at 284-5010.

Budding Artists Show Work at Local Teen Art Show

By Jean Follmer



Artist: Adrienne Snider



Artist: Amanda Griggs



crowd of local art lovers attended the Teen Art Show at The Art Room in Lafayette on May 15, which featured works from nearly 30 local budding artists. "We had a big turnout. I was really impressed. Some of the students sold their pieces and the kids were just so excited," said owner Gi Gi Voris. Although most of the participants were local teenagers, some artists as

young as age 9 participated in the show. Voris said she plans to offer a student scholarship to The Art Room during each of its five sessions in the 2009-10 school year. "I really like being able to do things like this for my community," she said. The Art Room is located at 50 Lafayette Circle in Lafayette and can be reached at 299-1515 or www.theartroom.com. Photos Andy Scheck



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Good Planning Is the Key to College Success

By Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D.

tudents and their families don't need me to tell them that it is a different world today than it was 20 years ago. As we adjust to new economic and social realities, we also must adapt to the changing landscape of attending college. Planning for college was always important and it is even more important now. Good planning is critical to success, especially if students are going to public institutions of higher learning. As one example, seniors who applied to the University of California and California State University systems faced more enrollment caps, earlier deadlines, and less flexibility regarding adherence to admission requirements. The new rules are, "Be on time and be complete!"

Newly admitted students must plan well to maximize their educational experience and increase chances to graduate on schedule. This is particularly critical now because budgetary constraints have led to fee increases and fewer course sessions. Here are some tips:

- Consider attending school year round; newly accepted students may want to take courses during the incoming quarter before the beginning of the freshman year and during summers to get and maintain a strong academic
- Register as soon as an electronic bulletin comes out to maximize chances of getting the classes you want. Many public universities are cutting the number of class sessions offered in order to save dollars, and this trend is expected to continue.
- Consider enrollment at more than one college (for example, take classes at a local community college as well as the California State University you are attending).
- Think about taking an on-line course. For students who can learn in this environment, these

courses present a way to maximize enrollment and stretch educational dollars.

- Get a good academic start, and do not fail or quit a class. Don't wait to experience a problem; instead take advantage of the help that exists on campus. Go to faculty office hours, check out peer tutoring, and join study groups.
- Get your text books and supplies early, be ready for the start of classes, and then consider taking a class just for fun to lighten your work; ping pong, yoga, step aerobics are one credit classes that provide a much needed break in a long school week.
- Finally, get an early jump on work study if it is offered in your financial aid package. If you plan your work study well every quarter (or semester), it will maximize your earning potential over the course of your college career.

University of California Admissions Update for Current High School Students

Good planning means staying up to date with current information and policies. Fall 2009 applications rose for the fifth year in a row, increasing by 3.2% for freshmen. This represents a total of 127,000 applications. Due to the budget crisis, the UC system cut freshmen enrollment by 2,300, resulting in new enrollment caps at some UC campuses. When compared to fall 2008 figures, preliminary numbers show a reduction in admit rates at Davis, Irvine, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz. Merced and Riverside admit rates increased slightly, while Berkeley and UCLA re-

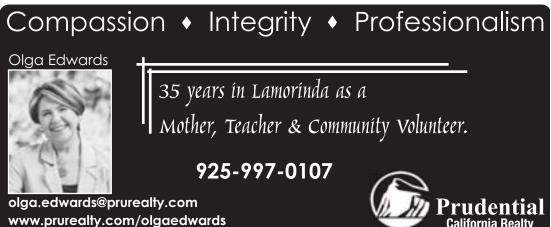
When you look at the number of required courses for admission to the UC campuses, admitted students take more than the 15 yearlong courses required for eligibility. Specifically, the average number of

year-long college preparatory classes range from a high of 24.5 at Berkeley to a low of 22.5 at Riverside and Merced. These numbers mean that the UC campuses remain highly selective schools, and it is important to plan your high school years accordingly if you plan to apply. Challenge yourself with rigorous coursework at your high school while "protecting" your GPA. In other words, take challenging coursework that you can complete successfully with good grades. Remember that each campus does its own comprehensive review, taking into account courses offered at the high school you attended, as well as life circumstances, essays, extracurricular activities, employment and more. You are more than just a number! Stay balanced and keep college admissions in perspective. Remember that when you plan to meet UC requirements you are also planning to meet the requirements of many other fine public and private colleges and universities nationwide.



Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D. is an independent college admissions advisor located in Lafayette, California. Her goal is to help students and their families understand the college admissions process, research college and career options, create a college list and prepare a strong, organized and cohesive application. Dr. LaScala is a member of NACAC, WACAC, and HECA and earned a certification in College Admissions and Career Planning from University of California at Berkeley. Contact her at (925) 891-4491 or

elizabeth@doingcollege.com.







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St. Perpetua Students Begin "Water for Life" Campaign **Submitted by Lisa Hoskins**



St. Perpetua second graders hold banner promoting "Water for Life" campaign

Photo provided

t. Perpetua School's second grade class is leading the rest of their school (grades K-8) in an effort to raise money for people in South America, Asia, and Africa who do not have proper access to clean water.

According to World Health Organization (WHO), more than one billion people in the world do not have safe water to drink. This situation can lead to severe illness and life-threatening disease in many adults and children. In fact, because effects of unclean water, children are often left to take care of their homes, cook, and provide food for their In some areas, women and

so many adults become ill from the

children have to walk five miles to collect water. The net effect is that these children do not get nourished properly in so many ways-physically, spiritually and academically. If they are spending hours working to get water, they are typically not getting educated sufficiently.

Money raised will go to Catholic Relief Services to help build wells in villages so clean water can be made available closer to the homes of those stricken with this water crisis.

Students are not only asking for contributions, but for conservation as well, including: pouring only as much water as you will drink; turning the water off when you are brushing your teeth; repairing leaky faucets and running toilets; and limiting showers to less than five minutes.

Four New Moraga Troop 234 Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Jennifer Gerst



Pictured (left to right): Photo provided Blake Marggraff, Shikhar Das, Andrew Gerst, Kyle Van de Bittner

oy Scout Troop 234 of Moraga honored four new Eagle Scouts at the Court of Honor on May 3 at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church.

Shikhar Das, Andrew Gerst, Blake Marggraff, and Kyle Van de Bittner achieved Scouting's highest award after completing service projects, assisted by fellow Scouts and friends, for the benefit of the community. Together the projects these Eagle Scouts led required a total of 550 service hours.

Shikhar Das built a stone path and cement pillars for the marquee notice board at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. The project in-staff can easily connect it to the

volved digging out a dirt path to JM's marquee deep enough to insert stones to create the path, and then pouring cement between the stones. The dirt plateau surrounding the marquee was dug out and flattened, and then cement poured around the

Andrew Gerst designed and built two redwood planter boxes at Los Perales Elementary School in Moraga. Protective fencing and drip irrigation were included in the project. To complete the project, the site had to be leveled, and drip irrigation was laid out so that maintenance school's watering system. The planter boxes will be used by Second Grade classes as part of the Life Sciences curriculum at LP.

Blake Marggraff led an effort to distribute free water saving devices to Moraga residents, resulting in a potential savings of 20,000 gallons of water this year. With fellow Scouts, he distributed water saving information to over 300 residences, and collected completed "request forms" for water saving devices from dozens of these residents. Working with Sustainable Moraga and EBMUD, Blake sent devices such as shower heads and kitchen and bathroom faucets to fulfill these

Kyle Van de Bittner removed dying plants at the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church and planted new ones, with the help of fellow Scouts and friends. Previously, the courtyard was visible from the bike path, so Kyle's efforts provide more privacy for the ceremonies held at the church. Kyle led his volunteers in removing dead plants around the church and planting new ones to enliven the grounds. He recommended to the church that they reduce sprin-

Local Students Awarded for Academic Excellence By Jennifer Wake



Gee, Nadia Aquil; (top row left to right) Thomas Liao, Jeremy Liao, David Kuckuk, Vishaal Agartha Photo Jennifer Wake

onald L. Rheem Elementary School students Calvin Gee and Maxine Gill were two of 16 Lamorinda elementary and middle school students recently honored at a statewide awards ceremony for gifted children held by The Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (CTY) at California State University, Hayward on May 16.

Invitations to this awards ceremony, sponsored by CTY, were based on an exceptional performance on a rigorous, above-gradelevel test given to second through eighth grade Talent participants. Seventh and eighth graders took the SAT or ACT – the same tests used for college admissions. Second through sixth graders took the SCAT, an above-level test scaled for younger students.

Other recipients included six Joaquin Moraga Intermediate students (Julie Huang, Keegan Mendonca, Myung-Geun Chi, Johnny Ho, Nadia Aquil, and Kourosh Arasteh), one Stanley School student (Vishaal Agartha), two students from Saklan Valley School (David Kuckuk and Spencer Lekki), two students from Seven Hills School (Kaitlin Devries and Emma Moodey), one Sleepy Hollow Elementary student (Thomas Boneysteele), one Los Perales Elementary student (Jeremy Yan), and one Camino Pablo student (Thomas

Liao). Paul Ostrach, who attends Bentley School, but who lives in Orinda was also recognized.

Now in its third decade of service, CTY indentifies America's top students in grades two through eight, and provides programs, services, and resources to help them make the most of their advanced academic abilities.

In 2007-08 alone, over 63,000 students from 19 states and the District of Columbia participated in the Talent searches offered through CTY. Only 30 percent of second through sixth graders, and only 25 percent of seventh and eighth graders tested earned an invitation to an awards ceremony.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions can be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Meg's Legs Run!

By Bonnie MacNab



n Saturday, May 16, 2009, Team In Training, featuring Team Meg's Legs held a fundraiser at Oakwood Athletic Club to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Our teammates, Megan Bekker, Carla Carreon, Stephanie deCrooy, Bonnie MacNab, Zander Sprague and Nancy Yuen are running marathons in San Diego and Seattle to raise funds for cancer research and patient treatment.

The band "256" out of San Ramon donated their talent and rocked the venue.

A silent and live auction were held with such items as a 49ers jersey and photo signed by Bill Ro-

manowski, a Tiger Woods signed package, Rolling Stones photo signed by Mick Jagger and Keith Richards, to name a few. BMW Concord donated a Fantasy Weekend rental of a new 328i convertible.

Thanks to Nutrition53 for their support and presence. A huge thank you goes out to the incredible volunteers from Blockbuster Cares, without whom the event would not have been such a success.

Thank you to our wonderful sponsors, Oakwood, A.G. Ferrari, Pizza Antica, El Balazo, Misto Lino, Michael's Ristorante in Moraga, Rheem Theater and Bank of the West. Lamorinda's finest gave back to their community in an amazing way and we are tremendously grateful.

Together we can make a difference.

Orinda Seniors Having Fun

By John Fazel



Rich Shearer crowns Thomas Dearl at last years event Photo Thomas Black

he 10th Annual Three Quarter Century Club Luncheon will be held June 10th at the Orinda Community Church. All Orinda residents 75yrs old or older are invited to attend the free gala.

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary,

Prudential California and Orinda Community Church are again sponsoring this annual event. Founder and M.C. John Fazel said, "I believe that our seniors should be remembered and honored for their contributions to Orinda and the world.

The idea was brought to Orinda from John's hometown, Perry, Iowa where they started their club in 1930. The tradition includes the crowning the King and Queen, celebrating the Longest Married couple and identifying the "Baby."

They are also entertained by great speakers. In 2004 the late Sam Billison, President of the Navajo Code Talkers described his experiences as a Marine and Code Talker in the Pacific Theatre. The late 'Woody Spears of the Tuskegee Airmen in 2005 talked of his fight to become a pilot and experience as a fighter pilot in Europe. A number of Orinda WWII vets talked about how Billison and/or Spears probably saved their lives during the war. When WWII vets were asked to come onto the stage in 2004 most in attendance were recognized. The next time you see an Orinda Senior think about what they gave to you and our country.

This year we will be looking at the lighter side of life as the "Ghost of Mark Twain" pays a visit. The Ghost is none other than McAvoy Laine, a former Orinda resident and member of Miramonte's 3rd graduating class of 1961. He probably knows more about Mark Twain than Mark Twain remembered about himself. Come armed with your questions, McAvoy has the answers.

If you are an Orinda resident 75 or older and wish to join the fun call John Fazel at 925-324-2017 or Runmtns@prodigy,net. Seating is limited and reservations are required.

AAUW'S 2009 DISTINGUISHED WOMAN

Submitted by Gloria Weston

t its recent annual May Luncheon, Joyanne Elkinton-Walker was honored as the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch of the American Association of University Women's 2009 Distinguished Woman. As one of the charter members of the branch, Joyanne has been active in it for many years. She was the original member to start the

Scholarship Committee and served as the branch president in 1966-67.

Joyanne is a longtime resident of Orinda and is very active in the Orinda Community Church. For the past four years, she and her husband, Carl Walker, have participated in Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Peace and Justice. Recently she has been directing sales

of Palestinian olive wood carvings and olive oil which have provided over \$8,000 to various Palestinian artisans and women's and children's aid groups. No one could be more deserving of this honor than Joyanne, as it was acknowledged by all in attendance at the luncheon which was held on May 19th at the Orinda Country Club.



· In the Back Yard ·

Digging Deep-Talking Dirt: Gardening with Cynthia "Gardener's do it in the dirt."

By Cynthia Brian



love dirt. Mother Nature produces good earth and as a gardener, soil is my sandbox. It's that glorious time of year when I catch the dirt disease. The weather is warming, our formerly green hills are turning California gold, and my dirt dries into tanned cement. Before the heat hits, you'll find me mulching, composting, tilling, and amending my backyard soil. Are you talking dirt, too?

Hopefully, before you began your spring bed plantings and your vegetable garden, you enriched your soil with the composted grass clippings, leaves, vegetable scraps, coffee grinds, and tree prunings that you've been tossing in your Biostack. If you are installing a new landscape in a newly built home where the ground has been bulldozed, you'll need to bring in a truckload or more of topsoil before you begin your summer beds. For the rest of us, create a great foundation for our gardens by getting intimate with your dirt. Frankline D. Roosevelt said, "The nation that destroys its soil destroys itself." As gardeners, we have an opportunity to replenish and nourish our planet. By designing healthy soils we create the best groundwork for the

growth of our gardens, which will improve the health and beauty of our plants and moreover, ourselves.

Get to know your soil. Is your soil sandy, loamy, or clay like most of the ground in Lamorinda? An easy experiment is to combine two cups of your garden dirt with water and a teaspoon of liquid detergent in a quart size jar. (A clean, recycled mayonnaise jar is perfect.) Let the jar sit undisturbed for twenty-four hours until you can easily distinguish the layers of solid materials. This will give you a good approximation of the amount of silt, clay, pebbles, or sand in your soil. Once you know the ingredients of your dirt, you can prepare the necessary recipe to enrich it.

Feed your soil. Since antiquity, gardeners have used organic conditioners to alter the physical properties and the structure of their soil. The point is to enhance the fitness of the dirt so that plants will grow more healthily. Soil amendments, when applied correctly, create happy environments for the roots and for beneficial organisms. Conditioners aerate and assist with absorption and drainage. Make sure to use your Biostack to create your own earthy smelling and nutritious compost. (See Digging Deep, February 2009, http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0224/ Digging-Deep-Failure-Flowersand-February.html)

Mulching is magical. If you really want to conserve water and save on your EBMUD bill, add a blanket of mulch matter around your plants. In the summer, mulch keeps roots cool and helps control water run-off, in the winter, it keeps plants from freezing. Over time, mulch decomposes which adds more organic matter to enrich your soil. Numer-



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ous options are available including straw, shredded bark, and wood chips, and some of them are completely free.

If you want a sustainable garden, you have to get dirty. Rich, healthy soil is the key to growing everything in abundance. My girlfriend, Jill, has a ranch on Dry Creek Road near Healdsburg. Because she gardens by the river with all its luscious loam, she has vegetables and flowers the size of Alaska. I must admit, no matter how much I tend to have to vigilantly keep my wheelbarrows moving the muck. It's worth the extra effort. My garden is filled with worms, bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, ladybugs, frogs, lizards, snakes, golden finches, and a plethora of friendly bug hungry critters. No wonder my roses, rhododendrons, ranunculus, and rosemary are resplendent!

We're all dirt gardeners. Stand tall and be proud. Keep digging deep and do the dirt!

$my\ dirt, in\ our\ neck\ of\ the\ woods,\ I\quad \textbf{Happy\ Gardening\ to\ You!}$ Cynthia Brian

The Goddess Gardener Cynthia@goddessgardener.com www.goddessgardener.com Cynthia is available as a speaker, writer, and host of your events. Call 925-377-STAR for fee

schedule and to book Cynthia.

SAVE THE DATE for Sept. 13, 2009 from 4-9pm for the BOOKS AND BANDS BASH with Dancing Under the Stars benefiting Be the Star You Are!® charity. This is the launch party for Cynthia's newest book, Be the Star You Are! for TEENS. Many local teens are being published. All tickets sold in advance via PAYPAL, check, or credit card. Tickets only \$13 for the event; \$27 for a book and the ticket; \$20 for book only. Visit www.bethestaryouare.org to order today.



Photo Cynthia Brian

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Cynthia's Digging Deep Garden Guide for June

"Gardens are not made by singing 'Oh, how beautiful!' and sitting in the shade." Rudyard Kipling

A garden is never finished. My garden reminds me of the Sagrada Familia Cathedral designed by Gaudi in Barcelona, Spain which has been under construction since 1882. Just as I think I have everything under control, a sprinkler breaks, or the night-scaping lights go out. There is always work to be done in our garden cathedrals and summer is the busiest time of all. Put on your gloves and hate, grab your trowel and your pruners, and let's have some fun. We're digging deep.

- KNOW your soil by using tips from this month's column.
- ROTATE your crops from last year's position when planting your vegetable patch.
- PLANT corn, cucumbers, squash, beets and Swiss chard as well as several herbs such as basil, chives,

cilantro, marjoram, thyme, and laven-

- RAKE with an iron tine rake any fern rhizomes that are overtaking your garden. Ferns like slightly acid soil
- rich with humus.

• ABODES for toads can be made out of

broken clay pots turned upside-down. The toads spend the warm, sunny days under their cool home, patrolling for insects at night.

- SHOWER your houseplants under the sprinklers while watering your outdoor plants. They'll enjoy a few hours of sunshine. • DISCOURAGE our dear deer and ravishing rabbits by tying colorful scraps of fabric to their favorite edibles.
- ELIMINATE PESTS by spraying plants with a garden hose using a hard stream of water. Make sure to spray both sides of the leaves.
- CHECK your nursery for the latest varieties of summer annuals. You'll find a great selection of snapdragons, lobelia, marigolds, and zinnias this month. CONCOCT this prescription for organic bug control. In a blender pulverize 6 tablespoons red peppers, 3
- cloves garlic, 2 onions. Strain through a cheesecloth. Dilute 50/50 with water and spray on pests. Add a little detergent to make the solution stick to the leaves.
- CONTROL powdery mildew showing up on roses, apples, begonias, zinnia, and crape myrtle by thinning the branches for better air circulation. Refrain from watering late in the day.
- FERTILIZE annuals and vegetables with an organic formula.
- PLANT warm weather lawns such as Bermuda.
- SAVE water by watering early in the morning. Water deeply and less frequently avoiding run off.
- CLEAN your drip system and fix any broken or leaky irrigation pipes.
- DEEP SOAK your magnolia and fruit trees with a deep soaker during the hottest weather.
- · CUTTINGS of azaleas, fuchsias, hydrangeas, chrysanthemums, geraniums, pelagoniums, and carnations will propagate if sown now.
- PINCH buds for more blossoms later.
- · COVER your fruit trees with netting as the delicious apricots, peaches, cherries, loquats, and plums will be devoured by hungry birds.
- WEED and hoe before old weeds send out new seeds.
- FEED your birds. You've taken care of our feathered friends all winter, now it's time to enjoy their antics.
- COMPOST by saving your scraps, clippings, leaves, and other organic matter to stimulate microbial activity to limit nematode populations.
- FIRE up a portable fire pit for those cooler June nights. Make sure to keep the lid on to prevent the flames from reaching other materials.
- INHALE natural aromatherapy with fragrant pots of herbs.
- INSTALL a moveable barbecue garden by putting containers of rosemary, thyme, cilantro, and peppers in a wagon.
- HANG an inexpensive or refurbished chandelier under your patio overhang to create an elegant outdoor dining room.
- SHARE volunteer plants and cuttings with friends and neighbors to create your unique cutting garden. • SAVE water by using your dishwater to quench the thirst of outdoor potted plants.
- DEADHEAD your roses to stimulate continuous blooming throughout the year.
- CREATE an edible floral arrangement from the branches of fruit trees or flowering plants and place on your kitchen counter for easy plucking. • GRAB a glass of your favorite beverage, sit in your favorite chair, watch the sunset, and sing "Oh how beautiful!"

Thank you to all of you who email me with your complimentary feedback. I appreciate that you actually read Digging Deep and are out there in the garden getting dirty. My virtual garden gate is always open.



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MUSIC

Moraga Commons- free summer concerts- Thursday evenings, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Provided by the Moraga Park Foundation. Thursday, June 4: Rossmoor Big Band Swing & Jazz; .Thursday, June 11: Stone Soup (a local band playing rock & roll).

Orinda Community Church will host a Jazz Cabaret Evening in its Fellowship Hall on Friday, June 5, at 7:30 p.m. People of all ages are invited to this event, which will feature a professional jazz combo together with singers performing standards from the Great American Song Book. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. Dancing is optional- but may prove irresistible! This is a fundraiser benefitting O.C.C. Tickets are \$10.00. Come and join the fun!

Lafayette's annual Jazz Café will be held Friday, June 5, 2009 at 6:00

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p.m. in the Stanley Middle School Auditorium. General Admission is available at the door for \$8.00 per person, children under 6 are free. There is a fabulous line-up featuring Stanley Middle School: Jazz Crusaders, Double Take, The Thundering Herd and The Jazz Messengers. The Jazz Café will also be featuring The Acalanes Jazz Ensemble. If that's not enough, Chef's Touch will be selling scrumptious food from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Jim and Jean Strathdee, internationally honored concert artists, worship, and song leaders, will perform at the Lafayette Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at 7:30 p.m., Friday, June 5. Writers of "I Am the Light of the World" and hundreds of other hymns, songs and anthems, their concert will take place in the church sanctuary at 584 Glenside Drive, Lafayette. There is no admission charge, but attendees may make a donation. Dessert and coffee will be served afterward.

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metro

Cal Shakes presents "Romeo and Juliet" by William Shakespeare and directed by Jonathan Moscone, May 27-Jun 21. Shakespeare's passionate tale of young lovers caught in a dangerous and threatening See story to the right. For details see: http://www.calshakes.org Town Hall Theatre Company presents the world premiere of the musical comedy, One Night at the Hotel Grand, the latest work by

award winning author and actor, Joel Roster May 28 - June 27. Contact the Town Hall Theatre Company Box Office for exact dates and times. Rating - PG. Town Hall Theatre Company, 3535 School Street at Moraga Road in Lafayette. For Tickets call 925-283-1557 or vist www.townhalltheatre.com. Diablo Actors' Ensemble presents

Neil Simon's comedy "The Prisoner of Second Avenue" June 5 -27. WHERE: Diablo Actors' Ensemble Theatre, 1345 Locust Street, Walnut Creek. TICKETS: \$10 -25. PUBLIC INFO: 925-482-5110, www.diabloactors.com. See press release on next page.

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Try Lafayette First Community

Celebration at Plaza Park on Fri-

day, June 5th from 5pm-8pm. Free

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THEATER

ZTONES. See article page 1.

call (925) 283-8304.

Orinda Starlight Village Players present Agatha Christie's "Spider's Web" June 5 -June 27, Fridays & Saturdays, at 8:30PM; Sunday, June 14th at 4PM; and Thursday, June 25th at 8PM. No reservations needed. Tickets are always available at the box office adjacent to the theater which opens a half hour before show time. Adult \$15, \$35 for three plays; senior/student \$7.50, \$21 for three plays; group rates are available. The Orinda Community Center Outside Amphitheater is located across the street from Rite Aid and the Orinda Post Office at 26 Orinda Way: Telephone (925)254-5530.

The Hearst Art Gallery's exhibition-Sacred Mountain: Images of Mt. Diablo and Mt. Fuji, on view through July 3. Uncounted artists have been drawn to both of these mountains, sometimes because of their sheer beauty, other times to inspire and energize historical, spiriJulie Armistead, guest curator and Hearst Art Gallery Registrar/Collections Manager, has selected approximately 90 works that date from contemporary pieces of both Fuji and Diablo to works from more than 150 years ago. Exhibition hours: Wednesdays through Sundays, 11 am until 4:30 pm.

Admission: \$3 adult; children 12 and under free; free parking. Web site: http://gallery.stmarys-ca.edu. Telephone: 925-631-4379.

The Moraga Art Gallery presents a new group show "Transparent Emotion" featuring the work of Monet Foster and introducing new members starting June 2 and running through August 15th. There will be an Artists' reception on Sat. June 6th from 3-5pm. Music to be provided by Carol Alban. Moraga Art Gallery, 570 Center St, Rheem Valley Shopping Center- next to Longs Drugs. Open Tuesday through Sunday, 12-5 pm.

www.moragaartgallery.com.

925.376.5407.

"Feathers, Fur and Fins," the new exhibition at the Lafayette Gallery, honors the creatures large and small that enrich our lives. The show is open from June 1 to August 15th. As a special feature during the show, the community is invited to bring in pet photos and related quips to be posted on the gallery's bulletin board. On Sat. July 11th, an animal caricature artist will be available to draw your beloved pet. On Sat. August 8th, a drawing will take place for bulletin board entrants. Two winners may choose a portrait of their pet as a prize. During the exhibition, a portion of the gallery sales will be donated to the Animal Rescue Foundation. Gallery Hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 11am to 5pm-50 Lafayette Circle in downtown Lafayette.

Martinez Art Gallery's new show "Red, White and Blue" will open May 30th. This exhibit features the work of 26 artists in a variety of media and will run through July. A reception, 3-6 pm, May 30, will kick off the event. Exhibited work includes water, oil and acrylic paintings; photographs; prints; sculpture, pottery; glass; and textiles. Open: 11 am - 3 pm, Mon and Wed – Fri, as well as 9 am - 1 pm on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month. Martinez Art Gallery is located at 630 Court St. downtown Martinez

Phil Simon will be exhibiting his original oil paintings at Fastframe of Lafayette through June 30, 2009. Phil enjoys painting contemporary landscapes and he compares his painting process to being an improvisational jazz musician. He considers his work successful if it as-

pires toward and approaches music. "If the viewer feels a sense of something musical in the air when looking at one of my pieces, then I think I've done my job." Fastframe is located at 3571 Mt. Diablo Blvd., next to Postino's. Call owner Anthony Ruiz at 283-7620 for more information.

East Bay Women Artists, Art Exhibit at the Orinda Library "Summer Show" with original



paintings, photography and baskets June 2 - June 29. This exhibit is free, open to the public and wheelchair accessible to all. Orinda Library, 24 Orinda Way in Orinda; Hours: Monday – Thursday 10am-8pm; Friday and Saturday 10 am – 6pm, Sunday 1-5pm Info: 510/531 1404. EBWA is a 20-year old art group comprised of award-winning artists from Contra Costa and Alameda Counties.

The first "Art Talks at Knoxx" event will feature artists from the Lafayette Gallery. The ongoing series begins on Wednesday, June 10 from 4:30 - 6:30pm. Featured artists are Shanon Essex, oil painting, Julee Hermann, mixed media collage and reliquaries, Margaret Lucas-Hill, silk painting and Pat Prosek, etchings. Visit the Lafayette Gallery web site to preview their work www.lafayettegallery.net. Meet Gallery artists and listen to them present their history, work and processes. Mingle with other art lovers and enjoy complementary appetizers. Knoxx Restaurant and Bar is located at 3576 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette, tel: 925-284-5225.

LITERATURE & LECTURES

Tuesday, June 2, 7 p.m. "The Unreleased Beatles: Music and Film" at the Moraga Library. Author Richie Unterberger to speak from his book, covering rare recordings and filmclips throughout the Beatles' career. The book won the Award for Excellence in Historical Recored Sound Research from the Association for Recorded Sound Collections in 2007.

First Friday Forum presents John Muir Law, author of newly published The Law's Guide to the Sierra Nevada, on June 5 at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Naturalist, educator and artist, Mr. Law will offer a visual presentation containing some of his 2,710 watercolors of the Sierra. Trained as a wildlife biologist, he is an associate of the California Academy of Sciences. Refreshments will be served at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Questions, call 925-283-8722 or visit the website, www. LOPC.org.

Overstock Book Sale at the Moraga Library on Saturday, June 6, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Great bargains for summer reading to be found at the annual overstock book sale held in the parking lot behind the library. Sponsored by the Friends of the Moraga Library.

Dr. Elliot Wagner, board-certified acupuncturist and herbalist in practice for 25 years, will speak on the benefits of acupuncture, Chinese herbal medicine and other wellness methods for treating pain including headaches and migraines, back pain and sciatica, post-surgical pain etc. Tuesday June 16, 7 p.m at the Moraga Library.

Summer reading recommendations submitted by the Lafavette Book Store, 3579 Mt. Diablo Blvd in Lafayette: Into the Beautiful North by Luis Alberto Urrea: the novel starts off as Nayeli, a young mexican woman, takes off with her quirky trio of misfits to find her own 'magnificent seven' for their small village which has become mostly women. Their mishaps and adventures along the way, including a daring and somewhat humorous border crossing, as well as the brilliantly painted landscapes of the countryside make for a superb storyline. Etta by Gerald Kolpan: Filled with adventure and romance, Etta is a dazzling picture of life in the Wild West. Using diary entries, newspaper articles and letters, Kolpan gives the reader a complete and compelling portrait of the mysterious woman who fell in love with the Sundance Kid. A fun read for the summer! Check out the author's website http://geraldkolpan.com

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Free movie night in the Moraga Commons! The Moraga Youth Involvement Committee will show "Madagascar" on May 29th at 8 pm. Refreshments will be sold out of the band shell to fund future MYIC events.

2 988-3411 Coming Soon **Coming Soon** Friday May 29st Friday May 29st Disney Pixar Disney Pixar **TERMINATOR:** SALVATION Still playing NIGHT AT THE NIGHT AT THE **MUSEUM** MUSEUM ANGELS AND DEMONS ANGELS AND DEMONS All seats Mon thru Thurs The Orinda Theatre is under new management. all shows **\$6.00**

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Not to be missed

Teen Movie Night! Showing The Goonies Fri, May 29, 7:30pm. Orinda Community Center Auditorium \$2 in advance \$5 at the door. Bring blankets to sit on! Loard's Ice Cream & Top Dog. Presented by the City of Orinda Teen Advisory Council. Sponsored by OCCA and the Friends of the Library.

"The Music Man:" Purchase your tickets now for Lafayette Elementary School's adaptation of the classic Broadway hit, The Music Man. Performance dates and times are as follows: Cast 1: June 3 at 1:00 & 7:00 p.m. Cast 2: June 4 at 1:00 & 7:00 p.m. All performances will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room. Tickets are \$5 for teens and adults and \$2 for children. The last day to pre-order tickets is Friday, May 29. Pre-ordered tickets will be held at the door. Additional tickets will be sold at the door depending on availability. For tickets email: leopardspots@lafayettepta.info.

Costa Rica 2010! Does your 6th grade student like to learn about science in a hands-on setting? Does your student like to river raft, zip line, and ride horses? Does your student like to learn about sea turtles, birds, monkeys, and volcanoes? Then the 2010 Costa Rica trip is for them. Come to a parent informational meeting on Tuesday May 26th at 6pm in room 29 at JM to learn more about this excellent opportunity. Ask your 6th grader for the flyer with information. For more information contact Kim Lockett at klockett@moraga.k12.ca.us or 377-4249.

Orinda Idol 2009 Auditions May 29 and 30 at Orinda Intermediate School (80 Ivy Drive, Orinda). Auditions for the High School Solo and Group Categories (K-5 & 6-12) are open to all residents of and/or those attending school in Lamorinda, while the Elementary (K-2 & 3-5) and Middle School Solo Categories are open only to residents of and/or students attending school in Orinda. For reservations (which close May 24), e-mail your name, grade, school, and e-mail address to orindaidol@bluestar.com. Cash prizes for winners. Finals will be held on Sept. 13 at the Orinda Theatre. For more information and audition schedule, visit the OAC Web site at www.orindaartscouncil.org.

Sienna Ranch is hosting a free event-the Sienna Ranch Family Picnic Open House on May 31st, from 11-3. We will have naturalists, pony rides, entertainment, archery demonstrations, art workshops, snow cones and more! For more information, call 925-283-6311 or go to www.siennaranch.net.

OTHER

Thursday May 28, Orinda celebrates Cal Shakes 35th anniversary and throws a big party, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Theater Square in downtown Orinda. The free event is opened to the public and will offer a whole array of attractions. Cal Shakes will sell specially priced tickets to the opening night of Romeo and Juliet, the play that will be on stage at the Festival from May 27 to June 21. Raffle tickets will be sold.

See Olympians perform live in Walnut Creek on Saturday May 30th from 2 p.m. to 6 pm at the Walnut Creek Aquanuts' 22nd Annual Night of Champions. This event will showcase the best of the best, with performances full of synchronized flips and lifts from amazing local and international talent. Clarke Memorial Swim Center, Heather Farm Park, Walnut Creek -Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for general admission and \$50 for pool-side seating. Children five and under are free. For more information, visit the Aquanut website at www.aquanuts.org, call 925-934-4792, or e-mail

wcaveventinfo@yahoo.com.

June 6, 7:45pm. Moonlight Hike on Save Mount Diablo's Joseph Galvin Ranch property (SMD) Leader: Dave Sargent at (925) 933-9402 or earlyrider@earthlink.net . Meet: At the Clayton Library. Join SMD Board Member and Stewardship Committee Chairman Dave Sargent on this moonlight hike of our Galvin Ranch property. SMD's 62-acre Galvin Ranch property is covered in beautiful woodland and chaparral as it rises from Morgan Territory Road and Marsh Creek, which crosses the property. Come and see how the moonlight illuminates this beautiful landscape and the Galvin property which is normally closed to the public. http://www.savemountdiablo.org/h ome.htm.

Ballroom, Swing & Latin dance classes on Wednesdays at the Orinda Masonic Hall, 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda. Marilyn Bowe, Dance Instructor. 3 to 6 week progressive series. 6pm Beginning class & 7pm; Intermediate 8pm. \$40/3 classes; \$15 drop-in based on student & class level. Details on www.dancewithme.info; 510 523-

Ready, Set, RACE! Father's Day Solar Car Challenge- Sunday, June 21 (1pm - 3pm OR 3pm - 5pm) What better way to celebrate Father's Day than to build your very

Not to be missed



WALNUT CREEK: Diablo Actors' Ensemble begins its second season at its Locust Street theater with an all-to-relevant play "The Prisoner of Second Avenue." The Neil Simon comedy runs June 5 – 27.

With the current state of today's

PRESIDENTE

economy, Simon's comedy takes on new meaning as we follow the nervous breakdown and ultimate redemption of a middle-aged ad executive attempting to cope in a world gone mad. It's New York City in the early 1970s, and financial problems, record crime rates, garbage strikes, and more beset the Big Apple. Mel and Edna struggle with noisy neighbors, faulty plumbing, and a heat wave until the loss of his job sends Mel over the edge. In true Simon fashion, these serious subjects are mixed with liberal doses of humor as Mel and Edna deal with Mel's overly protective sisters and older

Marilyn Langbehn directs with Rich Aiello as Mel and Trish Till-

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Martini Contest, Monday, June 22

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Please submit:

Events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Stories: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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tion, visit www.chabotspace.org.

man as Edna. Sally Hogarty, Loretta Janca, and Barbara Halperin-Jacobs portray the sisters with Bill Clemente as Mel's brother. A veteran director and actor, the "Contra Costa Times" named Langbehn's production of "Driving Miss Daisy" one of 2007's "Top Ten Bay Area Productions." "This is really a transitional play for Simon," says Langbehn. "It has his wonderful comic rhythm, but it also deals with some pretty serious subjects. The actors have to

"Prisoner of Second Avenue" plays Thursdays – Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Thursday performances are special \$10 ticket nights. Ticket prices for Fridays – Sundays range from \$22 (senior/students) to \$25 (general). Diablo Actors' Ensemble Theatre, 1345 Locust Street, Walnut Creek PUBLIC INFO: 925-482-5110, www.diabloactors.com

walk a fine line between comedy

and drama."

SIMON'S "PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE" OPENS SEASON

Not to be missed Orinda Salutes Cal Shakes— Thursday, May 28th at 5:30

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

al Shakes will join with the City of Orinda, Theater Square, and the Orinda Chamber of Commerce to host the 3rd annual Orinda Salutes Cal Shakes—a celebration of the theater program and kick off to the 2009 season. Lamorinda residents are invited to Theater

Square on Thursday, May 28th to enjoy food, drinks, music, and performances by local actors. Businesses from across Lamorinda will be on hand. The event is free and all are welcome. The festivities start at 5:30 p.m

Cal Shakes' innovative Artistic leader Jonathan Moscone will direct Shakespeare's classic tale of the passionate and forbidden romance between two young lovers. An early impression of the play posted at the Cal Shakes website describes the first act as "urban and sophisticated with bits of urban grunge dabbled about...not your father's Romeo and Juliet."

Private Lives

Romeo and Juliet

By William Shakespeare

May 27th to June 21st

By Noel Coward

July 8th to August 2nd

Mark Rucker will direct this wicked and witty romantic comedy with a divorced couple occupying adjoining honeymoon suites.

Happy Days

By Samuel Beckett

August 12th to September 6th

Four-time Academy Award-nominated Marsha Mason will spend the late summer weeks at the Bruns Amphitheater in Orinda and star in this aptly- and ironically-named play that will be directed

A Midsummer Night's Dream

By William Shakespeare

by Jonathan Moscone.

September 6th to October 11th

Shakespeare's charming and magical comedy, A Midsummer Night's Dream, will close out the season. The play will be directed by Aaron Posner and co-produced by the Two River Theater

Political Gatherings

Senator Mark DeSaulnier would like to extend an invitation for his constituents to attend an Open House at his District Office in Walnut Creek on Thurs., May 28, from 4 to 7pm. The Senator is looking to provide more information about the legislative process and services available and to allow the District Office staff to introduce themselves to the community. The event will be held at the Contra Costa Centre Transit Village, 1350 Treat Blvd., Suite 240, Walnut Creek, 94597. For more information call (925) 942-6082.

The Living Lean program is just what I needed to Lynn Simon

by Living Lean

"In 11 weeks I've lost 15 lbs of fat, dropped my % of body fat from 25.4% to 14.9% and gained 5 lbs of muscle.'

get back in shape. I knew what I needed to do (exercise more and eat right), but I just couldn't tay with a healthy routine on my own. Sheena's Living Lean program has provided me with a great team of highly motivational trainers and nutritional coaching, including a sensible eating plan customized for my goals, and fun spinning and weight-training classes. But it's more than diet and exercise. Sheena's daily tips and motivational emails keep me mindful of how I need to be thinking about my health and fitness and the impact our state of mind has on our approach to eating and exercise. In 11 weeks, I've lost 15 lbs of fat dropped my percentage of body fat from 25.4% to 14.9% and gained 5 lbs of muscle. And as I've become more fit, my trainers have challenged me to increase the intensity of my workouts and not become complacent. I feel terrific, have a lot more energy, and am stronger than I've been in a long time. Thank you, Sheena, Bronkar, Julie, and Saki for everything! I really could not have done this without you.

-Lynn Simon

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Dining

These recipe is

available on our web site.

Go to:

www.lamorindaweekly.com

Susie can be reached at

suziven@gmail.com

Dining

Dining Dining **Cupcakes and Clambakes**

By Susie Iventosch



Chow Bella booth at the Farmers' Market. Customers Tom Leserman and Jenny Leserman. Behind the table; (left to right) Jenny Smit, Lindsay Simpson, Elaine Smit and Katy Simpson Photo Andy Scheck

Elaine started Chow Bella

"It all started when three of

several years ago to share her love

my good friends and I were in-

volved with the Buena Vista Aux-

iliary, a charity organization in

Walnut Creek," Elaine noted.

"Since we all had a passion for

cooking gourmet food we thought

that we could donate to our annual

fundraiser, 'A Toast to Tutoring' a

preparation and delivery of several

gourmet meals throughout the year

to the highest bidder. The donation

was a hit and they kept it up for a

few years. This group of young

moms also enjoyed cooking to-

gether to prepare meals to freeze

for eating on one of those days,

when life is simply too rushed to

fix a nice meal! (If I could have

about a dozen of those lemony

cupcakes in the freezer at all times,

my appetite would be perfectly

taking in cooking classes all

around the Bay Area, from An-

dronico's and Home Chef in Wal-

They also made a habit of

content on those harried days!)

The four friends donated the

wine tasting silent auction."

of cooking with others.

f you haven't met up with the Chow Bella girls and their cupcake booth at the Moraga Farmers' Market you don't know what you're missing. Actually, I don't even know what I'm missing because I haven't tried their most famous cupcake yet ... the Mocha Cupcake. Perfected by Chow Bella partner Katy Simpson over many hours in the kitchen, the Chow Bella foursome prefers to keep that one a closely held secret for the time being. But, I have tried their divine Vanilla Bean Lemon Curd

Cupcake. Chow Bella founder Elaine Smit offered to part with this recipe and my friends and I are very glad she did. This little cupcake is light and airy with just the right amount of tart curd filling in the middle and buttercream frosting on top. The recipe calls for Meyer lemons, which are plentiful in many home gardens in the Lamorinda area, and if you don't have a tree of your own, a neighbor probably does. If not, try it with regular lemons from the grocery store. I did and the cupcakes were still wonderful.

nut Creek to the Culinary Academy in San Francisco. One day, Colleen and Elaine took a daylong cooking class from Thomas Keller of the French Laundry in Yountville in the Napa Valley.

Dining

"At the end of the cooking day, the entire class was invited to the French Laundry for dinner, wine and music," Elaine fondly remembers.

Elaine feels fortunate to have many friends and family who support and encourage her efforts. Due to the success of Chow Bella, she called upon her most trusted foodie friends to join her in the business.

"They keep me going," she says. "I couldn't do it without the involvement of Katy, Colleen and Rebecca. They play important roles from the baking to teaching the kids' classes and making every dish look beautiful."

Katy (Cupcake) Simpson is the heart and soul behind the beautiful dessert creations, while Colleen Wheaton has the creative eye for plate presentation and food design. Trained at the San Francisco Culinary Academy and also possessing a degree in fashion design, Colleen has a real knack for food styling. Rebecca Sullivan, who also trained at the San Francisco Culinary Academy, studied culinary arts and is a natural at teaching. She heads up the Chow Bella Kids Cooking Program.

Chow Bella has a host of great party ideas and a scrumptious selection of catering menus, but this week we're featuring the Vanilla Bean Lemon Curd cupcakes as a tiny glimpse into the bakery portion of the business. Since Chow Bella has been asked by clients to create traditional east coast clambakes for summertime parties, we'll feature their recipe for clambakes using three different cooking methods in the next issue of Lamorinda Weekly.

Chow Bella, Back to the Kitchen Cooking Parties, Kids Summer Cooking Camp, Cooking classes, Catering, Personal Chef Services Baked Goods at the Farmers' Market in Moraga-featuring Mocha, lemon curd, coconut, salted caramel, strawberry, s'mores (graham cracker crust) cupcakes Phone: (925) 878-9932

Web: www.chowbella.net

Email: elaine@chowbella.net

Vanilla Bean Lemon Curd Cupcakes **Lemon Curd**

(Makes enough for 2 dozen cupcakes)

- 1 cup sugar
- Zest of 3 lemons
- 3 large eggs 4 large egg yolks
- 1 cup Meyer lemon juice
- 5 ounces unsalted butter, chilled and cut into small pieces

Prepare and ice-water bath. Set a medium bowl in ice-water bath and set aside. Place sugar and lemon zest in a mortal and grind with a pestle to combine and release the oils. Transfer sugar mixture to a medium heatproof bowl along with eggs and egg yolks; whisk to combine. Place over a saucepan of simmering water and whisk until sugar has dissolved. Add lemon juice and continue whisking until

mixture is thick and reaches 160 degrees

on an instant-read thermometer, scraping down sides of bowl as necessary. Add butter and whisk until well combined.

Strain lemon mixture through a fine mesh sieve set over prepared bowl. Cover lemon curd with plastic wrap, pressing plastic wrap directly onto surface. Transfer to refrigerator until completely chilled.

Dining

Vanilla Bean Cupcakes

- 2 cups cake flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 12 tablespoons unsalted butter (1 1/2 sticks), at room temperature
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 vanilla bean, split lengthwise and scraped, seeds reserved (or 1 tablespoon vanilla extract)
- 2 large egg whites, at room temperature
- 2 large eggs, at room temperature
- 3/4 cup whipping cream at room temperature

Heat the oven to 350°F and arrange a rack in the middle. Line 2 (12-well) muffin pans with paper liners. Alternatively, coat the wells with butter; set aside. Combine flour, baking powder, and salt in a medium bowl and whisk to aerate and break up any lumps; set aside.

Place butter in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment and beat on medium-high speed until very light in color, about 3 minutes. Add sugar and vanilla seeds (if you're using vanilla extract instead, you'll add it later), and continue beating until mixture is airy, about 3 minutes. Scrape down the paddle and the sides of the bowl, turn the mixer to medium speed, and add egg whites one at a time, beating well after each addition. Then add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition.

Add milk (and vanilla extract, if you're using it in place of seeds), and mix until combined (the mixture will look curdled, but it's not). Scrape down the sides of the bowl. Reduce speed to low, add flour mixture, and mix until just combined, about 15 seconds.

Fill the muffin wells about halfway, and bake cupcakes until golden brown and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, about 18 minutes. Set the pans on a wire rack and let cool for 5 minutes. Remove cupcakes from the pans and let cool completely before frosting and filling with lemon curd. Remove small piece of center of cupcake with apple corer. Fill with small amount of lemon curd (put lemon curd in plastic condiment bottle for easy filling)

Vanilla Bean Buttercream

2 cups unsalted butter, softened, cut into pieces

3 ½ cups powdered sugar, sifted pinch of salt

1 vanilla bean, scraped

1 tsp vanilla

1/4 cup whole milk or whipping cream

Beat butter until creamy. Slowly add powdered sugar, until combined. Add vanilla bean seeds and vanilla. Slowly add milk or cream and beat until creamy – about 5 minutes. Frost cupcakes, dip in sanding sugar, and top with raspberry if desired.

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Chow Restaurant, 53 Lafayette Cir, Laf, 962-2469 Quiznos, 3651 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 962-0200 Ranch House, 1012 School St, Mor, 376-5127 Terzetto Cuisine, 1419 Moraga Way, Mor, 376-3832 The Cheese Steak Shop, 3455 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 283-1234 Bo's Barbecue, 3422 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 283-7133 **Burger Joint** Flippers, 960 Moraga Rd, Laf, 284-1567 Nation's Giant Hamburgers, 400 Park, Mor, 376-8888 Nation's Giant Hamburgers, 76 Moraga Way, Ori, 254-8888 Ferrari- Lucca Delicatessens, 23 Lafayette Cir, Laf, 299-8040 Geppetto's caffe, 87 Orinda Way, Ori, 253-9894 Mamounia Express Cafe, 3732 Mt. Diablo Blvd # 179, Laf, 299-1372 Rising Loafer, 3643 Mt. Diablo Blvd Ste B, Laf, 284-8816 Susan Foord Catering & Cafe, 965 Mt. View Dr., Laf, 299-2469 **California Cuisine**

Artisan Bistro, 1005 Brown St., Laf 962-0882 Metro Lafayette, 3524 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 284-4422 Shelby's, 2 Theatre Sq, Ori, 254-9687 Chinese Asia Palace Restaurant, 1460 B Moraga Rd, Mor, 376-0809 Chef Chao Restaurant, 343 Rheem Blvd, Mor, 376-1740 China Moon Restaurant, 380 Park St, Mor, 376-1828

284-3500 Hsiangs Mandarin Cuisine, 1 Orinda Way # 1, Ori, 253-9852 Lily's House, 3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd #A, Laf, 284-7569 Mandarin Flower, 581 Moraga Rd, Mor, 376-7839 Panda Express, 3608 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 962-0288 Szechwan Chinese Restaurant, 79 Orinda Way, Ori, 254-2020 Uncle Yu's Szechuan, 999 Oak Hill Rd, Laf, 283-1688 Yan's Restaurant, 3444 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 284-2228 Coffee Shop Millie's Kitchen, 1018 Oak Hill Rd #A, Laf, 283-2397 Squirrel's Coffee Shop, 998 Moraga Rd, Laf, 284-7830 Village Inn Café, 204 Village Square, Ori, 254-6080 Continental Petar's Restaurant, 32 Lafayette Cir, Laf, 284-7117 Vino Restaurant, 3531 Plaza Way, Laf, 284-1330 Duck Club Restaurant, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 283-7108 Chevalier Restaurant, 960 Moraga Road, Laf, 385-0793 **Hawaiian Grill** Lava Pit, 2 Theatre Square, St. 142, Ori, 253-1338 Indian Swad Indian Cuisine, 3602 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 962-9575 Italian Giardino, 3406 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 283-3869 Knoxx Restaurant, Lounge, 3576 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, 284-5225 La Finestra Ristorante, 100 Lafayette Cir, #101, Laf, 284-5282 La Piazza, 15 Moraga Way, Ori, 253-9191 Mangia Ristorante Pizzeria, 975 Moraga Rd, Laf, 284-3081 Michael's, 1375 Moraga Way, Mor, 376-4300

Mondello's, 337 Rheem Blvd, Mor,

Pizza Antica, 3600 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, Postino, 3565 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, Ristorante Amoroma, 360 Park St, Mor, Japanese Asia Palace Sushi Bar, 1460 B Moraga Rd, Mor, Blue Ginko, 3518-A Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, Kane Sushi, 3474 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, Niwa Restaurant, 1 Camino Sobrante # 6, Ori, Serika Restaurant, 2 Theatre Sq # 118, Ori, Yu Sushi, 19 Moraga Way, Ori, Mediterranean Petra Café, 2 Theatre Sq # 105, Ori,

Oasis Café, 3594 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, Turquoise Mediterranean Grill, 70 Moraga Way, Ori, Mexican 360 Gourmet Burrito, 3655 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, El Charro Mexican Dining, 3339 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, El Jaro Mexican Cafe, 3563 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, La Cocina Mexicana, 23 Orinda Way, Ori, Mucho wraps, 1375-B Moraga Way, Mor, Baja Fresh Mexican Grill, 3596 Mt. Diable Blvd, Laf, Celia's Restaurant, 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, El Balazo, 3518D Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf, Maya Mexican Grill, 74 Moraga Way, Ori,

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The Lamorinda Weekly (LW) Restaurant Guide is not paid advertising; our intent is to provide a useful reference guide. We hope that we have included all Lamorinda restaurants on this page, except those that told us they did not wish to be listed. LW is not liable for errors or omissions. In the event that we have inadvertently printed misinformation or excluded a restaurant please let us know (info@lamorindaweekly.com) so that we may correct our list for the next issue.

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By Steven Johns





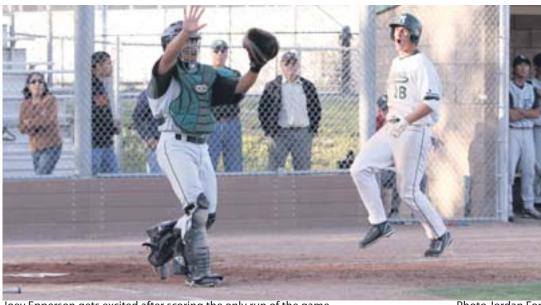




SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

By Jack Fernbacher



Joey Epperson gets excited after scoring the only run of the game

Photo Jordan Fong

fter a first round bye in the ANCS playoffs, the Acalanes women's lacrosse team took the field on May 16 to take on Amador Valley.

The DFAL champs were the favorites coming into the game, but did not play like it as they lost to Amador Valley 12-3.

The game started off in a defensive battle. The teams were going back and forth across the field but neither team was able to put the ball in the back of the net for the first seven minutes of the game.

With 18:37 left in the first half, Amador Valley got on the board with a goal by Teresa Li. Li had been fouled close to the goal and received a free shot at point-blank range. Acalanes' goaltender had no chance at stopping the hard shot.

With 12:11 left in the half, Amador Valley put themselves ahead by two goals with a score from Helen Cai.

The Dons got their first goal

with 8:20 left in the first half. Cocaptain Laura Harris scored after being fouled near the Amador Valley

Amador Valley then went on an offensive outpour and ended the half with a 5-1 lead.

The second half was much worse for the Dons. Amador Valley built a 7-1 lead before Rebecca Frank netted her first goal of the

Unfortunately for the Dons, Amador Valley was just too good and the game quickly got out of hand. Frank scored her second goal of the game with 5:06 left in the game, but it only got the Dons within

"We started out off and we just could not get on. It's definitely not the way you wanted to end your season" said head coach Kelly Haso.

The Dons looked flat and played without intensity that Acalanes fans are used too. The

Dons also had troubles with Amador Valley's outstanding goaltender, Caroline Federighi. "Caroline Federighi is amazing. Getting around her, we knew was going to be one of the hardest parts of this game" said

Photo Doug Kohen

Despite an unhappy ending, the 2009 season was a very successful one. The Dons won DFAL after playing one of their best seasons. Midfielder Katie Mitchell was named DFAL's Most Valuable

Don's Men Fall to Berkeley After the women's game the men's lacrosse game played their first NCS playoff game. Unfortunately for Acalanes fans, the men also lost to the lower seeded team. Acalanes fell to Berkeley 6-5 and was eliminated from the NCS playoffs. Defender Robert Mull was named DFAL's Most Valuable Player.



Pitcher Andrew Kjar Photo Ohlen Alexander

Tiramonte's game plan going into its first NCS playoff game on May 22nd was to capitalize on El Cerrito's mistakes. And the strategy paid off.

No. 1 Miramonte defeated No. 8 El Cerrito 1-0 after scoring its lone run of the game in the bottom of the sixth inning. In the sixth, senior right fielder Matt Lloyd hit into what should have been a 6-3-1 double play, but El Cerrito failed to convert the throw from second and senior centerfielder Joey Epperson crossed home plate.

Senior Andrew Kjar pitched

brilliantly for the Mats as he only gave up one hit and struck out twelve in a complete game. "Andrew was our whole of-

fense and our whole defense," said head coach Vince Dell'Aquilla. "He kept us in the ball game, and allowed us to take the lead with just the one late run."

Miramonte had a good chance to score in the first inning when it had the bases loaded with two outs, but senior shortstop Mike Reuvekamp was caught stealing home.

Throughout the game, the Mats were aggressive on the base paths. Two players were picked off and two were caught stealing.

"We were trying to be really aggressive," said Dell'Aquilla. "Our goal was to have them slip up and make mistakes."

Epperson was aggressive on the bases and at the plate with three hits and one stolen base. The Mats blew some early chances to score runs and only mustered five hits in the game.

"We made some adjustments in our offense. Our players knew it was a big game, and were anxious

at the plate. Because we are the number one seed, there is a lot of

El Cerrito's ace Mark Kolding also pitched a complete game and held Miramonte scoreless for five innings, despite three errors behind him. Neither team had an extra-base hit in the game, as the batters mostly hit ground balls or

pressure for us to win."

struck out.

Miramonte's small-ball ended up being enough for the Mats to win the quarterfinal game and advance to the next round.

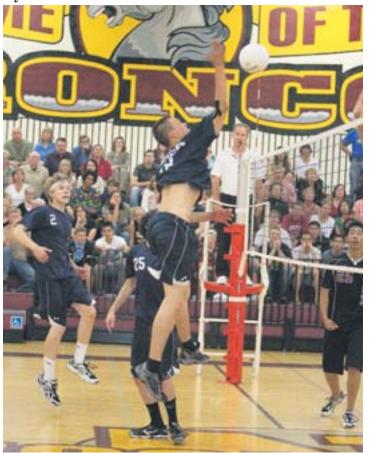
Next Up in NCS Baseball:

The DFAL champion Miramonte Matadors took on the 5th ranked Analy Tigers after press time on Tuesday night. Check our website for updates:

http://www.lamorindaweekly.com. If the Mats prevail, they will play for the NCS Championship at the end of the week against the winner of Wednesday's game between Sir Francis Drake (ranked #3) and Novato (#7). Also in NCS baseball, after a first

round bye the #2 ranked Campolindo Cougars lost to Novato in round 2 last Saturday.

Cougars Fight but Fall to Top Seeded Northgate By Alex Crook



Dylan Blackstone (18) goes for the kill

s the lone Lamorinda contender in the NCS Boys' Volleyball competition, the Campolindo Cougars rode into Walnut Creek on May 14 with high hopes of upsetting division 2 top seed Northgate. For a high school volleyball game, the atmosphere was intense, seeing the gym half full for this NCS match.

The Broncos came out of the gate hitting everything, which was too much for the Cougars who gave up the first two points. Northgate jumped out to an 8-2 lead in Game 1 before Campo called the game's first timeout. The Cougars called time twice in Game 1 to try and shift the momentum, with the second one coming after one of many kills from Bronco's senior hitter Jeremy Kong. Campo regained hope with points from co-captain Jake Partlow and sophomore Carl King, but it wasn't enough as Northgate took Game 1, 25-13.

The second game served as a wake-up call for Campolindo, who

Photo Doug Kohen forced a Northgate timeout after jumping out to a 4-1 Cougar lead. Campo continued to rule with a 9-3 lead after several players recorded kills to give Campo some breathing room. Northgate eventually woke up, but their alarm went off too late as Campo evened the score at 1 with a 25-16 win in Game 2.

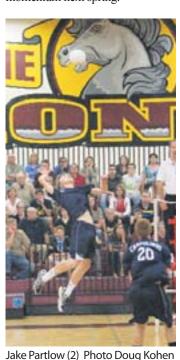
Game 3 was still Campo's with junior setter Scott Standring tallying the game's first 3 points. Following Dylan Blackstone's beautiful kill for the Cougars, the two teams maintained a long rally before Northgate worked their way to the point. It was close, but Campo took Game 3 as well, 25-22.

The fourth game alternated points, including the match's first ace from Bronco senior Kevin Woods. Campo trailed late, but their fans still felt an upset was possible. The Broncos however marched to the end and finished out to force a fifth game, 25-22.

In the tiebreaker, the energy was felt all around the gym from both benches to the stands. The score bounced back and forth, and both squads held their own, but Campo finally gave in at the wrong time. From a 12-11 lead, they saw themselves behind 14-13 at game point. On the final rally, Northgate served, and a bunch of blue jerseys anxiously struggled to cross the ball over the net. The ball finally became tangled in mesh, and the match was over.

Bronco players "stampeded" the court as Standring lay motionless, face down in disappointment. It was a hard fought game, and either team could have had the win. Northgate went on to win the division, defeating Las Lomas in straight games on May 16th.

The young Campolindo team, which graduates only two seniors this year (Partlow and Scott Fournier) played a good season, finishing 20-8 overall. Partlow, Standring and junior Zach Dashner took roster spots on the DFAL all-league team. Look for Standring and Dashner, along with sophomores Blackstone and Alex Mangles and junior Teddy Geoghegan to keep up the momentum next spring.



Jake Partlow (2) Photo Doug Kohen

Acalanes Wraps Up Season at NCS ACALANES HIGH SCHOOL

Back row (left to right): coach Larry Gray, Taylor Gray, Grace Lovell, Hannah Wilbur, Ashly Borrelli, Nicole Graham, coach Victor Silva; second row: Siena Del Ponte, Courtney Crakow, Katy Trent,

calanes's varsity softball team recorded a 10-2 DFAL record to share the league champion title with Las Lamos and earn a 3rd seed in NCS Division III bracket play.

"With Hannah Wilbur on the mound, we have a good chance of beating any team if we play good defense and can provide some timely hitting," said Acalanes varsity softball coach, Victor Silva. "We only have two seniors on the team, but the younger players made steady improvement throughout the season and now we're hoping to make some noise

in NCS." Acalanes earned a first-round bye and then faced San Marin High on the Acalanes field Saturday, unfortunately losing the game 7-2 to close out their season with an overall record of 14-6. RSFox

Congratulations to Boys NCS Swimming/Diving Champions, the Campolindo Cougars!

Photo submitted by Larry Gray



Maile Hoyt. Front row: Tara Wilson, Sheyenne Greer

Tommy Dowley Photo Doug Kohen

t the NCS Championships in Concord May 14-16, the Campolindo Boys Swim Team claimed the title for the fifth year in a row. The boys garnered a total of 239.5 points with strong performances by seniors Tommy Dowley, Chris Chuck, Sean Malley, Jeremy Chang and Andrew Melton, sophomore Jeffrey Strausser, freshman Robert Ashby and the 200 and 400 meter relay teams.

It was a Lamorinda sweep of the Boys Championships, as Miramonte and Acalanes took 2nd and 3rd place, with 199 points and 155 points respectively. The Mats posted the best time in the 400 yard freestyle relay and the Dons came in first in the 200 yard medley relay. Miramonte's Sean Haufler, Nick Deaver and Bret Lathrope, and Acalanes' Nick Hoversten and Piankhi Gibson added points to

In the Girls competition, Campolindo took 2nd place with 203 points. Campo juniors Rachael Cleak and Andrea Ward, sophomores Courtney White and Dana Holt, seniors Shelbi Luchini and Caroline Lukins and the Campo girls relay teams swam

well. In the Dive portion of the competition, freshman diver Maren Kjell contributed points to the total. Miramonte came in 11th and Acalanes 20th (out of 36 teams.)

Congratulations to all of our local swimmers and divers! L. Borrowman

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SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS



St. Perpetua's Hand-off Training Pays Off at Diocese

By Robin Schoettler Fox

one are the days when CYO Track was the main spring team sport available to young athletes.

"Years ago, the only conflict was baseball for boys," says Jeanne Balczewski, a former collegiate track athlete who has coached St. Perpetua's CYO track team for 12 years. "Now there is lacrosse, AAU and MVP basketball, water polo, club soccer and volleyball, just to name a few."

Still, even with numbers of athletes down, St. P held its own at the Diocese championships (see results box). The key, says Balczelski, is training.

"Our small (St. Perpetua) team typically does well at Diocese, especially in relays," says Balczewski. "That's because we teach them the same baton handoffs that are used in high school and college, starting in the 2nd grade."

This year, those early lessons paid off for St. Perpetua. Both boys and girls 3rd grade relay teams medaled in their Diocese relays events, with the boys taking first and the girls taking second in separate 4x100 relay events. In addition, the St. P 5th grade boys' team took second in their 4x100 relay event.

In the photo, Madeline Singh hands off to Jamie Sexton during the 4x100 relay event Diocese Tournament held at Diablo Valley College on May 9th. The girls, both in second grade, run "up" and compete at the 3rd grade level because there is no 2nd grade CYO track division. The other half of St. P's successful 3rd grade girls relay team are third graders, Kierra Krawec and Amanda Alessandria.



4x100 relay, Madeline Singh hands off to Jamie Sexton

2009 Oakland Diocese CYO Championship Meet Saturday, May 9, 2009 @ Diablo Valley College St. Perpetua & St. Monica** Track Team Highlights

3rd Grade Boys 4x100 Meter Relay 1st – St. Perpetua (Travis Armistead, Thomas Hawkins, Christopher Rogers, Ryan Nall) Sprint Medley Relay

1st – St. Perpetua (Travis Armistead, Thomas Hawkins, Christopher Rogers, Ryan Nall) 2nd - Ryan Nall (St. P)

4th – Christopher Rogers (St. P) 400 Meter 1st – Christopher Rogers (St. P) <u>1600 Meter</u>

6th – Jack Mader (St. Mo) Long Jump 1st – Travis Armistead (St. P) 3rd – Ryan Nall (St. P)

3rd Grade Girls 4x100 Meter Relay 2nd – St. Perpetua (Madeline Singh, Jamie Sexton, Kierra Krawec, Amanda Alessandria) Sprint Medley Relay

1st – St. Perpetua (Madeline Singh, Jamie Sexton, Kierra Krawec, Amanda Alessandria) 50 Meter 4th – Amanda Alessander (St. P) 100 Meter

2nd – Kierra Krawec (St. P) <u>200 Meter</u> 1st - Kierra Krawec (St. P) Softball Throw 5th – Madeline Kalil (St. P)

**Orinda athletes compete for St. Monica because Santa Maria has no track team <u>Tetherball Toss</u> 5th – Molly Mudgett (St. P) 1600 Meter 5th –Jenna Miles (St. Mo)

4th Grade Girls Tetherball Toss 1st – Morgan Rogers (St. P)

5th Grade Boys 4x100 Relay 2nd – St. Perpetua (Cannon Armistead, Jordan Tehrani, Connor Henderson, Sutter Lindberg) Long Jump 2nd Sutter Lindberg (St. P) 4th - Canon Armistead (St. P) Softball Throw 3rd – Sutter Lindberg (St. P)

6th Grade Boys Long Jump 5th – Park Lathamer (St. Mo)

6th Grade Girls Softball Throw 5th - Claudia East (St. P) Tetherball Toss

5th –Claudia East (St. P) 8th Grade Boys Long Jump

3rd – Brian Deluna (St. P) 8th Grade Girls 100 Meter 5th – Addison Mullins (St. P) Shotput 4th – Addison Mullins (St. P)

2nd – Addison Mullins (St. P)

Tetherball Toss

LMYA's Oregon Ducks softball team, coached by Fia Parker and Flora Pinnella, remained undefeated seven games into the season that ends on June 6. Here, Burton Valley third graders (left to right) Savannah Mone, Ashley Thoms and Molly Longchamps

take a breather with a big smiles

in between innings of a mid-May

Photo Robin Longchamps

Trojans Break Up Pitchers' Duel

Submitted by Frank Tse



Trojan Christian Schillinger begins his 6th inning Photo Frank Tse home run trot

fter a three-inning siesta under the hot Orinda sun, the Trojan offense sprung to life with a big six-run inning in the 11-2 Trojan win over the Orinda Mustang Grizzlies on May 16.

Until the top of the 4th inning, pitching and defense by both teams dominated. Trojans Shane Dalton and Timothy Tierney combined to strike out eight Grizzlies in the first three innings. Grizzly pitchers were equally dominating, striking out eight Trojans the first time through the Trojan line-up.

Ben Mollahan provided the wake-up call with a line drive lead-off double to start the 4th inning. After walks by Will Cassriel and Christian Schillinger loaded the bases, Trojan hitters produced clutch hits time and time again. The biggest came from Chase Callister, whose triple to the fence cleared the bases.

Steven Rein followed up with a huge blast into the outfield for an RBI double. Tierney and Dalton each had RBI singles in the inning.

Meanwhile, stellar defense by the Trojans continued to frustrate the Grizzlies, who like the Trojans have one of the most balanced teams in the league. Trojan outfielders Walker Lambert, Jonah Medal-Katz, and infielders Gavin Flum and Stephen Tse kept the Grizzly run production to a minimum. Highlights included second baseman Mollahan catching a hard-hit liner in the 4th, and outfielder Rein throwing out a runner at home in the 5th.

"This is probably our best game of the season," said Trojan Manager Steve Cassriel. "Both teams played good defense and executed on the field," added Trojan Coach Pat Dalton.

Both teams now head into the double-elimination Mustang league playoffs with winning records.

Acalanes' Blodgett Misses NorCal by a Single Stroke

Written with information provided by Larry Blodgett



Photo Larry Blodgett

t takes several rounds of stellar post-season golf play to qualify for the NorCal golf tournament and this year Spencer Blodgett, an Acalanes senior, was within

He shot a 71 at Walnut Creek's Boundary Oaks

Golf Course during the 2009 NCS Boys Golf (South) Qualifier on May 4th. That allowed him to represent the Acalanes team as an individual golfer in the Tournament of Champions, played this year at the Meadow Club (Fairfax) on May 11th. The top four golfers from the Tournament of Champions advance to NorCal.

At the Tournament of Champions, Blodgett's 73 prompted a three-way tie for second-lowest score among Blodgett, Lawrence Fu (Piedmont High) and Kyle Reynolds (Dublin High). That tie forced a "sudden death shoot-out" to determine which of those three players would advance to NorCal with three golfers who had scored 71 that day.

The first 18-hole round had taken a grueling seven hours to complete due, in part, to slowness of play required to accommodate 144 competitors on the course. Then, while others could put up their clubs, Blodgett, Fu and Reynolds approached Meadow's first hole for the second time that day. All three made par. Reynolds, though, dropped on the second hole, leaving Bodgett and Fu to approach the third tee alone. Blodgett slightly overshot the green and missed beating Fu by a single stroke.

Blodgett, who has played on varsity since his freshman year when Acalanes took it's golf team to the 2006 NCS Tournament of Champions, closes out this 4year varsity golf career knowing that he'll be taking his clubs to UC Davis. Next year, he plans to play golf for the Aggies. RSFox

Lamorinda Lightning Lacrosse Ends Season 8-5 **Submitted by Mark Danforth**



he Lamorinda Lightning Lacrosse U11A boys team completed a successful season with a tough loss to Ross Valley in the "elite eight" round of Northern California Junior Lacrosse Association playoffs held in Redwood City. The team finished with an 8 - 5 record that includes a 10-5 win over Skyline in the first round of the playoffs.

Pictured are: Front row (left to right): Collin Jeffries. Matthew Huguet, Payson Newman, Kevin Atkinson, Drew Cirelli. Matthew Ringguist, Second row: Alexander Horst. Will Rack, Shea Danforth, Ian Churchill, Matthew LoPresti, Ryan Doyle, Colby Orr, Spencer Giglio. Third row: Cole Stevens, Cole Crawford, Coach Pat Doyle, Coach Mike Huguet, Coach Mark Danforth, Coach Neal Ringquist, Coach Pete Rack, Cullen Jacuzzi, Jeron Silva. Missing from photo: Nate Welcomer and Cameron Gunn

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MBA Box Scores for May 9 - May 21, 2009

Submitted by Donald DePaolo

Moraga Baseball Association Pony Division May 9, 2009

Moraga A's 7, Martinez Mad Dogs 6 Martinez Highlights: Danny E. 2- BB, 1 K; Jacob Molloy 2 for 3, 2B, 4, 1-R, RBI; Conner 2-3, 1-R, SB;

Jack 1-3, SB Moraga A's Highlights: T. Pride Spartans Highlights: Blake Kaufgame saving defense; B. Rochlin 4- man 3 for 4, 3 R, 2 SB, 2 IP, 1 BB, IP. 7-K; Gong 2-4, 2-RBI; K. Dana 1K; Zach Wang 2 for 2, 1 R, 1 RBI 1-2, 1-R, SB; C. Kiriaze 1-2, 2 SB; 1.1 IP, 0 R, 0 BB, 3 K; Jarret GWRBI in the 8th inning

Moraga A's 7, Martinez Mad Dogs 2 Martinez Highlights: Devin 1-3; Aaron 1-R, Hudson R, 2SB Moraga A's Highlights: S. Nichols CG, 1H, 7K, 0ER; J. Hofmann 1-3, R, SB; Gong 2-3, R, RBI, C. Kiriaze 1-3, RBI; J. Matsuda 1-3, 2- Leserman -Save, 1 IP, 1 Hit, 1 K; RBI; D. Delfaco 1-2; J. Price 1-3, R

May 17, 2009

Moraga Cougars 8, Martinez 3 Moraga Highlights: Ryan Hoffman May 17, 2009 3 for 3, 2B, 3B, 3RBI's, Mason Windatt 3 for 4, 2RS, 1SB, Ryan Moraga Mariners 10 Hooper 1 for 1, 2RS, 3B, 1RBI; JD Giants Highlights: Brendan Gor-Ratchford 2 for 3, 1RS, 1RBI, 3SB don 3-3, 2B, 3B, 3 RS, 1IP 2K; Martinez Highlights: #3 Revetta 2 Mark Santaguida 3-3, 3 RS, 2 RBI; for 3, 1HR, 1RS; #13 Shaw 2 for 3, Rick Lomas 2-2, 2 RBI; Ryan Rossi 2B, 1RS; #4 Aiken 2 for 3, 2B, 1-3, RS, RBI.

May 19, 2009

Moraga As 16, Moraga Tigers 8 Tigers Highlights: Daniel 1-3 2-R Barry 2-R; Ortega 2-3, 2B, 1 R. RBI; Lyle 1-3, 2B, 1-R, 2-RBI; Tong 1-2, 2B, 1-R, RBI; Delany 1-1. RBI.

A's Highlights: Delfalco 2-3, 2-RBI; Orinda Wildcats 6
Pride 1-2. 1-R. RBI; Havel 1-1, 2- Nationals Highlights: Matthew R, RBI; Nichols 2-3, 2B, 3-R; Hof-2B, 2-RBI, Gong 2-3, 2B, 3-RBI; 3, 2B, 1 R, 2 RBI; Marty Cunnane 2 Rochlin 1-2, 1-R.

Moraga Baseball Association **Bronco Division** May 10, 2009

Moraga Nationals 8, Moraga Bears 8 Nationals highlights: Andrew Willmore, 3-3, 2R, RBI; Jacob Malloy, 2-4, 2 RBI; Tanner Hinds, 2-4, R Bears highlights: Russell Bruck, 1- for 3, 2 RBIs; Nicky Fafoutis 1 for 2, 2b, R; Tristan Caro, 2-3, RBI; 1, RBI, BB, SF; Jack Stephens 2 for Alex Gannett, 2-5, 2 RBI.

May 11, 2009

Moraga Bears 4, Orinda Wildcats 3 Moraga Bears highlights: John Adranly, 2-4, GWRBI; Caleb Whalen, 2 IP, 0 R, 2 Ks; Oliver Ousterman, 2 BB, R; Perry Walker, 1 IP, 0 R, W. Wildcats highlights: Alexander Schnier, 1-3, 2B, 3IP, 1R, 2 RBI; Sean Smith 2-4, 2 RS, RBI; 3 Ks; Austin Fischer, 2-3, R; Sam Field, 1-2, SF, RBI.

May 12, 2009 Moraga Nationals 9,

Moraga Mariners 1 Nationals Highlights: Andrew Willmore 2 for 3, 3 R, 2 BB, 2 SB, 3 IP, for-3, 2 R, 3 B, 2 RBI; Matt Kro-3 H, R, BB, 3K; Matthew Tuan 3 for nenberg 2-for-2, 3 R, 2 RBI; Jake 5, 2 R, 3 RBI, SB, 3 IP, 2 H, 0 R, 0 Oxendine 2 IP, 3 K's, 1-for-3, 2 B, 2 BB. 8 K: Marty Cunnane 3 for 5. 3 RBI. RBI, 1 SB; Brian Lyle 3 for 4, 2B, Orioles Highlights: Andrew Hol-RBI, 3 SB.

for 2, BB, 2 SB; Chris Wilson 1 for Louis 3 BB. 3. R. 2 SB: Ramin Nazeri 1 for 3. SB, Matt Koelzer 1 for 3.

May 16, 2009 Moraga Mariners 2,

Mariners Highlights: Sean Pappa 2 Crouch 2-for-2, 2 RS, RBI. son 2-2, 2B, 3 SB, RS, RBI; Justin wall 1-for-3, 3B, RBI, RS; Quinn

Moraga Nationals 11

Nationals Highlights: Rohit Verma 1 K; Kevin Shaffer 1 for 4, 2 IP, 0 1 R, 1 RBI, 1 SB; Matt Zurnacian 2 for 4, 1 R, 2 RBI, 1 SB.

Perches 1 for 4, 1 R, 1 RBI, 1 SB, 2 IP, 1 BB, 1 K; Max Murphy 2 for 4, 1 R, 1 RBI, 2 SB.

Pleasant Hill Hawks 2 Rays Highlights: Ryan Geisreiter -W, 3 IP, 14 BF, 1 ER, 2 K's; Steven Jake Rider 2 for 2, HBP, 1 RS, 1 RBI; Ben Skinner 1 for 2, BB, 2 RS; Neil Kelley 1 for 2, BB, RBI.

Moraga Giants 9,

Mariners Highlights: Wyatt McNeil 2-4, 3 RBI; Parker Duncan 2-3, 2 RS; Double Play: Sean Pappa -Wyatt McNeil - Chris Wilson; Catcher Ramin Nazeri threw out a runner stealing second to end the

Moraga Nationals 7,

Tuan 1 for 3, 1 R, 1 SB, 4 IP, 0 R, 2 mann 2-4, 2B, 2-RBI; Kiriaze 2-3, H, 0 BB, 10 Ks; Rohit Verma 2 for Smith 2-3; Moran 2-3, 2-R, RBI; for 3, 1 R, 2 RBI, 3 SB; Michael Wright 1 for 3, 2B, 1 R.

Wildcat Highlights: Adam Noble, 1 for 3, 1 R, 1 SB, 4 IP, 1 R, 2 H, 1 BB, 8 Ks; Ari Goldstein 2 for 4, 2B. 1 R, 1 SB; Nicholas Waters 2 for 3, 1 R, 2 RBI, 1 SB

Orinda Outlaws 10, Moraga Rays 4 Rays Highlights: Chase Corallo 2 for 2, 1 RS, 2 doubles; Jake Rider 3 3, 1 RS, 2B.

May 18, 2009

Piedmont Wildcats 11 -

Moraga Mariners 10 Mariners Highlights Sean Pappa 3-3, 3 RS, RBI, 3 unassisted double plays; Matt Koelzer 2-3, 3 RBI, Sacrifice Fly; Chris Wilson 1-2, 2B, RS, Giffin Whiting 2-4, RS, RBI

Moraga Baseball Association **Mustang Division** May 9, 2009

A's 11, Orioles 4 A's Highlights: Jacob Westphal 2-

loway 2 IP, 3 K's, BB, SB, RS; Mariners Highlights: Sean Smith 1 Callan Beaver 1-for-3, R; Colin

May 11, 2009

Yankees 14, Mariners 11 Yankees highlights: Grady Eglin 2for-3, 2B, 4 RBIs, 2 RS; Jacob Pappa 2-for-3, 2 RBIs, 2 RS; Aidan 1/3 IP 3K, 2 Pick-offs; Chris Wil- Mariners highlights: Dominic Ed-

Cuddihy 1-for-1, 2BB, 2 RS, RBI;

May 13, 2009

A's 10, Yankees 5 Yankees Highlights: Michael 4 for 4, 1 R, 1 RBI, 1 SB 1 IP, 0 BB, Hooper 1-for-3, 3B; Aidan Crouch 1-for-3, RBI; Parker Windatt 2 IP, 1 ER, 4 K's.

> A's Highlights: Jacob Westphal 2for-4, 2-3B, 2 RBIs; Jack Lawrence 1-for-2, 3 RS; Jake Oxendine 2-for-3, 3 RBIs; Avery Novick 1-for-3, RS

Angels 10, White Sox 3

Angel Highlights: Aaron DePaolo 1-for-3, 2 RBIs; Travis Hartman 2for-3, RBI; Russel Alger game winning out (a 4-3 play).

White Sox Highlights: Shun Ishida 2-for-2; Jackson Reneau 2-for-3, 2 assists to put outs; David Cushing 1 RS, 2 IP, 5 K's

May 16, 2009

White Sox 16, A's 10 White Sox highlights: Tristin Westernoff 3-3, 2 doubles, 2 RBI; David Cushing 3-4, double, 2 RBI, Jake Rolfe 3-4, triple, 2 RBI, Brendan Purtill 3-3, RBI; Max Grossbard 1-

A's highlights: Jacob Westphal 3-3, 3 runs, 2 RBI; Matt Kronenberg 1-3, RBI; Brett Fitzgeraldd 1-3.

Mariners 23, Yankees 8

Mariners highlights: Gregory Wenning 4-for-5, 2B, 3B, 2 RBIs, 4 RS, 1 IP: Jason Rodriguez 3-for-3 3B 3 RS, 2 RBIs; Paul Gannett 2-for-2, 2 BB, 2 RBIs, 2 RS.

Yankees highlights: Michael Hooper 3-for-3, 2 2B, 3B, RBI, RS; Trevin Kroichick 3-for-3, RBI, 2 RS. 2 IP: Parker Windatt 3-for-3.

Orioles 11, Angels 2

Orioles Highlights: Jason West 2IP, 0 Runs, 1K, 1-3, 2 RBIs, RS; Scott Hillhouse, 2IP, 2 Ks, 1 Run; Colin Louis 1-2, RBI, RS; Andrew Holloway, 1-2, RBI, 2 RS. Angels Highlights: Kevin Hoffinger,

12/3 Innings, 1K; Sterling Strother,

2IP, 5Ks; Kyle Hinds, 2-3, RS. May 17, 2009

White Sox 20, Mariners 14 White Sox Highlights: Declan Rector 3-5, 2-3B 2 RBI; Brendan Purtill 2-4, 3 RBI, Jackson Reneau 3-4,

3 RBI, 4RS Mariner Highlights: Dominick Edwall 4-4, 4RS; Carter Whiting 2-4, RBI, RS; William Faoro 2-3, 2

May 21, 2009

Orioles 6, Yankees 1 Orioles highlights: Dylan Caro 1-

for-2, RBI, 2 SBs; Harry Curtiss 2 IP. 0 runs: Colin Louis 1-for-2, RBI. Yankees highlights: Jacob Pappa 1for-2, 2B, 3 SBs; Parker Windatt 1for-2, RS, 1 IP.

Moraga Baseball Association Pinto Division May 9, 2009

Devil Rays 13, Giants 3 Devil Rays Highlights: Ian Concepcion 3-4, 3 RS, RBI; Mateo Larson 1-3, RBI; Justin Feldman 4-4, RS, 5 RBIs; Mason Loyet 1-3, RS, RBI; outstanding catch at F7 to end the game. Giants Highlights: Max Schoenberger 2-3; Jonathan Gong 2-2, RS; Zoe Crouch 2-3, RBI; Donovan

Robles 2-3, RS, RBI Phillies 15, Braves 8 Phillies Highlights: Stephen

Chilimidos 3-for-3, 2RS, 2B, 3RBI; Aidan Lyon 3-for-3, 2RS; Luka Brown 4-for-4, 2B, 2RS, 4RBI. Braves Highlights: Will Weaver for-2, RS; Grant Johnson 1-for-2, RS. Paul Gannett 1-for-2, 2 RS, RBI. RS, RBI; Eddie Gross 3-for-3, RS,

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May 13, 2009

Moraga Cubs 22, Moraga Rays 9 Cubs highlights: Ryan Jeter 3 RBI, 3RS; Connor Gregg 2 RS; Peter Schmidt RBI, 2 RS; Jean-Luc Axelrode RBI: Rvan Fritch, RBI.

Rays highlights: Luke Campo 1B. 2 RBI, 2 RS; Justin Feldman RBI, RS; Thatcher Clum 1B; Kyle Sintchak 2 RBI, RS.

Braves 12, Giants 9

Braves Highlights: Steffen Westphal 3-3, 22B, 2RS, RBI; Kellen Clancy 2-3, RS; Chase Peterson 2-2, 2RS Giants Highlights: Michael Crews 3-3, RS, RBI; Donovan Robles 3-3, 2B, RS, RBI; Conor O'Brien 2-3,

A's 11, Phillies 10

A's Highlights: Jeremy Gunderson 3 for 3, 3RS, RBI; Beck Chambers 2 for 3, 2 RBI; Adrian Hyatt 3 for 3, 3RS, 2 RBI; Tommy Raftis 3 for Phillies Highlights: Maceo Lopez 2

for 3, RS; Jake O'Balle 3 for 3, 2

RBI, RS; Billy Woolsey 3 for 3, RS;

Luka Brown 3 for 3, 2RS May 15, 2009

Pinto Phillies 23 -Pinto Cardinals 18.

Phillies highlights: Luka Brown 2 for 4, 4 RBIs. Billy Woolsey 3 for 4, Cardinals highlights: Peter Schmitz

3 for 3, 3 RBIs. Ryan Fritch 2 for 3. 3 RBIs.

May 16, 2009

Braves 17, Rays 16 Braves Highlights: Corey Goldman 4-for-4, 3 RS, 2B, 3 RBI; Mark Mc-Curdy 4-for-4, 4 RS, 2 2B, RBI, Nick Kronenberg 3-for-4, 3 RS, 2

2B, 3B, 5 RBI. Rays Highlights: Andrew Fenske 1for-3, RS; Blake Pollock 3-for-4, 2 RBI; Luke Campo 4-for-4, 2 RS, 2 2B, 5 RBI.

Giants 19, A's 17

A's Highlights: Cameron Fara 4-4, 1 RS, 1 RBI, Cole McNeil 3-4, 1 RS, 2 RBI, Ryan Kim 2-4, 2 RBI , Bryan Kilugawa 4-4, 3 RS, 2 RBI Giants highlights: Sean Wright 4-5 , 4 RS, Max Schoenberger 5-5, 2 RS, 4 RBI, Zoe Crouch 4-5, 2 RS , 2 RBI, Connor King 3-4, 1 RS,

Cubs 19, Giants 17 Cubs highlights: Butch Plutt 3 for

3, 5 RBIs. Ryan Jeter 3 for 3, 5 Giants highlights: Sean Wright 4 for 4, 1 RBI, Teddy Buckley 3 for 4,

May 17, 2009

3 RBIs.

A'S 16 - Braves 14 Braves Highlights: Will Weaver 2-3 , 2 RS - Brian Gross 2-3, 1 RBI, Grant Johnson 3-3, Luke Jeffrey 4-

4, 2RS, 3 RBI A'S Highlights: Cameron Fara 4-4 , 1 RS , 1 RBI - Jeremy Gunderson 4-4, 3 RS, RBI, Tommy Raftis 4-4 2 RS, 2 RBI - Cason Johnston 4-4,1 2B, 3 RBI

May 20, 2009

Braves 20, A's 7 Braves Highlights: Corey Goldman 4-for-4, 2 RS, RBI; Mark McCurdy 2-for-4, 2 RS, RBI; Luke Jeffrey 3for-3, RS, 3 RBI, 2 2B; Jake Crumbaugh 2-for-3, RS, RBI.

A's Highlights: Casey Chambers 2for-2, RS; Adrian Hyatt 3-for-3, RBI; Jeremy Gunderson 3-for-3, RS, 3 RBI; Tommy Raftis 2-for-3.

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Lafayette Little League Scores, May 11 - May 21

Submitted by Todd Bequette

Majors Division, May 11 – 21

Cubs 6 Dodgers 5 Grant Jackson celebrated his birthday with two triples, two runs scored, and closed the game on the mound for the Cubs. Alexie Shurtz, Drew Ventrelle, and Tom Henderson held the Dodgers hitless through 5 innings before a furious 6th inning comeback. Jesse Longchamps knocked in 2 with a triple, but a close play at home ended the threat. Shurtz also drove in 2 with a double for the Cubbies, and Scotty Fox rapped out a single and scored a run. Jake Rowley added a double, and Will Price had another clutch hit driving in a run with 2 outs. Jared Finney, Alex Baldwin, and Jack Eisner all scored runs for the Dodgers. Greg Genovese also executed a perfect bunt to force the potential tie run across, but Rowley and Henderson combined to get the out that

Angels 7 Yankees 1 Doug Nimura clubbed a 2-run homer in the 6th to ice the game for the first-place Angels. After being shut out by Yankee ace Will Brueckner for the first 3 innings, the Angels broke loose for 5 in the 4th behind a 2 RBI single by Grant Young followed by a 2 RBI double by Chad Johnson. Halo hurlers Grant Young, Doug Nimura, and Max Flower held the Yankees to 1 run on 4 hits. Max Flower single-handedly choked off a Yankees rally in the 4th by throwing out a batter at first on a ball deep in the hole at short and then starting a 6-3 double play on a ground ball up the middle with the bases loaded. Ben Miller ripped a ground rule double and was driven in by a Will

Dodgers 5 Cardinals 4

Brueckner single for the Yankees'run.

The Dodgers held on to win a back and forth contest at Buckeye, holding off a Cardinal rally in the 6th. The Cardinals jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the top of the first highlighted by a Jack Brydon RBI double that plated Max Burdock . Christo Collette added a RBI single to stake the Redbirds to a 2-0 lead. The Dodgers broke the ice in the bottom of the inning when Ethan Lindgren knocked in two with a two-out double. Cole Ashburn followed with a single, plating the third run of the inning. The Dodgers put two more runs up in the fourth keyed by a Jackson Taylor 2-RBI single. The Cardinals rallied in the top of the fifth with clutch RBI singles by Trent Nemanic and Jack DeVeny. In the top of the sixth the Cardinals loaded the bases with two outs. Reliever Alex Baldwin closed out the game on the strength of a highlight reel, game ending play by shortstop Jesse Longchamps, who ranged behind second base, fielded the ball and flipped

to Lindgren at second for the final out. A's 7 Redsox 5

The A's raced to a 6-1 lead after two, then held on for a close win, recording the final out at the plate. Cameron Dunmire led the green and nings. At the plate, Zach Kramer keyed a 5-run rally in the second, plating two with a double to the gap in left, and Jake Bequette capped a perfect day at the plate with an RBI single. Chris Mickas and Eric Monasevitch also had two-hit nights for the winners, and Christian Linfoot raced into the alley in left center to flag down a scorcher off the bat of Blake Wardy. Brady Aiello led the Redsox at the plate with two doubles and 4 RBI, and cleanup hitter Matt Jorgensen clubbed a double to the fence and added another single in Redsox' late

Cubs 9 Giants 5

The Cubs jumped ahead early on a leadoff double by Drew Ventrelle, a single by Scotty Fox, and a double by Tommy Henderson on the game's first four pitches. The Giants battled back to take the lead on a Jack Cassidy home run in the bottom of the 1st. After the Cubs regained the lead, Adam Remotto tied the game with a solo home run. However, Alexie Shurtz's dramatic 5th inning 3-run home run put the Cubs ahead for good. Ventrelle had 3 hits and scored 3 runs, Tom Henderson had 2 hits and scored 2 runs, and Scotty Fox had 2 hits and scored 1 run to lead the Cubs. Trevor Martinho, Matt Barr, Sam Dinerman, and Canon Armistead all had hits for the Giants.

Yankees 1 Cubs 0

The last game of the regular season saw two top teams in a pitchers dual with great defense on display. The Cubs pitchers allowed only 4 hits by Ryan Cardiff, Jack Thoren and Johnny O'Malley. With one runner on, Will Brueckner launched a double to score the game's only run. The Yankees pitchers allowed only one hit by Jake Rowley behind great defensive plays at short stop and second base. Scotty Fox and Leo Barakos starred on the mound for the Cubs.

A's 7 Yankees 5 Eric Monasevitch key a five-run first innings rally with a bases loaded triple to the fence in right center, and pitchers Cameron Dunmire, Joey Layshock, Ryan Levy and Jake Berry made the runs stand up. Zach Kramer led the A's attack with two hits and an RBI. The Yankees chipped away at the lead, with two run in the second, two in the third, and a solo home run by Ben Miller in the 5th. Devin Regan slugged two hits and drove in two for the pinstripers, and Will Brueckner struck out 4 and faced the minimum in his two innings on the

AAA Division May 11 - 21

Marline 6 Mets 5 The Fish edged the Metropolitans in a tight contest at Upper Community Field. Harley McKee threw two shutout innings and Jack Lewerenz allowed 1 run over 2 innings to lead the Marlins on the mound. Troy Ganter provided the offensive power with a timely double. For the Mets, Kaniel Kim and Joey Moran starred on the mound, but Lewerenz gunned

Dodgers 11 Cardinals 6

The Dodgers Anthony Schatz starred at the plate, slamming a double and single in a perfect day at the plate. Teammate Bradford Zamanian went also had a ground rule double and an RBI, and Tyler Ewing was 2 for 2 with a pair of double and 2 RBIs. Schatz, Zamanian, and Thomas Higgins all pitched scoreless innings for the Dodgers. For the Cardinals Seppi Ortman went a perfect 3 for 3, and Nikolaus Moore had two hits in three trips to

As 18 Marlins 1

The A's offensive fireworks were led by Brad Robison, Tom Caprio, Gordon Kerns, Paul Griessel, and Tim Sears, all who had two hits a piece. Chris Gonser, Aidan McNamara, and William Grace also tallied hits for the winners. On the mound, Grace, Robison, Kerns and Sears held the Marlins in check.

Yankees 4 Dodgers 1

In a matchup of two of the top AAA teams, the Yankees remained perfect as pitchers Kevin McConnell, Matty Vicencio and Colin Fogarty combined to hold the big bats of the Dodgers to 1 run on 5 hits. The Dodgers countered with great efforts on the mound by Jason Cornell, Brad Zamanian and Tyler Ewing, Both Anthony Schatz and Michael Everton provided clutch relief appearances. The Yanks attack was lead by key RBI singles by Nico Martinsen and Nicky Henderson. Justin Plummer ripped an RBI single to close out the scoring for the Bronx Bombers. The Dodgers got 2 singles and a run scored from Dexter Varrelman and base hits from Everton, Schatz and Michael Williams.

Giants 13 Red Sox 12

The Giants got off the mat to win a wild one at Cheney Field. Facing an early 8-0 deficit, The Giants came all the way back on the strength of Chris Wright's 215 foot HR over the left field fence. The Giants tallied 5 in the bottom of the sixth for the walk-off win. On the mound, the winners were led by Sam Stack, Michael Chappell and Cole Robertson. The Red Sox received stellar fielding, pitching and hitting from Garret Kwok

Yankees 7 Cubs 4

The undefeated Yankees improved their record to 7 - 0 in the regular season after beating a tough Cubs team. The Yankee hurlers of Kevin McConnell, Nicky Henderson, Justin Plummer and Colin Fogarty walked only 4 batters and tuck out & At the plate Matty Vicencia col lected his 8th triple on the year in a crucial point in the game and drove in 2 important runs. Plummer has a single and double with 2 runs scored. Chris Armanino and McConnell each ripped singles. Defensively, Ben Ross made a big league stop on a hard hit grounder at 2nd base and Armanino and Kyle Bunting both made terrific grabs in the outfield. The Cubs got a 2 hit effort from Justin Pratt while Ty Whelehan added a single and reached base

gold on the mound, limiting the potent Redsox Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 1-800-690-8136; email: info@lamorindaweekly.com Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com down the potential tying run at second for the attack to a single run over the first three infinal out.

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LMYA's Summer Basketball Sign-ups Begin

Submitted by Judy McNeil afayette Parks and Recreation ✓is offering a summer basketball program to Lamorinda schoolchildren going into grades 2-9, this fall. The season runs from June 13 to July 30. Games are played in Lafayette and Moraga school gyms

and multi-purpose rooms on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. There is only one game per week. Practices are usually on Saturday afternoons. There are no events on Wednesday evenings or Saturday mornings so swimmers can

in all 3 at-bats.

This is a recreational league with the mission to have fun while sharpening basketball skills. For more information or to print out a registration form, go to

www.lafayettesummerbasketball.com.

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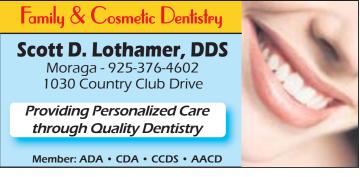
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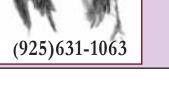
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