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Wednesday, June 9, 2010



(L-R) Beau Behan, Howard Harpham, Edy Schwartz, Carol Haag
Photo Andy Scheck

Rheem Theater – The Phoenix Rises

By Sophie Braccini

Quote of the Week:
"One upon a time, there was an idyllic village named Semi-Rural, situated in a narrow mountain canyon, surrounded by sylvan ridgelines and open space."
Read Letters to the Editor, page L6

The story has all the ingredients of a great movie: hope and despair, surprising developments and heart-wrenching disappointments, resilience and redemption, brave entrepreneurs, industrious politicians, and dedicated friends... the only thing it does not have is a dénouement. It is the story of Moraga's historic Rheem Theater. Like the mythical Phoenix, the theater has died more than once, only to rise from its ashes. Its plumage is slightly different with each revival. Now the California Independent Film Festival Association (CAIFFA)

has come to the rescue, and the theater's new colors are going to be those of community-building. "It's not going to be our theater," says Derek Zemrak, President and Founder of CAIFFA, "it is going to be the community's."

CAIFFA is a non-profit organization that was created in 1997 to bring world-class films to Bay Area patrons. CAIFFA recently moved its annual film festival to Orinda, where 75 films were shown between April 23rd and 25th.

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Talented Musicians Take the Stage at Jazz Café

By Cathy Tyson



Young musicians take center stage Photo Doug Kohen

It's amazing what happens when you combine a dedicated teacher, kids motivated and hungry to learn, supportive parents, and a community committed to the arts. Students from Lafayette could not have found a more nurturing environment to master the art of music.

... continued on page S7

Orinda Witnesses a Tragedy

By Lucy Amaral and Lee Borrowman



MOFD Battalion Chief Darrell Lee points out the fallen power line. Photo Doug Kohen

The images have been in every newspaper and on most television news broadcasts. Horrified residents watching helplessly on Saturday, June 5th, as two workers from a window washing company suffered third-degree burns after their cherry-picker basket hit a high voltage transmission wire causing the wire to break arc and flash, setting the men on fire.

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Crestview Residents Take Road Repairs into their Own Hands



By Andrea A. Firth

To many of her neighbors on Crestview Drive, Diana Stephens, a 23-year resident of Orinda, is known as "the pothole lady." Due to the decaying road condition and the lack of city resources to repair it, about two years ago Stephens started filling the ubiquitous read on page A6

Odyssey of the Mind World Finals



By Lou Fancher

Take some of the most creative young minds from across the globe, bring them all at once onto a blistering, hot campus in the midwest in late May, and what happens? Answer: Six eighth-grade students from Joaquin Moraga place 7th in the world in Odyssey of the Mind's World Finals.

... read on page S7

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