

Alexander Gailas, Broker







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Wagner Ranch Nature Area

If the two bond measures pass next November, plans for the nature area include building a visitor center, restrooms, and other facilities. Until 2009 the Educational Foundation of Orinda funded the staff; after the position was eliminated, the Friends pay the stipend and the parents donate money for supplies.

"I found my niche, and I'm so glad," Jaeger says. "I want to open the students up to nature and make them feel a part of it. California is part of their history, Orinda, its flora and fauna." She talked about overhearing students arriving at the Nature Area, not knowing that she could hear them, saying, "I love

this place. I wish we could be here every day. It's OK to make mistakes here, we can get dirty."

The dinner in Jaeger's honor was organized by Miriam Storch, a board member of the Friends of the Nature Area and a former student of Jaeger's who has worked with Jane Goodall. All of Jaeger's siblings except one came to the dinner, including her four sisters and one of her two brothers. Other attendees included other former students, and Lisa Siegrist, a direct descendent of the Wagners, who came in from Vermont; Jaeger promised her a hike in the nature area.

The annual Olive Festival is one of the few times that the Na-

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ture Area is open to the public. Admission is free, and the event takes place from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 350 Camino Pablo, Orinda (adjacent to Wagner Ranch Elementary School).

There will be tours of the historic Wagner Ranch Nature Area, homesite of Contra Costa County's first surveyor general, Theodore Wagner, and opportunities to picnic amidst our county's oldest-producing olive grove. Five olive oil vendors will be doing tastings, and there will also be arts and crafts, live music, pond and garden activities, and more. For information, visit www.fwrna.org.

Trail easement and closure

Terry Murphy, who was the also suggested that the easement when it dealt with this in 2010, said, "The city council rejected the easement 10 years ago. Now here we are trying to get a public easement. To take the easement 10 years later," he added, would be a taking without compensation. He

chair of the planning commission could be used by "the people we hear about on the 6 o'clock news."

Tom Gieryng, owner and operator

to council from DeSpain's attorney, DeSpain has entered into discussions with his neighbors as well as with City Manager Steve Salomon and was working toward a mutually agreeable solution to this matter.

Citing the need to take more time and work through legal issues, the council asked staff to continue to work on the issue. The city is also weighing the fiscal concern with the trail, including preparing the trail for public access and longterm maintenance, and also the li-

Amy Worth said that she wants to resolve the issue as soon as possible. She talked about Orinda's Bike and Pedestrian Plan and said that she wished Orinda had more pedestrian paths.

Planning Director Drummond Buckley said that staff would work

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ability associated with it. Mayor on the issue and bring it back to the council at its Oct. 2 meeting. The meeting occurred after this publication went to press. At that time, the gate remained closed.



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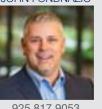




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