Miramonte girls soccer NorCal champions!

By John T. Miller

The Miramonte girls soccer team swept through the NorCal tournament to claim the championship, beating El Camino of Sacramento 2-0 before a home crowd March 2.

The Monarchs got second half goals from Alison Whipple and Jordan Goulart while controlling the tempo of the game, outshooting El Camino 11-0.

The match was played in a light drizzle on a soggy field. Unlike other sports such as softball and basketball, there are no state playoffs for soccer. According to head coach Barry McOwan, this may be Miramonte’s first-ever NorCal state championship.

“It was very sweet to be able to win on our home field with about 300 supporters cheering us on,” said McOwan. “Perhaps in the next two years the CIF may allow a California playoff. That would be a great game.”

Miramonte earned the home field advantage by knocking off No. 1 seeded Liberty Ranch of Oak in the semifinals 2-0. Down 1-0 in the second half, Sabrina Grawe scored their first goal on a header off a corner kick assist from Jordan Goulart. Taylor Wildhal added two more goals on assists bygrant and Isabel Furse to secure the victory.

Continued on Page A11

SMC student honored by MOFD for heroic lifesaving efforts

By Nick Marnell

Courtney Newton rarely visits the Moraga Starbucks, but the 75-year-old man is undoubtedly grateful that she did the afternoon of Jan. 27. At the Saint Mary’s College student studied with her roommate in the coffee shop a woman ran inside, asking anyone know CPR. Newton, recently certified for CPR by the American Heart Association, responded immediately and ran to the onlookers.

She saw a man collapsed on the ground, bleeding from his mouth. His face had turned blue. He was unconscious. “I called 911,” said Newton, “as she scanned the man’s pulse and flipped him over on his back. I began compressions and using her CPR pad she started to administer the administered three rounds of CPR before emergency responders from the Moraga-Contra Costa Fire District arrived, less than two-and-a-half minutes after dispatch. The crew took over and used a Lucas device to deliver consistent, uninterrupted chest compressions. The patient was taken to the hospital and is expected to fully recover.

“Quite quickly, her actions helped save the man’s life,” said MOFD Capt. Brian Clower, who directed the crew at the scene. “It’s fantastic when someone responds to the moment. It takes a high degree of courage, and her actions were commendable.”

Commendable to the degree that the MOFD board of directors this month recognized Newton at its Feb. 20 district meeting, issuing a proclamation honoring Newton’s lifesaving efforts. “When I received the news about this, I was shocked,” said Newton. “I obviously relented the competency with which you provided the care.”

Fire Chief Dave Winkler said the MOFD was “very proud of her efforts.” But they mentioned the over and over again the calmness with which you approached the scene. So, we’re being... continued on Page A9
Focus groups form to tackle age-friendliness of Lafayette

By Pipa Fisher

The city council kept the possibility of development of BART-owned property firmly on its radar at the Feb. 23 meeting, hosting a BART Transit Oriented Development Manager Abhi Thorch-Lyman and BART Department Manager Todd Lee, who explained the agency’s commitment to work with local officials on creating and preserving assets that would be valuable to the city. Mayor Cam Bucks explained that during his earlier phone conversation with BART General Manager Grace Crunican and Thorch-Lyman, he received that same assurance and that he had requested that assurance in writing.

Following the passage of the state Assembly Bill 2132, which was signed into law last year and became effective as of Jan. 1, Lee explained that BART is now mandated to implement it. The bill is designed with the intent of easing the housing crisis in the Bay Area by development of high density housing around transit stations. Lafayette lawmakers objects strongly to the idea that if a project would be approved from them, BART would require them to comply with it. Lee explained that the city council took a neutral position on the matter.

Thorch-Lyman explained that the bill is expected to require at least 50% of new construction to be affordable for low to moderate-income families. Lafayette lawmakers objects strongly to this idea that if a project would be approved from them, BART would require them to comply with it. Lee explained that the city council took a neutral position on the matter.

Looking at the immediate future Thorch-Lyman explained that BART intends to work with city staff and develop options for the next couple of months, returning to the city’s new board to provide a 10-year work plan and guiding which changes they anticipated developing by 2025 to reflect the bill.

Thorch-Lyman said that a city council resolution indicating that they do not intend to build on the Lafayette station, leaving some uncertainty about the city’s commitment. The city council meeting is set for March 10.

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. Notwithstanding the foregoing, none of the following shall be construed as legal, accounting or other professional advice outside the realm of real estate brokerage.
Candell to recuse from Deer Hill project, three others reject call to recuse

By Pipa Fisher

The Feb 23 city council meeting got off to a late start, delayed by 30 minutes at the request of the city council members reading statements – one reading heartfelt and Steve virus noting their intention not to recuse – as advised by legal counsel on any future discussion or decision on the Deer Hill project.

In February, the controversial 33-unit apartment project on a 2-acre parcel on Deer Hill Road is expected to come before the city for approval this spring. The development was first proposed in March 2011 but its application was suspended in 2014 and in favor of alternate plans to build a mixed-use development of 44 single-family homes, a dog park, a playing field, a playground and a tot lot. Local resident group Save Lafayette started the city in a referendum last October on the rezoned project. With the defeat of Measure A, the developer, O’Reilly Homes restored the original 33-unit affordable apartment project.

The council member statements were read during the report from the closed council meeting and came following a letter of complaint from attorney Bryan West of Miller, Heaglen & Carlin alleging Council Member Susan Caffier to recuse herself from all matters concerning the development. As a conflict of his “long history actively opposing our client” proposed 215-unit affordable apartment project in Lafayette and a perceived personal hostility to our clients, I’m in letter to the city’s attorney Robert (Bob) Bocchini, Richard Engle and Russ dated Dec 1, 2012.

Candell, whose open book to running the offices was her involvement opposing first the apartments and then the homes, responded by expressing disappointment at the announcement had occurred on the advisement of private attorney but noted that she retained the right to be a member of the public. Candell pointed out after the meeting, “the number one vote getter, but I فرصحت في الاستماع إلى المراجعة التي أقدمها، ولكنني آمل أن أتمكن من فهم صياغة الإعلان، لا يمكنني التعبير عن الرغبة في توضيح ما كانت هناك من التحديات الرسمية والقانونية، وتدعم أنني لم أعجب بأي نسخة من الحسابات والخلي النصي، لذلك أنا آمل أن أتمكن من تقديم مساعدة في الرسالة.”

By Pipa Fisher

The Lafayette City Council spent a short time at their Feb 23 meeting discussing next steps in the development of a safety task force and what exactly that might look like. The matter will be on the March 11 meeting agenda.

Gina Dawson, co-founder with her husband Michael Daver, Save Lafayette Tres, was disappointed that the item was included in the February meeting only as a commitment on the council’s calendar.

SLL, a local organization formed in 2017 in an attempt to stop Pacific Gas & Electric Company’s planned removal program, which the utility needs to do as part of its Pipelines Safety Initiative, advisory panel of the event, to degage underground high transmission lines, pipes and hazardous gas are focused, has been pushing for the formation of a safety task force with the idea that it would work with the city’s utility and the California Public Utilities Commission. Initially SLL was concerned about several planned removals, but in Feb had Dawson to be increasingly concerned about a wider scope of pipeline safety issues. SLL is currently monitoring the city and the utility.

But should the city form a task force headed by the people who are currently using them? What would such a task force most likely be needed in Lafayette and a growing personal hostility to our clients, I’m a letter to the city’s attorney Robert Hyatt of Schulte, Fischbach, Bock & Zuss dated Dec 1, 2012.

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Lamorinda Home Price Comparison Between 2017 & 2018

ORINDA 2017 2018
TOTAL HOMES SOLD 243 281
LOWEST PRICE SOLD $150,000 $170,000
HIGHEST PRICE SOLD $4,500,000 $5,200,000
AVERAGE SALES PRICE $1,625,000 $1,725,000

LAFAYETTE 2017 2018
TOTAL HOMES SOLD 313 298
LOWEST PRICE SOLD $675,000 $678,000
HIGHEST PRICE SOLD $7,000,000 $6,600,000
AVERAGE SALES PRICE $1,737,000 $1,690,000

MORAGA 2017 2018
TOTAL HOMES SOLD 165 131
LOWEST PRICE SOLD $745,000 $800,000
HIGHEST PRICE SOLD $2,750,000 $3,500,000
AVERAGE SALES PRICE $1,391,000 $1,489,000

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By Vera Kochan

Mother Nature’s periodic drenching has taken its toll around Moraga. But rich rivulets overflowed the beleaguered Canyon Bridge area. On Feb. 13, the East Bay Municipal Utility District notified the town of renewed land movement that initially began in February 2017. While the temporary bridge itself is safe and open to vehicle and bicycle traffic, the pedestrian crossing is partially closed. The pedestrian bridge crossing is a separate structure that is attached to the west of the temporary bridge,” said Moraga Public Works Director Edie Bews.

"The asphalt (624) pathway on the south side, because of the current land slide, began to pull against the end of the pedestrian bridge. The town quickly mobilized an on-call geotechnical engineer who reviewed the situation and determined the bridge itself is structurally sound. Bews assured that "the temporary bridge is designed to support people and vehicles. It is being designed, protecting the bridge from adjacent land movement."

As a precaution, Moraga notified the East Bay Regional Park District of the closure. According to the EBRPD website, trail notification status: "Until further notice, the trail via Canyon Bridge section of the Moraga Trail is closed. Bridge access is not available. It does not have an access to the trail."

Bews said, "May our communities should fall under the Federal Highway Administration’s emergency trail closure for the temporary bridge.”

As the town continues to monitor the bridge and surrounding land during the following rainy season, it anticipates that the pedestrian access will re-opened by May of this year.

Recent land movement results in closure of Canyon Bridge pedestrian access

By Vera Kochan

While libraries are known for their quiet atmosphere, the Moraga Library has been a little quieter since the heating system malfunctioned on Feb. 12.

Public Information Officer Brooke Cerny with the Contra Costa County Library said, "Pickups and drop-offs remain steady for this time of year, but pages times are shorter, and since children's story times sessions were cancelled early on, we have since moved every story time activity to the main program area." She added that space has been greatly

Moraga Library HVAC woes continue

By Vera Kochan

Moraga is getting ready for its first Open House of the year. The event will be held on March 10th from 1-4 PM at 365 Donald Drive in Moraga. The house is beautifully updated in Rheem Manor.

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Town Council
Wednesday, March 11, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 355 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission
Monday, March 17, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 355 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review
Monday, March 17, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 355 Rheem Blvd.

Moraga School District Board Meetings
Tuesday, March 12, 7 p.m.
Joseph Morris Intermediate School, 1550 Center Pkwy, Moraga
www.morris.k12.ca.us
See also AHSID meeting page A2
Consolidation of Design Review Board and Planning Commission in the works

By Vera Kochan

During the Feb. 27 Moraga Town Council meeting, Planning Director Derek Farmer put forth a consideration by council members to consolidate the Design Review Board with the Planning Commission. Farmer cited the benefits to the town in that the move would reduce staff time and costs, as well as enable Moraga to provide applicants with a streamlined planning review process. The Design Review Board’s main functions are to review architecture and landscaping, while the Planning Commission handles land use elements.

Parenting in the age of technology

By Vера Kochan

Jaqueline Moraga Intermediate hosted a keynote called Media in the Middle on Feb. 11 aimed at helping parents of middle school kids unravel the mysteries behind popular apps/social networking sites and more.

Guest speaker Erica Parain, Ph.D., is a psychologist and licensed clinical social worker with over 20 years of experience specializing in bullying prevention, relational aggression, cyberbullying and cybersex.

first resolution. She is also co-founder of My Digital Self, a nonprofit organization that helps schools and communities address issues and the use of technology in constructive ways.

Parain, as a mom in the digital age, doesn’t just talk the talk, she walks the walk with her own kids, helping parents “talk to your kids about what’s going on in their social media, stay connected with their interests.” She adds, “Teach kids that they’re responsible for their digital footprint. Let them know that they have control over the device and get help when they’re in over their heads.”

She stresses that it’s important for kids to understand that privacy matters and to never give out personal information online. “Kids don’t realize that whatever they put online can come back to haunt them as adults. They must consider whose information might be up and must never share passwords or electronic devices with others.”

Nominate a 2019 Moraga Citizen of the Year

Now is the time to consider who you would like to nominate for Moraga’s 2019 “Citizen of the Year.” The selection committee is made up of the 2018 Citizen of the Year and and Susan Sperry as well as representatives of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, Saint Mary’s College, Moraga Citizens’ Network and the Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club.

The basic criteria for selecting this year’s Citizen are as follows:

1. The nominee must be someone who has given of their time, talent and energy to make Moraga a vibrant community, one where people want to live, work and shop.
2. The nominee must be someone whose body of work has brought the community together and makes Moraga a wonderful place to live.
3. Nominations may include any resident with a Moraga address other than paid public officials, current elected members of the Moraga Town Council, or other elected officials.
4. In making your nomination, please include examples of their contribution to Moraga.

Please email your nominations to nominations@lomarinaweekly.com or send them to “Moraga Citizen of the Year Nominations,” Lamorinda Weekly, PO Box 4138, Moraga CA 94556.

The deadline for receiving your nomination is March 27. The celebration dinner will be held on Saturday, April 27 at Saint Mary’s College Soda Center.

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Orinda jumps into global battle for telecommunication supremacy

By Sora O’Doherty

The Orinda City Council scheduled a special meeting to receive a report regarding small cell wireless communications facilities. Few residents probably understood that this issue is the subject of a big city battle, which is the struggle. According to the Federal Communications Commission, this battle involves a global advantage for decades to come. The fast food and the Federal Communications Commission to issue declarations regarding the matter in order to strengthen local public power of the option to legislate the installation of small cells. According to the Orinda staff report, several local jurisdictions have used the FCC over 20 years for the power of local control, but staff argued that the issue will only cover square miles. Cellular phone services will not cover the small cells, so that the facility will be required for each provider. Verizon had told them that staff plan to apply to the FCC to obtain coverage. Staff prepared to give additional outreach to other wireless carriers, which will be essential to provide services in the area.

City Council likes its priorities, but private road dwellers object

By Sora O’Doherty

There was a lot of excitement in the Library Auditorium on Feb. 19 as the Orinda City Council announced a symposium for the next two years, with the goal of improving and developing of San Pablo Creek among its biggest priorities. Those projects do not cost anything and the symposium was paid for by speakers and the council. But excitement turned to dismay when many of Orinda’s residents once again asked the city to make solving the problem of private roads a city issue. Orinda City Engineer David Miller was clearly upset as he explained that he has not seen a city issue that is more difficult. "It’s a big problem and a big problem that we are very strongly making a choice that we are going to do this in a different way," he said. Instead of working on the existing roads, he suggested working on the new roads in the city. He also mentioned that the city is currently working on the new roads and has long been asking for help. The city has had ideas about addressing how private roads might be incorporated into the city grid without the interference of the city council. The city council discussed the matter with them and decided to continue with the current plan. They agreed that the city should address this issue in the next two years, and they set the next meeting for the following day.
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Time flies, but Steve Salomon will stay put
By Sora O’Doherty

The Orinda City Council has agreed to remove the provi- sion from City Manager Steve Salomon’s employment con- tract that would have resulted in his term expiring in June. Instead, Salomon and the city have agreed that he will con- tinue indefinitely, subject to termination by either side with notice. In order to en- sure a smooth transition of city position, the new agree- ment stipulates that the city will pro- vide feedback to the city council when the city manager will provide six-months notice of retirement, if feasible.

Salomon came to Orinda as an interim city manager following the retirement of Janet Lever. He brought with him some 30 years of experi- ence, including previously serving as Visalia’s city manager for 17 years. He was Alg- onkia’s city administrator, and city manager for the cities of Wintersville and Hercules. He also served for the city of

Two new Wilder playfields add over $6 million to Orinda balance sheet

By Sora O’Doherty

Orinda has resolved to take title to Playfields 6 and 7 at Wilder. The land, about 16.5 acres, is priced at $387,000, and the improvements at $2.4 million. Orinda has previously accepted Playfields 1 and 2, which included a tot lot, park area, playgrounds and parking lot.

Playfield 5 has also been ac- cepted and included lift sta- tions, a lodge, a comfort station, a guest house, a maintenance building and ballfield lighting. The Art and Garden Center is very close to completion, and the city expects to take possession of it this month.

Czech visiting student, arriving in August, seeks home for Miramonte fall/winter semester

After reviewing 15 essays from students in Tibet, Czech Republic, the Orinda-Tibet Sister City Foundation, to- gether with Czech Krah Tabeta, has selected a new student to spend six months in Orinda and study at Miramonte High School. Thirteen-year-old Erik Stoklasa will be the 19th stu- dent to visit Miramonte from Tibet.

Stoklasa is the hands- down winning candidate af- ter the field had been nar- rowed to five oral and visual in- terviews were conducted. Stok- lasa loves programming and sports. At home he started a course for high school stu- dents which teaches pro- grammers its mapping and protection skills. On the athletic side, Stoklasa loves to run and has completed a quarter marathon, in addition to playing soccer competitively for nine years. Last summer he participated in an interna- tional camping program on Cyprus for 14 days, where he served as a chef. Stok- lasa also had the opportunity to publish his model for the European parliament, favor- ing an EU General Data Protection Regulation. He is also a beginning piano student.

Anyone interested in vol- unteering to house the visiting student should contact Bobble Knockers by telephone at (515) 762-6040 or by email at bob- bleknockers@optonline.net. — S. O’Doherty

Lamorinda Girls’ Soccer Club playing at the Development Academy level.

By Sora O’Doherty

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Integrity Knowledge Results
Director again warns of potential MOFD financial emergency

By Nick Marnell

Even with the approval of two new labor contracts retroactive to July 1, the Morgantown Fire Department (MOFD) official says the department will struggle to meet the projected $1.01 million, or 18 percent, increase in its budget for fiscal year 2022. MOFD’s Chief of Fire Operations, Jeff Knauf, explained that the department is facing a number of challenges.

Knauf said the department’s operating costs have increased by 20 percent, due to inflation. This has increased the cost of fuel, utilities, and other essential services. The department has also faced challenges in recruiting and retaining firefighters.

"We have a lot of work to do," Knauf said. "We are doing the best we can with the resources we have, but it's not easy."
Lamorinda Catholic churches not immune from sexual predator clergy

By Nick Marnell

Three Roman Catholic priests who served as associate pastors at Holy Family Catholic Church in Lafayette, Father Francis Melchior, Father Gregory Tuggle and Father James Kramarik, have been credibly accused of sexual abuse.

The revelations came last week through the release of a report by the Archdiocese of Oakland sheds light on the sexual abuse scandal that has consumed the Catholic Church in recent years. The report covers a 20-year period from 1990 to 2010 and includes information on 484 priests and 580 cases of sexual abuse.

The report found that 101 priests were credibly accused of sexual abuse during their tenure in the diocese, including 96 priests who served in the Archdiocese of Oakland.

The report also found that 10 priests were credibly accused of sexual abuse in the Archdiocese of San Francisco, which includes the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, Solano and Sonoma.

The report concluded that the archdiocese has taken steps to address the sexual abuse scandal, including the creation of a sexual abuse hotline, the establishment of a Victims' Assistance Coordinator and the development of a protocol for responding to allegations of sexual abuse.

The report also acknowledged that the archdiocese and the Catholic Church have not always handled allegations of sexual abuse appropriately, and that more needs to be done to provide support and healing for survivors of sexual abuse.

Letters to the editor

In the February newsletter of the Lafayette Public Library, Bruce Blunt was cited for helping to provide an attractive green space at the library. He thanks the Moraga Education Foundation for supporting, art, music and programs that have expanded the library’s space.

In another letter, a Moraga resident expresses concern about the proposed LAPD station in Moraga. The resident argues that the station would be a safety hazard and that the residents of the area are not being heard.

In a third letter, a Moraga resident expresses concern about the proposed LAPD station in Moraga. The resident argues that the station would be a safety hazard and that the residents of the area are not being heard.

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Meals on Wheels volunteer Greg Holm arrives at a home in Lafayette.

By Sera O'Doherty

Fischer Brightwell Greg Holm enjoys the company of his dog, Gatsby, as he delivers meals to a home on Wheels route on Feb. 26. The volunteer driver had a family emergency, so Holm was happy to step in to deliver meals to the 16 residents on his route.

At each stop, he would knock on the door and ask what types of meals the client wanted to receive, and if there were any special delivery instructions, which varied from house to house. Often, the client might get a regular meal, which included a fresh fruit or salad, a regular meal with fruit, which has been a special meal for those on a sodium, cholesterol or diabetes diet, and kidney patients. To receive a meal, clients must be enrolled in the program and approved by the appropriate agency. In addition to the hot daily meal, some clients also receive a half meal, right lunch, consisting of a salad, a sandwich and a hot beverage. Holm said he treasures the interactions with the clients.

As Holm made his way back home, he tried to talk to the drivers he worked with the past two years, Jake Lavette and Gaby Fuented, both of whom were very warm and inviting. He said they were friendly and helpful. Many other staff members are also familiar with Holm.

Nancy, 87, has been delivering meals for Meals on Wheels for over 10 years. She enjoys having someone to chat with and looking forward to the food. She has friends and family members who are also volunteers for Meals on Wheels.

Lafayette Lafayette City Council is soliciting applicants to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission.

Planning Commission. This seven-member body is responsible for matters relating to land use and development in the city. The commission serves as an advisory agency to the City Council for administering the laws and ordinances governing the approval of general and specific plans, zoning text amendments and rezonings. The commission also hears and decides on applications for subdivisions, land use permits, variances and riparian uses. The commission reviews drawings, construction plans and technical reports. The following are planning documents that commissioners must be familiar with to execute their duties. 1) Lafayette General Plan; 2) Lafayette Municipal Code, Title 6 -Planning & Land Use; 3) Downtown Specific Plan; 4) Downtown Design Guidelines; 5) Residential Design Guidelines. Link to the application and additional information www.love.lafayette.org

Link to the application and additional information www.love.lafayette.org

Lafayette Volunteer Opportunities

There are currently openings on the following Lafayette Commissions/Committees:

• Capital Projects Assessment Committee (CPAC)
• Community Center Foundation
• Creeks Committee
• Crime Prevention Commission
• Downtown Improvement Master Plan Implementation (DIMPIC)
• Emergency Preparedness Commission
• Environmental Task Force
• Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission
• Planning Commission
• Senior Services Commission
• Transportation & Circulation Commission
• Youth Commission

For additional information visit the city’s website: www.love.lafayette.org. Hot Topics

Or e-mail City Clerk Joanne Robbins, jrobbins@love.lafayette.org

Application deadline March 31, 2019. Positions open until filled.
VOLUNTEER DRIVERS...the Gift That Keeps On Giving

Would you like to make a difference?
Would you enjoy the appreciation of your peers and older adults?
Are you age 25 to 75 and in good health?
Consider becoming a volunteer driver for the Lamorinda Spirit for 4 hours every week or two. Phone the Program Manager at 284-5546 for more information. Training is provided.

Your Class C California Driver’s License and a good driving record are all you need. Rides are available for Lamorinda residents age 60+ by calling our Dispatch team at 283-3534.

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From left: State Sen. Steve Glazer and Assembly Member Aileen Rizo have introduced a bill to allow water main replacement without putting a lien on a property. (Photo by Vera Kochan)

THE RESCUE ONE FOUNDATION is looking for applicants to fill a vacancy on its Board of Directors.

Residents living within the Moraga-Orinda Fire District's coverage area are eligible to apply.

The Rescue One Foundation serves as the support group for the paramedic program of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

Letters of interest should be sent no later than March 18 and addressed to Rescue One Foundation, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga, CA, 94556.

For further information about this position, please call (925) 376-6151.

Parents in the age of technology

Leaving a digital legacy is virtually impossible to remember. Anyone has the power to be an ally to someone who has been cyberbullied by sending a message of support or comforting them, whether or not they can reach them.

They can also report bullying to an adult and refuse to participate in the bullying. They can also report bullying to an adult and refuse to participate in the bullying. They can also report bullying to an adult and refuse to participate in the bullying. They can also report bullying to an adult and refuse to participate in the bullying.

A fourth grade teacher sent a note to her students about the importance of digital citizenship. She explained that she didn't want to just talk about it, but that she wanted her students to understand the importance of being a good digital citizen.

The teacher wanted to make sure her students knew the importance of digital citizenship and how to stay safe online. She wanted her students to understand the consequences of posting inappropriate content online and how it can hurt others. She wanted her students to know that they are responsible for their online actions and that they should be respectful of others online.

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‘Brooklyn Bridge’ a charming metaphor of human (dis)connectedness at THT

By Sophie Braccini

Sacha, a 10-year-old girl going on 11, must complete an essential school assignment for the next day: an essay on The Brooklyn Bridge. She is alert that evening, her mother is at work and her father is long gone... and she can’t find a pen. Living in downtown New York in an apartment building where people don’t know each other, she is going to venture out of her comfort zone and reach out to her quality and colorful neighbors, discovering many truths along the way about human connectedness, solidarity and friendship. The creatively directed play, “Brooklyn Bridge,” is a pleasure for the whole family that can be appreciated at different levels.

The Brooklyn Bridge is a testimony to human resilience and vision. It was built to bring together two neighborhoods that looked at each other across the East River, and it took 14 years to be built in the latter part of the 19th century. Sacha loves the bridge and in fact in one of it, she knows so many facts about it, but beyond the allure of the pen, she has written a book because she has not defined yet what the bridge means to her. By meeting her neighbors—Tan, a dental student; David, a businesman with time management issues; John, a wheelchair-bound Brooklyn Bridge bull; and Tafsik, a Puerto Rican single mother with many children—Sacha discovers the importance of reaching out and connecting to others, and finally her vision of the bridge.

Young actress Emma Curtin is on stage almost non-stop, portraying a charming, smart, precocious but still naive preteen. The young actresses have already achieved a long list of achievements throughout the East Bay as fantasy singer and actress. At the lead in “Brooklyn Bridge” she delivers a fantastic approach as well as impressive craftsmanship. It takes skills to perfectly deliver the very lively language used by playwright Melina James Gibson, who has constructed a simple, straightforward narrative—using the classic unity of time, place and action, studded with humor. Curtin is simply excellent and her fellow actors also rise to the challenge.

Kudos go to the direction by Graham Smith and scenic designer Liliana Dinges-Filip. The actor moves between floors, in and out of apartments, and there is even a virtual rendering of the construction of the bridge that’s quite poetic and inspirational. People of any age will appreciate the play and might even, when they return home, decide to knock on the door of that strange neighbor they have never talked to before, even though they have lived there for years, and maybe there will be something they will learn from one another.

“Brooklyn Bridge” opens at Town Hall Theatre on Feb. 28 and will run through March 17. The team offers different events such as talkbacks with the cast and crew on certain nights.

Tickets and details can be found at www.townhalltheater.com/brooklyn-bridge.

Emma Curtin and Tom Reilly in Brooklyn Bridges at Town Hall Theatre.
Dark ‘Fire’ of ‘Crimson: A chilling cold case

By Sophia Braccini

A psychological thriller from Kevin Kangaroo, “Dark ‘Fire’ of ‘Crimson:” is this month’s choice for the Professional Fine Art Exhibit in Lomarinda. Dark, compelling and intriguing, this novel will leave you wanting more. The author, a master of suspense, has an uncanny ability to create a world that is both terrifying and fascinating. The plot is filled with twists and turns, keeping you on the edge of your seat until the very end. It is a must-read for anyone who loves a good thriller.

Mike Rosa
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Cyndi P., cheerful and friendly, will greet you at the door. She will make you feel welcome and at ease. She will ask you about your interests and goals, and suggest the type of music that will be most beneficial for you. She will also explain the different types of therapy that are available, and help you decide which one would be best for you.

Cyndi P. will then work with you to create a personalized treatment plan. This plan will include exercises and activities that are specifically designed to help you reach your goals. She will also provide you with feedback and support, and help you track your progress. She will also be available to answer any questions you may have.

Cyndi P. will also help you develop a positive attitude and coping skills. She will teach you how to relax, how to manage stress, and how to deal with challenging situations.

Cyndi P. will also provide you with resources and referrals to other professionals who can help you further. She may also refer you to other organizations or support groups.

Cyndi P. will work with you to develop a treatment plan that is tailored to your individual needs and goals. She will also work with you to set realistic and achievable goals, and help you reach them.

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Cyndi P. will also provide you with resources and referrals to other professionals who can help you further. She may also refer you to other organizations or support groups.

The success of your treatment will depend on your commitment and effort. You will be asked to practice the exercises and activities that are outlined in your treatment plan.

Contact Cyndi P. to schedule an appointment. She will work with you to develop a plan that is tailored to your individual needs and goals.

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SMC grad student pens book about gang violence, revenge

Author: Doreen Theodore Carlyle

By John T. Miller

While many young writers finish a new book and languish trying to find a publisher, Doreen Theodore Carlyle, a Saint Mary’s College graduate student, jum-ped that hurdle by becoming her own company

Her first piece of fiction, “Down By The Creek,” published by Carlyle Enterprises, is an account of a young black male growing up amid gangs, innocents, poverty and family responsibilities.

A synopsis of the book can be found on the website: “After an act of gun violence, Don Wei- land’s older sister is shot. As Weedland tries to cope with this loss in a promising new environment, his old friends promise him help in gaining a position in order to get revenge on those who killed his sister. Weedland’s life changes in ways he could never have foreseen. He begins to grasp the gravity of his own death.

The author uses two different forms in telling his story—one as the first-person voice of the young boy, Don, while the others in the third-person form of the same person, although he has now passed. It would require a “special alert” to tell you why Carlyle also breaks con- vention by telling the story of his third person’s voice in third person. The book is clearly written to tell you in “get the reader to the character’s decision.”

The writing is a little rough at times, with much of the dialogue in street slang, but some of the strongest words with his “primary” ring true to life and add color to with action.

The high school boy attends correspondence to the formidable black gangster, Carlyle at

City’s Proclamation in Support of Rotary and New Day for Children

WELCOME

From left: Ninoop Srivatsa, New Day for Children representative, Tevy Ring, Nancy Mils and Mary Lou Tall

Submitted by Jeff Pottorf

Last week, Lafayette interim city Manager Ninoop Srivatsa presented the Rotary Club of Lafayette with the city council’s proclamation recognizing Rotary’s partnership with New Day for Children, an Almato- has organization that strives to meet the unique needs of recount girls who have been sex trafficked, combining education, therapy and support to lift the girls out of their des- perate circumstances.
The mayor also presented March 23 as Human Trafficking

Awareness Day in the city of Lafayette. That date coincides with the annual event that Rotary is holding to support New Day’s work.

The Rotary Club’s event, Swing into Freedom, is being held at Oakwood Middle School on March 23. The goal is to raise $100,000 for New Day to help girls, ages 10-18, who are rescued from trafficking in Alameda and Contra Costa counties as well as across the United States. Tickets cost $75. Opposite sex corporate sponsorship are also available. For more information, call Mary Lou Tall for more information and tickets at 925-613-6426.
Miranmonte students win Moraga Student Speaker Contest

Submitted by Fred George

The topic this year for The Miranmonte High School annual Student Speaker Contest was, "Why are we here? What does it mean to be a human being?" The topic for last year was Moraga High School senior Clara Wu, who is planning on attending Stanford University next year. Dan Hogan, Moraga Lions Club president, said that this year's competition was "impressed by Wil's expression and creativity. Not only was obvious that young people are more creative about current events. Li-ons Club members were impressed that they were able to provide feedback. The opportunity to challenge their views and skill. The contest has six levels, and a Moraga student can win up to $1,250 in scholarships. There is a total of 115,100 awarded in scholarship ships.

The next level is the Zone level to be held March 10, at 7 p.m. at the Creekside Inn in Roxanne.

 Benefit concert for Congolese refugee family

A year ago a family of eight was rescued from a West Uganda refugee camp by California Charter schools that brought the United States to live. Sadly the family's father, Sadiki, was run over by a car while recycling last fall in the United States. To fill his work, to Sadiki, his wife Mosfa, and their four sons ages 2-13 need social services and churches support to survive. Lafayette United Methodist Church, St. Joseph Catholic Church of Fremont, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Danville. In an effort to help this family, Dan Keole, the senior group of Church Council and has been a member of churches that at Lafayette United Methodist Church for 10 years, organizing a musical concert at 3p.m. Sunday, March 17 at the Lafayette church door. Donations for the family will be ac- cepted at the door. The concert will feature Keole, who released his first album, "It's All About Love," in 2015 and his second "Be True" and his "Papa." and Dervish Manasseh a singer, songwriter, songwriting teachers and young amazing musician who helped Keole write his songs, recorded and engineered them and played almost all the instruments, and has a new CD called "Vishonian Sky."

"I've fallen in love with this fami-

ly, and had them over for several pool parties last summer," Keole said. "They've never been in a swimming pool, so many times Dan (Keole) did." added Keole. "Come support them and listen to great music."

-Jake

Troop 204 presents 2019 Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Jill Montaquilla

Lafayette Boy Scout Troop 204 will honor 13 young men who have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America, on March 23rd at 11 a.m. at Lafayette City Center. This will be Troop 204's 66th Eagle Court of Honor.

To attain Eagle Scout, candidates must earn their way, the scouting rank for the Eagle Scout. The candidates are to be in Troop for at least six months, each of the 12 required merit badges, serve in a leadership position, show scout spirit, and plan, develop and lead a group to earn an approved Eagle Service Project. In addition to the requirements listed above, each of the Troop 204 Eagle Scouts has attended an annual Scoutmaster backpacking trips, including planning and leading a trip on a ten-day trip. They have hiked over 500 miles and active participation in annual Camporees. William Cody constructed planting boxes for the garden at the Valentine Elementary School. Sonny Pollock completed a keelboat construction project at Lafayette High School consisting of landscaping plants, new trees and shrubs. Dominica Figueroa completed a wooden Duck nesting boxes and installed them at the Colonel Natural Wildlife Refuge. Thomas Jaddal upgraded and improved the third-grade classroom at Crystal Springs Elementary School. Dennis Milkovits restored a trailer, planted new beds and built a retaining wall at Springhill Elementary School. School garden. Matthew Montaquilla made blankets for injured or sick children at Children's Hospital in Oakland and Valley Medical. Ryan Ono built planter boxes at Springhill Elementary School to protect fruits and vegetables from being eaten by animals. Oliver Berndt constructed a wooden shed that provides the space to avoid damage while creating a small-scale vertical garden to be studied by Springhill Ele-

Miranmonte High school senior Clara Wu with chair Fred George.

Community Service: We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lomarinda's dedicated school counselors to summarize test and information About the test. May your submissions be sent to storydesk@lomarindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding or engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lomarinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to storydesk@lomarindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

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Miranmonte High school senior Clara Wu with chair Fred George.

Acalanes and Campo place 3rd and 4th in County Mock Trial Competition

Submitted by Jonathan Lance, COCEO

For two weeks (evening) 17 Contra Costa County high school Mock Trial teams have been battling it out with each other inside the superior courtroom of Martinez during the 8th Annual Contra Costa County Mock Trial Trials. High schools alternate, providing presenters for the prosecution and presentation of the defense. At this year’s Mock Trial Competition, the teams from Acalanes High School and Campo Verde High School have been ranked in the top two. The Acalanes’ Mock Trial Team has been undefeated in their matches against the teams from Campo Verde High School. The Acalanes’ Mock Trial Team has been undefeated in their matches against the teams from Campo Verde High School. The Acalanes’ Mock Trial Team has

Acalanes Mock Trial Team

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SUMMER CAMPS 2019

Part 1. Spring Break, Full Day and Overnight Summer Camps
(Part 2. half-day camps. April 3, 2019)

Get ready for summer!

It may only be March, and the rain is clouding our lives, but spring break and
summer are just around the corner, and with that comes the wonderful opportunity for our
customers to experience some fantastic camps. In this issue of the Lamorinda Weekly,
we kick off our annual guide to activities and programs in and around Lamorinda,
featuring full-day camps and overnight camps. Look for our listing of half-day camps and
programs coming in April.

Get your children ready to have the spring break and summer of their dreams!

SUMMER CAMPS 2019

SPRING BREAK CAMPS

Randy Bennett Basketball Camps
(Saint Mary’s College, Moraga)

The Randy Bennett Day Camps held at Saint Mary’s College in McKevin Pavilion are a great way for boys and girls ages 4-12 to receive top-notch instruction on every aspect of the game, led by Coach Bennett and his staff. Morning, afternoon and full day options available.

Dates: April 4

www.smmcmsbasketballcamps.com

FULL DAY SUMMER CAMPS

Adventure Day Camp
(Walnut Creek, San Ramon & Alamo)

Celebrating 20 years: A traditional summer day camp for children ages 3-11. Swimming, horseback riding, sailing, skateboard, woodworking, sign painting, dance, sports, archery, drama, music, rock climbing, biking, overnight camping, and camp games. Home to the Phoenix Express boys and girls teams. Programs available at all locations.

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summer@bentleyacademy.org

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Camp Awesome is fun, flexible, and affordable. Open all the weeks of summer: Day (9 a.m. - 2 p.m.) Early Care (7:30 a.m.) Afternoon (2-5:30 p.m.)

Register by the day or week.

925.284-2232 • info@campawesome.org

Berkeley Rep School of Theatre Summer Theatre Intensive (Berkeley)

Berkeley Rep School of Theatre Summer Theatre Intensive is an opportunity to become fully immersed in every facet of the world of theatre, regardless of experience level. The only requirement is an active mind open to imagination, collaboration, hard work, and, of course, lots of fun.


www.berkeleyschooloftheatre.org

Camp Doodlers (Brisbane, Berkeley, SF, Milpitas)

At St. Stephen’s, Camp Doodlers is an incubator for kids to grow their creative intelligence through making and acting in a space-based, hands-on environment. We’ve created a child-friendly, safe и inclusive environment. Our classes are fully booked.

Dates: Weekends sessions June 10 - August 9.

925.388.4396 • www.campdoodlers.com

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One Week Introductory Sessions at San Pablo Reservoir and the Oakland Estuary (8:30am - 11:30am). No experience necessary.

San Pablo Reservoir Sessions
• June 10-14
• June 17-21
• June 24-28

Oakland Estuary Sessions
• July 8-12
• July 15-19
• July 22-26
• July 29-Aug 2

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Sundays, 9:30 am & 5 pm
Easter, April 21, 9 & 10:30 am
1871 Geary Rd, Walnut Creek
unityofwalnutcreek.org

**Lafayette United Methodist Church**
955 Moraga Road 925.284-4766: Calm Sunday:
10am Worship and Faith Formation for all ages
Ash Wednesday Service, March 6, 7pm
Opportunities to Love God, Love Others, and Serve the World

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Theater

"Wilder than Wild: Fire, Forests and the Future," a one-hour docu-
mentary, will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12, at the "The Hall" Theater on School Street in Lafayette. Sponsored by Friendly Lafayette, the movie reveals how fire build-up and climate change have caused wildfires to be larger, high intensity wildfires, while greenhouses gases released from these fires contribute to global warming.

This visual journey explores our forests and affects us all; extreme weather and more wildfires, some of which are now raging highly populat-
ed areas. General admission tickets are $10 and are available at www.sustainablelafayette.org.

Diane Balliet celebrates 25th Anniversary of a world pre-
mier Daybreak Ballet, "The Gift," at 4 pm and 7 pm, Sunday, March 10, at the Center for the Arts, 3300 Orinda Avenue, Orinda. Join Diane Balliet on this fairy-
tale adventure where you will experience great dancing, magic, music, and a beautiful story. General admission tickets are $10 and are available at www.daybreakballet.org

Town Hall Theatre Company presents "Springboard" by Melissa James-Gibson, directed by M. Graham Gorden, March 18. Tickets and showtimes are available at TownHallTheAT - Theatrical-productions.com or by calling 925-283- 1100. The Theatre is located at 815 School Street in Lafayette.

Town Hall Theatre Company presents "Springboard" by Melissa James-Gibson, directed by M. Graham Gorden, March 18. Tickets and showtimes are available at TownHallTheAT - Theatrical-productions.com or by calling 925-283- 1100. The Theatre is located at 815 School Street in Lafayette.
Lafayette Rotary Club
Step in on a Thursday and join us for our lunch meeting.
Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

March 7:
Annabelle Hall. Propel A Cure. Support/Cure for Crohn’s Disease

March 14:
Chuck Kohler. Survivor of Pearl Harbor

www.rotarylafayette.org
www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-CA

The Orinda Garden Club presents Fire Resistant Landscaping by Bob Hazlewood, Red Fire Zone spoke.
It’s a given that homes with fire resistant landscaping and well-maintained plant materials and techniques for landscape maintenance will be less likely to burn.

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Letters: letters@lomondairwe.com
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Letters: letters@lomondairwe.com
Opinion: opinion@lomondairwe.com

LAFAYETTE ROTARY CLUB MEETING
Thursday at noon
March 7
March 14

March 14 at 7:00 p.m.

March 11 at 7:00 p.m.

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Lamorinda boys soccer wrap-up

By John T. Miller

Boys high school soccer in the area continues to be tremendously competitive, with all three local schools — Campolindo, Acalanes, and Miramonte — making it to the North Coast Section playoffs this year. Here’s a rundown of each of their seasons and a brief preview of next year’s hopes.

Campolindo (16-4-2; 16-2 league)

Head coach Shane Cartney, who took last year off for the birth of his daughter, returned to lead the Cougars to a Diablo Athletic League title and an NCS playoff berth. Their season ended with a 3-2 loss in the quarterfinals to Novato’s San Francisquito. Despite the disappointing end, the season represented tremendous improvement from the year 2013 when the team won only two league games.

Campolindo was one of the highest scoring teams in the Bay Area, breaking the school record for number of goals in a season with 78. Senior Jesse Carrasquillo led the league in scoring (14 goals, 9 assists) and was named the league’s Colmenares MVP. Another senior, Nathan Linke, was third in scoring (14 goals, 4 assists).

First-team all league: Connor Gregg, a senior, was named the team’s Districts MVP.

The team graduated 15 seniors, but according to Cartney, “We keep 27 on the squad as we hope to improve and be a contender by the end of next season.”

Kellen Cumby, a senior, scored 10 goals, a career high; his freshman year, he had the entire next year to perfect the defense while helping the offense with 10 goals.

After splitting times in the goal box with senior Lucas Allen, Joe Eberts, who moved into the area this year, will, according to Cartney, have the potential to be one of the top goalies in the area.

Vikash Lasharabi, who took his ACL and cut his junior season, got special mention for his inspirational play, reestablishing himself as a starter and contributing to a huge goal line save against Acalanes.

Acalanes (10-4-7; 7-3-3 league)

Much like Campolindo, Acalanes reached the NCS playoffs this year only to lose to a lower seed in the first round. Novato’s San Francisquito prevailed over the fourth-seeded Scots 2-1.

Paul Curtis, in his 20th year as head coach, helped guide the team to a fourth-place finish in the tough Upper Diablo League, but was disappointed with their high number of draws (13 in league, 6 overall).“The boys tied a number of very good teams late in the season. They were all exciting matches. The highlight of the season for Curtis was their come-from-behind victory against Northgate to win the Winter Classic championship, qualifying them for the state playoffs, with a 2-1 win in regulation. Top performers on the team included First Team All-League senior Travis Herson (7 goals, 2 assists) and center field player Nick Gaanacropolis, a junior who was named to Second Team All-League.

Curtis mentioned the contributions of his three senior captains, including Jake Voss, an outstanding player in the middle, Bernard Adie, and Stevenson. “They did a great job leading throughout the season,” said Curtis. “They brought the team together early and created strong bonds.”

Actually, it’s just the right age to get an eye exam at the University of California Eye Center. And again at three years. And regularly after that. We developed ways to test kids’ eyes while they play! We’re part of the UC School of Optometry, and offer you LASIK surgery, contact lenses, and an Eyewear Center with a vast collection of designer frames, too. We take most insurance plans, and major credit cards. It’s time for your whole family to go Cal!

Is this too young to go to Cal?

By Charlie McIntyre, Miramonte

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Girls’ basketball season successes

Maritza Crudelle

Kate Sherman

By Jon Kingdon

With all those schools were limited or cut, the girls’ basketball season was a success story for the Lealmen. The team not only made it to the state tournament, but also made it to the state title game despite trailing by a score of 36-33 in the fourth quarter. Emily Horton, Michelle Sisiak, and Rebecca Worshil, all three seniors, led the team to victory in the last minute of the game, securing their place in the state championship.

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Henry Horton
Lamorinda Boys Basketball roundup: Campo inches closer in state finals

By Jon Kingdon

Campo Linda extended their season March 5 when the Pirates faced Miramar, winning their 20th game with a victory over Claremont High School (El Rancho) by a score of 62-55 in the CIF State Division II Tournament. Down by three points entering the fourth quarter, freshman Aiden Mahaney who had been having a good showing right hit three field goals for seven points, Devon Gaskins, who scored 14 points, returned to the game after bruising his hip to hit a key three-pointer to put Campo Linda ahead 61-55 and Carter Mahaney scored seven points in the period, five of them coming on free throws late in the game to clinch the victory.

Aiden showed no hesitation in putting up his shots in the fourth quarter despite missing many shots earlier in the game. I’ve got to put it out there and I’m confident that I would make the shots and I knew the team was confident in me.

Campo Linda head coach Steven Day’s goal was to improve the team’s overall defense and they have given up five fewer points a game this season. "Defense was the key to our victory, holding Claremont to 13 points," said Day. "We gave up a lot of size but we did well on the defensive boards. We played good defense with all five guys working together. When you go for the right things on defense and don’t make mistakes, the other team is going to struggle to score."

Campo Linda came into the game having played in 14 games that had been decided by five points or fewer which helped against Gram. "We’re a young team," said coach Day, "but a pressure cooker for younger players to match games. Even though we were down in some games, we’ve been doing a better job closing games this season."

Campo Linda was slated to play in the first round of CIF State Playoffs against Sierra High School on March 5 at Campo Linda, after press time.

Miramar

Miramar made a major turnaround from last season improving their CIF record in 2018 in a 39-31 record this season, highlighted by a victory over Campo Linda in the regular season and making it to the second round of the NSC playoffs.

Miramar head coach Wayne Hunter pointed out that the Matadors were going to be an aggressive team that was going to try to get the ball and get it out every game. He was true to his word — it was fun coaching this group. We were one of the best defensive teams in the Bay Area allowing just over 40 points per game.

Hunter gave much of the credit to the team’s success to senior captain Jayson Fernbach (16.5 gpp 3 assist 2 rebounds) "Jayson really improved this year and was a great leader and played for the rest of the team," said he. "He’s a 6’0 student that the players followed." With only six players from last year’s roster Hunter had a number of underclassmen step up. "We had a lot of talent that really stepped up. Our team had a lot of chemistry. They were a very coachable group that bought into our system and really knew how we ran our offenses." Hunter was coming off of Nip Obalah’s replace Fernbach next season. "This can be a special class as our point guard. I’m looking forward to next season and I look forward to the matadors going places," said Hunter. "Nip filled the starting position and we are very excited to have him lead the matadors next season."

This was a team that played hard right to the end of the season. The Dons closed the season with two big wins from which Henk tied great satisfaction — "Defeating College Park 67-65 after losing to them earlier in the season by over 20 points and then beating Las Lomas 65-43 on senior night, the first time I beat my former team was a great way to end the season and it is certainly something to build on.

Hendt is counting on the core of sophomores (Scott Bueso, Solomon Atis- dusman, Joe Carrillo, Austin Kinnison) on this year’s team to be the foundation of next year. "Scott was a captain this year. He played with such enthusiasm and joy, he’s a pleasure to coach. He is confident and proud and is not afraid of the moment. With improved defense and having the ball to the back court, he will be a complete player. Not only that, he is a positive influence on and off the court and is involved in leadership and extra-curricular activities at school. He embodies what we look for in a student-athlete." Carrillo was the fourth leading scorer and was second on the team in rebounds and Kinnison will continue to provide good height.

Antunes was the most improved player award after starting as a backup all season. "Jackson scored 20 points in the victory over College Park," said Henk. "He has an aggressive, fast ball mentality and is a top competitor. He played with no fear. I’m looking for the sophomore to have a good offseason.

Henk has already set a goal for next season: "We will have to be able to match up and beat Campo Linda."
Lamorinda boys soccer wrap-up

...continued from Page C1

The Deans will lose seven seniors – out of 25 roster members – but will have most of their defenders coming back along with both goalkeepers. Curtis expects great things from senior Will Eastley, who will return for his senior season, and back-up Devor Medellin, who will be a junior next year. The Deans gave up only 7 goals in their 12 league matches.

Curtis looks forward to next year, saying "There is a lot of talent returning along with some strong support coming up from the freshmen and junior varsity who should incorporate well into the team."

Miramonte (9-4-5, 6-2-2 league)

Although finishing in the middle of the pack in the Diablo Foothill League, Miramonte head coach Massim Ahmadizadeh focused on tough games against the top three teams in the league – Las Lomas, Cam- polinillos, and Ignacio Valley – as indicators of its competitive nature this year.

They were one of only two teams to beat Camplinillos in league, and they also put up a strong battle against (No. 1) Alhambra in the NCS quarterfinals, losing by a 1-0 score.

Ahmadizadeh, in his fifth year at the varsity helm, said the team did well to get to the NCS tournament, and feels it was a strong returning squad to continue the program’s success.

Leading the team this year were seniors Cesar Bostrom, a d VRW and student assistant, credits with being “a great distributor with a tremendous work ethic running our possession style game,” and Luca Arger, another 4-year varsity member who transferred to Miramonte this year. "Both Cesar and Luca brought the right mentality to the game along with senior Yoni Malchar who was an inspiration. We will miss them along with other graduating seniors Charlie McKey, Eric Hellmann, and Samuel Mercerstein.”

Jahan Rezae Beizadi was the team’s leading scorer (10 goals, 4 assists) and was named First Team All-League and the team’s offensive MVP. While Simon Nowakowski, a sophomore, made Second Team All-League and was the team’s overall MVP. Hellmann was named Defensive MVP and All-League Honorable Mention.

Ahmadizadeh mentioned other strong returning players for next year, including juniors Giovani Sponolis and Cayden Weismann, and sophomores Finley Jackson, Gregory Re- dwood, and Armin Asfar. Asfar was named the Most Improved player.

"We look forward to the future and hope for more players to come on board and contribute to the culture we’ve built in the program," says Ahmadizadeh.

St. Perpetua’s 6th grade American girls Claim League Championship

Submitted by Jane Smith

The St. Perpetua 6th grade girls basketball team were the West Foothills CYO League Champions on Feb. 24. They were the only team from St. Perpetua (boys and girls) to go undefeated through league play.

St. Monica 8th grade American girls win CYO Championship

Submitted by Eric Yahu

In a rematch of last year’s championship, the St. Monica eighth grade American girls basketball team beat the intvalers by a 64-44 rout, extending its narrow lead to 17 points in the deciding match."

The rallies resulted in a 27-27 lead behind some 8-point shooting and defense. The St. Monica girls found themselves behind 32-23 with five minutes to go after a 24-0 run by the intvalers. They gradually creeping away at the lead, the intervalers scored the game-winning basket on a short jumper with 20 seconds to go before putting their last-ditch, but successful, effort to bring the score to 27-27.

From left: Nina Wang, Camille Yah, Anna Moreardi, Charlotte Arnould, Kylie Williams, Cato McManus, Alius Cummins, and Ava Garcia.

Submitted by Paradi Mirmirani

8th grade Santa Maria girls are the CYO basketball National Division Champions

Submitted by Brian Ames

Girls basketball Blitz team wins tournament

From left: coach Paul Lim, Stella Simmonds, Grace Liu, Eva Logan, Charlotte Forman, Violet Hampel, Tahira Mwanda, Lauren Lacour, Nellie Lamason, coach Eric Lamason.

Submitted by Paradi Mirmiri

8th grade Santa Maria girls are the CYO basketball National Division Champions

Submitted by Paradi Mirmirani

After an undefeated regular season, the Santa Maria CYO girls basketball team won their playoff and finals games over the Feb. 23 weekend. They were shut in the last game of their CYO basketball careers the next day.

From left: coach Paul Lim, Stella Simmonds, Grace Liu, Eva Logan, Charlotte Forman, Violet Hampel, Tahira Mwanda, Lauren Lacour, Nellie Lamason, coach Eric Lamason.

Submitted by Paradi Mirmirani

8th grade Santa Maria girls are the CYO basketball National Division Champions

Submitted by Paradi Mirmirani

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Tidying up for spring

This can feel overwhelming and many of us do not have the time to tackle our home all at once. But not to worry, Kondo encourages you to do what you can if you can’t do it all in one day.

2. Visualize the destination

Before you start tossing things, take the time to visualize what your ideal lifestyle would be. Create a list of what you want your home to look and feel like. How do you want to live in your home? How do you want others to feel when they enter your home. Instead of just wishing “I want an organized and clean house” set a more emotional goal such as “I want to walk through my home and feel inspired, energized” or “I want to live in a zone of creativity.”

It sounds silly, but KonMari teaches that the more emotion you can bring will help you accurately visualize the home and lifestyle you want.

3. Determine if the item “sparks joy”

Kondo’s lessons show that in focusing on what does not make you happy, you’re only inviting unhappiness into your life. If you look around your home and focus on what you “don’t” like in your home, you are only creating more negativity.

Instead, focus on what you love. What brings you joy? What makes you smile when you see it or what item brings about a positive memory when you look at it. By highlighting the items that bring you joy, the unenjoyed merely fall to the wayside.

Pick up an item, touch it and ask yourself if it “sparks joy” in your life. If not, set it aside.

KonMari states that you must touch every single item before you get rid of it. This is not the time to bring “rational thinking” into the mix.

... continued on Page D4
Lamorinda home sales recorded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Last reported</th>
<th>Lowest amount</th>
<th>Highest amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAFAYETTE</td>
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<td>MORAGA</td>
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<td>ORINDA</td>
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Home sales are compiled by CalResource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California Resource. Neither Cal Resource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

3246 Park Lane, $2,060,000, 4 Bdrms, 4422 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 01-23-19,
Previous Sale: $1,866,000, 12-28-18

MORAGA

208 Sandringham Drive, $1,211,000, 3 Bdrms, 1923 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 01-23-19

ORINDA

9 Abbott Court, $1,503,000, 4 Bdrms, 2570 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 01-14-19
73 Brookwood Road #8, $688,000, 2 Bdrms, 1020 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 01-24-19,
Previous Sale: $478,000, 07-01-14
429 El Toyonal, $1,512,000, 5 Bdrms, 4159 SqFt, 2008 YrBlt, 01-24-19,
Previous Sale: $1,425,000, 10-04-17
5 La Noria, $2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 3309 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 01-23-19,
Previous Sale: $2,300,000, 12-17-18
22 Loma Vista Drive, $980,000, 2 Bdrms, 1521 SqFt, 1934 YrBlt, 01-16-19,
Previous Sale: $532,500, 10-01-90
As the calendar turns to March we hope that most of the Winter rain is behind us and the sun will start to shine. The weekend after super bowl is the unofficial start of the Spring selling season and initial results are in. So far there have been few surprises and the market has picked up from where it ended last Fall.

Recently remodeled, commute friendly homes with functional yards continue to push the market forward. With a strong economy and a shortage of quality contractors, home buyers are still willing to pay a premium for homes that are move-in ready. Evidence of this are two of our recent listings that each generated four strong offers above asking with minimal contingencies.

Homes that need updating or homes in less desirable locations are taking longer to sell and are experiencing price reductions. Rising interest rates, the new Tax Plan and stock market volatility has led home buyers to be cautious with homes that do not check all their boxes. We expect this trend to continue in 2019 as home preparation, professional staging and a personalized marketing plan are critical for those looking to sell their home.

A wild card factor for the market for the second half of the year could be the new wealth generation from certain San Francisco based tech companies that are rumored to IPO in the near future. With names like Uber, Lyft, Airbnb, Pinterest and Slack going public it would provide additional liquidity to potential home buyers.

We look forward to hearing from you with your real estate questions.

... continued from Page D1

Focus on how you “feel” about the item. Let your emotions guide you on determining if you are going to keep an item or not.

4. **Tidy by category, not location**
   Most people store items that fall into the same “category” in various locations. For example, you probably have clothes in your closet, under your bed and in your dresser. So instead of tackling a closet or a dresser, tackle your clothes first. Pull out every single piece of clothing you own and lay it out in another room on the floor.

5. **Tidy In Order**

Kondo has come up with the ideal order in which you should tidy up. Start with clothes, then books/magazines, then papers, next Komono (misc. stuff) and finally sentimental items.

Separate everything out from each category and then into subcategories, which will make the process even easier. For example clothes can be subdivided into seasons. Books and magazines divided into “read” and “not yet read.” And if you are anything like me, the magazine piles are larger than the clothing piles! (It’s a sickness, for sure).

... continued on Page D12
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FINDING THE Right FIT
Tidying up for spring

... continued from Page D4

As you are sorting and “feeling” items make sure to have a trash bag handy to toss items to keep you from hanging onto them “just in case.” If you struggle with an item, set it aside and come back to it. If you still wrestle with getting rid of an item because “it’s still good” or “Great Aunt Myrtle gave me that,” why not consider passing it onto someone else who might enjoy it. Shhh! We won’t tell Aunt Myrtle!

Hopefully these tips inspired you to get your KonMari on this weekend! And if not, do what I do; watch a few episodes of “Hoarders” on A&E to get you in the mood!

As the Owner and Principal Designer of Lamorinda-based Amanda Carol Interiors, Amanda Eck believes your home’s interior should be both approachable and well-appointed. She often asserts, “Beauty is a necessity.”

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Cynthia Brian’s Gardening Guide for March

Petal power

“Blossom by blossom the spring begins.” – AC Shinburne

By Cynthia Brian

Even on the darkest, dreariest, rainiest day, looking out my dining room window to my ever-blooming hillside garden gives me great joy. For the past two months, the daffodils and cyclamen have been in full bloom, now joined by the radiant pink blossoms of the Italian white peach tree, the purple fronds of lavender, and the delicate periwinkle flowers of vinca minor. My Meyer lemon tree is bursting with bright yellow fruit complementing the happy throats of the narcissi. Shamrocks are preparing their performance for St. Patrick’s Day while the crocus and hyacinths are already popping. The petals are powered!

Spring is just around the corner, making this a great time to start thinking about sprucing up your garden. With just a little effort, you can make your entire property bloom! Even if you think you don’t have a green thumb, try these quick and affordable gardening tips with easy ideas to suit every budget.

• Continue to pull weeds as they sprout. If you have a steep hillside, it is probably best to leave the weeds in place until the rains have halted to prevent erosion and mudslides.

... continued on Page D16
The choice is simple.

Village. Of course.
Cynthia Brian’s Gardening Guide for March

Petal power

Although some people are allergic, Acacia trees explode with color.

... continued from Page D14

• Clean up existing plant beds by removing overgrown plants. Rake the leaves, adding them to your compost pile. This will make everything look neat and organized, and will allow your beautiful bushes and colorful petals to bask in all of their glory.

• Prune shrubs. Keep to a natural shape, avoiding turning them into a ball or square shape. Overgrown shrubs can invade walkways and patios as my boxwoods were doing. When pruned and tamed they look classic and sophisticated, making a simple dressing for your yard and garden.

• Trim tree branches that hang too low and create hazards. A low tree branch not only gets in the way of walkways, it also poses the risk of falling, hitting or scratching someone. Low tree branches also serve as fire ladders helping to flame a blaze.

• Create a welcoming entrance with a couple of large containers filled with multihued plants. One of my peach trees is in a pot and it is blooming now. Bright colors are fun and inviting, and having them placed at the entrance makes guests feel welcome. Containers filled with living greens create the statement that your home is well kept and cared for.

• Herbs cascading from a raised bed or a pot located outside your kitchen are utilitarian. My rosemary spills over a nearby wall and I have parsley, sage, and chervil ready for snipping to add to my culinary concoctions.

... continued on Page D18
Oxalis or shamrocks grow between the rows of vines.

Last chance to prune your grapes.

Photos Cynthia Brian
Cynthia Brian’s Gardening Guide for March

... continued from Page D16

- If you plan to stay in your home for at least five years, consider adding a tree or two for significant impact. Bright saffron colored Acacia trees are blooming now and when their blooms are finished, the gray leaves offer intense interest. Trees keep homes cooler in the summer and offer you a place to rest in the shade. Before you purchase a tree, do your homework. Know how large the tree will get at maturity. Ask about its growing habits, root system, water consumption, flowers and/or fruits. You don’t want to block views or have too much shadow for you or your neighbors. If you like to grow your own fruit, you can create a personal orchard with all of your favorites. With fruiting trees, you’ll enjoy both flowers in spring and a crop to harvest. Plums and peach bloom this month. Cherry trees are filled with swollen buds.

- Check out seed packets at your local nursery. Do you want to have a wildflower garden? Attract pollinators like butterflies and bees? Plant a cutting garden? Seeds are relatively inexpensive and by scattering you’ll breathe excitement into your landscape. Make sure to read the instructions carefully as some seeds must soak overnight or be scratched before planting, a step you can’t afford to miss.

- On steep slopes, planting Pride of Madeira is a smart choice. It likes full sun, needs minimal water, if any, grows tall and wide, and produces beautiful clusters of purple-blue spikes inviting pollinators to visit. This Mediterranean favorite is deer resistant and does reseed. Plant at the back of your garden and make sure you have enough space for it as it matures into a very large specimen. Wear gloves when handling as the leaves can irritate skin.

- Install mulch to prevent weeds, retain moisture, and regulate temperature. A cool product that is worth investigating is called Landscape Rubber Mulch.

- Dress your landscape with ornamental grasses, bulbs and colorful annuals for a designer’s touch. Primroses and pansies mixed into a border are especially pretty. I tuck bulbs into my beds all year long in anticipation of a stellar surprise every month of the year.

- Add a bench, table, and loungers to key areas. As the sun rises and crosses the horizon, I like knowing that I can relax in different areas of my garden or enjoy a picnic outside in nature. Sitting spots make a garden more inviting and friendly.

- Birdbaths and fountains are essential elements to a balanced landscape offering a place to drink and splash for our feathered friends. If you have room, a pond with a recirculating pump adds an atmosphere of Zen.

- For additional elegance and privacy, install a trellis, gazebo, gate, or pergola and plant climbers such as the trumpet vine, clematis or a fragrant climbing rose.

- Last chance to prune grapevines and fall bearing fruit trees such as apple and pears.

- With rain showers still on the horizon, be prepared for blossoms and petals to be knocked to the ground. I collect the stalks and blooms that have been pummeled to create fashionable and pretty indoor arrangements.

- Continue to pick up the fallen camellia blossoms until there are no camellias left on your shrub or tree.

- Get ready for St. Patrick’s Day on March 17 by going green and buying a pot of shamrocks (Oxalis) for the table.

Gardens are set to explode with color as petals open to engage us in the forthcoming season of rebirth. The final days of winter have arrived and soon the warm breath of spring will empower us to start digging deeper.

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Cynthia Brian continues to pick up fallen camellia blossoms.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, raised in the vineyards of Napa County, is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3.
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