Budget Cuts Prompt Pink Slip Protests

By Andrea A. Firth

This passage of the State budget last month clarified the fiscal picture for public school districts across Lamorinda, and improved the outlook somewhat. Unfortunately, it was not sufficient to enable the districts to avoid issuing preliminary notices of terminations—pink slips—to several teachers and other certificated and classified staff.

Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) notified certificated staff representing 40.6 full-time positions—an improvement from the original list of 52.4 full-time positions facing layoffs when the District’s 2009-10 revenue deficit was projected to be over $5 million. In addition, about 17 classified employees (16.75 fulltime equivalents) may be on the list to receive layoff notices after the AUHSD Board meets on March 18.

Far fewer certificated and classified staff faced termination in Lamorinda’s kindergarten through 8th grade districts. However, teachers and staff working in the elementary and middle schools face the districts in the areas of environmental science, libraries, technology, music, physical education, and maintenance are at risk of losing jobs.

As school administrators continue to parse through the fine print, many aspects of the State budget remain unknown and will be determined. “In some ways it’s a moving target,” stated Kathy Bell, chief business officer for the Moraga Union School District (MUSD). “Everyday we are getting new information.”

The California legislature’s 2009 Budget Act is contingent on the passage of several propositions on the May ballot, some of which directly impact school funding such as establishing a Rainy Day Fund, amending Proposition 98, and borrowing from future State lottery profits. When and how much money districts will receive from the American Recovery Investment Act (a.k.a. the stimulus package) is also uncertain.

Each of the Lamorinda school districts anticipates receiving money and eagerly awaits a final read on the amount and date of arrival, yet none of the districts are quite ready to bank on it. The risk of the stimulus being un获批 off the table before reaching the district level remains a possibility.

... continued on page 9

Cut it back so the Trucks Can Get Through

By Andrea A. Firth

Shaders casting at THT, vegetation growth such as trees, shrubbery, and vines that block or control the passage of emergency vehicles on the narrow streets and roadways through Canyon, Moraga, and Orinda is a common problem, according to Fire Marshal Mike Mentink. “The vegetation overgrowth can damage the emergency vehicles and really slow us down,” states Mentink.

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) recently responded to a fire in a two-story residential structure up a narrow road in Canyon. Ladders stored on the outline of two of the MOFD trucks had brackets broken by overhanging vegetation, and the ladders fell to the roadside before the trucks reached the home. In this case, the MOFD firefighters were able to contain the fire with the equipment on hand and no one was hurt, but there is a real potential for the emergency effort to be impaired, explains Mentink.

... continued on page 9

Lamorinda’s Youth Baseball Season Begins

By Lucy Amaral

When nature cooperates nicely, offering up a sunny day for Lamorinda’s youth baseball Opening Day on March 7. Most of the fields may not have been play-ready, but there were no damp spots as teams were announced, anthems were played and first pitches were thrown. Boosting hundreds of boys and girls in each league, Moraga Baseball Association (MBA), Orinda Baseball Association (OBA), and Lafayette Little League (LLL) started their seasons off with festivals, jamborees and thunderous applause.

... continued on page 21
City Housing Element Processing Continues

By Cathy Tyson

Although it hasn’t been final-
ized, last week the City Coun-
cil discussed a draft of the revis-
ald Housing Element. After a presenta-
tion by Planning and Building Man-
ger Niroop Srivatsa, and hearing public comment, they gave it a green light and had it sent to State Department of Housing and Com-

munity Development for review. Once the review is complete, the Planning Commission and City Council will hold public hearings on the final draft.

“Every five to six years, the State Department of Operations and Community Development (HCD) requires local cities and counties to evalu-
ate the housing needs in the com-
munity, the barriers or constraints to providing that housing, and actions proposed to address these concerns,” said City Manager Steve Falke in a written statement.

“The State HCD also allows, through local Coun-

ties of Government, each locality’s Local Housing Element to include a sustainability category that the jurisdiction is to consider in the development of its Housing Element.”

Lafayette is obligated to pro-
vide the opportunity for a total of 36 units of very low income, low income and moderate income households to accommodate Re-
gional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) established by the HCD. California already requires that new developments identified as having 15 percent of the units designated as af-
fordable housing.

The City must “show the state that we have sufficient land available to fuel the development of af-
fordable housing,” said Srivatsa in his presentation. She also noted that the City has failed to actu-
ally build homes or reserve space for housing and that the state just wants to see there are no barriers or barriers in place.

What would be the repercus-
sions if the housing element was not sub-
mitted? “Funds could be with-
held by state and outside housing groups could go up,” said Srivatsa.

“There is an obligation to act as per the Lafayette General Plan to have the Housing Element.”

Lafayette

Power Lines Undergrounded

By Cathy Tyson

Lafayette Circuit City, also known as P.G. & E. and the City of Lafayette home to a number of very important and entities that are in place to maintain the power lines and distribute them to the homes and businesses in the community. This week, the City of Lafayette took a major step in the process of undergrounding the power lines in the area. The City of Lafayette has several projects underway to underground the power lines in the area, and the community is working towards making these projects a reality.

The City of Lafayette is moving forward with the process of undergrounding the power lines in the area in order to improve the appearance of the community and make it more attractive to residents and visitors. The City of Lafayette is committed to improving the appearance of the community and making it a more desirable place to live and work.

The undergrounding process is expected to be completed by the end of the year, and the City of Lafayette is working to ensure that the process is carried out in a safe and efficient manner. The City is also working to minimize the impact of the undergrounding process on the community, and is making every effort to keep residents informed of the progress being made.

The undergrounding of power lines is a major project for the City of Lafayette, and the City is working hard to ensure that it is carried out in a way that is safe, efficient, and beneficial to the community. The City is committed to making the area a more attractive place to live and work, and is working towards achieving this goal through the process of undergrounding the power lines.

Please send storyideas to storydesk@lamarindaweekly.com
Lamoninda Community

**Fire at the Hacienda de las Flores**

At press time, the cause has not been determined by Sophy Braccini

Pronounced: pot while driving, 3/5/09  A man who was driving a Toyota Avalon was pulled over for failing to stop at a stop sign in the Lamorinda area. According to the report, the driver was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence. At the scene, a breath test revealed a blood alcohol level of 0.08, which is above the legal limit of 0.08.

The second bill was later given out to a different student. The student is suspected of possessing a counterfeit bill; staff used a special ink pen on the surface of the bill, revealing it to be a counterfeit bill. The student is currently being investigated by the school's security staff.

**Sneak Out Without Parent's Permission**

A male aged 16 was reported to have left home without his parent's permission. The individual is suspected of possessing alcoholic beverage. An officer responded to the scene and the individual was found. He was cited for being in possession of alcoholic beverage.

**Bicycling Under 21**

A rider was served a male who appeared to be under 21 while riding a bicycle with a half liter can of Heineken beer under his arm. When the subject saw the officer, he tossed the beer in the parking lot and attempted to flee. He was arrested and cited for being in possession of alcoholic beverage.

**Marijuana Possession**

A female driver was contacted by police and her unopened, but still cold can of beer was handed over to the officer. He tossed the beer in the parking lot and attempted to flee. He was arrested and cited for being in possession of alcoholic beverage.

**Passenger Car**

A female driver was served a male who appeared to be under 21 while riding a bicycle with a half liter can of Heineken beer under his arm. When the subject saw the officer, he tossed the beer in the parking lot and attempted to flee. He was arrested and cited for being in possession of alcoholic beverage.

**Moraga Hires a Consultant to Help File its Housing Element**

By Sophy Braccini

L. J. Nicholus, chief of planning services for the City of Moraga, announced that the city has hired a consultant to help file its housing element. The consultant will be working on a schedule that will allow multiple opportunities for public comment and agency questions. The Planning Commission is recommending hiring the consultant to help file the housing element as close as possible to the deadline.

**Spectacular Inauguration of New Moraga’s Postmaster**

By Sophy Braccini

The inaguration of Cina Kreisel, the new Postmaster, was held at the Post office. The event was well attended and the new Postmaster was introduced. The ceremony was followed by a reception and the new Postmaster was presented with a plaque.

**Upcoming Sunday Mornings at WSC**

Willow Spring Church

1675-1689 School Street
Moraga, CA 94556

(925) 376-3550

Sunday Service Times:
Prayer: 8:00am - 8:30am
Community Bible Study: 9:00am
Operation Blue: 9:30am - 10:00am
Family Worship: 11:00am
Contemporary: 11:00am
Traditional: 11:00am
Contemporary: 12:00pm
Traditional: 12:00pm
Contemporary: 1:00pm

Upcoming Sunday Mornings:
Sunday, February 8, 2009
- Baptism at Noon
- Midweek Ministry Night (Youth)
- Midweek Ministry Night (Adults)

Worship: 10:00am - 11:00am
Blas Kids Club 6pm
Blast Kids Club 6pm
STARS (Youth) 7pm
STARS (Adults) 7pm

**Lamorinda Weekly Calendar**

Town Council: 7:30pm
Monday, March 23
Location: Lamorinda Community Center
5500 Civic Drive
Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission: 7:30pm
Wednesday, March 25
Location: Lamorinda Community Center
5500 Civic Drive
Orinda, CA 94563

Park & Rec: 7:30pm
Wednesday, March 25
Location: Lamorinda Community Center
5500 Civic Drive
Orinda, CA 94563

Lamorinda Fire Station
800 Marion Way
Orinda, CA 94563

The next Lamorinda Community Calendar will be published on April 6. Please send all information to Sophy Braccini at SophyB@lclaw.com or call 925-258-9091 x120.

**Discount Rates**

Without discount service.

15% off for new customers.

10% off for regular customers.

Marianne Salerno, Agent
925-254-3030

The People at Willow Spring Church are inspired to excellence and committed to others.

“Work with God to build effective people who are inspired to excellence and committed to others.”

**War Against Prop. 8**

March 21st
“Working With God: The Our Partnership of Christianity, 2”

April 12th:
“Resurrection Power: What Difference Does It Make?”

“Grace as opposed to cunning...not effort”

“Pastor Brad, GodThoughts, Volume 1*

**ELENA HOOD**

REAL ESTATE GROUP

1280 Moraga Way

Orinda, CA 94563

www.86SandersRanchRd.com

**Upcoming Sunday Morning at WSC**

- Asian Noodle Class, 4/15
- Pastor Brad, GodThoughts, Volume 1*

**Upcoming Events at WSC**

Upcoming Sunday Mornings At WSC

**Lamorinda Weekly Calendar**

**Out of the Colorado jungle...**

Lamorinda has a fire to fight. In the coming months, a major development project will be under way in the area. Firefighters are on alert to accommodate the development of new housing and residential income housing. Firefighters are on alert to accommodate the development of new housing and residential income housing.

“Berkeley has a fire to fight.”

**Spectacular Inauguration of New Moraga’s Postmaster**

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**Miner Road Workways May Be Major Disruption**

By Andrea A. Firth

Lombardy Lane as part of a trenchless pipeline project to support the future water demand of Phase II is planned for scheduled for 2012, will include the construction of a new pump station and a new 3,000-foot main new pipeline.

Because Miner Road is a main road, and life is on no shoulders, closing the road to all traffic is necessary for EBMUD to work in this section. Drivers will be redirected to detour routes on Camino Sobrante and then Charles Hill Road as the work progresses. The City has requested EBMUD develop work extended basins between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on weekdays to expedite the completion of the project. Outside of the workdays work hours (after 5 p.m. and up to 6 a.m.) and on weekends, Miner Road will be re-opened as a two-way traffic. The project will move forward from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the project réalisé on weekends or possibly even incomplete.

**Proposed Detours**

The following improvements will occur about one day a week outside of high-traffic times. Detours on Miner between Camino Pablo and Oak Arbor Roads will occur. Traffic on Miner between Camino Sobrante and Lombardy Lane as part of a two-way traffic. The project will move forward from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the project réalisé on weekends or possibly even incomplete.

**Residential and Painting Services**

**City of Orinda**

**City Council 7pm**
December 24

**Planning Committie 7pm**
December 24

**City Hall**

**Tuesday, March 24**

**Mural, Community Hall**

It is a good idea to be prepared for possible extension of the project. Outside of the workdays work hours (after 5 p.m. and up to 6 a.m.) and on weekends, Miner Road will be re-opened as a two-way traffic. The project will move forward from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the project réalisé on weekends or possibly even incomplete.

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The Odd Couple: Female Version Opens March 26th at THT

By Andrea A. Firth

Town Hall Theater's (THT) Artistic Director Clive Worsley has had little time to bask in the tremendous reviews the company received for their recent production of Rabbit Hole. He is deep into rehearsals for Town Hall's next production, The Odd Couple: Female Version, for which he is directing both adult and teen casts.

Worsley, who has a 1980's, starts with friends gathered in a bar, and ‘The dialogue between the adults observe the teens at work as the adults deliver a line a certain way. “The dialogue between the adults, there is in progress.

The site originally proposed for the Center, the basement under Europa Restaurant, is still under negotiation with the building's owner. Concerns have been raised regarding parking and the location of the building under Europa. Residents who have suggested a site or two near the center for this event, or opportunities, approximately $500,000.

Worsley, who has a long history of training actors to perform in movies and television, has been looking for eight teen actors who will shadow the adults to perform in the mainstage production and understudy. Worsley is in progress.

The next community meeting will be held May 12th at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center. The fundraising committee's next meeting will be held in May. The committee is interested in community sponsorship.

For more information on the Teen Center or the teen auxiliary, please contact Beth Eliason at eliason4@pacbell.net if you are interested in attending. For information on the Star Pilates Clinic, please go to www.starpilates.com. The committee is interested in sponsors.

For a game of Trivial Pursuit, set in the 1980's, starts with friends gathered in a bar, and ‘The dialogue between the adults observe the teens at work as the adults deliver a line a certain way. “The dialogue between the adults deliver a line a certain way. The play opens on the mainstage Wednesday, March 18, 2009.

Lamorinda Teen Center Makes Progress

Submitted by Beth Eliason

A meeting was held at the Orinda Community Center on a recent Tuesday night to update the community on the proposed Lamorinda Teen Center. Teens and adults on the Planning and Implementing Committees spoke to the community on the proposed Teen Center and the need to raise enough money for the renovation. Residents who have suggested a site or two near the center for this event, or opportunities, approximately $500,000.

The first fundraiser will be a Battle of the Bands being planned by teen volunteers on the Event Planning Committee. The tentative date for this event is May 30th. For more information on the Teen Center or the teen auxiliary, please contact Beth Eliason at eliason4@pacbell.net if you are interested in attending.

The site originally proposed for the Center, the basement under Europa Restaurant, is still under negotiation with the building's owner. Concerns have been raised regarding parking and the location of the building under Europa. Residents who have suggested a site or two near the center for this event, or opportunities, approximately $500,000.

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Convenient Monday through Saturday service.

Inflated tires

My mechanic told me my tires are dry inflated.

Correct conventional and synthetic oil grades

OUSD Parcel Tax Passes

By Andrea A. Firth

The Lafayette Parcel Tax Committee (OUSD District) Parcel Tax Proposal passed with almost unanimous support and nearly 60% of voters participated in the March 3rd Special Election.

After what he describes as an scary few months, he went down the campaign trail, and the Parcel Tax Committee Co-Chair (and City Council Member) Steve Glazer’s dominant feeling the morning after the election was relief. “This was quite an uphill battle,” said Glazer, “but the utmost thank you that our Community has shown again how much we love our Lafayette schools,” he added. De- scribing his strategy, the Co-Chair Riki Sorenson (who also serves time as the OUSD Governing Board President), Glazer pre- sented Lafayette a plan that included very few votes needed to pass a parcel tax to raise more than a few hundred votes. Although the majority of rallies and events were by media Lafayette Parcel Tax Committee’s third Co-Chair Don Molloy, organized an army of 90 volunteers who went door to door in the rainy Tuesday, where an inch and half of rain had fallen on the Orinda streets, to get out the remaining twenty percent of the parcel tax that previously failed with the requisite 2/3 voter approval.

The new parcel tax will cost Orinda residents $125 annually and generate an additional $870,000 in revenue that will provide for the Charles Hill project is to be a real benefit to our town. The parcel tax passes also thanks to a significant vote from Orinda’s residents, states Sorenson. “We are not likely to see the parcel tax money at once to solve a problem. We are more likely to see it over a period of time. This is how it is going to be balanced historically,” she adds.

Positive Lafayette Bike Park Stakeholders Meeting

continued from page 2

The idea is to provide a real benefit to our town. The parcel tax passes also thanks to a significant vote from Orinda’s residents, states Sorenson. “We are not likely to see the parcel tax money at once to solve a problem. We are more likely to see it over a period of time. This is how it is going to be balanced historically,” she adds.

You May Want to Join a team, or get more info, called by the call Watanabe’s Sports

I could really pack in quite a few jumps. This facility has a nice slope, great con- tains, when we look at a park, that’s why it’s important to have flow and circulation,” said Lopez.

He emphasized the im- portance of getting input from stakeholders at the very beginning level as to what specifically they want in a bike park, similar to the Lafayette Bike Park. Atten- ders were handed a Design Development Public Involvement Sur- vey to determine what they would like to see in the park.

In particular, local merchants will be pleased that there will be a “constructive and positive environment for them to engage in, that gets their kids to practice in a safe environment.” In addi- tion, perhaps local merchants will be pleased that there is a proposed bike rental option.

More information can be found at BikePG&E.org.

The City Council plans to ad- dress the PG&E plans and discus- 

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More information can be found at BikePG&E.org.
Announcing the NEW Alta Bates Summit Women’s Health Center in Lafayette.

State of the art digital imaging mammography screenings and pubic health physical therapy services are now available. We are dedicated to your convenience, comfort and health. Surrounded by peaceful views of Mt. Diablo and original art by Jesel Miller, you can enjoy an environment created especially for you. Come in for a tour or call for an appointment: 925-963-9129

JOIN US FOR OUR PREMIER EVENT:
“Sex After 50: Keep the Fires Burning”
A conversation with Risa Kagan, MD
March 26th, 6:30-8:30pm
Alta Bates Summit Women’s Health Center in Lafayette
Lafayette Mercantile Center - 3595 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Suite 350
Call 510-869-6737 to reserve your spot
Lamorinda’s Religious Services

St. Anselm’s Episcopal Church
A Loving Community
Sunday Services:
8 and 10 AM
Active Youth Program
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 784-7400, www.stanselm.org

St. Giles Episcopal Church of Moraga
Worshiping at St. Mary’s College Chapel. All are welcome at our services.
Saturday: 10 AM Sunday: 6:30, 8 & 10 AM
784-4760  •  www.blessedbethesd.org

Willow Church
Weekly Activities:
Wednesday Community Bible Study @ 10am REVERB (youth) @ 7pm
Friday Night BLAST! Kids Club @ 6pm
Saturday Night Cataly (Young Adults) @ 7-10pm

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
For welcome and Sunday School up to 2010. 11-AM Informal Testimony Meeting, Wed 7:30-8:30 PM
14 Orinda Way, www.christianscienceconcord.org

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Orinda, 254-3422
8:15 AM: Traditions Worship Service 9:15 AM: Coffee Fellowship
9:40 AM: Education for all ages 10:30 AM: Contemporary Worship Service
Chirikivai available for ages 5 and younger
HOLY WEEK SERVICES
Palm Sunday, April 5
Regular Worship Schedule Maundy Thursday, April 9, Worship Service 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday Service, April 10, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Easter Sunday, April 12, Services 8:15, 9:30 and 11:00 am
Chirikivai for ages 5 and younger 8:00 am; 12:00 noon
Easter Breakfast: 8:30 – 11:00 am

Our Savior’s Lutheran Church (ELCA)
1055 Carol Lane, Lafayette
Services:
Sunday mornings at OSCL: Coffee Fellowship
Education Hour: 9:15-10:20 am
Contemporary Worship: 10:30 am

www.lamorindaweekly.com  •  (925) 377-9797
Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Lamorinda’s Religious Services

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

BUSHVELD CONSTRUCTION
Specializing in all types of outdoor projects (patios, decks, retaining walls, drainag, fireplaces, kitchens, etc.). Proficient in solving structural problems.

OFix/Fax: 925.465.4396 Call: 925.989.3308 omkudrnac@astound.net

Letters to the Editor

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 may have the number of words reduced for verification purposes only, and should be 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for legal considerations.

email: lamorindaweekly@comcast.net

Dear Editor,

BUSHVELD CONSTRUCTION

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A Loving Community
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Active Youth Program
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Friday Night BLAST! Kids Club @ 6pm
Saturday Night Cataly (Young Adults) @ 7-10pm

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
For welcome and Sunday School up to 2010. 11-AM Informal Testimony Meeting, Wed 7:30-8:30 PM
14 Orinda Way, www.christianscienceconcord.org

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Orinda, 254-3422
8:15 AM: Traditions Worship Service 9:15 AM: Coffee Fellowship
9:40 AM: Education for all ages 10:30 AM: Contemporary Worship Service
Chirikivai available for ages 5 and younger
HOLY WEEK SERVICES
Palm Sunday, April 5
Regular Worship Schedule Maundy Thursday, April 9, Worship Service 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday Service, April 10, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Easter Sunday, April 12, Services 8:15, 9:30 and 11:00 am
Chirikivai for ages 5 and younger 8:00 am; 12:00 noon
Easter Breakfast: 8:30 – 11:00 am

Our Savior’s Lutheran Church (ELCA)
1055 Carol Lane, Lafayette
Services:
Sunday mornings at OSCL: Coffee Fellowship
Education Hour: 9:15-10:20 am
Contemporary Worship: 10:30 am

Have you ever heard a baby bird fall out of its nest? Our nest was on a power pole.

Katy: "Winston Churchill..." What a brilliant idea... Our nest was on the top of a telephone pole. Katy: "Absolutely not!"

Katy: "None of my family or friends will ever believe that I have ever seen a deer."

Katy: "Wow... Did you ever have an experience like that?"

Katy: "I have been thinking about what you said."

Katy: "They paid their full last Devotion for a similar Noble Cause!!"
**Good Samaritan Mallin Strakes Again**

By Cathy Tyson

Futures Explorers Community Service Class shrugs off a line of the vent things and enlisted Tyson into its route. His plan was to collect winter clothing, especially coats, from Postal employees, encouraging them to clean out their closets, and donate them to Futures Explorers Incorporated, a program for adults with developmental disabilities. The usable wardrobe,” he explains. This extra road space can be critical in a number of emergency scenarios, for example, if two vehicles need to pass or in an event evacuation necessary. “Trimming back vegetation is an effective way to ensure access to your property in case of an emergency,” states Mentink.

**Remodeled** Refreshed! Remarkable! 1948 CHARMER with 2009 UPGRADES! 122 Crestview Drive, Orinda

**Cut it back so the Trucks Can Get Through**

**... continued from page 1**

He also notes overhanging limbs and shrubs can break off the side of the road,而导致 MOFD vehicles which require the vehicles to be out of service until the lights can be repaired.

The MOFD guideline for the maintenance of vegetation on or near roads is the provision of Clearing Vegetation, trees, and shrubs on property and the public right-of-way abutting their property.

With the narrow roads we have, keeping the vegetation trimmed back extends the usable roadway,” he explains. This extra road space can be critical in a number of emergency scenarios, for example, if two vehicles need to pass or in an event evacuation necessary. “Trimming back vegetation is an effective way to ensure access to your property in case of an emergency,” states Mentink.

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A few months ago he gave first aid to a woman who had fallen on the sidewalk in front of the store. She was bleeding from a cut on her forehead, and he helped her until the ambulance arrived.

Readers may recall that a few months ago, a toaster caught fire on the kitchen counter. The fire was quickly extinguished by the local fire department, and no one was injured.

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LYNN'S TOP FIVE

New Tax Laws from a Planner's Perspective

By Lynn Ballou, CFP, EA

You’ve read and will be reading much in the coming weeks about how the newest Curtis bill signed February 13th of this year by President Obama will change your life. Entitled the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, it is in fact the first in what promises to be a very busy year in tax preparation.

Entitled the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, it is in fact the first in what promises to be a very busy year in tax preparation.

1) $5000 Energy Credit: You don’t have to use the funds immediately, but you could certainly use a newer more energy efficient air and heating system. If you use your own contractor, you can’t be too close in time. Let’s encourage you to get going. You can receive a credit of 10% up to $5000 on your federal tax return by property such as that you put into service AFTER 2/19/09. As Linda Lallotta pointed out to me the “energy credit also applies to certain home improvements, energy efficient exterior doors, windows not currently existing, and insulation. A FAVORABLE dimension of this new law? No income limit, so highly compensated folks can benefit too! And, if you avoid your last lifetime energy credit in prior years, you are now still eligible. So highly recommend people to consider the opportunity to save on your taxes.

2) Unemployment Income – a tax exemption: This is a tax on the unemployment income in the great majority of states in this year only. It would not be responsible for the remaining 35 states that don’t have that income tax.

3) $2500 Hope Credit: This proposal was in prior years, such as 2007, no one claimed to be able to use this credit by filing their own return. But it was…a great year, weren’t we? And, even though this column:  The opinions voiced in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher, or any individual. Securities offered through FINRA/SIPC. Reach Lynn Ballou at lynn@ballouplum.com.

4) AMT – the Latest Patch: This is a patch that we hope you’ll get to see more frequently in the future. It’s called the AMT exemption amount. You are able to claim a certain amount of credits, which is currently subject to the AMT. The AMT exemption amount is a certain amount of exempt income from the AMT that is not subject to the AMT. The AMT exemption amount is non-itemized, and is subject to the AMT. If you are subject to the AMT, the AMT exemption amount will continue to be in this situation. This patch is not just for 2009, so the whole process starts over if nothing else is done. So, I guess we’ll see what we can get for 2010.

5) The College Board: Expansion of the Hope Credit: Many in the community are not able to use the college tuition income tax credit because of the new Energy Credit. They are able to save on your taxes.

So what’s coming down the line from Washington?

With that I will not do any tax hoovering last year might on your “to do” list.
A fire was on at woods, amberlight... a glowing... a cherry wood bar, and French wine greet us on a recent Wednesday night. (‘Dusse’), a French-American couple runs this place, and it’s a local favorite. In the bar at the Royale, the wines and the stools beyond were mine.

This is chief Philippe Chevalier’s... a little family run by its own灶 in the Venden Region of France, Chef Chevalier ustified the culinary world in his early teens and by 27 had earned the distinction of Executive Chef. His career took him through the Michelin-starred... of Paris (Pomme de Terre), St. Tropez, France, and the French West Indies. In 2002, he was... chefing at prestigious Chez Papa in San Francisco, resulted in the recognition of the Best French/Continental Restaurant in San Francisco by the Examiner. This whirl... an unassuming chef with seven months old... a good wine, it seems comforting, and... elegant and pleasant. Eric Lacombe, from Montrou... the music of France, is one of the several. I was... an example, as he explained that the MSR, which was prepared by the Los Angeles-based Burr Consul...ing firm, referred to the MSR as an urban area (this categorization is based on population density). Chevalier noted that with... the MSR’s coverage area... or suburban, as well... features of Paris (Maison Prunier), St. Tropez, St. Berthelemy, and the islands of Paris (Maison Prunier).

Chevalier is a man... his career path wound... Vendee Region of France, Chevalier entered the culinary world... sine experiences.

Philippe Chevalier Photos Linda U. Foley

Un, Deux, Trois—Voila!

By Linda U. Foley

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Un, Deux, Trois—Voila!
Playing Fair

The "extras" in home construction and who should pay for them

By William Marquand, AIA

(Part one of a three part series)

Building or remodeling a home is a high wire act for most home owners; challenging but rewarding. One thing is new to most home owners, and difficult to target: what is billed as normal, but normally add up can, these days, be dangerous. As homes become bigger and the credit crisis sets in, it is difficult to expand a budget to accommodate unforeseen expenses. On the other hand, building is exhillating. Every day you can see your daily envirions changing, which is a right for you and not a home for a previous generation. And today’s prices are the best in years.

Now, home construction is costly. There is the pressure of limited time. Some owners have had to sell the homes that they built because the sales prices remained low, they felt helpless to control them. Building takes lots of moving parts; there are many people, in your project, changes will need to be negotiated. Skill and experience is important, and is documented by our builders. The "extras" in home construction and who should pay for them can be very informal. Don’t be afraid of asking for more detail. Formal realistic agreements by signing a formal agreement. For remodeling I recommend forms by the American Institute of Architects. Whatsoever contract is used, make sure your base price is for a complete house, built to code. Include provisions for additions. When you must add work to the project and a methodical process for approving extra work.

For example

Let’s say you break ground and your contractor mentions in passing that he needs to charge for extra work on your foundation. He needs a legal brief, but the contract should describe it enough so that you can hold him to what was, or will be, provided. If you give a verbal go-ahead, to keep the project moving, that is okay, but make sure it is based on an all-inclusive, fixed amount, and is documented in writing.

Strengthening the deal

Next is the difficult part: who pays for it? You must get it in the written contract. There are pros and cons for both parties.

Don’t be afraid of asking for more detail. Formal realistic agreements by signing a formal agreement. For remodeling I recommend forms by the American Institute of Architects. Whatsoever contract is used, make sure your base price is for a complete house, built to code. Include provisions for additions. When you must add work to the project and a methodical process for approving extra work.

First, what exactly is the extra charge for? It should be described in writing. No one needs a legal brief, but the contract should describe it enough so that you can hold him to what was, or will be, provided. If you give a verbal go-ahead, to keep the project moving, that is okay, but make sure it is based on an all-inclusive, fixed amount, and is documented in writing.

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The Green Buddha: A Mother and Daughter Share the Attitude of Gratitude

By Sophie Bracinni

Along the avenue where Jennifer and Jocelyn Aldana live, you will see a T-shirt shop, a local coffee shop, and a movie theater. The Aldanas’ T-shirt shop, The Green Buddha, also is a non-profit organization that promotes early detection and Early Intervention, which is critical for the most success. "We buy our plain men’s tee-shirt. The women’s version is a limited edition crafted by young kids in Africa," said Jocelyn, "the proceeds from the sale of the shirts go to support our local non-profit organization that provides educational materials." The Aldanas decided to team up with the local multiple sclerosis support group to create a T-shirt fundraiser for early intervention and awareness. They are in the early stages of a fundraising campaign to support the organization in their area. "We want to be a part of something bigger than our business. We want to give back," said Jennifer, "we believe in the power of community and the power of T-shirts." The Aldanas plan to launch their 5th anniversary fundraiser at a local coffee shop on Saturday, March 14. A year after they opened their store, the Aldanas were able to launch their first successful fundraiser. "We are so grateful for the support of our community," said Jocelyn, "we are so grateful for the opportunity to share our message." The Aldanas are looking forward to their next fundraiser and they are excited to see what the future holds for their business. They believe in the power of community and the power of T-shirts. They are grateful for the support of their community and they are grateful for the opportunity to share their message. They are grateful for the opportunity to make a difference. They are grateful for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others. They are grateful for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others. They are grateful for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others. 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Del Oro Named Model Continuation High School
By Andrea A. Firth

One year isn’t just fifteen short days and a few weeks of summer break. It’s also the beginning of a life changing experience for many students. At Del Oro, a continuation school in the City of Auburn, this means the start of an educational journey that can change students’ lives. The students are currently at the high school level and will finish at the college level at the same time. Del Oro was one of the first model continuation high schools in the nation and is a haven for students who need an alternative education.

One of the key elements that make Del Oro stand out is its focus on helping students who have experienced failure or challenges in traditional schools. Del Oro offers a variety of resources and opportunities to help students succeed. In addition to academic services, Del Oro provides a supportive and caring environment that helps students feel comfortable and supported.

To receive an application or more information, please contact Geoff Zimmerman at (916) 743-7370. Applications are due by April 15, 2009.
Orindans Come Out in Support of the Wagner Ranch Nature Center, Again

By Andrea A Firth

The 5th grade Cali School Gym / Dance Workshop, Pack 12 from Wagner Ranch Elementary School recently compared their conservation project of building Mason Bee nesting boxes around the Wagner Ranch Nature Area in an effort to help reverse the decline of the bee population.

Pictured are the Cub Scouts along with naturalist Toris Jaeger and Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area president Steve Gentry.

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For a Personal Tour
Submit stories to storydesk@lamarinda weekly.com

In Other News...

A theater full of lucky elementary school students was treated to a special morning performance of Campolindo High School’s Beauty and the Beast on Monday. Julie Rudolph’s 5th grade class from Los Perales is pictured with Bronwyn Warzeniak (Madame de la Grande Bouche). Remaining performances are sold out.

In following up with OUSD Board President Riki Sanman after the meeting, she noted that the District’s Leadership Team (comprised of the Superintendent, Curriculum Director, and principals) and staff prioritized these areas for reduction in the budgeting process – computers, libraries and the environmental education program.

“The Board is committed to keeping libraries open, computers working, and the Nature Center open to students,” stated Sanman. “How will we do that is not yet known, but we have to make some changes. We are going to continue to look at all these programs to see how we can deliver them most cost-effectively.”

In the photo, musicians represented themselves at the 4th Annual OIS “World Premiere” Concert at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 20 in the OIS multipurpose hall (80 Ivy Drive in Orinda). Admission is free!

The instrumental music students of Orinda Intermediate School (OIS) under the direction of Mr. Greg Mazmanian will be performing pieces they have composed themselves at the 4th annual “World Premiere” Concert at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 20 in the OIS multipurpose hall (80 Ivy Drive in Orinda). Admission is free!

In the photo, musicians rehearse their original compositions (left to right): Colleen McCullough, Clara Restrepo, Hedy Maisn and Katherine Willett.

A theater full of lucky elementary school students was treated to a special morning performance of Campolindo High School’s Beauty and the Beast on Monday. Julie Rudolph’s 5th grade class from Los Perales pictured with performers Jackson Bengston (Beau), Hillary Fox (Belle), Bernard Roosevelt (Father), John Gospodin (Lumaf) and Brynner Watanuki (Madame de la Grande Bouche). Remaining performances are sold out.

LAMORINDA WEEKLY
Page: 15
www.lamorindaweekly.com 925-377-0977
Get your SMOG CHECK for $49.75 and we will donate $38 to MEF

Acalanes Schools Students Send Books to Prisoners
By Jean Follmer

A number of Acalanes juniors recently filled some of their required community service hours reading letters from prisoners to send books incarcerated throughout the United States. The students engaged in the volunteer activity in the Prisoners Literature Project (PLP) in Berkeley, which began as a grassroots organization on Breakdown by District
AUSD
State budget funds for the current school year created a $1.1 million problem for the high school district, which they can manage with re- strictions. “Having these reserves available to us enables middles of cuts of this magnitude” reported Learned. The District is facing a shortfall of $5.9 million for the 2009-2010 school year. Although over 57 percent will require layoffs, 43 percent will be funded. The AUSD’s current parcel rate, which contributes 17 mil- lion to the general fund, will expire in June, 2011. The AUSD Governing Board decided not to pass a special parcel tax on the June, 2009 ballot, discussions regarding budgeting for a revenue source are ongoing. NUSD
District could not decide how to allocate the $170,000 deficit for the 2009-10 fiscal year. Although the financial picture is dreary, the NUSD is planning to keep its enrol- lments stable in the next fiscal year in order to support school funding. Mukilteo School District (MUSD) annual cost of categorical funds from the State will enable it to fund roughly $500,000 in funding reductions in the cur- rent fiscal year. Mukilteo’s budget for the second half of the current fiscal year (which runs from July 1 through June 30, 2010), the budget analysts for MUSD, Mukilteo School District Union (MUSD) each presented a three-year fiscal projection to the Mukilteo Governing Board meetings.

Schools Celebrate Reading Seuss Style
By T.R. Andl

For elementary students in Lamorinda, the first week of March brought a birthday celebra- tion. Imagine if cake, however, stu- dents were served up with a side of reading. That’s exactly what happened when Dr. Seuss’ birthday was celebrated at many schools. The students were treated to the four corners of Seuss’ books. Pictures, quotes and even movie scenes popped up on the screens where they met the Cat in the Hat, Green Eggs and Ham, One Fish Two Fish and a whole host of other Seuss stories. PTA board members prepared their graphs displayed results at the Del Rey School Librarian Lisa Layden led a school assembly to teach students that reading was fun. "It’s the perfect opportunity for community members," she said. "It’s amazing to know that the books and letters you send will bring hope to peo- ple who need it the most." Smith said the prisoners were very grateful for the stu- dents. “I really enjoyed this pro- gram. I thought it was really beneficial because the prisoners are trying to get better and im- prove their life when they get out of prison,” she said. “I thought about it after we were done and I really think we did something that made a difference.” Cope agreed with Whitton. “I think, overall, it was really eye- opening for the students to see the accounts from the letters, and by sending books to each recipient we actually made a huge differ- ence. They were able to actually know that the books and letters you send will bring hope to peo- ple who need it the most.”
**Health Alternatives: The Alexander Technique**

By Kay Hogan, M.Ed.

The Alexander Technique is often mistaken for something called me -- I am an Alexander Teacher or Rolfer. Because she has reduced movement control and decision-making abilities. Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia in the elderly and affects about 18 million people worldwide—5 million in the U.S. alone. Although there's currently no cure for Alzheimer's disease, research is under way to find a new investigational medication or treatment option. If you’re 50 to 90 years of age and have a diagnosis of probable Alzheimer’s disease, you may be eligible to participate in the ICARA study.

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**Bocce Ball Players Caught Between Growth and Regulations**

By Sophie Braccini

When it comes to Bocce Ball, Dom Sidari cannot help but speak with great passion. The retired Moraga resident has been playing the game for many years and was at the origin of the Moraga Bocce Ball Club, now in its ninth year. Since the club has grown and the two bocce courts that were originally built at the Commons are no longer enough for the thirty-120 members, organized into twenty teams, that compete on a regular basis. In March of 2007, Sidari received a letter from the Town Engineer suggesting that the building of new courts be requested. This came from understanding that the cause of the game is great for fun and for my family and many of our members are playing it," says George Fisher, President of the Moraga Commons. The motivation for the work was an understanding of the possible benefits that the Alexander Technique can offer. For her symptoms, the handbook that she received when she started her work was recommended by a colleague. The technique is taught at the end of the lesson, and it is important for the patient to stand and be able to observe their body. Over time, the student will create awareness of how much tension is in their body. This is important for the patient because they can then work to reduce tension and improve posture. An Alexander lesson is forty-five minutes to an hour and is designed to improve posture and movement. Office managers, physicians, surgeons, actors, and athletes take lessons for better performance, but many people come to a lesson in order to improve their posture and general well-being. For more information go to www.alexandertechnique.org.

### For people with Alzheimer’s there’s no time to lose.

Alzheimer’s disease is a neurodegenerative disorder—a disorder in which brain cells are lost. It is characterized by progressive loss of memory and cognitive function, such as movement control and decision-making abilities. Alzheimer’s disease is the most common cause of dementia in the elderly and affects about 18 million people worldwide—5 million in the U.S. alone. Although there's currently no cure for Alzheimer’s disease, research is under way to find a new investigational treatment option. If you’re 50 to 90 years of age and have a diagnosis of probable Alzheimer’s disease, you may be eligible to participate in the ICARA study.

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Call today for a consultation.
The Crossroads Center Jewish Community Counseling Services has announced the grand opening of The Crossroads Center: Domestic Violence Counseling Resource Library. The Library is open to the public and free of charge. Visitors will find a variety of information and resources on the following topics: safety planning, emergency planning, violence, legal information, parenting, and family therapy. The Crossroads Center: Domestic Violence Counseling Resource Library is located at 29100 Doolittle Blvd. Suite 350, Richmond, CA 94804. For more information, call (510) 232-3460.

Lafayette Senior Services Event: 8th Annual Bay St. Lacrosse A 31 donation to the door would be appreciated. Call 768-2524-5509 to reserve a spot.

Bayfront Bids! Bidding will begin at 4:00pm and continue until the final price is met. All bidders must be registered and a deposit is required. For more information, call (510) 232-3460.

Lafayette Country Club
Sat. March 28, 12:30 pm
The Annual Bay Dress Giveaway will be held at the Lafayette Country Club. This event is open to high school girls who have financial need is required, just a valid town San Francisco. No proof of financial need is required, just a valid ID. Please bring one female companion to help you prepare. The event will feature gowns of all different colors, sizes, and styles. For more information, call (510) 232-3460.

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Natural Food
By Susie Iventosch

A few years ago, I made a trip to a small town in Northern France named Conflans. The month was July, I had a week off work, and I was ready to head to the beach to get away from it all. I took a shuttle bus from Paris and arrived in Conflans, a small town with a beautiful old church and a bustling market square. It was a hot day, and I saw a sign for an ice cream shop, so I decided to stop and try some of the local specialty, gelato. I ordered a scoop of pistachio and a scoop of dark chocolate, and I was immediately transported to a different world.

The ice cream was smooth and creamy, with a hint of nuttiness from the pistachios and a rich, chocolatey flavor from the dark chocolate. I savored every bite, savoring the moment. It was then that I realized that I had fallen in love with gelato. I knew I had to bring some home with me to share with my friends and family.

So, I asked the shopkeeper to let me know if they were going to be at the market the following week. Sure enough, they appeared, and I was able to purchase a large container of pistachio gelato. I brought it back to my hotel room and enjoyed it slowly, savoring every bite. It was a moment of pure joy, and I knew I had found something special.

From that moment on, I began to search for gelato shops wherever I traveled. I visited Italy, Greece, and even Japan, and I was never disappointed. Gelato was a part of my life, and I knew I had to learn how to make it for myself.

One day, I stumbled upon a recipe for homemade gelato in a cookbook I had purchased from a local bookstore. The recipe was simple, but it seemed to capture the essence of gelato that I had fallen in love with. I decided to give it a try and see how it turned out.

The recipe was for a basic vanilla gelato with a few additional ingredients. I followed the instructions carefully, and soon I had a container of fresh gelato in my kitchen. I was thrilled with the result, and I knew I had to share it with my friends.

I invited a few of my closest friends over for dinner, and I served them my homemade gelato with a variety of toppings. They were all impressed, and I felt a sense of pride knowing that I had created something special for them.

From that moment on, I knew that I wanted to share my love of gelato with the world. I began to experiment with different flavors, and I soon had a repertoire of gelato recipes that I was proud of. I would make gelato for friends and family, and I would also sell it at local events and markets.

Over the years, my gelato business grew, and I was able to open a shop in the heart of Conflans. I was able to share my passion for gelato with others, and I was able to bring joy to their lives.

I realized that gelato was more than just a sweet treat; it was a way of life. It was a way of connecting with others, of sharing joy, and of experiencing the world through a simple, delicious treat. And I knew that I would continue to make gelato for as long as I lived.
March 7, 2009

Lamorinda’s Youth Baseball Season Begins — continued from page 1

Speeches, first pitches and fis- tered the agenda for the morn- ing. The Campodoro varsity baseball team was introduced by their coach, Mark Lachout, who spoke of the importance of educa- tion first and sports second. There were some good-natured ribs between each camper once they intro- duced themselves and where they played. For a few, it took a moment or two before they knew they played in Lafayette, with some laughter and applause. 11-year-old Caleb Walsworth was just looking forward to playing ball. “The best part is that you get to make new friends with other people,” he said. “That’s why I’m here.”

Orinda Baseball Association: Celebrating 25 Years

The camp went on all day allowing the kids to have a chance to celebrate OBA’s 25th anniversary. The kids were introduced to baseball storybooks, some with gentle used ba- seballs, mitts, bats and more, in- cluding two teams with baseball shirts, pants, shoes, and Rodeo athletic programs.

Meanwhile, at the OBA 25th anniversary opening day festivities, these OBA players and coaches were honored.

Orinda Little League 2009 photos.

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Mills' Return Fails to Convince NCAA

By Mikawda Cowles

Saturday's defeat at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo was a disappointment for everyone but those who thought Mills would not come back to San Francisco for the NCAA tournament. Instead, he showed up with his team and did his best to convince them that he was ready to lead them to an appearance in the NCAA tournament. His performance against Cal Poly was not as good as many had expected, but it was still impressive considering the circumstances. Mills was able to score several key points and his presence on the court was felt throughout the game. Overall, it was a good game for Mills and his team, and they may yet make it to the NCAA tournament.
Lamorinda Dominates CYO Diocese Championship Play
By Robin Schettler Fox
In box scores of Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) results, Lamorinda did well in basketball this year, sending more than a dozen teams to the 2009 Oakland Diocese playoffs and taking home five championship titles, girls and boys combined. Teams representing grades 3 through 8 faced off in the single-elimination Oakland Diocesan bracket championship playoffs by earning local league and/or tournament play. With over 1,200 basketball teams in CYO Diocese, to have five diocese champions (from Lamorinda) is an accomplishment, says Bill Ford, CYO Director for the Diocese of Oakland.

St. Perpetua’s 3rd-4th grade Panther, coached by Bob O’Reilly and Ed Synder, averaged last year’s 5th-grade basketball championship team’s league and playoff points. The team was comprised of 2nd thru 5th graders from Los Perales and Camino Jim Buckley. The Panther’s goal was to win the same players in this year’s final divisions: 42-42. “They’re league rivals and they’ve had our number all season long,” said O’Reilly. “We matched our best performance of the season to beat them and we got it today. Coming into this game, I had a good feeling about our chances because of our players improved over the season, and things were really coming together for us in our practice sessions.”

The 3rd:4th grade championship game was a competitive contest, as Lamorinda teams faced each other in the final boys and girls games. St. Monica’s 5th grade boys beat St. Perpetua, 42-27. On the girls’ side, St. Perpetua’s title, beating St. Monica’s, 36-54. Panther Coach Mike Cassidy said their Moraga Panther rivalry was tough competition, had been their longest. “St. Monica was the only team that beat us all season,” and Cassidy.

St. Monica 2nd Grade Boys Win Championship
Submitted by John Kronenberg
St. Monica’s 2nd Grade Boys Win Championship. While the team, their former coach, the late Ken Nelson, had dedicated the 2009 season to his memory, the late Ken Nelson, who succeeded to career just prior to the season’s start. Two other local CYO teams also now hold 2009 diocese championship titles: St.

Lamorinda Cougars Win USSSA Winter Nationals in Phoenix
Submitted by Anne McNally
Lamorinda Cougars Win USSSA Winter Nationals in Phoenix.

M atchups Matter: the un- defeated DLAF league champions, until their 2008-2009 boys track season was over in May this year, found themselves in the road last week, losing in the first round to St. Mary’s College Preparatory, 49-47, to Enterprise High School (Redding). But the team wasn’t going to go down on the negative.

“The season was amazing,” said Coach Brown. “We won the title, it had a great win. We were ready for the NCS championship. Although we walked away with tough against of young men, and I feel fortunate to be on that couch.”

Our sportsmanship was well represented in the DLAF All League boys basketball teams. Sen- for Eric Obynecki continued Most Valuable Player. Chris Bathfield was named First Team DLAF, while both Doris Louns and Jocelyn O’Hara were named Second Team DLAF. Spencer McDonald was given Honorable Mention. While the Mat will graduate Obynecki and O’Hara, they’ll have a solid team to replace them when Bath- field, Louns and McDonald all return.

O f February 1, the St. Monica 3rd-5th grade boys diocese basketball championship team concluded its season by winning the CVO West Diablo League Championship. While the team, coached by Bob O’Reilly and Jim Buckley, was comprised of 2nd students from Los Perales, Camino Public and Pleasant Homes Academic schools, they “played up into the 3rd grade league and then qualified for the playoffs against the Red Devils by going undefeated in league play.”

In the first playoff game, St. Mike rallied for a 44-26 victory against St. Catherine’s. The Championship game against Christ the King was planned for contact that went down to the final seconds with St. Monroy winning by a 35-31 score.

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