

Photos: Left, by Doug Kohen; top right, provided; lower right, by Ohlen Alexander; graphic by Amanda Griggs



It must have been magic, like the snow that fell earlier this month; in the weeks leading up to Christmas, Santa Claus seemed to be everywhere you looked. Sitting under the tree at the Moraga idea. On a rainy day at Lafayette's La Fiesta Square, Santa and his helpers were warm and dry on the enclosed patio that is part of Mangia, offering a complimentary photo with Santa and candy canes for the kids. The Connor family (top right photo, from left: Kate, Caroline, Kristi and Kevin) paid a visit, and got the perfect photo for their Christmas cards. And what better place for Santa to be but at the screening of White Christmas at the Orinda Theater? Cameron Armian of Lafayette was pleased to be able to whisper his wish list directly to the man in charge (lower right photo).



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SMC Basketball

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Commons (left photo), he met one young man who did not appear to be completely convinced that climbing onto the big red lap was such a good

...See more holiday happenings on page 20



Caldecott Tunnel Fourth Bore to Get Underway | D

By Andrea A. Firth

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Simulation of cars heading west through the east portal of the 4th bore to be added to the Caldecott Tunnel Simulation courtesy of CalTrans

Fully funded and ready go" was the mantra of an enthusiastic team from the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) as they outlined the plans for the Caldecott Tunnel Improvement Project—a.k.a. the Fourth Bore—at a community outreach meeting held in Orinda on December 10th. Construction of the two-lane bore on the north side of the Caldecott Tunnel is scheduled to get underway by mid-January and projected for completion by the winter of 2013-2014.

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By Alex Crook

Burning too much, Lamorinda?

By Sophie Braccini



At a recent Rotary meeting Contra Costa County Supervisor Gayle Uilkema expressed her concern over the wood burning habits of Lamorindans. Uilkema is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD); she noticed too many unhealthy days reported in Contra

Costa, so she decided ... read on page 13

Campo Falls in Final Minutes to Acalanes



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Any readers have told us over the past year how much they enjoy the local coverage our paper provides, and what a difference it makes in the community. Since we started the Lamorinda Weekly, nearly three years ago, we have built an excellent team of editors, writers, photographers and columnists to produce our bi-weekly paper. All of them are connected to Lamorinda and most are involved in a variety of community projects, schools or sports teams. Many have been with us right from the start.

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Last Friday night, December 19th, at Acalanes High School, the Dons varsity soccer team hosted rival Campolindo, and escaped with a close 1-0 win over the Cougars. Acalanes, now 7-1-0 and 2-0-0 in league play, came into the match fresh off of a 2-1 win against Berkeley; the Dons' lone loss was against DFAL powerhouse Dublin. ... read on page 23

David Helfrich (#19) looks for a pass from his teammate Photo Tod Fierner