

YOU ARE INVITED TO HEAR  
**Dr. Christine Carter**  
 Mon, March 21, 6:30 pm  
 FOR PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN GRADES K-7  
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Photos Doug Kohen

# Jazz Festival Opens with a Bang

By Cathy Tyson

Both the Stanley Jazz Messengers and the Tom Scott Quartet rocked the Acalanes Performing Arts Center on Friday evening. The fresh-faced young teens from Stanley and the more mature professional musicians lead by Grammy winner Tom Scott seamlessly entertained the crowd with a collection of soulful and swinging tunes. Friday's show was part of the Lafayette Jazz Festival - all featuring young talented performers. The Festival is sponsored by the Generations in Jazz Foundation, which seeks to preserve

jazz education and pass along the many life lessons music offers, along with Diablo Foods and other local merchants. Stanley's Music Director Bob Athayde thanked Tom Scott for graciously spending time with the band students; he told the audience that Scott, "inspired us in so many ways." Scott said it's all about intention and focus - skills necessary to play music or in a job interview. He advised the kids that you can't be scared. No fear was apparent among the Jazz Messengers as all the kids got a chance to

solo on the big stage. Athayde calls the band, "The ultimate democracy - every single person counts all the time." Songs included the captivating piece "True North," featuring a poignant Tom Scott solo on saxophone. Who couldn't love the upbeat Ray Charles song "What I'd Say" to wrap up the evening - it brought the house down. Sharing the stage with professional musicians of this caliber was clearly an inspiration to the younger players and a windfall for the audience.



Tom Scott

**Quote of the Week:**

"The Lafayette schools are a gem within our community, providing Lafayette's children with the strong, enriched education they deserve." Read Letters to the Editor, pages B1-B2

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**LAMORINDA WEEKLY**

## Saint Mary's Men Play in NIT

By Bryant West



Photo Tod Fierner

The Saint Mary's Gaels men's basketball team failed to secure an NCAA Tournament bid after losing to rival Gonzaga in the WCC Championships last week. The Gaels also watched all the at-large bids go elsewhere on Selection Sunday. After last year's run to the Sweet 16, the Gaels instead played in the National Invitational Tournament. The first game was yesterday, Tuesday, March 15 against Kent State.

After hosting a Selection Sunday gathering at McKeon Pavilion, head coach Randy Bennett and the Gaels expressed their disappointment. "It's tough, that's the only way I can explain it," Bennett said. "It just doesn't make a lot of sense to me how we're not in... but we're not, and that's reality."

While their record and tournament resume alone would have guaranteed them a spot in the NIT, the Gaels also had guaranteed a spot in the NIT since they'd been the conference's regular-season co-champions.

The Gaels advanced to the WCC Championships for the third straight year thanks to a 73-64 over Santa Clara on Sunday, March 5th. Sophomore forward Mitchell Young had 17 points and seven rebounds, while freshman guard Stephen Holt had 15

points. Santa Clara's Marc Trasolini scored 22 points to lead the Broncos.

The championship game against Gonzaga was the third straight Saint Mary's-Gonzaga finals. The two teams split the previous two contests. Gonzaga secured the conference title and the automatic ticket to the NCAA Tournament with a 75-63 win over the Gaels, as Saint Mary's couldn't close out and failed to score a field goal in the final four minutes.

Senior guard Mickey McConnell had 24 points while sophomore guard Matthew Dellavedova had 21 but the Gaels lost the inside battle as two of their strongest big men - junior Rob Jones and Young each fouled out in the second half for Saint Mary's. Steven Gray had 15 and seven boards to lead the Zags, who had four players in double figures.

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**Sports C1-C4**

**Lamorinda Baseball Preview**

Acalanes, Miramonte off to a strong start



By Alex Crook

All three Lamorinda high school baseball teams are poised to have strong seasons and a chance at the DFAL title. Both Campolindo and Miramonte are coming off North Coast Section (NCS) Championship ...read on page C2

**Life in Lamorinda D1-D5**

**True Grit in Lamorinda**



By Sophie Braccini

Six-year-old Gigi (Angelina) Kenney runs for her mother. 54-year-old Gerald Starr walks to get his life back. Each of these Lamorinda residents is engaging in a battle against adversity, pushing their limits and finding the strength ... read on page L2

**Our Homes F1-F8**

**Staging—First Impressions Count**



By Andrea A. Firth

Staging is akin to putting on pearls with a little black dress, says Nikolene Isely who owns Staging by Design based in Moraga. "The idea is to make the house, not the contents, the star," says Isely. Barbara Winters, the owner... read on page OH1