Jazz Festival Opens with a Bang

By Cathy Tyson

Both the Stanley Jazz Messengers and the Tom Scott Quartet rocked the Assistance Performing Arts Center on Friday evening. The fresh-faced young team from Stanley and the more mature professional band lead by Grammy winner Tom Scott wouldn’t entertain 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 Jazz Foundation, which seeks to preserve jazz education and pass along the many real lessons music offers, along with Dias- bio Foods and other local merchants.

Stanley’s Music Director Bob Althouse thanked Tom Scott for graciously spending time with the band students; he told the audience that Scott “taught us in so many ways.” Scott said it’s all about invention and focus - skills necessary to play music or as a job interviewer. He advised the kids that he can’t score. No score was apparent among the Jazz Messengers as all the kids got a chance to solo on the big stage. Althouse calls the band, “The ultimate democracy – every single person counts all the time.”

Songs included the captivating piece “True North,” featuring a pregnant Tom Scott solo on tenor 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 treatful for the au-

Saint Mary’s Men Play in NIT

By Bryant West

T he Saint Mary’s Gaels men’s basketball team faltered seconds before securing 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 out in the second half for Saint Mary's-Gonzaga finals. The two teams split the previous two contests. Gonzaga has won its last five games heading into the conference title game which will be played on Wednesday. Saint Mary’s has won its last three games heading into the conference title game which will be played on Thursday.

With the win over the Gaels, Scott said, “It’s close and failed to score a field goal in the final four minutes.”

Coach Randy Bennett and the Gaels were gathering at McKeon Pavilion, head coach Randy Bennett and the Gaels expressed their disappointment. “It’s tough. That’s the only way I can ex-

press it.” Bennett said “It just doesn’t make a lot of sense to me how we’re not in the tournament and that’s reality.”

While the Gaels failed to make and tour-

ment resume alone would have guar-

anteed them a spot in the NIT, the Gaels also had guaranteed a spot in the NIT since they’d been the con-

ference’s two-seed going into champ-

ionship game against Gonzaga.

The Gaels advanced to the WCC Championships for the third straight team thanks to a 73-64 upset over Santa Clara on Sunday. March 8th. Soph-

omore forward Mitchell Young had 17 points and seven rebounds, while freshman guard Stephen Holt had 15 points. Santa Clara’s Matt Traylor scored 22 points in lead the Broncos to a 73-64 upset over the Gaels. The Gaels had 24 points while sophomore guard Matthew Dellavedova had 21 points and seven rebounds, while freshman guard Stephen Holt had 15 points. Santa Clara’s Matt Traylor scored 22 points in lead the Broncos to a 73-64 upset over the Gaels. The Gaels had 24 points while sophomore guard Matthew Dellavedova had 21 points and seven rebounds, while freshman guard Stephen Holt had 15 points.

The championship game against

Gonzaga was the third straight Saint Mary’s-Gonzaga finals. The two teams split the previous two contests. Gonzaga has won its conference title game which will be played in the NCAA Tournament with a 73-64 upset over the Gaels. The Gaels had 24 points while sophomore guard Matthew Dellavedova had 21 points and seven rebounds, while freshman guard Stephen Holt had 15 points. Santa Clara’s Matt Traylor scored 22 points in lead the Broncos to a 73-64 upset over the Gaels. The Gaels had 24 points while sophomore guard Matthew Dellavedova had 21 points and seven rebounds, while freshman guard Stephen Holt had 15 points.


**Waiting on a Final Decision for Burton Valley House**

By Cathy Tyson

The City Council found itself faced with an interesting pair of choices while reviewing the controversial Burton Valley remodel for the Polichio family. The Council could either deny the application without prejudice, leaving an opportunity for the applicant to file a suit against the City, or continue the matter and allow the applicant to file papers in response to the ruling of the Council – erect story poles and further clarify their now greatly reduced applications.

In back of this year, on January 31, there was a two against - the -City Council voted to deny an appeal by the homeowner, and directed staff to prepare a resolution to deny the appeal. Finalizing that resolution was continued February 28 for the entire Council to be present to vote. It would have 10 - 9 vote, how many the mayor was finally heard, and after some discussion, the Council decided to continue the matter.

Architect Ken Harkel noted that the project was reconsidered in light of a further reduction of the second story addition. The last iteration of the design had a 1,044 square foot second floor; in the newly revised plans it is 724 square feet. Because their children are very young, the Polichios’ original plans inside a substantially smaller house 2 horses! lawn, pool, gardens, views, expansive level usable 1+ Acre Parcel!

**Measuring Interest for Possible Road Repair Fix**

By Cathy Tyson

S ome bad, but is your road? That was the question of the evening as residents of a standing-room-only crowd had the chance to ask of a standing-room-only City Council.

Everyone knew how bad they are,” said Mayor Carlos Andrade. “The question is: what can we do to fix them?”

And the Residential Road Repair Task Force presented an overview of the current state of roads in the city, and some options on how to get that way.

Approximately 5,000 Lafayette residents live on failed roads. “The roads need the better they deserve,” said Andrade. A PowerPoint presentation outlined the situation. Failure costs make 100 square feet more to build.

Lafayette’s administrative budget has almost been cut over, making 1,000,000 per year and with only $.08 of every property tax dollar give to city coffers, there’s no need to slush to address the repair issue.

Guy Atwood, along with John Hall, in presenting the Task Force, gave a list of and conditions that of the measure to the City Council to put on the November ballot. Funds generated would be used to pay for tasks as needed, keeping the repair backlog will escalate over time.

To solve the problem Andrade proposed a three-prong approach to raising the road repair levies. First was the measure to the City Council. Second was the controversial Burton Valley remodel for the Polichio family. The Council found itself faced with an interesting pair of choices while reviewing the controversial Burton Valley remodel for the Polichio family. The Council could either deny the application without prejudice, leaving an opportunity for the applicant to file a suit against the City, or continue the matter and allow the applicant to file papers in response to the ruling of the Council – erect story poles and further clarify their now greatly reduced applications.

Burlington angler, 2/22/11: When you are located in what is known as the wood and glass front door of a Los Arabis Drive home, coming away with antique silver and other daylight burglary on the same day netted the thief $1,349,000.

The asking price for the Polichio family. The Council found itself faced with an interesting pair of choices while reviewing the controversial Burton Valley remodel for the Polichio family. The Council could either deny the application without prejudice, leaving an opportunity for the applicant to file a suit against the City, or continue the matter and allow the applicant to file papers in response to the ruling of the Council – erect story poles and further clarify their now greatly reduced applications.

**Police Report**

(Untitled report) 2/20/11 Never mind the escalating cost of repairs and insurance, one local resident discovered she was out $1,000 cash and $100 in gift cards after her son hunted a party in their home. She probably could have said “We’ve had it – now shoo and shoo away.”

Double-duty daylight raids, 2/22/11: A discriminating thief made an odd one road at a time. And the Residential Road Repair Task Force presented an overview of the current state of roads in the city, and some options on how to get that way.

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TROUBLING TAXI CONCERNS

By Cathy Tyson

A newly installed signs on Happy Valley Court fail with drivers hanging out, urinating in the bush, loitering at the 7-Eleven and leaving garbage. “I’m basically a prisoner after school.” Seventeen-year resident Roosevelt Jefferson describes the situation as “very adversarial.”

“Add to that the fact that there are no signs to mark the new parking lot for our residents and their guests. In order to enforce this, a ten-day notice to homeowners is required. The ordinance was approved. The group plans to raise money to cover the cost of installing the signage. In addition, they may look for a quick solution—perhaps temporary signage. Sure enough, the very next day “No Parking” signs were placed all around the court and only two taxis were spotted in front of the BART station.

The plan is to create a permanent parking ordinance for these residents and their guests. In order to do this, a ten-day notice to homeowners is required. The ordinance will be finalized at the March 14 City Council meeting. BART has been contacted regarding potential designated taxi parking in its lot; usually on the weekends and evenings there appears to be space available.

COMMUNITY GARDEN GETS OKAY

By Cathy Tyson

After looking for a site for the past couple of years, the Lafayette Community Garden Group found the perfect location—a mostly flat, sunny area on Mt. Diablo Boulevard across from the Reservoir, in front of the EBMD filter plant. In partnership with Sustainable Lafayette they asked the City to waive the $5,500 in fees with Sustainable Lafayette they asked the City to waive the $5,500 in fees. The request was approved. The group plans to raise money to cover the cost of installing beds, and a greenhouse.

Earthquake Retrofit Work

Drivers beware of a slight diversion along Happy Valley Road, near Highway 24 that accommodates earthquake retrofit work. Because of the likelihood of a major earthquake around the Bay Area, vulnerable portions of the transit system are being upgraded to improve safety and to ensure the return to operation shortly after a major earthquake.

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EXPIRE 4/15/11

9 Baay Area Stores to serve you!
By Sophia Braccini

M oraga is the town on the ground,” said Economic Development Committee chairwoman Renee Zemler during the Team’s Tuesday meeting at the Moraga Library. “The Town Council meeting on March 9. The town hit the ground running upon its inception that direct students, surveying residents, analyzing existing data, and engaging prop-
erty owners, businesses and de-
tail. But analysis is a long time is not enough, the Town team wants an action-oriented body that will assist it in attaining its goals. The Council thanked team members for their work and ap-
proved the creation of an ad-hoc public committee.

The Revenue Enhancement Committee created the Economic Development Team at the end of 2010. It is composed of three volunteers who give the Town about 10 hours of work to promote the economic health of the community. In addition to Zemler, the Team includes Marcie Coe and Rich Larson. Their work formed the greatest addition is that the Team has set the Town team will now be able to focus on more specific, city-oriented goals.

While the increase is small, the purpose of the Economic Development Team is to focus on issues that are relevant to Moraga and to work with the Town’s current goals.

The Team has set aside $100,000 to work on issues that are important to Moraga and to work with the Town’s current goals.

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Comments Still Accepted on Hetfield Development

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Planning Commission unanimously agreed to keep the comment period for the Hetfield Development Environmental Impact Report (EIR) open until March 22nd. Comments can be made in writing to the Town. The EIR is available on the Town’s website, www.moraga.ca.us. The owners of the properties banking the proposed development came in large numbers to a March 7 hearing, to express their point of view. Positive and negative impacts (e.g., and aesthetic and visual) remain at the center of their concerns: it will be months before there is an official response to queries and a ruling.

Rancho Laguna Settlement

By Sophie Braccini

Preserve Lamorinda Open Space will not sue the Town of Moraga and the developer over the Rancho Laguna Development project, which will bring 27 new homes to the land adjacent to Rheem Boulevard and along the Rheem Ridge. A settlement was reached on March 9 that all parties consider a compromise. Much of the discussion hinged on the interpretation of the General Plan’s wording: “Protect ridgelines from development.” To Council Member Dave Trotter, those words mean no development at all, while for Mayor Karen Mendonca they mean minimize the impact of development. Most perspective was the majority of Council member votes. The settlement does not change anything about where the homes will be built, but it guarantees that the intermittent creek that runs through part of the property will not be filled by a valley buttress under the current approval. A new Environmental Impact Report would have to be conducted if a buttress (or fill of the creek) were to be proposed, again, to stabilize Rheem Boulevard.

“What we’re seeing is more and more of Moraga’s open space being chipped away and it’s very distressing,” added Jones, “this settlement will protect the creek and that’s positive, but we are still concerned to see homes built on ridge lines in Moraga.”

“It is very pleased that all parties were able to reach agreement without litigation,” said Mendonca.

Please submit Letters and Opinions: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Adult Day Program

Providing activities for adults with Alzheimer's or other related dementias and respite for caregivers.

Contact Gerry Bakalar or Robin Rogers for a tour of homes and site now available. 925-254-3000. orindawilder.com

Dinner will be served at approximately 6:30pm. The meeting will be open to the public and the meeting will conclude at approximately 9:30pm. If you have any questions regarding the proposed development, please contact the developer's representative:

Pamela Halloran

Broker Associate

Village Associates

925-323-4100

Pamela@PamelaHalloran.com

www.PamelaHalloran.com

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And the neighborhood will begin to show the first signs of new life.

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Partial list of prizes:

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Welcome to Wilder. Where the casual style is pure Orinda. The schools are topnotch. The weather is nearly perfect. The city is just 25 minutes away via BART. And the opportunity is truly one of a kind.
Orinda Police Officer Danny Vargas and Reserve Officer David Brown were recently recognized as Officers of the Year (2010). Danny Vargas, Reserve Officer M. Djajakusuma, Reserve Officer Chad Pryor (new officer), Chief Jeff Jennings, Officer Tricia Richardson (new officer), Officer Ron Westerhoff (4th Officer of the Year 2010), Danny Vargas, and Officer Al Agadian. In the back row from L to R are Mayor Victoria Smith and Council members Sue Saverson, Steve Glazer, and Diane Orme. Photo Kimberly Westhorpe.

Orinda’s Vision, Part II—General Plan Update
By Andrea A. Firth

A critical component in the development of a cohesive vision for Orinda’s downtown district, Chris Beynon, a community planning and land-use consultant from Berkeley-based NILC, Inc., recommended that Orinda’s City Council undertake a General Plan update with a focus on downtown.

“The City’s General Plan is in place, but what the State would consider, the end of its term,” said Beynon. Orinda’s current and only. General Plan was adopted 23 years ago shortly after the City was incorporated. According to Planning Director Emeritus Unio the projected lifecycle of the General Plan, which provides a comprehensive goals and direction for the physical development of the city, is about 20 years. The State has encouraged the City to re-examine the scope and content of its General Plan to ensure it remains valid and consistent with the goals and future vision of the community, according to Unio. Without keeping the Plan current, the City would lose the malleability of the Plan is challenged in court.

According to Beynon the time is ripe for an update. “There’s a need in the community. The discussion has started,” he said, referring back to two widely-attended public workshops held in November and December to discuss residents’ visions for Orinda’s downtown district.

He encouraged the Council to move forward with this next step on the planning process to build on the momentum in the community. “There’s a level of consensus among community elements,” said Beynon, but he also acknowledged that there are some contentious aspects to residents’ visions for Orinda’s downtowns, such as building height, density, and small choices.

One major stumbling block for cash-strapped Orinda in the price tag of the General Plan update. A complete update will cost $500,000 to $650,000. Unio told the Council all the Council needed to update an updated plan for a General Plan update, opting to gather additional community input and to discuss a phased approach to addressing the General Plan needs. “We don’t want to task Force recommendations to be lost in the process, but we will look at the recommendations through the lens of the community input,” said Unio in a follow-up interview.
The subject of the historic Orinda sign was back before the City Council at its March 1st meeting—this time temporarily to determine the best color for the green sign, which is parked in the rampart garden at the intersection of Orinda Way and Camino Sorrento. Following up on a Public Works Aesthetic Review Committee, the Historic Landscape Committee, and local garden clubs, the groups had collectively agreed to recommend the slightly darker “Charleston green” as the best color to paint the “77”-year-old sign, which previously adorned a small estate office that was located on the same plot of land from the mid-1930’s until the late 1960’s. However, it was the location of the sign, not its color that concerned several residents who were along Camino Sorrento and on the surrounding streets regarding the sign color and to bring up the issue of the sign’s location back for further discussion.

“Every neighbor who lives near that sign does not want the sign,” said Dean Orr stated that the sign is partly hidden by landscaping and positioned awkwardly in the area now somewhat off the sign axis that there may not have been full community notification at the time the location was chosen. “There seems to be disconnect to place [the sign] where the neighborhood does not welcome it,” added Council Member Dee Smoot. Mayor Vezinetti strongly disagreed and suggested that the location and color now be tried for a period of time. Ultimately, the Council voted three to one, with Mayor Bartlett in opposition, to present any discussion regarding the sign color and to bring up the issue of the sign’s location back for further discussion.

“Every neighbor who lives near that sign does not want the sign,” said Andrea Rostrop.
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Tri-Chamber mixer on the BIG SCREEN at THE NEW RHEEM THEATRE

Candis333@aol.com

Rосійською мовою

You are encouraged to attend the 70th Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony later this year and will coordinate the 70th Pearl Harbor Remembrance with local veterans groups. Events will be publicized and members of the public are encouraged to attend.

Girl Scout Garage Sale to Benefit Troop and World Wildlife Fund

Submitted by Ava Tajbakhsh (member of Troop 30734)

Girl Scout Garage Sale to Benefit Troop and World Wildlife Fund

Photo Jennifer Guest

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Lamorinda Film Contest
How much do you love YOUR city?

Create a 3 minute maximum video, power-point, slide show or film that conveys how much you love working, or playing in YOUR city.

Submissions due by April 15 at 12 noon and will receive $100. Deadline for Submissions: April 15 at 12 Noon!

Each city's winning submission will be shown during the Tri-Chamber mixer on the BIG SCREEN at THE NEW RHEEM THEATRE and will receive $100. Deadline for Submissions: April 15 at 12 Noon!

Girl Scout Garage Sale to Benefit Troop and World Wildlife Fund

Some of the gifts of Troop 30734 work on plans for their garage sales.

The girls hope to raise money to offset the cost of some of their activities as they work towards earning their Silver Award, but also to donate 13% of the proceeds to the World Wildlife Fund. The World Wildlife Fund is an organization that does many things, such as protecting endangered species, educating communities, working with government, and working with communities. Just as Girl Scouts are working to improve the social aspects of our planet, the World Wildlife Fund is trying to improve our environmental world. Any items that remain unsold at the end of the day will be donated.

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Too many of our friends, for whom we have your contact information for. If you do not wish to receive mail directly from your friend, please feel free to forward this message directly to them. We are happy to help you help others. It's your choice. We stand behind our work 100%.

Navy League Council Installs Leadership

Submitted by Bill Sharkey III

James Hathaway of Moraga was installed as President of the Contra Costa Council of the Navy League of the United States at an annual installation held in the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building. The Navy League members are “Civilian Supporting the Sea Services.” Guest speaker at the dinner meeting was Rear Admiral Timothy S. Sullivan, USCG, Commandant of the Forces Readiness Command and Deputy Commander of the Coast Guard’s Pacific Area. The Admiral cited the outstanding support of the Navy League for the nation’s sea services and the importance of providing such support to the men and women serving today in its military.

Officers for serve for 2011 include:
Bill Kinsey, Clayton, 1st Vice President; Lorraine Hughey, Walnut Creek, VP for Youth Affairs; Jack and Gynithe Lafayette, Darrell H., VP Membership; Bill Sharkey III, President; and Ken Murakami and Sue Hanes, VP Communications. Len Terrell, Rio Vista, Secretary; William Clark, Moraga, Corresponding Secretary, and Steve Crunk, Pleasant Hill, Treasurer.

The Council will be honoring the Coast Guard, Navy and Marine Corps later this year and will coordinate the 70th Pearl Harbor Remembrance with local veterans groups. Events will be publicized and members of the public are encouraged to attend.

Lupita Chavez of Lafayette was installed as President-elect of the Contra Costa Council of the Navy League of the United States at an annual installation held in the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building. The Navy League members are “Civilian Supporting the Sea Services.” Guest speaker at the dinner meeting was Rear Admiral Timothy S. Sullivan, USCG, Commandant of the Forces Readiness Command and Deputy Commander of the Coast Guard’s Pacific Area. The Admiral cited the outstanding support of the Navy League for the nation’s sea services and the importance of providing such support to the men and women serving today in its military.

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Editor

The alleged inequity in the contributions of Moraga and Orinda to the Moraga-Orinda Fire District has come up again in recent letters to this publication. That claim is based on faulty information and has already been thoroughly debunked.

Every homeowner in California pays the same 0.5% assessed valuation property tax. Contra Costa County distributes the revenue in various ways, but the proportion allocated to MOFD in Orinda is identical to what was provided to Con Fire prior to our merger with the Moraga FD.

The area served by MOFD is not defined by the boundaries of Moraga or Orinda. The Moraga-Orinda service zone includes Highway 24, the Bay Station and the Caldecott Tunnel, plus some adjacent unincorporated lands previously served by Con Fire. The Moraga service zone includes not only the Town of Moraga, but also 700 Orinda homes (even more for ambulance service) plus the Village of Canyon. In any case, MOFD is an integrated service. All but the smallest unserved areas require engines, ambulances and other equipment coming from multiple fire stations.

A separate question concerns the inadequate flow from many fire hydrants. A 1996 engineering study determined the pressure of 1000 gpm standard. A total upgrade would have cost $50 million (2009 dollars) but 27 of the pipes could have been replaced for $12 million. Those are very conservative estimates. MOFD recently opened the required 2% approval of the citizens (MOFD residents). It seems there were trends to mitigate the problem.

It should be noted that EBMUD is the sole owner of these pipes, and all upgrades are subject to their control. EBMUD will repair breaks, but does not have its own “standard” of 1000 gpm. Any further upgrade is subject to the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. Our citizens feel we should spend our tax revenues in a manner that is most effective and least burdensome to our tax payers. In that manner some of our citizens do not recognize their good fortune.

Gene Gottfried

Editor

I cannot help but notice the turmoil of the Moraga-Safetyville employees when their present manager, Don Tornet, retires this summer. I have observed this manager brave, humble and inclusive employee on numerous occasions. Apparently the same type of management is continued by Safeway Corporation, and it has created an unhealthy and hostile environment for employees in the Moraga-Safetyville. As a regular customer, employees have instructed and included familiar with over number of years are quite visibly “on guard” and not belonging in a “normal” state of being. I be- lieve that some of our citizens do not recognize their good fortune.

Gene Gottfried

Editor

I real that the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) has not yet implemented a new “cost recovery” for attending to car crashes. It is not enough that we pay $7.5 million per year ($3,500 per household) for the in- service of having emergency services, now the lucky 2500 people who get to crash each day and actually need help pay for the service on top of the $1,500 insurance they pay. It is not like the district has to fume new people to provide this service as does each of their 7 units, on average, approve to two accidents a day. They do not need the money to pay back the $40,000 plus all of our hard-working em- ployee benefits that they have granted over the past 2 years.

Steve Cohn

Editor

Recent letters to the editor have claimed that Orinda pays more than its fair share of the costs of providing fire protection services. Some calculations have been made, but they are based on faulty information.

It is true that in the past 14 years, Moraga has paid more for the service areas it overlaps. It makes sense, but the same as they were before MOFD was formed in 1997 which means that the 700 Orinda homes that used to be in the old Moraga District are still “first due” out of Moraga sta- tions. The significant exception is that the homes between Ivey Drive and Claremont are not provided by MOFD because about 95% of MOFD’s budget comes out of downtown Orinda, instead of taxes. We are still able to fund the non-moraga based ambulances, it makes no sense that any other cities attempting to do the same are not in the same fiscal fair should face that in other information. Our city boundaries are irrelevant to the operations of MOFD. It is relevant in any calcs to determine the breakdown of the cost. The claim that Orinda is subsidizing Moraga has been investigated by several agencies and committees and proven incorrect. We do not need another task force to study this issue.

It is time to move on and find practical ways of generating revenue to re-build our roads and infrastructure.

The City of Lafayette wants to impose another parking tax, but they have failed to prove that it is not already a market failure, and not a new revenue stream.

As a lifelong resident of Lafayette I am writing in support of the recommendation by Master Caryl American and several other civic officials not to continue this idea and attempted to pass a new “temporary” parking tax by telling the public that they haven’t money to pay the rents.

The truth is that Lafayette had money (because of the 1995 bond measure) to pay for the schools. Unfortunately they were unable to close a Gap for repairing the roads exists only be- cause there was none for them to close and don’t happen. They have no sympathy for the people out of Lafayette. Parents know that when you exceed a billion, you get more bad behav- ior. Now in the time to re-serve the city’s bad behavior, it is time to paint that bad behav- ior. In this case, the punishment should be a reduction in revenue for Lafayette. Past is a penal tax to impose new services to the exact op- position of the right thing to do, because it re- serves the city.

I explained the at the March 1st meeting that the concept of a “Revenue shortfall” is a fiction. It is a fancy way of saying they want to spend money they don’t have. The alleged “Gap” for repairing the roads exists only be- cause they don’t want to spend existing city funds to repair all roads.

I was told that the city might have to close some of the budget were any one, if they already has been recently. I have no sympathy for them. If they close, they will recognize what millions of other Californians are already suffering through and it would be wonderfully refreshing for the City. Had to experience an emo- tional reality check.

Earl Schenk

Lafayette

Editor

As a lifelong resident of Lafayette I am writing in support of the recommendation by Master Caryl American and several other civic officials not to continue this idea and attempted to pass an “emergency” parking tax by telling the public that they haven’t money to pay the rents.

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The Lafayette schools are a gem within our community, providing Lafayette’s children with the strong foundation which educates them to thrive. What’s more, that education is pro-
vided very economically – we spend half of what comparable communities in other states report spend at similar success rates. State budget woes are, no doubt, challenging our education system, but we must be
determined to preserve this critical commu-
nity asset.

Fortunately, schools leaders here have pro-
duced the opportunity to support the school children of Lafayette by placing a temporary “bridge the gap” parcel tax on the ballot. Measure B. From my 3
years on the school board I can attest that our schools are already on an effi-
cient path, as possible 4-years of budget cuts have a strained them. The gap will
not allow us to do without some spending cuts or efficiency improvements.

The benefits are clear:
- Keep Lafayette schools in the top 10 in the state.
- Ensure Lafayette students have a bright future.
- Protect against competing parcel tax propositions.

Editor: Ballot measure B is a temporary “bridge the gap” parcel tax that will specifically fund education. As a parent of three children in the Lafayette School District, I strongly encourage our community to support Measure B.

Lafayette School District has made ex-
traordinary efforts to balance budgets over the last several years and keep tax increases to a minimum. That statement is worth repeating be-
cause over the last several years the Lafayette School District could face a staggering
$180,000 cubic yard of open space to keep in balance with shrinking rev-

In his letter, the editor of the Lafayette Weekly expresses the opinion that if Measure B does not pass, the consequences will be deva-
tating for the future generation. The editor argues that if Measure B is not passed, the Lafayette School District will have to make drastic
budget cuts, which will inevitably affect the quality of education and the
success of our children.

The editor stresses the importance of maintaining the current educational structure and funding levels, which have been
essential in providing a high-quality education to Lafayette students. The editor believes that supporting Measure B is crucial for the well-being of the community and the future of the school district.

In conclusion, the editor urges everyone to vote yes on Measure B and support the educational needs of Lafayette’s children. By doing so, we can ensure that our community remains strong and vibrant for generations to come.
Wednesday, March 16, 2011

100 Years after the Civil War is an NSSL-sponsored exhibition. Leo and Grant exhibition at the Pajaro Valley Museum. March 16-April 2. Hours: 10-5, Wednesday-Sunday. For more info, visit www.pajaromuseum.org.

The 2011 Sunday Sports Expo sponsored by Patrick's Furniture is expected to attract 20,000 people. Performances: Feb. 19-20, Noon to 5pm; March 5-6, Noon to 5pm; April 2-3, Noon to 5pm. Location: Lafayette Park, 1220 Transamerica Parkway. For more info, visit www.3s-expo.org.

2011 Spring Sidewalk Sale: March 12-13, 10am-5pm. Location: Lafayette Plaza, 500 Transamerica Parkway. For more info, visit www.lafayetteplaza.com.

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ACALAN OF LAFAYETTE: 19th-80th Reunion. For more info, please call 925-224-2830. Location: St. Mary's Nightingales perform on March 25, 7pm. This is a free event but seating is limited; please RSVP to (925) 284-7777. Information and care on Tuesday March 29 at 6:30 pm. This is a free event but seating is limited; please RSVP to (925) 284-7777. Information and care on Tuesday March 29 at 6:30 pm.

The 2011 Stanley Science Expo sponsored by the Navy League of the North California Association. Location: Lafayette Community Center, 500 Mountain View Avenue. For more info, visit www.casa.org.

INTER-LAFCOSTA: Monthly meeting on Wed., March 16 at 4 pm. The gallery is located at 570 Center St., Lafayette. For more info, call (925) 631-4379. The gallery is located at 570 Center St., Lafayette. For more info, call (925) 631-4379.


**Fava and Escarole Salad with Apricot Meyer Lemon Vinaigrette**

**INGREDIENTS**

- 1 tablespoon shallot
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1/3 cup good quality apricot preserves
- 1/3 cup white or red wine vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon fresh ginger
- 1 teaspoon minced shallot
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon balsamic vinegar or juice of 1 lemon
- 1/2 teaspoon olive oil

**DIRECTIONS**

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Peel 2 teaspoons olive oil in a saucier pan over medium-low heat. Add in caramelized onion, apricots, endive, endive leaves, and apricot preserves. Lay in a single layer in a baking dish or on a baking sheet. Bake until fork tender and browning on the edges, about 25 minutes. Toss with the vinaigrette. Serve warm or at room temperature.

**Roasted Root Vegetables in an Apricot Meyer Lemon Glaze**

**INGREDIENTS**

- 1 lb. carrots
- 1 lb. sweet potatoes, turnip, or beet root
- 1 cup apricots extra virgin oil
- 1 tablespoon shallot
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1/4 cup apricot preserves
- 1/4 cup white or red wine vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon minced shallot
- 1/2 teaspoon minced garlic

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**A Trio of Good Eats from The Punky Chef**

By Susie Iventosch

The Punky Chef is that one-of-a-kind talent who will cause you to forget about the kitchen. Her talent, however, is not limited to the kitchen. She really knows her nutrition, too, and handles every special request, from low-sodium to low-fat dishes. She’s a perfect foil to the slight bitterness of fava beans – a red and white striped variety that Cebalo has in the salad below, with escarole, endive, endive leaves, and apricot preserves. The sweetness of the dressing was the perfect foil to the slight bitterness of fava beans. The Punky Chef catered events from very large parties to small ones for a decade,” said LaScala. “Finally, one day, she decided she wanted to be a chef. She quit her job and started culinary school. She really knows her nutrition, too, and handles every special request, from low-sodium to low-fat dishes. She’s a perfect foil to the slight bitterness of fava beans – a red and white striped variety that Cebalo has in the salad below, with escarole, endive, endive leaves, and apricot preserves. The sweetness of the dressing was the perfect foil to the slight bitterness of fava beans.
Campo jumped off to a 22-11 lead after one period and led by eight at the half. Sacred Heart closed the gap, but Campo held on to a 12 point lead at half. Sacred Heart went on to win 63-28. Johanson led Acalanes with 21 points while junior Devon McDonald added 11.

The Mats had taken a 56-52 lead. Against a determined Lady Mats, the Cougars overwhelmed the Matadors with 28 fourth period points to secure the early 15-13 lead after the first period, a 30-14 lead at the end of the first quarter, and a 41-23 lead at halftime.

The Matadors closed the gap, but were edged out, 58-54. Kirchner led the Dons with 15 points as they finished their season with an outstanding 23-7 record.

The following Tuesday, March 8, Lamorinda opponents. The Lady Dons fell 56-49 and ended their season with a very successful 22-15 record and boast a 12 team bracket.

Lamorinda girls hosted Christian of the San Joaquin Section. Campolindo girls hosted Christian and Sacred Heart Cathedral, respectively, in the CIF-North Coast Section: Northern California tournaments. Campolindo, Miramonte, and Acalanes were the six, seven and nine seeds, respectively, in the third consecutive NCS division III championship. The Lady Mats took the lead and never looked back, leading 25-11 at the half. In the second half the confident Cougars overwhelmed the Lady Mats and took the lead with 25 seconds to go. O’Dowd scored to take the lead. Campo answered by hitting a three point shot from beyond the arc as they took the lead back to 64-61. Ward led Campo with 24 points and seniors Mikea Amarikwa who led all scorers with 21 points while junior Sophie Taylor’s outside shooting, junior Annelise Ito added 20 points and senior Amanda Forshay and junior Mallory Brown had 16 points each.

Miramonte, junior Devon McDonald added 11 points and the Cougars scored 11 straight points to establish a lead they would not let up.

Mallory Brown had 16 apiece. Senior Anna Ward led a balanced attack with 21 points while junior Alysia Forshay and junior Mallory Brown both scored 21 points while junior Devon McDonald added 11.

Despite the loss Miramonte, along with Acalanes, combined 60-17 against non-Lamorinda opponents. Campo dominated with a 67-24 record and boast a 3-0 record.

All the Lamorinda teams make a point at the postmatch at both the North Coast Section (NCS) and CIF-North California tournaments.

The Miramonte girls’ basketball team set up with Campolindo on March 2, the third time this year, but the third time was not to be the charm as the Lady Cougars overshadowed the Matadors with 26 third period points to secure a 77-51 championship victory. The final was 75 to 63.

The game was close throughout the first three periods as neither team held a lead of more than six points. The first half took a 5-5 lead. Three point shooting, footwork, and Teamwork! Build toward competitive game play!

Lamorinda Girls’ Basketball Postseason Review

By Conrad Bassett

Submit stories to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com or call (925) 377-0977. 
925-314-5299

Lamorinda Basketball Academy (LBA)

Pandemonium of basketball Girls Grades 3-8

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*Kyle Davis

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Acalanes: Grant Deeds swept against Miramonte

Acalanes high school baseball teams are poised to have strong seasons and chance at the DI-II title. Both Campolindo and Miramonte are coming off a Section (NCS) Championship season, and several teams have all the improvements made last season.

Last year: Last year, Miramonte finished in second place in the league standings behind Campolindo, but went on to win the division III NCS title, their second straight. The Mats return a first-team all-DI-II NCS title, their second straight.

Acalanes: Although fewer years than an NCS title, Acalanes have enjoyed a tradition of dominance. Last year proved to be a difficult season for the Dons. The Dons also welcome freshman shortstop and catcher Austin Rei, who was named to the all-DI-II NCS roster.

Campolindo: The Campolindo roster consists entirely of upperclassmen. Most returning players are returning to the dominant Bulldogs, losing 72-46. The team returns to the forefront of the DI-II NCS standings behind Campolindo, the defending state champion.

Miramonte: Miramonte heads into the new season with three homeruns.

S t a n i s l o w ’ s m a n ’ s w o m a n ’ s b a s k e t b a l l s t o o k s h o r t n o t e s a n d d w e n t o n t o W e s t - e r n C o n f i r m e d t o u r n a m e n t . O n t h e p os i t i v e s i d e , t h e G a c k b r e a k e d a t w o - y e a r W C C C o m p e t i t i o n v o c a t i o n s p l e e d , d a t i n g b a c k t o 2007-2008, a n d s e n i o r f o r e n e r 

The Gaels controlled the tempo and maintained a low-scoring game for the first 15 minutes of play. While Saint Mary’s defense was stout, their offense was anemic. The Gaels were shut out in the first half, scoring just 22 points, while Saint Mary’s scored 27-25.

Acalanes: Acalanes, although few years from an NCS title, has history of success on the baseball diamond. Still, last year proved to be a difficult season for the Gaels. They finished 15-10 overall, with a 5-7 record against league and a fifth place finish league. Acalanes lost in the first round of NCS playoffs.

The Dons graduated pitcher John Treat, but Acalanes returns first baseman Drew Gaylord and catcher Austin Rei, who was named to the all-DI-II NCS roster. Both juniors were named to the DI-II, Honorable Mention Team last year. "We will not count us out of the NCS championships," said Evan Heptig, senior shortstop. "We have a deep lineup and a good pitching staff."

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The Dons graduated pitcher John Treat, but Acalanes returns first baseman Drew Gaylord and catcher Austin Rei, who was named to the all-DI-II NCS roster. Both juniors were named to the DI-II, Honorable Mention Team last year. "We will not count us out of the NCS championships," said Evan Heptig, senior shortstop. "We have a deep lineup and a good pitching staff."

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**LAMORINDA LOCAL SPORTS**

### Sports

#### Lafayette Little League

**Submitted by Todd Beckett**

**Majors Division**

**Game 1:** Moraga Tigers 3, Piedmont 16

- **Tigers Highlights:** Jake Rider 3 for 4, 2B, 3 RBIs; Scott Chen 1 for 3, 2B, RS; Geisreiter 1 for 2, RBI; Ross Johnson 1 for 2, 2B, 3 RBIs.

**AAA Division**

**Game 2:** Moraga Tigers 6, Piedmont 3

- **Tigers Highlights:** Scott Chen 1 for 3, 1B, 2B, RS.

**Pony Division**

**Game 3:** Piedmont 11 - 1 record.

**Field Hockey**

- **Submitted by Amy Kikugawa**

#### Lafayette Indoor Soccer Champions

**Submitted by Scott Loughran-Smith**

#### Mike Koch's 14-15 Boys ONE Meter Diving Championship

**Submitted by eff Scott Loughran-Smith**

#### PacRim Volleyball Earns #2 Ranking

**Submitted by Steve Sherman**

- **Pacific Rim Volleyball Academy Boys 14’s (PacRim) won the Northern California Volleyball Association Regional Championships in December.**

#### Divs Compete in Region Championships

**Submitted by Steve Sherman**

- **Over 400 divers from nine states competed.**

#### Lafayette Blacklakes are comprised of fourth grade boys from Springhill School and Lafayette Elementary.

- **The club had an undeniably strong season both in league play and the tournament. They were crowned champions on March 12.**

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**continued from page A1**

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### Additional Sports
Lomarinda United 95 U-15 Girls Win Soccer Tournament
Submitted by Benson Chan

A short break from the club season to play high school soccer for UC Santa Barbara and had two individual gold medals and a silver medal this year in the MPSF Diving Championships. Ward was the only swimmer in the MPSF to score two individual gold medals and a silver medal this year in the MPSF Championship Ward was named team captain and Swimmer of the Year while at Campolindo.

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Submitted by Benson Chan

St. Perpetua CYO Season Wraps Up
A tough basketball season, the following St. Perpetua team won the West Dublin League Champions, seventh-grade National girls, fifth-grade National girls, eighth-grade American boys, seventh-grade American boys. The seventh-grade American boys West Dublin League Champions finished with a 6-1 record. The boys went on to play in the Oakland Droughts Championship game at St. John's Park.

Catholic High School Indoor Invitational Track Meet will be held at Fresno State. Both athletes had to qualify for this meet by competing at a track meet held at UC Berkeley on February 5. Both Hollingsworth and Faulkner raced in the 400 yard run. While an unusual distance for the two high school athletes competed on an indoor track.

Soccer Publicity photos from Sea Lion Tournament. The girls on the Lamorinda Soccer Alliance team are back at work getting ready for the California Youth Soccer Association state tournament at the end of March. As part of their preparations, the team practiced at the Northern California Spring Showcase tournament on March 5 and 6 in Palo Alto and Los Altos. Lamorinda won all three preliminary games, including a dramatic come from behind win against a strong Sonoma County Alliance team. Lamorinda United scored two goals in the last ten minutes to advance to the championship game against Livermore Fusion Black 95. The Lamorinda U-15 girls then traveled to Livermore Fusion 84-1 to win the tournament championship in the U-15 gold division.

Acalanes Students Compete at Invitational Track Meet
Submitted by David Faulkner

St. Perpetua's fifth grade A team (along with St. Mary's) was Co-Champions with St. Mary's 5th Grade National Boys.

Back row (l to r): Sarah Collins, Anne Lopez, Lindsey Wilson, Jordan Broust, Alex Thompson, Morgan Reed, Jane Zoney, Tenn Kothare.
Front row (l to r): Stephanie Munoz, Reagan Garing, Carly Moran, Sam Harter, Emily Denton, Kristin Clark.

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Lafayette Teachers See Red over Pink Slips

By Cathy Tyson

Due to notification requirements, all staff involved with both categories will receive pink slips at school officials prepare for date budget cuts. State law requires districts to issue pink slips by March 15. The recipient of a pink slip may or may not be laid off in the end. As the budget situation firms up over the summer, all will become clear.

Stanley Middle School’s auditorium was packed with concerned teachers and parents, standing at times, many wearing red in solidarity with teachers. Several parents commented that they understood the difficulties, but emphasized their common goal of working together as a community. Jean Fullmer, President of the Springhill Elementary Parent Faculty Club, called the formula for funding Lafayette’s schools unappetizing. She and a group of concerned parents are pursuing real reform in education funding. "Forty years ago, Lafayette was designated a ‘low wealth school district’ because of our rural nature and small population. It was determined that our small community had lost a lot for services than an urban community, so we received a smaller amount of money per child than those in larger towns and cities. Forty years later, we still receive less money than the statewide average per student. Our district receives less than the state minimum revenue limit and we plan to pursue equalization relatively soon."

The group also wants to take Proposition 13, which limits annual property taxes to 1.1% of the purchase price of a home, with minimal annual adjustment. "Prop 13 unduly impacts low/wealth districts like ours due to the disparity between paying taxes on a $60,000 home purchased forty years ago versus a $1.5 million home purchased today," said Fullmer.

For more information on the Lafayette School District, go to www.lafsd.k12.ca.us, or for more information on the education funding reform efforts, go to Lafayette-for-education in the search box.

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Free Community Lecture
Tuesday March 29, 2011 at 7pm

Lauren Masi, Physical Therapist, Athletic Trainer, and Certified Orthopedic Specialist will be giving an informative lecture on:

Body Maintenance and Repair, Posture, and Injury Prevention and Care

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY            Page: D1

www.lamorindaeweeke Weekly 925-377-0977

Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Everyone knew it was coming. The Lafayette School District Board of Education Secretary Darrel Brod held a number of meetings to gather feedback and involve parents on funding priorities, there is just not enough money to keep all the teachers and program currently offered. To make matters worse, because of revenue uncertainties, the administration has to plan for a worst-case scenario that may or may not play out depending on a number of factors: the passage or non-passage of Measure B, additional cuts from Sacramento, and an economic turning point.

"We need to put programs that benefit children. Over the past three years, the state has reduced funding by $1,089 per student, resulting in a reduction of $430,123 million to the Lafayette School District," said Brill. "The district is now facing a structural deficit of $2,340,000 for the 2011-2012 school year."

The budget placed into one of two groups, “Category One” cuts are strongly recommended; the second group, cuts to “Category II” present greater challenges and complexities. Category One includes reducing four full-time elementary teachers, eliminating student study support and reducing music in grades four and five, along with increased health/insurance costs and adding another full-time teacher to the classroom. Also included are increasing P.E. classes at Stanley to 53 students and eight grade English classes to 26 minutes, and reducing already-decreased custodial time.

Category II includes reducing instructional salaries, eliminating the Kindergarten through fifth grade science lab, eliminating instrumental music for first through fifth grade, part-time reducing Stanley counseling staff, eliminating the district Tech administrator, further reducing custodial services and maintenance and eliminating the Kinetic music program.

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Two New Lamorinda Businesses are Keeping Things All in the Family

By Sophie Braccini

Lamorinda Mid-Year Tech Scholarship
John Montgomery/Landscape Architect is sponsoring "Life on a Llamalid Garden" on Saturday, May 14. Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the Tech Scholarship program sponsored by the Lamorinda branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW-OML). Attendees will be present to answer questions on the tour of five select Lafayette homes. The fee is $35 for all ages. For more information, call 925-244-2469 or visit www.aauwoml.org/TechTrek.html.

Grace Hopper Tech Trek camp on the Stanford University campus for junior high school girls. The camp inspires young women to pursue careers in computing, science, and technology. The application deadline is April 26. Since the meeting will be in a movie theater, we are in a theater and we are all proud of our city – thought, we are in a theater and we are all proud of our city –

Is that for the 'Show'? "We have a lonely microphone on a small stage. At the back of the restaurant stands a Shish Kabab Show is a restaurant, using family recipes and serving-size meals. "This is not only a show, it is a culture for people to come together," says Mikki Erez. "The meat dishes are the specialty of the chef."

We're learning a lot of things to do together – creating a restaurant, using family recipes and serving-size meals. "This is not only a show, it is a culture for people to come together," says Mikki Erez. "The meat dishes are the specialty of the chef."

"We have a family affair," says Karin Erez, Mikki's sister. "We really look forward to working to make this a great environment to be all together.""The Erez's moved to this country from their native Israel 12 years ago, leaving behind a successful restaurant and a summer camp program. Now

"We've learned a lot of things to do together – creating a restaurant, using family recipes and serving-size meals. "This is not only a show, it is a culture for people to come together," says Mikki Erez. "The meat dishes are the specialty of the chef."

"We have a family affair," says Karin Erez, Mikki's sister. "We really look forward to working to make this a great environment to be all together.

The Erez family in their new restaurant; from left, Roy, Karin, Mikki, Vivian, Amanda Griggs. Printed in CA.

Staff Writers: Cathy Tyson; cathy@lamorindaweekly.com

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Lamorinda Weekly can be found online at www.lamorindaweekly.com and can be purchased at the offices of the Lamorinda Weekly.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact Sophie Braccini at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com or call the office 925-377-0977.
Three women from Lamorinda, one from Orinda and one from Lafayette and beyond the call of duty, were recently honored by Assembly-member Nancy Skinner who praised their contributions to their respective communities. Although there are winners from each of the Assembly District 14 cities, which include Albany, Berkeley, Richmond, Pleasant Hill and beyond, only the local women are listed below.

It was an honor to be included with the thirteen other women from Assemblymember Skinner’s district at the second annual ceremony of the Year event. Assemblymember Skinner exclaims what can be achieved when we work hard and commit ourselves to those things we value,” said Edy Schwartz of Moraga. She has been President of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce for the past three years, and was instrumental in saving the Rheem Theatre. “In addition, she’s been an active volunteer for more than thirty years and has worked hard to cultivate a deeper relationship between St. Mary’s

Drama, Laughter, Music—Town Hall Theatre Does It All
By Andrea A. Firth
Town Hall Theatre Company of Lafayette is often touted as the oldest, continuously active theater in Contra Costa County. That is true, but it doesn’t mean that an old theater can’t learn new tricks. Over the past year and half, in addition to the main stage dramatic productions, Town Hall Theatre Company (THTC) has branched out to host a comedy series and a music series featuring prominent local and area acts. “We wanted to add some variety,” says THTC’s Artistic Director Clare Worsley, “Part of the idea behind the entertainment aspect is to get people in the door to experience this great venue, people who are used to going to the movies but who have never come to Town Hall.” Later this month the comedy series will feature two improv groups battling for audience laughs in a comedy competition coined The Comedy Smackdown. The San Francisco-based improv troupe cricket Hipposkin, which includes THTC’s Technical Director Chris Hayes, will take on the internationally famous comedy group Comedysportz to see who gets the most laughs.

Then in May, THTC will have the hugely popular Beatles Trib-ute band, The Sun Kings, perform. The Sun Kings kicked off the comedy series last spring and are expected to once again play to a sell out crowd.

The music series is the brain- child of Lafayette resident Tom Stack. After working with and for Grateful Dead Productions for twenty years, Stack had re-turned from the industry to the more sedate life of the Lamorinda suburb, but he moved on-ward and began gigging full time.

“We have 150 acousticall y-perfect seats in a local, acousti- cally wonderful theater,” says Stack. “We have what it takes to make it easy to see, cool music.” In 2007, he coordinated a wildly successful tribute concert at THTC for Grateful Dead keyboardist Brent Mydland, who lived in Lafayette until his death in 1990. Following the success of that concert, Stack joined the THTC Board, and the music series was launched. The musical groups featured so far have featured cover bands, which Stack acknowledges makes the music accessible, but he hopes to soon add up-and-coming local bands to the line up. “No bridge, no tunnel, no freeway—that’s our tagline,” says Stack. “We want to make this a local music scene.”

THTC still remains grounded in its dramatic roots. The fourth and final main stage production of the 2010-2011 season will be Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night, which will run throughout June. It has been a while since THTC has performed the Bard, Worsley, who has a decade-long rela- tionship with Cal Shakes, says, this is the perfect opportunity to bring Shakespeare to our community. “Our focus is to reach our constituents,” says Worsley, “We believe drama, music, and all art forms are important to cultivate this community and it will be well worth the wait for an event of this scope. It is an ex- tension of our mission to serve as a social and cultural gathering place for community.”

Tickets $10 per person available at the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. Call 284-7404 for reservations www.lafayetc.com
S—year-old Gigi (Angelina) Kenney runs for her mother, Yannett Kenney, a few months ago. Unfortunately, there is no answer to that question. Kenney was diagnosed a year ago. "The disease is not degenerative, but it has no cure," she said. "I used to think about how it used to be." "I'm incredibly lucky to be alive," Starr says. "I enjoy a sunny day. This is much better than sitting in a restaurant. It's much better than being dead. I'm not sure how it used to be," Starr says. "The disease is not degenerative, but it has no cure," says Kenney. "I have been accused of simulating or even of being crazy, and I do not know anyone in this area with the same condition." Kenney believes she owes the fact that she was finally diagnosed at all to the persistence of her Orinda psychiatrist, Dr. Mark Reginato. "It can take some people up to 10 years to get a correct diagnosis," she says, "but Dr. Reginato never gave up trying to act "normal," and facing the reality of the condition that has shattered her life. "I used to be a radio host in Mexico, and then I had my own Spanish teaching school," Mariposa, she says, "I do not know what I will be able to do in the future." She takes great pride and strength in the determination of her daughter.

Gigi Kenney was diagnosed a year ago. She has caught a cold, weakened her voice, and has a hard time speaking. She is now doing Pilates. The disease is not degenerative, but it has no cure. Kenney receives care from the Insurance Research Foundation; and Team Los Alamos. She does not want to come back to life, even of being crazy, and she does not understand. "The disease is not degenerative, but it has no known cure," says Kenney. "I have been accused of simulating or even of being crazy, and I do not know anyone in this area with the same condition." Kenney believes she owes the fact that she was finally diagnosed at all to the persistence of her Orinda psychiatrist, Dr. Mark Reginato. "It can take some people up to 10 years to get a correct diagnosis," she says, "but Dr. Reginato never gave up trying to act "normal," and facing the reality of the condition that has shattered her life. "I used to be a radio host in Mexico, and then I had my own Spanish teaching school," Mariposa, she says, "I do not know what I will be able to do in the future." She takes great pride and strength in the determination of her daughter.
Making Movies in Moraga

By Cathy Dausman

Greg Thomas in his velomobile

Pedaling for a Greener Tomorrow

By Cathy Dausman

Greg Thomas says the velomobile is “not a plane; it is a bicycle.” He says, “Nothing should be without being remarkable people and machines. This will be an amazing event.”

Thomas is the only Lamorinda making the ROAM trip.

To prepare for the trip Thomas commits to ride in Walnut Creek two or three times a week along the Lafayette Moraga trail.

Velomobiles are incredible machines that satisfy my need for exercise, efficient transportation and beautiful engineering design,” he says. He has made over 200 rounds trips. “It’s a unique experience,” he says, “I’ve never been in a car.”

Thomas says the velomobile is “a vehicle for social change. People should be driving less.”

Greg Thomas in his velomobile

Looking up, might I be a kook? L is it a plane? Is it a banana? No, it’s Greg Thomas in his yellow velomobile! A velomobile is a three-wheeled recumbent bike (two-wheel steering on front) within a fiberglass shell. Thomas currently rides a Dutch build Mango Sport model, which weighs 65 lbs and is 7 feet long.

Human Powered Vehicles, or HPVs, are, still fairly new in the U.S., Thomas estimates there are only a dozen such vehicles scattered across this Bay Area. Velomobiles (cycle rhymes with yellow) are quite common in Europe, often in the colder climates. They can be fitted with a kayak-like gear, called a “skirt” and bubble top windscreen to keep the driver warm. They have electric lights and a bell and/or horns. Some are fitted with a small electric motor to assist on uphill climbs. Velomobile drivers can easily maintain a 20-WH (kilowatt hour per hour) bike to 20 mph, keep up with residential traffic, but Thomas is careful to observe the 15 mph upper limit on bike trails. "I try to be a good trail user," he says, "as well as any bike you drive defensively."

An Oakland resident and Cal Berkeley graduate, Thomas is a Senior Project Manager for American Mechanical. He was a college gymnast and has done "lots of paragliding and kite surfing." His interest in recumbent bikes dates to the late 1990's. He first rode recumbents in 2001, and switched to riding a velomobile in 2009.

He committed for his first velomobile, racking up 3500 miles in 2008. He commuted on his first velomobile, racking up 3500 miles in 2008. He commuted on his first velomobile, racking up 3500 miles in 2008. He commuted on his first velomobile, racking up 3500 miles in 2008. He commuted on his first velomobile, racking up 3500 miles in 2008.

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High Schools Take on Classic Musicals

By Lou Fancher

Technology savvy students and intensive editorial standards make Lamorinda High Schools' newspaper and yearbook the high-quality, hyper-current, hip, to use an old-fashioned phrase.

Although articles about life on campus form the bulk of their coverage, all three papers—Acalanes' Blueprint, Campolindo's La Puma, and Miramar's Misreaders—are off limits and the only limit to how much we can say about our school is, in fact, no limit. The blueprint are due to the passage of the California Scholastic Journalism Act that gives high-end sources and topics relevant to the student body, they said.

The editors rely on section editors and their writers to fill their pages and, as this is the annual yearbook, they are centered on a closure date for composing the book. Outstanding stories that make the book and have a pair bring food. It's a roundtable discussion with directors, walk inside the Giants' AT&T Park, and attend a roundtable discussion with director Gary Vorhees and actress Jennifer Beals. Directors discussed it with reporters to congratulate our news and interesting quality journalism, and the workbook can be quite demanding, but it's an option to learn in a hands-on way. The atmosphere is very nice, there's a chance to ask questions and support the writers from other cities because it offers students a variety of freedom and an opportunity to learn in a hands-on way. The atmosphere is very nice, there's a chance to ask questions and support the writers from other cities because it offers students a variety of freedom and an opportunity to learn in a hands-on way. The atmosphere is very nice, there's a chance to ask questions and support the writers from other cities because it offers students a variety of freedom and an opportunity to learn in a hands-on way. The atmosphere is very nice, there's a chance to ask questions and support the writers from other cities because it offers students a variety of freedom and an opportunity to learn in a hands-on way. The atmosphere is very nice, there's a chance to ask questions and support the writers from other cities because it offers students a variety of freedom and an opportunity to learn in a hands-on way. The atmosphere is very nice, there's a chance to ask questions and support the writers from other cities because it offers students a variety of freedom and an opportunity to learn in a hands-on way. The atmosphere is very nice, there's a chance to ask questions and support the writers from other cities because it offers students a variety of freedom and an opportunity to learn in a hands-on way. The atmosphere is very nice, there's a chance to ask questions and support the writers from other cities because it offers students a variety of freedom and an opportunity to learn in a hands-on way. The atmosphere is very nice, there's a chance to ask questions and support the writers from other cities because it offers students a variety of freedom and an opportunity to learn in a hands-on way. The atmosphere is very nice, there's a chance to ask questions and support the writers from other cities because it offers students a variety of freedom and an opportunity to learn in a hands-on way.
**Waste-Less Lunch at Springhill a Big Success**

By Sophie Bracchini

S

pringhill Elementary School in Lafayette is effecting change. Since the Waste-Less Lunch campaign was launched in February, the school’s Green Team reports that the weight of non-recyclable waste has been cut by 50%. One of the high points of the campaign was the school’s zero-waste prom on March 20, where Nanette Heffernan appeared in a head-to-toe outfit made out of upcycled plastic trash from the previous week’s school lunch waste. She was a real kid-magnet at the fair. The multicolor, punky costume attached with safety pins was undeniably attractive, but it highlighted the sad reality of buckets-full of non-recyclable trash dumped by kids each day at school.

“I’ve got all the kids,” said Clare, adding she is happy to “build a relationship [with Urban Farmers],” stating that for two years, “so the campaign last month, with Jodi Sioshansi, has also done waste reduction activities at school. It is important to focus on the students they would like to accept but do not have the space to enroll. This 

...
Orinda Farmers’ Market
Opens April 2nd
Win a Week of Camp - Roughingit.com

Learn how to sew, make clothes, express your creativity and have lots of fun! Design and make your own unique fashion items: totes, skirts, robes, dresses, hoodies, beach bags, swimsuits, quilts and more. Special camps for: Teens - Beginner to Advanced - Half or Full Day - Spring & Summer

For more information drop-in, call, or visit: www.sewnow.com
Camp listings collected and compiled by Wendy Scheck.

ID TECH Camps (Moraga)
Learn to create video games, iPhone & iPad apps, 3D printing and many more! Serving campers ages 8-14. Located at US universities nationwide, including St. Mary's College and UC Berkeley. Save $200 for St. Mary's alumni.
Phone: 1-888-709-TECH (8324)
Website: www.IDTECHcamps.com

Lorne Smith Lacrosse (Moraga)
One of the most highly regarded teachers of the game, Deraised retired Lorne Smith (Princeton '99, 1x All-American, 1x NCAA National Champion, 4x All-American, 2x All-American, 2x National Coach of the Year, 1x National Coach of the Year) returns to St. Mary's College in Moraga this summer.
Dates: One week only July 13-17
Website: www.lornesmithlacrosse.com

Camp Pura Vida (Rooselawn) Overnight
A Sleepaway camp that opened the Adventure Day Camp. Camp Pura Vida is nestled among redwood trees and the Rancheria River offers a beautiful and tranquil setting for the program. Activities include hiking, horseback riding, boating, camping, arts, drama, and much more. 7/7-8/7 (7 days) or Aug 7-14 (6 days).
Phone: (925) 937-6500
Website: www.puravidacamp.com

Sienna Ranch (Lafayette)
Siennas own ranch camp experience. Camp provides a challenging curriculum on a picture-perfect campus in Northern California. Activities include: horseback riding, arts and crafts, horse barn, and more. The focus is on the well-being of the horses and the campers.
Phone: (925) 283-6311
Website: www.siennaranch.com

Redwood Ranch Summer Camps (Moraga)
GUARDIAN ANGEL CAMPERS will enjoy a weeklong Day Camp program at the Rancheria River. We offer art, music, horseback riding, zip line, and more! Campers will explore nature every day and enjoy a new adventure with the camp counselors.
Phone: (925) 937-6500
Website: www.redwoodranchcamps.com

Roughing It Day Camp (Lafayette)
All outdoors day camp located at the Lafayette Reservoir for children 4 1/2 - 16 years. Activities include: horseback riding, swimming lessons, trail riding, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, sports, outdoor adventure & more! Transportation provided from home and group bus stops. Extended available.
Phone: (925) 283-3795
Website: www.roughingit.com

Redwood Ranch Summer Camps (Oakland Hills)
Campers have long been looking forward to a weeklong Day Camp, along with horsemanship lessons learning to saddle up, groom and care for their horses. Friendly, safe and supportive environment.
Dates: Weekly sessions June 21 – August 19 8:30am - 3pm
Phone: (510) 531-5262
Website: www.redwoodranchcamps.com

SMC Summer Camps (Moraga)
SMC offers 30+ sports camps on one of the most picturesque campuses on the West Coast. Saint Mary's offers boys and girls Overnight, Day, Teams, and Specialty Camps for ages 4-18. Summer 2011 of- fers All Sports Camps, Baseball, Football, Gymnastics, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, and Tennis and Volleyball.
Phone: (510) 631-4UFN (4386)
Email: smccamps@stmarys-ca.edu
Website: www.smcgaels.com, click “camps”

ID Tech Camps • Weeklong • Ages 7-17
Camp Design • 3D Modeling • Programming
App Development • Film Making • Photography
Robotics & More!

ID Teen Academies • 2-Weeks • Age 13-18
Special Teen Programs: ID Gaming Academy, ID TV Academy

You may download our mobile app from:
www.lamorindaweekly.com

SUMMER 2011 Part 1, Full Day and Overnight Camps
Summer Camps

Lamorinda Parks & Recreation
Summer Camps 2011

Camp Kefli (Lafayette)
The Kefli camp staff leads a wide range of programs that are appropriate to each age group (K–6), filling our two-week sessions with fun. Some programs utilize the wonderful Temple Isaiah facility while others take place off site. We offer creative theme days and adventures that enrich and delight our campers!

• Dates: August 8 – August 19; 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
• Phone: (925) 284-9191
• Website: www.temple-isaiah.org

Lafayette Summer Music Jazz Workshop (Lafayette)
The week-long music workshop provides an intimate and inspiring environment for learning and playing jazz. Master classes, improvisation workshops and jazz combos are led by some of the foremost, professional musicians in the field.

• Directed by Stanley Middle School music director Bob Athayde.
• Dates: One week only: August 1 – August 5
• Website: www.lafayettejazz.wordpress.com

Orinda Parks & Recreation (Orinda)
A variety of full day camps offered for theater band for beginning – advanced sports levels (ages 4-15): Basketball, Capture the Flag, Flag Football, Golf, Lacrosse, Mini-Hawk, Soccer and multi-sport camps.

• Orinda Parks & Recreation
• 28 Orinda Way
• Phone: (925) 254-2445
• Website: www.cityoforinda.org

Camp Saklan Explorers (Morgan)
Weekly camps for ages 7-10 with theme-based activities during the morning session, Monday through Thursday. The afternoon session will include activities such as swimming, sports, crafts, crafts, and much more. Weekly field trips every Friday.

• Dates: June 13-18 & June 20-25
• Phone: (925) 376-7900
• Website: www.saklan.org

Summer Camp for Children (Grades 7-12) (Orinda)
The camp is a six-week “Drop-in” day program for children ages 7-12. The park will be staffed with Recreation Leaders and children will be able to come and go as they (and you) please. They will spend their days participating in age appropriate sports, crafts, games, nature walks, etc.

• Dates: July 11-22 and August 1-5
• Phone: (925) 283-7996
• Website: www.sewnow.com

Sewnow! Fashion Design (Lafayette)
Learn fashion design and sewing at sewnow! This camp includes workbook, fabrics, notions, computerized custom fit patterns, and custom embroidery classes. There is something for everyone this summer at sewnow! Fashions and much more.

• Website: www.sewnow.com

Town Hall Kids (Lafayette)
Learn fashion design and sewing at Town Hall Kids. Classes expose children of all ages to theater arts while developing confidence, leadership, team building skills and acting techniques. Sessions vary in length from one week summer camps to three-week rehearsed presentations. Come join us for Riding Lessons Horse Camp, Horsemanship Apprenticeship programs and more. www.belleoakshorsecamp.com

• Sharon Leo, Horse Trainer, Riding Instructor
• Phone: (925) 212-4812
• Email: sharon.leo50@yahoo.com

Oakland Strokes Summer Rowing Camps
Rowing Camps for Boys and Girls Ages 12 - 17

Learn to Row Crew! Our summer program is designed to provide an enjoyable and very real introduction to the great sport of rowing. We use these introductory camps as a recruiting program for all of our rowing teams. They provide excellent training for beginning rowers in rowing technique, teamwork, physical fitness and endurance. Within a week rowers will gain enough skill to row their first race on the Oakland Estuary, which is guaranteed to be an exciting experience one way or another!

One Week Introductory Sessions (9am – 12am)
• June 20 – 24
• July 11 – 15
• August 26 – 30

* Advanced sessions, and a prior one-week introductory session or our middle school program is required for students entering 9th or 10th grade!

Learn More & Sign Up! www.oaklandstrokes.org

Belle Oaks Stables Welcome Belle Oaks Stables Welcomes SADDLE WILL TRAVEL

Sharon Leo, Horse Trainer, Riding Instructor
925-212-4812  •  sharon.leo50@yahoo.com

Come join us for Riding Lessons Horse Camp, Horsemanship Apprenticeship programs and more. www.belleoakshorsecamp.com

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Learn More & Sign Up! www.oaklandstrokes.org
Lamorinda Moms Pick Best of Lamorinda 2011
Submitted by Leslie Ellwood, Best of Lamorinda Survey Chair 2011

2011 Winners List

Children
Babysitting resource
Friends
Nutty Nut Resource
Lamorinda Moms Forum
Birthday Entertainer
Music Together
Birthday Party Location
Pump It Up
Children’s Birthday Cake
Safeway
Children’s Clothing
Baby Gap, Gap Kids
Toy Store
Sweet Dreams
Dance Class / Lanes
Kid N’ Dance
Gymnastics Class
Kindergym
Music Class
Music Together
Swim Lessons
Campionioli High - Soda Aquatic Center
Summer Camp
Drumlin Parks & Rec
Kol’s Harbor
Mo. Karen’s Place
Playground
Morganwoods Commons
Work / Play with Kids
Lakefront Reservoir
Ramy Day Activity
Lindsey Wildlife Museum
Family Daycare
Miss Donna - Lafayette Library
Palm Tree School
Growing Tree Pre-School

Food / Drink / Fun
Bakery
Chow
Carpetty / Delivery
Chow
Family Friendly Dining
Chow
Chinese Food
Uncle Yu’s Szechuan
Pizza
Zachary’s
Italian Food
Sasso
Mexican Food
El Chicho
Italian Food
Postino
Japanese Food / Sushi
Blue Ginko
Middle Eastern Food
Babalu’s Mediterranean and Greek
Thai Food
Amari Thai
Desert’s
Yogurt Shack
Seasfood
Sanke’s Pier
Steak
Ruth’s Chris
Sandwich Shop
Lafayette Delicatessen
Coffee Shop (Coffee)
Peet’s Coffee
Oyster Bar
Metro
Café
Postino
Children’s Night Out
Metro
Movie Theater
Century 14
Live Music
Lafayette Commons
Live Theater
Lasher Performing Arts Center
Pampering
Clayton Valley Pumpkin Patch
Pictures with Santa
Broadway Plaza

Professional Services
Baby University
Sterling Cleaners
Florist
Orchard Nursery & Florist
Party Stores
Trader Joe’s
Party Supplies
Rosie’s Food
Pet Store / Sitting
Heather’s Pet Care
Veterinarian
Lafayette Animal Hospital
Caterer
Barbara Lynwood Catering & Event Planning
Photographer
Carrie Richards
Pampering
Orchard Nursery & Florist

Health
Pediatric Dentist
Alpha Pediatric Dentistry
Obstetrician
Anahat Sandhu MD
Obstetrician / Gynecologist
Kristine Erig, MD
Dermatologist
Kelly Hoss MD
Chiropractor
Orinda Family Chiropractic & Massage
Pediatric Dentist
Orinda Pediatrics

Pregnancy / Maternity / Newborn
Prenatal Yoga Class
Day One Center
Birth / Parenting Class
John Muir Women’s Health Center
Infant Specialty Shop
Day One Center
Lactation Consultant
Day One Center - Linda
Sleep Consultant
Baby2Sleep - Karen Pollock

Pampering and Fitness
Health and Fitness Center
Laurelmore Hotel and Spa
Full Service Salon
Entourage
Fitness Studio
Lavender
Gym
Oakwood Athletic Club
Pilates Class
Bar Method
Mom & Baby Fitness Class
Baby Bootcamp
Yoga / Pilates Studio
YogaWorks

Thank you Lamorinda Moms!

Vote “Best Of” in 2011 by Lamorinda Moms, San Jose Mercury News

Signature Pedicure
Nail Care, Exfoliation, Massage, and Polish
Signature Manicure
$13

Additional Fee: $2 for second mani/pedi

Gift Cards Available. Additional fees are accepted. Additional fees are welcome.

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Staging—First Impressions Count

By Andrea A. Firth

Staging is akin to putting on pearls with a little black dress, says Nikole 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 of Staging & Design in Lafayette, employs a similar analogy to explain the concept of staging. “If you put on a little lipstick, you always look better,” says Winters. “Staging is like putting a little lipstick on a house.”

Stagers in Lamorinda share a common goal—maximizing the sale. “Staging a home really does put more money in the seller’s pocket. It leads to a quicker sale and a higher price,” says realtor Sue Layng, a founding member of Village Associates Real Estate in Orinda. “We have a wealth of talented and caring stagers in this area,” adds Layng, noting that almost every property her firm sells is staged at some level.

Stagers in Lamorinda provide a wide range of services to ready homes for sale. The cost to stage a home, typically based on time (the stager’s fee) and materials (furniture rental fees), can range from several hundred to several thousand dollars depending on the services used and the length of time on the market. Stagers will consult on home décor design and color and manage contractors to paint, repair, and update. Empty homes can be furnished with rented furniture, art, and accessories, or stagers will work with existing home furnishings, re-arrange the old, and mix in new pieces. Most stagers will do as much or as little of the legwork to get the home prepared as a client wants.

“You want people to remember the house,” says Winters, but she acknowledges that this can be challenging in an area that has a number of generic, and often dated, ranch homes. “Sometimes the challenge is adding some character to the house, and that’s when being eclectic can help.”

Winters, a self-described collector, maintains a 6,500-foot warehouse in Lafayette filled with a huge assortment of furniture, bedding, art, and accessories to support her staging and furniture rental businesses. “I like to add a bit of humor and levity to my staging designs,” says Winters who aims for variety and is comfortable mixing contemporary and Chinese pieces and throwing in an animal print for contrast and pop. “I’ll do whatever is fitting for the house and put a twist on it to give it that wow factor,” she adds.

Jenifer Brunk and Gray Hynes were two of the first stagers to work in the Lamorinda area. The two college friends, both longtime Orinda residents, purchased their staging business, Improve to Move, 18 years ago. “Early on we spent a lot of time explaining the staging concept to realtors and buyers, but it’s a well accepted practice now, it’s expected,” says Brunk. “We don’t have a specific style,” says Brunk, “We stage a home to showcase what’s special about that house.” Although the approaches employed by stagers may vary, it all comes back to the sale.

...continued on page F6
Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

LAFAYETTE
Last reported: 7
LOWEST AMOUNT: $585,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: $1,080,000

MORAGA
Last reported: 8
LOWEST AMOUNT: $200,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: $995,000

ORINDA
Last reported: 5
LOWEST AMOUNT: $625,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: $1,100,000

LAFAYETTE
898 Dewing Avenue, $619,000, 4 Bdrms, 1551 SqFt, 1932 YrBlt, 2-18-11;
Previous Sale: $199,000, 10-02-96
1057 Dolores Drive, $645,000, 3 Bdrms, 1531 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 2-8-11
1176 Glen Road, $1,080,000, 4 Bdmrs, 2578 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 2-23-11;
Previous Sale: $1,360,000, 08-08-06
1 Nephi Court, $770,000, 4 Bdrms, 3751 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 2-24-11;
Previous Sale: $550,000, 10-02-92
3096 Hedaro Court, $625,000, 4 Bdrms, 1709 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 2-15-11
1067 Oak Hill Road, $610,000, 3 Bdrms, 1492 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 2-23-11;
Previous Sale: $825,000, 10-14-05
3151 Withers Avenue, $585,000, 4 Bdrms, 2455 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 2-14-11;
Previous Sale: $929,000, 01-13-05

MORAGA
2135 Ascot Drive #5, $415,000, 3 Bdrms, 1800 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 2-16-11;
Previous Sale: $53,500, 06-20-75
2045 Ascot Drive #B, $200,000, 2 Bdrms, 928 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 2-18-11;
Previous Sale: $345,000, 07-26-04
3744 Campolindo Drive, $705,000, 4 Bdmrs, 2074 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 2-17-11;
Previous Sale: $113,000, 03-08-78
116 Corliss Drive, $995,000, 4 Bdrms, 2288 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 2-23-11;
Previous Sale: $925,000, 12-03-03
283 Deerfield Drive, $655,000, 3 Bdrms, 2498 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 2-23-11;
Previous Sale: $60,000, 07-01-71
1090 Larch Avenue, $925,000, 3 Bdrms, 2633 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 2-10-11;
Previous Sale: $192,000, 04-21-86
169 Shuey Drive, $714,000, 4 Bdrms, 1956 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 2-18-11
133 Westchester Street, $620,000, 3 Bdrms, 2264 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 2-18-11;
Previous Sale: $542,000, 10-12-00

ORINDA
212 Crescent Drive, $950,000, 2 Bdrms, 1849 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 2-10-11;
Previous Sale: $1,050,000, 07-03-08
403 Dalewood Drive, $901,000, 4 Bdrms, 6502 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 2-18-11;
Previous Sale: $1,400,000, 04-06-05
21 Lavina Court, $625,000, 3 Bdrms, 1391 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 2-23-11
70 Lost Valley Drive, $670,000, 4 Bdrms, 2342 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 2-24-11;
Previous Sale: $850,000, 06-09-05
429 Ridge Gate Road, $1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 2684 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 2-16-11;
Previous Sale: $1,530,000, 01-23-08

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

MORAGA
14 Miramonte Drive, 94556, Federal National Mortgage, 02-15-11, $357,779,
1152 sf, 2 bd
COMING SOON!
1252 Quant Road, Lafayette

A Harold Smith Home & Neighborhood – Superb Lafayette Location!
4 BR + Large Bonus Room 3 BA 3,035 Sq Ft .37 Acre
End of Cul de Sac – A great gathering place for all the neighborhood kids
Walkway off backyard to nearby Springbrook Pool and Acalanes High School
Wonderful Design & Style, Quality Smith Construction, Beautifully Maintained
Fabulous Floor Plan with Updated Kitchen/Informal Eating Area Open to Family Room, Large Living & Formal Dining Featuring Hardwood Floors, Deep Baseboard & Crown Moldings, High Ceilings

4 Sycamore Road, Orinda

Extraordinary Gated Estate in Treasured Location!
Sprawling Lawns, Breathtaking Gardens
6 BR 7+ BA 6,641 Sq Ft Totally Private 1.34 Acres
Ideal Guest/Au Pair Quarters, Covered 6 Car Parking
Offered at $4,250,000

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A Great Home, Great Happy Valley Neighborhood!
Beautifully Designed & Updated, Stunning Interior Kitchen/Family Room, Light and Bright, Single Story
4 BR 4 BA 3,469 Sq Ft Private .75 Acre with Pool
Offered at $1,679,000
MARVELOUS HAPPY VALLEY LIVING

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DRE # 000970956

Open Sunday 3/20 1-4
This approximately 3236 square foot, six bedroom, four bath home combines unique interior spaces offering a venue for wonderful entertaining and/or warm intimate gatherings. Lovely hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings and large windows add fabulous natural light and volume to many rooms. The kitchen/family great room has access to the spacious back yard and patio for great indoor/outdoor living and entertaining. All this within walking distance to the Lafayette Reservoir and Oakwood Athletic Club, excellent freeway access for an easy commute and top rated Lafayette schools.

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Joan Cleveland
Broker, MBA
Joan's 34 years of success in real estate is the result of the satisfaction of her many repeat and referral clients who value her expertise, negotiating skills and professionalism.

“The consummate professional”
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DRE License #01111347
New Listings

Open Sunday 1-4

232 Calle La Mesa, Moraga
Updated single-story, 4 bedroom, 2 bath home with over .30 acre level yard with views, pool, spa, sauna & lawn. Granite, stainless & maple kitchen, tiled baths, hardwood flooring, dual-paned windows, skylights & new paint. Living room, formal dining, family room with raised ceiling opens to kitchen/dinette. Pool club, top schools & excellent commute location.

3764 Via Granada, Moraga
Completely remodeled and expanded Campolindo rancher. This home features 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths and a full-equipped media room that could be used as an au pair/in-law suite. The chef's kitchen has marble counter tops, 6-burner Dacor range and much more. The family room has a built-in media center. Master bedroom suite with walk-in closet and luxurious bath. Spacious, level yard with lawn, patio, sports court, dog run, fruit trees and hot tub.

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“We want the buyer to be able to picture themselves in the home,” says Hynes. She and Brunk keep a small inventory of linens and accessories and rent furniture through a large supplier in San Francisco. “They constantly turnover their inventory and keep up with the styles and trends. It’s a fabulous resource,” says Brunk.

Less is more for stagers who universally find that clutter is distracting and personal items don’t sell a home. But in today’s market, sellers are often still living in the staged home, so the stager is faced with striking a workable compromise. “There is a delicate balance to be achieved, because selling and moving is often emotional for the homeowner,” says Layng, “Good stagers are sensitive to the homeowner’s needs and have away of making him or her feel good about the staging process.”

With the widespread use of online real estate marketing, stagers are now also faced with staging for both the live and virtual tour. “People are buying houses using the internet, so you want to be sure that the house looks great in photographs, too,” says Isely. And, the details count when it comes to staging. A newly painted mailbox, clean windows, a new doormat – all give the impression that a house is well maintained. “All those little things do matter,” says Isely, “It’s all about making a great first impression.”
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