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business briefs



Sue Kim styles young Annabelle's hair with a comb and hair pins, while Kate and Hunter Welch observe. Photo Mina Lucacher

Hello Tiara Opens in Theatre Square
Orinda Theatre Square, Ste. 138
(925) 253-5050
hellotiara.com

Want your hair to be styled with unique accessories for your next big event or party? The new Hello Tiara store that opened this month in Theatre Square offers just that. The jewelry and accessory boutique offers a complementary styling when you purchase merchandise. "We carry a whole line of hair clips, brooches and other accessories," explains owner Sue Kim, "and we want to show people different ways to wear and use them." Kim is an Acalanes graduate who studies fine arts at the San Francisco Academy of Arts. "I always loved artistic expression," says the young owner. She opened her first boutique with long time friend Steve Kim in San Francisco. "We had a lot of foot traffic there. People from all over the world helped us gauge what they were really looking for," she says, "but I missed the family and happy vibe of Lamorinda, so we looked for an opportunity to come back." Kim says she's very happy to have found the space in Theatre Square, between Barbacoa and Living Lean. "We can really build relationships with our customers here." The partners immediately joined the

Chamber of Commerce and reached out to schools to start supporting them. They are also offering events for different age groups, such as birthday parties and 'girls-night-out' parties where everyone leaves with adorned hair or other styled jewelry. The jewelry and accessories that contain crystals have a lifetime guarantee. "If you lose a stone," says Kim, "we'll replace it." She says she shops in Europe and Korea for her merchandise and that most of her pieces are hand-made by people she visited.

Storyteller Finds a New Home
3506Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste. E, Lafayette
(925) 284-3480

The place for children's books in Lafayette will now be at 3506 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite E, the new location of Storyteller beginning the first part of April. "The space is very well located for a lot of foot traffic and it is the right size for us," says Storyteller's owner Linda Higham. "We plan to continue our business as usual there." Higham indicated that the owner of the building on Lafayette Circle had asked the bookstore to leave, but that she is happy to have found a similarly sized space in a good location. Suite E is located on the courtyard behind McCaulou's and Whole Foods in a busy shopping center. Higham did not know yet when the grand-opening celebration would be scheduled. "It will take us one or two weeks to move," she says. Her current lease ends at the end of March.

Si Si Caffé Celebrates 15 years
910 Country Club Drive, Moraga
(925) 377-1908

Cathy Corsi, her daughter Cynthia Corsi and granddaughter Cara created a bright display at the beginning of the month to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the beloved independent coffee shop in Moraga. The café, which opened next to Cathy Corsi's salon, was a natural extension. Over the years, Corsi has trained generations of local high school kids as bartenders, she has expanded the range of quality drinks and pastries offered and the café gradually became a ritual stop for many local groups and residents. One of the first spots for nearby elementary and middle school kids to safely hang out, it is also a gathering place for cyclists and senior groups. In spite of its tiny size, Si Si Caffé has become one of Moraga's iconic businesses, now managed by three generations of Corsi women.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

Chamber mixer at YogaWorks at 5:30 p.m. April 10, 1131 Locust Ave., 2nd Floor, in Walnut Creek.

Ribbon cutting at 5 p.m. April 11 for Gomez and Associates, French for Fun, and Chalmers Fitness that share the building at 3381, 3383 and 3385 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Come celebrate the Renaissance and transformation of this location with owners Carlos, Catherine Jolivet and Marilyn Chalmers.

Moraga

General membership meeting starting at 7:30 a.m. Friday, March 29 at the Hacienda de las Flores, 2100

Donald Dr., Moraga. A special agent from the FBI will be the guest speaker discussing cyber fraud.

Orinda

Miramonte Parent's Club Heart of the Home Kitchen and Garden Tour of Orinda will feature six extraordinary indoor and outdoor kitchens presented by the Miramonte parents' club from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 18. For tickets and information, visit www.miramonteparents.com.

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