From left, Allie Fink, Alicia Hober and Arlee Farrell help install a variety of native plants for butterflies and Community Park visitors to enjoy. Paulo Trento preps his spot. Photo Cathy Tyson

# Pint-Sized Gardeners Plant Butterfly-Friendly Natives

Bee Guy Rescues Field Trip

By Cathy Tyson

Merriewood Children's Center were slated to walk over to install Director Jennifer Russell just a couple of hours from scheduled swarm and move it to a more appropriate location. native plants in a brand new butterfly garden, bees congregated planting.

ue the bat, or rather bee, signal. Except unlike Batman, a little too close for comfort. "What are the odds that a swarm Parks and Recreation staff needed a bee hero to save of bees would decide to take refuge in an oak tree that is right Lafayette bee guy Steven Harris happened to pick up his phone the day. Just a few hours before young helpers from next to the butterfly garden?" said Parks, Trails and Recreation and was available to come immediately and gently collect the

Although he didn't have a cape or a bat/bee mobile,

... continued on page A12

### **Quote of the Week:**

"It is an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to give our young people a voice." Read Teens to Talk Writing, Publishing and Broadcasting with Cynthia Brian, page A6. Advertising

#### Success doesn't just happen...



"After watching our local real estate market turn into a sellers market, I began to appreciate the value of having Melanie as my agent. She is wonderful to work with, extremely knowledgeable, and has the perfect amount of professionalism." - Lee G.





"I have worked with many realtors over the years. I had the good fortune to hire Maureen Wilbur to sell my home. Maureen has the highest integrity, honesty, work ethic of any realtor I have ever known. She is truly a lovely person to work with." ~Stacie B.

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#### LAMONINDA

# Jack Zembsch: A Little Person with a Big Voice

**Town News** A2 - A12 Life in Lamorinda B1 - B12 Classified **B8** Service Directory В9 В9 Food Not to be Missed B10-B11 **Business B12** C1 - C3 Sports **HOW TO CONTACT US C3** C4 Shop Orinda **Summer Camps** Our Homes This Week Read About: Andersen Visits Lafayette New SMC President

D1-D6 E1-E12 A2 A4 Adobe Deal А6 Fire Uncertainty Α9 В3 When a Tree Falls Spring Fashion **B4** College Options B6 Masters Swim C1



Jack Zembsch with his mother, Kim.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Jack Zembsch knows resilience. He's needed a lot of it just to grow up, and he's only 11 years old. The Moraga resident has been supported by his community since the days when his family was fighting to get coverage for a procedure that was critical to his survival.

Zembsch was diagnosed in early infancy with an extremely rare condition called metatropic dysplasia. This form of dwarfism is characterized by severe spinal deformity. By age 6, his spine was bent beyond 90 degrees, which compromised his lungs and heart. After he met with pediatric surgeon William MacKenzie in Delaware, he underwent spinal ligament surgery in 2009, followed by nine weeks in halo traction.

"It's been miraculous; the surgery changed his life," says his mother, Kim Zembsch. "He was losing his lung and heart function. After the surgery he came back standing straight, he was part of the upright world and he could breathe." Zembsch continues to get treatment, includingexpandable rods inserted in his back that allow his lungs' growth and normal breathing. They need to be adjusted every six months.

Now his energy and smarts have made him a national spokesperson, going to Washington, D.C. to advocate and to become a face for the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

... continued on page A12

#### **Life in Lamorinda B1-B12**

## Earth Day is April 21!

Join the festivities at Orinda's Wagner Ranch (page A7) or the Lafayette Library and Learning Center (page B1).



**Sports** 

### Gaels Seek to Defend WCC Golf Crown

Hunter Hewitt has the view from the green on page C2.



Camps Summer

# Camp Guide

28 specialty half-day camps and classes.



**D1-D6** 

#### **Our Homes** E1-E12

Cathy Tyson takes a sneak peek at indoor and outdoor entertaining spaces featured on tour to support Miramonte Parent Club (page E1).

