

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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## MORAGA



Moraga Rotary Club Team C members show off medals won at the Odyssey of the Mind state championships. From left, Coach Omid Boozarpour, Jake Oxendine, Meera Ramesh, Maya Ramesh, Anshula Srivastava, Navid Boozarpour, Austen Li, and Ming Qian.

## ORINDA



Glorietta Elementary School's fifth-grade Odyssey of the Mind team, Sullivan Jordan, Stephanie Wu, Leah Sopak, Caroline Kim, Sarah Inouye, and Coach Michael Kim, sport California state caps prior to the World Finals award ceremony.

Photos provided

## LAFAYETTE



For the second time in a row, Stanley Middle School's Odyssey of the Mind team, coached by Tina Edraki and Ian Kallen, attended the World Finals. From left: seventh-graders Theresa Nevins, Aneesa Edraki, Alex Keppel, Gigi Keppel and Trevor Patton, and eighth-graders Amin Edraki and Jonah Kallen (seated).

# Three Lamorinda Odyssey of the Mind Teams Place in Top 20 at World Finals

By Sophie Braccini

Inside the Breslin Student Events Center at Michigan State University, 827 teams from 13 countries and 33 U.S. states filled the huge arena parading for the opening ceremony of the 2013 Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. Young people from countries such as Japan, Poland, China and Germany displayed

their pride with boisterous enthusiasm using bright costumes, props, banners and noisemakers, as the spectators – mostly adoring family-fans – cheered.

"It was like the opening ceremony at the Olympics," says Fei Lin, mother of one of the members of the Joaquin Moraga

Intermediate School team – one of three Lamorinda teams representing California that placed in the top 20 for their divisions at the competition. "There were fireworks, teams from all over the world. It was an amazing time for our children."

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### Quote of the Week:

"Just because one's townhome may not cost as much as your home, doesn't mean that they don't volunteer in the community, donate to their schools, and do their very best to make our community richer, safer, and more desirable for people to live in. For ALL people to live in."

Read Letters to the Editor, page A8

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# Final Clean Up of Former Gas Station Almost Complete

By Cathy Tyson



Location of former gas station on Orinda Way Photo Cathy Tyson

The vacant half-acre fenced parcel directly across from the Orinda Library is finally in contract with an undisclosed buyer after languishing for 15 years. Real estate broker Henry Gannett says the current owner, who purchased the property in 1998, is thinking long term—but there's been some friction with the city of Orinda about design issues submitted by the potential buyer. "Any time a developer wants an economically viable project that requires governmental planning approval, especially in small towns like Orinda, there must be give and take. Orinda wants to zone retail buyers and then lets a real estate company take 2,000 square feet of first floor in Theatre Square. In the best locations retail is hard, this site may stay vacant for years as has

Phair's, rather than compromise."

While it's unclear at the moment if the property negotiations will be fruitful, the history of the parcel has been messy.

The lot at 25 Orinda Way has been a number of gas stations over the years; the most recent owner was BP, under the Arco brand; prior to that it was a Mobil gas station and before that it was transferred to TOSCO Marketing Company which is now Conoco Phillips. Unfortunately the former gas station had leaking underground storage tanks – the remains of the leak have been under scrutiny for the last quarter century. BP accepted responsibility for the clean-up.

The gas station closed for good in 1998, 10 years after a leak was discovered in June of 1988. It was estimated that several hundred gallons of gasoline were released initially, along with a second release of approximately 260 gallons in 1994. A monitoring program started in November of 1990 and continued until 2011. Over the years a total of 13 monitoring wells were installed starting in 1991 to check on contamination levels. Some wells showed substantially more contamination than others – the well with continuously the highest levels of pollutants is MW-5, located directly downhill from the location of the storage tanks. Markings make it easy to locate in the adjacent Vintage Office Building parking lot.

What's surprising is the amount of petroleum related chemicals that lingered in the ground, despite diligent efforts to remove pollutants.

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## CASA Volunteers

Lou Fancher talks to Lamorindans who find inspiration by helping one child at a time. Page B2



### Sports C1-C3

## Acalanes Golfer Goes to U.S. Open

Hunter Hewitt catches up with Elizabeth Schultz. Page C1



### Our Homes D1-D16

## Fire Awareness 101

What you should know in order to stay safe during fire season. Page D1

