

From Front Page

ALS Ice Bucketing Catches Fire in Lamorinda

... continued from page A1



Caitlin Januszewski of Orinda is doused by her boyfriend, Brian Chaney. Photo Mona Johnson

In an effort to raise ALS awareness and funds, people are recording themselves getting doused with buckets of ice cold water and then challenging others to do the same within 24 hours. The photos and videos are posted and shared on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. Those who refuse the challenge are asked to make a donation of \$100 to a local ALS chapter.

On Aug. 13, Campolindo High School football players took to the ice ... water, raising awareness and funds with Lafayette resident Matt Chaney, who was diagnosed with ALS in 2001 and is a tireless advocate for ALS research and support. The challenges continued, spreading to the Burton Valley neighborhood where Tami Mimer was doused by her husband, Christian, with a bucket of freezing water at their Lafayette home. Chaney's son, Brian, challenged girlfriend Caitlin Januszewski, of Orinda, who endured a chilly downpour. And

some high school juniors from Miramonte and Campolindo met at the Moraga Commons Park, on the last day before the start of the new school year, in support of the Ousterman family of Moraga; husband and father Doug Ousterman lost his battle with ALS eight years ago.

Next up? Chaney issued the challenge to the Lafayette City Council, which responded with a unanimous "yes." An exception was made to the challenge's 24-hour rule in order for the city to comply with the Brown Act and properly notice the council gathering 72 hours in advance. The entire council, five brave souls who donate their time to keep the city running, will have ice water dumped on their heads at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 28 at Chaney Fields, also known as Buckeye Fields, 711 St. Mary's Road.

From there, who knows? Maybe a bucket of freezing water is in your future? *J. Wake and C. Tyson*

Civic News Moraga

Summer at the Library a Hit

... continued from page A5

"The room was beyond capacity, parents could not sit down - they had to leave so more kids could stay. And everybody enjoyed the fresh popcorn we make with our own machine at every movie presentation!"

The numbers of kids and teens attending the library programs doubled this summer, in part because the town's summer recreation program also brought children to the library on Tuesdays, and Freyler now wants to build on the summer's high turn-out and expand services for young people, especially teens, in the fall.

"We have a great group of 15 to 20 teen volunteers helping with the programs," said Freyler, "and we have a lot of tweens coming to the teen program. So we hope that next year some of them will volunteer to help, bring their friends along and grow our reach toward teenagers." Freyler knows that attracting high school age clients is a challenge, so

this fall she wants to revive the teen advisory board to brainstorm, select, and organize the activities they want for their age group. Interested teens should contact the library directly.

Freyler also anticipates a high level of participation in this fall's Lamorinda Kids Read program (read the related article on page B3). These programs, and many others, are made possible by the Friends of the Moraga Library. "They are very supportive and are giving us the ability to do what we do. Without them the library would be a very different place," said Freyler.

When asked if she would apply to fill the big chair Freyler said she would not, because her commute is too painful for a full-time schedule. In the interim, however, the library is clearly in capable hands.

For more information on library programming and support, go to cclib.org.

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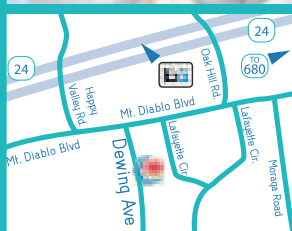
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