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Acalanes girls soccer team with their NCS trophy.

Acalanes girls win NCS soccer championship

By Jon Kingdon

In a game that will be long remembered and not soon forgotten, the second seeded Acalanes Dons defeated the No. 1 seeded Branson High School 1-1, a game that was decided by a shootout. After finishing regulation time tied at one and two scoreless 10minute overtime periods, the game was ultimately decided in the third period of a penalty shoot-out with both teams combining for 29 shots with Acalanes finally coming out on top 10-9.

Branson had won the Northern California Regional championship last year and three North Coast Section titles in the last four years. "I aged about 20

years from this game. In the first half, we were definitely nervous," said Acalanes head coach Nick Barbarino. "It was the first time that we have been there but our defense did a great job holding them scoreless in the first half while our offense was creating our own scoring opportunities."

Coming into the game, Branson was averaging just under three goals a game but were shut out in the first half by a stifling Acalanes defense led by goalie Kate Carter and defensemen Chloe Quintella, Sami Hansen, Aliya Wingate and Dylan Hagglund. "Kate made some fantastic saves and was the vocal leader on the team, keeping us set, being the driving positive force on the field and lifting everyone up." said Barbarino. "Chloe did a really good job in shutting down their best forward. Sami and Aliya handled the middle getting to balls in the air and not allowing the Branson forwards getting in front of them and Dylan Hagglund at left back was phenomenal."

Acalanes scored with nine minutes left in the first half off a free kick by freshman Tatum Zuber, who led the team in scoring, from 25 yards out going into halftime leading 1-0. In the locker room, Barbarino stressed to the team to keep their eye on the prize: "We were very excited at the half but we knew that the next 40 minutes of the game would be a battle (60 minutes with the two overtime periods) with them coming out as hard as they could with their season on the line. ... continued on Page A9



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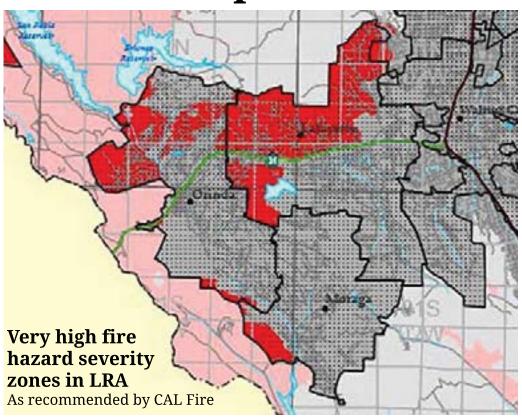


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MOFD Chief pushes to sell new fire code to councils



By Sora O'Doherty

Very tall, very determined, Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Dave Winnacker spoke for over two hours at the podium during what was described as the longest ever "items for the good of the city" at the Feb. 18 Orinda City Council meeting. Winnacker would like to see changes that he proposes to the fire code be implemented, which require approval by the Orinda City Council, the Moraga Town Council, the MOFD board of directors and Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors. Winnacker explained his ambitious and controversial plan and answered every question raised by the public and council members.

The first item on the chief's list – declaring all areas of the district Wildland Urban Interface for purposes of the fire code – caused concern among members of the public and the council members who feared such a declaration could give insurers a reason to refuse to reissue fire insurance policies in the area. Winnacker said that in fact the area has been designated WUI for years. He said that he has consulted with insurers who tell him that the change would actually encourage them to continue to provide fire insurance because they would be reassured that steps are being taken to reduce the risks of wildfire damage.

Winnacker pressed the council to act quickly, saying, "We have a limited period of time to change the profile to prevent insurance cancellations." He said that that the district has a 90% under-insurance rate, but that insurance premiums can only be increased by 3% per year, and suggested that insurers face a stark choice.

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PG&E tree removal begins over Briones pipeline in Lafayette - Page A4

Fire Districts **A8**

MOFD's positive financial condition - Page A3

Life in Lamorinda **B1-B6**

New production opens at Town Hall Theatre -- Page B1

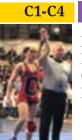
Summer Camps Guide C5-C7

Check out our listing of spring and summer camps -- Page C5



Sports

Campo and Acalanes wrestling place at NCS - Page C1



Our Homes Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian - Page D1





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Initial discussion on General Plan update

By Pippa Fisher

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Lafayette moved another small step closer to the update of its General Plan at the city council meeting Feb. 24. City staff was seeking council feedback and recommendations on the formation of a General Plan Advisory Committee; specifically, who should be included, how to recruit, the goals of the GPAC

and a meeting schedule.

Last updated in Lafayette in 2002, a general plan is the city's guiding document for land use matters required by state law. This will be the third time in the city's history that a comprehensive update will have been done. Staff hopes to have it completed within four years. It is a longrange document that will last thru 2040.

According to staff, the reasons for doing the update now include compliance with the city council's strategic goal No. 2, established in 2019 with the intention to explore community values, and compliance with changing state laws and regional plans.

Discussion focused on who should be appointed to a GPAC, with Mayor Mike Anderson suggesting somehow

incorporating a lottery-based system similar to the method used in selecting a panel for the city manager hiring last year, along with representatives of several different groups from around the city who would act as a referral body to the Planning Commission.

Planning and Building Director Greg Wolff said staff was eager to get going and

suggested PC liaisons Anderson and Council Member Steven Bliss form a subcommittee, with the PC chair and vice chair to conduct interviews and appointments.

Anderson said it was premature to set a meeting schedule at this point. "We will do that as we see how things work," he said.

Rick and Janet Cronk, Lafayette Citizens of the Year



Photo Pippa Fisher

Janet and Rick Cronk, this year's Citizens of the Year.

By Pippa Fisher

Whether the names of this year's husband/wife-team Citizens of the Year are familiar or not, it's fair to say almost everyone living in Lafayette or the wider East Bay, has benefited from the philanthropy of Rick and

Janet Cronk. And while their financial generosity has contributed substantially to a state-of-the-art library and first-rate schools in Lafayette, a world-class hospital in Walnut Creek and a top-notch university in Berkeley, to name but a few from which many local residents benefit, the bigger picture of these two remarkable people is their ability to inspire and

That ability to lead and inspire is particularly evident in Rick's lifelong involvement with scouting, locally, nationally and internationally. As a boy he achieved Life Scout. As an adult he volunteered as a leader in Moraga Troop 212 for his own three sons and even after they achieved Eagle and moved on. He serves on the Boy Scouts of America National Executive board and served a term as president (2006-08). In 2011, he finished his chairmanship of the

World Scout Committee, the executive body responsible for 50 million Scouts in 190 countries. He is also past chairman of the World Scout Foundation (2005-07) and continues serving on the WSF Board.

Rick and Janet sit on many boards. Rick has been a member of the Haas Business School Advisory Board, serving two terms as chairman and has just resigned as a member of the John Muir Health Board of Directors after his 10-year term.

Both Rick and Janet have been longtime supporters of Lafayette Partners in Education, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center and St. Perpetua Church. Rick has been involved with youth ministries through the church, and for many years, despite a hectic travel schedule for work, managed to coach soccer, including teams after his own children had

moved on. He has been a big supporter of water sports, especially at Cal, and is largely responsible for the building of Legends Aquatic Center.

Janet has been involved in Lafayette schools since moving here in 1983. She is a committed supporter of education. She is very involved with Cal, John Muir Health and Diablo Regional Arts Association. She has held many leadership roles over the years with the Happy Valley Garden Club, including president.

The list goes on, but it is through talking to others that one gets a sense of the unwavering support these people offer the community, their ability to inspire others to be better, and in particular their passion for educating and empowering young people.

Lafayette Resident Jill Douglas has worked as Janet's personal assistant for 15 years.... continued on Page A9



City Council

Monday, March 23, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, March 16, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt.

Design Review

Monday, March 9, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Arts & Science Discovery Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings Acalanes Union High School District

Wednesday, March 4, 7 p.m. AUHSD Board Room 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Laf. www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, March 11, 7 p.m. Regular Board Meeting Stanley M.S. Library 3477 School St., Lafayette www.lafsd.k12.ca.us



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Lafayette's newest public art piece and first-ever art Walk and Talk event



Photo provided

Lafayette's latest public art piece, A Living Street by Alice M. Stern, was installed last month.

By Pippa Fisher

The city council heard an update from the Public Art Committee at its Feb. 24 meeting, including details of the latest art piece recently installed in the city and plans for an upcoming Art Walk and Talk event.

PAC member Janice Peacock drew the council's attention to artist Alice M. Stern's work, "A Living Street," installed in February at the newly constructed condominiums behind Trader Joe's at 945 Mountain View Drive.

Peacock explained that the 8-foot diameter work, inset into the pedestrian courtyard space, seeks to honor the history of the interwoven fabric of the Lafayette community by utilizing concentric circles in a quilting pattern, joined together by a flowing pathway recalling the creek. The design uses only straight lines yet creates the illusion and movement of curved, organic focal points.

Residents will get a chance to hear from the artist herself at a special event planned at 1 p.m. March 21 a public art walk and talk.

The free event will start at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Art Gallery with a short introductory talk from award-winning Lafayette painter and print-maker Pam Fletcher whose work is currently on exhibition at the gallery.

... continued on Page A10

Further details on the event can be found at www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/commissions-committees/ public-art-committee/public-art-events-733

PG&E removes trees overhanging Briones pipeline



Photo Pippa Fisher

PG&E works to cut trees posing a potential strike risk for the exposed high transmission gas pipeline Feb. 27.

Chainsaws were buzzing Feb. 27 in the Buckeye Ranch Trail area of Briones Regional Park as PG&E work to clear vegetation around a high-pressure gas transmission line, per the recommendations of a third party engineering firm hired last year, following residents' concerns about the safety of trees overhanging an exposed

pipeline.

The work, which will also include vegetation in the Girl Scout Camp area, is anticipated to be complete by March 6. In total the utility company says it will be removing 13 trees and eight brush units.

- P. Fisher

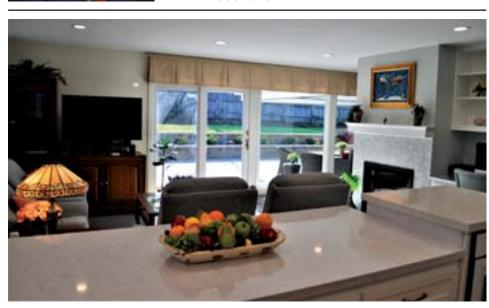


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Warnings to residents to lock car doors go unheeded



LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Photo provided

Potential thieves check for unlocked doors, seen here in surveillance photo.

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Police Department

has warned residents time and again to lock their cars and store all valuables out of sight, yet the advice continues to go unheeded by many. The most recent string of thefts, taking place over a period of almost two months, has yielded a suspect thanks to clips of video recordings sent to MPD by citizens.

Criminal charges have been filed against Angelina Jaimes, 22, of Concord who according to MPD Chief Jon King is involved in other theft cases in the Lamorinda area.

"Jaimes was arrested on a warrant stemming from Lafayette Police Department charges. We will be seeking charges against her for crimes in Moraga," King stated. "No other arrests have been made." She has been connected to

nearly 20 different thefts in Moraga alone, during one of which a garage door opener was used to gain access into a garage. "Jaimes told officers that she regularly goes out looking for unlocked vehicles from which to steal things," King added.

Crimes of opportunity, such as this, come as a result of negligence and are on the rise in Moraga. MPD is compiling January statistics, and King confirmed, "It appears that property crimes have increased over the same period in 2019." If the town is seen as an easy target by thieves, King says it could invite additional crimes in the form of residential burglaries.

Besides making sure to lock

cars and homes, remember to hide items such as gym bags, purses, wallets, keys, brief cases, phones or laptops in secure places like a trunk. Visible garage door openers can give thieves not only entry into your garage but your home if also unlocked. Pay attention to any strangers in your neighborhood prowling around cars or homes in the middle of the night.

"All of these crimes are easily prevented by residents locking vehicles and ensuring that valuables are not left unattended in vehicles," King concluded.

If anyone has any information or notices any suspicious activity contact MPD at (925) 888-7055.

Moraga awards construction contract for new Canyon Bridge

By Vera Kochan

For nearly three years drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians have become accustomed to the workings of the temporary bridge and the very minor inconvenience of having to wait their turn to cross it. Good things come to those who wait. The Moraga Town Council voted unanimously to award a construction contract for a new Canyon Bridge during its Feb. 26 meeting.

April 2017 saw the old bridge's closure due to landslide damage. The current temporary bridge was installed by November of that year. Additional delays to construction occurred during the East Bay Municipal Utility District's 2019

landslide and subsequent litigation events.

Moraga's Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp additionally requested the town council to authorize funding to "increase the Design Professional Services Agreement for civil engineering services with NV5, Inc. (Walnut Creek) in an amount of \$202,793." This increase is an amendment to the original contract and involves such things as environmental monitoring, design changes during bid process, preparation of documents required by environmental permits and risk management analysis. The town's cost would amount to \$25,795 from Fund 210-Measure J after reimbursements contingent on California Department of Transportation

approval.

Because the town has no inspectors on its payroll, Knapp also requested the town council to "increase the construction management services, including construction engineering, inspection and material(s) testing for the construction of the Canyon Road Bridge Replacement Project with Harris and Associates, Inc. (Concord) in an amount of \$22,100 contingent on Caltrans approval." Both resolutions were unanimously approved

As far as choosing a bridge construction company, staff's most recent engineer's estimate of costs had increased to \$7,332,740 with an overall con-



Photo Vera Kochan

Evening commute on Temporary Canyon Bridge into Moraga

struction budget of \$8,177,673 (including 15% contingency). The increase was a result of inflation and having to relocate the new bridge farther away from existing landslides.

The town extended the bidding period two months to allow for more competitive bidding and any project questions/answers from bidders. Eight contractors submitted bids, half of which hovered close to each other's estimates. Bridgeway Civil Constructors, Inc. (Bridgeway) came in with a bid of \$7,111,020 (lower that

the engineer's estimate).

While Bridgeway is a fouryear-old company, its staff has
many years of experience in
the bridge construction industry with projects involving local
portions of the 680 freeway.
The company's president and
key staff members worked for
Meyers and Sons – the contractor for the temporary Canyon

After assessing what funds are available through Caltrans and the federal Highway Bridge Program, staff will present a cost breakdown of Moraga's share to the town council on a future agenda.

Knapp also discussed a bridge construction timeline during the town council meeting. A pre-construction meeting will take place in mid-March. Later in the month a survey of Temporary Construction Easements and Right of Way is expected along with environmentally sensitive species relocation. April will see the construction of Phase 1 (one lane of the bridge). The removal of the temporary bridge will take place in November followed by a work suspension during the winter months. Construction of Phase 2 (the remaining lane of the bridge) is expected to begin April 2021 and continue to its completion in November.



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Hacienda's ADA Restroom Installation Project begins this spring

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga town council has unanimously authorized awarding a contract to Plazo Construction of San Pablo, to complete the installation of an Americans with Disabilities Act restroom at the Hacienda de Las Flores, located at 2100 Donald Dr. The restroom will be located beyond the Fireside Room near the Dance Room.

In October 2018, the town council had authorized the pursuit of Community Development Block Grant funds to complete ADA improvements by allocating \$24,000 in Capital Improvement Project funds.

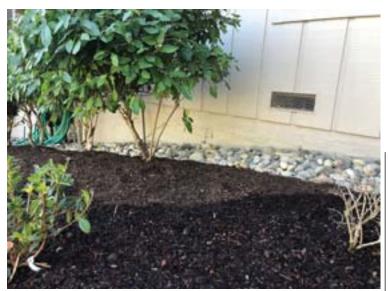
In December, Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg was given authority by the town council to execute a CDBG

agreement with Contra Costa County that included \$47,000 in CDBG grant funds for the completion of the project.

pletion of the project. During the town council's Jan. 22 meeting, the lowest bid in the amount of \$70,801 was awarded to Plazo along with the authorization for Battenberg to execute the construction contract for \$84,961, which includes a 20% contingency. The project's construction cost is included in the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Adopted Capital Improvement Program Budget which includes \$103,000 in total funding for the ADA Restroom Project.

Construction is scheduled to begin this spring. According to the contract, the work is expected to be completed within 45 working days.

Town council reacts to proposed MOFD fire code



This landscaping will pass inspection

www.lamorindaweekly.com

By Nick Marnell

Fire Chief Dave Winnacker brought his road show to the Moraga Town Council Feb. 26 as he presented highlights of a proposed fire code that the chief hopes to become effective in time for the 2020 fire $\,$

Winnacker explained that the proposed code confronts the 21st-century reality of frequent and savage wildfires that have roared through California the past few years. He called the updated code a logical response to that phenomena, similar to how communities adjusted their landscaping after many years of drought. "Semirural means overgrown," the Moraga-Orinda Fire District chief said of the character of the community. "We have to make changes to our landscape.'

The council members and a handful of town residents pushed back against many of the same issues that had arisen during previous public meetings, though unlike at the Orinda council meeting, no major concern arose over the chief's proposed code designation of the district as a Wildland Urban Interface (see story on page

"It is for the purpose of developing more restrictive building codes for construction," Winnacker said. "Nothing about this will change insurance rates or coverage."

However, the fire code requirement for a 2-foot air gap between the ground and within 2 feet of structures, and the ban on the use of combustible materials - including mulch – within 2 feet of a structure, raised alarms. "I think you have highly underestimated the cost of implementing this," a resident said, while Council Member Roger Wykle warned of trouble down the road if there was no outreach and education regarding those requirements. "We're sure going to hear about this when it is adopted," Wykle said of the fire code.

The requirement of a fire inspection for real property transfers irked Council Member Renata Sos, complaining that it would add an extra step to a real estate transaction. Other topics broached included the cost of adding sprinkler systems and how the new code complied with the California Environmental Quality Act. "We shouldn't be imposing CEQA requirements on our residents," Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus said.

But the overall tone from the council members rang positive. "You're never going to be able to please everybody," Council Member Steve Woehleke said. "This is a reasonable proposal, and it's better than not doing something."

Korpus agreed. "I think we have to do it, and you have my support," she told the chief.

After any adjustments, the proposed code will come back to the council for approval, likely in March or April.





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Nominate a 2020 Moraga Citizen of the Year

It's time to nominate a person you think should be Moraga's 2020 "Citizen of the Year".

This year's Selection Committee consists of 2019 Citizen of the Year Fred Weil and representatives from the event's four sponsors: The Lamorinda Weekly; The Moraga Chamber of Commerce; Saint Mary's College and the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley.

The basic criteria for selecting this year's Citizen of the Year are:

- 1. The nominee should have given of their time, talent and energy to help make Moraga a vibrant community – one where people want to live, work and shop;
- 2. The nominee's body of work should have helped to bring our community together and made us proud to be Moraga residents;
- 3. Please include specific examples of your nominee's contributions to Moraga.
- 4. Nominees must reside in Moraga. Paid public officials, current members of the Moraga Town Council and other current elected officials are not eligible;

Email your nominations to

nominations@lamorindaweekly.com or send them to: "Moraga Citizen of the Year Nominations", Lamorinda Weekly, PO box 6133, Moraga CA 94556.

An optional, directly downloadable, easy-to-fill-in Nomination Form is at: http://bit.ly/2020Moraga

The deadline for receiving nominations is March 25.

The celebratory dinner honoring this year's Citizen of the Year will be held on Saturday, May 2 at Saint Mary's College Soda Center.



Town Council

Wednesday, March 11, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission: Monday, March 16, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd. Park and Recreation Commission: Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd Moraga School District Board Meetings: Thursday, March 10, 7 p.m. Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga www.moraga.k12.ca.us. See also AUHSD meeting page A2





ORINDA

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Council gets an update on the police drone

By Sora O'Doherty

Police Chief Dave Cook updated the city council at its Feb. 18 meeting on the drone that was purchased last year for the Orinda Police Department. Since its inception last year, the department's small Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drone) program "has proven to be a valuable asset" in enforcing laws and/or protecting lives, according to Cook.

Officer John Scanlon, who pilots the device, showed the council members the department's drone, including its controller and attachments that are important to public safety, such as the camera, a spotlight and a speaker that can broadcast the voice of the drone operator or a prerecorded message. The camera can be switched between daylight and infrared, which Cook explained is incredibly important in detecting differences in surface temperatures, notably body or engine heat. The drone comes with an extra battery and is capable of 20 minutes of flight time.

Orinda's program was started last year after former Police Chief Mark Nagel was authorized by the council to purchase the DJI Mavic 2 Enterprise drone for use by the police department. The department also trained two drone pilots, certified by the Federal Aviation Administra-

tion. The program's startup, including initial equipment purchase and FAA certification of the pilots, cost around \$4,300 and was funded by community donations. Cook said ancillary costs to his department to date, associated with ongoing training and equipment maintenance, have been small.

Cook presented examples of drone photos of a Santa Rosa fire which demonstrated how drones can be used for post-disaster mapping. The drone is also used for over-watch of officer safety, scene preservation and documentation, suspicious devices, evaluating hazardous materials incidents, search and rescue missions, recovery of post incident damage assessment, and training events.

The Orinda drone has been used on a swat team call out of a barricaded suspect in Tara Hills, to search for a suspect who fled from a vehicle in Pleasant Hill, in the Oakley Bethel Island fires, to search for people after a boat sunk off Pittsburg, and to gather crime scene photos after a homicide in Bay Point. In Orinda, drones have been used to document the crime scene after the Airbnb party shooting on Halloween, on two occasions to search for suspects who fled from a vehicle in Wilder. to search for elderly missing residents from Irwin Way,

and a swat callout on Hall Drive. Most of the missions for the Orinda craft were to assist outside agencies; most of the missions in Orinda were flown by other craft.

Recently, he said, drones from the team were deployed in Orinda to assist in the search and rescue of suspects who had run from the California Highway Patrol after a pursuit. On another call, a craft was used to help with the documentation of a traffic collision, in which an Orinda resident was gravely injured. Additionally, when the Central County SWAT team assisted the Walnut Creek Police Department with taking an armed suspect into custody in the city of Orinda, the small unmanned aircraft systems team used drones to provide continuous, vital information to command staff, Cook said.

The use of drones can help the department provide safety overview for officers searching for suspects, examine suspicious devices without putting officers in harm's way, evaluate hazardous materials from a safe distance, document crime scenes, and conduct search and rescue missions of missing or lost persons, according to the police chief.

Reaffirming that the drones are not used for things like routine traffic stops, "The drones are absolutely not day-to-day tools

of enforcement," he told the city council, adding "they are generally fairly specialized, but enhancement of officer safety, especially, cannot be overstated." Council Member Nick Kosla said he was initially concerned with how the drone would be used but he now recognizes that the program is well worth the cost and assists with enforcement and officer safety. Vice Mayor Amy Worth thanked Cook for his presentation and especially for showing examples of its use.

Orinda's drones have been used on several occasions in support of other agencies and most missions in Orinda were flown by craft from other agencies, Cook said. Trading resources has been more efficient and effective, he added. Pilot Officer John Scanlon noted he has used the drone on Irwin Way where elderly folks have walked away and has found it to be successful.

In moving forward, OPD requests the council's continued support of the program. The maintenance of the drone is fairly insignificant. Pilots attend training monthly and minor equipment must periodically be replaced. Eventually, the department hopes to take advantage of technological advancements to allows video taken by the drone to be cast to another location.

After failed pilot employee parking program, Orinda opens spaces to commuters



Map of proposed area.

By Sora O'Doherty

Owing to the low response to the pilot employee parking scheme along the east side of Santa Maria Way and Altarinda Road, the city has decided to offer 25 all-day parking permits to commuters, particularly those who use the Orinda BART station.

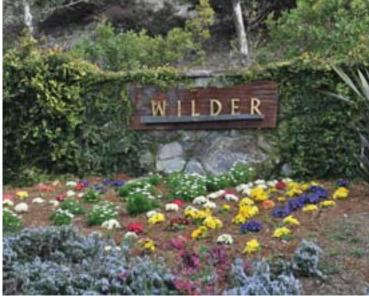
There are 46 parking spaces in the pilot area, so there will still be parking available for local employees who might still like a permit.

The city would have liked to restrict the commuter parking permits to Orinda residents, but determined that wasn't legally permissible. Under the new pilot program, permits will cost \$300 per each six-month period, except for the first period of January through June, which may be prorated. A permit is like a hunting license; it is no guarantee of actually finding a space. However, with the slow take-up on the employee parking permit pilot—only two permits have been issued—there is a very good chance that permit holders will find all day parking conveniently located across the pedestrian bridge from the BART station.

This latest effort is part of the city's response to a parking study Orinda received in October 2016. The first part of the response to that study was the residential parking permit program for Brookwood Road. After a successful first year, the Brookwood Road pilot program was adopted on a permanent basis.

To be eligible for a permit, applicants must have a driver's license, car registration in the applicant's name, and self-certification of eligibility as a commuter. The pilot permit program will be administered by TurboData, the same company that runs the Brookwood Road program. There will be an application portal on the City of Orinda web page.

Wilder hires private security



Entrance to the Wilder community

Photo Andy Scheck

By Sora O'Doherty

Following several incidents of crime in Wilder, the residents' homeowner association has decided to conduct a test of using a private security firm. Begun on Valentine's Day, the test features private guards who will patrol Wilder several times a day. After six months, the HOA will decide whether or not to continue with the service.

Wilder HOA President Greg Schwartz attended the recent Orinda mayor's liaison meeting. He spoke of a high speed chase that ended in a home invasion in Wilder in January. Police Chief David

Cook has also reported that there have been two calls for drone assistance in Wilder.

In other Wilder news, Schwartz reported that the problem with large trucks using the Wilder offramp as a staging area, involving overnight stays with accompanying nuisances including use of the roadside as toilet facilities, for meal preparation and even prostitution, has been largely solved.

As spring approaches, Schwartz reported that there has been an increase in use of the ball fields and hiking around Wilder. Landscaping improvements are also underway.



Orinda Public Meetings City Council

Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m. Library Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission Tuesday, March 10, 7 p.m. Library Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

Downtown Planning Discussion Council Subcommittee

Special Meeting March 25, 5:00 PM Sarge Littlehale Community Room 22 Orinda Way City Hall Orinda

Orinda Union High School District Board Meetings

Monday, March 9, 6 p.m. Regular Board Meeting 8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda www.orindaschools.org See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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ESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Glazer responds to Orinda's call for higher fines on short-term rental violations



From left: Orinda City Clerk Sheri Smith, Police Chief Dave Cook, Council Member Inga Miller, state Sen. Steve Glazer, Vice Mayor Amy Worth and Mayor Darlene Gee.

By Sora O'Doherty

A bill to give cities the power to impose much bigger fines on short-term rental property owners who violate local ordinances was introduced by state Sen. Steve Glazer at the request of the city of Orinda. Glazer introduced Senate Bill 1049 on Feb. 18 in response to last year's tragic Halloween party shooting at an Airbnb rental in Orinda that claimed five lives. The bill was co-authored by Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan. Glazer said short-term rental platforms such as Airbnb have thus far not raised objections to the legislation. The senator held a press conference on Feb. 17 at the Orinda library plaza to announce the introduction of the proposed legislation.

Glazer said that short-term rentals are not meant to be "party central;" the new legislation is intended to create "a strong disincentive" for people to rent out houses that attract large crowds in residential neighborhoods and in violation of local ordinances.

Orinda officials said that they are reaching out to other cities and to the League of California Cities seeking support for the legislation.

Currently, Orinda and California's other general-law cities are permitted to impose fines of up to \$1,000 for violating local short-term rental ordinances. But under the legislation introduced by Glazer, the maximum would increase to \$5,000. The state's charter cities have more flexibility in setting fine amounts than do generallaw cities like Orinda, and the city council has authorized a subcommittee to explore the possibility of changing from a general-law to a charter

Last November, the Orinda City Council passed an emergency ordinance banning "non-hosted" rentals altogether, and placing new limits on "hosted" venues, including requiring stays of two nights or longer, designed specifically to fend off one-night party rental scenarios. The city continues to work on developing a permanent ordinance.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com



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Fire district on target – and then some – at midyear review

925-377-0977

By Nick Marnell

Few questions, and virtually no complaints, surrounded the midyear review presented by the staff of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Feb. 19, with the district financial condition trending so positively that one board member called for further discussion of an increase in daily onduty staffing.

Administrative Services Director Gloriann Sasser presented the board of directors a detailed examination of fiscal year 2020 revenue and expenses, which showed the district with a projected general fund surplus of \$872,000, bringing the district reserve balance to \$8.7 million. The reserve balance projects at 35% of general fund revenue, exceeding the district policy of 17% but short of the goal of

Highlights of the midyear review included a nearly \$1 million increase in property tax revenue to \$22.1 million, a 4.5% increase over the \$21.1 million received last year. Property tax accounts for 88% of district revenue.

Commensurate with the revenue increase came a \$1.2 million decrease in expenses, mainly due to administrative position vacancies and a reduction in overtime and strike team activity. Total general fund expenses equal \$24.2 million, of which 89% are employee salaries and benefits. (The difference between revenue and expenses does not gel with the surplus because the district reclassified more than \$1 million of fire flow tax revenue out of the general fund.)

The numbers presented

were enough for the board to unanimously vote to fund two of its trusts with the entire amount budgeted: \$1 million into its pension stabilization trust and \$559,000 into the district other postemployment benefits (retiree health care) trust. The trusts are used to prefund pension

trict OPEB obligation. Director Gregory Baitx capped the meeting by calling for discourse on an increase in district daily staffing from 17 to 19 personnel, with the

costs and to reduce the dis-

intent to fully staff Medic 45, the cross-staffed ambulance in Orinda. Three years ago, MOFD received federal grant funding to hire four firefighters but used the money to fill overtime positions, not to increase staffing.

The firefighters union has been frustrated over the reduced daily staffing model on the books since 2013. "Our mission statement says 'to provide the highest level of emergency service' and that's exactly what we are trying to accomplish," said Capt. Mark

McCullah, district labor representative. "We are confident this board will finally do the right thing for our community."

The district has declined to increase daily staffing to 19, citing additional annual costs of between \$1 million and \$1.4 million, though the board voted in 2014 to temporarily raise staffing during that year's fire season because of the drought. The staffing issue is expected to come back to the board on March 25.

Fire District Public Meetings Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors Wednesday, March 25, 7 p.m. Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit www.mofd.org



ConFire **Board of Directors** Tuesday, March 10, 1:00 p.m. Board Chamber Room 107, Administration Building 651 Pine St., Martinez.

For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org

Letters to the editor

The Campo Season That Could **Have Been**

The Campo varsity soccer season ended in disappointment last week. But the real let down was the lack of transparency and leadership about how the incident of 8 November last year at Campo was handled.

I wanted to provide a perspective into what happened and give the removed players and the fired coach a voice - since the school and AUHSD administration haven't. The incidents of that night were investigated by law enforcement authorities who found no wrongdoing. This case closed long ago, because there never was one to begin with.

We moved our family here like many parents in this community, for the quality of the schools. Campo has a great reputation because of the leadership and administration, and I'm grateful for the work they do. There's something for everyone there. Unfortunately, that includes hazing in some sports programs. Multiple sports. Multiple seasons. Multiple years. It didn't begin with soccer and doesn't end there -- because we have failed to fix the culture that created it.

The way this incident was handled and the way these student athletes have been treated is that very culture exposed. Rumor and gossip fill the void of communication. Little transparency from leadership. Remove players in one sport and turn a blind eye to hazing in others. Fail to act as an AUHSD gov-

erning body to update districtwide sports policies. Take meetings with parents trying to help

Did some of the players break school rules that night? Yes. Should they have been disciplined? Yes. Should police have investigated? Maybe. I don't question any of that. What I question is why the entire team was punished for the actions of a few. Why they were subject to cyber-bullying off the field and so many injuries and taunting on it. Why the administration used this incident to cover-up years of inaction. And why, in an educational setting, we missed the learning moment it presented to keep it from happening again. Every Campo athlete should learn something from this but won't. And that's the biggest loss of the season, and maybe the year.

Keith Pearce Moraga

Orinda's Streetscape Folly

The consultant's draft Streetscape Master Plan (https://cityoforinda.app.box.com/v/ConnectOrindaDraft) should be rejected, because it does not deliver what we were promised we would receive in return for \$300,000 of taxpayer funds plus substantial city staff time. This Plan was funded by a \$250,000 CCTA grant of taxpayer money plus \$50,000 of Orinda matching funds. The City promised the CCTA that we

would receive a design level conceptual plan, and after public hearings, "DESIGN DOCUMENTS" consistent with the conceptual plan and a FINAL "Downtown Orinda Streetscape Master Plan." (https://www.cityoforinda.org/ DocumentCenter/View/2614/ Contra-Costa-Transportation-Authority)

It now turns out that we will receive none of the above. The Draft ConnectOrinda Master Plan bears little resemblance to what the City promised the CCTA we would receive, what the RFP (https://city-

oforinda.app.box.com/s/dlfu2h9o979sn2w2tdcroerndgymovjk) required, and what the consultant promised to deliver. (www.cityoforinda.org/ DocumentCenter/View/2445/ Eisen-Letunic-)

Instead of a "FINAL" plan, we will receive an INTERIM plan in which the consultant suggests that further consultants be hired to pursue future possible plans, each at a substantial additional

Instead of "design documents," we will receive "guidelines" that include "use landscaping" and "develop a maintenance program." (see pp. 24-25 of the consultant's contract for what was promised) These requirements could have been developed by a group of high school students doing a civics

The plan does nothing to address parking, in contrast to the requirements of the RFP at pages 9 and 13, and in contrast to the promises of the consultant contract at p. 25. In fact, the only mention of "parking" is a vague suggestion to "improve bike/scooter parking." (Item 4 of the Streetscape Design Guidelines.)

At a minimum, the Council should require that the consultant come back with something that is consistent with what the City promised the CCTA, and what the consultant promised the City, we would receive.

Nick Waranoff Orinda

Private roads. Clarifications.

The residents of private roads are requesting that their roads be allowed to become public at a reasonable cost to the residents. The current city policy (59-18) precludes most private roads from ever becoming public. For the rest it imposes exorbitant costs to create a CalTrans quality road that will last for 20 years without maintenance. It further requires that the older narrow roads be widened, which in many cases is impossible, and many expensive geotechnical reports. These expenses to be

shared by the few residents of each private road with no assurance that the road will become public even if it meets all the city requirements.

Private road residents have already paid about \$4 million to repair public residential roads that are just like theirs. This excludes the payments made for arterials and collectors that we all use. They will contribute another \$12 million.

We are asking for inclusion into the public road network at a reasonable cost! To date the city has been unwilling to accept any road into the public network. The city has also been unwilling to get any private road or drain data that would cost very little. They wish to pretend private road residents don't exist except to pay for bonds, taxes, and garbage truck (which cause by far the most wear) impact fees so that the public streets get repaired and maintained.

The citizens for fair road funding want a fair deal: a reasonable path to inclusion. The city seems to want us to disappear. Until a reasonable city policy is created we shall be forced to vote against any new taxes for roads or drains.

Charles Porges Orinda

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters must be factually accurate and be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Public Safety

Emergency response: Emergency: 24 Hours Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010 Nixle: Text your zip code to

888777 or go to www.nixle.com Lafayette Police Department: 3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680

Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt 925-299-3221 Police Department Tip Line

94549Tip@gmail.com Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com **Moraga Police Department:** 329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055

Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049 **Orinda Police Department:** 22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820 Chief of Police, David M. Cook 925-254-6820 Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police



911 Calls (includes hang-ups) Traffic 113 Suspicious Circumstances Suspicious Subject Suspicious Vehicle Service to Citizen 31 Patrol Req./Security Check Pubic/School Assembly Check 1 32 Supplemental Report Vacation House Check Welfare Check Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary 3500 Block Moraga Blvd. Mt. Diablo Blvd./Dewing Ave. Mt. Diablo Bivd./Dewing Ave.
20 Block Lafayette Cir.
Happy Valley Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Terrace Way
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
1100 Block Sierra Vista Way (2)
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3200 Block Judith Ln

3200 Block Judith Ln. Lafayette Cir./Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Reckless Driving

1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd. Reliez Station Rd./Glenside Dr Mountain View Dr./Crescent Dr. Quandt Rd./Woodborough Rd. Deer Hill Rd./Oak Hill Rd Deer Hill Rd./Oak Hill Rd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Aileen St.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.
Happy Valley Rd./Baker Ln.
Stolen Vehicle Recovery
3600 Block Deerhill Rd.
Tc - Minor Injuries
Pleasant Hill Rd./Wb Sr 24

Vehicle Theft 1000 Block Carol Ln. S Thompson Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Other criminal activity Commercial Burglary 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 900 Block Dewing Ave.

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Embezzelment 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Fraud False Pretenses 1000 Block Carol Ln. Grand Theft

1000 Block Carol Ln. 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Panhandling 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Petty Theft 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2) 3500 Block Brook St. 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2) 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3100 Block Linda Vista Ln.

3200 Block Beechwood Dr. Robbery 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Robbery Armed 3400 Block Golden Gate Way

3300 Block Ameno Dr.

1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd. (2)

10 Block Gladys Ct. 3400 Block Lana Ln. Loitering 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Loud Music 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Loud Party 3100 Block Somerset Dr. 10 Block Fallen Leaf Ct. Phone Harass

3600 Block Robertson Rd.

3800 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3) Nuisance to the Community Disturbance-domestic 1St St./Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Disturbance-fight Harassment 1200 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd. 3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Public Nuisance 900 Block Dewing Ave. 1000 Block Walnut Dr. 1000 Block Stanley Blvd Lindsey Ct./Buchan Dr. 3600 Block Happy Valley Rd. Vandalism 1200 Block Via Gabarda 3600 Block Deerhill Rd. Other Fireworks Acalanes Rd./Coralee Ln. 10 Block Black Forest Ct. H&S Violation Reliez Valley Rd./Pleasant Pl. K9 Outside Assist Request 600 Block Pebble Dr., Eso 2300 Block Monument Blvd., Concord 40 Block Singingwood Ln., Orinda 3400 Block Pacheco Blvd., Martinez Mentally Ill Violent 3600 Block Robertson Rd. Ordinance Violation 3900 Block Happy Valley Rd. 3400 Block Lana Ln. (2) Trespass 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 600 Block Michael Ln. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

3600 Block Bickerstaff St.

Violation Custody Order 3400 Block Moraga Blvd. Moraga Police **Department Incident Summary** Report Feb. 4 -Feb. 24

Alarms 911 Calls (includes hang-ups) Suspicious Circumstances Suspicious Subject Suspicious Vehicle 4 22 Service to Citizen Patrol Req./Security Check Supplemental Report Vacation House Check Welfare Check **Vehicle violations Accident Property**

Moraga Commons 100 Block Fernwood Dr. Auto Burglary 10 Block Haven Ct. Dui Misd Moraga Commons 3700 Block Via Granada Excessive Speed Martinez Superior Court Not Available 100 Block Hardie Dr. Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.

Ifo 132 Moraga Rd Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd. Rheem Valley Shop. Exhibition Of Speed 800 Block Camino Ricardo Hit And Run Misdemeanor

Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.
Ivy Dr./Moraga Way
Petty Theft Veh Parts
400 Block Center St.

Reckless Driving ckiess DTVing Safeway Moraga Commons 300 Block Fernwood Dr. Moraga Rd./Al Ta Mesa Dr. Moraga Commons Park

Vehicle Theft 10 Block Magee Ct. Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo Other criminal activity

200 Block Ivy Pl.

Burglary Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr. Fraud False Pretenses Moraga Rd Passing Corliss Joaquin Moraga Int School Grand Theft

Safeway
Identity Theft
Woodford Dr./Moraga Rd.
Campolindo High School
Campolindo High School
Petty Theft

Joaquin Moraga Int School Shoplift Joaquin Moraga Int. School Country Club Dr./Canyon Rd.
Nuisance to the Community

Disturbing The Peace Wilder Rd./Wb Sr 24 Police Department Harassment Campolindo Dr At Natalie Dr. 20 Block Inverleith Terrace

Loud Music Rheem Blvd./Scoffield 500 Block Moraga Rd. Loud Noise 1000 Block Camino Pablo Police Department
Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.
Neighbor Dispute

Police Department Phone Harass
200 Block Ivy Pl.
Moraga Commons Park
Public Nuisance
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr.
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blyd

Vandalism 2100 Block Ascot Dr. 500 Block Moraga Rd.

Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.

Other Elder Abuse Walnut Creek Superior Court Indecent Exposure HWay 13/Broadway Terrace Mentally Ill Commit Moraga Rd./Corte Santa Clara

Bank of America School St./Country Club Dr. 2000 Block Ascot Dr. Public Assembly Check Moraga Rd./Álta Mesa Dr. Violation Custody Order 200 Block Ivy Pl.

Violation Restraining Order 100 Block Corliss Dr.



Incident Summary Report Feb. 16 -Feb. 22

911 Hangup Abandoned Vehicle Accident Injury Accident Property 21 2 Alarm False Auto Burglary Barking Dog Battery Domestic Misd 2 24 27 1 Cvc Moving Detail Cvc Non Moving Detail Dui Misd Medical Hospital Missing Juvenile Occupied Stalled Vehicle Ordinance Violation Outside Assist 14 Parking Detail Patrol Request 30 Petty Theft Phone Harass Residential Burglary School Assembly Check 12 19 29 Security Check Service To Citizen Suspicious Circumstances Suspicious Subject 3 Suspicious Subject Stop Suspicious Vehicle Suspicious Vehicle Stop Unwanted Guest Vacation House Check Vehicle Blocking Driveway Walk Through 2 2 3 Warrant Arrest

Welfare Check

www.lamorindaweekly.com Lamorinda takes precautions to combat coronavirus

By Nick Marnell

Local community organizations remain on alert for the spread of COVID-19, a disease that first appeared late last year in Wuhan, China. COVID-19 is caused by a member of the coronavirus family, a close relation to the SARS and MERS viruses which have caused outbreaks in the past.

While there were no documented cases of people contracting the disease in Contra Costa County by the end of February, a Feb. 25 statement from Contra Costa Health Services noted that three patients from Travis Air Force Base infected with COVID-19 were being treated at local hospitals in Contra Costa

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, which also dispatches emergency calls for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, is adjusting its dispatcher protocols to ensure that callers with appropriate symptoms are queried about travel to parts of the world that have experienced COVID-19 outbreaks. Alliance partner American Medical Response has premade kits for outfitting ambulances to accommodate transport of known infected patients, according to Steve Hill, ConFire public information officer.

The Acalanes Union High School District issued a directive to parents Feb. 28. "At this time, we emphasize the importance of hand washing, respiratory hygiene and asking students and staff who have flu like symptoms to stay home, seek medical attention as appropriate and remain home until symptoms subside," Superintendent John Nickerson said. CCHS Public Health Director Dan Peddycord was "not recommending school closures at this time, or restricting student attendance outside of normal flu activity," as of Feb. 27. Catholics who are ill, es-

pecially those who suffer from a contagious disease, are excused from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass, according to Helen Osman of the Diocese of Oakland. Pastors of the Lamorinda parishes - St. Perpetua in Lafayette, the Church of Santa Maria in Orinda and St. Monica in Moraga - have the option to suspend community rituals at Mass, such as shaking hands at the Sign of Peace, Osman said.

"We are cautiously concerned," said Daniel Collier, general manager of Lafayette's Diablo Foods. "We do not want to add to a state of panic, but we want to protect our customers, employees and the community." The company has ordered extra hand sanitizing stations for use throughout the store.

According to CCHS, the best way to reduce your risk of becoming infected with a respiratory disease, such as COVID-19, is to practice good hygiene:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water
- for at least 20 seconds Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available
- People who are sick should always cover their

coughs and sneezes using a tissue or the crook of their elbow; wash your hands after using a tissue to wipe your

- nose or mouth People who are sick should stay home from work
- or school until they are well Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with your unwashed hands

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests making preparations for a potential period of time when you or a family member may need to stay home. This would include ensuring you have a 30 to 90 day supply of all medications, enough nonperishable food on hand, and pet food.

For more information, visit cchealth.org or cdc.gov

Acalanes girls win NCS soccer championship

... continued from Page A1

We preached to the girls to stay focused, keep working hard and working for each other and give everything that they had and to not leave anything on the field."

Branson attacked relentlessly in the second half, constantly keeping the ball in the Acalanes side of the field. Branson finally scored with 13 minutes left in the game, tying the game at 1-1. With both teams battling exhaustion, there was no further scoring in regulation.

In the first overtime, Acalanes found their second wind and had a number of scoring opportunities, said Barbarino: "In the first five minutes we hit one ball over the post, their goalie made a save and we then missed one off frame. We came out with a lot of energy but both teams were really tired for the rest of the two overtimes."

The first set of five penalty kicks ended up with each team scoring four goals. From that point on, it became sudden death which went on for 14 more kicks, with Acalanes making one more penalty kick than Branson. Adding to the tension was a blackout on Acalanes' 13th penalty kick that forced everyone to stand around and wait for five minutes. Ironically it was two girls who had not played in the game, junior Olivia Parnell and senior Jordan Pratt, who stepped up big in the penalty shootout: "We do penalty kicks after every practice and I knew they both were very good penalty

shooters. I looked at Jordan and Olivia and told them they could make it which they did." After a missed Branson shot, Parnell ended the match by putting the ball in the upper right corner of the net.

Overall on offense, it was a team effort led by center midfielders Ivy Souza, Gabby Ortale and freshmen center forward Addie Bailey. "Ivy and Gabby were tremendous with their decision making, their passing, defending in the midfield and in shutting down Branson's top player which were keys to us getting opportunities forward, said Barbarino. "Addie held the ball up for us by herself, working as hard as she could, making great passes, great runs down the line and created some really good scoring chances."

In the two seasons prior to Barbarino's arrival at Acalanes, the team had a combined record of 9-22-4. In these past two seasons, Acalanes had a 28-11-8 record. Barbarino came in with a plan: "I think it came down to creating a culture and a place where the girls want to come and they want to have fun and they want to work for each other on and off the field. The big thing with us is that we are family and that's something that I stressed this season. You work for your family, you love your family and you protect your family. If you have that bond, on and off the field, it will help propel you past teams that don't get along as well and if you're in the 100th minute of a game,

the girls knew that they are all working as hard as they can for each other."

There are 15 seniors that fought through the problems that began in their freshman year, and Barbarino acknowledged what all of them brought to the team: "I have to give our seniors a ton of credit because in their first two years, they did not have the best experience and they bought into the things that I was saying. They were very welcoming to the freshmen on the team and they made sure that they were involved in everything."

In the end it was a successful season overall for Lamorinda with Miramonte (13-4-4), Campolindo (15-3-5) and Acalanes (17-5-3) combining for an overall 44-12-12 record, going 22-9-5 in league play. Campolindo lost in the second round to eventual finalist Maria Carillo, Miramonte lost in the semifinals to Branson but provided some assistance to Barbarino in the championship game: "I did speak with (Miramonte coach) Barry McQuain (who had lost to Branson in the semifinals) who I coached under as his JV and freshman coach and he gave me a little heads up on who to look out

Even though Acalanes finished seventh in league play with a 6-5-1 record, it worked out for the best in the long run said Barbarino: "It was such a competitive league that even though we finished in seventh place, we were only two games behind the second place team. Every one

of our league losses was by only one goal. Looking back at our season, our losses were from our own mistakes so the girls learned what not to do in the future games. We had some tough losses when we made mistakes that cost us

some games, but we learned from the mistakes and that helped us learn how to win the tough games in the playoffs. I believe that if we had not experienced those losses, we would not have been at this point as NCS champions."



Rick and Janet Cronk, Lafayette Citizens of the Year

... continued from Page A2

"Their enthusiasm for life and learning transcends every aspect of all they do," says Douglas. "Their charisma inspires people."

Former Mayor Anne Godin recalls one of the many fundraisers held at the Cronk home for the Cal band. "The excitement in the air was palpable to hear and see the Cal band marching down Happy Valley Road to go to Rick and Janet's home to rev up the alumni for a fundraiser," she says. "Nothing could be more exciting – unless you went to Stanford."

Grodin says that when she first approached the Cronks on behalf of the Lafayette Community Foundation for a gift to the new library she thought they would be inclined to donate in light of their past support of local causes. "But their excitement when they saw the architectural model was so enthusiastic that they immediately donated \$1 million. Not only did they write a large check," says Grodin, "but they also got involved in helping to raise funds for the new library." She explains they hosted events at their home,

made calls to solicit gifts and took others on tours of the construction site. "Their support was invaluable in the building of the LLLC," says Grodin.

St. Perpetua Church's Rev. John Kasper agrees. "Their encouraging and 'cando' spirit helps to turn wishes and dreams into reality," he says. "Their support and encouragement have helped our parish and school community to grow as we've built a new Community Center and made major improvements to our facilities. Rick's smile lights up a room and you can't help but feel affirmed and energized in his presence."

The couple are completely humble, embarrassed even, by this Citizen of the Year award. Rick shrugs and says, "We just raised our hands."

Both are Bay Area natives. Both are Cal graduates, who met as students working at the Lair of the Bear, the Cal alumni family camp and married soon after. They have three sons and five grandchildren, all living locally. In 1977, following a few years in the restaurant business, Rick Cronk bought Bay Area ice cream company

Dryer's with his partner and friend, Gary Rogers. Together they expanded Dryer's to become the number one ice cream company in the coun-

The Dryer's philosophy their positive work culture revolves around respect and one of its guiding tenets is empowerment, which Rick brings to all his ventures, a value he says he got from his mother. "She worked really hard and expected a lot," says Rick, adding, "It is all about empowering people to do more, achieve more."

Former Mayor and last year's Citizen of the Year Don Tatzin says that for all their accomplishments, Rick and Janet remain modest. "They are unassuming, unfailingly considerate and delightful company," he says. "At every meeting I have with them, I feel good about them and they make me and others feel good about ourselves. That is a rare and valuable trait."

Janet says the award means a lot to them because, "This is our community. We love Lafayette."

The couple will be honored at a sold-out dinner March 13 at the Lafayette Park Hotel and Spa.



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Suspect in local bank robberies arrested

By Sora O'Doherty

Following a bank robbery at the Lafayette branch of Wells Fargo Bank, local police were able to determine that the robbery was connected to earlier robberies of the Moraga Wells Fargo bank branch on Feb. 12, and the Walnut Creek branch on Feb. 1. Lafayette and Walnut Creek Police arrested 41-year-old Brendan Gray Feb. 20 at his home in Alamo. Gray is a suspect in a series of recent bank robberies that have oc-

curred in Contra Costa County.

Jimmy Lee, Contra Costa Sheriff's Office Director of Public Affairs, in a statement said that Lafayette police detectives, assisted by Danville police, the Sheriff's Office, and Walnut Creek police were able to identify the suspect vehicle and identify Brendan Gray as the suspect in the robberies. Gray was taken into custody without incident and was booked into the Martinez Detention Facility on three counts of first-

degree robbery. Gray is being held in lieu of \$300,000 bail.

The Lafayette Police Department has asked that anyone with additional information regarding these robberies contact detectives at (925) 283-3680 or (925) 299-3234 or email Sergeant Rossberg at tross@so.cccounty.us. Tips may also be emailed to the Lafayette Police Department at:

94549TIP@gmail.com.

MOFD Chief pushes to sell new fire code to councils



Removal of mulch and combustible vegetation within 2 feet of the home is intended to make our community safe. To see full videos showing ember caused fire in mulch, visit: https://ibhs.org/wildfire/wildfire-demo-2019/ or https://vimeo.com/79340385

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In regards to home sales, Winnacker believes the duty to assure compliance with the fire code should properly rest with the seller, not the buyer. Under the proposed code, an exterior fire hazard inspection would be required, and sellers would be obligated to provide buyers with proof of compliance before the close of escrow. The chief would have discretion to accept alternatives in the event that bringing a property into compliance would delay the close of the sale.

Council members were concerned that sellers might need their equity to live on, or to purchase another home. Winnacker assured them that no-interest liens will be available for sellers to bring properties into compliance before the close of escrow, although those liens would then be satisfied from the equity before it would be disbursed to the seller. Rochelle Latimer, a resident of Orinda who also owns property in the Lake Tahoe area, spoke during the comment period and reassured the council that this lien method is being successfully used in subdivisions in Lake

Tahoe. The revised fire code applies differently to existing buildings and new buildings, and also has provisions for new housing developments. For existing buildings to be in compliance would chiefly mean removing plants and trees from close to the building. There was considerable confusion about what types of plants and trees are allowable, and concern about the expense of removing large trees in a short period of time. Under the new code, the time allowed to remedy noncompliance would be extended from 10 to 15 days. Basically, for a two-foot area around existing structures no combustible materials would be allowed, but this increases to three feet around new structures. This includes a ban on all forms of mulch, but would allow green grass, bare ground, river rock, crushed rock or gravel. Certain plants would be allowed, but some would need to be trimmed up two-feet from the ground.

Certain types of trees would have to be removed if within six feet of a structure or three feet of an evacuation route. This includes eucalyptus and Monterrey pine trees. Because of the size of the problem, residents would be given until 2023 to remove all juniper and bamboo within

10 feet of a road. The chief proposes more stringent requirements for new construction, which would include major remodels. The proposed code requires ember resistant construction and exterior undereave sprinklers for residential systems. The proposed code also requires increased road widths for new units: an increase from 16 to 18 feet for one to two new units and to 28 feet for three or more new

There are 14,000 parcels in the fire district. In answer to a question about the viability of inspecting all those parcels, Winnacker said that the vast majority can be inspected from the street. Council Member Inga Miller said that there were accusations that particular properties had been "targeted" for enforcement, and Winnacker agreed that two members of the community were targeted for their political affiliations and that the employees responsible were fired.

Terry Murphy, former head of the Orinda planning commission, said that, at first, he thought that the chief's plan was a case of "classic overreach."

"Then," he said, "I remembered a burned boy who took a year to recover. The chief is trying to make our community safe," he concluded.

Michael Brown said that he thinks that some elements of the plan, such as the undereaves sprinklers, should go to the planning commission. Dan DeBusschere urged the council not to delay but to adopt the plan, which he characterized as reasonable, and doable.

Vice Mayor Amy Worth praised Winnacker, noting that since he's been on board, Orinda has had much more active fire code enforcement. Winnacker said that his proposed plan is the distillation of his experience over the past two years.

Lafayette's newest public art piece and first-ever art Walk and Talk event

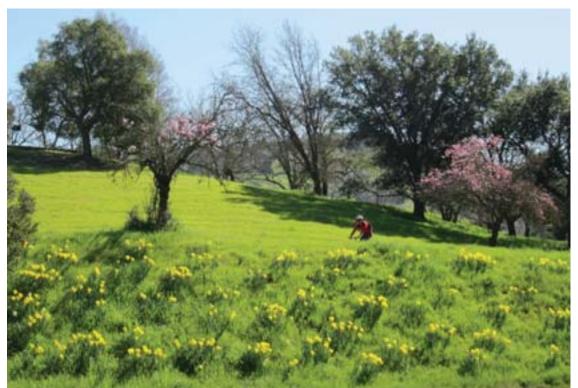
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The walk will begin at 1:15 p.m. and will visit works at the LLLC, Plaza Park, La Fiesta Square, the Mercantile Building, the Town Center, the Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery, culminating after

about an hour and a half at the latest public art on Mountain View Drive to hear Stern talk about her work.

Peacock, a five-year member of the PAC and 27year resident of Lafayette who has been active in the arts for many years, will be leading the tour with PAC Vice Chair Susan Loria. Peacock urges residents to "Come see Lafayette's wonderful collection of outdoor art." She notes there are many lovely, and often overlooked works of public art in the city.

~ Life in LAMORINDA ~



www.lamorindaweekly.com

Spring has sprung on Daffodil Hill

Daffodils on the hills mark an early spring

By Vera Kochan

Punxsatawney, Pennsylvania. has Phil the groundhog. Moraga has Daffodil Hill. The yellow blooms tell us spring is making an early appearance.

Moraga's tradition of planting daffodil bulbs in public places goes back over two decades. Through the years, residents have been able to spot daffodils planted by project lead/organizer Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club members and friends along Moraga Way near Moraga Country Club, around town of Moraga signs, the entrance to Hacienda de las Flores and on Moraga Road across from the Moraga Shopping Center. The current location, just north of Moraga Commons Park along Moraga Road, has been dubbed Daffodil Hill.

According to Kiwanis Club Secretary Sam Sperry, on Nov. 30 the volunteers

planted 2,500 daffodil bulbs. The club contributed 1,000 bulbs, Joan Bruzzone contributed 1,000 bulbs and Kenny Murakami, owner of Moraga Garden Center (where all of the bulbs were purchased) contributed 500

In recent years, an incentive was added to entice more volunteers to show up for the annual beautification project. Kiwanis member Sonny Tsuboi contacted Disney requesting free tickets to auction off during the annual Lobster Fest fundraiser. Having provided four tickets in the past, two years ago "Disney changed their qualifications for tickets, now asking groups to volunteer for community projects," explained Tsuboi. "I thought our annual daffodil planting was an ideal platform to incorporate into qualifying for tickets. However, additional requirements were to include families and kids, as well as an

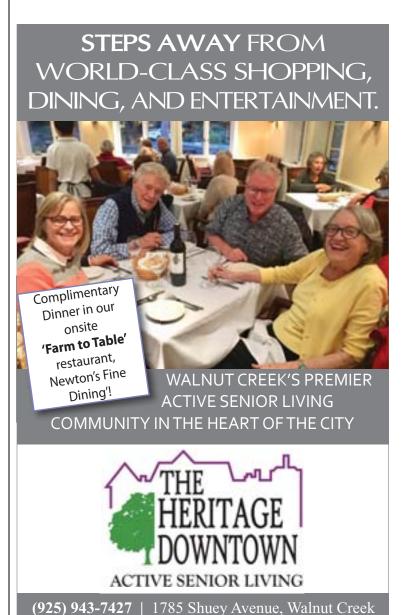
educational component."

To get the free tickets, members and their families helped out. As word spread, Scout troops pitched in. As the volunteer number grew, so did the free Disneyland tickets available to auction off. Prior planting seasons have earned 10 tickets.

"We had 60+ volunteers this time, the largest group yet to participate," said Sperry. "Twenty Kiwanians, together with 25 children (from Kiwanis families, some Cub Scouts and both Boy and Girl Scouts) and over 15 nonmember adults (mostly parents of the children or Scout leaders, but a few other community members as well)." If the participants exceed 70 next year, the club would be awarded 20 free tickets.

The Disneyland tickets will be auctioned off during the April 18 Lobster Fest. For more information visit: moragavalleykiwanis.org or call (925) 388-0492.





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NPR White House correspondent to speak at SMC

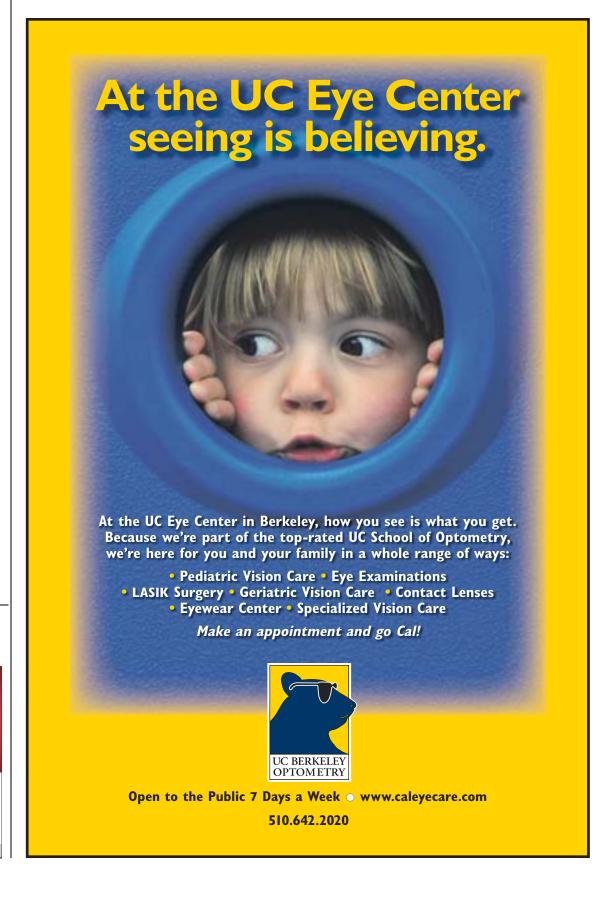


Submitted by Andrea Firth

Tamara Keith, NPR White House correspondent and cohost of NPR's "Politics" podcast, the top political news podcast in America, will be at Saint Mary's College to provide the inside scoop on the current state of the political race, as she reviews and connects the 2016 election to the upcoming 2020 election, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. March 18 in the Moraga Room at the SMC Soda Center.

Keith has been a White House correspondent for NPR since 2014 and has chronicled the Trump administration from day one, putting this unorthodox presidency in context for NPR listeners, from early morning tweets to executive orders and investigations. She covered the final two years of the Obama presidency, and during the 2016 presidential campaign she was assigned to cover Hillary Clinton. In 2018, Keith was elected to serve on the board of the White House Correspondents' Association. Previously Keith covered Congress for NPR with an emphasis on House Republicans, the budget, taxes, and the fiscal fights that dominated at the time.

Sponsored by The Disney Foundation and the Communication Department, the lecture "From Backseat Listener to White House Correspondent" is free but reservations are required at: www.stmarys-ca.edu/ tamarakeith.





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Careful reading of your financial aid award letters will pay off

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

College acceptance letters are often followed by more good news: financial aid award

Ideally, your financial aid award letter should be organized so that you know:

The estimated total cost of attendance for the school. This covers tuition, fees, room and board and estimated charges for books and other incidentals (examples: clothes, entertainment, computer, software, health insurance and transportation). Carefully review the college's estimated costs for incidentals. Compare their estimates with the amount that you are spending on these items while your child is in high school. Be sure to keep in mind that transportation is highly variable because it is location and time of travel dependent. Generally, books and supplies for classes will likely add over \$1,000 to your total cost of

attendance. The grants and/or scholarships that your child received. This is the portion of the financial aid award you will not need to repay. These awards might be need-based, others merit-based. Make sure that you know the GPA requirement to renew your child's merit-based aid; the higher the GPA expected, the harder it will be to keep the

The difference between the total cost of attendance and grants/scholarships. These are the costs that your

family must cover through loans or your own financial resources.

The next part of the letter should list options that you may accept or refuse to help cover your costs.

The amount for the federal direct student loan where the interest is subsidized and the amount where the interest is unsubsidized. The subsidized portion of the loan may be as high as \$3,500. The interest on the loan is deferred until after the student graduates from college and some amount of time passes (usually six months). Your family must pay the interest on the unsubsidized portion of the loan while your child is in school. Check this link for more information https://studentaid.gov/ understand-aid/ types/loans#types

The Work-Study Award. This is the maximum amount that the school allows your student to earn through a federally funded work-study job. A student might be able to earn more someplace else, but the Work-Study job might be better related to their career interests. After the first quarter or semester, your child can better assess what time of work best suits her financial needs and interests.

Parent PLUS Loans. Some award letters may present the option to take out a Parent PLUS Loan to cover up to the total balance of your college costs. These loans carry a higher interest rate than federal student loans Vour fam. ily must begin to repay principal and interest while your child is in school. Your family, not the student, must repay the debt.

If your award letters are not organized this way, reorganize them so that you can easily compare awards between schools. It's quite possible that the most generous school may not be your least cost option. And you will want to be fully informed before making the final decision!



Elizabeth LaScala, PhD personally guides each student through each step of selecting and applying to well-matched schools for undergraduate and graduate school study. Over the past two decades, Elizabeth has placed hundreds of students in some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the U.S. The number of clients taken is limited to ensure each applicant has personalized attention. Contact Elizabeth early in the process to make a difference in your outcomes.

elizabeth@doingcollege.com; Visit www.doingcollege.com; or Call: 925.385.0562.

Two SMC exhibitions highlight political artwork and women in art over time



Image Above: Rioscape by Sonya Rapoport, mixed media, 1962. Collection of Saint Mary's College Museum of Art

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Submitted by Britt Royer

Two newly opened exhibitions at Saint Mary's College Museum of Art offer a unique look at art throughout his-

"Feminizing Permanence" presents 40 historical and contemporary artworks by 40 women artists in the museum's permanent collection. The exhibit recontextualizes the work, spanning centuries and cultures, to highlight a wide range of themes while collectively speaking to the contributions of women in the arts and their shared journeys toward

"Sign of the Times: The Great American Political Poster 1844-2012" explores a variety of styles, design trends, and printing technology that engage visitors' imaginations and highlight 168 years of political commitments, from the 1844 race between Whig Henry Clay and Democrat James K. Polk to 1960s left-wing Democratic campaign posters of Eugene McCarthy.

Admission is free and open to the public Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For information, visit www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum.

'The Cherry Orchard' in Lafayette: in the depth of the Russian soul

www.lamorindaweekly.com



Sarah Ruby, Ted V. Bigornia, and Tim Holt Jones

By Sophie Braccini

It takes great skill to put together the rich tapestry of human characters that are explored in Anton Chekhov's work, in a way that appeals to modern audiences without sacrificing its depth. Town Hall Theatre has successfully met this challenge with "The Cherry Orchard," thanks to a lovely and talented cast led by the precise vision of director Susan Evans.

The magnificent cherry orchard and the estate it rests on are about to be sold. The most prized possession of an ancient family that used to be powerful in that part of Russia will soon be auctioned to pay for the years of debts that were accumulated through lack of management and carelessness. There are options to get out of the situation, some are very pragmatic and require sacrifices, other are pipe dreams that feel good but are not realistic. This multigeneration drama-comedy, set at the beginning of 20th century is Chekhov's last play. Within the span of two hours it describes the inexorable passage from one world order to another by exploring the everyday life of a few characters. Chekhov's marvelous art is to make us laugh while being touched by human poignancy, and to reach depth and complexity of feelings while depicting simple moments of everyday

A changing social order is at the crux of the play. Forty years before the beginning of the play, serfdom was abolished in Russia, but that social hierarchy still impregnates the scene; not only with the old servant who regrets the order where he was a serf and probably had a clear perception of this place in the world, but as one characters explains it, the whole property and the former wealth of the family was built through the labor of this version of slavery. And as the old order has crumbled, modernism is coming in with the train from Moscow now reaching to the countryside, bringing along new opportunities that some

will seize.

The orchard represents the beauty and elegance of a former order that has now lost its pertinence and usefulness. This is one of the most endearing charms of Chekhov's work: the nostalgic lyricism of the atmosphere and the language. The feelings displayed here are caused or not expressed through big action, but by the little details of everyday life: the nostalgia created by a bookcase, the ancient power balance between former slave and master revived by the smell of chicken the now rich former "moujik", the arrival of the tutor of the child who drowned. The central element that makes the quality of Town Hall Theatre's version of the classic play is in the interpretation given by the chosen actors, with emotions that are suggested and internalized, yet perceived by the audience. At the center of the play is Lyubóv Andréïevna Ranévskaya, the mother who lost a child, who is now losing the house where she grew up and can't seem to find in herself the resources to fight; Sarah Ruby is excellent as this central character, bringing elegance, restraint and poignancy to the woman who has been through so much but continues to be generous and loving to a

Each of the other characters embodies one type of reaction in the face of change. Anya (April Deutschle), one of the two daughters, is in love with Trofimov, an eternal student who represents the intellectual challenge to the old order. The two young people are full of hope and ready to embrace the future. Trofimov (Jake Gleason) could be a reader of Karl Marx and some of his sententious comments announce the Russian revolution, just over a decade later. Ermolaï Alexéïevitch Lopakhine (Ted Bigornia) exemplifies the former slave who through his ingenuity and hard work has become very rich. He tries to help the family through his advice but is not listened to. He still respects

"The Cherry Orchard" will play at Town Hall Theater through March 21. Tickets and special events at https://www.townhalltheatre.com/201920-season



Tim Holt Jones and Sarah Ruby

his former masters, but disdain and need for revenge are just below the surface. Varya (Heather Kellogg Baumann) is the adopted daughter who dreams to join a convent or to marry Lapakhin; she is pragmatic but also lost. Boris Borisovich Siméonov-Pichtchik (Mick Renner) is a family friend and also a landowner who is on the brink of financial disaster and dreaming of miraculous rescue. Léonid Andréïevitch Gaiev (Tim Holt Jones) is Lioubov's brother. even more extravagant and immature than his sister. Firs (Tom Relly) is Gaiev's frail and aging servant whose decay symbolizes that of the old order.

Photos Jay Yamada

Director Evans noted that, as THT artistic director, she chose a newly released version of "The Cherry Orchard" that was unearthed by scholars who found the original text before the first Russian director, Stanislavsky, made cuts in 1904 for its premiere, despite the author's protest. Chekhov called his play a comedy, and this primordial version has more comedic element than that of the one that has universally been played since the first public performance. Chekhov aficionados and first-time viewers alike will enjoy the playful version of

one of the most emblematic

Russian theatric texts.



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Russell Johnson

July 2, 1919 – December 12, 2019 Resident of Lafayette



R ussell Johnson peacefully left this world at 100 years old. Born in Idaho Falls, he was the descendant of Swedish immigrants. The family moved to Berkeley, where Russ graduated from Berkeley High School.

Russ was a lifelong tennis player. He attended UC Berkeley, majoring in Economics, then went to work for IBM. When World War II came along, Russ enlisted in the US Army, and saw combat in Germany, attaining the rank of Master Sergeant. When the war ended, he attended the University of Dijon and studied French.

Returning to the States he was rehired by IBM and worked in Oakland and San Francisco as a salesman. There he met Betty Thompson, a fellow IBM employee, whom he married in 1947. Russ had a successful career with IBM, always making quota, selling large computer installations to the Federal Government, the

US Military, the Post Office, and Ames Research Center in Sunnyvale. Russ, along with his family, was sent by IBM to cities around the country and around the world, each move a promotion: Phoenix, Washington DC, Germany, Denver, Tacoma, New Zealand, and finally back to the Bay Area, settling in Lafayette in 1966. Both Russ and Betty were faithful members of St. Anselm's Episcopal Church in Lafayette until the end of their lives.

Russ became President of the Lafayette-Langeac Society. Langeac, France is the sister city of Lafayette and home of the Marquis de Lafayette, American Revolutionary hero. Russ and Betty also supported the successful effort to erect the statue of the Marquis in Lafayette Town Square, and the construction of a city Petanque court for the French bowling sport.

After retiring from IBM, Russ and Betty travelled extensively, with hiking tours in France, a house exchange in Paris, and several cruises. Betty was a gourmet cook, and Russ created a beautiful garden that he tended passionately. Betty and Russ entertained frequently at their comfortable and elegant Lafayette home. After Betty's death in 2010, Russ wrote his autobiography, "My Life with Betty." Two years later, Russ moved to Piedmont Gardens senior community. There he met Amity Buxton, with whom he travelled to Paris at age 95.

Russ is survived by his daughter Janet Brown of Derwood, MD, and son Christopher Johnson of

Pleasant Hill, CA, as well as four grandsons and four great-grandchildren.

Russell Johnson had a phenomenal memory for past events and a terrific sense of humor. He was an engaging storyteller, an affable companion and friend to many, with an easy smile and charismatic and graceful manner. Russ retained relatively good health, a razor sharp mind and superb hearing to the end of his life: a life full of success and good fortune. Lucky in love, skillful in business, blessed with the love of his family and friends.

Not to be missed

LAMORINDA WEEKLY



Not to be missed



Not to be missed



ART

Moraga Art Gallery presents a new art exhibit and reception at the reopened gallery: "Kaleidoscope" through April 4. For more information, visit the gallery's website: https://moragaartgallery.com, or call (925) 376-5407 or email moragaartgallery@gmail.com.

Valley Art Gallery's new show "Joel Summerhill's Wild Jazz 5" runs through March 13. See Summerhill's watercolor jazz animals. Reception from 4 to 6 p.m. on Feb. 15. www.valleyartgallery.org; (925) 935-4311.

Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery presents "Translations: Painting and Poetry" - Abstract work by Rebecca Crowell and Jerry McLaughlin through March 14. www.jennifer perlmuttergallery.com

Moraga Art Gallery Announces a special exhibit, "Witness" through April 4, created by member artist Judy Bolef Miller. "Witness" is 22 feet of collage and assemblage exploring the past eight decades, giving the viewer a feel for the politics, entertainment, sports and continuing conflicts that have

been part of our lives. https://moragaartgallery.com

MUSIC

The Gold Coast Chamber Players present Grammy-nominated Aizuri Quartet in "Songs and Echoes of Home" at 7:30 p.m. March 7 in the Don Tatzin Community Hall at the Lafayette Library, 3492 Mt. Diablo Blvd. A special student showcase from the SF Conservatory of Music begins at 7 p.m. Tickets and information - GCCPmusic.com.

David Auerbach, baritone,

sings at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 22 at the OSLC Concert Series. The program, entitled, "Standing, Still: Stories from a Man's Life," presents a song cycle of tunes from Broadway and The Great American Songbook to tell a story from David's personal experience, but is a story with which we can all identify. With Martin Morley, piano; Jonah Cabral, reeds; and Daniel Williams, drums. Free admission/freewill offering. Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette, www.oslc.net.

THEATER

Town Hall Theatre Company presents "The Cherry Orchard" through March 21 at 3535 School Street, Lafayette. Tickets: \$18 Previews \$27-30 evenings, \$25-27 Sat. & Sun. matinees. Discounts available for Seniors and youth. For tickets and showtimes: (925) 283-1557; www.townhalltheatre.com

Town Hall Theatre is thrilled to announce their Second Annual Playwrights' CageMatch: AMONG THE TREES at 7:30 p.m. on March 23. Playwrights' Cage-Match is a chance for playwrights to show their stuff in an audience-decided live competition. The only requirements for aspiring contributors were that the scenes had to be 20 minutes or less, have no more than four characters and demonstrate gender parity. Admission for the Playwrights' CageMatch is \$5 (free to subscribers), and tokens to vote will be sold for \$5.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

"From Reagan to Bush to Eugene O'Neill Festivals," First Friday Forum will present Dan McGovern at 1:30 p.m. on March 6 in the Sanctuary of the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive,

Lafayette. As an explanation of the subject, McGovern served in the presidential administrations of Ronald Reagan and George H,W. Bush. He is currently the President of the Eugene O'Neill Foundation in Danville. Refreshments will be served. Free.

The Second Wednesday Book

Group will read and discuss "Killers of the Flower Moon, the Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI" by David Grann at 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 11. The World Affairs Book Group will read and discuss "Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides' Trap?" by Graham Allison at 3 p.m. Tuesday, March 17. Both groups meet monthly at Orinda Books 276 Village Square, Orinda. New members welcome.

AAUW-OML (American Association of University Women-Orinda Moraga Lafayette Branch) will host a panel discussion on U.S. immigration policy and issues from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on March 17 at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. Three experts will share information on current U.S. immigration topics such as the types of visas available, and immigrants' destina-

tions and effect on the U.S. economy. Free and open to the public. For more information, visit our website at https://oml-CA.aauw.net.

White House Correspondent and co-host of NPR Politics Podcast, Tamara Keith, discusses political journalism, specifically highlighting the 2020 campaign and the challenging climate for American journalism in our current age from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on March 18 at Saint Mary's College. Free. Register: www.stmarys -ca.edu/tamarakeith

Orinda Community Church presents a discussion forum: Paths to Middle East Peace from 4 to 7 p.m. on March 22 at 10 Irwin Way. Panelists include Ellen Brotsky (Jewish Voice for Peace) and John Anderson, who recently returned from Gaza and works on the Presbyterian Board on Middle East Peace. A Middle Eastern dinner (suggested donation of \$12) will also be served. Questions, visit orindacommunitychurch.org or call (925) 254-4906

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

The Friends of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center has an invitation to all Lafayette students from Kindergarten to 8th grade. Here is an opportunity to express your artistic talent in the form of a bookmark. The contest entries must be submitted by March 6. The entry forms will be available at the Lafayette Library and the Friends Corner Book Shop. The winner's bookmarks will be framed and exhibited in the library and the Friends Corner Book Shop.

OTHER

Free Tax Preparation for the 2019 tax season is available from AARP's Tax-Aide and United Way's Earn It, Keep It, Save It (EKS) programs. Service is provided by volunteer tax preparers who are IRS trained and certified. For information on Tax-Aide sites, call: (925) 726-3199. For information on EKS sites, call 2-1-1 or visit www.earnitkeepitsaveit.org.

Yeah Buddy Awesome Time:
Comedy Show from 7:30 to 9:30
p.m. on March 7 at Spats Berkeley, 1974 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Yeah Buddy Awesome Time brings back room laughs to the people of Berkeley. Come to Spats to see comedians from Conan, Viceland and Comedy Central. Cost: \$5. For more info see https://yeahbuddyawesometime7.eventbrite.com or call (510) 227-7477 or email chrisjohncomedy510@gmail.com.

Welcome to Medicare is a free class presented by Contra Costa Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP). You will learn when and how to enroll, about Medicare costs and benefits, prescription coverage, Medicare Advantage plans (HMOs), Medicare Supplements and how Medicare coordinates with other coverage. Classes are monthly on the second Wednesday from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at John Muir Medical Center, Walnut Creek. Upcoming dates are March 11 and April 8. See www.cchicap.org or call (925) 602-4163 to enroll. Materials provided. No products sold or endorsed.

Join the folks from John Muir
Land Trust 5-9 p.m. on Thursday, March 12 for a pint at
Canyon Club Brewery,1558
Canyon Road in Moraga to discuss Painted Rock and what's next for public access. Learn how to get involved with the Painted Rock Trail Building event on May 16-17, hosted by JMLT and Volunteers for Outdoor California (VOCAL). A portion of proceeds from all beer sold during the event will be donated to JMLT.

The MSD and the Moraga iKind Project present the documentary "And then they came for us" about Japanese internment camps from 7 to 8:45 p.m. on March 13 at the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School auditorium. Following the showing, the panel members, now in their 80s, will speak and answer

questions.
... continued on next Page

Lamorinda's Religious Services



Lafayette United Methodist Church

955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 thelumc.org Sunday 10am Worship and Faith Formation for all ages

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Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422 www.holyshepherd.org



9:30 a.m. Congregational Worship 10:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship in the Center for Ministry

visit http://www.holyshepherd.org for more details



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"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

Join us Sundays at 10 a.m. | Sunday School 10 a.m

Centering prayer group every Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel.

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Weekly Contemplative Worship Services

Wednesday Evenings, 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Contemplative worship is a brief service, with plenty of silence and weekly communion.



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Colorful and tangy twist on traditional coleslaw



Blue Cheese Coleslaw

By Susie Iventosch

This is a fun twist on the traditional sweet and tangy coleslaw, using yogurt-blue cheese dressing instead of the more typical mayonnaisebased dressing. Not only is this slaw colorful, but delicious and pairs so well with tacos, burg-

Photo Susie Iventosch

www.lamorindaweekly.com

ers, spicy wings or barbecue. The mixture of blue cheese and bacon gives it a great salty taste and the toasted pecans offer a nice crunch. I like to mix the red and green cabbage, but you can use just one or the other, along with the carrots, if you prefer. There is no exact measurement for how much of the

blue cheese dressing to add, so I'd start with about 1/2 cup and add more to get to the consistency and taste you like. Also, if you really love the blue cheese flavor, add extra blue cheese crumbles when you toss it and you'll have an intensely blue cheese experience!



Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com. This recipe can be found on our

www.lamorindaweekly.com. If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977.

Blue Cheese Coleslaw

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

(Serves 6-8 as a side dish) **INGREDIENTS**

- 1 small head green cabbage, shredded or finely chopped
- 1 small head red cabbage, shredded or finely chopped
- 2 carrots, peeled and shredded or grated
- 2 tablespoons olive oil 1-2 teaspoons cider vinegar
- 1/2 cup (plus or minus) homemade yogurt blue cheese dressing (recipe below)
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup pecans, toasted and coarsely chopped or broken
- 1/4 cup blue cheese crumbles

4 strips bacon, cooked and crumbled DIRECTIONS

Place cabbage and carrots in a salad bowl. Toss with olive oil and cider vinegar and then mix in yogurt blue cheese dressing until cabbage is well covered. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Top with blue cheese crumbles, toasted pecans and bacon.



Yogurt Blue Cheese Dressing

(Yields 1 1/4 cups dressing, and you won't need all of this so save it for your next salad adventure!) **INGREDIENTS**

- 5 ounces crumbled blue cheese, softened to room
- 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/8 teaspoon white pepper 1/2 cup plain nonfat yogurt

DIRECTIONS

In a small bowl, smash blue cheese until fairly smooth using a fork. Stir in white wine vinegar, olive oil and white pepper. Blend until well integrated. Add yogurt and mix well. This makes a very thick dressing. Add more olive oil or yogurt as desired to arrive at the dressing consistency you enjoy. Refrigerate until ready to use.

Not to be missed •



Not to be missed

OTHER ... continued

Double down for the **Lafayette** Community Center Foundation's first Poker Party! The festivities will be held at 7 p.m. on March 14 at 500 St. Mary's Road. Come to play poker, visit with Lafayetteians, learn a new game, win fabulous prizes. This is a night not to miss. This event is run by the Lafayette Community Center Foundation and will raise funds for its new Lafayette **Community Center** playground.

All are cordially invited to celebrate with Saint Mary's College Guild St. Patrick's Day Dinner / Auction / Fundraiser at SMC's Soda Center Saturday, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. March 14. Featuring Rohan Murphy Academy Irish Dancers and The Frank O'Connor Band. A delicious traditional. Irish corned beef dinner with all the trimmings. Guinness, Harp, wine, Irish Coffee available. Tickets: \$50 per person. Make checks payable to: SMC Guild and mail to: Cynthia Kelly, 628 Augusta Drive, Moraga, 94556. Questions: Call Cynthia Kelly at (925) 388-0437.

Lafayette resident, Papa John Kiefer, will, again, offer workshops on "How to Raise Your Own Chickens." Topics will include raising young chicks, laying hen maintenance, and sustainable coop construction. Workshops are free and will be held in Lafayette from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on March 15. Reservations are required.

Contact: chickenspapajohn@gmail.com. Location provided upon registration.

The Real Irish Comedy Fest from 7:30 to 9:15 p.m. on March 15 at Lesher Arts Center, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. The Real Irish Comedy Fest showcases the best blend of Irish comedic talent in the United States. Accents included. Cost: \$25-30. For more info see http://realirishcomedytour .com/ or email team@funnybizz.co.

The Persian Center will be hosting its 21st annual Chaharshanbeh Souri from 6 to 10 p.m. on March 17 at 2029 Durant Ave., Berkeley. Jump over bonfires to celebrate the change of seasons and to welcome spring. Enjoy Persian food, music, dancing, and children's activities. Rain or shine. Free. www.facebook.com/ PersianCenterOrg/ www.AnotherBullwinkel Show.com 510.334.6523

Our Saviors Lutheran **Church** presents Spring Equinox Celebration at 7 p.m. on March 19 at 1035 Carol Lane, Main Hall. Through, poetry, song, reflections, and the creation of an equinox mandala, the night will provide you and your kids a chance to honor the turning of the seasons and discover a little equilibrium in a world that often feels out of balance. To Donate and/or get tickets https://lafayette-spring-equinox. Sweet. eventbrite.com

GARDEN

The Walnut Creek Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting at 10 a.m. on March 9 at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, in Walnut Creek. The topic of the March program is "Behind the Scenes at the Rose Bowl." You do not need to be a gardener to join the Walnut Creek Garden Club.

Please join the Orinda **Garden** Club for its annual community meeting at 10 a.m. on March 19 at the Orinda Library Auditorium. Brenda Coffee, one of America's top women Bloggers, will speak about the joys and perils of a full and ambitious life. There is no charge to attend and there will be a small sampling of garden club items available for your shopping pleasure.

The Moraga Garden Club Monthly General Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on March 19 at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street. Goddess Gardener Cynthia Brian will speak about Fire Safe Landscaping with a Flair. You should not miss this flamboyant speaker who is sure to inspire green and brown thumbs alike. Free.

The Montelindo Garden **Club** March meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on March 20 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Community Hall. Presentation: Don't Snub the Shrubs. Speaker: Rebecca

www.montelindogarden.com

Service Clubs Announcements

Lafayette Rotary Club Step in on a Thursday and join us for our lunch meeting.

Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. March 5: March 12:

Carlos Reyes Carlos and Violin at **His Best**

Bob Cahn About 95% of the Universe is missing!

www.rotarylafayette.org www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-CA





MARCH WEEKLY MEETINGS

- 6: John Eckstrom, Shelter, Inc. CEO
- 13: Professor Elena Songster, Panda Nation
- 20: Gokul Kanna, Ingenuity: Repurposing Drugs for \$Billions
- 27: Fred Steingraf, Member Presentation Breakfast, Friday 7:00 a.m.

The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, CA www.lamorindasunrise.com

Lamorinda Weekly

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School stories/events: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com Sport events/stories/pictures: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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Come in for some comedy at Cine Cuvee in Orinda

Please submit:

Events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Stories: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Letters: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Opinion: letters@lamorindaweekly.com



Submitted by Tania Sheppard

Looking for a way to get out of the doldrums of daily life?

The first Wednesday of the month could provide the perfect comedic respite at Cine Cuvee in Orinda's Theatre Square, which offers free comedy at 7 p.m. in the wine bar. Headliners at the March 4 event will include Marcus Williams, who is part of the Comedy Central Bay Area Clusterfest Showcase, Al Moffatt, who performs with the "Early Bird Special" comedy ensemble, Nicole Tran, who is a regular on the "Kill Tony" podcast at the LA Comedy Store, and Jason

Toupes, who produces and hosts "Laughs on Tap" at Faction Brewery. Don't miss other events

at Cine Cuvee and Orinda Theatre, including: Free Movie Night at The Orinda Theatre, featuring "Giant" at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 12; Karaoke at Cine Cuvee at 7 p.m. Friday, March 13; and Live at the Orinda Concert Series at the Orinda Theatre featuring Natalie Douglas at 5 p.m. Sunday, March 15.

For information, visit www.orindamovies.com

Moraga Rotary donates over \$28K to Town



Moraga Rotarian John Erickson presents to Moraga Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus a check for \$28,373. In background are Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg, Council Member Roger Wykle, and Vice Mayor Mike McCluer, who is also a Moraga Rotarian.

Submitted by Gary Irwin

Moraga Rotary Club donated a check for \$28,373 to the town of Moraga at the Feb. 12 council meeting, which was the unspent balance of the funds raised for the Lamorinda All-Access Playground at Moraga Commons, which was dedicated in 2018. Rotarian John Erickson, co-chairman for the project committee, gave a brief history of the origination, planning, fundraising, construction, and completion of this playground, which is the largest privately funded gift to the town.

About \$345,000 was raised by Rotary from foundations, charitable organizations, and individuals, and the town of Moraga contributed the land for the project plus significant funds for site preparation, parking lot and sidewalk improvements, and other costs around the playground site.

The idea for a small playground was proposed by Moraga Rotarian Cliff Dochterman, former Moraga Citizen of the Year, as a gift to Moraga on the 50th anniversary of Moraga Rotary's

formation, and the concept of a playground for special needs was soon guided into \bar{a} playground for children of all abilities. This concept proved to be very popular with the community, making sufficient fundraising possible to build a much larger playground than originally conceived.

The Town Council and staff were enthusiastic supporters of the playground, and offered the site at the Commons rather than have it at Rancho Laguna Park where it was first conceived, and were very cooperative throughout the entire process.

Moraga Rotary is a 53-year-old service club within Rotary International, one of the five Clubs in Lamorinda, and one of about 33,000 Rotary Clubs in about 200 countries. Regular meetings are held on most Tuesdays at Michael's Restaurant in Moraga. If you are interested in information about Rotary, please contact moragarotary@comcast.net or visit the website at moragarotary.com, or call Brian South, president-elect at (925) 260-2143.

Miramonte student wins Lions Zone Student Speakers Contest



Photo provided

Athena Davis, Miramonte High School senior, with Moraga Lions Student Speaker Contest Chair Fred George.

Submitted by Fred George

The topic for this year's Lions Club annual Student Speakers Contest is "Homelessness in California, what is the solution?" The winner at the zone level was Athena Davis, who is a senior at Miramonte High School. Fred George, Moraga Lions Club Student Speech Chair, said he was impressed by Davis' expression and creativity, noting it was obvious that young people have strong ideas about homelessness. Lions' members are proud that they are able to provide contestants with the opportunity to share their views and speaking skills. The contest has six levels, and this was the second level. The winning student can win up to \$21,000 in scholarships. There is a total of \$103,500 awarded overall in scholarship money. The third and next level is the Regional to be held at 1 p.m. March 28 at the Pittsburg Lions Blind Center. Let's hope that Davis can win the whole

Community Service: We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.



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Your publishers, Andy and Wendy Scheck



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CP families serve up kindness with a warm meal



Camino Pablo Elementary School students and families help prepare and serve dinner at St. Mary's Center in Oakland.

Submitted by Cathy Chang

www.lamorindaweekly.com

Several Camino Pablo Elementary School families went to Oakland Jan. 29 to prepare and serve dinner at St. Mary's Center's Winter Emergency Shelter for homeless seniors. The volunteers prepared a heartwarming and nutritious meal from scratch. "Although we only had an hour to cook a vegetable side, grill chicken, cut fruit, and bake chocolate chip cookies for over 40 people, everyone, big and small, worked hand in hand and made magic happen," said coordinator Cathy Chang. "The food was delicious and many seniors asked for seconds until we ran out! The volunteers touched so many hearts at the dinner."

Since 1998, St. Mary's Center in Oakland has provided an emergency winter shelter, the only homeless shelter in the Bay Area exclusively for seniors, hosting up to 30 guests a night. To address Oakland's skyrocketing homelessness rates, St. Mary's Center opened the emergency winter shelter two weeks early this year. The ultimate goal of St. Mary's Center Senior Shelter programs is to help individuals find permanent housing.

'Special thanks to Moraga's volunteer-run garden farm, Camino Pablo Elementary Garden Club and Moraga residents, Bobbie Preston and Leslie Nuccio, for donating abundant vegetables and mushrooms to this meal service project," Chang said. To learn more about Moraga School District Presidential Volunteer Service Awards, please check out https://www.moraga.k12.ca.us/pvsa.

Presenting Troop 204's 2020 Eagle Scouts



Submitted by Mika Watanabe

Lafayette 's Boy Scout Troop 204 will honor 14 Scouts for achieving the Eagle Scout Rank at the troop's 67th Eagle Court of Honor. Eagle Scout is the highest rank in the Scouts BSA | Boy Scouts of America and these Scouts will be honored at 1 p.m. March 21 at Lafayette- Orinda Presbyterian

Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. To attain the Eagle Scout rank, a Scout must earn at least 21 merit badges including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and Scout Spirit, and successfully complete an approved Eagle Service Project. Troop 204 Eagle Scouts have also attended the annual 50-mile backpacking trips, including planning and

leading a trek on a nine-day trip. Ryan Bea removed and replaced the protective fence around the air conditioning unit at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Jon Davis painted a world map on the playground at Lafayette Elementary School to inspire youth interest in geography and world affairs. Quinn Elle constructed a mobile Lost and Found, metal framed cabinet for Happy Valley Elementary. Jack Innenberg provided Oakland Unified School District with 17 musical instruments through donations and fundraising. Aidan Kim worked with

the All Good Living Foundation to collect and distribute school supplies and toiletries for underprivileged children in the East Bay. Cayden Lee designed and led construction of an outdoor classroom workstation for students in the Springhill Elementary School garden. Michael Roux built two tables and a Lost and Found cart for CATS at Lafayette Elementary School. John Shepherd created a computer lab for a Shelter Inc. homeless shelter in Pittsburg. He provided handmade desks, donated computers and peripherals, to support job searches and homework. Matthew Shepherd built and installed owl boxes throughout Lafayette to benefit our habitat, protect the owls from predators, and provide shelter for their young. Jackson Steele organized the Young Maker's Expo during the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival, providing an opportunity for young entrepreneurs to work on their business skills. Preston Vana collected books and donated them to currently serving military troops and veterans to provide them with entertainment. Caleb Waechter relocated and painted the United States map and repainted 4-Square courts at Happy Valley Elementary. Tomo Watanabe restored a polluted pond at Chabot Space & Science Center by building a protective structure for the water treatment system and using plants as a natural water filter.

Look for our **Summer Camp Guide** in section C

Campolindo and Acalanes place at NCS Wrestling Championship





www.lamorindaweekly.com



Three Campolindo winners on the podium, from left: Arine Kim, Adrian Bautista and Noah

By Jon Kingdon

From the start of off-season wrestling practices, which usually begin in April, it's the ultimate goal to be able to compete in the North Coast Section tournament, hopefully finishing in the top three and qualifying for the state tournament. The NCS tournament was held Feb. 21-22 at James Logan High School. There were 560 wrestlers from 94 high schools who competed in 1,092 matches in each of the 14 weight classes to determine who would move on to the state tournament. The Girls NCS Tournament was held at Albany High School and for them, the top four moved on to the state tournament.

There were four seniors from Lamorinda that medaled and made it to the podium: the boys Steven Williams (Acalanes-152) who finished in fourth place, Noah Hamann (Campolindo-120) who finished sixth, Adrian Bautista (Campolindo-113) who finished in eighth place, and Arine Kim (Campolindo-126) who finished sixth in the girls tournament.

Finishing fourth for Williams was particularly satisfying as he spent the year battling shoulder and knee injuries but "due to his work ethic and athletic ability, he was able to come into the NCS wrestling his best," said Acalanes assistant coach Blake Hedlund.

After losing his first match to the No. 2 seed in the tournament, Williams won his next three matches, a loss of any of them which would have sent him home. He then won his next match, which guaranteed him at least an eighth-place finish. Unbeknownst to Hedlund, Williams was exposed to something in the stands and had an allergy attack and was taken to the local hospital to be administered an epinephrine

After Williams match was pushed back, it was a race to get him back to the meet, said Hedlund: "After the shortest hospital emergency room visit ever, Steve's parents drove him back to the tournament and he literally ran from the car into the gym, put on his shoes and singlet, warmed up for three minutes and pinned his man." Williams won his next match, coming up short in his final match for third place, but as Hedlund put it, "This was a story of tremendous perseverance and heart against all odds."

Williams was generous in acknowledging the people who were responsible for his success: "I give credit to all of the coaches that I've had at Acalanes, CYC wrestling and most of all (Campolindo coach) Nikko Triggas who I've known since I was 5 when he wrestled with my older brother. He's been my main coach for the last three years."

Bautista and Hamann both wrestled at lower weight than they did during the season and it obviously was the right decision for both, said Triggas. "Adrian who wrestled at 120-122 all season got down to 115 to wrestle in NCS. He decided about a month ago to drop the weight. After practice he was within striking range of making the weight and he did it healthily and was smart about making the weight cuts. I'm not a proponent of cutting weight but he did it intelligently and I was okay with it. Noah, who came into the tournament unseeded, lost to the No. 1 seed and he did a great



Steven Williams

job in the consolation bracket to make it on the podium."

Ohia Paris also made NCS for the Cougars at 106 pounds, winning his first match in the consolation round before being eliminated, but was praised by Triggas: "Ohia's only a sophomore and we're really excited about him for next year. He only has to put

on some more size." The girls competed at Albany High School and Campolindo co-head coach Louis Suba was there with Arine Kim and five other Cougar wrestlers, but it was Kim who was the standout. After losing to the No. 1 seeded wrestler, Kim made it through the consolation round, only one win away from making it to the state tournament.

"These were the first Campolindo wrestlers to place since 2014," said Suba. "It was a great way for them to end their Campolindo wrestling careers."

Though there were no



Arine Kim

wrestlers from Miramonte that were in the NCS tournament, it was more a matter of unfortunate luck and timing that kept three of their wrestlers away. Ryan Edmister, Shannon Lipp and Hannah Ripper all would have competed in the tournament but for injuries each suffered just prior to the tournament.

Miramonte head coach Jason Rosiak still saw it as a positive year and one to build on for next year: "The season was successful in the fact that we had a 3-2-1 record in league matches and we're ready to rebound next year with a number of returning wrestlers and some new wrestlers as well that are showing a lot of potential. Next year will be the first time in two years that we will have seniors on the roster so we should have a lot of leadership, particularly with Ryan. He was our most improved wrestler due to his maturity, development and effort, ending up the year with a 14-6 record."

The Miramonte girls will be led by Ripper who was 12-0 last season with 12 pins in the first round and Lipp who was 12-3. Yahzee Mendez who was injured early in the season is also pointing toward making it to NCS next year.

Triggas is already looking forward to next year for the Cougars: "We are losing eight

seniors this year, which will hurt us a little bit, but our juniors, sophomores and freshmen are really developing well. The key will be for them to stick around all summer and that will be the key to our success."

Isabelle Lurie who was being counted on early in the season suffered a broken collarbone in her first match of the season and Suba is also counting on her return as "she's one of our most dedicated wrestlers."

For Acalanes, James Trainer was being counted on to make it to NCS, suffered a knee injury that cut his season short but the Dons are looking forward to his return next season. "The overall team has been coming along," said Hedlund. "We're hoping to get about a half dozen kids in this tournament next year and we're hoping to get a larger turnout of girls next year."

Worthy of special acknowledgment is Acalanes senior Reid Fellner, whose vision is severely limited, lettered this year, ending the season undefeated with a 1-0 record.

There will be more of a local flavor to next season's schedules. Acalanes will now be back in the same division with Campolindo and Miramonte so there will be dual matches with all three teams to look forward to.



LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Successful basketball season in Lamorinda led by Campolindo



Photos Gint Federas

Scott Ruegg, Acalanes and Aiden Mahaney, Campolindo



Matt Meredith, Miramonte

Carter Mahaney, Campolindo

By Jon Kingdon

With all three Lamorinda teams making it into North Coast Section, and Campolindo going on to the state tournament, it would have to be considered a successful season all around.

Campolindo Campolindo head coach Steven Dyer has never been one to back down from top competition, using it as a tool to prepare his team for league and postseason play. The six losses so far this year came against Archbishop Mitty, Salesian, Archbishop Riordan, St. Mary's (Stockton), Bishop O'Dowd and Dublin. Those teams have a combined record of 164-36 and the Cougars averaged losing by only a margin of six points in each of those games. The strategy has been successful as evidenced by Campolindo's 23-1 record in league play the

tion a state championship. Campolindo was placed in the open division for the NCS playoffs which automatically puts them in the state tournament, despite losing to Dublin in the semifinals. "We proved that we belonged in the open division as one of the top teams in the NCS," said Dyer. "We were 12-0 in a competitive league and had a hard non-league schedule, defeating teams like Modesto Christian and Weston Ranch twice. Our next step is to beat a top

last two seasons, not to men-

team like Dublin."

Against Dublin, whom Campolindo played in the NCS semifinals, they were once again led by Aidan (20) and Carter (2) Mahaney against the No. 1 seeded Gaels. Campolindo closed to within three points several times with the ball but were unable to close it out. Still Dyer felt that the team took away a lot from the game: "We saw that little plays add up. We had some mistakes defensively and we did not run our offense quite as crisply. We did not play poorly but we did not play great and you have to be firing on all cylinders at this point of the year if you want to keep winning. We were good but you have to be really good to defeat a team like Dublin on the road in the NCS open division."

The experience gained year in winning the state tournament helps, but Dyer is keeping it in perspective: "Every year is different. We know the format but we'll be in a harder division and we have earned that right. At this point of the year, everything is challenging." Acalanes

The award for most improved team would have to go to Acalanes, which improved from 9-17 last year to 16-11 this past season. Head coach Sol Henik attributed the turnaround to both the talent and character of the team: "Our goal was to make NCS and we achieved that goal. We had

great chemistry among the players. They all liked each other and they worked hard every day in practice and we got great leadership from Scott Ruegg and Aidan Bodner. I'm just really happy about how this year went, how all of the players came together."

Acalanes came up just short in their playoff game against Tamalpais, losing 70-64 in overtime. With Ruegg and Bodner getting into early foul trouble and Joey Carrillo fouling out in the fourth quarter, it was too much to overcome, particularly with the Dons going 10 for 20 from the foul line.

There were two freshman that played a substantial amount of time this past season that Henik is excited about seeing them take the next step as sophomores: "6'6" Take Davis was a really nice surprise for us and he has a great deal of potential to have a great career at Acalanes. Theo Stoll got a lot of experience playing for both the varsity and the JV and we're counting on him and Jake to make improvements and big contributors next season."

With Acalanes returning six of their top seven scorers returning next year (minus Bodner), Henik sees even further improvement for the Dons, revolving around Ruegg, Carrillo and Jackson Aris-Dumas: "Those are the guys that have been with us the longest and they understand our system and culture. They're guys that want to improve and get better with leading the way. Scott loves basketball and Acalanes. He is a leader on the court and in school. We will go as far as Scott can take us."

Miramonte

In his first season at Miramonte, head coach Chris Lavdiotis, bringing in a new system, made it to the semifinals in the NCS playoffs finishing the season with a 16-13 record.

Lavdiotis was able to hit the ground running due to the character and leadership of his senior class: "Even though I brought in a new system to the team, the thing that really worked this year was that the seniors really bought in to us. My first goal was to establish relationships with the returning players, especially the seniors because that's where the leadership comes from. In that regard, we put together a pretty nice culture and our seniors were so good, I believe they passed it on to the younger players and I believe that we have gained credibility with all of the players because of the success we had this season."

The Matadors were headed by senior Matt Meredith who led the team in scoring (13.8) and assists (2.8), but it was the overall team effort that Lavdiotis most appreciated: "These kids studied film and understood scouting reports better than any kids I

ever coached. We were able to usually take away the other team's best actions on offense. For example, in our semifinal game against Branson, we had them completely stymied but they had damn good defense and it made it hard on us to score as well. These guys put in the work and we got better and better and the last few weeks, we were really hard to contend with, developing a lot of trust between the coaches and the players and we had a lot of fun."

Along with Meredith, Miramonte is graduating a number of key players – Michael Giertz (8.1), James Frye (6.0), Quenton Breznikar (4.5) and Nick Watson (4.4) among others. The graduating seniors will be missed by Lavdiotis: "We're losing a quiet leader in Meredith, a vocal and enthusiastic, energizer guy in Quenton, and a real lead by example and fabulous captain in Nick."

The returning players for the Matadors are Niya Olabode (9.6), Ryan Schwarz (7.3), James Frye (6.0) and Tom Dutto (3.6). "We have a lot of talent and size but it just needs to develop into that leadership role," said Lavdiotis. We talked a lot about the need for the returning guys to not be reluctant to step forward and be a voice and embrace it. Schwarz really grew up as the season progressed and his 3-point shooting was terrific and Niyi just needs to improve his outside shot and be more efficient in getting to the rim since he is so strong. He will be a terrific player

Besides the upper classmen, Miramonte brought up three sophomores at the end of the season that Lavdiotis is confident will be contributing to the team next season: "Caden Breznikar is a really good player that shows no fear, Ben Murphy is a smart and savvy player and Andrew Sidlauskas is a great rebounder that shows a lot of heart and hunger in really going after the ball. Yes, you lose a lot of players but if the kids that are coming back are ready to take over, we should be successful next year and that's how we're looking at it."

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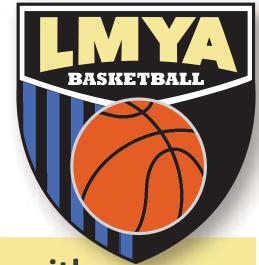
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Success for new 3 v 3 Basketball League Format!



LMYA Basketball wraps up 2020 season with 3rd Grade Championship Games & Skills Competition

"I touched the ball so much and really got better. And it was fun!" beamed an LMYA 3rd grade player. The results of the new 3v3 program launched this year for 1st-3rd graders were on full display at the end of season Skills Competition and Round Robin Tournament held on 2/22 at JM. LMYA believes that smaller team sizes and ½ court 3v3 basketball develops skills most effectively and is a really fun style of play for the kids. The players thrived in the new program!



GIRLS PLATINUM CHAMPIONS

Runner up - Dallas Wings

In Blue - Grace Wheeler, Mia Grover and Charlotte Smith

Winner - Las Vegas Aces

In Black - Evi Gratton, Juliet Lee and Paige Neufeld



GIRLS GOLD DIVISION

Runner up - Los Angeles Sparks

In Purple - Piper Allen, Emery Spires, Anna Tanner and Audrey Kawamoto

Winner - Indiana Fever

In Red - Lillian Dillon, Cameron Koch, Olivia Jagard and Sinead Conneely (not pictured)



BOYS PLATINUM CHAMPIONS

Runner up - Charlotte Hornets

In Purple - Brad Budke and Owen Goldberg

Winner - Boston Celtics

In Green - Will Feinstein, Jason Rossetter and Dominic Quaresma



BOYS GOLD DIVISION

Runner up - Los Angeles Lakers

In Yellow - Hudson Mulford, Aidan Flowers, Theo Penn and Drew Felder

Winner - Los Angeles Clippers

In White - Caleb Worster, Kai Nath, Joaquin Young and Jaxson Wallace (not pictured)



Santa Maria seventh grade girls (American) win CYO championship



Photo provided

Back row from left: coach Sean Hogan, Katrina White, Addi Ames, Lillie LaVelle, Alison Sagara, Maren Thorpe, Julia Quinn-Ferguson, coach Brian Chinn; front row from left: Megan Churchill, Natalie Frechman, Sophie Chinn and Ainsley Hogan

Submitted by Marina Chinn

Coached by Brian Chinn and Sean Hogan, Santa Maria sevens Grade

American girls concluded another undefeated season with a victory against St. Raymond 27-19 to win the CYO Championship.

CYO Spartans win tournament



Pictured, coaches: Christopher Tritto and Henry Jai; players: Andrew Morelli, Brennan Tritto, Cohen Pearse, Elliott Yee, Ethan Johnson, Kyden Bronson, Mark Nakhle, Mitchell Pullen, Silas Jai and William Wei

Submitted by Irene Jai

The CYO Spartans National Team

won the CYO National third grade boys basketball tournament in February hosted at the NorCal Gym.

Sixth grade CYO Santa Maria girls champions



Photo Lee O'Haver

Pictured from left: Claire Park, Clare Lenny, Kate Liu, Camilla White, Sawyer Bohlig, Roxie Tarantino, Zara San Gabriel, Teia Adler, Sophia Howe. Not pictured: Izzy Disston, Coach Paul Liu, Coach Paul White.

Submitted by Lee O'Haver

The Santa Maria CYO sixth grade girls basketball team had a decisive 20-12 victory in the championship game on Sunday, Feb. 23 with contributions from every team member. This is a

repeat championship for five of the team members, who won the fifth grade girls championship game in 2019. The girls are looking forward to the next round of competition at the CYO Tournament of Champions.

Submit stories to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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All Lamorinda girls basketball teams make NCS - Miramonte heads to state tournament



Jordan Allred, Miramonte

By Jon Kingdon

At the start of every basketball season, it's the goal of each team to make it to the NCS playoffs. Miramonte in the Open Division, Acalanes in Division 2, Campolindo in Division 3 and Bentley in Division 5 all met that initial goal.

Miramonte, in their second year as an independent team, playing a highly competitive schedule, finished the regular season with a 21-5 record, qualifying for the open division. There they took on what has become a personal nemesis, Bishop O'Dowd in the first round. Despite defeating O'Dowd earlier in the season by a score of 79-63, the Matadors lost in the rematch 57-50.

This was the third time that Bishop O'Dowd has defeated Miramonte in four games over the last two years. Last year, O'Dowd defeated Miramonte in the NCS championship game and in the state tournament. Though coming up short in the NCS tournament, because they were in the open division, the Matadors were automatically given a spot in the state tournament which commences 12 days after their early exit from the

NCS tournament. Campolindo

In his first season last year, Campolindo head coach Matt Kirby, following the graduation of Haley Van Dyke and Ashley Thoms, both who went on to play Division I basketball, had a long year with the Cougars finishing the year with a 7-19 record, 1-9 in league.

It was not a time for the players to feel sorry for themselves, said Kirby: "We had a lot of seniors that bounced back from last year. They had a great attitude and were great leaders." Campolindo improved this season with a 16-11 record while going 5-5 in league play

As a three seed in the NCS, Campolindo received a bye in the first round and then defeated Eureka 62-51 in the second round before losing to the No. 2 seed, San Marin in the semifinals 55-46, missing out on the opportunity to make it to the state tournament.

Forwards Emily Marsten and Allie Korth and guards Kate Brown and Olivia De Paschalis, all seniors, were keys to the success this year. "They all did a great job and are going to be missed, particularly Kate because she

did everything," said Kirby. Kirby is confident in the foundation of younger players to rely on to continue the team's success into next year. The team's strength is going to be in the front court led by upcoming seniors Kiana Thorson and Meg Larsen for their ability and leadership.

Allie Cummins had a dominating freshman year and should also provide leadership next year though she will only be a sophomore, says Kirby: "Allie was just superb on so many levels."

There were two other freshmen that also contributed this year and are expected to continue to show improvement next year – forward Camille Yabu and guard Ava Garcia. "Camille showed a lot of potential and made some big strides. Ava brought a lot of energy and played hard."

Photo Gint Federas

Led by a triumvirate of seniors, Lauren Kobashigawa, Lauren Frechman and Kaylee Pond, Acalanes had a 56-26 record over the last two seasons, going 24-6 in league play (19-1 over the last two years). The Dons finished this year with a 21-7 record, concluding the year with an overtime loss to Redwood 74-64.

Head coach Michelle Sasaki did not hold back in her admiration for the team: "You could arguably say that they were one of the best teams that has been at Acalanes, as a group because of what they have accomplished together. The previous teams did not have that type of success even though they may have had the talent. It's a testament to how unselfish they all were, playing and maximizing into their roles. To go back to back as league champions and do it better than what they did last year, that is a feat, in and of itself. Everybody chases you after you get the first one but then to say that we have some unfinished business and we feel that we can go undefeated and they did to come through it and that is to me a testament as to how strong willed this team was. It's one of the best team that Acalanes has ever had. It's been over 20 years since any Acalanes team has gone back to back."

With five seniors and a nine-girl roster, the underclassmen for the Dons got a lot of playing time which should ease the transition to next season. Grace Gephardt and Gabby Schneider will be four year lettermen next year and will be the leaders on the team. "We're expecting big things from Gabby next year. Grace has been a key component since she started as a freshman. This year, she averaged 18 points and 12 rebounds and just kept improving. She really understands the game and is the best post player in the league. She can hit the 3-point, show post moves, get rebounds, block shots. She fills up the stat sheet."

Freshmen Emily Du and Isabella Aris-Dumas held up well against varsity competition, said Sasaki: "Emily has the athleticism to compete at any level. She's very good at penetrating and getting to the basket. I'm looking forward to her adding to what she has and being more confident as she steps up into the next season with a lot more responsibility and being more assertive. Isabelle got good experience and will know the system and should be more confident and productive next year."

Sasaki is hoping for a larger turnout of players for the team next year to share in what came out of this season: "When you have to take that journey and endure all of those challenges and obstacles and persevere and still be chased by everyone in the league, that to me is resilience, a commitment to team and that's what was most impressive about this team." **Bentley**

Bentley head coach Kelly Thomas has now led the team to the NCS tournament for three straight years, having made it to the second round in 2018 and 2019. Bentley finished this season with a 15-11 record, going 8-4 in league play but lost in the first round of the tournament to Sonoma Academy.

SPRING & SUMMER CAMPS 2020

www.lamorindaweekly.com

Part 1, Spring Break and Full Day Summer Camps (Part 2, half-day camps, April 15, 2020)

Get ready – it's camp time!

It may only be March, but spring break and summer are just around the corner, and with that comes the wonderful opportunity for our children to experience some fantastic camps. In this issue of the Lamorinda Weekly, we kick off our annual guide to activities and programs in and around Lamorinda, featuring full-day camps for the summer as well as spring break camps which start March 30 this year. Look for our listing of half-day camps and programs coming in April.

Get your children ready to have the spring break and summer of their dreams!

SPRING BREAK CAMPS

Camp Awesome (Lafayette)

Camp Awesome is fun, flexible, affordable, and open all Spring Break!

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Randy Bennett Basketball Camps (Saint Mary's College, Moraga)

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www.smcmensbasketballcamps.com/spring-break-camp.cfm

Sienna Ranch (Lafayette)



Spring Break Camp offers favorite activities from Sienna Ranch's school year classes. Come visit our animals, play games, and hike in the green hills looking for wildflowers. Sienna Ranch also offers morning horse camps and afternoon woodshop, archery, adventure, horses and more. Camp offers full-day or half-day camp options. Dates: March 30-April 3

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FULL DAY SUMMER CAMPS

Adventure Day Camp (Walnut Creek, San Ramon, & Alamo)



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(925) 937-6500 www.adventuredaycamp.com

Bentley Summer Academy (Lafayette)

Bentley Summer Academy offers a wide variety of innovative courses for students first through twelfth grade. The Academy runs from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., with extended camp options for families needing early drop-off or late pick-up. summer@bentleyschool.org www.bentleysummeracademy.org

Berkeley Rep School of Theatre Summer Theatre Intensive (Berkeley)

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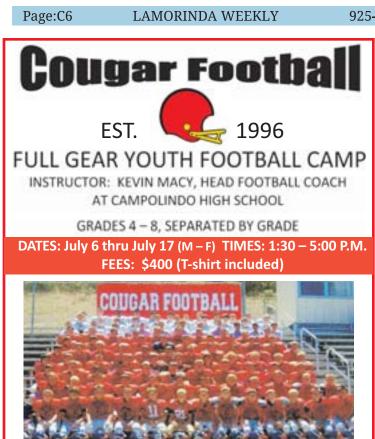
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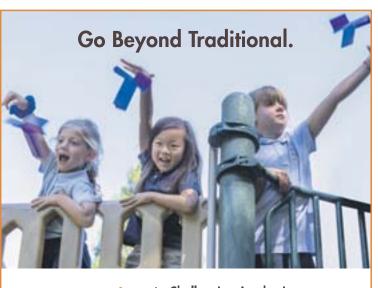
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FULL DAY SUMMER CAMPS

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www.legarzasports.org

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Dates: July 20-24 www.lafsmw.org

Moraga Day Camp (Moraga)



Adventure Awaits! Join us for weekly themed adventures at Moraga Day Camp this summer. Moraga Day Camp and Moraga Day Camp Jr. are for children ages 5.5-11 that will incorporate games, crafts, weekly field trips, and lots of other fun activities! Themes and field trips listed online. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; extended care also available 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dates: June 8 -Aug. 7

(925) 888-7045 moragarec.com

Randy Bennett Basketball Camps (Saint Mary's College, Moraga) see

The Randy Bennett Day Camps held at Saint Mary's College in University Credit Union Pavilion are a great way for boys and girls ages 4-13 to receive top-class instruction on every aspect of the game, led by Coach Bennett and his staff. Morning, afternoon and full day options available.

Day Camps are June 15-19, June 22-26, June 29-July 3, July 13-17 www.smcmensbasketballcamps. com/randy-bennett-day-camps.cfm

Roughing It Day Camp (Lafayette)



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(925) 283-3795 www.roughingit.com

The Saklan School (Moraga)



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Dates: June 8 - Aug. 7 (925) 376-7900 www.saklan.org

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Camps start

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FULL DAY SUMMER CAMPS ... continued

Sienna Ranch (Lafayette)

Summer Camp at Sienna Ranch includes morning Farm Hands, Nature/Adventure, and Horseback Riding camps as well as afternoon pottery, woodshop, archery, art and animals, horses and more. Serving campers entering grades PreK-8 with select teen programming, Sienna Ranch offers weeklong, full-day or half-day camp options.

Dates: 10 Weeks of Camp Starting June 1 - Aug. 7 (925) 283-6311 www.siennaranch.net

Spanish Immersion Summer Camps with Viva el Español (Lafayette) see

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www.vivaelespanol.org

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www.townhalltheatre.com/summer-2020-1

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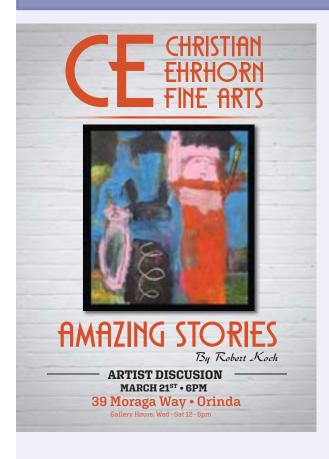
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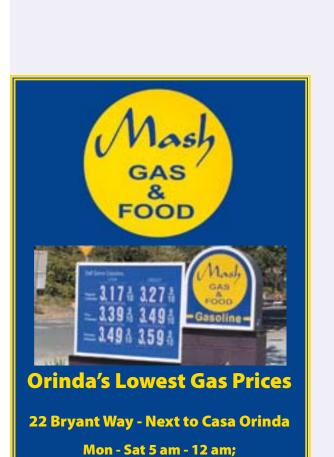
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Lamorinda DUR HOM

Lamorinda Weekly

Volume 14 Issue 1

Wednesday, March 4, 2020



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Let the sunshine in



Wild cherry plums trees are magnificent in bloom.

Photo Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

"The sun does not shine for a few trees and flowers, but for the wide world's joy" – Henry Ward Beecher

It's been at least seven years since we've enjoyed a warm, sun-filled February. Being accustomed to cold, dreary, gray days in the

months of Aquarius and Pisces, this year buoyed my spirits immensely even though I know that we need rain. I admit I thoroughly lapped up those 70-plus degree days spending hours in the garden weeding, pruning and planting with a break to Bodega Bay to ride a bike on the beach, inhale the salt air, and watch the glorious sunset. If winter is going to be mild and bright, why

not enjoy it?

The tulip magnolias, peach, plum and pear trees are in full bloom. The bees are busy buzzing their business in the blossoms. Sweet scents of narcissi, stock, and freesia fill the air. Oxalis, also known as shamrock, carpets vineyards, trails and roadsides. Wisteria and lilac are budded, ready to burst any day. Early spring erupted in mid-February, a full month ahead of schedule. In many Northern California areas, temperatures have been in the mid-80s. If it wasn't for water shortages and the rising trajectory of global warming, we could all be rejoicing. Instead, we may need to chant and dance for rainfall to ward off another summer drought.

Compost will be your most important gardening ingredient this season. By turning organic waste into humus, you will be feeding your plants in the same manner that Mother Nature has been nurturing the planet since the beginning of time. Compost will help your plants retain moisture, curtail erosion, maintain a constant temperature, and it will enrich your soil. It's so simple to make that everyone can easily do it.

Recipe for Compost

In an open pile or composting bin, add both green and dry plant matter plus eggshells, coffee grinds, tea leaves, and fish bones. Green matter includes grass clippings, vegetables, weeds without seeds, peelings, and green leaves. Dry matter includes paper, straw, twigs, fall leaves, and dried stalks. Don't add any animal feces, diseased plants, or meat products. Moisten everything without soaking it and turn with a pitchfork at least weekly.

... continued on Page D8

VLATKA BATHGATE #I Coldwell Banker Realtor in Orinda



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Page: D2 OUR HOMES 925-377-0977 Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	3	\$1,175,000	\$1,529,000
MORAGA	5	\$1,010,000	\$2,217,000
ORINDA	9	\$995,000	\$1,825,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

1181 Pleasant Hill Circle, \$1,425,000, 3 Bdrms, 1831 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 01-15-20, Previous Sale: \$676,000, 09-18-09

3266 Quandt Road, \$1,529,000, 3 Bdrms, 1578 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 01-14-20, Previous Sale: \$900,000, 10-13-18

1369 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,175,000, 2 Bdrms, 1483 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 01-22-20, Previous Sale: \$2,050,000, 06-24-15

MORAGA

259 Lakefield Place, \$1,720,000, 5 Bdrms, 4643 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 01-13-20, Previous Sale: \$1,590,000, 04-22-13

3866 Paseo Grande, \$1,395,000, 3 Bdrms, 1766 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 01-17-20 3945 Paseo Grande, \$1,544,000, 4 Bdrms, 2341 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 01-14-20, Previous Sale: \$1,520,000, 05-22-18

145 Shuey Drive, \$1,010,000, 3 Bdrms, 1476 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 01-23-20, Previous Sale: \$450,000, 10-24-01

205 Sonora Road, \$2,217,000, 4 Bdrms, 4057 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 01-17-20

ORINDA

6 Arbolado Court, \$1,175,000, 3 Bdrms, 1518 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 01-13-20, Previous Sale: \$985,000, 04-03-15

121 Bates Court, \$1,352,000, 4 Bdrms, 2432 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 01-17-20, Previous Sale: \$190,000, 06-01-78

37 Bear Ridge Road, \$1,825,000, 4 Bdrms, 4012 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 01-22-20, Previous Sale: \$1,856,500, 11-20-07

2 Camino Del Diablo, \$1,750,000, 6 Bdrms, 2904 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 01-17-20, Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 08-19-19

8 Charles Hill Circle, \$1,500,000, 6 Bdrms, 4320 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 01-17-20, Previous Sale: \$1,275,000, 08-27-03

4 Dale Court, \$1,185,000, 3 Bdrms, 1366 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 01-16-20

128 Moraga Way, \$1,080,000, 3 Bdrms, 1962 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 01-14-20

5 Sunset Terrace, \$995,000, 3 Bdrms, 1635 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 01-23-20

5 Wanda Lane, \$1,139,000, 3 Bdrms, 3101 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 01-21-20,

Previous Sale: \$900,000, 10-31-19



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1045 Timothy Lane, Lafayette

5 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 3,320 Sq Ft | \$2,100,000

Beautiful 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath completely remodeled single-story home with open floor plan on .75 acre lot in Upper Happy Valley. Engineered hardwood floors throughout. Large master bedroom with two walk-in closets, a second master-bedroom with ensuite bathroom plus three additional bedrooms, hallway bath and a powder room. Top rated Lafayette schools, close to BART, shopping and the reservoir.









Paddy Kehoe 925.878.5869 paddy@paddykehoeteam.com DRE 01894345



Leslie Lomond 650.799.2110 leslie.lomond@compass.com DRE 01968517



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NEW LISTING!

1435 Camino Peral Moraga

Adorable 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom with garage. Offered at \$680,000

1435caminoperal.com







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3167 Stanley Blvd., Lafayette \$1,200,000 Represented Seller



110 Lombardy Lane, Orinda \$1,750,000 Represented Buyer



3832 Via Granada, Moraga \$1,450,000 Represented Buyer



8 Hidden Lane, Orinda \$1,680,000 Represented Seller



5 Josefa Place, Moraga \$950,000 Represented Buyer



4006 Laguna Ave., Oakland \$980,000 Represented Seller



3383 Oswego Court, Lafayette \$2,470,000 Represented Seller



1021 Seneca Ct., Walnut Creek \$1,430,000 Represented Buyer



17 El Caminito, Orinda \$1,940,000 Represented Seller



21 Sandy Court, Orinda \$2,175,000 Represented Buyer



1804 St. Andrews Dr., Moraga \$980,000 Represented Seller



4008 Happy Valley Rd., Lafayette \$3,175,000 Represented Seller



Thinking of Selling in 2020? Contact Terri for a complimentary in-home consultation.

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ACTIVE LISTINGS





1003 Woodbury Rd. No. 207, Lafayette - \$965,000 **2 Bed | 2 Bath | 1,110 Sq. ft.**

Built in 2015 this spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath condominium home offers the best combination of style, location, utility and function. Large open concept living area connects the living and dining area along with a chefs level equipped kitchen.

www.1003WoodburyRd.com



124 Via Joaquin, Moraga - \$765,000 2 Bed | 2 Bath | 1,354 Sq. ft.

Bright open and airy single level in Moraga with 2 car garage! Vaulted ceilings and hardwood floors connect the kitchen/great room. Private patios front and rear. Close to town and community pool.

** A great Rossmoor alternative! **

www.124ViaJoaquin.com



319 Tappan Terrace, Orinda - \$2,425,000

5 Bed | 4.5 Bath | 4,200 Sq. ft.

This exceptional home is a piece of art using innovation & imagination to blend nature w/living spaces. Architects Jong & Jong combined traditional Japanese design elements with contemporary living.

www.319 Tappan Terrace.com



133 Donna Maria Way, Orinda - \$1,595,000 3+ Bed | 2 Bath | 2,400 Sq. ft. / .24 Acres

Montclair style in Orinda's Del Rey neighborhood. Super charming with shingles, vaulted ceilings, grassy yard and more. Less than 1 mile from Elementary, Middle, High Schools. Makes life so easy!

www.DonnaMariaWay.com

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115 Devin Drive, Moraga

Open house March 8, 1-4pm



Centrally located single-story charmer with updated kitchen with large island and Thermador appliances, remodeled bathrooms, dark hardwood floors and flat yard. Offered at \$1,250,000

236 Calle La Montana, Moraga

On MLS March 9, open house March 14 & March 15



Campolindo beauty with newly updated kitchen/great room and bathrooms, pool, flat lawn, Rim Trail access and Mt. Diablo viewing area. Too many updates to list here. Offered at \$1,450,000

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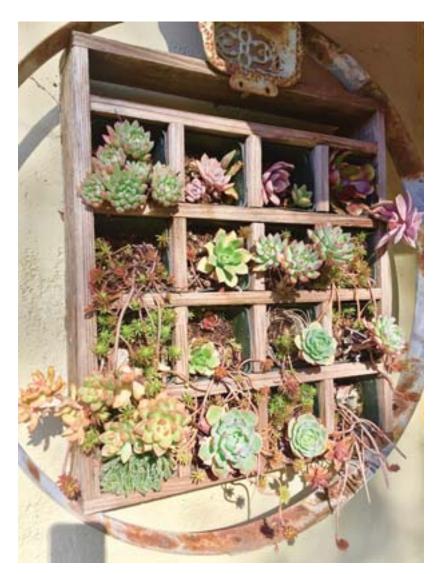
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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Let the sunshine in



Create an art piece with easy-to-grow succulents.

... continued from Page D1

Worms may be added for speedier results. The compost will cook and steam. Add water as necessary if the pile is too dry. Your compost is ready to return to your garden when it smells earthy, sweet, and looks like a crumbly chocolate cake. I recommend creating two or three different piles as they will finish at different times and you can always have a batch cooking. Making your own compost is an excellent way to recycle with almost zero waste. As an added bonus it is free plant food!



11 Critical Home Inspection Traps to be Aware of Weeks Before Listing Your LAMORINDA Home for Sale

LAMORINDA - According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn

prospective buyers away altogether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1- 844-941-0941 and enter 2503. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Get your free special report NOW to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the sale of your home.

This report is courtesy of The Jackson Group-Exp Realty DRE #01763819. Not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract. Copyright © 2019



Page: D10 LAMORINDA WEEKLY OUR HOMES www.lamorindaweekly.com 925-377-0977 Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for March

CREATE simple arrangements with branches cut from blooming peach, pear or plums. Add a few daffodils or freesias.

BLOW the "angel" seeds of dandelions if you want dandelions growing in your garden. (This was a favorite past time as a child, although we weren't allowed to blow "angels" into the lawn.) Dandelions are nutritious and delicious in salads and sautés and they attract quail.

PICK lettuce, parsley, arugula, Swiss chard and baby mustard to add to meals.

MAKE an artful wall hanging using a variety of succulents.

ADMIRE the tulip magnolias as they emerge or cut a stem to enjoy indoors.

WATCH for aphids, moths, slugs, and snails on artichoke plants as they mature. Blast the leaves with water if you see any infestation.

TALK to your doctor if you are experiencing pollen-related allergies. Pollen fertilizes plants but causes misery for sufferers. Acacia trees are beautiful in bloom but may trigger hay fever or asthma.

AERATE and de-thatch lawns if necessary. Be prepared to scatter seeds and fertilizer before a rain.

SHOOT lots of photos of spring unfolding.

BEFORE recycling empty milk cartons, fill with water to use on houseplants. The residual calcium is good for the plants and it also rinses clean the cartons for the bins.

BUY your favorite seed packets in anticipation of sowing.

SPREAD alfalfa pellets mixed with diatomaceous earth around your rose bushes to promote large blooms and healthy plants.

The vernal equinox is still three weeks away. The sun is shining on our gardens and for all of us. It's playtime.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing!



Baby Artichokes need protection for insects.





What child can resist blowing a dandelion "angel" puff?



Acacia trees are beautiful in bloom but may trigger hay fever or asthma.



Cynthia Brian outdoors on a cooler February day.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is available for hire to help you prepare for your spring garden. Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at www.StarStyleRadio.com. Buy copies of her best-selling books, including, Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, and Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com



Field of oxalis blooming amongst the ice plant.



LAMORINDA'S LEADING INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE FIRM



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8 Moraga Court

Single level 5 bed/ 4 bath home with pool & expansive grounds. First time on market in 34 years! \$1,995,000



102 Barbara Road

Newly built 4 bed/ 3.5 bath contemporary home with easy access to Hwy 24 & BART.

\$2,295,000



48 Oak Drive

Elegant 4 bed/ 3.5 bath two level renovated home with remarkable views from terrace decks

\$2,495,000

New Listing

ORINDA New Listing

383 Miner Road

East Coast Meets West Coast! Updated Orinda Country CLub Cape Cod home on 1.32 acres.

\$2,495,000



49 Overhill Road

Private updated 6 bed/ 5 bath. Close to BART, Highway 24/680 & top rated schools.

LAFAYETTE

\$3,195,000

New Listing

\$2,795,000



57 Charles Hill Road

A new SpringHill Homes masterpiece! 5 bed/ 5 baths +2 half baths with an open floor plan on a .75 acre \$4,395,000



824 Solana Drive

Charming 4 bed/ 2.5 bath ranch home with a touch of craftsman's style on .75 acre lot. Short walk to downtown. \$1,595,000

LAFAYETTE



4031 Happy Valley Road

Mid-Century modern home with 4 bed/2 bath + 2 half baths in desireable Happy Valley neighborhood.

\$2,795,000

MORAGA



182 Fernwood Drive

Spacious 4 bed/ 3.5 bath 2955 sqft home with open floor plan, vaulted ceilings, & remodeled kithen.

\$1,550,000



Coming Soon

3349 Golden Rain

Beautifully remodeled 2 bed/ 2 bath condo. Granite kitchen & baths, laundry in unit & built-in electric fireplace & book shelves. \$589,000

WALNUT CREEK



2530 Oak Road #103

Stylish 2 bed/ 2 bath 998 sqft contemporary 1st floor unit with private patio. Close to shopping, trails & BART. \$565,000



962 Reliez Station Lane

24 & BART.

New Construction! Recently comp-

leted 4 bed/ 3.5 bath Springhill Homes

residence. Close to down- town, Hwy



1310 Creekside Drive #101

Modern 2 bed/ 2 bath condo in the heart of Walnut Creek, Close to Broadway Plaza and Iron Horse Trail. \$649,000

WALNUT CREEK



327 Wimbledon Road

Conveniently located 2237 sqft twostory 5 bed/ 2.5 bath in quiet neighborhood with beautiful backyard. \$1,239,000

PLEASANT HILL



20 Whitfield Court

Great parcel at top of knoll with views of Mt. Diablo. Ideal for privacy. Investment opprtunity!

\$1,375,000

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