

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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LMYA Swim Team is a competitive, recreational summer swim team that offers dedicated coaching and technique instruction to swimmers of all ages and skill levels. Registration for our summer swimteam is open!



Maggie Hawkins, Campolindo and Alex Mould, Acalanes

Photo Gint Federas

Continuing domination for Lamorinda girls water polo

By Jon Kingdon

It was Mark Twain that said, “There are lies, damned lies and statistics” to describe the persuasive power of numbers. From 2016 to 2019 the numbers for the Lamorinda girls water polo teams are not only persuasive but overwhelming. The won-loss records for Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte was a com-

posite 254-64 for a winning percentage of 79.8%. The percentage jumps to 92.7% when the results within the Lamorinda spectrum are removed. Throw in four straight playoff appearances for each, three undefeated seasons and NCS championships (Acalanes-2, Miramonte-1), and the success of water polo in Lamorinda has been unstoppable.

Did someone say coronavirus? This forced a 499-day hiatus from the last game in 2019 to the first

practice of the 2020 season (Actually April 5, 2021). The extended layoff and limited preseason, forced an adjustment for each team’s preparation. We had some camps but had no scrimmages or full contact, said Acalanes coach Misha Buchel. “We’re using the early part of the season to shake off the mental and physical rust, getting the muscle memory back and getting back to processing information quickly when they’re in the water.” ... continued on Page A12

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Letters to the Editor	A9
Not to be missed	B4
How to contact us	B3
Community Service	B3
Obituary	B3
Classified	C1
Shop Orinda	C2

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Extensively renovated Orinda Theatre reopens April 30



Orinda Theatre lobby

Photo Derek Zemrak

By Sora O'Doherty

During the past year, while the COVID-19 pandemic prevented business as usual at the Orinda Theatre, owner Derek Zemrak has been working away with a small team to restore the landmark building to its 1941 glory. Throughout the building, theaters have been renovated, paintings restored, and carpets and tiles cleaned. When the theatre officially reopens on Friday, April 30, patrons will be able to appreciate all this work.

Zemrak says that he is allowed to reopen at 50% occupancy, but out of an abundance of caution, he is only reopening the main theater, which has a capacity of 750, at 25% occupancy. The first movies available will be “Minari” and “Nomadland.” Zemrak says he will adjust week by week to the requirements reported by Contra Costa County. Cine Cuvee will be open weekends only with outdoor seating under the marquee, but no indoor seating at this time.

All of the neon light fixtures in the building, some up to 80 years old, have been restored. In the process, neon light expert Greg King remarked, “I wish the black lights were back.” Zemrak was unaware of the black lights but did some research and discovered that the murals that decorate the theater were painted by famed movie theater muralist Anthony Heinsbergen, a Dutch immigrant who started a painting company in 1918 that would go on to employ nearly 200 people at its height.

One source states that the studio painted murals in 757 theaters in addition to hotels. The murals in the Orinda Theatre were supposed to come to life when exposed to black light. Zemrak got a small black light and shined it on the walls. To his amazement, the murals did in fact react to the light.

... continued on Page A14

Civic News A1-A14

Wilder Owners Association sues city of Orinda over memory care facility – Page A6

Public Safety A8

MOFD board approves chipper program expansion - Page A8

Life in Lamorinda B1-B4

Campo diver turns attention to teaching English to students in Colombia - Page B1



Sports C1-C2

Lamorinda boys water polo glad to be back in the pool competing - Page C1



Our Homes D1-D12

Spring planting tips for local gardening enthusiasts - Page D1

