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Photo Rosalind Pullen

From left: assistant coach Andy Lindquist, assistant coach Megan Gentes, Shea Volkmer, Rachel Moen, Sloan Pullen, Makena Weberski, Caroline McCool, Ellie Buckley, Kate Kabenina, and head coach Chuck Woolridge

# Campo girls' cross country competes in nationals

By Jon Kingdon

It was another banner year for the Lamorinda Cross Country teams led by Campolindo whose boys' and girls' teams won the Division III NCS championships and the girls won the state meet which qualified them for an at large bid for the first time in the Nike Cross National meet Dec. 3 in Portland, Ore.

Under cold and windy conditions, Campolindo was represented by seniors Ellie Buckley and Caroline McCool, juniors Kate Kabenina, Shea Volkmer, Rachel Moen and Makena Weberski and sophomore Sloan Pullen, finishing 13th out of 22 teams, led by Buckley who finished 26th out of 197 runners.

Buckley, who will be running for Boston College next year, has had unmatched success at Campolindo having been on the three teams (one year canceled

due to the pandemic) that won the state meet. "There is certainly no one in program history in any sport that can lay claim to such a feat," assistant coach Andy Lindquist said. "Ellie is an incredible athlete and has been a core part of this team for the last four seasons and it's very well deserved."

The Cougars, ranked 18th coming into the state meet felt they were underrated. "We wanted to run our best race of the season and we put it all on the line," Buckley said. "The whole time we had the mindset that we were running this race for everyone on the team including the frosh and JV athletes who supported us all season and played a role in getting us here. We knew that it was going to be hard, but we were prepared and nothing was going to shock us."

Coach Chuck Woolridge was excited and practical in the way everything turned out in 35-degree

weather, according to Buckley: "He said, 'Wow. That was amazing. Get some gear on and get warm.'"

It was not a sure thing that Campolindo was going to get chosen to compete at the nationals. After winning six state championships, the seventh time was the charm. "With only the first two place finishers among all the divisions guaranteed to go to the national meet and having finished only 15 points behind second place, it was great to get an at large bid," Lindquist said. "The team has been working so hard since June to make this a reality and it was something that we talked about accomplishing last year at this time. This is the first time that we've won the state meet in consecutive years. The girls handled the pressure and did not get wrapped up in rankings and projections and just focused on themselves."

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SCAN for accepted items

# Lafayette council considers Gun Safety ordinance

By Jennifer Wake

The Lafayette City Council during its Nov. 28 meeting considered the issue of gun safety after the Crime Prevention Commission reported back on a proposed Safe Firearms Storage ordinance, following a request by council at its Oct. 11 meeting for its review.

According to the staff report presented by Cathy Surges-Moscato, Police Department Administrative Analyst and staff liaison for the Crime Prevention Commission, the ordinance presented mirrors others recently enacted by neighboring cities including Moraga, Orinda and Walnut Creek, which would require any person in a resi-

dence in Lafayette to store firearms in a locked container or disable them with an appropriate safety device. The requirements of the ordinance would not apply "when a firearm is legally carried on the person, or otherwise in his or her immediate possession and control, nor when the firearm is in the immediate possession and control of a peace officer."

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the largest organization of pediatric physicians, affirms that "the most effective measure to prevent suicide, homicide, and unintentional firearm-related injuries to children and adolescents is the absence of guns from homes," according to the staff report. If firearms are in the home, the AAP recom-

mends that they be stored locked, unloaded and with ammunition stored in a separate locked location.

The city received several letters as well as public comment in support of the ordinance, with many citing statistics of suicide and gun violence which often culminate from weapons found in private homes, and noting that the ordinance would give another tool to reduce access to firearms. Libby Henry, who spoke from the perspective of a teacher, said, "The idea that anybody would want to oppose for public safety, for child safety just blows my mind. ... Gun safety is not opposing the second amendment so I don't even know how that applies."

Lafayette resident Robert Lavoie, a lifelong gun owner,

expressed concern about the city "sticking its noses into the privacy of our homes," adding that he would like feedback from the NRA and get a different perspective.

Current safe storage technology allows homeowners to safely secure their firearms with locking mechanisms or gun safes that can be opened in seconds, according to the staff report. "This is in stark contrast with the speed of access to firearm use enjoyed in the colonial period, which necessitated significantly more time to load a firearm. Thus, Lafayette's proposed law is rooted in historical tradition and grants firearm owners even faster access to a firearm than they would have enjoyed in colonial Boston, New York, or Philadelphia."

When asked about enforcement of this type of ordinance, Lafayette Police Chief Ben Alldritt said the department would respond reactively, noting that the violation starts with code enforcement and would not just be a criminal matter, but could be charged civilly. A reported violation of this ordinance, according to the staff report, could require entering a private residence and would potentially involve Fourth Amendment issues. The Commission fully supports promoting firearm safety for everyone but was concerned about enforcement and potential legal challenges.

After further discussion, council agreed to return the resolution for a second reading at its Dec. 12 meeting.

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