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Firefighters' are briefed prior to Moraga's Aug. 11 Painted Rock Prescribed Burn exercise.

Photo courtesy Moraga Police Chief Jon King

MOFD holds massive Wildland Fire Training Burn at Painted Rock

By Vera Kochan

Moraga's residents are accustomed to what's become the annual Painted Rock Prescribed Burn conducted by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, but the Aug. 11 event was decidedly a much larger production.

MOFD hosted a Wildland Fire Training Burn that involved 15 additional fire districts. Contra Costa County Fire, Alameda County Fire, Oakland Fire, Hayward Fire, East Bay Regional Park District, San Mateo County, Cal Fire, Central Santa Cruz Fire District, Santa Clara County Fire, Watsonville Fire, Scotts Valley Fire, Ben Lomond Fire, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire, Rodeo Hercules Fire and CAL OES were on hand to take advantage of the training session, which this year covered 150 acres of the John Muir Land Trust's Painted Rock and the Moraga Geologic Hazard Abatement District (GAHD). Also on hand were members of the Lafayette Police Department, Chief Ben Alldritt, Administrative Analyst Cathy Surge-Moscato and Police Services Assistant John Cornell, who provided drone coverage from the top of Moraga's La Salle Drive, and Moraga Police Chief Jon King. Total involvement included

130 personnel, 29 fire engines, one dozer, and three wildland fire hand crews. Ambulances were also in attendance as a precaution.

The day began at 9 a.m. with a firefighters' operational briefing in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center parking lot before crews headed out. A media briefing was held at 11 a.m. in MOFD Fire Station 42 (555 Moraga Rd.) where MOFD's Chief Dave Winnacker, Public Information Officer for Painted Rock Trust and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein, and King answered any questions. The entire operation was not expected to last beyond 6 p.m.

According to an MOFD notice, the training was organized using the incident command system (ICS), and included management staffing for fire operations, logistics, planning, public information, and safety. Firefighters practiced wildland fire suppression skills including firing operations, progressive hose lays, mobile attack, and the use of fire suppression hand tools. The burn also served to remove hazardous fuels prior to the onset of critical wildfire conditions for the coming fall season.

MPD stressed that safety was the number one priority and that the project was set up to "take advantage of existing weather and fire control lines."

... continued on Page A5

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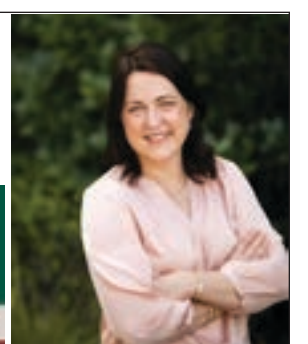
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Orinda Police Chief takes plunge for donations at National Night Out

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda Police Department hosted a National Night Out event at the Orinda Police Station on the evening of Aug. 1. National Night Out is hosted by police departments nationwide to promote safer communities through knowing your neighbors and local police officers.

From 5 to 8 p.m. the event offered Orinda residents an opportunity to meet community members, learn how to help fight crime, and have fun. New this year, the OPD barbecued hot dogs and hamburgers and had a bounce house for the littles.

However, according to Officer Norma Perez, by far the most popular activity was dunking the Chief. For each donation of a backpack or school supplies, donors got three chances to dunk Chief of Police Ryan Sullivan in the dunk tank.

Unfortunately for the Chief, it was a chilly evening, but he good-naturedly went into the frigid water fully dressed in his uniform and shoes. Fortunately, not all those who tried to hit the button by throwing a baseball succeeded, but when they did, the action was so fast as to be a blur as the Chief was unceremoniously and instantly dropped into the tank of cold water.

City of Orinda staff were on hand to distribute safety information, and OPD Officers both worked the grill and chatted with residents, young and not-so-young, who turned out for the event, which was held behind the police station, just off Altarinda Road.

Twenty-five backpacks and a few bags of school supplies were donated on the night. For each donation, the donor received three attempts to dunk the chief. Fortunately, out of the over 75 chances to dunk the chief, only a few succeeded. All supplies donated were given to the Family Justice Center in Concord.

Orinda Police Chief Ryan Sullivan sits perched on the dunk tank platform Aug. 1 during National Night Out.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

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Park Theater plans move forward as contributions continue to come in -- Page A2

Public Safety

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Park Theater plans still in place as continued contributions sought

By Lou Fancher

Small cinemas, especially theaters in which key stakeholders are members of the community and the foundations of the organization are steeped in local values, such as sustainability and ethical and sound fiscal practices, are a tremendous asset, according to The Park Theater Trust board president and fundraising chair Kathy Bowles. “The re-opening of the theater will bring to every single demographic in our town a huge boon. We have data that shows how important a community theater is and what it can bring. Our model improves upon that because it is not just a movie theater. Movies will be first and foremost, of course, but music events, talks, community forums, and other live performances will mean it is a synergistic space for everyone,” says Bowles.

The League of Historic American Theaters in a November 2022 Economic Impact Study reported, “A single historic theater in a small city has the potential to sustain 37 full-time equivalent jobs, create \$1.2 million in total expenditures, generate \$100,700 in revenue for state and local governments, and add \$790,179 to household incomes in the community.”

CFO and board member Tracey Karsten Farrell says it's rare when a civic project provides considerable economic opportunity, cultural expansion, and varied levels of investment and ownership. “Anyone can participate. We get million dollar donations from family foundations and \$5 donations from kids. It's remarkable. And when people see the plans, or attend onsite visits we've held, their eyes light up. They realize that in the heart of our downtown there will be a center of entertainment, learning, and

engagement.”

TPTT purchased the property in November 2021 after the city invited TPTT to explore refurbishing and operating the theater in 2018 and a \$12 million capital campaign to purchase, save and renovate the historic Park Theater was launched – with an initial \$3 million dollars raised. Since that time, Farrell notes that an additional \$3 million in pledges have been raised towards the remaining \$9 million needed to complete the renovation, representing over 50% of the project's total cost.

Pledges include \$1 million from the Hofmann Family Foundation towards the Park Theater Renovation Campaign. Lisa Hofmann Morgan, director of the Foundation, in emailed comments, wrote how important it is to preserve and protect the city's history. “We are thankful to the Park Theater Trust and the private sector for making these projects possible.”

Significant contributions have also arrived from Lafayette resident Linda Drucker, with a donation match from her employer, Bank of the West now Bank of Montreal. The Community Foundation of Lafayette, The Livable Communities Trust of Contra Costa, Mechanics Bank, successful local fundraisers hosted by Rêve Bistro and Hideout Kitchen, and donations from family foundations and private individuals show the community support for the project.

Even so, Farrell says aggressive effort aimed for more corporate support continues and will be essential for the renovations to begin. An upcoming major fundraiser for 2023 is a benefit golf tournament sponsored by Bali Construction at the Orinda Country Club on Aug. 28. A field of 92 golfers will compete in open

play on the well-regarded and challenging Willie Watson-designed course.

“Our board has decided that to be good fiscal agents, we have to have at least 80% of the construction costs raised before the construction begins,” says Bowles. Uniquely, the theater once it is open will need only minimal funding support as CinemaSF will lease the building from TPTT and pay rent into a sinking fund to preserve and protect the building for future generations. TPTT is an all-volunteer 501(c)3 nonprofit and there are no investors. “We've kept up with expenses along the way so we can move it forward immediately when we have the funding,” Farrell says.

Younger Lafayette residents have also been involved from the beginning. “One of the reasons we initially started looking into the Park Theater at the city's request was going to the stakeholders. We knew younger people needed to be involved. Right away the students from Acalanes were interested in helping,” says Bowles, who recalls the project's earliest days. “They formed a Park Theater Booster Club in 2023 and have been actively supporting TPTT at local community events like the Earth Day festival and Rock the Plaza. They are organizing efforts to have booths at sporting events this year to raise awareness. My sense is they feel it's a wonderful, exciting opportunity to focus on arts and culture; to bring in music events, small theater, and other activities that highlight the cultural scene.”

Farrell says, “We've really seen they want to get their fellow students energized. They hand out popcorn made by our popcorn machine and talk about having movie days for just Acalanes students. These

students took it upon themselves to find a faculty advisor and put on community events.”

Acalanes student Clark Laskey of Lafayette Troop 200 is working on raising funds to restore and refurbish the classic cast metal letters that have announced movies at the Park since 1941 to achieve his Eagle Scout status.

Bowles admits there is stiff competition for community members' time, attention and resources. “We can talk about programming or what a day in the life of the Park Theater might look like, but until we can break through other noise, it's hard. We use social media, going to chamber of commerce events and city council meetings. We've gone to small backyard gatherings with 15 people and to large community events. Honestly, to move this forward,

it's increased public awareness along with money that we need more than anything else.”

Farrell says their outreach efforts will remain unchanged, as will their commitment to reaching the end game and opening a new, vital community resource. “One of the most successful approaches of our community outreach is being everywhere we can,” she says. “One of the most frequent questions we get asked is when the theater will open. We can't yet say when, but we can say that with community support, it will.”

Final schematics created by the design team from Arcsine Architecture and Shalleck Collaborative are available on the Park Theater website (parktheatertrust.org), along with extensive information about the project and the trust.

Residents face unannounced power outages amid new PG&E fast trip program

By Jennifer Wake

Local residents, especially those who live in the Campolindo area of Moraga and central Lafayette, have been hit with a series of unexplained power outages lasting anywhere from 4 to 8 hours over the last nine months. Karen Hawkins, who lives in central Lafayette, noted power has been out seven times since July 13. “The same area comprised of approximately 2,000 homes seems to be consistently impacted. We understand that power will go out from time to time when living in a wooded area, yet this vol-

ume of outages is really not OK,” she wrote in a letter to Lamorinda Weekly.

Hawkins was advised of a new type of system PG&E had rolled out, called Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS) which are designed to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires by automatically de-energizing powerlines struck by foreign objects. Yet, a supervisor at PG&E told Hawkins that the four EPSS shut-offs in late 2022 were all caused by PG&E equipment issues rather than something hitting the lines. “He read off the specific equipment failures – transformer, caliper, etc. ... continued on Page A7

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Lafayette launches new 'Slow Down Lafayette' program



Photo courtesy City of Lafayette

An officer inspects the new portable speed display sign installed in the median on Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

The city of Lafayette launched a new program, "Slow Down Lafayette," the week of Aug. 7, which involve utilizing several new portable speed display signs and trailers, which not only provides passing motorists with their speed but also provides police and city traffic engineers with traffic volume and speed information and helps support the city's other traffic calming efforts.

"Speed is the most critical factor that affects the severity of injuries, and while enforcement is part of how we reduce speed, our increased focus will be on real-time awareness for drivers and community education," explained Police Chief Ben Alldritt.

The city has launched a

new webpage, www.love-lafayette.org/slowdown which will provide information about the data collected from the new equipment, as well as safety tips for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists.

"Our goal is to decrease speeds and increase awareness, reducing the number of crashes on local streets," said Lafayette Mayor Carl Anduri. "We're all in this together, so we are asking everyone who drives through Lafayette to commit to driving at or below the posted speed limits."

For more information on the Slow Down Lafayette program, you can contact the Police Department via email at 94549Traffic@gmail.com.
- J. Wake

Las Trampas receives \$1.35M Legacy Gift



Photo provided

From left: Las Trampas Director Claude Garbano, Chair on the Nominations Committee, Sallie Haws, daughter of Terry Haws, current President and CEO of Haws Family LLC, and former President and CEO of Haws Corporation, Amy Peck, Sallie's sister and Terry Haws' other daughter, and Las Trampas Executive Director Daniel L. Hogue.

The daughters of Terry Haws, Las Trampas' founding father, presented Las Trampas with his Legacy Gift of \$1.35 million on July 28. Las Trampas supports adults with developmental disabilities to discover their capabilities and lead full lives in their home, at work, and in the community. Haws family and friends, as well as Las Trampas

supporters, parents, and participants, met in the Nina Haws Community Hall at Las Trampas to honor Haws' life, and his unmatched generosity and contributions as the founding father of the organization. Speeches were made by those closest to him prior to the presentation of Haws' significant Legacy Gift.
- J. Wake



Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council
Regular Meeting
Monday, Aug. 28, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall

Planning Commission Meeting
Monday, Aug. 21, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall

Design Review
Wednesday, Aug. 28, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Arts & Science Discovery Room

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4 Abbey Ct	3	2	1586	\$1,000,000.00	1 Camino Del Monte	3	2	1390	\$810,000.00	1290 Larch Ave	3	2	2769	\$1,020,000.00
3637 Brook St	3	1	1645	\$1,050,000.00	76 Los Amigos	3	1	1098	\$1,300,000.00	6 Lance Court	4	2	1921	\$1,700,000.00
240 Plymouth Rd	3	2	1638	\$1,450,000.00	16 Patricia Road	4	2	1792	\$1,200,000.00	1983 Cedarwood Dr	4	2	2785	\$1,600,000.00
1423 Sunset Loop	3	2	1604	\$1,700,000.00	621 Watershed Rd	3	2	1549	\$1,600,000.00	8 Stewart Court	4	3	2586	\$1,700,000.00
1044 Rialto Valley Rd	4	3	2292	\$1,368,875.00	100 Barbara Rd	3	3	1819	\$1,600,000.00	932 Camino Richard	4	2	2801	\$1,875,000.00
1044 Marina Rd	4	3	2000	\$1,754,200.00	5 Elba Way	3	2	1936	\$1,600,000.00	3992 Paseo Grande	4	2	2140	\$1,800,000.00
2144 Harper Court	4	3	2330	\$1,750,000.00	29 Via Ripper Lane	3	2	1764	\$1,800,000.00	1254 Larch Ave	4	2	2650	\$2,200,000.00
4033 Marlene Dr	3	2	2432	\$1,600,000.00	2 Austin Ct	4	3	1870	\$1,700,000.00	429 Fernwood Drive	5	3	3076	\$2,000,000.00
700 Los Tompos Road	4	2	2432	\$1,760,000.00	75 Zander Drive	4	3	2387	\$2,080,000.00	M88 Del Monte Way	4	2	2529	\$2,200,000.00
3203 Walnut Ln	3	3	2076	\$1,980,000.00	11 Rose Way	4	2	1802	\$2,000,000.00	140 Oakland Drive	4	2	2430	\$2,300,000.00
2227 N Lucille Ln	4	2	2007	\$2,000,000.00	57 Tara Rd	3	3	2,363	\$2,000,000.00	21 Dickerson Drive	4	3	2231	\$2,380,000.00
174 Weaver Heavy Valley Rd	3	3	2780	\$2,380,000.00	24 Robert Rd	4	2	1900	\$2,000,000.00	6 Netherin Ct	4	2	2448	\$2,500,000.00
376 Boulder Ln	4	2	2217	\$2,500,000.00	227 Alhambra Blvd	5	4	2,546	\$2,500,000.00					
1244 Inverness Avenue	5	3	3442	\$2,770,000.00	5 Holden Lane	3	2	1,628	\$2,000,000.00					
900 Via Meade	5	3	4288	\$2,800,000.00	44 Oak Road	4	3	2,360	\$2,400,000.00					
1559 Woodview Ct	4	3	2291	\$2,280,000.00	1 Valley Court	5	3	3,404	\$2,470,000.00					
1342 Sweet Drive	3	3	2291	\$2,680,000.00	8 Fern Way	4	2	3,203	\$2,400,000.00					
1983 Sierra Drive	4	2	3026	\$2,020,000.00	14 Zander Drive	4	3	2,161	\$2,400,000.00					
1425 Rock House Rd	3	3	2743	\$2,880,000.00	17 Normandy Lane	4	3	2,600	\$3,000,000.00					
3484 S Silver Springs Rd	5	3	2765	\$1,760,000.00	21 Marquis Via	4	3	3,192	\$3,000,000.00					
26 Sutter Valley Way	5	4	3678	\$2,980,000.00	26 Broadview Terrace	5	4	3,802	\$3,000,000.00					
4 Tuffness Dr	5	4	4090	\$4,200,000.00	78 Estates Drive	5	4	3,802	\$3,000,000.00					
3732 Heavy Valley Rd	5	4	4072	\$4,900,000.00	2 Dalewood Terrace	4	3	3,749	\$3,400,000.00					
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Town Council approves Municipal Advisory Services for potential refunds review

By Vera Kochan

The Town Council authorized staff to conduct a Request for Proposals in the search for a qualified firm to perform Municipal Advisory Services with regards to potential refunding of Moraga's 2013 Public Infrastructure Projects Certificates of Participation.

The July 12 staff report by Administrative Services Director Annie To referred to the November 2012, voter approved, Measure K. Moraga's 1% General Sales Tax, with a 20-year term, will sunset in 2033. COPs totaling \$7.72 million were issued to help fund a variety of public infrastructure improvement projects. According to the report, "these COPs are secured by annual budget appropriations from the Town's General Fund, with the understanding that Measure K revenues will be used to make the annual COPs debt service payments."

At first, Measure K was ex-

pected to generate approximately \$1 million in annual revenues, but the collections have exceeded the initial revenue estimate, and using Fiscal Year 2021-22 as an example, have amounted to \$2.66 million.

"Currently, the outstanding COPs total \$4.65 million, with an average coupon (interest rate) of 4.86% and a final maturity date of April 1, 2033," explained To. "These COPs are now eligible to be refunded (refinanced) through a tax-exempt 'current refunding' process, allowing for replacement with new bonds at a lower interest rate." In order to take advantage of any possible refunds, staff's research led them to the conclusion that the Town would be best served through an outside, independent, municipal financial advisory firm.

Staff advised council members that there's no time like the present to begin the process before the Federal Reserve Board decides to raise interest

rates even further. RFPs were issued by July 25, and were expected to be received by Aug. 11, at which point the applicants will be reviewed by Town Manager Scott Mitnick, Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp and To. The final recommendation will go before the town council for approval.

"The Town annually spends approximately \$600,000 on principal and interest payments," stated To. "The cost to hire a Municipal Advisor is estimated to be between \$20,000 to \$40,000, which would be paid from future refunding proceeds. Staff will return to Town Council for a future budget appropriation adjustment and the cost of the issuance will be offset by the proceeds. The potential savings of the refunding is estimated to be \$200,000 to \$300,000 (net of fees and cost issuance). The recurring annual General Fund budget savings may be \$20,000 to \$30,000."

Moraga awarded, yet another, financial reporting honor

By Vera Kochan

For the 10th consecutive year, Moraga has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, going back to 2013. The commemoration comes in the form of a medallion which will join its nine predecessors on a

plaque that hangs in the Town Offices.

According to their press release, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the honor to the Town "for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the highest standards for the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive 'spirit of full disclosure' to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report."

The statement adds, "The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of government accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management."

The Certificate Program was established in 1945, with the intent of encouraging state and local governments to go the extra mile beyond the minimum requirements of accepted accounting principles by promoting transparency and full disclosure in financial reporting.

Administrative Services Director Annie To stated, "Speaking for the whole Moraga team, we were honored to receive the award again."

Each year that a municipality enters a submission to GFOA, they in turn receive a "Summary of Grading," which is a confidential list of comments and suggestions for possible improvements for the next year's report. Once a Certificate of Achievement is earned, it is valid for one year; and GFOA also presents an Award of Financial Reporting Achievement (AFRA) "to the department identified in the application as primarily re-



Photo Annie To

The empty space on the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting will soon be filled by a tenth award medallion responsible for achievement of the Certificate."

Because the town is an award-winning government, GFOA invited one or more members of Moraga's team to apply to join the Special Review Committee. As such, participants would be exposed to a variety of reports from around the country. They would also gain insight into ways to improve their own reports, in addition to achieving professional recognition by providing valuable input to other municipalities in a teaching capacity.

When asked whether any of To's team will apply for the Special Review Committee she responded, "We are mighty but a very small team, so we will not be able to participate due to our limited resources."

"We earned the award," stated Town Manager Scott Mitnick. "It reflects our town's full compliance. It's important to taxpayers and anyone that we have a debt with - this credit rating. It means that we're spending the taxpayers' money in compliance with the rules. Our financial statements are accurately portraying the financial situation of the town."

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Town Council Wednesday, Aug. 23, 6:30 p.m.
Planning Commission: Tuesday, Sept. 5, 6:30 p.m.
Park and Recreation Commission: Tuesday, Sept. 11, 7 p.m.

Ad Hoc Committee established for Moraga's 50th Anniversary Celebration

By Vera Kochan

It seems like only yesterday, for those who can remember, that Moraga took the big step of incorporation. It became official on Nov. 12, 1974, and the Town's 50th Anniversary is just one year and three months away.

According to a July 12 staff report by Town Manager Scott Mitnick and Interim Town Clerk Yashin Abbas, "In response, during the June 28, 2023 Town Council meeting review of the Proposed Biennial FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 Budget, Town Council ap-

proved a \$25,000 initial budget appropriation to serve as 'seed money' to start the year-long celebration process. In addition, Town Council directed staff to report back with the necessary action to establish an Ad Hoc 50th Anniversary Committee consisting of the Mayor and Vice Mayor."

The committee held its first meeting on Aug. 10, in order to get the ball rolling for the big celebration next year. Members include: Mayor Renata Sos, Vice Mayor Teresa Onoda, Communication Honor Roll/Past President of Moraga Education Foundation Ana

Moon, Moraga Historical Society President Susan Sperry, Art in Public Spaces Committee Member Holly Hartz, Town Manager Scott Mitnick, Parks and Recreation Director Mackenzie Brady, and Moraga

Historical Society Publicity and Program Chair Vera Kochan.

The 50th Anniversary Celebration plans to include participation from the town's organizations, schools, busi-

nesses, and residents in an effort to make certain that all Moragans can take pride in the opportunity to be a part of the big party.

Wildland Training Live Burn at Painted Rock



Photo courtesy Lafayette Police Department

... continued from Page A1

It was executed according to a strict "go, no go" checklist and was coordinated with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and Fire Weather Forecasters at the National Weather Service "to ensure the size and timing of the burning would minimize smoke impacts to homes and other smoke-sensitive sites in the area."

The burn area was divided up into 10 units with directions facing west, north and south around the peak. Fires were started on the north side near Buckingham Drive; progressed to the south forming what is called "a catcher's mitt" strategy, which burns a massive line around an area that lets the fire come to the crews; and finished off facing west above Moraga Road. The reasoning behind setting fire to the west last is that it would ensure safety to the Rheem Valley Shopping Center in the event of stray embers since crews from the already burned areas would be available as backup if

necessary.

"This is part of a longer-term project to promote grazing from cows and for future mitigation," stated Winnacker. It is hoped that eventually cattle can be brought into the region to keep the vegetation in check and reduce the risk of wildfire threat. He also stressed the importance of cooperation from homeowners with respect to vegetation mitigation.

According to Rein, for several firefighters, this was their first time getting experience with this type of terrain; and while there is an East Bay Municipal Utility District water tank on the property, the crews would only use it during an emergency. The fires were started and burned in such a way as to virtually extinguish themselves back into the blackline of an area that has already burned, but crews continually checked for any spot fires that reignite themselves.

"Every burn has a general game plan, but it's never defined until they [the crews] are actually out there," Rein said.

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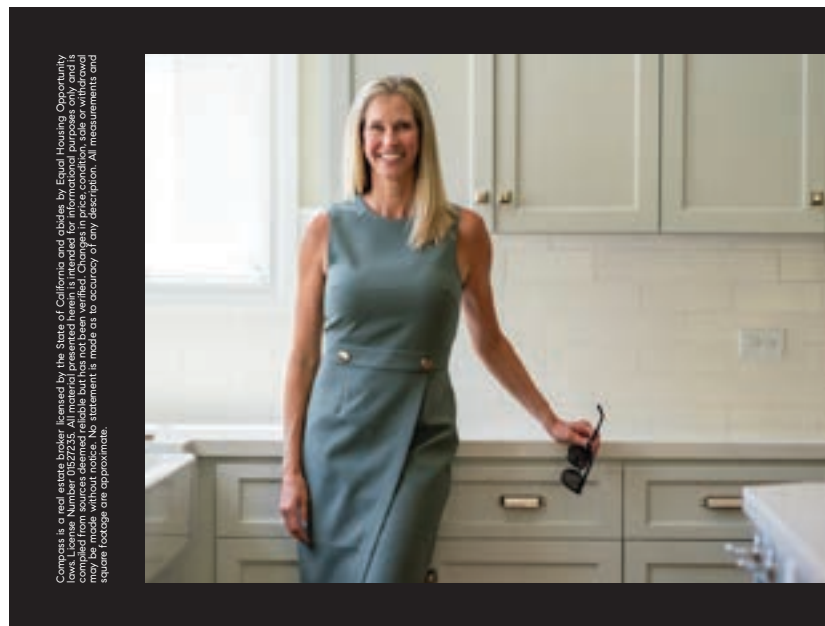
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Orinda City Council gets update from grant-writing company

By Sora O'Doherty

After approximately a year of doing business with California Consulting Inc., a grant writing firm, the Orinda City Council got an update on how the city has been doing with grants. Steve Samuelian, who owns the company he founded with his wife 20 years ago, recently gave a PowerPoint presentation via Zoom. Other company personnel on the Zoom call were David Marquez, Statewide Senior Project Manager and Mathew Kamm, Project Manager.

The company, which is the largest grant writing firm in the state, specializes in government grants and also grants from private foundations, and serves almost 100 clients, including cities, counties, school districts, and nonprofit organizations. California Consulting has secured over 1,200 competitive grants that have been funded for more than \$1.6 billion, including some \$32 million over the 90 days preceding the July

18 city council meeting. Since working with California Consulting, Orinda has secured four grants, although the company gave credit to the city staff for two of the grants that the city secured from California Parks and Rec for restrooms in Orinda Community Park. In 2021 Orinda received \$189,803 and in 2022 another \$125,000 for the park restrooms. In addition, in June of this year Orinda secured a grant of \$200,000 for transit-oriented development at the Orinda BART station and \$40,000 from Caltrans for a local road safety plan.

Orinda was also denied six grants, primarily because the grants were targeted at funding underserved communities, and one because the grantor had very little money to give out.

Two grants are currently pending, and the city is waiting to hear if they get a \$251,646 grant from Cal Fire for prescribed goat grazing for wildfire prevention or \$2,028,767 from Cal State Library Building Forward for library improvements.

Three grants are in the process of being written: Cal OES-HMGP \$568,360 for generators; Cal Waterboards SWRF \$400,000 for the Moraga Way and North Lane Sinkholes; and MTC Priority Sites (\$TBD) for potential sites

for developments. Samuelian said that two grants that are under consideration, he would consider a go: US DOT Protect for Evacuation Routes and US DOT Multimodal for Connecting downtown Orinda to Wilder.

In regard to Orinda, Samuelian said they are on the lookout for grants for wildfire prevention, Icabod stormdrain solutions, parks and rec, and roads. City Manager David Biggs noted that California Consultants also looks out for grant opportunities for local nonprofit agencies, such as the newly formed Firesafe Moraga Orinda group.

Samuelian praised the city staff, and noted that the company meets with staff once a month but is frequently in communication with staff, whom he said are very cooperative. At these meetings, he said, "we do a deep dive to consider which grants to apply for," considering factors such as eligibility, feasibility and practicality.

Council Member Darlene Gee asked about the university of opportunity related to climate change, and whether it is beneficial to work with other agencies on multijurisdictional grant applications. Samuelian said that in 20 years there has never been this much money available

regarding climate issues, and Marquez said that federal grants tend to look for regional impact over local impact.

This reporter asked two questions: To the question of whether there is a conflict of interest for the same company to be writing grant applications for multiple California cities, Samuelian said that there is not a conflict because they do not have any say so in who gets the grants. Additionally, although it does happen that the company is writing applications for the same grant at the same time, Samuelian said it doesn't happen with a high level of frequency. Marquez explained that California Consultants staff who work with cities develop a very personal relationship with the cities, almost as if they were on the city staff.

The second question was whether Orinda, which does not have a lobbyist, is losing out on grants because of that. Marquez opined that it is about the relationship between a city and its local elected officials. For some federal grants, lobbying is not allowed. City Manager Biggs noted that lobbying might be influential when it comes to legislative earmarks, and that staff will be bring the question back to the council at a later date.

The PowerPoint presentation can be viewed at <https://cityoforinda.app.box.com/s/ph3q5jmb3sk0hw5rz2o417ka68qf6118/file/1262493535754>

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Orinda welcomes former mayor of Tabor

By Sora O'Doherty

At a reception at the home of Orinda City Council Member Janet Riley, the city welcomed a visit by former mayor Jiri Fišer of Orinda's sister city Tabor, in the Czech Republic. Fišer, who was mayor of Tabor for 8 years and who welcomed many Orinda residents to the historic Tabor meetings when they visited, arrived in the United States in Seattle and proceeded to ride a bicycle down Highway 1, completing his bicycle journey by navigating a route across the San Francisco Bay to Orinda.

Welcomed by members of the city council, Fišer accepted a proclamation, which was read aloud by Orinda Mayor Inga Miller. The proclamation praised the Sister City relationship, which promotes the



Jiri Fišer Photo Sora O'Doherty

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exchange of information regarding each city's culture through long-term community partnerships. Each year Tabor sends a student to study at Miramonte High School for one semester. The Orinda-Tabor Sister City Foundation welcomed its 20th student this month.

Fišer began his journey on July 7 in Seattle. Each day he rode between 45 to 140 km (28 to 87 miles). He visited parks, campgrounds and sights in Washington, Oregon and California, riding nearly a thousand miles down U.S. Highway 1 over varied terrain.

Not tired when he reached San Francisco, he went to visit Sacramento and Folsom Lake, before returning to San Francisco and biking across the Bay Bridge to Orinda. Fišer brought gifts for the city, including a special T-shirt for Miller and a book for the city. The former mayor told the guests at the reception that he had always wanted to visit, but could not fit it into his schedule until he retired from the role of mayor. He said that the reception in Orinda was his favorite part of his trip. He left for home on the last day of July.

City Council Regular Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 5, 7 p.m. Planning Comm.: Tuesday, Aug. 22, 7 p.m.	Traffic Safety Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Wednesday, Aug. 21, 7 p.m. Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22 Orinda Way
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Reicher appointed to provisionally fill AUHSD vacancy



Wendy Reicher Photo provided

By Sora O'Doherty

At a public meeting on Aug. 3, the Acalanes Union High School District governing board voted to appoint Wendy Reicher to fill the board vacancy created by Kristin Connelly's resignation. Connelly was elected to the position of Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder in November 2022, and recently resigned from the AUHSD board to concentrate on her county job.

With only a year left on her term, the AUSHD board decided against spending a lot of money to run a special election and opted instead to make a provisional appointment to fill the position. The board accepted applications from nine candidates, but two were unable to appear at the meeting. Each of seven candidates were allowed to speak for four minutes, and a written statement from one of the

candidates who could not attend was read aloud.

Following this, the four current board members, Jennifer Chen, Christopher Grove, Chris Severson, and Nancy Kendzierski, each selected two candidates and rated them, ranking them one or two. All the candidates ranked one were called upon to answer some questions from the board, and also each candidate who had received two number two rankings. The candidates who were then asked to come forward and answer questions were, in random order, Paul Chopra, Peter Catalano, Wendy Reicher and Tonya Makowski.

After hearing the candidates answers to the questions, the board proceeded to move candidates to be given the provisional appointment. The entire proceeding was conducted in open session of the board. The student board member, Melina Nath, did not have a vote, but did have a preferential vote which expressed her opinion.

Jennifer Chen moved to appoint Tonya Makowski as provisional board member. The motion was seconded by Christopher Grove, but failed to pass, with Chris Severson and Nancy Kendzierski voting nay.

Paul Chopra was proposed by Chris Severson and seconded by student board member Melina Nath. That motion also failed, with Chen

and Grove voting nay.

Finally, Wendy Reicher was proposed by Severson and seconded by Grove. Although Chen voted nay, the motion was carried with eyes from Grove, Severson, Nath (preferential vote) and Kendzierski.

In announcing Reicher's appointment to the AHUSD board, Superintendent John Nickerson said that Reicher has resided in Lafayette for 23 years and her three children have attended public schools with her youngest currently enrolled at Campolindo High School. "She has extensive experience with college/career advising and has been a volunteer with school parents' clubs, education foundations, athletic boosters, parent education programs, school choir support, and more," he said, noting further that Reicher, who earned her Bachelors of Arts degree from UCLA in history, currently serves as the Campolindo Parents Club president. Reicher also earned a certificate in Career and College Counseling from UC Berkeley.

According to Nickerson, unless a petition calling for a special election, pursuant to California Election Code section 5091, is filed in the office of the Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools within 30 days from Aug. 3, the provisional appointment shall become an effective appointment to a term ending in December 2024.

Residents face unannounced power outages

... continued from Page A3

He said that there are no reasons provided for the seven outages this year. Only one of the seven outages happened in moderately windy conditions, and we've had many windy evenings when the power was not impacted."

During a March 17 workshop, the California Public Utilities Commission discussed newly emergent concerns of investor-owned utilities' electrical system reliability, focusing on utility fast trip programs, including PG&E's EPPS program.

PG&E first implemented a

pilot version of its EPSS program in 2021 across 11,500 miles of distribution circuits in High Fire Threat Districts (HFTD), according to information provided by the CPUC at the workshop. "In 2022, PG&E expanded the scope of its EPSS program to cover all circuits in the HFTD and select HFTD-adjacent areas," CPUC workshop information noted.

The CPUC's Safety and Enforcement Division is gathering information for the PG&E EPSS program and will conduct oversight of the EPSS program through monthly reporting by PG&E and monthly

meetings with PG&E in order to ensure PG&E is analyzing trends and prioritizing system hardening to mitigate the impacts of EPSS.

A petition is being circulated by residents that will be submitted to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) as a complaint, which can be found at <https://forms.gle/BnC3c-T4SAdHYpR458>.

For more information about PG&E's EPPS program, or to view the workshop online, visit: www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/wildfires/protective-equipment-device-settings

PG&E is planning to host an in-person meeting on Aug. 22 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center for Lamorinda customers impacted by the recent outages, according to the city of Lafayette. More information will be available at <https://www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/quick-links/hot-topics/power-outages>



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SCAM Alert for Contra Costa County Taxpayers

By Vera Kochan

Scammers are using every form of media in order to bilk an unsuspecting public out of their hard-earned cash. Whether it's by text, a phone call, an email or a letter delivered inadvertently via the United States Postal Service, consumers must be ever vigilant when receiving "it's too good to be true" news, because more often than not, it is.

The latest scam to make the news targets taxpayers, more specifically, property owners. The Contra Costa County Assessor, Gus S. Kramer, issued a July 28 press release, warning taxpayers of the latest consumer scam alert after several residents reported receiving documents in the mail with regards to having their property's taxes reassessed.

The press release stated, "These mailers have the appearance of an official government document. However, the correspondence is not

from the Contra Costa County Assessor. Nor does it come from any other Contra Costa County Office."

Kramer's office went on to state that "current scam mailers are requiring both a \$40 county filing fee with the Clerk of the Assessment Appeals Board for a formal appeal, and a contingent fee of 30% of any tax savings as a result of filing the application. Property owners should know that the Contra Costa County Assessor's Office does not charge a fee to complete an informal value review."

Any property owners who believe that the current market value of their property is less than the assessed value can file a "Request for Value Review" form with the county assessor's office for free. Visit: <http://www.cccounty.us/assessor> and select "Review Your Value" for a downloadable application.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta has also posted additional warnings on his office's State Department of California -- Department of Jus-

stice website: https://oag.ca.gov/consumers/general/prop_tax_scam. "Companies using official-sounding names like "Tax Review," "Tax Adjusters" and "Tax Reassessment" seek to scam homeowners who are worried about their property taxes and declining property values. They send misleading mailers that look like official government agency documents to trick you into sending them money to try to lower your property taxes. They also use addresses like "Regional Processing Center" to make you think the mail is coming from a government agency. Sometimes, they threaten to impose a late fee if you don't send them money by a certain date."

If anyone believes that they have been a victim of this scam, file a complaint with the Attorney General's Public Inquiry Unit, or write to: Attorney General's Public Inquiry Unit, P.O. Box 944255, Sacramento, CA 94244.

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Orinda Police Department:
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Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan 925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report
July 23 - Aug. 5

Alarms	58
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic	60
Suspicious Circumstances	12
Suspicious Subject	16
Suspicious Vehicle	13
Service to Citizen	43
Patrol Req./Security Check	19
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	17
Vacation House Check	23
Welfare Check	15
Ordinance Violation	0
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	3500 Block Brook St.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	Police Department
Police Department	1000 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.
Reckless Driving	Los Palos Dr./Glenside Dr.
	Moraga Rd./Moraga Blvd.
	Reliez Valley Rd./My Rd.
	Reliez Valley Rd./Rossi St.

Laurel Dr./Deer Hill Rd.
Olympic Blvd./Olympic Oaks Dr.
Tc - Property Damage
Mt. Diablo Blvd./El Nido Ranch Rd.
1100 Block Rahara Dr.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Village Center
1000 Block Brown Ave.
700 Block St. Mary's Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Vehicle Theft
Deer Hill Rd./Oak Hill Rd.

Other criminal activity
Commercial Burglary
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Grand Theft
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Petty Theft
Police Department
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Residential Burglary
10 Block Black Forest Ct.

Shoplift
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
1500 Block Reliez Valley Rd.

Disturbing The Peace
3900 Block Los Arabis Dr.

Drunk In Public
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Loud Music
Toledo Dr./Toledo Ct.
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 Block Kelley Ct.

Loud Party
3900 Block Franke Ln.
3400 Block Hamlin Rd.

Public Nuisance
3500 Block Golden Gate Way
Olympic Blvd./Branch Las

Trampas C
1000 Block Brown Ave.
900 Block 2Nd St. (2)
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

Vandalism
500 Block St. Mary's Rd.

Other
Animal Cruelty
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Animal Cruelty - Unfounded
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Loitering
900 Block Moon Ct.

Trespass
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Unwanted Guest
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Violation Custody Order
Police Department
1400 Block Tichenor Ct.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report
July 25 - Aug. 7

Alarms	21
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	6
Traffic	67
Suspicious Circumstances	3
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	7
Service to Citizen	29
Patrol Req./Security Check	12
Public/School Assembly Check	4
Supplemental Report	3
Vacation House Check	1
Welfare Check	1
Ordinance Violation	2

Vehicle violations
Excessive Speed
600 Block Moraga Way
Camino Recardo/Moraga Way (2)
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.
Moraga Way/Coral Dr., Ori (4)
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.
Moraga Way/School St.
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way
Moraga Way/School St.
St Andrews Dr./Moraga Way

Reckless Driving
Moraga Way App Ivy Dr.
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.
1500 Block Canyon Rd.
Moraga Rd./Donald Dr.
Campolindo High School

Other criminal activity
Child Molest
10 Block Hansen Ct.

Commercial Burglary
Moraga Commons Park
Fraud Credit Card
400 Block Center St.

Fraud False Pretenses
Police Department
Grand Theft

Police Department
Moraga Commons Park
30 Block Laird Dr.

Grand Theft Veh Parts
100 Block Miramonte Dr.

Identity Theft
300 Block Constance Pl.

Petty Theft
100 Block Miramonte Dr.
Petty Theft From Veh
100 Block Oxford Dr.

Shoplift
Safeway
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-fight
1300 Block Camino Peral

Loud Music
2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Canyon Club Brewery
300 Block Rheem Blvd.
Not Available

Vandalism
Not Available
Other
Failure To Obey
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.

Trespass
Moraga Swim And Tennis Club

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report
July 16 - July 29

Alarms	58
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	10
Traffic	74
Suspicious Circumstances	6
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	3
Service to Citizen	53
Patrol Req./Security Check	18
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	19
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	4

Vehicle violations
Accident Property
Moraga Way/Overhill Rd.
Orinda Way/Camino Sobrante

Auto Burglary
20 Block Orinda Way

Dui Misd
No Location

Hit And Run Misdemeanor
600 Block Orindawoods Dr.
Police Department

Reckless Driving
Camino Pablo/Wb Sr 24 (20)
El Toyonal
Moraga Way/Stein Way
San Pablo Dam Rd/Wildcat
Canyon Rd.

Other criminal activity
Identity Theft
100 Block Ivy Dr.

Residential Burglary
40 Block Muth Dr.

Warrant Arrest
Orinda Way
Police Department

Nuisance to the Community
Loud Noise
70 Block Estates Dr.

Loud Party
Moraga Way
Public Nuisance
Camino Sobrante
Moraga Way/Brookwood Rd.
Camino Sobrante

Vandalism
10 Block Southwood Ct.

Other
Litter
40 Block Vista Del Mar
Mentally Ill Commit
No Location

Revocation Of Probation
Theatre Sq.
Terrorist Threats
20 Block Acacia Dr.

Trespass
Theatre Sq.
Camino Sobrante(5)

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Send a letter to the editor:
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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Orinda Books hosts Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Richard Kluger, Aug. 26



Richard Kluger Photo provided

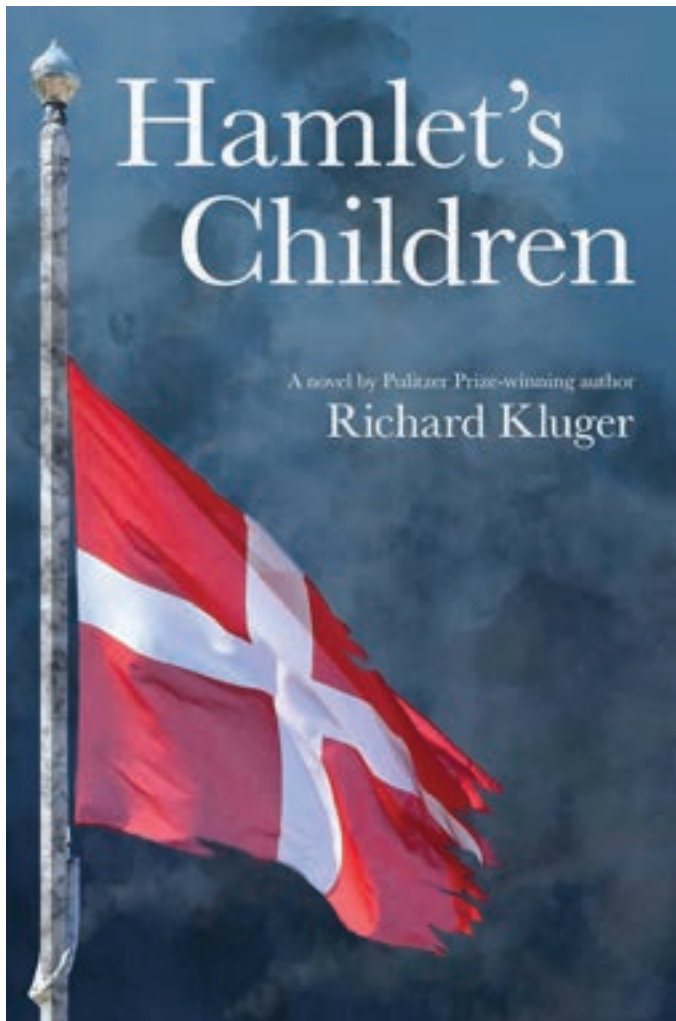
By Lou Fancher

If waging war is a dangerous, strategic, ultimately violent enterprise, endeavoring to resist an enemy force without violence is equally perilous. The latter involves supreme and shrewd calibrations of risk versus reward and often, sacrifices that mean no clear “winner” can be declared upon resolution of the conflict. This drama forms the centerpiece of a new novel, “Hamlet’s Children,” by Berkeley-based Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Kluger.

Orinda Books on Aug. 26 at 3 p.m. presents Kluger in conversation with New York Times bestselling author and award-winning poet Mary Mackey. The writers will discuss Kluger’s latest historical fiction book released Aug. 15 as an original paperback edition by publisher Lucille Lang Day of Scarlet Tanager Books.

“Hamlet’s Children” is the story of Denmark and its people, culture, and history during the years immediately leading up to, during, and after World War II. Told by protagonist 13-year-old American Terry Sayre and based on chronologically accurate events with attention paid to actual facts, events, and personalities of the era, the story captures timeless coming-of-age themes: parental discord and devotion, adolescent idealism, impulsivity, love, and a young person striving in all ways to find security in place, relationships, and identity. For Terry, whose father is unreliable and mostly absent and whose mother is taken ill in the summer of 1939, the journey from boy to man is fraught. Offered asylum abroad by his mother’s Danish family, he accepts their foster care and begins a new life with his grandparents in a small coastal town one hour’s drive from Copenhagen, Denmark’s capital city.

Within months of his arrival, Nazi German’s monumental power rises and Europe is launched into World War II. Denmark is soon occupied by Germany and clings to the Nazi regime’s nominal, fingers-crossed-behind-their-backs promise of self-governance. Fearing the risk of resistance and having experienced an overwhelming land, sea, and air assault at the hands of the Nazi forces, the Danes believe a peace treaty with Germany previously signed will reduce the threat. Underestimating Hitler’s preoccupation with Denmark’s strategic location that if not controlled might allow the Allies to land and fight the Third Reich military troops, many Danes failed to recognize their homeland has made a deal with a devilish invader. Proud of their humane philosophies that underscore how war is not the solution to global unrest, the Dane’s disbanded military forces are unavailable. Their only defensive tool is resistance through clever



subterfuge, and covert, cunning, but life-threatening operations. The cost for many Danish people is a tragic loss of dignity and pride in their country and its leaders.

In interviews, Kluger has said the title is a deliberate name drop because Hamlet is the most famous Dane and a line from Shakespeare’s famous play finds new meaning as used in the novel. In the play’s Act I, Prince Hamlet’s sidekick Horatio says, “There’s something rotten in the state of Denmark.” He is referring to the seizure of the throne by Hamlet’s uncle Claudius after the suspicious death of the king and to his mother’s scandalous marriage to her brother-in-law. In “Hamlet’s Children,” the same words are used effectively as an act involving “quiet resistance” to Nazis and their rotten anti-Semitism invading their country.

Along the way to telling how Terry fares during his stint in Denmark and the years following the war when he returns to America, Kluger offers intriguing information about the era. Historians familiar with events and people of that time might note license the author is allowed and takes advantage of as a writer of historical fiction, but for indiscriminate lovers of World War II history and readers who know less about it, the narrative remains lively, engaging, and surprisingly relevant in 2023.

Part of that relevancy results from Kluger’s deft hand with character. Without losing the plot’s propulsive energy, Kluger illuminates not only the inner mindset of Terry but of a substantial number of key, secondary characters. Each person emerges as a flawed, unique, admirable or despicable individual. The relationships are sometimes messy and often miraculous in that resentment, forgiveness, love, and hate co-exist – especially between family members or in the power dynamics between the Danes and the German forces.

Several of the book’s most fascinating scenes involving young people who create a grassroots journal of local, protest news and a plan to distribute it are perhaps fabricated in the details, but not in the likelihood of it having happened. In another

example, active resistance to the Nazi regime did in fact position Denmark as one of the few invaded countries to actively plan and rescue Danish Jews. In a matter of just a few weeks in 1943, after being warned the Nazis were about to mount a massive deportation of Danish Jews, just over 7,000 Danish Jews and roughly 700 non-Jewish family members were secretly led by ferry across the sea to safety in neutral Sweden. The action depicted in “Hamlet’s Children” forms the crux of the book’s climax and is the catalyst for much that follows. Despite everyone knowing the final chapter of World War II’s end, Kluger’s tale maintains theatricality and offers a strong addition to World War II literature from a master storyteller.

Kluger wrote for the Wall Street Journal, the New York Post, the New York Herald Tribune, and Forbes, before becoming executive editor at Simon & Schuster and editor in chief at Atheneum. His books of fiction and social history include the Pulitzer Prize-winning “Ashes to Ashes: America’s Hundred-Year Cigarette War, the Public Health, and the Unabashed Triumph of Philip Morris,” “Simple Justice: The History of Brown v. Board of Education and Black America’s Struggle for Equality,” and others.

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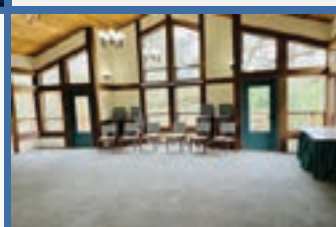


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This fresh and bright pesto packs a roasted pepper punch



Poblano Pistachio Pesto

Photos Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

When you smell roasting peppers over a fire, you know there will be something delicious to eat soon. That aroma is so enticing! This time, it's a creamy and spicy, fresh and bright pesto made with both roasted and fresh poblanos, jalapeños, pistachios, basil, cilantro, garlic, lime juice, and Pecorino Romano. It makes the perfect condiment for grilled meats, and it's fantastic with just about any Mexican dish you can imagine. We love to serve it with enchiladas or even drop a spoonful into chicken tortilla soup.

You could make this pesto with either raw or roasted peppers, but I really love the com-

ination because it gives the pesto the fresh vibrant characteristics as well as the smooth and smoky taste of the roasted peppers.

Don't worry if you think that roasting peppers will be a tedious task – roasting and then cooling them in a paper bag before peeling them. I have learned to take a great shortcut when it comes to roasting peppers. I remove the stems and seeds, grill them over medium heat on the barbecue for 2-3 minutes per side and then place them right in the food processor. No need to peel them at all, which saves a lot of time. You already know this if you've ever peeled roasted peppers!

For the fresh peppers, sim-



ply remove the stem and seeds and coarsely chop them before adding them to the food

processor

This pesto stores for several days or up to a week in the



refrigerator in an airtight container.

INGREDIENTS

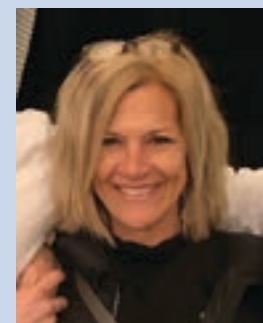
3 large poblano peppers, stem and seeds removed and cut in half lengthwise
1 jalapeño pepper, stems and seeds removed and cut in half lengthwise
1 cup cilantro leaves
8 large basil leaves (1/2 cup thinly sliced)
1/4 cup roasted, salted pistachios
1 clove garlic, minced
1/3 cup grated Pecorino Romano (or Parmesan cheese)
1/2 tsp. salt
1 tbsp. fresh lime juice
1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil

DIRECTIONS

Drizzle three poblano halves and one jalapeño half with a little bit of olive oil. Roast these pepper halves on the grill over medium heat for 3-4 minutes per side, just until beginning to brown and blister. You can do this directly on the grill, or in an aluminum pan. Remove from grill and cool for about 10 minutes. (This step can be done several hours or a day ahead of time.)

Meanwhile, coarsely dice the remaining half of the peppers, both jalapeño and poblano. Add pistachios to the food processor and puree until very fine. Add cilantro, basil and cheese and continue to process. Add both roasted and raw poblano and jalapeño peppers, garlic, salt and lime juice, and puree until smooth.

Finally, drizzle in olive oil and process one final time until smooth. There will still be some lumps, but mostly smooth.



Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com. This recipe can be found on our website: 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. Or visit <https://treksandbites.com>

'Between Two Worlds' – a moving French film in Orinda



Photo provided

By Sophie Braccini

Beyond the shock effect of a close-to-documentary film about those at the bottom of the social order, the French film "Between Two Worlds" talks about the impossibility of differing social classes to really connect. It also questions the possibility of lying without cheating, or the moral justification of dissimulation to serve a higher purpose. The movie is served magnificently by French star Juliette Binoche ("The Eng-

lish Patient" - Oscar for Best Supporting Actress - 1996) surrounded by a cast of amateur actors playing themselves.

The movie begins with a middle-aged woman who appears at her wit's end and financially desperate, seeking a job with the French State employment agency. She has moved away from an abusive marriage, she says, has not worked for 20 years and now needs to make a living on her own. The only job that seems possible is that of a janitor. She will do anything, she says. That is

how Marianne Winckler's journey starts. In the city of Ouistreham, located in northwestern France, Winckler works and interactions with women in similar difficult situations, broken families, immigrants, vulnerable people who are easily discounted and abused by the companies that employ them. Ouistreham also has a port with a ferry and when all else fails, becoming a part of the ferry cleaning crew is the job from hell that becomes the last resort for those who can't get anything better.

But Winckler is not exactly what she pretends to be. She makes little mistakes that betray her difference, until the full story is revealed and the friends she has made among the hard-working women feel betrayed and used, in spite of what might be Winckler's real motivation.

Forget any glamorous idea you might have about France. This is not a film about the charm of a little port in Normandy, its cheerful inhabitants and their wonderful cuisine. It is about what it is really like to be "have-nots" living in the shadows of those who "have." The group of workers are made mostly of women, rough women who often have to feed a family, and among whom a real solidarity exists. Binoche as Winckler does not wear any visible makeup in this movie, her eyes are red with tiredness and her wrinkles show.

Winckler is surrounded by a cast of women from Ouistreham playing their

own roles. One of them especially, H el ene Lambert who plays the betrayed friend, is totally on par with Binoche, the Oscar-winning actress. The result is poignant. It is almost a documentary of the lives of these women forced to work at a furious pace that breaks their bodies for a pittance. The movie shows the humanity of these mostly uneducated women as they live their hard lives. They are shown as multidimensional heroines who laugh, love, and fight for respect, even when they don't get any. Their courage is tremendous. Especially in this post-COVID time, the movie asks about the place in society of all the service people who take the jobs nobody wants and remain mostly invisible to the rest of the population.

The film also shows with finesse the difficulty to communicate between different social groups. It does not try to pretend that there is solidarity when people are from very different worlds, even if friendship and respect can happen. "Between Two Worlds" is not an optimistic movie with a happy ending and redemption, but it can create a catharsis and renewed respect for our fellow human beings living invisibly and servicing us.

"Between Two Worlds" is brought to Orinda by the local nonprofit, the International Film Showcase. It will play for at least a week starting on Aug. 25. Tickets at www.orindamovies.com/

Brook Street resident revitalizes neighborhood gathering after a pandemic hiatus



Photo Sharon K. Sobotta

By Sharon K. Sobotta

Those who live on Brook Street, play at the Brook Street Park or travel up and down Brook Street on the way to school or while partaking in a downtown stroll, have likely crossed paths with 80-year-

old Margaret Szabo. And those who've chatted with her, showed kindness to her grandchild at the park or just answered their door when she showed up to introduce herself, have likely been on the receiving end of an invitation to Margaret and Jon Szabo's annual neighborhood party.

After a three-year pandemic hiatus, three dozen Lafayette residents from all ages and stages of life gathered in the Szabo's backyard on a sunny afternoon. A handful of kids swam in the glistening swimming pool while adults sat around picnic tables connecting with each other over conversation, bubbly and a potluck buffet that was served inside Margaret Szabo's childhood home.

"It's fun to know people and have people to say hi to as you walk through the community," Margaret Szabo says as she sits beside neighbor Scott Tenenbaum, whose lived on Brook Street for 40 years and Cheng Chi and his family who moved to the area from Shanghai, China just before the pandemic.

Szabo and her husband launched the annual neighborhood gathering tradition in 2005. And it's become a staple celebration that those who've crossed Szabo's path, lived near her or once did, look forward to every year. The annual tradition was put on pause between 2020-23 as the world dealt with COVID, but in spite of the three year gap, folks came back together as if they hadn't missed a beat.

"It's nice to once again be able to meet with friends and neighbors and acquaintances and people I've never met before," Scott Tenenbaum said. "It's important to be able to keep in touch

with neighbors and be able to put yourself out in front of the community and connect with each other."

Tenenbaum doesn't take the gathering of people who share the common thread of living or spending time in the surrounding area but have a vast array of life experiences for granted.

"Margaret really puts herself out there. She goes out and meets neighbors and knocks on their doors or gets their numbers and calls them to personally invite them," Tenenbaum said. "That helps people feel included, like they belong."

Cheng Chi and his wife and daughter moved to Lafayette from Shanghai just ahead of the pandemic and attended Szabo's first party (which was the last one she hosted until this year) in 2019.

"When we came here from Shanghai, we were very happy to know the people here and be a part of this quiet and peaceful community," Chi said. "It feels nice to be included and to be warmly welcomed in this community."

Chi's daughter is a rising fifth grader at Lafayette Elementary School and strikes up a conversation with a rising sixth grader named Shreyansh, who she recognizes from school last year, as Chi shares his experience.

"That's what it's all about," an elder at the table chimes in. "Connections."



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Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club donates van to White Pony Express to expand food rescue capacity



Photo courtesy Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club

The Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club celebrating the arrival of the new delivery van for White Pony Express.

Submitted by
Steve Spraitzar

A heartbreaking 1 in 4 Americans are skipping meals or relying on food donations to survive. Balance this troubling statistic with the fact that we throw away 40% of our food supply – perfectly good food that could wipe out hunger in the U.S. if it was rescued and delivered to those in need. In Contra Costa County alone, 10% of the population, or more than 113,000 residents, are food insecure.

Food waste and food insecurity are the twin scourges tackled by White Pony Express' (WPE) unique food rescue approach. Founded in 2013 by Dr. Carol Weyland Conner, WPE is dedicated to alleviating the food insecurity experienced by many in our midst through a volunteer-powered service model.

The name White Pony Express is a mashup of two important ideas: the white horse, which is a symbol for unity in many faith streams, and the Pony Express, which revolutionized fast, reliable delivery. Their name is a perfect description of the benevolence and urgency of the mission.

WPE refrigerated vans pick up healthy, perishable food from local grocery stores and restaurants and bring it to their distribution center, where it is quality-controlled and sorted according to the needs of their 90 recipient partners by dedicated volunteer teams.

This perfectly good food would otherwise end up in the landfill to make space for new inventory or because it is nearing its "best by" date. Food waste claims the most space in America's landfills where it emits en-

vironmentally harmful greenhouse gasses. Thanks to WPE, this food is recovered and delivered to those that need it most.

All of this takes place within 24 hours, seven days a week, and it is delivered free of charge with warm smiles and the understanding that we are one human family.

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary led the project to purchase a new refrigerated delivery van, raising over \$90,000 which funded the vehicle and installation of a refrigeration unit. While Lamorinda Sunrise spearheaded the campaign, substantial contributions were received from many generous individuals and organizations, including 15 local Rotary Clubs. They are the Rotary Clubs of Alamo, Antioch, Brentwood, Clayton Valley/Concord Sunrise, Concord, Concord-Diablo, Hercules, Lafayette, Lamorinda Sunrise, Martinez, Moraga, Orinda, Rossmoor, Walnut Creek, and Walnut Creek Sunrise. Additionally, grants were received from Rotary District 5160, Mechanics Bank, and the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church.

Informed of the success of the campaign, Eve Birge, WPE's executive director, commented, "This is incredible news - I am awed! With this transit, we can expand our reach and deliver more healthy food to those that need it most." Noted Dan Herbert, president of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, "We are delighted to have partnered with White Pony Express, thereby enabling them to deliver fresh food to thousands of individuals in need."

For more information on the White Pony Express mission, to donate, or to volunteer, visit <https://www.whiteponyexpress.org/>.

Gold Award Project focuses on fostering socialization



Grace Gafni's Girl Scout Gold Award Project addressed the issue of socializing children after distance learning. Grace reflected on the negative effects

the pandemic had on children being able to interact with each other. She chose to support the Campolindo Cabana Club, her neighborhood pool and swim team, of which she has been a member since age 3. She noticed that the little ones had no place to sit and bond, since only adult-size tables were available at the pool. With the help of her project team, Grace built, sanded, and stained three kid-sized picnic tables for the pool. In addition, she created reusable conversation cards for the children to help foster socialization. Grace trained her fellow swim team staff on how to encourage the children to use the tables and cards to encourage conversation while hanging out at the pool. Her favorite thing to do now is watch little kids sit at the tables and tell each other jokes from the conversation cards. Grace is super thankful for everyone's support throughout her Gold Award journey! Submitted by G. Gafni

Kiwanis donates to Cal Shakes' youth program



Photo provided

Cherie Grant with Cal Shakes' Executive Director Clive Worsley

Submitted by **Barry Behr**

At a recent Kiwanis Club of Moraga

Valley meeting, Cherie Grant presented a donation from the club to the California Shakespeare Theater's Executive Director Clive Worsley for its youth program. The Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley want to thank those who have supported the club's fundraising events such as the Holiday Sees Candy Sales, Fourth of July celebration at the Commons along with the Pear and Wine Festival. Generous support of these events allows the Kiwanis Club to make donations back into the community. For

additional information about Kiwanis of Moraga Valley, visit <https://moragavalleykiwanis.org>

In Memory

Jan Ruzicka

November 20, 1943—July 17, 2023

Jan Ruzicka passed away on July 17, 2023, in the John Muir Hospital in Walnut Creek after a long and very difficult illness. Ruzicka was married for 51 years to his wife, Bohuslava (Slavka) Ruzicka, and is also survived by his sisters, Eva Kaplan in Lexington, Kentucky and Miroslava Pickova in the Czech Republic, and his nephew, Jaroslav Picka.

Born in Czechoslovakia, Jan immigrated to Canada in 1968 and to the USA in 1974. He settled in Bay Area, first in Oakland and then in El Sobrante. A mechanical engineer by profession, Jan worked in the Oil Business. He received his undergraduate degree in Czechoslovakia and later obtained a bachelor's degree and a master's in business administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco. Jan's profession took him to many countries, too numerous to mention.

A guitar player for 60 years, Jan joined WhatsUp big band in Hayward, Senior Serenadors in El Sobrante, and was a member of the East Bay Banjo Club in Concord at the time of his death. As a member of the Banjo Club, Jan played at various retirement homes and festivals.

Since 2011, Jan represented the Orinda/Tabor Sister City Foundation during the Tabor historical festival in the Czech Republic. He will be missed on both sides of the Atlantic.

"The oil now cool.
The fire burns white.
Kindly and tall
they go with lights."

~From *Quince on the Table* by Vohuslav Reynek

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 200 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations or Remembrances" in the subject line.

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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.

Not to be missed

Art

Paper Trails an exhibition recognizing the essential aesthetic quality and versatility of paper at Village Theatre Gallery in Danville, Aug. 26 – Oct. 20. Curator Michael Shemchuk has selected works that utilize paper as the primary source and essential material for this group show in which I am pleased to participate. At Village Theater Gallery, Village Theater & Art Gallery 233 Front St, Danville, www.danville.ca.gov/227/Village-Theatre-Art-Gallery

"Wonders of Man and Nature" starts on Wednesday, Aug. 16 at the Moraga Art Gallery, located in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center at 432 Center Street. On view until Oct. 22, the show also includes work by more than two dozen gallery members and guest artists. A free reception will be held on Saturday, Aug. 19 from 5 to 7 p.m. The public is invited to view the art, chat with the artists, enjoy wine, light snacks, tasteful music and the company of fellow art lovers. For more information, visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

Art show at Orinda Books. August features the bold, realistic wildlife oil paintings of Joel Kratter, which are partly drawn from his trips to Africa and Australia. Visit the Artist of the Month for a preview at www.orindabooks.com. Orinda Books is located at 276 Village Square, Orinda, (925) 254-7606.

Art Gallery at the Orinda Library – Paintings by Holly Bazeley, Kendra Stone & Photographs by Jeff Heyman presented by the Lamorinda Arts Council. The exhibition runs

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda Weekly

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from July 29 to Aug. 31 in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library. View their artwork online with one click at www.lamorindaarts.org/online-galleries/

Music

Dan Ashley performs a Duo show from 2 to 4 p.m. the first Sunday of each month (except for September) at the Canyon Club Brewery in Moraga. <https://canyonclub.getbento.com/calendar/>

Solo Opera is pleased to present the West Coast Premiere of the full version of "The Three Feathers," a family-friendly chamber opera with music by award-winning composer, Lori Laitman, and libretto by former California poet laureate, Dana Gioia. Sept. 8, 8 p.m. and Sept. 10, 2 p.m. Free lecture one hour before each show. Leshar Center for the Arts. 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Running time: 85 minutes in length / No intermission. Tickets: \$25-Youth 17 and under / \$45-Senior / \$55-Adult (925) 943-7469, or visit LesharArtsCenter.org

Stone Student Scholarship Concert on Saturday, Aug. 26, at 7 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Contact Dwight Stone (510) 512-2623 stonemusique@gmail.com. Admission: \$20 Adults; Seniors \$15; Students and children free. www.stonemusique.com/

SSS.html

Lamorinda Idol Finals will be held from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Aug. 20 at the historic Orinda Theatre. Performance times will be grouped as follows: 11 a.m., K-5th grade solos; 1 p.m., K-12th grade groups; 3:15 p.m., 6-8th grade solos; 5 p.m., 9-12th grade solos. Winners will be announced at 7 p.m. For information, visit lamorindaarts.org

The Pacific Chamber Orchestra, Lawrence Kohl conductor, will perform all six Bach's Brandenburg Concertos Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m. at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette and Sept. 17, 3 p.m. at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Livermore. Go to PacificChamberOrchestra.org to purchase tickets.

Classical Guitar Duo Performs at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Walnut Creek. Saturday, Aug. 26, 7 p.m. 1924 Trinity Avenue, Walnut Creek. Online broadcast: visit stpaulswc.org/concert-series to receive concert link. Donations graciously accepted at the door (avg. \$20/\$10 Students) and in online registration. All are welcome regardless of donation!

Theatre

Laurie Roldan has partnered with Town Hall Theatre Co. in Lafayette to bring back her

popular Cabaret series, "Laurie Sings a Song for You: A Cabaret Concert Inspired by the Music of Karen Carpenter." Sept. 9, 10, 15 and 16 at 2 p.m. (A second show will be held at 7 p.m. Sept. 9) at Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School Street, Lafayette. Tickets: General, \$45. Senior/Youth, \$40. www.townhalltheatre.com/lauriesings

Other

Knit a cap or scarf for a child or adult undergoing chemotherapy, a debilitating illness, or experiencing homelessness! As part of Community Service Day, new knitted items will be distributed to patients at John Muir Hospital, Kaiser Hospital, Hospice of the East Bay, Warm Winter Nights and Safe Parking. Items knitted over the summer will be gathered in late September to distribute to the agencies. Any size, style, color ... let your imagination guide you! (Items for pediatric oncology patients need to be from a pet-free home ... please label them as such; other children's items do not need to be) Contact Bobbie Preston at barbarampreston@comcast.net to arrange drop-off of your gifts in September.

Native American Indian Sites in the East Bay Hills presented by the Moraga Historical Society, featuring James Benney. As a spokesperson for the East Bay Hill People, Ben-

ney enjoys discovering and preserving historic sites once inhabited by the indigenous people of the Bay Area. Join us as he brings to life the locations of these ancient habitats. Sunday, Aug. 20, 1-3 p.m. in the Casita at Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Dr, Moraga. RSVP to Susan Sperry: ranchSusan@aol.com by Aug. 15. Reservations only – limited seating.

Kapnek Trust USA Family 5K/1K Fun Run and Kids Carnival will be held on Sunday, Aug. 27. Starting at 9 a.m. on the Moraga Commons Path, this family event supports preschool education and nutritious food to children and Zimbabwe. Participants enjoy a t-shirt, food, music, carnival games, and fun for all ages! To register go to <https://kapnektrustusafunrun23.eventbrite.com>

Mocktails & Cocktails, Sunday, Aug. 27 from 3-5 p.m. at The Coop, 32 Lafayette Way, Lafayette. Join those who love art, literature, music and everything in between at The Coop, 32 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. Whether you are deep into your creative journey or blocked; we want to hear about it. Look for our framed Picassoesque poster of a crazy art lady – that's us! No host bar. Just show up. Questions? Email literary@lamorindaarts.org.

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Submit sports stories and story ideas to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

San Jose Earthquakes II team makes premier appearance at Saint Mary's



Courtesy Saint Mary's College Athletics

By Jon Kingdon

Last Saturday, with a wine and beer fest that went from 2 to 5 p.m. and a soccer game between the San Jose Earthquakes II and the Austin Football Club II, Saint Mary's College was the place to be.

With just two weeks to get the word out that the Earthquakes II and Austin FC II were going to play on the Saint Mary's soccer stadium, on a bright and sunny day, it was a standing room only crowd ranging from infants to senior citizens and all the ages in be-

tween, filling the stands along with several spectators sitting on the grass sidelines and end-zones.

For the record, Austin FC II defeated the Earthquakes II 2-0.

The game was set up to determine whether Saint Mary's field could prove to be a viable facility for the San Jose Earthquakes II to play some or all of their regular season games in the future with the intention of bringing more exposure for the team in the East Bay.

The Earthquakes II are the equivalent to a triple A team in

baseball or a G League team in basketball. With their season starting in April and going through October, as this point, they would be playing 12 to 15 home games, if not more.

"This is the first time we've put on an event like this at Saint Mary's," said Mike Matoso, the Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics at Saint Mary's. "The Earthquakes approached us and we're using this as a kind of a test game to see if it goes well with the facility and the fan reaction to show if there is an opportunity for them and us to make this a longer commitment."

"The Earthquakes are excited to partner with The Town FC to bring this professional soccer match to Moraga while benefiting local youth soccer programs," said Earthquakes President Jared Shawlee. "As a soccer facility, it's amazing. If they were to add lights for night games, it would help to make games provide a different environment where you get the energy of a night game, but Saint Mary's is still a great place to play in the daytime as well. It has great size for the Earthquakes II team and they're able to set the food and beverage trucks for the fans. It's also great to see the kids' soccer field on the far side of the field. I like the parking setup because you want to be able to park, walk and kind of congregate the people as they are marching to the stadium, so I think it's a perfect setup with a beautiful backdrop."

Moraga Mayor Renata Sos has been wholly supportive of the idea of the Earthquakes II

coming to Saint Mary's. "I think it's great for Moraga and I'm very excited," Sos said. "Moraga is such a sports savvy town with Saint Mary's having these fantastic facilities. My vision is that, whether it's men's or women's soccer or other professional sports, there may be a place for teams to compete here which I think would be good for the college, the town and our community's appetite for athletics, which is boundless, so I think it would be a very good fit."

For Matoso, the benefits of the Earthquakes II coming to Saint Mary's would extend beyond the school. "Something like this could be cool for the community," Matoso said. "We've met with the Earthquakes for the past few months, and they think this is a perfect venue for them."

Tennyson Wilson, the Head of Club Affairs for the Town Football Club has been very involved with bringing Saturday's game to Saint Mary's. "Town FC is a new soccer startup and we've been working with the town of Moraga and the Earthquakes in terms of hosting pro games at the college next year," Wilson said. "We're trying to get a run of the venue to see how it works out and hope to have more of these games as we head into 2024. It's our hope to be the minor league team for the Earthquakes and be the feeder team for them. Right now, we're the connective tissue - working closely with the Earthquakes and the town and trying to bring all of the pieces together. Moraga has been very

supportive about bringing pro soccer to the area and they've been willing to support us in various ways and working to make sure that traffic doesn't impact the residents. We're hoping to help the town continue to grow and also support Saint Mary's in that growth."

Wilson also feels that in the end, lights at the stadium are an important issue. "We definitely would need lights when we stream the games on Apple TV," Wilson said. "As we get deeper into the year, lights would be required."

Matoso echoes that concern: "If this is to be a permanent thing, lights would have to be required. From that standpoint, it would be great for Saint Mary's, Moraga, and the Earthquakes. If we play a game at 3 o'clock on a Friday, we may get 300 people. If we play it at 7 p.m., we'll get 3,000 people for that game."

Saint Mary's head coach Adam Cooper welcomes the opportunity to share the field with the Earthquakes: "I think it'll help in a lot of ways starting with the notoriety, facilities, upgrades, and capital improvements which would also help. It's also a benefit in getting people onto the campus at Saint Mary's. It would also help the town of Moraga with their food and beverage industry. It would be a win-win for everyone in my opinion."

With a full house, a loud and appreciative crowd, perfect weather, and no off-field incidents, it would appear that Saint Mary's and Moraga have passed the first test.

Cheerleader camp at Campolindo sets foundation for the future



Photo Selin Wold

By Jon Kingdon

With so many young women competing in sports, it was only natural for there to be summer sports camps for them to attend.

Still, there are also camps for the "non-traditional" sport of cheerleading like the one at Campolindo though at one point, due to the pandemic, the numbers of high school cheerleaders were precipitously down.

"At one point at Campolindo, there was only a total of six cheerleaders comprised of two sophomores and four freshmen on the varsity," said Selin Wold, one of the heads of the Campolindo camp. "During COVID, we had 12 on the team and then last year, our numbers were up to 26."

This camp began about 10 years ago and Wold, who at one

point was a cheerleader at Campolindo and has been the team's head cheerleader coach the past four years, and Brenda Luster who will also be coaching the cheerleaders this year, took over the camp two years ago. "We have girls on our high school cheer team that went to this camp when they were little," Wold said.

Cheerleading like any other sport is not immune from injuries and doing things safely was a primal concern at the camp. "You can definitely have injuries, but we train very carefully in stages to be well prepared to move on to more difficult stunts," Luster said.

"We worked on a lot of safety drills to start with before moving on to do more complicated things," Wold said. "I also learned that the first thing head football coach Kevin Macy

teaches his football team is how to fall in a way to avoid getting hurt and we teach that to our team, particularly the flyer, the one who's on top to make sure that if they fall, their arms are not flailing which is how they can get hurt."

With the Campolindo varsity cheerleaders at their own camp in Santa Clara with 20 other schools, there were 124 4-year-olds to eighth-graders at the camp coached by the younger cheerleaders at Campolindo. "We like to have our cheerleaders run the camp," Wold said. "We break them up into groups by different grades and ages which empowers them. They learn leadership skills, and they love doing it, so it works out really well."

Brena Favro, an incoming sophomore, was a cheerleader last year and was one of the coaches at the camp. "Growing up, I did not go to a camp like this, but I really wish I had because it is so much fun for the kids," Favro said. "It was an amazing experience working with these kids that will soon be cheerleaders. I taught all the levels and bonding with the kids was amazing. It's a great feeling to have little kids look up to us. They've improved so much, and they go home, and they practice their cheers and that's important."

For a long time, most did not experience cheer until they

got to high school, but they are starting much younger now. The Campolindo camp ranged from kindergartners up to eighth grade. The first group was comprised of kindergartners and first-graders, the second group the third- and fourth-graders and the senior group of fifth- through eighth-graders.

"The youngest group worked on simple moves and then dancing with a lot of re-

peat moves," Wold said. The middle group worked on beginning stunts, more advanced moves in the dance and the older group were trained on tumbling, stunts and dances.

At the end of the session, each of the groups then returned and performed at the halftime of the final session of Coach Macy's summer camp scrimmage much to the delight of family and friends.

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Campolindo Athletic Department named Division 3 State School of Year

By Jon Kingdon

For the eighth time, Campolindo has been named the Division (seven times Division 3, one time Division 2) State School of the year by Cal-Hi Sports. The first time they earned the honor was in 2005, then in 2011, 2012, 2015 and 2019. In 2020, the selection was for Division 2 and in 2022 and 2023, it was for Division 3. There were no schools named in 2021 due to the pandemic.

In their announcement Cal-Hi singled out the girls cross country team winning their third straight CIF title, the boys cross country team finishing second in the D3 state meet, the basketball team winning the CIF NCS Division 2 final, the football team finishing the season

with a 12-1 record and making it to the NCS Division 2 final, the girls swim team finishing second in the non-divisional final team standings and the girls water polo CIF NorCal D1 semifinal finish and the boys water polo CIF NorCal D2 semifinal finish.

Though not highlighted in the announcement, other accomplishments that were taken into consideration were the girls lacrosse team making it to the NCS Division 2 final, the baseball team making it to the NCS final, the boys water polo team making it to the NCS semifinal, the boys golf team winning the DAL tournament, the Boys volleyball team making it to the semifinals of the NCS, the girls volleyball team making it to the second round of the state championship, and the boys wrestling team finishing third in the NCS.

Mark Tennis, the co-publisher of Cal-Hi sports for the last 25 years, has long appreciated the success of the Campolindo program. "It all started with Bob Wilson (1998-2013) who originally set it all up and was a great athletic director," Tennis said. "A lot of it comes from the stability of the coaches at the school and also from the competition that they have with Acalanes and Miramonte who they have to beat initially which helps in the process."

Campolindo Athletic Director Ray Meadows has seen the school win the award four times under his leadership. "This award reflects the deep commitments of our student athletes, their parents, our coaching staff, the school community, and the Moraga community as a whole."

Sea Serpents sweep the summer games



Simon Keenan, celebrates after his race.



Catherine Vanderliet, swims her 50-yard backstroke

Photos Deanna Wentzel Photography

Submitted by Asha Spitzer

A green wave of East Bay Sea Serpents dove into the Summer Games and swam away as champions. East Bay Sea Serpents, the local Special Olympics swim team for swimmers with disabilities, is a 22-year-old program supported by head coach Brian Wentzel and a collection of local volunteers.

The Summer Games is a three-day event in June, held yearly at Santa Clara University, that provides competition opportunities to Special Olympics athletes from all over Northern California. This year's Summer Games featured over 860 athletes and coaches participating in swimming, track and field, bocce, and tennis. Athletes have the chance to stay in dorms at both Santa Clara University and San Jose State University through the weekend and interact with other participants from Northern California.

The 2023 Summer Games included sixteen East Bay

Sea Serpents, who qualified for their spots at the Summer Games at the previous swim meet. These dedicated serpents trained consistently throughout the Fall and Spring session with their teammates, battling freezing rain, broken pool heaters, and change of pool location.

The Summer Games events began on Friday, June 23, with the Opening Ceremony, where athletes, coaches, and fans gathered to celebrate the official start of the Summer Games. The Sea Serpent's entered the ceremony in the Parade of Athletes, a procession introducing the various teams by county.

Following the ceremony, the athletes plunged into the competitions held on Saturday and Sunday in the Sullivan Aquatic Center.

The Sea Serpents started strong with Andrea Halliday's first-place 500-yard freestyle, where she finished 20 laps in only 14 minutes and 45 seconds! The next event, the 50-yard freestyle was the most popular event among the serpents, with age group highlights from Lillian Callahan-Klein (1st), Tyler Caporalletti (1st), John

Gomez (2nd), Lily Grennings (1st), Simon Keenen (1st), Elizabeth Rangel (5th), Ramon Silano (2nd), Douglas Tywoniak (6th), and Catherine Vanderliet (4th).

As the day progressed, the serpents continued to demonstrate their phenomenal swimming, concluding with Dillon Roach's first-place win in the 50-yard breaststroke.

Following the long day of swimming, the Sea Serpents had the chance to interact with other athletes from around Northern California at the dance held at Stevens Stadium Buckshaw Field or at the group movie. First-time participant Jonah Small, EBBS' first Developmental Events athlete, explained he had many favorite parts of the weekend including meeting his roommate and taking part in the dance. Seasoned swimmer Catherine Vanderliet decided her favorite parts were watching the movie Shrek and swimming her bronze medal 50-yard backstroke.

The Sea Serpents surged into Sunday morning, beginning with the 100-yard freestyle for Lillian Callahan-Klein (1st), Lily Grenning (1st), and Aaron Lo (3rd). Angeleena Layne captured two first-place medals - one for 100-yard breaststroke and the other for 200-yard freestyle. Alexander Lipina participated in all of his events on Sunday, achieving two first places and one second place for his 100-yard butterfly, 100-yard breaststroke, and 200-yard freestyle.

Simon Keenen, age thirteen, a seven year Sea Serpent swimmer and a first time participant in the Summer Games, reflected on his races declaring, "My favorite event was the Freestyle Relay; I was one of four swimmers in the relay. The 50-yard butterfly was the most challenging. I had the most fun with the butterfly, but it was really hard."

The Sea Serpents had a fantastic spring season and their hard work was reflected in their team performance at the games, taking home 23 gold medals, 10 silver medals, and 2 bronze medals.

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