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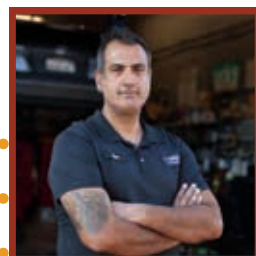
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77 Gaywood Place	\$1,895,000	\$2,000,000	4	5	3	2438	0.27
165 Selborne Way	\$1,675,000	\$1,875,000	4	4	2.5	1913	0.39
294 Deerfield Drive	\$1,745,000	\$1,850,000	8	4	2	1902	0.27
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47 Greenfield Drive	\$1,650,000	\$1,756,888	7	4	2	1964	0.31
267 Fernwood Drive	\$1,545,000	\$1,745,500	6	4	2	2162	0.35
92 Sullivan Drive	\$1,695,000	\$1,735,000	14	3	2.5	2417	0.38
61 Sullivan Drive	\$1,695,000	\$1,695,000	28	4	2.5	2372	0.42
423 Deerfield Drive	\$1,499,000	\$1,555,000	20	4	2	2034	0.28
340 Donald Drive	\$1,585,000	\$1,515,000	87	4	2	1940	0.38

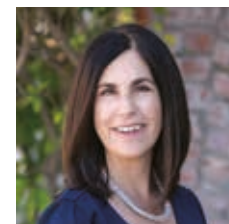
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GRIT, GRACE & GRATITUDE

Our transition month has arrived as the air turns crisp, leaves change, and days are shorter.

November brings its familiar rituals:

Election Day on November 3rd, sports seasons are well underway, the Turkey Trot is ahead, Thanksgiving recipes reappear, tables get longer, **Shop Local** gets a significant turn, and diverse cultural observances will take place. All these things require some transformative action or thinking in some way.

Above us the meteor showers will streak across the mid November sky, while down here, Pilates is definitely in the air - and our hiking trails remain exactly where we left them last. To embrace the new season can take some grit, such that we keep moving, and stay focused.

Making room for the people and traditions that matter, while leaving a little space for something new and giving back, takes grace, which can help remind us to be grateful too. Our local environment allows for getting out all season, and I'm so thankful for that.



Speaking of getting out for all these fall happenings, don't forget about the **Lamorinda Village Auxiliary's 3rd annual fundraiser, Sip & Savor Lamorinda** -

November 6th from 5-7:30 at the Lafayette Community Center - bringing together local food, beverages and community while supporting healthy-aging programs for older adults.

Plenty to behold this month Moraga!

Stay engaged and we'll see you out and about,

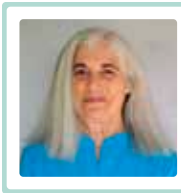
Christine Camp

Contact Us:
Christine.Camp@N2CO.com



Moraga's Art in Public Spaces Committee: Leadership is about listening

BY HOLLY HARTZ, PHOTO BY RAYMOND HOLBERT



I've been listening all my life. From my dad, who taught me to "listen" to the plants in our garden, to my colleagues in the public relations field, I've learned that effective leadership depends on quiet, discerning and compassionate listening.

In my role as chair of Moraga's Art in Public Spaces Committee, I listen to the voices of my fellow committee members, town staff and, perhaps most importantly, our community. In doing so, our shared goal is to bring the arts into our everyday lives. The Moraga Pear sculpture, unveiled at the entrance to Moraga Commons this past September, is the culmination of the committee's 10-year effort to do just that. We are so excited about the iconic sculpture and hope it becomes a landmark for the town, as well as a symbol of its rich and diverse history.

The committee also listened when the community expressed an interest in poetry. We coordinated with Saint Mary's College to launch the inaugural Chalk-A-Haiku event on Valentine's Day at the Moraga Library.

- And did you know that Moraga is home to 28 pieces of public art?
- 9 in West Commons
 - 8 at the Moraga Library
 - 3 at Town Hall
 - 3 in Moraga Commons
 - 2 along the Lafayette-Moraga Trail
 - 2 at Rancho Laguna
 - 1 in the Rheem Triangle

Looking toward 2027, the committee and I will continue to listen closely to your voices, planting the seeds for the kind of leadership that brings fresh art to our community.



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View from the Trail

Lynda Deschambault brings science, community leadership and a lifelong love of nature to the East Bay Regional Park District

SOME PEOPLE DISCOVER THEIR PASSION early. For **Lynda Deschambault**, an eighth-grade outdoor experience helped open that door. Years later, her career as an environmental scientist, her community involvement and a growing love of the East Bay's open spaces would bring her to the **Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District**.

Today, Lynda serves as the elected *Ward 2 director*, representing Moraga and surrounding East Bay communities.

Her professional background brings an interesting perspective to the job. Lynda spent more than 37 years as an environmental scientist and educator, including 20 years with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She also served five years on the Park District's Park Advisory Committee before being elected to the Board in 2024. However, her connection to the parks wasn't built in an office or lab.

Recruited to the Bay area to be the lab director of a facility with locations in both Martinez and San Francisco, midway Lynda discovered Redwood regional Park and Moraga. What began as a place to explore became an important part of her life.

She volunteered with the **Sierra Club** and led monthly hikes at Redwood Regional Park for 11 years. She became involved in local conservation efforts and eventually took on a larger role in helping shape the future of the regional park system.

For most of us, the East Bay Regional Park District is experienced one hike at a time. We know a favorite trail, or



a place to take the dog. We may not think much about the enormous system behind it all.

The District encompasses 73 parks and more than 126,000 acres across Alameda and Contra Costa counties, with approximately 1,330 miles of trails and 55 miles of shoreline.

That is a lot of land to protect, and protecting it involves much more than maintaining trails. The Park District is responsible for preserving habitat, protecting wildlife corridors and managing land that is increasingly affected by drought, extreme heat, wildfire, disease and tree mortality.

The District is also developing a new strategic plan to help guide its work into the future.

That means looking at some big questions. How do you protect natural areas while more people want to use them? How do you maintain healthy habitats as the climate changes? How do you make sure today's open space is still here for the next generation?

Lynda's scientific background is particularly relevant to those questions because she sees the landscape as a connected system.

Soil affects plants. Plants affect habitat. Water affects everything. Trees, wildlife, fire and climate all interact.

What happens in one part of the system doesn't necessarily stay there.

The future is another part of Lynda's focus, getting people outside, especially children.

A child walking a trail isn't simply getting exercise. They might notice a bird they have never seen, discover a creek, learn the name of a plant or wonder where a trail leads. Those encounters can become something much bigger: curiosity, memories, and eventually, they can create people who care enough about the natural world to want to protect it.

The history of the Park District shows how important that idea has been for generations. Created during the Depression, the District began in 1936 with three parks and 2,166 acres. It has since grown into the nation's largest regional park systems.

Parks have also proven their value during difficult times. During COVID, when so many familiar activities disappeared, trails and open spaces remained available. People walked, families explored, and discovered the natural areas that had been right outside their doors all along.

KEEPING IT CLOSE TO HOME -

For Moraga residents, Lynda's role on the Park District Board adds a very local connection to this much larger regional resource.

She has been part of the Moraga community for years, including serving as **Mayor** and working on local environmental and community projects. She also launched our local Sunday farmers Market, and protected Mulholland Ridge Preserve.

Now, her responsibilities extend across a much larger landscape, but the basic goal remains similar: protect the places that make our communities special and make sure they remain available to the people who come after us.

We can all participate. Go outside. Try a trail you haven't walked before. Bring the kids. Slow down long enough to notice what is around you. Learn about the trees, birds and wildlife sharing the landscape. Our Monarch Garden.

We don't have to be scientists or park directors to become better stewards of the places we live.

She encourages us to get out there:

The more we know our natural world, the more likely we are to care about it. And the more we care, the more we have a reason to protect it. www.ebparks.org/district-plan



Lynda at the Annual Apple Hill Harvest, Placerville, CA

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November Gatherings

Wednesday, November 11

9:00am -10:00am

Veteran's Day Memorial

Moraga Commons Park

Honoring all who have served

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Freedom 250 & iKind in

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Scout Troops 212, 234, 246 &

402; the Orinda Moraga Girl

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VFW Post 8063.

Thursday, November 12 -

Saturday, November 14

8:00pm -10:00pm

St. Mary's Dance Concert -

"Refracted Elements"

LeFevre Theatre - St.

Mary's College

The seniors in our SMC

Dance Company choreograph

routines for the rest of

the Dance Company as

their Capstone Project.

Various dance forms will

be presented including

modern/contemporary, Baile

Folklórico, hip hop, belly

dance, jazz, and tap. Tickets

are \$10.00 - \$20.00

There are 4 performances -

Thurs., Nov. 12 at 8pm; Fri.,

Nov. 13 at 8pm; Sat., Nov. 14

at 3pm (livestreamed, too)

& 8pm. To purchase tickets

visit St. Mary's website www.stmarys-ca.edu/dance-fa26

Monday, November 16

6:00pm - 8:00pm

St. Mary's College Faculty

Concert

College of St. Mary's Chapel

Master musicians Prof. Lino

Rivera (piano) & Amy Likar

(alto flute and piccolo) will be

performing beautiful works

by Aaron Copland, Ian Clarke,

Stacy Garrop, Phoebe Pylant,

and Erwin Schulhoff. This

event is FREE of charge.

Thursday, November 26

8:00am -10:00am

Moraga Turkey Trot

Moraga Country Club

Cart Path

Please join the Moraga

Chamber of Commerce on

Thanksgiving morning for

the annual Moraga Turkey

Trot! Gobble-Wobble your

way out to the cart path at

Moraga Country Club wearing

your favorite zany costume,

activewear or even PJs!

The morning will include

"unofficial" timed 5K and

1.5m races, awards for best

Thanksgiving-themed costume,

each race's speediest turkey,

as well as random bib number

draws to earn prizes from

local businesses. You do not

need to be a member of the

Chamber or the Country Club

to participate. **You must be**

registered to participate. To

register and more race info

go to [https://runsignup.com/](https://runsignup.com/Race/Events/CA/Moraga/MoragaTurkeyTrot)

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Saturday, November 28

All Day

Small Business Saturday

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Some establishments may

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community and keeping your

favorites in business. Besides

showing your local business

owners some love, spending

money at local businesses

helps generate tax revenue that

directly benefits the Town.

Thursday, December 3

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Moraga Tree Lighting

Moraga Commons PARK

Moraga Parks & Rec is hosting

the annual Tree Lighting

Ceremony with special guest,

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Communal Threads - Reciprocal Weaving with April Camlin

PHOTO BY HUNTER RIDENOUR

The **Saint Mary's College Museum of Art (SMCMoA)**

invites you to participate

in reciprocal weaving with

April Camlin. Based in

the William Keith Gallery,

Camlin's workshops are open

to visitors, faculty, students,

and community members,

who will help construct and

create a woven fiber work

for the forthcoming Spring

2027 exhibition, **Interwoven.**

Inspired by the writings

of Robin Wall Kimmerer,

reciprocal weaving is when

two people weave together

as one at the loom, becoming

each other's right and left

side, respectively. This is a

cyclical process in which

one partner treads for the

other, allowing the other to

weave, and then they treadle

for each other. Through this

process, we will create work

for the exhibition together

while processing what we

experience as we navigate

living in our bodies in a

society with a complicated

healthcare system.

Grounded in socially

engaged artistic practice,

the residency explores

weaving as both a material

process and a framework

for collective strength,

bringing participants

together through sustained

acts of making and

conversation. Workshops

happening during this

residency, which coincides

with the open enrollment

period for federally

subsidized healthcare, will

focus on helping people

understand and respond

to the changing landscape

of our healthcare system.

Camlin's interdisciplinary

work examines disparities

within the healthcare

system, highlighting the

social, economic, and

structural inequities that

shape experiences of care.

Residency hours will be held

through November 21st.



Artist April Camlin

Open to individuals of all experience levels, the project offers an opportunity to engage directly with contemporary artistic research while contributing to a work that reflects the diverse perspectives and

experiences of the broader community.

DATES & TIMES Wednesday, November 4, 2026, 11:00 am - 3 pm Saturday, November 21, 2026, 11:00 am - 3 pm **LOCATION** (ON-CAMPUS) Saint Mary's College Museum of Art 1928 St. Marys Road Moraga, CA 94575 museum@stmarys-ca.edu / 925-631-4379



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THE MACY WAY

After nearly five decades on the sidelines, Campolindo's **Kevin Macy** is still building more than a football program. He's shaping young lives, one player at a time.

BY CHRISTINE CAMP
PHOTOS BY ANN MURPHY

There are football coaches who build winning teams. And then there is **Kevin Macy**, who has spent nearly five decades doing something more enduring: building young people.

At **Campolindo High School**, where Macy has led the varsity football program since 1996, the wins are plentiful. Six North Coast Section championships, three NorCal titles and two state championships speak to a remarkable record. But ask his players what makes him special, and the conversation quickly moves beyond the scoreboard.

They talk about his relentless work ethic, his unmistakable intensity, his humor and his stories. They describe a coach who demands everything from them because he gives everything to them. They talk about lessons that extend well beyond the football field.

For Macy, that has always been the point.

"I can't ask a student/player to work hard every day if they don't see me working hard on their behalf every day," he says. "My goal has always been to take any unassuming group of kids and try to turn them into a winning football team."

It is a philosophy that has shaped not only the program, but generations of Cougars.

Macy's coaching journey began in 1980 at Skyline High School in Oakland. A UC Berkeley graduate with a degree in civil engineering, he initially balanced coaching with a job at a nuclear engineering firm. Eventually, teaching and coaching became the path he chose, a decision that would define his career and bring him to Campolindo.

Over the years, he coached at Skyline, College Park and Oakland Tech before arriving at Campo. By the time this story is published, he will have completed 47 years of coaching, including 31 at Campolindo.

The numbers tell one story. The longevity tells another. Few coaches devote so much of their lives to a single school, and fewer still manage to sustain the passion, curiosity and drive that Macy brings to the job year after year.

His classroom is a reflection of that dual commitment. A mathematics teacher for decades, Macy has made his room a hub for students, with football memorabilia and math materials sharing the walls. Players know they can find him there, whether they need help with an assignment, advice or simply a place to spend time.

Being both teacher and coach gives Macy a perspective he considers invaluable. He sees his players throughout the school day, not just

during practice or under the Friday night lights. He knows them as students, classmates and young people navigating the challenges of adolescence.

And he believes the lessons of football are inseparable from the lessons of life.

"Be a player and team that people want to root for," he tells his teams. "You may not be as good as other teams, but you can always play harder than them."

That mindset has become a Campolindo trademark: overachieving. Macy has repeatedly taken groups of players and helped them accomplish more than anyone might have expected. His teams are known for their preparation, toughness and willingness to compete, regardless of the opponent.

But the work behind those Friday night performances is often invisible. Macy handles the logistics, the details, the planning and the countless tasks that keep a program moving. His players notice. In surveys spanning several years, they repeatedly reach for the same words to describe him: dedicated, driven, relentless, passionate.

One player called him a mentor who helps athletes unlock their full potential. Another praised his ability to turn even the smallest moment into a lesson. Others pointed to his humor and storytelling, a reminder that even

a demanding coach knows how to keep things entertaining.

His influence also reaches beyond the current roster. Macy created and directs a two-week summer youth tackle camp, introducing younger athletes to the game and its values. For 18 years, he has also helped bring generations of Cougars together through Campolindo Football Hall of Fame Night, connecting former players with the young men who now wear the same colors.

It is a living reminder that a football program is bigger than any one season.

Ryan Erickson, a Campolindo football player, summed up Macy's impact this way:

"Legendary, he has been coaching for around 47 years, built up a program like no other, and is top 100 in the country in most winningest coaches."

The accolades are impressive, and Macy's career record of 286-135-3 through 2025 reflects a lifetime of success. Yet his legacy is perhaps best measured in the players who carry his lessons with them long after graduation: show up, work hard, compete, take responsibility and never underestimate what a committed group can accomplish.

For nearly half a century, Macy has returned to the field and the classroom with the same purpose. He has taught mathematics, drawn up game plans, told stories, demanded effort and believed in young people.

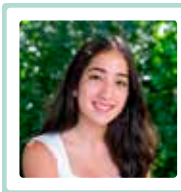
The victories will remain in the record books, but the lessons will last much longer.

That is the Macy way -



It's the Little Things

BY OLIVIA SPOTO



The whole school was buzzing with talk of homecoming weeks before it even happened. The end of August consisted of constant browsing for homecoming dresses and stressing about not finding the right one. Then there was the talk of who was going with whom, whether you were going to wear heels, and if you and your friends were getting ready together. It was all building up.

Everyone seemed to have a plan for what they were going to do and wear, while I was still stuck at square one, impatiently waiting for my dress to ship. And when it finally did, it was two sizes too big.

The night of homecoming was long anticipated and definitely didn't disappoint. Energetic pop music blared across our football field while voices hummed all around us. But afterward, I started thinking about what was next. Some of my friends joked that we probably wouldn't have much to look forward to for the rest of the year.

After giving it some thought, I realized that might be a little exaggerated. We were already thinking months ahead, and I don't put it past my friends and me to be really, really ambitious.

Why not use that ambition to create something to look forward to?

That doesn't necessarily mean making a whole new event or party. It can mean finding happiness in seemingly normal things, like school spirit. Miramonte creates a welcoming atmosphere, but enjoying it means finding those simple things to appreciate.

For me, that means going to debate tournaments, getting involved in different clubs, and participating in community events like MHS volleyball's Dig Pink cancer awareness night. Even if those things aren't your thing, there are many other activities to get involved in at.

There might not always be a big event to look forward to, but we can still find joy. It's not the raging parties or the biggest events that make everything special. It's often the little things that create the memories we'll remember.



Mickey McConnell Challenge, sponsored by Greet Moraga

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The DANTE Club - A Legacy in Motion

The cars may draw the crowd, but the real engine behind Saint Mary's Dante Club is a group of students determined to keep tradition moving forward.

Founded in 1935, the **Dante Club** is the oldest club on the Saint Mary's College campus. Its beginnings trace to students who traveled to Italy and returned with a desire to share the language and culture they had experienced. Nine decades later, that mission remains, though today's students are finding new ways to bring it to life.

For current president Maddie Strazzeri, the club is about more than celebrating heritage. It is also an opportunity to build community, develop leadership skills and strengthen the relationship between Saint Mary's and the town that surrounds it.

Despite the college's deep roots in Moraga, Maddie sees room for students and local residents to connect more often. Her goal is to help close that gap, creating opportunities for students to engage with the community and for Moraga residents to discover more of what the college has to offer.

The club's annual car show has become an important part of that effort. After returning in 2025, the event drew an enthusiastic crowd and dozens of cars. Its second edition, Viva La Velocità, took place May 3, 2026, bringing the community back to campus for a celebration of cars and Italian culture. The event raises funds for the club while giving students a chance to connect with local businesses and residents in a relaxed, welcoming setting.

For Maddie and her fellow members, the show is also a lesson in making an idea happen: organizing, promoting, problem-solving and working together. The club is already looking ahead, eager to build on the event and continue growing its reach.

Behind the students' efforts is Maria Grazia De Angelis in the World Languages & Cultures Department, and the club's faculty advisor since 2000. Her approach is simple but significant: She lets the students lead. Rather than directing every decision, she offers guidance, encouragement and the benefit of decades of experience, allowing members to take ownership of their ideas and see them through.

That balance between mentorship and independence is central to the club's staying power. Students come and go, but the opportunity to lead, learn and share something meaningful remains.



The Dante Club 2026

The Dante Club hosts activities throughout the academic year, from cultural gatherings and film screenings to celebrations that bring Italian traditions into campus life.

The Dante Club hosts activities throughout the academic year, from cultural gatherings and film screenings to celebrations that bring Italian traditions into campus life. Its work also reflects a larger truth about Saint Mary's: the college is not separate from Moraga, but an integral part of it, with students, faculty and programs that can enrich the wider community.

For Maddie, the path forward is not about leaving tradition behind. It is about making it relevant to the next generation, and inviting more people to take part.

The Dante Club has spent 90 years celebrating Italian culture. With students at the wheel and a seasoned guide beside them, its next chapter is already underway.



Club Logo

A State Run by Students

Lamorinda American Legion Post 517 sends local students to Sacramento for a hands-on lesson in government and civic life.

FOR ONE WEEK EACH SUMMER, California high school students step into the roles of candidates, elected officials, lawmakers, and judges.

It's all part of the **American Legion's California Boys & Girls State**, a civic leadership program that brings together about 1,000 students to Sacramento for a firsthand look at how government works, from city councils to the three branches of state government. Students who have completed their junior year are nominated by their schools and selected by local American Legion posts.

Campolindo senior, Zayden Bronson was among six local students sent by Lafayette American Legion Post 517. Delegates also came from Bentley School, Miramonte and Berean Christian.

"I wanted to participate in Boys & Girls State because I'm interested in local and state government and wanted to learn more about how it works," Zayden says. "The program gave me a hands-on way to do that."

Students formed their own "cities" and "counties" and were assigned to one of two political parties, Whig or Federalist. They could run for positions at the city, county, and state levels.

"We campaigned, gave speeches, and voted; other positions were appointed by those already elected," Zayden says. "Once elections ended, most of us had roles, and for the rest of the program we passed laws, held trials, and made policy, just like a real state would."

The American Legion established Boys State in 1935 to give young people a greater understanding of government and civic participation. California's program became coed in 2023 and is now known as Boys & Girls State. Alumni include former President Bill Clinton, Neil Armstrong, Bruce Springsteen, and Michael Jordan.

Generations of Service: Lafayette American Legion Post 517 was chartered in 1933 and today serves veterans throughout **Lamorinda**, Alamo, Walnut Creek, and Pleasant Hill. Its involvement with Boys & Girls State dates to the 1940s.

"I think this program is more critical today than perhaps at any time in the 90-year history of the program," says Post Commander Mike Gilson. "These local young men and women are no doubt the future of our country."

Post 517 member and retired Navy Rear Adm. Peter Koebler attended Boys State himself in 1986. "I know firsthand what a positive impact it can have on a young person," he says.

Support from Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, Realtor Omar Khan, and Post 517 members allows delegates to attend at no cost.

To learn more, visit al517.org and californiaboysgirlsstate.org.



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AFTER THE UNIFORM

Moraga Veterans - Graig Crossley and Karl Davis took very different paths into the military. Both went on to serve in classrooms, town government and the Moraga community.

BY CHRISTINE CAMP, PHOTOS BY ANN MURPHY

GRAIG CROSSLEY AND KARL DAVIS

arrived at military service from nearly opposite directions. Graig enlisted in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. Karl joined the Army years later after growing up in a Berkeley family that marched against that same war. Both became educators, raised families and now serve Moraga together as members of the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley.

Graig can trace his path to the Marine Corps to one very specific academic problem.

"I got a D in trigonometry, and it was not offset by the A in philosophy," he said of his freshman year at Chico State. It was 1968, the draft was real, and Graig decided he would rather choose the Marine Corps than wait to be chosen by the Army.

After boot camp and three months studying Vietnamese in Monterey, he was sent to Vietnam. He had been in the field about two weeks when his unit encountered the Viet Cong. Hours after helping carry a wounded Marine to a landing zone, Graig was hit himself and lost both legs.

A helicopter came in under fire and carried him to a hospital in Da Nang within an hour. From there, he went to Guam and then Oak Knoll Naval Hospital in Oakland. Asked about the care he received, Graig's answer was simple: "I am alive."

He returned to Chico State, studied in Heidelberg, Germany, and completed his degree. Heidelberg also brought him Sibylla, his wife of 53 years.

Graig later taught history and social science at Richmond High School for 18 years, followed by eight years as an administrator.

In Moraga, Graig spent 10 years on the Town Council, twice served as mayor and participated on numerous commissions. A Kiwanian since 1979, he was named Moraga's Citizen of the Year in 2015.

Karl's earliest memories of war came from Berkeley, where he saw tear gas, National Guard troops and tanks in the streets during protests over Vietnam.

After leaving college and working in construction, Karl entered a Navy recruiting office hoping to serve on patrol boats. The recruiter laughed, so he tried the Army.

"What do you like to do?" the Army recruiter asked.

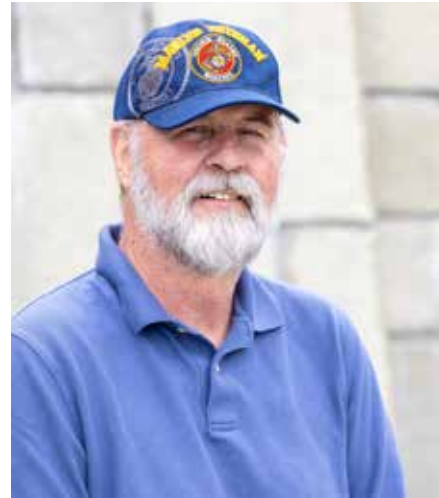
"I kind of like playing with fire," Karl replied.

"Great. We'll pay you to play with explosives. Sign here."

That exchange launched a 30-year Army career. Karl spent a decade on active duty, another in the reserves while working in education, and returned to active duty after September 11, 2001. He served in Iraq and later

worked with Special Operations Command and the Army Corps of Engineers. In Afghanistan, he oversaw civic infrastructure across six western provinces.

Karl does not romanticize the results. "That mission ultimately failed, but not for want of a lot of good



Graig Crossley

people trying," he said. Still, everyone under his command returned home alive. "That was not a bad way to finish."

Military service also belonged to the family. Karl and his wife, Melinda, had three children born at three different duty stations. When 9/11 changed their retirement plans, they made the decision together. As Karl put it, "My wife stuck with me."

After settling in Moraga, Karl joined the Design Review Board, served two terms on the Planning Commission and became active in Kiwanis. Within nine months, he had several invitations to get involved and, he said, "friends already."

Graig has lived here since 1975 and describes Moraga just as plainly: "You can be involved as much as you want to be or as little as you choose. It's a wonderful place to live."

Their military histories span different generations, different wars and different reasons for enlisting. What connects them is what followed: education, leadership, family and decades of continued service to the place they call home.



Graig Crossley & Karl Davis - Moraga Vets

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Goodwin & the St. Mary's students who accompanied him to the Philippines

A JOURNEY THAT KEEPS GIVING

The Power of Showing Up: How one Saint Mary's College staff member is turning a commitment to service into life-changing experiences for students and young people halfway around the world.

At 5:30 each morning in Bacolod, Philippines, **Philip Goodwin and five Saint Mary's College students** headed to the basketball court at Bahay Pag-asa, a center for youth in conflict with the law. The boys would emerge from their dormitories, grinning when they spotted their visitors already waiting. No formal agenda. No expectations. Just time to sit, talk, engage and connect.

That simple routine became the heart of a month long Lasallian service-learning experience, one that would transform the way everyone involved understood service.

For Goodwin, who works in Saint Mary's Alumni department, the journey began with his own experience in the Lasallian Service Internship program. After participating in an international immersion, he felt compelled to lead one himself. When the opportunity arose, he approached Carrie Davis about building on the program's Lasallian foundation.

With approval secured, he and the students set out for the Philippines.

At Bahay Pag-asa, or "House of Hope," they met young men whose lives had been shaped by difficult circumstances, yet who welcomed them with remarkable openness. Days filled with shared meals, farm work, conversations, music, and UNO games. Students also stepped into unexpected roles as math and English teachers.

In one group exercise, the boys built a sentence together, word by word. Their result was both sobering and hopeful: "Poverty is a

challenge for a family, but they are able to improve their life."

The lesson extended far beyond the classroom. Goodwin had urged his students to arrive with open minds and open hearts, free of expectations or a checklist of accomplishments. As he reminded them, *the goal was to live simply so others could simply live.*

In the quiet moments, sharing stories in plastic chairs, singing "Take Me Home, Country Roads," or gathering for prayer, students discovered that service was never a one-way exchange. They came to give their time and energy, but left with something just as profound: new friendships, a broader perspective, and a deeper sense of their responsibility to others.

The group's stay at the University of St. La Salle further connected service with learning. *Students sat in on classes related to their majors, bringing their academic interests into conversation with a world beyond their own.*

For Goodwin, the friendships forged in Bacolod did not end when the trip did. He has returned to the Philippines and remains committed to sustaining those connections, with plans to continue the work alongside fellow travelers.

The experience affirmed a central truth of Saint Mary's mission: service is not simply about traveling somewhere to help. It demands that we show up, listen, learn, and recognize our shared humanity. The most lasting difference may begin not with what we bring, but with the relationships we build and the commitment to keep showing up.



Bacolod, Philippines

MORAGA'S HIDDEN GEM

Glam Palace Salon

Where every client feels like a queen

There is a small salon tucked beside the **Rheem Theatre in Moraga** that has quietly built a devoted following over the past decade. Glam Palace may be easy to walk past, but the clients who find it rarely look elsewhere.

The story behind it begins far from California. Rania Atout grew up in Jordan, where she studied art and graphic design in college. A visit from a California-based suitor changed the course of her life. She fell in love, married, and moved to the Bay Area to start fresh.

When her two children were young and family support was an ocean away, Rania needed work that could accommodate school pickups and unpredictable days. She chose to become a hairstylist, a decision that eventually led to a business of her own.

After roughly 12 years in a busy salon, Rania felt the pull toward independence. She searched for months for the right space without success and eventually set the idea aside. Then, one afternoon, her husband announced that he had found it. They drove from Clayton to Moraga, where he parked in front of a small storefront and pointed.

Her first reaction was skepticism. It was far, it was compact, and managing a household, school schedules, and a new business seemed like too much. He told her to trust him. She did.

"I trusted him, and I'm glad I did. This was the best idea ever," Rania reflects. "Everything has gone smoothly since then."

When COVID arrived, Glam Palace weathered it as many small businesses did, with difficulty and uncertainty. *What helped carry Rania through was the Moraga community itself.* She describes it as a place where people know one another,



Rania Atout

support local businesses, and treat each other with genuine respect.

After the pandemic, the salon found new momentum. Clients who had grown wary of crowded spaces were drawn to exactly what Glam Palace had always offered: a two-chair salon with focused, one-on-one attention and no sense of being rushed through a revolving door.

That intimacy is central to Rania's work. She brings 20 years of experience to every appointment, along with a cutting and styling approach she has developed over time. She uses professional-grade products and gives each client her full attention from start to finish.

Her specialty in curly hair is both personal and professional. Because she has curly hair herself, she understands the texture firsthand. For new curly-haired clients, Rania goes well beyond the cut, offering guidance on washing, styling, product selection, and a home routine that is practical and easy to maintain. Her goal is for clients to leave not only with great hair, but also with the knowledge and confidence to care for it themselves.

Glam Palace offers a full range of hair services, including *cuts, color, balayage, keratin treatments, and specialty curly cuts using the DevaCurl method.* Rania chose the salon's name with intention: She wants every person who walks through the door to feel like a queen.



From Worms to Robotics: Building Moraga's Next Generation of Scientists

MEF-funded science labs give elementary students a hands-on start that carries through high school

THANKS TO THE MORAGA EDUCATION FOUNDATION FOR SPONSORING THE LEARNING & EDUCATION SECTION.

Once a week at Camino Pablo, Los Perales, and Rheem, students leave their regular classrooms and head to a room that looks a little different: safety goggles, specimens to examine, and a credentialed science teacher waiting with the day's investigation. For the past four years, each of Moraga's elementary schools has had its



A Kindergartener at Camino Pablo learning about worms

own dedicated science lab, one of the programs made possible by your investment in the Moraga Education Foundation (MEF).

"The Moraga School District is proud to support continuity of instruction for science from elementary through middle school," said Dr. Julie Parks, Superintendent of the Moraga School District. "Our science teachers on special assignment use dedicated science lab classrooms to enrich science learning. With this focused approach to science, we are able to ensure that students are getting exposure to the Next Generation Science Standards and are prepared for the opportunities in high school and beyond."

In the lab, students learn by doing. During a recent Pollinator Unit, they tested honey samples, designed their own "super bee" hybrids, built hand-held pollinator tools, and dissected lilies to study plant anatomy. Lessons also build on each other over time: students first meet worms in kindergarten, and by fifth grade, they return to the topic with a hands-on dissection, analyzing structure and function and learning why worms are considered "ecosystem engineers."

Teachers also connect lessons to the wider world. When studying water, students learn that only 3% of Earth's water is drinkable, then consider what they could do about it and how science might one day help people use ocean water.

"Science becomes meaningful when students see how it impacts and relates to their world," said Millie Tang, elementary science teacher. "Every investigation helps our students see that science is not just a subject, but a way to understand, protect, and improve our world."

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At Joaquin Moraga Intermediate, students continue with science in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade and can explore STEM electives such as Environmental Science & Sustainability, Magic of Electrons, Design & Modeling, Coding, and Robotics.

By the time they reach Campolindo, students can follow their curiosity wherever it leads. Beyond the core science sequence, which runs through AP Biology, AP Chemistry, and AP Physics, Campo offers Biotechnology, Human Anatomy and Physiology, AP Computer Science, Introduction to Engineering Design, Computer Integrated Manufacturing, Wood Tech & Engineering, and Automotive Engineering. Every student gets a strong foundation, and those who want to go deeper have a clear path to do so.

Your investment in MEF reaches every step of that path. This year, MEF Grants will fund science instructors and lab supplies for the elementary schools; science lab supplies and STEM electives at JM; and additional class sections, professional development, supplies, technology, and equipment for science and engineering classes at Campolindo.

For the students in goggles dissecting a lily today, that weekly lab may be the first step on a path that leads to a biotech lab at Campo, an engineering design course, or a career that hasn't been invented yet.

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Fast on His Feet BIG ON HEART

Campolindo senior Clark Gregory has helped lead his cross-country team to back-to-back state championships while building friendships, serving his community and preparing to take his running career to UC San Diego.

BY CHRISTINE CAMP, THANKS TO MORAGA ROYALE FOR SPONSORING THE AMAZING ATHLETES SECTION!

This **Campolindo** High School senior, **Clark Gregory**, has spent four years developing as a cross-country and track athlete, but some of his most meaningful strides have come off the course, through friendships, leadership, scholastics, and a growing commitment to giving back.

Clark has been part of Campo's boys cross-country team during two consecutive state championship seasons, 2024 and 2025, under coach Chuck Woolridge. The program's previous



Clark & Team

state title came in 2019, making the back-to-back victories especially meaningful.

"It's awesome," Clark said of winning alongside his teammates. The team's goal this season is to return to the top and, hopefully, qualify for nationals.

Ask Clark what makes the program special, and his answer goes beyond the trophies and miles.

Campo's running program demands hard work from athletes of every ability, he explained. The shared experience of challenging workouts and steady improvement creates bonds that extend well beyond the season.

Clark, who grew up in Lafayette and attended Stanley Middle School, found himself building an entirely new circle of friends when he joined Campo. Today, many of his closest relationships are with teammates from Moraga, that he might never have met otherwise.

"It's not just the people on the cross-country team," he said. "I've found a great broader community through running."

That community has become a powerful force in another area of his life: **Service**.

A member of **Scouts BSA Troop 200** and **co-president of Campo's Interact Club**, Gregory recently completed the major project required for his *Eagle Scout* rank. After organizing a bake sale at Orinda Community Park that raised more than



\$650, along with nearly \$1,000 in additional donations, he brought together fellow students, scouts and church members to assemble more than 200 care bags for people experiencing homelessness.

The bags were delivered to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Oakland for distribution throughout Alameda County.

For Clark, the project represented the culmination of years of scouting and an opportunity to put leadership skills into action for the benefit of others.

It's also a reflection of the spirit he has found among his fellow runners. Several members of Campo's cross-country team serve alongside him in **Rotary's Interact**, where students are finding ways to carry their teamwork beyond athletics and into the wider community. Gregory is also co-president of the **Mandarin club** at Campo and participates/attends speech competitions.

And his next chapter is already taking shape. He has committed to the **University of California, San Diego**, where he will continue his running career at the collegiate level.

He's excited about the opportunity, but there's still unfinished business at Campo. With one final high school season ahead, he is focused on making the most of every race, every workout and every moment with the teammates who have helped shape his journey.

For this remarkable young athlete and student, the greatest victories may be the ones that continue long after the finish line.



Clark Gregory and Parents

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Lamorinda Village Auxiliary's 3rd Annual Event - A Signature Success

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Get ready to raise a glass for a great cause! The **Lamorinda Village Auxiliary** is excited to invite our friends and neighbors to the 3rd Annual Sip & Savor Lamorinda - an evening bursting with fine wines, craft beers, small-batch spirits, mouthwatering local bites, and a silent auction packed with irresistible finds, all in support of *Lamorinda Village*. Last year's event drew more than 200 attendees and generated substantial funding for the organization.

Founded in 2015, Lamorinda Village is a nonprofit, community-based organization serving older residents by offering healthy aging programs and classes, fostering connection through happy hours, weekly coffee socials, and educational events, and supporting independence through



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transportation, grocery shopping, computer help, and minor home repairs.

This year's **Sip & Savor Lamorinda** is **Friday, November 6, 2026, 5:00 – 7:30 PM at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 Saint Mary's Road**. Tickets are \$80 (\$70 for Lamorinda Village Members).

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BY SHIVAUN WRAITH



One of the best compliments I receive from clients is that I don't tell them what to do. I help them grow confident in their own design style.

Maybe it comes from my years as a first-grade teacher in my twenties, from guiding my sons as they found their voices, or perhaps it's simply my nature. I've never been the type to dictate. Instead, I like to guide, listen, and encourage.

A good designer allows each client's home to have its own personality, bringing their stories forward in their spaces. A home should never feel as if it were pulled straight from a photo. It should feel lived in, personal, and reflective of the people inside it.

GUIDING, NOT DICTATING

Clients often arrive with a mix of excitement and hesitation. They know what they're drawn to, but years of scrolling through Pinterest or watching design shows have convinced them there's a "right" and "wrong" way to decorate. My job is not to hand down rules, but to nurture confidence.

Sometimes that means encouraging a client to trust their instincts about a bold color they've always loved. Other times, it's helping them see that the quirky heirloom table they thought was out of place is actually the piece that makes the room sing.

DESIGN AS STORYTELLING

Every client brings a story: their history, travels, family traditions, and the small rituals that shape their days. A good designer listens for these threads and weaves them into the home.

That's why no two projects of mine ever look the same. One client's living room might echo the golden hills of Moraga in August, while another's kitchen reflects the memory of a grandmother's blue-and-white china. Materials, colors, and shapes become more than design choices. They become a language for telling the client's story.

When a home reflects the people inside it, guests feel it. They may not know why the space feels so warm or so "right," but it's because the story has been honored. That's what makes a house more than beautiful. It makes it meaningful.

BEYOND TRENDS: FINDING THE TIMELESS

Today, design can feel cookie-cutter, driven by the latest Pinterest board or Instagram trend. Over the years, I've watched styles move from industrial to greige, that endless gray-beige era, to mid-century modern and now back toward tradition.

Trends can be fun, but they're fleeting. What lasts is the feeling of home, and that doesn't come from copying a style. It comes from blending timeless design with pieces that matter to you. My role is to help clients strike that balance, creating enduring spaces while embracing the colors, textures, and quirks they truly love.

THE CONFIDENCE TO CALL IT YOUR OWN

In the end, design is not about perfection. It's about connection. A good home feels like its owners. It carries their stories, reflects their personalities, and supports the life they want to live.

If my clients walk away feeling confident in their style and can look around their home and say, "This feels like us," then I know I've done my job. The real beauty of design isn't about me. It's about them.



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Gettysburg and Being Thankful

BY MIKE FRAZIER

Eight score and three years ago, a brief message was delivered on a battlefield. There wasn't much in the way of expectations. On November 19, 1863, roughly 15,000 people came to a town called Gettysburg in southern Pennsylvania to dedicate a national cemetery. Nobody expected the significance of the moment.

President Lincoln was invited to share "a few appropriate remarks." He wasn't even the keynote speaker that day. That was Edward Everett, who spoke for more than two hours. Few people today talk about him. Our 16th president's speech was less than two minutes. It was 272 words. But those 100 seconds changed our nation's future. It definitely took a while for the significance of that speech to set in. Some critics cast aside the Gettysburg Address as a partisan Republican message, calling it "ludicrous" and "silly." Over time, people recognized the brilliance of Lincoln's message, marking it as perhaps the most important speech an American president has delivered.

The power and genius of the Gettysburg Address come from its linkage of the sacrifice made by those Union soldiers and all those who would fall in future battles to the promise of the revolutionary idea of America captured in the Declaration of Independence. It was the meaning of the American experiment. It also hinted at the consequences if it failed.

Abraham Lincoln called on the American people to dedicate themselves so that these United States, never more divided, "shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from

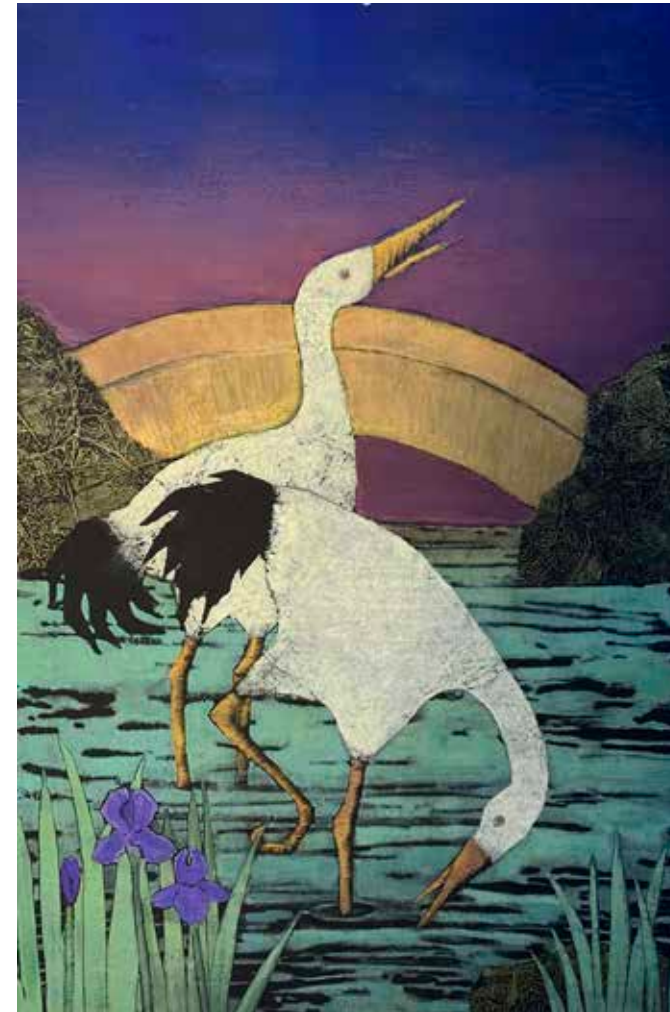
the earth." It's a timeless message from perhaps our greatest president, intentionally designed to survive the test of time.

These United States are considered young by every measure around the world. The roots run through Pennsylvania, under Independence Hall, all the way up to a rock in Massachusetts. The Pilgrims arrived in Plymouth in 1620 without enough supplies. Half of the colony died that winter, as it was too late to plant crops. In the spring of 1621, members of the local Wampanoag tribe taught the colonists how to grow corn and vegetables. That fall, the colonists and the Wampanoag celebrated a three-day harvest, which accounted for the first Thanksgiving. A tradition was born.

It's the togetherness of our nation's history that makes us special.

A month and a half before giving the Gettysburg Address, President Lincoln proclaimed a national day of giving thanks on Thursday, November 26, 1863, in the middle of the Civil War. The holiday was honored by every president thereafter, usually on the last Thursday in November. During the Great Depression, President Roosevelt attempted to extend the holiday shopping season and boost economic activity by moving the date one week earlier. Not all states complied. In 1941, Congress established the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day, effective in 1942. That's where it's been ever since.

It's the togetherness of our nation's history that makes us special. Coming together for a greater cause. That was Lincoln's message. The Wampanoag understood it. The Pilgrims cherished it and paid it forward in tradition. Giving thanks to those you love, appreciate and respect is as important as anything. I'm so thankful for all those who lived and gave their lives for a better tomorrow. We have benefited greatly.



Evening Peace

PAT PROSEK A Lifelong Love of Birds, Art & Printmaking

PAT PROSEK'S LOVE OF ART began during childhood summers spent on an island along the Jersey Shore. Born and educated in Philadelphia, Pat was surrounded by coastal waters, marshes, birds and nature. At just seven years old, she began working at the local Foundation of the Arts, where she went on location to sketch and paint with watercolors.

Those early experiences left a lasting impression. Pat remembers drawing freely, without worrying about whether her work was "good enough." Sometimes she wishes she could recapture that same confidence and lack of self-consciousness today.

Her favorite subjects included the birds inhabiting the marshes and waters near her summer home, especially egrets and cranes. She spent hours observing and drawing them, never imagining that these graceful creatures would become a recurring theme throughout her artistic life.

Today, Pat is a printmaker, a medium she has practiced for half her life. She works primarily with commercial printmaking inks and specialized paper, sometimes incorporating rice paper, foil paper and textiles. She has her own printing press and a studio aptly named "*Under Pressure*," since pressure is essential to the process.

Each print is created by hand, and Pat is quick to point out that printmaking is a fine art, not an automatic reproduction process. "Don't think Xerox," she says with a smile.

Much of Pat's work combines two important influences: the peaceful coastal landscapes of her childhood and her mother's extensive collection of Far Eastern art. Pat studied art from the Ming and Qing dynasties and became fascinated by their designs, water imagery and screens. Combining those influences with her lifelong love of water birds, she developed her own interpretation of Far Eastern art.

The crane remains one of her favorite subjects. She is drawn to its elegant form and graceful lines, as well as its symbolism in ancient Chinese culture, where it represents purity, grace and immortality.

Pat once challenged herself to create a screen measuring four feet wide and two and a half feet high, inspired by screens from the Qing dynasty. The project required considerable patience, precision and bookbinding skills. She completed it successfully, although the experience also helped her recognize some of her physical limits as an artist.

After moving to California in the late 1980s, Pat became increasingly interested in environmentally friendly printmaking. Traditional methods can involve hazardous chemicals, so she sought safer alternatives, including solar plates that use sunlight rather than toxic acids to create printing plates.

Pat has also taught printmaking, encouraging students to bring their own ideas and perspectives to the process. She believes everyone who truly wants to learn has something unique to contribute, and she enjoys learning from her students as much as teaching them.

Pat, her husband and their three daughters moved to Lafayette in the late 1980s, drawn by its unique combination of rural and urban life. Today, she is a member of Valley Art Gallery in Walnut Creek, **Moraga Art Gallery** and Studio 55 in Martinez.

After all these years, Pat has no regrets about becoming a printmaker. Why did she choose the medium in the first place? With a laugh, she offers a wonderfully simple explanation: "I had a crush on my printmaking teacher in college."



The artist Pat Prosek

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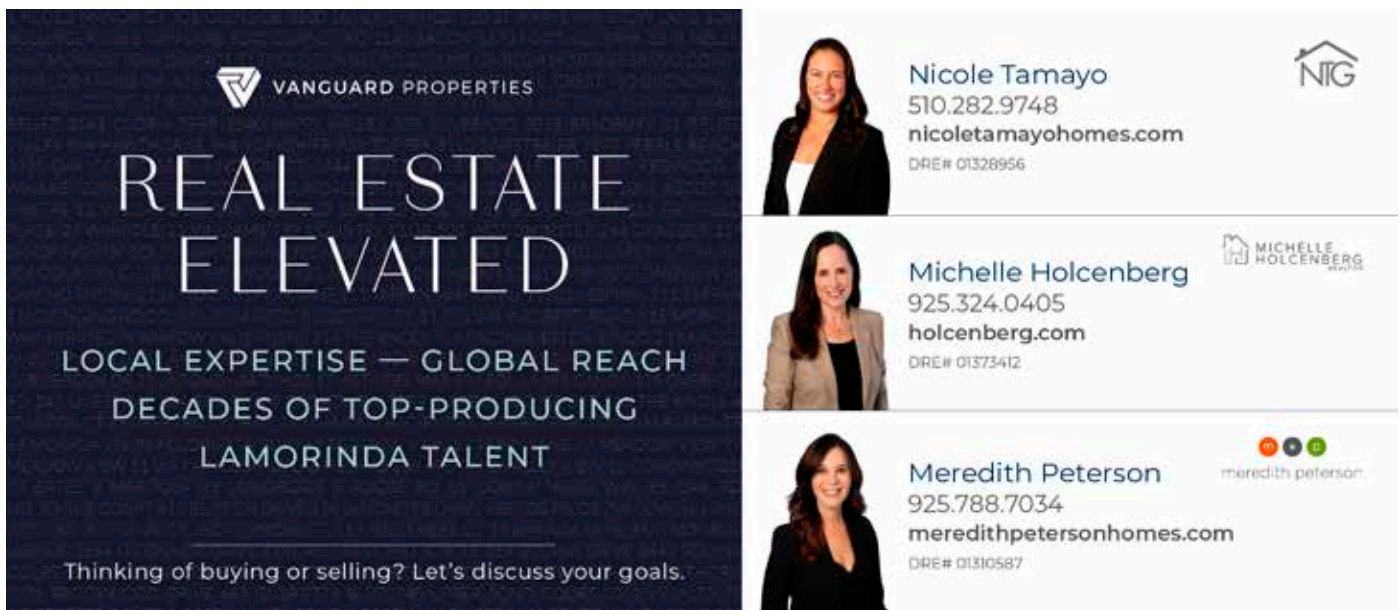
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