Local happenings

Family Art Day
- Family Art Day: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. April 25, Shafter Arts Center, 1215 Highland Lane, Walnut Creek. Interactive arts, outdoor events, youth art workshops, lunch for sale at taco truck. 925-943-5846.

Blood drive
- Temple Isaiah blood drive: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. April 26, Temple Isaiah, 490 Rio Vista Road, Lafayette. In honor of Temple member Naomi Sokeren, Josh Coleman, a Temple Religious School EdArt and teacher. Appointments: email Temple Isaiah at sjmodenessi@bayareanewsgroup.com.

Consignment sale
- Nursery and Moose consignment sale: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. April 27-28, 1475 Creekside Drive, Walnut Creek. Bag, gently used clothing for mom, kids, teens, furniture, accessories. www.eastbayconsignmentsales.com.

Line dance class
- Beginning line dancing: 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday April 29 May 27, 325 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Dance free to reflect the interest. All of call $43. Registration: 925-943-8858, reservations@WalnutCreekRec.org.

Garden tours
- Orinda in Bloom: Tour five Orinda gardens, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. May 7-8, Orinda Country Club lunch. $50, Orinda in Bloom garden party evening with wine, hors d'oeuvres, music, garden tour 5-7 p.m. $25 extra. Pick-up/buses. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Orinda Country Club. 915 Camino Sobrante, at Casa Serena for garden party. Benefits Orinda Garden Club community projects. Orinda Camino Public Medien Restoration Project. online.tours.org.

- Through the Garden Gate: Moraga Junior Women's Club self-guided tour of five Lomita garden owners, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. May 3, rain or shine. $35 at www.moragajw.org. From members, or across the way in Moraga, McDonnell Nursery in Orinda. Orchard Nursery in Lafayette, (cash/check). Gourmet box lunches provided $30, Benefits Centro Costa Coast Crisis Center.

Church rummage sale
- Church rummage sale: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. April 25-26, Lafayette United Methodist Church, 955 Moraga Road.

Cancer awareness run
- Esophageal cancer awareness 5K run/walk: 7 a.m. registration, 8:30 a.m. run/walk April 25, Heather Farm Park, 201 N. San Carlos Drive, Walnut Creek. Course on paved paths, www.active.com/walnut-creek-ca/running/distance-running-race/5K-run-for-the-health-of-it-2015.

Concerts slated
- Master Artists concert: 10:30 a.m. April 24, Contra Costa Performing Arts Society.
- Contra Costa Performing Arts Society Founder's Concert: 7 p.m. April 3, AFSCME Recreation Center, Free, Both at state Presbyterian Church, 2120 Trace Way Blvd, Walnut Creek. www.ccpas.org.

Special needs
- Special needs resource fair: 10:30-1:30 p.m. April 30, Lafayette Library & Learning Center Community Hall, 2602 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Learn helpful interventions, therapies, support.

Piling up victories

Enjoying the role

Arts & Leisure: A man, 93, enjoys his role as a model for artists’ sessions at Lafayette Studio.

In Orinda

No tax break for Wright house

Officials reject request; greenlight historic landmark status for Wright-designed home

By Jennifer Modenessi
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ORINDA — Lawmakers have rejected a request to grant the owner of the county’s only Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home a $30,000 yearly tax break following a decision to designate the house as a local historic landmark.

The City Council unanimously turned down a request this week made by Piedmont resident Gerald Shmavonian to enter into an agreement that would reduce property taxes on the 4,100-square-foot house known as “The Buchler House” from $80,000 to $8,800 per year. The total tax revenue loss to the city, the county, the funds

Saint Mary’s College

AN ‘ODYSSEY’

During a three-day marathon reading of Homer’s classic, “The Odyssey,” Matthew Zapruder, poet and professor at Saint Mary’s College, continues the reading with book 8 from a podium set up in front of the Di Santa statue and chapel on the Moraga campus. The idea was to celebrate the work in the manner it was appreciated roughly 3,000 years ago, told the before an audience. About 30 readers, mostly faculty members, including nationally known poets Brenda Hillman and Zapruder, continued reading between two and four hours each day. It was part of an effort to make classic books, part of Saint Mary’s Collegiate Seminar, more accessible to students.

Only NoCal location

Green light alert for drivers

Walnut Creek’s new app links smartphones to traffic signals

By Andrew McGall
amcgall@bayareanewsgroup.com
WALNUT CREEK — Drivers on the city’s extended commute routes can join in the race to the digital future with a new app that will link their smartphones to traffic signals, giving them an alert when the green light is about to shine.

The free app announced Thursday morning will work with all 300 of the city’s traffic lights, which are linked to a city traffic control center.

“It is a great first step in opening our roadways to technology that will make our streets safer in the future,” said Mayor Bob Simmons.

A few seconds before a red traffic light changes, Enlighten will chime to reflexive drivers on driving, perhaps drawing them back from stopping coffee, doing their makeup or inappropriately censoring their cell phones. The Enlighten app is available for Android and iPhone users.

The automatic alert conforms to laws against using a cell phone while driving. City leaders say they hope the technology will

Honored at May 16 event

Crossley is Moraga’s 2015 ‘citizen’

Former Town Council member with long history of volunteerism

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