

# Marin Independent Journal



## SOCCER REUNION

PLUS SPORTS B1



## BREAST CANCER MONTH FOCUSES ON EARLY DETECTION

PLUS LIFE B1

TOP STORY: EXEMPTION REQUIRED

# Peet's faces hurdle in Sausalito

### Chain coffee shop needs special council OK to open on waterfront

By Mark Prado  
Marin Independent Journal

A controversy is brewing in Sausalito over a proposed Peet's Coffee & Tea outlet along the city's wa-

terfront.

Last week the plan for a Peet's shop at 1250 Bridge-way received approval from the Planning Commission. Normally, that would be

enough to allow the Emeryville-based chain to swing open its doors and start serving coffee to its faithful throngs of java junkies.

But because the proposed site is along the city's waterfront, and because Peet's is considered a "formula" operation — or

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Poll: Should Sausalito allow Peet's Coffee & Tea to locate on the waterfront? Vote online.

chain — under city regulations the proposed coffee shop requires an amendment to the Sausalito

zoning code. That means Peet's will have to receive approval from the City Council next month if it is to begin serving its brew and selling coffee beans.

"I think the bigger issue here is not whether this is a good business, but

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### MARIN NEWS

## CORTE MADERA FIGHTS ALGAE IN LAGOON



Corte Madera officials are trying to figure out what to do about a lagoon in town that residents have been complaining about for years. **A3**

## SAN ANSELMO HOPES FOR PUBLIC CENTER

The San Anselmo Town Council has a new idea of where to build a long-sought community center. **A2**

### MARIN SPORTS B7

## JAPAN'S SOEDA WINS AT TIBURON

Japan's Go Soeda, relying on steady play, won the singles championship match Sunday at the \$50,000 RBS Tiburon Challenger men's pro tennis tournament.

### MARIN LIFE B2

## ABANDONED ROAD NOW POPULAR SPOT

The paved portion of Old Lucas Valley Road abandoned when Lucas Valley Road was straightened is now a popular section of the moderately strenuous loop.

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Mary Jane Jonas Epidendio, Gary Earl Hoffman

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### WEATHER B10

Today: Mostly cloudy, chance of showers.



### UNVEILING IN ROSS



# GREEN COULD LEAD TO PLATINUM



## Branson shoots for top federal certification after \$18 million renovation

By Brent Ainsworth  
Marin Independent Journal

**A**FTER ABOUT seven years of planning and 15 months of construction, the Branson School in Ross is unveiling state-of-the-art "green" buildings this week that could lead to the highest rating for sustainable design.

The private high school, which dates to 1920, will show off its new Student Commons, Fine Arts Complex and Tallant Science Center with a private grand opening Thursday evening for the Branson community. The buildings are on track for the highest Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification by the U.S. Green Building Council, although that certification — platinum — won't be known until early next year.

Woody Price, Branson's head of school, said the buildings cost \$13 million and the grand total, with other campus improvements and various fees added, will be closer to \$18 million. The green aspects of the project have provided an extra boost of pride as the ribbon-cutting approaches, he said.

"There's a spring in the step of the faculty and kids because everything was done thoughtfully

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LJ photos/Frankie Frost

Branson School students in Ross gather in and around the Student Commons building (top and center), the 7,550-square-foot crown jewel of the project with its dining hall, student lounge and college counseling office. Above, chef Richard Bartlett stirs up lunch for students in the building, while at right, students practice in the music room at the 3,000-square-foot Fine Arts Center, which also features a sculpture studio and digital media lab.



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# BRANSON: School unveils 'state of the art' green buildings

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with an eye toward environmental sustainability," he said. "There's a real sense of pride that we've done something not just good for us but that it was just good to do, sort of a model ethical practice. We feel really good about the mood on campus."

Much credit is being given to Andrew Pauley, Branson's director of finance and operations. A former construction company owner who was new to Marin, Pauley was hired as the project manager about 18 months ago and tapped into his 35 years of experience to steer the campaign. In July, he was given a more permanent post at Branson upon the retirement of business manager Wayne Taylor.

"I'm lucky to be here," Pauley said. "Everybody I've worked with has been great, and it's a wonderful feeling to see these buildings open. People have been very responsive to all the hard work we've done."

Price said there was a planning process of five to seven years and a three-year fundraising effort. The campaign, called Building Upon Excellence, raised more than \$20 million. Pauley said 80 percent of that came from a private bond issue and will be paid off over time.

Branson has 320 students and tuition for 2009-10 is \$32,275.

The Student Commons is

the crown jewel of the project. The new 7,550-square-foot building was built in a spot formerly known simply as the Glen. It has a dining hall, a student lounge and a college counseling office.

The 3,000-square-foot Fine Arts Center has a music room, ceramics and sculpture studio and a digital media lab. The building forms a courtyard around an oak tree for outdoor performances.

The Tallant Science Center is a 6,000-square-foot remodel of the old science building. It has science labs, prep spaces and storage rooms.

"Outside it looks exactly the same, but inside the facility is so much more spacious," said Kathy Soave, science department chairwoman. "We have all these sinks and space to do our lab work. Now we have room for all our supplies and we can carry on our ongoing experiments. We're pretty thrilled."

In addition to the three buildings, the campus has new fiber-optic cables, seismic upgrades, low-flow plumbing fixtures, waterless urinals, native landscaping that requires irrigation needs, a living roof and new pavement on campus roads widened for increased safety.

Photovoltaic panels will generate about 60 percent of the power for the Student Commons. Panels on the gymnasium roof will help power the science center, and a system on

the lower quad will provide 80 percent of the power in four other buildings once it comes online in about a month, Pauley said.

There is no air conditioning on campus; natural ventilation will be blown through buildings using ultra-efficient, low-speed 8-and-a-half-foot fans made by a company called Big Ass Fans.

The construction materials were 75 percent recycled, and half the wood came from sustainable forests.

A power line that fed about 13 homes above the Branson campus ran right through the Glen, so it was moved underground to make room for the Student Commons.

Achieving LEED platinum status has been Pauley's goal, and he is confident that enough "green" points will be accumulated to push the project over the gold hump to the highest rating.

"We would be one of the first schools to be platinum-certified since they started a separate schools category in 2007," he said.

In the foyer of the science building, students will be able to use touchscreen technology to see streaming data on energy and water use around the campus. "I think they'll be interested to see it when power will be sent back to the (statewide) grid," Pauley said.

Shelby Ziesing, a senior

at Branson, is co-president of the Environmental Action Committee on campus. The student group has grown significantly in the past year (up to about 25 teens) and has been privy to all the building plans during the construction phase. She said the dining hall at the new student center is "probably the most beautiful building I've ever seen. It's kind of become the hub of campus that we didn't have before."

Ziesing said the technical aspects of construction have been intriguing, especially students who are into science. Underground and surface collection systems to catch rainwater were exciting to see during Tuesday's storms, she said.

"It was really wild to see the underground well fill up and know that it was runoff that would have just gone right into the creek," she said. "Just to know that the water will be drawn back into the soil when there isn't precipitation is part of the sustainable model we have. It's pretty awesome."

Pauley said the town of Ross and school neighbors showed extraordinary patience with just a few glitches.

"The fact that we did all this in 15 months is something we're very proud about," he said. "It minimized the inconvenience for our neighbors. It was an intense summer up here."

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