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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 can be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Miramonte Student Speaker Wins Again

Submitted by Fred George

Miramonte High School senior Alexandra Glaser took first place during the third round of the Lions' Student Speakers Contest March 22 in Concord. She will move on to the District Level Contest scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday, April 22 at the Rossmoor Hillside Clubhouse, Las Trampas Room, where she has the potential of winning \$4,500 in

scholarship money. There are two more levels after the District Level, where another \$16,000 will be awarded. The topic is "What can the America of yesterday teach the America of today." Alexandra is sponsored by the Moraga Lions Club, and plans to go to George Washington University in Washington DC upon graduation.

Girl Scout Troop #30794 Gold Award Winners

Submitted by Irene Gessling



Madline Larson Photos provided



Alanna McCauley



Megan DeTrane



Tatiana Gessling

Four Campolindo High School seniors (Tatiana Gessling, Maddie Larson, Alanna McCauley and Megan DeTrane) recently earned Girl Scout's highest honor, the Gold Award. All four girls have been scouts since kindergarten in Moraga's Troop #30794, under the guidance of Troop Leader Laura McCauley, and completed requirements that developed leadership and culminated in an extensive service project that made a difference in their community.

Tatiana Gessling painted, organized, and created a check-out system at a library for Harbor House in Oakland, which provides opportunities to those with limited resources to become self-sufficient so they can reach their full potential. Alanna McCauley focused on the relationship between pollinators and our own human food supply. She grew 400-plus self-sowing native plant seedlings in biodegradable newspaper pots and distributed them to family

gardens throughout the Bay Area, and created and distributed an informative flyer that provided easy-to-complete steps to support pollinators. Megan DeTrane installed three raised garden beds, installed a garden pathway, and instructed a class of schoolchildren on gardening techniques at Harbor House Ministries in Oakland. The raised beds are to be used by both immigrant families who receive their services and schoolchildren who attend after-school programs there. Maddie Larson spent months of administrative and logistical work collecting new and gently used clothing, shoes and accessories for a Back to School Shop for disadvantaged youth in San Pablo. She was recognized by the Mayor and the Council for her efforts on behalf of the community's youth.

Girl Scouts of Northern California bestowed this rare, prestigious Gold Award to less than 180 young women last year.

SMC Student-Athletes Bring Sports Equipment, Experience to Peru

Unlike many college students who sought sun and fun during their spring break, 17 Saint Mary's College student-athletes packed donations of clothing, shoes, sports equipment, and school supplies and set off for Lima, Peru March 31 to work closely with local children as part of the Here for Kids International outreach program.

The program, which is headed by SMC faculty member and president of Here for Kids International Randy Farris, connects at-risk children from other countries with student-athletes from across the United States. Athletes are selected from a pool of qualifying candidates recommended by coaches from colleges and universities.

SMC volleyball player Lauren

Corp was joined by two fellow volleyball players (Missy White and Anna Schroeder), as well as 14 other student-athletes from Saint Mary's soccer, cross country, and lacrosse programs.

"This is not a class," Corp said. "The student-athletes received informational e-mails from Randy Farris, the individual who orchestrates this trip. Here For Kids International works with another organization called Kids Alive International. Kids Alive provides an education, nutritious meals, and medical care to more than 165 children in Peru."

Student-athletes helped run after-school activities (like sports) with kids ages 12-18 and worked on service projects within the community. This is the second year a group of student-

athletes from Saint Mary's traveled to Peru to work with this organization.

It was Corp's first time in Peru (or in South America for that matter). She travelled last January to the Kingdom of Tonga in the South Pacific for a class to teach some of the local villagers about sustainability, but also helped provide aid to villages that had been hit by tsunamis.

"I was excited to play with the kids and try to use the gifts that God has given me in order to help these children," Corp said. "I know that we were all looking to gain a little bit of perspective on this trip as well."

For information about Here for Kids, visit <http://hereforkids.bbnw.org>.
-J. Wake

2012 Eagle Scouts of Troop 204 Help Many

Submitted by Charlotte Holden



From left, back row: Joe Holden, Evan Groover, Justin Steuber; middle row: Gregory Bontemps, David Furtado, Harrison Naton, Kody Kiefer Wedell, Nathaniel Evaristo; front: Connor Tetzloff Photo provided

Lafayette Boy Scout Troop 204 will honor nine young men who achieved the Eagle Scout Award – the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America – April 28 at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church. The Eagle Scout Class of 2012 completed a variety of projects that benefited underprivileged children and disabled adults, beautifying parks, reaching out to our soldiers overseas and helping children in Africa.

Acalanes High School juniors Gregory Bontemps, Nathaniel Evaristo, Evan Groover, and Justin Steuber each completed a variety of projects that benefited the community: Bontemps planned and executed a week long summer day camp for the children of Garden Park Apartments in Pleasant Hill; Evaristo collected

thousands of individual sized items such as toiletries, food, personal items, books, and comfort items that were then packaged and sent to our troops overseas through the Blue Star Moms organization; Groover coordinated a drive to collect used musical instruments which were donated to benefit the underfunded music program at Westlake Middle School in Oakland; And Steuber collected unwanted bicycles, repaired them, and delivered 31 bikes to Trips for Kids, a Marin organization that takes inner city kids on bike excursions.

Campolindo High School juniors David Furtado, Joseph MacLeod Holden, and Harrison Naton worked diligently on projects as well: Furtado collected over 500 pairs of shoes and delivered them to

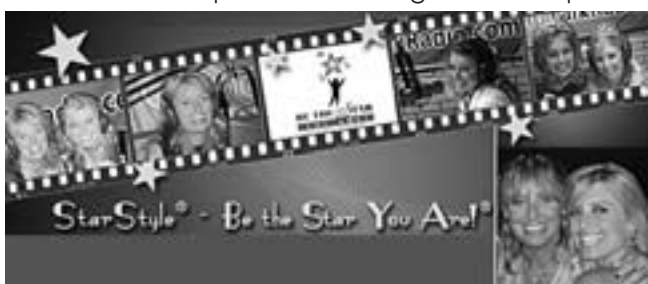
Mother of Peace Orphanage in Zimbabwe as part of the high school mission trip sponsored by Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church. MacLeod Holden coordinated a six-month-long collection campaign of used Lamorinda Soccer uniforms to donate to Fund-a-Field, a Bay Area organization run by high school students who yearly visit Africa, and provide impoverished kids with uniforms. And Naton built a fence at Diablo Foothills Regional Park in Walnut Creek to help to keep cars off of hiking and equestrians trails. This helps the rangers, who are constantly repairing the trails due to illegal off-road joy riders for their respective projects.

The nine scouts being honored (including San Ramon Valley High School junior Connor Tetzloff – who collected donated supplies to establish the production of organic dog treats for distribution and created a 26-page dog recipe book for George Miller Adult Services of Contra Costa ARC – and Monte Vista High School junior Kody Kiefer Wedell – who transformed a vacant hillside into a park-like setting at Alamo Elementary School in Alamo) have all been active in Troop 204 for at least five years. As part of becoming an Eagle Scout and particularly with their projects, each scout has had to clearly demonstrate leadership qualities and abilities.

Troop 204 has awarded this special honor to only 330 scouts since 1935.

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