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Two Local Students Head to National Geographic Bee State Finals



Samuel SooHoo, Orinda Intermediate School's geography bee winner
Photos provided



Adriana Derksen, Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School's geography bee winner

Orinda Intermediate School seventh-grader Samuel SooHoo and Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School sixth-grader Adriana Derksen qualified to represent their schools and participate at the state level of the National Geographic Bee, sponsored by Google and Plum Creek, to be held April 5 in Sacramento.

this year, with only the top 109 students in California advancing to the state level. The top 10 students overall will advance to the final rounds.

The state winner will receive \$100, the "Complete National Geographic" on DVD, and a trip to Washington, D.C. where he/she will represent California in the national finals at National Geographic headquarters May 20-22. The first-place national winner will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship and lifetime membership in the society.

After winning their individual school bee, the students took a qualifying test, which they submitted to the National Geographic Society. More than 2,000 schools competed

J. Wake

National Honors for Three Oakland Strokes Rowers

Submitted by Steve Johnson



From left, Elizabeth Pate, Caroline Carper and Matthew Coupin. Photo Provided

USRowing recently announced its Scholastic Honor Roll and three Oakland Strokes Rowers made the list. The US Rowing Scholastic Honor Roll recognizes high school seniors who have excelled in both academics and rowing. Applicants must be USRowing members, have rowed or coxed at least one year, and successfully competed at or above the league or regional level. Elizabeth

Pate and Matthew Coupin, both of Miramonte High School in Orinda were among the 55 student athletes designated. Caroline Carper who attends Alameda High School was one of 73 named in the Honorable Mention category. This fall, Pate will row on the women's lightweight team at Harvard University, Coupin will row men's heavyweight at MIT, and Carper will cox at Brown University.



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