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Local Student Wins Grand Prize

Art contest geared toward raising motor oil recycling awareness

Submitted by Helen Fischer



Rehem Elementary School fifth grader, Tawny Fischer, won the grand prize, an iPad and an appearance in the 2014 Oil Busters commercial for Cartoon Network and Nickelodeon for the Mr. Funnelhead Art Contest sponsored by the Contra Costa Clean Water Program. An award ceremony was held May 15. Entries were judged for messages, originality and creativity.

Photo and image provided

Band Including Lamorinda Residents Competes in "Oakland's Got Talent"

Submitted by Jennifer Duff



From left, Brave Ulysses band members Tjaard Van Loben Sels (Orinda), Chris Tuck (Martinez), Harrison Flynn (Martinez), Noah Baldwin (Moraga), Jared Cvetich (Walnut Creek) and Tyler Bach (Martinez). Photo provided

Noah Baldwin, a Moraga resident and junior at Oakland School for The Arts is the lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist for Brave Ulysses – one of 12 contestants competing in Oakland's Got Talent June 4 at the Fox Theater in Oakland. Tjaard Van Loben Sels, an Orinda resident who attends Orinda Intermediate School is the cello player for the band. Brave Ulysses has been a band for three years and also includes Harrison Flynn on lead guitar, Chris Tuck on bass, Tyler Bach on guitar and Jared Cvetich on drums. They will perform one of their original songs, "Sympathy," for the show. Brave Ulysses takes its name from the song by Cream, "Tales of Brave Ulysses" and is influenced by classic rock groups like Led Zeppelin, Cream and Rush while also drawing inspiration from '90s rock bands like Nirvana and Foo Fighters. They formed in January of 2011 and over the years have grown both as musicians and as people, they say, having played at festivals like The King of The County BBQ in Martinez, Fridays on The Main in downtown Martinez, and the Alameda County Fair, as well as at venues like Red House in Walnut Creek, The Vitus in Oakland, DNA Lounge in San Francisco, and the world famous Whisky a Go Go in LA. To learn more about Brave Ulysses, visit facebook.com/BraveUlysses13. Oakland's Got Talent is a fundraiser for Oakland School for the Arts as well as 51Oakland, a non-profit bringing music to schools in Oakland. To learn more about the event, visit oaklandsgottalent.org.

JM Students Learn 'Ins and Outs' of Differing Careers



Photo Cathy Dausman

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School students recently attended an informational session on news reporting as part of their school's career day. A variety of working professionals – from veterinarian to FBI agent, horse trainer to pilot (and a *Lamorinda Weekly* reporter) – spoke to students about their specific careers. C. Dausman

JM Debate Team Competes in National Championships

Submitted by Troy McAlpin



From left, Don Read, Sharon Yuan, Audrey Moore and Cassidy McAlpin. Photo provided

After placing second in the East Bay Debate League, Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School debate students Cassidy McAlpin (eighth grade), Audrey Moore (eighth grade) and Sharon Yuan (seventh grade), qualified to attend the Middle School Public Debate Program's National Championship held on Saturday, April 26 at Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, Calif. The teams participated in a series of five debates covering current topics such as banning tipping in the service industry, whether or not the war on poverty is a success or failure, whether "stand your ground" laws are more helpful or hurtful, the value of massive open online education courses and whether or not universities should divest from their fossil fuel company holdings. In a typical debate teams are prepared to argue for or against the topics and have only 20 minutes to prepare prior to the actual debate. The team is judged on timing, preparation, accuracy, presentation, quality and persuasiveness of their respective arguments. Accompanied by their debate teacher and coach, Don Read, the team won three of their five debates which placed them 32nd out of the top 88 teams in the nation.

Lafayette Elementary School Cool Cats 'Chill' After Poetry Slam

Submitted by Rosylyn Aragon Stenzel



Photo Rosylyn Aragon Stenzel

After an afternoon of reading poetry in the Beatnik Poetry slam, these cool cats from Mrs. Corcoran's fourth grade class at Lafayette Elementary School gave their best Beatnik poses for the camera. Next stop, City Lights Books.