

Burton Valley Raises Funds for Cancer-stricken Classmate

Submitted by Melinda Krigel



Team Mac Attack: Alex McLin with his fifth grade class and his teacher, Cathy Martinsen.

Alex McLin is a sports-loving, soon-to-be middle-schooler from Lafayette. His world changed dramatically recently when he was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer called osteosarcoma in his left femur.

In honor of Alex's battle with cancer, his fifth-grade classmates, teammates, teachers, coaches, family and friends (called Team Mac Attack) at Burton Valley Elementary decided to raise money to support oncology research and services at UCSF Benioff Chil-

dren's Hospital Oakland.

On June 9, Team Mac Attack presented a donation check to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland's Dr. Jennifer Michlitsch – Alex's oncologist – and Gwenn Lennox from the hospital's Foundation. To date, the team has raised almost \$15,000 in on behalf of their classmate as he undergoes treatment at the hospital. Family friends have offered to match all the funds raised when Team Mac Attack reaches \$20,000.

Troop 249 Honors New Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Riki Sorenson



From left: Michael Sorenson, Will Richardson and Andrew Johnston Photo Marci Nelson

Boy Scout Troop 249, based in Moraga, will recognize three new Eagle Scouts in achieving S=scouting's highest rank. Michael Sorenson, Will Richardson, and Andrew Johnston, all Orinda residents, will be honored on July 16th in their Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Scoutmaster Craig Anderson will present the awards.

Andrew Scott Johnston, a 2016 Miramonte graduate, along with Troop 249 and fellow classmates, prepared, assembled, and distributed emergency supply buckets to all classrooms at Miramonte High School.

William John Richardson, a member of Troop 249 since seventh grade, is also a 2016 Miramonte graduate, and will be attending UC Davis in the fall. Will, learning

carpentry and organizational skills, directed the building a food preparation table for the Today's Youth Matter Summer Camp in the Lake Tahoe area.

Michael Andrew Sorenson, who recruited both Will and Andrew to the Troop, also graduated Miramonte in June, the 12th Sorenson to do so. Michael will be attending UC San Diego in the fall. Michael and many members and leaders of Troop 249 trekked to the Sierras to construct a deck adjacent to the camp barbecue at Rucker Lake's Girls' Camp facility.

They acknowledge the support from dedicated Scout leaders, including Scoutmasters Jeff Logan, Wes Hilton and Craig Anderson.

Scouts Get Camino Pablo Students 'Walking and Rolling'

Submitted by Yuka Akera



From left: Aria Donthineni, Kalina Vangelov, Gracyn Roake, Catherine Peach, Kylie Williams, Maddie Maestre, Maggie Doolittle, Ellery Stankus, and Neha Ravikumar. Lola Mullins also completed this project, but is not pictured.

Junior Girl Scout Troop 30764 created and promoted their Bronze Award project entitled "Walk and Roll to School on Wednesdays" for Camino Pablo Elementary School to encourage exercise, reduce carbon footprints and traffic congestion, and to encourage community building.

They designed materials to advertise their project, and presented information to

students and staff, educating them about walking or riding their bikes to school on Wednesdays. The girls formed groups around the neighborhood so that children could walk or ride their bikes to school together. They also created a kit and presented it to the principal, so that the school can continue the program for years to come.

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

Lafayette Juniors Raise \$55,000 for Several Bay Area Charities

Submitted by Elizabeth Siamas



Lafayette Juniors present Youth Homes with \$25,000. From left: Shannon Venturini, Cathy Kauder, Beth Goldberg, Sheri Mascorro, and Joy Aitchison.

The Lafayette Juniors raised \$55,000 in the last 12 months for local nonprofit organizations. The funds were awarded on June 2 by the Lafayette Juniors in a special ceremony at the Lafayette Community Center to Youth Homes, Diablo Ballet, Lamorinda Spirit Van, and the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.

The Lafayette Juniors have a history of organizing fundraising events like the Rummage Sale in the fall and the Kitchen Tour in the spring to raise money for selected beneficiaries. This year the Juniors chose Youth Homes, an agency dedicated to serving traumatized foster children and young adults in the San Francisco Bay Area, as their major beneficiary. The Juniors donated \$25,000

to support the work Youth Homes has been doing since 1965. As the oldest, continually operating children's residential program in Contra Costa County, Youth Homes transforms the lives of young people through a comprehensive system of care that includes crisis shelters, community-based counseling, residential treatment homes, and private home placement.

The Lafayette Juniors also donated \$15,000 to Diablo Ballet's PEEK Outreach Program and \$7,500 each to Lamorinda Spirit Van and the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.

To obtain an application or learn more about the Lafayette Juniors, please visit www.lafayettejuniors.org.

Young Swimmers Hold Fundraising Swim-a-thon

Submitted by Will Nagle

Three Orinda Aquatics Swimmers are holding a fundraising Swim-a-thon on July 17 to benefit children in Zimbabwe.

Will Nagle, Max Cruz and Christian Markey are organizing the event, to be held at 11 a.m. at Soda Aquatic Center and benefits the J. F. Kapnek Trust Foundation. For only \$35, the foundation can feed, educate and provide health care for a child in Zimbabwe for an entire year. According to the foundation, children born in Zimbabwe have

a one-in-10 chance of not surviving to their 10th birthday. The swimmers say they want to improve these children's lives because no child should have to worry about their basic needs.

People can sign up to participate in the Swim-a-thon by emailing Will at willwillnagle@gmail.com. Participants will receive includes a tee-shirt, and there will be a pancake breakfast and games. Soda Aquatic Center is located at Campolindo High School.



Members of the Moraga Garden Club planted their own red, white and blue on the Fourth of July, as they decorated the sign with flags and the commemorative stone with flowers at Moraga Commons. Pictured are, from left: Edy Schwartz, Connie Coutts, Arun Saha, Ute Kelly and Penny Walwark. Photo submitted by Karin Biasotti

In Memory

Mark David Dahl

Mark David Dahl, 53, of Jamestown, Calif., passed away unexpectedly on June 22. He was born in Park Ridge, Illinois to Jeanne Dahl and the late Wesley Dahl.

Mark was raised in Moraga and attended Miramonte High School. He attended UC Santa Barbara and went on to career in sales. He enjoyed horseback riding and fishing. Dahl was preceded in death by his sister, Amy. He is survived by his mother, Jeanne; his brothers, Scott (Jane), Steve (Diane), and five nieces and nephews.

His family will celebrate his life with a private gathering in Vacaville.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.