

Girl Scouts Earn Bronze Award by Bucking Stereotypes

Submitted by Allison Curletto



From left, Sasha Krigel, Allison Curletto, Bettina Curletto, Ava Curletto, Andrey Cox, Dawn Manley and "Fire"

For the past year, Junior Girl Scout Troop 33544 of Lafayette has been learning a lot about the outdoors. While following their "Get Moving" Girl Scout journey, this group of fifth-grade girls from Happy Valley and Springhill schools decided something important: Girls don't get outdoors as much as they should.

With the distractions of electronics and the stereotype that real camping and hiking is tough and scary and is a better suited for boys, girls don't get out in nature and get dirty. Troop 33544 changed that for themselves while earning the highest award a Junior Girl Scout can receive, the Bronze Award, creating a model for other girls to follow.

The girls raised funds by selling nuts, magazines and cookies so they were able to buy their camping needs as well as their journey books and skills patches. They researched and planned two field trips and a two-day camping trip to Mt. Diablo State Park. They practiced setting up tents and cooking over a fire. They met with park rangers and learned about the local geology and

biology and even wrote a book detailing advice on camping and hiking spots as well as the fauna and flora of the park.

They became advocates for animals native to Mt. Diablo State Park and dedicated \$200 of their fundraising money to benefit the Alexander Lindsay Wildlife Experience, experts in helping local native animals in need.

By the end of their journey, they had earned their Animal Habitat, Digital Photography, Outdoor Cooking, Camping, and First Aid skills badges as well as all components of their "Get Moving" Journey and their certificate for their Bronze Award.

They celebrated in June with a trip to the Alexander Lindsay Wildlife Experience where Dawn Manley, director of Animal Encounters, arranged a private tour and encounter with "Fire," a red tailed hawk. The girls presented their \$200 gift to Manley and enjoyed a family picnic in Larkey Park.

A copy of their book is available to view through the Lafayette Service Unit of Girl Scouts.

Moraga Lions Award Pride Honors

Submitted by Dan Hagan

The Moraga Lions Club honored its annual Pride Awards winners recently. The recipients are featured in the photos below. Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School winners will be featured in our Sept. 21 issue.



Orinda Intermediate School: From left, parents Mark Swinton and Sydney Swinton, recipient Lorree Swinton, Orinda Intermediate School Principal Michael Randall, Dan Hagan of the Moraga Lions, recipient Mkalayna Chang and her father, Fred Chang.



St. Perpetua: From left, parent Mariela Gamboa, recipient James Jolin, Dan Hagan of the Moraga Lions, recipient Natalie Goodwin, her mother Kelly Goodwin, and teacher Hedi Schwarck.



Stanley Middle School: Back row, from left, Stanley staff Victoria Shegolan, Rachel Pledger, Tiffany Sullivan, Michele Murphy and Alyssa Reddam. Front row, from left, parents Peter Stelzer, Karen Hadler, recipient Kate Stelzer, Dan Hagan of the Moraga Lions, recipient Riley Richmond, Christina Rosefield and principal David Schrag.

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Builds Teardrop Trailer for Charity

Submitted by Thomas Black



Members of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary show the prototype of a custom-made teardrop trailer they are building from scratch.

Photo provided

The Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary put on their work gloves to construct a custom-made teardrop trailer.

When completed it will be raffled as a club fundraiser. The working prototype will debut Sept. 17-18 at the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival. The cabin of the finished product will be constructed of varnished sapele mahogany, with ash accents. Tickets, which may be purchased at the festival, are

\$20 each or six for \$100.

The club is known to many as producers of not one but two artisan-crafted canoes, both of which were huge successes as fundraisers. As with the canoes, trailer raffle proceeds will help support a variety of ongoing community-service programs, including Interfaith Housing, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties, Las Trampas and HOME team.

Lamorinda Village Receives \$7,500 Donation from DWM

Submitted by Anne Ornelas



From left, Anne Ornelas, executive director of Lamorinda Village, and Robert Jacques, senior vice president of wealth strategy at Destination Wealth Management.

Lamorinda Village, which allows senior Lamorinda residents to remain in their homes with independence, engagement with others, and access to services, was recently awarded \$7,500 grant by Destination Wealth Management.

"Lamorinda Village is a perfect match for our values," said DWM's Robert K. Jacques, senior vice president and partner, wealth strategy, in a July 14 award ceremony.

Launched in 2015 after several years of planning and research on the needs of local seniors, Lamorinda Village is a grassroots nonprofit membership organization that combines the efforts of its members, staff and volunteers to provide services such as trans-

portation, changing light bulbs, computer assistance, a handyman, garden help, pet sitters, and companionship. For larger and more extensive projects or jobs such as plumbing and electrical work, the Village offers referrals to screened companies and professionals. The Village also sponsors workshops, social activities, and educational events for members and guests from the community.

For more information about how Lamorinda Village serves seniors in Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda, go to the website at www.LamorindaVillage.org or contact them by email at info@LamorindaVillage.org.

KCMV Provides Backpacks to Monument Crisis Center

Submitted by Barry Behr



From left, Kiwanis members Sonny Tsuboi, Tim Freeman and Steve Woehleke stand in front of the Kiwanis banner and a table covered with backpacks full of school supplies.

Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley presented back-to-school backpacks to 30 at-risk and disadvantaged kindergarten through third graders whose families are registered clients of Monument Crisis Center.

The backpacks were filled with school supplies that the children will need during the new fall and spring term. Preparing these

well-supplied back packs is part of the ongoing support to the Monument Crisis Center that is provided throughout the year by Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley. For more information about Kiwanis' activities and community service, please visit the club's website at www.moragavalleykiwanis.org.

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.