

3 Lafayette Girl Scouts honored with prestigious Silver Award

Submitted by Julie Gladden



These three Lafayette Girl Scouts completed their Silver Award with a video for Canine Companions for Independence.

Lafayette eighth-graders Giovanna Fry, Sydney Rohrbough (Stanley Middle School) and Hayden Van Steyn (Athenian School) each completed their respective Sil-

ver Award. The Silver Award is the second highest award a Girl Scout can earn.

The girls put together an informational video for Canine Companions for Independence, an organization that provides assistance dogs for recipients at no charge. The video showed a day in the life with a canine companion.

The girls also made and sold dog toys to benefit the Canine Companions organization. Giovanna, Sydney and Hayden brought attention and gave much needed awareness for this organization that serves communities across the country.

New Eagle Scouts for Troop 237

Submitted by Dede Ramsey



Troop 237's newest Eagle Scouts, from left, Will Fehrstrom, Soren Faulkner, Adam Fahd, Diego Martell, Mark Presten, and Nicholas Kim

Members of Orinda Boy Scout Troop 237, Adam Fahd, Soren Faulkner, Will Fehrstrom, Nicholas Kim, Diego Martell and Mark Presten achieved Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout. Their Eagle Court of Honor celebrating their achievement will be held on June 11 at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. Scoutmaster Dan Lyons will present the awards to the scouts.

Fahd's Eagle Scout project aimed to help underprivileged children at St. Cornelius Catholic School in Richmond by collecting books for grade levels K-5. Faulkner helped to build "a monument more lasting than bronze," complete with inlaid Roman mosaic patio and two benches, which creates an outdoor community space for Latin Club members. Fehrstrom wanted to serve the homeless in our community by collecting, sorting,

packaging and distributing toiletry items for the upcoming winter months. For his Eagle Service Project, Kim partnered with the St. Vincent Day Home in West Oakland, leading efforts to design, construct and deliver a much-needed, large 6-door wood cabinet with shelves to hold books, supplies and toys. Martell, former Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 237, led the solicitation, organization and assembly of 23 comprehensive emergency preparedness kits for Mount Pleasant Elementary School in San Jose. Presten chose to benefit Children's Hospital Oakland, by collecting Legos, play-dough, character band aids and books to help ease the anxiousness of young patients, particularly longer-term patients.

For more information about Troop 237, visit www.troop237orinda.com.

Troop 30638 earns Silver Awards

Submitted by Yuka Akera



From left, Nancy Turtle (leader), Rina F., Beatriz S., Shelby M., Ava U., Gianna G., Sydney W., Amanda T., Jeannette Gravelyn (leader)

Some members of Campolindo ninth-grade Troop 30638 earned their Silver Award for their project, "Polystyrene Ban in Moraga School District." Emily M., Ava S., Aislinn W., and Alexandra Y. focused on the community issue of polystyrene (Styrofoam) use within the school district. Styrofoam is a carcinogen and can cause painful side effects due to chemical that leech into food and drink.

MSD buys lunches from various vendors, many of which are served in Styrofoam. The three elementary schools plus one middle school combine for 2,000 students. Over the course of a single year, literally tons of Styrofoam is used within the district. The negative impacts were presented to the school board, which was well received and the girls were asked to write out an official resolution. The ban was presented to the school board, which voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to ban Styrofoam. A month later, the

board implemented the ban. The girls saw how board meetings were run, and policies made, as well as learned that people are willing to help make the world a better place to live in.

Other members of Campolindo ninth-grade Troop 30638 earned their Silver Award for their project, "Multimedia Presentations for the Elderly." Lily Mae C. and Christine Z. created a multimedia presentation to show to their local retirement home. As the seniors do not travel outside often, they can become disconnected with the world. The presentations kept them up to date with present day news and tried to teach them new things. Meetings were initiated for discussions during the presentations by asking questions. One difficulty encountered was keeping the seniors engaged, as they often fell asleep. Showing pictures and videos they enjoyed seemed to help keep their attention.

Lamorinda Odyssey of the Mind Teams shine at World Finals

Submitted by Mary Pat McMahon



Front row, from left, Thomas Wang, Joseph Pak, Jordan Rodino, Tyler Akel, Beatrice Roberge, Sophia King, Nicholas Aiken, and Benjamin Wang. Back row, Jason Akel

The Moraga Rotary-sponsored Division 1 Odyssey of the Mind team finished fourth among 43 teams competing in Problem 4 - "Ready, Set, Balsa, Build" at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals held at Michigan State University in late May. The team, consisting of fifth-graders from Glorietta Elementary School and St. Perpetua School and coached by Jason Akel and Thomas Wang, was recognized as a top finisher at the World Finals awards ceremony. Over 850 teams from 15 countries competed at the World Finals, representing the best of thousands of teams that vied to go to the World Finals in each participating country.

Lamorinda was exceptionally represent-

ed at the World Finals with five area teams competing, each having earned a spot by placing first or second in their Problem and Division at the California State Competition in April. At the World Finals, all Lamorinda teams finished in the top 20, having competed against over 40 other teams in each Division and Problem:

- Div 1, Prob 4 Moraga Rotary (pictured) -- 4th Place
- Div 1, Prob 1 Glorietta Elementary -- 16th
- Div 2, Prob 2 Moraga Rotary -- 19th
- Div 3, Prob 3 Moraga Rotary -- 12th
- Div 3, Prob 4 Orinda Rotary -- 11th

For more information on Odyssey of the Mind, see www.odysseyofthemind.com.

Rotary gives \$5,000 for better Lamorinda emergency communications

Submitted by Gene Gottfried



Barbara Bontemps, acting President of the Rotary Club, delivers a check for \$5000 to Cathy Dausman, President of LARIG. Photo provided

A \$5,000 dollar Orinda Rotary Club donation will boost the effectiveness of wireless communications throughout the Lamorinda area.

The recipient is the Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group, an amateur radio club serving the community's event and emergency communication needs. The gift paid for a system of LARIG-built radio repeaters in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. These hilltop repeaters boost incoming signals from walkie-talkies and other radios and effectively overcome the losses caused by distance and hilly terrain. Each site has two repeater systems (each one with a radio receiver, transmitter, controller and antenna). One is for

amateur radio band frequencies, the other for Family Radio Service and General Mobile Radio Service frequencies.

LARIG and other ham radio operators, Community Emergency Response Team members and first responders will use these repeaters.

Now in its 68th year, the Rotary Club of Orinda is part of a worldwide network of 1.2 million members serving their local communities and collaborating on major international projects. To learn more about Rotary, visit <http://www.orindarotary.org/>. For LARIG, go to https://www.facebook.com/pg/K6ORI/about/?ref=page_internal.

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.

Submit stories to
storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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.