

Troop 249 honors three new Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Emily Larsen



From left: Grant Larsen, Ben DeLange, Kyle Davis

Photo provided

Boy Scout Troop 249 will honor three new Eagle Scouts for attaining Scouting's highest rank. Ben DeLange, a senior at Miramonte High School, Kyle Davis and Grant Larsen, both seniors at Campolindo High School, will be recognized in an Eagle Court of Honor held on Nov. 19. Scoutmaster Craig Anderson will present the awards.

For his Eagle Project, DeLange provided school kits for 50 children in a remote region of Guatemala. He organized a car wash to raise funds, then purchased and assembled the kits with his fellow Scouts, and finally delivered the kits to the school. DeLange loved meeting the director of the school and also the kids who were in need of basic supplies like pencils and notebooks to succeed in school.

With a challenge to do an Eagle Project that was both meaningful to him, and something that would help others, Davis chose to help provide a permanent and safe environ-

ment for kids to play basketball at the Bay Area Rescue Mission in Richmond. His project included the installation of a new in-ground basketball standard and court-side landscaping. This project was an opportunity to meld his love for basketball and his desire to impact the lives of others through his passion for the sport.

Larsen's Eagle Project was completed at Moraga Retreat Care Home, the place where his ailing grandfather lived after suffering a stroke. At the request of the Moraga Retreat Directors, Larsen designed and built a wheeled, raised planter box for the residents to enjoy. With the help of his fellow Troop 249 scouts, he also beautified the landscaping of the care home by planting bushes and mulching the grounds.

These young men are grateful for the dedication and support of their Troop 249 leaders.

MCC Senior Men's Golf Association raises over \$48K for food bank

Submitted by Gary Irwin



2017 Turkey Shoot winning golf team, from left: Craig Oden, Kathy Reaves, Darlene Martel, Dan Alipaz and Dennis Martel. Photo Gary Irwin

The fifth annual Turkey Shoot charity golf tournament held on Oct. 30 at the Moraga Country Club raised more than \$48,000 to benefit the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. This amount is about a 14 percent increase over the \$42,800 raised by this event in 2016, and the total amount raised for the Food Bank over the five years is almost \$168,000. It was hosted by the Senior Men's Golf Association, and was led by originator and chairman Doug Brown and his committee, and assisted by many SMGA members, Director of Golf Jason Woodworth, spouses, and friends.

The winners of the golf tournament were the team of Darlene and Dennis Martel, Dan Alipaz, Craig Oden, and Kathy Reaves, who each received gift cards for a turkey. A new Audi sedan, provided by Concord Audi, was displayed on the seventh tee as the prize for anyone making a hole-in-one, but it went unclaimed.

The 100 participating men and women golfers enjoyed coffee and freshly-baked pastries at morning registration, a box lunch, an open bar, and a delicious dinner. They

participated in the live and silent auctions, entered the raffle, sponsored a hole, generally underwrote the event, or just donated to the cause. MCC resident Craig Oden volunteered his skill as professional auctioneer, and he prompted a lot of spirited bidding for the live auction items and extra donations.

Food Bank Executive Director Larry Sly thanked the donors, participants, MCC staff, and organizers for their excellent work in raising so much money for the community. He remarked that the various food banks in northern California had just completed a "mutual aid" agreement this year, just in time for the Food Bank to provide backup food relief for victims of the recent Napa/Sonoma and other disastrous fires. The Food Bank has grown from 36,000 pounds of food distributed in their first year to more than 20 million pounds of food distributed last year, of which about half was fresh produce. Sly is active in state and national food banking organizations, and he received the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award from Sustainable Contra Costa.



These 2017 Turkey Shoot contestants tried to win the new Audi, from left: Steve Roath, Gary Irwin, Roy Elliott and Steve Oliver. Photo John Corona

New or used bikes needed for Cycle Recycle

Submitted by Bobbie Preston



Lafayette resident William Grace delivers bikes for refugees for No One Left Behind. Photo Yvonne Grace

For the 20th year, Moraga Residents Bobbie and Tom Preston will be holding the Cycle Recycle, collecting repairable bikes to be refurbished and given to charitable groups to distribute at Christmas. To date, over 3,150 bikes have been collected. This year the recipient organizations include Fire Victims in the North Bay; No One Left Be-

hind (which resettles Afghan refugees that worked for the U.S. Government in their native countries); Oakland International High School's; Earn-A-Bike program; Marsh Creek Detention Center (which repairs and provide bikes to Cambridge Community Center in Concord and other Contra Costa County charitable programs as Christmas gifts for low-income kids); and to Trips for Kids in Marin (which repairs bikes for their Christmas giveaway to children of needy families).

New and/or used bikes and trikes – in working order or repairable – or usable bike parts may be delivered to the side driveway of the Preston's home at 1307 Larch Avenue in Moraga throughout the month of November only. No skateboards or plastic bikes please; no need to call beforehand, but for more information contact Bobbie or Tom Preston at (925) 376-8474.

Swim-a-Thon nets over \$40K for firefighters and their families

Submitted by Michelle Bea



Pictured: Calvin Stoddard, Jacqueline Stoddard, Samuel Stoddard, Xavier Portet, Sylvie Portet, Johnny Bo-ca-bella, Sydney Scott, Nicholas Bea, Kelly Landers, Kyle Pe-ter-son, Marcus Es-car-zega, Katelyn Lu, Lily Yung, Casey Yung, Johnny Antman, Sam Antman, Logan Letulle and Ellie Letulle. Photos provided

Over 60 swimmers from Orinda's Meadow Swim and Tennis Club, young and old participated in a Swim-a-Thon fundraiser Friday, Nov. 3 in support of the firefighters and their families that lost their homes in the devastating fires (Go Fund a Hero: Sonoma Firefighters).

With Coach Kyle Peterson leading the charge, the swimmers came out on the rainy day and swam a whopping 4,854 laps, raising more than \$40,000 – all for an amazing cause. Meadow's "hostess with the mostess," social chair Emily Stoddard kept the swimmers fueled with hot cocoa, cider, popcorn and energy bars. Four members of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District came with their ambulance and fire truck to cheer on the swimmers in the afternoon.

The two youngest swimmers were minidolphins: Xavier Portet (age 5) and Sam Stoddard (age 4) swam 8 and 10 laps each. Kellie Williams and Sarah Cunningham tied for the most laps – each swam an amazing 200 laps (Paul Sagara came in close behind at 186); while Coach Kyle swam a total of 150 laps. A dedicated group of 11 & Up swimmers set out to beat Coach Kyle's total

and all swam 150 laps or more (John Williams, Nicholas Bea, Elizabeth Hua, Jewel Mendiola, and Mina Lim).



Xavier Portet



Participating swimmers included:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Ali Drasin | Gena Schwartz | Lily Yung | Reid Schwartz |
| Alison Stout | Iam Kim | Logan Letulle | Ryan Mak |
| Allison Sagara | Ian Kimball | Luke Sagara | Sadie Bond |
| Ann Elliott | Jackie Stoddard | Marcus Escarzega | Sam Antman |
| Ariel Drasin | Jake Bishop | Mia Kimball | Sam Stoddard |
| Ben Feldman | Jake Williams | Michelle Holcenberg | Sarah Cunningham |
| Calvin Stoddard | Jewel Mendiola | Mina Lim | Sarah Pittenger |
| Casey Yung | Joe Bocabella | Montana Topping | Shailla Dhingra |
| Coach Kyle | Johnny Williams | Natalie Mak | Sofia Burgoyne |
| Coach Sean | Johnny Bocabella | Nicholas Bea | Sulian Holman |
| Derek Bond | Jonny Antman | Nico Burgoyne | Sylvie Portet |
| Dylan Kan | Julio Dolorico | Nicole Portet | Thomas Hua |
| Elizabeth Hua | Katelyn Lu | Olivia Metz | Vinny Yu |
| Ellie Letulle | Kelly Landers | Oskar | Xavier Portet |
| Finn Drasin | Kelly Williams | Paul Sagara | Zoe Orr |
| Finn Taylor | Kim Morrow | | |

More photos can be found on the Meadow Facebook page. For more information about the campaign, visit <http://gofundahero.com/campaign/detail/4913>.