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## Acalanes DAR scholarships awarded to local high school seniors



Submitted by Louise  
Diracles

Local high school seniors earned scholarships from the Acalanes Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) on Feb. 2 at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. School counselors chose these accomplished students for their service, leadership and patriotism. Each winner received a scholarship check, a flag that was flown in her or his honor over the capitol and a certificate signed by U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier.

Recipients read their essays entitled, "Our American Heritage and Our Responsibility for Preserving It. What

new challenges will America face as we move forward into the future?" Independent judges chose Caroline Francois' essay as the chapter winner. Participants, their families, guests and DAR members were treated to tea and sweets. In addition to Claire Sebree (Campolindo), Caroline Francois (Las Lomas), and Dara Kazmierowski (Miramonte), other winners who were not able to attend the ceremony included: Cali Boustani (Acalanes), Ryan Park (Bentley), and Anneke Padmos (Contra Costa Christian). The event was co-chaired by Susan McGill and Betsy Morris. Regent Nancy Boren presided over the celebration of these fine young citizens.

Photo provided

From left: Claire Sebree (Campolindo), Caroline Francois (Las Lomas), and Dara Kazmierowski (Miramonte).

## Orinda Troop 237 Honors New Eagle Scouts



Photo provided

Troop 237 Eagle Scouts, from left: Jackson Painter, Marcus O'Neill, Will Barber, Campbell Hoskins, and Max Coons.

Submitted by Lisa Hoskins

Boy Scout Troop 237 of Orinda announced that Will Barber, Max Coons, Campbell Hoskins, Marcus O'Neill, and Jackson Painter have achieved Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout and will celebrate their Eagle Court of Honor at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24 at the Orinda Community Church. All five Eagle Scouts live in Orinda and attend Miramonte High School.

To become an Eagle, the candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and scout spirit, and successfully complete an Eagle service project benefiting the community.

When Barber heard that the Miramonte High School administration was seeking to enhance outdoor seating available for its students, he decided to build two beautiful redwood benches and cement them into the ground. With the help of fellow Troop 23 Scouts, Barber designed, built and placed the benches. According to the school, the benches provide Miramonte students a nice, peaceful place to sit and relax ... now and for many years to come.

Coon's project benefited Glorietta Elementary School where he attended K-fifth grade. Coons along with other 237 Scouts created an area for kids who attend the before/after school program to access a new storage shed by building a retaining wall and digging a new pathway to the shed. He also upgraded the existing pathway from school to the upper parking lot and planted native plants along the walkway, which he has been weeding and watering since his project was completed last summer.

Hoskins and fellow Scouts built a large wooden sign for Miramonte

Baseball. Hoskins developed his love for baseball at age 4 and was honored to find a project benefiting something meaningful to him. As an MHS baseball player, Hoskins noticed it was unclear how to enter the baseball field, which is off to the side of the main football/track area. The sign is 9 feet wide, 12 feet high, set 4 feet deep and features est. 1955 and the M logo. Hoskins hopes his project pays homage to the 65-year tradition of Mats Baseball and his passion for the sport of baseball.

O'Neill's Eagle Project is designed to be sustainable within Troop 237. O'Neill and his fellow Scouts built a mobile bookshelf for Wilson Elementary School in Richmond for students in great need for books to read at home. The bookshelf is a "loaning library" so the students may bring a book to donate and choose a book for home. In addition, O'Neill and his fellow Scouts and classmates donated over 1,000 books. He hopes to continue leading one drive per year through Troop 237 to keep the shelf at Wilson Elementary School stocked for its students.

The Garden of Learning at St. Perpetua Catholic School in Lafayette is a treasured resource built to enhance classroom curriculum by fostering a sense of wonder for all things in nature. While a student at St. Perpetua, Jackson Painter frequently noticed the garden's fence was battered, allowing predatory animals to wreak havoc on the garden and posing a safety issue for students during recess. With a team of Scouts, St. Perpetua students, church members, and friends, Painter removed the existing fence and built a 115-foot long, 8-foot high fence that now protects the treasured produce, farm animals and most importantly, students.

## Troop 219 honors 10 Eagle Scouts



Photo provided

First row, from left: Mike Winther, Cal Hunter, Sam Hagel, Mac Follmer, Michael Brewer; back row: Kris Roos, Bradley Sides, Reed Watson, Ben Clark, and Sam Higgins.

Submitted by Tyler Higgins

Lafayette Boy Scout Troop 219 will honor 10 young men who have achieved the Eagle Scout award, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America, at 2 p.m. on March 23 at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. From 2010 to 2018, Troop 219 was led by Scoutmaster Tyler Higgins, who earned his Eagle in Troop 219 in 1982. Last June, Chris Hunter assumed the role of Scoutmaster of Troop 219.

"Troop 219 has developed a solid curriculum of activities to teach boys outdoor skills and leadership. Our Scouts actively lead our events, and this supplements what they learn through academics and sports," said Hunter.

As part of earning their Eagle rank, the following service projects were completed by each Scout:

Michael Brewer refurbished the Petar Jokovina trailhead where it meets Sessions Road in Lafayette, where he cleared the trail entrance of brush and debris, widened the trail and installed new steps at the base of the trail; Ben Clark refurbished three balance beam blocks and built three additional balance beam blocks and one work bench for Lafayette Nursery School; Mac Follmer created and ran the first annual swim meet hosted by Orinda Aquatics with the East Bay Sea Serpents for developing and disabled swimmers with the goal to promote understanding of youth swimmers of all abilities, and looks forward to running the swim meet again next year; Sam Hagel built five Little Free Libraries placed in Lafayette elementary schools to promote literacy and reuse within the community, with the motto

"Take a book, leave a book"; Sam Higgins designed, built and installed owl nesting boxes at the Lafayette Reservoir. As part of his Eagle service project, Higgins is working to earn the Hornaday Badge – Scouting's highest conservation award; Cal Hunter installed a walkway and stairs for students from Burton Valley Elementary and Merriewood Children's Center to access the garden on the hill above the schools; Kris Roos built three flagstone paths, installed four "pick up and drop off zone only" signs to ensure the safe arrival of children and designed and implemented a new trail standard for the identification of native species - all at the Lafayette Community Center; Bradley Sides built and delivered 20 corn hole game boards to Afghanistan for schools without playground equipment and refugee camps where thousands of young children live so as to bring a little joy to their otherwise very difficult lives; Reed Watson installed 10 trailhead markers around Lafayette after identifying the need and presenting his plan to the City; and Mike Winther constructed an employment boutique and collected donations for Shelter, Inc, a homeless shelter in Pittsburg.

To attain the rank of Eagle Scout, a Scout must earn his way up the scouting ranks from Tenderfoot to Life Scout. As a Life Scout, he must be active in the troop for at least six months, earn at least 21 merit badges, serve in a Leadership position, show Scout Spirit, and plan, develop and offer leadership to others in an approved Eagle service project helpful to any religious institution, school, nonprofit organization or the community.

## 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](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

**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](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.