

Miramonte student wins Moraga Lions Student Speakers Contest

Submitted by Fred George

The topic this year for The Moraga Lions Club's annual Student Speaker Contest Feb. 20 at the Moraga Library was "Freedom of the Press: what does it mean?" The winner this year was Miramonte High School senior Clara Wu, who is planning on attending Eastside College in Boston next year. Dan Hagan, Moraga Lions Club president, said he was impressed by Wu's expression and creativity, noting it was obvious that young people have strong ideas about current events. Lions' members were proud that they were able to provide the contestants with the opportunity to share their views and skill. The contest has six levels, and the winning student can win up to \$21,000 in scholarships. There is a total of \$103,000 awarded overall in scholar-

ships. The next level is the Zone level to be held March 15, starting at 7 p.m. at the Creekside Room in Rossmoor.



Miramonte High School senior Clara Wu with contest chair Fred George.

Photo provided

Troop 204 presents 2019 Eagle Scouts



Photo provided

From left, sitting: Jared Steuber, Nathan Sherman, Kevin Mlynek, Oliver Rotundo, William Condy, Matthew Montaquila; standing: Ryan Owens, Andrew Tso, Dominik Figone, Luke Vandenberghe, Thomas Judson, and Reid Fellner.

Submitted by Jill Montaquila

Lafayette Boy Scout Troop 204 will honor 12 young men who have achieved the Eagle Scout Rank, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America, on March 23 at 1 p.m. at Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive. This will be Troop 204's 66th Eagle Court of Honor.

To attain Eagle Scout, candidates must earn their way up the scouting ranks from Tenderfoot to Life Scout. Life Scouts must be active in the Troop for at least six months, earn at least 21 required merit badges, serve in a leadership position, show Scout spirit, and plan, develop and give leadership to others in an approved Eagle Service Project. In the addition to the requirements listed above, each of the Troop 204 Eagle Scouts has attended the annual 50-mile backpacking trips, including planning and leading a trek on a nine-day trip. They have hiked over 500 miles, and actively participated in annual Camporees.

William Condy constructed planter boxes for the garden at Burton Valley Elementary. Reid Fellner completed a beautification project at Acalanes High School consisting of landscaping planter boxes and planting new trees and shrubs. Dominik Figone con-

structed Wood Duck nesting boxes and installed them at the Colusa National Wildlife Refuge. Thomas Judson upgraded and improved the Third Grade Garden at Happy Valley Elementary School. Kevin Mlynek restored a trail, planted new bushes and built a retaining wall at Springhill Elementary School Garden. Matthew Montaquila made blankets for injured or sick children at Children's Hospital in Oakland and Walnut Creek. Ryan Owens built planter box cages at Springhill Elementary School Garden to protect fruits and vegetables from being eaten by animals. Oliver Rotundo constructed a drainage trench that diverts the flow of water to avoid flooding while creating a small-scale vernal pool to be studied by Springhill Elementary students. Nathan Sherman constructed PVC soccer goals for Trust in Education, to be sent to children in Afghanistan. Jared Steuber and his fellow Scouts trained homeless families in basic first aid and gave them first aid kits at Shelter Inc. in Martinez. Andrew Tso repainted faded safety lines for 24 classroom doors/areas at Lafayette Elementary School as well as planted shrubs in a bare section of the quad. Luke Vandenberghe built benches at Las Trampas pool in Lafayette where his family has swum for over 16 years.

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.

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.

Benefit concert for Congolese refugee family

A year ago, a family of eight was rescued from a West Uganda refugee camp by Catholic Charities and was brought to the United States to live. Sadly the family's father, Sadiki, was run over by a car while bicycling last fall and hasn't been able to work, so Sadiki, his wife Noela, and their six sons ages 2-14 are relying on social services and three church's support to survive: Lafayette United Methodist Church, St. Joseph Catholic Church of Fremont, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Danville.

In an effort to help this family, Don Keeble, who is the chair of Church Council and has been a member of chancel choir at Lafayette United Methodist Church for 20 years, is organizing a special concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 17 at the Lafayette church located at 955 Moraga Road. Donations for the family will be accepted at the free event.

The concert will feature Keeble, who released his first album, "It's All About Love," in 2015 and his second "Do Good, Be Well, Have Fun," and Dave Nachmanoff – a singer-songwriter, songwriting teacher, recording engineer and amazing musician who helped Keeble write his songs, recorded and engineered them and played almost all the instruments, and has a new CD called "Cerulean Sky."



"I've fallen in love with (this family) and had them over for several pool parties last summer," Keeble said, "they'd never been in a swimming pool! So many firsts for this family," added Keeble. "Come support them and enjoy some great music." -- J. Wake

Acalanes and Campo place 3rd and 4th in County Mock Trials Competition



Acalanes Mock Trial Team

Photos Meaghan Krakoff, CCCOE



Campolindo Mock Trial Team

Submitted by Jonathan Lance, CCCOE

For four weeks (seven evenings) 17 Contra Costa County high school Mock Trial teams have been battling it out with each other inside the superior courthouse courtrooms of Martinez during the 38th Annual Contra Costa County High School Mock Trials. Each school alternates, providing prosecution or defense teams.

As like their fellow Mock Trial Teams throughout the nation, the teams presented the case: *People v. Klein*. Unlike previous years when the case has involved murder or mayhem, this year's trial centered on social media. A local college student was charged with posting a criminal threat online, and then texting a false report to police – also known as "swatting." "Swatting" is the action of calling the police with report of a fake emergency.

The Mock Trial Awards Ceremony was held Feb. 21 at the Contra Costa County Office of Education, in Pleasant Hill. After Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools Lynn Mackey and Contra Costa County Board of Education President Mike Maxwell welcomed the crowd, and remarks given by Contra Costa County Superior Court Presiding Judge Barry Baskin, the Mock Trial coaches presented individual awards to their exceptional-performing students.

This year's top four teams were

ranked in this order: 1) California, 2) Alhambra, 3) Acalanes, 4) Campolindo. California High has now won back-to-back championships.

The honored guest speaker, Judge Barry Baskin, was on hand to address the large crowd with his accounts of this year's Mock Trials. "I can safely speak for a number of my fellow judges when I say, Mock Trials is our favorite time of the year. It is a delight to watch you all master the courtroom, and it's solely due to your dedication and hard work."

This year, approximately 75 Bay Area practicing and retired attorneys, senior law students and sworn judges volunteered their time to serve as Mock Trial Attorney Scorers and Judges. These volunteers represented judges from Bay Area Superior Courts, the California Bankruptcy Court, the California Supreme Court and the California Appellate Court. Attorney Scorers included Bay Area attorneys from county District Attorney and Public Defender offices, the State Attorney General's Office and the California Department of Justice. Also serving as attorney scorers were nonprofit, public, private and corporate attorneys. In addition, senior students from two Bay Area law schools also lent a hand in scoring.

For all the team and individual results, visit the Contra Costa County Office of Education's website and click on Mock Trial: www.ccoec.k12.ca.us.