

## Rheem Elementary wins 29th annual Moraga Rotary Field Day

Submitted by Tony Schoemehl



Photo provided

Girls sprint final at Moraga Rotary Field Day.

Rheem Elementary athletes won the 29th annual Field Day recently held at the Joaquin Moraga Middle School field, amassing a total of 109 points. Camino Pablo won second place with 59 points, followed by Los Perales with 32 points and Saklan School with 22 points. Rheem had the most participants with 37 athletes. The teacher whose students got the most points was Ms. Brown of

Camino Pablo, with 41 points. The high point boy was Jack Sero, a third grader in Mrs. Culleton's class at Rheem, with 18 points, and the high point girl was Mira Emhoff, a fourth grader in Ms. Brown's class at Camino Pablo, with 14 points. A first place earned 5 points, a second place earned 3 points, and a third place got 1 point. The Field Day contin-

ues the Moraga Rotary tradition of hosting a mini-track and field meet for third, fourth, and fifth graders in Moraga schools, which was suspended during 2020-2023 due to the Covid pandemic. Only 83 students participated this year, down from 345 athletes in 2018.

Moraga Rotary Field Day Chairman Tony Schoemehl gave a big thank you to the many athletes and students from St. Mary's College who helped conduct and judge the events, and to the teachers who encouraged their students to participate. The events consisted of sprints, sack races, long jump, frisbee throw, and basketball throw. It also includes relays when more runners participate. Schoemehl anticipates many more athletes will join in the 2025 event.

## Orinda Troop 303G held inaugural Court of Honor for three female Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Angelica Steinmeier



Photo Alex Filippenko

From left: Jenna Steele (Eagle Scout from Lafayette Troop 402G), Capri Filippenko, Caitlin Loughran and Aimee Steinmeier

On May 4, Boy Scouts of America Troop 303G of Orinda held its first Eagle Court of Honor at St Stephen's Episcopal Church to commemorate the achievement of their first female Eagle Scouts, each of whom recently obtained scouting's highest rank. Honorees were Capri Filippenko, Caitlin Loughran, and Aimee Steinmeier.

Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in Boy

Scouts of America's Scouts program. To obtain the rank of Eagle Scout, candidates must now earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, demonstrate leadership and Scout spirit, and successfully complete an Eagle service project benefiting the community.

Bruce McGurk, chair of the Briones District of Scouts' Golden Gate Area Council, presided over the Eagle Court of Honor ceremony. Eagle Chal-

lenge was delivered by Eagle Scout Jenna Steele of Troop 402G from Lafayette CA. Darlene Gee, mayor of Orinda, presented each scout with an official proclamation of the Orinda City Council, declaring May 6 as Aimee Steinmeier Day, May 7 as Capri Filippenko Day, and May 8 as Caitlin Loughran Day. Representative Ryan-Thomas Brown and Deputy District Director from US Congressman Mark DeSaulnier presented certificates of recognition and congratulations to the troop's first Eagle Scouts. Scouts also received certificates of congratulations from State Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, State Senator Steve Glazer, Governor Newsom, and the Department of Defense. The newly confirmed Eagle Scouts thanked their Scout leaders, community, parents and fellow Scouts who helped them achieve this rank and honor.

## Lafayette eighth graders look to repeat success at OM World Championships

Submitted by Manju Lind



Photo provided

Left to right: Shriya Lind, Lauren Brekke, David Siu, Sanika Khamkar, Madhav Sahasranaman

Five Lafayette eighth graders representing Stanley Middle School are returning to the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals this week, eager to continue their 2024 success. This year's championships are taking place in Iowa and are expected to draw hundreds of teams from around the world.

Odyssey of the Mind is a decades-old, global, creative competition that engages kids from kindergarten through college in STEAM (Science Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) problem-solving activities. At the competition, the team will compete against other middle

school teams and present a creative solution to one of five long-term open-ended problems, and a spontaneous "think-on-your-feet" challenge.

At the 2023 championships in Michigan, the Stanley team captured first place in the spontaneous competition and fifth overall, beating out over 50 teams from across the United States, Asia, and Europe. While this is the Stanley team's second time attending the World championships in person, this is their third time representing Lafayette on the global stage.

For this year's long-term problem, the Stanley team created a "play

that goes wrong," where required set and character malfunctions cause antics and chaos on opening night in front of distinguished guests. During their Northern California state competition, the team's performance through both planned and unplanned set malfunctions earned them first place for their Long Term problem as well as the prestigious OMER's Award. The OMER's Award "recognizes those individuals... who, during a tournament, serve as exemplary examples or role models through their actions and words."

In describing the team's challenge in overcoming an unplanned, complete set collapse, a judge wrote, "The team... put on an amazing performance, improvising as they went. They even had some judges convinced it was supposed to happen! They embodied the spirit of the problem and overcame 'antics' in their performance."

The team also earned first place for their elaborate set and costume construction made nearly entirely out of recycled and upcycled materials.

## Troop 219 honors four new Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Audra Fraioli



Photo Missy Goldwyn

From Left: Stewart Cocotis, Danny Goldwyn, Cole Trimble, Rocco Fraioli

Lafayette Boy Scout Troop 219 recently honored four young men who have achieved the Eagle Scout award, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America, on April 21, at Rolling Range Ranch. The scouts received recognition and proclamations from the City of Lafayette and Vice Mayor Wei-Tai Kwok, US Congressman Mark DeSaulnier, US Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Khan, NASA, The Blue Angels, The White House, and The US Capitol.

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 required merit badges, serve in a Leadership position, and complete an approved Eagle service project helpful to any religious institution, school, nonprofit organization, or the community.

Stewart Cocotis constructed a road sign on Ygnacio Valley Road that Walnut Creek Historical Society can advertise with, and weeded and added tanbark to its surrounding area. He also

constructed their main WCHS sign in the driveway and installed an information kiosk near the front porch and a covered posting board for brochures.

Rocco Fraioli found a design, purchased materials, and lead ten volunteer scouts in the building of two redwood benches for Joaquin Miller Park in Oakland. These redwood benches were constructed, sanded, stained, and later installed at JM's dog parks.

Danny Goldwyn worked with Xenophon therapeutic horse riding for disabled youth. He built a horse pasture with 360 feet of fencing, hot wire, and two large equipment gates.

Cole Trimble built a bridge on a walking trail in Joaquin Miller Park in Oakland. The 20-foot-long, reclaimed redwood bridge is designed to protect the area from further trampling and compaction and allow for recovery of the native wetland and redwood understory.

## In Memory

### Anne J. Parr



Long time Orinda resident, Anne J. Parr, passed away peacefully on March 20, 2024, after a brief illness. Born in 1934 in Indianapolis to the late Paul and Dorothy Jane Jarvis, Anne briefly resided in Chicago before her family relocated to Oakland, then Sacramento.

Anne and her late husband, John S. Parr, were married for fifty-two years before John passed away in 2008. College sweethearts at UC Berkeley, Anne and John married shortly after graduation then traveled extensively and moved frequently in support of John's career as an Air Force pilot. At the conclusion of John's military service, the couple settled in Orinda where they raised their six daughters and many cherished family pets.

Anne was a widely known, beloved children's art and ceramics instructor for fifty years at the Orinda Community Center. She was proud to have taught hundreds of children including three generations of several Orinda families. Anne declared that her love for art was rooted in the fact that art is one of the only endeavors which fosters creativity and imagination. She regularly encouraged her students by sharing, "In art, there is no wrong answer." The Orinda City Council and the Community Center recently honored Anne by naming the clay and kiln room after her.

Anne served several organizations throughout her life, notably the Military Wives Club and Air Force Childcare programs, Fair Housing Program, Children's Home Society, Inter-Tribal House, and Orinda Art Council. In addition to her family, Anne was deeply grateful for her many Sleepy Hollow and gym friends, her book club, and her coffee klatch which enveloped her and provided special care after John's unexpected passing.

Anne is survived by her siblings, Bob Jarvis and Nancy Fast; her adoring daughters, all of whom deeply loved and revered her: Shannon Parr (Steve Zakula), Kerry Donovan (Greg), Colleen Winans (John), Megan Warren (Scott Ingraham), Katie Parr (Joe Terry), and Molly Guthrie (Kevin); grandchildren Nick Zakula (Karli), Katie Zakula (Dane Lindstrom), Eva Zakula, JP and Kevin Donovan, Molly and Haley Winans, Riley Warren, Alexa and Kayla Terry, and Chloe, Ellie, Quinn, and Grace Guthrie; and her great-granddaughter, Romy Lindstrom.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 1, at 11 am, at the Orinda Community Church. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation to the Sleepy Hollow Homeowners Association, The Orinda Library/Orinda Community Center, Joybound Pets and People Alliance (formerly ARF), or SFPark Alliance.org (please note: Friends of Visitation Valley Agriculture).

## In Memory

### Nancy Sue Ernsberger



Nancy Sue Ernsberger passed away in her home in Lakeway, TX, surrounded by her loving family, Dave Ernsberger (husband), Eric Ernsberger (son), Stacey Kydd (daughter) and Marci Goolsby (daughter). She was Nana to Avery, Harper, Penny and Nolan who all love her to pieces, and was a mother and grandmother figure to many, including her sons-in-law, Bill Kydd and Clark Goolsby. She was born and raised in Glen Ellyn, IL, and was predeceased by her parents, George (Skip) and Mildred Clark, and her brothers, George Clark and Chuck Clark and is survived by her brother, Jeff Clark, and her many nieces and nephews.

She was a lover of nature, books and mah-jongg but more so loved the people connected to these hobbies. She and Dave lived in Moraga, CA, from 1988-1997, where their children attended Campolindo HS, and where Nancy was a middle school teacher at Orinda Intermediate School. She had a special gift of connecting with middle schoolers and had a true passion for teaching. We plan to have a celebration of life for Nancy/Mom/Nana at Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, TX on Saturday, June 9, at 10am, as well as future gatherings in New Hampshire July 26th and Chicago/Wisconsin area (tentatively this fall).

In lieu of flowers, please feel free to donate to one of many charities she regularly supported. The Refuge for DMST (Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking) Doctors without Borders Women for Women International With love, Dave and Eric Ernsberger, Stacey Kydd and Marci Goolsby