

New Troop 237 Eagle Scout

Submitted by Cathy Martinsen



Photo provided

Lafayette resident Reider Luke Martinsen, a member of Boy Scout Troop 237 chartered by the Orinda Community Church, earned the honor of Eagle Scout, the highest rank that the Boy Scouts offers. Only 6 percent of Boy Scout members ever attain

this prestigious honor. To earn the rank of Eagle, a Scout must earn at least 21 badges and demonstrate leadership and community service by organizing and carrying out an Eagle project.

For his project, Martinsen chose to rehabilitate the greenhouse at Merriewood Children's Center where he once attended the after-school program. "It felt great to do something to help Merriewood because I have so many fun memories of my times there. It's neat to see the kids playing in the garden, and I'm glad they are able to use that greenhouse again." Reider earned his Eagle rank on Oct. 11; a ceremony honoring him will be held on Sunday, June 10. Martinsen is a senior at Acalanes High School, where he is a member of the men's varsity soccer team and the Symphonic Wind Ensemble. He also earned his Senior Medallion with the Music Teachers Association of California for dedicating 12 years to classical piano study. He will attend San Diego State University in the fall where he will major in molecular and cellular biology.

Athletic shoe drive helps over 500 under resourced youth

Submitted by Christine Ayers



Photo provided

Level Up Sports Academy exceeded all expectations when their second- to eighth-grade athletes rallied and collected, washed, bagged, labeled and delivered over 500 pairs of athletic shoes during its Kicks4Kids Athletic Shoe Drive. Working hard through the months of April and May, the shoes will all go to youth right here in Contra Costa County.

"We could not be more proud of our athletes and the challenge they met and exceeded," said Bill Flitter, founder of Level Up Sports Academy. "This is a high impact project that we're proud to deliver for our local community."

Level Up created the Kicks4Kids campaign to provide much needed athletic shoes

to youth in need. Shoes were delivered to local agencies serving youth in need, including Kops4Kids, Eddie Hart All in One Foundation, Richmond PAL, CoCo Kids, Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, San Pablo Police Dept, More Than a Game, Pittsburg PD & Pittsburg High School Foot Pursuit Club.

Plans are already underway for Level Up's summer local community projects including a Back to School Supply Drive. To support or participate, contact Christine Ayers, Level Up Sports Academy Outreach Coordinator at (510) 295-7298 or levelupsports2018@gmail.com.

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.

Orinda Woman's Club assists students and former foster children

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda Woman's Club on May 29 awarded education grants of \$1,250 each to Miramonte students Janet Lee and Sienna Marley. The club has awarded a number of additional scholarships to assist former foster children and students, including \$7,500, composing six grants of \$1,250, to the Independent Living Skills Program under VESTIA (Volunteer and Emergency Services Team in Action), an organization that supports former foster students as they pursue further education. They try to keep these young persons nourished both physically and emotionally, according to OWC representative Betty Brotherton.

VESTIA was established in 1985 as a nonprofit organization devoted to serving individuals and families receiving benefits from Contra Costa County's Employment and Human Services Department. VESTIA is committed to helping graduating high school students in Contra Costa County realize their

dreams of college by providing scholarships through its Foster Youth Scholarships Program. VESTIA offers numerous scholarships each year totaling \$15,000-\$20,000 to foster youth graduating through the ILSP.

OWC has made two additional grants this year to two organizations that each received \$12,000 from the club: Pillars of Hope, with a goal to stop human trafficking, and Berkeley Hope Scholars, which helps former foster children and emancipated minors with meals, dental care and other such needs.

OWC is a nonprofit, community-based organization founded in 1953 that provides service both locally and worldwide and encourages the development of friendship and leadership. Membership is not limited to Orinda residents but includes residents of the San Francisco East Bay area, including Lamorinda, Walnut Creek and Oakland.

Rheem School wins the 27th annual Moraga Rotary Field Day

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Camino Pablo third-grade boys winning relay team, from left: Brian Harrison, Jeffrey Shen, and Max Alson, who ran two legs of the relay. Photos provided

Rheem School's athletes won the 27th Annual Moraga Rotary Field Day held Wednesday, May 9 at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, breaking the three-year Field Day string of victories by Camino Pablo School. Rheem athletes' medal point count was 97, followed by Camino Pablo with 91 points, Los Perales with 76, and Saklan with 6. Los Perales fielded the most athletes, with 116 of the total 345 students participating. The three large elementary schools each had participation greater than 50 percent of their eligible students.

The athletes winning the most individual points were from Los Perales and Rheem. The High Point Boy was Ryan Erickson, a third-grader in Mrs. Thompson's class at Los Perales, who won three gold medals for 15 points. The High Point Girl was Amarise Gonzalez, a fifth-grader in Mrs. Greer's class at Rheem, who won two golds and one bronze medal, for 11 points. The teacher whose students accumulated the most medal points, 26, was Mrs. Thompson from Los Perales. These students, their parents, and teachers will be guests at a meeting of Moraga Rotary where they and Rheem School will receive engraved plaques to recognize their accomplishments.

For 27 years now, Moraga Rotary has been conducting this mini-track and field meet for third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders in Moraga Schools. The children and most teachers really look forward to this event; it is fun but competitive. Gold, silver, and

bronze medals were awarded to the top three contestants in each event, and other contestants received a participant ribbon. There is no charge for athletes to participate.

For the fifth year, the Field Day had the assistance of many of the men and women from the Saint Mary's College basketball teams, and the relay races were conducted by coach Randy Bennett. The Gael athletes conducted the basketball throw event, and also helped officiate and judge the sprints, relays, sack races, and the recently-introduced steeplechase. Boy Scouts from Troop 246, sponsored by Moraga Rotary, helped with some of the field events.

The Field Day chairman, Rotarian Tony Schoemehl, praised the school teachers, principals, and parents for encouraging the children to participate, and thanked Bennett and the Gaels men's and women's basketball teams for their help. Thanks also to parents who helped direct the children around to the various events, and to parents who helped with the field events.

Rotary Club of Moraga also supports elementary education in Moraga by providing grade-appropriate news magazines selected by teachers such as Time and National Geographic for curriculum enrichment, and by donations to the Moraga Education Foundation. Regular meetings are held on most Tuesdays at Moraga Country Club. For information, call Frank May at (925) 376-8195, or check out moragarotary.org.



Rheem fifth-grade girls winning relay team, from left: Sofia Gomes, Natalie Nickens, Carly Robles, and Natalie Rane.

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