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1 Great Crab Feed

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Girl Scout Cadettes Raise Funds and Awareness

Submitted by Sam Sweeney



Eighth grade Troop members, from left: Stella Burford, Sam Sweeney, Maggie Gerding, Marlo Winquist and Emma Kacharmina. Photo provided

Girl Scout Cadette Troop 30658 has partnered with the Girl Up Foundation to raise funds and awareness to earn their Silver Award. Girl Up is a UN foundation that helps adolescent girls in developing countries receive an education to build a better life for themselves. Girls around the world face barriers to education that boys do not. Breaking barriers such as early marriage, gender-based

violence, domestic slavery and sex trafficking means not only a better life for girls, but a healthier and more prosperous world for all. More than 16 million girls today are out of school. The Cadette Troop kicked off their mission by screening the movie, "Girl Rising." They also recently held a community garage sale May 4 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette to raise funds.

New Troop 212 Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Lauren Woolsey



From left, back row: Alex Gannett, Tyler Moore, Matt Woolsey, and Hunter Rosenbaum; front row: Rick Lomas, Kevin Schori, Garrett Neustrom, and Jonathan Bellingham. Photo Karen Drinkwater

Boy Scout Troop 212 conducted their 51st National Eagle Court of Honor on Sunday, April 27 at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, which sponsors the troop, to celebrate 8 outstanding young men earning the Eagle Award. This year's Troop 212 Eagle Scout honorees from Campolindo High School are:

Matt Woolsey, who put together 45 fleece blankets for Amor Ministries' work in Tijuana, to be given to underprivileged families there; Tyler Moore, who built eight large wooden box platforms to help the Los Perales Elementary School students reach the new interactive blackboards; Hunter Rosenbaum, who made two movable, carpeted stage extension boxes for the sanctuary at MVPC; Jonathan Bellingham, who built a stone landscaping wall at Joaquin Mor-

aga Intermediate School; Kevin Schori, who built outdoor benches at Camino Pablo Elementary School; Garrett Neustrom, who made several white board easels for teachers at Los Perales Elementary School; Alex Gannett, who built two cedar planter boxes for MVPC; and Rick Lomas, who made portable bike racks for the town of Moraga, for use in the Moraga Triathlon.

Eagle is the highest award that a Scout can earn. Nationally, only about 4 percent of all boys who enter the Scouting program earn the award. Troop 212 has an active program of campouts, summer camps, and high adventure activities. The Troop currently has 75 youth actively involved in its programs. Troop 212 has awarded this special honor to 386 scouts since 1961.

Lafayette Rotary Donates Books to Martinez Juvenile Center

Submitted by Norma Evans



Martinez Juvenile Center librarian, Nadia, with donated books. Photo provided

As part of its Literacy Program, the Rotary Club of Lafayette collected 174 softbound books and delivered them to the Martinez Juvenile Center April 30. The librarian, Nadia, was very happy with all the books – especially the new ones, which were purchased from their Amazon wish list, said

Rotary member Norma Evans, adding: "The librarian says the boys are taken in small groups down to the library for activities and to pick out books weekly." The Rotary planned to bring an additional 50 hardbound books that were donated to the Juvenile Center in Byron last week.

Del Rey 4th Graders Restore Creek Habitats

Submitted by Jessie Olson



Front row, from left: Del Rey Elementary School students Ethan Haines, Allison Neff, Mrs. Terri Brasch, Ella Miller, Davey Maguire, Aidan Mccartt, Trevor Grosso; middle row: Daisy Shea, Isabella Velazquez, Apameh Berloui, Annaluna Giacich, Ava Lippi, Anna Crinks, Elena Gant; back row: Audrey Biles, Megan Dhillon, Matt Radell, JJ Sautter Savilla, Natalie Kurtz, Willy Hodder, Sam Ross, Marissa Duby, Will Fuller, and Gavin Boettner. Photo John Zentner

In March, students from Orinda's Del Rey Elementary School completed a hands-on creek restoration project on Moraga Creek, a local waterway which runs adjacent to their school. Led by a team of biologists and volunteers from The Restoration Trust, the fourth grade classes of Terri Brasch and John Moran removed non-native species, such like as English ivy, and planted over 1,000 native riparian species. The restoration effort began in 2009 along Moraga Creek with teacher John Moran's fourth grade class and has continued in the subsequent years. Students have returned to the creek annually to monitor their projects and view the success of their plantings. Brasch enforces the value in this type of hands-on activity, stating that the work allows them to see "how taking care of our environment is so important to the health of the creek." In the five years since the effort has been initiated, the population of aggressive English ivy had been reduced while the planted native species have thrived. The activities were accompanied by a dis-

cussion on how such actions help to protect the health of Moraga Creek and reduce erosion. Events such as this develop students' sense of connection to the well-being of urban waterways and green space that run through their communities. Moran, a strong advocate for his student's involvement, asserts "with creeks cradling all of Orinda's school, creek restoration is a perfect opportunity for students to experience hands-on field work related to their science curriculum and also to feel the power of positively impacting their local ecological community." They learn of the role of wetlands in providing wildlife habitat, filtering pollutants introduced through runoff, reducing flood events, and providing beautification to the neighborhood. "They were all so eager to get their hands dirty," Brasch remarked on the event. "I am so thankful that my students have this opportunity to help their creek!"

Funding for this project was partially provided by the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee.