

Troop 224 of Scouts BSA acknowledges milestone



Photo provided

Submitted by Elizabeth Crinnion

In mid-September, the Scouts and parents of Troop 224 gathered for their fall Court of Honor, the traditional ceremony where Scouts are honored for achieving rank advancements/merit badges. The occasion is a time of cele-

bration, and on this occasion a very special acknowledgment was made. Earlier this year, Troop 224, based in Lafayette, was one of the first troops in the nation to welcome girls into joining the newly rebranded organization known as Scouts BSA. Although girls officially have their own troop, scoutmaster and leaders, they are, in essence, two linked troops (T224B and

T224G) that share a common leadership structure and elect to share the hosting of the quarterly Court of Honor. They have shared many adventures together, including camping at three national parks in Arizona, ski trips to Tahoe, backpacking, and summer camp on Catalina Island. For camping outings, the girls camp sepa-

rately from the boys and have their own adult leaders present. They later join T224B for the day's activities. Each troop may also select activities that are done separately, but activities for the upcoming year are determined by all the Scouts. One of the most important aspects of scouting is the opportunity for leadership training and experience. Troop 224 prides itself on the youth-led focus of its troops. During the Court of Honor ceremony, Anthony Mirabito, Senior Patrol Leader of T224B, gave a special acknowledgment to the girls of T224G for their efforts in achieving rank advancements and merit badges and how they have embraced scouting. As a tribute to the girls' accomplishments and amazing efforts, he presented a framed article to Kyra Ariker, Senior Patrol Leader of T224G, that had been published in the San Francisco Chronicle. "The Girls' Troop is doing so well, and it's really impressive. They have hit the ground running, and the whole Troop is really proud of them," said Mirabito. Troop 224 was established in 1953 and meets at the Hut located behind Happy Valley Elementary's Gymnasium. There is an Open House planned from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Nov. 18 at the Scout Hut. Pizza, games, cobbler!

Cycle Recycle returns



Photo provided

Submitted by Bobbie Preston

For the 22nd year, Bobbie and Tom Preston will be holding the Cycle Recycle, collecting repairable bikes to be refurbished and given to charitable groups to distribute at Christmas. To date, over 3,450 bikes have been collected. This year the recipient organizations include Oakland International High School's Earn-A-Bike program, Marsh Creek Detention Center (which repairs and provides bikes to various Contra Costa County charitable pro-

grams as Christmas gifts for low-income kids), and to Trips for Kids in Marin (which repairs them for their Christmas giveaway to children of needy families). New and/or used bikes and trikes in working order or repairable, or useable bike parts may be delivered to the side driveway of the Preston's home at 1307 Larch Avenue in Moraga throughout the month of November only. No skateboards or plastic bikes please; no need to call beforehand, but for more information contact Bobbie or Tom Preston at (925) 376-8474.

Katz wins \$3,500 in STEM contest



Lamo achive

Submitted by Wendy Li

Isabelle Katz, a 15-year-old from Moraga, placed first in the mathematics

category of the Broadcom MASTERS (Math, Applied Science, Technology, and Engineering for Rising Stars), giving her \$3,500 to spend on a STEM summer camp experience of her choice. Her project, "Analyzing Musical Instruments/Voice Using Signal Analysis and a Novel Color-Fingerprinting Technique for Vocal Training," used software and an algorithm to break down a musical sound into its different frequencies (see story about Katz' project in the Lamorinda Weekly archives at www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1316/Local-student-to-represent-Lamorinda-in-STEM-competition.html) The winners were honored during an awards ceremony on Oct. 29 for their achievements in science, technology, engineering and math together with their demonstration of 21st century skills including critical thinking, communication, creativity, collaborative skills and teamwork.

Eagle project provides instruments to Oakland Unified



Photos provided

Submitted by Richard Innenberg

As part of his Eagle Scout project with Troop 204, Acalanes High School junior Jack Innenberg worked to have the Lafayette community support less fortunate students in other areas. A lover of music, Innenberg wanted to do an Eagle Project that both used music as well as could help others. Innenberg raised over \$13,000 to purchase instruments, repair instruments and send Oakland Unified School District students to Cazadero band camp

over the summer. Innenberg contacted OUSD and learned that their music program budget has been drastically cut (essentially to zero) and they had almost no budget for new instruments, repairs and camps. Jack led a group of boys to repair instruments at the OUSD warehouse, raised around \$7,000 from the local community in cash donations after making contacts through an email campaign, flyers, and a very successful fundraiser in front of Diablo Foods, and received donations of 12 band instruments that were donated to OUSD.

'Walk for Adley' event raises much-needed funds for research



Photo provided

Nearly 300 participants join the Nov. 3 "Walk for Adley" in Lafayette.

Submitted by Emma Coffey

After the recent loss of 10-year-old Adley Osborne to a rare and terrible autoimmune disease, and in an effort to do something to help the many others in local schools and the community who are suffering from autoimmune disorders, more than 280 people participated in the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association's "Walk for Adley" on Nov. 3 in Lafayette, raising \$11,646 to support critical research aimed at solving the underlying immune issues that link all autoimmune disorders.

According to AARDA, approximately 50 million Americans (20% of the population or 1 in 5 people) suffer from autoimmune diseases. Women are more likely than men to be affected; some estimates say that 75% of those affected — some 30 million individuals — are women. Still, with these statistics, autoimmunity is rarely discussed as a women's health issue; and basic autoimmune research is significantly underfunded. AARDA has launched the Autoimmune Walk to change all this.

For information about AARDA, visit aarda.org.

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