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Campolindo team shines at state Academic Decathlon finals

Submitted by Jonathan Lance



The entire Campolindo Academic Decathlon team.

The recently crowned Contra Costa County High School Academic Decathlon Champions, Campolindo High School, successfully represented Contra Costa County during the weekend of March 23-26, at the 2017 California Academic Decathlon, held in Sacramento.

Campolindo's coach Paul Verbanszky reported that the team represented their county very well at the state competition. The team took sixth place, overall, in Division 2 (medium-size school), and picked up a number of individual awards:

Zoe Portnoff, First Place (Gold), Overall Scores; Scholastic Division; First Place (Gold) in the Interview Competition, Scholastic

Division; Third Place (Bronze) in the subject of Literature, Scholastic Division; First Place (Gold) in the subject of Music, Scholastic Division; First Place (Gold) in the subject of Social Science, Scholastic Division; Third Place (Bronze) in the subject of Art, Scholastic Division.

Ashley Zhang, Seventh Place, Highest Scoring Student by a School; Overall; Second Place (Silver) in the subject of Art, Honors Division.

Mikhail Vasilyev, First Place (Gold) in the Essay Competition, Scholastic Division; Second Place (Silver) in the subject of Social Science, Scholastic Division.

Athya Uthayakumar, First Place (Gold) in the subject of Sci-

ence, Scholastic Division.

Bennett Coates, Second Place (Silver) in the subject of Science, Scholastic Division.

Verbanszky teaches AP psychology and government/economics, and has been Campolindo's Academic Decathlon coach since 2005. They have won the county's Academic Decathlon title for the past seven consecutive years. His Academic Decathlon is an after-school club with funding coming from donations and fundraising.

"It is a tremendous accomplishment to compete in the State Competition, says Verbanszky.

"I am very proud of my students."

OIS presents "Madagascar JR"

Submitted by Jeanette Lipp



The young performers in OIS's "Madagascar - A Musical Adventure JR."

Photo provided

Orinda Intermediate School's Bulldog Theater presents its spring musical, "Madagascar - A Musical Adventure JR.," April 27-29 at OIS.

Join Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe, Gloria the hip hip Hippo and, of course, those hilarious, plotting penguins as they bound onto the OIS stage in this musical adventure. Based on the smash DreamWorks animated

motion picture, "Madagascar - A Musical Adventure JR." follows all of your favorite crack-a-lackin' friends as they escape from their home in New York's Central Park Zoo and find themselves on an unexpected journey to the madcap world of King Julien's Madagascar. Filled with outlandish characters and an upbeat score, the OIS production of Madagascar JR. will leave the audience with no choice

but to "Move It, Move It!"

There are two casts, comprised of approximately 70 OIS students along with additional 14 OIS students serving on tech crew. The performance lasts approximately 90 minutes, with one intermission. For show time information and to purchase tickets, please visit www.showtix4u.com. Tickets are also available at OIS Theater one half hour prior to show times.

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.

Submit stories to
storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Wagner Ranch Nature Area opens its gates for a day of fun and learning

By Sora O'Doherty

On Sunday, April 23, the public will have the rare opportunity to enjoy the Wagner Ranch Nature Area, adjacent to Wagner Ranch Elementary School.

Once a year the historic ranch and 18-acre nature preserve is open to the public for a wildlife festival. From 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. families and children can join in a variety of activities for all ages. Visitors can enjoy wildlife fun at the pond (red-legged frogs and the resident western pond turtle, Mr. T), meet animals in the garden (goats and beautiful parrots from the Contra Costa Avian Society), try DIY gardening projects, hands-on nature arts and crafts, and play

Earth Day games. There will be a rare docent tour of the meadows, woodland, ponds and streams, and the historic home site of Theodore Wagner, California's first Surveyor General.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase, or visitors may bring picnics to enjoy at the many available picnic tables. Several community organizations will present earth-friendly endeavors and there will also be a silent auction table. Children can get their Wildlife Guides stamped at 10 stations and receive a free honey stick at the Bee Station.

The Nature Area is located at 350 Camino Pablo in Orinda.

Film Clips

Silent Movie Star 'Baby Peggy' to make a rare appearance at the Rheem

By Derek Zemrak



Baby Peggy

Photo provided

Diana Serra Cary ("Baby Peggy") will be inducted into the Classic Film Hall of Fame in The Rheem Theatre at 7 p.m. on April 22.

Cary, 98, the only living silent screen movie star, will be making a rare appearance at the Classic Film Hall of Fame where the documentary "Baby Peggy: The Elephant in the Room" will be shown along with a few of her short films. Patti Leidecker will be performing the live musical score on the baby grand piano.

One of the silent era's most popular child stars, Baby Peggy was born Margaret ("Peggy Jean") Montgomery on October 26, 1918 in Merced, to a show business family. Her father, Jack Montgomery, was a cowboy and a stuntman in early films, and was the double for cowboy star Tom Mix.

Between 1920 and 1923 Baby Peggy appeared in nearly 150 short films and nine feature films. When Peggy was three the Century Film Corporation signed her to appear in their shorts and feature films, although she was occasionally loaned out for other productions, such as "Penrod" and "Fools First" (both 1922), or to Universal in the successful feature "The Darling of New York" (1923). Baby Peggy was the silent star precursor to sound era child star Shirley Temple of the 1930s. Peggy made the first film version of "Captain January" in 1924, and Shirley appeared in the remake a decade later. Many of Baby Peggy's popular comedies were parodies of movies in which she imaginatively imitated famous screen actresses Mary Pickford and Pola Negri. After the advent of sound, Peggy appeared in smaller roles during the 1930s, and retired from the screen in 1939. She earned several million dollars in her short career.

According to an article published in the 1923 edition of "The Blue Book of the Screen," Peggy celebrated her fourth birthday by purchasing a new home in Beverly Hills, where Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks, Charles Chaplin and others lived at the time.

Baby Peggy, who is known today as Diana Serra Cary, is a grandmother, silent film historian and respected author of several books about Hollywood including "Hollywood Posse" and "Whatever Happened to Baby Peggy?"

The local community can pay tribute to a living legend, Diana "Baby Peggy" Serra Cary.

Admission: \$10 for California International Film Festival members and \$15 for non-CAIFF members

