

# Three new Eagle Scouts join ranks of Lafayette's Troop 224

Submitted by Suzanne Campillo



From left, Niko Vo, Ivan Dikov and Carson Blocker

Photo Suzanne Campillo

Boy Scout Troop 224 of Lafayette members Carson Blocker, Ivan Dikov, and Niko Vo achieved Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout and celebrated their Eagle Court of Honor on June 24 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church.

Troop 224, which began in May 1953, is a boy-led Boy Scout Troop dedicated to the ideals of the Boy Scouts of America national organization. The troop holds an annual Christmas tree sale next to the Lafayette Community Garden and meets at Happy Valley Elementary.

To achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, the candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges,

demonstrate leadership and scout spirit, and successfully complete an Eagle service project that benefits the community.

For their Eagle Scout projects, Acalanes High School junior Carson Blocker built sturdy redwood picnic tables for students at Acalanes High School; Ivan Dikov, also a junior at Acalanes, installed plantings at Springhill Elementary School, creating a protective green screen between the school playground and nearby roadway; and Niko Vo, a junior at Campolindo High School, built a "hugelkulture" permaculture garden mound for the science programs at Pleasant Hill Middle School.

# Troop 303 honors three new Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Jim Brovelli



William Walker

Taylor Dixon and Paul Griessel

Photos provided

Boy Scout Troop 303 in Orinda honored three new Eagle Scouts at a Court of Honor Award Ceremony at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church. Taylor Dixon, Paul Griessel and William Walker earned the highest advancement rank in scouting by fulfilling requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills, as well as completing at least 21 merit badges and organizing and leading a service project benefiting their community. These three young men joined the less than 4 percent of all scouts who achieve Eagle rank.

For their Eagle projects, Dixon, who was attending Bishop O' Dowd High School in Oakland at the time, worked with the Oakland Zoo to construct wooden platforms for utility cabinets that the camels, lion and tiger keepers use to store supplies. Acalanes High School graduate Griessel installed a bike repair station along Moraga Way part of the 17-mile Lafayette - Orinda - Moraga Loop. The bike repair station features a DERO

Fixit, Air Tire Pump and Swerve Racks. The Fixit includes all the necessary tools to perform basic repairs and maintenance. There is also a QR code on the Fixit so that smartphone users can look up common repair "how tos." The repair station is the same one used at Google Headquarters and can be located using an app. Rising Campolindo senior Walker worked on various construction projects at St. Stephen's Church in Orinda, including building a fence, repairing directional signs, and replacing classroom signs. He and those who assisted him logged over 250 hours to complete the project.

For over 53 years Orinda Boy Scout Troop 303, chartered by the Rotary Club of Orinda, has been providing boys with a variety of hiking, camping, community service and leadership opportunities. To learn more about the troop, visit www.bsatroop303orinda.com or contact scoutmaster Jim Brovelli (925) 997-8437.

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# Orthodontics office donates to all-access playground



From left, Keith Reneau of the Moraga Rotary Club, Axelrode Orthodontics patients and Dr. Eric Axelrode.

Photo provided

Axelrode Orthodontics patients donated their orthobucks, which were matched by the orthodontics office, raising \$256 for the Rotary Club of Moraga and the all-access playground at the Moraga Commons.

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# Saklan students discuss world food challenges at EF Global Leadership Summit

Submitted by Victoria Obenchain



Sofia Koepeke, Mikayla Perrin, Claire Wilcox-Black, Finn Anders, Cal Baker and Alex Campigli

Photo provided

Earlier this month, Saklan School science teacher Vickie Obenchain and Kim Parks, the middle school dean, traveled with a group of 13 students and parents through Europe to a variety of destinations that connected culture with cuisine, while learning about "future of food" trends related to production, security, sustainability and climate change. They then met up with 1,500 high school students and teachers from around the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Asia to participate in a two-day EF Global Leadership Summit - a leadership conference that this year focused on student collaboration to create innovative solutions that address global food challenges.

"During the global leadership food summit in Milan, Italy I learned that by being open to working with people from all over the world can help you get different perspectives when trying to fix worldwide issues such as hunger and food waste," explained Saklan alumna and current Bentley School sophomore Priya Brinton.

"The Summit immersed our students into each destination's cultural cuisine and gave them the opportunity to collaborate alongside other students to study and respond to a learning challenge focused on the future of food," Obenchain said. "From the impacts of climate change to the benefits of composting, the Summit encouraged students to create innovative solutions for global food challenges."