

# Lafayette war veterans announce plans for 9/11 monument

Submitted by Michael Gilson



Photo rendering of monument.

Image provided

The Lafayette War Veterans, comprised of members of American Legion Post 517 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8026, have announced plans to erect a monument to honor service members from Contra Costa County who have lost their lives in service to our country since 9/11. According to a recently compiled list there are 18 service members from the county, ranging in age from 18 to 43, who will be honored on the monument when it is dedicated and the design will allow for the inscription of additional names when the circumstance arises.

The monument is to be constructed of three large slabs of granite and will be installed in the circle near the entrance to the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center and plans are to illuminate it at night as is currently done with the flags. Plans for a suitable way to honor the sacrifice of local service members has been discussed for many

years and much credit for helping to move this project along goes to Lafayette resident Yolanda Vega whose son Jonathon lost his life in 2008 in Afghanistan. The target date for dedication of the monument is April to coincide with the 10th anniversary of Jonathon's passing.

A fundraising effort has been launched this week with an anonymous gift of \$25,000 to support an estimated total cost for the project of \$50,000. The Lafayette War Veterans have guaranteed to make up any shortfall in the project cost to ensure its timely completion.

Contributions for the project can be directed as follows: Lafayette War Veterans – Memorial Fund, PO Box 501, Lafayette, CA 94549. For more information, contact Mike Gilson at (925) 766-6114 or info@lafayette-veterans.org.

# Campo Leo Club donates to Moraga Education Foundation

Submitted by Robert Murtagh



From left: Campolindo High School principal John Walker, Brigitte Marinier, president of Campolindo Leo Club, Dana Glasgow, Moraga Lions Club treasurer, Mr. John Baitx, Leo Club advisor. Photo provided

Campolindo Leo Club President Brigitte Marinier presented a check for \$500 payable to the Moraga Education Foundation to Campolindo High School principal John Walker on Nov. 17. This is the 12th year that the Leo Club has made a substantial donation to MEF. The Campolindo Leo Club is a service club sponsored by the Moraga Lions Club and Leo members pro-

vide about 500 hours of community service annually. Together with Lions, Leos help prepare and serve food at the Moraga Fourth of July event and Pear Festival, as well as working the annual pancake breakfast at the Moraga Fire House. The Leo Club motto is "We serve."

For more information about Lions and Leos, contact Bob Murtagh (925) 283-1841.

# The Burton Valley AIM class rallies behind teacher to raise money for California Breast Cancer Research Program

Submitted by Cathy Martinsen



Burton Valley Elementary students present a check to CBCRP after a highly successful Book Bonanza. Photos provided

The Book Bonanza is an annual fundraiser and long-standing tradition at Burton Valley Elementary School. Every year, the AIM class collects, prices, and, of course, sells books... at incredibly low prices (some books are as cheap as 5 cents). All proceeds go to a charitable cause, and this year the students chose to support their teacher's current battle with breast cancer and donate their earnings to the California Breast Cancer Research Program. In partnership with the University of California, the mission of CBCRP is to prevent and eliminate breast cancer through innovative research, communication, and collaboration in the California scientific and lay communities.

The whole class banded together to complete each step in the process, and after three weeks of collections and pricing of over 6,000 books, the three-day sale was on! Classes from the Burton Valley community came to support the AIM class, buying books, handmade bookmarks and origami, and dropping in donations to the donation jar. After the frenzy, the students counted their change bags and were thrilled to realize they



had surpassed their goal and raised a record-high amount of \$1,600.21. The students presented a check to Mhel Kavanaugh-Lynch of CBCRP right before winter break. They felt good about the positive impact their donation will make in the fight against breast cancer and thank the Burton Valley community for their support.

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