

The Mercury News

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Network of student 'green' clubs forming on Peninsula

By Neil Gonzales
San Mateo County Times

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An effort spearheaded by a recent graduate of Aragon High School in San Mateo seeks to unite student environmental clubs on the Peninsula.

Through the nonprofit Green Youth Alliance, former Aragon student Jason Bade is helping connect those clubs at various local high schools with one another.

"What's nice is having an exchange of ideas," said Bade, 18, who founded the environmental and recycling clubs at Aragon when he was a student there and now serves as deputy director at the alliance. "Everybody can build on each other's successes."

Environmentally conscious students at Aragon became affiliated with the alliance this year and will have a chance to network with those at other high schools in the area, Bade said.

By joining the alliance, he said, student groups will have improved access to resources that help them launch projects supporting the environment such as energy-awareness campaigns and recycling drives.

For details, go to www.greenalliance350.org.

Serra student recognized

A student from Serra High School in San Mateo recently earned praise for his part in raising

awareness about health disparities involving Asian-Americans.

Patrick Domingo was among 15 Bay Area high school students from the Jade Ribbon Youth Council who have helped persuade more than 20 cities, including Pacifica, Menlo Park and San Jose, to declare May 18-24 "Hepatitis B Awareness Week."

That month, San Jose awarded them a proclamation of support during its City Council meeting.

According to the youth council, one in 12 Asian Pacific Islanders is infected with chronic hepatitis B, as compared with one in 1,000 Caucasians. Without treatment, 25 percent of those chronically infected will die of liver disease.

The youth council is part of the Asian Liver Center at Stanford University.

Elks Lodge gives back

The San Mateo Elks Lodge recently awarded its Family Scholarships to six Serra High School seniors.

The recipients were Nicholas Goultas, of Belmont; Anthony Vassallo, of San Carlos; Freddie Menzel; of San Mateo; Steven Arms, of San Mateo; Benjamin Robbins, of San Mateo; and Jared Roberts, of Foster City.

The scholarship awards ranged from \$1,000 to \$2,750.

Applicants for the reward were required to write a one-page essay on a topic of their choice and have a father or grandfather as a member of the lodge.

Chalk Talk is a regular feature with items about schools, students, teachers and administrators in

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San Mateo County. To submit an item, write to Chalk Talk, San Mateo County Times, 477 Ninth Ave., Suite 110, San Mateo, CA 94402; send a fax to 650-348-4446; or e-mail education reporter Neil Gonzales at ngonzales@bayareanewsgroup.com . Also visit the Chalk Talk blog at www.ibabuzz.com/chalktalk .

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