Students attend camp at Taylor Observatory, Ely Stage Stop, discover joys of art and science

Staff reports

KELSEYVILLE — Bright skies and gusty cold winds greeted the 147 students, teens and adults who gathered for the 8th annual Art and Science Camp on Saturday.

Students from throughout the county spent half a day at both the Taylor Observatory and the Ely Stage Stop.

At the observatory, they viewed a planetarium show hosted by Kelseyville High School student Eduardo Alatorre. They also had hands-on time with microscopes looking at insects, algae and other tiny creatures with the guidance of Carrieann Lopez and John Burke. Kinene Barzin set up musical bells and percussion instruments under the trees outside and students learned to play the song "Bingo."

In the barn at the Ely Stage Stop, Billy Gear taught the students to draw their hand. At another station, Lori Anthony and Sarah Fred shared information about Pomo Indians as the students organized cards to represent various aspects of Native American life such as food gathering and shelter. They were also taught how to play the Pomo Indian Hand Game. Lake County Historical Society docents dressed in period costume and spoke about life in the 1850s throughout the day.

Students were also given a tour of the Stage Stop building, which included use of an old crank telephone. Docents had wired the phone to the barn so that students could ring up the barn and speak to the docent stationed there. On the porch, students washed clothes in a wash tub complete with a bar of soap and a washboard, then hung them up to dry. Then they were allowed to get inside the stage coach as they heard about the rigors and perils of early-day transportation.

After lunch, all of the students and adults went into the barn where they heard a presentation by Jenny Papka of Native Bird Connections. Papka brought four live birds, two stuffed birds and many artifacts, including talons, beaks, and wings, to share. The show was sponsored by the Redbud Audubon Society.

At the end of the day, students were given postcards from the Stage Stop and asked to write about their favorite activity. These cards will be mailed home to them in about a week so they will have them as a keepsake.

The Art and Science Camp is a cooperative effort by the Children's Museum of Art and Science, the Lake County Office of Education, the Lake County Historical Society and the Redbud Audubon Society. Rotary groups from throughout Lake County, under the leadership of the Kelseyville Rotary Club, provided lunch for the day. The box lunches were made by the Culinary Arts program at Kelseyville High School. Teens from the Interact Club at Kelseyville High School also assisted throughout the day. Foods Etc. provided water and morning snacks.

The Art and Science Camp is a free-of-charge event, which takes place the first Saturday in May and is open to all fourth- through sixth-graders in the county.

Contributed photos

TOP LEFT: Calvin Young looks at insects and algae through a microscope at the Taylor Observatory. TOP RIGHT: Howie Womack uses a washboard at the Ely Stage Stop. BOTTOM LEFT: Jonah San Nicholas uses an Indian griding stone. BOTTOM RIGHT: Clio Maupin-Ahern uses an old crank telephone to call the Ely Stage Stop's barn.

Symphony gets new name, not the same ol' song and dance since its founding

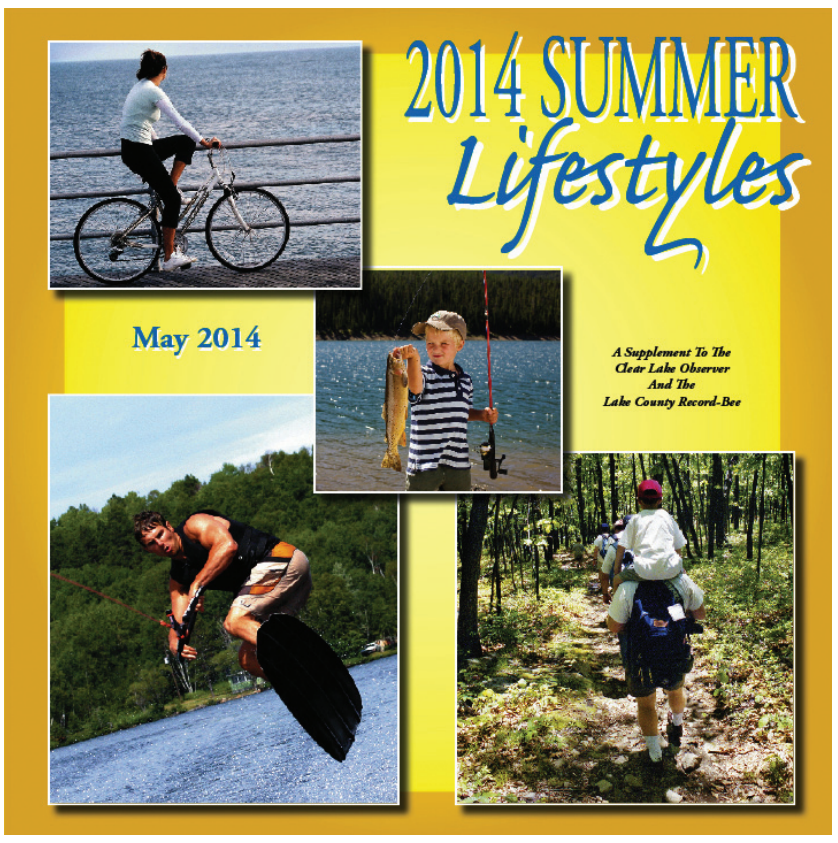
Staff reports

LAKE COUNTY — The Clear Lake Performing Arts (CLPA) members unanimously voted in favor of chaning the organization's name to the "Lake County Symphony Association" at its special general membership meeting held April 11.

"When CLPA was founded, we were basically the only music game in town" Donna Moeller, a former, two-time president of the organization, said. "One of our main activities was to import classical music programs, which we presented in schools and churches. But now other organizations and companies have taken on that task, leaving us to basically promote and support our excellent symphony orchestra, and the youth orchestra and other youth music activities as well as the beginners' music programs that will one day feed the symphony."

Moeller took the lead in revising the bylaws for the organization.

"Although the name change is effective immediately, it will probably be another six months before the current supplies of printed materials are reduced and a new design developed before the new name will be universal," President Ed Bublitz said.



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