



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 50

Pictured is Eagle Scout Jacob Van Horn.

Van Horn honored as Troop 50's 19th Eagle Scout

Special to the O-A News

On Saturday, Jan. 12, Boy Scout Troop 50 bestowed Boy Scouts of America's highest rank during a ceremony honoring new Eagle Scout Jacob Van Horn. He is the son of Eric and Rebecca Van Horn, residents of Opelika. Van Horn is the troop's 19th Eagle Scout since its founding in 2012.

Originally a member of Troop 158 in Tullahoma, Tenn. Van Horn joined Troop 50 in September 2016 after his family relocated to the Lee County area. During his tenure in Troop 50, he served as patrol leader, lead troop guide, senior patrol leader, junior assistant scoutmaster and currently serves as an assis-

tant scoutmaster.

Through his Scouting participation, he earned 22 merit badges. He was also elected for membership in the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's national honor society, and now serves as the Chattahoochee Lodge's camping promotions chairman.

For his Eagle Scout leadership service project, Van Horn planned and led volunteers to reconstruct two new arbors in the garden area of Loachapoka's Pioneer Park. Family, friends and fellow Scouts and leaders logged more than 259 service hours planning and constructing the project.

The new arbors, as well as new curb Van Horn and volun-

teers replaced adjacent to the arbors, enhance the experience and safety for visitors to the park's garden.

After completing the Eagle Scout rank requirements, which included planning and executing his service project, Van Horn appeared before the Saughatchee District's Eagle Scout Board on Oct. 16, 2018. He is among the three Troop 50 Scouts to earn the Eagle Scout rank during 2018.

Outside Scouting, Van Horn volunteers by building sets and costumes for Auburn Area Community Theatre productions. He plans to attend Auburn University this fall, where

LCHS

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Huffman

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time in Korea, he and his fellow soldiers endured a coffee shortage. Some relief came one morning when my grandfather spotted a boiling kettle.

Drink this, the soldier boiling the kettle told him, then handed over a cup of plain hot water. But it did the trick, at least temporarily. Nevertheless, upon returning to Alabama, my grandfather made it his mission to never let a single cup of coffee go to waste.

Except one. Years ago, after finishing and paying for his meal at a long-gone diner, my grandfather asked for a to-go cup for the rest of his coffee. As he started to head out the door, the cashier suddenly stopped him.

You gotta pay for that cup, he was told.

Pointing to his table, my grandfather explained that he'd ordered the

coffee with his meal and already paid for it. But the cashier clarified, telling him he still had to pay for the to-go cup itself if he wanted to leave with it.

Eyeing her fixedly, my grandfather asked, "So you mean to tell me that I've already paid for the liquid, but you want me to pay for this here cup it's in?"

That's right. Dauntless and resolute, my grandfather turned his wrist and let the coffee spill to the floor.

"You can keep your cup," he said, setting it matter-of-factly on the counter. Sadly, a perfectly good cup of coffee was wiped off the floor that day. But its sacrifice was necessary to emphasize another strong conviction of the Sacred Coffee Creed:

You just don't try to pull a fast one on a man and his coffee.

Keith Huffman lives in Opelika. He can be reached at kmhuffman86@gmail.com.

Bridge

First things first

The defenders usually have more to think about than declarer because, unlike declarer, they can't see each other's hands. Declarer, however, with his partner's hand in plain view, is in a much better position to formulate what needs to be done to secure the contract.

Take this case where West led a spade against three notrump following the auction shown. East won with the king after declarer played low from dummy and mulled over what to do next. He then correctly decided there was no future in a spade continuation and shifted to a low club, sounding the death knell for declarer's chances.

South played low, West winning with the eight and returning a low club to East's king. There was no recovery for South, whatever he did, and he eventually lost three clubs, a diamond and a spade to go down one.

East unquestionably earned his success by abandoning spades and shifting to a club at trick two. But actually, he should never have had the opportunity to beat the contract. South erred grievously when he played low from dummy on the spade lead at trick one. He was asking for trouble, and he got it!

The bidding and opening lead had clearly marked East with the king of spades. It was

therefore unnecessary to protect the queen by playing low from dummy.

There was far more pressing business to be taken care of. Dummy's diamonds were screaming for attention, and this had to be done before declarer's weak spot in clubs could be exploited. South should therefore have gone up with the ace of spades at trick one and attacked diamonds at trick two, which would have assured him of finishing with at least nine tricks.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.

Scout

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