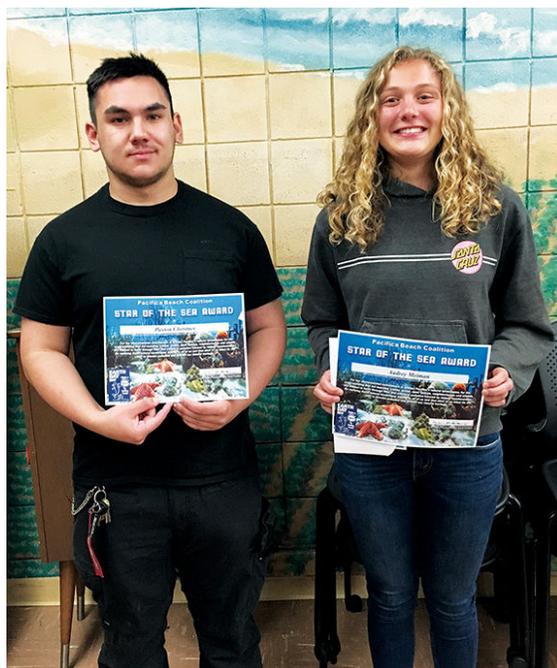


http://www.pacificatribune.com/news/earth-hero-scholarships-awarded/article_5676fc48-5aaa-11e7-bb18-ef52ec6ba892.html

FEATURED

Earth Hero scholarships awarded

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Recent graduates Paxton Christner, left, and Audrey Meiman are recipients of a \$500 Pacifica Beach Coalition Earth Hero Scholarship.

The Pacifica Beach Coalition presented Paxton Christner and Audrey Meiman, recent graduates from Oceana and Terra Nova high schools, with its first PBC Earth Hero Scholarship. The scholarship is in the amount of \$500 and was presented at the recent PCT Earth Day, 2016 video and “A Plastic Ocean” screening last week.

Paxton, a member of the Mussel Rockstar team, has been cleaning Mussel Rock since he was seven years old. What started out as a fun thing for his dad to do with him turned into a monthly (or more) adventure that uncovered marine debris from all over the world.

He has found Japanese tsunami marine debris, a green crab cage with Japanese writing on it, a Japanese skiff from Thornton Beach and even a Japanese coat hanger from the rip rap near Mussel Rock.

Paxton, with the help of his father, Jeff, was known to release large knots of nylon ropes trapped under rocks and pulled up load after load of bread crates, whole and in pieces, from the Matson Container spill of 2015.

Audrey Meiman also started coming to beach cleanups when she was young with her mom and has never stopped.

When asked, she helped lead cleanups at Linda Mar, Pedro Point Shopping Center or San Pedro Creek by the convalescent home. Audrey often recruited her friends and has been known to lead them to hot spots at the beach or San Pedro Creek. With plans to go to UC Santa Barbara, Audrey is looking forward to learning more about sustainability and to helping the world be a better, healthier place for the environment.

The Pacifica Beach Coalition called the two recipients “environmental leaders who have made a difference in Pacifica.”

