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mountain network news

July 2021



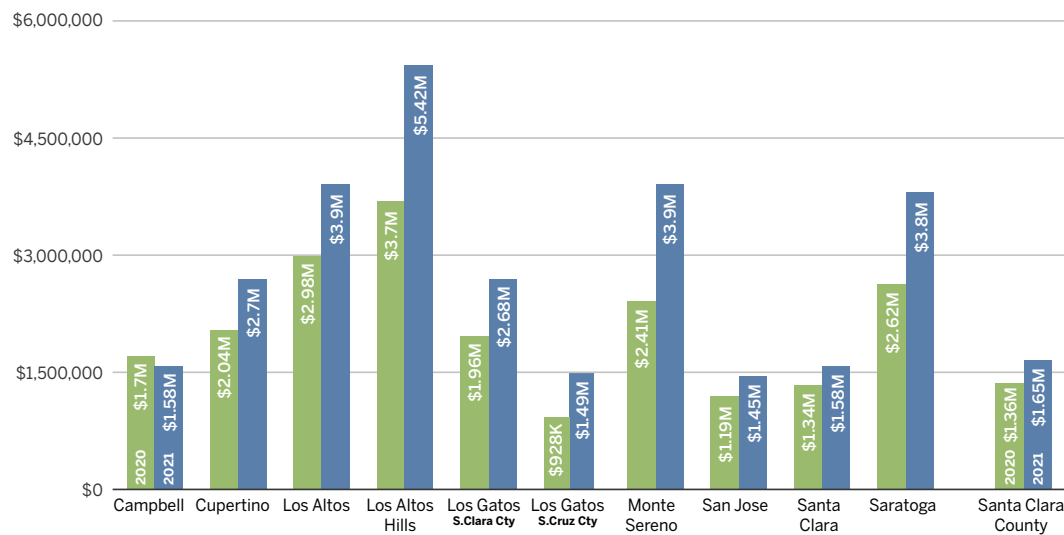


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Email to [mnnnews@comcast.net](mailto:mnnnews@comcast.net)  
Telephone 408-353-1901

**Publisher**  
Neil Wiley

**Associate publisher**  
**Art director**  
Kathy McKinney

**Editorial staff**  
Deana Arnold, Ellen Bond, Gina Foster (editor emeritus), Karole Ishida, Jana McBurney-Lin, Kathy McKinney, Suzanne Overstreet, and Neil Wiley

**Photography and imaging**  
Neil Wiley

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Each month  
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by and for the people who live here.

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The schools,  
our neighborhood centers  
for learning, culture, and social life.

The resources that  
support us.

The history  
that is our foundation.

The explorations  
of nature that refresh our lives.

We are proud to  
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One picture,  
one story,  
at a time.

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# Lisa Sgarlato

# IS

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## 22005 Old Santa Cruz Highway, Los Gatos

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## events

### Rockin' in the Mountains 9 Lani Christianson

Dance to the great music of the Alison Sharino Band on **Saturday, July 24**, at the Loma Prieta Playfield, 23845 Summit Road. Their rock, pop, and soul music will have you dancing under the stars.

Gates open at 5:30 p.m. The band plays from 7 to 10 p.m. Bring your family, friends, lawn chairs, or blanket, and celebrate the freedom of being together again. Dance barefoot in the grass, sing along, or just kick back and enjoy the music. Bring a picnic dinner or buy delicious cuisine from the taco truck. Water, soft drinks, and ice cream will be available for purchase from Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue.



Thanks to our great sponsors, admission is free this year, but attendance is limited, so you must have a ticket. Reserve your ticket at <http://Rockin9.Brownpapertickets.com>, or call 800-838-3006. No tickets will be available at the gate. For more information, call 408-353-9091, or email [scmlani@yahoo.com](mailto:scmlani@yahoo.com).

We will comply with the CDPH/OSHA COVID-19 guidelines in effect at the date of the event. You may be required to wear a mask if you are not vaccinated. We will let ticket-holders know about these policies by email when we get closer to the date.

A huge thank you to our wonderful sponsors: Loma Prieta Community Foundation, Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue, *Mountain Network News*, Summit Store, Summit Whole Body Fitness, and Lani Christianson. Let's rock!



# SATURDAY, JULY 24TH **ROCKIN' IN THE MOUNTAINS** **9th ANNUAL ON THE GREEN!** **FEATURING THE ALISON SHARINO BAND!**

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**Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire & Rescue  
Our September 12 Barbecue  
Toni Sheppard**

After missing out last year, we are very excited about September's long-awaited barbecue. The menu, raffle, exhibits, and games are being planned for all ages. Tickets will go on sale in August.

Early raffle tickets will be on sale at the Alison Sharino Band event on **Saturday, July 24**, at the Loma Prieta Playfield.

To contribute to the raffle or make any donation, email [viskochil@lomaprietafire.org](mailto:viskochil@lomaprietafire.org). We need volunteers to help with the barbecue. Email [toni.sheppard@outlook.com](mailto:toni.sheppard@outlook.com) or [jviskochil@lomaprietafire.org](mailto:jviskochil@lomaprietafire.org).

If you are interested in volunteering throughout the year, email [volunteer@lomaprietafire.org](mailto:volunteer@lomaprietafire.org).

Don't forget the online scavenger hunt! Watch for this month's clue, hidden somewhere in this issue of *MNN*.

See you in September.

**Loma Prieta Museum  
Pioneer Spirit Day  
Roger Mason**

Join this day of family fun, and enjoy food, music, pioneer history, and children's games. Meet your neighbors at our Pioneer Spirit Day event on **Saturday, October 2**, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Mason-Taylor Ranch, 22849 Summit Road.

This community event will include a history scavenger hunt (with prizes) for children, old-fashioned children's games, live music by the Wildcat Mountain Ramblers, a barbecue lunch, short history talks, and a silent auction of merchant donations.

Applaud the strong spirit of mountain residents who endured and overcame hardships. Pioneer family descendants will present short family stories describing what it was like growing up in the Santa Cruz Mountains as early settlers.

We invite families to include their family history at this event by emailing [LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com), or



calling 408-529-0254. We are looking for more families to provide interesting and educational histories of the mountain area.

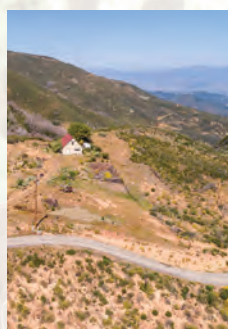
We need volunteers. If you would like to help with this event or future events, email [LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com). If you would like to know more about us, visit [facebook.com/LomaPrietaMuseum](https://facebook.com/LomaPrietaMuseum).

This Loma Prieta Museum community event is sponsored by the Loma Prieta Community Foundation, a 501(c) 3 non-profit foundation. All donations are tax deductible. To donate, visit <https://lpcf.org/>.

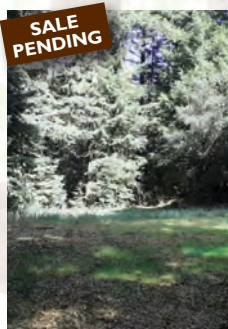
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# resources

## FireSafe County Roads Summit Intersection Project

Larry Lopp

The PG&E Summit Road Fuel Reduction Project is moving forward. A \$50,000 grant from PG&E is creating a shaded fuel break and removing hazardous trees at the intersection of Summit and Soquel-San Jose roads.

This intersection is a critical choke point in our emergency evacuation routes. All five landowners along this route have signed the necessary cooperation agreements. The project-bid tour for prospective contractors was held on May 27. The contract was awarded in June. Work should be completed by mid-September.

This work will improve our emergency escape routes while demonstrating the need to improve fire safety along our rural roads. The work creates a shaded fuel break up to 100 feet on both sides of the roads by removing dead or dying standing trees, logs on the ground, and hazard overstory trees along the route. A total of six to eight acres are designated for treatment in this project. Detailed project plans are available at <https://skylandchurch.com/fire-safe-county-roads/>.

The FireSafe County Roads program is a multi-year cooperative project. These community organizations contributed to the project: Santa Cruz Mountain Alliance, Skyland Community Church Outreach, Santa Cruz County agencies, Resource Conservation District, FireSafe Councils, CalFire, and Senator John Laird with his district office director Angela Chestnut.

As grant funding becomes available, this program will create more FireSafe county roads in our community.



Green and blue areas indicate the approximate project location. The north side of Summit Road (green area) is the priority for treatment. When more funding is available, the south side of Summit (blue area) will also be improved.

## Santa Clara County Fire Department

### Early Season Fire

Luisa Rapport

Information Specialist

At 6:16 p.m. on Tuesday, June 1, Santa Clara County Fire Department responded to reports of a vegetation fire near Charcoal Road (trail), near Highway 35. A rising column of smoke became visible via the Black Mountain camera on the ALERTWildfire network. A Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District ranger provided an initial report on the fire and directed fire resources to the scene.

The fire was located along Charcoal Road (trail), approximately a half-mile north of Highway 35, in the Saratoga Gap Open Space Preserve. Once firefighters were able to access the remote site, they found a small vegetation fire. They quickly stopped forward progress of the quarter-acre fire at 6:54 p.m. No structures were involved. The fire was declared 100 percent contained at 9:20 p.m. The fire involved five engines and 23 personnel.

The slow rate of the fire's spread was due in large part to an existing shaded fuel break created previously in the area. The fuel break was initially conceived by Dick Schwind, founder of the South Skyline FireSafe Council, who enlisted the support and partnership of agencies that included CalFire, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, Santa Clara County Parks, the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, and the South Skyline FireSafe Council. This was the third vegetation fire in recent months that was slowed by a shaded fuel break. These projects have an impact in our wildland areas.



## BRUSH CLEARING AND GRINDING

- Fire clearances
- Poison oak, vines, heavy thick brush removal
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- Brushing along community roads and driveways
- Brush pile grinding

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## **Santa Clara County FireSafe Council Managing Megafires**

Record-breaking fires over the past decade suggest the western United States has entered a new era of megafires.

Fire itself is not the problem. It has been characteristic of the North American west for millennia. The problem is fires, fueled by dry and overgrown forests, grow into giant blazes that move fast, fill the skies with smoke, and threaten homes and cities.

Fires like 2020 Cameron Peak, East Troublesome, and Pine Gulch blazes broke the record for Colorado's largest fire season. They are fast fires, like the Camp Fire that destroyed Paradise, California in 2018, killing 85 people. At one point, it was burning the equivalent of one football field per second. These fires produce massive amounts of smoke that can kill thousands of people prematurely and contribute to climate change.

Three things in particular have increased the likelihood that megafires will occur. Warmer, drier conditions have turned trees, shrubs, and grasses into dry fuel. A century of fire suppression has left more fuel to burn, and cities and homes encroaching on wildlands put more people in harm's way and introduce ignition sources.

With almost the entire western United States in drought this year, portending another dangerous fire season ahead, my colleagues and I brought some of the top fire-technology innovators together with fire managers, politicians, and academics to brainstorm solutions at the Caltech Keck Institute for Space Studies. The group included representatives from major data providers like Google and Planet; fire-tracking companies like Fireball; wildfire-analysis system creators like Tecnosylva and Intterra; and satellite projects like Canada's WildFireSat and FireSat. Also included were NOAA's Smoke Hazard Mapping, the National Weather Service, fire managers from U.S. Fire Service and CalFire, and many others.

Together, these fire experts focused on four key recommendations for managing the megafire threat, starting with better coordination, and leveraging technology for detecting and tracking fires.

### **Better, More Accessible Fire Technology**

Technology exists today that can detect fires within five minutes of when they start. For example, the Australia-based company Fireball International's satellites detected the 2019 Kincade Fire in California's wine country 66 seconds after it started,

and the fire was verified within three minutes by the ALERTWildfire system, a network of cameras and sensors coordinated by three universities.

NASA's satellites and high-altitude aircraft can monitor thermal signatures of fires, and gauge the amount of available fuel.

The National Interagency Fire Center coordinates drones that collect more infrared fire data and images closer to the ground. CalFire's Technosylva Wildfire Analyst Enterprise integrates data from these sources, classified government sources, and the GPS of firefighters on the ground to create simulations for real-time decision-making.

Not everyone has easy access to that data. Free, accurate data about where and how fires are moving, with a single-data clearinghouse, would allow local governments and companies to tailor technology to community-specific needs, such as evacuation planning and better zoning to minimize fire damage.

Investing in more satellite coverage and other sensors would also improve detection and tracking. The scientific and technological frontier improves the accuracy and use of this information to identify and direct resources to high-risk fires instead of suppressing all fires.

### **Coordinating and Sharing Data**

To detect and track fires that matter, the United States would benefit from a single vision across federal agencies, and an authoritative body with the explicit responsibility for coordinating efforts from research to operations. Right now, outside a satellite coordinating committee, each agency generally focuses on its own research interests that may not align with informative decision-making.

With a national strategy, the government could invest in research that coordinates many of the agencies involved in research, planning, and response. The Departments of Agriculture and Interior, NASA, the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Institute of Standards and Technology, National Institutes of Health, Defense Department, Space Development Agency, and others are involved in research that could benefit fire-management efforts.

With better coordination, research can



prioritize decision-making about those fires that pose the greatest threat to human lives, health, infrastructure, climate, and ecosystem, including clean water and air, timber, and biodiversity.

### **Funding, with a Role for Private Companies**

Funding to promote innovation by the private sector for public benefit is also essential. A sustainable business model must take into account the true costs of fires. The public sector can provide custom solutions to local communities. New systems can help front-line firefighters detect and track fires, and also identify the fires that may matter the most. These systems were once the province of governments, but now could be built through partnerships such as those pioneered by NASA.

### **Building Resilient Communities**

A fourth recommendation is to support local solutions that can prepare communities and help them build resilience to future fires. That starts with proactive planning, including better building codes and zoning.

Infrastructure improvements such as grid updates can help reduce the number of fires sparked by power lines. Networked microgrids powered by clean energy, such as local wind and solar with battery storage, can avoid transporting energy long distances. They also cut greenhouse gases that drive global warming and extend the fire season.

Finally, resilience planning includes working with tribal nations to restore a healthy relationship with fire. California's government is setting an example with a billion-dollar investment to increase community fire resilience.

This is a critical time to redefine our nation's relationship with fire and build resilience in fire-prone areas. The year 2020 taught us this is the time for change.

**For more information, email  
Info@SCCFireSafe.org, call 408-975-9591,  
or visit [www.sccfiresafe.org](http://www.sccfiresafe.org).**

## resources

### Santa Cruz County Issues

Manu Koenig  
First District Supervisor

Throughout the last month, our office has been working on several issues that affect the mountain community. Here are a few highlights from the First District Office.

#### Text-to-911

Over the past year there has been a major effort statewide to get the Text-to-911 system up-and-running. The ability to text instead of calling 911 may be critical in an urgent situation such as a wildfire. This is vitally important to many rural residents who lack sufficient cell-phone coverage. We are happy to announce that our local Emergency Command Center is now fully operational in Text-to-911.

Only SMS texts are accepted through this service. Video, photo, and SMS messages will not go through. When sending an emergency text to 911, include the location and type of emergency.

To learn more about Text-to-911, visit [fcc.gov](http://fcc.gov) for Text-to-911: What You Need To Know from the Federal Communications Commission.



#### FAA Flight Path

In May, the FAA provided an update regarding the new BRIXX Three procedure, including arrivals to SJC from over the Pacific. Using this procedure (scheduled to be published mid-June), planes will fly at 12,000 feet, a much higher altitude than the current BRIXX Two (7,000 feet).

Additionally, our office has also reached out to Congressman Panetta to request a new update on the status of the SERFR route.

#### Santa Cruz County Fire Equipment

Plans are underway to upgrade and modernize fire equipment for our local fire companies. CalFire's apparatus-replacement schedule indicates plans to provide each of the five companies within County Fire with standardized models of the following: Type 1 engine (municipal-style engine), Type 3 engine (wildland-style engine), water tender, and rescue vehicle.

Company 36 (Loma Prieta) already has one of the two newest Type 3 engines in Santa Cruz County (2019).



### Welcome to the OR3's New interim Director—Mark Bisbee

At our Summit-area community meeting on June 16, we introduced the mountain community to Mark Bisbee, the new interim Director of the Office of Response, Recovery, and Resiliency (OR3).

Bisbee brings over thirty years of emergency management experience with CalFire and local governments. He has served as the Watsonville Fire Chief. Under the leadership of Mark Bisbee, the OR3 will continue to focus on ongoing CZU fire recovery, as well as increasing the readiness and response capabilities of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and overall countywide preparedness.

The OR3 also plans to develop an approach to supporting Santa Cruz County climate-action strategies and hazard-mitigation efforts. Our office looks forward to continuing to work with the OR3 on these important efforts.

As always, we welcome your feedback on any issue or concerns. Email us at [district@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:district@santacruzcounty.us). We also welcome you to join us for constituent meetings, held every Monday evening prior to board of supervisor's meetings, as well as our monthly Summit-area neighborhood meetings. For a complete list of upcoming constituent meetings, visit District 1 ([santa-cruz.ca.us](http://santa-cruz.ca.us)).

**Editor's note: No Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors meetings are scheduled in July.**



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## I Don't Want My Picture Taken!

Christopher Loweth

Many homeowners are using video surveillance to monitor the safety and security of their homes, land, mailboxes, and deliveries to their front porches. Their security systems, using something like the Ring™ doorbell, monitor both video and sound from their computer or phone. Can they legally do that?

The answer in California is “yes,” if the cameras are directed at areas where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy. Nearby residents or neighbors may object to the placing of cameras, complaining that they do not consent to being recorded, but if the cameras are directed at a non-private area, this is not a valid legal objection. Persons entering your land or coming to your mailbox do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy. Not all video recording is permissible. If combined with other activity, it may be sufficient to support a civil-harassment protective order.

### The California Eavesdropping Statute

Some cameras also record sound. Generally, persons must consent to having their conversation recorded. The California Eavesdropping Statute makes it a crime to “intentionally and without the consent of all parties to a confidential communication, use an electronic amplifying or recording device to eavesdrop upon or record the confidential communication...” Cal Pen Code § 632. Evidence of confidential conversations is generally inadmissible in any proceeding (Cal. Pen C §632, (d)).

Like video recording, the important issue in recording sound is whether there is an expectation of privacy. A conversation is “confidential” for purposes of Pen C § 632, if a party to the conversation has an objectively reasonable expectation that the conversation is not being



overheard or recorded. Section 632 does not prohibit the admission in court of a recorded communication if either party to the communication knows, or should know, that the communication was being overheard or recorded. (§ 632, subds. (c), (d).) This rule goes so far as to allow any recording that the person being recorded might have reason to know about.

For example, the petitioner in a legal case used hidden security cameras to secretly record the respondent hitting him with a wooden ladle and a water bottle. The respondent admitted that he “thought” there were cameras, so it was admissible. Most video and voice recordings of a non-private space, such as a porch or sidewalk, or even the common area of a road association or housing association, are allowable. To reinforce the fact that these areas are public, signs can be placed in areas notifying people within their view that they are being recorded, which refutes the argument that the recorded persons had a reasonable expectation of privacy.

### Civil-Harassment Protective Order

When a camera is directed toward the window of a neighbor, particularly a bathroom or bedroom window, it may constitute an invasion of privacy, especially

if the cameras are positioned intentionally to harass or annoy. California Civil Code Section 527.6 exists “to protect the individual’s right to pursue safety, happiness, and privacy as guaranteed by the California Constitution.” It does so by providing expedited injunctive relief to victims of harassment.

The course of conduct must cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress. Obviously, a video camera pointed directly into a bathroom window or bedroom could meet that requirement and constitute an intentional invasion of privacy. Courts have also acknowledged that repeated photographing or videotaping can constitute a course of conduct that seriously annoys.

If a neighbor or property owner is using video or still cameras, along with other harassing efforts, that activity can support a civil-harassment protective order against them. In one case in Los Angeles, a neighbor initiated a campaign of harassment against the petitioner, photographing the license plates of all her visitors, and writing multiple letters to her landlord, demanding that she be evicted. This was more than enough to support a civil-harassment restraining order.

The general rule is that a homeowner can use surveillance cameras to record both sound and video of areas where other persons have no reasonable expectation of privacy. If the use of cameras is combined with other efforts to harass or annoy someone, a civil-harassment restraining order can be issued. If a camera is placed so that it purposely invades the privacy of a neighbor, it opens the camera user to liability. Before installing an outdoor camera in a questionable location, consult with an attorney.

**Christopher Loweth is an associate at Pratt & Associates, a law firm located in Los Gatos.**

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# people

## Loma Prieta Club Scholarships

### Rosie Gomez and Glenn Grant-Richards Patti Hughes

Despite the COVID-19-caused loss of our 2020 and 2021 picnic fundraisers, the Loma Prieta Club members did what they do best—think creatively, and work harder than ever.

Last year we awarded scholarships to Kayleigh Khandelwal and Lance Pharand. This year our scholarships go to two more outstanding mountain students: **Rosella Gomez** and **Glenn Grant-Richards**.

Rosie is a first for our club—a star softball player in the mold of Geena Davis. Think of the movie, *A League of Their Own*, about women who were baseball stars.

First introduced to softball when she was six, Rosie's talent and hard work on highly-ranked competitive teams put her in position for that rare spot, a recruitment request for a college-level Division 1 softball program. Starting this fall, Rosie will play as a scholar-athlete for Canisius College in Buffalo, New York.

Her academic record of honors and advanced-placement classes with a 4.0 GPA, and her community-service hours, brought her to the college's sports-and-exercise



health-care major, leading to a future career in medicine.

In addition to her classes and extensive hours of softball practice and playing, Rosie made time for community service, working with children and young adults in local and nearby cities.

Working with her mother, Building Blocks teacher Nicole Gomez, she built a village of tiny homes for homeless youth in Oakland. She cleared the building site of weeds and trash, installed a chain link fence to protect the property, and helped build the tiny houses and garden boxes. Her project work



was so impressive that KQED produced a short documentary about it called *A Beacon of Light*.

Our second recipient, Glenn Grant-Richards, is also a first for our club. Glenn is our first scholarship winner to build a computer from scratch with individual components. He did it so that he could do the research and Zoom assignments required for his classes. Considering computer science as a career, Glenn felt that building a computer would be an invaluable experience.

His job as a lifeguard at a local pool gave





him the funds to buy the components. He researched how a computer works to gain the knowledge needed to start building. Finally, he had the courage and drive to get help when it was needed.

One of his teachers said: "I've never had a student more motivated. Once Glenn sets a goal, he puts in 100 percent-plus to reach it. Failure is not in his vocabulary. It's only an opportunity to learn."

A student with a wide range of academic interests, Glenn may hold the record for having completed the most advanced-placement and honors courses (ten) on Zoom during COVID-19. His AP classes were in English, Spanish 5, biology, physics, government, calculus AB and BC, and computer science. He also was in honors classes in Spanish 4 and economics. All were completed during the months that Los Gatos High School was partially or totally closed due to COVID-19. His schedule also included art classes and water polo.

At the same time, Glenn amassed 194 hours of community service. He delivered groceries from Summit Store to home-bound seniors. He built a website for the high school clubs to publicize their meetings and activities.

A member of the Leo's Club since sixth grade, Glenn will be missed by the Lions Club members who have worked with him. His outgoing personality, willingness to help with many projects, and his technical expertise have made him a valued member.

Glenn will be attending U.C., Santa Cruz, with a major in computer science. Be watching for a future Grant-Richards computer breakthrough.

Special thanks to the LPC scholarship committee members: Judy Clark, Fern Thompson, Susie Clarke, Patti Hughes, and Christina Owen. After reading all the applications, essays, and transcripts, they unanimously selected these two outstanding mountain students.



**Loma Prieta Club  
Helena Cramer Wins  
Community Service Award  
Susan Zerweck**

Each year, the C.T. English Middle School graduate who has accumulated the most community service hours is awarded the Loma Prieta Club's Barbara Perry Community Service Award.

The student receives a \$100 check and a certificate.

Usually, we give this award with a special luncheon for the family, and present it at the school's awards ceremony. Due to the pandemic, we couldn't honor this extraordinary young woman in person.

This year's winner, with 183 volunteer hours (in spite of COVID-19), is **Helena Cramer**. She invested many hours with the Leo's Club, the Homeless Garden Project, Bears Book Club for third graders, and *Cheetah Newsletter*. Helena also served as the student council president.

Salutatorian of her class, Helena gave a speech at graduation. She is deserving of many awards. The Loma Prieta Club is proud to honor her.



**Memorial  
Linda Cody  
Heather Shupe**

Linda Cody was an avid horsewoman who lived in the Summit area for almost fifty years, riding trails and caring for the mountain community in many ways. She was a member of Santa Cruz County Horsemen's Association, Summit Riders (newsletter editor), Los Gatos Horsemen's Association, and Horse Patrol.

Linda was a charming, shy, and intelligent woman with a passion for good books, all flavors of music, fine wine, and horses. She had a quiet and subtle wit that was razor sharp, often based on local history and a keen perception of those around her.

Linda had a beautiful smile and a creative soul. She cared for her friends and animals in equal measure: adopting two feral cats and giving a good friend a safe harbor while she was silently battling for life.

Her passing is a huge loss to us all.





# gallery

## Who Is That Fish I Saw You With?

Bruce Sudweeks

As an avid SCUBA diver, I'm often approached and asked questions when I'm on the beach with my dive gear.

I suspect that most of the questions I'm asked are from passing tourists. Here are some typical questions with my typical answers.

*What is the temperature of the water?* It runs from 48 to 58 degrees F, with an average of 53 degrees.

*How deep do you go?* I dive from 20 to 120 feet, but my typical dive is 40 feet.

*What do you see down there?* On a recent dive, a woman asked if I had seen anything out of the ordinary. I told her that I had seen a free-swimming sarcastic fringehead. She looked at me for a few seconds and asked, "Are you making fun of me, sonny?" I answered "no ma'am" and proceeded to tell her about the sarcastic fringehead blenny (*Neoclinus blanchardi*).

Normally these fish are extremely shy. You might spot a fraction of their head poking out of a cave. Seeing one swimming about is a treat.

They will come out of their homes to



defend their territory if another fringehead is in the area. These fish have rather large jaws for their size (up to 12 inches in length). Territorial battles consist of jaw-wrestling for dominance.

I think that the fish in this photo saw its reflection in my underwater camera dome, thought it was a rival, and came out of cover to investigate.

The other possibility is that this species has a serious appetite for squid eggs. In fact, the fringehead blenny has been known to overindulge. At the time of this photo (early June), the sea floor near where this image was captured was covered in squid eggs.

After mating, the male fringehead blenny is very protective and takes good care of the eggs. This territorial behavior benefits the next generation of blennies.

## Paintings by Azarmehr Craig



Celebrating the end of the school year

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Photography by  
Bruce Fournier



*Lunar eclipse and stars (above)  
Blood Moon rising (below)*



Photography by  
Mercury Freedom



*A turkey vulture spreading its wings*



*A hummingbird*



*A heron and her chicks*



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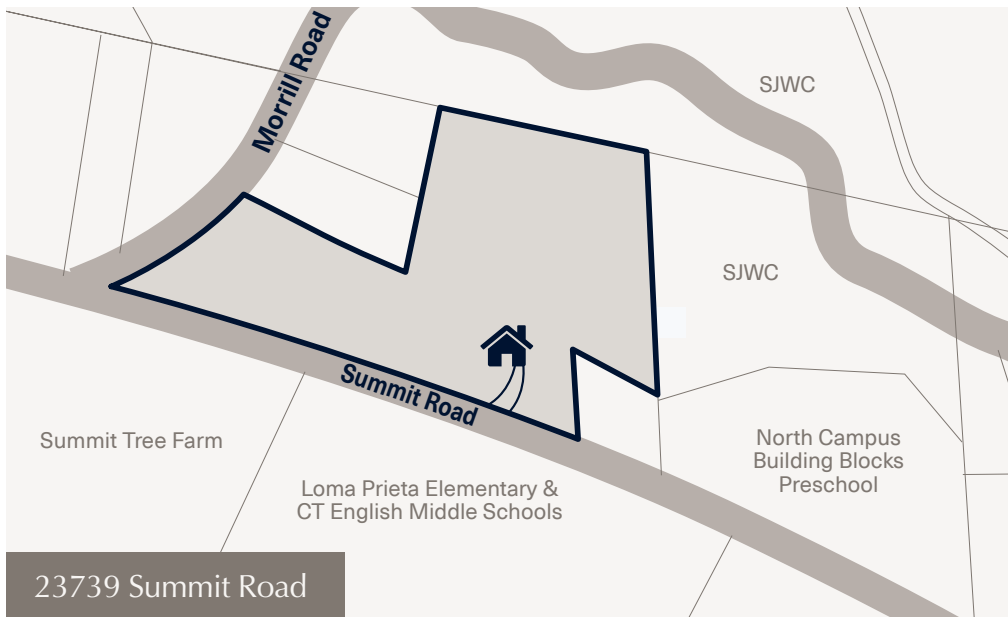
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## Welcome to Briana Secviar!

Rebecca and Karen are excited to announce a new partnership with mountain resident Bri Secviar, who brings a wealth of real estate experience and transaction management. Bri and her husband Anthony moved to the Los Gatos Mountains in January 2021, with their 2 sons, now in 3rd and 5th grade at Loma Prieta Elementary, and pre-school age daughter. Bri and Anthony were born and raised in San Diego, but moved around as Anthony pursued his dream as a well-respected chef. In 2016 they opened their first restaurant, Protégé in Palo Alto.

The family settled in Mountain View for 4 years, and Bri, a licensed Realtor since 2013, joined a successful real estate team, working as a real estate assistant by day, serving in their Michelin star restaurant at night. During 2020, like many families during the pandemic, the Secviars family of 7 (including 2 dogs) began seeking a different lifestyle, a place where they could put down roots, with more land for their kids to explore and be active outdoors. They found their dream home in the Summit West area, where they were overjoyed by the warm welcome from immediate neighbors and the unique warm community that exists through the Loma Prieta district and the Los Gatos Mountains.

Bri joins us from a top producing San Jose team where she has routinely handled as many as 100 transactions a year. She will be assisting with our listing management and marketing, hosting open houses and working with buyers.



**KAREN IZZO**

**Cell 408.309.9076**

Karent@sereno.com

karenizzo.com

DRE 01402005



**REBECCA SMITH**

**Cell 408.507.7165**

Rebecca@sereno.com

rebeccasmithrealtor.com

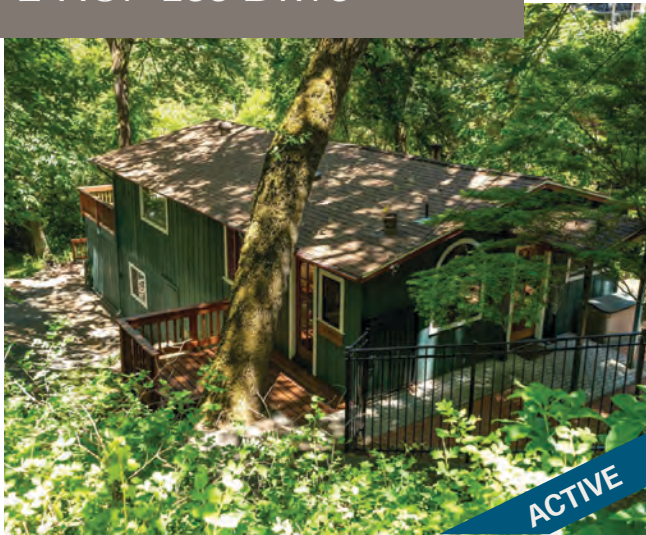
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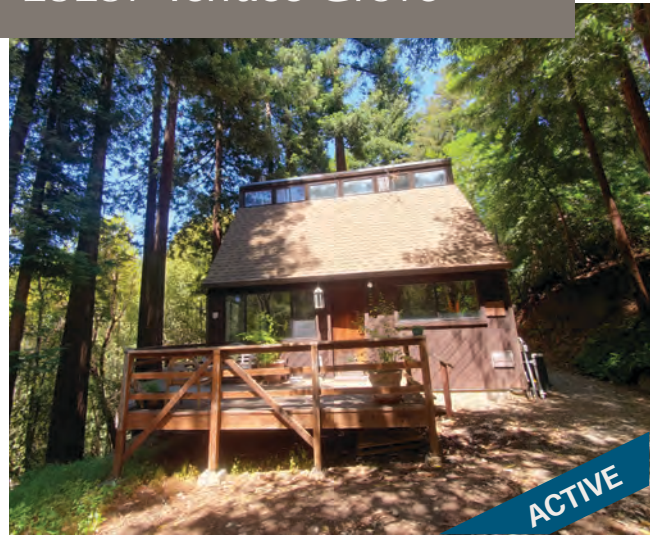
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# calendar

## ON-GOING CLASSES AND MEETINGS

*Class and meeting schedules are valid as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Call or email to confirm dates and times.*

### Sundays

Dog agility, 24900 Highland Way, 9 to 11 a.m. Call 408-506-8670, or email in8runner@aol.com to confirm dates.

### Mondays

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings at Skyland Church, 8 p.m.

### Tuesdays

Qi-gong classes, 8:45 to 10 a.m. at Skyland Church. Call 831-247-5617.

Pilates mat class, 7 to 8 p.m., via Zoom. Email altesta@gmail.com or text 650-465-8513.

Felton Farmer's Market, 1 to 6 p.m., 120 Russell Avenue.

### Wednesdays

Tai chi for beginners is held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Los Gatos Recreation Center.

Downtown Santa Cruz Farmer's Market, Cedar and Lincoln streets, from 1 to 5 p.m.

### Thursdays

Yoga at the Redwood Estates Pavilion, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. We meet on Zoom and (weather permitting) on the Pavilion lawn. Visit <https://bit.ly/3t6UkG5> for details.

Pilates mat class, 7 to 8 p.m., via Zoom. Email altesta@gmail.com or text 650-465-8513.

Yoga at Skyland Church, 7 p.m. \$10 per class

Integral yoga at Lakeside School (held online currently), 6:30 to 8 p.m. Visit [www.lgsrecreation.org](http://www.lgsrecreation.org).

Loma Prieta Amateur Radio Club meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Burrell CDF station on Highland Way.

Alcoholics Anonymous, Redwood Estates Pavilion, 7:30 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous meetings, 7 p.m. at Mountain Bible Church, 23946 Summit Road. Call 408-353-2302.

### Saturdays

Summit Toastmasters 95033, meets on Zoom, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. For more information, visit <https://summittoastmasters95033.toastmastersclubs.org> or call Laur d'Armien, 408-634-3493.

Westside Santa Cruz Farmer's Market, Mission Street extension and Western Drive, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Scotts Valley Farmer's Market, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Kmart parking lot off Mount Hermon Road

### Sundays

Los Gatos Farmer's Market, Town Park Plaza, Main Street and N. Santa Cruz Avenue, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Live Oak Farmer's Market, 15th and East Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Thursday, July 8

Santa Clara County Bookmobile is at the Loma Prieta Playfield/Building Blocks Preschool, from 1 to 4 p.m. Order items for pickup at [www.sccld.org](http://www.sccld.org), or call 408-273-2326, ext. 3060.

### Thursday, July 22

Santa Clara County Bookmobile is at the Redwood Estates Pavillion, from 2 to 4 p.m. Order items for pickup at [www.sccld.org](http://www.sccld.org), or call 408-273-2326, ext. 3060.



### Saturday, July 24

The Alison Sharino Band will perform at the Loma Prieta Playfield, 23845 Summit Road. This year only, tickets will be free to mountain residents. The number of tickets available is limited. See page 6 for more information.

### Tuesday, July 27

Santa Clara County Bookmobile is at Lakeside School, from 2 to 4 p.m. Order items for pickup at [www.sccld.org](http://www.sccld.org), or call 408-273-2326, ext. 3060.



### Sunday, September 12

The Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue annual barbecue will be at the Loma Prieta Playfield. See page 7 for more details, and watch for more information in the August issue of *Mountain Network News*.

### Saturday, October 2

Loma Prieta Club presents a Pioneer Spirit Day, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Mason-Taylor Ranch, 22849 Summit Road. Enjoy food, live music, pioneer history, and children's games. For more information, see page 7.

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# exploring

## Return to Fort Ord The Anza Trail and More Neil Wiley

I want to tell you more about the Fort Ord National Monument. This 7,200-acre preserve has 86 miles of trails, a history documented back to the 1700s, and many flavors of recreation.

Hikers, bikers, and equestrians can enjoy a short loop in less than an hour, or travel many miles for an all-day trek or ride. The variety of landscapes make it a great place to be in nature.

Although dogs are welcome on all trails, they should be on leash. Good news! There are off-leash routes, too. According to the Bureau of Land Management's Fort Ord website, leash-free routes include the Sandy Ridge Road/Engineering Canyon Loop, and Gidotti Road, Skyline Road, and a section of the Oil Well Road. For updates, check the website, or call 831-582-2200.

Want to ride? You can pedal your bike slowly on broad roads or challenge yourself on rough single-tracks with bumps, jumps, climbs, and steep descents. Every trail presents a new experience.

No matter how you travel through the preserve, you experience diversity in scenery, topography, geology, plants, and animal life. See chaparral, oak woodland, grassy meadows, and vernal pools. Watch for bobcats, coyotes, black-tailed deer, rabbits, red fox, and shrews. When winter rains fill the pools, find protected California tiger salamanders.

You can also have a deeper experience if you know some history.



Juan Bautista de Anza



The historic Anza Trail

### The History

Two expeditions (1774 and 1775-1776) led by Juan Bautista de Anza established a 1,200-mile overland route to the small Spanish settlements of Alto California. The first expedition included 20 soldiers, 2 priests, and 12 servants and mule drivers, for a total of 34 men and 140 mounts.

The second expedition was even more ambitious. It included 240 men, women, and children, with over 1,000 animals.

Vladimir Guerrero's book—*The Anza Trail and the Settling of California*, published in 2006—tells the story of these expeditions, complete with original translations from journals by the leaders, as well as official documents, and commentary that reveal the complexity and significance of these journeys into the new world. The book is available from Amazon and from the publisher [www.heydaybooks.com](http://www.heydaybooks.com).

As the author reports, "These subjects of Carlos III of Spain exchanged their status as second-class citizens at home to become the ruling class of California. And, in their protected isolation, whether indigenous, mestizo, mulatto, criollo, or peninsula-born, they continued to intermarry with






local Native Americans who, by virtue of acquiring their language and religion, also became 'people of reason.' Monterey Californios created a uniquely integrated society that thrived for seventy years from San Diego to San Francisco."

Monterey was a key support center for these expeditions. Eleven miles of the Anza Trail pass through Fort Ord.

At the dedication of Fort Ord as a National Monument in 2012, President Obama said, "The area is notable for its historical significance, including its role in the Spanish settlement of California. Nearly two-and-a-half centuries ago, as Americans fought for independence far to the east, these lands were traversed by a group of settlers led by Spanish Lieutenant Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza. The undeveloped expanse of Fort Ord is similar to the open landscape experienced by Anza and by the




# A Life-Changing Journey

On October 23, 1775, Juan Bautista de Anza and about 240 settlers and soldiers left the Tubac Presidio in New Spain (now Arizona). The settlers were looking for a better life and Spain was looking to extend its influence and power across the untamed frontier.

The 1200-mile expedition changed the course of history by establishing an overland route for Spain between outposts in New Spain and the frontier of what has become California. The trek eventually led to the settlement of San Francisco. The section of historic trail corridor that you are on today was traversed by the expedition on March 10, 1776. It was a full day of travel from their camp near present-day Gonzales to the Presidio of Monterey.



See [www.anzahistorictrail.org](http://www.anzahistorictrail.org) for the chronicles of their travels.

## history



Costanoan (now commonly referred to as Ohlone) peoples who lived in what is now the Central Coast region of California.”

Northern California once supported the densest Native American population anywhere north of Mexico. An estimated 10,000 people lived between Point Sur and the San Francisco Bay. They were not one tribe. They were forty or so independent tribelets. Arriving Spaniards helped some survive, but mistreated others.

The mission system was more than churches. This network supported communications and transportation from San Diego to San Francisco. It also

provided a more stable and secure way of life for newcomers and Native Americans. Although the mission system had its faults, it replaced subsistence hunting, fishing, and food gathering with organized agriculture.

### The Anza Trail

I wanted to honor these brave people by walking a few miles along the Anza Trail. I parked at the Creekside entrance a few feet from the trailhead for Trail 1, then followed a narrow and forested single-track that widened to a broader road. It took me up and down small hills as I viewed the broad Salinas Valley and nearby green-and-gold

mountains. The trail continued as Station One Road. After a few ups and downs, the trail took me down a long hill to the intersection with Oil Well Road where an informational sign described the significance of the Anza Trail.

I continued straight ahead on Oil Well Trail beside a large green but waterless vernal pool. Shortly, I reached an intersection with Trail 41. It offered a single track up through a pleasant forest





where I saw a nice bench and two dirt bikers. I enjoyed some snacks and a lovely scenic view, including the vernal pool. Even without water, it was still a beautiful green. Someday, I hope to see it filled with rainwater.

I doubled back to the Oil Well Trail, but instead of continuing south, I returned to the informational sign, and walked northwest to a right on Trail 72. This shady single-track took me to Trail 31 to complete a comfortable loop back to my car.

I didn't walk a thousand miles, perhaps less than five, but I felt a sense of history as I honored these early explorers and the native people.

#### **For Bikers**

Although I saw only a few dirt bikers on my hike, some online research revealed that Fort Ord is a biker's paradise. Several helmet-based YouTube videos offer virtual rides. To take a virtual ride, see The Otter Biker on YouTube or on his website as he rides Trails 49, 42, the 50s, and others.

It might be enough just to ride via YouTube, but if you want to pedal along the trails, I recommend following a rider's advice. Test the trail first, know your limits, wear a helmet, and respect the rules.

#### **For Young Nature-Lovers**

Although many open-space organizations encourage children to discover nature, I was happily surprised at the work of the Bureau of Land Management. Their *Fort Ord Junior Explorer Field Guide* is a good introduction to the preserve for younger children.







To download a PDF copy, go to [BLM.gov/FortOrdNationalMonument](http://BLM.gov/FortOrdNationalMonument). Click on *Junior Ranger Field Guide*.

Even better is the human interaction provided by Ranger Tammy. She has won several awards for her work. Whether describing things to see in Fort Ord or her own backyard, her YouTube videos are child-oriented, fun, and informative. Look for *Ranger Tammy and her Friends at Fort Ord* on YouTube.

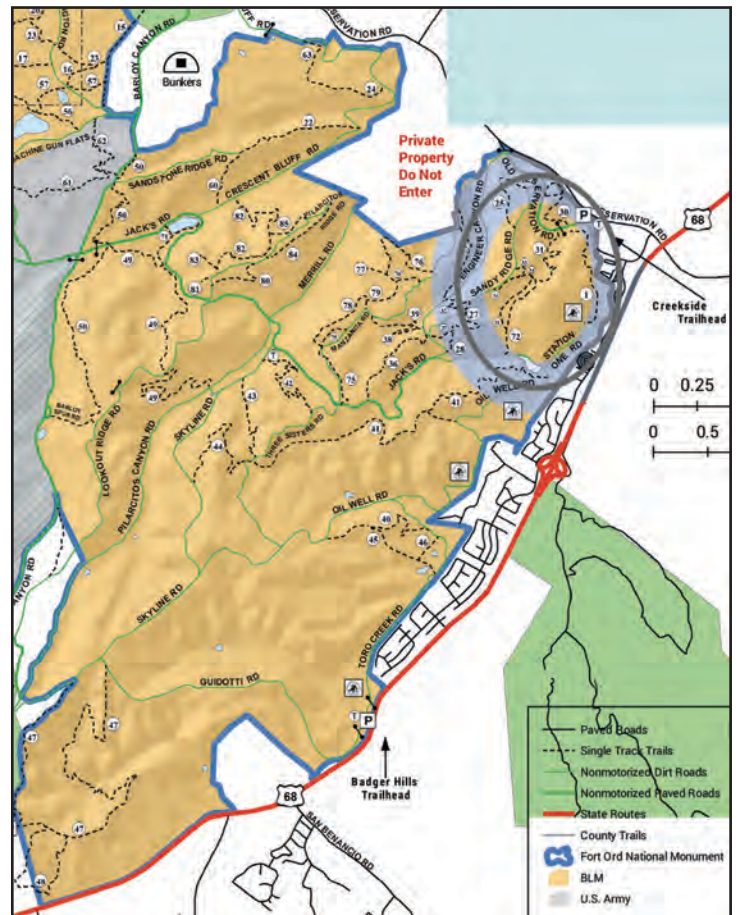
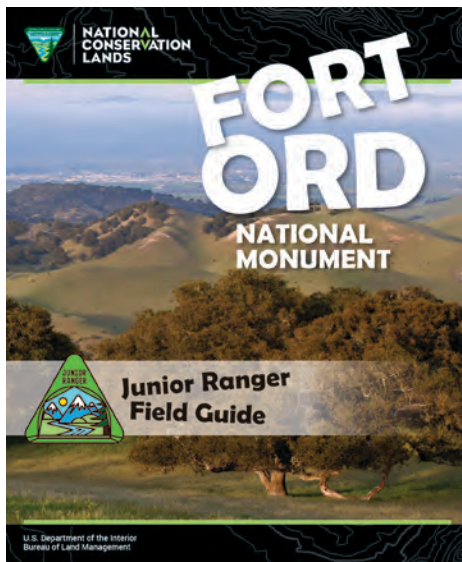
#### Directions to Fort Ord

To reach the Creekside Terrace Trailhead, drive south on Highway 17 or San Jose-Soquel Road, and left to Highway 1 south. Turn left at California 183 south/Castroville Road through Castroville to a right on Davis Road south, a left at Reservation Road, and past Creekside Terrace to a right on Portola Drive. Follow the road as it turns right to the Creekside Terrace entrance. Your trip one-way from Summit Road is about fifty miles.

#### Directions to Food

It's not a requirement, but after lots of exercise, a stop at Moss Landing is recommended. Enjoy good food at Phil's (most popular), The Whole Enchilada (on Highway 1), Haut Enchilada Cafe (unusual seafood), or Sea Harvest (just south of the bridge, with nice views from the deck).

#### Happy trails!





# **schools**

## **Lakeside School Community Foundation Foundation News Holly Stewart**

We thank the community for donating to our Goodwill donation drive in May. We collected 11,280 pounds of donations, filled four trucks, and raised almost \$1,650. These funds, in addition to other funds raised throughout the year, enable LSCF to fund programs that enrich the education of the students of Lakeside School.

We appreciate the support of our families and the greater mountain community this past year. Your generosity in our fundraising efforts has allowed us to support the science, art, physical education, music, technology, counseling, gardening, dance, and other programs for the students of Lakeside. In the coming school year, we will also provide a diversity, equity, and inclusion program for students. We also plan to sponsor a number of community events.

In July, new board members will assume their roles. Thank you to Tiffany Cisler, our outgoing president, and Katherine Manning, our outgoing vice president. These women have provided years of service to the Foundation and will remain on the

board as voting members. We wish Molly Sundar, community member, the best of luck in her new volunteer opportunities, and will miss her presence on the board. We welcome our new board member, Juliet Morita, as treasurer.

We are beginning to plan for next year. We welcome community members to join us. We have voting positions on our board for those wanting to take on a bigger role, and many smaller volunteering opportunities. To find out more, email [foundation@lakesidelosgatos.org](mailto:foundation@lakesidelosgatos.org).

## **Preschool Coming to Lakeside Tamara Payne-Alex**

Preschoolers are ready to take on the world. A new program offered this fall at Lakeside Elementary School builds on their confidence by providing activities that encourage exploration and discovery.

The Champions curriculum focuses on the whole child, with engaging thematic activities that build language, problem-solving, creative expression, social and emotional wellness, and cognitive skills. We look forward to welcoming you and your potty-trained, three- to five-year-old child into our Champions family. For more information on our new program, visit [DiscoverChampions.com](http://DiscoverChampions.com), or call our enrollment coordinator at 925-408-2268.

## **Lakeside School Summer Camp Anjelica Del Toro**

Registration is now open for a four-week summer-camp program at Lakeside. The program will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., from **July 6 to July 30**. Pick the week or weeks that work best for your kindergarten through sixth-grade child.

This seasonal curriculum gives children extra learning and educational support before school starts in the fall. The program will be screen-free, with plenty of time for hands-on STEM and literacy activities. Children will also have plenty of time for physical activities, including lively games, outdoor play, creative movement, and yoga.

Four content themes build throughout the month. Our themes have students creating camp games and rituals, analyzing and designing their own rides and midway games, planning their own town with small businesses and community-wide celebrations, and expressing themselves through stories, speeches, songs, poems, and dance.

To register, or for more information, visit [www.discoverchampions.com](http://www.discoverchampions.com), email Anjelica Del Toro at [anjelica.deltoro@discoverchampions.com](mailto:anjelica.deltoro@discoverchampions.com), or call the Lakeside School office at 408-354-2372.

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## Lakeside School News

Kathy McKinney

In June, the Lakeside community celebrated the end of a most unusual school year.

Students enjoyed a modified “spirit day,” playing outdoor games with their classmates, including the always-popular water-balloon toss. The event culminated with student Lemon Cisler cutting Superintendent Dr. Sean Joyce’s COVID-19 ponytail, much to the delight of the students watching.

At the final student store of the year, students spent their raccoon rewards, earned for being responsible, respectful, and safe at school. They exchanged their rewards for fun toys, books, and more.

We celebrated our graduating fifth-grade class with an outdoor gathering for students and their families. Fifth-grade teacher Steven Bourque gave a moving tribute to his students (and parents) for persevering through this challenging year. Congratulations to **Ada Dawson, Qi Wei**

**Dizoglio, Joaquin Erickson, Dong Jin Guo, Mason Leffew, Gilberto Pabon-de Araujo, Chloe Pham, Elizabeth Temov, and Anna Tomchenko.** We wish them well in middle school and beyond.



We said goodbye to several staff members. First- and second-grade teacher, Marcia Williams, retired after 37 years of teaching (20 years at Lakeside). Cheryl Ruyle, our special-education teacher, is moving to the Scotts Valley Unified School District to teach at her daughter’s district. Fourth- and fifth-grade teacher, Steven Bourque, a Santa Cruz Mountains native, will be moving to Wales, UK, with his partner Tara, who ran our remote garden program.

We would love to find local garden enthusiasts to help support our school garden program. We need volunteers to provide life-science education opportunities to our students. The Lakeside School garden was designed and created by Anna Rainville, who taught kindergarten at Lakeside from 1987 until 2000. Anna is the daughter of Betty Peck, a world-renown kindergarten specialist, who founded the Los Gatos-Saratoga Observation Nursery School, also known as Mountain School, on the Lakeside School campus. If you would like to help, call the school office at 408-354-2372.





# schools

## Building Blocks Preschool Fall Registration Open Alexandra Hughmanick

Our school wrapped up a seven-week spring program on June 10. We were overjoyed at the resilience of our students and their families under these unprecedented circumstances. The outpouring of interest and support from our



community is appreciated beyond words.

We are currently enrolling for the 2021-2022 school year. We plan to have complete program information—including possible parent-observation details—published on our website in July.

The community can expect two programs run by co-directors Nicole Gomez and Sally Brenton. Nicole will resume her Tuesday/Thursday class for two- to four-year-old students. Sally will host the Monday/

Wednesday/Friday program for four- to five-year-old students.

For information about fall registration or to register, visit [www.buildingblockscoop.org](http://www.buildingblockscoop.org). If you have any questions about our fall program, or want to assess your child's readiness, email Nicole ([teacher\\_nicole@lpcf.org](mailto:teacher_nicole@lpcf.org)) or Sally ([teacher\\_sally@lpcf.org](mailto:teacher_sally@lpcf.org)).

Thanks to the tremendous interest in Building Blocks' summer program in June and July, both sessions are full. The program is led by Shawna Persaud, who has been a part of our Building Blocks family for three years and has an extensive teaching background.

Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays. They follow the same temporary format as in our spring session, with no parents working in the classroom and outdoors-only play.



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## LPEF Gratitude

### The Campaign to Save our Schools Ruth Gantly

Thanks to our amazing fundraisers and donors, we surpassed our KEEP! SOS 2021 campaign goals. We raised over \$702,000, so we can enrich the experience of our children at school, invest in excellent education programs and exceptional faculty, and support initiatives that address our most critical challenges.

Our SOS Save Our Schools campaign started with the idea to fundraise in order to save our children from further distress when they returned to school in the fall, and cover the total budget shortfall for the district resulting from COVID-19 losses and the parcel-tax revenue loss.

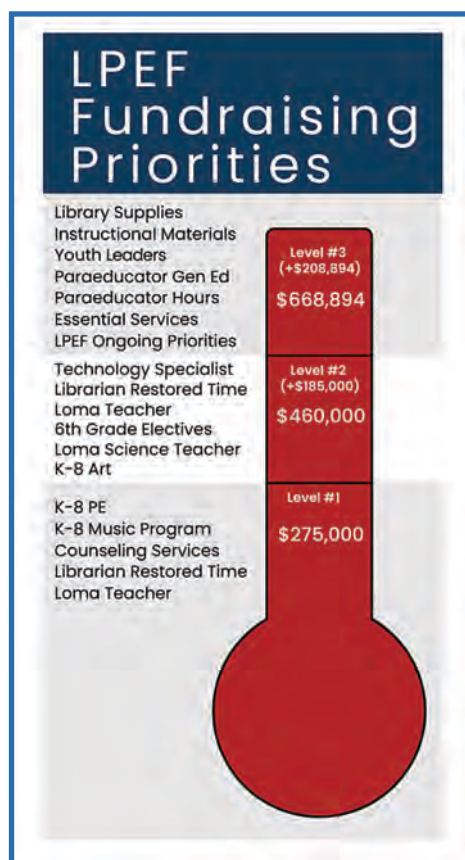
It was a lofty goal back in February, but now, because of your support, we have raised an unprecedented amount that will impact all students next year and KEEP! alive the opportunities that our children have at our schools. Responding to the budget crisis, we learned to innovate and adapt the way we advocate and fundraise. I consider myself fortunate to live in this community. To everyone who participated, we give a heartfelt thank-you for your interest, volunteer hours, and donations. We have built community around support for our schools. Nothing can match the positive power of our community working together.

Thank you to our parent champions at Loma Prieta and C.T. English. You stepped up and helped us engage the school community: Kate Biagini (lead); Kourtney Feinstein, and Alex Hughmanick (kindergarten); Ani Cuevas, Pedro Cuevas, and Marlena Schultz (first grade); John List, Lesley Loudon, and Azadeh Nolan (second grade); Suzanne Merrick, Ani Cuevas, and Pedro Cuevas (third grade); Amy Hayes and Hillary Kantor (fourth grade); Kourtney Feinstein, Don Jeanette, and Kate Biagini (fifth grade); Jenny Manfredi, Gina Jones, and Angela Wuerz (sixth grade); Jill Hansen, Suzanne Merrick, Lori Hunt, and Amy Hayes (seventh grade); and Nanette Barber, Kate Biagini, and Kristine Emerick (eighth grade).

Thank you to our Leadership Circle members. We appreciate your generosity and higher level of giving.

Thank you to our video creators: Jennifer Cramer, Cambria Gallup, and Alan Lee. You helped inform and educate our audience with engaging videos.

Thank you to the teachers and staff at



Loma and C.T. English who took the superhero theme to the next level and went all out in supporting our KEEP! SOS 2021 campaign. They added inspiration with a touch of humor. We appreciate the time, effort, and support of Cathy Vance and Lisa Fraser throughout the campaign.

Thank you to our community advocates: Patti Hughes, Rob Fong, Suzanne Merrick, and Azadeh Nolan. Your support and endorsement of our teachers, programs, and active participation made a meaningful impact.

Thank you to members of our communications team: Kate Eldridge and Sara Steffen, who worked hard to create awareness and convey our message across social platforms and in more traditional media.

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported LemonAID: our very first in-person COVID-19-safe event. It was great to see everyone celebrate together for the first time in a year.

Thank you to the LemonAID event team: Casey Walter, Jennifer Salas Coscart, Robin and Mark Porter, the incredible Los Gatos Lions Club, and The Summit Sisters.

Thank you to our wonderful LemonAID sponsors: Rebecca Smith and Karen Izzo-Sereno Real Estate, Dina's Deluxe Events, The Summit Store, Silver Mountain

Vineyards, and Renee Young, MD, Young Naturopathic Center for Wellness.

Thank you to everyone who has used their corporate matching program. What a difference that has made to our fundraising efforts!

Thank you to our anonymous sponsor and community sponsors. Your generosity inspired people to support our schools.

We recognize our LPEF volunteers. This year we recognized two community volunteers: Tiffany Gallup and Jennifer Chen. We also recognized long-time LPEF board member, Elyse Fairweather.

Tiffany Gallup (KEEP! co-chair) drove a new fundraising platform (Causevox) that made the KEEP! donation process easy and accessible for our fundraisers and donors. She recruited parent champions for each grade level, and reached out to the community to sponsor a matching grant.

Jennifer Chen (KEEP! co-chair) brought insight and experience to the process while working with the new Donor Perfect platform. To increase giving options, she introduced the Leadership Circle level of giving and encouraged many donors to make a gift at the higher level of giving.

Elyse Fairweather (LPEF Board member and KEEP! committee) always steps up to every challenge. Her eye-catching graphics bring LPEF ideas to life and effectively display the LPEF message clearly and consistently.

Learn more at <https://www.lpef.org>. Questions? Email [KEEP@lpef.org](mailto:KEEP@lpef.org). For finance inquiries, email [treasurer@lpef.org](mailto:treasurer@lpef.org).

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# schools

## Lexington School

Deanna Wilk

What a school year it has been! Our students went from Zooming to hybrid learning, and then mostly learning in person by April. They gave up dear experiences like fifth-grade Science Camp and Fun Day, dove wholeheartedly into performing their first-ever online school play, held an online science fair, immigration day, talent show, and more. They embraced traditions like the ice cream social and Halloween parade in drive-by style.

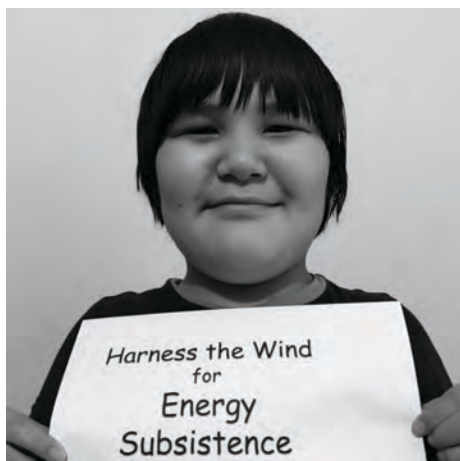
The core learning has never changed, however, and the fifth grade International Baccalaureate Primary Years' Programme Exhibition again showcased the thought-provoking topics students chose to explore as part of their final project. Students researched, conducted interviews, and shared their understanding through essays, presentations, art, animations, and acting.

Guided by the central idea, *"Who we are shapes how we influence and impact the world,"* student topics had a wide breadth. They learned how poverty leads to loss of biodiversity, climate change affects subsistence life in Alaska, and how to make the food cycle waste free. They learned about gender inequality existing in sports, education, and consumer goods. They learned how wars change where people live and about the life of refugees, about sports that promote physical and mental health, and ways to reuse fresh water. They learned how we can deal with air and water pollution, and practice sustainable living.

"Most things in life are connected in ways we don't even think about," observed Hattie Rayner. "For a village of 700 people there are 70 jobs and Alaskans pay \$500 a month for high-speed internet," Zachary Wheeler noted. He underlined the dependency on subsistence living that those warming temperatures is eroding. He illustrated



page 28



*Harnessing the wind for energy subsistence in Alaska*

Mountain Network News



how wind farms are helping, but more are needed.

"Food in landfills produces a methane 86 times more damaging than carbon dioxide, yet only five percent of food waste is composted, producing 80 billion pounds of food waste each year," explained Caitlin Holland.

Students identified and donated to organizations that were already helping, such as The Rainforest Connection, Asylum Access, girlsinc.org, and the Santa Cruz ASPCA. They wrote to a senator and to national park officials. They made brochures, posters, and animations to educate others on how to help. They cleaned up a beach, and provided help for refugee children in the Bay Area.

"Finding passion, working hard, spreading awareness," was how fifth-grader Adele Hedges described the experience of working on her PYP Exhibition project. For Jocelyn King, it was working independently and acting in the real world. Students were supported by fifth-grade teacher, Mrs. Hamilton, mentors, and parents.

We bid a fond farewell and happy retirement to longtime custodian Danny Lomas. Danny knew every student and always had a joke and smile to share. Also a mariachi musician, he graced us with performances in the talent show and during fifth-grade graduation.

We will also miss the wonderful energy of Ms. Mary, our Personal, Social, and Physical Education teacher, who is moving on to new ventures.

With our graduating fifth-graders, we say

july 2021





**Danny Lomas**

goodbye to many families, including parent Lisa Keller, whose vision to create a program for teaching environmental stewardship will be long lasting. Lisa began the LexEcology program and student GreenTeam.

Goodbye to community builder extraordinaire Angela Hedges: fun-maker, fundraiser, Home and School Club president, and Los Gatos Education Fund captain.

Farewell to Betsy King, whose photography and yearbooks made the experiences of our students come alive. She brought a touch of magic to school events.

Goodbye to Jessalyn Rizzi, who served as the Home and School Club president for several years, as LGEF captain, and a supporter of staff and volunteers. She was a leader that made things happen. Thank you for your inspired dedication.



Our fifth-grade class gifted Lex with a beautiful sundial. Thank you and congratulations to our fifth-grade graduates: Bailey Alden, Khushi Awasthi, Emin Bandaian, Rosangela Cadile Core, Aryanna Deshmukh, Justin Hall, Adele Hedges, Caitlin Holland, Kavya Hubbard, William Kearney, Wyatt Keller, Jocelyn King, Ainsley Lang, Maya Logan, Tristan Lombardi, Henry Monk, Linnea Överby, Lucas Randall, Hattie Rayner, Brynn Rizzi, Aaron Schull, Nami Song, Katia Towler, Gregory Varela, Gabriel Welch, and Zachary Wheeler.

Keep adapting, and keep that passion alive. Keep thinking and inquiring as you move to middle school. A happy and safe summer to all.

*Photos by Mark Rayner, Kevin Wheeler, Angela Hedges, Betsy King, Barbara Lougée, and Jason Deppong*

**Correction:**  
An article in our June issue from the Los Gatos Daughters of the American Revolution credited their organization with gifting ninety K-2 students with iPads. The author reported that the organization had donated iPad stylus accessories, not iPads. Although a much smaller gift, this is still a generous contribution.

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Jill: 408.219.3416 | Michael: 408.781.7692  
[jill@team-cole.com](mailto:jill@team-cole.com) | [michael.riese@cbtnorcal.com](mailto:michael.riese@cbtnorcal.com)  
410 N. Santa Cruz Ave., Los Gatos, CA 95030

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