



mr

May 2022



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OUR RECENT ACTIVITY

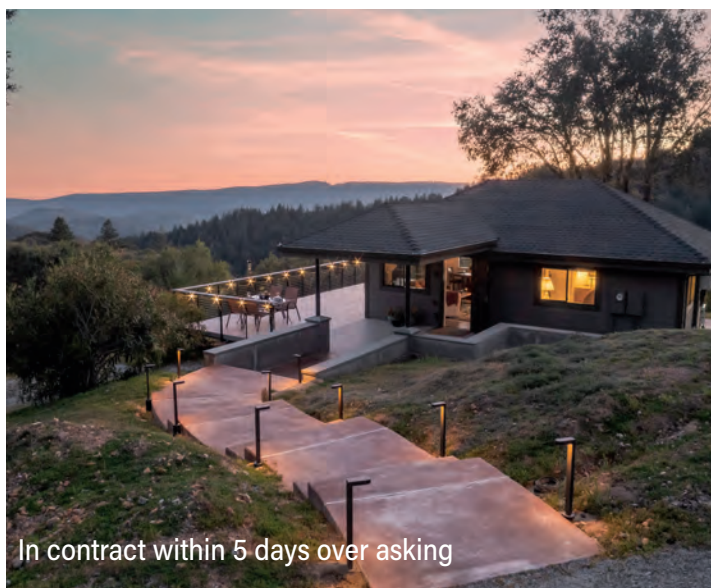


PENDING | 17220 Melody Ln., Los Gatos | 3bd/2.5ba 1,828[±]sf .91[±]ac
Listed at \$1,750,000 | 17220MelodyLane.com



In contract within 2 days

SOLD | 470 Rudy Rd., Los Gatos | 4bd/3ba 2,823[±]sf 4.41[±]ac
Listed at \$2,250,000 | 470RudyRd.com



In contract within 5 days over asking

SOLD | 400 Oak Ridge Rd., Los Gatos | 1bd/1ba 475[±]sf 2.41[±]ac
Listed at \$1,200,000 | 400OakRidgeRoad.com



In contract within 5 days over asking

SOLD | 280 Oak Ridge Rd, Los Gatos | 3bd/2ba 1,782[±]sf 18.92[±]ac
Listed at \$1,780,000 | 280OakRidgeRd.com

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Los Gatos



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sue.nystrom@compass.com
DRE 00822944

Los Gatos Mountains



20408 Santa Cruz Highway
\$2,499,000
4 Bed | 3 Bath | 2512 Sq Ft

Lisa Sgarlato
408.396.7231
lisa.sgarlato@compass.com
DRE 01342694

Los Gatos Mountains



16052 Robinwood Lane
\$2,250,000
4 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 3536 Sq Ft

Lisa Sgarlato
408.396.7231
lisa.sgarlato@compass.com
DRE 01342694

Los Gatos Mountains



SALE PENDING

24100 Summit Woods Drive
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Nevis & Ardizzone Team
408.827.3100
nevisandardizzone@compass.com
DRE 70010073

Los Gatos Mountains



20971 Delaware Trail
\$649,000
1 Bed | 1.5 Bath | 1135 Sq Ft

Lisa Sgarlato
408.396.7231
lisa.sgarlato@compass.com
DRE 01342694

Santa Cruz



209 Vista Prieta Court Unit 209
\$375,000
2 Bed | 1 Bath | 844 Sq Ft

Sebastian Frey
408.548.7348
sebastian.frey@compass.com
DRE 01369847

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COMPASS

**The May issue of
Mountain Network News
Volume MMXXII number 5**
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Neil Wiley

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We invite individuals and organizations to submit letters and articles. Email mnnews@comcast.net, or mail to MNN, 23625 Skyview Terrace, Los Gatos, CA 95033-9212. For information, call Neil Wiley (408-353-1901). We reserve the right to edit submissions. We assume no responsibility for errors, omissions, or authors' opinions. Deadline: 10th of the preceding month.

Advertising

Closing date: 10th of the preceding month. We assume no responsibility for advertisers' submissions. Mail your check to **Mountain Network News**, 23625 Skyview Terrace, Los Gatos, CA 95033.

2022 Ad Rates

Business card, vertical (3 3/4" high by 2 1/2" wide)	\$165
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Quarter-page, horizontal (2 1/4" high by 7 1/2" wide)	302
Third-page, column (10" high by 2 1/2" wide)	412
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Two-thirds page (6 1/4" high by 7 1/2" wide)	616
Page (10" high by 7 1/2" wide)	935
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Four-color page or 2/3 page	add \$500
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Four-color business card	add \$100
Frequency discounts available.	
Classified and business directory	\$9 per formatted line

Circulation

More than 4000 homes and businesses
in the Santa Cruz Mountains



COVER

Photography by Mercury Freedom

Hummingbirds live in the Americas.
So do we.

Hummingbirds can fly 30 mph.
We can't drive that fast
on a bad day on Highway 17.

They fly forward, backward,
and upside down.
So can my granddaughter
while swimming synchro.

They love flowers.
So did my wife
who was often buzzed
by hungry hummingbirds.

Hummingbirds never stop eating.
They consume half their weight
visiting 1000 flowers in a day.
My grandsons never stop eating,
but they favor pizza.

INSIDE

We have lots of
good news.

More local events
More about people
More resources for you
More about our schools
More beautiful houses
More mountain history
More places to explore
More nature
And, yes, more birds

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Lisa Sgarlato

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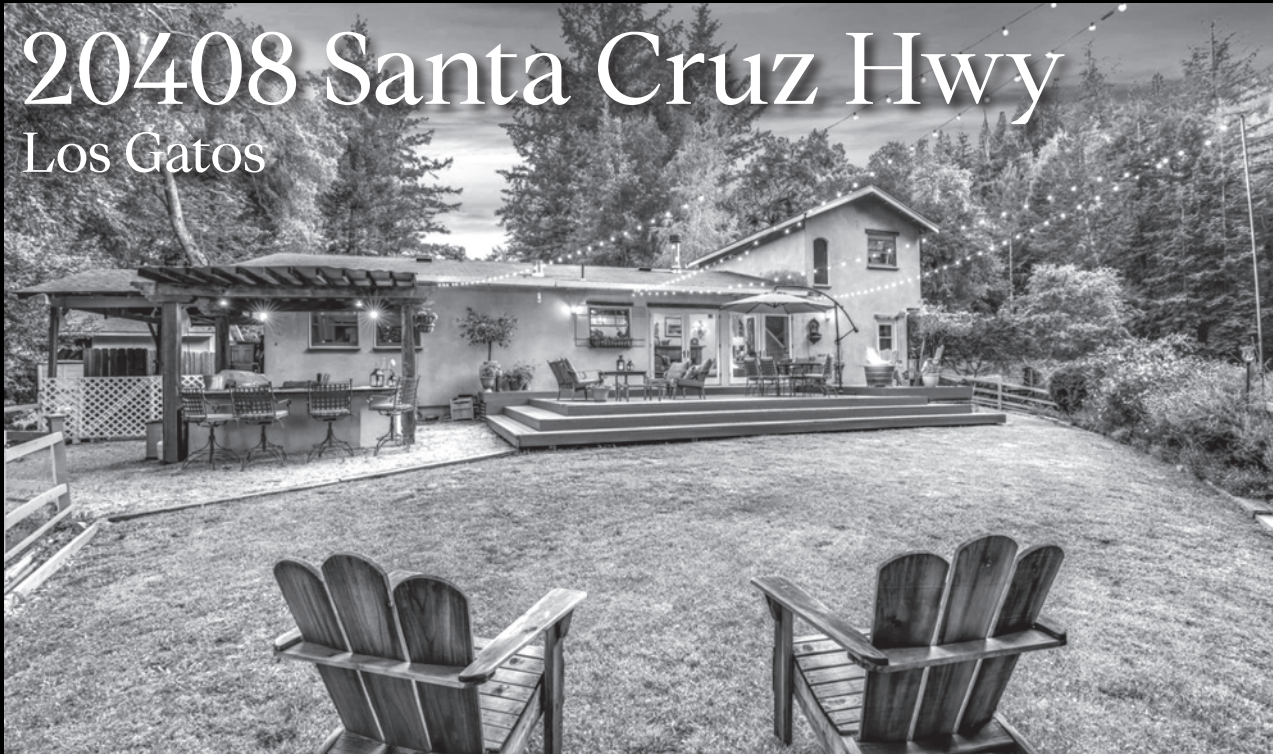
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DRE 01342694

20408 Santa Cruz Hwy

Los Gatos



\$2,499,000 | 4 Bed | 3 Bath | 2512 Sq Ft | 4 Acres | 20408SantaCruzHwy.com

Charming storybook home! Grand entrance with vaulted ceiling, exposed wood beams, distressed hardwood flooring, and fireplace, Chef's kitchen, great room, double French doors to deck and outdoor entertaining. Primary bedroom with vaulted ceiling and walk-in closet. Study area, laundry room, smart home wiring, Comcast, extra storage. Sunny, lush sprawling meadows and redwood grove. Easy access to 17, minutes to town. Lexington Elementary, Fisher & Los Gatos High. *Live your best life!*

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COMPASS

events



Los Gatos Lions Club Date Night David Burt

After a two-year hiatus, the Los Gatos Lions Club annual date night event is back. The evening will include live music by Big Moody Curve, food sampling, wine- and beer-tasting, a raffle, and silent and live auctions. Date night will be held outdoors on **Saturday, May 14**, from 7 to 10 p.m., at 985 University Avenue in Los Gatos.

Our platinum sponsor is Kirkorian Enterprises, LLC. Our gold sponsors are El Camino Hospital, SMWB Law Office, and Don Williams & Associates Insurance Services.

This event provides much-needed financial support for mental-health initiatives and licensed-therapeutic-counseling services for students in Los Gatos schools.

If you can donate to our raffle/auction, email Lion Lisa Sgarlato at lisa.sgarlato@compass.com. For more information and tickets, visit e-clubhouse.org/sites/losgatos.



Loma Public Education Fund Golf Tournament

LPEF is excited to announce the return of our charity golf tournament, "Fore the Kids," on **Friday, May 20**. For tickets, visit www.lpef.org/golf. For more information, see the LPEF article in the schools section on page 24.



Community Concert Royal Society Jazz Orchestra Kathy Morgan

The Royal Society Jazz Orchestra will play at the Los Gatos High School on **Sunday, May 1**, at 2:30 p.m. They perform happy swing, big band, Cotton Club, and jazz music from the 1920s and '30s.

Los Gatos High School is at 20 High School Court, just off East Main Street. Doors open at 2 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the door and online at www.lgcca.org.

Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$25 for seniors, \$5 for students, and \$65 for families. COVID vaccination cards will be checked at the door. Masks are required. There will be room for seating that maintains social distance. Join us and enjoy great music on a Sunday afternoon.

San Jose Wind Symphony Remembering Darrell Johnston

A concert in memory of Darrell Johnston, San Jose Wind Symphony's founding conductor, will be held at the McAfee Performing Arts Center, 20300 Herriman Avenue in Saratoga, on **Sunday, May 15**, at 3 p.m.

Our community was saddened by Maestro Johnston's death in May 2021, at the age of 90. He founded SJWS in 1957, and remained at the podium for 44 years before handing the baton to Dr. Harris in 2002. Under his leadership, SJWS became one of the premier community bands in the country, providing an opportunity for non-professional, adult musicians to continue to perform at a high level.

This concert will showcase some of Maestro Johnston's favorite works. In addition to his conducting skills, he was also a formidable clarinetist. To celebrate that aspect of his musical personality, Jon Manasse, one of the nation's premier clarinet soloists, will join us. Jon will perform Carl Maria von Weber's *Clarinet Concerto No. 1 in F minor*.

Other featured works will include *Armenian Dances*, *Procession of the Nobles*, *Overture to Candide*, *Valdres*, *Irish Tune from County Derry*, *Shepherd's Hey*, *Shenandoah*, selections from *Les Miserables*, and *The Stars and Stripes Forever*.

Tickets are \$22 general admission, \$17 for seniors, and \$7 for students. You may order one free child's ticket (12 and under) with each paid general or senior ticket.

Tickets will not be available at the door. Order tickets online at www.sjws.org/buy-tickets. For more information, email tickets@sjws.org.

We will follow Santa Clara County Guidelines regarding COVID restrictions. While indoors, masks are required. Bring proof of full vaccination and photo ID. For up-to-date COVID restrictions, visit www.sjws.org/covid19-restrictions.

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For more information on this home please call 408.316.1666



**17300 Weaver Road
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\$1,975,000**

Lovely 4 bedroom mountain home with sweeping views of the ocean and Santa Cruz mountains on 40 acres. Surrounded by open space with privacy. Amenities include pool, tennis court, and separate oversized garage/workshop. Truly an estate property.

**910 Pinecrest Drive
Boulder Creek, CA 95006
\$449,000**

Imagine building your dream home on this private 5+ acres of rolling hills property. Upper and lower portions of property have been cleared and are ready for many uses. The home burned in the CZU fire. Great way to be part of rebuilding this neighborhood.



**23589 Skyview Terrace
Los Gatos, CA 95033
\$299,500**

Located in the Villa Del Monte community in Los Gatos, this property consists of 3 parcels which totals 3.5 acres. One of which has potential for a flat building site and the other has great views with little tree work.

**363 Orchard Hill Road San
Juan Bautista, CA 95045
\$995,000**

Beautiful 17.75 acres with approved Map for three parcels. Two 5 acre parcels and a 7 acre parcel. Perfect for a developer/builder or a family that wants to be close together. A great deal of potential can be found right here. Beautiful views out over the valley & hills.



**18805 Bear Creek Road,
Los Gatos 95033**

**2.43 Acres | 5,726 SF
6 Bed | 7.5 Bath
\$5,345,000**

**Additional lots priced at
\$1,745,000 & \$1,945,000
Totals 7.77 Acres!**



Welcome to 18850 Bear Creek Road! Nestled in the redwoods, this 5,726 SF Generational Chalet Style Home on 2.4 acres is surrounded Vineyards and Open Space. Consisting of 6 bedrooms and 7 1/2 bathrooms, it's just 3 minutes to downtown Los Gatos. Amazing views of Vineyards, Lexington Reservoir and Downtown SJ. Amenities include a Gym, Wine Cellar, Home Theater, Security System, Chef's Kitchen, Elevator, and a 1,088 SF Garage. Highest quality of custom construction with amenities and comforts galore. Additional 668 square feet designated for living space. Can be purchased with the lots on either side of this home for a total of almost 8 acres and 2 additional approved home sites.



Keith & Shelly Kanady

Broker Associate
408.316.1666
keith.kanady@compass.com
kanadyteamproperties.com
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KTP KANADY TEAM
PROPERTIES

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people

Happy Trails to Jennifer Straw and Barry Hill

Jeanette MacDonald
and Leslie O'Malley

We extend gratitude and thanks to longtime community residents Jennifer Straw and Barry Hill. This dynamic duo chose to raise their children and make their mountain home in the Villa del Monte neighborhood in 1998. While raising their family, they contributed many hours and days to our community.

A successful Silicon Valley executive and active sports enthusiast, Barry completed a swim from San Francisco to Alcatraz and was a finisher in the Big Sur and Boston marathons. In addition, Barry recruited other dads to join him in coaching a youth soccer team called the Soccer Dogs. He started an adult recreation volleyball league to have fun, build connections, and keep the community moving. A valued member of Indian Princesses and Indian Guides, Barry led many trips and campouts, building a strong sense of friendship and community.

With her calm and lovely demeanor, Jennifer gave her time endlessly and enthusiastically to mountain schools, children, and community. In 1998, she joined a mom's group in Riva Ridge, and in 2000, Building Blocks Co-op preschool. Many of her friendships blossomed from these two organizations. Jennifer served on the board of LPEF for over four years. She was a member of the Loma Prieta Union School District board of trustees for over five years. Jennifer created the "Sip for schools" fundraiser, and served as co-chair



for one of the annual LPEF Gala fundraisers held at *Maison Du Lac*.

Most recently, Jennifer served on the board of the U.C., Santa Cruz Arboretum, arranging beautification efforts and collaborating with local businesses at the Santa Cruz Harbor to plant unique and exotic plants. When her children were young, she worked from home assisting our own and greatly missed *MNV* publisher Marlene Wiley.

As her children got older, Jennifer worked as a program associate with the non-profit Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and then as development director for the TLC Foundation.

Jennifer enjoys yoga and is an avid walker. She completed a half-dozen Big Sur Marathon events. Often, she was accompanied by a group of friends called the "The Big Sur Bettys."

Together, Jennifer and Barry have enjoyed traveling, gardening, cooking, baking, entertaining, and participating in a gourmet dinner club. There is always a seat at their table for a friend.



This month, a new adventure begins. They will be heading back to their homeland, to a beach home on Australia's east coast. They have already signed up for a lengthy hike to raise money for the Australian Cancer Research Foundation.

We are grateful and honored that they lived and loved the mountain community, and contributed so much of their time to grow and enrich many organizations. We wish them well, and will remember them with love and gratitude.

Jennifer and Barry will hike the Larapinta Trail in the Australian outback to raise funds for the Australian Cancer Research Foundation. To learn more about this foundation, visit acrflarapinta-2022.inadv.com.au/jennifer-straw.



Celebration of Life Service for Dr. Julia Nelson Parfitt

Rick Parfitt

A celebration of life and memorial service for Dr. Julia Nelson Parfitt will be held at 10 a.m. on **Saturday, May 21**, at the Loma Prieta Gazebo, 23650 Summit Road. It will be a time for family, friends, co-workers, and those that were touched by Julie to share their memories and stories.

The Gazebo is on the north side of Summit Road, across from Loma Prieta and CTE schools. Parking is available on both sides of Summit Road.

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ROOM

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1003 Laurel Glen Rd, Soquel, CA ♦ \$2,395,000
5 Beds ♦ 2 Baths ♦ 2,600 SqFt ♦ 106.3 Acre Lot



Opportunity awaits at this one-of-a-kind, heritage property on 106 fully usable acres. A stately 5 bedroom 2 bathroom home welcomes you onto this incredible property, nestled in the lower corner with no neighbors in sight. Mature fruit trees such as apple, pear, pineapple, and guava are fed by a natural spring surrounding the home. Get enraptured inside with the large picturesque windows peeking into the serenity and privacy of the property while highlighting vistas in every window. Original details throughout call to a simpler time. Well laid out, it currently lives like 2 units, with 2 large bedrooms upstairs and 2 large bedrooms downstairs. The enormous stage behind the house was a favorite place for the band "The String Cheese Incident" to craft their tunes. On the rest of the property, a large sunny meadow surrounds; studded with large outbuildings. While on public utilities, a huge generator powers the entire property in the event of a loss in power. Up an easy access road is a mature avocado orchard and then a sunny hill with stunning ocean views. The perfect place to build your dream home, start a winery, cannabis cultivation, event space, or an olive oil farm. The road continues through the entire property with at least six large building pads throughout. Two wells and a productive spring mean endless possibilities as TP Zoning keeps property taxes low. Subdivide it, cultivate it, this is the place where your dreams become reality.

1003laurelglenrd.com

Jayson Mandani
Founder, Realtor®
DRE# 01431948

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jayson@roomsantacruz.com
roomrealestate.com



people

Patty Smrt's Retirement Party

After 42 years of driving her school bus on our mountain roads, Patty Smrt is turning in her steering wheel to enjoy her retirement years. Patty has been an integral part of many children's lives. She has been there on rainy days and through mountain storms, safely driving our kids from home to school and back home again. Patty has been that safe, familiar, and comforting person that helped our kids feel at ease. She spent time getting to know our families, making that first step onto the big, yellow school bus a confident one. Even the dogs eagerly await Patty, as she always travels with a sweet supply of dog treats for four-legged family members. Patty has helped our children move toward independence and community connection, and her bus was where friendships were made and courage gained.

Let's celebrate Patty's final bus route and gather together on **Friday, May 27**, at 3 p.m., at the Gazebo on the Loma Prieta Playfield, 23650 Summit Road.

For more information, or to receive an invite, email Crickett Stephens at stephens_family@verizon.net.



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Boulder Creek Beauty! 2-storey home on nearly 5 acres featuring eat-in kitchen plus formal dining/family room, separate office, laundry hookups, detached garage, and much more. Beautiful, usable yard, with towering redwoods, fruit trees, and garden area. Near Big Basin Park, but had no fire damage. A bargain! Call for details. **\$749,000**



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Mountain Artist Michelle McCune

I moved to the mountains from Chicago almost six years ago. I'm a veterinarian, but I'm also an artist dedicated to wildlife conservation. During my veterinary education, I worked in Namibia for the Cheetah Conservation Fund. After graduation, I traveled to many countries to pursue my passion for nature and animals. One of my most powerful memories was from the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya.

I couldn't believe what I was feeling: rough skin with crusted dirt, and the cool folds of this massive animal's flanks. "Scratch him hard, he really likes that," said his caretaker. All the while, this beautiful beast happily munched away on the vegetables scattered before him.

The beast was Sudan, the last remaining

male northern white rhinoceros on the planet. We were taken on a special tour into a very tightly protected area of the conservancy, where the last three Northern white rhinos lived under constant guard.

I had my hands on a rhinoceros. He was completely free and calm, with no constraints at all. It was a beautiful moment. While I relished my incredible fortune to have my hands on this enormous animal, the gravity that he was the last of his species hit me. I was touching the last male of a species that will be gone in our lifetime. Joy and despair came in rushes. It was a powerful moment.

Sudan passed away in 2018, at the age of 45, surrounded by his guards who cared for and loved him.

Experiences such as these inspired me to create art. As a docent at *Año Nuevo*, I lead elephant seal tours and educate people about the second-largest seals in the world. I share their incredible recovery story, from being declared extinct several times to

becoming a stable (but fragile) population.

When nature guides us, we find ourselves connected to something much greater. We are freed from self-deprecating thoughts and concerns of self-doubt. Nature doesn't judge. Animals live for relationships and survival. Through them, we can see what really matters. We can find strength and our own true purpose.

Learn more about my work at www.michellemccunedvm.com, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/michelle.mccune, and on Instagram at [#michellemccunedvmart](https://www.instagram.com/michellemccunedvmart).



Sudan - Facing Extinction
36x48" Oil on canvas

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SANTA CRUZ
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community

Loma Prieta Community Foundation A New Playground in Chemeketa Park Joy Forbes

Thanks to the amazing community in Chemeketa Park, and nonprofit support from the Loma Prieta Community Foundation, we have a new play structure in the mountains. Residents of Chemeketa Park raised funds, tore down the old structure, cheered on the builders, and spread mulch for soft landings.

It's been an amazing community-building experience, and the children love it.



Fire Safe County Roads

The Summit/Highland Shaded Fuel Break

Larry Lopp and David Fullagar

As of April 10, we had secured permission to complete a shaded fuel break from about 95 percent of landowners in sections G, H, I, and J of the Summit/Highland corridor. We thank Ben Abeln and team leaders' efforts in contacting landowners. By the end of April, we expect to achieve the same results for sections D, E, and F. In early May, we hope to have signed permission forms for the remaining sections, all the way to Highway 17.

Many property owners have done a great job of creating a shaded fuel break on their parcels and don't see the need to sign the permission form, because no work is required. We applaud their efforts, but funding for the project is dependent on obtaining close to 100 percent of landowners' permission. Please sign the form.

The next step will be marking individual properties, starting with sections G, H, I, and J, in May. The Resource Development Conservation District of Santa Cruz County will complete this work. This project will not impact a homeowner's responsibility to create defensible space around their homes, nor will it intrude on landscaping. We will discuss and negotiate with landowners about which trees will be removed or trimmed, consistent with creating an effective fuel break along the corridor.

Fire Safe County Roads is a volunteer organization dedicated to improving the safety of our mountain community in the event of a fire. Creating a shaded fuel break along the Summit Road/Highland Way corridor is the first of many planned projects aimed at improving safety in our community.



Shrubbery 101

Tish O'Reilly

Shrubbery, hedges, and base plants are defined as herbaceous or soft leafy plants multi-stemming from the ground, and smaller than a small tree. Closely planted shrubbery and base plants in a straight row or curved line can create a boundary or enclosure, and provide a sense of privacy in the garden. Planted alone, a shrub can be an eye-catching plant that is the star of the garden when it blooms.

Here are some examples of shrubbery and hedge plants that are resistant to deer, drought, and frost. *Nandina domestica*, or heavenly bamboo, grows four- to six-feet high with clusters of red berries and white



Westringia

flowers. This plant needs proper pruning. As it grows, prune the non-herbaceous or woody stalks from the bottom of the plant close to the ground, or just above new growth. Use loppers, not shears, to prune.

If left to grow to full size, evergreen and hardy boxwood can top out at about eight feet in height. Although boxwood needs water a few times in the summer, this plant quietly keeps giving throughout the year. Use shears for shape and height.

Poly Gala, or sweet pea bush, is a beauty. About four feet in height, it offers endless deep pink blooms from early spring through fall. No pruning is necessary.

Westringia is another good plant. The

height of this plant is dependent on the color of its flowers. Those with white flowers will be shorter, while those with lavender flowers will have grey-green foliage that is soft and drought-resistant.

Aguga japonica has variegated leaves that work well in partial shade. *Coleonema* provides an abundance of light pink flowers for catching a spring breeze. *Euonymus* has lovely yellow- and lime-colored leaves.

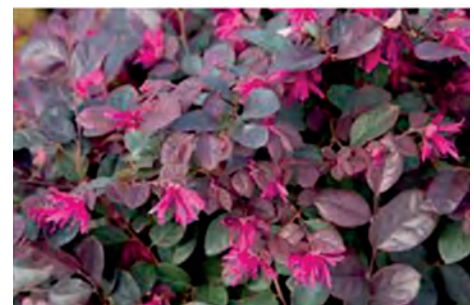
Loropetalum has clusters of shocking hot pink blooms.

Shrubs, hedges, and base plants can give your garden more security, beauty, and depth. Find your favorites for your garden conditions, and enjoy.

You can find me in the garden.



Nandina domestica, or heavenly bamboo



Loropetalum

SUMMIT STORE

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THE

MEAT BONANZA

The Mountain Holiday

MAY

19TH



In Meat We TRUST

calendar

ON-GOING CLASSES AND MEETINGS

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.

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

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

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

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 pamsyogafitness.com for details.

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.

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

Live bluegrass at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Fridays

Live music at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

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.

Sundays

All-ages karaoke at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, May 1

The Royal Society Jazz Orchestra performs at Los Gatos High School, at 2:30 p.m. Tickets at www.lgcca.org.

Thursday, May 12

The Bookmobile visits the mountains: **Lakeside School**, 9:45 to 11:45 a.m. **Building Blocks Preschool**, 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. and 2:30 to 3:45 p.m. **Redwood Estates Pavillion**, 4:15 to 5:15 p.m.

Friday through Sunday, May 13 to 15

Theatre in the Mountains presents *Seussical, Jr.* Buy tickets at www.theatreinthemountains.org.

Saturday, May 14

The Los Gatos Lions Club hosts date night, from 7 to 10 p.m., at 985 University Avenue in Los Gatos.

LPEF Sip for Schools at Wrights Station Winery, noon to 7 p.m.

Sunday, May 15

San Jose Wind Symphony's performs at the McAfee Performing Arts Center, 20300 Herriman Avenue in Saratoga, at 3 p.m. Tickets at <http://www.sjws.org/buy-tickets>.

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Friday, May 20

LPEF "Fore the Kids" Golf Tournament at Seascape Golf Club. Tickets and information at www.lpef.org/golf.

Saturday, May 21

A celebration of life and memorial service for Dr. Julia Nelson Parfitt will be at 10 a.m., at the Loma Prieta Gazebo, 23650 Summit Road.

Thursday, May 26

The Bookmobile visits the mountains:
Lakeside School, 9:45 to 11:45 a.m.
Building Blocks Preschool, 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. and 2:30 to 3:45 p.m.
Redwood Estates Pavillion, 4:15 to 5:15 p.m.

Friday, May 27

Retirement celebration for longtime school bus driver Patty Smrt will be at 3 p.m., at the Loma Prieta Gazebo on the Loma Prieta Playfield, 23650 Summit Road. Email Crickett Stephens at stephens_family@verizon.net.

Sunday, September 11

Save the date: Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire & Rescue annual barbecue, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Animal Photography

Shoot your favorite animal (with a camera), tell us your first name and the general area of the shooting, and just for fun use a pun. Email your animal (picture) to mnnews@comcast.net. Make them famous in the Santa Cruz Mountains.



Laurie's Sundance contemplating Howell Reservoir off Black Road. Think or swim?



Neil, who are you calling big ears?



Pete's Chloe wears her bandana as queen of the redwoods in Redwood Estates.



Knock, knock. Who's there? An Acorn Woodpecker in Aldercroft Heights pecked (picked) by Brian.

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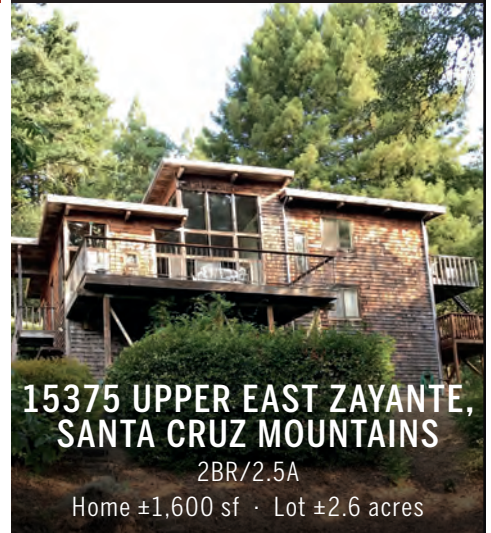
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sereno—

exploring

Get Three for One Natural Bridges, Antonelli Pond, and Neary Lagoon Neil Wiley

One short drive to west Santa Cruz can take you to three small parks that deliver lots of nature in one easy trip.

The most well-known destination is **Natural Bridges State Beach**. It is home to the iconic arched rock just offshore that forms a natural bridge. Hundreds of birds perch on this rock, waiting turns to fly, swoop, and dive. Some hang against the wind, hovering like helicopters. It looks as if they just do it for fun, but you can enjoy watching their performances. Some shorebirds and children prefer getting their feet wet in the surf or walking in the tidepools. Ducks, egrets, and many species of land birds follow quieter, shaded streams away from the ocean.

It's not surprising that Natural Bridges is listed by eBird.org as the number-one hotspot in Santa Cruz County for the number of bird species counted. Observers have reported 452 species.

You can see other wildlife behind the beach. A short walk into the Butterfly Trees area, especially from October to February, takes you to the home for wintering Monarch butterflies. When one of my grandsons saw an emerging butterfly, he announced "Look. We are watching butterflies being born."

When the stream at the back of the beach isn't too deep, you can follow a trail through a meadow and forest to Delaware Avenue. On this trail, I got some close-up pictures of a snowy egret, a deer, and a rabbit. (It isn't a safari in Kenya, but it's still wildlife.)



The official entrance to Natural Bridges is at the west end of West Cliff Drive. An entrance fee is charged during busy weekends or tourist seasons. You can also park along Delaware Avenue. (Take Highway 17 to Highway 1/Mission Street north. Turn left on Swift Street, and right on Delaware.) Watch for a dirt trail to Natural Bridges on the left, and a sign for Antonelli Pond on the right.

Longer hikes are available, but the entrances are difficult to find. If you walk toward the ocean on Delaware Avenue, you'll see a gate on the left. It doesn't look accessible, but if it opens, you can take the trail all the way to the Natural Bridges State Beach. If you walk past the gate, you'll see the U.C., Santa Cruz trail. It is straight, not very interesting, and a long walk to ocean views.

Across Delaware Avenue is **Antonelli Pond**. The 19-acre preserve includes a 6.4-acre fresh-water pond. The walk up the left side of the pond has nice water views, but the trail is only one-quarter mile long. Worse yet, I didn't see many birds. I blame it on the fog and wind. I was also disappointed that I couldn't complete a half-mile loop, because walking the railroad trestle is not allowed. (I wouldn't mind if I could see trains running here, but the height does impose some risk.) Nevertheless, eBird still ranks Antonelli Pond second in Santa Cruz County bird sightings. You may have better luck.

I had better luck with a short drive to **Neary Lagoon**. Although it was ranked only ninth in Santa Cruz County for eBird counts, this 44-acre wildlife refuge was promising on my trip. It includes a 14-acre freshwater marsh with a large peaceful lagoon that you can cross on a floating boardwalk. There are several entrances, but I chose 110 California Street, at the corner of Bay and California streets.

The first steps were not a beautiful experience as I walked down a ramp by a huge wastewater-treatment plant. It wasn't smelly, but it seemed very industrial. Looking through spaces in the tall fence, I could see huge tanks, pumps, and pipes. It might be a good place to learn something, but I wasn't that interested in learning.

In a short distance, however, I reached a trail passing through greenery. Soon, I was walking near water and wildlife. Then I reached my first high point, a small bridge. Below the bridge were many mallard and wood ducks. One especially beautiful mallard male was posturing and preening

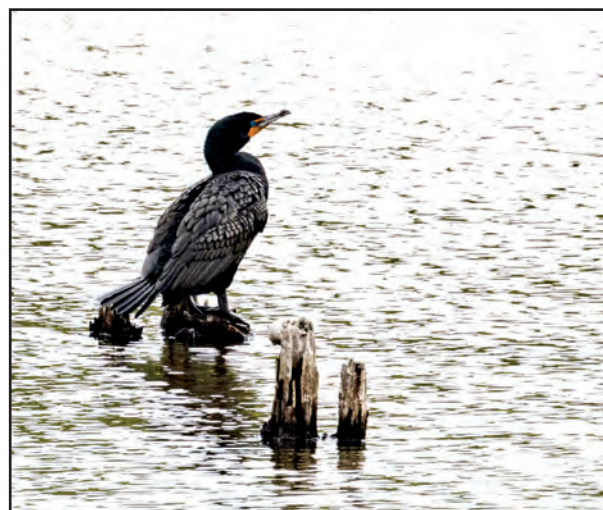
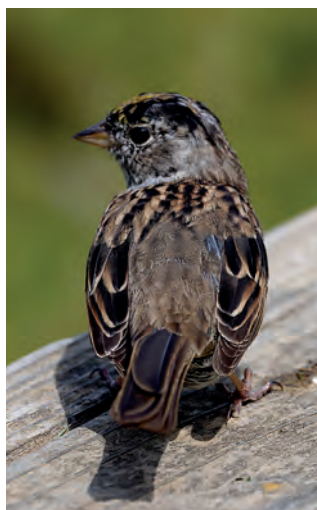
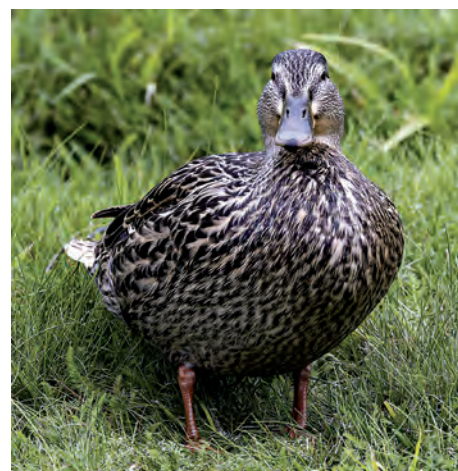


a few feet away. He was a good subject. As I shot picture after picture using a long telephoto lens, it attracted a small audience and sparked some conversations.

I made a complete loop on the boardwalk with a few stops for photography or to take comfort on a bench. Not a bad way to spend the day.

I topped it off with a stop in Scotts Valley for pizza. Man can't live on art alone. It takes food.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird is supported entirely by grants, sponsors, and donations. If you wonder where and when to find a specific bird species, visit ebird.org.



history

*From Marlene's
Mountain History Archive*
**Historic Photos of
Lexington and Alma**
Marlene Wiley

Two former mountain communities, Lexington and Alma, were demolished when the Lexington reservoir was created in the mid-1950s. They were founded earlier than the town of Los Gatos. Also, for a brief time, they were more famous than Los Gatos. They no longer exist, victims of a depleted lumber industry and the need to create water storage for the Santa Clara Valley.

Lexington was founded in 1857. John Pennell Henning, who purchased the land from Zachariah "Buffalo" Jones, named the community for Lexington, Missouri, where he once lived. Lexington became the largest settlement in the Redwood Township.

The Lexington post office was established in 1861. Lumbering was the chief business. The town once boasted a hotel, post office, livery stable, and blacksmith shop. In 1867, eight sawmills were in operation. There were lumber dealers, a redwood pipe factory, a wheelwright, and a grocer. A petroleum company and a stagecoach line claimed Lexington as home. The stage line existed until 1875, when ranchers and orchardists began shipping their



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Sunday May 8
Mothers Day Brunch 10am-1pm



The first school at Lexington, 1852

products to market on the narrow-gauge railroad.

The community that became known as **Alma** started when the Forest House Hotel was established in 1862. At about a mile south of Lexington, Alma officially became a community in 1873, when the Lexington post office was moved there. Alma was also given the less-flattering name of “mile of saloons.”

The dominant industry of lumbering appeared to make lumberjacks a thirsty bunch. At one time, 12 saloons dotted the roadside between Alma and Lexington.

The South Pacific Coast Railroad opened a station at Alma. Valley and Peninsula residents considered Alma a popular picnic destination that rivaled Sunset Park at Wright’s Station, located further south on the railroad line.

Like Wright’s Station, Alma was a shipping point for orchardists. While Lexington declined, Alma remained a community with a grocery store until the early 1950s, when it was demolished to make way for the reservoir. The Alma post office closed in 1952.



*From top:
Alma Store,
Alma Bridge,
and Alma Falls*

Left: Riding the rails

*Some original photos
have been refined
and colorized.*

nature

Airborne Nature Mercury Freedom

I've had some wonderful wildlife-photography opportunities at Lexington Reservoir this spring. The flurry of activity may have subsided, but in the last few months I've seen four different bald eagles fishing and fighting.

In addition to the eagle activity, an osprey has been fishing. An osprey was here 10 years ago, but was driven away by the aggressive eagles that live in our mountains.



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Fog panoramas

Bruce Fournier



The Mother-in-Law Fish

Bruce Sudweeks

The mother-in-law fish was named for its big mouth and constant croaking. The common name most often used is *Cabezón*, which means pig-headed, big-headed, or stubborn in Spanish.

I think big-headed is the best translation. The fish has a very large head when compared to the rest of its body. It reminds me of Jabba the Hutt from *Star Wars*. The fish has a camouflage pattern with color variability.

Males usually have a red coloration and females are usually green. They are tasty to eat, but don't be alarmed by the blue uncooked flesh. Their eggs are yellow and look like Disney's Minions, but don't be lured into turning the pretty yellow eggs into caviar. The eggs are toxic to humans.

The "stubborn" translation from Spanish could refer to the dedication of males in guarding the eggs from predators. These fish do not have scales, but their nasty spines should be handled with care. Cabezón are easy to photograph underwater since they tend to hold their ground when approached by divers. Their expressive faces make them good photographic subjects.




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schools

Keep Excellent Education Programs Let's KEEP the Future Bright Elyse Fairweather

The past few years have been tough, but the sun continues to shine on our wonderful community with help from our neighbors, friends, and families. We are so happy to have the students, teachers, and staff reunited at Loma Prieta Elementary and C.T. English Middle school campuses.

We want to continue to provide them with the educational tools and resources needed to keep their education growing next year. We need the help of our community to keep teachers, keep programs, and keep enrichment opportunities available for all students.

LPEF is a non-profit educational foundation that raises funds to maintain critical programs at Loma and C.T. English such as P.E., music and band, STEAM, library, student counseling, technology, and art. KEEP is our annual direct-giving campaign to close the funding gap for the next school year.

The children are the future of this community. Our public schools are vital to their success. We hope that you will consider a financial donation to LPEF's 2022 KEEP campaign. Every donation counts.

Have fun while giving.

Sip for Schools will be on **Saturday, May 14**, from noon to 7 p.m., at Wrights Station Winery. Meet with friends for conversation

Sip-4-Schools
MAY 15
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and delicious wine. Visit the food trucks and explore a variety of vendors while supporting our schools.

Wrights Station has graciously offered to donate 37.86 percent of all sales for the day. This number represents the height of our beloved Loma Prieta Mountain. No tickets are necessary.

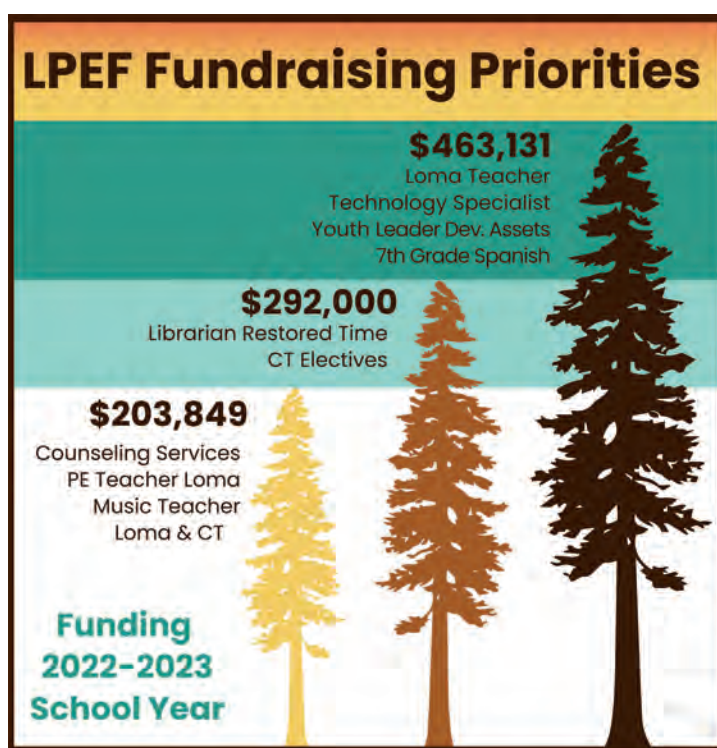
The "Fore the Kids" Golf Tournament at Seascope is on **Friday, May 20**. Join us for a day on the green at the beautiful Seascope Golf Club. Tickets cover 18 holes of golf (scramble format), cart rental, drink tickets, and a bagged lunch on the course. But that's not all. After your day of fun, you can indulge in appetizers, dinner, a silent auction, and dancing. For those not golfing, you can enjoy the evening festivities by purchasing a dinner-only ticket. To purchase tickets, visit www.lpef.org/golf.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Special thanks to Lydia Harville of State Farm, Andrea Friese of Advanced Chiropractic, Open Homes, Moore Buick GMC, and Summit Store for sponsoring the golf tournament. You can be a sponsor, too. Visit www.lpef.org/golf.

Thanks to the hosts and attendees who made the LPEF Texas Hold'em poker tournament a huge success. In March, Amy Fowler, Julie Lane, Susan Sanders, Michelle Bowen, and Crisy Werdebaugh hosted a charity poker tournament that was lots of fun and raised \$19,000 for the Loma Prieta school district. We thank the gracious hosts and the attendees.

Thank you to our "Mighty Redwoods" sponsor, Open Homes, for their incredible support two years in a row. Co-owned and operated by mountain residents, Open Homes provides real-estate photography, websites, brochures, floor plans, video, aerials, 3D models, and other services for marketing real estate. For more information, go to www.openhomesphotography.com.



Thank you to our amazing "Great Oaks" sponsors, State Farm independent insurance agents Laura Peterson and Lydia Harville, and Rebecca Smith and Karen Izzo of Christie's International Sereno, for their generosity over the past 18 years. We are also grateful for our wonderful "Poppin' Poppies" sponsors: Cunningham Tractor, Erik Swanson Orthodontics, and Prime Tree Care.

Your KEEP donation is tax-deductible. To learn more, visit LPEF.org, www.facebook.com/lomaeducation/, and www.instagram.com/lomapubliceducationfund/.

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**Loma Prieta School District
Recognition**
Neil Wiley

The Loma Prieta school district board of trustees meeting on April 6 recognized several achievements. Members of the CTA of Loma Prieta recognized Janis Riccomini as teacher of the year. Members of the CSEA chapter recognized Nicole Fichthorn as classified employee of the year. Tim Farley and Wayne Thompson received a formal appreciation of service. The board adopted resolutions commemorating teachers and the teaching profession with a teacher-appreciation week and day of the teacher. They also acknowledged the benefits of a dedicated staff with a resolution dedicated to a classified-employee week.

The teachers attended the meeting as a group. Several teachers spoke about the need for more compensation. They are at the low end of the pay scale for teachers in Santa Clara County schools. They teach in a district with expensive housing that makes it difficult to live here. Rapid inflation is making their situation worse.

Several board members agreed that teachers deserve more income. The question was how to finance the necessary increases. The district is working on a plan.

Other discussions and action items included a presentation from Larry Lopp about a shaded fuel break for Summit and Highland roads, that would reduce the spread of wildfires and protect evacuation routes. This requires the permission of landowners along these roads, including the school district. The board approved permission for the fire break.

The board also discussed an update to the kindergarten playground, reviewed audit reports, and received a budget advisory from Superintendent Grier.

This month's meeting dates are scheduled for **May 11 and 25.**



Nicole Fichthorn,
classified employee of the year



Janis Riccomini,
teacher of the year



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schools

Kids & Company Summer Day Camp Bridget Freiri

It's time to start planning for summer-enrichment activities. Kids & Company is here to help.

We invite school-age children to our Kingdoms of Summertime day camp, from **June 6 through July 29**. Each week of camp has a different theme, and includes a fun-filled field trip, swimming, games, crafts, and an optional dress-up day.

The summer camp program will incorporate science, history, nutrition, and activities to increase the self-esteem of our campers. Our child-to-staff ratio is at least 12:1 on days when the campers remain on campus, and at least 7:1 on field-trip days.

The program is flexible by design, so



you can enroll for the full summer, or for specific weeks. Families can choose which days to attend. Whether you are looking for weekly enrichment or an occasional adventure here on the mountain, Kids & Company has a camp for you.

For more information, visit www.loma.k12.ca.us/Page/363. Sign-up by **May 9** to secure your child's spot and to save money. If you have questions, call 408-353-5437.



Lexington School Deanna Wilk

Tinkerers, inquirers, and wonderers united at Lexington's STEAM night in March. Twenty individual and group projects were on display for attendees and exhibitors to learn about, experiment with, and discuss. "Here are all the materials. Now you try it," invited third-grade student Hannah, as visitors loaded up variously shaped tinfoil boats with glass discs to explore the attributes that determine which design



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could hold the most discs without sinking.

Some projects focused on researching curiosities, like how human skin is different from orange skin, cat's whiskers, and why leopard geckos have bumps. Others were experimental, like how velocity, height, and weight affect the distance you can jump a bike, what kind of chocolate melts fastest in the sun, and how ball material and different surfaces affect bounceability. Some projects explored the physics of roller coasters, balloon-powered cars, or arose from interesting questions such as whether a banana is radioactive. A make-your-own marshmallow tower was hosted by the Spanish Club. Thank you to our students, and to parent Anna Kearney, for chairing the event.

Fifth-graders immersed themselves in marine-life science and coastal and beach ecosystems at Pigeon Point in San Mateo during their recent three-day science-camp adventure. Under the leadership of the Exploring New Horizons Outdoor School, they visited Año Nuevo State Reserve, observing elephant seals in their habitat, and learning at the Marine Education Center. They enjoyed night hikes, tidepooling at low tide, touring a fog-signal building, and hiking in the redwoods at Memorial Park.

Students set tables, made breakfast, and

tracked food waste.

The meals they made were delicious. Another highlight was the elephant-seal puppet show on the night they arrived. Thank you to parent chaperones and fifth-grade teacher, Mrs. Hamilton, for organizing this memorable trip for our students.

Students ran their hearts out for Lexington's color-run Jogathon in March. Our students raised funds for Lexington's Home and School Club and enrichment programs while running to music, cheering, doing high-fives, and getting squirted with water and color by enthusiastic parent volunteers. They enjoyed a well-deserved cool treat afterward. We thank event chair Victoria Lerman, the volunteers, our runners, and those who donated so generously to propel us past our fundraising goal.

Students in transitional-kindergarten through third grade performed a music concert that featured songs and dance moves from a variety of cultures, humorous spoken words, and the debut of the ukulele in our third-grade music program.

Caring and learning are always happening at Lexington. Students have been putting together hygiene kits for the homeless to be distributed by House of Hope. An American Sign Language club meets at recess on



Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ms. Fondeur, our resource specialist, has been teaching ASL to interested students.

Registration for kindergarten and transitional kindergarten is open. The school days for these grades will be from 8:10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. every day but Wednesday, which ends at noon for kindergarten, and slightly earlier for transitional kindergarten. Register online at lgusd.org.



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Lakeside School Community Foundation Foundation News Holly Stewart

We kicked off the month of April with our second campus clean-up/beautification workday. Thank you to the parents and foundation board members who gathered to paint benches and tables, mow the fields, trim hedges, and do a general spruce-up and cleaning of the school campus. Your energy and hard work are appreciated. Our school is looking much better than when we started the school year.

Our students enjoyed another Rojelio dance academy. Students in each grade honed the skills they had learned in previous years. In four days of intense movement, training, and practice, they perfected and improved the dances they learned in the fall, and learned new routines. The evening performance culminated with our fourth- and fifth-graders performing a tango, a waltz, country-western, and hip hop dances. The children's hard work was showcased in their performance.

Thanks to those who participated in our annual auction. Many happy bidders will enjoy their purchases, knowing they have supported the enrichment of the education

of our students at Lakeside School. The funds raised pay for our dedicated science, art, and P.E. teachers, our school counselor, the gardening program, playground maintenance, field-trip scholarships, and teacher stipends. We thank our generous sponsors: Realtors Karen Izzo and Rebecca Smith of Sereno Group, South Bay Kids Dentistry, and David Warter of Bay Area Mortgages, as well as all the generous families and businesses that donated items.

We are recruiting new board and voting members for the new fiscal year, starting July 2022. We are looking for a president, a treasurer, and a voting member. If you are interested, email foundation@lakesidelosgatos.org. Any adult within the boundaries of the Lakeside School District is eligible to join.

Visit our website at www.LakesideSCF.org to learn more about our mission, purchase Lakeside gear, explore volunteer opportunities, view our calendar of events, and donate.



We thank our generous auction sponsors

Building Blocks News Alexandra Hughmanick

Building Blocks' family fun day in March was a big success. We raised \$8,500 that will provide scholarships to mountain preschoolers. We enjoyed field games, a petting zoo, preschool tours, T-shirts, and succulent-planting activities, a raffle, and more. Thank you to Mattia Pizza, Kona Ice, Yummy BBQ, and the Santa Clara County Bookmobile for joining our community event. Thanks to the parent volunteers and community members who attended to support Building Blocks.



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In other news, teacher Sally's group enjoyed an interactive lesson on composting and worms from Terry Andre, master composter and volunteer from Santa Clara County's Composting Education Program, part of the University of California Cooperative Extension. The children learned about worm anatomy, and participated in a compost-sorting activity where they identified and retrieved worms



and egg casings from one mature compost bin and moved them to a new compost bin.

Terry shared, "I love teaching the school programs. Helping children overcome their apprehension around holding wiggly worms, as well as inspiring curiosity around science, is truly rewarding." We thank Terry for her time, and Kathy Adams for coordinating the event.


Teacher Nicole's class is working on fine-motor skills and sensory exploration. They used pipettes to mix liquid watercolors and make wonderful artwork. They played with oobleck, a substance made of cornstarch and water that mimics the qualities of a solid and a liquid. They explored how it felt on their hands, arms, and even feet.

Summer days are better spent with friends. Building Blocks will host summer camps in June and July for preschoolers aged two to five. Camp days are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 9 a.m. to noon. Families can sign



up for specific weeks. Tuition credits are available for families who work in the classroom. Weekly camp themes include dinosaurs, ice and water, and under the sea. For more information, email Nicole at teacher_nicole@lpcf.org. Space is limited.

Building Blocks has a few spaces available for the 2022-23 school year. For more information regarding enrollment, visit www.buildingblockscoop.org/admissions.



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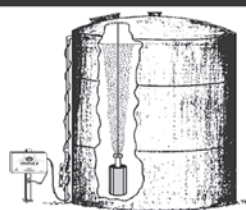
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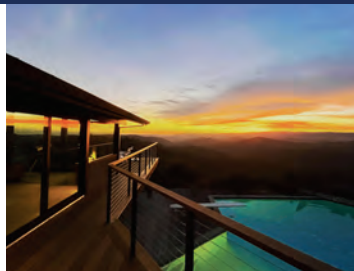
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