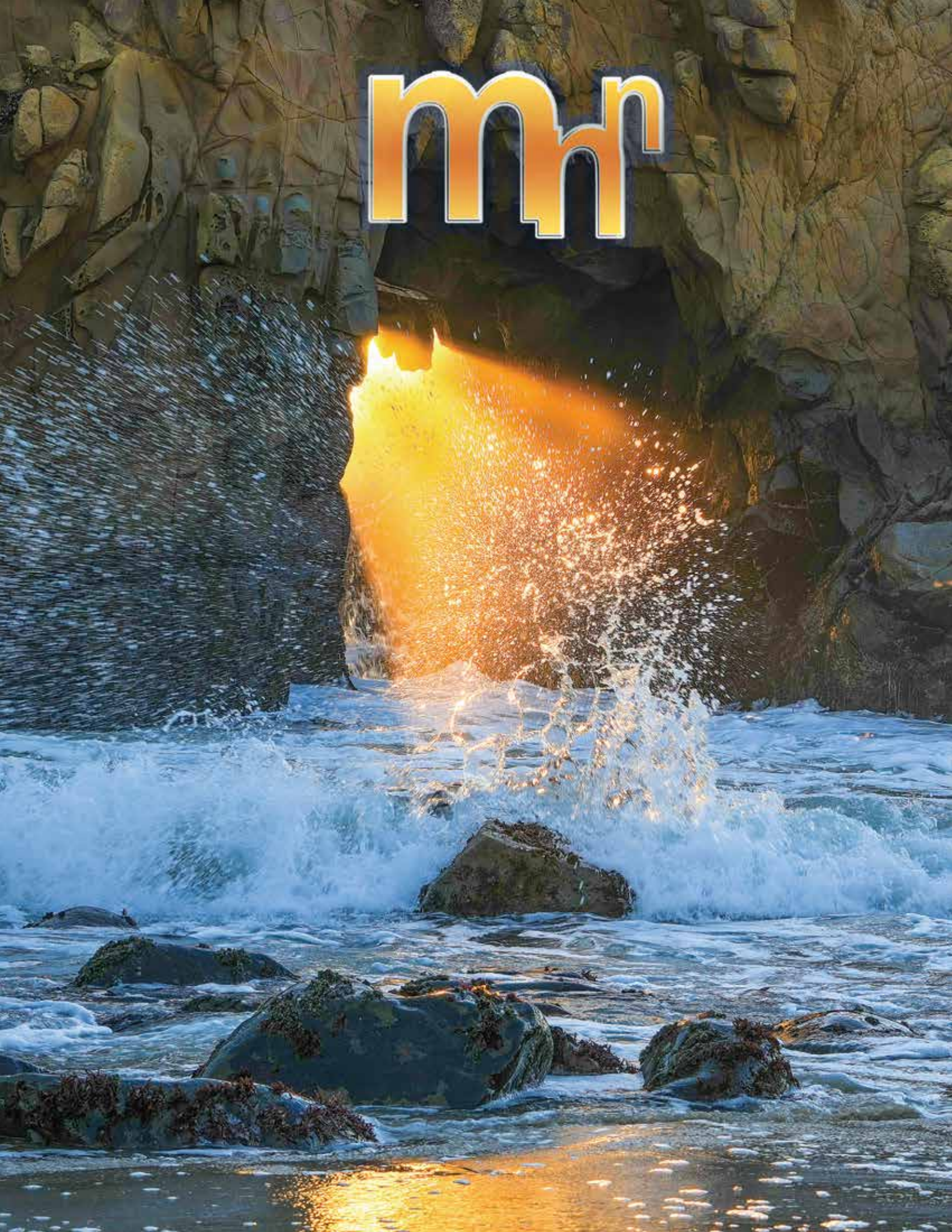


mr







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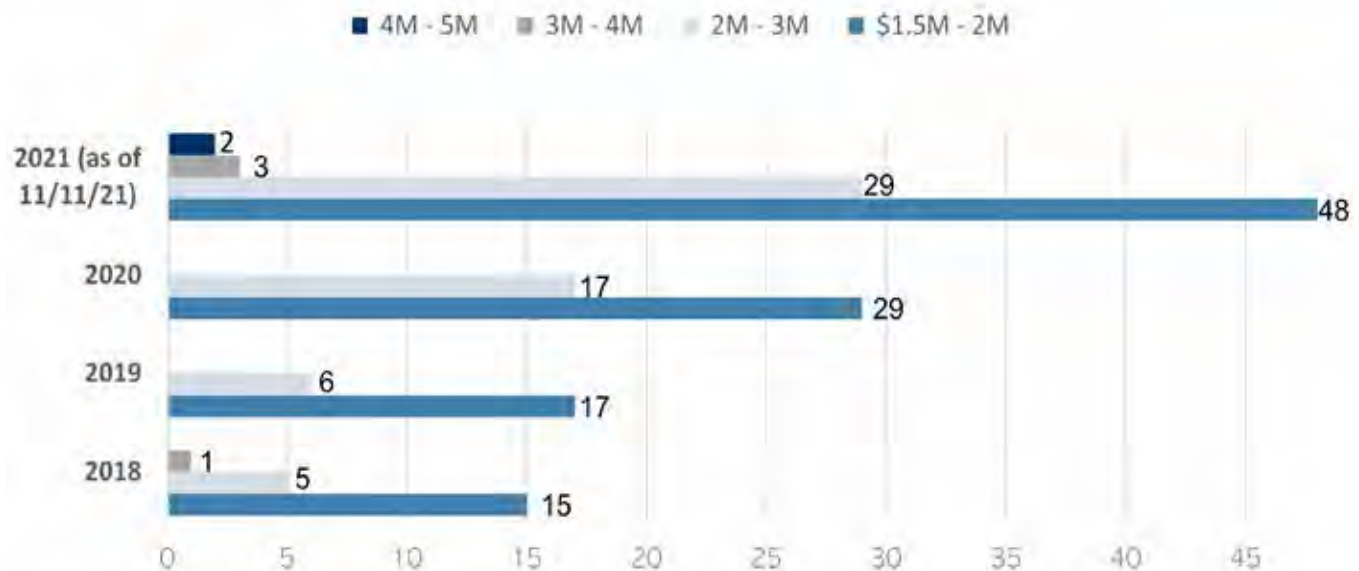
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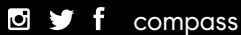
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**Photography and imaging**  
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We invite individuals and organizations to submit letters and articles. Email [mnnnews@comcast.net](mailto:mnnnews@comcast.net), or mail to MNN, 23625 Skyview Terrace, 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.

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We are going out. Seeing people.  
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more resilience and capacity.

Do we need the grid?  
We have solar, batteries, and  
generators.

Life isn't perfect,  
but we are making it better  
In the Santa Cruz Mountains.

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## Loma Prieta Education Fund Two Holiday Events Cristina Werdebaugh

The Loma Prieta Education Fund will hold two holiday events for mountain residents this month.

Join us for a tree-lighting event, hosted by Summit Veterinary Hospital and Kennels (located at 23291 Summit Road), on **Wednesday, December 1**, from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. Tree lighting begins at 7 p.m.

Find that perfect tree at Summit Tree Farm (located at 23868 Summit Road) on **Wednesday, December 8**. A percentage of proceeds from sales that day will be donated to LPEF.



## Christmas Around The World Carmina Brockenbrough

The community is invited to "Christmas Around the World" on **Sunday, December 12**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A multinational experience of Christmas will be presented at this free event at Mountain Bible Church, 23946 Summit Road.

All ages can enjoy crafts, exhibits, dance, and music from around the world. An array of international cuisine will be available in the church basement starting at 11 a.m.

Lunch will be followed by an exhibit showcasing holiday celebrations on different continents. Guests will learn about multinational customs and traditions. Traditional crafts will be available.

International dances will be performed, including Irish dance and the Filipino *tinikling* (a dance using bamboo poles). You will have a chance to learn a few steps, too. We will end with a *piñata*, part of the traditional Mexican celebration of Christmas.

We hope you will join us for this enjoyable and educational event for all ages. For more information, visit [www.mountainbible.church](http://www.mountainbible.church).

## A Youth Event Christmas Blast Roger Brockenbrough

Middle-school and high-school students are invited to Christmas Blast on **Friday, December 17**, from 5 to 8 p.m. This free event hosted by Mountain Bible Church will be held at the parsonage at 24010 Soquel-San Jose Road.

Youth will have an evening of fun with adult supervision. Enjoy games, including pool, foosball, and air hockey. Pizza, popcorn, apple cider, and other snacks will be provided. A reading of the Christmas story and a Christmas carol sing-along will add to the fun and brighten your holiday season.

RSVP at 408-353-2302, or email [invites@mountainbible.church](mailto:invites@mountainbible.church).



## More Holiday Festivities Kathy McKinney

**Tree lighting.** The town of Los Gatos is bringing back the annual tree-lighting event on **Friday, December 3**, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Town Plaza Park (across from the post office). Free photos with Santa will immediately follow the lighting at 6 p.m.

**Holiday-themed Promenade.** In lieu of the Children's Holiday Parade in Los Gatos, a holiday-themed Promenade is scheduled for **Saturday, December 4**, from 2 to 9 p.m., in Los Gatos. N. Santa Cruz Avenue will be closed to vehicle traffic from Bachman Avenue to Main Street. The Promenade will feature a European-style arts-and-crafts fair, and free live music. Beer, wine, and hot chocolate will be available for purchase. Santa will make an appearance, and the LGS Recreation Department will have gifts for children.

**Holiday lights.** The Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds will feature a half-mile of lighted, drive-through holiday displays. The event will be open **Thursdays through Sundays through December 26**, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Tickets are available at <https://fairgrounds-foundation.org/holiday-lights/>.

Vasona Park in Los Gatos features its annual Fantasy of Lights, a 1.5-mile drive through holiday lights and displays. You can walk through on **Saturday and Sunday, December 4 and 5**, from 4 to 9 p.m. The drive-through show will run **Tuesday, December 7, through Thursday, December 30**. Pre-paid tickets are required for all shows. Walk-through tickets are \$10 for those 13 and up, \$5 for children aged 4-12, and free for those 3 and younger. Drive-through tickets are \$20 per vehicle (up to 12 people) and \$50 for oversize vehicles (capacity 13+). Tickets are available at <https://parks.sccgov.org/23rd-annual-fantasy-lights-mark-your-calendar>.

**Carriage rides.** Take a horse-drawn carriage ride through the streets of Los Gatos. Carriages will run **December 9 to 12**, from 5 to 9 p.m., and **December 15 to 23**, from 4:30 to 9 p.m. A regular carriage holds up to 4 adults and 2 children, and costs \$110. A large carriage holds up to 6 adults, and costs \$130. The carriage ride booth is located in Town Plaza, across from the Post Office. Get your reservations at [carriage-rides.losgatoschamber.com](http://carriage-rides.losgatoschamber.com).

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KTP aims to be the source of assistance and advice to all mountain residents. They are always available to assist our Community. Call them direct with any questions and needs.



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# community

## Mountain Neighbors Helping Neighbors The Little Free Pantry Pam Walatka

Mountain Neighbors Helping Neighbors, founded by Patricia Wood, continues to help mountain residents stay in their homes when age or illness hampers their ability to get around. Since 2013, MNHN has been giving rides to medical appointments, helping with fire-safe yard clearing, and providing temporary volunteer help when needed.

In 2020 and 2021, Kathy Newman has been our outstanding volunteer, delivering groceries to residents in need throughout the pandemic. (Grocery delivery has been our predominant request.)

Now we will help The Little Free Pantry located at Skyland Church. Shannon Edwards is the pantry coordinator. As many as 100 families a week obtain food from the pantry. Several organizations and local families donate food. Because of its success, more volunteers are needed to handle the flow of food. Volunteers typically work part of one day a week. Help is needed every day of the week.

MNHN has volunteers who have been



waiting for an assignment. We are looking for someone to assist Shannon in scheduling volunteers, and volunteers to drive to Santa Cruz, San Jose, or Scotts Valley to pick up food, help organize and store the food and supplies as they arrive, and keep the outside pantry stocked, so that guests can find fresh food every day.

To volunteer, visit [mnhn95033.org](http://mnhn95033.org) and fill out the volunteer form. On question 7, under "other," write pantry. Then follow the instructions for returning the form.

If you are already an MNHN volunteer, email [MNHN95033@gmail.com](mailto:MNHN95033@gmail.com) if you want to help with the pantry. Patrick Xuan, MNHN treasurer, maintains a spreadsheet of volunteers with notes about assignment preferences.

The Little Free Pantry offers an abundance

of fresh food and staples. All mountain residents are welcome to visit 24/7. "Give what you can, take what you need" is the philosophy.

Mountain residents who have contributed time include Gerald Alonzo, Bonnie Cloyd, Terrie Landini, Lynn Mitchell, Deborah and John Hultgren, Renee Presler, Jan Parker, Deana Arnold, Jan Swayne, Jan Parker, Ann Baier, John Heyes, Janet Davies, Dawn Hooper, Jeanne Tillman, Dan Mueller, Rose Paysnick, Tina Rude, Melinda Malloy, Barrie and Cheryl Clifford, Christine Chiang, Trish LeGear, Jana McBurney-Lin, Todd Hoff, Tim Barnes, Linda Sullivan, and Sherrie Gomes.

Join us. For more information, visit [mnhn95033.org](http://mnhn95033.org).







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Holiday season and throughout  
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## Mountain News

Supervisor Manu Koenig

First District, Santa Cruz County

**FAA Flight Path.** Concerns related to the FAA flight path and associated impacts from jet noise remain a top issue for many First District residents, especially in the Summit area. While solutions to this complex issue ultimately lie at the state level, our office is committed to representing our constituents and their concerns. Our goal is to raise your concerns to our state representatives, who can then advocate on your behalf. We are in communication with both Congressman Panetta and Congresswoman Eshoo on this issue.

We met with both congressional offices to discuss possible steps to reach resolution. We also continue to communicate and meet with our local Save Our Skies group to listen and gather input.



**Tiny Homes Project.** Housing remains a key priority for our office. We continue to work on identifying additional ways to provide housing in our community.

One way to create more housing options



in our community is by allowing "tiny homes" to be legal dwelling units. Current county code requires homes to be a minimum of 150 square feet, and to sit on a permanent foundation.

In January 2021, our office asked the planning department to present options for tiny homes (including movable tiny homes on wheels) as legal dwelling units. Tiny homes were initially included in the Accessory Dwelling Unit amendment process already underway at the time. The planning commission, however, voted to separate discussion regarding tiny homes from the ADU process in March.

The board of supervisors has approved the changes to our county ADU regulations. Planning staff will bring their attention to the tiny home project. First steps include virtual community meetings in early December. To view the meeting calendar and join meetings, visit <https://www.sccoplanning.com/ADU.aspx>. To submit comments about tiny homes, or to sign up to receive email updates, email Planner Daisy Allen at [Daisy.Allen@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:Daisy.Allen@santacruzcounty.us).

**Our Newest Team Member.** This fall we welcomed a new member to our team, Shane McKeithen. Shane was raised in Watsonville. He completed his K-12 education in the Pajaro Valley school system. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a master's degree in public administration from California State University, Long Beach.

Shane brings over seven years of experience in the legislative sphere, working at the city, county, and state level to serve the residents of Long Beach and Monterey County. From 2017 to 2021, he served as a senior field deputy in the city of Long Beach, crafting policy, providing constituent services, and implementing strategies to address the COVID-19 pandemic, housing needs, quality of life, and social-equity concerns.

Shane is a proud Afro-Mexican American with a diverse wealth



of knowledge and experience. He enjoys playing chess, drawing caricatures, mentoring youth, and spending time with loved ones. He is excited to be back in Santa Cruz County, and looks forward to meeting residents and serving the First District community.

**Getting in Touch.** Our next Summit-area constituent meeting is **Wednesday, December 15**. Beginning in 2022, we will host monthly in-person meetings at rotating locations throughout the First District. Visit our website, call 831-454-2200, or email [first.district@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:first.district@santacruzcounty.us). I hope to see you soon.



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Represented Seller 590riderridgerd.com



**1845 Amaya Ridge Road, Soquel**

4 Beds | 3.5 Baths | 2,951 SqFt Home | 20.20 Acre Lot  
Represented Seller 1845amayaridgerd.com



**5544 Old San Jose Road, Soquel**

4 Beds | 3.5 Baths | 2,700 SqFt Home | 1.35 Acre Lot  
Represented Buyer & Seller 5544oldsanjoserd.com



**20733 Santa Cruz Highway, Los Gatos**

3 Beds | 2.5 Baths | 1,815 SqFt Home | 2.86 Acre Lot  
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# community

## **Loma Prieta Future Fund End-of-Year Giving With a Lasting Community Impact** Rachelle Lopp

Two years ago, the Loma Prieta Joint Union School District tackled the volatility of school-revenue sources by establishing an endowment. The Loma Prieta Future Fund provides a long-term, sustained, and dependable funding source. Since then, we have grown with the generous and steady donations of our founding benefactors. It will take time to have a real impact, but we are on our way.

We invite you to be involved. Do you want to strengthen the communal fabric of the greater Loma Prieta area in a lasting and sustainable way? Not just through a donation, but a permanent, timeless gift? Any amount you give to the endowment lasts in perpetuity. It builds and keeps on giving every year, since the principal is untouched and only the growth of the fund is used to provide enriching, educational programs. It is a way to invest in your community.

Interested in some strategic giving tips? These apply to many charitable organizations that make our community a



great place to live. We hope you will consider the Loma Prieta Future Fund.

Are you 70 ½ years or older? Are you looking for a tax-free way to use the required minimum distribution from your retirement account? Turn your retirement savings into a meaningful gift. A donation to the Loma Prieta Future Fund counts as a qualified charitable tax deduction. Ask your financial advisor for more information.

Do you have stocks with unrealized capital gains? The Loma Prieta Future Fund is set up to receive gifts of stock, so you avoid capital-gains tax while earning a current-year tax deduction. Our fund is held with the Santa Cruz Community Foundation. They

can help you through the process. Start with the stock gift form on the donation page of their website (<https://www.cfsc.org>.) Be sure to select our fund.

Create a meaningful legacy and advance the community values important to you by leaving a gift through your will. You can add a codicil to your existing will, or if you haven't made a will, now is the time to make your wishes known. The Loma Prieta Future Fund will ensure that your bequest lives on, impacting the lives of children in your own community for many years to come.

Of course, you can give tax-deductible donations any time. See [www.lomaprietafuturefund.org](http://www.lomaprietafuturefund.org). The reputable Santa Cruz Community Foundation manages our fund, so be sure to designate Loma Prieta Future Fund Endowment on their giving site.

Although the Future Fund is for lasting impact through the years, you may want to contribute to the Loma Prieta District's immediate funding needs. In that case, consider donating to the Loma Public Education Fund at [lpef.org](http://lpef.org).

Healthy schools mean healthy communities. Learn more about the fund at [www.lomaprietafuturefund.org](http://www.lomaprietafuturefund.org), or by emailing our Loma Prieta superintendent at [k.grier@loma.k12.ca.us](mailto:k.grier@loma.k12.ca.us).

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**Loma Prieta School  
Ultimate Frisbee™**

Kevin Arnold

If you are looking for great outdoor exercise, join a group of residents who play ultimate Frisbee™ on the Loma Prieta school field every week (either Saturday and or Sunday at 9 a.m., depending on turnout). During the summer, we also play on Wednesday evenings.

We welcome all levels and ages (including newbies). We have had six-year-olds play alongside sixty-plus-year-olds. We



divide teams up to match players of similar ability and experience. This way, everyone has a great time.

You can join our groups.io mailing list to see when games are happening. If six or more people RSVP that they are attending on a certain date, game on! Go to <https://summitfrisbee.org>. You will be redirected to our signup page.

Emails go out Thursday or Friday asking about interest in Saturday and Sunday games. We also play on holidays, including Thanksgiving weekend, around Christmas, and New Year's Day. Join us.

*Photos by Kevin Arnold*

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## Obituary

### Dr. Julia Nelson Parfitt

Rick Parfitt

Dear friends and neighbors of our mountain community, it is with great sadness that I share the passing of Dr. Julia Nelson Parfitt on October 11, 2021. Some of you had the good fortune to know her as a caring family-practice physician at Kaiser. We know her as all-around good person, and a loving wife and stepmother. We crossed many bridges together, and we will carry forward the memories that are interwoven into our lives. As a family we took joy in helping tend her garden, shared her wonder of nature, and held hands as we hiked and traveled the globe together forging rivers, exploring museums, and discovering other cultures. We grew together kayaking the Yukon River, visiting the mountains and jungles of Ecuador, climbing many mountains, and having lengthy conversations about healthcare, science, or what should be done to make the world a better place.

The world is not always what we want it to be, so we are sad that after eighteen months of struggling with stomach cancer, our sweet Julie was not able to enjoy her retirement. The sad is mixed with the good. While she worked long hours, she would still unlock the door of her clinic after hours to see one more patient that needed a last-minute visit before departing on a trip or getting their child a physical, checking a suspicious lump, or tending an irritated throat; she gave extra care. It was in her essence to be a good doctor. As a family we took comfort that over the years we whisked her away for family time, travel, for meeting in the evenings to listen to bluegrass music, or for just a nice evening in her garden sitting around the fire pit having dinner with our friends. She had many loves: animals, plants, the sanctity of life, science, reading, public lectures, music, art, acceptance of others that are different from us, and the desire for a world where everyone could flourish.

Dr. Nelson is survived by her husband Rick, her two beautiful daughters, Mira and Danielle, three grandsons, three sisters, her mother, two goats, and five chickens. The short days bring back the image of her getting up extra early before going to work, putting on her head lamp and farm clothes to tend to the goats and chickens. She had names for all of them. The kindness she brought to them she brought to all that she touched. The family will hold a remembrance and celebration of life in March.



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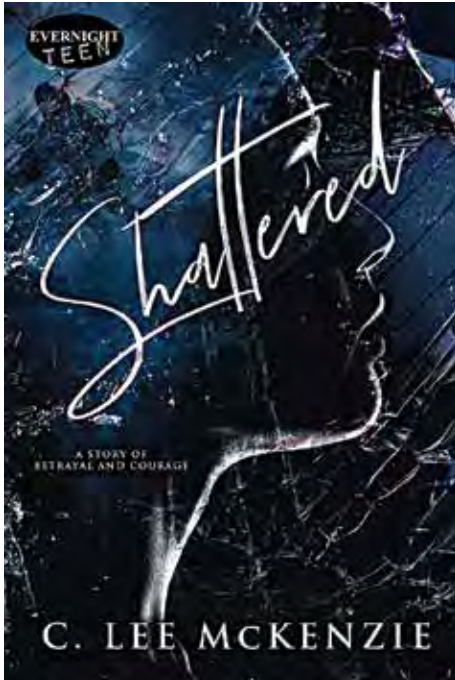
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### My New Book Cheryl McKenzie

Under my pen name C. Lee McKenzie, I have authored five young adult novels. I took on the challenge of writing about paraplegia in an honest, yet engaging story in my latest book, *Shattered: A Story of Betrayal and Courage*. Admiration for those who refuse to allow the loss of limbs to keep them from participating and excelling



in active sports led to my writing this contemporary and realistic story.

Nineteen-year-old Libby Brown is on her way to the winter Olympics for her shot at the gold. But on a last practice run, an out-of-bounds snowboarder collides with her. She wakes up in a hospital unable to move her legs. Terrible accident, they say, but was it? Or did someone want her off the U.S. slalom team? Libby must find the truth or remain shattered forever.

I use fiction to deal with reality. My young adult-crossover books cover modern issues that people face in their daily lives. My story about illiteracy, *Double Negative*, was one



of the top-ten young-adult books in 2019. My other books, *The Princess of Las Pulgas*, *Sudden Secrets*, and *Not Guilty* have won four- and five-star reviews. When I'm not writing, I'm traveling or hiking.

My books are available through Amazon, B&N, Kobo, and Smashword. *Shattered* is also on NetGalley for download and review.

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# Happy Holidays from my family to yours.

Thank you to all my clients and new friends  
for making this year incredible. I look forward  
to helping many more of you next year!



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## Battle of the Lingcods Bruce Sudweeks

On one of my dives at the north end of Monastery Beach at about ninety-foot depth, I came across two Pacific lingcod fish perched on their own granite boulders.

They were about ten feet apart and facing each other. I wanted to take a photo of them serenely gazing at each other on their respective pedestals.

When I approached one of the fish to take a photo, it seemed that I offended the other fish by not taking its photo first. It decided to swim over to the boulder that was occupied by the fish I was photographing.

The fish I was photographing did not appreciate the other fish horning in on its private photo session. They started to fight.

I was able to take a few photos before they kicked up an impressive underwater sandstorm that only a pair of 25-pound lingcod could produce. Their five-hundred needle-sharp teeth made for an epic lingcod tussle. Even more impressive was two full



grown, five-foot-long, eighty-pound lingcod wrestling for my photographic attention.

A Royal Society article says that Pacific lingcod lose and regrow about twenty teeth each day. Their expressive faces and wide range of color patterns make them interesting photography subjects. If you look closer, they even have color variation on the inside. If you catch and clean a

lingcod, you might find one with bright blue or bright green flesh.

Experts don't know why this variation occurs in about twenty percent of lingcods, but they appear to be safe to eat. In fact, they taste much better than they look. They are firm, tender, and moist, with great texture and large flakes. A fillet has few bones, and the flesh is lobster-like.



**Pelicans and Quail**  
Photos by Mercury Freedom







**Evening Panorama  
and  
Moonrise Over  
Walton Lighthouse**  
Photos by  
Bruce Fournier



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John - DRE 01903724

Barbara - DRE 01389088

sereno—



# calendar

## ON-GOING CLASSES AND MEETINGS

### 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.

### 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.

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.

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).

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



Live local bluegrass 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.

## Angelé Price

*Thank you to all my clients  
for a great 2021*

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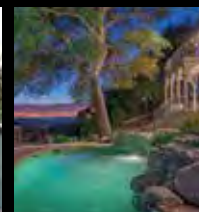
1646 DOLPHIN DRIVE



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## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Wednesday, December 1

Join LPEF for a tree-lighting event hosted by Summit Veterinary Hospital and Kennels, 23291 Summit Road, from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. Tree lighting begins at 7 p.m.

### Friday, December 3

Annual Los Gatos tree-lighting celebration will be from 5 to 7 p.m., at the Town Plaza Park (across from the post office). Free photos with Santa.

### Sunday, December 5

Building Blocks Preschool hosts a children's clothing exchange, 10 a.m. to noon. See article on page 29 for donation guidelines.

### Wednesday, December 8

Loma Day at Summit Tree Farm (located at 23868 Summit Road). A percentage of proceeds from sales that day will be donated to LPEF.



Photo by  
Ksenia Kuzmina



### Thursday, December 9

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.

### Saturday, December 11 and Sunday, December 12

Join us for a festive, family-friendly wreath-making fundraiser to benefit the Lakeside School Community Foundation and Los Gatos-Saratoga Observation Nursery School. Sessions are at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. \$40 includes all materials. For details or to register, scan the QR code on page 31.



### Sunday, December 12

The community is invited to "Christmas Around the World," from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A multinational experience of Christmas will be presented at this free event at Mountain Bible Church, 23946 Summit Road.

### Monday, December 13

Dine out at Mendocino Farms, in the Pruneyard Shopping Center on Campbell, to benefit the Lakeside School Community Foundation. Place orders online from [mendocinofarms.com](http://mendocinofarms.com), and enter the coupon code LAKESIDE13 at checkout.



### Wednesday, December 15

Santa Cruz County Supervisor Manu Koenig hosts a Summit town-hall meeting on Zoom, from 6 to 7 p.m. Register at [www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us](http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us) (select District 1)

### Friday, December 17

Middle- and high-school students are invited to Christmas Blast, from 5 to 8 p.m. This free event hosted by Mountain Bible Church will be held at the parsonage at 24010 Soquel-San Jose Road. RSVP at 408-353-2302 or email [invites@mountainbible.church](mailto:invites@mountainbible.church).

### Tuesday, December 28

Vision Board Event. 3 to 5 p.m. Goal setting and planning for 2022. Location to be determined. For more information, call Ann Scherer at 408-483-2156, or email [Ann@MountainMike.com](mailto:Ann@MountainMike.com).

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# exploring

## Three Small Parks Discovery, Covered Bridge, Highlands Neil Wiley

Sometimes small is a better fit than big. Big Basin, Henry Cowell, Fall Creek, and Loch Lomond are big parks with long trails, some solitude, and lots of exercise potential. On the other hand, where do you go when you have less time, young children, or simply want a small slice of nature. The San Lorenzo Valley has three small bites you can enjoy in one afternoon.

Let's begin with the smallest, but most delightful, experience. **Felton Discovery Park** is hidden behind the Felton Branch Library.

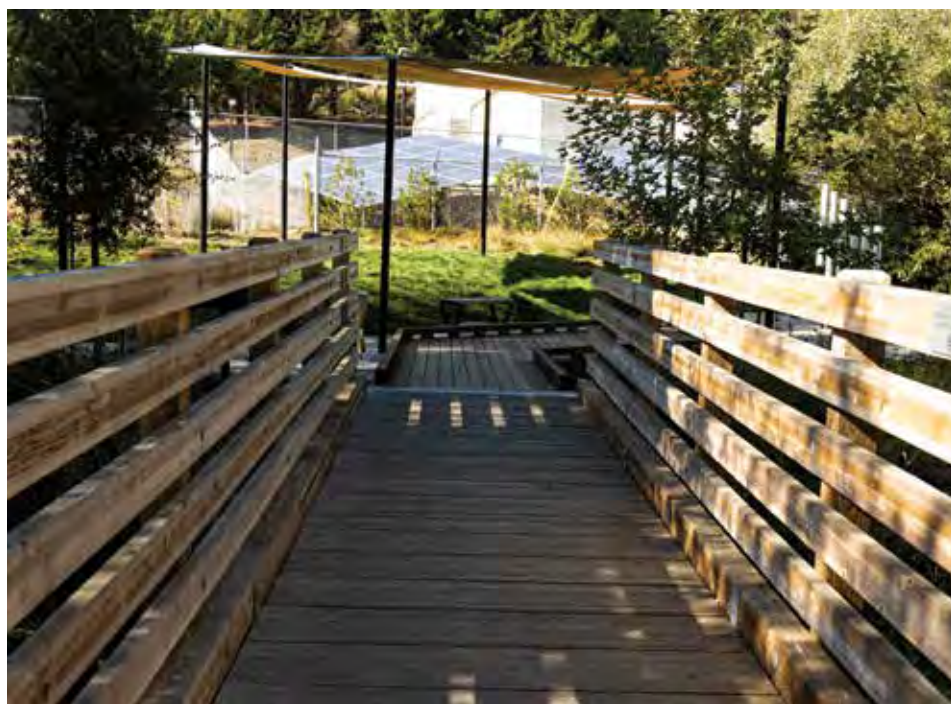
It's a short trip. Take Highway 17 south to Mt. Hermon, then drive through Scotts Valley to Felton. Turn left on Highway 9, right on Kirby, and left on Gushee Street to 6121 Gushee. Turn right into a small lot next to the library.

A few steps take you into a beautiful little garden park with a nature trail, over two little bridges crossing Bull Creek. Enjoy a rest area under a permanent shade structure. Make music playing a xylophone, beating a drum, or thumping on a row of tall pipes. Read interpretive signs along the trail for painless education. Sit on benches that offer comfort while watching children play or simply enjoy a well-designed garden environment.

I talked with one woman who told me that she walks alone here almost every day. It's her quiet time.

Just outside the park, you can see a large array of solar panels. It could be a visible opportunity to discuss or simply think about a new technology that is changing the world.

Walk a trail measured in steps and minutes, not miles and hours. Enjoy peace or bring children. It's your choice.



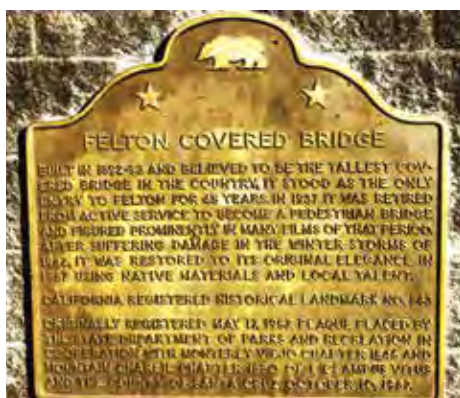




You can walk or drive from Discovery Park to **Felton Covered Bridge Park** located at the intersection of Mt. Hermon and Graham Hill Road. Built in 1892, the bridge is a California Historical Landmark.

The main entry to Felton for 45 years, the bridge isn't used as a road anymore. That is fortunate, because it was severely damaged by a floating redwood in 1982. Not to worry. It has been restored, and you can walk through history on the tallest covered bridge in the United States. You can imagine the carriages, wagons, and old cars that traveled the eighty-foot-long span. As you walk along, you can see the San Lorenzo River through open windows.

The end of the bridge reveals a large metal plaque that offers a short history of the bridge. To your left you can see the entrance



to the Covered Bridge Equestrian Center. (It brought back memories—this is where I purchased my daughter Lisa's first horse.) The stable has a big arena, three round pens, and a trail that goes down to the river and Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park.

Back at the bridge, a narrow, unmarked trail takes you through a large meadow and then uphill into a forest. You reach a dead end in impassable brush and trees, but not completely. I could see an old, white-bearded man rolling up his sleeping bag through the trees.

The area in the front of the bridge is a bit more park-like, with large green lawns, picnic tables, a volleyball court, and playground. History buffs should see the history booth in the front lawn. It displays many bridge photos and stories, including some about movies that used the bridge as a prop.

**Highlands County Park** is a short drive from Felton up Highway 9 to 8500 CA-9, Ben Lomond, CA 95005. After you turn in to the park, you'll see a general-parking area. Although smaller than nearby state parks, it covers 26 acres with a large playing field, picnic areas, play equipment, tennis court, skating area, and an historic house built in the early 1900s.

If you are an explorer, you can ignore these facilities. Instead, leave your car in the general-parking area and walk toward the back of the park. Follow the signs to the Senior Center on the right. You'll find a path going down through a grove of big trees. Near the bottom of the hill, you should see the sign for Highlands Park Nature Trail. This narrow dirt trail takes you to the Santa Lorenzo River and a pretty, little waterfall.

You can rest at a table and chairs, have a picnic, or climb down to the river to see the waterfall. Looking up-river you'll see a large reflecting pool. It isn't Yosemite Falls or Big Basin's Berry Creek Falls, but it is a nice view. Down-river looks more river-like. Take the trail to the left to continue the loop back to the Senior Center area and your car.



**For more fun.** If you want to do more in this area, hike in Henry Cowell or Fall Creek state parks, visit Quail Hollow Ranch, take shorter walks in Scott Valley's Glenwood's east or west parks, ride the train at Roaring Camp Railroads, or boat in the Loch Lomond Recreation Area.

For more information, visit [www.mnn.net](http://www.mnn.net), and then click on *Hikes and other explorations*.







**Marlene Wiley's Mountain-History Archive**  
**The North Coast**  
 Marlene Wiley

Driving north up Highway 1 from Santa Cruz, you may have enjoyed the scenery, visited wonderful parks, walked around Davenport and Pescadero, eaten at Duarte's Restaurant, or parked and climbed down to a secluded wild and often windy beach.

We learned more about North Coast history on July 2004, when Neil and I took a bus tour with Sandy Lydon, the "History Dude," and Cabrillo College historian emeritus.

The jagged coastline dictated the path of the early road that followed arroyos inland until they could be crossed, then returned to the coast. Sandy told us that a wagon trip of eleven miles between Davenport and Santa Cruz could take half a day. The road had 126 curves.

Our first stop was at Laguna, a settlement built where the road crossed Laguna Creek inland over an arroyo that carried water year-round. Sandy pointed out the Laguna Inn, a time-worn structure built in the 1800s. For many years, it was a hotel and the social center for the coastal communities.

Our next stop was the town of Davenport. The cement business developed in 1906 because of the nearby source of lime and kilns. One of the original companies, Santa Cruz Portland Cement Company, was bought by Pacific Coast Aggregates in 1956. Later, the company built Newtown upwind of Davenport for company managers. The cement company property covered 6,000 acres.

In 1923, Santa Cruz Portland Cement Company installed a narrow-gauge electric railroad to carry limestone from the quarry to the plant. In 1934, they built tall storage silos at the plant, and a 2,300-foot welded-steel pier with pipes to carry cement to waiting ships. After World War II, the plant was shipping 700,000 barrels a day. It was one of the largest cement plants in the world.

Davenport earned the nickname of "cement town," because cement dust covered everything, infiltrating each nook and cranny, and creating health problems for people and animals. In 1955, Davenport



residents held a town meeting to discuss their options. Eventually, a series of lawsuits were filed for damages totaling over one million dollars. The settlement decreed dust-arresting equipment to reduce emissions.

While in Davenport, Sandy talked about the process of straightening Highway 1 that occurred in the 1950s. When the railroad tracks were laid, the arroyos were filled in and high spots cut down to create a relatively level bed.

To move the water that normally flowed through the arroyos to the ocean, engineers created tunnels under the road.

On our walking tour of Davenport, we stopped at the jail. Small and seldom used, it now belongs to the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History.

The most distinctive landmark in







Davenport is the beautiful St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. Louis Morretti, last of the Italian-speaking Swiss family, donated the money to build the church that opened in May 1915.

Leaving Davenport, we took the Old Coast Road north through Newtown. We passed the site of Davenport Landing, a 450-foot-long wharf in the 1870s at the mouth of Agua Puerca Creek. The small settlement that grew around it handled milled lumber, cordwood, and posts. Most of the town was destroyed by a fire in 1915.

We continued up Swanton Road away from the coast to Waddell Bluff at the San Mateo County line. Reaching Pigeon Point Light Station, we stopped for lunch. Tours inside the lighthouse were discontinued because of deterioration, but the outside is



still worth seeing.

Pescadero was our last stop. In 1868, the state legislature moved 90,000 acres, including Pescadero, San Gregorio, and Half Moon Bay, from Santa Cruz County to San Mateo County. The reason: the three small communities were more isolated from Santa Cruz than San Francisco.

In the early days of Pescadero, it was a tourist town with two excellent hotels. Visitors came by the Ocean Shore Railway to fish for steelhead trout in Pescadero Creek and for salmon in the Pacific Ocean. Hunters came for fowl, deer, and grizzly bear. Added attractions were redwood

forests, berries, and wildflowers.

Pescadero was described as a “friendly, funky, rundown” town, but this unincorporated rural agricultural community is undergoing gentrification. The values of homes and property in Pescadero have risen dramatically, a situation that has caused hard feelings between longtime families and newcomers.

We enjoyed a walking tour of town along Stage Road. The shops appeal to tourists, especially the one selling custom-made furniture. Duarte’s Tavern founded in 1874 by Frank Duarte, remains a special attraction, known for its wonderful soups.





## Lexington Deanna Wilk

*Hola! Hallo! Privyet! Namastē.* Lexington's new Pathways to Multilingualism Program helps students embrace language learning. Students pursue one or more recognized pathways: the TK-5 Personal Progress Award for additional language(s), the TK-5 Personal Progress Award for home language(s), and the fifth-grade Pathway to Multiliteracy Award. About a quarter of Lex students are participating this year. They are learning Spanish, Mandarin, Polish, Russian, Croatian, Hebrew, Japanese, Malayalam, German, French, and Cantonese.

Students set their own goals, and are recognized when they meet them. Those goals include learning to sing simple songs, reading picture books or chapter books, speaking consistently with native speakers every day, using tools such as Usborne language library books with audio translation and Duolingo, attending language classes, and writing summaries of books and cultural events.

The fifth-grade Pathway to Multiliteracy Award is the most rigorous. Fifth-grader Isadora is one of seven fifth-graders pursuing this award. She is increasing her fluency in Spanish. She has been following instructions in Spanish to make things. She recently made a cork raft that she set sail during our latest atmospheric river. She has also been teaching her younger brother Spanish, writing annotations on what and how she has been teaching him. She is also summarizing television shows. These activities take place throughout the year and help our fifth-graders who are working toward the Multiliteracy Award meet their benchmarks.

One of the benchmarks Isadora has chosen for herself is benefiting all Lex students. She and fellow classmate Nathaniel, who



page 26



is also pursuing the Multiliteracy Award in Spanish, have set up a lunchtime Spanish Club. During their first lunchtime lesson and activity in October, they spoke of the significance of *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) and the elements of the *ofrenda* (altar). Students colored butterflies and skulls to put on the *ofrenda* Lexington creates each year.

This year's *ofrenda* at Lexington was spectacular, a beautiful display on the stage in our multipurpose room. The *ofrenda* is an important part of *Día de los Muertos*, a day that celebrates our ancestors and those close to us

who have died. All Lexington families were invited to send a photo of their loved one to add to the altar. Fifth-graders created *esqueletos* (skeleton puppets), some of which move, and *papel picado* (paper art). Favorite foods of ancestors were placed next to photos and *Pan de Puerto*, bread that represents the circle of life, was shared with students. Many marigold bouquets, both real and made from tissue, were placed on the altar.

In Mexico, the strong, fragrant scent of marigolds lure the migrating monarch butterflies that visit at this time each year. When the monarchs come to the *ofrenda* it feels like they are carrying the spirits of the ancestors with them. Thank you Maestra Allison, parents Catalina Rupert, Nitze Dormady, Jennifer Pan, and Tin Tin Wisniewski, our students, and the families who shared photos of their loved ones.

Halloween has changed over the years, but began in recognition of those who have passed into the spirit world. Today it is a fun-filled festivity. Lexington celebrated with a parade, classroom celebrations, and a school-wide carnival. For students, it may







have been the best day ever. Our second annual Halloween Family Dance was also a howling success. Lex families mingled on the Redwood Estates Pavilion lawn while their goblins, witches, and sorcerers got tattoos, danced, and frolicked the night away. Thank you to those who made this dance happen, especially Nitze Dormady, Beth Stark, and the HSC.

This year we recycled our Halloween candy wrappers thanks to our enterprising student Green Team. Many students joined the Lex Green Team after a school assembly about trash mindfulness led

by Principal Jason Deppong and HSC President Adrienne Cox. A big thank you to Green Team parents Marquez and Allen for leading our environmental stewards into action.

*Photos by  
Catalina Rupert,  
Barbara Lougée, and  
Tin Tin Wisniewski*

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# **schools**

## **Building Blocks Preschool Process-focused Art Experiences** Alexandra Hughmanick

Part of the fun of Building Blocks is the opportunity for our children and adults to safely explore their creativity. One of the ways we nurture that is through process-focused art experiences.

Process art is child-led and about discovery and self-expression. It's about exploring materials and tools. There is no right or wrong way to do it. The finished art piece is less important than the experience of creation. Sometimes the finished art piece is completely irrelevant. Product-focused art is teacher-led. It teaches how to follow directions and create a predetermined finished art piece. Product art has its place at Building Blocks too, but more often we approach art like



open-ended play, with a variety of materials available, minimal time constraints, and an open mind to say "Yes" to children's ideas.

According to the National Association for

the Education of Young People, children experience valuable social and emotional lessons with process-focused art.

They learn how to relax, focus, feel successful, and express their feelings. They also learn helpful cognitive skills by comparing, predicting, planning, and problem solving. Process-focused art supports physical development as children use small-motor skills to do things like paint, write, squeeze pesky glue, mold clay, and apply glitter or googly eyes to their heart's content. Finally, language and literacy are developed as children discuss their art with others (and maybe work with a grown-up to label it).

Teacher Nicole shared, "Process-led art is a subject close to my heart. A creative art course for the young child in college is how I discovered my love for early childhood education. In learning to let go of deciding what we would make with materials, how it needed to look, etc. and simply start making it was freeing. I used tools in ways



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I hadn't thought of before. I chose materials impulsively. I found my creativity. I still have some of the art pieces I made during that class. I cherish them because I learned so much about myself while making them."

We wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season. You're invited to follow along with the fun we have at Building Blocks at [www.facebook.com/buildingblockscoop](http://www.facebook.com/buildingblockscoop) and [instagram.com/buildingblockspreschool](http://instagram.com/buildingblockspreschool).



### **Building Blocks Preschool Children's Clothing Exchange**

Building Blocks will host a children's clothing exchange on **Sunday, December 5**, rain or shine, from 10 a.m. to noon, for all community members. Bring what you can and take what you need.

Clothing can be dropped off at Building Blocks Preschool, 23845 Summit Road, on weekdays from **November 29 to December 3**, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. You can also drop off donations on the day of the event.

Guidelines for donations include clothing, hats, and shoes sizes newborn to 6T. Clothes must be washed and free of rips, holes, or stains. Leftover clothes will be donated. Masks are required for everyone aged two and older. Please stay home if you're not feeling well. If you have questions, email [membership\\_bb@lpcf.org](mailto:membership_bb@lpcf.org).



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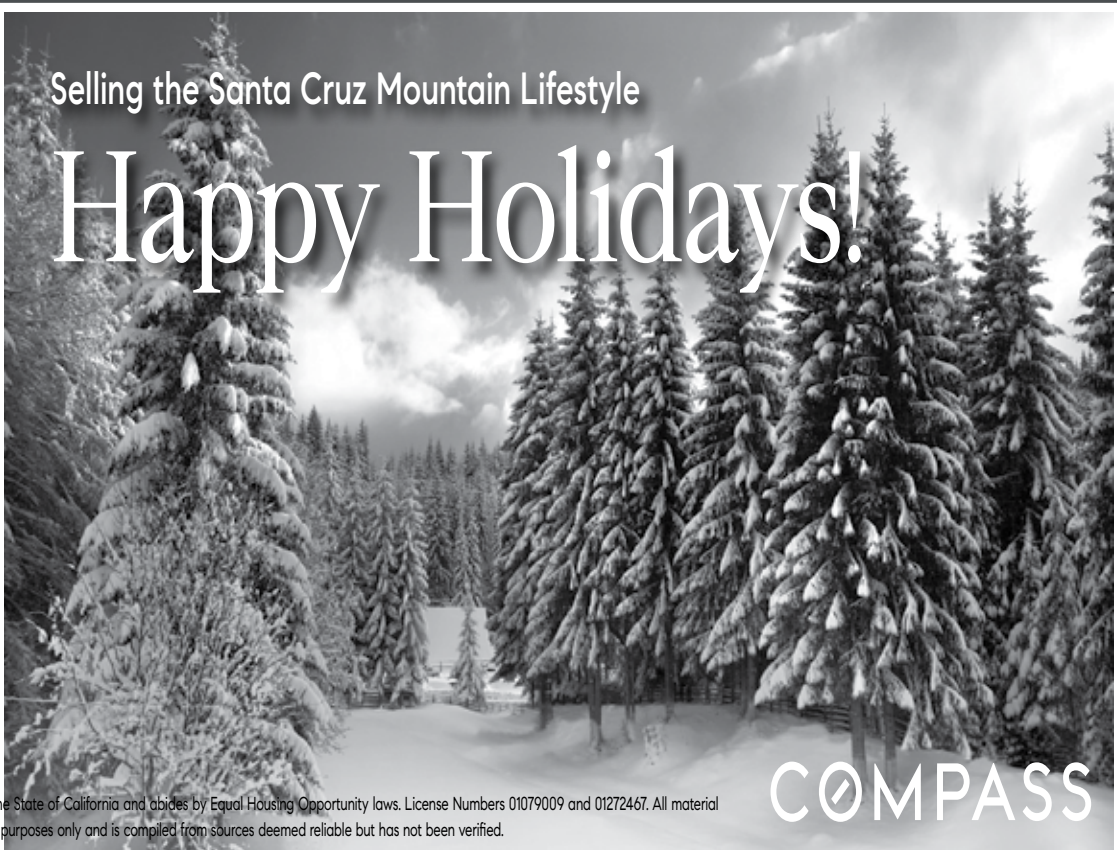
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# Happy Holidays!



**COMPASS**



# ***schools***

**Mountain School  
Los Gatos-Saratoga  
Observation Nursery School  
Amanda Demers**

The beauty and abundance of fall have come to our mountain classroom, ushered in by the vibrant colors of maple trees, smoke bush, and firethorns. Our classes visited Mason-Taylor Ranch to pick apples, fed grapes to Farmer Roger's chickens, played in the redwood circles, and hiked the trail through the woods and orchard.

The children delight in the rituals of picking and eating apples, showing off their bounty at home, and helping in the kitchen to transform delicious apples into sauce, crisp, or pie. For more seasonal adventures, there is water play, hiking, and visits to Rodoni Farms pumpkin patch, Fall Creek, and Hidden Villa.

Our classes enjoyed the return of puddles, rain boots, and warm hats at the schoolhouse as we experience even more seasonal change. Teacher Jutta said, "After the weekend's rainstorm, we found the ground at the schoolhouse covered with natural debris, which the children piled up and hauled around in wheelbarrows. The storm also blessed us with some wonderful puddles that were enjoyed by many."

Other classes made and played with Oobleck (cornstarch with water and color), hammered nails and other items, explored shaving cream in different ways, painted with Halloween colors, melted crayons, listened to stories about scarecrows, and danced around the field in Halloween



costume parades.

Underlying all the activity is the children's natural curiosity: interest in each other, the world around them, and how it works. Parent-written observations offer our teachers the opportunity to work the children's questions into the class plans for the days ahead.

In November, our parents engaged with another aspect of our program: parent-



education mini-courses. These two-hour evening classes are offered twice per year and cover a wide array of parenting topics. This season's courses covered children and cooking, including how to engage young children in the kitchen and at the table; Imago conflict resolution; tools for promoting open-hearted communication and active listening; and the effects of screens and social media on children (presented by Josh Golin from the campaign for a commercial-free childhood).

Mountain School taps into our teachers' expansive knowledge, with support from local professionals, to present these courses for our parents. Our parent-education program is an opportunity for us to ask questions and discover that our parenting challenges are shared experiences. We are not in this alone.

For more information about Los Gatos-Saratoga Observation Nursery School, visit us online at [www.lgsons.org](http://www.lgsons.org) or email [info@lgsons.org](mailto:info@lgsons.org).

Join us for our open house on **Sunday, January 30, 2022**, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



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## Lakeside School Community Foundation

### Thanksgiving

Holly Stewart

In this season of Thanksgiving, LSCF would like to take a moment to thank you. We thank our loving teachers and staff members who care for our children every day. Thank you to our generous donors who fund programs such as art and science with Elizabeth Greer and P.E. with Kathy McKinney. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who work tirelessly to host events, help with COVID testing, raise



funds, and do many other behind-the-scenes tasks that often go unrecognized. Imagine what Lakeside would be without these special people who give in one way or another. If you appreciate what they do, please acknowledge them, join us as a volunteer, or make a donation on our website at [www.LakesideSCF.org](http://www.LakesideSCF.org).

Join us for a festive, family-friendly wreath-making fundraiser on **Saturday, December 11**, or **Sunday, December 12**. Sessions are at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. both days. The \$40 cost to participate includes all materials. The Fishback family of Raccoon Gulch Tree Farm has generously included LSCF as a beneficiary of this event. For more details or to register, scan the QR code on the right with your phone.



We had a very successful dine-out event at Sushi Confidential in November, raising about \$330. Our December dine-out event will be at Mendocino Farms, in the Pruneyard Shopping Center in Campbell, on **Monday, December 13**. To participate, guests must place their orders online from [order.mendocinofarms.com](http://order.mendocinofarms.com), and enter the coupon code LAKESIDE13 at checkout for the order to count towards the give-back total. (Note: there should be no extra spaces within the coupon code.)

LSCF is seeking volunteers from our community. Do you know how to quilt? Our fifth-grade class needs help carrying on the school tradition of making and raffling off a quilt at our annual auction. We also have many open positions for volunteers throughout the remainder of the year, including spots for our auction in April 2022. If you want to help out, please join our auction committee. Sign up at <https://www.LakesideSCF.org/volunteer>.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Goodwill drive—we filled one-and-a-half trucks and raised \$1400 for our school. Our next Goodwill drive will be on **May 14, 2022**.

Our pack-the-pantry drive was well received. Families donated food and supplies to benefit the Skyland Church Little Free Pantry here in the mountains, and West Valley Community Services in town.

Thank you also to Hickbees for putting on a book fair. Lakeside students are digging into some great new books.

Remember to check out our new website [www.LakesideSCF.org](http://www.LakesideSCF.org). You can learn more about LSCF, purchase Lakeside gear, explore volunteer opportunities, view our calendar of events, click to donate, and get help with company matching. We cannot do this without your financial support and volunteer hours—helping our students takes our entire community. Thank you.

### Lakeside School Musical Help Needed Karen Fishback

I am looking for a volunteer pianist to assist with a musical-comedy production at Lakeside School. The time commitment would be a couple of sessions in December to discuss and record the music, a few rehearsals in March, and an evening performance. The schedule will be based on the availability of the pianist, among others. If the pianist wishes to come to rehearsals in between, we would welcome that, but it is not essential.

I would also like to find someone to lead the vocals. This person would need to be present more often, but the schedule is very flexible, and we can accommodate any volunteer or volunteers. For more information, email [jfishback@gmail.com](mailto:jfishback@gmail.com), or call 408-354-2555.



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# schools

## Loma Public Education Fund

Crisy Werdebaugh

**The 2021-2022 program award.** LPEF is happy to announce our program award of \$625,000 to the Loma Prieta Joint Union School District for the 2021-2022 school year. This year's grant funds classroom teachers, science, art, P.E., music and band, library clerks and supplies, instructional aide and student-support services, including counseling. LPEF thanks the many families and community members who supported maintaining the curriculum.

LPEF is a nonprofit organization created in 2001 to raise funds for Loma Prieta Elementary School and C.T. English Middle School. LPEF funds are awarded to the district as specific program grants that directly support student learning. The programs we have supported in the past include music and band, STEAM, library services, student counseling and intervention support, education-technology support, developmental P.E., middle-school electives, and art.

LPEF grants bridge the gap between what the district receives in government funding and the cost to educate each student. LPEF governing board members are volunteer



parents and other community members who work with the district to develop funding priorities.

**Our mission.** LPEF believes that education is the basis of opportunity. Our mission is to ensure that each child in the district has access to a curriculum that enables them to grow, thrive, and successfully respond to future opportunities.

**Our goals.** The LPEF governing board meets with school officials on a regular basis to set annual funding goals and grant priorities in line with district goals set out in the Local Control and Accountability Plan.

**Fundraising.** LPEF raises funds for LPJUSD schools by organizing social events for the community that are sponsored by local businesses and community members who realize the importance of being involved in funding education. Our main fundraising events are the Gala

(held in October) and Fore the Kids Golf Tournament (held in May). We also run a direct donation campaign—Keep Excellent Education Programs (KEEP!).

Our KEEP! campaign will officially launch in early 2022; however, you can donate **now** to support the 2022-2023 school year. Visit [lpef.org](http://lpef.org) for more information and to donate today.

**Corporate match.** With your help, your employer can make a world of difference locally in our schools. As part of their social-responsibility initiatives, many corporations earmark funds specifically for nonprofit organizations to match employee donations. Many companies match donations at a 1:1 ratio, but some will match at a 2:1 or 3:1 ratio. Check with your HR department. Many companies also donate to nonprofit organizations based on the number of volunteer hours employees give to the organization. Contributions to LPEF are fully tax-deductible as allowed by law.

**Volunteer opportunities.** Do you want to be more involved? Reach out to us. We are looking for more board members and other volunteers to fill important roles, such as marketing and communications chair, technology chair, donor and volunteer cultivators, and data entry help.

For more information, email [president@lpef.org](mailto:president@lpef.org).



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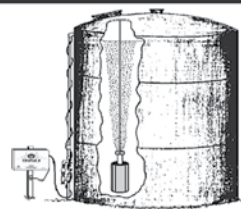
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## Measure R

### General Obligation Bond

Dr. Kevin Grier, Superintendent

In the spirit of the holidays, the Loma Prieta Joint Union School District thanks voters for approving Measure R, a general-obligation bond, in June 2018. Measure R authorized a total of \$10.6 million in bonds to be used on capital-improvement projects. These bond funds have been distributed in three nearly equal installments.

The district set up an independent Citizens' Oversight Committee as required by state law. This committee is charged with reviewing all bond expenses to ensure that bond proceeds were only used for the purposes approved by the voters in Measure R. The committee held their most recent meeting in October. They determined that all expenditures related to phase 1 were made on appropriate projects. A summary of the committee's review of phase 1 can be found on our district website ([www.loma.k12.ca.us](http://www.loma.k12.ca.us)) under the Departments tab. Select "Business Services." On the right side navigation bar, select "Measure R Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee."

This fall, our district was able to secure the second installment of \$4 million. It is anticipated that we will spend the proceeds



on projects such as new kindergarten playground equipment, improvements to vehicular access and paved parking on the North Campus along Summit Road, expansion of lighted and paved parking, modernized windows, flooring, and air conditioning at Loma Prieta Elementary, modernized windows at C.T. English Middle School, creation of safe outdoor learning spaces, and repairs to outdated fire-alarm systems and fire pumps.

Work on these projects will begin this year with designing and installing a new kindergarten playground, installing a new north campus paved-parking area, and creating a safe and easily accessed south parking lot that will be functional during winter rains.

We recognize that Loma Prieta is a vital hub for our community. Our district appreciates the voters' trust in our ability to provide students with the best educational experience possible. In addition, as our district facilities serve as great gathering spaces for our mountain community, we are committed to providing facilities that meet our community's needs.

It is our belief that there is a close relationship between good schools and healthy property values. At the same time, our trustees are mindful of the tax burden on our community when we issue bonds to improve our facilities. Our district sold the second round of Measure R bond authorization in August in a very low interest-rate environment. It made the tax burden on our local property owners significantly less, and demonstrates our board's commitment to be fiscally responsible to our community.

If you want to talk more about our future plans, email me at [k.grier@loma.k12.ca.us](mailto:k.grier@loma.k12.ca.us).

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*Much-needed rain fell in late October and early November.*

*Let's hope that trend continues this winter and spring.*

*Ksenia Kuzmina captured these images of a squirrel collecting nuts for winter, and a rainy day in front of the Summit Tree Farm.*



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community and surrounding areas.

*Season's Greetings*

**JILL COLE, NANCY COLE & MICHAEL RIESE**

Reach out and set up a time to discuss your real estate needs.  
It would be our honor to assist you!

[info@cole-riese.com](mailto:info@cole-riese.com)



**110 Skyline Ridge**  
3 BEDS | 3 BATHS | +/-3190 SF | +/-8.5 AC  
Offered at \$2,295,000



**17337 DEBBIE ROAD**  
4 BEDS | 2.5 BATHS | +/-2802 SF | +/-2.82 AC  
Offered at \$1,695,000



**20396 IRON SPRINGS ROAD**  
4 BEDS | 3 BATHS | +/-2873 SF | +/-1.52 AC  
Offered at \$2,048,000  
**PENDING**



**13083 BELL ROAD**  
3 BEDS | 2 BATHS | +/-1656 SF | +/-3.06  
Offered at \$1,150,000  
**PENDING**

**JILL & NANCY COLE — 408.219.3416**

DRE 01489680 | 00621248

**MICHAEL RIESE — 408.781.7692**

DRE 01366625

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