



mn

mountain network news
January 2021



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11107 Lake Blvd, Felton
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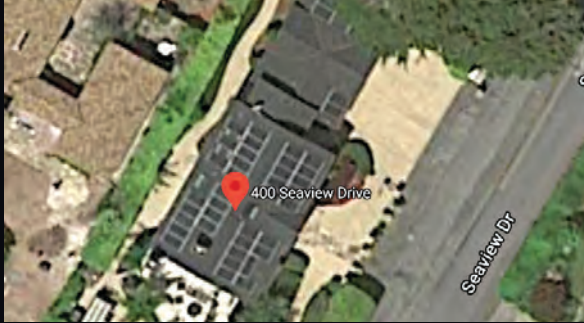
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COMPASS



Volume MMXXI number 1

23625 SkyView Terrace
Los Gatos, CA 95033-9212
<http://www.mnn.net>
email to news@mnn.net
Telephone 408-353-1901

Publisher
Neil Wiley

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

Photography and imaging
Neil Wiley

Articles

We invite individuals and organizations to submit letters and articles. Email news@mnn.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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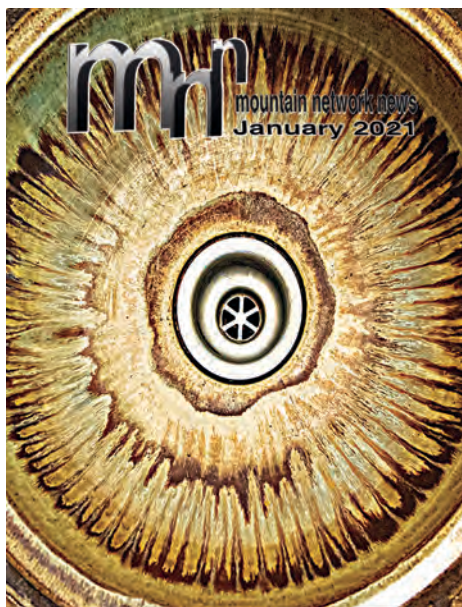
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Cover

Art in Sink Trent Thompson

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who made
thousands of
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bowls, countertop tiles, dinner sets,
casseroles, tureens, lamp bases,
and pet cremation vessels.

His work can be seen
in many mountain homes.

A generous giver to the community,
he offered gifts of his art
to local organizations.

An active citizen who served
on the Santa Cruz County
Grand Jury.

A golfer, skier, racquetballer,
fisherman, poker buddy,
and bicyclist who rode
almost every road
in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Proud.
Independent.
Creative.

Each piece he made was special.
So was Trent Thompson.



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calendar, and classified, visit
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Wishing you much health and happiness in 2021!

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COMPASS

RESOURCES

Skyland Community Church Little Free Pantry Shannon Edwards

Skyland Community Church joined a grass-roots movement to help relieve the burden of food insecurity for individuals and families in our mountain community. It's called the Little Free Pantry. How does it work? Give what you can. Take what you need.

According to an article in *National Geographic*, one in six Americans could go hungry as we head into winter and the pandemic persists. As the holidays approach, miles-long food lines hint at how hunger in America could soon surpass what we saw during the peak of the 2008 recession.

Skyland Community Church and our mountain community are filling a need for our neighbors, and the generosity just keeps growing.

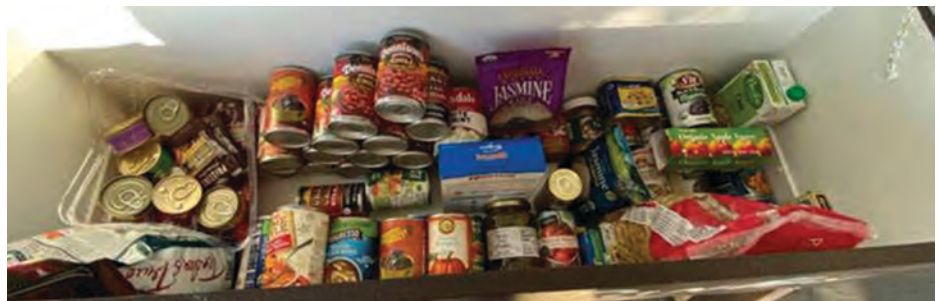
Every Wednesday, Second Harvest Food Bank provides food to San Agustin Catholic Church in Scotts Valley. San Agustin then donates excess food to Skyland Community Church. We receive ten large bags of fresh vegetables, and ten boxes of tuna, peanut butter, pasta, tomato sauce, and canned fruits and vegetables. These food items are taken quickly, but the pantry stays stocked



most of the time. For Thanksgiving, we were able to provide turkeys to ten families in need. Over Thanksgiving week, the box was filled once or twice a day by generous neighbors, with lovely foods for the holidays.

Spread the word that there is food available 24/7 on the front porch of our church, at 25100 Skyland Road. We gladly accept donations of paper products, toiletries, and food that is not expired or that can last for one to two days outside.

If you have questions, call Reverend Melanie Weiner at 408- 353-1310, or email me at shannonedwards14@gmail.com.



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Insurance Help Chris Copeland

I spent forty years working as a property insurance adjuster. This summer, I was evacuated from my home in Glenwood. Fortunately, the fire did not get near my house. As soon as the fire was out, I began to help people understand their insurance policies, and get the maximum recovery they were due.

I taught classes to students in lawn chairs on my deck. I also consulted with another dozen policyholders. I do not accept any kind of compensation for my time.

Some insurance claims resulting from the fire may go smoothly. Other times, the process is anything but smooth. Some repair estimates do not take into account the challenges and high costs of doing construction in Santa Cruz County. I have seen estimates from insurance carriers for less than \$250 per square foot. A contractor will tell you that this is ridiculous.

California law provides many safeguards to policyholders. Many of these safeguards are contained in the California Fair Claims Practices Act. It is available online at insurance.ca.gov (search for "California Fair Claims Practices Act").

It is written in pretty dense lawyer speak, but the salient points are clear. Unfortunately, I have reviewed files where

the carriers ignored the state safeguards.

If you are having difficulty with your insurance carrier, I can look at your file. I will not represent anyone, but I can offer advice based on my experience. If a letter to the insurance carrier is necessary, I am willing to draft such a letter, to go out under the policyholder's signature. I will keep any information you provide to me confidential.

I am happy to email a copy of the handouts from the classes I've taught. If there is enough interest, I can teach more classes in full compliance with COVID-19 restrictions. Email me at cjpcopeland@gmail.com.

Mountain Math Initiative Marcella Jones

Does your child need extra math help after school? Are you asking yourself this question even more during COVID-19 distance learning?

Fortunately, Mountain Math Initiative is here to help as a free math-enrichment resource for the mountain community. MMI offers a full range of after-school help four days per week, for kindergarten through eighth grade, as well as algebra 1, geometry, pre-calc, chemistry, and physics. Additionally, MMI can help connect you to

local math tutors for paid regular tutoring, if desired.

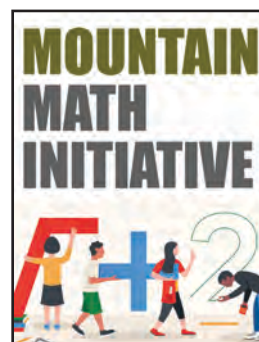
MMI also offers a quarterly math-enrichment activity. Our first quarterly enrichment activity was a big success. We received positive feedback from approximately sixty participants.

We hope to bring our next activity about simple machines (levers) and the math involved in mechanical advantage to students early in 2021. It should be an interesting learning experience with lots of hands-on opportunities to work with levers.

The Mountain Math Initiative is proud to serve our community. We look forward to helping

students make math fun.

This resource is available to you through the efforts of volunteers on the mountain who are eager to help students in need. Take the frustrations out of homework time. Visit the MMI website to find out how your child can get connected with resources, and how you can be involved: dmkissner.wixsite.com/mountainmath.



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community

Games for the Globe Donate Videogames to African Children at Summit Store Michael Schneider

"Piles of video games were just lying around our living room for ages. They belonged to our outdated Xbox 360 that we don't use any more. Why not donate them to kids who would enjoy them?" says Ethan Schneider, co-founder of a local non-profit.

Brothers Ethan (15) and Andrew (13) Schneider, from Los Gatos High School and C.T. English Middle School, founded Games for the Globe. It is a 501c(3) nonprofit here in the Santa Cruz Mountains that collects and ships used videogames to non-governmental organizations in Kenya.

These organizations redistribute the games to schools, hospitals, and churches throughout Africa. The goal is to repurpose and redistribute the massive number of used videogame supplies in American households.

"For us, it just made more sense to donate our games and share the fun, instead of selling them for next to nothing. Most



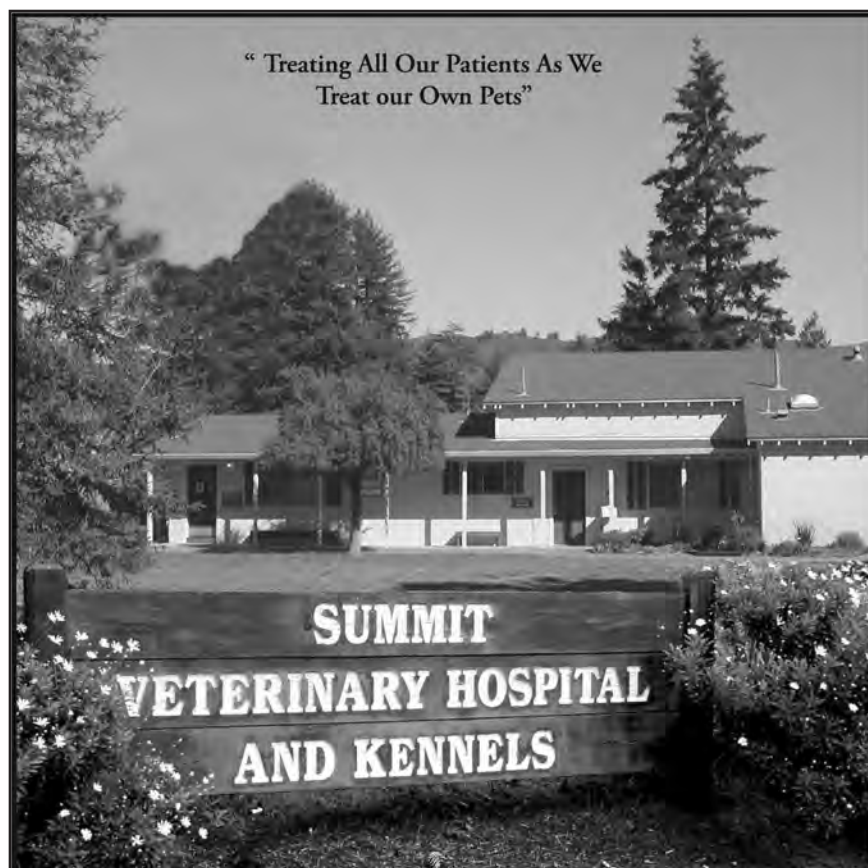
outdated games devalue quickly anyway," says Ethan.

The brothers recently opened up their first collection site at the Summit Store, thanks to store manager Ben Abeln. You can donate consoles, controllers, and games of any kind.

Ethan and Andrew thank those who

have already generously donated their used videogames. They encourage you to share the joy of games.

Donate your games at the collection box at Summit Store. To learn more about Games for the Globe, visit the website: gamesfortheglobe.org.



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**New Year's Eve
Dance at Home to the Sharinos**
Lani Christianson

Join us at 9:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve. You can watch this special event at home with your loved ones. The show will be produced in a TV studio with multiple cameras and quality sound. Joe Shapiro and his talented daughter, Alison, will play the best classic rock, soul, and pop music from the 1960s, '70s, and '80s, plus some newer hits.

You can watch this live-streaming concert on your computer, tablet, or phone. Some can screen share (screen mirror) it to their smart TV or Bluetooth speaker. The price is just \$49.95 per household for one device. You can watch the show again as often as you like for one week. Get just one ticket for your whole household.

Move that coffee table and dance, sing along, or just sit back and listen to your favorite songs. Joe and Alison will perform solo and together. The entire show will be about two and a half hours of music and surprises. The year 2020 has been tough, but Joe and Alison want to make New Year's Eve a fun and happy evening for all.

Do you have a request? We will email each ticket buyer asking for their favorite artists or bands, instead of taking requests for specific songs. We will collate the requests and choose songs by the top vote getters.

Don't miss this show! Get your ticket at <https://sharino.anywhereseat.com/channel.php>.



**Loma Prieta Community Foundation
LPCF Board**

The year 2020 was tough. It was fraught with unforeseen challenges across the nation and in our local community, including a pandemic and a divisive election.

As we look forward to 2021, the Loma Prieta Community Foundation wants to focus on social capital: building a local community of trust in each other, and in political and societal institutions.

One study of more than 100 countries worldwide showed that social capital is dependent on family interaction. And it's not just families. In this era of social media, many adults feel isolated, which can affect who they trust and whether they even get out of the house. Social capital indices monitor the number of adults who get needed emotional support, how many close friends they have, and whether they help and trust others in the community.

The Loma Prieta Community Foundation is committed to building social capital in our area. It is time to put aside the partisanship and negativity of the last year and move forward. We live in a fantastic place. It is up to each of us to make it what we want it to be.

We invite you to join us. Help us build social capital. Let us all make this a supportive community where neighbors help neighbors, people are civil, and we share a level of trust and understanding.

This will take a lot of patience. It will take compassion, empathy, and hard work. We can do it. The friends that we make today will be there for us tomorrow.

In 2021, we look forward to building a resilient Loma Prieta community together. We hope you will join us.

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community

Mountain Matters

We asked fourth- and fifth-grade students to write about one of their coolest wildlife experience in the Santa Cruz Mountains:



Qi Wei

One time my father and I came across a mountain lion! My dad was driving me to school, when a huge mountain lion jumped into the road and over our car hood. After that, my dad and I continued to school, and I had quite a story to tell my friends.



Isabella

One cold night, we got a notification on our Ring camera. We saw something moving and it was a baby mountain lion! The baby mountain lion tripped on something. We think it was a huge rock. Then the baby mountain lion came out of the bushes, and our sensor light turned on. We could see the mountain lion even better. It was memorable.



Dong Jin

When I was ten, I had the best wildlife experience at my house. I was going to the garage to get my bicycle, when I saw there was a baby mountain lion in front of our gate. I could tell that the mountain lion saw me, too! We stared at each other, and the baby mountain lion started walking toward me. I went back into the house and didn't come back out until the baby mountain lion was gone. It is still thrilling to think about it now.



Xuxu

Me and Ada were going outside to play and we saw a little bunny hopping around next to a shipping container behind Lakeside School's community center. It was gray and little, and so cute. I named him Bon Bon.



Lucas

One day, I was doing yard work when I saw a baby scorpion. I was scared at first, but then I got less scared. Then it crawled away.



Jonathan:

One of my coolest nature experiences started like a normal day. I woke up, got dressed, and brushed my teeth. When I went upstairs to eat breakfast, I saw at least five turkey vultures in my front yard. My mom said they just appeared out of nowhere. Then, about two hours later, my mom told me there were also four deer up the hill behind our house.



Tessa

I was walking down a little hill in my dad's front yard when I saw a snake. It was about a half-inch wide and six inches long. It was grey and its tail was blue, and to be honest, it was kind of cute. I watched it creep down a small hole. My hand could go through the hole; I could tell just by looking at it. But I knew if I did put my hand down that hole then I might get bitten, and I was not looking forward to that. So I left it alone. But, it was a cool thing to see.



Matthew

Once I saw some baby raccoons up in a tree. Their eyes were glaring at me through the darkness. Their mom was in our trash can, trying to find food for her babies.



Ada

One rainy day, I wanted to go for a walk in the rain. On the walk, we first saw a banana slug that was very cute. I thought that was going to be the only thing that we would see, but it wasn't. We heard something in the leaves and Opie (my dog) was going crazy. Then, twenty feet ahead of us, out ran a fox! That is my story of a very cute fox and a banana slug.



community

Loma Prieta Club The CARNIVAL Judith Stark

During this year of COVID-19, the members of the Loma Prieta Club wanted to have some sort of a holiday event. We missed not seeing each other for these many months—but what could we do?

As the holidays approached, the social committee, chaired by Jeanne Tillman, came up with a COVID Christmas to Forget. It would be a CARNIVAL held in the The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints' parking lot. The more we talked about it, the better it seemed, and the more fun we had planning it.

On December 2, a lovely sunny day, about forty members arrived, some with decorated cars and some in Christmas jammies. Some chose to stay in their cars. Others chose to wear masks and practice social distancing and chat outside with friends in the sunshine and fresh air.

Individual Christmas stockings filled with goodies were a big hit. Everyone sat in their cars, eating their brown-bag lunches and listening to an LPC original old-time radio broadcast (Prairie Home Companion) on



their car radios, over the church's FM radio-broadcast equipment.

Susan Zerweck wrote the script and emceed the broadcast with Nancy McNeil. Jeff McNeil ran the sound equipment, seamlessly merging the live portions and the recorded parts to the car radios. We sang familiar Christmas carols, heard the story of the Christmas orange, and laughed at Susan's Christmas jokes, as well as an original COVID version of *The Night Before Christmas* written by Betsy Fullagar.

Because we had no fundraiser last spring, we donated money to our heroic Loma Prieta Fire and Rescue, and non-perishable food to the Second Harvest Food Bank in Watsonville.

The event was fun to brainstorm, plan,

and execute. Attendance was higher than we initially expected, because everyone wanted to see each other in person in a safe, responsible way.

It was a good start to this unusual holiday season. This bit of silliness and joy gave us a little boost to face an unusual December and the next few months.



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The Loma Prieta Club
Celebrating a New Year
 Betsy Fullagar

The bridge club was reduced to solitaire play
 No tricks, no trumps, no score pads
 displayed

Book club resumed with interesting tomes
 That we discussed together from the safety
 of home

The 80-O's went quiet, their gatherings on
 hold
 No stories to share with special friends of
 old

Each night on the mountain, neighbors
 stepped outside
 to howl across canyons, so far, so wide

I hear you my friend, I hear you so well
 Thank you for howling it makes my heart
 swell

2020 has been a terrible year
 But darn it, let's not let it steal our good
 cheer

2021 holds promise, the vaccine on its way
 We'll soon meet together, let's look to that
 day

Happy New Year to each and every one of
 you.

Loma Public Education Fund
How to Help Our Schools
 Erin Asheghian

Donating to the Loma Public Education Fund is a great way to help support our schools. Corporate matching can make your donation go even further. The non-profit tax ID number for the Loma Public Education fund is #03-0440872.

Another way you can help is through Amazon Smile. If you go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> and designate the Loma Public Education Fund as your charity, Amazon will donate a half-percent of all orders to LPEF, as long as you place your orders through Amazon Smile. The login information is the same as your Amazon account. As we are doing more shopping from our couches this holiday season, this could be a big help.

Also, LPEF has expanded on the Mountain Strong campaign. Shirts, hats, masks, and other items come in different styles and colors. Shop at <https://www.bonfire.com/santa-cruz-mountain-strong/>.



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- Reverse Mortgages
- Network of Senior Real Estate Agents in most U.S. cities
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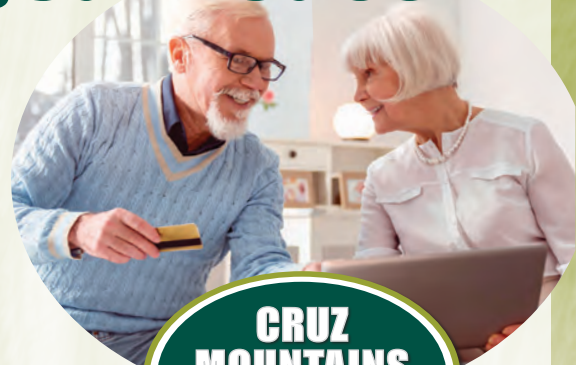
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MIKE SCHERER
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Obituary
Norma France
Jim France

Norma France, a mountain resident since 1980, passed away November 24 after a long and wonderful life filled with many loving friends and family.

Norma grew up in Beloit, Wisconsin, and attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison, where she met the love of her life, Dick France. After graduation (Go Badgers!), Norma and Dick married and began their peripatetic life together. Over the next thirty years, Norma, Dick, and their growing family, lived in eight cities in seven different states, plus Japan, Hong Kong, and finally England, before returning home to the Bay Area.

After retirement, Norma and Dick were active members of the Jaguar Owners Club. They planned their calendar around JAG events.

Norma joined the Loma Prieta Club in 2004. She looked forward to her Friday bridge games with the LPC ladies. She was also an active member of her Alpha Gamma Delta sorority alumnae club and the Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos.

Norma enjoyed her various clubs' activities, traveling, reading, doing difficult crossword puzzles and, especially, spending time with family and friends.

Norma was preceded in death by her husband and younger daughter. She is survived by her two sons, daughter, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, and five grandchildren. They will miss her dearly.

Obituary
James Richard Illges
J.C. Illges

James "Jim" Richard Illges passed away in the early hours on June 4, 2020, at the age of 57. Jim was a husband, son, father, brother, cousin, and friend. He was loving, ornery, honest, true, and loyal to a fault.

Jim was born on December 2, 1962, in San Mateo, California, to Raymond and Sharon Illges. Along with his two younger brothers, his parents moved him to the remote mountain area of Upper Zayante road in the summer of 1976.

It did not take long for him to become a mountain boy at that age and time, living in a tent with his middle brother, Kenneth, without power, but with wide open space.

Jim spent one year at Lakeside. He got his driver's license as soon as he could. He drove his 1959 Chevy Apache with his dog, Cinder, to Los Gatos High School, graduating in 1981.

After graduation, Jim joined the Electricians Union, IBEW 332, in the footsteps of his father. He bought a home in Willow Glen. Known as the "Ripper," he was an accomplished harmonicist who

played in many bands, including the ACME Blues Co. and the Fat Catz. He played everywhere from Monterey to San Francisco. In 1993, The Fat Catz won the JJs Blues Search and played the San Jose Fountain Blues Festival. That performance was filmed, as well as an amazing show at the Catalyst in 1994. You can find them on YouTube. Jim loved his family, old cars, being an electrician, and all aspects of blues music.

Jim is survived by his loving wife, Ann, and his three children, daughter Elizabeth, son Tyler, and stepson James. He leaves behind his parents, Ray and Sharon, his brothers Ken and Justin, his nephews, sisters-in-law, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. He will forever be missed.

In our tears we shall seek solace, as we know he has found rest and peace. We love you, Jim. We always will.



Pratt & Associates

Sharon Glenn Pratt
Managing Attorney

Pratt & Associates, APC
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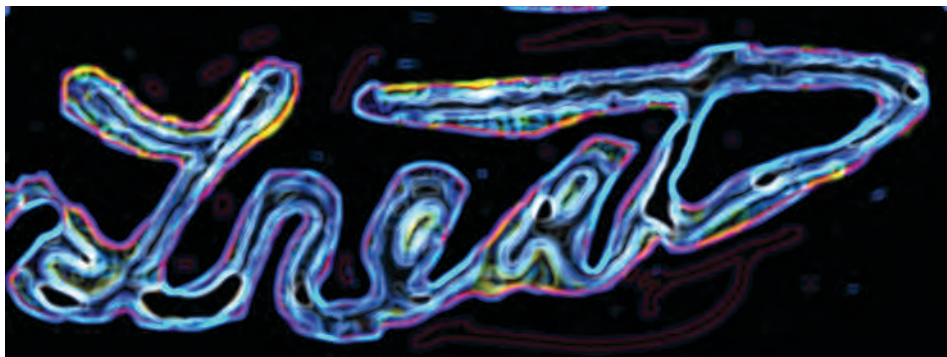
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Obituary

Trent Thompson Kristine Thompson

Trent Mitchell Thompson, 79, passed away peacefully at his home in the Santa Cruz Mountains on Thursday, November 19, 2020, after a courageous battle with ALS. He maintained his kind spirit and sense of humor to the very end.

Trent was born February 15, 1941, in Oakland, California. He spent his childhood in Yuba City, California, before attending San Jose State University. There, he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in art with an emphasis in ceramics. San Jose State is also where Trent met the love of his life, Gracie Thompson, his wife for 58 years.

Trent was a Master Potter and the founder of two businesses: Trent Pottery and Caring Pet Service. His beautiful tile and custom ceramic artwork are appreciated by people throughout the country. In addition to his work, Trent enjoyed watching the Giants, reading, fishing, and spending time with Gracie and their many friends.

Trent is survived by his beloved wife Gracie, sons Mitchell and Tim, daughters-in-law Kim and Kristine, and four grandchildren: Emilee, Ben, Maddy, and Lexy.

No services are planned, but please raise your glass to Trent and remember what a special person he was, and how much love, light, and creativity he brought to the world.

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COMING SOON



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ACTIVE



500 Cresci Rd,
Listed for \$1

SOLD
represented seller



15401 Blackberry Hill Rd, Los Gatos
Sold for \$2,550,000

SOLD
represented seller



Loma Prieta Winery
Business sold separately
Sold for \$2,500,000

SOLD
represented seller



19975 Skyline Blvd, Los Gatos
Sold for \$2,325,000

SOLD
represented seller



21099 Brush Rd,
Sold for \$2,3

SOLD
represented seller



25505 Soquel San Jose Rd, Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,699,000

SOLD
represented seller



19980 Skyline Blvd, Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,665,000

SOLD
represented seller



1247 Lennon Way, San Jose
Sold for \$1,625,000

SOLD
represented seller



15410 Stetson Rd
Sold for \$1,6

SOLD
represented seller



23558 Sky View Terr.
Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,445,000

SOLD
represented buyer



24861 Hutchinson Rd.
Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,400,000

SOLD
represented seller



18371 Las Cumbres Rd.
Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,340,000

SOLD
represented seller



870 Hampswood Way
San Jose
Sold for \$1,335,000

SOLD
represented buyer



24179 Summit V
Los Gat
Sold for \$1,3

SOLD
represented seller



1602 Sparkling Way
San Jose
Sold for \$1,180,000

SOLD
represented seller



14150 Old Japanese Rd.
Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,100,000

SOLD
represented seller



16850 Sundance Dr.
Los GatosMorgan Hill
Sold for \$1,045,000

SOLD
represented buyer



22707 Summit Rd.
Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,005,000

SOLD
represented seller



6379 Farm Hi
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Sold for \$97

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This information was supplied by reliable sources. Sales Associates believe this information to be correct but has not verified this information and assumes no legal responsibility for its accuracy. Buyers should investigate these issues to their own satisfaction.



...i Rd, Los Gatos
...or \$1,765,000



PENDING

24620 Miller Hill, Los Gatos
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294 Burrell Ct, Los Gatos
Listed for \$1,050,000



...h Rd, Los Gatos
...\$2,300,000



SOLD
represented seller

2851 Lowell Ct, San Jose
Sold for \$2,299,000



SOLD
represented seller

23880 Wrights Station Rd, Los Gatos
Sold for \$2,075,000



SOLD
represented seller

23101 Highway 9, Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,750,000



...on Rd, Los Gatos
...\$1,612,000



SOLD
represented seller

19075 Skyline Blvd, Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,516,000



SOLD
represented seller

25470 Adams Rd, Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,465,000



SOLD
represented seller

324 Alta Vista Dr, Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,450,000



...mit Woods Dr.
...s Gatos
...\$1,335,000



SOLD
represented seller

21600 Stagecoach Rd.
Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,260,000



SOLD
represented seller

25510 Adams Rd.
Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,255,000



SOLD
represented seller

21915 Bear Creek Way
Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,232,000



SOLD
represented seller

952 Kenneth Ave.
Campbell
Sold for \$1,230,000



...m Hill Way
Gatos
...\$975,000



SOLD
represented buyer

24615 Skyland Rd.
Los Gatos
Sold for \$850,000



SOLD
represented buyer

13667 Long Ridge Rd.
Los Gatos
Sold for \$785,000



SOLD
rep seller & buyer

447 Alberto Way C130
Los Gatos
Sold for \$675,000



SOLD
represented seller

465 Ribbonwood Ave.
San Jose
Sold for \$660,000

Happy
New Year

2021

Thank You To All Our
2020 Buyers And Sellers!



calendar

ON-GOING CLASSES AND MEETINGS

*Class and meeting schedules are valid if shelter-in-place restrictions are lifted.
Call or email to confirm dates and times.*

Sundays

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

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

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

Pilates in the mountains, 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. at Loma Prieta Elementary School. Call 408-354-8700.

Mid-life fitness (adults), Redwood Estates Pavilion, 9 to 10 a.m. LGS Recreation. Call 408-354-8700.

Wednesdays

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

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

Thursdays

Yoga at the Redwood Estates Pavilion. We are currently meeting on Zoom and (weather permitting) socially distanced on the Pavilion lawn. Call 408-354-8700.

Pilates in the mountains, 8:30 a.m., at Loma Prieta Elementary School. Call 408-354-8700.

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

Yoga at Lakeside School, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Call 408-354-8700.

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

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

Santa Clara County Bookmobile
Order items for pickup at www.sccld.org, or call 408-273-2326, ext. 3060.

January 14

Loma Prieta Playfield/Building Blocks
1 to 4 p.m.

January 26

Lakeside School
2 to 4 p.m.

January 28

Redwood Estates Pavilion
2 to 4 p.m.

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

Fridays

Mid-life fitness (adults), Redwood Estates Pavilion, 9 to 10 a.m. LGS Recreation. Call 408-354-8700.

Centering and Silence (meditation) is at 8:30 a.m., in the Loma Prieta community room next to Building Blocks Preschool.

Saturdays

Summit Toastmasters 95033, where everyone finds their voice, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., at Mountain Bible Church, 23946 Summit Road. Call 408-634-3493 for more information.

Farmer's Market at the KMart in Scotts Valley, 270 Mt Hermon Road, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

Saratoga Farmer's Market, West Valley College Parking Lot 2, Allendale Avenue and Science Way, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sundays

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

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

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Los Gatos Mountains Agent Expert

Keith Kanady of Kanady Team Properties



If you are curious about buying or selling in the LG mountains, you have come to the right place.

Most realtors don't know the mountains, as well as it's different real estate market to the rest of Los Gatos or Santa Cruz. It is important to have a realtor who knows this specific area well, and it helps when they are actually living it!

Keith and Shelly Kanady have been living in the Los Gatos Mountains for decades and love living there. Situated on a ranch they are fortunate to enjoy what the mountains have to offer. They are big animal lovers and have chickens, horses, cats and dogs. Some of their favorite things to do in the area is bike riding, hiking, going to local farmers markets, and participating in the community.

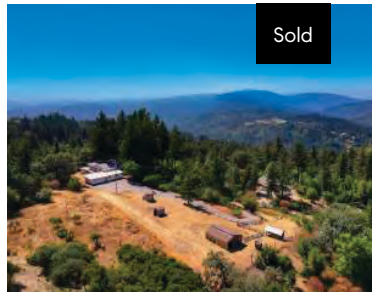
More info about the team

- Kanady Team Properties specializes in helping clients with land, investments and home needs.
- In his 33 years of selling Real Estate, Keith was a Top Producer at Grubb & Ellis, Better Homes and Gardens, and RE/MAX.
- He acted as Broker/Principal at Los Gatos Properties.
- Certified Master Negotiator
- Keith and Shelly pride themselves on doing all they can to assist their clients with their needs.



Keith & Shelly Kanady
Broker Associate
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Featured 2020 Sold Listings



24900 Skyland Road \$1,125,000

"We appreciated your quick and thorough evaluation of the home, your wise targeted recommendations on repairs and improvements (including excellent tradespersons you recommended), the impressive marketing materials and your frequent updates and advise that made everything run smoothly. And all of this came with your friendly smiles, good sense of humor and genuine caring attitude."

13667 Long Ridge Road \$785,000

"5 stars! Excellent!! Could not have asked for a better realtor to help us sell our home. The Kanady team took care of us while we weren't living in the area. Would highly recommend to anyone looking for great realtor who gets the job done."



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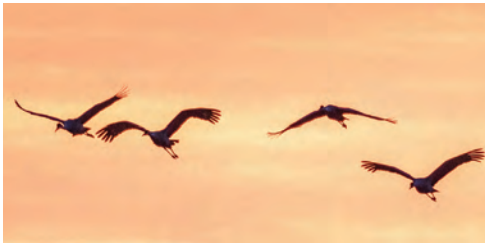
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gallery

Sandhill Cranes **Mercury Freedom**

I visited the Central Valley a few weeks ago with my wife and a buddy. We were taking the opportunity the Pacific Flyway gives us to see thousands of migratory birds wintering south, after feeding and breeding in Alaska and as far north as Siberia. Many species winter in the Central Valley, including sandhill cranes.

The World Wildlife Fund is one of many organizations maintaining the flyway, and working with farmers to allow flooding of harvested fields. This offers feeding areas, with wetlands and flooded fields providing night-time perches. In the valley, it's easy to find tundra swans and other waterfowl, but I love photographing cranes.



Are Crabs Like Gophers? **Bruce Sudweeks**

Many mountain residents wage a battle against gophers. The salt marshes around Monterey Bay have “gophers” in the form of crabs.

For some time, crabs have been blamed for deteriorating wetlands. The theory was that crabs burrow into the salt-marsh banks and cause vegetation damage, leading to a less healthy wetland.

A recent study at Elkhorn Slough partially exonerated local crabs. The study was conducted by the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve in collaboration with NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve System.

The results of the study suggest that, like real estate, location is critical. The rising ocean level has caused two problems: there is less real estate above the water line, and there are more crabs.

One experiment raised a portion of wetland. This was a sixty-acre restoration project at Hester Marsh. Raising the level of the entire wetlands seems like a daunting task. Perhaps we can figure out a way to lower the ocean level.

This southern kelp crab (*Taliepus nuttallii*) is hanging on during the surge.





King tides bring big waves
Photo by
Bruce Fournier



A pelican and egrets

Photos by
Jim Scholfield



Celebrating life in the Santa Cruz Mountains

exploring

Views. Views. Views. Hiking Russian Ridge Neil Wiley

Midpeninsula Open Space maintains a series of preserves along Skyline Boulevard from Highway 9 to Highway 92.

From Highway 9, the first three preserves on the west side are Long Ridge, Skyline Ridge, and Russian Ridge. They have more in common than “ridge.” They all have grassy hills over 2,000 feet high that are yellow and brown until greening from the winter rains, beautiful mountain views in the distance, and trails down into forest-covered valleys.

Russian Ridge is a great place to see the changing seasons. Even in the winter, the winter-green grasslands face the southwestern sun. And when you drop below the breezy ridges, you warm up quickly.

In spring, especially April and May, the preserve explodes with color. Midpen says that Russian Ridge is one of the five best places in the Bay Area to see wildflowers. Early spring brings poppies and lupine. Then June offers the flowers of gumweed, mule’s ear, farewell-to-spring, and queen fabiola. Summer heat turns the hills to gold. And in every season, throughout your hike, you see vast and ever-changing panoramas of the world below.

Russian Ridge is a beautiful 1,822-acre example of Northern California “mounthills”—too majestic to be hills; too



rounded and green to be proper mountains. More impressive, however, is the walk up the Ridge Trail to the highest named point in San Mateo County—the 2,572-foot high Borel Hill. You gain breathtaking 360-degree views that encompass the Pacific Ocean to the west, peninsula and bay to the east, hills to the north, and our own Mt. Umunhum to the south. It’s well worth the short climb.

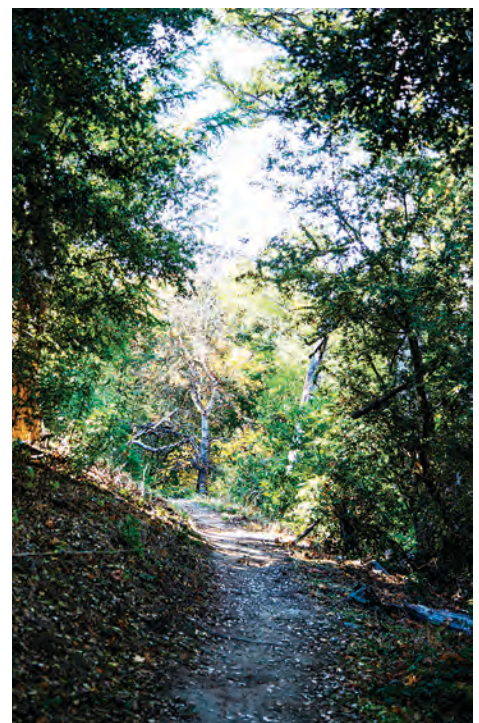
But there is more to see than the view. Your binoculars or a telephoto lens will come in handy to see wildlife. The ridges are one of the best places in California to see raptors: red-tailed hawks, turkey vultures, Cooper’s hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, and even golden eagles. From the ridges, you can overlook miles of trails, so keep an eye

out for coyotes and the occasional, but shy, mountain lion.

On a warm day, however, the open space becomes too open. It’s time to walk down into the valley to enjoy the shade of Ancient Oaks Trail. The trail soon lives up to its name, displaying an enchanted forest of old, gnarled, moss-covered oaks, mixed with Douglas firs and madrones.

The next junction offers two ways back to your car. You can turn here or go another three-tenths of a mile before turning left. Both trails return you to Ridge Trail and the parking lot.

That makes for a relatively short hike. For a more interesting experience, turn right on





Ancient Oaks Trail to a left on Charquin Trail. You walk down lower and lower though forest that is darker and darker.

Your hiking companion may be concerned that walking down means walking up. When you reach Mindego Hill Trail, a turn left tells you that your fellow hiker was right. You must now walk up a steep, gravelly road. It may only be a half mile or so, but try walking up a ladder for half a mile. It is not impossible, but it's a challenge.

Now for the good part. When you reach the top, you are at the Audrey C. Rust Commemorative Site. It has a parking

lot where you wish you had parked, toilet facilities, and a short walk to a beautiful view that you can see sitting down on nice benches. If you brought food, this is a nice place to enjoy it. After a short rest, you may notice that this site has a plaque commemorating Audrey Rust, a past president of POST. It is all quite civilized.

Your hike isn't finished. To reach your car at the Skyline/Alpine lot, you can follow the Ancient Oaks Trail 1.7 miles.

The first section is a nice, shady, relatively flat single-track with moderate grades. As you get near your destination, the hills get higher and shade is replaced with very open space. The last steps on Ridge Trail take you downhill back to your car and civilization.

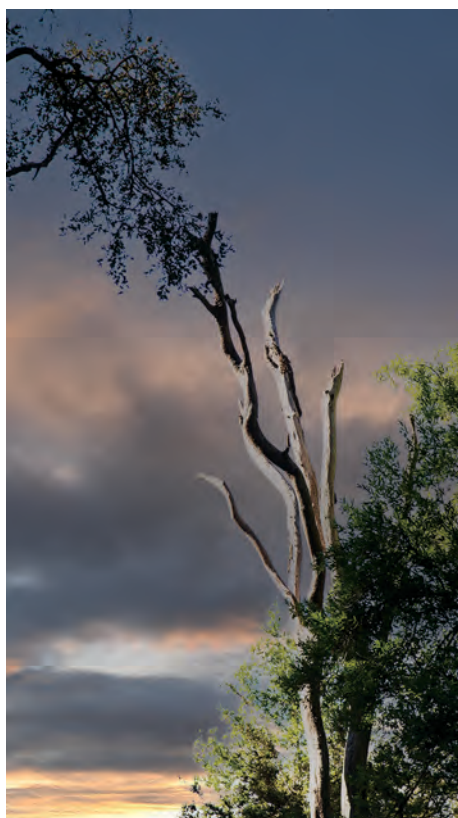
If you have energy and time, extend your walk through the parking lot and tunnel to the Alpine Pond and the David C Daniels Nature Center. At any time of year, the walk around the pond is pleasant, with lots of animal and plant viewing opportunities.

Open from April through November (except during pandemics), the Nature Center building houses interesting exhibits and docents who can answer any question as long as it's about nature.

Your final decision is whether to drive north to Alice's Restaurant at Highway 84, or drive south to Highway 9 and a nice Saratoga restaurant. Either way, it's a good choice, even if you have to take your food to go.

Russian Ridge is easy to reach. Drive up to Skyline Boulevard via Black, Bear Creek, Summit, or Highway 9 through Saratoga. Follow Skyline Boulevard seven miles north of Saratoga Gap to Alpine Road, turn left, and then turn a quick right into the parking lot.

Horses and bicycles are allowed on all trails, but dogs are not. Parking and entry are free. For more information, call Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, 650-691-1200.



Mama's Memoirs:



Growing Up in the Santa Cruz Mountains

by Margaret Louise Rapp Tarquinio

Mama's Memoirs: Growing Up in the Santa Cruz Mountains

Margaret Louise Rapp Tarquinio

A review by Neil Wiley

Margaret Tarquinio wrote this book to honor her mother, Emma Bessie Ingraham Rapp, and her stories of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Her mother lived here in our mountains from 1888 to 1975. Although Margaret died before she finished the book, her daughter, J. Alex Tarquinio, completed the process as editor and publisher, finishing the book in 1995.

Together, these three generations of women created 32 chapters of local history. Each chapter is a stand-alone story of a person, place, or event that reflects what it was like to live in this special place—our Santa Cruz Mountains. Over sixty photographs reflect mountain history.

Her first chapter deals with *The Crane Place*, a beautiful old mansion built in 1890 at King's Point on Longridge Road. If you have ever driven down Longridge, you may remember the views of Monterey Bay, redwood groves, vineyards, and perhaps a wonderful sunset at King's Point.

Emma details what it was like to grow up in this interesting home, complete with room descriptions and drawings. Footnotes describe the parcel's history back to a Mexican land grant in 1841.

Her next chapter entitled *Destination Wright's* covers a wider scope of history, beginning with Mountain Charley, Charley Parkhurst, and the first settlers: the Schultheis, Burrell, Wright, and Morrell families. These short family descriptions are followed by stories of Wright's Station, from construction in 1880, through the boom times, the severe vineyard cutbacks from disease in the 1900s, and the closing of the railroad in 1938.

Later chapters cover local areas such as *Skyland*, *Laurel*, and *Holy City*. A map based on a sketch by the author shows the location of roads, stores, post offices, and even some individual homes.

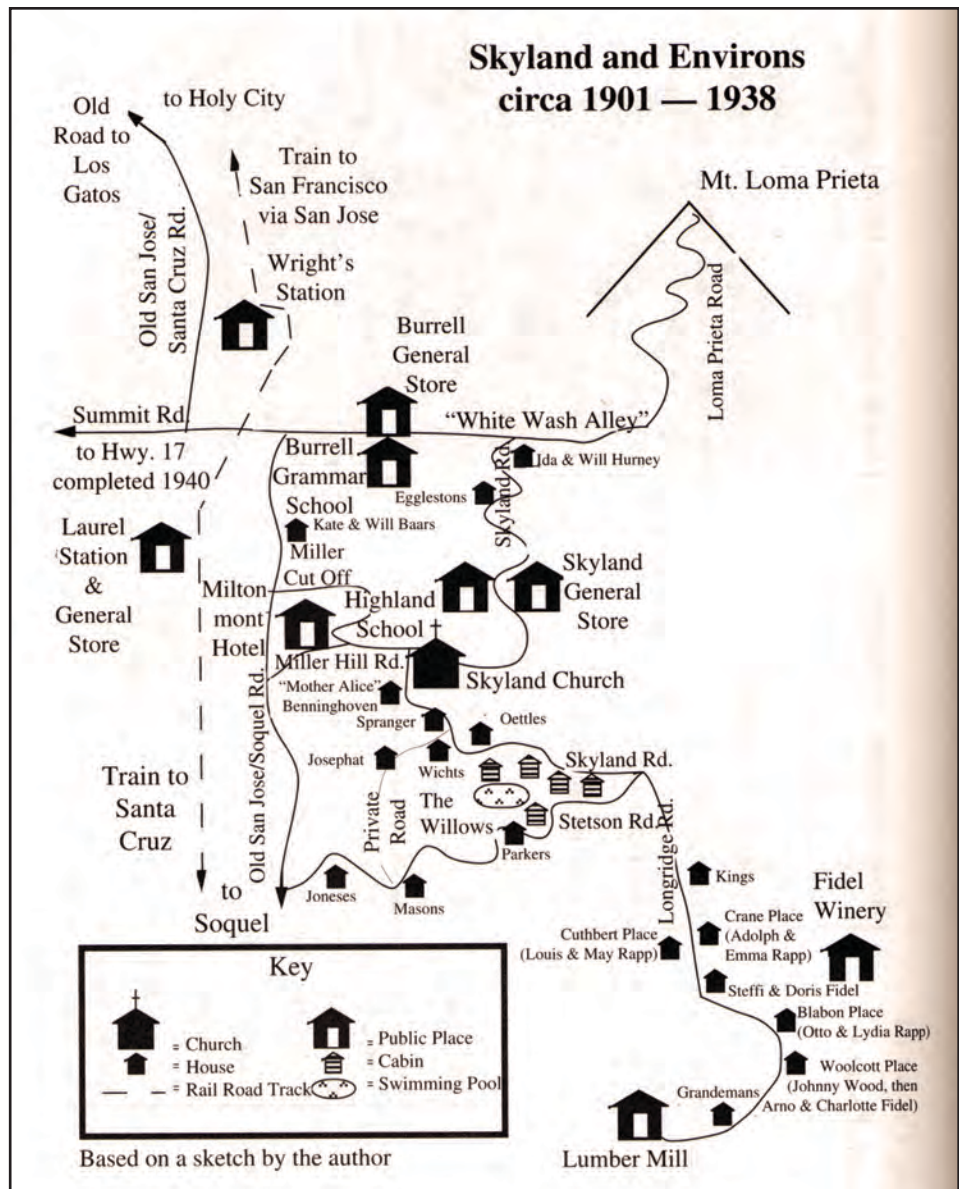
Although these subjects are covered in many histories, the book also offers unique, in-depth stories of the *Ingraham* and *Rapp* families. Life was often hard for these families, but many of the stories are funny.

Read *Grandpa's Mail Order Bride*, *Listening on the Party Line*, *Mama's Driving*, and *The Lure of Mr. King's Orchard*.

You think we have problems with mail. Enjoy chapters devoted to store-bought teeth and more mail tales.

Mountain people had some special services. George Napier was Laurel's stationmaster, postmaster, and grocery-store owner. When Mama needed something from the store, she would call Mr. Napier before 8 a.m. He would package the food and ship it by train to Wright's Station. Uncle Will would pick it up at Wright's, and then deliver it with the rest of the mail in time for dinner.

Mountain people were (and perhaps are) different. Isolation breeds independence. In a chapter called *Everyone's Crazy but Me and Thee*, she points out that the isolation of Skyland "created an atmosphere ideal for



mystics, misers, ascetics, and other reclusive individuals who did not conform to the expectations of mainstream society.” She tells of many colorful characters who were her neighbors.

Some strange ideas were imported. A lady from the city of Santa Cruz reported to the local Home Department of the Farm Bureau the surprising information that davenporters were a health hazard that collected dust and bacteria. Not only that, they encouraged laziness and sloth. Mama immediately placed an order with Sears Roebuck for a davenport.

This independent spirit was balanced with a sense of community. This was especially true when it came to fire danger. Even then, the lush vegetation, dense forest, and

long distance from any fire service made immediate response critical. Many famous fires are reported in *The Bucket Brigade* chapter.

During fire season, Mr. Sharp manned a lookout station on Loma Prieta. When there was a fire, he would call his wife, Mrs. Sharp, the Central telephone operator. She would open all phone lines and send five long rings. Every person in the mountains who answered would go to the fire with a bucket.

Three chapters are devoted to time periods: the 1910s, the roaring '20s, and life in the '30s. Each decade revealed how life in the mountains changed with the times.

This book may not be a typical history, but if it was taught in schools, more

students would learn to love history.

Used copies of *Mama's Memoirs: Growing Up in the Santa Cruz Mountains* by Margaret Louise Rapp Tarquinio are available in paperback for \$11.24 at Amazon.com.



The Rapp family



Elizabeth and Emma Rae Rapp, 1918



Adolph Rapp, Jr., 1930

schools



Loma Prieta Joint Union School District Our Hopes and Dreams for 2021 Lisa Fraser, Superintendent

January is a time when we pause to reflect on the passage of another year and look to the future with optimistic resolve. I think it is safe to say that we are ready to archive 2020 and welcome 2021 with hopes of easier times. In the current COVID-19 climate, it is difficult to make predictions, but here are some of our hopes and dreams for the new year.

May our mountain families remain healthy, safe, and COVID-free on the heels of the winter holiday season and beyond.

May COVID-19 transmission rates subside to the point that we can safely return our students and staff to increased levels of in-person learning.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our fifty-member Stage 2 - School Reopening Task Force, consisting of parents, administration, and school staff, we have clear instructional plans in place for opening our schools in late January should it be safe to do so.

We have worked diligently to mitigate the risks involved with moving to an in-person learning model by arranging on-site testing for all employees. We are conducting site-safety reviews for our classrooms and buildings, establishing health and safety protocols for staff, students, and parents. We will work collaboratively with our County Office of Education and Public Health Department to stay abreast of related requirements, recommendations, and considerations.

May we come together as a community to find creative solutions that ensure long-range, sustainable funding for our mountain schools.

Recently, the Measure N parcel-tax ballot measure was defeated. Our budget-advisory committee is in the process of prioritizing approximately \$400K in general-fund budget reductions to meet our strategic-plan goal of balancing our multi-year budget and maintaining a 12 percent reserve.

Due to the nature of school funding in California, where revenue has not kept pace

with escalating costs, it will be a painful endeavor. Complex problems require thoughtful planning.

To that end, we will continue to engage members of our school community to find the best solutions moving forward. Thank you to our Yes on N campaign steering-committee members—Kate Biagini, Erin Ashghian, Ben Abeln, Karen Rothschild, and Rachelle Lopp—for their unwavering support of our schools during the election. We are grateful for your dedication and tireless efforts, even in the face of a disappointing setback.

May you enjoy a fun-filled return on your investment as we prepare to reopen our newly renovated Loma track and field in the near future.

Thanks to the passage of the Measure R Bond in 2018, the dream of a new track and field for our mountain schools and local community will soon be a reality. The turf-rooting process is almost complete, after which we will formally announce plans for reopening. We appreciate your patience throughout the construction process. COVID-19 conditions permitting, we look forward to sharing our upgraded facilities with you in 2021.

May the new year bring your hopes and dreams to fruition as we find a path forward in these challenging times.



Loma Public Education Fund Launching the KEEP! Campaign Diane Tosetti

Happy New Year! The entire LPEF board hopes you and your family enjoyed a nice holiday season. We are facing a fundraising deficit due to these unprecedented times. We had to cancel both of our key fundraising events: the Fore the Kids golf tournament and our annual Gala. This put us behind in reaching our annual goals, which directly affects our future funding grants. As such, we are launching the KEEP! (Keep Excellent Education Program) campaign earlier this year. We ask for your generous support.

Education is the basis of opportunity.

Our mission is to ensure that each child in our school district has access to a curriculum that enables them to grow, thrive, and respond to future opportunities. LPEF raises funds for our schools by organizing social events that are sponsored by local businesses and community members who realize the importance of funding education.

KEEP! is our primary direct-giving campaign that raises over half of the LPEF annual budget. The LPEF educational grants fund critical developmental and extracurricular programs at C.T. English Middle and Loma Prieta Elementary schools, including:

- Music and band (K-8)
- Developmental P.E. (K-5)
- Library services (K-8)
- Student counseling and support services (K-8)
- Education technology specialists (K-8)
- Loma science (K-5)
- CTE Middle School electives (6-8)
- Art in Action (K-5)

If you wish to contribute:

- Donate online at <http://www.lpef/donate>.
- Write a check and mail your donation to LPEF (23800 Summit Road, Los Gatos, CA 95033).
- Donate through your employer if they offer a donation-matching campaign.

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Lakeside School Kathy McKinney

As we closed out the memorable 2020 calendar year, our school community found ways to stay socially engaged through a family-fun night, a talent show, and a field trip to NUMU (the New Museum of Los Gatos), all done virtually over Zoom. Our student council also organized the first virtual student store of the year.

Family-fun night

At our family-fun night, families logged onto Zoom to enjoy a safe evening of fun and games together. The event kicked off with trivia questions about Lakeside legends. Special guest Al Skinner, a mentalist and magician, entertained the audience with comedy, magic tricks, and mental feats. It was an evening for our school community to gather virtually and enjoy some great entertainment.

Talent show

Our students had an opportunity to showcase their talents at a virtual talent show. More than twenty students participated. The acts included singing, dancing, playing musical instruments, doing jump-roping tricks, storytelling, reading a research paper, and more. It was a wonderful opportunity for the entire school to gather to appreciate and celebrate the diverse talents of our students.

NUMU field trip

In November, our second- through fifth-grade classes took virtual field trips to the NUMU museum, in downtown Los



Virtual NUMU field trip

Gatos. The museum director, Kimberly Snyder, led each class on a tour of the Image + Object exhibit. (See a virtual tour at www.numulosgatos.org/imageobject-virtual.) Students saw and discussed works by contemporary artists who explore the natural world of the Bay Area using alternative-photographic processes. These artists rub tree stumps, capture fog or wildfire smoke, and use the sun and ocean waves to create their images. Students were especially enchanted with the large-scale cyanotype (sun-print) work by artist Meghann Riepenhoff, who made a site-specific work for the exhibit. The special paper had been dipped into the waves at Half Moon Bay. Each day, the work is trimmed to reflect the daily high and low tides there. NUMU arranged to have the pieces cut while the students were visiting, so they could be involved in the process. It made the virtual field trip feel personal. The museum also donated materials so that students could use cyanoprint paper to experiment artistically with alternative-

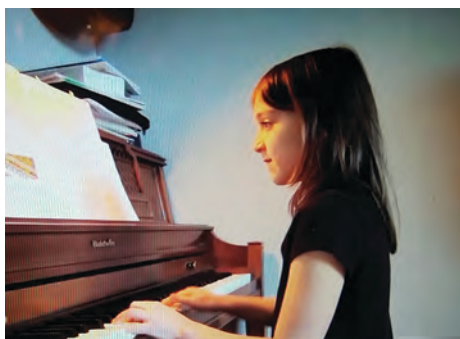
process photography as they explored the natural world of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Student Store

Students at Lakeside earn raccoon rewards for being responsible, respectful, and safe at school. When school is in-person, our students trade in their raccoon rewards to buy items at the monthly student store.

Our students have been earning raccoon rewards since school started, but since we aren't on campus, it was a challenge to re-imagine the student store.


Behaviorist Laureen Cruz took on the challenge. She photographed, catalogued, and priced each item, then created an order form for each student. The last week before winter break, students visited the virtual student store to shop and spend their hard-earned raccoon rewards. Parents picked up their child's items at Lakeside, at their convenience.



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schools

Lexington School

Deanna Wilk

Lexington is excited and ready to welcome all grades back to campus. Lower grades are scheduled to begin in-person learning on January 11. Upper grades begin January 19. Approximately 70 percent of Lexington students have opted to return to campus as Roomers. The other students, Zoomers, will join class virtually, but can join as Roomers beginning March 1, March 29, or May 3.

The Roomer/Zoomer model, introduced as a first-grade pilot in late October, was instrumental in preparing for a safe school-wide return. A go/no-go decision will be made on January 7 by the Los Gatos Union School District board of trustees, based on health conditions in Los Gatos and Santa Clara County.



Once upon a time there was a black hole which the world called the darkness. But there were also a valley of green piney trees that were as far away as 4 million kilometers. So the darkness was covering the greeny piney valleys but luckily it didn't get the two other valleys called the wood pines and the rocky roads. So when the darkness appeared at the green valleys, it killed all the trees and living things but luckily people were in the two safer valleys and were always prepared for the darkness.

Since April, staff have reflected on the last five years of their teaching and the program at Lexington. This is part of Lexington's IB self-study, an important and required

component of being an IB World School. Together with student, parent, board, and district administrator input, staff have created a five-year action plan.

"It was also very helpful to me, as the new principal, to dive deep into our program and learn about our areas of strength, and areas for future growth," said Lex principal Jason Deppong. Lexington's program will be evaluated in April by an IB team. This is an important opportunity to receive professional development and fresh perspective. The newest IB enhancement Lexington is exploring is adding a home-language component to the fifth-grade year of study, which recognizes and encourages a student's home language in an educational setting.

Virtual learning has staff continuously embracing new ways to engage students. Fourth-grade students piloted a three-part virtual program with NUMU in Los Gatos as part of their How We Express Ourselves unit of inquiry. Storytelling, a hands-on abstract art activity, and a virtual tour of Klea McKenna's exhibit encouraged



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students to think and create. Students loved the expressive reading of *The Six Wise Children* and *The Elephant*. They arranged word tiles to describe the different parts of the elephant and visualize each part of an elephant. Students said this about their experience:

"People can do the same thing as others,

but they might be different."

"Different perspectives can make a huge difference in both a story and a life."

"If we talk about our ideas and combine them together, we can make something amazing."

Klea McKenna's abstract art pieces involve rubbings of interesting and meaningful

textures. Student made their own rubbings, reflected on the process, and then created a story from what they made.

"This rubbing is of cement. The hand imprint in the middle represents the hard work that my dad did to get the cement there."

"This picture shows three train-track patterns. A straight, steady, reliable track; a somewhat messy, curvy, imperfect track; and a crazy, zigzag, out-of-control track. The story is that the better, kinder, and more reliable a person is, the easier the train of life is."

The program highlighted the unique voices in the classroom, and students discovered how the stories they create are an expression of their ideas, beliefs, and values.

This year, Lexington did not have its usual Thanksgiving celebration, but the community gathered virtually thanks to parent Betsy King, who put together a heartwarming video of Lex families sharing what they were grateful for, and giving thanks in many languages. Thank you to the families who submitted a video. We wish all of our neighbors peace and joy in the new year. We are grateful to be part of the mountain community.

*Photos by Jason Deppong
and Ziwa Hampshire*

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Happy New Year! Welcome 2021!



Although 2020 was a very trying year for us all, the new
year is a time to look forward with hope and vision and
promise. New possibilities abound with every day, and
I can't wait to see what the new year brings.

*Wishing you the very best in 2021
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