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mountain network news

March 2020



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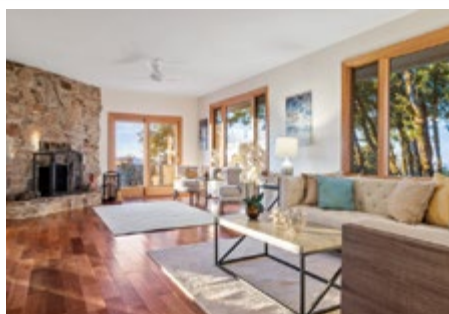


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Loma Prieta Avenue

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Home ±4,350 sf · 4-Car Garage ±1,400 sf

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 13TH · Concert

7pm Potluck · 8pm Performance @ Pippa's

MARCH 20TH · Burger Night

5–8pm @ the Mountain Hang Out, Skyland Church

MARCH 26ND · Summit Sisters

8–10:30pm @ Michaels on Main, Soquel

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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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More than 4000 homes and businesses
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**COVER****New Brighton State Beach**

**You can see this beach
 from an informal trail
 that runs alongside
 Park.**

**Some day
 you may see
 this beach
 from a train.**

**Read about it
 on pages 20-21.**

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Visit the **Mountain Network News** website
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 for late-breaking news, calendar, and classified.

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See the Virtual Tour at 20700HillsideDrive.com



20780 Brush Road Los Gatos

\$1,997,000 | 4 Bed | 3 Bath | 3400 Sq Ft | 3 Acre Lot

Elegant, stately, comfortable, and charming all at once. Gorgeous stone exterior, formal entryway, hardwood floors, beautiful fireplaces. Farmhouse-style chef's kitchen, family room with home theater, lovely dining room, formal living room with impressive vaulted ceiling to 2nd floor library. 2-car garage. Tesla & electric chargers. Beautiful private setting with decking, patio dining, lawn areas, and mountain views. Lot has separate area with building pad. Minutes to LG. Los Gatos schools: Lexington Elem (IB Programme) Fisher Jr, LG High.

See the Virtual Tour at 20780BrushRoad.com



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COMPASS

events

Santa Clara County FireSafe Council 2020 Chipping Program Gretchen Hayes

We have seen several consecutive years of record-breaking wildfires in California. We all know that we live in the wildfire hazard zone. Now is the time to take the actions necessary to protect your family and home.

The FireSafe Council has programs in place to help you prepare for wildfire season. As you create 100 feet of defensible space around your home, take advantage of our chipping program to chip the material that you remove.

If you are unsure where to begin, our trained consultants can walk you through a home-ignition-zone assessment. If you are unable to create your defensible space yourself, either due to physical or financial hardship, our special-needs assistance program can help you.

Our evacuation workshops are designed to help you prepare for an evacuation before a wildfire comes to your neighborhood. Our new Firewise USA program has already helped five neighborhoods become recognized. It is now assisting eight more.

Your neighborhood could be next. You can find out more about these programs at the FireSafe Council website at www.sccfiresafe.org, where you will also find detailed information on how to clear defensible space.

Defensible space is one step that can help protect your home if a wildfire approaches. It also helps prevent a structure fire from escaping your property to neighbors and the wildlands beyond. If your home doesn't have defensible space, it threatens your life, as well as your neighbors, firefighters, and the environment.

On page 7, you'll find a description of our free chipping program, including what is allowed in the pile and how to stage the material for chipping. Be sure to note the application due dates for your neighborhood. Complete your clearing and prepare your chipping piles by that date. We can't accept late applications. Include your phone number and/or email address so we can reach you if we have questions or need more information.

Submit your chipping application online at <https://sccfiresafe.org>, under "community chipping program," in the "prepare" section. If you need a paper application, call 408-975-9591, or email dship@sccfiresafe.org.

Be sure your application is in by the due date. Our coordinators will survey the

piles and arrange for contractors to do the chipping. The work should be completed within three weeks of the application due date for your area, depending on weather conditions.

We Appreciate Your Support

Donations you make as a resident of the wildland-urban interface zone are vital to our programs. Although much of our funding comes from federal and state grants, local fire districts, other government agencies, watershed landowners, and homeowner associations, we couldn't provide these programs without your financial support.

As the demand for our programs grows, we need your help. The suggested donation is \$25 to \$100, depending how much chipping needs to be done. Larger donations are gratefully appreciated and are used to make our community safer.

For residents of the South Skyline area, the South Skyline FireSafe Council has their annual free chipping days the first week of May and the first week of November. Applications are due **April 15** and **October 15**, and are available online at www.southskylinefiresafe.org. The South Skyline area covers Skyline Boulevard from Bear Creek Road north into San Mateo County.

Whether You Are Buying or Selling, Choose a Knowledgeable, Reputable Broker to Represent You!
Exciting new listings coming up in all price ranges! Call me for an update.

SUN, BAY VIEWS & REDWOODS!

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2020 Lexington Hills Chipping Schedule

Check the online schedule at
www.SCCFireSafe.org
 for any changes to this schedule



Santa Clara County FireSafe Council
 Wildland-Urban Interface Zone
 2020 Defensible Space Chipping Program

Phone: (408) 975-9591
 Email: DSChip@SCCFireSafe.org



Community	Due Dates	Project Type
Redwood Estates (Day1)	April 25	Drive-up
Chemeketa Park	May 10	At Home & Community Pile
Redwood Estates (Day 2)	June 6	Drive-up
Hutchinson/Summit west of Hwy 17	April 13	At Home
Summit Rd/Melody Ln/Mtn. Charlie Rd	April 13	At Home
Redwood Lodge Rd/ Summit Woods	April 19	At Home
Montevina/Brush Rd/ Hillside Dr	April 19	At Home
Beardsley/Black/ Thompson/Gist Rds	April 26	At Home
Highland/Longridge/ Stetson Rds	April 26	At Home
Aldercroft Heights/ Soda Springs	May 11	At Home
Los Gatos - below the dam	May 11	At Home
Bear Creek Rd/ Bear Creek Stables	May 17	At Home
Loma Prieta School/ Summit Rd btwn churches/ Villa Del Monte	May 17	At Home
Oakmont/Wright Dr/ OSCH between Holy City and Hwy17	June 7	At Home
Gillette/Call of the Wild/ OSCH between Holy City and Summit	June 7	At Home

The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council's Defensible Space Chipping Program is a FREE service provided by your local non-profit Fire Safe Council.

These programs are supported by local donations, which are greatly appreciated! Thank YOU!

For more information, visit our web site at www.SCCFireSafe.org or call (408) 975-9591. Mail donations to SCFSC, 14380 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga CA 95070 or donate on our web site.

Use this checklist to prepare your material to be chipped

- ☐ Create defensible space! From your house: 5' non-combustion zone, 30' clean & green zone, 100' reduced fuel zone.*** Clear 10' around chimneys, remove limbs overhanging your roof. Reduce fuel 30 feet from roads and clear 14' over & 12' wide on your driveway.
- ☐ Pile location must be safely accessible to a large box truck and chipper trailer. Extremely narrow or steep driveways may not be serviceable.
- ☐ Piles must be located on the uphill side of the road or driveway.
- ☐ Piles must be within 5 feet of the chipper location and less than 4 feet in height.
- ☐ Piles must be hand stacked. Limbs must be under 8 inches thick.
- ☐ Cut ends must face the same direction and point out toward the chipper location. (see photo)
- ☐ No timber harvest debris, vineyard or orchard waste.
- ☐ No poison oak, ivy, or blackberry vines. No broom or acacia with seed pods, or other invasive plant materials.
- ☐ No piles of leaves, pine needles or yard clippings. Only woody brush/branches.
- ☐ No non-compostable materials (painted or preserved lumber, trash, metal, wire, etc).
- ☐ No palm fronds, roots, stumps, rocks or mud.
- ☐ Chips will be blown back onto your property or hauled off at the contractor's discretion.
- ☐ Make sure your street address is posted on the road
- ☐ Loose dogs may prevent chipping. Inform us if you have dogs.

***100' reduced fuel zone required by law in State Responsibility Areas, and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in Local Responsibility Areas. See website for details about 30' zones.

Drive-up: Bring cut fuel to a specific location and chipping is done on the spot.

At Home: Chipping is done house to house. Submit your chipping application by the due date. Do not add additional material to piles after the end date.

Use our new online chipping application: Click on community chipping program on our home page at www.SCCFireSafe.org.

Please submit application when all piles are stacked and ready to be chipped! If you can't use the online application, please email to DSChip@SCCFireSafe.org or call 408-975-9591 for assistance.

Look up for high voltage power lines!

Clearing trees can be dangerous if you have high voltage power lines on or near your property. **Don't risk electrocution!** PG&E's qualified tree contractors may be able to prune or cut down trees near high voltage lines. Request a visit from a PG&E forester by calling **800-743-5000**. Cal/OSHA requires certified line clearance tree workers to perform any tree work within 10 feet of high voltage power lines.



For other areas please see our website for scheduling and service availability



Los Gatos Concert Series
Concert Pianist Alina Kiryayeva
 Kathy Morgan

On **Sunday, March 29**, the Los Gatos Concert Series will present an encore performance by Alina Kiryayeva. This talented concert pianist is known for creating interesting, unique programs, and charming her audiences with drama, humor, beauty, and intelligence.

A child prodigy, she gave her first solo recital at the age of eight. Her solo debut was with an orchestra at age eleven. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the prestigious Julliard School of Music on a full scholarship.

She has won numerous prizes, including a first in the California Young Artist International Competition. Born in the Ukraine, she was presented by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk with the State Award for Achievement in the Arts. Her solo album *Sonatas* was featured on the 150th broadcast of Women in Music on CKWR Radio in Ontario, Canada. An international artist, she has also performed in France, Germany, Mexico, Austria, Italy, the Netherlands, and Japan.

Her concert begins at 2:30 p.m., in the Los Gatos High School Theatre. Doors open at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 at the door, \$20 for seniors, and \$5 for students. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.lgcca.org.

The Los Gatos Concert Series
 is sponsored by the
Los Gatos Community Concert Association,
 a local organization dedicated to bringing our
 neighbors world-class music
 at reasonable prices.



Pippa's House Concert
Patrick Ball
 Pippa Siersema

Celebrate Saint Patrick's Day with us on **Friday, March 13**. It's a few days early, but who better to celebrate the holiday with than Patrick Ball.

Patrick is now living in Ireland, but he is here on a short tour. He is happy to spend an evening on the mountain, a gig he has, in his words, enjoyed for close to 25 years. I, for one, never tire of his brilliant storytelling.

Patrick Ball is one of the premier Celtic harpists in the world and a captivating storyteller. Playing the ancient, legendary brass-strung harp of Ireland, and telling tales of wit and enchantment, he brings new life to cherished traditions, to create a richly theatrical and hauntingly beautiful performance.

Before the concert, enjoy the potluck. I supply a glass of wine, beer, or sparkling water, but a bottle to share is always appreciated. I welcome your contributions to the potluck. It has become quite the feast over the years. I receive many compliments from the artists about the food, and the ambiance that our audience creates. This will be our 27th year. It has been a fun ride. Thank you.

The potluck begins at 7 p.m. The performance begins at 8 p.m. The donation is \$25 at the door, with all funds going to the performer.

For information and reservations, email pippasiersema@yahoo.com (preferred), or call 408-529-5610.



Building Care Packages
for the Troops
 John Haak

Christ Child Catholic Church and Mountain Bible Church invite the community to help us send care packages to our troops overseas. On **Sunday, March 1**, we will gather at 11:30 a.m., at Christ Child Church, 23230 Summit Road.

Last year, we gathered and sent 420 pounds of items to 105 soldiers. Children are welcome. They will make homemade cards to go in the packages.

Our impact can be confirmed in notes like this one that we received last year: *"I just want to let you know that four boxes with care supplies have arrived at our location today. We all really appreciate your enormous generosity and thoughtfulness ... we are stationed on a remote post with limited services, but because of you, we are fine and proud to serve."* – Stan, Afghanistan

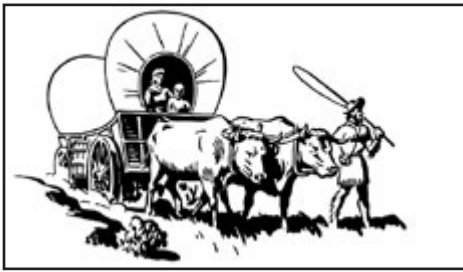
If you can't attend, you may drop off a donation at either church during the prior week. The churches have lists of items to bring as your donation for the packages. If you have questions, call Mountain Bible Church, 408-353-2302, or Christ Child Catholic Church, 408-353-2210.

Summit Toastmasters
Develop Your Public Speaking Voice
 Laur dArmien

Some experts estimate that up to 75 percent of Americans have some level of anxiety with public speaking. Toastmasters International helps people learn to speak well in public.

At Summit Toastmasters 95033, we listen, practice, encourage, and celebrate each other as we explore and share through the medium of public speech. Relax, laugh, learn, and grow with a group of neighbors. Everyone is welcome on Saturdays, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. We meet at Mountain Bible Church, 23946 Summit Road.

For more information, call Laur dArmien, 408-634-3483.



The Loma Prieta Museum
Summit Settlers, 1850 – 1950
 Roger Mason

A local history event on **Thursday, March 26**, at 7 p.m., at the Loma Prieta School Forum, will present the history of early settler families who developed the Summit area. Old pictures and stories will reveal our history.

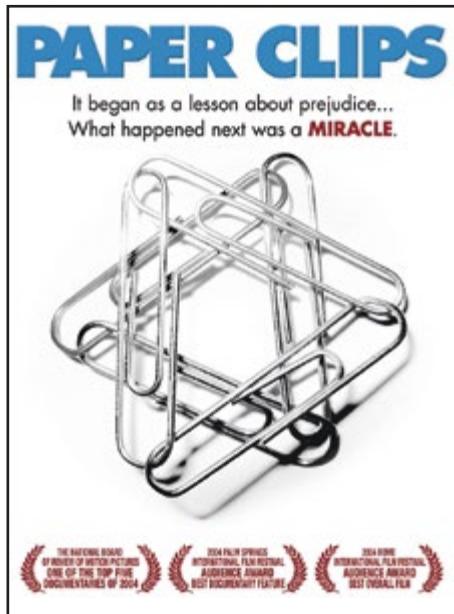
Alexandra Hall, local author and historian, will present the Miller family history. Alexandra has been researching the family for years. Gerald Park, the great, great grandson of John Martin Shultheis, will present the Schultheis and Averill family histories.

The presentations will show how these families lived, survived the elements, and developed the Summit area. They built roads, schools, stores, churches, grange halls, and community organizations.

This free community event is sponsored by the Loma Prieta Community Foundation, a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit volunteer organization. Tax-deductible donations can be made out to LPCF with a memo "For the Loma Prieta Museum" and mailed to LP Museum, 22951 Summit Road, Los Gatos, CA 95033.

Museum meetings are held monthly. See our Facebook page for location, dates, and times (www.facebook.com/lomaprietamuseum), or email lomaprietamuseum@gmail.com.

If you have artifacts, photographs, stories, resources, an interest in local history, or are interested in volunteering, join us.



Skyland Church
Fourth Friday Documentaries
 Deana Arnold

Come to Skyland Community Church on **Friday, March 27**, from noon to 3 p.m., for lunch, a documentary video, and a discussion with friends and neighbors. Enjoy this interesting and engaging community-building event.

Paper Clips is an inspiring, emotional account of the students at Whitwell Middle School in rural Tennessee, as they struggle to grasp the concept of six million Holocaust victims. They decide to collect six million paper clips to better understand the extent of this crime against humanity.

The film details how the students met Holocaust survivors from around the world and how the experience transformed them and their community.

Skyland Community Church is located at 25100 Skyland Road. For more information, email 4thFridayDocs@Skylandchurch.com.

C.T. English Home and School Club

Goodwill Truck is Back

Caren Hespeler

The C.T. English Home and School Club is sponsoring a Goodwill donation and E-waste drive fundraiser. Bring your E-waste, old clothes, books, and household items to the Building Blocks Preschool parking lot, 23845 Summit Road. The truck attendant will accept donations **Saturday, April 18** and **Sunday, April 19**, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days. (Do not drop off donations while trailer is unattended.)

Goodwill Silicon Valley can't accept furniture, mattresses, large appliances, exercise equipment, automobile parts, weapons, household trash, food, carpeting, construction debris, hazardous household chemicals, liquids of any kind, pet-related items, items over fifty pounds, and television sets with over 27-inch screens.

We can accept microwaves, VCRs, printers, and vacuums. Goodwill now accepts car seats for recycling.

Your donations support Goodwill of Silicon Valley and our local school. Thank you for bringing us your old and unwanted items. At our last Goodwill weekend fundraiser in December, donations from mountain residents raised \$3,603.73 for student activities and services.

Spread the word to family, friends, and neighbors. Goodwill of Silicon Valley and our Home and School Club is grateful for the privilege of serving the members of our community. If you have questions, email ctehsc@gmail.com.

LOS GATOS Birdwatcher
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 792 Blossom Hill Road
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losgatosbirdwatcher.com

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 23123 Hwy 17, Santa Cruz Mountains
Now open Wed-Sun 10am for Brunch
Thursday Night Bluegrass
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 March 5th - The Goat Hill Girls
 March 12th - The Wild Cat Ramblers
 March 19th - AJ Lee & Blue Summit
 March 26th - TBA
T.G.I.F.F March 6th with "SERIOUS CONDITION"
 A Rock & Soul dance band
Summit Karaoke
 All ages welcome March 13th 6pm-10pm
 All ages welcome March 25th 6pm-10pm

community

Santa Cruz County Fire Locals Vote Yes to Improve Fire Protection Neil Wiley

The CSA 48 ballot measure passed with 56 percent of the vote.

The passage of this measure marks the first time in over twenty years that the Santa Cruz County Fire Department received a significant increase in funding. This funding enables the addition of one firefighter at each CalFire station in the winter season. Meeting industry-minimum-staffing requirements ensures that CalFire stations will remain open throughout the year.

Equally important, the measure makes it possible for CalFire volunteers to have up-to-date personal-protective equipment. It also allows for the systematic replacement of aging fire engines, some of which are over twenty years old.

Santa Cruz County Fire is an operationally integrated fire department of volunteers and career CalFire personnel. They are grateful for the trust and support that local residents and property owners have placed in them.

More information is available on the Santa Cruz County Fire website at SantaCruzCountyFire.com.

IP Father Daughter Dance Craig Robinson

The mountain-area Indian Princess groups recently held a father-daughter dance at Nestledown. We thank Mark and Barbara Beck, the gracious owners of this magnificent event center. If you have never had the opportunity to see it, it should be on your mountain bucket list. Nestledown has amazing gardens in addition to a horse-retirement program on their property.

We were honored to have a huge turnout for this highlight event of the year. I tended the beverage bar with an original IP member by my side, Rosie Eisner, who is now 29 years old, and Alex Leman, who was her IP chief many years ago.

To those of you who have not heard of the Indian Nation, I recommend you check it out. More than 1000 families have participated in the Indian Princess (fathers and daughters) and Indian Guide (fathers and sons) groups in the Santa Cruz Mountains

over the years. These groups help dads build stronger relationships with their children, while spending time together with friends. To find out more, email me at CraigR@kw.com.

This was my last year hosting this memorable event. Thanks to all the dads who have been involved in the Indian Nation throughout the years.



**Give your home
the protection
it deserves.**

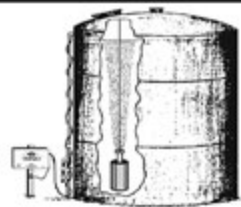
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Cub Scouts

Pinewood Derby and Arrow of Light Stephanie Randazzo

Our local mountain Cub Scouts Pack 509 had their annual Pinewood Derby in January. The Cub Scouts built a derby car out of a solid block of pinewood. They cut, shaped, and sanded the block of wood, and then attached the wheels, painted, and added decorations or weights to their cars to reach the five-ounce limit. Four of our top Lion/Tiger Scouts and two other Cub Scout racers with the fastest times were in the regional race on February 9. Congratulations to Amelia Hart, Zander Beeson, Rock List, Lukas Seddon, Will Froelich, and Isaac Young. Isaac had the fastest car in the Pack 509 race.

In February, Pack 509 hosted their annual blue and gold banquet. Entertainment included skits from the dens, and the Arrow of Light ceremony for the fifth-grade den, Webelos. They graduated from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. Eight Scouts completed the



requirements to earn the highest rank in Cub Scouting. Congratulations to William Maupas, Zanden Forbord, Cruz Arena, Toby Horton, Daxton Kopcsak-Yeung, Rowan Manning, Jake Rogers, and Liam Swinnerton-Davis. They put in years of hard work to earn their arrows of light. They received a mess kit to help them in their Scouting journey.

During the ceremony, four colors represented the spirit of Scouting, arrow of light, future path, and the Scout law. The Scout law has twelve points. A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

The Cub Scouts program, over 100 years old, is offered to community girls and boys in kindergarten through fifth grade. To find out more, email LGpack509@gmail.com.



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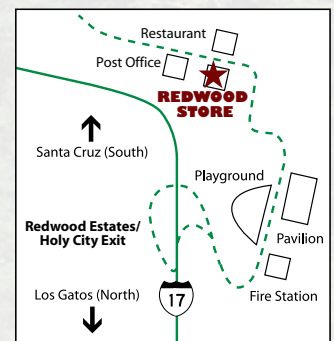
March right into our store!

March 1 International Superhero Day	March 2 International March Day	March 3 International Cat Care Day	March 3 World Water Day	March 4 Theater costume day	March 4 Mascinitas	March 6 International Dentist Day
March 8 International Library Day	March 9 World TV Day	March 10 Archives Day	March 10 National Day of Reading and Literacy	March 11 Penguins Day	March 11 Security Guard Day	March 13 International Astronomy Day
March 14 Pi Day	March 15 International Day of the Girl Scout	March 16 World Book Day	March 17 Day of the Teacher	March 19 Day of the Scientist	March 20 International Day of Happiness	March 20 International Day of the Girl Scout
March 20 International Lentils Day	March 20 Friends Language Day	March 21 World Poetry Day	March 21 International Day of the Girl Scout	March 21 World Day of the Girl Scout	March 21 International Day of the Girl Scout	March 22 International Day of the Girl Scout
March 22 World Water Day	March 23 World Meteorological Day	March 24 World Tuberculosis Day	March 25 World Theatre Day	March 27 World Scout Day	March 30 World Scout Day	March 31 World Backlog Day

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Bear Creek Stables Are Unicorns Real?

Katja Wick

Probably not, but that shouldn't keep you from dreaming about meeting one, since the pony co-op at Bear Creek Stables has the next best thing. His name is Sugar, and he is one of three ponies at the co-op. We currently have openings for families interested in caring for a pony one day a week. No previous experience with horses is necessary.

Having a pony co-op makes it possible to spread the cost of a pony among many families. The key is for everyone in the co-op to work with the pony in the same way.

At Bear Creek Stables, the same trainer works with the adults and children in the pony co-op. While sharing the

responsibilities of horse care, the parents and children learn horsemanship skills.

On their designated days, the families ride the ponies in the arena or on the trails in the Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve. Regular pony co-op meetings bring the children together to work on small projects, or share a picnic lunch. The ponies also go to local riding events to compete in pony games (gymkhanas) and English and Western riding classes.

Children develop connections with others who are coming to the stables for the pony co-op, to take riding lessons, or to play with the goats. They ride and play together in a child-friendly environment.

If you and your child dream of owning a pony, but can't take on the responsibility, a pony co-op could be a great solution. Email us at ponycoopbcs@gmail.com.

Mountain History Online The First Redwood Estates Newspaper

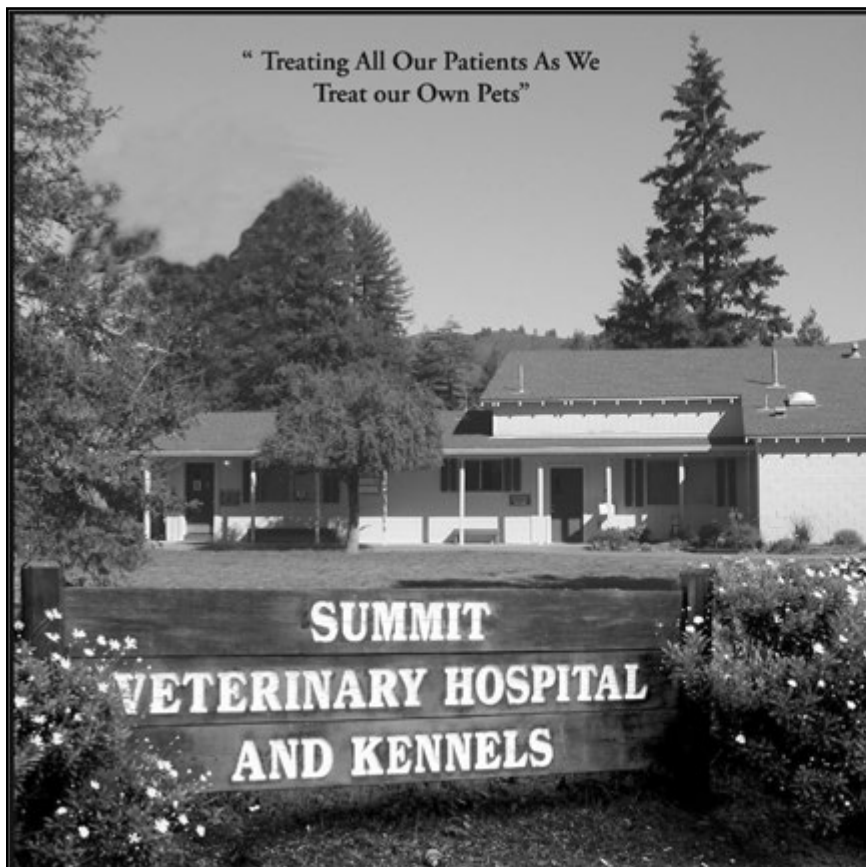
Amy Sirota and Neil Wiley

Would you like to know more about the early days of Redwood Estates? Check out <https://specialeditionartproject.com/cabinland>. You'll find copies of *Cabinland Magazine*, published by the original Redwood Estates Company, from 1927 through 1929. These issues were

photocopied from the historic originals at the Los Gatos Public Library by Marlene Wiley (1936-2017), author, publisher, and founder of the Mountain History Group.

There is more. You can also download a 1927 silent film promoting this "new" community. You'll see a different Redwood Estates as a beautiful but raw environment with spectacular views, "500 acres of delightful cabin sites," and 1920s adults and children at play.

Other films on the same site reflect histories of Los Gatos, Santa Cruz, and other local places.



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Las Cumbres Newly Recognized as Firewise USA Site

Vicki Perkins

In December 2019, the Las Cumbres community was officially recognized as a Firewise USA site. We started the process in the fall, after reading about the success of Redwood Estates, Chemeketa Park, and Sunset Ridge in the *Mountain Network News*.

None of us will forget the Bear Fire in 2016, when Las Cumbres and nearby communities were evacuated. I still have the ashes which fell as embers on our front steps as a reminder of this close call. Another motivator was that many of us received the dreaded letter from our homeowner's insurance company that they were no longer renewing policies in the Santa Cruz Mountains. By taking a community-wide approach to reducing wildfire risk, we hope to make it easier to obtain fire insurance.

To achieve Firewise USA recognition, a neighborhood must form a committee, complete a wildfire-risk assessment, create a multi-year action plan, conduct an annual education event, meet a minimum investment in volunteer hours or dollars, and submit an online application through the Firewise USA portal.

We were already meeting the requirements for Firewise USA recognition. We just

needed to get better organized and document the work we were already doing. We already had a neighborhood "firesafe" committee that conducted educational programs, and exceeded the minimum investment requirements through our community chipping pile, roadside grass cutting, and fuel-reduction projects. We have worked closely with CalFire over many years on fuel reduction and homeowner education, and have trained volunteers who review defensible space around each home, and advise homeowners on reducing wildfire risk. Based on input from CalFire, we are focusing on safe egress (in response to the Paradise tragedy) and defensible space around each home and the Las Cumbres community center.

Based on our advisory inspections, we realized that our biggest opportunity for risk reduction is for each homeowner to create a combustible-free zone around their home, remove brush, and limb up trees within 100 feet. This will be the primary focus for our advisory inspections and education program in 2020.

While creating defensible space may save homes, creating a safe egress will save lives. We are removing dead and diseased trees near our roads, with an eventual goal of a non-combustible zone ten feet from the edge of the pavement and a shaded fuel

break up to fifty feet. We also are exploring the viability of alternative egress routes and of creating a safe zone around our community center area.

The Firewise USA application process was helpful in providing structure for our efforts. Developing a multi-year plan helped us think long term about maintaining our defensible space and egress routes. The annual renewal process will help us maintain the momentum on maintenance and community education programs.

Creating and submitting the application through the Firewise USA portal is straightforward. I'd encourage other Santa Cruz Mountain communities to pursue Firewise USA recognition. We are all safer by working together to reduce wildfire risk in our communities.

Many thanks to Frank Rodgers of CalFire, Joe Christy of the Santa Cruz County FireSafe Council, Andy Seigel of South Skyline Firefighters, and Eugenia Rendler and Lynn Sestak of the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council for their help and advice with our Firewise USA risk assessment and action plan.

For information on Firewise USA recognition, see <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>.

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Obituary Marion Trumbull

Born March 12, 1926, Marion Trumbull entered into the gates of eternity on December 16, 2019.

She was preceded in death by her husband Blake Trumbull, son Robert, and brother Ernie (Held). She is survived by six children: Kathleen (Larry Welker), twins Barbara (Dave Parson) and Bonnie, Thomas Trumbull, Marietta (Tony Madden), and

Annette (Eric Devens).

She was a loving grandmother of eight, and great-grandmother of fourteen. She is also survived by two sisters, Beverly McCarthy and Betty Kowalski, and her brother Ronnie (Susie Held). As part of the extended family, Lana Devens shares in the grief of losing a mom she never had.

Marion Held was born in St. Cloud, Minnesota. By age two, her family moved to West Allis, Wisconsin.

World War II created a need for nurses. When Marion turned 18, she took advantage of the government-subsidized nursing program in Janesville, Wisconsin. There she met and married Blake Trumbull, a recently discharged army veteran.

In 1954, they packed up their four children and came to California. They settled in Redwood Estates. Marion was a charge nurse for San Jose Hospital and later left nursing to become postmaster of the U.S. Post Office in Redwood Estates.

She spent her last nine years in beautiful residential facilities in the Los Gatos area. Marion Trumbull valued and lived her Catholic faith. She gave unconditional, timeless, and equal love to her children. She lived her life with dedication, sacrifice, hard work, and unfailing integrity. These words from the Gospel describe her life: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."



Celebration of Life Services Debbie Blessing Evelyn Blessing

Debbie Blessing was a mother, artist, friend, and free spirit. On October 14, 2019, she passed away at her home, with her husband of 36 years and two children by her side. As an avid lover of nature and enthusiastic camper, she wanted her memorial in her second home, the forest. Nothing made Debbie happier than a group around a roaring campfire, and all that comes with it.

That is where we will celebrate her wonderful life with her loved ones. Having this memorial at a later date should make it possible for many of her friends and family to attend.

Celebration of Life services will be held at Portola Redwoods State Park on **Saturday, April 4**, at 1 p.m., with optional camping. For more information, email Evelyn Blessing at evblessing@gmail.com.

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Santa Cruz Mountains

Hail Day Yoga Pam Wakatka

On a dark and freezing day in January, when the roads were an inch deep in hail, four hardy souls showed up for Yoga at the Pavilion.

Rose Cates, Lynne Bauer, Pam Walker, and Cheryl Coe practiced yoga as they usually do on Thursday mornings at the Pavilion in Redwood Estates.

Teacher Pam Walatka, who is 77 years old and started teaching yoga at Esalen half a century ago, draws on a rich tradition of the mind-body practices at Esalen. The unusual thing about her class is that there are no adjustments. In most yoga classes, the teacher walks around the room and tells students they are doing something

wrong. At Yoga at the Pavilion, students are encouraged to be flexible, be present in their own muscles, and notice what feels right, rather than struggling to fit a rigid idea of each pose. The emphasis is on presence, rather than conformity. Pam says the way you are doing yoga is OK, and maybe your body is OK the way it is.

A longtime student explained, "Pam does not care about how you are doing the poses. She just wants us to stretch, and work on strengthening our core muscles. You will really like the class and feel good at the end."

Pam was a volunteer in the Peace Corps (Nepal), a long-term resident teacher at Esalen, and a long-term contractor at NASA.

Yoga at the Pavilion, a Los Gatos Saratoga Recreation class, meets Thursday mornings at 10:15 a.m. Drop-in is \$15. FlexPass (any five classes) is \$12 per class. Registration for eight consecutive classes is \$9.25 per class.

For more information, visit pamwalatka.com.



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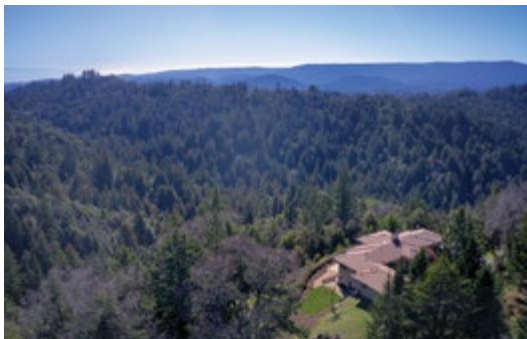
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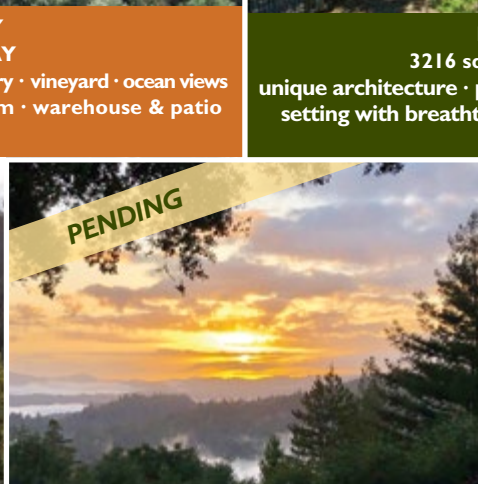
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This information was supplied by reliable sources. Sales Associates believe this information to be correct but has not verified this information and assumes no legal responsibility for its accuracy. Buyers should investigate these issues to their own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

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

Liliya's mountain yoga, 8:20 a.m., in the Loma Prieta community room next to Building Blocks. Walk-ins are welcome. Call 650-284-6341, or email liliyagoldie@gmail.com.

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

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

Thursdays

Yoga at the Redwood Estates Pavilion, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

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.

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

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

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

Santa Clara County Bookmobile

March 12 and 26

Lakeside School: 10 a.m. to noon
Building Blocks: 11:30 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.
Loma Prieta Playfield: 2:15 to 3:30 p.m.
Redwood Estates Pavilion: 4 to 5:15 p.m.

Fridays

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

Centering and Silence (meditation) 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.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, March 1

Assemble packages for troops overseas at Christ Child Church, 23230 Summit Road. 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 3

Presidential Primary Election, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Thursday, March 5

Home-hardening workshop at 21150 Skyline Boulevard, near the intersection of Alpine and Page Mill roads, from 7 to 9 p.m. Register at ssfsc.outreach@gmail.com.

The Loma Prieta School Site Council shows the film *The Next Chapter*, about the effects of screens on children's developing brains, at the Loma Prieta Elementary School Forum. 7 p.m. Admission is \$5.

The Goat Hill Girls play bluegrass at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Friday, March 6

Rock 'n' roll dance band Serious Condition performs at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, 6 to 8:30 p.m.



Thursday, March 12

Wildcat Mountain Ramblers perform at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Friday, March 13

Family-friendly karaoke night at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, 6 to 10 p.m.

Irish harpist and storyteller Patrick Ball performs at Pippa's House Concert next to Mountain Bible Church, on Summit Road. Potluck at 7 p.m. Performance at 8 p.m. Donation is \$25 at the door. For information and reservations, email pippasiersema@yahoo.com, or call 408-529-5610.

Thursday, March 19

The Loma Prieta School Site Council shows the film *Screenagers*, about the effects of screens on children's developing brains, at the Loma Prieta Elementary School Forum. 7 p.m. Admission is \$5.

A.J. Lee and Blue Summit perform at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, 6 to 8:30 p.m.



Wednesday, March 25

Family-friendly karaoke night at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, 6 to 10 p.m.

Thursday, March 26

Summit Sisters play from 8 to 10:30 p.m. at Michael's on Main in Soquel.



Community members present the histories of Summit settlers from 1850 to 1950 at the Loma Prieta Elementary School Forum. 7 p.m. Sponsored by the Loma Prieta Museum and the Loma Prieta Community Foundation. Free.

Friday, March 27

Fourth Friday documentaries. The film *Paper Clips* shows how students cope with the Holocaust. Noon to 3 p.m. at Skyland Church. Lunch will be served.

Sunday, March 29

Concert pianist Alina Kiryayeva performs at the Los Gatos High School Theatre, at 2:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 at the door, \$20 for seniors, and \$5 for students.

Saturday, April 18

Lakeside School Foundation hosts its annual auction and fundraiser, 5:30 p.m., at the Los Gatos Masonic Center. Tickets can be purchased at <http://tiny.cc/lakesideschool>.

Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19

Goodwill donation drive and e-waste fundraiser at the Building Blocks Preschool parking lot, 23845 Summit Road. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Watsonville to Davenport

The Rail and Trail

Neil Wiley

It's still in pieces, but the Santa Cruz County Rail and Trail is coming together. It took lots of planning, money, and compromises between train and trail lovers. Although building a viable train service will take longer, the existing right-of-way and tracks provide a solid basis for a 32-mile route from Watsonville to Davenport.

In 2015, a test train ran the route from Watsonville to Bonny Doon, just a few miles short of Davenport. (To see a video of the trip, visit the "Friends of Rail and Trail" website at santacruzrail.org. Click on *exploring*, then *rail trail videos*.)

The project is supported by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, California Coastal Commission, local governments, and Measure D funding.

While preserving rail-transit options for the future, the Rail and Trail offers safer, off-street access to 92 parks, 45 schools, and half the county population. It will be open to walkers, runners, bikers, wheelchair-users, and equestrians. To make it even better, another 18 miles of spur trails will add more useful connections.

Few users will need to travel the entire length of the trail. Many access points encourage use by commuters, children walking or biking to school, visitors and tourists visiting parks, seniors and people with disabilities, and others who don't want to drive a car.

Progress is real. In March 2019, the Regional Transportation Commission



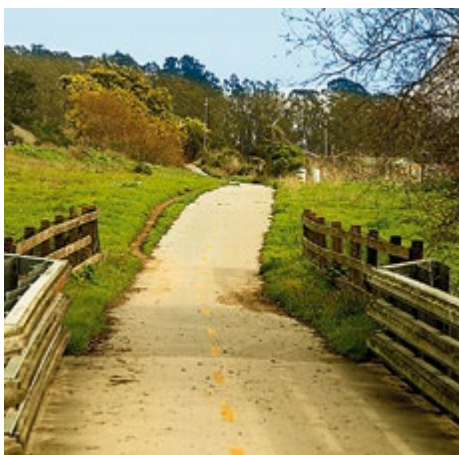
cleared the way for final design and construction of the 7.5-mile segment from Wilder Ranch to Davenport. On January 25, 2020, Westside Santa Cruz celebrated groundbreaking for a 1.3-mile segment between Natural Bridges and Bay Street. In the meantime, you can enjoy some trail pieces before they are finished.

If you want ocean views, giant bluffs, and miles of beaches, visit the Davenport/Wilder

Ranch segment. I especially like the views from the Davenport Bluffs. I park in the big field across the road from "downtown" Davenport. To the left are rough and rocky steps that look dangerous, so I go to the right of the field where an easier path takes me down to the tracks. I go back left along the tracks to find a gulley trail up a short way to a large field with a short loop to the south edge. From there it's a great view of bluffs, beaches, and a sea stack, especially when big waves are breaking. When I feel courageous, I climb back via the steeper rock steps.

Going south are beaches named Bonny Doon, Yellobank, Panther, and several in Wilder Ranch. Wilder also has good trails on both sides of the freeway plus a ranch with





lots of history. Closer to Davenport, we can anticipate the opening of the San Vicente Redwoods and Coast Dairies properties for more exploration opportunities.

In the City of Santa Cruz, you can see a beautiful example of co-existing rail and trail on the bridge east of the Boardwalk. From the bridge, you also get good views of the Boardwalk, the San Lorenzo River, and several trails.

You can climb up the railroad bridge above the Santa Cruz Boat Harbor for views of the harbor and lighthouse to the south, and trails around the upper harbor to the north.



march 2020



The track continues along Capitola Road. As you enter Capitola, you'll see a nice view of Monterey Bay and the Capitola Wharf. Park in the lot overlooking the water, and then take the stairs up to the trail. You can walk into town, walk along the river walk to see the Capitola Trestle, and take a side trip to the Esplanade for food and drink at Zeldas.

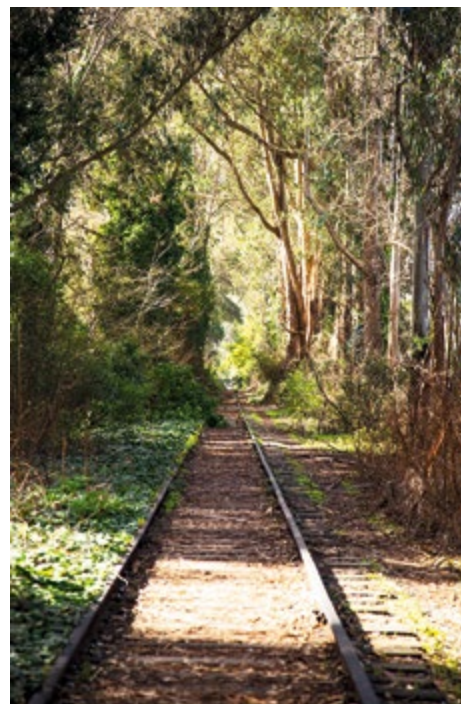
Further east on Park, watch for a eucalyptus forest on the right. The railroad track and an informal trail run for several miles along a narrow strip of land between the road and the ocean down to New Brighton State Park.

Other interesting places along the tracks are Aptos Village Bridge, La Selva Beach and Bridge, and Manresa State Beach.

Hopefully, we soon can use more formal trails to these sites. Even better, someday we may see them from the train.

Enjoy.

Celebrating life in the Santa Cruz Mountains



page 21

history

Clara Burrell's Postcards

Early mountain pioneer
Lyman Burrell's daughter
Clara collected postcards
in the early 1900s addressed
to her at Wrights, California.

Cards have been reduced
in size from the originals
in Marlene Wiley's
Mountain History Archive.





gallery

The Great Egret Mercury Freedom

I've been walking the shores of Lexington Reservoir since my wife and I moved here in 1989. I've always felt that the Great Egret is an especially beautiful bird. It is easy to take this bird for granted as they are so common here, but they are majestic flyers and, like heron, wonderfully patient hunters.

Not only do they hunt small fish in the shallows, where we most often see them, but I've also seen them range into fields to hunt mice. I was fascinated to see a Great Egret in a field in tall weeds. The afternoon breeze was flowing, and the egret's neck moved in time with the nearby weeds, allowing it to blend with the environment.



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Love is in the Air (and Water)

Bruce Sudweeks

Springtime is just around the corner. Just in time for Valentine's Day, the local California newts (*Taricha torosa*) are mating. Their mating season is from December to early May.

The photo was taken at Lexington Reservoir in early February. The mating newts were concentrated around the areas in which Limekiln and Soda Springs creeks empty into the lake. The highest concentration of mating newts was near the Limekiln creek area.

The newts, also referred to as orange-bellied newts, are endemic to California. There are two subspecies; the local newts along the coast and a separate population in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

The newts have few natural predators, because their skin contains a very potent neurotoxin. The toxin is strong enough to kill a human if ingested, so it is not a good idea to handle newts.

This species of newt has a homing instinct. They tend to return to the area where they hatched during mating season. So, if you miss seeing them this mating season, look for them next year about the same time.



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schools

Loma Prieta Joint Union School District
Measure R

Your Dollars, Their Future
Lisa Fraser

The Loma Prieta Joint Union School District continues to make progress on the first phase of improvement projects supported by the first issuance of the Measure-R bond, totaling \$3.6 million.

Our Measure-R Citizens' Oversight Committee addressed the board of trustees in October, to certify that all expenditures authorized by voters have been spent judiciously. Here is a summary of our progress to date.

The fire-restoration project is now 100 percent complete. Fire-restoration project improvements that were not covered by fire insurance include a larger art/STEM room, an upgraded kitchen facility, air

conditioning in new buildings, upgrades to the electrical, energy-management, and security systems, and an expanded patio area outside the kitchen facility. We also repaired the eastside gym siding, and upgraded the kiln room.

The pedestrian-bridge upgrade that was required for Division of State Architects certification is now completed.

The elementary school track-and-field renovation is underway. Architectural drawings of a new all-weather track-and-field play area with improved irrigation systems were completed. A topography study influenced the final track and field design plans, and geotechnical reports were sent to Division of State Architects. We expect to receive construction bids in the coming weeks, and will award contracts in April. Construction should begin in May, with a targeted completion date in September.

The completed north campus asbestos abatement, portable removal, and nearly

complete refurbishment of our well system, were paid for with alternative funding.

More information regarding Measure R bond projects can be found on our district webpage at <https://www.loma.k12.ca.us>, under District News.

What is Screen Time Doing to Your Children? Screenagers and The Next Chapter

Elyse Fairweather

It may seem ironic, but investing in some screen time can show you how it is impacting your children.

The Loma Prieta Elementary School Site Council is showing two films about the effects of screens on our children's developing brains. *The Next Chapter* will be shown **Thursday, March 5**, at 7 p.m. *Screenagers* will be shown **Thursday, March 19**, at 7 p.m. The films will be shown at the Loma Prieta Elementary School Forum. A ticket is \$5. (Scholarships are available.)

To order your tickets, visit <https://www.eventcombo.com/o/loma-prieta-school-site-council-35922>.



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STEAM at Lakeside

Shama Marshall

The science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) curriculum at Lakeside is designed to create playful and surprising *a-ha* moments for children—the types of experiences that ignite a curiosity and excitement that can last a lifetime. Our students have been enjoying many hands-on STEAM projects integrated into their curriculum.

Our kindergarten class read *Are You My Mother*, by P. D. Eastman, and then created a chart of the differences between living and non-living things. Most students at first thought that trees and other plants are not alive, but changed their minds after learning about the life cycle of trees. They examined the rings from tree slices, and made a tree-ring timeline of their own lives. They discussed habitats and read about redwood forests, then walked around campus to observe and draw pictures of the plants, animals, and insects that live at our school.



After learning about Groundhog Day, they traced their shadows on the blacktop. They returned to their tracings throughout the day and observed how their shadows shifted over time.

Our first- and second-graders are learning about food chains and food webs. They created imaginary animals and connected them to food sources with yarn to create a food web. They also made colored paper food chains to trace the origins of their favorite foods. They looked at the work of street artist Thank You X and made two-dimensional cube drawings using cool colors for geometric lines and shapes, and warm colors for organic lines and shapes. These will be used to create a street-style mural.

The third- and fourth-grade students explored energy. They designed and presented posters of their own Rube Goldberg-style machines. They made and tested their own windmill designs, then shared their methodology, results, and



conclusions with the class.

Our fifth-grade class attended the first of three Stanford Live Performances that focus on how music is shaped by culture and inversely, how culture is influenced by music. In this first performance, Melody of China, the class learned about beauty and versatility of Chinese instruments. The students started working on their fifth-grade quilt, a long-standing Lakeside tradition. Students selected a marine creature to embroider on their quilt square.

The STEAM curriculum is just one of the many essential programs that the Lakeside School Foundation supports at our school. Their annual auction is on **Saturday, April 18**, at 5:30 p.m., at the Los Gatos Masonic Center in downtown Los Gatos. This year's theme is Havana Nights. We welcome community members to attend Lakeside School Foundation's primary fundraising event of the year. Tickets can be purchased at <http://tiny.cc/lakesideschool>.

Photos by Elizabeth Greer

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Lexington School Deanna Wilk

A big part of Lexington is the spirit with which we teach students the skills they need to be empathetic, wise, and active lifelong learners. That teaching spirit is embodied in the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme. This approach teaches students to be inquisitive.

In February, Lexington's IB coordinator Kristin Johnson introduced new parents to IB and led them in a workshop to explore its multi-disciplinary nature. She inspired them by reading *Going Places*, by Peter and Paul Reynolds, that tells about two students who create something entirely original based on their real-world observations, and by prioritizing their end goal over an expected process. Kristin also led a workshop for students new to IB, expanding their view of what learning looks like at school and beyond.

In the classroom, first-graders are exploring the IB theme of "where we are in place and time." Students have been tracking their observations of the night sky, painting what they see each night on black paper to discover the phases of the moon. They also made their paper *Flat Stanley*, and



mailed him to a friend or relative. They will plot the movement and destinations of *Flat Stanley* to understand maps and globes while exploring history.

Second-graders are documenting their family histories through photographs and stories, to get a sense of how family history shapes identity. Using primary and secondary sources, they will connect the similarities and differences between their family members and themselves, to reinforce their sense of self and encourage pride in their family history.

Meanwhile, fifth-graders are busy working on their advertising unit, exploring how to use persuasive techniques and media to influence people. Using research-based marketing tools and their own words, sounds, and images, students make persuasive commercials. They are collaborating, reaching out to community members, analyzing data, and creating a convincing marketing proposal. This is one of fifth grade's most rewarding projects.

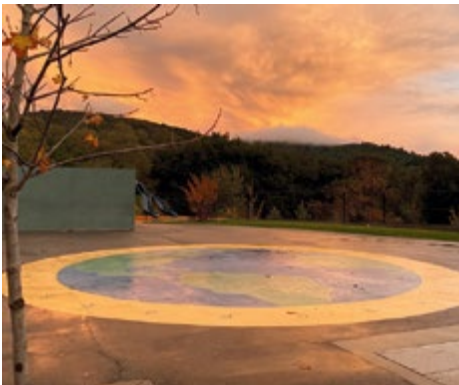
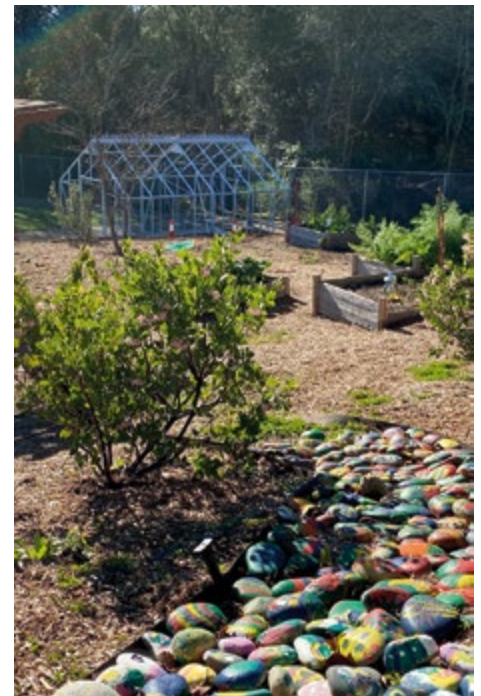
School-wide, we honored our students who stood out as role models on campus.

Our district has embarked on the creation of a five-year strategic plan. Drawing on the input from many focus groups, the plan focuses on six profiles it will develop in students: critical thinking, empathy,

collaboration, communication, learner's mindset, and adaptability. These intertwined profiles support our IB profiles, providing a solid foundation for student success.

Lexington is getting a greenhouse. Construction is underway thanks to the donations and hard work of dedicated parents. Seeing our greenhouse take shape is energizing our campus. Green team leaders are energizing our students by sharing the environmental initiatives from our global community. The latest is the work of an innovative young Dutch scientist and the Ocean Cleanup project that cleans polluted rivers before they enter the ocean.

Photos by Deanna Wilk



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Building Blocks

How Families Make It Work

Alexandra Hughmanick

Building Blocks' February open house was a wonderful success. We enjoyed engaging with new families in our community. Guests had the opportunity to meet teachers and current families, tour the school, and of course, play. If you missed the open house and would like to schedule a visit, email membership_bb@lpcf.org.

One question that we often receive is, "How do families incorporate Building Blocks into their schedules?" Young families are busier than ever, but they manage to participate in our play-based preschool.

Whether families work in the classroom or not, we see cooperation among parents, extended families, childcare providers, and neighbors in support of children. Child care



situations vary among our families. A survey of enrolled families showed a fairly even mix of both parents working outside the home full time, and one parent staying home full time.

For families that opt to work in the classroom, they do so with a parent, grandparent, nanny, or some other help. The same survey showed nearly 75 percent have two or more children in their household, but most have only one child enrolled at Building Blocks.

These families appreciate being able to bring younger siblings to their working days. The younger siblings love it, too. Some parents with jobs outside the home manage their work schedules to accommodate classroom shifts or use a nanny. Monthly schedules are built with consideration for family requests, and shared in advance. It's not uncommon for families to swap working days or hire a substitute from the available pool when schedules don't align.

Families who can't accommodate working in the classroom pay an adjusted tuition. These families employ a nanny, family member, neighbor, or a daycare provider to assist with pick-up, drop-off, and child care when the parent's schedule doesn't allow them to be here during the day. When one family member participates in the classroom, the majority of respondents to our survey said other family members supported the maintenance days and co-op jobs.

Building Blocks will host a two-week fundraising campaign from March 2 through March 13. For more information about our fundraiser or school, visit www.buildingblockscoop.org.



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