



mn

mountain network news

May 2021





**Paula Leary** · 408.425.3345  
p.leary@ggsir.com · Lic. #01469235

**Terry Leary** · 408.921.4343  
terry.leary@ggsir.com · Lic. #01854782

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[nevisandardizzoneteam@compass.com](mailto:nevisandardizzoneteam@compass.com)  
DRE 70010073

Los Gatos Mountains



SALE PENDING

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\$1,650,000  
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**Lisa Sgarlato**  
408.396.7231  
[lisa.sgarlato@compass.com](mailto:lisa.sgarlato@compass.com)  
DRE 01342694

Aptos



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**Sebastian Frey**  
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Los Gatos Mountains



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4 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 1750 Sq Ft

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408.396.7231  
[lisa.sgarlato@compass.com](mailto:lisa.sgarlato@compass.com)  
DRE 01342694

Los Gatos Mountains



**24705 Spanish Oaks Road**  
\$1,275,000  
4 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 3.83 Acres




**Leigh Ann Huff**  
408.656.7922  
[leighann.huff@compass.com](mailto:leighann.huff@compass.com)  
DRE 01147997

Los Gatos Mountains



**17775 Kiowa Trail**  
\$1,245,000  
3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1696 Sq Ft

**Lisa Sgarlato**  
408.396.7231  
[lisa.sgarlato@compass.com](mailto:lisa.sgarlato@compass.com)  
DRE 01342694

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**COMPASS**

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Neil Wiley

### Associate publisher

#### Art director

Kathy McKinney

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Neil Wiley

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

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

### 2021 Ad Rates

Business card, vertical (3 3/4" high by 2 1/2" wide)	\$150
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Four-color business card	add \$100
Frequency discounts available.	
Classified and business directory	\$8 per formatted line

### Circulation

More than 4000 homes and businesses  
in the Santa Cruz Mountains



## COVER

### Blue Herons

Photography by Mercury Freedom

Many birds  
flock together.

While still competitive,  
they join forces  
to protect  
their fledglings.

They may seem fragile,  
but together  
they can drive a  
predator away.

Communities  
can do the same.

Working together  
we can protect  
our children.

We will  
Save our Schools.



Mountain Network News

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# Lisa Sgarlato

# IS

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## 17775 Kiowa Trail

Los Gatos

\$1,245,000 | [17775KiowaTrail.com](http://17775KiowaTrail.com)

3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1696 Sq Ft

Experience the best of mountain living in this stunning, serene, remodeled home in Cheme-keta Park. Beautifully appointed, spacious floor plan, high soaring ceilings, large picture windows & skylights. Hardwood floors, chef's kitchen, master suite with walk-in closet. 2 full baths, heated floors, subway tiles. Gorgeous landscaping, private, sunny backyard with artificial turf, play-structure. Storage, Generac generator, detached finished office. Great community, close to town. Best Los Gatos schools: Lexington, Fisher, & Los Gatos High.



## 17770 Old Summit Road

Los Gatos

\$2,499,000 | [17770OldSummitRoad.com](http://17770OldSummitRoad.com)

4 Bed | 4 Bath | 3430 Sq Ft

Incredible retreat property in the Los Gatos Mountains. Single-level home offering privacy, stunning views and expansive park-like grounds. Vaulted ceiling with exposed wood beams, huge picture windows, skylights. Gourmet kitchen, breakfast bar, dining, pantry. Master suite with fireplace, walk-in closet. Bonus office and media rooms. Expansive wraparound deck with views. Magical gardens, pool, poolhouse with wetbar. 3-car garage, electric car charger, solar, central heat/air. Great location near Hwy 17/Summit. Best LG Schools. Paradise Found!

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## resources



### **Be Prepared** **Online CERT Training**

**Ron Morin**  
Director of Loma Prieta CERT

Online training that meets the requirements of phase one of the new three-phase approach to CERT certification is now available. The link is: <https://medicine.utah.edu/rmcoeh/about-us/outreach/cert/student.php>.

If you decide to pursue this training, email me at [rmorin@lomaprietafire.org](mailto:rmorin@lomaprietafire.org) when you log in and start the training. Please provide a copy of your completion certificate when you have completed phase one. Upon completion, submit your certificate to: <https://forms.gle/N4GD9EYVA4EcsCj58>.

We will then submit your information to the county CERT organization in order to start the phase-two training that will be led by an instructor online. This is the current outline for online training:

#### **Phase One**

Complete the 12-hour FEMA-developed online training, broken into nine units. You must complete phase one before signing up for phase two.

#### **Phase Two**

Complete the six-hour, instructor-led online training which provides local information, triage training, and a review of the online CERT training. Once completed, you will receive a free backpack filled with personal-protective gear (PPE) and your CERT certification.

#### **Phase Three**

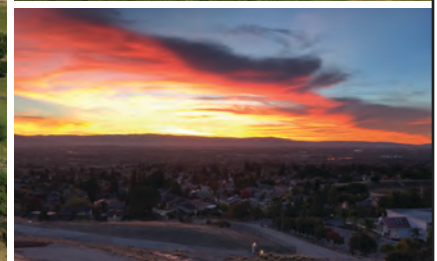
Once we can meet in person again, we will host a hands-on session where you can demonstrate your CERT-related skills.

### **Be Prepared**

Be prepared for local emergencies with CERT training. It will teach you to help people and do it safely. You will be able to perform the greatest good for the greatest number of people. In a widespread disaster, we need to rely on each other, especially in a remote area or one with limited access. Professional services may not be able to respond fast enough.

The skills taught allow you to perform low-risk, high-benefit actions that can save lives and reduce property loss. CERT training will develop life-saving skills with an emphasis on decision-making ability and rescuer safety.

CERT teams provide immediate assistance by triaging those injured, putting out small fires, turning off utilities, performing search and rescue, and collecting disaster intelligence to assist professional responders in allocating limited resources.



## **O CASA DE FERNANDEZ, SAN JOSE**

Build your dream home on this beautiful  $\pm 17$  acre parcel and enjoy the city lights as you watch the transcending sunset every night. Currently the property has an over producing well and is ready to have someone build a home for their family. This property had site approval from the county back in the early 2000s, but it will be up to the buyer to determine what will need to be done in order to build currently. **Offered at \$1,650,000.**

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*Gorgeous, mostly useable,  $\pm 17$  acre, single family parcel in  
Evergreen Hills, with incredible views of all of Silicon Valley  
and the surrounding mountains.*



**Marisa Thompson**  
408.761.0609  
[marisa.thompson@ggsir.com](mailto:marisa.thompson@ggsir.com)  
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**Santa Cruz County  
Let's Meet**

**First District Supervisor Manu Koenig**

I am happy that we have resumed monthly Summit constituent meetings. We held our first Summit meeting on March 17, and had an excellent turn-out with over 140 people attending the virtual meeting.

We heard from several residents concerning the status of road repairs, fire preparedness, and utility coverage. We continue to work on addressing these issues. I can report that several of these much-needed road repairs have been completed.

Summit meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 19**, from 6 to 7 p.m. To register for Summit meetings, visit <https://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/Government/BoardofSupervisors/District1.aspx>.

**Constituent Meetings**

In addition to the monthly Summit meeting, the First District also hosts constituent meetings on the Monday preceding each board of supervisors meeting. At these meetings, I will ask for your input about agenda items.

I invite you to come to these meetings to share your opinions, so I can better represent you. We have three board meetings in May. I will hold agenda-review constituent meetings on **May 10, May 17, and May 24**, from 6 to 7 p.m. To register for these virtual meetings, visit <https://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/Government/BoardofSupervisors/District1.aspx>.

**Roads Update**

Over the last month, First District staff worked to identify and track much-needed road repairs in the district. Several priorities have been addressed.

Completed projects include Granite



**The temporary bridge on Redwood Lodge Road at Laurel Lodge**

Creek Road-PM 1.65, Schulties Road-PM 0.51, Stetson Road-PM 1.08 and 1.20, Vine Hill Road-PM 1.18 and 1.27, Jarvis Road-PM 0.15 and 1.66, Morrell Road-PM 1.30, and Miller Cutoff-PM 0.1. It's good to see that so many of these vital mountain roads have been restored. Thank you to our Department of Public Works for working diligently to get these sites improved.

Repairs are scheduled for several other Summit-area roads. Branciforte Drive-PM 2.22: construction may begin as soon as June 15. Schulties Road-PM 2.05: the design phase is 95 percent complete, but utilities must be relocated and permits are needed before construction begins in 2022.

We were asked at the March Summit meeting about the status of the bridge on Redwood Lodge Road-PM 1.80. A temporary bridge has been placed to allow access. The final design is still in process, with construction expected in 2022-23.

Work on Old Santa Cruz Highway-PM

1.01, 1.20, 1.36, and 1.06 is pending FEMA review. Construction is likely next year.

**Fire Preparedness**

Our office has a staff member dedicated to tracking developments related to fire preparedness, including proposed legislative changes. We work closely with constituents, county departments, CalFire, and state agencies to monitor fire-related issues that affect our mountain residents.

In April, staff participated in several forestry and fire-protection webinars. Over the course of the next month, we will work on a proposal for wildfire camera locations.

We will continue to work closely with mountain residents on issues that affect you. As always, we welcome your feedback. Email us at [first.district@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:first.district@santacruzcounty.us), and join us for constituent meetings. Visit District 1 ([santa-cruz.ca.us](http://santa-cruz.ca.us)) for a complete list of upcoming meetings.

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# resources

## Mechanic's Liens How Do You Get One? How Do You Give One?

Pat Wendleton  
Pratt & Associates

A mechanic's lien (also called a construction lien) is a legal claim against a home or other property, typically used by subcontractors and suppliers when they haven't received payment for improvements they made to a property. They are a way to seek payment for the work done remodeling or improving a home.

### Triggering a Lien

The types of work which allow a subcontractor to record a mechanic's lien on your property are diverse. It can be construction of a building, an addition to your home, remodeling, or simple repairs. Landscaping, including seeding, laying sod, or planting for landscaping purposes can also engender a mechanic's lien.

A lien can be recorded on your property by any person who supplied materials used in the performance of the work on your property. It can also be recorded by the provider of rental equipment that the

direct contractor didn't own. For example, a scissor lift you thought belonged to the direct contractor can trigger a lien.

A lien can be triggered even when physical property is not involved. A professional hired to design some or all the work on your property can record a mechanic's lien, as can an individual who performed the actual labor on your home.

### Limitations

A lien can't be recorded unless actual work has begun on your property, but the slightest visible work will suffice. A materials supplier must show that the materials were furnished for, or delivered to, your property. In addition, the supplier must show that the materials were actually used for, or consumed, in the work done on your property.

The character of the work done and materials provided must be of a structural or permanent nature, whether visible or not. For example, a lien may be claimed for landscaping and maintenance necessary to ensure that planting is well established on the ground. It does not, however, apply to maintenance, such as the mowing and watering of a lawn, that takes place after the lawn is established.

### Recording and Payment Bond

A mechanic's lien must be filed within a certain timeframe after the work is completed. The recording must also be made before a foreclosure of the lien can proceed. If a mechanic's lien is recorded on your property, but not timely foreclosed, you can have the lien removed.

To avoid the recording of a lien, a property owner should have the direct contractor purchase a payment bond. This limits the owner's liability in all cases to the contract price, protecting the owner from any failure of the direct contractor to perform the contract and make full payment to all claimants for all work provided.

The direct contractor's payment bond must be an amount not less than 50 percent of the price stated in the direct contract. The bond is only effective if the owner records the direct contract and the payment bond with the county recorder.

### Payment Schedule

A property owner can avoid the complexities of mechanic's liens by including a payment schedule for phases of the work in the written contract, including the price for each segment. Identify all subcontractors and laborers for each phase, and include a detailed listing of materials supplied.

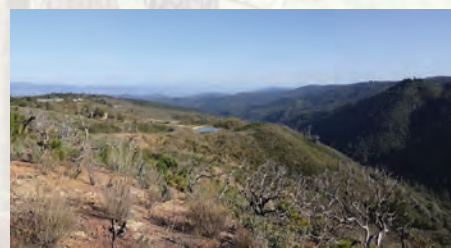
## Call me about my new listing in Summit Woods!



**BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME!** Gorgeous land awaiting your new home! This property has it all – location, views, well, & previous (expired) site approval for a spacious 5-bedroom house plus 3-car garage. Plans and reports available in escrow. Gently rolling terrain with sun, trees, seasonal creek, and plenty of room for horses, vineyard, fruit trees... Live your dreams! End of road privacy. Bordered by Open Space. Minutes to downtown Los Gatos. Superb school district. Must see to appreciate! **\$699,000**



**OWN YOUR OWN BEAUTIFUL PARK!** Nearly 50 acres of gorgeous acreage on 2 separate parcels, with majestic stands of redwoods, a creek running through it, and several potential building sites. Zoning is TPZ, which allows for a 10-year logging plan, if you desire. Lots of logging roads cut in, which make great hiking trails! Property is bordered by State Park. Absolutely stunning! Located 2.5 miles north of Boulder Creek. A steal at **\$499,000!**



**YOUR OWN PRIVATE GETAWAY!** Looking for land? Nearly 40 acres of spectacular ridgtop property awaiting your imagination! Views to Morgan Hill on the north side (bordered by Open Space), and overlooking Uvas Canyon to the south. Existing workshop with finished second story. Electricity available at street. Private well. Seasonal pond. Acres of usable land. 45 min. to Los Gatos or Santa Cruz. Private but not isolated. Los Gatos schools! **\$599,000**



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### Paperwork

Be sure to keep careful track of all paperwork for improvements to your property. A preliminary notice is required from subcontractors and suppliers if there is a chance that they may need to record a lien on your property. The notice states that the subcontractor or supplier has provided, or will provide, goods and services to improve your property and could file a lien claim if they aren't paid. Subcontractors and suppliers who don't provide you with the notice lose the right to file a lien.

Retain any notices you receive and note the date you received them. Preliminary notices may be delivered in person or sent by certified, registered, or first-class mail before work begins or supplies are delivered, and up to twenty days thereafter. If notice is given after those twenty days, payment is required only for work done twenty days before the notice is delivered and anytime thereafter.

### Progress Payments

The simplest way to prevent liens of subcontractors or suppliers is to make progress payment checks payable to both the direct contractor and the supplier or subcontractor. Require that the direct contractor provide you with the materials

supplier and subcontract bills at the time a progress payment is due. Issue joint checks after making sure the work was done as described.

Before making a payment, get a conditional release from possible lien claimants. The direct contractor is required to get release signatures for you from potential lien claimants. Upon completion, request an unconditional release signed by each of the subcontractors or materials suppliers paid for the portion of work covered by the progress payment. The law allows you to withhold the next payment until you get the unconditional releases for the previous payment.

### Completion

A property owner should record a notice of completion with the county recorder's office within 15 days of completion. A notice of completion limits the time that subcontractors, materials suppliers, and laborers have to record a mechanic's lien. The notice-of-completion form can be obtained from the county recorder's office.

The size of the job or cost of the work



controls how much resistance you can expect from the contractor and how much effort you want to put in to making sure all subcontractors, materials suppliers, and laborers are paid. In a smaller job, simply issuing both progress and final checks to both the direct contractor and the subcontractors or materials suppliers might be enough.

**Pratt & Associates law firm, founded in 2006, is located in Los Gatos. The firm provides personalized service and advice to businesses, landowners, homeowners, and individuals.**





## events

### Save our Schools with Lemon-AID

Diane Tosetti

President, Loma Public Education Fund

You might see signs for a lemonade stand coming on **Friday, May 28**, and wonder, "What is that all about?"

In 2010, our community schools lost a parcel tax measure (Measure G) for \$95 per parcel. At the time, pink slips were going out to teachers in March and only local fundraising saved those positions.

When life gave us lemons, our community provided lemonade. People throughout the mountains stopped by the stand to buy \$95 cups of lemonade. We raised over \$18,000 in just one weekend to help save our schools.

Soon after, our community passed Measure H. The measure provided a parcel tax of \$164 per parcel that yielded \$328,000 in revenue each year to our schools.

Unfortunately, while 65 percent of our community voted to renew that parcel tax, we lost our Measure N renewal last year by a handful of votes. Our schools are preparing for the lost revenue to impact the 2021/22 school budget. So, we are setting up our lemonade stand again.

On May 28, help us cross the finish line



on the last day of our KEEP campaign. Make your voluntary contribution of \$164 (or any amount) while enjoying some lemonade to Save Our Schools.

If you want to make your lemonade donations sooner, go to [www.lpef.org/](http://www.lpef.org/) donate, or use the envelope insert from the April issue of the *Mountain Network News*.

For more information, email [KEEP@LPEF.org](mailto:KEEP@LPEF.org).

### Los Gatos Library Webinar

#### Veteran Newsman Duffy Jennings Mary Brence Martin

Bay Area newsman Duffy Jennings will give an online talk on **Wednesday, May 5**, at 5 p.m. He will give us the inside scoop on his remarkable life and his fascinating memoir, *Reporter's Notebook: A San Francisco Chronicle Journalist's Diary of the Shocking Seventies*.

During the '70s, Duffy, a star reporter at the *Chronicle*, covered some of the biggest stories of that tumultuous period, including



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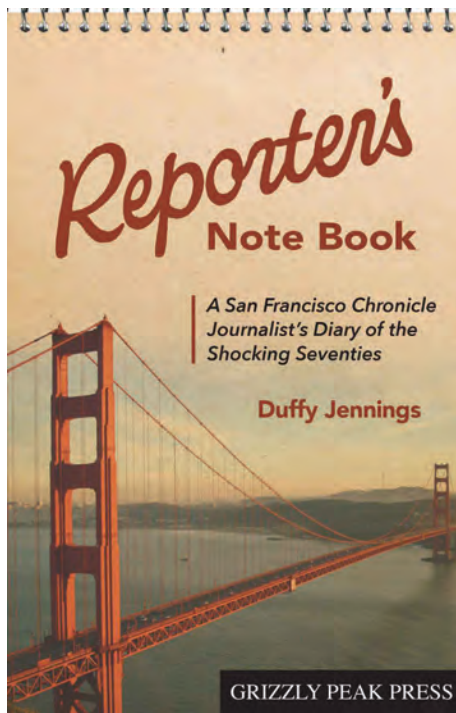
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the assassinations of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk, the Patty Hearst kidnapping, the Golden Dragon Massacre, and the Zodiac serial killings.

In 1980, he left the *Chronicle* to join the San Francisco Giants as their vice president of public relations. He supervised 1,000 media personnel from around the world

when the Loma Prieta earthquake struck during the opening game of the 1989 World Series.

After the Giants were sold in 1993, Duffy opened his own public relations firm, working with dozens of clients, including Hewlett-Packard, The Tech Museum of Innovation, Willie Mays, and the U.S. Olympic Committee. In 2008, he became vice president of communications for the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, headquartered in San Jose.

He has other South Bay connections. Before retiring to Danville, he lived in Los Gatos on Bayview Avenue, and married his present wife, Bonnie Becker, in a ceremony at an Old Town restaurant. (His first wife was newscaster Cheryl Jennings, an anchor on San Francisco's ABC 7.) In addition to writing articles for many local and national publications, Duffy was the founder of *Los Gatos Magazine*.

Interwoven in *Reporter's Notebook* are stories of his personal life, including memories of growing up in San Francisco and of his mother who owned one of the first gay bars in the city.

Duffy was originally scheduled to speak in person at the library last year, but the talk was postponed with the COVID-19 shutdown. We're delighted to have the chance to hear from him now.

Use this link to join the webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81714680278?pwd=dXd5cDd6by9YOVVkbm9rMytLMzY3UT09>. The passcode is 170474. You can also join by telephone; call 888-398-2342. The conference code is 589749.

#### **Celebration of Life Linda Forbes**

Family, friends, and community members are invited to a celebration of the life of Linda Forbes, on **Sunday, May 23**. The celebration starts at 11 a.m. at the Redwood Estates Pavilion.



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PROPERTIES



### **22152 Old Santa Cruz Hwy, Los Gatos**

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**Listed at \$1,675,000**

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Separate Guesthouse

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# events



## Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue Our Annual Barbecue is Back on September 12 Toni Sheppard

The barbecue may look a little different this year, but the tradition continues. Get ready for fun, food, exhibits, and fundraising at the Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue annual barbecue on **Sunday, September 12.**

The same yummy barbecue food will be served at the Loma Prieta Playfield and Gazebo. We may also offer pre-ordered take-out meals for pick-up at the barbecue. Stay tuned for details, currently being finalized according to California CDC guidelines.

We're offering extra fun between June and September. Watch for LPVFR scavenger hunt details in the *Mountain Network News* and on the LPVFR website. The hunt begins in June, then continues in July, August, and September before the barbecue. Watch for one scavenger hunt piece/clue each month. The first 36 people to bring all correct pieces to the barbecue on Sunday, September 12, will win a prize (one per family, please). An extra prize will be given for correctly guessing the reason for "36."



We look forward to sharing food and fun together in our community again. Join us at this traditional event in a safe, sanitized environment.

Want to help? Call Toni Sheppard at 408-603-9191, or email [toni.sheppard@outlook.com](mailto:toni.sheppard@outlook.com).





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**Los Gatos Birdwatcher  
Bird Walks Are Back**  
Kathy McKinney

As COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, Los Gatos Birdwatcher is pleased to restart its Saturday-morning bird walks. Bird walks will be limited to 12 participants, and you must drive to the location separately. Walks begin at 8:30 a.m. and end by 10 a.m. Binoculars can't be shared, and everyone must wear a mask.

Bird walks will be on **Saturday, May 8**, at McClellan Ranch, in Cupertino; **Saturday, May 22**, at Martial Cottle Park, in San Jose; **Saturday, June 5**, at Coyote Creek Parkway, in San Jose; and **Saturday, June 19**, at Vasona County Park, in Los Gatos. Call ahead (408-358-9453) to sign up.

Los Gatos Birdwatcher also offers



**Lazuli bunting**

free bird-identification workshops for participants to learn how to identify four different species of birds found in the Bay Area per season. Workshops are outdoors, in the store's back parking lot (792 Blossom Hill Road in Los Gatos), from 5 to 6 p.m.

They'll go over each species and review behaviors, food, and habitat preferences, and species vocalizations. They suggest you bring a folding chair and field guide with you. Each class is limited to 12 people.

A workshop on **Wednesday, May 26**, will explore the Bewick's wren, house wren, Pacific wren, and rock wren. On **Wednesday, June 23**, the workshop will focus on the California scrub jay, lazuli bunting, western bluebird, and Steller's jay. Call the store at 408-358-9453 to save your spot.



**California scrub jay**



**Bewick's wren**



**Western bluebird**

# Angelé Price

*Spring is Around the Corner  
and the Mountains are Calling!*

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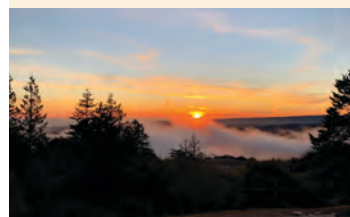
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## PENDING



### 27400 Loma Prieta Way

Work and study happily from home in this paradise. Jaw dropping, top of the world views of Monterey Bay and 2.8 acres of privacy. French doors open to the newer composite back deck overlooking the private vineyard with 4 different grape varieties. Fully fenced for pets. Raised beds. Mostly level parcel. Detached 3 car garage. **\$1,680,000.**

## COMING SOON



### 21550 Madrone Drive

Spectacular canyon views from this peaceful 3 level home in Redwood Estates. Great 10 minute commute to downtown Los Gatos. Downstairs has separate entrance and kitchen. Updated and move in ready! Terraced gardens for vegetables, fruit trees and flowers. Colisted with Monica Lussier. **\$1,400,000.**

## COMING SOON



### Mountain Charlie Road

Quality built home with long range views from both sides of Mt. Charlie. Gorgeous modern kitchen, updated bathrooms, separate family and living rooms for flexible living, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Located on over 2.6 private acres. **\$1,450,000**



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# community

Caltrans, The Nature Conservancy,  
and AMBAG

## A New Virtual-Reality App Addresses Sea-Level Rise On The Central Coast

Colin Jones

Caltrans, the Nature Conservancy, the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, and Virtual Planet Technologies have released a virtual-reality app, Sea Level Rise Explorer, to address sea-level rise on Highway 1 along Elkhorn Slough.

The app marks the first time Caltrans is using an immersive-visualization tool to address sea-level rise and evaluate mitigation options for a major highway in the state. The project builds on Caltrans' effort to enhance the resilience of both transportation infrastructure and coastal habitats to the threats of climate change. In 2017, the department relocated Highway 1 inland near Hearst Castle after coastal erosion threatened the highway.

"Not taking action is not an option," said Caltrans director Toks Omishakin. "Sea-level rise has made the section of Highway 1 near Moss Landing and other coastal routes vulnerable, so Caltrans has made climate action a primary goal. We are making our state transportation system more resilient and sustainable."

By 2030, an eight-mile section of Highway 1 and five miles of railway in Elkhorn Slough—home to extraordinary biological diversity—could experience regular storm and tidal flooding. The



railway east of Highway 1 already experiences flooding at extreme high tides. The marsh area—the third largest in the state—is especially vulnerable. About eight percent of it is projected to be inundated with five feet of sea-level rise.

With fewer acres of coastal wetlands remaining, and half of that area vulnerable to loss from sea-level rise, this virtual-reality tool could prove essential to maintain coastal habitats and helping California reach its goal to protect 30 percent of its land and water-ecosystem targets by 2030. An in-depth analysis published last year by AMBAG (the Central Coast Highway 1 Climate Resiliency Study) demonstrated a new approach to rebuild the highway to benefit commuters and nature. The study highlighted the need to implement solutions by 2050 that would minimize losses to transportation and critical habitats.

"This unique approach to planning,

leveraging available tools, and working in partnership with the state and environmental groups will serve as a model for planning throughout the state," said Heather Adamson, director of planning at AMBAG.

Caltrans recently completed climate-change-vulnerability assessments for all twelve districts, including the Central Coast.

The Sea Level Rise Explorer: Elkhorn Slough experience was developed by Virtual Planet Technologies, a startup in Santa Cruz. The program features a customized 3D virtual space inspired by the visitor center at Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve.

"Virtual Planet uses the latest technology to help coastal communities better understand the impact of climate change and visualize practical solutions," said Julianio Calil, co-founder and chief scientist at Virtual Planet Technologies.

The virtual-reality experience can be



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**Selling the Santa Cruz Mountain Lifestyle**

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viewed using Oculus GO VR goggles, smart phones (iOS and Android), and on the web. A 360-degree film is also available. The \$422,000 Elkhorn Slough project was primarily funded by Senate Bill 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017. For more information on the Central Coast Highway 1 Climate Resiliency project, see [ambag.org](http://ambag.org), or call 831-264-5086.

The Nature Conservancy in California

continues to partner with Virtual Planet Technologies to use virtual reality in communities preparing for climate change. This includes a sea-level-rise tool for Long Beach, and a Wildfire Explorer focusing on the devastating Camp Fire that impacted Paradise in 2018. This tool uses nature-based strategies to help the community recover with resilience. To learn more, visit [nature.org/cacities](http://nature.org/cacities).

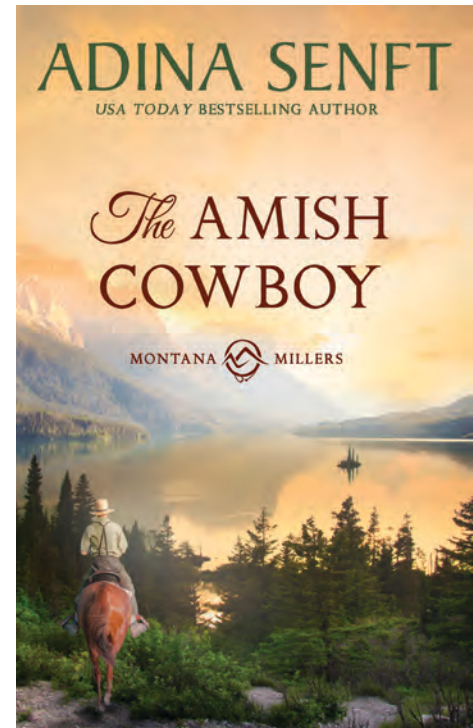
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**Shelley Bates**  
***The Amish Cowboy***

Shelley Bates of Redwood Estates is delighted to announce the release of her new novel, *The Amish Cowboy*, the first in a six-book series of Amish romances. She is happy to share that she hit the *USA Today* bestseller list in a multi-author project entitled *Amish Christmas Miracles*.



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# gallery

## ***Don't Feel the Eel*** **The Wolf Eel**

Bruce Sudweeks

Wolf eels are a great local find. They can live 25 years, and grow to a length close to eight feet, but still weigh only forty pounds. The photo is of a young eel at Stillwater Cove in Carmel Bay.

As eels age, their color changes to grey, and their skin becomes very wrinkled.

Wolf eels are monogamous. They tend to mate for life, and live in the same cave as a pair.

After mating and laying eggs, both parents take part in caring for the young. They take turns leaving the cave to hunt.

Don't get too close! Wolf eels have strong jaws, which they use to crack open shellfish, their primary food source.



*Photography by Bruce Sudweeks*



## **Photos by** **Jenifer Cramer**

I photographed the sea nettle (above) while kayaking In Elkhorn Slough. I found the crab (right) on Scott's Beach. If you look closely, you can see it has a piece of jellyfish in its pinchers.







*Otters*  
*Photography by Mercury Freedom*



*Allen's Hummingbird*  
*Photography by Mercury Freedom*



*Wind and waves*  
*Photography by Bruce Fournier*



## 23060 Evergreen Lane, Los Gatos



4 Beds + Office | 3 Bath | 2,814 SF Home | 1.28 Acres

Mid Century Modern in the Villa! Exposed aggregate concrete flooring, floor to ceiling windows. Chefs kitchen...clean lines, huge island, professional grade appliances, quartz counters. Ipe deck, landscaped yard. Sunny usable land with garden beds, coop, bee hives. 3 car garage. Villa Del Monte mutual water, Comcast Internet.

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## 437 Anchorage Avenue, Santa Cruz



2 Beds | 1 Baths | 731 SF Home | 2,396 SF Lot

Adorable Pleasure Point bungalow, short walk to the beach. Corner lot with sunny spacious lawn area. Back deck and outdoor shower. Open floor plan with gas fireplace in the living room.

**Offered at \$1,099,000**



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16060 Shannon Road



4 Beds | 3 Baths | 2,800 SF Home  
12,933 Lot  
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24210 Summit Woods Dr



4 Beds | 3 Baths | 2,964 SF Home  
1.13 Acres  
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103 Nanna Court



4 Beds | 3.5 Baths | 3,145 SF Home  
8,538 SF Lot  
**Sold for \$1,650,000**

18800 Favre Ridge



3 Beds | 2.5 Baths  
2,772 SF Home  
.95 Acre  
**Offered at \$1,589,000**

310 McAmant Drive



3 Beds | 2.5 Baths  
2,862 SF Home  
4.36 Acres  
**Offered at \$1,499,000**

21860 Bear Creek Way



4 Beds | 3.5 Baths  
2,052 SF Home  
3.6 Acres  
**Offered at \$1,489,000**

20143 Beatty Ridge



4 Beds | 3 Baths  
2,455 SF Home  
34,935 SF LOT  
**Offered at \$1,480,000**

24150 Loma Prieta Ave



3 Beds | 2 Baths  
1,616 SF Home  
3.58 Acres  
**Offered at \$1,200,000**

20974 Pawnee Trail



4 Beds | 2 Baths  
2,630 SF Home  
8,490 SF Lot  
**Offered at \$1,175,000**

294 Burrell Court



2 Beds | 1 Bath  
1,310 SF Home  
1.1 Acres  
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5525 Scotts Valley Dr #8



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1,437 SF Lot  
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# calendar

## ON-GOING CLASSES AND MEETINGS

*Class and meeting schedules are valid as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.*

*Call or email to confirm dates and times.*

### Sundays

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

### Mondays

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

### Tuesdays

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

Pilates 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.

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

### Thursdays

Yoga at the Redwood Estates Pavilion. We meet on Zoom and (weather permitting) 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.

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.

### Saturdays

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

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

### Sundays

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

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

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Sunday, May 2

Deadline to submit free chipping applications for Loma Prieta, Casa Loma, and Loma Chiquita roads

### Wednesday, May 5

Los Gatos Library webinar features veteran local newsman Duffy Jennings. See pages 10-11 for details.

Loma Prieta Joint Union School District holds a virtual budget study session. Email c.vance@loma.k12.ca.us for more information.

### Saturday, May 8

Birdwatcher tour at McClellan Ranch, in Cupertino. Call 408-358-9453 to reserve your spot.

### Monday, May 10

Agenda-review constituent meeting with First District supervisor Manu Koenig, 6 to 7 p.m. See page 7 for details.

### Thursday, May 13

Santa Clara County Bookmobile is at Loma Prieta Playfield/Building Blocks, 1 to 4 p.m. Order items for pickup at www.sccld.org, or call 408-273-2326, ext. 3060.



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#### **Saturday, May 15**

Goodwill donation drive at Lakeside School, 19621 Black Road, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. See page 27 for details.

#### **Sunday, May 16**

Deadline to submit free chipping applications for Idylwild, Oakmont, Wright Drive, and OSCH between Holy City and Highway 17

#### **Monday, May 17**

Agenda-review constituent meeting with First District supervisor Manu Koenig, 6 to 7 p.m. See page 7 for details.

#### **Wednesday, May 19**

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

#### **Saturday, May 22**

Birdwatcher tour at Martial Cottle Park, in San Jose. Call 408-358-9453 to reserve your spot.

#### **Sunday, May 23**

A celebration of the life of Linda Forbes will be at the Redwood Estates Pavilion, 11 a.m.



#### **Monday, May 24**

Agenda-review constituent meeting with First District supervisor Manu Koenig, 6 to 7 p.m. See page 7 for details.

#### **Tuesday, May 25**

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

#### **Wednesday, May 26**

A bird-identification workshop will be held in the rear parking lot at Los Gatos Birdwatcher. Call 408-358-9453 to reserve your spot.

#### **Thursday, May 27**

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

#### **Friday, May 28**

Lemon-AID stand to benefit LPEF. Location will be posted on social media, along Summit, and at [lpef.org](http://lpef.org).



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# exploring

## New Steps on Old Paths Rancho Cañada del Oro Neil Wiley

Fifteen years ago, I hiked in Rancho Cañada del Oro shortly after the Open Space Authority of Santa Clara Valley opened a new trailhead on Casa Loma Road. In my February 2006 exploring article, I called my experience “the perfect hike.”

In late March 2021, I hiked the same preserve. In some ways, it was different. The trail to Longwall Canyon Trail had a different name. Early spring flowers were sprinkled along the trails. It was a few degrees warmer. The grasses and tree-covered hills were dark green. I saw fewer deer, turkeys, birds, and ground squirrels, but I saw them, especially along the lower elevations of Longwall Canyon Trail.

Perhaps others were looking elsewhere for water, because our dry winter had made Baldy Ryan Creek a series of little puddles.

The good news, however, was that little had changed in this 5,428-acre preserve. The trails at the lower elevations wandered through shade as they gently climbed up to wider vistas. Most of the views were of forested hills and valleys. They were not spectacular, but were natural, calming, and free from human development. I enjoyed them in solitude. I saw only four people.

### The Longwell, Bald Peaks, Catamount loop

It seemed counter-intuitive, but I walked back out of the parking lot entrance to find the trail to Longwall Canyon Trail. It was a level, wide, and easy warmup that passed by several deer and a flock of turkeys. But when I reached the Longwall Canyon Trail, it took me up 900 feet. It wasn't an elevator, but the mild grades and slow, gentle curves were more interesting than switchbacks.

It helped that each bend offered new vistas, a variety of plant life, and other surprises. I saw beautiful green grass and spring flowers, including many small fields of California poppies with sprinkles of tiny white yarrow, dark green miner's lettuce, sky lupine, tidy tips, Indian paintbrush, and sticky monkey flower.

After walking through forest and small meadows, I emerged on the open slopes of Bald Peaks Trail. Atop this ridge, the views were more dramatic. Some were to the north and east toward Calero Reservoir, Mount Hamilton, and Silicon Valley. Others looked

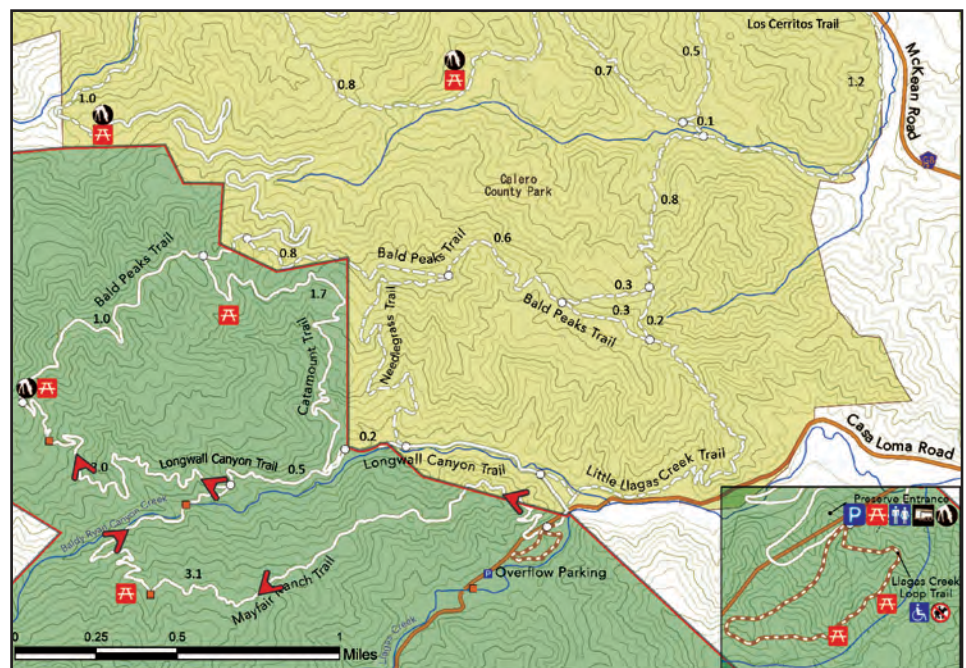
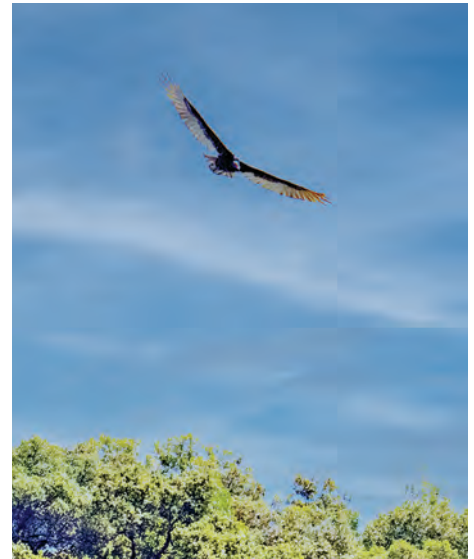


south and west toward the ridge lines of our Loma Prieta and Mount Umunhum.

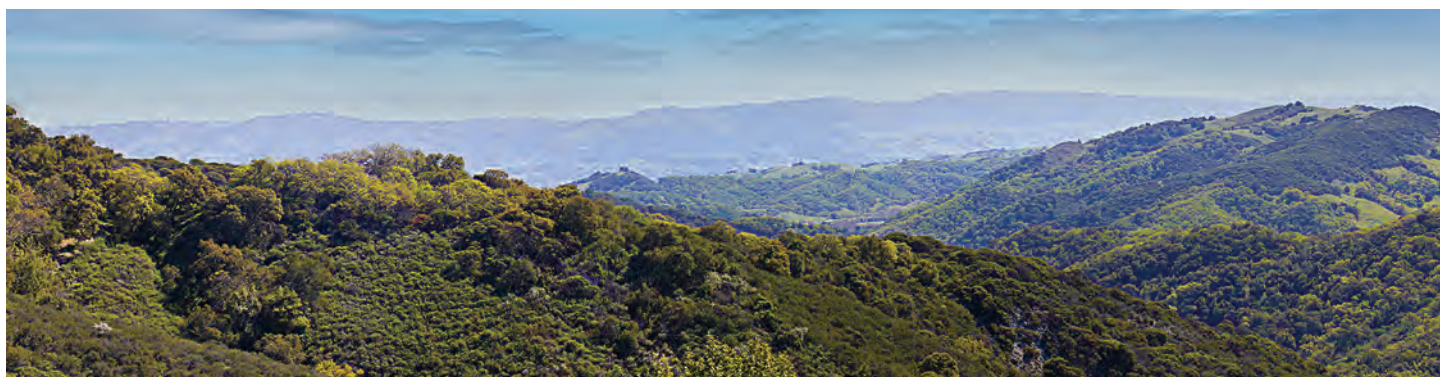
These moments were so joyful that I couldn't help laughing at the beauty while indulging with a snack bar and a bottle of Pellegrino. I got up when two vultures circled over me. I was tired, but not that tired.

The trail continued along the ridge line, climbing another 97 feet in elevation over ups and downs and around gentle curves. The views were great, but the lack of shade encouraged me to keep moving.

I had brief company when three bike riders came up from Calero County Park. They rode up to a higher view site, then back down to Calero, all in a matter of minutes. It took me longer to reach the







relatively steep downhill Catamount Trail. Although I preferred walking down rather than up, several steep sections of slippery loose gravel required attention.

When I reached the valley floor, I turned left for the short walk back to my car.

It was a perfect hike. Yours will be different and maybe better. After all, it will be your adventure.

#### Details

Horses and bicyclists are allowed on designated trails. Dogs and other pets are not allowed. No water is available except for a horses-only drinking fountain on Bald Peaks Trail.

Two other trails are available. The 3.1-mile Mayfair Trail offers varied terrain, intermittent shade, and ridge-top views for equestrians, bikers, and hikers. The half-mile Llagas Creek Loop Trail is a paved, wheelchair-accessible trail through open grasslands.

When I hiked this loop in March, the Mayfair Ranch Trail and a section of the Longwall Canyon Trail were one-way. (You can't backtrack, but you don't come face-to-face with other hikers on a narrow trail.)

#### Getting there

For your GPS, use the address 4289 Casa Loma Road, Morgan Hill.

If you like freeways, you can take Highway 85 south, to Highway 101 south toward Morgan Hill. Turn right on Baily Avenue, left on McKean Road, and a final right on Casa Loma Road.

If you prefer a more direct route at lower speeds, take Blossom Hill, a right on Camden, and a right on Almaden Expressway. At the end of Almaden Expressway, turn right on Harry, and

left on McKean Road. You travel past Calero Reservoir and Calero County Park entrances, then turn right on Casa Loma.

No matter what your route, the last road is no freeway. It may seem more like a wide trail, but it will get you there.

For more information and a map, visit [openspaceauthority.org](https://openspaceauthority.org). Don't rely on a cellphone. (A paper map doesn't disappear with a low battery or no internet.) Bring water, a snack, and a small flashlight. They make a difference, especially if you get caught in the dark. Happy trails!





# history

*From Marlene Wiley's  
Mountain History Archive*  
**Barbara McKiernan**

Joan Barriga

"He does not think that his mind or memory has been affected by the injury he received from the bear," wrote Dr. Ingersoll, "but sometimes complains of a dull sensation in the region of the brain. His health is good, but as a matter of course, his face is much disfigured."

The bear had torn out a three-by-five-inch triangle of Charley McKiernan's skull over his left eye, causing the eye to turn upward about eight degrees. Charley always wore a hat pulled down low over his blind eye to hide his scarred face. The "dull sensation in the region of the brain" persisted, though, and the silver plate was removed after a few weeks. The following year he was forced to seek further medical treatment from a new doctor in Palo Alto for agonizingly painful headaches. Dr. Spencer performed additional surgery and removed an abscess. From that time on, Charley's condition improved.

It was during his convalescence that Charley met Barbara Berrick, the Irish nurse who cared for him after his operation and during the long period of recuperation. It probably didn't take long to discover that her patient was also a native of Ireland. He had left there in 1848, served in Australia and New Zealand with the British army, then signed on board the *El Dorado* in 1849 when it was sailing for San Francisco with a load of gold-seekers.

Barbara must have been fascinated by the young man's tales of soldiering and gold mining, not to mention his descriptions of life in the wilds of the Santa Cruz Mountains, hunting game and fighting off ferocious grizzly bears. In turn, Charley was undoubtedly reassured by the young lady who not only was a competent and caring nurse, but wasn't repelled or shocked by his scarred, battered face. He was twenty-six years old and had enjoyed an adventurous bachelor life. But when he returned to the cabin on the Summit ridge, there probably were times when he wished for someone to share his experiences with and talk to during the long winter evenings. And perhaps his close call with death made him realize that living alone and isolated could be very



hazardous.

For whatever reasons, and certainly after a great deal of consideration, Charley decided to take his courage in his hands. In 1862, he asked his Irish nurse to marry him and move to the mountains. It was the beginning of more than twenty years of mountain life for Barbara. They were interesting times.

She soon discovered that her husband's interests were more diversified than she had suspected. He owned 3,000 acres of redwood forest land and was involved in logging. He operated a toll road which, with a gate at Patchen, opened the way over the Summit to Martin's ranch at Glenwood, down into Scott's Valley, and eventually to Santa Cruz. He supplied venison to the San Francisco market through his hunting. In deference to his new way of life as a

husband and father, he planted orchards and vineyards, built a hotel/stage stop on the property, and began raising livestock. This last enterprise didn't work out too well—the mountain lions killed his sheep and the pigs ran wild, creating havoc among the stagecoach horses using his toll road.

Just when it seemed that things were settling down into a routine and Barbara could get on with the business of raising seven children and cooking meals for the stagecoach passengers, Charley got embroiled in a road-war with a rival stagecoach company, which chose to turn southeast on the Summit ridge and travel to the coast by way of Soquel Road rather than pay toll to him. Charley then formed his own stage company and the price war was on, until the rival company dropped its fare to fifty cents a trip from Los Gatos





to Santa Cruz. Charley refused to cut his fare any lower and began losing money. He countered by opening a liquor store at his stage-stop in 1870—one more enterprise to look after.

In the midst of all this turmoil, Barbara continued to send the children off to Summit School for an education of sorts, and kept trying to polish the rough edges off of Charley's personality. She must have at least partially succeeded, because to judge by the portrait of him, he became the very model of a distinguished, well-to-do, middle-aged citizen. The painting on the facing page shows Charley dressed in a black suit, the ever-present hat pulled low on his brow, neatly trimmed beard, Masonic emblem dangling from his watch chain, and gold shirt studs.

By 1884, the railroad had destroyed the toll-road business and the stage stop; and the older children were reaching an age where they required schooling beyond what was offered in the one-room mountain school. The McKiernans had reached a comfortable middle age. They decided to move to San Jose where the family could take advantage of the educational opportunities offered in the city.

Would Charley McKiernan have been the

same man if he had not met and married Barbara? Just as his encounter with the grizzly changed his life, so Barbara's support and influence no doubt helped to shape his later years. Without her he might have become an eccentric, surly recluse, living

alone in his cabin on the ridge, hiding his disfigured face from the stares of the curious. We can speculate that Barbara McKiernan had a lot to do with taming the bear-fighter and helping him to become a much-loved legend.



*Mountain Charlie (Charley) Road today*



# schools

## Lakeside School

Sean Joyce  
Superintendent

Many Lakeside School students have returned to in-person learning back on campus. No one is more excited and enthusiastic about this than the school staff. It does not feel like school without children in the building and on the playgrounds. For more than a year now, the Lakeside School instructional and support staff have done a stellar job developing, delivering, and supporting every Lakeside student's academic, social, emotional, physical, mental, and intellectual needs. These people are the heroes of Lakeside School. They reinvented public education with little to no warning and even less preparation and experience.

This same commitment began with Shama Marshall, our principal, and her school-support staff who kept Lakeside School running smoothly. They assisted staff, students, families, and the larger community throughout this challenging year, including power outages, wildfires, and emergency evacuations.

As our students return to campus, we are using the great mountain outdoors as much as possible for classroom instruction. Every teacher has set up an indoor and an outdoor classroom (using redwood tree rounds).

Leading up to spring break, we held an all-school virtual assembly with Dr. Blake Brandes. Dr. Brandes is a *TEDx* speaker, *America's Got Talent* performer, and Marshall Scholar who has spoken to more than 300,000 students, parents, and educators around the world. Dr. Brandes provided a fun, engaging presentation about the growth mindset, and how it can help our students overcome challenges. He spoke about the power of "yet." This was particularly timely as our students prepared for the transition back into the classroom or into our new remote-learning program. Everyone enjoyed a custom freestyle rap he composed and performed on the spot, based on input from our students about what they are passionate about.

Our teachers and support staff have participated in three years of training in the areas of mathematics, positive behavior interventions and support, reading-intervention strategies, inclusive strategies, and English-language support for students



who are learning English. A number of our classroom teachers were selected to participate in the Math Consortium hosted by the Santa Clara County Office of Education last school year. The Math Consortium allowed our teachers to collaborate with the county's top math coaches. All of our classroom teachers were invited to participate in the Silicon Valley Community Foundation Math Collaborative. It was led by Dan Myer,

a nationwide expert and trainer focusing on developing mathematical literacy. This allows our teachers the opportunity to continue their work with elite math coaches.

The county also provided coaching for our newest teachers to support advanced and accelerated learners and differentiating instruction. This year, Lakeside teachers are recording their co-teaching models for the EPIC teacher credentialing program.







These will be used as exemplary models for new teachers and other programs seeking to increase their inclusive instructional strategies.

Through this concerted multi-year professional-development process, Lakeside teachers are preparing students to be successful in any of the three middle-school programs offered to residents in the district, and for 21st-century learning into high school and beyond.

Lakeside School is accepting enrollment applications for our transitional-kindergarten and kindergarten classes, as well as for before- and after-school childcare. Contact the Lakeside School office for more information or access to any of the registration forms: 408-354-2372 or [ljsd@lakesidelosgatos.org](mailto:ljsd@lakesidelosgatos.org).



**Lakeside School Community Foundation  
Auction Thanks, Donation Match,  
and Goodwill Donation Drive**  
Holly Stewart

The Lakeside School Community Foundation would like to thank all those who participated in our auction fundraiser. Every year our STEAM, physical education, technology, and other programs cost us \$90,000 a year. Last school year we had to cancel our auction, leading to a \$60,000 deficit in spending. This year we had to curtail our fundraising efforts, but we are very grateful for generous community support. We look forward to getting back to a fun-filled, in-person event next year.

In a further attempt to close the gap, LSCF has received a matching grant by two generous Lakeside School families. We are attempting to raise \$20,000 in matching funds so that we can avoid the possibility of having to return the grant money. If you would like to help us reach our goal of matching the \$20,000, log on

to our website and donate at <http://tiny.cc/lakesideschool>.

Through the end of April, a number of companies are offering a 2:1 match for donations. While at our website, please check whether your contribution will be matched by your employer.

We will sponsor a Goodwill donation drive and fundraiser on **Saturday, May 15**, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donations will be accepted at the Lakeside School parking lot, 19621 Black Road. If you prefer, you may drop off items **Monday, May 10, through Friday, May 14**, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Goodwill of Silicon Valley will accept your e-waste, old clothes, books, and household items, including microwaves, VCRs, printers, and vacuums. They also now accept car seats for recycling. They can't accept furniture, mattresses, large appliances, exercise equipment, automobile parts, weapons, household trash, carpeting, construction debris (lumber, concrete,



bricks, etc.), hazardous household chemicals or liquids of any kind, pet-related items, items over 50 pounds, and televisions over 27 inches.

Your donations will provide crucial support to Goodwill of Silicon Valley, and to our school. Spread the word. If you have questions, email [foundation@lakesidelosgatos.org](mailto:foundation@lakesidelosgatos.org).

Lakeside School Community Foundation has a number of open positions. We are seeking a president and treasurer, as well as board members. Anyone within the Lakeside School district can volunteer for these positions. Email [foundation@lakesidelosgatos.org](mailto:foundation@lakesidelosgatos.org) for more information.

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# **schools**

## **Loma Public Education Fund Our KEEP! Campaign Ruth Gantly**

The end of the school year is fast approaching. Spring is in full swing and we are just two weeks into our LPEF KEEP! campaign. We are hopeful as we see the generous support of so many individuals and families in our community. We launched our campaign on April 19 with an amazing kick-off of approximately \$150,000—25 percent of our goal.

We are on the right track to fund many of our priorities—developmental PE (K-5), music (K-5), counseling services, library services, and a Loma teacher. We still have more work to do.

It's difficult to see so much of what we have worked for placed at risk. Loma and C.T. English are our schools. They are at the heart of our community, impacting not only our students, but our families and community life.

**Where your money goes:** Your donation helps build a robust educational program. It helps hire experienced, dedicated, high-caliber teachers. It supports enrichment opportunities. Your donation helps us mitigate the many risks of limited or depleting resources. It helps us KEEP the positive and stable relationships that students have with caring adults. It contributes to improved emotional wellness, socialization, and academic achievement.

**Coach Patino**, Loma developmental PE teacher, works every day to create an environment where students have a positive attitude toward physical fitness.

**Helen O' Dea**, CTE visual arts teacher, encourages our middle-school students to enjoy the design challenge and the process. They gain confidence in their ability to express themselves and create original work.

**Casey Lelake** teaches music and band at both schools. She strives for “kids to feel safe to take risks, experiment, make mistakes, be right, be wrong, sing off-key, play off-key, play to their full potential, and live through the moment.”

**Nicole Fichthorn**, Loma librarian, sees how a love of reading opens the door to a life-long journey of learning. Twenty years ago, when Ms. Ammirati first started working at the C.T. English library, they





used old card catalogs in a library housed in a temporary classroom in the parking lot. With funding and hard work, today our library is fully integrated into the instructional program. Students and teachers depend on our school library for access to the most accurate, age-appropriate knowledge and research tools.

**How can we continue providing these opportunities and services to our kids?** We make it a priority to bridge the gap in funding programs. It is the parent community that prioritized a well-rounded education to include art, music, and library, STEM, sports, and more. With your donations, LPEF makes the broader educational experience possible.

**Fundraise with us.** Set up your very own fundraising page on our virtual fundraising platform: [keep.causevox.com](http://keep.causevox.com). It takes seconds. Reach out to family and friends. Post on social media so that anyone can donate to your fund. Your individual fundraising campaign adds to the live grand total in real time.

**Thank you to our Leadership Circle** members who helped us begin our 2021 spring KEEP! campaign: The Asheghians, Chens, Fazzios, Fairweather Hayes, Gallaghers, Gallagher/Reiersons, Gallups, Jeanettes, Nolans, Steffens, Trombettas, Wachobs, Walters, and Wells. (List compiled on April 9.)

**Thank you to our Trail Ridge Team** who helped us start our team fundraising for KEEP: Adelia and Dave Rowland, Diane and Randy Rowland, Milton Barber, Heather Mozdean, Damien Paraskevopoulos, Cliff and Nanette Barber, Patti Hughes, and Allan Hessenflow. (List compiled on April 9.)

We are focused in our efforts, but we need the support of our mountain community to achieve our goal. You can see the signs and call for action on our streets. Thank you

for helping us close the gap between what we have and what we need. Every donation makes a difference. Thank you.

**Donate:** [lpef.org/donate](http://lpef.org/donate)

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### **Loma Prieta Joint Union School District School Finance Nuts and Bolts**

**Cathy Vance**

Chief Business Official, LPJUSD

The Loma Prieta Joint Union School District board of trustees continues to be stewards of the district's financial sustainability. Their fiscal objectives are to balance the budget and to maintain at least a 12-percent reserve. The reserve is a measurement that the state uses to determine fiscal sustainability. The bulk of our funding comes from our local property taxes, and state and federal grants, the latter of which are usually generated by the demographics of our students. The district has no control over either of these funding sources. Here are a few tools we can use to meet fiscal objectives.

#### **Reduce staff**

Employ a staff commensurate with the enrollment at the school. The district is experiencing declining enrollment at both schools. For the past two years, we have reduced the teaching staff at C.T. English Middle School through retirements. For 2021-22, we have had to lay off teachers to meet our staffing goals. (Until now, we have been able to avoid having a large number of combination classes, and students and teachers have enjoyed relatively small class sizes.)

#### **Create an endowment**

An endowment would allow for long-term sustainability of special programs. This was identified as a fiscal goal in our district's three-year strategic plan, and was accomplished in June 2019.

#### **Collect a parcel tax**

This is one of the few tools a district has to increase revenues. Public schools are supported by taxes. The voters declined to extend our \$164 parcel tax last November.

We have benefited greatly from the \$328,000 collected over seven years. The board was preparing for a \$100,000 budget cut for 2021-22. Without the parcel tax, we must tighten our belts further, by more than \$400,000. The superintendent formed the budget advisory committee more than a year ago to make recommendations to balance the budget.

#### **Reduce programs and services**

In order to meet the objective of balancing our budget, we can no longer maintain small class sizes at Loma, nor avoid combination classes without additional funding. For 2021-22, we reduced the teaching staff. We will transition the sixth-grade programs at C.T. English to include English/history core, math/science core, with pull-out physical education and electives. In addition, we are reducing classified staff, and the administration is taking a salary cut. Supplies and operating-expense budgets are being reduced.

#### **Work with LPEF**

We partner with LPEF to raise funds to support enrichment programs and restore cut programs. The annual KEEP campaign was launched April 19 for 2021-22 grants.

If you have budget questions, attend the virtual budget study session on **May 5**, or email Cathy Vance: [c.vance@loma.k12.ca.us](mailto:c.vance@loma.k12.ca.us).



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# schools



## Mountain Strong Spirit Tiffany Gallup

Someone who is new to the mountains recently shared that she was questioning the move here because of the bickering surrounding our schools, and local and national politics. She is not alone. Many are posing the question, "Have I done the right thing moving our family to this community?"

I realize that these folks may not have

had the opportunity to see true "Mountain Strong Spirit."

We've been here almost 22 years. Our children are graduating from eighth grade this year. While some issues seem big right now, it does not overshadow all the good we've experienced in the mountains.

True Mountain Strong Spirit can be seen in many ways. When the rains come, neighbors work together to clean out culverts. It doesn't matter if it is yours, we are there with shovels.

A few years ago, our roads suffered major damage. Instead of waiting for the county to solve all our problems, a group of local "pothole heroes" came together to fill the holes, and make our roads safer for all of us.

I've heard countless stories of mountain residents whipping out the chainsaws they keep in the back of their vehicles to clear a tree on Highway 17, Summit, or our local roads. They clear the way for everyone and then go silently on their way. No accolades. No applause. They do it because they can and they care.

Power outages bring out neighbors with generators who offer hot showers, water for flushing toilets, drinking water for animals and people, meals, and even WiFi.

We have never had a whole-house generator. For 22 years, every power outage brings a sincere offer of help from our neighbors.

Those who have been here longer can share stories of working together during earthquakes and fires in incredible ways.

The Mountain Strong Spirit is a beautiful thing. We don't wait and we

don't make it worse. We get in there and fix the problems together.

That is the true Mountain Strong Spirit I love.

I believe the same will happen with our schools and our community.

Just like those fixing those culverts, potholes, and downed trees, we are there when the school sends out an SOS. The super heroes in our community help to save our schools. Together, we will grow stronger.

I hope those of you who are new to the mountains will give us a chance to show you and your family our Mountain Strong Spirit.

## Loma Prieta Joint Union School District Hats Off to our

## Distinguished LPJUSD Employees Lisa Fraser

Superintendent

Our staff has established core guidelines that govern our daily work. One such guideline is that we actively acknowledge the contributions of our colleagues and celebrate both individual and shared accomplishments. We began hosting an end-of-year employee-recognition celebration in May 2019. This gathering provided an opportunity to celebrate our certificated and classified employees of the year, bid a fond farewell to those who retired, and recognize staff members who reached milestones of service to our district.

Due to the impacts of COVID-19 and the restrictions on gatherings, we sadly had to cancel our LPJUSD employee-recognition event last year, but are grateful to be able to resurrect this tradition.

Please join me in recognizing our 2021 Loma Prieta Joint Union School District honorees. We appreciate and admire their contributions, especially during these challenging times. This recognition has been acknowledged by many as particularly



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significant, as it represents the highest compliment by one's peers.

#### Teacher of the Year

**Amy Ramsay**, fifth-grade teacher, Loma Elementary School, has been named teacher of the year.

Amy has gone above-and-beyond this year to support our staff. She has taken on extra duties for technology while meeting the needs of her students in an exemplary fashion. Amy stepped seamlessly into a leadership role for CTA this year. Her expertise and attention to detail has proved invaluable, especially during this exceptional year.

From the beginning, as our schools transitioned into distance learning, Amy stepped forward to offer her unyielding support to staff and students. Amy quickly became our district's resident Zoom expert, offering support and training to teachers and staff. As we moved to a full distance-learning curriculum at the beginning of this school year, Amy supported her colleagues in many ways. Amy is happy to help teach her peers new technologies, and never makes them feel that their questions are ridiculous.

Amy has worked tirelessly to generate compromises and solutions to support teachers in creating a safe work

environment. She consistently offers a supportive and sympathetic ear to her colleagues, remaining unflappable and calm. Amy continues to provide her students with a high-quality, engaging, and responsive classroom that exemplifies the very best in education.

#### Classified Employee of the Year

**Julie Bourque**, school secretary, C.T. English Middle School, has been recognized as the classified employee of the year.

Julie is the heart and soul and go-to person for everything at C.T. English Middle School. This has been a year of tremendous difficulties for students, parents, staff, and the community. Everyone is looking for answers. Julie has always done her best to help whenever possible.

She goes out of her way to help with anything, and she is fun to be around. A staff member noted, "I feel blessed to be her coworker and her friend. C.T. English is a better place because she is here."

#### Happy Trails

Fifth-grade teacher **Dean Heisinger** will retire from the district at the conclusion of this year. We appreciate his dedicated service to Loma students over the past 24 years. Congratulations, Dean.



#### Building Blocks Preschool Reopening Kendra Zanotto

We are happy to announce that Building Blocks Preschool is reopening. The spring session started on April 26. Our redesigned programs adhere to county guidelines and community best-practices.

Looking ahead, we are committed to provide a robust summer program for preschool-aged children. We plan to announce summer-program information in early May.

School will be held outdoors with indoor bathroom access. Masking will be required, and parents will not be able to be on campus during school. Families will need to contribute their time and talents in other ways. There will be a few opportunities for families to take on larger roles (such as cleaning) to offset some tuition.

Find out more at <https://www.buildingblockscoop.org>.



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# schools



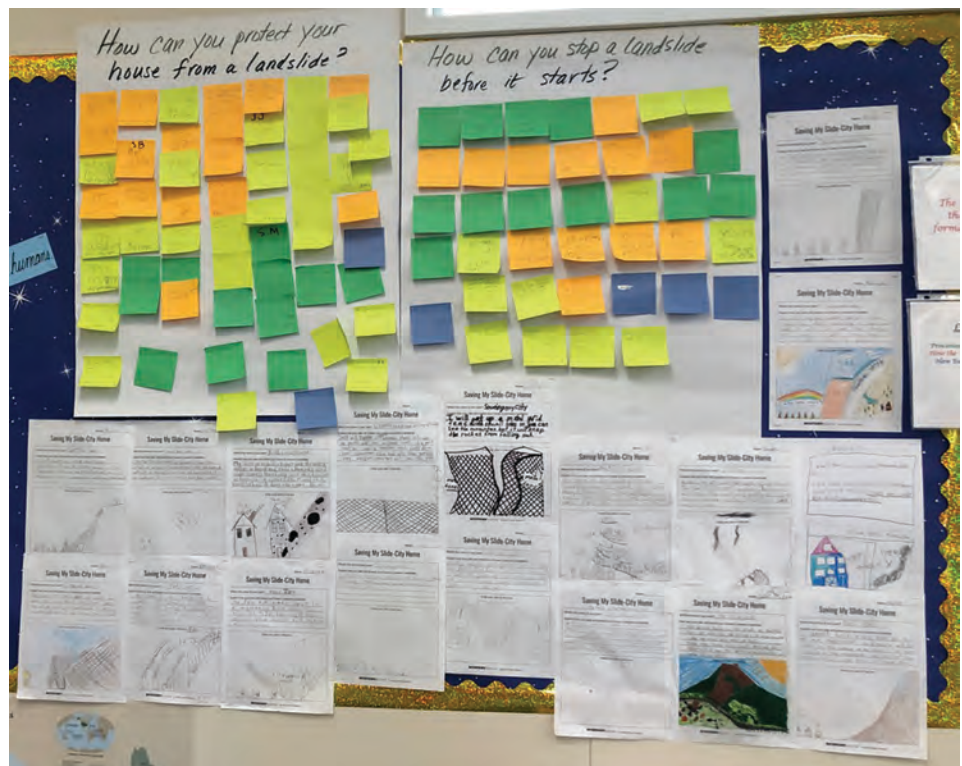
**Lexington School**  
Deanna Wilk

Starting April 19, Lexington's in-person classes expanded from two to five days per week with slightly longer days. More Zoomer students have opted to become roomers. Both roomers and Zoomers also have the opportunity to be on campus, with grades rotating on a weekly basis.

While teaching a roomer-and-Zoomer class adds some challenges, having students on campus has been energizing. "I do feel more alive as a teacher with some students here with me," says third-grade teacher Katie Fountain.

Third grade recently explored the IB unit *How We Express Ourselves*, listening to music from around the world. "It's so much fun to have students in the class while I play music and see them respond to it."

Principal Jason Deppong also joined in to



teach a lesson about the elements of music, focusing on the various drum rhythms found in jazz, Latin, and Caribbean music. He answered questions about parts of the drum set (snare drum, bass drum, tom-tom) and cymbals (high-hat cymbals, crash cymbals). Students shared how the different drum rhythms made them feel.

Local guitarist, Robert Alan Witmeyer, visited the school virtually, performing and speaking to students about music in March.

Every six weeks or so, Lexington students embark on a new IB unit of study. Students are presented with a central idea, and begin by making "pre" posters, documenting what they know about the idea, questions they may have, and any predictions they have.

Six weeks later, they reflect on how their understanding and questions have changed. In the fourth grade's exploration of *How the World Works*, the central idea is that the natural features of the earth have been formed over time and are still changing.

Students learned about landforms and waterways, and processes that shape the earth. They investigated how the earth's changes affect the lives of human beings. They applied their knowledge, each creating their own action plans on how to save their Slide City Home. They addressed what could be done to protect their home from a landslide, and what could be done to stop a landslide before it started.

David Hagerman used his scientific knowledge to give Lexington students a phenomenal and funny *Live Extreme Science* show, from his living room in Montana. Creating lightning, making matter disappear, powering a light tube, and supporting a spinning wheel with a flimsy piece of rope sideways, he shared the scientific principles behind the magic.

It was a great introduction for students to develop and research their own experiments for Lexington's upcoming science fair.

This year, members of our community







*Live Extreme Science*



*Former Lex student Chandler Lougée shared some of her experiences in Africa.*



*Former principal Raf Strudley read to students from his woodworking shop.*

Zoomed in for our annual community read-in, sharing their life, work, and a good book with students. Former Lex student Chandler Lougée shared some of her experiences in Africa. Lance Lougée participated in his Zoom visit via fire truck, and taught fire safety.

Former Lex principal Raf Strudley read from his woodworking shop. Maureen Savage, astronomer and former Lex mom, read from her lab at U.C., Santa Cruz. She gave students a short tour. Fisher principal, Mary Lonhart, gave fifth-graders a preview of middle-school life.

Lexington staff also welcomed IB evaluators over three days as part of the self-study IB schools undergo every five years. The evaluators Zoomed in to classes, spoke with staff and parents, and had a virtual tour. They provided fresh eyes, suggestions for improvements, and nods to our successes to help Lexington grow.

Many thanks to Hall and Burnett Orthodontics and realtor Lisa Sgarlato for continuing to sponsor us during this difficult fundraising year. Thank you to our corporate sponsors who have supported us in the past. For sponsorship inquiries, visit [lexhsc.org](http://lexhsc.org).

*Photos by Ziwa Hampshire,  
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and Barbara Lougée*

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*Jenifer Cramer photographed this anemone eating what appeared to be a seal flipper, while tidepooling at Scott's Beach. (She found the rest of the carcass farther down the beach.)*



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