

**mrn**

**mountain network news**

**November 2020**





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Los Gatos Mountains



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More than 4000 homes and businesses  
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**Cover**

**Turkeys without Masks**

*Photography by  
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The turkey has long been  
a symbol of Thanksgiving.

So what are we thankful for?

Expressing gratitude  
may seem impossible  
in this year of virus, fire,  
unemployment,  
business failures, homelessness,  
bitter politics, institutional dysfunction,  
bad air, loss of community,  
and separation from people we love.

Just listing these painful facts of life  
makes me sad.

But we can still be thankful.  
We have life, liberty,  
and the ability to find happiness.

Be thankful.  
We can make change happen.

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18184 Gloria Court, Los Gatos  
**SOLD**



20780 Brush Road, Los Gatos  
**SOLD**



20700 Hillside Drive, Los Gatos  
**SOLD**



24126 Big Basin Way, Saratoga  
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21643 Woolaroc Road, Los Gatos  
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546 Saratoga Avenue, Santa Clara  
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## RESOURCES

### What it means for your insurance Hydrants and Fire Stations

Alex Leman  
Loma Prieta Fire & Rescue

Insurance brokers have asked me about hydrants and fire stations. They want information about the specific type of hydrant system and its distance from a residence. They also want to know the distance between a 24-hour staffed fire station and an insured residence. Unfortunately, there are very few areas in the Santa Cruz Mountains that have robust hydrant systems. Several areas within water districts do have a system of standpipes or wharf hydrants that may be accepted as hydrants by insurance companies.

If you are on a water system, you may have this resource in your neighborhood. If you are on a well, you likely do not. Water systems in the mountains vary widely and are generally not built to the standards of systems seen in town.

Reporting to your insurance company that you have a water tank mandated and dedicated for fire service by the county may be helpful. Tell your broker that there are two water tenders on

the hill in the Summit area, one carrying 2250 gallons, the other 3000 gallons. Las Cumbres has its own 3000-gallon water tender.

Determining your home's distance from fire stations can be complicated. If there is a structure fire in the Summit area, the three replying agencies will be CalFire's Burrell station (25050 Highland Way), Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue (17445 Old Summit Road), and Santa Clara County Fire's Redwood Estates station (21452 Madrone Drive).

When your insurance broker asks you the distance from your home to a fire station, report the closest station to your residence.

You should also tell your broker that mutual-aid agreements exist between all of our local fire agencies. Similar agreements and anomalies exist in the South Skyline area.



### Southcoast CERT Hybrid CERT Training Kathy McKinney

A Community Emergency Response Team is an organized group of volunteers that may be called into action to supplement professional emergency responders in the event of a major local disaster. CERT members have specific training in basic disaster-response skills, including team organization, fire safety, earthquake survival, light search-and-rescue, triage, and disaster medical operations.

The Summit CERT was restarting this spring, after membership declined over several years. The new volunteers had completed two days of training when the shelter-in-place began.

Now, you can complete the training through a free basic-training class offered by Southcoast CERT. This "hybrid" course includes twelve hours of online lectures and independent study, as well as two days of in-person practical skills training, including an emergency-simulation exercise.

The online portion of the course must be completed by **November 20**.

The in-person portion of the training will be **November 21 and 22**, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the La Honda Fire Brigade, 8945 La Honda Road in La Honda. All COVID-19 precautions will be observed, including temperature checks, mandatory masks and gloves, social distancing, hand washing, and sanitizing.

Complete the online coursework and attend both days of in-person training, and you will be a CERT graduate.

To register, visit [www.lahondafire.org](http://www.lahondafire.org). Once your registration is confirmed, you will receive a link to the course. If you have any questions, email Kathleen Moazed, at [kathleen.moazed@lahondafire.org](mailto:kathleen.moazed@lahondafire.org).

To find out more about joining the Summit CERT, email [cert@lomaprietafire.org](mailto:cert@lomaprietafire.org). Take the course now and join the team. You'll be better prepared to take care of yourself, your family, and your community following an emergency event.

## Happy Thanksgiving 95033!

2020 has been a year of extremes for the record books; some terrible, some wonderful.

A Mountain of Gratitude to Cherished Clients, Neighbors, & Friends for an amazing year in Real Estate  
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0 LG Farms - Seller & Buyer  
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22111 Oak Flat Road - Buyer  
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Won in Multiple Offers



721 Martis Peak - Seller  
\$180k Over Original Asking  
Incline Village, Nevada



336 2nd Creek - Buyer  
Pending - Well Below Asking  
Incline Village, Nevada



Phoenix, Arizona - Seller  
\$8K Over Asking



Almaden Valley - Seller  
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0 Days on Mkt



15510 Monte Vista - Seller  
Pending - Saratoga  
Well Over Asking, Multiple Offers



1831 Nomark Court - Buyer  
Willow Glen  
Pending - Below Asking



Los Altos Hills - Seller  
\$250K Over Asking  
12 Days on Market, 12 Day Escrow



262 B Street - Buyer  
Redwood City  
Won in Multiple Offers



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15930 Redwood Lodge Road  
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15510 Monte Vista - Buyer  
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COMPASS

# RESOURCES

## Rebuilding your life Hiring a Contractor Pat Wendleton Pratt & Associates, APC

Many mountain residents are repairing, rebuilding, or upgrading their homes.

Looking for a contractor to perform the work is a challenge. In a perfect world, you would get at least three bids, but with so many people hiring contractors, it may not be possible. It is wise, however, to get at least two bids.

### Licensing

The first thing you should do is make sure the contractor is licensed in California. Hire only a California-licensed contractor.

Confirm they are licensed by checking with the California's Contractors State License Board at [www.cslb.gov](http://www.cslb.gov), or by calling 800-321-2752. If you don't have the license number, look it up at [www.cslb.gov](http://www.cslb.gov) using the name of the contractor's business or the individual's name.

Before signing a contract, ask to see the contractor's pocket license and current photo ID. Contractors have been known to allow others to work under their license number.



## Pratt & Associates

### Sharon Glenn Pratt Managing Attorney

Pratt & Associates, APC  
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### References

Ask for references. These should be for recent projects. Do not assume the references provided will give a favorable recommendation. You might be surprised to find a reference that does not recommend the contractor. The contractor may hope you won't check references or that none will be critical.

### Insurance

It is also essential that you make sure the contractor has current insurance. The contractor should carry both liability insurance and workers' compensation insurance. Ask the contractor for a copy of the declarations page for their insurance policies.

If the contractor doesn't carry workers' compensation insurance, you could be sued by one of the contractor's employees for an injury sustained while working on your home or at your property. In most cases, the employee will look to the contractor's workers' compensation insurance for reimbursement for injuries and loss of income.

When asking for proof of liability insurance, the contractor may ask you to rely on the contractor's license bond. This bond is not the same as liability insurance.

A contractor's license bond is issued by a surety (bond) company, pursuant to the contractors licensing board requirements. It can cover as little as \$12,500. For you

to recover on a contractor's license bond, the contractor must have violated a provision of the contractors chapter of the California Business and Professions Code. In addition to the limited amount of the bond, your grievance with the contractor might

not fall within a provision of the contractor statutes. General liability insurance provides coverage for a wider range of matters and the amount of coverage will be substantially higher.

### A detailed estimate

Ask the contractor for a written estimate that includes the contractor's name, address, phone number, and license number. Do not accept a lump-sum estimate. The estimate should itemize and describe the work to be performed, including the costs for each portion of the work. For example, if the work includes replacing the roof, the roof should be a separate item. It should include descriptions of materials and labor.

The contract should also provide that the contract price be paid in progress payments. The Contractors State License Board recommends paying no more than 10 percent, or \$1000, whichever is less, as an initial payment.

That may be unrealistically low, but do not pay more than the cost of materials necessary to begin the work, and do not pay the full amount of the itemized work until it is completed. If there are minor items to be completed, do not pay the full amount of the contract. Holding back some money provides leverage to assure that the contractor completes the work.

### Job changes require agreement

Checking references, defining the scope of the work, and establishing a schedule are important steps, but job changes without understood agreements can defeat the best plans. Misunderstandings can result in animosity and disaster.

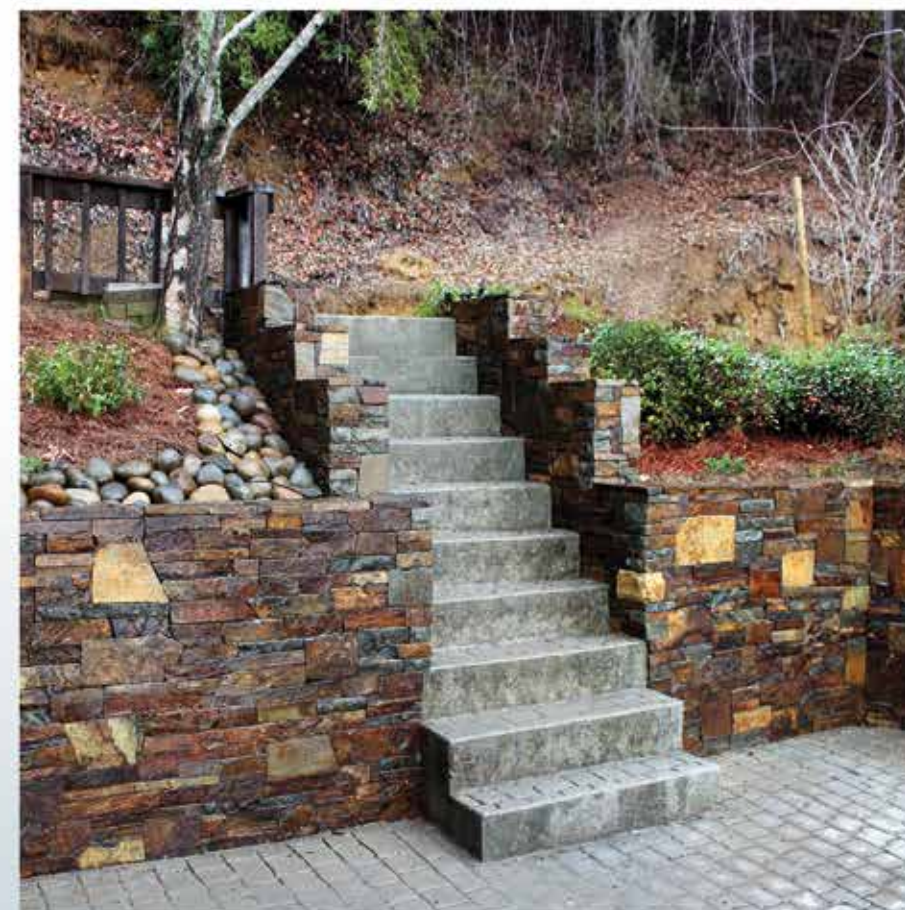
Be sure that you and your contractor communicate and document a mutual understanding of project details.

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## RESOURCES

### A Turkey Dinner in 2020 Ellen Bond

Holidays are different this year. Gatherings are smaller. Where you may have hosted family, extended family, friends, and acquaintances, this year there may be fewer around the table.

Smaller feasts call for smaller portions. This Portuguese recipe showcases a technique popularized by Maria Eugénia Cerqueira da Mota that produces a bird of incomparable moistness, with skin as crackly as a potato chip. Serves 8 to 10 people. (Estimate about 1 pound of meat per person, or 1½ pounds if you want leftovers).

#### Ingredients

A small fresh turkey weighing about 10 pounds  
2 pounds salt (yes, 2 pounds)

#### Stuffing

2 large garlic cloves, peeled and minced  
¼ pound (1 stick) unsalted butter  
3 tablespoons olive oil  
1 pound (rough) Portuguese, French, or Italian bread, crust removed, and broken into small chunks (approximately one large loaf)  
½ teaspoon salt  
½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
3 ½ cups chicken broth (preferably homemade)  
2 large egg yolks, lightly beaten

Remove the giblets from the turkey (save for another use). Fill the neck and body cavities of the turkey with salt, then rub the skin well with salt. Place the turkey and



remaining salt in a very large deep kettle, add enough cold water to cover the bird, and set in a very cool spot for 3 to 4 hours.

Toward the end of the soaking period, prepare the stuffing. In a large heavy kettle set over moderate heat, sauté the garlic in the butter and olive oil about 5 minutes until limp. Add the bread, salt, and pepper and toss well; then add the chicken broth and beat with a wooden spoon until the mixture is paste-like. Turn the heat to its lowest point, cover the kettle, and steam 15 to 20 minutes, until the bread has absorbed all the liquid. Add the egg yolks and beat hard until smooth. Remove from the heat.

Preheat the oven to 400° F. Drain the turkey and rinse well, removing every bit of salt from the neck and body cavities. It's important to rinse the bird several times in cool water to remove the salt. Place the bird on the counter with the neck cavity facing you. Using your hands, work the skin free from the breast. Proceed gently, taking care not to tear the skin.

It's slow going at first, but once you begin to free the skin, the job goes quickly. Loosen it all the way down the bird to within about 1 inch of the tail end, down both sides. Now, with your hands, push the stuffing bit by bit down under the skin. Continue, packing it in lightly, until the breast is covered with about a one-inch layer. Then fill the neck cavity, and skewer the neck skin flat against the back to enclose. Truss the bird.

Place the turkey breast side-up in a large shallow roasting pan (no rack needed). Roast uncovered for about 2 hours or until the bird is richly browned and a leg moves easily in the hip joint. Do not baste. Remove from the oven and let stand 20 minutes. Drain the drippings into a saucepan and keep warm. Remove the trussing string and skewers, and serve at once.

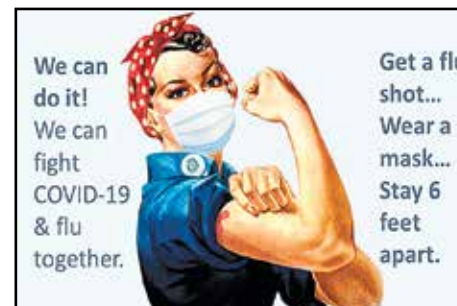
**Note:** Be sure the stuffing has absorbed all the liquid or it will be runny and harder to place under the skin.

Whenever Maria Eugenia roasts turkey, she bakes the giblets in rice alongside the turkey during the last 45 minutes or so. It's quick, delicious, and almost foolproof. Serves 6 to 8 people.

#### Baked Rice

The giblets of 1 turkey or roasting chicken, minced  
1 medium yellow onion, peeled and chopped  
3 tablespoons unsalted butter  
3 tablespoons olive oil  
1 teaspoon salt  
½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
1½ cups long-grain rice  
3 cups boiling water

Preheat the oven to 400° F. In a large heavy saucepan set over moderate heat, sauté the giblets and onion in the butter and oil about 5 minutes until onion is golden. Add the salt and pepper, turn the heat down low, cover, and let steam 20 minutes. Stir in the rice, then the boiling water. Transfer to a buttered 2-quart casserole and bake uncovered about 45 minutes until all water is absorbed and the top is lightly browned. Fork the rice up and serve.



#### The County of Santa Cruz Public Health Get a Flu Shot!

The Santa Cruz County Public Health Department urges everyone six months and older to get vaccinated soon. The flu vaccine helps stop the spread of the flu and protects everyone's health. The start of the flu season is unpredictable, and the vaccine takes two weeks to become fully effective.

It is important to get the flu vaccine every year because flu strains change over time. Timely flu shots can prevent a disease that hospitalizes hundreds of thousands, and kills tens of thousands of Americans every year. The Santa Clara Public Health Department has already reported flu deaths this year in people under 65 years old.

Vaccines are available at doctors' offices and many pharmacies. Medicare and many insurance plans offer free or low-cost flu vaccinations.

"Flu shots are the best way to protect

yourself, your family, and the community from becoming seriously ill with the flu," said county health officer, Dr. Gail Newel. "Vaccination reduces the risk of catching the flu. It also reduces the chance that you'll be hospitalized," said chief of public health, Jennifer Herrera. "Even if it is not a perfect match for all of this year's flu strains, the flu vaccine will provide some protection and reduce your chances of needing to be hospitalized if you do get sick."

If you have flu symptoms, call your healthcare provider. Symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, and fatigue. Limit your contact with others, and don't go to work or school if you are ill. Stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever goes away.

Stop the spread of germs by practicing good handwashing and health habits.

Certain groups may experience complications from the flu. These groups include pregnant women, children younger than five years old, adults 65 and older, and people with chronic medical conditions, such as heart disease, asthma, and diabetes.

Healthcare providers can prescribe antiviral medications that reduce the severity and duration of illness. Anyone who is very sick should go to the emergency room for treatment.

#### Bear Up! Wear a Mask

You look better when you wear a mask. When you can't stay six feet away from people you don't live with, wear a mask, bandanna, or gaiter you can pull over your mouth and nose as needed. You will look good. If you have hands, wash them often. You'll be cleaner, too.



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## Mountain Matters

We asked several mountain youth: What is working well for you in this remote/ distance-learning school year? What are the challenges?



### Samantha, seventh grade

*I like how I don't have to wake up so early because it's better to get a good night's sleep. I also like how I don't have to deal with a loud classroom, and that I have a lower risk of getting corona.*



### Alexander, tenth grade

*This year, it has been really nice to have Wednesdays off every week. It is a nice break in the middle of the week that I can use to catch up on school work or get ahead. One challenge this year has been to communicate with teachers about anything in the class. Since we aren't at school and seeing our teachers, it's harder for us to set up times to speak with them.*



### Lemon, second grade

*I like that sometimes my friends can come over and do school and have recess with me. I also like that I don't have to wear shoes in class. I don't like not being able to see my friends very often. I don't like being on Zoom. I'd rather be doing class in real life.*



### Amelia, second grade

*I like that I get to do my assignments anytime I want to do them. Also, I can take breaks in different parts of the day, if I'm a bit tired. I get to spend more time with my mom. I don't like that I can't get help a lot because my mom's in Zoom meetings. Also, I can't see my friends everyday and so I'm a bit sad about that.*



### Arya, second grade

*I like that I can turn my camera off during a Zoom meeting. I used to love doing art in*

*school. And we sometimes get to do art, but it's not as fun. But, I especially miss seeing my friends.*



### Zanden, sixth grade

*Well, some things are working well for me. It's a lot nicer to have my parents with me every step of the way to help me with distance-learning. With all these content connections and personal time with my teachers, I feel a lot more connected with them. The downside is that I don't really get to bond with other classmates. It's a really hard transition going from elementary school to middle school, but I think it's even harder doing it online. Having friends is like, the key. So not having that has been really hard for me.*



### Jacob, fourth grade

*I like that I get like an hour and a half more sleep every night. I used to have to wake up at 6:30 to get ready, and then drive to school. I also like that we get ten-minute breaks between every Zoom class. I don't like that I can't see my teachers and friends for real. Also, I sometimes can't find a paper I need. It's harder for me to keep all my papers and school stuff organized at home.*



### Nima, seventh grade

*I like that I can wear pajamas sometimes. I also like that I only have Zoom meetings Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. I still have to do school work on the other days, but it's nice to have a break. My biggest challenge with remote learning has definitely been dealing with technology issues. The internet has gone out, and sometimes the links to Zoom meetings or to turn in papers don't work. That's been an issue.*

## SALE PENDING... May I sell yours?

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## History Club of Los Gatos Diana Crawford

The History Club of Los Gatos is a women's nonprofit, philanthropic organization founded in 1897 for members to support our community, socialize, and volunteer. We rent our beautiful clubhouse and garden in order to donate proceeds to local charities that benefit Santa Clara County residents, especially women, children, and young adults.

Currently, the History Club is working with Good Samaritans of Silicon Valley to provide lunches to the homeless in San Jose. So far, more than 1000 lunches have been distributed. The History Club gives scholarships to many and varied groups, most recently to Tech Trek, a summer STEM program for seventh-grade girls. Financial contributions have been made to ACCESS, Grateful Garment, NUMU, Live Oak Nutritional Center, Quarantutors, Los Gatos Library, Silicon Valley Faces, and Good Karma Bikes.

The founders of the History Club were bold and progressive women. They courageously formed a group, and raised funds to purchase a site and a build a clubhouse, in order to provide a service to others. The current members perpetuate that spirit and philosophy of community service and philanthropy.

Vikki Pearce, a mountain resident for nearly thirty years, is serving her first year of a two-year term as president of the History Club. Her background includes 45 years of operating-room nursing and surgery-center management. She brings those nursing and management skills to the History Club



**Vikki Pearce**

during our current pandemic. She uses those skills to keep our members connected and serving their community.

Diana Crawford has been a mountain resident for over fifty years. She is a former realtor with 36 years of service within Santa Clara county, specializing in mountain real-estate sales. She has been named first vice-president of the History Club. She will serve a two-year term before assuming the position of president.

For more information about the History Club of Los Gatos, email [dianacrawford@outlook.com](mailto:dianacrawford@outlook.com).



**Diana Crawford**



## Loma Prieta Museum Support and Donations Roger Mason

Thanks to everyone for your support and donations of time, stories, pictures, articles, artifacts, old farm equipment, and monetary gifts.

Since we are not able to hold community events to share the history of the Summit area, we will be doing it online.

We are updating our Facebook page (LomaPrietaMuseum). We are also creating another website: LomaPrietaMuseum.org. We will offer local history and accept donations online. Visit our webpage. If you have any suggestions for improvements, email [LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com).

If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation before the end of the year, make it payable to Loma Prieta Community Foundation with a footnote for Loma Prieta Museum. Mail it to LP Museum, 22951 Summit Road, Los Gatos, CA 95033, with your return address. We will send you a donation receipt.

Many people have asked about buying Loma Prieta Museum shirts and hats featuring the museum logo. Until they are available online, you can email us at [LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com), or visit Summit Store for hats.

We welcome your donations of history articles, stories, old photos, artifacts, old farm equipment, or anything that will help us build the history collection of the Loma Prieta Museum.

We are looking for more volunteers to help us research, document, and share local history with our schools and the community. If you are interested in helping us share history, we would love to hear from you. Thank you for your support.

## Loma Prieta Joint Union School District Loma School Board Election Stacy Kissner

Stacy Kissner is running for a seat on our school board because she believes in the value of public education and has dedicated her life to working with youth of all ages.

Stacy is ready to work together with fellow board members and the school community to ensure that the children of our community have the best educational experiences and opportunities possible, including for her own son, who will start kindergarten next year.

Stacy's education and 25 years of experience working with young people in various settings prepare her well to represent you on the LPJUSD school board. She earned a bachelor's degree in communications, and a Master of Arts in counselor education and student personnel.

Stacy served as CEO of a nonprofit serving at-risk youth, where she ensured that the organization fulfilled its mission and stayed under budget. Most recently, she worked in the classroom as a special-education teacher. During this time, she collaborated with teachers and parents to

ensure that each child's unique educational needs were met. She recognizes that relationships and compassion are essential in helping the whole child.

She is also committed to ensuring that taxpayers and community members can trust that their money is being managed wisely, and that the district is operating within budget, so that our schools can provide a learning foundation that is sustainable and well-rounded for our kids.

For more information, visit [www.electstacykissner.com](http://www.electstacykissner.com).

## CZU Lightning Complex Fire Incident Report CalFire

A wildfire caused by lightning started on August 16 at several locations in San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties. On September 22, the fire was reported 100 percent contained. The fire burned over 86,509 acres. One civilian injury and one civilian fatality were reported. No first responders were injured or killed. Ninety residences were damaged, and 925 were destroyed.

Thirty-four minor structures were damaged, and 388 were destroyed. Three multiple residences and three mixed commercial/residential structures were destroyed.

## Wishing You and Your Family a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!



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## Selling the Santa Cruz Mountains Lifestyle

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## Obituary

### Charles Edwin Tucker

March 13, 1945 - September 25, 2020

B.J. Tucker

My husband Charlie passed away on September 25, at his home of 34 years in the Santa Cruz Mountains. He was 75 years old.

Charlie was born March 13, 1945, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He was the eldest child of T.H. and Lula Maye Tucker. Charlie's early years were spent near Goldsby, Oklahoma, where his parents were country schoolteachers. He often joked that his mother was the toughest teacher he ever had.

When Charlie was in middle school, the family moved to Norman, Oklahoma. While there, he learned to play the trumpet. He was one of the students who played the *Star-Spangled Banner* at the start of school every morning.

He joined the marching band in high school. He played at halftime during an Orange Bowl football game.

After high school, Charlie studied engineering at Oklahoma University, Cal Poly, and San Jose State University.

After college, he stayed in San Jose where he met and married B.J. (Betty Jo Borchers), his wife of 43 years with whom he had three children and countless dogs and cats.

Charlie was a life-long salesman and a people person. He cultivated rich friendships throughout his life. He was a passionate audiophile, horticulturalist, science-fiction reader, automobile enthusiast, and dog lover. He never stopped learning, teaching, loving, laughing, and enjoying hot chili.

Charlie is predeceased in death by his daughter, Sarah Tucker, and parents, T.H. and Lula Maye Tucker. He leaves behind his wife B.J., daughter Leslie, son-in-law Jeremy, and grandchildren Cole and Nina Maye Crowe of Alameda, California; son Adam and daughter-in-law Wendy of Bremerton, Washington; and sister Sherri Tucker of Redland, California.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a gift to the Sempervirens Fund in memory of Charlie at [www.sempervirens.org/giveinhonor](http://www.sempervirens.org/giveinhonor).



### East Glenwood Open Space Ride Your Horse in Scotts Valley Neil Wiley

Santa Cruz Land Trust has opened a special parking area on Canham Road for equestrian access to the East Glenwood Open Space Preserve.

Your ride begins in a beautiful meadow and crosses a creek to join hiking trails. You can ride on and off trail throughout the equestrian-designated portion of the preserve.

It's a lovely riding experience, although the Gold Trail is steep in places. This preserve is safer for equestrians and their horses, because cyclists and dogs are not allowed in East Glenwood. (They can use the trails in West Glenwood.)

#### Directions

Take Highway 17 south to the Granite Creek overpass (Exit 5) in Scotts Valley. Cross Scotts Valley Drive, and then make a quick left on Glenwood Drive. Pass the preserve's parking lot on the right, and then continue past Scotts Valley High School on the left. Turn right on Canham Road. The equestrian parking area is on the right.

Watch for more Land Trust trails opening soon, including 38 miles of new trails in San Vicente Redwoods.



### Las Cumbres Holiday "Bizarre" Bazaar 2020 Cynthia Gingerich

We are happy to welcome you to the Las Cumbres Holiday "Bizarre" Bazaar. This year we're calling it bizarre, as it will be held online instead of at our community center. It will run from **November 5 through 30**, instead of just one day. Our event still benefits South Skyline Volunteer Fire and Rescue and the South Skyline FireSafe Council, two volunteer-based organizations dedicated to keeping our local communities safe.

The virtual Bizarre Bazaar is a great way to shop for beautiful handmade holiday gifts, practical everyday items, and yummy local wines. Our website at [LasCumbresHolidayBazaar.org](http://LasCumbresHolidayBazaar.org) has links to vendors who are donating a portion of their proceeds to our beneficiaries. Several wineries are participating. Many artisans with connections to the Santa Cruz Mountains will sell their jewelry, candles, glass, and other handcrafted items.

We hope to gather again next year for an in-person Holiday Bazaar with delicious soups and baked goods, local artists, wine-tasting, and children's activities.

This year, please support our vendors and local emergency services by shopping at [LasCumbresHolidayBazaar.org](http://LasCumbresHolidayBazaar.org) from **November 5 through 30**.

## We Support Measure N

Judy and Dennis Stark  
Mountain residents since 1986

We are senior citizens who are voting Yes on Measure N. Here's why: Our democracy cannot survive without well-educated citizens. What better investment can you make than to help educate the children of our community? Measure N is not a tax increase, but a renewal of an existing tax (Measure H). This tax is not permanent, and has another seven-year expiration date. It's not much money—the same \$164 a year as it's been for the last seven years. If you are over 65 and have an exemption for Measure H, that exemption will continue with Measure N. If you didn't have one for Measure H, you can fill out a form from the school district to request one. Or, you can just say, "I can afford this, and it's a good use of my money!" In any case, vote yes on Measure N.

The argument against Measure N claims LPJUSD spends 121 percent of the state average per pupil. There is nothing wrong with being above average. Consider that we live in an expensive area, with a small number of students to bear the school district's overhead costs, before deciding that we are spending too much. Did you know that Measure H tax money has paid for three

**Support Mountain Schools**

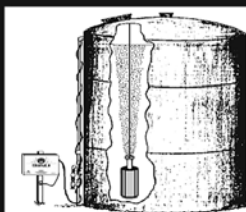
**Yes On N**

[www.SupportMountainSchools.org](http://www.SupportMountainSchools.org)

to four teachers and provided some funding for core academic and other programs? Cutting these teachers means larger class sizes and perhaps the loss of specialized knowledge and skills. Judy has served on the Citizens' Oversight Committee for Measure H that ensured that the funds were spent as required by Measure H. Measure N requires the same citizen oversight.

Our children are fortunate to go to schools with excellent, caring teachers and administrators. The curriculum prepares students for high school and their future. We can't think of a better investment than continued support of our excellent local schools. It strengthens our democracy, and it's good for our property values.

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### 23020 OLD SANTA CRUZ HWY

5 beds • 5.5 baths • 3 bed guest house • Main house 7454 sqft • 29 acres  
European natural pond & waterfall, bocce ball court • 36'x60' barn  
orchard • observatory • outdoor kitchen/living area & fireplace  
Listed for \$5,678,000



### LOMA PRIETA WINERY 26985 LOMA PRIETA WAY

6 beds • 4.5 baths • 6276 sqft • 5 acres • 3956 sqft winery  
Office, library, billiard room & bar • vineyard • ocean views  
Listed for \$2,750,000



### 21475 SUMMIT RD.

Main house: 3 beds • 3 baths • 2833 sq ft • 7.5 acres  
Guest Apartment: 1 bedroom • 1 bathroom • 780 sq ft • 4 car garage  
Breathtaking views of Los Gatos hills and Silicon Valley!  
Listed for \$2,299,000



### 19075 SKYLINE BLVD, LOS GATOS

4 beds • 3 baths • 3379 sqft • 2.6 acres  
Spacious floor plan, huge living room, remodeled 2nd floor & master  
suite. Usable land, expansive deck, gazebo, beautiful landscaping & lawn.  
Listed for \$1,549,000



### 500 CRESCI RD.

4 beds • 2.5 baths • 3100 sqft • 5.2 acres  
Fairytale home w/wrap around porch, sun drenched setting,  
redwoods & seasonal creek. Great room with galleried landing,  
wall of windows. Gorgeous landscaping.  
Listed for \$1,795,000



**SOLD**

### 14150 OLD JAPANESE RD.

3 beds • 2 baths • 1712 sqft • 4.2 acres  
Open floor plan with vaulted ceilings.  
Expansive deck and mountain views!  
Listed for \$1,175,000

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# calendar

## ON-GOING CLASSES AND MEETINGS

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

### Sundays

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

### Mondays

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

### Tuesdays

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

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

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

Felton Farmer's Market, 120 Russell Avenue, 1 to 5:30 p.m.

### Wednesdays

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

Santa Cruz County Supervisor John Leopold hosts virtual town hall meetings on Zoom, from 6 to 7 p.m. Visit his Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/supervisorjohnleopold/>) for more information, and the Zoom link to participate.

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

### Thursdays

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

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

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

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

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

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

Santa Clara County Bookmobile Order items for pickup at [www.scclcd.org](http://www.scclcd.org), or call 408-273-2326, ext. 3060.

### November 12

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

### November 24

Lakeside School 2 to 4 p.m.

### November 30

Redwood Estates Pavilion 2 to 4 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.

Farmer's Market at the Scotts Valley Community Center, Kings Village Drive, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

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

### Sundays

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

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

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**Countryside Estates**  
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MILPITAS



**1339 Terra Vista Court**  
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**14830 Corralitos Lane**  
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**24900 Skyland Road**  
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FELTON



**10642 Visitar St**  
3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1910 SF | +/- .75 Acre  
Bonus Room + Garage Storage  
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LOS GATOS MTNS



**17515 Laurel Road**  
9.51 Acre Lot  
Site of the Old Laurel Mansion!  
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PALO ALTO



**763 De Soto Dr**  
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# gallery

## It Only Looks Like a Flower Bruce Sudweeks

Did you know that there are three-foot-tall, carnivorous, cloned “flowers” in the Monterey Bay? Don’t worry, it is not the latest threat in the series of COVID-19, murder hornets, riots, and wildfires. I am referring to the giant plumose anemone (*Metridium farcimen*), also called the white-plumed anemone. This creature may look like a flower, but it is actually an animal that can grow up to three feet in length; it’s considered the world’s largest polyp. This anemone is only found on the west coast of North America, from Alaska down to the Channel Islands in Southern California. Although typically white in color, you can find pink, brown, and orange individuals. They live in colonies that have originated from a single individual via cloning. Their diet consists of plankton and small invertebrates. Their specialized tentacles are covered in stinging cells that grab and pull food into their mouths. They also have fighting tentacles to drive off other anemones that attempt to come too close. The adults have few enemies, but the young can fall prey to starfish. Individuals can live for many years.

This photo was taken at  
Crest Wall in Pacific Grove.



## The Robinson Team Difference

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## An Introduced Species Wild Turkey Freddy Howell

A lot of folklore surrounds the wild turkey: Thanksgiving, turkey shoots, and Benjamin Franklin’s choice for the national bird. Wild turkeys are native to the Eastern and Midwestern parts of the country. They are not native to California. Tell that to our local turkey inhabitants and they’ll probably gobble in disbelief, if you can get anywhere near them. They have kept their ancestors’ wariness. In the east, native populations were greatly depleted in the early twentieth-century due to habitat destruction and over-hunting, but they have been reintroduced. According to David Sibley’s *Guide to Birds*, turkeys of mixed ancestry are now beyond their natural range and found further north and much further west than ever before. Known as *Meleagris gallopavo* in scientific circles, the wild turkey is truly a magnificent bird when seen up close. Some of its feathers are beautifully mottled in brown and buff. Others are striped in dark brown and white. Eastern turkeys tend to have much more rust or rufous coloring and are darker overall. The males are particularly stunning when strutting their stuff with tail up and fanned, face wattle swelled up, and humming gutturally to attract mates. These are not small birds. Beak to tail, wild turkeys range from 37 inches (50-inch wingspan) for females, to 46 inches (64-inch wingspan) for males. They don’t weigh as much as their domestic counterparts. The males average sixteen pounds and the females about nine. Their main habitat is in woods, both mountain forests and wooded swamps. According to Kenn Kaufman’s *Lives of North American Birds*, depending on the part of the country, they are also found in pine and oak forests, chaparral, and arid grasslands. They are usually found near an oak tree because acorns are a favorite food. Most of their diet consists of what can be found on the ground: acorns, berries, leaves, grasses, roots, and bulbs. Kaufman’s book also states that they eat snails, spiders, and insects. They love cracked corn. In the fall, when they seem to be most active, people buy two to three fifty-pound sacks of corn at a time for their turkeys. Many people in the Santa Cruz Mountains have stories to tell about “their”



Photos by Mercury Freedom

turkeys. One family had a flock of turkeys: one tom with his harem of females and several adolescents, that slowly meandered through the wash behind a cluster of homes. Periodically, they came up on the deck for a better view, with one brave soul venturing onto the roof as a lookout. Neil Wiley tells the tale of one wild female in Villa del Monte getting into a pen with a domestic male turkey. The male was called Lucky, perhaps because love found him, or because he survived Thanksgiving. Springtime brings thoughts of love (lust?) for the turkeys. After the display and mating, the female scratches a nest on the

ground and lines it with grass and leaves. She lays eight to fifteen eggs, colored white to pale buff and dotted with reddish brown. Since females can share the same male, more than one female’s eggs may appear in a nest, but one female usually gets the incubation and nursery duty. Incubation takes about 25 to 31 days. The little downy chicks are usually self-sufficient. They can feed themselves almost immediately, fly short distances at one to two weeks, and are fully grown in several months. Turkeys are smart, so if anyone calls you a turkey, just smile and say, “thank you.”

## Hiking with a Friend Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve Neil Wiley

This 2143-acre preserve has something for everyone. The physically challenged and stroller-pushers can gain access to nature via smooth paths around tranquil Alpine Pond and the unusual U-shaped Horseshoe Lake. Equestrians have lots of room for trailer parking and plenty of wide trails up rounded hills, over open meadows, and through the forest. Bicyclists are welcome on preserve roads. Hikers have their own single-track trails. And nature photographers can shoot lake reflections, birds, trees, and scenic vistas. Dogs are not allowed in this preserve.

On a short walk, you can experience evergreens, massive oaks, spikey chaparral, and broad grasslands. You can cool down in forests, and warm up as you climb the hills in bright sun. In pre-COVID-19 times on weekends, you and your family could have visited natural-history exhibits at the David C. Daniels Nature Center. Hopefully, those days will return soon.

I've hiked Skyline Ridge alone and with

docent-led groups. Although I have hiked here several times, this was a different experience. When I walked alone, it was as a photographer. I moved between photo opportunities. Is this worth a picture? Where is the light? What is my aperture? Wide-angle or telephoto? In some ways it made me more aware of what I was seeing, but I wasn't always enjoying the moment. I was working.

On this hike, I walked with a friend. Photography became incidental. We shared what we saw, where to go, and how we felt. It made the experience richer. We took turns leading and following, but mostly we just walked together.

Solitude felt better when it was by choice. This is a time when we need to be with others, even if we are six feet away while wearing a mask.

We began with a walk to Horseshoe Lake. From the parking area, we took the trail on the left. We crossed over a wide road, and then joined the loop around the lake. It took us along the shore, across an earthen dam, and then up to a ridge several hundred feet above the water.

The 27-foot-deep spring-fed reservoir is home to ducks and coots, ferns and cat tails, benches and tables. We enjoyed it all, but



Horseshoe Lake

especially with a timeout sitting in shade.

We walked back to the parking area, and then followed the Ipiwa Trail. This single-track took us uphill about 2000 feet to the broad and appropriately named Sunny Jim Trail. We thought about detouring on



Alpine Pond

Butano View Trail. It promised a good view, but the climb and warm sun encouraged us to take a direct route to Alpine Pond, on a short walk to the right by another branch of the Ipiwa Trail.

We could have walked around Alpine Pond, but we hadn't eaten since breakfast, so we walked back to our car. Our destination: Alice's Restaurant at the intersection of Skyline and Highway 84. I've eaten many hamburgers over the years at Alice's, but we enjoyed a real dinner outside. Perhaps it was because we were starving. Perhaps it was because it was a fine meal. Or perhaps it was because it was more fun to eat together than alone. It was all good.

I even enjoyed the drive back through the mountains. My hiking partner drove. I should have been ashamed, but although I've driven this road hundreds of times, I never was a passenger. Skyline and West Summit are even more beautiful when you can devote your eyes to the scenery.

You might try taking a friend on your next walk. Sharing can be better than solitude.

### Directions

Take Black Road up to my favorite highway, Skyline Boulevard (Highway 35), turn right, and continue on Skyline past Highway 9 and the Palo Alto sign.

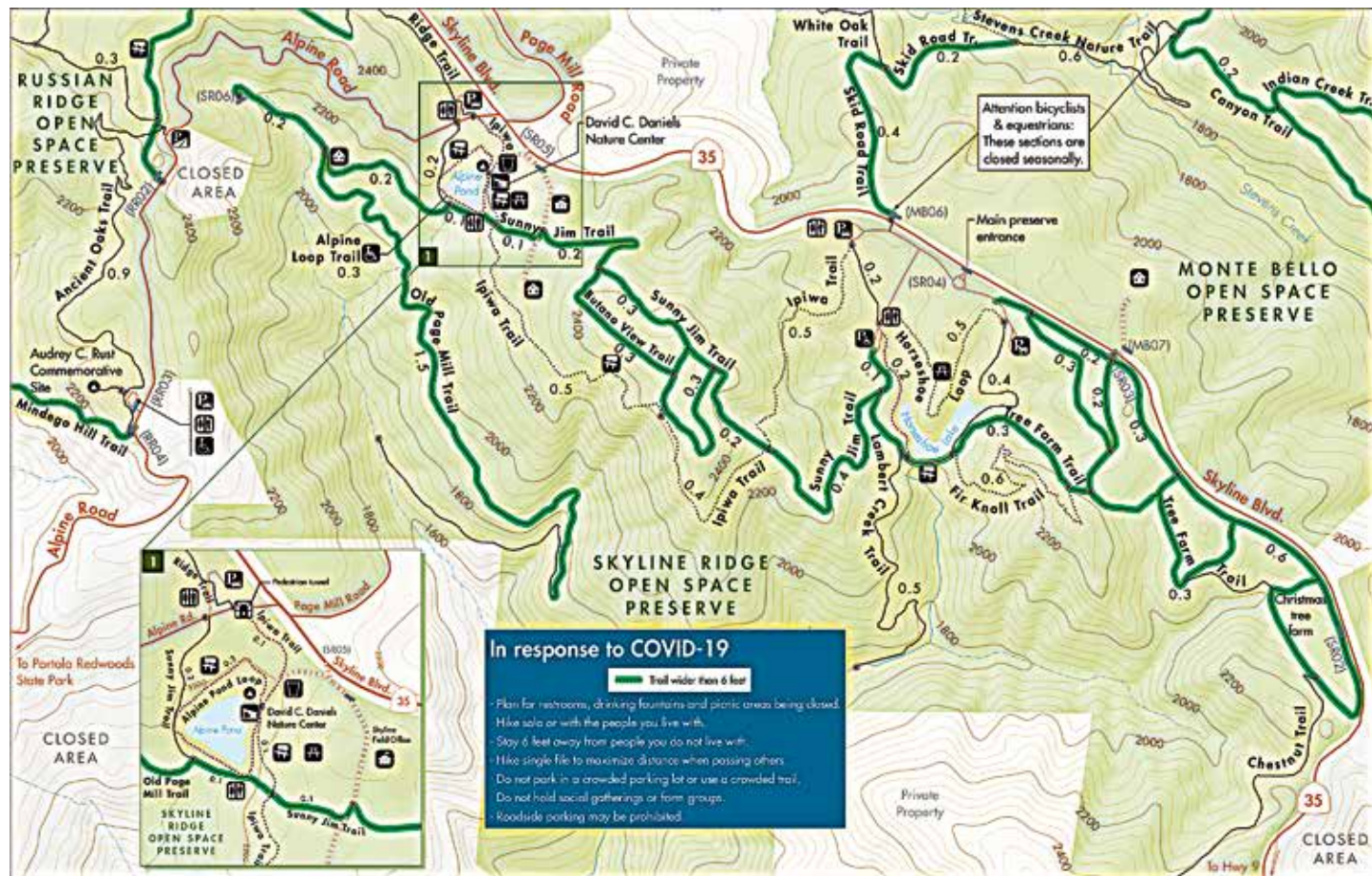
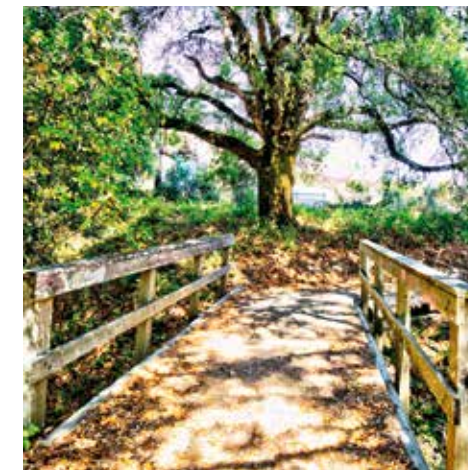
If you want to go to Horseshoe Lake, watch for the main Skyline Ridge parking lot on the left. When you turn in, pass the first lot. It's for horse trailers.

If you want to start your hike at the

Nature Center and Alpine Pond, continue on about another mile on Skyline to the Russian Ridge parking lot at the intersection of Alpine Road, then walk through the tunnel under Alpine Road to the Nature Center.

Maps are not available at the trailhead, but bathrooms are open. You can get more information and maps at [www.openspace.org](http://www.openspace.org). Parking and admission are free.

For information about other hikes and explorations, visit our website—[www.mnn.net](http://www.mnn.net). Current exploration stories are also available at [mountainnetworknews.com](http://mountainnetworknews.com).



## Another Remarkable Mountain Woman Laura Josephine (Berry) Sears From Marlene Wiley's Mountain History Archive

In July 2001, Laura Sears' grandson, Dick Lake, offered to share his family's historical collection with me. What a treasure trove and what a delightful time I had reading and examining the collection. The more I read, the more convinced I was that Laura Josephine Sears was a mountain woman in the tradition of the women featured in the essays *Survival with Style: The Women of the Santa Cruz Mountains*, written by mountain historian and resident Joan B. Barriga.

The collection contains poems and essays, newspaper clippings pertinent to the mountains and the Sears family, letters to the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, petitions for RFD mail and electrical service, mountain telephone directories for 1919 and 1935, photos of Hazelhurst Ranch, family pets, and mountain scenes, hand-drawn local maps, and miscellaneous newspaper articles.

Laura Josephine Berry was born in the San Joaquin Valley of California in 1858. The Berry family later moved to the Santa Clara Valley. Laura graduated from State Normal School in San Jose in 1883. One of her professors, a property-owner in the



**Hazelhurst Ranch**

mountains, encouraged her to apply for the teaching position at Burrell School. She was hired and for the next fifteen years she taught all eight grades.

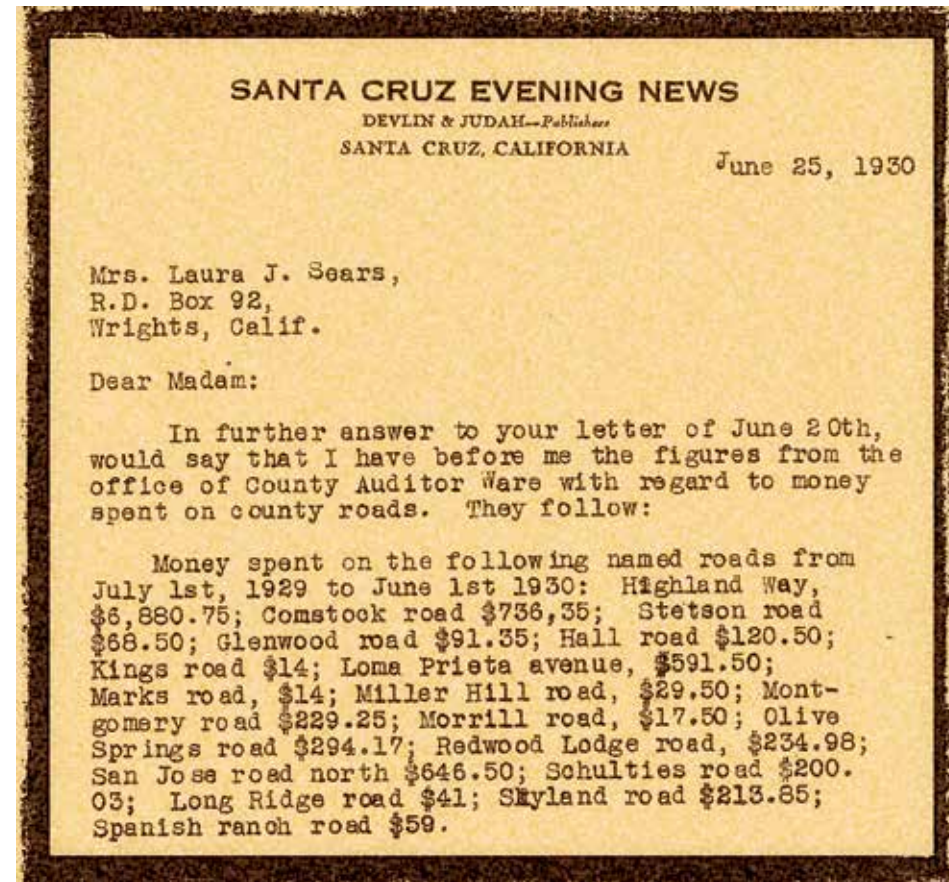
As a young unmarried teacher, Laura lived with Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Sears in their Burrell home. There, she met their son, Arthur Lacy Sears, born in 1857 in

Missouri, when he came to California to visit his parents. They were married July 3, 1888. In 1938, they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Laura died in 1940 and Arthur in 1941.

Laura and Arthur purchased acreage near the intersection of San Jose-Soquel Road and Miller Hill Road. Arthur also purchased property for the Hazelhurst Ranch near Morrell Road. While Laura taught at Burrell School, Arthur worked to clear the land so they could plant fruit trees. During construction of Hazelhurst, they lived in a small house on the property.

The name Hazelhurst is derived from “. . . the dense growth of hazel on the land.” The main building is a Queen Anne Victorian cottage built of redwood milled at Laurel. The house had six spacious rooms with twelve-foot high ceilings. The walls were flat-painted plaster and the floors were redwood. In 1930, a seventh room was added. It was a pool room built for Arthur, who suffered from stomach cancer. He needed a distraction at night when he couldn't sleep.

They moved into their new home April 17, 1906. At 5:13 a.m. the next morning, the San Francisco Earthquake ruptured along the San Andreas fault. Their daughter, Pearl Sears Lake, told history groups that her mother jumped out of bed when the earthquake struck. She tried to get into a closet, but the door jammed. It was lucky for her. They later found the closet filled



with bricks from the chimney.

One of the fascinating aspects of Laura's life was her involvement in the community. She was the first president of the Santa Cruz Mountains Social and Improvement Club. The couple deeded land to Santa Cruz County for the road now called San Jose-Soquel Road. Among the papers were letters to newspapers and county supervisors that indicated an ardent interest in local issues. Her pleas to sprinkle the dusty roads in the summer, fix roads, and obtain free mail delivery are examples of her guardianship of local rights. The collection also contains

hand-glued petitions for repairing Highland Hall and the amount of probable electrical use by mountain households in order to persuade the electric company to come to the mountains.

Their daughter Pearl and grandson Dick loved the ranch. Pearl survived the 1989 earthquake, but lived in a trailer for several years while the house was rebuilt. Although Pearl's job was at Moffett Field, she commuted daily from the ranch for 35 years until she retired. Dick attended sixth, seventh, and eighth grades at Burrell School before attending Los Gatos High School.



**november 2020**

**Celebrating life in the Santa Cruz Mountains**

Here is a sample of Laura's poetry:

## A Plea for a Sprinkle From the Animals of the Forest

Dedicated to the County of Santa Cruz Supervisors

O the summer time has come,  
And there is a mighty hum  
Mad the voices of the people as they ride;  
Some are chaffing, some are scoffing,  
Some are laughing, some are coughing,  
Some are choking with the dust they can't abide.

What's the matter with the oil?  
Won't it mix with our soil?  
Just as well as it does down to your abode?  
Make arrangements to get water,  
Surely nowhere could be hotter,  
Than this dusty, dusty, dusty Soquel road.

All the residents demand it,  
So don't fancy we will stand it,  
To be suffocated quite without a roar.  
We have waited long and weary,  
'Till our patience is too leery  
To be smothered by the dust forever more.

Oh, the coasters and the campers!  
With their heavy-loaded hampers,  
Oh, the cyclers as they wade in dust so deep;  
And the auto is in luck  
That can say it don't get stuck  
While a struggling upon top the road to keep.

Seven miles or so of distance;  
Is the stretch that craves assistance,  
Joining watered roads on either mountain side.  
Can't we have this highway sprinkled  
Ere our brows become all wrinkled,  
And the dust is rubbed and scrubbed into our hide?

This would also help the city  
They are making very pretty,  
And we'd like to be presentable you know,  
When we come to do our trading,  
Or go in the surf a-wading  
But we're covered so with dust we hate to go.

Happy people in the valley,  
Ever ready with a sally,  
Try to sympathize with us poor mountaineers;  
But the thing we want is water,  
Then we'll ride behind our trotter,  
And we'll bless you ever through the coming years.



**Laura and Arthur Sears**

# Schools

## The Loma Prieta Joint Union School District Measure R:

### Your Dollars – Their Future

Lisa Fraser, Superintendent

The Loma Prieta Joint Union School District is continuing to make progress on facilities-improvement projects supported by the first issuance of the Measure R bond approved by voters in June 2018. The fire-restoration project and the pedestrian-bridge-upgrade project are now 100 percent complete. We are on the brink of crossing the finish line on the Loma Elementary School track-and-field renovation.

Construction on the track-and-field renovation began in June 2020, and we anticipate completion in December. The track-and-field renovations include a new all-weather track surface, new irrigation, field upgrades, and a new infield and backstop area. Other track-and-field amenities are a long jump pit, discus cage, and shot-put area.

The sod on the new field, installed in October, is a 50/50 mix of drought-tolerant blue fescue and rye grass. A two-month maintenance period following the sod installation will ensure that the sod roots



**Contractor: McGuire and Hester**  
**Architect: Verde Design**

properly, and the irrigation system operates as planned. Community use of the track and field facility will be restricted until the final completion date.

It will be well worth the wait, as you can see from this recent photo of the project. During the maintenance period, we will add a new outdoor restroom for use during school activities and athletic events.

We look forward to sharing this community asset with you. Thank you for your continued support of our mountain schools.

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

## The Loma Prieta Joint Union School District Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee

Lisa Fraser

Thank you for supporting the June 2018 passage of general-obligation bond Measure R. We are seeking applicants to fill seats on the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee.

Oversight duties include informing the public about the district's expenditure of bond proceeds, reviewing the expenditures, and generating and presenting an annual report. This annual report includes a statement indicating whether the district is in compliance with the requirements of the state's constitution, and a summary of the committee's proceedings and activities for the prior year.

Members of the committee are appointed by the Loma Prieta Joint Union School District board of trustees based on criteria established by Proposition 39, including:

- One member who is the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the district.
- One member who is both a parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the district and active in a parent-teacher organization, such as the Home and School Club or School Site Council.
- One member who is active in a business organization located within the district.
- One member who is active in a senior citizens' organization.
- One member who is active in a bona-fide taxpayer's association.

- Two members who are from the community at-large.
- Applicants must be at least 18 years of age. The committee cannot include any employee, official of the district, or any vendor, contractor, or consultant of the district. The term of a committee member is two years. Committee members are not compensated for their services. The deadline to apply is **November 30**.

If you have questions or would like to apply to serve on the committee, email Eileen Bevans-Franks at [e.bevans@loma.k12.ca.us](mailto:e.bevans@loma.k12.ca.us), or call 408-353-1101, extension 5500.

## Building Blocks How to Preschool at Home

Alexandra Hughmanick

Forget homeschooling, at least in the academic sense. One of the primary reasons preschoolers need "school" is for the opportunity to play with other children. In the midst of a pandemic that has kept our mountain schools closed for in-person interaction, how can families with preschool-age children substitute the social-emotional learning through play at home? We asked "Teacher Tom" (Tom Hobson) for some ideas. He is an early-childhood educator, international speaker, author, and consultant.

Tom shared: "Your child(ren) will need a place or places to play. Naturally, they can and will play anywhere. But, what I'm talking about are spaces where children are



free to explore with their minds, hands, and bodies, in places free of hazards. They need a place where they are safe, but where they can be left unsupervised. This is essential for both your child and for you. This could be a basement, bedroom, or backyard.

"Things that you don't want broken shouldn't be in this space. Toys are great, but what educators call 'loose parts' are much better, in that their open-ended nature tends to engage children more fully and for more extended periods. For me, this is the alternative to screen time. It might take your child(ren) a while to grow accustomed to filling their own unstructured time, but once they do, it allows everyone to get their 'work' done."

Teacher Tom emphasized that children should also spend a minimum of two hours a day engaged in outdoor play. We see the benefits of outdoor play, no matter the weather, with our Building Blocks students. It's where the children most often gravitate. So, follow their lead.

He also encouraged families to take the pressure off to "instruct, lecture, or otherwise teach your child." Give them space to play freely, and when you do engage, read to them, sing with them, and play games and do puzzles together.

Building Blocks director Sally Brenton added: "Allowing children the time and the freedom to build their own learning is one of the greatest gifts we can offer. Desks, lessons, and rigid schedules will come soon enough and will dominate their lives for the next 13 years (at least) once they start kindergarten. By letting them play now, they will be more ready for that. Then you can rejoice in the knowledge that you are giving them exactly what they need."

For more inspiration, visit Tom's blog, [teachertombsblog.blogspot.com](http://teachertombsblog.blogspot.com).

To learn more about Building Blocks, and to be notified about our next phase of re-opening, email [membership@buildingblockscoop.org](mailto:membership@buildingblockscoop.org).

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18518 Favre Ridge Rd	\$2,488,000.00	3 0	3,026	1.35 Acres
18184 Gloria Court	\$1,260,000.00	2 0	2,200	26,934 SqFt
20700 Hillside Drive	\$1,650,000.00	2 1	3,183	2.68 Acres
18371 Las Cumbres Rd	\$1,340,000.00	2 1	2,474	39,945 SqFt
17240 Laurel Road	\$1,060,000.00	2 1	2,450	42,776 SqFt
21471 Lee Drive	\$669,999.00	2 0	1,101	18,797 SqFt
17330 Locust Drive	\$1,010,000.00	2 0	1,718	1.15 Acres
24455 Loma Prieta Ave	\$2,720,000.00	4 2	4,300	9.30 Acres
18410 Main Boulevard	\$950,000.00	2 1	1,748	11,369 SqFt
23000 Mountain Charlie Rd	\$1,175,000.00	3 0	2,251	4.23 Acres
30 Ocean View Road	\$1,025,000.00	3 0	1,354	3.20 Acres
15253 Old Ranch Road	\$1,332,000.00	2 0	1,800	2.41 Acres
25570 Radonich Road	\$1,640,000.00	3 2	4,099	1.01 Acres
19975 Skyline Boulevard	\$2,325,000.00	3 2	4,740	86.00 Acres
1000 Wilderfield Road	\$1,088,000.00	2 0	2,053	5.11 Acres
20000 Wright Drive	\$1,350,000.00	2 0	1,503	28,577 SqFt
23880 Wrights Station Rd	\$2,075,000.00	3 1	3,280	3.59 Acres

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# schools

## Lexington School Deanna Wilk

Virtual learning at Lexington has been extended to January 2021. The Los Gatos Union School District, of which Lexington is a part, made the recommendation to the district's board of trustees on October 5. It was approved the same day. "At this time, it is the best option for our students and staff, and offers the highest-quality education possible under current safety restrictions," said LGUSD superintendent Paul Johnson.

Current safety conditions require all students and staff to be at least six feet apart. This was seen as a distinct drawback to meaningful in-person interaction between teachers and students, and between students. Moving from virtual learning to phase one of in-person instruction as currently planned, with 50 percent of students in the classroom at one time, would mean students would connect with teachers for half the time they do now, and slow academic instruction considerably.

Although the majority of families in the district would like their children to return to some form of in-person school, the trade-

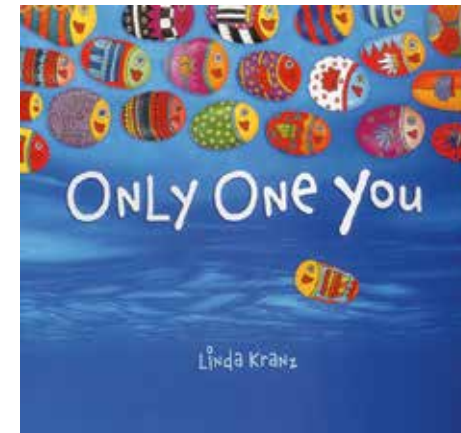


off in educational quality and consistency was not seen as the better choice. On November 19, the Los Gatos Union School District will present an updated reopening plan to the board of trustees, including grade-level in-person target dates.

Our students want to socialize and are creating opportunities to do so. Our fourth-graders started "Zoom groups" to connect outside of school hours. "There are groups

for Dungeons and Dragons, soccer, art/drawing, drama, and outdoor survival," says fourth-grade teacher Ziwa Hampshire. "The students are learning about the technical challenges of organizing events over Zoom and are persevering so they can enjoy some fun."

New principal Jason Deppong has also been connecting with classes virtually, in order to get to know Lex students. He read



*Only One You* to help new students connect to our rock stream, a stream of student, hand-painted rocks on the lower field. It reminded the students of our community ties despite the distance.

He also read *The Principal's New Clothes* to fourth-graders, which brought out thoughtful discussions about different perspectives on school. This tied into their exploration of the central idea: how understanding multiple perspectives helps us define a sense of self and build relationships with others.

Our IB coordinator Kristin Johnson visited and taught students how to reflect on their learning. Students created comic strips, videos, Zoom calls, drawings, journal entries, and other projects as they explored the concept and shared their genuine assessments of each unit. This practice will facilitate meaningful inquiries throughout the year.



We are grateful to Lexington's phenomenal staff for adapting to virtual learning and continually making it the best it can be. Thank you to parent Georgia Howard and our room parents for

surprising our teachers with BOO baskets, filled with fall goodies and Halloween fun. It showed them how much they are appreciated.

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*Celebrating life in the Santa Cruz Mountains*

Chestnut-backed Chickadee © Tony Woo

## Lakeside School News Shama Marshall

Our new garden instructor, Tara Nasse, is creating distance-learning garden lessons and projects for our students to complete at home. In their first lesson, students listened to Tara read the book, *Compost Stew*, and learned about what you should (and should not) put in compost. They were surprised to learn that you can put laundry lint into compost. In their second lesson, students learned how to grow their own avocado tree from a pit. Over the next few weeks, they will see the pit split and grow roots. Soon, they will plant their own avocado tree at home. The Lakeside garden has always been an important part of our students' educational experience, and we thank Tara for making it possible for their learning to continue at home.

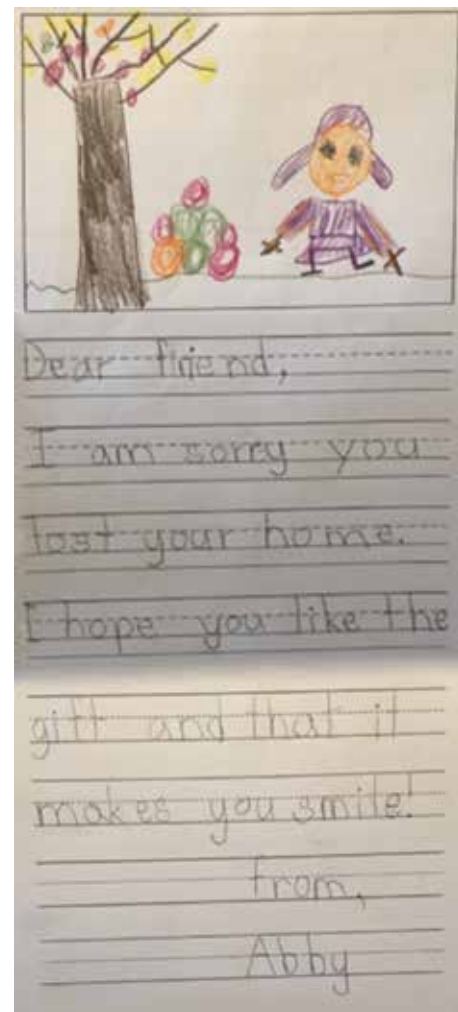
After learning that over 115 students in the San Lorenzo Valley School District lost their homes in the CZU Lightning Complex fire, Lakeside School's first- and second-grade students wanted to do something to help. The students decided to hold a fundraiser and toy drive. With the help of their teacher Kajsa Byrne, resource

specialist Cheryl Ruyle, and parent Deborah Lee, the students invited the entire school to participate in this effort.

They accepted donations of cash, and new and slightly used toys, from Lakeside families and community members. Some students completed extra household chores to earn money for the cause. One fifth-grade student, Gilberto Pabon, generously donated his entire allowance savings of \$92 to the effort. Another student, Madison Touney, not only donated items but also baked and sold cupcakes to raise funds. Others did chores around their homes to raise money for the fire victims.

As students raised funds they shopped for toys to fulfill wish lists from the children who lost their homes. Ms. Byrne said, "My students decided as a group which items they would be able to purchase within their budget, and were able to fulfill the wish lists of nine children in the San Lorenzo Valley. The rest of the money we raised was donated to the San Lorenzo Valley School District to distribute to families in need. My students were particularly motivated to help because most of them were evacuated themselves. I am so proud of them and the generosity they showed throughout this project."

With the help of superintendent Dr. Sean Joyce, Deborah, Kajsa, and Cheryl



met with the San Lorenzo Unified School District to learn about the individual needs of their students who have been affected by the CZU fires. Deborah, whose sixth-grader now attends C.T. English Middle School, was able to partner with the Loma Prieta and C.T. English Home and School clubs to create an even greater network to support the fire victims.

What began as a small project for Lakeside's first- and second-graders has now become a mountain-wide community effort to directly support young children who have lost their homes and their toys, but not their great spirit.

### Foundation News

Thinking of Christmas shopping? Need a safe way to buy the perfect gift while supporting your local community? The Lakeside School Community Foundation will host a virtual book fair from **November 15 through 22**. Fifty percent of sales will provide the Lakeside library with new, interactive books for our students to enjoy next year. Visit <https://bit.ly/LakesideBookFair2020> to participate.

The Foundation will also hold a virtual holiday gift sale from **December 7 through 12**. This holiday gift sale will feature the wonderful items originally collected for the spring 2020 annual auction, which

was cancelled due to the shelter-in-place order. We will host a live online community event with free entertainment on **Saturday, December 12**, to finish off the sale.

To find out more visit <http://tiny.cc/lakesideschool> or [www.lakesidelosgatos.org](http://www.lakesidelosgatos.org).

### Lakeside Joint Union School District Board of Trustees Vacancy Dr. Sean Joyce

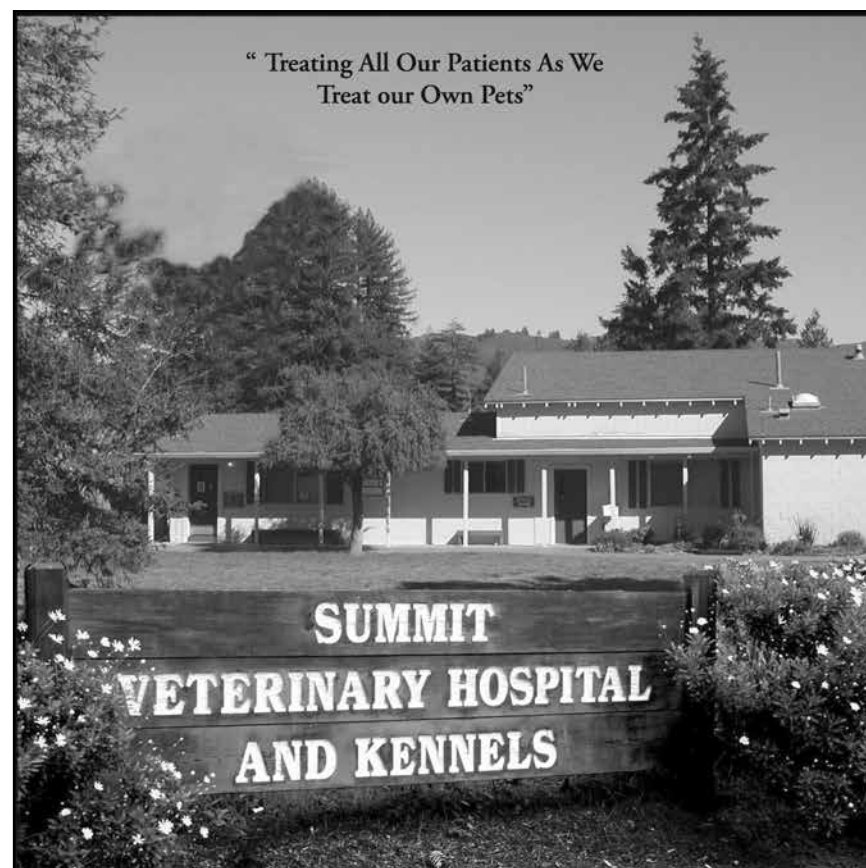
The Lakeside Joint Union School District board of trustees intends to fill a seat left vacant due to an insufficient number of candidates for the open trustee seats in the November election. The board of trustees intends to appoint an eligible applicant for this open seat at the regular board meeting on **November 2**.

Interested candidates must be 18 years of age or older, a citizen of California, a resident of Lakeside Joint Union School District, and not disqualified by the constitution or laws of California from holding a civil office. Applications are available on the district website, [www.lakesidelosgatos.org](http://www.lakesidelosgatos.org), by calling 408-354-2372, or by emailing [ljsd@lakesidelosgatos.org](mailto:ljsd@lakesidelosgatos.org). Applications are due to the Lakeside district office by **Friday, October 30**, at 4 p.m.



*This stained glass was created by the late Tom Stanton of Holy City Glass.*

*Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at the Mountain Network News.*



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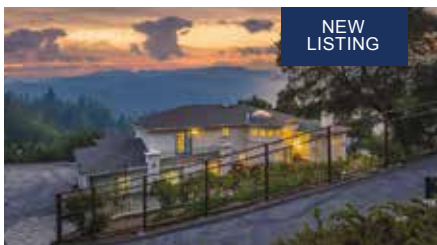
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**\*BASED UPON 2019 TOTAL SALES VOLUME EXCEEDING  
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