



mountain network news

October 2020





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COMPASS

Volume MMXX number 10

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

Publisher
Neil Wiley

Associate publisher
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Photography and imaging
Neil Wiley

Articles

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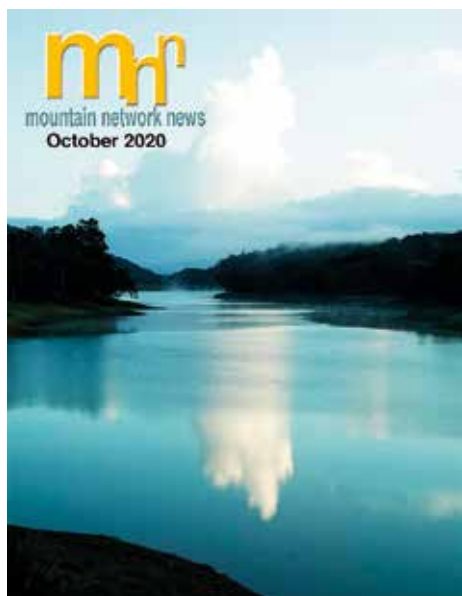
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time, patience, and work.

Let's get through October,
and don't forget your mask.

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COMPASS

RESOURCES

Insurance Claim Considerations

Pat Wendleton, Esq.
Pratt & Associates, APC

Everyone reading this article is aware of the devastation caused by the CZU Lightning Complex fire. When I wrote this article, 86,509 acres had burned and 925 homes were destroyed. These numbers are only a small indication of the lives turned upside down.

As rebuilding begins, those who have lost homes, or suffered other damage in the fire, will have to face the often-confusing and challenging process of making an insurance claim. Claims should be reported to the insurance agent or insurance company immediately.

One important thing to do is read your insurance policy. If the policy was lost in the fire, immediately request a complete copy of the policy. The insurance company is required by law to provide a free copy within 30 days of the request.

Homeowner's insurance policies have a declarations page and policy provisions, usually in booklet form. The declarations page lists the coverages purchased and the dollar-limits of those coverages. For example, it states the dollar amount available to rebuild or replace the home or structure, and to replace personal property and belongings. It will reveal whether your policy includes coverage for replacement-cost and building-code upgrades.

A policy almost always includes coverage for the additional expenses incurred to maintain a person's standard of living when a residence becomes uninhabitable. This coverage allows a person to rent or lease a residence while rebuilding, repairing, or purchasing another residence. There is a limit, however, on the amount the



insurance company will pay. It is essential to compare the costs being incurred with the limit. Reimbursement for debris removal, temporary repairs, and even the costs of replacing trees, shrubs, and plants on the premises may be available. You may not have purchased all coverages listed in the policy provisions or booklet portion of the policy. Compare the policy provisions with the declarations page.

When speaking with the claims department or a claims representative, keep a detailed record of each conversation. Include the date and time of the conversation, and the name of the person you spoke with.

Don't begin repairs, except to protect the property from further damage or loss, until the claims representative has inspected the property, unless otherwise instructed. Do not throw away any damaged property before the claims representative has had an opportunity to inspect it. Also, be sure to take pictures as soon as possible to document the damage, even before the claims representative inspects.

The insurance company may provide its own estimate of the cost of rebuilding or repairing the damage. Those estimates frequently fail to reflect local contractor rates, or the requirements of the local building department. The estimate may not take into account the high demand on local contractors due to the number of homes lost in the local area.

The insurance company may want to provide a contractor to rebuild or repair the damage. The contractor may be from out of the area, and may not understand the requirements of the county building department. An insurance holder is not obligated to use a contractor recommended by the insurance company. Be sure your contractor understands how much the insurance company is proposing to pay, which may not be adequate. The contractor may be helpful to you in negotiating a fair settlement of your claim.

If possible, you should obtain bids from two contractors. This gives you a sense of what it will cost to repair or replace, in comparison with the policy limits, and allows you to get a more competitive bid. Only use licensed contractors. Check for current contractor license information at cslb.ca.gov. Be sure the contractor has general liability insurance in addition to the bond required by the Contractors State Licensing Board. Ask the contractor to confirm adequate insurance before undertaking the rebuilding or repair of your property.

Pat Wendleton has extensive experience in the insurance industry. Prior to entering law school, Pat handled hundreds of litigation files as an insurance adjuster. As a lawyer, she worked in insurance defense for many years. Pat understands the ins-and-outs of making and resolving insurance claims.

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Fire Safe County Roads **The Summit-Highland Way Corridor Project** Santa Cruz Mountain Alliance

This project is the initial step in establishing a long-overdue safe evacuation route by creating 5.6 miles of shaded fuel breaks along Summit Road from Mt. Bache at Highland Way to Highway 17.

The Summit Road-Highland Way corridor project will remove small trees (less than eight inches in diameter) and large, dead or dying trees. Healthy trees will be retained. Removing this vegetation will mean future wildfires will burn with less intensity, at a slower rate of spread, and with a decreased potential for fire to climb into treetops. This makes fire suppression easier, and evacuation safer.

Where large trees are not present, or there are large gaps in the tree canopies, small trees and shrubs will be retained, spaced about 15 feet apart. The cut material will be chipped and broadcast on-site. If grant funding is successful this fall, it is anticipated the project will begin in spring 2021.

A coalition of agencies, organizations, and volunteers are applying for grants to fund the Summit-Highland Way corridor project. A successful grant application for a shaded fuel break along the corridor on both sides of the road requires support and participation by the landowners and the community.

Join us in supporting a safer community. For more information, visit Skylandchurch.com.

Downtown Redwood Estates **Nonno's Italian Café** Amy Sirota

Nonno's has been a fixture in Redwood Estates for 25 years. We call it our "village well" where folks can gather to meet with their neighbors, listen to music, watch sporting events on TV, and, of course, eat and drink. Ralph DiTullio (Nonno) loves to cook for people.

He started Nonno's Italian Café in 1989 in Los Gatos, and moved to Campbell a few years later. As a resident of San Jose-Soquel Road, he was looking for a location closer to home. A real-estate agent told him of a business-zoned building for sale in Redwood Estates. He knew it would be the perfect, permanent home for Nonno's.

A neighborhood institution, Ralph works with the Sheriff's Department every year to host a National Night Out event in Redwood Estates. He is about to make us famous by offering Nonno's as a set in an upcoming Netflix film, to be filmed on October 16. The working title is *This Side Up*.

Over the years, Ralph has renovated the backyard to include a wood-fired pizza oven, two bocce courts, and a small stage for live performances. He also built a henhouse, keeps beehives, and grows food in a big garden behind the café.

Of course, during these times of COVID-19, he can't offer bocce or live



music. The backyard is open for those 21-and-over to relax and have a beer or a glass of wine under the oaks, all while social distancing.

Nonno's is open for take-out food only. Ralph has chosen not to open the backyard for outdoor dining yet. He is very concerned about keeping Nonno's a safe place for employees and customers. He is asking folks to call ahead to order. When you come to pick up your food, please wear a mask and be aware that the front lobby

can safely hold only four people at a time.

In addition to his regular menus (available on Facebook on Nonno's page at [NonnosItalianRedwoodEstates](https://www.facebook.com/NonnosItalianRedwoodEstates)), he makes specials each evening. (Tip: Wednesday is Burger Night.) We put those specials up on Nonno's Facebook page and on the 95033 Neighbors Facebook page each day except Monday, when Nonno's is closed.

We hope to see you here at Nonno's, 21433 Broadway Road in Redwood Estates. Call 408-353-5633.



**South Skyline and Loma Prieta
Volunteer Fire and Rescue
Fighting the CZU Lightning
Complex Fire
Les Niles**

South Skyline Fire and Rescue

Santa Cruz County Fire is responsible for fire protection in most of the rural parts of the county. Services are provided by contracting with CalFire to staff several stations all year, and support five volunteer fire companies. The volunteer companies report to CalFire for operational command. Although all five volunteer companies were heavily involved in fighting the CZU Lightning Complex fire, this article focuses on the work of the two volunteer companies in the Santa Cruz Mountains: Loma Prieta Fire and Rescue, with its main station off Summit Road near Highway 17, and South Skyline Fire and Rescue, with its main station in Las Cumbres off Highway 35.

On August 15, a tropical depression off the coast of Baja California sent a wave of moist tropical air northward. That air mass became a band of thunderstorms that moved up California's central coast. On August 16, the storms reached Santa Cruz County and produced an extended period of lightning, which is very rare in California.

The weather had been hot for a week. Thousands of lightning strikes ignited fires in the tinder-dry vegetation across the region. By 3 a.m. on August 16, CalFire and other agencies responded to reports of small fires, downed trees, and downed power lines. Loma Prieta responded to one of the early downed-power-line incidents. Between 3:30 and 4 a.m., the volunteer companies were paged to "cover their equipment," meaning that all available personnel were to go to their fire stations and be ready to respond.

Assignments such as this happen frequently during fire season, when CalFire crews are sent out to incidents that last longer than a few hours. Engines and personnel from any CalFire station in the county may be sent anywhere in Santa Cruz or San Mateo counties, or elsewhere in the state, as needed. One important role of the volunteer companies is to provide coverage in their primary-response areas when the local CalFire station is not covered. Having personnel at the station, rather than coming from home, allows the volunteers to respond as rapidly as possible in these situations.

Typically, CalFire will quickly move resources around to cover their stations. When the local resources are insufficient, crews from elsewhere in the state will be brought in. During the early hours of August 16, firefighting resources were rapidly overwhelmed with the number of fires across northern California. Normally, two or three vegetation fires would be a busy day for CalFire in Santa Cruz County, but the lightning storm touched off at least 22 fires in the area. It was clear that the volunteer companies would be needed for station coverage well beyond the usual time frame of a few hours.

About 4:30 a.m. on Sunday morning, South Skyline's water tender was dispatched to the Warrenella Fire east of Davenport. Drive time from Las Cumbres was over an hour. En route, the lightning storm continued unabated, making a dramatic light show while it wreaked havoc on the ground. Not long after the water tender departed, a fire was reported off Highway 9 a few miles west of Highway 35. South Skyline's engine headed there, along with engines from Boulder Creek and Burrell.

CalFire primarily operates wildland fire engines. These are rugged, four-wheel-drive vehicles designed to operate off-road, with equipment focused on wildland firefighting and 500 gallons of water. Santa Cruz County Fire complements this by equipping the volunteer companies with "Type 1" fire engines, designed primarily for paved roads and carrying equipment focused on structure fires and vehicle accidents. The volunteer companies also operate the water tenders that carry 2500-3000 gallons of water, along with equipment for obtaining and distributing that water. As such, the volunteer companies' role in wildland fires is usually to supply water, operate the water tenders, refill engines as needed, and shuttle back and forth to tanks, hydrants, ponds, and other water sources. Each water tender is staffed with two firefighters. One is qualified as the driver/operator (rank of engineer or captain). The second person helps in handling hoses and other equipment. She/he is crucial as a spotter and guide while maneuvering a large vehicle on narrow roads.

As dawn broke, the South Skyline water tender reached the Warrenella fire. It began a long day of shuttling water up from the Highway 1 area, supplying engines that were working to contain the fire in very rugged terrain. Often, water-tender operations are conducted some distance from the actual

fire. But, in this case, we worked in and drove through areas that were actively burning. The fire wasn't moving rapidly, but it was very stubborn. The vegetation was so dry that new spots were catching fire from the tiniest sparks, and some areas that had already burned started burning again hours later.

On Highway 9, South Skyline and other crews worked through the morning to mop up the fire there. Then, they headed to another fire deep in Big Basin State Park, followed by a third fire near the park's eastern boundary. The South Skyline engine finally got back to the station after 10:30 p.m. The Loma Prieta engine returned to its station even later, near midnight, after spending most of the day working on a fire in the Zayante area.

The South Skyline water tender worked through the night and was relieved Monday morning by the water tender from Corralitos. In roughly 28 hours, it had moved over 20,000 gallons of water.

Monday morning, the Loma Prieta water tender, along with the county's reserve water tender, each staffed by a Loma Prieta officer and a CalFire firefighter, went north to a fire in the Portola State Park area. After a brief sleep, they returned north and were assigned to Butano Ridge, on August 18.

That morning, South Skyline's engine was sent to the Bonny Doon airport to support the helicopter base. Around midday, the South Skyline water tender was again dispatched to the coast, this time to a larger fire burning along Waddell Creek. Initially, it supplied water to a few engines working to hold the fire as it came down the hill on the north side of the creek. At dusk, as the fire neared the bottom, the volatility increased dramatically. Spots began appearing hundreds of yards south of the main fire. As equipment staged to develop a plan to address the situation, more burning appeared high on the ridge to the south, along Last Chance Road. Resources were quickly moved there, as numerous houses in that area were immediately threatened. With fire burning all around, it was all-hands-on-deck to do what was possible to protect the neighborhood from a fire that was relentless and defying any attempts to alter its course. Water sources were very limited. In the middle of the night the fire burned across the road, making it impossible to get water back down on Swanton Road. We were limited to using a portable pump to get water from residential water tanks that didn't have hydrants or



firehose-compatible fittings. It was a long night on Last Chance, spent mostly in small clearings surrounded by big fire.

That night was the turning point for this fire. It grew by over 48,000 acres in 24 hours, an incredible rate for any fire. Several separate fires merged to become the CZU Lightning Complex. The two water tenders from Loma Prieta were relocated when the fire intensity increased from Butano Ridge down to China Grade in Big Basin State Park. Resources were shifted all over the area.

Both volunteer companies adopted a 24-hour shift/crew-swapping process for staffing their water tenders. Each morning, a fresh crew of two would drive to where each water tender was working, to replace those who were completing a 24-hour shift. We kept the apparatus working continuously for two weeks.

The majority of the incidents that the volunteer companies respond to throughout the year are auto accidents and medical aid calls, not fires. With their response areas otherwise not covered, volunteers at Loma Prieta and South Skyline were also staffing their stations to provide coverage for “regular” incidents.

In Loma Prieta’s case, the volume was down slightly, but there were still a dozen local incidents. South Skyline, on the other hand, saw virtually no local incidents for almost two weeks, because the area north of Bear Creek Road was evacuated. Still, the team kept watch for potential spread of the fire into the area between Boulder Creek and Highway 35, a serious concern that fortunately did not happen.

From Wednesday through Friday, the South Skyline water tender worked at the Big Creek Lumber yard on Highway 1, holding the fire back from the large stacks of lumber and keeping watch for any sparks that might reach the stored lumber. Loma

Prieta worked in the China Grade and Boulder Creek areas, where many homes were threatened. On Friday, South Skyline was reassigned to the Bonny Doon area along Empire Grade Road, supplying water to a number of engines as they protected houses from advancing flames.

On a large fire, there is a meeting every morning at the base camp for the crews that are coming on shift. It is an opportunity to pick up food, water, and other supplies, get breakfast, and discuss the current status and plans for the day. A typical day for our volunteer crews began with leaving home before 6 a.m., driving to the base camp in Scotts Valley in time to collect supplies and attend the 7 a.m. briefing, then driving on to meet the water tender and relieve the previous crew. We would arrive back home around 10 a.m., after a 29-hour shift.

The South Skyline and Loma Prieta water tenders worked together along Felton-Empire Road for a few days. They laid and supplied water to 10,000 feet of hose that was part of an operation to prevent the fire from moving down into the town of Felton. The water-tender crews also fought fire directly, using hoses and hand tools to stop the flames from jumping across Felton Empire Road.

In the second week, much of the water-tender work was focused on mop-up. The active spread and imminent threat of the fire had largely been stopped, but the around-the-clock work continued. Most crews now focused on making sure that everything near any structures was thoroughly, completely



Celebrating life in the Santa Cruz Mountains

out, and addressed any areas that were still smoldering with the potential to turn into active fire again. These steps are necessary before letting residents back into an evacuated area. Water usage in mop-up was less consistent. At times an engine would flow a lot of water, but often there was little or no water usage for long periods as the crews looked for hot spots or used hand tools.

The water tenders were demobilized—officially taken off duty from the fire—on Tuesday, September 1, 16 days after the CZU Lightning Complex fire began. About the same time, sufficient resources became available to begin staffing the CalFire stations again, and we returned to a near-normal mode of operation.

In those 16 days, seven South Skyline firefighters collectively contributed well over 1,000 hours of work on the fire and covering the response area. The Loma Prieta team of six contributed nearly 1,800 hours. Hard-working water tenders moved well over 100,000 gallons of water each.

The volunteer fire companies serving Santa Cruz County rely on community support. That support comes in many forms, all of which are invaluable. Monetary support from donations and fundraisers helps to augment the equipment that the county buys. It also helps the companies to provide the training and the equipment that each firefighter needs to do his or her job efficiently and safely. Words of appreciation go a long way toward letting the firefighters and their families know that the time they put into training and responding to incidents is time well spent. And, of course, without volunteers, the volunteer companies would not exist.

If you think that being a first responder might be a rewarding experience, consider joining us. There is a substantial time commitment for the initial training of new firefighters to ensure that they have the skills and knowledge to work safely. There is also an option for those who are interested primarily in the medical side, responding to medical-aid and auto-accident calls, but not fires, with much less time needed for the initial training. Find out more about what your local volunteer firefighters do. Visit our websites, <http://southskylinefire.org> and <http://www.lomaprietafire.org>, to make a donation or get information about joining the team.

Alex Leman, Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue Chief, provided invaluable assistance in preparing this article.

community

Our Heroes **Local Firefighters** Barbara Lougée

With so many fires ignited by the lightning storm in August, resources were spread thin. There were only about a third of the usual firefighters and equipment available to fight the CZU Lightning Complex fire. Our local CalFire crew from Burrell Station was called to duty immediately, and Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue joined to help protect our community. Chief Alex Leman and engineer Dave Choice drove down the hill with the large fire trucks, and worked on the fire lines, doing 24/24 shifts—24 hours on the line and 24 hours of rest.

They couldn't leave the mountain unprotected. Some of the members of the LPVFR team had to stay on the mountain, responding to medical calls, traffic incidents, house fires, and smoke checks. Captains Lance Lougée and Jaci Viscocil staffed the only two rescue trucks left on the mountain, 24/7, with twelve-hour shifts from home with a truck, or at the station. Captain Kevin Epperle and engineer Jerry Gomes were on call as well, while preparing for their own possible evacuations.

Our local firefighters did a valiant job preventing the fire from creeping up the mountain and threatening more homes, families, and livelihoods. To make a donation, or to join our team of local heroes, visit <http://www.lomaprietafire.org>.



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FireSafe Council of Santa Cruz County
How We Evacuated From the CZU
Lightning Complex Fire

LizAnne Jensen

For the third time, we had to evacuate from our home in Bonny Doon. We've learned a few things from these experiences.

Fortunately, I made a New Year's resolution to take detailed photos of our home and property. I went into every outbuilding, opened every drawer and closet, and photographed everything. Doing a room each week, I completed the project in two months. I can now document every book on every shelf, all the plants in our garden, every tool in our tool shed, and even everything in the trunks and glove compartments of our cars.

We didn't need the documentation this time, but I was glad to know it was done. I made copies of 300 photos on two thumb drives, and mailed them to relatives who live outside our area. Why all this work? Insurers will not reimburse you for lost items without proof. Photos can help you recoup your losses.

Next, I made a list of everything I wanted to take with me and organized it in priority order, with the most important items at the top. I marked the items that I couldn't live without in red. I made a master page of red items and ranked them in importance.

Finally, I placed copies of the master list, and individual space lists, in a red binder.

When we had to evacuate, I pulled out the binder and pulled things to pack based on these lists. I made two piles.

One pile consisted of stuff we needed to keep, but weren't likely to use while we were evacuated. This pile included original artwork, photos, tax documents, and deeds. The other pile included items we were likely to use as soon as we got settled—computers and electronic gear, clothing, pet stuff, and medications.

We loaded the things we weren't planning to use first, and then piled what we were going to need on top.

You may not be able to take everything you want. Because of our business, we already had a trailer. You might consider getting one that you can hook to your vehicle.

After our first evacuation, I purchased large transport containers (with wheels) to store things. During our second evacuation, we found that these big containers were hard to lift and maneuver. It required two of us to get them into the vehicles. Their hard shapes were unforgiving. When you needed just one more inch to close a door or trunk, it just wasn't going to happen.

I started collecting cloth bags, like the ones you take to grocery stores. You

can dump things in them, particularly documents, tie off the handles, and wedge them in just about anywhere. We tucked them behind the driver and passenger seats, and in odd little nooks and crannies in our trailer. The result: We could take more.

This time, evacuation orders gave us eight hours. It was incredibly helpful and calming to know in advance what to grab. We worked our way down the list. Before leaving at 3 a.m., Ken and I went through our "Grab and Go" binder. We had packed everything on our checklist.

A lesson that I learned this time is to take the perishable food in the refrigerator with you, or toss it in your compost pile or outdoor garbage can. If you are not allowed back home for an extended period, and the power is shut off, tossing your perishables will eliminate the job of cleaning up any leftover, rotting food when you return.

I am sharing this because we still have more of this fire season ahead of us. This is something you can do now.

Yes, it's lots of work, but over 700 friends and neighbors are facing the hard process of rebuilding their lives from scratch. Even if you only document your spaces with photos, it could make recovery easier.

I hope you'll never need it, but planning for the worst is best.



Friends of Bear Creek Stables Evacuating Horses During the CZU Lightning Complex Fire Karen Read

Shelly Cannon, longtime boarder at Bear Creek Stables and founder of the pony co-op horse-sharing program, discussed her involvement evacuating horses from the mountain community during the recent CZU Lightning Complex fire. Bear Creek Stables is located on the 1,432-acre Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve, three miles south of Los Gatos.

How was the CZU Lightning Fire horse evacuation?

The initial call for assistance was to relocate horses that had already been evacuated to the Graham Hill Santa Cruz County Horsemen's Association grounds from Boulder Creek, Felton, and Ben Lomond. That was a big operation. When we arrived, there were thirty trailers loaded up and rolling.

What were the most difficult moments for you during the evacuation?

Loading horses from Felton was difficult. The smoke was so thick you could barely see the sun. It felt more like 7 p.m. than midday. The horses were upset and nervous. Many didn't want to get in, or stay in, the trailers. When we arrived at their designated safe-landing spot, they were again nervous and sweaty from unloading in a strange place with other anxious horses.

It was heart wrenching to see local evacuees waiting at the Santa Cruz County Horsemen's Association facilities. People were sitting at picnic tables next to cars loaded to the brim with whatever they could grab from their houses, a few personal effects, and some small pets in crates. They were mentally and physically exhausted.

How did you find temporary stalls and paddocks for the horses?

At first, we were directed by the tireless volunteers at Graham Hill. Horses were taken to the Watsonville Fairgrounds and nearby ranches. Morning Sun, Arrowhead, Thorson's Arena, Lone Oak, Coyote Canyon Ranch, and others graciously opened their doors. Local stables filled up quickly as other area fires grew in size. Between the first and second wave of evacuations, I drove up and down rural Almaden Valley where I live, seeking space from anyone who could take in a few horses, if needed.

Bear Creek Stables was not initially under evacuation orders. What changed, and how quickly were you able to evacuate 72 horses and 3 goats?

Horse owners were encouraged to voluntarily trailer their horses offsite as soon as reports came in from CalFire noting the growth of the fire and its limited containment. About a third of the horses were moved.

When the weather forecast predicted a second lightning storm for the area and a high-wind advisory, we received a pre-evacuation warning at 8 p.m. for our location. This meant we had to evacuate all remaining livestock per the directive of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District operations staff.

We met at the stables at 6:30 a.m. the next morning. An army of volunteers and their rigs had readily accepted my request for evacuation assistance. They included ten large trailers from Serena Heppes, Felipe Andre, Lisa LeEtta, and Amber Stites of Amber's Angels, Fawni and Larick Hill from San Mateo County Large Animal Evac, Kristi Fredrickson, and others.

Bear Creek boarders assisted during the evacuation. We evacuated most of the horses before 9 a.m. The remaining few were moved by their owners.

We owe special thanks to one of our favorite farriers, Michael Branson, who in the midst of evacuating from his own home, found space for our horses at Thorson's Arena in San Martin.

The boarders at Bear Creek Stables are a real community.

Do you have a takeaway message?

Have a plan in place. Know where you are taking your horses in the event of an emergency, and have an alternate plan. Ideally, use a friend's ranch away from your immediate area, or a place where your horses have been before.

Practice loading and trailering your horses. Moving them is a stressful experience that is magnified in an emergency.

Understand and communicate your horse's trailering preferences in advance. Do they like to be first or last in the trailer? Will they accept step-up or ramp loading? Knowing this makes it easier for volunteers to get your horse out safely and quickly.

You may have to evacuate before your horse does. Make sure you provide a completed horse ID form with all the details, so you can be reunited with your horses as soon as possible. Provide your current phone number, and an alternative contact phone number. These numbers are typically written on the hoof of each horse with an agricultural type of marker, or other type of stencil, before they are loaded and evacuated.

Communication is key. Stay informed, and sign up for Santa Cruz County alerts with SCR 911 (Santa Cruz Regional 911), and Santa Clara County updates at alertsSCC.org. Follow CalFire on Twitter to monitor changing fire conditions in your area. Know the specific fire-zone location for you and your horses. Planning ahead will help you handle the chaos of evacuation.



Angels Among Us Kristen Anderson

While these are tough times, stories of heroism and humanity remind us that we aren't alone. Miracles are possible.

During the height of the CZU Lightning Complex fire, my husband and I went up to the roadblock at Highway 9 and Skyline to learn more about the fire. We had been evacuated for two days, and we were worried about the status of our home. We met a woman riding her horse out from the 236 Junction with no set plan other than to get the animal to safety. Evidently her truck wasn't functioning, and walking out was the only option. We brainstormed her next steps.

We called a friend in Redwood Gulch with horse property. The friend had a stall available for her, but no trailer to come pick her up. This better-than-nothing plan would still require walking down Highway 9 and Redwood Gulch. While we were exchanging location details, we saw a shining white horse trailer pull up to the intersection. It was like something out of central casting.

A team of young women jumped out of the truck. Could they help? They were on their way to another rescue. They had room in the trailer and at their property. The timing was unbelievable.



It's comforting to know that we have angels among us. We thank them for supporting our community, including the animals, in this time of need.



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22546 Summit Road	\$2,200,000.00	4 0	4,261	38,998 SqFt
20780 Brush Road	\$1,800,000.00	2 1	3,400	2.65 Acres
24960 Skyland Ridge Road	\$1,765,000.00	2 0	2,539	4.09 Acres
25505 Soquel San Jose Rd	\$1,699,000.00	3 0	2,896	6.38 Acres
23271 Summit Road	\$1,600,000.00	2 1	2,558	2.73 Acres
25470 Adams Road	\$1,465,000.00	2 1	2,833	1.90 Acres
24145 Summit Woods Dr	\$1,430,000.00	2 0	2,457	43,124 SqFt
620 Old Mill Pond Road	\$1,387,000.00	2 0	2,500	8.15 Acres
22430 Summit Road	\$1,347,000.00	2 0	1,892	1.38 Acres
24179 Summit Woods Dr	\$1,335,000.00	2 1	1,990	1.00 Acres
22090 Oak Flat Road	\$1,265,000.00	2 1	2,357	3.58 Acres
32460 Loma Chiquita Road	\$1,225,000.00	3 0	2,386	40.00 Acres
23635 Sky View Terrace	\$1,131,000.00	2 0	1,499	21,606 SqFt
24900 Skyland Road	\$1,125,000.00	3 0	2,689	2.40 Acres
30555 Loma Chiquita Road	\$1,049,000.00	4 1	3,844	10.00 Acre
18000 Redwood Drive	\$916,000.00	1 0	1,084	34,532 SqF
25180 Hutchinson Road	\$860,000.00	2 0	1,564	3.59 Acres
25300 Glenwood Drive	\$700,000.00	1 1	1,417	1.23 Acre
19505 Main Boulevard	\$645,000.00	1 0	1,348	5,924 SqFt

Mountain Matters

We asked several mountain residents:
What lessons did you learn from the CZU lightning complex fires? What did you do right, and what would you do differently next time?



Karen, Redwood Estates

When we got the evacuation warning, it took a while to sort through all the clutter in my house to find all the important documents, photos, and keepsakes. It also took some time to gather bins and boxes to pack everything in. I had my boat hooked up to the car, not because I wanted to save the boat, but mainly to increase my carrying capacity. In the future, I'll try to reduce my clutter, be better organized, have bins and boxes ready, and also have a clear plan of where I would go in case I was evacuated.



Nan, Boulder Creek

I learned that it was important to evacuate sooner, rather than later. We had 44 goats to evacuate. That took a lot of planning, because we needed to take feeders, buckets, hay, medications ... it's a lot. It took a few trailer loads to move our animals and supplies to the fairgrounds in Watsonville.

I learned that we need to be more organized in staging what we need to take in case of an evacuation. We've dedicated an 'evacuation closet' in our house to keep our important papers and keepsakes in one place.

I also learned that our neighbors are incredibly generous. After evacuating, we showed up at the Red Cross shelter tired and hungry, with 44 goats to care for. The volunteers at the evacuation center fed us delicious and nutritious food, had sleeping bags and tents for those who needed them, and even had toothbrushes and toothpaste, which we hadn't thought to pack. They had plenty of extra hay, buckets, feed, and water to ensure all of the animals could be well cared for.

As for my goats, they got spoiled from all the extra attention from volunteers and fellow evacuees. We were able to return to our home after a week and a half, and since then, the goats have been a little depressed, and are missing the extra attention.



Pete, Redwood Estates

The first thing I asked myself was, 'What is really important?' It turns out it was paperwork, photos, and valuables. I got everything queued up and ready to go. Thankfully, we were only under evacuation warning, not an order, so we didn't have to leave home.



Steven, Holy City

For the last several years, we have spent a lot of time and money clearing brush and dead trees, limbing up trees, and increasing the defensible space around our house and property. While we didn't get evacuated, it was close enough that we'll only work harder to keep our property fire-safe moving forward.

I also learned that it's important to have accurate sources of information in the event of an emergency. We were getting conflicting information about evacuation warnings and orders. I think it's important to know where you can get accurate, up-to-date information before the emergency strikes.

Santa Clara County FireSafe Council
Returning Safely to Burned Areas

Emily Drain, Jeff Beren,
and Eugenia Rendler

The SCU Lightning Complex fire began as several smaller fires. They merged together to become the third largest wildfire on the long list of California's wildfire history. As of September 8, 2020, the SCU Lightning Complex covered five counties (Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Merced and Stanislaus). It ravaged over 396,000 acres and, as of this writing, is 94 percent contained. More than 224 structures were destroyed, 26 were damaged, and five people were injured.

As of this writing, the CZU Lightning Complex comprised two counties (San Mateo and Santa Cruz). It had burned over 86,000 acres and was 81 percent contained. There were 1,490 structures destroyed, and 140 more damaged. One person died, and one was injured.

The mission of the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council is to prepare our residents for wildfires through prevention and risk reduction, hazardous-fuels-reduction projects, and community wildfire-prevention planning. We would like to expand our support to aid our neighbors with education and information on how we can safely return and restore our properties and lives.



Here are some ways to stay safe as you begin to return to your home and/or assess fire-damaged property.

Avoid bridges, tall trees, and structures that may have been compromised. They may no longer be structurally sound. Watch for downed power lines, and always treat them as though they are live. Avoid "stump holes." These burned-out trees can create chest-deep cavities, resulting in a fall/trip hazard and potential burns. Stump holes can smolder for weeks and often show no signs of smoke.

Keep a pathway clear for all emergency services. Watch for nails, broken glass, plastics, metals, and other objects commonly found after wildfires, as they may cause puncture wounds and scrapes.

Before inspecting your home, check for the smell of gas, keep the power off, and use a battery-powered flashlight. If you smell gas, immediately leave any enclosed spaces and call 911. Do not drink the water supply until officials say it is safe. Water may become polluted during a fire.

Wildfires deposit large amounts of ash on

outdoor surfaces, that may cause irritation to the skin, nose, and throat. Ash and dust (particularly from burned buildings) may contain toxic and cancer-causing chemicals, including asbestos, arsenic, and lead. Protect yourself from ash when you clean up. Wear a mask to avoid breathing it in. Wear gloves, long-sleeved shirts, long pants, shoes, and socks to protect your skin, and goggles to protect your eyes.

Stay away from wildlife and stray animals. If you happen upon either, call local animal control, a rescue shelter, or wildlife center, and let them handle the situation. Scared or injured animals can be dangerous. If you provide water for wildlife on your property, place it so the animals are not drawn closer to human contact than absolutely necessary.

Ensure that your home has at least one working battery-operated smoke and carbon monoxide detector. If you have respiratory issues, stay away from burned areas completely.

Do not be too quick to remove burned vegetation since some native species can re-sprout. Common plants for post-fire reseeding include Indian rice grass, deergrass, and common yarrow.

Use caution and get permission prior to visiting burned areas. Restoration and rehabilitation is a process. Proceed with information, caution, and safety.

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We Need Your Vote Measure N

Karen Rothschild

As a longtime mountain community member and school supporter, I am passionate about maintaining a positive school environment with abundant educational opportunities for our children.

My two children graduated from the Loma Prieta Joint Union School District. They were extremely well prepared for their transition to high school. They had nurturing, skilled teachers, school staff, and administrators.

In 2009, I had a front-row seat when the school district experienced a financial crisis. My oldest child was in first grade when the district's state funding was reduced to a level where they could no longer afford two classes per grade. No parcel tax was available to support this loss of funding.

Excellent teachers were at risk of losing their jobs. Class sizes would become unmanageable. Some families considered private schools, but they didn't want to lose their connection to our community.

To address this crisis, administrators and school staff hosted lemonade stands on



Summit Road on weekends to raise money. The Loma Public Education Fund raised additional funds.

The first successful parcel-tax campaign in 2013 (Measure H) allowed faculty, parents, and students to overcome this crazy financial rollercoaster. After a stable local-revenue source was secured for seven years, private fundraising helped to finance art, music, science, counselors, librarians, and physical education.

Measure H expires after the 2020-21 school year. We need to renew this stable and dependable revenue stream through Measure N. It will protect this funding source without raising your tax rates. It is simply a renewal of the existing tax.

Our schools need this funding to operate effectively. Let's maintain quality education for the next generation of mountain children. For our children and community, vote "yes" on Measure N.

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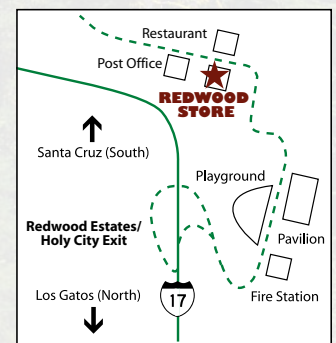
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Loma Prieta Joint Union School District

Loma School Board Election

Erin Asheghian and Alexandra Hall

There are two openings on the November ballot for the Loma Prieta Joint Union School District board of trustees. The board sets multi-year goals to guide decision-making. Focus areas are student achievement, social and emotional learning, financial stability and sustainability, human resources, community engagement, and safe and maintained facilities. The board does not get involved in the day-to-day administration of the district. Details of the strategic goals and documents are available on our district website: loma.k12.ca.us.

Two of the candidates for the open seats—Erin Asheghian and Alexandra Hall—are campaigning together. They share values concerning broad community engagement, addressing the needs of all students, and maintaining fiscal sustainability. Complementary, but unique, backgrounds and skill sets would make them valuable members of the LPJUSD board. They believe that finding common ground and working together through tough challenges result in a stronger, more resilient, community.

Erin Asheghian

Erin brings unique experience and perspective to the board. She is skilled with vulnerable youth and adults. She listens to and understands their needs. She has worked through the criminal-justice system with social workers, policymakers, law-enforcement personnel, and direct-service workers to promote the long-term well-being of disadvantaged citizens. Her experience managing an underfunded non-profit taught her how to make the most efficient use of limited resources and create a sustainable financial model.

Erin has children at Loma Prieta Elementary and C.T. English Middle schools. She has served on the board of the Loma Public Education Fund, Theatre in the Mountains and Building Blocks Preschool steering committees, co-led Project Cornerstone and the passage of Measure R, and volunteered in the classroom. She is committed to helping our schools meet the needs of all students and community members.

Alexandra Hall

Alexandra Hall has a background spanning educational non-profits, science, communication, and space/aviation. A



former CEO of Chabot Space and Science Center, she is a passionate advocate for science, technology, and math opportunities for all learners. She is the mother of a Loma student, a mountain resident since 2006, and an appointed incumbent of the LPJUSD board. Her current board seat is up for election.

Alex has brought a strategic, thoughtful, thorough, and collaborative approach to handling routine board-governance issues, and the ever-changing circumstances that characterize pandemic schooling.

Alex has deep connections in our

community through founding and moderating 95033talk, and networking informally with several community groups. These relationships allow her to seek feedback and guidance from stakeholders and the broader community.

Erin and Alex are endorsed by many community members, including Patti Hughes, Ben Abeln, Azadeh Nolan, Rachele Lopp, Nicole Gomez, Adelia Rowland, Nora Kim, Milton Barber, and Elyse Fairweather.

For more information, visit www.ErinandAlex4Loma.com.

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19075 SKYLINE BLVD, LOS GATOS

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

calendar

ON-GOING CLASSES AND MEETINGS

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.sccld.org, or call 408-273-2326, ext. 3060

October 8

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

October 22

Redwood Estates Pavilion
2 to 4 p.m.

October 27

Lakeside School
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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gallery



Song of the Midshipman

Bruce Sudweeks

Long before December 1906, when *Anchors Aweigh* debuted as the official song of the Navy Midshipman, local fish were singing love songs to their intended mates. The plainfin midshipman (*Porichthys notatus*) is a resident of the depths of the Monterey Canyon.

For most of the year, this toadfish hangs out about 1300 feet below the surface in a near-dark world. It has adapted special cells on its body that emit light to attract prey.

In the late spring, these fish make a pilgrimage to the shore. One of the places they go is the rocky area at the mouth of Elkhorn Slough near Moss Landing.

The second superpower these fish possess is the ability to breathe through their skin. They can spend extended time on land as long as they don't dry out.

Once on land, the males sing to the females when the sun goes down. The male midshipman's love song is nothing like the Navy fight song, and sounds more like a foghorn. They can sing for hours.

Once a male has enticed a female to his den, eggs are laid. Then the female heads back to the depths of the Monterey Canyon.

The male stays in the den and protects the young until they are able to leave and fend for themselves. The photo was taken just off of San Carlos beach in Monterey.

If you want to look for the midshipman on land, you could turn over a few rocks at the mouth of Elkhorn Slough in the intertidal region. The best time to look is late spring and early summer.



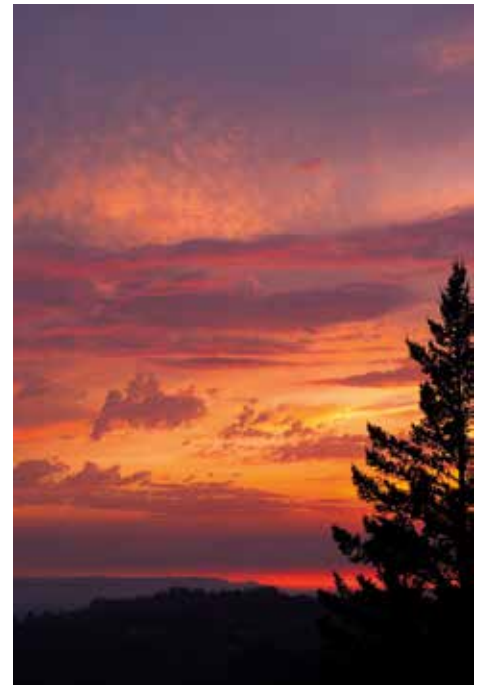
California quail and a kildeer

Photos by Mercury Freedom



Lightning and sunset over Lexington Reservoir

Photos by Jim Scholfield



Sunset and lightning

Photos by Bruce Fournier

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A Walk in Open Space The Bay Trail Neil Wiley

Sheltering in place is getting old. You are either living the life of a hermit or “enjoying” too much family time. It’s hard to get out. Just when you need them the most, beaches, parks, and your favorite outdoor sports are subject to closures. The threat of forest fires has made us distrust the comfort of shady trees.

One antidote is getting out in open space. And nothing is more open than a walk along San Francisco Bay. You are surrounded by nature. It’s as if the world is 90 percent blue sky, lots of water, and a minimum amount of earth and people. You might not want to live there forever, but it feels so good to be in the open.

It reminds me of another time. My sister and I were driving across the Mojave Desert. The temperature was over 100 degrees, and our car didn’t have air conditioning. I said, “There is nothing to see.” She responded, “That is why it is so beautiful.”

That’s it. The Baylands are simply beautiful. As Midpeninsula Regional Open Space’s general manager, Ana Ruiz, says, “With just a short walk along the trail, you can quickly escape the buildings and traffic, and enter a completely different world surrounded by nature, vast open views, and the iconic San Francisco Bay.”

Midpen has made the Bay Trail more accessible with a new 0.6-mile trail that links the more than eighty miles of continuous Bay Trail through seven cities from Menlo Park to Santa Clara, and across the Dumbarton Bridge to the East Bay. You can walk the Baylands network from the Palo Alto Baylands Sailing Station to the Baylands Nature Preserve, and the Lucy Evans Baylands Nature Interpretive Center, further north to the Ravenswood Open Space featuring the Cooley Landing Park, and north again through the Don Edwards Preserve, where you can connect to a bicycle trail across the Dumbarton Bridge.

I began my day at the Palo Alto Baylands Sailing Station. From here, you can launch hand-carted, non-motorized watercraft. There wasn’t much to see, but I did photograph a woman going out through a narrow channel on her paddleboard.

Marlene and I used this same station to kayak with a group paddling up to





Dumbarton Bridge and back. We were warned that if you waited until low tide you could be stranded in the marsh. Swimming in the marsh is prohibited. Leopard sharks and bat rays patrol the bay, but you are more likely to get stuck in the mud.

I could have walked the trail to Cooley Landing Park in Ravenswood Open Space Preserve, but it was easier to drive. I drove up Bay Road out to a peninsula called Cooley Landing. It was once a garbage dump, but is now a lovely park with a modern building, short walking trails, picnic tables, educational signage, bathrooms, and an outdoor amphitheater. It was there that I got my best egret pictures.

From there, it was a short walk down Bay Road to the new Midpen Trail. A turn left would have taken me back south to Martin Luther King Park and three miles more to Shoreline at Mountain View Park. A continuing stream of small planes taking off from the Palo Alto Airport disturbed the sounds of nature, so I decided to turn right toward University Avenue and the North Observation Platform.

The first section of the trail was a 0.7-mile paved walkway along the top of a small levee. The new 0.5-mile Bay Trail turned left to University Avenue on a beautiful wooden boardwalk. You could also use this trail to walk or bike across the Dumbarton Bridge. The trail to the right led me to the North Observation Platform.

A separate northern section of the preserve is accessible from another entrance off a



frontage road near the Dumbarton Bridge approach. Parking is available. This trail takes you 0.7 miles into the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

You are walking on saved wetlands. Since the 1800s, the San Francisco Bay lost nearly 90 percent of tidal wetlands to farming, landfills, salt production, and development. Midpen contributed to restoration by breaking up old levees to allow bay water to bring life back. Tidal flow flushed out excess salt and filled in depressions with sediment, so that plants could grow. In turn, these environmental improvements encouraged the return of endangered species, such as the salt marsh harvest mouse and Ridgway's rail.

While on the new trail, I met an inspector who was reporting on Midpen's work. He said that Midpen was going beyond basic improvements by building small islands covered with pickleweed to shelter these endangered species with a refuge from high tides and predators.

In addition to these residents, millions of birds visit the Baylands marsh. Some come to breed in the summer, others come for mild winter weather. Most visit in the spring or fall during migration.

You may see great and snowy egret,

sandpiper, blue heron, pelican, northern harrier, marbled godwit, willet, Ridgway's rail, green-winged teal, and black-necked stilt.

Mammals include gray fox, non-native red fox, and feral cats. The Cooley Landing Park has a special playground for ground squirrels.

Other marsh residents are yellow shore crab, Atlantic soft-shell clam, and pile worm.

Considerations

Bay Road into Ravenswood Preserve is an ugly road that takes you through an industrial district, continuing construction, and on rough pavement.

There is virtually no shade in the preserve. I recommend wearing a cap, long sleeves, and sunscreen. Have a face-covering or mask covering nose and mouth.

You won't need boots. You won't be walking in mud. Trails are on flat, smooth pavement and wooden boardwalks suitable for pedestrians and bicyclists.

You can use the map from this article, or get one from openspace.org. I didn't see any maps at the trailhead.

Directions

Take Highway 17 north to Highway 85 north. Follow Highway 85 north to Highway 101 north. Get off Highway 101 at exit 403 toward East Palo Alto. Follow signs to East Palo Alto.

Turn right on Donohoe Street, and follow Donohoe Street when it turns left. Turn left on Clark Avenue. Turn right on Bay Road. Follow Bay Road to parking at Cooley Landing Park. You will pass by the Ravenswood trailhead.

Enjoy open space.



history

From Marlene Wiley's
Mountain History Archive

Charlotte (Charley) Parkhurst

Joan B. Barriga

If Eliza Farnham opened the door a crack for independent, self-supporting women, Charlotte Parkhurst kicked it open with a bang. Aside from Hank Monk, made famous by Horace Greeley's description of a hair-raising ride over the Sierras as his passenger, the name Charley Parkhurst stands out in the brief, exciting story of stage coaching in the West.

Charlotte was born about 1812 in New Hampshire and orphaned at an early age. She first dressed as a male to make her escape from an orphanage, and probably never again dressed as a woman. Employment for a young girl in those times was out of the question, but boys could apprentice themselves in a business, learn the trade, and eventually earn a living.

Charley found a job as a stable boy, and it soon became apparent that the new apprentice had a special way with horses. Before long Charley was handling teams, and from there it was a natural progression to becoming a stagecoach driver. The other drivers may have wondered why the new fellow didn't mingle very much with them and preferred to sleep in the stable with the horses, but they evidently accepted the small, wiry driver who claimed to get along better with horses than with people.

After gold was discovered, Charley came West. From 1851 on, she was driving



stagecoaches on nearly every road in the Mother Lode, with the reputation of being one of the safest and fastest drivers in California.

According to one source, "... *in more than twenty years no highwayman had dared to hold up a stagecoach with Charley Parkhurst on the box, for the first two who tried it had been shot dead in their tracks.*"

By this time Charley was over forty years old and was described as being of medium height (5'7"), broad-shouldered, and beardless. A patch over one eye was evidence of an encounter with a horse that didn't realize who it was dealing with. The other gray eye, sharp as a hawk's, squinted out from under a battered hat that shaded a leathery, brown face. Charley's voice was rather sharp and high-pitched, but she had learned to hold her own with the men by now. She *"smoked cigars, chewed tobacco, drank moderately, played cards, and shook dice for cigars and drinks; always cheerful and agreeable, but always reticent about personal matters."*

Charley worked for the Pioneer Line, which was taken over by Wells Fargo in 1866 when the company bought out Ben Holliday. The Pioneer Line provided service between San Jose and Santa Cruz, and was the rival company that engaged Charley McKiernan (Mountain Charley) in a price war, so feelings occasionally ran high between drivers on the two lines.

Charley's route out of Los Gatos went by way of Lexington, where driver and passengers undoubtedly stopped to refresh

themselves at Sarah Paddock's Lexington House before the perilous ordeal ahead. Two horses were added to the four-horse team for the long haul up to the summit. Avoiding the tollgate to Mountain Charley Road at Patchen, the stagecoach proceeded straight ahead up to the Schultheis ranch, then turned southeast down the ridge to pick up the Soquel Road leading to the coast.

Accidents were not uncommon on the narrow mountain roads. Coaches were blown off the road during winter storms, dragged by runaway teams. Passengers were forced to jump for their lives. Horses were spooked by wild pigs running across their path. But the passengers and mail got through to Santa Cruz.

Charley, despite the ravages of rheumatism (a common problem among drivers exposed to years of bad weather) continued to drive until the railroad began pushing into the



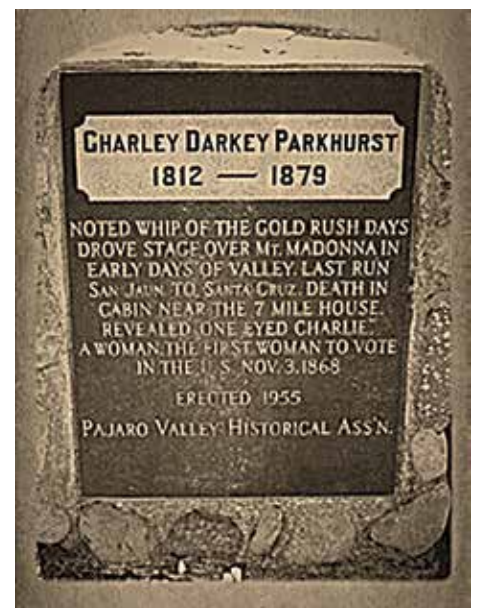
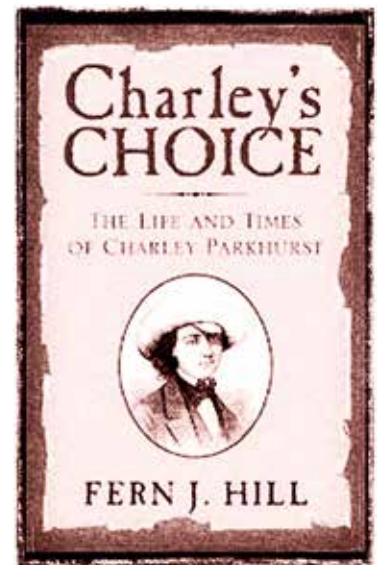
mountains. Then she retired to a cabin on Bean Creek to raise cattle and haul freight for neighbors, with partner Frank Woodward, a bachelor.

Ulysses S. Grant was running for President in 1868 and Charley registered to vote. A bronze plaque is located at the fire station in the town of Soquel, where the duly-registered Charley (Charlie) Parkhurst had voted in November, 1868. It reads, "*The first ballot by a woman in an American presidential election was cast on this site on November 3, 1868, by Charlotte (Charlie) Parkhurst, who masqueraded as a man for much of her life. She was a stagecoach driver in the Mother Lode Country during the Gold Rush days and shot and killed at least one bandit. In her later years she drove a stagecoach in this area.*"

The disguise was holding, but eventually the truth came out. When Charley Parkhurst died in 1879, the neighbors came to the cabin to prepare the body for burial, and discovered that the renowned stagecoach driver was a woman. Rheumatism and

cancer of the tongue were listed as causes of death, but the examining doctor, called in by the astounded neighbors, determined that Charley had been a mother.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* immediately picked up on the bizarre story, but unfortunately neglected to record Frank Woodward's reaction to the revelation that his longtime friend and partner was a female. Perhaps he was speechless.



schools

Loma Prieta Joint Union School District Superintendent's Update Lisa Fraser

The beginning of the Loma Prieta Joint Union School District 2020-2021 school year has certainly been one for the ages. Many of our families and staff members have endured a daunting array of challenges, including evacuations, power outages, lost homes, and COVID-19 impacts, while supporting our students' return to school in an environment we could not have imagined. Together, our school community has demonstrated a "mountain strong" resilience that is admirable.

Finding a way back to school as we once knew it has been on everyone's mind. Governor Newsom's August 31 announcement establishing a new ranking system for determining when schools can consider opening for in-person learning may help us inch closer to this ultimate goal. The new four-tiered, color-coded system ranks the severity of the pandemic in each of California's 58 counties:

Purple (Tier 1)—virus is widespread

Red (Tier 2)—substantial incidence of the virus

Orange (Tier 3)—moderate incidence of the virus

Yellow (Tier 4)—minimal incidence of the virus

The colors are based on two factors: the number of new positive cases per 100,000 individuals in the population, and the percentage of positive-test results over the previous week. Districts in counties in the purple (Tier 1) cannot reopen schools to in-person learning. Districts in any one of the other tiers have permission to open their schools for in-person instruction if they determine it is feasible.

The California Department of Public Health will assess indicators weekly. During the weekly assessment, if a county's adjusted case rate and/or test positivity has been within a more restrictive tier for two consecutive weeks, the county must revert to the more restrictive tier.

What does this mean for the Loma Prieta Joint Union School District? In simple terms, we must prepare to shift from a distance-learning model to a cohort, in-person model when it is safe to do so. We must also plan for potential re-closures, so we want our adopted model to allow for smooth transitions between each of the tiers.

The California Department of Education has mandated that schools submit a learning continuity and attendance plan that includes input from parents, students, teachers, principals, other school staff, and local bargaining units. LPJUSD has convened a task force and parent-advisory committee to solicit ideas and feedback as we refine our distance/in-person learning models.

Let's keep the community transmission of COVID-19 to a minimum by staying informed and adhering to health and safety guidelines. We look forward to the day when our school doors can be fully open again.

Why We Need Measure N

Ben Abeln

Vote "yes" on Measure N to protect the outstanding education students receive at Loma Prieta Elementary School and C.T. English Middle School.

Our schools are part of what make our community unique. Great teachers and rigorous math, science, history, reading, and writing curricula have prepared generations of mountain children to succeed in high school, college, and careers.

Unfortunately, years of state budget cuts have hurt our mountain schools. With the ongoing financial effects of the Coronavirus

pandemic, we face tens of thousands of dollars in further lost revenues. Measure N is necessary to supplement limited state funding.

Measure N does not increase tax rates. It simply extends our existing modest parcel tax, which would otherwise expire after the 2020-21 school year. Measure N won't solve all our funding needs, but it will help retain exceptional teachers, and protect core programs in our mountain schools.

Measure N funds will protect programs critical to our district. They will help us maintain outstanding core academic programs in reading, writing, math, history, and science, and retain highly qualified and experienced teachers.

Taxpayer protections are required. No funds are allowed for administrators' salaries. An independent citizens' oversight committee and mandatory audits are required for fiscal accountability.

Measure N costs most property owners less than \$14 per month. A senior-citizen exemption is available.

Whether or not you have school-age children, protecting the high quality of our public education is a wise investment. Good schools protect property values and keep our mountain community strong.

Join teachers, parents, and residents. Vote "yes" on Measure N. To learn more, visit www.SupportMountainSchools.org.

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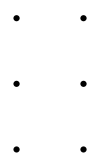
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schools

Lakeside School News

Sean Joyce

In the first three weeks of the school year, our school community experienced power outages, internet outages, Zoom failures, and a massive forest fire. The CZU Lightning Complex fire forced more than half of our staff members and families to evacuate from their homes for days or weeks. In spite of these challenges, remote learning continued. During the widespread evacuation orders and warnings, 100 percent of our staff and most of our students were able to work and learn from their new remote locations. We are very grateful that all of our displaced families and staff members were able to return to their homes before the Labor Day weekend.

For most students today, their relationship with a significant adult in their life is important. For many of our Lakeside students, their relationships with their teachers are significant. These relationships can provide an important sense of normalcy, consistency, and personal connection beyond their sheltered environment. In spite of myriad challenges, our little school on the mountain continues to deliver the



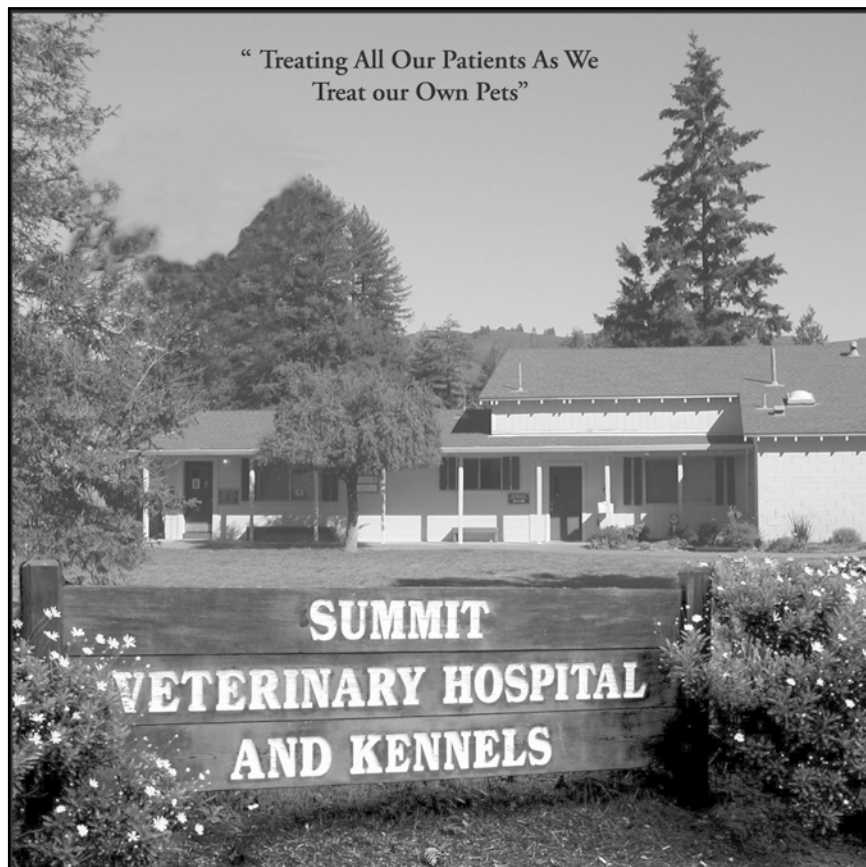
A miniature horse and goat were among a number of critters and their owners who found refuge at Lakeside during the CZU Lightning Complex fire. Photo by Gloria Mandurrago

best possible education and serves as a support center for our community.

While our school did not serve as an official Red Cross Emergency Evacuation Center, we opened our campus parking lot, field, and restrooms as a safe haven for evacuees. One family camped out with



their pony and a goat on the school field for a few days. Several evacuated families brought their chickens to the chicken coop on campus until they were allowed to return home. Lakeside School served as an information hub for our community, providing internet and telephone access, and



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CalFire's updated information board.

Debbie Lee, a Lakeside parent, led a donation drive for families evacuated during the wildfire. She collected water, sleeping bags, blankets, personal hygiene, and other items that displaced families needed. She delivered these donations to evacuation sites in Santa Cruz County.

Lakeside supports our students, but also their parents' social, emotional, and mental-health needs. With the support of the Lakeside Foundation, our social-emotional-learning coordinator and counselor, Kimberly Gladysz, offers families an option to access remote counseling and emotional support during these trying times.



At this year's virtual back-to-school night, each Lakeside teacher shared their instructional program and classroom practices via Zoom. This event was well-received by our families and showcased the rigorous remote-learning environment that Lakeside School staff deliver every day.

Lakeside School rolled out its family learning pods in August, to support our families who do not have reliable access to robust internet from home. We created 16 separate pods that adhere to Santa Clara County and California Department of Public Health requirements. In the pods, families have a safe and clean environment, sanitized daily, where parents can supervise their child's remote learning and also perform their own work during the school day. These learning pods have been a tremendous support for our families.

Lakeside Community Foundation Critical Donation Fundraiser

With the loss of their annual auction due to the shelter-in-place order, the Lakeside Community Foundation has changed their fundraising efforts to an annual "critical donation." The Foundation directly supports art, physical education, science, and music programs, counseling, and classroom instructional support. If you are able to donate to support these critical, yet underfunded programs, visit www.lakesidelosgatos.org. Click on the "Support Lakeside" button in the upper right-hand corner.



Lakeside's family learning pods provide a safe space, with reliable internet access, where parents can supervise their child's remote learning while getting their own work done.

Building Blocks Look for the Helpers Nicole Gomez

While our school is still closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we're doing our best to stay connected with our Building Blocks families and extended mountain community. The stress of the year isn't lost on our children. In the absence of working with them in the classroom, we want to provide some resources in case your child is experiencing anxiety.

Fred Rogers famously said, "If you look for the helpers, you'll know that there's hope." You may have heard this before, but the concept is genuinely helpful in talking to your children.

Mr. Rogers explains that helping your children focus on what good people do to help in times of crisis and chaos brings hope. Look for stories in the media that highlight the dedication of first responders, medical professionals, essential workers, good Samaritans, and volunteers. I recently read an article in *SFGate* that spotlighted Kerith, a therapy dog that provides comfort to firefighters battling wildfires.

If you are looking for something for your child to do to process their feelings, try making signs to hang up, or send cards thanking essential workers and first responders. These cards are genuinely appreciated.

Reading books with your children is another vehicle for comfort. It stimulates their imaginations, builds compassion, and helps develop language skills.

The blog *What We Do All Day* has compiled a list of comforting picture books that you can find and read (either in person or via an online read aloud:

Taking Time by Jo Loring-Fisher
Three Squeezes by Jason Pratt
The Rabbit Listened by Cori Doerrfeld
Maud and Grad-Maud by Sara O'Leary
You Matter by Christian Robinson
Together We Grow by Susan Vaught
Plenty of Hugs by Fran Manushkin
In My Anaana's Amauti by Nadia Sammurtok
Ohana Means Family by Ilima Loomis
Like the Moon Loves the Sky by Hena Khan

If you're looking for additional resources or support, email teacher_nicole@lpcf.org. If you have any questions about Building Blocks or future enrollment, email membership_bb@lpcf.org.

schools

Lexington School Deanna Wilk

Lexington families and staff have been adapting to change: a full schedule of remote learning, rebalancing family habits at home, Zoom calls, the danger of the CZU Lightening Complex fire, teachers notified to evacuate during back-to-school night, and families ready to pack their most important belongings and leave the rest behind. Some days the sky is a dirty orange and the smoke is too thick to go outside.

Yet, school is happening. Our staff is finding new ways to connect and engage students. Since we are not on campus, Principal Deppong gives families video tours of a different part of campus each week, interviewing a staff member and even playing the drums for us on the multi-purpose room tour.

Teachers have decorated their classrooms with submitted student work made during Zoom calls. Two LGUSD board members joined the third-grade's Zoom class meeting. They answered student questions about how the board organizes itself to make decisions for our district schools and local community. It was part of the third-grade IB inquiry unit, *How We Organize Ourselves*.

Our global-citizen tickets, given to students who exhibit an IB-learner attribute (caring, courageous, and principled) are back, but better. Students can recognize or be recognized by a parent or sibling. Students are excited to bestow recognition. Every few weeks, Principal Deppong holds a small lunchtime Zoom call, playing the drums with select participants.

Global-citizen tickets are also newly bilingual. This is part of increasing students' interaction with Spanish, taught



in all grades. Spanish teacher *Maestra* Alison prerecords video lessons students can use to practice throughout the week, before giving multiple, live, interactive Zoom classes. In addition to conversational Spanish, she reinforces what each grade is studying,

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<input type="checkbox"/> Thinker	<input type="checkbox"/> Pensador/a
<input type="checkbox"/> Communicator	<input type="checkbox"/> Comunicador/a
<input type="checkbox"/> Knowledgeable	<input type="checkbox"/> Experto/a
<input type="checkbox"/> Courageous	<input type="checkbox"/> Valiente
<input type="checkbox"/> Principled	<input type="checkbox"/> De principios
<input type="checkbox"/> Reflective	<input type="checkbox"/> Reflexivo/a
<input type="checkbox"/> Open Minded	<input type="checkbox"/> De mente abierta
<input type="checkbox"/> Balanced	<input type="checkbox"/> Equilibrado/a
<input type="checkbox"/> Caring	<input type="checkbox"/> Bondadoso/a



Lex Principal Jason Deppong and his drums

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In their weekly art class, second-graders created drawings, dioramas, and other projects to demonstrate their knowledge of the ocean biome

en español: ocean animals to coordinate with second grade's IB unit on biomes, the solar system to coordinate with fifth grade's IB unit on natural systems, and shapes to complement first-grade math concepts.

PE teacher Mary leads PSPE classes weekly. PSPE stands for "personal, social, physical education," a strand of the IB program that integrates each grade's IB inquiry unit and encompasses a broader sense of well-being, in addition to physical activities.



In conversational Spanish classes, maestra Alison reinforces what each grade is studying. She taught the second-graders the Spanish names of marine animals during their study of the ocean biome.

The Art Docents of Los Gatos gifted a box of art supplies to each student. Students enjoy weekly art classes. Art teacher Kelly Martin has a knack for creating hands-on projects that teach students art fundamentals during remote learning, and turn out to be unique and beautiful. Recently, our second-graders created drawings, dioramas, recordings, and other creative projects to express their knowledge of the ocean biome.

Each week, they study a different biome. They notice that when they research, they have more questions, and then choose their own unique way to share the knowledge they have gained.

Looking internally and reflecting is part of Lexington's weekly social-emotional learning class. This month's focus was empathy. Parents are encouraged to watch and discuss lessons with their children. This has been especially useful to connect and empathize with those who have lost their homes, with firefighters working hard to protect us, with neighbors who are finding remote learning difficult or are sheltering in place alone, and with teachers who may have their own little ones who want to be part of the Zoom call. Everywhere, we are adapting to change with empathy and resolve to make life better.

LGS Recreation Remote Learning Centers Todd Badger

As schools return to remote-learning models this fall, LGS Recreation knows that many families are looking for opportunities for their children to work in small groups. Unlike many schools, we are able to create small and stable learning groups.

Our remote-learning-center programs are designed to allow parents to drop off their children for their remote-learning school day. Students will be placed in stable groups of 12 or less and will be supervised by qualified instructors.

These instructors will monitor and support students as they navigate through the remote-learning plan provided by their school teacher. Instructors will ensure that students are online for remote-learning meetings and assist with general homework and technical support.

In addition, this program will offer a social-emotional benefit for children though social-distanced group activities and opportunities for exercise. The program will provide a focused environment to help students who struggle with distractions at home or have parents who need to focus on work during the school day.

Our newest remote-learning program introduces children to fitness and sports. It will be coordinated by Valley Sports, that runs our current basketball classes/academy, basketball league, and multi-sports program. When students are not engaged in online learning or homework, they will interact with Valley Sports staff, participating in individual challenges, socially distanced games, and more.

This camp combines social-emotional learning with an active curriculum. Throughout the day, children engage in sports, games, and exercises. They gain knowledge, skills, and confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthful physical activities.

Participants are required to bring an electronic device, supporting power cord, headphones, all login/password info, and a school schedule. For more information, call Todd Badger at 408-207-4903, or email todd@lgsrecreation.org.



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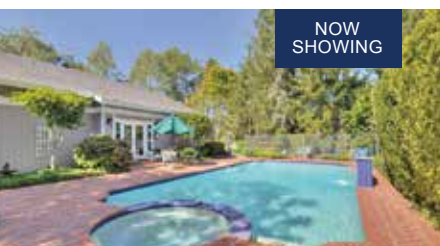
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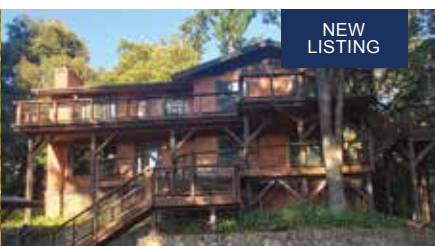
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