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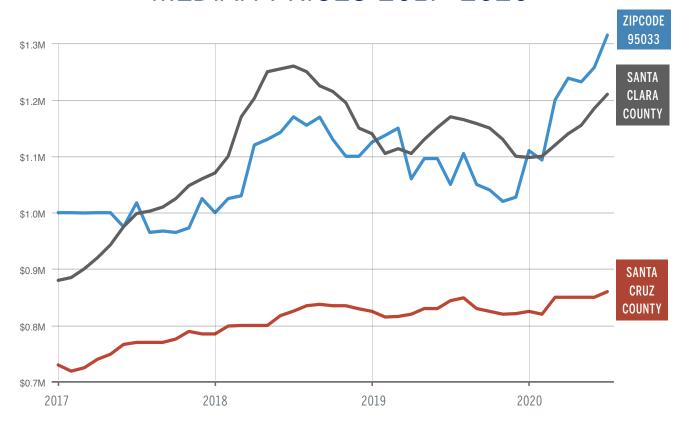
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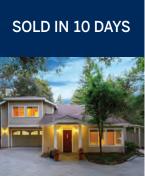
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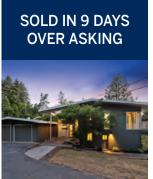
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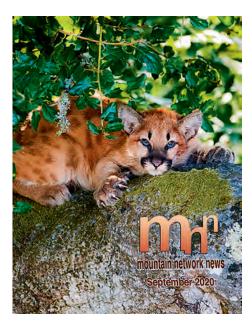
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Young Mountain Lion in Villa del Monte

Photography by Jared M. Johnson

Here in our mountains we live closer to nature.

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Sometimes scary

But not virtual

Always real

Enjoy

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COMPASS

resources

What to Disclose When Selling Your Home

Patricia A. Wendleton, Esq. Pratt & Associates, APC

When selling your residence, you want to make your home as appealing as possible to potential buyers. Yet, while telling potential buyers all the things that make the Santa Cruz Mountains, and your house in particular, an extraordinary place to live, you must also disclose facts about it that may make potential buyers feel otherwise.

Disclosures are one of the most important issues you will confront when selling or buying a property. California law requires a seller to disclose any and all material facts that may affect a potential buyer's decision to purchase. In short, to protect yourself, you must be thorough and not leave anything out.

There is a common misconception that when selling a house "as is," the seller can avoid disclosures. In fact, disclosures are also required in "as is" sales, so a better term for such a sale is, "as disclosed."

The requirement that you must disclose material facts cannot be waived by the buyer, as such a waiver is against public policy. You and the buyer cannot agree that you don't need to make disclosures about your home.

Disclosures in California are usually made on a real estate Transfer Disclosure Statement (TDS) provided to you by your realtor. The TDS calls for you to identify the various features of your residence. For example, you will state whether your residence has central heat and air, a dishwasher, a microwave, and even window screens. You must disclose whether your residence is part of any type of homeowners association or road association. You must



disclose additions, structural modifications, and repairs to the residence. And, you must disclose whether necessary permits were obtained and whether the work on your home is code-compliant. The TDS also asks about the condition of the property, including (but not limited to) the roof, electrical wiring, appliances, and plumbing.

Not only must you disclose information about features of the residence, you must also disclose concerns about the neighborhood. For example, if your home was constructed before January 1, 2010, you must disclose whether it is in a "high or very-high fire-hazard-severity zone."

California law also requires that you provide a Natural Hazards Disclosure Statement, which identifies earthquake and seismic hazards. Fire and earthquake hazards are of particular interest for mountain properties. Other facts that may be material to mountain neighborhood sales are septic issues, well productivity, boundary disputes, forced power outages, impassable roads, landslides, and anything else that may materially affect the value of the property.

Keep in mind that you must disclose all material facts you are aware of, not just answer the questions on the TDS form. The fact that something isn't listed on the TDS doesn't mean that you can skip disclosing it.

Your disclosures must be made in good faith. California law defines good faith in disclosure of material facts as "honesty in fact." You must disclose all material facts, even though your realtor and the buyer's realtor have inspected your residence. You must make all disclosures even if a homeinspection report has been made by an independent home inspector on your, or the buyer's, behalf. And, you should make a subsequent disclosure if you recall or learn of something material after you completed the initial TDS.

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Your realtor will fill out his or her own disclosure, but your realtor is not expected to know everything that you know about the property.

Make a thorough inspection of your property. You may have learned to live with certain imperfections over the years, such as the window that doesn't function, or the light switch that doesn't work, but don't be blind to those problems when disclosing. Look in areas that you don't regularly see and that may be overlooked by realtors, home inspectors, or buyers.

For example, look in closets and cabinets for evidence of leaking. You should be on the lookout for the growth of mold or mildew. When you find a leak or some other issue, you can fix it and then disclose that it has been recently repaired. Remember, having your home inspected by a home inspector does not relieve you of your duty to disclose material facts. Neither does burying your head in the sand. The standard for disclosing material facts is whether you knew about the problem or whether, as a reasonable person, you should have known about the problem.

The best advice, if you're in doubt, is to err on the side of disclosure. Over-disclosure rarely kills a sale, and making price concessions for some defect that you have disclosed is less costly than later having to defend a lawsuit.

When a buyer does sue a seller for nondisclosure, it is usually a breach-of-contract case, which may also contain fraud allegations. In such a lawsuit or arbitration, it is unlikely that your insurance company will defend or indemnify you. Rather, you will be responsible for paying your attorney to defend you, and for paying a judgment if you are found liable. Further, if you don't win your case, you may be forced to pay the other side's attorney fees and costs.

In some cases of nondisclosure, a buyer may even be able to rescind (undo) the sale of the property. In this case, you would be compelled to refund the buyer's money.

As you can see, the financial repercussions for failing to disclose material facts are significant. If you don't disclose material facts, the sale of your home can turn out to be much less profitable.

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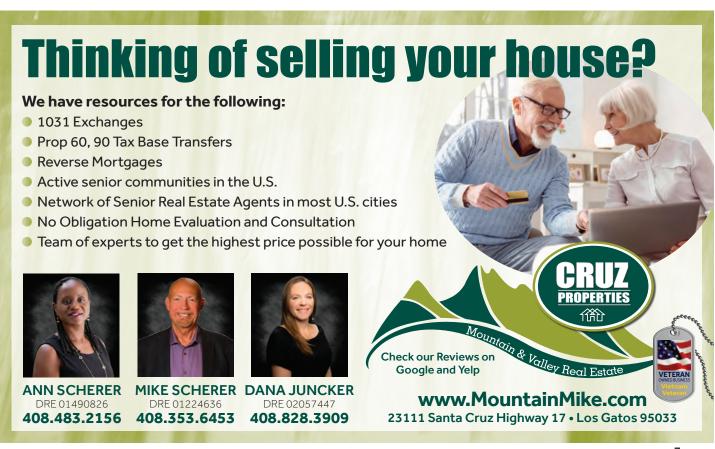
Life Got Easier Good News from DMV

Due to COVID-19, the DMV is offering eligible Californians more time to complete driver-license renewals. Most non-commercial license holders, age 69 and younger, now qualify for online renewal. License holders over the age of 70 have been granted a one-year extension from their original expiration date.

Commercial licenses expiring between March and September are extended to September 30.

First-time drivers get a break, too. DMV has extended driver's-learner permits, with an expiration date through November 30, to give student drivers more time to prepare and schedule behind-the-wheel tests. Eligible permits will be extended six months, or 24 months from the date of application, whichever is earlier.

The extensions are automatic, and eligible drivers won't receive a new card or paper extension. You can request a temporary paper extension, however, through the DMV's virtual field office. There is no cost for an extension, and extensions require no action on the part of the driver. California law-enforcement officers have been notified of these extensions.





Mental Health in Pandemic Times Shaylin Maddox

As we find ourselves in these strange and distressing times, we face uncomfortable changes. Among them, the fact that we aren't in control of many things we wish or expect to command, especially our own mortality and the fragility of life and health.

While we face uncertainty, fear, and discomfort, it is important to remember that we aren't alone in this experience. In fact, in an unprecedented way, we are in this together. It's important to normalize what feels to many people like a roller coaster of emotions as it relates to pandemic life. For many people, grief in its many guises shows up daily, as we mourn what we have lost and what we continue to miss.

What do you miss most? At the top of my list are hugs, in-person connections with loved ones, care-free trips to the beach, and enjoying a nice meal out. I give myself permission to mourn—to acknowledge in a deep and meaningful way—the sorrow and pain of this time.

While it remains essential that we carve out time and space to grieve and bow to what is difficult, I believe it is equally important to identify and focus on what we can control. In my own journey through pandemic life, I have found it restorative to take action and help where I can, even if it is in small ways. This may take the form of donating time, energy, or resources to causes dear to your heart or to those in need. This could include sending care packages, or reaching out to loved ones to remind them they are loved and are not alone.

What is under your control? Where can you take action?

I find myself devoting time and energy to stay safe and healthy. For example, I focus on my health by remembering to eat delicious and healthful foods, get regular exercise, and spend time in nature.

I limit activities to those that are necessary, and follow recommendations to promote the health and safety of myself and others. Staying connected is also important. For many of us, pandemic life has magnified the importance of our connections with others. Loneliness is difficult. Navigating the gray area of how we remain close and connected safely is a delicate balance we are trying to perfect.

Practicing gratitude has also been an essential part of my pandemic-life survival guide. At the top of my list remains my gratitude for my beautiful mountain home and our unique, wonderful mountain

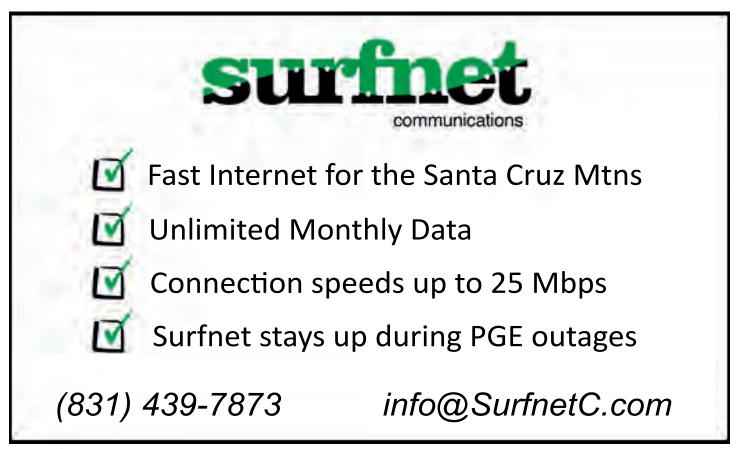
community. They are a refuge for my family and me.

Gratitude helps to shift our focus, and restores perspective that may be lost amid solitude and grief. In short, it reminds us of how much goodness is hidden in this moment.

Practicing mindfulness in formal and informal ways is another useful tool. Often we focus on what has happened or been lost, and project sadness into an unclear future. Instead, intentionally living in the moment with kindness and compassion helps us remain steadfast and grounded.

Here is a gentle, but firm, reminder: You don't have to do it alone. As a therapist I see the suffering and difficulty of pandemic life. Anxiety, depression, and panic attacks are common symptoms I've encountered in my practice. Paired with the length of time this pandemic has impacted our world and the lack of an end in sight, our coping skills and resiliency are facing challenges. While I don't have a magic guide, I know that finding comfort and support in ways that feel safe and right can help us make it through pandemic times.

Shaylin Maddox is a licensed marriage- and family-therapist and co-founder of Wellspring Psychology, a mental-health private practice in Los Gatos. She and her colleagues are committed to serving our mountain community.



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What's Happening at Bear Creek Stables

Friends of Bear Creek Stables

Friends of Bear Creek Stables is a nonprofit organization established in 2013 to save and protect the historic stables at Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve. The stables are located on the east side of Bear Creek Road, approximately one mile from Highway 17.

The century-old tradition of stabling horses at Bear Creek continues to this day, with boarding stables, a pony co-op, horseleasing programs, summer horse camps, and horseback riding lessons.

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District owns and oversees the management of the property, to benefit the taxpayers who support the district, and to give the







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community a chance to experience horses.

Friends of Bear Creek Stables offers a unique horse experience to the public, while limiting the environmental impact. In addition to working collaboratively with Midpen to keep Bear Creek Stables open and available to the public, we have undertaken many projects. These include improving the community gathering area, developing a pony co-op, mitigating storm-water runoff, increasing water storage, developing a shelter-in-place and emergency-preparedness plan, and offering workshops and tours.

In April 2019, Midpen's board of directors voted unanimously to approve a plan to make much-needed repairs to the stables, stabilize the Tevis barn, and enhance visitor amenities. These include ADA-compliant restrooms, visitor parking, and improvements to the lower sand arena used for public programs.

In the near future, the management of the stables plans to bid for a long-term lease. The request for proposal will be offered through a public-bid process to ensure continuity of horse care and public access.

Friends of Bear Creek Stables is proud to be a part of securing a long-term future for the stables at Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve. If you want more information about our organization, email friendsofbearcreekstables@gmail.com.









community

Civilizing a Horse

Nancy Cole and Michael Riese

Nevada, a wild four-year-old stallion, came from the Virginia Range in Nevada. Nevada would get into trouble on the roads when he came down into neighborhoods for food.

For his and the public's safety, he was captured by range volunteer Anna Orchard for processing at the Nevada Prison Equine Facility. As the property of the state of Nevada, he was gelded, branded, and evaluated.

Anna Orchard placed him in a foster home in California. From there he went into "quieting training" with Melany Moore in the Summit Road area.

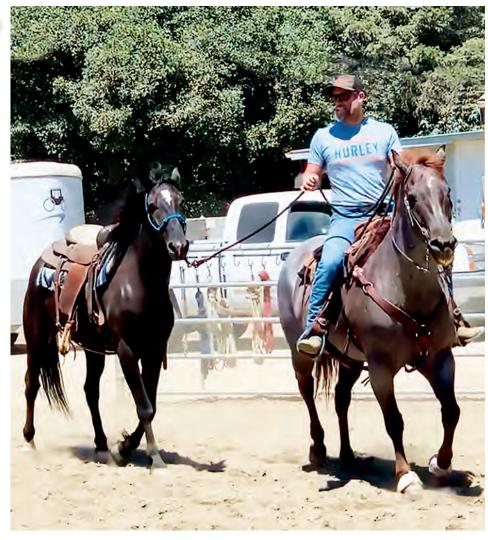
Melany worked patiently to convince the wild horse that he could interact safely with humans. Then Melany worked with his new owner, Michael Riese, to handle Nevada and continue training.

Michael adopted Nevada and moved him to Bear Creek Stables. The stables are located on the Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve, and are managed by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

After many hours of groundwork, Nevada was ready to be trained for riding. The old-school name for this training is breaking. Today, wranglers work in a partnership with the horse. The training is humane, kind, and not so traumatic.

To start the big step in training, Nevada was moved to Arrowhead Stables in Soquel on August 1. There, the horse received advanced training from Mark Vanover while being handled by Michael.

Using the groundwork foundation started by Melany and Michael, Mark's first goal was to nurture Nevada's trust of people.



Mark Vanover works to quiet Nevada's fear of being mounted and dismounted.

He instilled the skills necessary for him to become rideable and trail-worthy.

Countering Nevada's strong flight instincts was the first major task. He learned by walking and trotting while in the presence of another horse and rider. This was the job for Mark and his older, well-trained horse, Rascal. Training with a lead horse

(a technique called ponying) is a method preferred by many trainers.

As with the other tasks put before him, Nevada is trying to be a good partner and student. Reluctant at first, he quickly took to the exercise. Soon, he was being ponied all around the Arrowhead property.

Everyone is learning, especially Nevada.



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Santa Cruz County Public Works Highland Way Storm Damage Repair Project Road Closure

Cristina Crocker

Work is continuing on Highland Way at post miles 3.19, 3.24, 3.73, 3.91, and 5.45. Traffic delays will continue through **Friday, October 30**. The road will be closed to through traffic daily, from 10 a.m. to noon, and 1 to 3 p.m., through **Friday, September 11**.

Road closures and delays are necessary for construction of soldier-pile retaining walls and roadway improvements. Temporary stop signs and traffic signals will operate for the duration of the project.

Avoid these areas when possible, and expect delays. For updated information on county-maintained roads, visit http://www.sccroadclosure.org/.



CTE Home and School Club Loma Prieta Holiday Craft Faire

Karen Hackett
CTE HSC president

Enjoy a wonderful mountain tradition. Mountain residents and visitors throughout the Bay Area look forward to visiting our Holiday Craft Faire for one-stop shopping. The Craft Faire is sponsored by the C.T. English Middle School Home and School Club. The Craft Faire has been an annual event in spite of obstacles, such as a fire that destroyed a portion of the gym, construction on campus that restricted accessibility and, of course, rain. We safely weathered those storms, and in true mountain fashion, we are prepared to weather another: COVID-19.

The Craft Faire will return the weekend of December 5 and 6 as a virtual event. We will bring back your favorite vendors, along with some new ones, and provide an easy way to shop online.

Stay tuned to the *Mountain Network News* and social media for more information throughout the next few months.

If you have any questions, or if you are interested in being a vendor, email LomaPrietaHolidayCraftFaire@gmail. com.



community

Mountain Matters

Question: During the shelter-in-place, have you learned any new skills, talents, knowledge, or hobbies?



Cari, school secretary

"I've been spending way more time on my yard and garden. We are growing lots of tomatoes, green beans, and other veggies, and lots of beautiful flowers. It's been great."



Dawn, artist and crafter

"I've been sewing. I learned how to make various styles of masks from watching YouTube videos, and have given them to friends, neighbors, and those in need. I'm still making some for the local churches to give away. I've also enrolled in two online calligraphy classes, Akim Hand and Modern Calligraphy, through Pacific Scribes. I'm pretty excited to learn something new. We used to have gatherings to play the game Tock with friends in the mountains, including wine, yummy snacks, and a lot of banter with the opposing team. Since the lockdown, we've played online, while videoconferencing on FaceTime. It wasn't the same as sitting 'round the table, but a fun way to spend an evening with a few friends."



Ronnie, contractor

"I do construction work for a couple of building contractors. We've set up a way to schedule our work, so that we can work in different areas of a building site depending on our skills. It's a pretty good system that helps us continue working, but safely, to keep ourselves and our families protected."

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Alessandro, incoming college student

"I've been focusing on just working a lot (at Nonno's Pizza). There's not much else for me to do other than to set myself up financially and save some money. College will be online, so I'll have time to work toward buying a car. It's not entirely a bad thing, but we're definitely living in strange times."



Ralph, owner, Nonno's Pizza

"One thing I've learned is I've forced myself to figure out the internet (chuckles), and how it works. It's been a big help for keeping the business thriving."



Mark, logistics director

"Since I couldn't do my regular gym workouts, I got one of those standing boxing bags that I put on my deck. It's a great cardio workout, plus it's a great outlet for taking out my frustrations and putting me in a better mindset."



Angela, bookkeeper and financial coach

"I would say I've learned how to enjoy my home with my husband. He used to travel and be at work a lot. Now that we're both working from home, we have more time to enjoy our surroundings together."



Kevin, mechanical engineer

"A couple of weeks after most of my clients terminated their design projects due to the pandemic, I received a call from two doctors at a hospital in New York, who were in quarantine. They were asking for help to turn snorkel masks into Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPRs), to protect themselves when they returned to work. They had reached the limits of the duct tape prototypes they had created in their hotel rooms. Over the next couple of weeks, I modeled up and 3-D printed several designs, and delivered parts to build 11 devices, powered by rechargeable air mattress pumps and incorporating antiviral filters. These protected many front-line workers until the 3M/Ford plant came online with real PAPR devices. This pro-bono project led to some paying work and new opportunities designing face masks."





Monet Jolie's Aromatherapy Monet Dudas

As someone who grew up in the mountains and attended local schools, community service is an important part of my upbringing. Empathy, leadership, and selflessness were exemplified at Loma Prieta and C.T. English.

Since the shelter-in-place order went into effect, it has been difficult to continue activism at home beyond the digital platforms. These limitations led me to start an Etsy shop inspired by my love of horses and community service.



In June, I began drying herbs and flowers, such as rosemary and lavender, and then used my sewing machine to make scented sachets and pillows. I also began sewing aromatherapy stuffed animals: ponies and giraffes.

After a few weeks of creating merchandise, I am officially launching my store. In light of the pressing social issues in our country, I am donating half of all proceeds to an Oaklandbased charity called The Hidden Genius Project.

The Hidden Genius Project is dedicated to mentoring and training young black men for the

tech industry. The program connects them with the skills, mentors, and experiences they need to become entrepreneurs and technologists in a 21st century, global economy.

The money made from my Etsy shop will fund meals, outreach, travel costs, and computer fees for these hidden geniuses.



If you are interested in supporting my cause, you can find my store by searching for "MonetJolies" on etsy.com. Every order from my Etsy shop includes a printed donation receipt.

Learn more about The Hidden Genius Project and donate directly on their website: www.hiddengeniusproject.org.

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COMPASS

Loma Prieta Museum Revising our Goals

Roger Mason and Alex Hall

Since we are not currently able to hold events to share mountain history, we are working to communicate in other ways.

The museum team has worked during COVID-19 to provide educational and historical narratives to students and the community through online communication. We plan to coordinate a volunteer effort to research and document local history in support of this goal.

Our Facebook page (Facebook.com/ LomaPrietaMuseum) is being updated, and our website (LomaPrietaMuseum.org) will include local history online. Check out our website. We welcome your suggestions for improvement.

Send us history articles, your own history stories, old photos, artifacts, old farm equipment, or other donations to help build the archives of the Loma Prieta Museum. Email LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com.

We are looking for more volunteers. If you are interested in helping us share history, we would love to hear from you. Together we can uncover the past. Thank you for your support.

Why Wear a Mask, Maintain Social Distancing, and Wash your Hands? Gale Wiley

In July, the *Courthouse News* reported: "The champion of the world in the fight against COVID-19, without any real competition, is Vietnam. Despite a 900-mile border with China, Vietnam mobilized and halted the spread of the virus with a mere 355 cases, all of whom recovered. No one has died from COVID-19 in a nation of almost 100 million people."

In August, Vietnam had reported 11 deaths, still a remarkable number.

Vietnam beat COVID-19 by asking all its citizens to shelterin-place, using scientifically accurate testing and tracing, and enforcing the order to isolate when the first cases were detected.



Leadership

rooted in science and concern for its citizens, coupled with rigorous adherence and strong enforcement (including imprisonment for non-compliance), make Vietnam an example of what we could, and should, have done.

As of August 10, some 163,000 Americans have died from COVID-19, and more than five million have tested positive for the virus.

We must do better. Wear a mask. Maintain social distance. Wash your hands.

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26985 LOMA PRIETA WAY
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Office, library, billiard room & bar · vineyard · ocean views
Listed for \$3,200,000

LOMA PRIETA WINERY



23880 WRIGHTS STATION RD.
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sports court, trails in the redwoods.
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Monterey Bay views, usable land with zipline.
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18371 LAS CUMBRES RD.
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Usable land, Mountain views!
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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

Tai chi 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 using the Zoom video interface, 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, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m., or online. 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

September 10

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

September 24

Redwood Estates Pavilion 1 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.













(Above) A young grosbeak learning to fly near Lexington Reservoir. (Below) A slower shutter speed reveals the wing motion of this grosbeak.





(Above) A Caspian Tern makes a spectacular dive at the Shoreline Park lagoon in Mountain View. (Below) The Caspian Tern makes a splash. You can see them at Shoreline and Lexington Reservoir.

Photos by Jim Scholfield

In Idylwild Pond

Six little speckled frogs, Sitting on a speckled log, Eating some most delicious bugs. Yum, yum!

Photo by Glen Stone



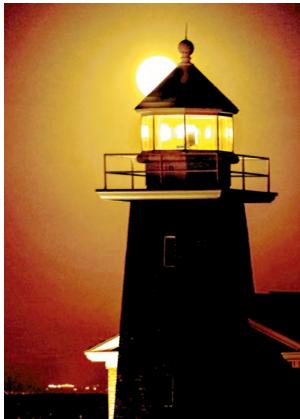
Celebrating life in the Santa Cruz Mountains

gallery



Wind turbine blades in the sunset

Photo by Bruce Fournier



Sturgeon moon over Mark Abbott Lighthouse

Photo by Bruce Fournier

Sharing your Pictures Bruce Sudweeks

As we shelter-in-place due to COVID-19, here is an opportunity to share the natural wonders of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in our own backyard. Every year the "Get-Into-Your-Sanctuary" photo contest is sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

The contest is free to enter. You can send up to ten entries. Winning photos will be featured in the *Earth Is Blue* magazine and on *Earth is Blue* social-media outlets.

Photos can be above or below the water line and fall into four categories: view, life, recreation, and home. The view category consists of scenic shots and stunning sunsets. The recreation category includes photos of people enjoying the marine sanctuary through swimming, diving, kayaking, or boating. The life category showcases the fish, bird, and mammal inhabitants of the Bay. The home category covers community stewardship and sanctuary-inspired artwork. The photo contest ends on **September 7**.

The details of how to enter can be found at sanctuaries.noaa.gov/photo-contest.html. You aren't limited to the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary. You might want to consider dusting off your vacation photos from other marine sanctuaries such as Channel Islands, Florida Keys, Farallones, Cordell Bank, Thunder Bay, Olympic Coast, American Samoa, or Papahanaumokuakea.

Even if you are not interested in entering your photos, viewing the entries will remind you of the amazing world around us.

My photo is one that I submitted last year for the contest in the recreation category. It features my dive buddy at the Monastery Beach North dive site in Carmel.





Photo by Mercury Freedom

Comet Neowise





Purple-striped jellyfish near Elkhorn Slough

Large and striking, purple-striped jellies are found only off the California coast near Monterey. In certain seasons, they appear near the shores. Keep your distance.

Their sting isn't fatal, but it can be painful.

Photos by Jenifer Cramer

exploring

Open Again Byrne-Milliron Forest Neil Wiley

While many enjoyable venues have closed, the Santa Cruz Land Trust has reopened beautiful, calming paths through a shady forest

It's the right place at the right time. Walking under big trees through nature can make you smile. Hear quiet. Slow to a walk. Follow paths softened by leafy, packed earth.

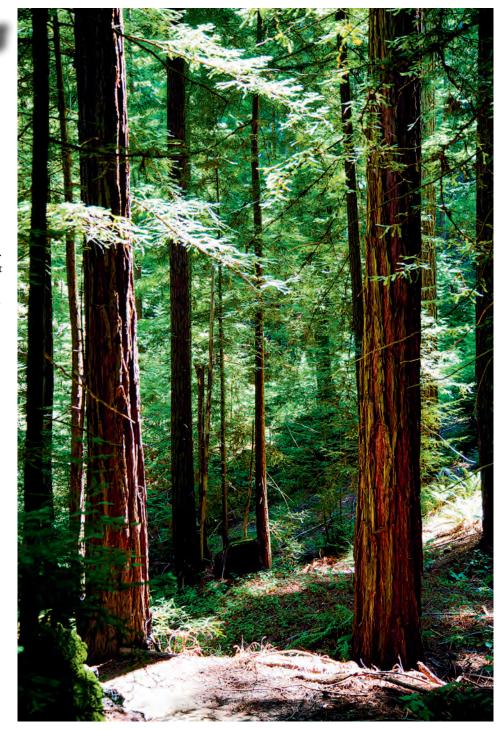
This natural playground seems remote, but a short drive from our mountains takes you to Corralitos. In less than an hour, enjoy ten miles of trails through 402 forested acres.

If you like tall trees, you've come to the right place. See redwoods and white firs mixed with oaks. Below, the shaded understory features ferns and other shadeloving plants. It may be second growth, but it looks primeval.

Although Byrne-Milliron is all forest on relatively steep slopes, it offers a range of experiences.

Perhaps the easiest route is via the Byrne Trail. From the parking area, take Byrne Trail to the right. It is wide, allows for social distancing, and is mostly smooth with gradual grades. If your group tires easily, you can loop back to the parking lot via the Helmer Trail. Further up Byrne, you can take a side trip on a single-track to the Cathedral Rest Stop.

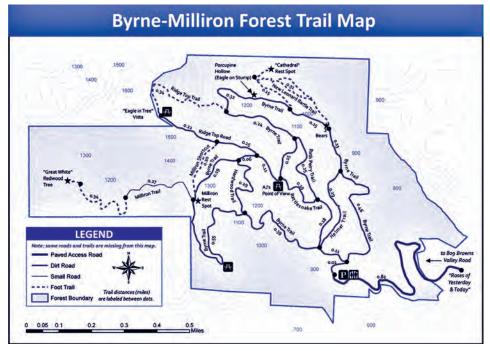
Continue on the Byrne Trail loop until you reach AJ's Point of View. If the fog has lifted, you have a nice view of Corralitos farms, distant mountains, and a slice of ocean. A comfortable wooden platform offers seating, a table, and a mailbox filled with visitor journals.







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After your rest, you can continue up Ridge Trip Road to the Eagle in Tree Vista. It's not as comfortable as AJ's Point of View, but it is higher (at about 1600 feet).

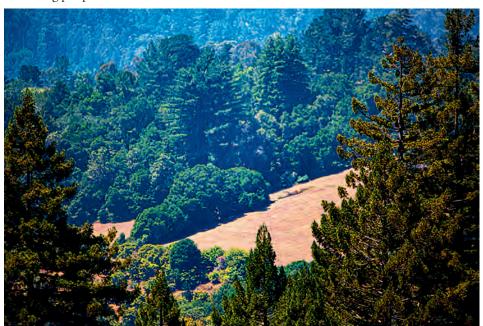
Now, you're faced with a choice. You can return back to AJ's Point of View, and then follow Rattlesnake Trail down to Byrne and the parking lot. For more of a challenge, continue from Eagle in Tree back down via the Ridge Top Trail to Byrne Trail.

Ridge Top Trail is misnamed. It tumbles down a steep slope suitable for experienced hikers and mountain goats. I wouldn't recommend it for children or the fainthearted. On the other hand, if you stop occasionally and look down through the trees, you see the forest from a unique and interesting perspective. When I turned left

on Byrne Trail, it felt like a superhighway, and the rest of the walk was downhill all the way. This left turn on Byrne gave me access to the new single-track Leonard Bartle Trail and the Cathedral Rest Spot.

One feature I haven't seen is the Great White Redwood Tree, a 250-foot-high, 1000-year-old tree at the end of the Milliron Trail. When I tried to visit it a few years ago, the trail was barely passable, but a fellow hiker said that the trail has been improved. If you get there, let me know if it is worth an out-and-back trek.

One place I did reach at the end of the hike was the Corralitos Market and Sausage Company. It was worth a stop. I enjoyed a gourmet meal consisting of a Cheesy Bavarian sandwich with fresh tomatoes,



september 2020

Celebrating life in the Santa Cruz Mountains



onions, relish, ketchup, two kinds of mustard, and a big soft drink. Yes, it was good.

Considerations

Bring a map. You can get one at www. landtrustsantacruz.org. Most trails and intersections have signs, but several trail loops create confusion. A compass is also helpful. (Thick forest blocks the sun.)

Bring water. I didn't see any fountains. Bring a mask. Use it when other people are close.

Dogs are welcome, but bring a leash and a poop bag.

Don't bring a bicycle, motorized vehicle, or horse.

No fires, camping, or hunting allowed. Reservations are not required, but it's a good idea to sign in.

Directions

Drive south on San Jose-Soquel Road or Highway 17 to Highway 1 south toward Monterey. Exit on Freedom Boulevard (a slight right), then left over Highway 1 away from the ocean. Drive five miles to a left on Corralitos Road. Turn right at 1.8 miles (next to Corralitos Market) on Browns Valley Road. At 0.4 miles, cross the bridge and turn left at the T to stay on Browns Valley Road. At 0.8 miles, take a slight left to stay on Browns Valley Road. At this point, you'll think you have gone far enough, but keep going for another 1.7 miles. Watch for a small sign on the left announcing the Roses of Yesterday and Today driveway. Follow signs to #809.

Drive very slowly (10 mph) for about a mile on a one-lane road. Watch the mirrors at blind turns. Be prepared to back up if necessary. California law says that the vehicle facing downhill must yield the right-of-way by backing up until the vehicle going uphill can pass.

Visitor parking is on the right. Register. Enjoy. Eat sausage.



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Looking forward to history Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Neil Wiley

Although Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space has been opened to the public, it doesn't give up its secrets easily. Most of the history is hidden in off-limit areas of the preserve.

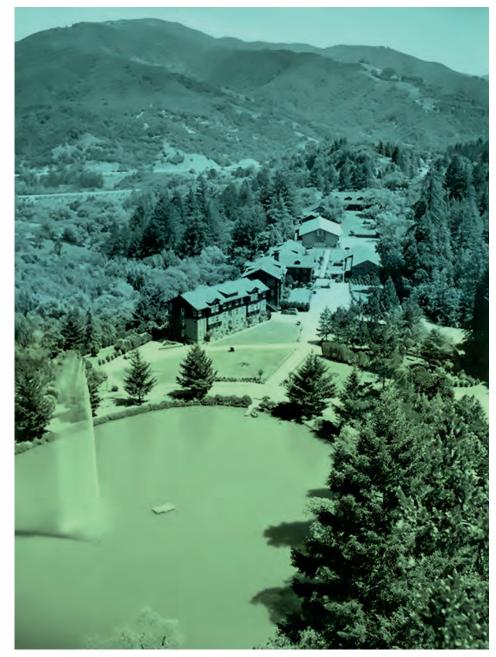
I have hiked this preserve for several years on docent-led tours, an unplanned adventure with Sister Toni, and alone on solo treks with a permit and a bad map. I have read archaeological reports, historical evaluations, and articles. I got information at the open-space master-plan meetings. On a history tour with docents Jenny Whitman and Richard Gehrer, I learned even more. Yet the artifacts of history prove hard to find.

Little remains of the Flood and Tevis estates—a few roads, some brick walls, bridges in various states of disrepair, a few ponds that were components of an extensive water system, and a library built by Dr. Harry Tevis in 1909 that later became the Jesuit chapel. The Jesuits built the remaining buildings.

The Tevis library was reported to be in good physical condition in 1997, but it, and the other buildings, have deteriorated from neglect, vandalism, and the passage of time. Hopefully, one building could be restored to serve as a visitor's center and small history museum. And, hopefully, the large pond could regain its fountain centerpiece that once produced a giant column of water. I didn't see any water fall, but some of the seasonal streams and abandoned dams looked promising for winter viewing.

A picnic area located near the preserve entrance was constructed for Tevis. It consists of a brick-and-masonry alcove, with an open area, a rise of three brick steps, a masonry-rock wall, and an arched alcove





and masonry pedestal. Although overgrown with weeds, a little work could add much to the natural beauty of the area.

The horse barn at Bear Creek Stables was built in 1916 to house the Tennessee Walking horses owned by Tevis. This craftsman-style barn was constructed by contractor Harry Hoerler, with assistance from San Francisco architect George Kelham. Kelham designed notable structures in San Francisco, such as the Public Library and the Federal Reserve Bank. He also designed the reconstruction of the Palace Hotel after the 1906 quake, and created the master plan for the 1915 World's Fair.

Pictured here is another barn once located at Alma Dale. This building was



Dr. Harry Tevis

september 2020

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The Alma Dale barn was designed by Julia Morgan.

designed by Julia Morgan, a friend of Tevis and William Hearst. She was the principal architect of Hearst's San Simeon estate. The village had cottages for the staff, a barn, and perhaps a field for recreational use. Jenny often referred to this area as "the ball field." Deodor cedars flank the grassy area, and the footings of the former cottages lie beneath the shrubs and deep grass.

Less likely for restoration is the Pratt deck-truss bridge spanning Briggs Creek (also known as Reservoir Creek). Designed and constructed by John McMillan in 1923 for Tevis, the bridge is interesting, but unusable. The roadbed decking is gone and so is the road that it served. Walking up the creek is somewhat difficult, but it is even harder to see the bridge. The superstructure is barely visible far above the creek and in the trees. It may be eligible, however, for the National Register of Historical Places as an engineering structure, because "it embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, and it represents the work of a master."

Other historical artifacts include Ohlone grinding stones (bedrock mortars). Although other grinding stones are nearby at Lexington Reservoir, these are somewhat larger, perhaps indicating a larger tribe or even a temporary settlement.

The existing stable may not seem to be of historical value, but this property has been involved with horses since the 19th century. When James Flood and his blonde burlesque-queen wife bought the property in 1894, they created "Alma Dale," complete with a forty-room villa and a large barn remodeled into a stable to keep Flood's fine horses, including draft horses to pull carriages. The Floods avoided the dusty Dougherty Road (now Bear Creek Road) by building Flood Road (now Alma College Road) to the town of Alma (now under Lexington Reservoir).

When Tevis, past president of the Wells Fargo Express Company, began his own extensive building program in 1901, he converted Flood's horse stables to a library for his valuable books, but he loved horses, too, especially Tennessee Walking horses. Although the Jesuits were not horsemen, they leased the stables to a series of people who boarded horses and provided equestrian services.

In 1968, the Porters took over the stable. They boarded up to seventy horses, and held horse shows there until 1976. I attended several of their Tennessee Walker shows. The Bear Creek Stables still boards seventy horses. Constructed by Tevis between 1915 and 1920, this stable has been in use for almost one hundred years.

With all this history of horses and horsemen, it would seem logical to create a living history. Why not save more than land? Why not offer carriage and wagon rides down the historical Flood Road, horse shows, and horse-care clinics? It would carry on a tradition and give more people, including disabled, elderly, and families with small children, access to the preserve.

Another proud tradition is horticulture. Tevis hired 43 gardeners to care for his experimental garden with rare flowers and trees from throughout the world. He grew prize-winning dahlias, lilies, roses, fuchsias, and nandina shrubs. His \$200,000 water system stored 11 million gallons of water.

All the owners engaged in extensive landscaping. The Jesuits, perhaps more practical than the millionaires, developed several large vineyards.

Although restoring these massive projects may be impossible, why not serve this tradition through community gardens? Presentation Center developed such gardens. So has Wilder Ranch.

Master gardeners, 4-H families, unemployed workers, retirees, and others who want to grow plants could join together to create a sense of community and a bountiful harvest.

The secret history of Bear Creek needs telling. Docent-led hikes reach a few people, but interpretive signage along a history trail could tell so much more to many more visitors. A history museum and trail panels could greatly enrich the openspace experience.



The Tevis clubhouse



Lexington School Deanna Wilk

The 2020/2021 school year at Lexington has started. Our creative Home and School Club kicked off the year sweetly on August 12, hosting Lexington's first ever "drive-by" ice-cream social. Students were able to wave to classmates, staff, and Lexington's new principal Jason Deppong, before starting off the school year virtually.

Since May, the teachers, administrators, and board members that make up the LGUSD reopening task force, with input from parents and the community, have worked on creating a high-quality, balanced virtual program. It has notable changes from the virtual program of last spring.

For grades 1-5, the day now starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:10 p.m., resembling a typical school day, with more than half of the day in synchronous (live) instruction. Each day ends with an elective: art, music, library, social-emotional learning, PE, and Spanish.

In addition to core curriculum, there is now ample time for such things as show-and-tell, student of the week, whole-class discussions, small-group work, and

differentiated learning. As a class, and individually, students will have time to explore our International Baccalaureate (IB) school's transdisciplinary units, inquire, and take action. Plans for a phased-in return to in-person learning are in place when education and health experts deem it safe.

At the helm this year, we welcome principal Jason Deppong. He is not new to Lexington. He taught third grade, and once a third/fourth grade combo, at Lexington for twelve years. He left in 2009 with his family for an opportunity to teach in Norway at an IB continuum (K-12) school. There, he taught sixth grade for two years, then led as principal for four years before returning to California as principal of the Old Mill School in Mill Valley.

"I decided to become an educator due to my simple desire to make the world a better place," says Deppong. "The IB framework provides so many opportunities for students to do the same, which is why I have become such a passionate IB educator."

Deppong became hooked on IB after attending an IB conference, part of the first group of Lex teachers to do so. As a result, Lex pursued the IB primary-years program, and became one of the first public IB world schools in California. The IB program is what brought him



New Lex principal Jason Deppong

back to Lexington. "I longed to work again in a true IB school with a program of inquiry, a deep belief in inquiry and conceptual teaching, transdisciplinary units, continuous reflection, global perspectives, and opportunities for student action," he says. He is excited about taking Lexington's IB program to the next level with Lexington staff.

Deppong remembers our mountains fondly. He appreciates the beauty and

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Collin Cook New Team Member





Jason Deppong with his wife and daughter

history of the area. He wrote and gathered the photos for the history page on Lexington School's website, still up after all these years. He lived on Summit Road near Mt. Madonna, and then on Soda Springs Road.

He understands what mountain living can be like. He has endured power outages, trees blocking roads, occasional icy and snowy roads, and dirt-turned-muddy roads.

He is also a drummer. He has played in many bands, most recently in Mill Valley, where his band played songs from The Grateful Dead, Talking Heads, Neil Young, and the Allman Brothers. He also played in Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway, as a



Jessica Spencer with her family

member of one of the world's northernmost rock bands, "Schmeerenburgh."

We also welcome second-grade teacher Jessica Spencer, who will be teaching with Kristin Johnson. She comes to us from Daves Avenue Elementary, where she taught fourth grade, second grade, and TK/K for the past thirteen years.

Her focus is on teaching her students

individual responsibility, and developing a class community where students feel safe to make mistakes and learn from them. Creating a partnership among students, teachers, and parents drives her work.

She is also a Masters water-polo athlete. She played for the Bay Area Masters, Olympic Club, Foothill, at the University of Pacific, and professionally in Croatia. She looks forward to joining Lexington's tight-knit community.

A warm welcome

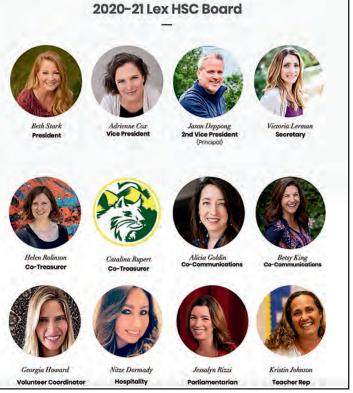


New second-grade teacher Jessica Spencer

and thank you to our new 2020/2021 Home and School Club board member volunteers. "Our mission this year will be to help our families stay connected to the Lex community, and support our teachers whether teaching remotely or on campus," says HSC president Beth Stark.

A unique year is coming up as we adjust to this historic time. We are grateful to our Lex staff and volunteers for adapting and meeting these challenges with enthusiasm.

> Photos by Jason Deppong, Jessica Spencer, and Betsy King



Celebrating life in the Santa Cruz Mountains

page 29





Loma Prieta Joint Union School District Help Renew Measure H with Measure N

Lisa Fraser Superintendent

Our community-supported parcel tax, Measure H, was approved by voters in 2013, and expires after the 2020-2021 school year. Measure H funds are critical to our district to supplement limited state-level funding. (The level of school funding in California is one of the lowest in the nation.) Measure H has helped us maintain our outstanding core academic programs in reading, writing, math, history, and science, while keeping and supporting our wonderful teachers.

With the expiration of Measure H fast approaching, and the COVID-19 pandemic

costing the district tens of thousands of dollars in lost revenues, the Loma Prieta Joint Union School District board of trustees voted in July to place a parcel-taxrenewal measure (Measure N) on the ballot on November 3. This measure asks our community to renew the Measure H parcel tax without increasing the tax rate. We are asking to simply extend for another sevenyear term the existing measure previously approved by voters.

Measure N requires 66.7 percent support to pass. A "YES" vote continues the annual assessment of \$164 per household, and provides funding for the district's plan to maintain outstanding core academic programs in reading, writing, math, history, and science; retain highly qualified and experienced teachers; and prepare Loma Prieta and C.T. English students to thrive in a rigorous high-school environment.

Without the renewal of Measure H, we will be forced to make cuts to programs and increase class sizes. While Measure N won't address all our funding needs, it will help, especially in this uncertain period when state funding is likely to decrease in the wake of COVID-19.

For more information, email Eileen Bevans-Franks, administrative assistant to the superintendent, at e.bevans@loma.k12. ca.us, or call 408-353-1101.



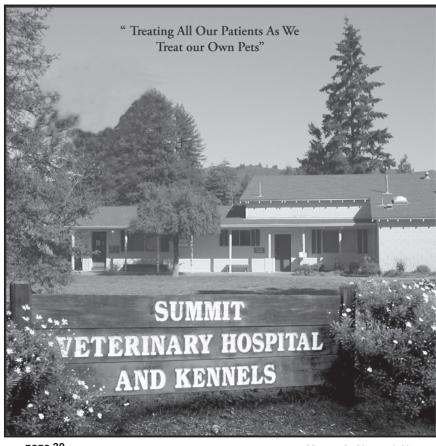
Loma Public Education Fund Mountain Strong!

Diane Tosetti LPEF President

The Loma Public Education Fund is a nonprofit organization with a charter to raise funds for educational-enrichment programs for the Loma Prieta Joint Union School District, benefiting Loma Prieta Elementary School and C.T. English Middle School.

We are a volunteer, community-based organization on a mission to ensure that each child in our school district has access to a curriculum that enables them to grow and thrive. LPEF funds are awarded to the district as specific program grants that directly support enhancements to the core curriculum: music, developmental P.E., library services, student counseling and support, Loma science, CTE electives, and art-in-action.

With an abundance of caution, and the



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353-1113 23291 Summit Rd Los Gatos safety of our community in mind, our major fundraising events have been postponed. We hope to host our annual Gala in the spring, in accordance with state and local regulations.

Given the current situation and uncertainties faced by our community, it is important for LPEF to stay on mission. We continue to promote fundraising efforts for enhancement and enrichment opportunities for our students in the future.

Our mountain community is strong and resilient. With that in mind, and with the creativity of the board's Elyse Fairweather, you can show your spirit in one of our limited-edition Mountain Strong T-shirts or hoodies. Buy yours today at https://www. bonfire.com/store/lpef/. A minimum of 30 percent of the sales proceeds will be directly donated to LPEF.

The LPEF board will continue to find ways to connect with the community, to fund enrichment opportunities for every child, and to support extracurricular activites that make our schools so special. We are exploring new ways to meet our fundraising goals and foster community involvement, while staying physically distant. Get your Mountain Strong gear today to show your support.

To learn more about LPEF, visit https:// www.lpef.org/.

Loma Public Education Fund LOMA & C.T.E. FUNDRAISER





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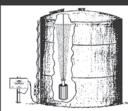
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Lakeside School Return to Learn Dr. Sean Joyce

Return to Learn, the reopening of Lakeside School for the 2020-2021 school year, leapt off the design pages on August 13 when our students started the new school year in a remote-learning environment. Lakeside Joint School District began the reopening of school in May, before the 2019 school year was completed.

At a town-hall meeting, we invited members of the larger Lakeside community to join the reopening task force. This group spent eight weeks meeting and reviewing research, daily news briefs, and information updates from multiple levels of public health and government agencies. Working in collaboration with the Santa Clara County Office of Education, the task force created a proposal for reopening Lakeside School, which we presented to the board of trustees in July.

Reluctantly, that proposal was redesigned immediately in light of the sudden increase in infection rates in both Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties.

With three weeks to prepare for a completely remote/distance-learning instructional model, the Lakeside School staff rebuilt their curriculum, instruction, and classroom practice. Most of the staff spent the month of August feeling very much as if they were building an airplane while it was racing down the runway for takeoff.

This will be a different form of schooling and learning for students. With the long personal disconnect and lack of closure to the previous school year, it was important for our students to reconnect with each



Cody Franks joins the Lakeside staff as custodian.

other, their teachers and instructional assistants, and to this dramatically new learning environment.

Our teachers spent the first days and weeks of school focusing on the social and emotional needs of their students, and teaching them to use technology. In addition, the teachers assessed students to determine their different learning styles and

support needs.

Lakeside provided a number of support structures for Lakeside families navigating the brave new world of remote learning. We are loaning students internet-accessible devices loaded with a library of software applications for student learning. We are creating family-learning pods where parents can access reliable internet connections





while supervising their student's learning and performing their own job duties remotely. Multiple parent orientations, Q&A meetings, and parent trainings will support student in-home learning. We also provided Lakeside care packages loaded with school supplies for science, physical education, art, manipulatives, and other classroom materials generously donated by Maryanne Murphy of Nevada City, California.

Keeping it on the Mountain

Lakeside School added two more team members over the summer to join the growing number of staff who reside on the mountain. We welcome lifelong mountain residents **Cheyenne Nir-Sharkey** (Ms. Sharkey) and **Cody Franks** to our team.

After saying goodbye to our longtime garden-program parent volunteer, Robin Horton, Lakeside School is excited to announce our newest garden-program volunteers, Tara Nasse and Robbie Criswell (another longtime mountain resident and Lakeside neighbor). They will initially support our students in the remote classroom. They are already collaborating on the design and implementation of this outdoor-learning program.

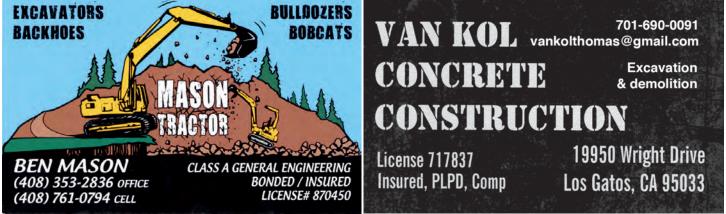
Over the summer, Lakeside School instituted new procedures and protocols, as required by the California and Santa Clara County public health departments. The Lakeside School and district office will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, while the school itself remains closed to the public.

I want to thank the members of our reopening task force, including Leslie Bergh, director of Los Gatos-Saratoga Observation Nursery School (also known as "Mountain School"); Lakeside teachers Steven Bourque, Kajsa Byrne, Kathy McKinney, Cheryl Ruyle, Marcia Williams, and Heather



Lakeside welcomes Cheyenne Nir-Sharkey (Ms. Sharkey) to its teaching staff.

Wingfield; Lakeside parents Bryan Cameron, Eric Cisler, Emmet Daly, Marcy de Araujo, Brenda Kiefer, Kate Manning, Christina Minihan, Hila Propp, and Cory White; instructional assistants Ana Paulina Mino and Shirley Tarica; counselor Kimberly Gladysz; financial consultant Nan Wojcik; and principal Shama Marshall.





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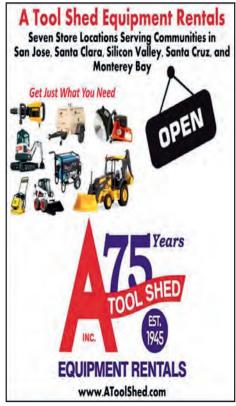
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