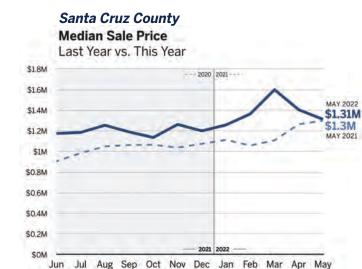
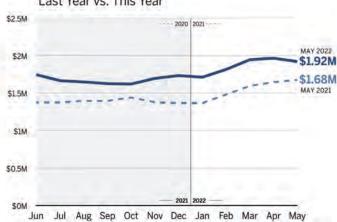


#### **MAY MARKET SNAPSHOT**



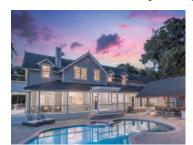
#### Santa Clara County **Median Sale Price** Last Year vs. This Year



#### SALES BY CITY · SINGLE FAMILY HOMES · MAY 2022

City	Average	Median	High Sale	Price/SF	# of Sales	DOM
Los Gatos 95033	\$1,385,500	\$1,392,500	\$2,075,000	\$712	10	15

## Leary Properties | Over \$13,150,000 Sold in 2022 | Recent Sales



25971 Mar Vista Ct., Los Gatos 6bd/5ba 4,800±sf 3.95±ac Sold in 16 days | \$3,150,000



470 Rudy Rd., Los Gatos 4bd/3ba 2,823±sf 4.41±ac Sold in 2 days | \$2,250,000



280 Oak Ridge Rd., Los Gatos 3bd/2ba 1,782±sf 18.92±ac Sold over asking | \$2,015,000



17220 Melody Ln., Los Gatos 3bd/3ba 1,838±sf 1±ac Sold over asking | \$1,925,000



#### live work play

The Summit Sisters August 20th Mountain Jam!

Event benefits our Loma Prieta and CT English music programs!





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

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16052 Robinwood Lane \$2,250,000 4 Bed | 3,5 Bath | 3536 Sq Ft

lisa.sgarlato@compass.com DRE 01342694





420 Outer Zayante Road 5 Bed | 2 Bath | 2499 Sq Ft

Sebastian Frey 408.548.7348 sebastian.frey@compass.com DRE 01369847

20862 Kittridge Road \$2,999,000 3 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 2135 Sq Ft

Lisa Sgarlato 408.396.7231 lisa.sgarlato@compass.com DRE 01342694



**39 Gonzales Street** \$1,350,000 4 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 3053 Sq Ft

Megan DeVivo 831.207.6060 megan.devivo@compass.com DRE 01924071

Los Gatos Mountains



20971 Delaware Trail 1 Bed | 1.5 Bath | 1135 Sq Ft

lisa.sgarlato@compass.com DRE 01342694





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**COMPASS** 

#### The July issue of Mountain Network News Volume MMXXII number 7

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> Photography and imaging Neil Wiley

#### Articles

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

#### Advertising

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

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Special position	add 20%
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Four-color half, third- or quarter-page ad	add \$25
Four-color business card	add \$10
Frequency discounts available.	
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#### Circulation

More than 4000 homes and businesses in the Santa Cruz Mountains



#### **COVER**

#### A Bee and a Flower

I was on my way to the mailbox to pick up my daily newspaper.

I looked over the side of the deck to see my tiny front yard.

I saw a few small yellow flowers and an even smaller bee.

I went back inside to grab my camera.

I took a few pictures.

A week later
I pulled a photo off
the computer.

It reminded me that we often walk by little wonders of nature.

We live with pandemics, fires, reducing wealth, and so many fears.

We can watch for beauty. Enjoy time with a friend. Get or give a gift.

Just find little things that make life better.

It helps.

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For late-breaking news, calendar, and classified ads, visit www.mnn.net or mountainnetworknews.com.

#### Subscriptions

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# Lisa Sgarlato

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## 24540 Skyland Road Los Gatos Mountains

\$1,699,000 | 24540SkylandRd.com 4 Bed | 3 Bath | 2402 Sq Ft | 1.35 Acre Lot

Beautiful home with lovely pool and pond. Brick Tudor style with 3 levels, elegant living room, fresh paint and new carpets. The grounds offer walkways, paths and steps which lead to the fully-fenced swimming pool/hot tub and the separate pond. Amazing setting on open knoll top location bordered by Redwoods just minutes from Summit Store, Loma Prieta Elementary and C.T. English Mlddle School.



# Season 10 Rockin' in the Mountains Lani Christianson

The Alison Sharino Band returns to rock the mountains on **Saturday**, **July 23**. Join us at the Loma Prieta Playfield to dance under the stars and sing along to your favorites. The band plays rock, pop, and soul music from the last five decades.

Bring your family, friends, lawn chairs, or blanket, and celebrate life in our mountain community. Gates open at 5:30 p.m.





El Buen Taco will offer delicious Mexican food for sale, or you can bring your own meal. Soft drinks and ice cream will be available for purchase from Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue. The band plays from 7 to 10 p.m.

Advance tickets are on sale now for only \$30 each for adults, and \$15 for children under 10 years old. Tickets will be available at the door for \$40 for adults, and \$20 for children 10 and under.

Get your friends and neighbors together to purchase 10 or more tickets. You pay only \$25 each. These discount tickets must be purchased by one person in advance.

Buy your tickets at https://rockin. brownpapertickets, or by calling 1-800-838-3006. For more information, email Lani at scmlani@yahoo.com, or call 408-353-9091.

Rockin' in the Mountains 10 is sponsored by the Loma Prieta Community Foundation. All proceeds benefit the Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue. A big thank you to our loyal sponsors: *Mountain Network News*, Summit Store, Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue, and Lani Christianson.





# #1 Selling Team in Santa Cruz County











Manicured gardens surround this beautiful craftsman home + guest house in a quiet neighborhood perfect for multigenerational living just minutes from Blossom Hill Park and downtown Los Gatos. Abundant leaded windows bring natural light to every corner of the spacious home. Formal entry welcomes you into the living room with a slate tile fireplace leading to the brightly lit dining room, perfect for entertaining. The kitchen has a beautiful stone island, the ideal place to share meals with friends and family. You will love the double ovens, built-in sub-zero, and plenty of storage. The primary bedroom is a spacious retreat with a luxurious spa bathroom complete with a garden tub & double sinks. The bedrooms + loft are large and perfectly separate from the living area. The sizable guest house includes a bathroom to host guests comfortably. A roomy driveway leads to the garage, which is excellent for storage or a workshop. The fresh lawn in the backyard is perfect for exhilarating outdoor games or gatherings or quietly reading a book.



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# Community Music Festival Mountain Jam Music Lineup Louis Niemann

Brought to you by the producers of *Song Around the Mountain—Peace Train*, Mountain Jam returns on **Saturday**, **August 20.** This free family music festival will be from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Loma Prieta Playfield and Gazebo. This year's outstanding music lineup includes the fabulous Summit Sisters, local soul/jazz/R&B artists The Joint Chiefs, and L.A.'s breakthrough performers, EDYN.

Headlining the show is Alex Lucero and the Live Again Band. Details are at www. SantaCruzMountainJam. org, or by scanning this QR code.











From top: Alex Lucero, The Summit Sisters, EDYN, and The Joint Chiefs

There's much to see and do at this family-friendly event, including hands-on activities for kids, games, arts and crafts, and delicious food provided by our own local Michelinrated chef from Pretty Good Advice. The climbing wall and jumper are favorite activities. Bring your furry friend and enter the "dogs are welcome" contest. Proceeds from the auction and concessions benefit music programs at our mountain schools. To volunteer or make a donation, use the "contact" form on our website at www. SantaCruzMountainJam.org.

# Loma Prieta Museum History Tour And Pioneer Day Roger Mason

#### **History Tour**

You are invited to join a history tour in search of the Lost Town of Loma Prieta on **Saturday, July 16**. If you are adventurous, love history, and enjoy the Forest of Nisene Marks, don't miss this great opportunity. Paul Katz of the California State Parks will lead us on this adventure. We'll meet at the Porter Picnic parking lot, about a mile past the entry kiosk, at 9 a.m. If you have questions or get lost, call Roger at 408-529-0254.

#### Pioneer Day

Join us for a fun day of barbecue, live music, pioneer history talks, old-fashioned children's games, and a silent auction. Mark your calendar for this community-history event on **Saturday, September 17**, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Mason-Taylor Ranch, 22849 Summit Road.

Applaud the strong spirit of mountain residents to endure and overcome hardships, then and now. Pioneer family descendants will present short family stories describing what it was like growing up in the Santa Cruz Mountains as early settlers. We invite pioneer families to include their family



history at this event. You can email us at LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail.com, or call 408-529-0254.

We need volunteers. If you would like to help us, email LomaPrietaMuseum@gmail. com. Find out more about us at facebook. com/LomaPrietaMuseum.

This event is sponsored by the Loma Prieta Community Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit foundation. All donations are tax-deductible.

#### Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue Annual Firefighter's Barbecue on September 11

Tamara Marx

We are thrilled to announce that this year's Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue community barbecue will be on **Sunday, September 11**. Join us for delicious food, kid-friendly activities, exhibits, and an opportunity to win great items in our raffles and silent auction. If you would like to volunteer, email tamaracmarx@gmail.com. We hope to see you there.





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## **Kanady Team Properties Proudly Presents**



#### 363 Orchard Hill Road, San Juan Bautista, CA 95045 \$995,000

Beautiful 17.75 acres with approved Map for three parcels. Two 5 acre parcels and a 7 acre parcel. Perfect for a developer/builder or a family that wants to be close together. A great deal of potential can be found right here. Beautiful views up & over the hills.



#### **Commercial Opportunity**

\$575,000 10 minutes from downtown Los Gatos

#### 21432 Broadway Road, Los Gatos, CA 95033.

Located in Los Gatos in the Redwood Estates community, sits a development opportunity. Currently the structure is used as a small post office Location is the focal point of the neighborhood and directly across from the local Italian Restaurant and next door to the Redwood Estates Store. This quaint post office sits on top of additional storage space and is on a Third Acre Commercial lot with dedicated parking spaces and additional overflow parking.





#### 14830 Corralitos Lane, San Jose, CA 95127 \$1,050,000

The Corralitos lot is adjacent to the San Jose Country Club neighborhood in the East foothills of San Jose just above Alum Rock. Has proposed map drawn to identifying the possible location of 4 homes.



Asking Price:
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and adjacent 2 lots.
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Mountain homes.
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#### \$1,975,000 Top of the world views! This property totals almost 40 Acres.

18805 Bear Creek Road, Los Gatos, CA This 6 bedroom, 7 1/2 bathroom Generational Chalet nestled in the Los Gatos foothills is just 3 minutes to downtown Los Gatos. Amazing views of the neighboring vineyards, Lexington and peeks of downtown SJ lights. Highest quality of amenities and comforts galore. Amazing gourmet chefs kitchen.

17300 Weaver Road, Los Gatos, CA 95033

Lovely 4 bedroom mountain home with sweeping views of the ocean and Santa Cruz mountains. Surrounded by open space. Amenities include pool. tennis court and separate oversized garage/workshop. Worlds away, but just 25 minutes to downtown Los Gatos. With privacy galore and space, this makes an awesome home or retreat. Truly an estate property.



Keith & Shelly Kanady

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#### Loma Prieta Club Scholarships Patti J. Hughes

After missing out on honoring our scholarship recipients in person due to COVID-19 for the past two years, the Loma Prieta Club celebrated our 2022 winners with an outdoor reception at *Maison du Lac*.

Our two recipients—Matthew Fehr and Lyla Meyers—were a joy to be with. Conversations ranged from how growing up in the mountains affected their high-school experience, to what it was like doing school on Zoom.

The scholarship-committee members chose these two from a group of well-qualified applicants. They not only took the time to write and include an optional resume with their application but, in spite of COVID-19, they completed advanced



placement and honors courses, earned top GPAs, held jobs, and did community service.

Their classes included Spanish, French, manufacturing technology, agroecology, journalism, music theory, chemistry, trig/pre-calculus, and statistics. This was in addition to their required college-prep courses. Along the way, they also achieved a number of A+s.

Reading their essays, and looking at their achievements in spite of the pandemic, ensured us that they represent everything that "Mountain Strong" implies. Special thanks go to the LPC scholarship committee for reviewing applications, transcripts, and essays, and to Charlotte Khandelwal, who surprised us by bringing her daughter Kayleigh to the reception.

Kayleigh was one of our 2020 recipients who missed meeting our club members in person. Currently a rising junior at U.C., Berkeley, majoring in civil engineering, Kayleigh went above and beyond when the pandemic made grocery shopping impossible for many mountain seniors. Using her prodigious computer skills, she set up the infrastructure for the online Summit Store shopping program, and delivered groceries to mountain homes when an extra driver was needed. We were delighted to honor her in person.

# Loma Prieta Club Volunteer Service Award Susan Zerweck

For over 100 years, the Loma Prieta Club has raised funds to serve the community's needs in many ways. In 2007, the club began honoring the eighth grader at C.T. English Middle School who dedicated the most time and effort to community service. We named the award after the late C.T. English teacher and LPC member, Barbara Perry.

This year, we presented Jieyu Chiu with a certificate and check for \$100 at the C.T. English graduation ceremony in June. With COVID-19 these past two years, it has been difficult to perform community service, but this young woman has been diligent about honoring our country's flag. Each morning, she arrived at school early to raise the flag, and stayed after school to lower it. This talented young lady was also class valedictorian.









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# Loma Prieta Community Foundation REC on the Mountain Miriam Watson

Have you ever wished there were more recreation, enrichment, and community activities on the mountain? Loma Prieta Community Foundation is pleased to announce a new effort to provide REC opportunities for our community, located conveniently on Summit Road adjacent to Building Blocks Preschool.

#### Recreation

Current classes include fit-parent boot camp, slow-flow yoga, and rhythm and motion dance. Soon, we hope to offer more health and wellness activities for adults and youth. Think of what you'd like to do and we'll try to pull together a class. For soccer fans with school-aged children, get ready for the return of fall mountain soccer with our own youth soccer league.

#### **Enrichment**

Would you like to learn a new skill? How about a class on how to safely use and maintain a chainsaw? We would like to offer art, creative writing, cooking, craft, and dog-training classes. Perhaps we can form a book club. With so much mountain talent, we foresee enrichment classes being offered mostly by local residents.



#### Community

We're very pleased to announce the return of longtime community events this summer, including community movie nights, Mountain Resident's Night Out, Rockin' in the Mountains, Mountain Jam, and the 55 and older club. Watch for more information in the *MNN*, on 95033talk,



and on other mountain social-media groups, like Nextdoor and Facebook.

LPCF looks forward to providing residents with opportunities to recreate, connect, and grow without having to leave the mountains. We'd love to hear what you would like to see and do in our community. Email us at rec@lpcf.org and look for our community survey in the August issue of *Mountain Network News*.

We appreciate the support of the Loma Prieta Joint Union School District and the board of trustees, and Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreation.

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Fire Station



#### A Garden is More Than Plants

Tish O'Reilly Pacific Mt. Horticulture www.pacmthort.com

On one of my earliest landscape projects, I drove up to the front of the property, and within moments, I understood why the homeowners had called me. The entryway to the home was 22-feet wide by about 50-feet long, and was flanked by the main house and a guest house. The area between the two houses had been converted into a skateboard

Unbelievable! These kids were having way too much fun. As we walked around the property, the homeowner told me, "This stuff has got to go."

ramp from the top of the driveway, through

the double front doors, and into the main

As I scanned the property, I checked out the skateboard ramp, and noticed there was a redwood deck, as well. The deck was in good shape, but was covered with old garden tools, an unreeled garden hose, and other junk. Almost all the usable walking areas were covered with the skateboard ramp or clutter. Pots of every color, half of them broken, were spilled around the yard. Some had plants, but most were empty. There

was statuary—birds, frogs, angels, and the ubiquitous Saint Frances.

Bird feeder after bird feeder had hung empty for months, and a sad water fountain was lying in parts. There were scary old English cement figures, and brightly colored Talavera statues. Hanging faded flags, pennants, and wind chimes hung on every corner of the house and many trees. Shiny, tiny wind chimes were silent. Again and again, the homeowner pleaded, "All of it, Tish, has to go."

After a major cleanup, we installed drainage and drip irrigation, and built a new eight-foot-wide slate stairway with lush garden plantings on either side. Goodbye, skateboard ramp.

At the final walk-through, the homeowner was delighted that instead of throwing her chachkas in the trash, my crew and I had cleaned and, in some cases, repaired the beloved garden accents. The bird feeders had been separated, allowing for less competition of food for our feathered friends.

The birdbath was repaired and placed upright and close to the hose. This made it easier to keep it filled with water. A regularly filled bird bath is a great garden addition. It adds hours of viewing entertainment and keeps the mosquitos from moving in. I advised the client to keep a look out for unsuspecting standing water, such as the

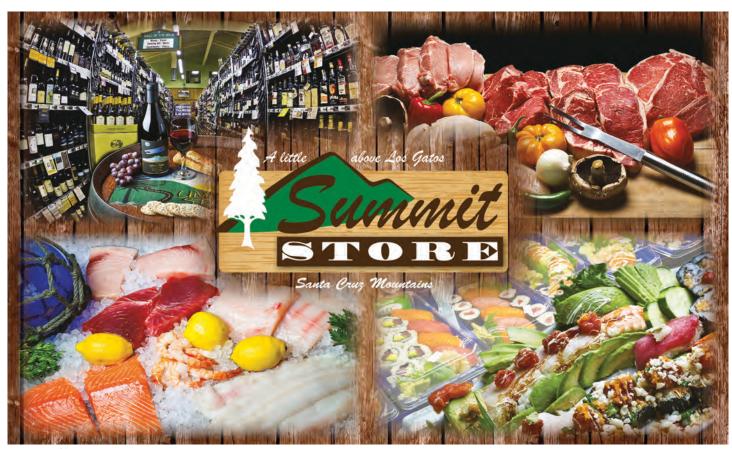
top of a trash can or bucket left on its side. With the warm weather, these water sources can harbor insects. Vigilance in vector control is the key.

The moral of this story is placement, and what looks good together. A garden is an investment and does require some regular maintenance. Plants can't do all the work.

One more addition. Wind chimes might not be what you want to hear at the front door, but they do sound delightful when caught in the breeze as you admire the garden from a kitchen window.

You can find me in the garden.





#### South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization First Arriver Skills Training Thomas Hempel

In the mountains, it often takes a long time to get help in an emergency. Be more prepared by attending the South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization's second-annual first arriver skills training day on **Saturday**, **July 9**, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This workshop will cover important information to know when you encounter an emergency, including first-aid assessment, treatment, and supplies, calling 911 in our area, fire-extinguisher practice, and ways to improve emergency preparedness through fostering community. You will meet first responders from Cal Fire and South Skyline Fire and Rescue.

This event will be hosted at the Cal Fire CZU Station #21 at 12900 Skyline Boulevard, about a half-mile north of the intersection of Skyline and Highway 9.

Wear comfortable clothing and watch the first arrivers video at https://www.ssepo. org/accident-first-on-scene.html before you attend. Lunch will be served. Attendees must be vaccinated and wear masks. RSVP by **July 1** to info@ssepo.org.

## District One News Manu Koenig

First District Supervisor, Santa Cruz County New Cell Tower on Soquel-San Jose Road

Verizon continues to make steady progress on its cell-service-improvement project. The tower is located at 1931 Soquel-San Jose Road. Construction began at the site in February. In May, Verizon set the tower pole and began the utility undergrounding process. The trenching process is expected to take several weeks. The timeframe for PG&E's meter installation, power, and fiber-delivery process is still to be determined. We will continue to update constituents as we learn additional details. If you are interested in learning more about the project, or want to request improved service in your area, call Maureen Cruzen, Verizon municipal engagement partner, at 925-279-6638, or email her at maureen. cruzen@verizonwireless.com.

## RCD Receives Funding for Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience Work

The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County recently announced an award of more than \$390,000 to help public and private landowners with forest-management planning and project implementation. The funds, awarded by CalFire, come as part of a block grant to support 10 resource conservation districts

statewide. The grant will allow the Santa Cruz RCD to provide technical assistance to support the development of forestmanagement plans, forest health, and fuelsmanagement projects over the next three years. RCD staff will work directly with communities to develop projects, including determining feasibility, identifying permit pathways, and identifying specific funding. Assistance will be available to landowners who are developing forest-management and fuel-reduction projects. The award funds will also be used to fund community-based fuelload reduction through the RCD's no-cost and neighborhood reimbursement chipping programs. Visit https://www.rcdsantacruz. org/forest-health-and-wildfire-resiliency to learn more.

#### We welcome your feedback and involvement

Join us at an upcoming community townhall meeting. The August town hall Live Oak meeting is on **Thursday**, **August 1**, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The hybrid meeting is held in the community room at the Sheriff Center, 5200 Soquel Avenue in Santa Cruz, and on Zoom. You can join the zoom meeting at https://zoom. us/j/96708318897. For a full list of meetings, check our website: District 1 (santa-cruz.ca.us). Give us a call anytime at 831-454-2200, or email first.district@santacruzcounty.us.

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#### **ON-GOING CLASSES AND MEETINGS**

#### **Tuesdays**

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

Pilates mat class, 7 to 8 p.m., via Zoom. Email altesta@gmail.com or text 650-465-8513.

#### Wednesdays

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

#### **Thursdays**

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

Pilates mat class, 7 to 8 p.m., via Zoom. Email altesta@gmail.com or text 650-465-8513.

Yoga at the Redwood Estates Pavilion, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. We meet on Zoom and (weather permitting) on the Pavilion lawn. Visit pamsyogafitness. com for details.

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

Integral yoga at Lakeside School (held online currently), 6:30 to 8 p.m. Visit www.lgsrecreation.org.

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

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

#### **Fridays**

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

#### **Saturdays**

Summit Toastmasters 95033, meets on Zoom, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. For more information, visit https://summittoastmasters95033. toastmastersclubs.org, or call Laur d'Armien, 408-634-3493.

#### Sundays

All-ages karaoke at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Saturday, July 9

The South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization hosts a first arriver skills day at the Cal Fire CZU Station #21, 12900 Skyline Boulevard, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Find out what to do when you encounter an emergency. Vaccination and masks are required, and lunch will be served. RSVP by July 1 to info@ ssepo.org.

#### Thursday, July 14

The Bookmobile visits the mountains: Lakeside School, 11 to 11:45 a.m. Building Blocks Preschool, 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. and 2:30 to 3:45 p.m. Redwood Estates Pavillion, 4:15 to 5:15 p.m.



#### Saturday, July 16

You are invited to join a guided history tour in search of the Lost Town of Loma Prieta. Meet at the Porter Picnic parking lot, in the Forest of Nisene Marks in Aptos, about a mile past the entry kiosk, at 9 a.m. For more information, call 408-529-0254.

#### Saturday, July 23

The Alison Sharino Band will perform at the Loma Prieta Playfield, 23845 Summit Road. Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$40 at the door.

#### Thursday, July 28

The Bookmobile visits the mountains: Lakeside School. 11 to 11:45 a.m. Building Blocks Preschool, 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. and 2:30 to 3:45 p.m. Redwood Estates Pavillion, 4:15 to 5:15 p.m.

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#### Saturday, August 20

Mountain Jam is a free, family-friendly music festival at the Loma Prieta Playfield and Gazebo, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Find out more at www. SantaCruzMountainJam.org.

#### Sunday, September 11

Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue annual barbecue will be at the Loma Prieta Playfield and Gazebo, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### Saturday, September 17

Loma Prieta Museum hosts Pioneer Day, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Mason-Taylor Ranch, 22849 Summit Road. Enjoy barbecue, live music, pioneer history talks, old-fashioned children's games, and a silent auction.

#### **Animal Photography**

Shoot your favorite animal (with a camera), tell us your first name and the general area of the shooting, and just for fun use a pun. Email your animal (picture) to mnnews@comcast.net.

Make them famous in the Santa Cruz Mountains.



Why don't they call this Deer Estates? ~ Darrell



I'm a bee pollinating a Hypericum in the Villa. What are you doing? ~ Neil



Did you leave your calling card on my car? ~ Bill















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# exploring



First Walk on a New Trail
Walking the New Grasshopper Loop
in La Honda Creek Open Space
Neil Wiley

Hiking a new trail is always interesting, but this was special. On June 3, we shared not only a new trail, but celebrated Midpen Open Space's 50th birthday and the organization's 250th mile of public trail. Considering its significance, the event was small, attended by general manager Ana Maria Ruiz, two board members, and twenty or so Midpen employees, volunteers, and friends. Yet this non-profit organization has permanently protected more than 65,000 acres of greenbelt in San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties. In a time of pandemics, economic uncertainty, political division, and loss of community, we need these natural places of beauty, quiet, and comfort even more.

Getting outside can be easy. You don't need to walk to enjoy nature. Driving up Black Road to Skyline will make your heart pump a little faster. Then the drive from Black to La Honda Road (Highway 84) offers beautiful scenery. If you are hungry, visit Alice's Restaurant for a great hamburger and the creek view out behind the lawn.

On the way, you passed many beautiful preserves, but they do require long walks and a few climbs. Instead, you can work off that hamburger with a short drive west on Highway 84 to Sears Ranch Road, near the



Creek view at Alice's Restaurant



town of La Honda. A right turn takes you to the 22-car parking area for the Grasshopper Loop Trail. It is an accessible trail with no hopping, climbing, or scrambling.

Here is a quick look at the experience. It was a cool and cloudy day, perfect for a hike. I walked along a wide and easy 1.3-mile trail with minimal elevation gain that took me through a varied landscape of grasslands, oak woodlands, and redwood forests. Following the loop in a clockwise direction, I saw scenic views of distant hills, dotted with grazing cattle. I continued along a smooth dirt trail looking down through forest. The trees got bigger, but soon I left the shade to

find a scenic viewpoint with a comfortable bench. Then it was only a short walk along the ridge back to my starting place. This trail is easy, scenic, and with enough variety to keep it interesting.

Dogs are welcome on the trail from December 16 through July 31. The other four months are calving season. Equestrian parking is available by permit at the Driscoll Ranch Event Center. (A special Horses, History & Views equestrian event is scheduled at the center on Thursday, August 18.) Bicycles are not permitted in the preserve.









Although La Honda Creek Open Space covers more than 6,000 acres, much of it is undeveloped. The preserve is divided into three major sections: upper, middle, and lower. The upper section is available by permit only. I've hiked there, but parking is severely limited, and trails are few and undeveloped.

More trails and a staging area near the historic Red Barn are planned, linking the upper and lower preserve areas and offering more recreation opportunities.

For more information and maps showing the entire preserve, visit www.openspace. org. If you have more questions, call Midpen at 650-691-1200.

And don't forget. It's easy to keep moving.





Celebrating life in the Santa Cruz Mountains

page 19



#### From Marlene Wiley's Mountain History Archive Women of the Santa Cruz Mountains

Joan Barriga Deceased Mountain Historian

The steep dirt road scraped over the hill to Lexington by Maggie Jones' father has long been forgotten, as have the settlements of Lexington, Alma, and Wrights Station. The stagecoach road leading out of Los Gatos has become Highway 17, and the six-horse Concord stage and Mrs. Paddock's Lexington House are nothing but memories of a time almost forgotten. The faint trace of railroad ties leading into the dark tunnelopening at Wrights reminds us that not too many years ago, the canyon of Los Gatos Creek echoed and re-echoed with train whistles. But, through it all, the mountains endured and continued to lure people to make their homes in the canyons and on the ridges. And some of these people were the women who homesteaded and worked in the mountains.

When we consider how sharply individualistic these Santa Cruz Mountain women were, we might wonder if there was any common thread that bound them together. What did poet Sara Bard Field have in common with the widow Mary Ann Brown? Or, for that matter, what common denominator did writer and conservationist Josephine McCrackin share with stagecoach driver Charley Parkhurst, or homesteader Clarissa Burrell?

They shared something more important than having been pioneers in their individual ways; something even more important than their love of the sometimes harsh and unforgiving mountains where they made their homes. The single shining thread woven through the fabric that each of them shared was courage—courage to be individuals who should be remembered.

As a long-time resident of the Santa Cruz Mountains it was probably inevitable that my interest and curiosity would be aroused when I came across abandoned cabins, crumbling settlements, sealed-up railroad tunnels, and the faint but persistent traces of the old South Pacific Coast's overgrown roadbed.

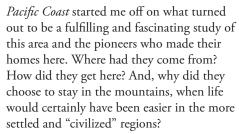
John V. Young's tales of the early settlers Ghost Towns of the Santa Cruz Mountains and Bruce MacGregor's readable South



Josephine McCracken



Juanita Goldman



As I read about loggers, hunters, railroaders, and stagecoach drivers, I noticed a fleeting allusion to a wife, mother, or to Southern Pacific's first woman station agent, but what about other pioneer women? What



Eliza Farnham



Clarissa Burrell

sort of lives did they lead?

I began researching the lives of the women pioneers. From bits and pieces of information found in larger works, diaries kept by some of the families (Birney Burrell's *Diary*), letters written to relatives back East (Clarissa Burrell's letters were a particularly rich source), and published writings (Josephine McCrackin and Eliza Farnham), a more complete picture of their lives began to emerge. One of the most detailed and enjoyable depictions of day-to-day life in the Santa Cruz Mountains was Emma

Garrod's autobiography, One Life, Mine. I found that the contributions these pioneer women made to the development of this area were an important, though frequently overlooked, contribution to the history of California.



Laura Sears



Charlotte "Charley" Parkhurst



Alice Matty

#### **About the Author**

Joan Barriga lived in the Santa Cruz Mountains, surrounded by early California history. She was a docent at Forbes Mill Regional History Museum in Los Gatos, a participant in "Living History Days" at the San Jose Historical Museum, and, as a special-education volunteer, taught local history at elementary schools. She earned a B.A. degree in English from the University of New Mexico, and a M.A. degree in English from San Jose State University. She wrote The Holy City Sideshow, about Father William E. Riker and his Perfect Christian Divine Way cult that flourished in the Santa Cruz Mountains from 1920 to 1940. It was published by the Santa Clara County Pioneer Association.



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## nature



Photos from a rookery in Morro Bay

by Bruce Fournier



# It Sucks! The Northern Clingfish Bruce Sudweeks

The northern clingfish (*Gobiesox maeandricus*) is a strange little sea creature that I have only seen once while diving. There are many "sucker fish" around the world that have very large lips around their mouths that serve as suckers.

The northern clingfish is a bit different in that the sucker is attached to its chest. The suction cup is similar to gecko feet. It is used to hold on to rocks when buffeted by waves in the shallows. The suction cup performs better than any man-made suction cup. It can stick to extremely rough surfaces, and can support a force that is 180 times the weight of the clingfish body. These little guys have no scales and can live out of water for extended periods. They can breathe air when out of the water.

Don't call them suckers. They make sucking a powerful advantage.



**Mountain Network News** 

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#### Retiring from Cal Fire Scott Green

April 18, 2022 closed a chapter and opened a new one. It was my first day of retirement from Cal Fire after 29 years in the fire service.

My journey in the fire service began when I was young. I attended the Loma Prieta Volunteer Firefighter's barbecue every summer, climbed on fire equipment, and lived next door to the Burrell Fire Station. I would walk or ride my bike to Burrell to see the fire equipment, including the giant bulldozer stationed there. I would talk to the firefighters and play with their station dog, a Dalmatian.

One day, my motorbike ran out of fuel, and I didn't have any extra gas at home. I grabbed a box of Girl Scout Cookies and went to the fire station begging for a gallon of gas with a box of cookies for trade. At first they declined, saying they couldn't give away gas. I pleaded with them, pointing out they were Thin Mints. I ultimately got a half gallon of gas with their recommendation that I get a tune up on my minibike to get better mileage.

In the 1990s, I joined Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue. In 1993, I was voted in as a member of the team. I began the training and went out on calls throughout our community.

After I was cleared to attend all calls and drive the fire equipment, I was on call 24/7. If I could go, I would. If I went out to dinner or to a party in town, I would not have a drink so that when I got home, I could go on a call if dispatched.

I enjoyed volunteering so much, I decided to pursue firefighting as a career. During



july 2022

this time, I was running a business (which I still own and operate) of providing fire clearances and property clean ups. In 1995, I applied to Cal Fire. and was selected to attend the Wildland Fire Academy as a backup when more firefighters were needed.

After completing the academy and hearing of no jobs available in Santa Cruz County, I called other units. I immediately received a job offer from Mendocino County in July 1995. That was the beginning of my Cal Fire career. I worked for a few fire seasons in Mendocino County, and was promoted to Fire Apparatus Engineer in 2001. I transferred back to Santa Cruz County in February of 2005, and was promoted to Fire Captain in May 2005. I was stationed at Burrell, Corralitos, and other stations in San Mateo County, Skylonda, and Pescadero.

The last 14 years of my career, I was assigned to the Felton Emergency Command Center. I supervised fire dispatchers, coordinated air and ground resources, and fulfilled local and state resource orders. I provided real-time incident information to the community. People wanted to know what the fire was doing, and where it was going.

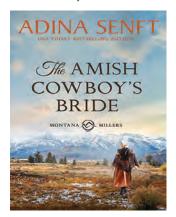
I have many memories of local incidents while working at the Burrell station. Early in my career, we were training one Saturday morning at Pastor John Haak's house on Soquel-San Jose Road. We received a call of a fallen bicyclist near Summit Woods. We arrived to find a single rider down, with no breathing and no pulse. We started CPR and hooked up an automatic defibrillator. With a few rounds of shocking and CPR, the patient regained a pulse, was breathing again, and was transported to the hospital. We took his bike back to the Burrell Fire Station. A few days later, the cyclist came by the station to pick up his bike and thanked the on-duty crew for saving his life.

Another memorable call was for a chimney fire in a cabin off Summit Road. I was on duty as a fire apparatus engineer at Burrell. My captain was working an overtime shift and didn't know this area very well. Usually, the engineer drives the fire engine, but he wanted to drive. I recognized the address and verified it in the run book. The captain was worried about not finding the home, but I gave him directions. It was a cabin at Patty Hughes' Maison du Lac. We got there quickly and extinguished the fire with very little damage. Patty was my vice principal at Los Gatos High School. She was always there for me, and it was nice to return the favor.



I plan to spend more time with family, continue selling real estate, and provide fire clearances and consulting. And yes, I will still provide fire updates and continue my role as co-moderator of 95033Talk, helping Sanjay maintain a venue for sharing useful and accurate information. My training and experience remain with me for life. I can still assess a fire, translate technical language, and provide real-time updates to the community.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve our community.





Shelley Adina Bates of Redwood Estates has released two new books. The Emperor's Aeronaut is the first in a Regency-set steampunk trilogy, co-written with R.E. Scott. The second is The Amish Cowboy's Bride, the third in her Montana Millers series, written as Adina Senft.



# Keep Campaign Together, We Made Our \$463,131 Goal Lydia Harville

The Loma Public Education Fund extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated time, money, and resources to help meet this year's Keep Excellent Education Programs campaign goal of \$463,131. With this, we are able to grant funds to KEEP cherished programs, services, and teachers for the 2022-2023 school year, including P.E., music/band, counseling, library time, seventh-grade Spanish, a youth leader, and a Loma classroom that would have otherwise been cut. We cannot begin to express our gratitude to our mountain community for rallying together to support Loma Prieta and C.T. English schools.

#### "Fore the Kids" Golf: What a par-tee

To our delight, we were able to hold our tenth annual "Fore the Kids" charity golf event at Seascape in May. It was great to see alumni families, school employees, community members, and friends join us for a fantastic day on the green, with festivities into the evening. A huge shout out to the attendees, volunteers, and sponsors who made this event a success and helped raise over \$22,000 "Fore the Kids!"

#### Sip for Schools: No wine left behind

Sip for Schools, held at the stunning Wrights Station Vineyard and Winery in May, was another fantastic event. Nearly 150 people turned up to enjoy Wrights Station's fabulous wines while soaking up the sun and perusing local vendors and artisans, from jewelry to e-bikes. Thanks to Wrights Station's generous donation of 37.8 percent of total sales and to our wonderful community members who attended, we raised \$2,290 to support programs for the upcoming school year.

#### Our work is not over

With the start of the new fiscal year on July 1, we begin our work to raise funds for the following school year (2023-2024). Planning for our Gala will start soon. If you are interested in co-chairing or volunteering for this beloved community event, email president@lpef.org.

#### Thank you! It takes a mountain!

We thank KEEP campaign co-chairs Amy Hayes, Elizabeth Cunningham, and Stephanie Wells; and committee members Eleanna Kim, Elyse Fairweather,



Lauren Gallagher, and Lydia Harville. We appreciate the support of our KEEP sponsors, including Open-Homes.com, Laura Peterson of State Farm, Lydia Harville of State Farm, Rebecca Smith and Karen Izzo of Christie's International Sereno, Triple O Systems, Cunningham Tractor, Erik Swanson Orthodontics, Prime Tree Care, and Hills Construction, Inc.

The "Fore the Kids" Golf Tournament was chaired by Cristina Werdebaugh, with help from volunteers Ashle Palafox, Azadeh Nolan, Bri Secviar, Casey Walter, Eleanna Kim, Elizabeth Cunningham, Jamie Cassell, Jennifer Chen, and Lauren Gallagher. Our event sponsors were Andrea Friese of Advanced Chiropractic, Mark Smith of Victoria Capital Mortgage Co., Rebecca

Smith and Karen Izzo of Christie's International Real Estate Sereno, Lydia Harville of State Farm, Open-Homes. com, Moore Buick GMC, Summit Store, Sir Froggy's Pub & Normandy House Lounge, Lux in Latin Designs, Snow's Pottery, Tammy

Caldwell Jewelry, Of Earth Sky and Sea, and Summit Waste and Recycling Services.

Sip for Schools was chaired by Tamara Marx, with help from volunteers Eleanna Kim, Elizabeth Cunningham, Elyse Fairweather, Lauren Gallagher, Lydia Harville, Marlena Schultz, and Stephanie Wells. We thank our vendors, including DemoWorx /Shhhuttled, Dusty Stache Woodworking, Mark Mesa Jewelry, Santa Cruz Mountain Apparel, The Woodland Potter, and Vision Sticks. Sip for Schools sponsors included Open-Homes.com, Laura Peterson of State Farm, Lydia Harville of State Farm, Rebecca Smith and Karen Izzo of Christie's International Sereno, and Triple O Systems.



#### C.T. English Middle School 2022 Commencement

At the C.T. English Middle School commencement in early June, several graduating students were honored. Jieyu Chiu was named valedictorian and given the Loma Prieta Club service award. Sarah Emerick was named salutorian. Tyce Bowen earned the William Anger award, and Nathan Jones was given the Olga Brecke award. The Adam Colbran-Patterson Award went to Dylan Clark, and the Tony Kovak award to Riley Hunt. Sophie Reitsma and Aldo Bernal Avalos were given the Jesse Saltz award, and Alexis Dorn the outstanding student leader award. Jenna Yoder won the Casey Wise award, and Finn Bernard and Rowan Hedberg-Young earned the Brian Anthony Davis award. The cheetah award was given to Jonah Fazzio and Milla Petersen.

Several students were honored with departmental awards: Heather Hansen algebra; Samantha Tarica—art; Jieyu Chiu—geometry; Jacob Heal—language arts; Wilber Huang—music; Patrick Hayes—performing arts; Anna Maria Malkos, Jenna Yoder, Hugo Baring, and Rowan Merrick—physical education; Alice McKee—science; Ali Akca—social studies; James Smith Spanish; and Parker Merrittyearbook.

Lastly, students who earned straight As in seventh- and eighth-grades were Ali Akca, Hugo Baring, Jordan Daniher, Alexis Dorn, Jonah Fazzio, Heather Hansen, Peter Potts, and Samantha Tarica.

Congratulations, graduates!



**Building Blocks Preschool** In Gratitude to Adelia Rowland Rebecca Witmer

Adelia (Barber) Rowland's generous service to Building Blocks Parent Cooperative Preschool began when her oldest child started preschool there a decade ago. Adelia assisted in the classroom weekly,

and introduced science and math concepts to the students with hands-on garden and cooking activities. She became treasurer in 2012, then steering committee chair in 2015, then returned in 2018 to treasurer, a position she has held until now.

Building Blocks might not exist today without her efforts, particularly her strategic financial and business planning. The scholarship program she designed and funded through donations and grants has enabled a dozen low-income students to access preschool. After a reorganization that she and a team of parent leaders initiated in 2014, enrollment more than doubled, and revenue tripled.

As her youngest child heads to kindergarten at Loma Prieta Elementary School, Adelia also moves on, but not far. She will become an advisory member of our steering committee as part of her position on the Loma Prieta Community Foundation board. She will also continue to benefit our community as coordinator of Loma's school garden program.

**Building Blocks is sponsored** by the Loma Prieta Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. To donate to the Building Blocks scholarship program, visit https://www. buildingblockscoop.org/support.



## Thinking of Selling?

Oftentimes a lot of preparation is needed to bring a home to market. In addition to a network of service providers for various home needs, I have a crew on staff that can help with property clean up and defensible space. I will provide one free 20 yard dumpster for clean up and debris removal (Additional available at a reduced cost).

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**COMPASS** 

## schools

#### Lexington School Jason Deppong

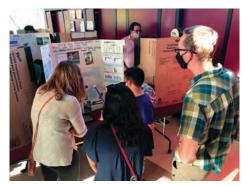
It was quite a year at Lexington...for everyone! Transitioning from required masking and strict social distancing to allowing more parents on campus and optional masks were just a few examples of the changes in our community. We made it through, and thankfully, the end of the year was filled with many traditional events.

The fifth-grade exhibition took place in May. This is the culminating project for all International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program students around the world. The Lexington fifth graders chose their own class focus: "Our personal actions have an effect on the world."

Students learned about the UN's sustainable-development goals. They selected individual six-week inquiries they were passionate about. Topics included:









how dance can impact people and bring about social change; how gender roles are influenced by culture; how internet scamming impacts people's financial security; how taking an animal out of its specific environment leaves an effect on the ecosystem; how our use of plastic is impacting the food chain; and how factory farming affects the environment.

Students presented their work, answering

questions and explaining the various actions they took to make a difference. The next day, they were rewarded with Lexington's annual Fun Day, which couldn't take place last year.

The Home and School Club brought in the bells and whistles to make it a truly fun day for students. There were games, food, music, a bouncy house, and a huge inflatable slide. The day ended with the





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traditional fifth grade-versus-staff (and a few fifth-grade parents) in a game of moonball—think baseball with a rubber ball. Fifth grade won fair and square in a nail-biter (six to four).

Lexington also held a talent show, but due to rising COVID-19 cases, it had to be streamed into classrooms to avoid students assembling closely in the multi-purpose



room. Performers sang, played piano and guitar, and broke boards with karate. The staff band, The Wildcats, ended the show with a jazzy cover and drum solo by Mr. Deppong.

Finally, on the last day of school, we held the fifth-grade promotion ceremony outside, with the beautiful Lexington hills as a backdrop. Five fifth graders were recognized for fulfilling the requirements of Lexington's new "Pathway to Multilingualism" initiative, that encourages students to continue practicing languages so they can receive a seal of biliteracy in high school. Languages included Spanish, Malayalam, and Hebrew. Fifth grader Olive Howard was awarded the IB Student of the Year award for consistently displaying the attributes of a global citizen throughout her time at Lexington. She received a certificate and \$150 from the IB

organization. The fifth-graders generously gifted the school an outdoor ping-pong table. The students were able to enjoy it for a few days before they moved on to middle school.

Lexington has open positions for the upcoming school year. We are looking for substitute teacher's aides for the transitional-kindergarten and kindergarten classes, a lifelab/garden coordinator, and a volunteer clay-program coordinator. If you are interested, email Principal Jason Deppong at jdeppong@lgusd.org. Lexington's school office will be closed until August 1. Have a fantastic summer from everyone at Lexington School.

Photos by Jason Deppong, Ziwa Hampshire, and Barbara Lougée





#### Lakeside School News Kathy McKinney

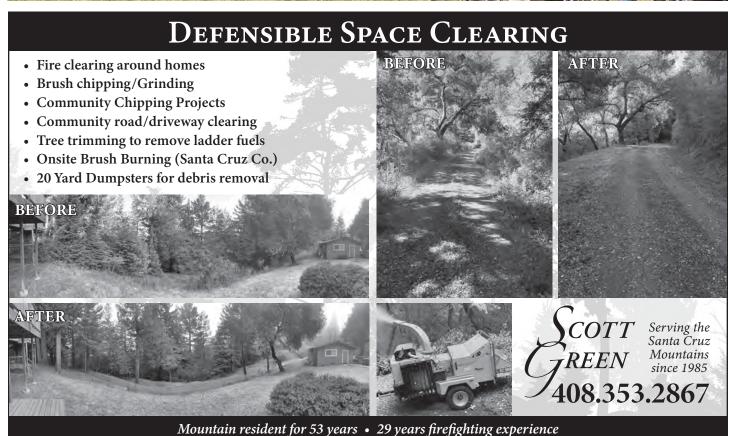
Congratulations to Lakeside School's graduating class of 2022, and to Lucas Manning, who was named fifth grader of the year. We wish all of our graduates well in middle school and beyond.

As the school year drew to a close, school staff honored our parent volunteers with a delicious breakfast held in the school garden. The district named Kate Manning volunteer of the year, as a tribute to the seven years she has worked tirelessly as a parent volunteer and foundation board member at Lakeside School. Thank you, Kate.









Our district bid a fond farewell to Kajsa Byrne, a Lakeside alum who taught at Lakeside for more than six years. Our loss is the Los Gatos Union School District's gain. Kajsa will launch that district's new transitional-kindergarten program at Lexington School. She will be greatly missed by her Lakeside family.

Lakeside is currently enrolling transitional kindergarten and kindergarten students for the 2022-23 school year. To be eligible for transitional kindergarten, students must turn five years old before February 2, 2023. For more information, call the school office at 408-354-2372.

Champions is running a summer camp program at Lakeside. The camp includes art, science, math games, sports, social classes,

and more, to deliver a day of fun and learning for youth. In the upcoming school year, Champions will offer full- and halfday preschool programs for children aged three to five years. For more information about preschool or summer camp, visit DiscoverChampions.com, or call Anjelica at 408-624-0534.

Lakeside School has job openings for the 2022-23 school year. We need a music or theater/drama teacher, an intervention teacher, and a food-services coordinator. These are part-time positions. We are seeking a full-time speech therapist in a split position with our site and Luther Burbank School in San Jose. We are also looking for a full-time school psychologist in a split position with the Lakeside and

Loma Prieta school districts. Last, we are looking for substitute classroom teachers and instructional assistants.

Lakeside also has four positions on its board of trustees that begin in November 2022. The deadline to apply is July 8. To find out more about open staff positions or serving on our board, email ljsd@ lakesidelosgatos.org.

Photos by Cari Forbord and Shama Marshall

#### Lakeside School **Foundation News Emmet Daly**

Lakeside School relies on the consistent and generous support of neighbors, friends, family, and community members. During the 2021-22 school year, with your support, the Lakeside School Community Foundation raised sufficient funds to help provide programs such as science, art, physical education, music, drama, and gardening for our students.

LSCF couldn't function without the dedication of the foundation board members. I extend a special thanks to the long-standing foundation board members who are moving on from their roles: Kate Manning, Tiffany Cisler, Juliet Morita, and Holly Stewart. I appreciate our current members who continue to serve: Hila Propp (vice president), Astrid Atkinson (secretary), and voting members Mary Slaughter and Lauren Quillici. Finally, welcome to our new foundation board members: Emmet Daly (president), Dara Goodheart (treasurer), and Chris Lamb and Arik Fraimovich Almog (voting members).

The new board is excited about the upcoming year, and is eager to work with the community to ensure Lakeside continues to provide an outstanding education for our students. Lakeside would not be the tiny, but mighty, school it is without this community—thank you.



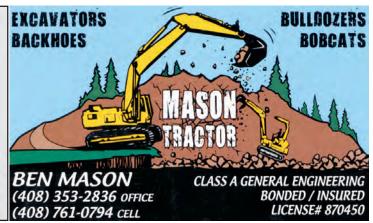


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