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June 16th, 5pm, Downtown Los Gatos

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**The June issue of
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Circulation

More than 4000 homes and businesses
in the Santa Cruz Mountains



COVER

**The Santa Cruz Breakwater
(Walton) Lighthouse**
Photography by Bruce Fournier

This harbor light
has marked the entrance
of the Santa Cruz Harbor
for over 40 years.

In the most ancient tradition
of lighthouses,
it marked a haven
rather than danger.

It was in a box light structure,
next a "water heater" cylinder,
and then an unsightly pipe.

Santa Cruz cruisers
deserved better.
They collected money,
including a major donation
from Charles Walton
of Los Gatos.

At the dedication in 2002,
the green light began flashing
every four seconds, 41.5 feet
above the west jetty.

But the tower is no
lightweight.
Weighing 350,000 pounds,
it can withstand
a quarter-million pounds
of wave energy.

Even with rising seas,
this lighthouse
will signal a safe harbor
in Santa Cruz.

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IS

17850 Kiowa Trail Los Gatos

\$1,399,000 | 17850KiowaTrail.com
2 Bed | 1 Bath + Studio

Amazing Storybook home in Chemeketa Park! 2bd/1 ba 1332 sf upstairs plus 550 sf heated basement/workshop and separate 120 sf studio office, nestled on the most amazing, sunny 19,403 sf lot. Incredible updates throughout, great location close to town and best Los Gatos Schools.



20862 Kittridge Road Saratoga

\$2,999,000 | 20862KittridgeRd.com
3 Bed | 3 Bath | 2153 Sq Ft

Stunning unobstructed valley views at this amazing location close to Saratoga Village! Wall of windows, vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, Mid-century, feel great floor plan on a private over 1 acre knoll with fruit trees. Great location and award winning Saratoga schools!



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COMPASS

events

Community Music Festival and Picnic Mountain Jam Returns

Louis Niemann

Save the date! Mountain Jam returns to our community on **Saturday, August 20**, at the Loma Prieta Playfield and Gazebo. Mountain Jam is a free, family-friendly music festival and picnic that features multiple professional local bands. Headlining the lineup this year is a high-performance band with a wide following that will captivate you and move you to dance. Stay tuned.

There's a lot to see and do. Young children and teens can experiment with various musical instruments. We'll have games, arts and crafts, displays, and great food. The climbing wall and jumper are a favorite for the children. Bring your furry friend and enter the "dogs are welcome" contest.

Our community has a strong legacy of promoting creativity in our children by offering strong music and performing-arts opportunities. We want to help maintain this valuable resource. Since 2013, proceeds from Mountain Jam have provided generous donations to Loma Prieta and C.T. English music programs, and thousands of meals and basic clothing for local disadvantaged people.

Check out www.SantaCruzMountainJam.org for all the details. If you would like to volunteer, donate, or sponsor our event, use the "contact" form on the website.



It's Time to Rock Again!

Lani Christianson

On **Saturday, July 23**, the Alison Sharino Band will perform at the Loma Prieta Playfield, 23845 Summit Road. Have some fun in the open air. Celebrate life in the mountains with your neighbors.

Bring a lawn chair or spread a blanket. Kick back to listen to the music, or dance the night away under the stars. Tickets are only \$30 each, and go on sale **July 1**. Watch for details in the next issue of *Mountain Network News*.

Rockin' in the Mountains is sponsored by the Loma Prieta Community Foundation. A huge thank you to our loyal sponsors, including *Mountain Network News*, Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue, and Lani Christianson.

Pippa's House Concert

Lisa Lynne and Aryeh Frankfurter

Pippa Siersema

Join us on **Friday, June 10**, for an evening of music and fun with an optional potluck at 6:30 p.m., followed by a concert at 7:30 p.m.

If you are a fan of the remarkable duo Lisa Lynne and Aryeh Frankfurter, they need no introduction.

If not, prepare yourself for a magical evening filled with surprises. Listen to engaging stories accompanied by the sounds of rare instruments, including the Celtic harp, Swedish nyckelharpa, Ukrainian bandura, and 16th century cittern. You will be transported to times and places far from our current chaos.

If the weather allows, we will enjoy the performance in my garden, so be sure to bring a jacket. Wine, beer, and water will be provided, but you are free to bring your own. If you want to participate in the potluck, bring a favorite food.

Masking is optional unless local conditions require added safety. Tickets are \$30 at the door. For reservations and information, email PippaSiersema@yahoo.com, or call me at 408-529-5610.

Share an evening with us. We look forward to seeing you.



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523charleshillrd.com

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community

Santa Cruz Mountain Alliance PG&E is Saying Something Right Larry Lopp

A flyer from PG&E recently appeared in our community mailboxes. This notification from our electric utility offers significant good news.

The significance is that PG&E recognizes that it has the responsibility to continuously upgrade its distribution systems. This serves our high-fire-risk community and all customers. For those living in rural forested areas, the concern is the number of fires ignited by the electrical-distribution network. These small fires can grow rapidly into wildfires in our dry and often unmanaged coastal forested regions.

The work outlined by PG&E to re-engineer and update their distribution system can reduce sources of ignition. The state of California and our local county governments are turning to modern management of our forested areas.

These efforts are necessary due to the unpredictable consequences of global warming. Reducing fossil fuels as a source of energy will take intense global cooperation and decades to accomplish.

Our local efforts include creating fire-safe defensible space around our homes, businesses, and other facilities. Our local organizations are working hard alongside the county and the state to develop fire-safe roads for safe exit routes and emergency support.

At the same time, the energy-distribution network renovation as our basic energy source undergoes a radical change. Our long-term source of energy must be carbon-free renewable energy for power, lighting, cooking, communications, computing, heating, cooling, and transportation.

The best long-term energy source appears to be electricity. Electrical energy is available worldwide. It can be captured wherever the sun shines on our planet through photovoltaic solar panels and wind generators.

Solar radiation is available anywhere and can be economically converted to electrical energy. The high concentration of energy usage in our more urban areas will continue to require large areas of solar and wind generation. These large centralized electrical capture sites will require a safe and efficient electrical-distribution grid.

PG&E must use their resources to

meet the future needs of the centralized generation of these new sources of electrical energy and distribution. This will require intellectual, financial, and manufacturing resources.

In addition, PG&E and our government agencies must work fairly with those customers using local solar generation.

The Mountain Alliance members believe that PG&E is sincere in their efforts. We will work with their community wildfire safety team to make the steps outlined in their flyer a reality. We look forward to your support.

Thank you, PG&E, for listening to suggestions. We wish them the best as they implement a comprehensive solution.

Fire Safe County Roads Flagging the Summit/Highland Shaded Fuel Break

Larry Lopp and David Fullagar

In May, the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County began flagging individual properties along the Summit Road/Highland Way corridor with color-coded ribbons. This marks a significant milestone in our quest to create a safer environment for mountain residents. Details of the color coding can be found by photographing this QR code with your smart phone.



In parallel with the flagging operation, RCD is preparing a scope-of-work document to enable tree-service contractors to bid on the work. The anticipated date for submission of bids is the end of June, with the goal of starting tree work by mid-July.

It is important that we get close to 100 percent participation in the program, so



The RCD's Matt Abernathy and Angie Richman work with a landowner to flag trees.

we urge those who have not yet signed the permission forms to do so as soon as possible. It will be far more efficient for the contractors to work along the corridor from east to west without having to double back to accommodate late signers.

Fire Safe County Roads is a volunteer organization dedicated to improving the wildfire safety of our mountain community. Creating a shaded fuel break along the Summit Road/Highland Way corridor is the first of many planned projects to improve fire safety.



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18805 Bear Creek Road, Los Gatos 95033
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Welcome to 18805 Bear Creek Road! Nestled in the redwoods, this 5,726 SF Generational Chalet Style Home on 7.77 acres which includes 2 adjacent parcels is surrounded Vineyards and Open Space. Consisting of 6 bedrooms and 7 1/2 bathrooms, it's just 3 minutes to downtown Los Gatos. Amazing views of Vineyards, Lexington Reservoir and Downtown SJ. Amenities include a Gym, Wine Cellar, Home Theater, Security System, Chef's Kitchen, Elevator, and a 1,088 SF Garage. Highest quality of custom construction with amenities and comforts galore. Additional 668 square feet designated for living space.



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 out over the valley & hills.



17300 Weaver Road, Los Gatos 95033
4 Bed | 2 Bath | 39.3 Acres | 2,343 SF
\$1,967,000

Top of the world views to Monterey Bay from this 4 bedroom Los Gatos Mountain home. Surrounded by Mid Peninsula open space and water company property, there are lots of biking and hiking trails. There have been retreats, weddings, graduation parties, and large gatherings in the past. Worlds away, but just 25 minutes to downtown Los Gatos. With privacy galore and space, this makes an awesome home or retreat. For the car collector the 1200 Sf garage/workshop is perfect. One of only 3 estate homes on Weaver Road, there is plenty of room for vineyards, orchards, horses, gardens. Numerous fruit trees and meadows. Ready to be returned to it's original grandeur.



910 Pinecrest Drive Boulder Creek, CA 95006
\$449,000

Imagine building your dream home on this private 5+ acres of rolling hills property. Upper and lower portions of property have been cleared and are ready for many uses. The home burned in the CZU fire. Great way to be part of rebuilding this neighborhood.



Keith & Shelly Kanady

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community

Theatre in the Mountains

Thank You for a Successful Run Kiyoko Whiteside

Theater magic is back on the mountain! On May 13, 14, and 15, the Loma Prieta Community Center stage was full of lights, sound, and the energy of live theater. Thank you to the performers, their families, community volunteers, and the audience who came out to support this magical production of *Seussical, Jr.*

Theatre in the Mountains is only able to create performance opportunities and high-caliber productions because of the dedication of volunteers who work year-round. This show was made possible because of the leadership of producers Erin Ashegian and Ellen Farrow, who immediately stepped up to take on the challenge. Our steering committee, led by Jennifer Daniher, spent almost two years monitoring, discussing, and planning until we could resume our program. The support of these volunteers was critical to the success of this show. Our steering-committee members were also responsible for producing, designing the lighting, sound, and stage, stage management, and choreography. A special thank you goes to our stage mama, Charlotte Khandelwal, for keeping everything moving smoothly throughout our production.

The group of performers in third through eighth grades represented the widest age range we have ever had for an all-student production. We had many returning performers who had missed theater tremendously, and were great role models for our younger and new performers. Our artistic staff, Caitlin Papp (director), Melanie Camras (vocal director), and Kiyoko Whiteside (choreographer/assistant

director), worked tirelessly to develop the skills of our young actors, singers, and dancers to create a charming, touching, and energetic performance.

Thank you to everyone involved. We look forward to seeing you at our next show.

Why Reject Measure D?

George Dondero, Pat Dellin,
and Linda Wilshusen

As former executive directors of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, we spent our professional lives encouraging county residents to envision and take concrete steps toward building a sustainable, affordable, and diverse multi-modal transportation system that meets the varied needs of local families, businesses, students, and visitors.

We understand that anyone who moves around our county has a strong opinion about what should be done. We invited public input in countless ways during our more than 30 years at the RTC. One thing the public has made perfectly clear: Our communities want sustainable-transportation options. Our communities want the Coastal Rail Trail that's already being built within the rail corridor, and we want to explore clean-energy passenger-rail service along the coast for the future.

The Greenway initiative on the June 2022 primary ballot runs counter to these clear community wishes and to the RTC's own sound transportation policies.

We strongly oppose Measure D. Here's why we urge you to vote no on Measure D.

Measure D is intentionally deceptive. It's one of those convoluted initiatives where voting "no" means saying yes to continuing to build the Coastal Rail Trail and exploring future clean-energy transportation options, whereas voting "yes" means rejecting those options.

Measure D claims it would create a linear

park. Instead, the Coastal Rail Trail would be replaced with a paved roadway: "two lanes of wheeled traffic...a divider, and a separate walkway for pedestrians, with a shoulder on both sides."

Measure D is not green. It would set us back half a century by amending the county's general plan to eliminate county support to plan for clean-energy passenger rail. People want to do the right thing for the future! It's hard to change our commuting habits when all choices lead to roads.

Measure D is bad for transportation equity. Measure D's elimination of rail options would disproportionately impact south- and mid-county families, young people, and nondrivers.

Measure D would delay development of our 50-mile Coastal Trail around Monterey Bay that's already being built as a wide, world-class bike and pedestrian pathway. Measure D would make us begin all over again, delaying trail construction for years.

Measure D touts a bike path that would be one or two feet wider in places, but the Coastal Rail Trail is already wider than standard widths. Replacing two new energy-efficient transportation options with only one, and all for a slightly wider path, is not efficient transportation policy.

Measure D claims it would preserve future rail options, but it does not. Tearing out the rail line requires U.S. Surface Transportation Board approval of "railbanking," for both the coast rail line and the Felton branch line owned by Roaring Camp Railroads. Recently, the public spoke overwhelmingly against isolating Roaring Camp, and railbanking has rarely resulted in re-established rail service.

We're extremely lucky to have a publicly-owned, continuous, and active rail corridor connecting the populated coastal part of north county with growing mid- and south county, and with the rest of California. There used to be a railroad that went over the hill from Santa Cruz to San Jose, but that right-of-way was sold off after Highway 17 was built. Measure D would make that same mistake again.

Deceptive and not green, Measure D would move us backward, not forward. With climate change pressing heavily upon us and the Coastal Rail Trail already open in some places, we need to continue investing in our existing transportation infrastructure—not tear it out and stamp "cancel" on future clean-energy options.

Please vote no on Measure D.



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District One News

Manu Koenig

First District Supervisor, Santa Cruz County

Wildfire Community Preparedness Day

I was pleased to recognize May 7 as Wildfire Community Preparedness Day with a formal board of supervisors proclamation. Wildfire Community Preparedness Day is recognized throughout the United States and Canada on the first Saturday in May. It encourages residents to raise awareness, take action, and reduce community wildfire risk.

Residents can help protect against the threat of wildfires. Creating fuel breaks and defensible space, and home hardening, are proven and effective tools that help us prepare for wildfires.

We recognize the progress our community has made. Since its formation in 2016, the Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz has played a critical role in educating Santa Cruz County residents about wildfire protection and prevention programs, and encouraging communities in the wildland-urban interface to reduce wildfire risk. Over the last few years, 27 communities in Santa Cruz County have obtained Firewise USA™ recognition. We encourage more communities to become Firewise.

ADU Program: Less Fees, More Help

Accessory Dwelling Units are an important tool we have for increasing housing in our community. Unfortunately,



many property owners in the county have found building ADUs to be either too expensive or the process too complicated. To improve the process and increase the number of housing units in our county, the board of supervisors recently approved improvements to the ADU program. Among the most notable changes is an extension of the permit-fee waiver program for ADUs up to 750 square feet. Previously, fee waivers were only available for ADUs up to 640 square feet.

In order to help property owners with the process, the board of supervisors adopted a technical-assistance program that includes outreach and education for homeowners who wish to build an ADU.

Homeowners must meet eligibility criteria, to focus on properties most feasible and reasonable for ADU development. The technical-assistance program considers affordability criteria to target less-resourced homeowners, and homeowners willing to create deed-restricted ADUs that would be offered at affordable rents. It includes a feasibility assessment of the property and

review of local codes, and coordination and guidance with all aspects of ADU planning and construction, including design, cost estimates, contracts, insurance, budgeting, and financing. The program will provide support with permit applications and the permitting process, construction management, landlord training, and tenant matchmaking. It will be funded with the Affordable Housing Impact Fund, rather than the county's general fund.

The board's vote to approve the improved ADU incentive program reflects our support for increased construction of affordable housing units. You can learn more on the Santa Cruz County ADU website at www.sccoplaning.com/adu.aspx.

Apply for a County Commission

County commissions offer a great opportunity to get involved in local government. The First District has openings on the Commission on Disabilities (scccd.net), the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission (sccfh.org), and the Seniors Commission (sccseniors.org).

Want to Talk to Us?

Come to our office at the Sheriff Center, 5200 Soquel Avenue, for office hours with Supervisor Manu Koenig, the first Wednesday of every month except July, from 1 to 3 p.m. You can call us at 831-454-2200, or email first.district@santacruzcounty.us.

Angelé Price

*From the Valley to the Sea
& the Mountains in between*

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18752 Favre Ridge

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230 Orman Rd., Boulder Creek

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SALE PENDING



4900 Old San Jose Rd., Soquel

Perched on two sunny parcels (2+ acres), this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home awaits its new owner's inspiration and ideas. Over 1700 sq. ft. and first time on the market in 50 years! Minutes to the beach and just 25 to Los Gatos. **\$1,299,000.**

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resources

The Portola and Castle Rock Foundation Improving our Parks

Julie Zack

For 18 months after the CZU fire complex, Big Basin State Park has been closed. As more Californians look for an outdoor escape from the pressures of the last two years, record numbers of visitors are spending time at Portola Redwoods State Park and Castle Rock State Park along Skyline Boulevard. The Portola and Castle Rock Foundation has supported these parks for more than 20 years.

We are a non-profit funded by our members, donors, grants, and a small store inside the visitor center at Portola Redwoods State Park. Despite the pandemic, we have been busy. Here's a look at some of our recent work.

Repairing Bathrooms at Portola Redwoods

Last December, a 200-foot Douglas fir tree fell on the bathroom in the Portola Redwoods campground. The bathroom needed to be rebuilt. Thanks to donations from the Portola and Castle Rock Foundation, the park was able to reframe and re-roof. The foundation also paid to replace the interior of the bathroom. It should be open soon.

We also helped pay for renovation of the other bathrooms, including upgraded water-wise plumbing and lead-paint removal.



A New Portola Redwoods Trail Crew

Our new trail crew kicked off last fall with training. Since then, they have worked on maintaining trails, removing fallen trees, creating drainage to help preserve the trails from water damage, and even building a small bridge.

Trail workdays are on the second Saturday of every month. If you would like to spend some time under the big trees while giving back, we welcome new volunteers. We provide all training and tools. For more information or to sign up, visit Volunteer@PortolaAndCastleRockFound.org.

Portola Redwoods Barbecue Grills

After more than 40 years, many of the old, warped barbecue grills in the picnic areas at Portola Redwoods State Park were replaced with new metal grates for grilling. We were able to preserve the beautiful stone mounts (*Diablo Fireplaces*) while installing new grills. Ron Brandt of RB Ornamental Iron in Mountain View redesigned the grills to avoid warping from the heat of the coals. He went above and beyond in the installation.

Thanks to your generous donations, people will grill under the Portola Redwoods for generations to come.

Preparing the Portola Campground

On March 24, we hosted a volunteer workday at Portola Redwoods to prepare the campgrounds for the opening day on April 1. Over a dozen volunteers and several members of our board of directors completed light maintenance around the campsites and group camps. It was a beautiful day under the redwoods, working alongside the maintenance crew at Portola.

We shared a picnic lunch at the newly rebuilt campfire center, the site of summer evening campfire sessions with the park's interpreter. We look forward to more successful workdays in partnership with the maintenance team. To learn more about the State Parks volunteer program or the Portola Trail Crew, visit Volunteer@PortolaAndCastleRockFound.org.

New Porch Welcomes Portola Visitors

The porch to the Portola Redwoods visitor center is open when the visitor center is closed. Visitors may check in for



day use or campsites at the porch. It also provides notices, maps, emergency signage, a public phone, a drinking fountain, and recycling bins. It serves as a welcoming space where friends and families gather for hikes or events, look at maps and current conditions, and view nature displays.

Over the past 20 years, the porch had fallen into disrepair and poor organization. With enthusiastic support from State Parks, we have redesigned the space for better use and traffic flow. We replaced old benches with unique redwood benches milled from fallen trees in our own park. We built new planter boxes from park redwood and filled them with native species. We also replaced the bike rack and upgraded the message boards and signage.

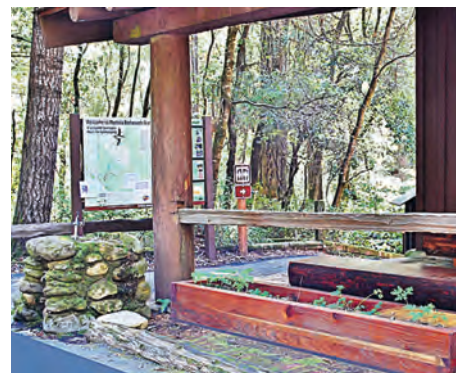
The next project scheduled for this year is to refurbish the historic stone drinking fountain. We plan to install a new ADA-compliant fountain with a bottle filler that will eliminate the need to sell single-use plastic bottles in our visitor-center store.

What's Next?

We're hoping for a great camping season at Portola. The weekends are already booked throughout the summer. Both parks continue to need our support. We welcome new members, donors, and board members to help us support these parks.

Visit Your Parks

You'll find friendly volunteers and docents at both parks who can help you with hiking recommendations, park information, purchasing firewood, and small gifts. Training begins soon for both docents and the wilderness patrol. Get involved!



Time to Smell the Flowers

Tish O'Reilly

www.pacmthort.com

Spring has sprung and, if everything has gone as planned with our gardening schedule, we are done with major seasonal pruning and are now enjoying the benefits of good plant structure and healthy blooms.

Our plants are happy with the extra mulch we placed to keep the ground moist and easy to weed. The irrigation systems are flushed and in good working order, with irrigation controllers set for early-morning watering.

As summer heats up, we might need to plant a bit of fresh color in a few pots we would like to enhance. After these little projects, it's time to plan summer parties and show off your creativity and the hard work you did in your garden.

As we begin to prepare for the busy summer season, I suggest touring a Bay Area garden or two. Several are open to the public, worth a visit, and easily within our reach. For example, U.C., Santa Cruz, Arboretum and Botanical Garden (1490 High Street, Santa Cruz) displays a fine selection of California natives, as well as exotic species from Australia and New Zealand.

Filoli House and Garden (86 Cañada Road, Woodside) is a bit of a drive and takes the better part of a day for touring, but it's worth a visit. The home and grounds are open and in fine form to impress.

Hakone Gardens (21000 Big Basin Way, Saratoga) is beautiful, contemplative, and celebratory. It's a nice place to collect your thoughts in a peaceful environment before returning to the busy world.

The next time you are planning a trip to IKEA, plan a detour to the Gamble Garden (1431 Waverley Street, Palo Alto). Right in the middle of Palo Alto, the historic 1900s home and garden of Elizabeth Gamble is worth seeing. It's a fine example of a turn-of-the-century home. The Gamble Garden is



dedicated to community education, art, and, of course, horticulture.

Perhaps it is time to smell the flowers. With a little extra planning, you can have a picnic while you enjoy a beautiful garden. It's a good way to discover ideas for your own garden.

You can find me in the garden.





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calendar

ON-GOING CLASSES AND MEETINGS

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 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

Thursday, June 9

The Bookmobile visits the mountains: **Lakeside School**, 9:45 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.

Friday, June 10

Pippa Siersema hosts a house concert featuring Lisa Lynne and Aryeh Frankfurter. Tickets are \$30 per person at the door. Potluck at 6:30 p.m., and the music starts at 7:30 p.m. For reservations and information, email PippaSiersema@yahoo.com, or call 408-529-5610.

Thursday, June 23

The Bookmobile visits the mountains: **Lakeside School**, 9:45 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 23

The Alison Sharino Band will perform at the Loma Prieta Playfield, 23845 Summit Road. Tickets are \$30. Watch for more details in the July issue of *Mountain Network News*.

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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 & Rescue annual barbecue, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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What are you looking at, Gil?

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 mnews@comcast.net. Make them famous in the Santa Cruz Mountains.



Hey Neil, I'm just walking, not jaywalking

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sereno—

exploring

ARDENWOOD

A walk in the park
Ardenwood Historic Farm
Neil Wiley

This is a park for children, birders, photographers, and animal-lovers. Walking is easy on smooth, paved paths, but to see everything, you'll walk several miles.

Why walk when you can ride? A good place to start is the visitor center and Arden Station, where you can catch a ride on the train through a large meadow and under giant eucalyptus trees. The train takes you halfway around the 210-acre farm. You can get off at the only stop, Deer Park Station, or double your pleasure with a return to Arden Station.

Returning to your starting place is a good move if you want a step-by-step tour with a detailed map, a digital guide on your cell phone, or with a group and a human guide. It is helpful to keep your group together, especially if that group includes children.

For me, the brochure map is best, because you can skip to the sites that interest you the most. For example, many birders go directly to the lawn area in front of the Patterson House. You'll see them looking up toward the trees through binoculars or long telephoto lenses. Non-birders may have reserved the E-I-O picnic area, or chosen the first-come, first-served farmyard picnic tables for a family picnic, birthday party, or reunion.



page 18



It's a good idea to check at the visitor center to discover programs, lectures, and demonstrations at various park sites. For example, my grandson received an ear of corn while attending a talk on farm produce



in 2008. Fourteen years later, on my recent Ardenwood hike, I saw children proudly displaying their corn.

For most children, and perhaps most adults, their favorite sites feature farm animals, including goats, sheep, pigs, chickens, turkeys, cows, and baby animals of any species.

Photographers may be more interested in wilder subjects, such as displaying peacocks, eagles in the tops of trees, and occasional visiting coyotes. A curious person can also





find a wide range of human, animal, and nature subjects. It's a good place to walk around with a camera.

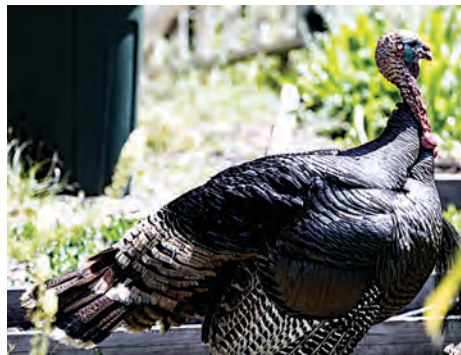
Ardenwood is an historic farm. Much of that history can be learned in a tour of the Patterson House. Learn about the people who lived here in the 1850s and beyond. Find out how a failed prospector acquired nearly 6000 acres of land and became a respected member of the Fremont community. It's history you can touch.

The details. Ardenwood is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Train rides and house tours from April through mid-November are scheduled Thursdays through Sundays. Group tours can be arranged. For information, call 510-791-4195. If you are hungry, go on the weekends when the Farmyard Cafe is open.

Children of any age are welcome, but dogs, recreational equipment, balloons, and barbecues are not allowed. Most of the facilities and trails are wheelchair accessible.

A day ticket is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, and \$4 for children from 4 to 17 years old. Children under three years old are invited free of charge. (Hopefully, they will come with one or more adults.) Train rides and Patterson House tours are free.

To drive to Ardenwood, take Highway 17 to I-880. In Fremont, take the Decoto Road/Dumbarton Bridge/Highway 84 east to the Ardenwood/Newark Boulevard exit, and turn right (north) on Ardenwood Boulevard. Watch for the park entrance sign. Turn right and follow a tree-lined road into the parking area. For GPS, use the address 34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont, CA 94555. Have a good time!



history

A Rare Car from the Santa Cruz Mountains Marilyn Waiton

In April, one of the rarest cars in the world moved from our Santa Cruz Mountains to the world-famous Blackhawk Museum in Danville, California. Although this vehicle has been in my family since 1940, it deserved a larger audience.

The 1937 Cord model 812 s/c Phaeton with rear-mounted spare is so unique, that it was purchased by only three people: Al Jolson, Tom Mix, and Barbara Stanwyck. Only three of these cars are known to exist, and only one is truly original. The Tom Mix Cord was severely damaged in an accident that claimed the owner's life. The Stanwyck Cord was modified, losing its special rear-mounted spare.

Thanks to a loving restoration, the Al Jolson 1937 Cord model 812 s/c Phaeton with rear-mounted spare is still alive and beautiful. Pontoon fenders are sculpted into a long, flowing coffin-hood nose, with hidden pop-up headlights, chrome-plated exhaust pipes on each side of the hood and grill, wide "suicide" doors, and beautiful lines unobscured by running boards.



The distinctive, rare, rear-mounted tire shouts '30s style. Yet, this car is ahead of its time, with a powerful, straight-eight engine, front-wheel drive, locking gas cap, locking ignition, and invisible weighted lines that secure the convertible top when stored.

It's not surprising that our car won many first-place show awards. The design was the dream of Gordon Buehrig, chief designer of the Stutz, Model J Duesenberg, Boattail

Speedster, Cord 810 and 812 coupes, sedans, and convertibles with the guidance of automobile visionary E. L. Cord.

The ACD Club is dedicated to the restoration, preservation, and promotion of original Auburn, Cord, and Duesenberg automobiles. Restoration of our car was accomplished with the support of Josh Malks, Luke Rizzuto, and Mark Tomei.

Josh Malks wrote the books *Cord Complete*





and Cord 810/812. An ACD Club expert, he has owned five Cords. His last one, a 1936 Cord 810 donated to the ACD Club, was driven to Auburn by Luke Rizzuto. Luke's trip won the Doug Johnson Long Distance Driving Award for our mountain neighbor Luke, who also carefully rebuilt my car while preserving its traditional quality using original parts from the manufacturer, Auburn. Mark Tomei is an ACD Club judge who provided his special expertise to the renovation.

The ACD Club published a two-page article about our car, entitled *Al Jolson's Cord*. Michael Hayward, a published Cord historian, and Ed Holloway, director/ newsletter editor for the Northern California Region Classic Car Club of America, reviewed documentation.

We thank these automobile experts for accepting our beloved vehicle to Curator Brian Murray's Blackhawk Museum. The museum is reknown for its collection of classic, rare, and unique automobiles. The



museum is open Fridays through Sundays, and is located at 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle in Danville. For more information, visit www.blackhawkmuseum.org, or call 925-736-2280.

I thank the many people who contributed to making this renovation a reality. I'll miss seeing my Cord every day, but the museum will give more exotic-car lovers the opportunity to see and appreciate this beautiful and unique automobile.



An old photo of the 1937 Cord model 812 s/c Phaeton with rear-mounted spare

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nature



Monkeyface Prickleback Eels Bruce Sudweeks

In 2012, a culinary craze was propagated through some Bay Area restaurants—monkeyface prickleback eel on the menu.

I am not sure if the sensation was due to the humorous name of this local sea creature, or the fact that it was very tasty.

The fad may be returning in a different way, with a sustainability twist. Monkeyface prickleback eels (*Cebidichthys violaceus*) are the largest vegetarian fish on our coast. It feeds on algae, making it a good choice for aquaculture. So, don't be alarmed if you see an item on the sushi menu that has monkey, face, or eel as part of the description.

Be brave and give it a try.

Big Rock Hole Jenifer Cramer

Nestled deep in Henry Cowell State Park along the San Lorenzo River, hikers can find a serene spot to relax: Big Rock Hole. If you approach the hike via the park's Campground Pine Trail, as I did with my three children, you descend steeply down the Buckeye Trail. At the base of this trail, you enjoy many river crossings, meander across wetlands, and navigate through a redwood forest with an understory of rich green sorrel. You emerge at the secluded beach of Big Rock Hole. *Tip: It is also a good spot to find crawdads.*



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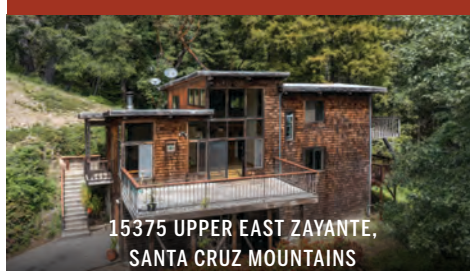
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people

Obituary

Kenneth Raymond Illges Justin Illges

Kenneth "Ken" Raymond Illges passed away on March 27, 2022, at the age of 56. Ken was a son, a brother, a father, an uncle, a mentor, a cousin, and a friend. He was fierce, loving, prickly, honest, loyal, and the best big brother one could have.

Ken was born on October 21, 1965, in San Francisco, to Raymond and Sharon Illges. His family moved to the remote mountain area of Upper Zayante Road in the Santa Cruz Mountains during the summer of 1976. Ken quickly adapted to being a mountain boy, sharing a tent with his older brother, Jim, while the family built their home. Growing up without power, Ken had motorcycles, horses, a pick-up truck to travel. He had a passion for speed. There was nothing he wouldn't drive or ride—horses, bikes, trucks, you name it.

Ken attended Lakeside School from 1976 to 1980. He graduated from Los Gatos High School in 1984. He drove a gold Ford Courier and was most commonly seen wearing a beat-up old rebel hat.

After graduation, Ken moved to Lake Tahoe, where he broke horses and was



a trail guide in the summers, and ran snowmobiles in Zephyr Cove during the winter. Eventually, he worked his way back to the Bay Area, where he married his first wife, Brooke O'Neil. He ultimately followed in his father's footsteps and became an electrician, both with the Electricians Union—IBEW 332—and the proud owner of Illges Electric.

Ken married his second wife, Skylar, in 2014, and they welcomed a son in December 2019. Ken would have been 18 years sober in 2022, a way of life he maintained as he did with all things: fierce,

dedicated, and passionate. He loved his tribe, he loved his family, and he loved his Harley. He was a rider with the Heathens Motorcycle Family.

Ken is survived by his wife, Skylar, and his three children, daughter Kayla, step-daughter Cali, and son Kenneth, Jr. He leaves behind his parents, Ray and Sharon, his brother Justin, his nephews, sisters in law, cousins, and many friends.

In our tears we shall seek solace now, knowing your pain is over and you can rest. May you meet up with brother Jim and watch over us all. We will always love you.

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BEFORE



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schools

Lakeside School News

Kathy McKinney

Lakeside welcomed the return of summer with our traditional May Day celebration. Heather Wingfield and Kajsia Byrne coordinated the return of this beloved school tradition, with support from Cody Franks, parents, and community members. Neighbors Christine Groom and Karen Fishback, and parents Kate Manning and Ilse Fletcher, donated flowers and helped make crown wreaths for students. Instrumentalists Sara Hitchcock Glover, Susan Ady, Laurie Gee, and Lakeside alum, Tessa Begley, accompanied the students.



Nadara Hendry was crowned this year's May Queen. Students sang songs and performed traditional dances for an appreciative audience of parents and community members, and the fifth-grade class closed the celebration with a rousing bucket-drumming performance and the traditional Maypole dance.

During staff appreciation week, parents showered teachers and staff with thoughtful gifts throughout the week, culminating in a delicious staff luncheon. We thank our parent community for their outpouring of appreciation.

Lakeside celebrated the end of the school year with a day of friendly competition and games at spirit day, followed by a school-wide barbecue provided by the Lakeside School Community Foundation, and the fifth-grade students facing staff members in a fun game of kickball.



Champions Summer Camp Program

Champ Camp this summer will take kindergarten through sixth-grade students on a race around the world—no passport required. Students will practice STEM skills through hands-on activities, create aspiring art activities that reflect their passions, move their bodies, and build friendships.

Contact Anjelica at anjelica.deltoro@discoverchampions.com, or call 408-624-0534. Camp will be available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., from **June 13 through July 22**.

Lakeside School has open positions for the 2022-2023 school year. We are looking for a music teacher, paraprofessionals and instructional aides, and substitute teachers. Lakeside is a small public school located at 19621 Black Road. For more information and to apply, visit <https://www.edjoin.org/LakesideJoint>.

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COMPASS

schools

Building Blocks Preschool Happy Retirement, Teacher Sally Alexandra Hughmanick

At the end of this school year, we say “happy retirement” to our beloved friend and co-director, Sally Brenton. Seven years ago, a team of brave parents revamped the Building Blocks Preschool program that sits at the heart of our mountain community. Sally led the new teaching team, and under her leadership our co-op thrived and grew. We started out as a program serving 25 families, and today we serve over 40. The alumni list runs deep through our community.

Sally brought decades of early-childhood-education experience to our program, as well as a joyful and playful attitude that fostered her students’ growth. Her contributions to our play-based program will continue to benefit our mountain children, their families, and our teaching staff for years to come. Maya Angelou once said, “I’ve learned that



people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” We thank Sally for all the ways she made our children feel loved and nurtured. We wish her the best as she embarks on her next chapter.

Nicole Gomez, who has served as the teacher for 2- to 3-year-old students,

will also lead the class of 4- to 5-year-olds. She will carry on Sally’s legacy by incorporating many of the same projects and activities, while also innovating new ways to support our older students in their growth. Congratulations to Nicole on her expanded role.

She shared, “Sally has been such a wonderful mentor for me. Through so much problem solving and collaborating over the years, she always encouraged me to discover the leader and teacher that was already in me, rather than telling me what I should be doing. She had such a positive influence on the way I teach, the way I interact with parents, the way I organize a classroom, and the way I live my life. She has inspired me to be the best that I can be so our little school can best serve the children and families of our community. I am forever grateful for her guidance and friendship, and I wish her the most exciting adventures in retirement.”

Building Blocks has a few spaces available for our 2022-23 school year. For more information, visit www.buildingblockscoop.org/admissions.



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Lexington School Jason Deppong

Lexington students and parents participated in several events in April. It was a busy month.

Due to their fantastic fundraising from the jogathon in March, students were treated to shaved ice. Our Home and School Club brought in a Kona Ice truck to cool off the kids and show appreciation for their hard work to support our school.

The Los Gatos Art Docents brought in guest artist, Jemal Diamond, to share his talents with the students. He tied his presentation to the Lexington International Baccalaureate Learner Profile attributes when talking with the students, focusing on the importance of an artist being a communicator and a thinker.

Lexington will launch the Los Gatos Union School District's transitional-kindergarten program in the fall. Classes are offered to eligible students in the Los Gatos Union School District. Kindergarten teacher and IB coordinator, Kristin Johnson, and principal Jason Deppong, hosted two evening parent presentations to share this exciting program. Lexington teachers also ran presentations in their classrooms about the experiences of our IB program throughout the grades. For more

information about the IB program and the new TK program, visit the Lexington website at www.lex.lgusd.org.

Lexington parents also enjoyed some long-awaited socializing in April, at the annual Lexington HSC Gala. It has been three long years, so there was plenty of excitement. The Gala was held at the Tetra Hotel in Sunnyvale. The '80s theme featured lots of fluorescent clothing and fun décor, including giant Rubik's Cubes and cassette-tape table pieces, much of it created by parent Nitze Dormandy. It was a successful evening.

The HSC sponsored a well-attended Math Night. Mathnasium, an after-school math program located in downtown Los Gatos, visited Lex to host games for all ages to inspire future mathematicians. Fifth-graders hosted a Friday movie night, featuring the popular film *Encanto*. The goal was to raise funds for the traditional fifth-grade gift to the school. Families arrived with pillows, blankets, and even mattresses. Hot dog and nachos sales made the evening memorable.

The end of April was Earth Week, and Lexington students took it seriously. Green Team parents Jackie Marquez and Ashlyn Allen organized events each day at lunch,



to bring more environmental awareness (and fun) to the students. Seed bombs, a scavenger hunt, and creating sculptures and toys from recycled trash were a few examples. Earth Day was the grand finale of the week. The local environmental musical act Zun Zun was on stage to focus our attention on the importance of water and our oceans. Mr. Stephen of Zun Zun encouraged the students to sing and dance.

Our TK/kindergarten class has been studying plants and their importance. The central idea of their unit of inquiry is that plants are essential to all life on earth. In third grade, the central idea is that all living things change over time. According to Kristin Johnson, "We've been discussing the interdependence of living things. TK/kindergartners are looking at the interdependence of insects and plants and the human impact. We've overlapped with third-graders, who are learning about photosynthesis and how plants produce their own food. I'm excited to watch our students learn concepts side-by-side and see how each group adds to the discussion."

Photography by Jason Deppong



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Celebrating life in the Santa Cruz Mountains

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schools

Are We Mountain Strong?

Charlotte Khandelwal

Most mountain residents are independent individualists, but we can be intensely committed to our small community. The heart of that community is the local schools that serve our mountain children.

It is our collective responsibility to ensure their education prepares them to succeed on and off this mountain. Their opportunities should not be diminished because they attend small, rural schools. That distinction has been an asset in the past. We must keep our schools excellent.

A well-developed and adequately funded public-education program benefits our entire community. It allows our schools to keep pace and adapt to 21st-century programs and needs.

Central to a long-term sustainable master school budget is support of a core-teaching staff, while maintaining necessary reserves. Loma Prieta's parcel tax, Measure H, expired last year. This caused a drastic reduction in funds available to retain core-teaching staff. The district needed every possible resource to address learning loss, and provide social and emotional support after the isolation of the remote-learning environment.

The Loma Prieta board of trustees has talked in open session about the need to reinstate a parcel tax. A parcel tax would allow the district to retain and attract exceptional teaching staff, and protect the critical programs of developmental PE, music, and art. It would restore library hours, support ongoing technology needs, and allow us to purchase new textbooks and instructional materials, particularly in science and math.

We can be mountain strong.

A Heartfelt Thank You Volunteers, Participants, Donors, and Sponsors Amy Hayes

Fundraising can be challenging, but it can also be a lot of fun. The spirit of this incredible mountain community always shows up when we need it the most, and this spring was no exception. In just the past few months, while raising critical funds to KEEP programs and services at the Loma Prieta Elementary and C.T. English Middle schools, we enjoyed aloha vibes at a mountain luau, hit the jackpot at bingo, sipped some delicious wine at Wrights Station Winery, and sank some birdies at the beautiful Seascope Golf Club.

LPEF is grateful to have a community that not only shows up, but shows up with a positive attitude and ready to have a good time. We thank each and every one of you who gave your time, money, and smiles, including party hosts, Casey and Jason Walter (luau), and Renee Young and Aimee Myers (bingo), for donating these fun events at the Gala auction last fall. We look forward to reporting the results of our KEEP campaign and *Fore the Kids* golf tournament in next month's article.

The children are the future of this community. Our public schools are vital to the health and success of our mountain community. Thank you for your contributions.

Thank You 2022 KEEP Campaign Sponsors

We thank Open Homes, that provides real-estate marketing; Triple O Systems, with everything for your water treatment needs; Laura Peterson and Lydia Harville, independent agents of State Farm; and Rebecca Smith and Karen Izzo, of Christie's International Sereno, for their generosity to LPEF. Thank you also to Cunningham Tractor, Erik Swanson Orthodontics, Prime Tree Care, and Hills Construction, Inc.

LPJUSD Board of Trustees Elections Workshop Registration Dr. Kevin Grier

The Loma Prieta Joint Union School District is dedicated to excellence in academics, parent engagement, and enrichment. We appreciate the support and strength of our community. We invite interested community members to get involved. Whether you are a parent of a student past or present, or a community member with time and talent to share, we encourage you to run for a seat on our board of trustees.

LPJUSD board members are locally elected. They are entrusted with the direction and oversight of our district and provide accountability to the community. We have four trustee positions up for election in November. Two have four-year terms, and two have two-year terms.

The Santa Clara County Office of Education will offer a free workshop for anyone interested in running for a seat on **Saturday, June 11**, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at 1290 Ridder Park Drive in San Jose. Register at <http://2022candidateworkshop.eventbrite.com/>.

This workshop will feature an election specialist from the registrar of voters, who will explain the nuts and bolts of running in the 2022 general election, including the election calendar and timelines. A panel of experienced school-board members will discuss how to run a successful campaign.

Masks will be required indoors. The workshop will be held in a room with plenty of space for social distancing. Breakfast items and beverages will be available.

For more information about campaign practices and filing deadlines, visit sccvote.sccgov.org, votescount.us, call the district at 408-353-1101, or email d.harit@lomak.12.ca.us. Thank you for supporting our schools.

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**Bringing Joy and Life to the Mountains
Jogathon and
Spring Music Concert**
Charlotte Khandelwal

May 5 wasn't merely *Cinco de Mayo*. It was the date of the 35th-annual Jogathon at Loma Prieta Elementary. Children ran through a colorful balloon-arch starting line to run laps around the newly renovated track, cheered on by fellow students, teaching staff, family, and community members.

Special recognition was given to honor former P.E. teacher Eileen Bennett (Moore), for her years of commitment to our children's physical and emotional health. Her lessons of "pace don't race" still echo on the mountain, as well as the legacy she left behind of caring and celebrating student achievements. The Loma cougar mascot was named "Bennett" in her honor. A plaque will be installed on the backstop



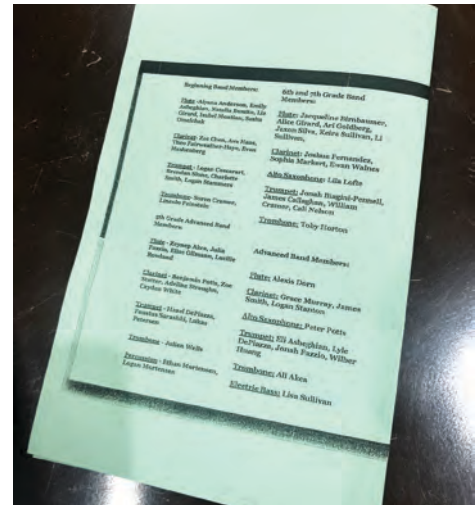
in remembrance of her service. Members of her family were in attendance at this special event.

The spring music concert elevates spirits and shines light on our music program. Parents and staff enjoyed a delightful concert showcasing what our students have learned. This was the largest and most well-attended event of the school year. To allow more parents to attend, the concert had two acts. The first highlighted the younger students and their newly mastered concepts of dance, rhythm, percussion, and movement. The second act featured more complex music and dance concepts, including instrumental band performances for fourth through eighth grades. The evening culminated in a spontaneous student dance party, as the advanced band got swing and funky with Duke Ellington and Dean Sorenson numbers that amazed the audience.

It is essential to understand just how much effort the students poured into music over the past two years. Many had to learn to play their instruments over Zoom, due to remote learning. The school invested in special masks and bell covers for the brass instruments so instruction could take place in person this year, with less risk of COVID transmission when blowing their horns.

Music instructor and force of nature, Casey Lelake, is to be congratulated for transferring her passion for music to our students. Her fellow teachers and students can't say enough about her prodigious talents, that are transformative to their time at Loma and C.T. English. Casey's program follows students consistently from kindergarten through eighth grade, which allows for momentum. Students' musical skills and learning grow exponentially as they play over the years, guided by a teacher who challenges them to reach higher goals.

Fellow teacher Cari Templeton said, "I



love how my students light up when they know they are going to music. After music class with Ms. Lelake, they can't wait to tell me about what they learned that day. For many of them, it is a highlight of their week."

Students said:

"Ms. Lelake inspired me to play the guitar. I see her play it and she is really good at it. I hope to be as good as her someday." ~Amelia Hart

"Ms. Lelake is a great role model. I want to learn how to play different kinds of instruments. I know she can help me." ~Greyson Wells

"Ms. Lelake is a good teacher. She is inspiring me to do good things in music. I want to be like her someday." ~George Yatman

"I like Ms. Lelake very much, because I like the way she teaches my brother and me. I went to her class before and it made our whole family like music." ~Ruoshui Xuan

Our teachers use the time when the students are in P.E. or music to prep for small-group instruction and additional activities, expanding possible learning outcomes. Our P.E. and music teachers add to the experience of every single child in the district. We need the district to fund them this year and in the future.

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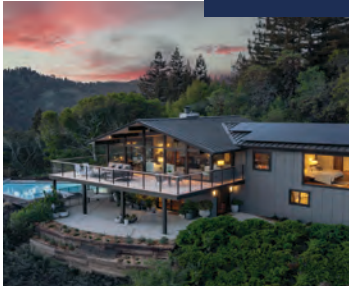


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