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mountain network news

December 2020



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Offered at \$2,680,000

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COMPASS

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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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Four-color half, third- or quarter-page ad	add \$250
Four-color business card	add \$100
Frequency discounts available.	
Classified and business directory	\$8 per formatted line

Circulation

More than 4000 homes and businesses
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COVER

Two Against the Moon *Photography by Mercury Freedom*

We can't fly away.

The world is in turmoil,
but there is nowhere
else to go.

We can't escape
the pandemic,
climate change,
or divisive politics.

But each one of us
can make things
a little better
or a little worse.

It's our choice.

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For late-breaking news,
calendar, and classified, visit
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COMPASS

events

Not Everything is Cancelled Holiday Events Kathy McKinney

Holiday celebrations will be different this year. Many long-standing traditions, including the tree-lighting ceremony and Children's Holiday Parade in Los Gatos, have been cancelled due to COVID-19. However, there are still some festive ways to celebrate the holidays in our community with your family.



Holiday Lights

If you enjoy holiday lights, the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds will feature a half-mile of lighted holiday displays. Stay in your warm car and drive through this holiday experience. The event will be open **Fridays through Sundays throughout December**, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are available at <https://fairgrounds-foundation.org/holiday-lights>.

Vasona Park in Los Gatos features its annual Fantasy of Lights, a 1.5-mile drive through holiday lights and displays. The light show is bigger, better, and brighter than ever before thanks to the transition to environmentally friendly LED displays. The drive-through event runs daily from **December 4 to 30** (closed on December 25). Tickets are available at www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/fol. No tickets will be sold at the park entrance.

Carriage Rides

Take your family on a horse-drawn carriage ride through the streets of Los Gatos. Carriages will run **December 4 to 6, December 10 to 13, and December 17 to 23**. Masks must be worn at all times, and riders in a carriage should all be from the same household. Carriages will be sanitized between rides. A regular carriage holds up to 4 adults and 2 children, and costs \$110.



A large carriage holds up to 6 adults, and costs \$130. Get your reservations at <https://carriage-rides.losgatoschamber.com>.

The Nutcracker

Live performances of *The Nutcracker* won't happen this year, so Agape Dance is presenting *The Nutcracker*, at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk drive-in theater, 400 Beach Street in Santa Cruz. The movie will be shown **Friday, December 18 to Sunday, December 20**. Showings are at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$45 per car and are available at agapedance.com.

Christmas in the Park

An annual tradition that started in the early 1950s, San Jose's Christmas in the Park will happen in 2020, but as a drive-through holiday experience at History Park in San Jose.

There will still be whimsical displays, hundreds of decorated Christmas trees, and more.

If you've never been, History Park features 32 original and reproduction homes, businesses, and landmarks from Santa Clara Valley's past.

Due to the lack of revenue from sponsorships and concessions, Christmas in the Park will be a paid-admission event this year. Tickets are between \$10 to \$20, depending on the time you choose to visit. Advance reservations are required and are available at www.christmasinthepark.com.




C.T. English Home and School Club Goodwill Donation Drive Caren Hespeler

The C.T. English Home and School Club will sponsor a Goodwill donation drive and fundraiser on **Saturday, December 5, and Sunday, December 6**, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Summit Vet parking lot, 23291 Summit Road. Please do not drop off donations while the trailer is unattended.

Goodwill of Silicon Valley will accept your e-waste, old clothes, books, and household items, including microwaves, VCRs, printers, and vacuums. They also now accept car seats for recycling. They can't accept furniture, mattresses, large appliances, exercise equipment, automobile parts, weapons, household trash, carpeting, construction debris (lumber, concrete, bricks, etc.), hazardous household chemicals or liquids of any kind, pet-related items, items over 50 pounds, and televisions over 27 inches.

Your donations will provide crucial support to Goodwill of Silicon Valley, and to our school. At our last Goodwill weekend fundraiser in December, donations from mountain residents raised more than \$3600 for student activities and services. Spread the word to family, friends, and neighbors. If you have questions, email ctehsc@gmail.com.



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Loma Prieta Holiday Craft Faire

C.T. English Home and School Club
Loma Prieta Holiday Craft Faire
 Eric Horton

Shop for local artisan gifts at the 27th annual Loma Prieta Holiday Craft Faire. In light of COVID-19, and to ensure the safety of vendors, students, staff, and community members, the Loma Prieta Holiday Craft Faire will not be an in-person event this year. Instead, we will host a virtual event on Facebook, from **Friday, November 27 through Sunday, December 6**.

There's a little bit of everything here. You'll find unique, thoughtful treasures handcrafted by California artisans, including ceramics, clothing, food, furniture, gems and minerals, glass, jewelry, hand-knit items, leather, local honey and beeswax products, paintings, photographs, soaps and lotions, sculptures, textiles, toys, and woodwork.

This year's vendors include Montana Fowler, Pan's Garden Yarns, Perle di Vetro, Renee's Handmade Soaps, Simply Remarkable, Snow's Pottery, Nature's Designs, California Jam Queen, Lux in Latin Designs, Of Earth Sky and Sea, and more.

To find the page for our virtual event, search for *Loma Prieta Holiday Craft Faire* on Facebook. If you have questions, email LomaPrietaHolidayCraftFaire@gmail.com.

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RESOURCES



A Yam for All Seasons

Ellen Bond

It's true—the yam travels well, and appears on festive tables all year long. This wonderful recipe was given to me many years ago by Bessie Watkins, the mother of an old and dear friend. Since then, it's been a regular part of our Christmas dinner.

Bourbon Yams with Pecan Topping

Ingredients

4 to 5 pounds yams
3 eggs
½ cup butter, melted
½ cup whipping cream
2 tablespoons bourbon
1 teaspoon vanilla

Pecan Topping

½ cup butter, melted
1 cup pecans, chopped
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup all-purpose flour
Whole pecans for garnish

Directions

Butter a casserole. Bake yams in a 350 degree oven until done. Halve yams and scrape into bowl. Add eggs, butter, cream, bourbon, and vanilla. Stir well to combine. Pour the mixture into the buttered casserole dish.

Topping

Combine all ingredients except whole pecans and sprinkle topping over yams. Decorate top with whole pecans. Bake uncovered for 40 minutes at 350 degrees until heated through and lightly browned.

Friends of Los Gatos Library Bookstore

We're Open!

Cheryl MacKenzie

The Friends of Los Gatos Library Bookstore is open for business.

After a long closure due to COVID-19, the only bookstore in Los Gatos is welcoming customers again. We must follow protocols to protect our staff and book buyers. Masks are required. Shoppers should maintain social distance.

We are open Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, from 1 to 5 p.m. We will announce any changes on our website, friendsofsglib.org. You can also check our Facebook page. (Search for Friends of Los Gatos Library.)

We're located at 110 E. Main Street in Los Gatos, next to the New Museum of Los Gatos (NUMU) in the old library building.

If you have unwanted books taking up shelf space, we can now accept book donations, but we need to schedule drop-offs. Visit our website and use the "Schedule a book donation" link to make your appointment.

For more information, visit <https://friendsofsglib.org/bookstore/book-donations>.

We look forward to seeing you.

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Home. It's the keeper of your moments and milestones. It's the constant in all this change. It's why we do what we do, and why we're committed to helping everyone find their home whenever they're looking. While things may look different right now, what remains the same is our commitment to you. To your families. To your celebrations. To your peace of mind. To your investments. To your home. Because wherever the world goes, home is where you stay.

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COMPASS



RESOURCES

New California Eviction Laws Address COVID-19 Christopher Loweth Pratt & Associates, APC

During the quarantine, when many jobs were lost due to COVID-19 shutdowns, local county and municipalities put rent moratoriums in place. Those moratoriums were allowed by Governor Newsom's executive orders.

In late August, just as these moratoriums were set to expire, the state legislature passed Assembly Bill No. 3088, which created several protections for both tenants and landlords. Most notably, while unpaid rent was not forgiven, evictions were put on hold. A relatively complicated system for evictions was put in place to provide some relief for tenants unable to pay rent, as well as relief for small landlords who own fewer than three rental units. The new law will have some intended and unintended consequences.

AB 3088 has two major components. The first is the COVID-19 Tenant Relief Act of 2020 ("Tenant Act"). The Tenant Act prevents landlords from evicting tenants from residential properties for failure to pay rent. It distinguishes between two periods—the first period was from March 1 to August 31, 2020, and the second is from September 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021.

From March through August, a tenant who completed a declaration that they had lost a job, income, or now had more financial responsibilities due to COVID, could not be evicted for failure to pay rent. For the period from September 1 to January 31, 2021, tenants must provide a declaration of COVID-related financial distress and pay at least 25 percent of their rent. Tenants who are "high income," meaning they make



more than \$100,000 a year or more than 130 percent of a county's median income, whichever is higher, must provide additional documentation showing financial hardship.

The mechanics of eviction have also been tweaked by the Tenant Act. A landlord must provide a 15-day notice to pay or quit, which excludes weekends and holidays, rather than the traditional three-day notice. The notice must also include specific language about the changes in the law and include a blank declaration to be completed by the tenant.

Additionally, the tenant must provide a signed declaration of COVID-related financial hardship to the landlord within 15 business days of receiving the notice to quit.

Significantly, the Tenant Act does not cancel any rent. All past due rent can be sought in small-claims court. Any "COVID rent" is now recoverable in small claims, even if it significantly exceeds the \$5000 cap on actions. Past rent cannot be recovered until March 1, 2021. Any past rent must be paid within a year. Additionally, the Tenant Act also addresses any local statute that grants greater protections, and revokes local laws that are stricter than the Tenant Act.

The second component of AB 3088 is an extension of the Homeowners' Bill of Rights to "small" landlords. The Homeowners' Bill of Rights ("HBOR") is an existing California law currently in place to protect homeowners during foreclosure. Landlords who own three or fewer residential properties, each of which contains a

maximum of four units apiece, must receive the same treatment as homeowners if a lender seeks to foreclose on the property.

Obviously, the new law provides some relief for tenants unable to pay rent. However, putting evictions on hold will create a significant backlog for the courts. It also will likely saddle many tenants with debts that will be challenging to repay. Time will tell, but this is likely not the last change in the law. The governor and state legislature must make hard choices in the coming months.

Christopher Loweth is an associate at Pratt & Associates, a law firm founded in 2006. Pratt & Associates is located in Los Gatos, and provides personalized service and advice to businesses, landowners, homeowners, and individuals.

A Zoom Speaker Series Tax Laws and Home Buying Ann Scherer

Tax Laws—Prop 19, Prop 60/90, and what to expect in 2021.

Presented by Brooks Griffin, Tax Reducers in Los Gatos, on **Tuesday, December 8**, at 6:30 p.m.

Register in advance for this meeting at: https://zoom.us/join/join?jvck=OmsrTwuE92gHQQ1z9HQPcYcWn7_qpd3v

Homebuyers Ed—learning the basics and navigating the home-buying process.

Presented by Ann Scherer, associate broker/owner of Cruz Properties, on **Thursday, December 10**, at 6:30 p.m.

Register in advance for this meeting at: https://zoom.us/join/join?jvck=OmsrTwuE92gHQQ1z9HQPcYcWn7_qpd3v

After registering for either meeting, you will receive an email containing information about how to join.

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LGS Recreation Exercise Here

The Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation Department staff has created recreation options following CDC and Public Health Department guidelines. This includes online and in-person programs that adhere to the protocols of stable groups, social distancing, symptom checks, and enhanced cleaning.

Lap swim at Los Gatos High School pool

We invite swimmers to join our lap swim program at the Los Gatos High School Pool. Individuals who want to swim laps in Los Gatos can boost their workout regimen. You will find a comfortable training environment with friendly people who share a love for the water. Swimming laps can provide a full body workout suitable for adults of any age.

The pool is available throughout the week. Preregistration is required, and swimmers will be assigned a lane upon arrival. Members of the same household may share a lane. Families may reserve the shallow end for open swim.

Masters swimming

Join us for a successful blend of fitness and competitive swimming for adults 18 years of age and over. Regular structured workouts use techniques of interval training in an atmosphere of fun, fitness, friendship, and participation. Individuals who find it difficult to stick with a self-imposed, keep-fit routine will find it easier as a member of a masters swimming program.

Adult pickleball club

The LGS Recreation Pickleball Club was created due to community demand for access to Pickleball programs in our area. Many community members helped form the club, which is designed for players of all ages. The club includes access to Pickleball courts and equipment, clinics, open play, and the opportunity to build community and social connections.



Yoga classes

Enjoy **alignment-based yoga** at home or in-person. This class will help you relieve the inner stress of body and mind. Are you looking for a **breath and flow yoga** class? Practice breath, movement, and awareness through a series of postures and movements that will leave you refreshed and uplifted. Join us in a special **family-friendly yoga** class for breath work, partner poses, and relaxation techniques.

To find out more about these and any of our programs, visit lgsrecreation.org, email info@lgsrecreation.org, or call 408-354-8700.

Qigong Student Practice

Join our Qigong student practice class on Zoom, on Tuesdays at 9 p.m. Text Nancy Jo Lopp at 408-772-6233 for the Zoom URL. Everyone is welcome.

Narcotics Anonymous Meetings Mountain Bible Church

A new Narcotics Anonymous group meets on Thursdays, from 7 to 8 p.m., at Mountain Bible Church, 23946 Summit Road. Questions? Call 408-353-2302.

A University of Baltimore study shows that since the COVID lockdowns started, there has been a 17.6 percent increase in drug overdoses. This is a hard time, and our community is taking a step to face it.



South Skyline Association Skyline Propane Users Group Kathy McKinney

Want to save money on your propane bill? Consider joining the South Skyline Association (SSA) to take advantage of the Skyline Propane Users Group, or SPUG. The SSA negotiates with Amerigas, Ferrellgas, Suburban, and Kamps for group rates that are significantly lower—often \$1 less per gallon—than regular rates. The reduced rates only apply to regular-route deliveries on a keep-full basis.

Annual dues of \$20 are payable in January of each year. Benefits expire at the end of every year. If you join after January, dues are not prorated. If you live outside the SSA membership area, contact the propane company to make sure they serve the area where you live. Donations to SSA in excess of the dues are always appreciated.

You can pay online, via PayPal or credit card, at southskyline.org/membership. If you prefer to pay by check, download a membership application (click on the "membership" button at southskyline.org), and mail your completed application, along with a \$20 check payable to South Skyline Association, to 400 Skyline Boulevard, La Honda, CA 94020.

If you're already a member, you can renew by using the email address you provided when you first joined. Log in to review and update your profile as needed each year to ensure SSA has your current contact information and propane supplier. If you

need help signing up or renewing, email membership@southskyline.org.

After you complete your payment, you will be directed to a registration page to create your member profile. Do not close the webpage after only making the payment, or your account will not be created. After registering, you will receive an email with a link allowing you to create a password. After payment and registration are complete, SSA will contact the propane company you've selected and your account will be invoiced at the SPUG rate.

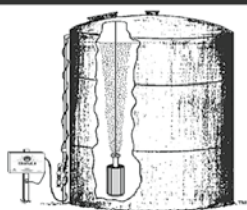
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*Prices are subject to change as frequently as wholesale prices change, which can be daily. These are the prices as of November 1, 2020. Updated rates are posted on the first of each month at www.southskyline.org/SPUG.



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Nonno's in the Movies

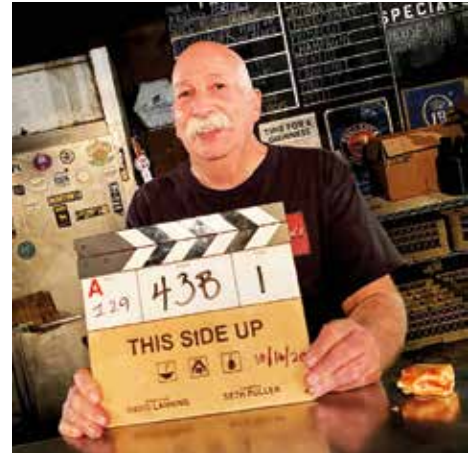
Amy Sirota

On October 16, Never Land Film Productions came to Nonno's in Redwood Estates to film scenes for their upcoming movie, *This Side Up*. This romantic comedy will run on streaming services. Release is scheduled around Valentine's Day 2021.

David Lanning, CEO of Never Land and the writer and director of *This Side Up*, grew up in Los Gatos. Having lived in the Bay Area for most of his life, he wanted to use the film as a love letter. He kept this in mind when scouting locations in pre-production.

Throughout production, they filmed at over forty locations in the Bay Area. Many factors went into choosing each location. David had been to Nonno's, so it popped into his mind while searching for locations. He met with Ralph DiTullio to lock in the location.

The local community was asked to show up as extras, so look forward to seeing some new talent from our neighborhood.



Whether You Are Buying or Selling, Choose a Knowledgeable, Reputable Broker to Represent You!
Exciting new listings coming up in all price ranges! Call me for an update.

*Wishing You Health
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community

Lupin Lodge

Eighty-five Years of Body Acceptance and Natural Freedom Lori Kay Stout

Lupin Lodge, a clothing-optional resort, is one of the area's more interesting businesses.

It began as Elysium in 1935. It was built by George Spray who rented the 110-acre, pre-Prohibition winery adjacent to the Southern Pacific Railroad's Aldercroft Station, where the weekend Suntan Special would stop on request.

Pre-1900 structures included a rustic, uninsulated farmhouse next to a two-story barn/winery, livery stable, gatehouse cabin, and two concrete, natural spring-fed reservoirs for swimming pools.

Five small overnight cabins and a snack bar were hastily constructed during the off-season to provide the remaining services needed for launching Spray's family-friendly

nude getaway. Universal social nudity (with sanitary towel-sitting) was accepted around the pools, weather permitting.

Spray, then 31, was inspired by an expanding European naturist movement introduced into the United States in 1929. The movement promised better health and body acceptance through recreational social nudity.

Less than a year later, George Spray and Albert Arthur Allen would co-produce *Elysium*, an artfully lighted stage presentation of thirty nude models created for the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island.

Elysium had a few other names before it became Lupin Lodge in 1947. It was named for the lupin wildflower.

Fire

On July 5, 1985, Lupin became a much-televised firefighting base during the frightening four-day Lexington Hills wildfire. Much of the upper nature trail was lost to bulldozed fire breaks and perimeter

flames, but no structures burned. Club manager Seth Teicher stayed on after evacuation to cook the remaining restaurant inventory for the fire crews battling the 15,000-acre, arson-ignited blaze.

Fire captain Walt Coker, a Lupin member, commanded part of the heroic effort to control the inferno's rapid advance until a wind shift and a rare July rain finally quenched the blaze. The following weekend, Lupin members hosted an open-house celebration for the firefighters, attracting a record crowd of 1000 attendees. Aldercroft Heights neighbors were invited to shower at Lupin until fire damage to their community water system could be repaired. Some became members.

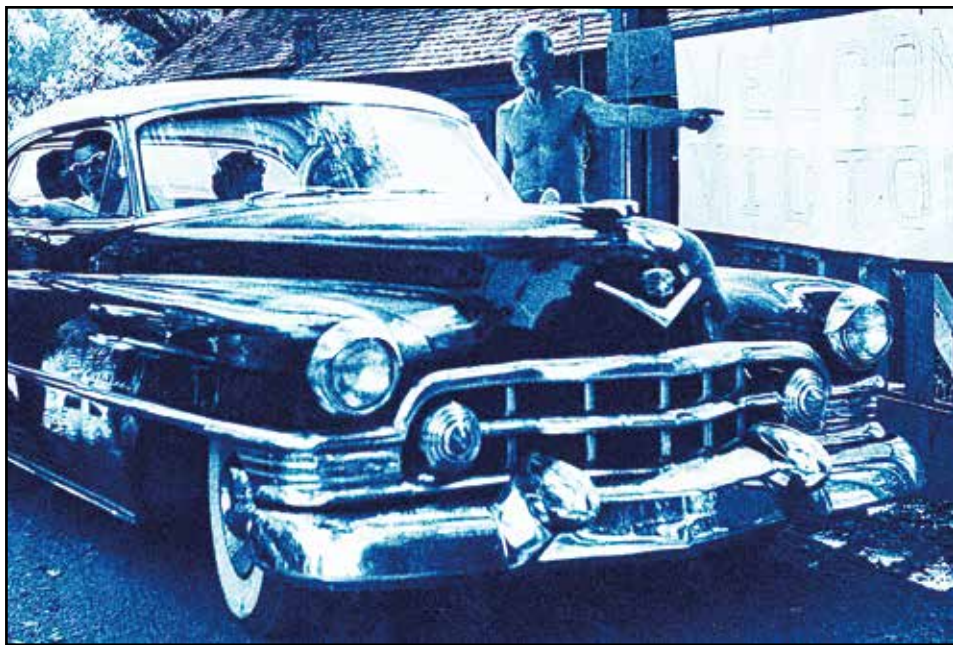
Quake

At 5:04 p.m., October 17, 1989, Lupin was shaken for 15 violent seconds by the Loma Prieta earthquake. Though no one was injured at Lupin, 13 structures, including the lodge and the clubhouse, were jolted several feet off their inadequate foundations. Soon afterward, the structures were red-tagged by the county, as was the badly cracked upper pool.

The lodge and clubhouse were demolished, so the full-service resort was instantly reduced to a membership campground without swimming options. All paid staff members were laid off. Some people with damaged dwellings simply moved away. Despite the lost facilities, Lupin retained 90 percent of its members.

Financed in part with donations from members and nationwide naturist sources, the upper pool was Lupin's first quake-damaged facility to be restored. When it was completed in May 1990, it provided a complete family activity area in time for the summer season.

In 1991, varied cupcake-shaped, quake-resilient yurts were introduced. The demolished clubhouse, missing



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restaurant, and thin-walled lodge bedrooms were replaced. The yurts achieved instant popularity as a charming return to comfortable resort services. A beautiful new Lupin Clubhouse Restaurant was finally unveiled in March 1994.

NAIL

The peace and scenic view of Lupin were preserved by a grass-roots group, Neighbors Against Irresponsible Logging. The mountain communities' civil-action group was formed in 2005 to prevent San Jose Water from perpetually logging redwoods in the Los Gatos Creek watershed. Lupin leaders hosted fundraising events, attended meetings, and wrote letters.

Transfer

In 1977, the club was transferred to Glyn Stout. He married Lori Kay Mendoza in 2000. In 2001, they had twin daughters—Simone and Samara—who were raised at Lupin.

Lori Kay became a naturist as an exchange student living with a Swiss family who enjoyed public saunas. She adopted

European attitudes toward nudity from her travels, and saw the human body from a natural sculptor's perspective. She joined Lupin while studying art at U.C., Santa Cruz in 1982.

A respected Bay Area sculptor and art teacher for troubled kids, Lori Kay became manager in 2006. Sadly, Lori Kay lost Glyn in 2015.

Lupin is thriving as the oldest member of the Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce, and the oldest naturist club west of the Mississippi. It has a restaurant/clubhouse, a swimming pool, hot tub, sauna, cabins,



and yurts.

Some people live there full-time. On weekends they are joined by day visitors and overnight campers. The members come from all walks of life and world experiences. Many enjoy yoga classes and dances. Some like hiking on Lupin's trails. Others like the book club, or just chatting with friends.

Lupin is growing into a regional cultural center and musical mecca. During the past year, it hosted workshops, theatrical performances, seminars, and art and life-drawing classes. It also offered meeting space for several clubs.

Lupin hopes to continue offering a getaway for people who want to enjoy a relaxing, family-oriented, clothing-optional setting.

More information about Lupin Lodge is available at LupinLodge.com.



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24075 MORRILL CUTOFF LOS GATOS MOUNTAINS

4 beds, 2.5 bths, 2,767 +/- SF,
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from my family
to yours*



15410 STETSON ROAD

5 beds • 2 baths • 2355 sqft • 5.3 acres

Charming country home on 5+ acres. Gated entry and long private driveway with ample parking. Detached 6 car garage/workshop with inspection pit, office & bathroom. Sunny usable land with fenced garden, chicken coop, orchards and meadow. Room for vineyards, horses or swimming pool. Tri-level home backs to a majestic redwood grove with seasonal creek. Beautifully remodeled kitchen, formal dining, spacious living room. Bonus 300+sq ft basement - storage or workout room. Expansive wrap around decks, hot tub. Comcast Internet.

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23020 OLD SANTA CRUZ HWY

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



21475 SUMMIT RD.

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



19075 SKYLINE BLVD, LOS GATOS

4 beds · 3 baths · 3379 sqft · 2.6 acres
Spacious floor plan, huge living room, remodeled 2nd floor & master
suite. Usable land, expansive deck, gazebo, beautiful landscaping & lawn.
Listed for \$1,475,000



SOLD

LOMA PRIETA WINERY

26985 LOMA PRIETA WAY

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



23101 HIGHWAY 9

3 beds + office · 2 baths · 3290 sqft · 23 acres
Dramatic knoll top setting with spellbinding mountain & ocean views.
Impressive Great Room and a breakfast sun room invites nature in.
Listed for \$1,742,000



500 CRESCI RD.

4 beds · 2.5 baths · 3100 sqft · 5.2 acres
Fairytale home w/wrap around porch, sun drenched setting,
redwoods & seasonal creek. Great room with galleried landing,
wall of windows. Gorgeous landscaping.
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This information was supplied by reliable sources. Sales Associates believe this information to be correct but has not verified this information and assumes no legal responsibility for its accuracy. Buyers should investigate these issues to their own satisfaction.

calendar

ON-GOING CLASSES AND MEETINGS

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

Sundays

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

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

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

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

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

Wednesdays

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

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

Thursdays

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

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

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

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

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

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

Santa Clara County Bookmobile
Order items for pickup at www.scclcd.org, or call 408-273-2326, ext. 3060.

December 10

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

December 22

Lakeside School
2 to 4 p.m.

December 24

Redwood Estates Pavilion
2 to 4 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous meetings, 7 p.m., at Mountain Bible Church, 23946 Summit Road. Call 408-353-2302.

Fridays

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

Centering and Silence (meditation) is at 8:30 a.m., in the Loma Prieta community room next to Building Blocks Preschool.

Saturdays

Summit Toastmasters 95033, *where everyone finds their voice*, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., at Mountain Bible Church, 23946 Summit Road. Call 408-634-3493 for more information.

Farmer's Market at the KMart in Scotts Valley, 270 Mt Hermon Road, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

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

Sundays

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

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

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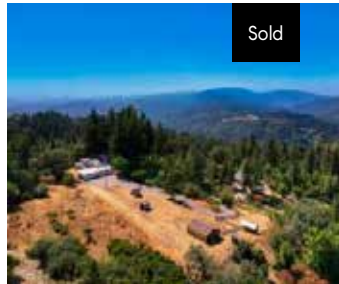
Most realtors don't know the mountains, as well as it's different real estate market to the rest of Los Gatos or Santa Cruz. It is important to have a realtor who knows this specific area well, and it helps when they are actually living it!

Keith and Shelly Kanady have been living in the Los Gatos Mountains for decades and love living there. Situated on a ranch they are fortunate to enjoy what the mountains have to offer. They are big animal lovers and have chickens, horses, cats and dogs. Some of their favorite things to do in the area is bike riding, hiking, going to local farmers markets, and participating in the community.

More info about the team

- Kanady Team Properties specializes in helping clients with land, investments and home needs.
- In his 33 years of selling Real Estate, Keith was a Top Producer at Grubb & Ellis, Better Homes and Gardens, and RE/MAX.
- He acted as Broker/Principal at Los Gatos Properties.
- Certified Master Negotiator
- Keith and Shelly pride themselves on doing all they can to assist their clients with their needs.

Featured 2020 Sold Listings



24900 Skyland Road \$1,125,000

"We appreciated your quick and thorough evaluation of the home, your wise targeted recommendations on repairs and improvements (including excellent tradespersons you recommended), the impressive marketing materials and your frequent updates and advise that made everything run smoothly. And all of this came with your friendly smiles, good sense of humor and genuine caring attitude."

13667 Long Ridge Road \$785,000

"5 stars! Excellent!! Could not have asked for a better realtor to help us sell our home. The Kanady team took care of us while we weren't living in the area. Would highly recommend to anyone looking for great realtor who gets the job done."



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Fishing at sunset by Bruce Fournier



Caspian terns by Mercury Freedom

Weird names, weird odor, weird habits

Our Local Sea Slug

Bruce Sudweeks

What looks like a Venus Flytrap, smells like fruit salad, crawls in the day, and swims at night? The answer is the Lion's Mane nudibranch, also called the Hooded nudibranch. The scientific name is *Melibe leonine*.

This nudibranch, or sea slug, differs from most nudibranchs in that it is predatory. Similar to a Venus Flytrap, it uses its hood to catch swimming prey. Another distinctive feature is the smell it gives off when threatened. It's something like a fruit salad. Volunteers at the Monterey Bay Aquarium who clean the *Melibe* exhibit report a watermelon aroma. This odorous secretion is thought to be repellent to other organisms.

One curious behavior of this slug is that it only swims at night and crawls during the day. Swimming consists of a bizarre side-to-side undulation.

The Lion's Mane nudibranch has a life cycle that lasts about one year. In the Monterey area, their population peaks in the fall months. I look forward to seeing them each year.

The photo was taken in Monterey at Fisherman's Wharf.



Angelé Price & Monica Lussier

*Thank you to our Clients for a Much Appreciated Successful Year!
Wishing all a healthy holiday season and peace in the new year.*



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exploring



The Other Long Ridge Long Ridge Open Space Preserve Neil Wiley

Not to be confused with our local Longridge Road behind Skyland, is Long Ridge Open Space Preserve on Skyline Boulevard. Only a few miles north of Saratoga Gap (the Skyline and Highway 9 intersection), this preserve offers a beautiful

walk with ecological and scenic variety, small surprises, and some lovely views.

Driving the easy curves and rolling hills of Skyline Boulevard is a good start. It's more fun than battling traffic on 280.

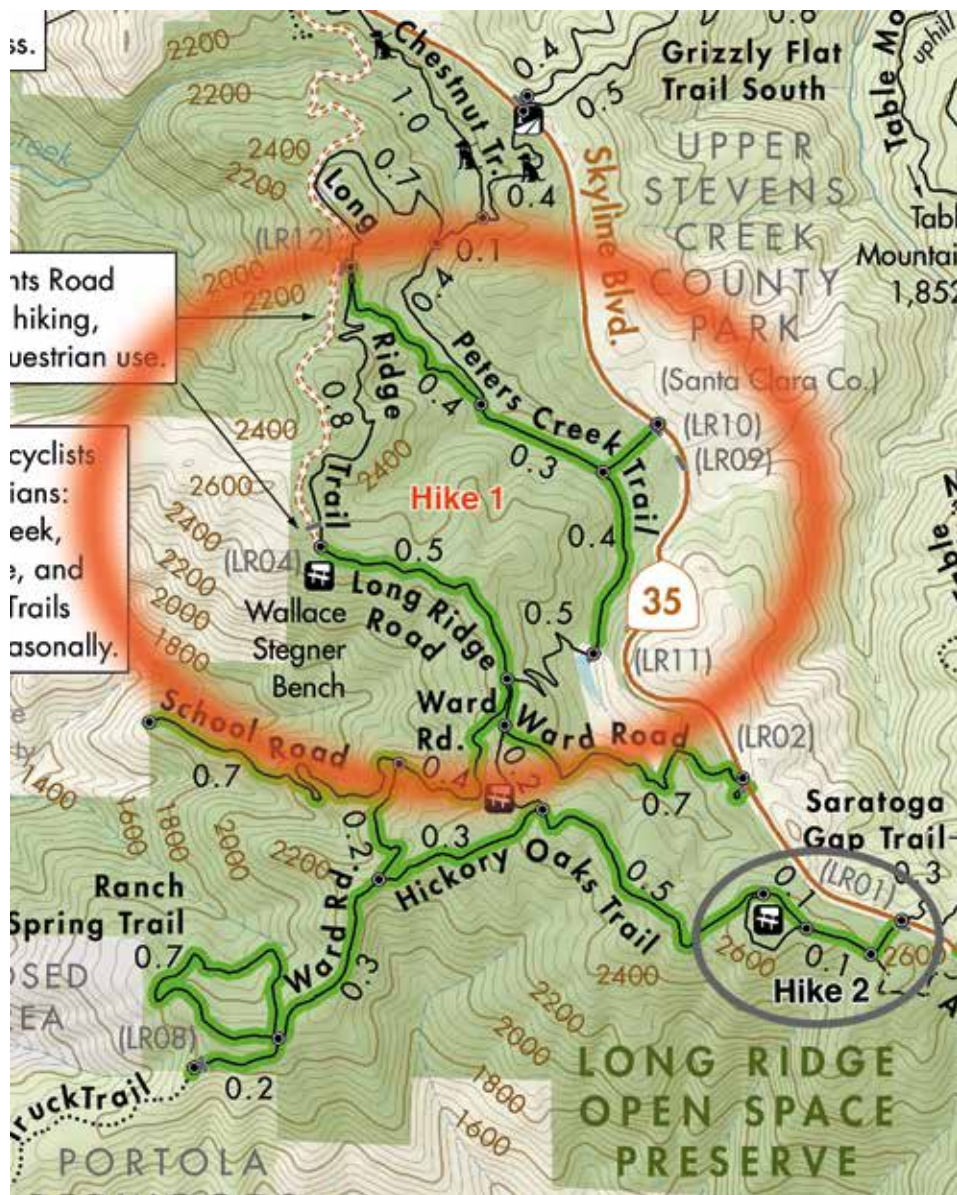
You can choose from several preserve entrances. As you travel north, the first is at Hickory Oaks Trail. The next is at Ward Road. The fourth entrance at the north end

of the preserve is across from Grizzly Flat Trail. It has a bigger parking lot, but it's a longer walk to the Wallace Stegner bench and views from Long Ridge Road.

The third entrance is my favorite. It is across from the Stevens Creek County Park parking turnout on the right side of the road, located just past the Palo Alto city limits sign. On your right, you'll see the trailhead to Upper Stevens Creek County Park. On the left side of the highway is the trailhead to the Long Ridge Open Space Preserve. You'll see the typical park signboard, complete with maps, warnings, and rules.

This trail curves down and around a hill. In a matter of a few steps, you are winding your way around grass-covered hills, down through sun-filled meadows, and deep wooded canyons. At one-tenth of a mile you reach Peters Creek Trail. Turning left, you follow the trail through oak forest and meadows.

If you haven't missed a turn, the next highlight is a mirror-like pond, covered



with algae. The surface is green if a bit slimy. It looks more like wet concrete than water. The pond is owned by the Jikoji Zen Center. They are friendly. Their *No Trespassing* sign says “please.”

After walking by the pond, you climb uphill over several switchbacks for about half a mile. The switchbacks, shade, and somewhat gentle climb make it a pleasant walk. When you emerge from the forest onto Long Ridge Road, you'll see some great views. As you follow an easy uphill on Long Ridge Road, you'll enjoy spacious mountain views, especially to the west.

Near the top of the hill, just before the junction with Long Ridge Trail and overlooking a fine view to the west, a large stone bench is dedicated to the writer and Pulitzer Prize winner Wallace Stegner. Many critics consider him to be the best writer of the American West. If you have hiked Quicksilver Park, you may enjoy his book, *Angle of Repose*. Several chapters of the book are devoted to the people who mined mercury there.

A brass plaque on the Stegner Bench is inscribed “ . . . to try to save for everyone, for the hostile and indifferent as well as the committed, some of the health that flows down across the green ridges from the Skyline, and some of the beauty and refreshment of spirit that are still available to any resident of the valley who has a moment, and the wit, to lift up his eyes unto the hills. Wallace Stegner, 1909-1993. Dedicated May 19, 1996. Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.”

Wallace Stegner's words reflect the mission of Midpen Open Space. May we all gain the “health, beauty, and refreshment” of unspoiled nature.

Behind the bench is Long Ridge Trail, which loops you back to your starting point.

Be sure to bring a map. (**See Hike 1 on the map.**) My hiking partner and I made one wrong turn, and ended up hiking the loop counter-clockwise. No harm was done, but it was embarrassing. I made up for it by buying dinner at Alice's Restaurant.



Consider Hike 2 for Dessert Short and Sweet

Enter Long Ridge Open Space at the Hickory Oaks entrance for a shorter, sweeter hike. (See **Hike 2 on the map.**) Walk up a short hill, turn right on the Hickory Oaks Trail, and in a short distance, turn left to follow an unnamed loop. In less than a hundred yards, you are out on a 2600-foot ridge displaying a wide, wide world of big sky, a giant valley, and a 270-degree view of tree-covered mountains with a background of more mountains.

But that's not all. After you have been thoroughly impressed with this sumptuous landscape, you become aware that you are standing in a field of giant rocks. Legend has it that these rocks were once a site for sacred rituals.

During winter solstice, the sun projects light through a notch in a tall rock to a rounded rock behind it. According to Ohlone legend, this is Turtle Rock. When light cracked the shell open, it set people and animals free.

It's as believable as many stories we have heard this year. Think about that as you follow the loop back to Hickory Oaks Trail and your car.

If you want more, go past the entrance trail straight to the shady Achistaca Trail. It is a pleasant 1.7-mile walk behind the Saratoga Summit Fire Station to Big Basin's Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail.



history

The Town and the Tunnel

Wright's Station

From John V. Young's

Ghost Towns of the Santa Cruz Mountains

The early history of the place that was to become Wright's Station (or simply Wrights), if any, has been lost in the obscurity that so often veils the overnight rise of a boomtown.

When the railroad arrived at the northern portal of the tunnel site at Wright's early in 1877, the only building was a tumbledown woodcutter's shack. This deficiency was soon remedied as workmen's shanties, a large cookhouse, and tool sheds sprang up in rapid succession.

It was about that time that O. B. Castle, foreman over the gangs of Chinese laborers, built his notorious saloon, and *The Tunnel*, as the settlement was then known, was off to a flying start. The brief years of construction prior to the opening of the tunnel in 1880 brought wild scenes of revelry to the saloon, home of Castle's *Famous Discovery*.

This sure-fire cure for all human ailments, from hangnails to hangovers, was blamed for many disturbances. The recipe called for diluting one gallon of mountain dew (raw whiskey) with four tablespoons of water, and downing it at one sitting.

With the completion of the railroad and the departure of the construction crews, the scene changed. The Tunnel became Wright's Station (named for the pioneer Wright family), lost most of its wildness, and began its rapid development into one of the principal towns in the mountain region.

By 1882, the town consisted of a store, hotel, saloon, blacksmith shop, a post office (since 1879), the railroad station, and some shacks where the hired help lived. Judge S. P. Hall was postmaster and storekeeper. Charles Grant bought out Castle and improved the town's only hostelry. A man named Woodruff was the town blacksmith.

On the Fourth of July 1885, an overheated stove set fire to the hotel, and the entire town burned to the ground. This happened shortly after A. J. Rich, a capitalist, had acquired all the property in the village. He rebuilt it on the east side of the bridge before the tunnel.

Ralph Thompson erected a store in a collection of sheds. He automatically became postmaster, a job that went with the store. Ed Cottle ran the town's hotel from 1886 to 1888, when Anton Matty came into



The Wright's train station

the picture. Matty rented from Rich until he was able to buy the hotel, livery stable, and saloon in 1896.

The son of Francois and Teresa Colombet Matty, Anton was born in 1840 in the Maritime Alps of France. His mother was a sister of Clemente Colombet, a Santa Clara Valley pioneer. He arrived at Mission San Jose after crossing the plains with an uncle whom he had met in the East upon coming to America as a boy of twelve. He remained

with another uncle, Clemente Colombet, who built the Warm Springs resort near Mission San Jose, until 1885, when he went into business in San Francisco.

In 1866, he married Miss Sarah Slomon, an Irish girl, who died in November 1903, a few months after their son, Louis, had perished tragically in a forest fire near Wright's Station. Their other five children were Teresa, who was killed in an accident at the age of 18; Frank, who married



Wright's was an important shipping center. During the harvest season, wagons loaded many varieties of grapes, prunes, and other fruits from more than 3000 acres of mountain orchards to hundreds of freight cars. Wright's Station declined rapidly when the railroad closed in 1940.



South Pacific Coast train at Wright's Station tunnel, 1893



The Wright's Station tunnel today

Katherine Goodman; Thomas C., who died when he was 26; Annie Meyer; and Alice Matty.

Anton Matty was an organizer of the Wright's school district and a member of the Santa Clara County Pioneer Association. He was also a member of the Sempervirens Club, one of a small group of citizens credited with having saved the Big Basin Redwoods. He died April 12, 1922, at the age of eighty-two.

When she was still a young girl, Alice Matty became the fifth station agent at Wright's. E. B. Green was the first, followed

by Frank L. Donahue, W. J. Van de Mark, Clare Hunter, Alice Matty, W. H. Harrison, Jack Malone, and finally E. B. Crichton. Crichton remained in the job until the station was closed on July 16, 1932, despite bitter protests from area residents.

An asthma sufferer, Charles Henry Squire came to Wright's to clerk in the store, then run by Ralph Thompson, in 1892. He worked there until his brother bought the place two months later. In 1901, James A. Squire sold the store to J. H. Garrity. Charles Squire was placed in charge until he bought out his employer in 1906. The

great earthquake of 1906 wrecked the store and Squire was able to save only a few odds and ends with which to start up again. He became postmaster in 1906, and held the job until he moved away in 1923. He was also a school trustee.

After the railroad stopped running in 1940, all of the property around the station was acquired by the San Jose Water company, which cleared the site of all the buildings. Nothing remains today but the overgrown tunnel entrance and the iron-railed bridge built in 1907. The tunnel was closed with explosives during World II.

"Wright's in Santa Clara County is on the line of the South Pacific Coast narrow gauge railroad, 62 miles south from San Francisco at the north end of the long tunnel between Wright's and Laurel. It has all the requisites of a thriving business town, including a large, well-managed hotel, general merchandise store, post office, telegraph and telephone office, blacksmith shop run by skilled merchants, barber and butcher shops, and a saloon. The beautiful picnic grounds of Sunset Park offer one of the most pleasant public grounds on the coast.

The station facilities can handle large quantities of fruit and other freight. Wright's is the shipping point for a large community of people living in the Santa Cruz Mountains, both in Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties. Thousands of acres of fruit and grapes are shipped from Wright's to markets in the East, North, and South. We are surprised at the railroad's delay in extending the third rail to Wright's for it would be a great benefit to the numerous shippers of fruit, grapes, wine, and other products.

On an eminence overlooking the depot grounds and surrounding county, Mr. A. Matty has erected his villa, a spacious building of Doric style."

**~The Mountain Realty
February 1903**

Lakeside School News

Sean Joyce

With the start of this school year in a remote/distance-learning environment, our district initially created 16 separate family-learning pods that met the Santa Clara County and California Department of Public Health requirements. These pods offer families a safe and clean (disinfected daily) environment, where parents can supervise their child's remote learning while performing their own work during the school day.

In November, we added student-learning pods in our Community Center. These student pods are supervised by a childcare provider who supports students' learning, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. This has been especially crucial for parents who are required to work outside of the home, by providing a safe, supervised environment for their children during the remote-learning school day.

Return to Lakeside School Task Force

Our district's return-to-school task force is in the final stages of creating a safe and effective plan for the return of Lakeside students and staff to in-person teaching and learning. The task force identified the conditions under which we could return to school, and the district submitted their plan to Santa Clara County to ensure it complied with public-health requirements.

Rather than develop a hybrid or reduced-instructional-day model for the return to on-site instruction, the plan calls for a return to school for a regular, 8:20 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. school day. The model closely resembles the schedule used in the 2019-2020 school year, with obvious changes



Theresa Bond has retired after ten years on the Lakeside School board of trustees.

to the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up procedures. We will also eliminate the traditional all-school flag salute and morning song to start each day.

One of the critical elements of our return-to-school plan is the inclusion of the current remote/distance-learning program. While delivering on-site, in-person teaching and learning, Lakeside School will also deliver remote learning to students who are unable to return to school in person. Providing options for both in-person and remote learning was a challenging issue for the task force to resolve, but it is critical to the successful return of students and staff to Lakeside School.

New Board Trustee

Theresa Bond has retired from the Lakeside School board of trustees after ten years of service. Theresa leaves a long legacy of active participation and volunteerism in the Lakeside School community. In addition

to serving on the board of trustees, Theresa served as the PTA president, school-site-council member, and Project Cornerstone facilitator. Theresa will continue to serve our broader educational community as a member of the board of trustees for the Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District.

Theresa's board seat has been filled by Zigmont Fafard. A former student and Lakeside School alumnus, Zigmont is studying environmental science at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He will join the Lakeside School board of trustees at their annual organizational meeting on December 16.



Lakeside alumnus Zigmont Fafard was elected to the board of trustees and will be sworn in this month.



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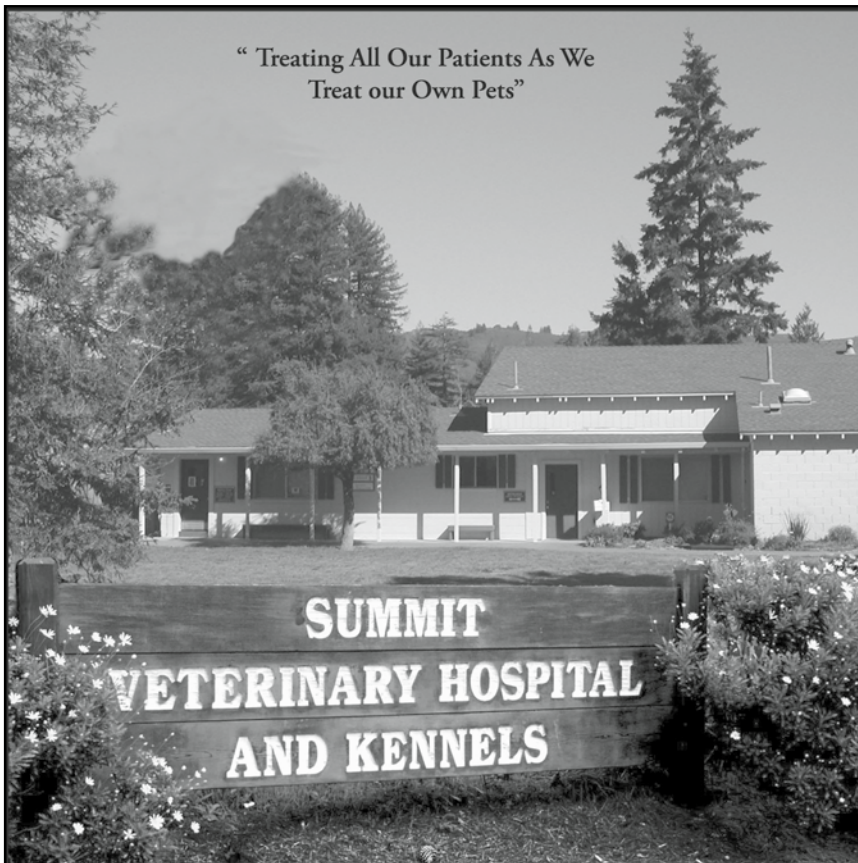
Lexington School Deanna Wilk

The Lexington staff, students, and community have been fully engaged in exploring new ways of teaching and experiencing student life. Since October, about half of our first-graders are back on campus, with the other half attending remotely. They are piloting a Roomers and Zoomers class model. One of the goals of the hybrid class is to give it a whole class feel. First-grade teacher, Julia Lombardi, who volunteered to do the pilot, has been determined to make it work. She has tested various audio and video technologies so that both Roomers and Zoomers can see and hear each other clearly, and so that she can communicate with both groups simultaneously.

"The kids are doing great in the classroom," she says. "They are so happy to be here." The first-grade Roomers learn at Lexington from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., every day but Wednesdays, and attend their afternoon elective zoom calls remotely. They do have recess at school, which can be a challenge, but are learning with reminders to keep six feet apart.



First-grade Roomers and Zoomers



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Reopening slowly has enabled staff to discover and fix unexpected gaps and challenges.

"The pilot has given the school practice receiving students on campus and dismissing them safely. Parents are required to fill out electronic health-symptom-check forms before arriving at school each morning. Students have their temperatures checked, and they use sanitizer before entering the classroom. Our top priority is to return safely and offer our students the same or more instruction time with their teachers than we currently offer during virtual instruction," says principal Mr. Jason Deppong.

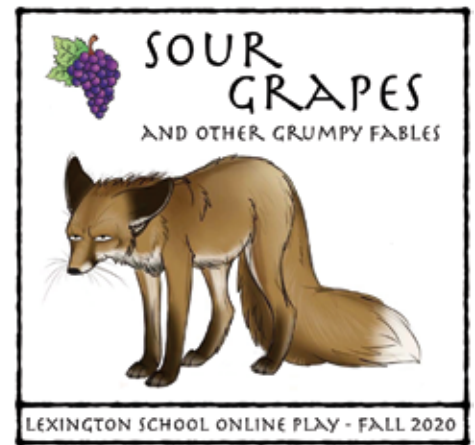
Across the district, second grade is slated to come back on campus January 11. Beginning January 21, third, fourth, and fifth grades will join them. In the meantime, Lexington is gearing up for more in-person student learning. Our literacy specialist is beginning small-group lessons. One music teacher is beginning one-on-one in-person lessons. Second grade will begin weekly writing in Lexington's Life Lab.

On October 30, most of our students came to campus. Our Home and School Club and staff welcomed fanciful creatures, kid-sized fruit, story characters, and prehistoric animals during its first drive-through Halloween costume parade. Staff were dressed as the CDA, the Child

Detection Agency from the movie *Monsters, Inc.* The CDA is deathly afraid of children, which made it easy to stay six-feet apart. It was a sweet bit of fun with students receiving a goody bag, walking under a giant inflatable black cat, and having a photo taken. Mr. Deppong starred as the contaminated monster. Administrative assistant Jill Mayo was the formidable Roz. A dad in a hairy costume ran from the bushes to surprise approaching cars. The fun was captured in photos and a slideshow put together by parent Betsy King.

Our adventurous and theatrical librarian, Barbara Lougée, is currently leading sixteen students in a new school-play experience: tele-theater. Inspired by a student asking about an online drama club, the creative theater experiences happening worldwide, and the enthusiasm of theatre-minded parents, she decided to give it a go and adapted one of her plays, *Sour Grapes and other Grumpy Fables*, for the small screen. The play features Aesop, some ingenious characters from his fables, and the very disgruntled people of Delphi who want to throw Aesop off a cliff. In sixteen zoom squares, on December 11, the play will unfold for a one-time live performance. Tickets to access the LiveStream webinar will be available at <https://www.lexhsc.org/schoolplay>.

Together with our fellow mountain



schools, Lexington families were happy to help Boulder Creek families who lost their homes in the CZU fire by donating new, needed children's items. Thank you to those who donated and to HSC president, Beth Stark, for dropping off the donations.

Photos by Jason Deppong, Betsy King, and Barbara Lougée



Loma Prieta Joint Union School District 2021 School Board Meeting Dates

Regular Meetings

Wednesday, January 13
Wednesday, February 10
Wednesday, March 10
Wednesday, April 14
Wednesday, May 26
Wednesday, June 16
Wednesday, August 11
Wednesday, September 8
Wednesday, October 13
Wednesday, November 10
Wednesday, December 15*

Open sessions begin at 7 p.m.

** Annual Organizational Meeting/
Regular Board Meeting*

School board study-sessions
Wednesday, February 24
Wednesday, May 5

Study sessions begin at 6:30 p.m.




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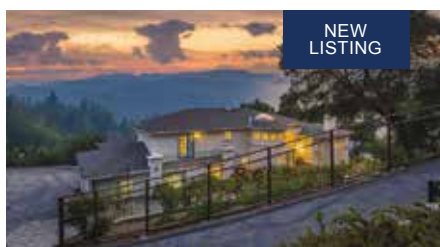
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