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Los Gatos Mountains



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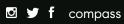
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17240 Laurel Road \$1,100,000 3 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 2450 Sq Ft

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COMPASS

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| Contents | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| resources Highway 17 shaded fuel break Fire-safe county roads Large-animal evacuation Early-season hillside fire A better mask Personal-shopper program Schulties Road repairs Santa Cruz County Public Libraries Santa Clara County Bookmobile Stamp out mail theft | 6 7 8 9 9 10 10 |
| community Liability for surface-water drainage PG&E to the rescue A Song Around the Mountain Mountain youth-protest march Wide trails for hiking | 12 12 14 16 17 |
| calendar | 20 |
| people Kyara Vivanco Cortes Kayleigh Khandelwal and Lance Pharand Reverend Melanie Weiner | 22 22 23 |
| exploring Visiting egret rookeries | 24 |
| history Shelley Cothran | 26 |
| gallery Birds in flight | 28 |
| schools Loma Prieta School District Loma and CTE graduates Loma Prieta board seats available Lakeside School Lexington School | 30 31 31 32 33 |

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33

34

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20700 Hillside Drive, LG Mtns

\$1,700,000 | 20700hillsidedrive.com 4 Bed | 2.5 Bath | 3183 Sq Ft | 2.5 Acre Lot

Gorgeous and updated home features great floor plan, vaulted ceilings, gourmet kitchen and beautiful master suite. Minutes from town Lexington Elem (IB Programme), Fisher Middle, and Los Gatos High.

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COMPASS



Santa Clara County FireSafe Council Highway 17 Shaded Fuel-Break Project Completed

The shaded fuel break of 6.5 miles along Highway 17 between Los Gatos and Summit Road has been completed. This highway corridor is a critical escape route for thousands of residents and commuters.



The \$9 million project was the largest, and one of the most complex, of Governor Newsom's 2019 wildfire-protection projects. Through an unprecedented CalFire-Caltrans-Santa Clara County FireSafe Council partnership, many challenges were overcome to complete this massive accomplishment.

Secretary Wade Crowfoot of the Resources Agency said strong environmental-protection measures were used to expedite the project. Work was suspended during heavy rainfall, high fire danger, and shelter-in-place orders.

The collaboration required cooperation among multiple state, county, and local agencies, as well as with private landowners and contractors. These new relationships will help us continue to enhance wildfire safety in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Construction of the planned fuel break was completed on May 27. Additional erosion-control treatments and debris removal continued through May 29.

The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council will continue to work on complementary projects near the highway to strengthen the fuel break's effectiveness. The goal is to further improve wildfire resiliency for neighborhoods along the Highway 17 corridor.

Caltrans also plans to continue removing hazardous trees to help prevent dead, dying, or leaning trees from falling onto the roadway.

Mountain Alliance Fire-Safe County Roads

The county-road system is a critical resource for our community. Public roads are especially important as escape routes and firebreaks in a spreading wildfire. When a wildfire hits our community, how do we ensure an emergency-escape route from the

mountains? You can rebuild homes, but lost lives are tragic and final.

The shaded fuel break on Highway 17, from Summit to Los Gatos, is completed. Now, the mountain community needs to create fire-safe public roads to access Highway 17 in a wildfire or other emergency. Two main arteries, the Summit Road-Highland Way corridor and Soquel-San Jose Road to Soquel, were determined to be critical escape routes.

A demonstration project on Summit Road at Loma Prieta School has been completed. You can see a three-minute video at https://youtu.be/SRDELtbcnCs.

Mountain Alliance has established email contact with 180 property owners along the Summit Road-Highland Way corridor, to gain their support and agreement for the shaded fuel break adjacent to their properties.

We thank the Santa Cruz County government (supervisor John Leopold and Angela Chesnut), CalFire (Richard Sampson and Andy Hubbs), Santa Cruz County Emergency Services (Rosemary Anderson), the Regional Conservation District (Lisa Lurie), and the Santa Cruz County FireSafe Council.

Local community organizations were represented by Mountain Alliance (Larry Lopp, David Fullagar, Thomas Sutfin, and Al Feuerbach), Skyland Community Church (Gerald Alonzo, Jeremy Cole, Anne Evans, and Kevin Omi), and mountain resident Sanjay Khandelwal.

Santa Clara County organizations include the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (Eugenia Rendler and JR Call), CalFire (Ed Orre), and Auten Resource Consulting (Steve Auten).

With so many uncertainties, schedules are fluid. We will update the community with our progress.



A New Approach Large-Animal Evacuation

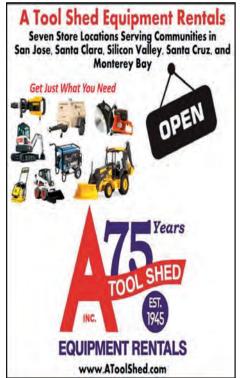
Nancy Cole Summit EE Team

Volunteers with the Equine Evacuation Unit of Santa Cruz County have evacuated horses, pets, and livestock during emergency-evacuation orders in Santa Cruz County. They are the only volunteer group to operate behind road closures. Two hundred specially trained volunteers from teams throughout the county, and about 150 truck/trailer rigs, support Animal Services and the Office of Emergency Services. Established 25 years ago, this group moved over 500 horses from harm's way during the Summit, Martin, Trabing, Lockheed, Loma, and Bear fires.

The nature of wildfires has changed. Kenneth Coale, co-coordinator of the unit, recalls: "I remember moving horses, llamas, and alpacas, under eerie still conditions and a hot snow of ash and embers, during both the Martin and Summit fires. We were pressured to move as many animals as possible," says Coale. "We had to leave some problematic animals, but the fire behavior was fairly predictable."

At a recent training, CalFire chief Sherman described how fires spread in Napa, Sonoma, Solono, and Butte counties, with the "horizontal plastering of flaming plastic and debris propelled by near hurricane-force winds."

This is a new kind of wildfire, driven by a climate that is reflected in the recent



Celebrating life in the Santa Cruz Mountains

Spectrum of Catastrophic Risk 1. Harden your structures Build defensible space Train animals to load 2. Build in safety Manage your risks redundancies Make evacuation Practice evacuation plan plan Prepare for emergency Involve your Build your 'Go Kit' 3. neighbors Call 911 Hope for assistance Leave home and animals 4. Try to escape Lose your house Lose your animals

revision of the CalFire shoulder patch: A hot sun rising over a scorched red earth. Every season in California is now fire season.

At a state-wide conference on animal rescue in February, presenters from community animal-response teams described how, during the fires in Solano and Butte counties, they were not allowed to cross road closures to rescue animals. These volunteers have been advised to abandon previous methods of coming to rescue animals with trained personnel and horse trailers. Instead, large-animal owners are advised to shelter their animals in place.

What this means for animals is that they must have a safe, durable, protected, and stocked facility with defensible space, protection, food, and water for several days. This is necessary to reduce truck and trailer congestion on narrow roadways, and allow for emergency response. It also keeps rescue workers out of harm's way.

This means that owners must have shelters that can protect animals and withstand wildfire. In addition, the Equine Evacuation Unit of Santa Cruz County may not be able, or allowed, to deploy.

Looking forward, the Equine Evacuation Unit of Santa Cruz County will continue to maintain a trained and provisioned team of volunteers, but will also emphasize the need for animal owners to develop their own plans to evacuate, or shelter in place. The rationale for this is illustrated in the

diagram above.

Well-prepared owners can minimize stress to themselves and their animals, and property loss. Owners who are not well prepared risk catastrophic loss to their property, animals, and control over their homestead.

We have posted several documents and resources for property owners to create defensible space and develop a durable evacuation plan. These can be accessed at www.equineevac.org.

Our leader, Chris Smith, covers the Summit and Skyline area. Chris is well qualified as a registered veterinary technician and retired veterinary-science instructor. Like forty other volunteers, she has a ham-radio license. If you have questions about developing a plan for your animals and property, email Chris at christinecsmith 10@gmail.com.

Plan now to harden your facilities and develop an evacuation plan. Evacuate sooner rather than later. The safer you are, the more you can ensure outcomes that are more economical, and better for your animals and you. Unsafe properties can suffer expensive and catastrophic losses.

Where on the spectrum people choose to exist is a matter of choice. Large-animal-evacuation volunteers prefer animal owners to manage their animals and property on the responsible side of this spectrum. Volunteers may not be able to respond to those on the irresponsible side.

resources

It's Time to be Defensive A Warning: Early-Season Hillside Fire Santa Clara County Fire Department

On June 2, the Santa Clara County Fire Department was dispatched to reports of a fire on a hillside above Los Gatos. On arrival, crews found an approximately half-acre vegetation fire in dry grass and oaks, threatening one adjacent structure. Firefighters contained the fire within approximately twenty minutes, preventing it from threatening additional homes.

There were no injuries to firefighters or residents, and no structures were damaged, but the fire burned one acre.

This fire, so early in the season, is an important safety warning. At this fire's location, recent mowing of seasonal grass and well-maintained trees created defensible space for several homes, allowing quick containment of the fire.

The Santa Clara County Fire Department reminds residents to maintain one-hundred feet of defensible space around their home. Mowing and the use of spark-producing equipment should be completed in the morning hours, before hotter and drier afternoon conditions increase fire danger.

For more information, visit sccfd.org/rsg.









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page 8

A Better Mask Craig MacKenna

In response to your article on masks: I can't believe how many people believe that N95 masks are the best available. You state correctly that, "they filter out 95 percent of the particles 0.3 micron and larger." But think about it. If you were shopping for new screens for your house, would you buy a screen material that admitted one of twenty mosquitos?

That's actually a terrible filtration percentage. I use a Honeywell/North 7700 half-mask with P100 screw-on filters. It filters out something like 99.97 percent of particles 0.3 micron and larger. What's more, it is easy to breathe through and can



be re-used until it gets harder to breathe. Screw on a new pair of filters, and you're good for months into the future, assuming you only use it for "encounter situations" like going into stores.

It looks sexy, too. I've had people ask me if I work for the CDC.

You may not be able to buy them on Amazon. I bought mine from Grainger, because I have a business account. If you don't have a Grainger account, ask around. The odds are good that you know someone who can order one or two masks for you.

Editor: Grainger.com shows six models priced from \$39.50 to \$47.25. All include cartridges.

95033.org Personal-Shopper Program Sanjay Khandelwal

The personal-shopper program made its first delivery on March 20, right after the shelter-in-place orders were imposed in our area. Since those early days, approximately sixty volunteers have processed close to 600 orders and helped over 250 customers.

The virus is still with us, but many restrictions have been lifted. As people feel safer going out, the demand for our services has declined. Summit Store is implementing an online ordering service, which will further reduce the need for volunteers to

shop for groceries.

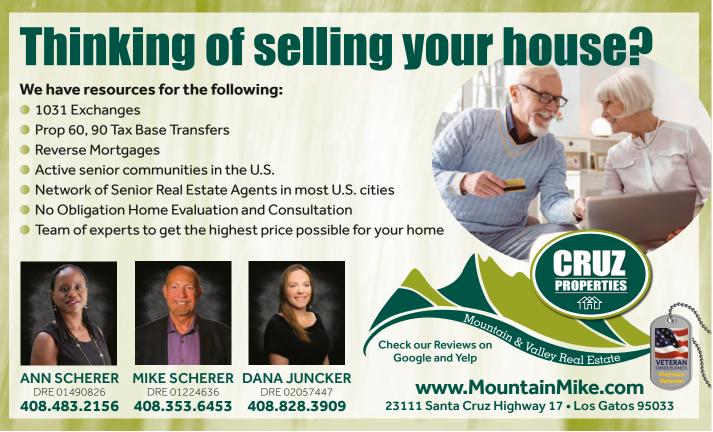
The program will continue to evolve. We believe that other assistance may be needed, perhaps as long as the COVID-19 pandemic is with us. We may change from a personal-shopper program to a mutual-aid network, to match volunteers with those in need.

For updates, visit www.95033.org, or call 408-384-8769.



Schulties Road Repairs Santa Cruz County Public Works

The County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works began roadway repairs on Schulties Road, at PM 0.51, in June. Schulties Road will remain closed at PM 0.51 for the duration of the project. Work is expected to last through the end of November 2020, weather permitting. Upto-date information on county-maintained roads in Santa Cruz County is available online at www.sccroadclosure.org.





Santa Cruz County Library **New Ways to Connect Neil Wilev**

Children, teens, and adults can read or listen, attend virtual events, earn books, and win prizes. The Santa Cruz Public Libraries are offering several online services. The staff is available by phone, text, and email. Curbside pickup of holds is available at some locations. Hear virtual story times designed for toddlers, preschoolers, and Spanish speakers.

Want to share a conversation? Sign up for virtual discussion programs, book groups, and arts and crafts for adults. You can also catch up with technology through virtual tech talks.

To get involved, visit santacruzpl.org, email eLibrary@santacruzpl.org, call 831-427-7713, or text 831-264-0647.



Santa Clara County Bookmobile **More Services Soon**

Amvtha Willard

Many thanks to the Bookmobile patrons who submitted content for our newsletter. We plan to publish one issue per month as long as possible. Email your contributions to Bookmobile_Manager@sccl.org. Send us almost anything: painting, photography, poetry, a 2020 story, or your life's work.

The library has been planning for a safe re-opening, and will offer limited service in accordance with county guidelines. We hope to return soon. Check sccld.org for updates.

Thank you for your patience and solidarity in following the prescribed health and safety guidelines from Santa Clara County and the California Department of Health.

In the meantime, enjoy free access to eBooks, emagazines, audiobooks, music, streaming video, online research, The New York Times digital subscription, online classes including Lynda.com,

Rosetta Stone, and much more. When prompted, login with an eCard or library card.

Wishing you good health. Stay safe. Cheers from the Bookmobile staff: Amytha, Andrew, Chevenne, Eileen. and Mark.



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Mail Theft—A Growing Problem Stamp It Out Carol Gibbons

Deputy Spencer of the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department, a lifelong mountain resident, confirms that mail theft is widespread and growing. He attributes it to drug users who drive around, mostly at night, looking for packages, red mail-waiting flags, and easy targets. Unemployment, fear, and desperation are growing factors.

Deputy Spencer strongly recommends locked mailboxes, although thieves may still tamper with them. Amazon sells a roomy, USPS-approved, fully assembled, locking mailbox for about \$100, including shipping, delivered by USPS in a few days. Cameras and motion detectors may discourage some would-be thieves, and data collection can lead to successful prosecution.

Delivery to a post-office box in Redwood Estates is safer, but attempted mail thefts



there have led to restricted hours for access. For most, delivery of mail directly to your home is still the most convenient.

Keeping your mail safe

Know your mail time, and collect the mail promptly. (Carriers report that some people leave mail for a week or more.) If you can't get your mail promptly, ask a trusted neighbor to pick it up. You can also encourage your neighbors to watch their mail boxes to discourage thieves.

If you can't pick up your mail every day, or you have an important package coming, you can limit mail delivery to one or two days a week. Simply fill out a form from the USPS called an "Authorization to Hold Mail." If Saturday is the only day you can get to your mailbox at delivery time, you can specify holding your mail until that day of the week.

Sign up for informed delivery on USPS. com, using the little icon at the upper-right corner of their website. You will be able to log in and see every piece of mail coming to your mailbox that day, including small packages.

Did you know that USPS contracts with UPS, Amazon, and other services to handle some packages? Smaller packages come to your mailbox, not to your door. I have seen large FedEx and Amazon packages sitting on top of a mailbox or the sides of

a driveway, which is an open invitation to thieves. Be sure you understand how your packages will be delivered, track them, and specify delivery so the package is not left on your mailbox.

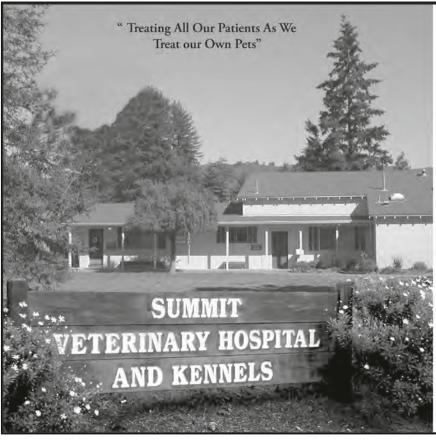
Do not put outgoing mail in the box until the very last moment. Alternatively, take it to a secure location, such as the USPS mailbox at the Summit Store, or during the day to the Redwood Estates post office. Waiting an extra day for a convenient time to drop off your mail is better than losing mail. If you have to leave outgoing mail for hours, do not put up the flag. This attracts thieves. If you usually get mail every day, your carrier will pick up outgoing mail without the flag.

For safety in sending small parcels, order free boxes online for USPS Priority Mail, and schedule a pickup at your home during their usual route times.

Never send cash through the mail. Cash is too easy to spend and there is no proof of loss. This is very attractive to thieves.

No matter what you do, it is possible for mail to be stolen. Be sure to report any theft or mailbox tampering to the police at 831-471-1170 in Santa Cruz County, or 408-354-8600 in Santa Clara County.

Mail theft is a serious crime. It carries a minimum fine of \$2500 and a jail sentence of five years. Spread the word.



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Liability for Surface Water Drainage and Landslides

Pat Wendleton, Esq. and Sharon Glenn Pratt, Esq. Pratt & Associates, APC

Are you aware of surface water that flows over your land and then onto your neighbor's property? Do you know what effect it is having or can potentially have on a neighboring property? Should you care? Landslides and mudslides can cause a horrendous amount of damage to property and also threaten lives. The uphill neighbor is generally not liable for damage to a downhill property from a natural condition, but once the natural path of the surface water is diverted, liability can arise.

While some states follow the surface water doctrine of "common enemy," where the uphill landowner has an unqualified right to divert and control the water flowing over his or her land, California is not one of those states. In the 1960s, the California Supreme Court adopted a "rule of reasonable use" for surface water. Under this doctrine, the courts will weigh how reasonable the uphill and downhill owners have been when it comes to diversion of surface water. Factors taken into account by the courts will include whether the parties have taken reasonable precautions to prevent damage, the behavior of the players involved, the apparent gravity of the harm, how foreseeable it is, whether experts have been consulted to prevent problems, and the knowledge that each owner should have had about the problem.

If a damaging landslide is caused by man-made conditions, the uphill neighbor will almost certainly be blamed and tried for negligence. What type of man-made condition are we talking about? Grading for the construction of a residence on your property is likely to change the natural flow of water over and from the land, but smaller projects can also have large consequences, such as laying an impervious patio, installing a driveway or road, or even terracing for a vegetable garden. The construction of smaller outbuildings like barns and storage sheds can also change the flow of water from your property. Quite simply, anything that obstructs the absorption of water into the ground can alter the natural flow of water across and from your property. If the alteration of the

natural flow of water results in damage to your neighbor's property, you will be liable for the damages if found negligent.

You can even be held liable for injuries sustained by persons below your property when the injuries are caused by natural conditions on your property, if those natural conditions altered the course of the water during your ownership. For example, if a storm brings down some large trees on your property, it is a naturally occurring condition, but what happens if the fallen trees alter the flow of water through your property and onto your neighbor's property?

During the next heavy rainfall, the altered flow of water causes flooding in your downhill neighbor's home. That downhill neighbor may be able to sue you for the damage to his or her property. This can be based on, among other theories, a nuisance theory of liability. Nonfeasance, or the failure to intervene in the change of the natural flow of water resulting from the fallen trees, can result in liability in those circumstances.

Seepage of water on your land can also result in liability for damage to the property of your neighbor. There are various ways that water can seep from your land, including faulty water tanks, septic tanks, and leach fields. The leak can saturate the ground and seep into the property of your neighbor, causing damage for which you can be found liable. In certain soil conditions, a septic tank failure or leach field failure can run off into surface waters, which can then flow onto your neighbor's downhill property, causing damage.

Unfortunately, landslides, mudslides, and land movement are commonly excluded from coverage in homeowner's insurance policies, so it is difficult to protect yourself from this type of liability through insurance. To avoid liability for damage to your neighbor's property, take reasonable measures to control the water in a way that will prevent damage to either property, and remain aware of conditions that may change the natural course of water that flows from your land onto your neighbor's land.

Sharon Glenn Pratt is founder of the law firm Pratt & Associates, APC, located in Los Gatos. She specializes in civil litigation, with extensive experience in community-association law, including creation, amendment, and enforcement of governing documents.

Pat Wendleton also specializes in civil litigation, with substantial experience in communityassociation, construction defects, and transactional law.



PG&E to the rescue Melanie Vaez-Iravani

Recently my cat Chloe, much to my dismay, managed to find herself stuck at the top of a utility pole. I don't know what caused Chloe to scale the forty-foot pole, but one thing was certain: she was too afraid to come down on her own.

Somehow, she managed to stay balanced on a 6-inch-wide plank of wood for more than 24 hours, enduring the intense daytime heat as well as the cool of the night, while occasionally meowing for help. She even took a few naps, while her human family watched in subdued horror.

Despite being reassured by local cat owners that Chloe would eventually make her way down, it was becoming obvious that she simply couldn't work out how to do that. Being close to live electrical wires, we were concerned that she might get electrocuted or spark a fire.

With no hope for Chloe to make her own way down, I called PG&E, despite being advised that they wouldn't be able to help. Much to our delight, PG&E offered to send somebody out to assess the situation. Within 30 minutes, Robert arrived. As I nervously looked on, Robert inched his way up to Chloe ever so gingerly, so that she wouldn't get scared and jump or fall. Finally, he managed to grab Chloe, and return her to safety. Robert certainly earned the hero status in our family's opinion. Everyone, especially Chloe, was happy when the ordeal was over. This is not the first time that Chloe has come dangerously close to death—she almost died a couple of years ago after an almond she swallowed got stuck in her intestines. No wonder cats need nine lives.

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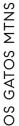
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24615 Skyland Road

2 Bed | 2 Bath | 6 Acres Sold for \$850,000 1890's Farm House





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17515 Laurel Road

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community.

Mountain Jam A Song Around The Mountain Kathy McKinney

You have probably seen the A Song Around The Mountain video, featuring our talented mountain neighbors performing the song Peace Train composed by Cat Stevens. If you haven't seen it, or want to watch it again, go to santacruzmountainjam.org/peace or scan the QR code below.

The project was created by a handful of mountain residents in May, to bring joy and encouragement to people in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The timing of its release SCAN ME just days after the death of George Floyd was purely coincidental, but the message of the song has provided solace and comfort to many during the chaos that followed. By mid-June, the video on YouTube had gone viral worldwide, with over 100,000 views in just three weeks.

Kevin Arnold initially approached Louis Niemann with an idea to bring local musicians together virtually, to create music while sheltering in place. Louis loved the idea, and engaged the Mountain Jam team. His son Teo suggested *Peace Train*, to share a message of optimism and hope with the mountain community.

Kevin videotaped more than twenty performers singing and playing along to the song. Isaac Cornelius sings and plays guitar. Other vocalists include Louis and Maggie Niemann, Marissa Thompson, and Paula Leary, who also plays flute. Teo, Jean, and Oliver Niemann, and Aviv Ben-Dashan, play guitar. The drummers are Sean Niemann and Letitia Davis. Scott Klein



The powerful vocal trio (from left): Paula Leary, Marisa Thompson, and Maggie Niemann

picks the mandolin, and Robert Cornelius plucks the banjo. Suzanne Suwanda plays the upright bass, and Dana Scoby plays violin. Kimmie McCord is featured on the harp, and Sue Marvin on the organ. Antonio Rodriguez did the musical arrangement and sound design, and also contributed on electric bass and acoustic guitar. Kevin was videographer and video editor. Many other mountain residents videotaped themselves painting, dancing, surfing, playing, and jogging for the video.

Louis described the process. "Antonio extracted three sets of harmonic charts for three violin parts to produce the violin sound you hear. Dana played all three parts, and the shoot required that she play all three perfectly. What chops! The background vocals (Paula, Marisa and Maggie--the power trio and a trigenerational representation from our mountain) are a mix of nine tracks. These women sang each of three harmonic charts with Antonio's guidance. He mixed it together to produce the choir-like sound. Antonio combined our varied instrumental expertise on the mountain in a very tasteful way, resulting in an arrangement that stays

true to the original but improves it. He used bluegrass instruments (mando, banjo, and upright bass), and added slide guitar for the instrumental solo, then a Hammond B3 organ, and Marisa Thompson at the end to reach a peak in intensity. It was all captured in three terabytes of video from multiple cameras. Other than that, it was a no brainer."

The video brought more than a few tears mixed with joy. Thank you to the mountain residents who collaborated and contributed to this project.

Photography by Kevin Arnold



Kevin Arnold

Pratt Associates

Sharon Glenn Pratt

Managing Attorney

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Louis Niemann



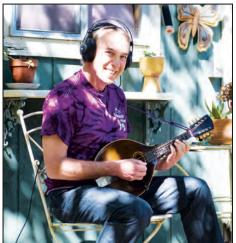
Antonio Rodriguez



Paula Leary



Suzanne Suwanda



Scott Klein



Dana Scoby



Robert Cornelius



Letitia Davis



Kimmie McCord



Jean and Teo Niemann

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community

Black Lives Matter Mountain Youth-Protest March

Kevin Kinsella

On Sunday, June 7, a protest march was held along Summit Road, from Building Blocks Preschool to Christ Child Catholic Church, and back. The protest was in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, and was organized by local youth. Approximately a hundred people came out with signs (and masks) to protest injustice and racial bias.

Although we are not a very diverse community, we are compassionate and passionate about social change. Many motorists showed support as they drove by. The march was peaceful and effective.

It's not enough to not be racist. We need to act together to end systemic racism. In the words of the event organizer, "We have a duty... to help our brothers and sisters obtain the respect and dignity they deserve."





Photos by Brian Storm, Neil Wiley, and Lesley Louden







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Wide Trails for Hiking Kathy McKinney

Getting outside has been a saving grace for me and many others during the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to safely enjoy our local parks, we need to continue to keep our distance from others. It can be hard, if not impossible, to stay six feet away from other hikers if you are on a trail that isn't very

Fortunately, there are local options that have wide enough trails for social distancing. Before heading out, be sure to check with the park or preserve for updates, and remember these basic guidelines: Hike solo or with the people you live with, and stay six feet away from people you do not live with. Plan for restrooms, drinking fountains, and picnic areas to be closed. Hike single file when passing others. Do not park in a crowded parking lot or use a crowded trail, and don't hold social gatherings or form groups.

Windy Hill: Spring Ridge Trail

This wide trail follows an old jeep trail toward the summit of Windy Hill. Dogs on leash are welcome in this section of Windy Hill. Note that the last section of trail leading to the summit narrows. If crowded, it will be more difficult to keep your distance from other hikers.

There are usually two parking areas that provide access to the Spring Ridge Trail. One is off Portola Road, and the other (which is temporarily closed) is off Skyline Blvd. The lot at Portola Road only has space for 25 vehicles. It fills quickly on the weekends. There is overflow parking available at the Portola Valley Town Center, about 0.4 miles north on Portola Road. Do not park on Portola Road.

La Honda Creek: Harrington Creek Trail

Follow this wide trail through rolling hills and take in some spectacular views of the

coast. This trail follows a ranch road, so there's plenty of space to maintain social distance. Be prepared to hike among cattle, as this trail runs through an active grazing operation. Dogs are not permitted in this section of La Honda Creek.

Parking at Lower La Honda Creek can be found at the Sears Ranch Road parking lot off of Highway 84 in La Honda. From the lot, follow Sears Ranch Road, and then head right onto Harrington Creek Trail. Follow Harrington Creek Trail onto Folger Ranch Loop Trail, which loops back to Harrington Creek Trail.

Bear Creek Redwoods: Alma Trail

This preserve is a great option for wide trail hikes. The Alma Trail is just one of three wide trails featured here. The trail, located west of Bear Creek Road, is accessible using a pedestrian crossing from the parking lot. The 2.5-mile trail traverses into densely wooded fir and redwood forests, through bay and oak woodlands. From the parking lot, head right onto Alma Trail, which maintains its width through the preserve. Keep right on Alma Trail until you hit Madrone Knoll Trail (also at least six feet wide) and loop back toward the lot. Bring the kids, but leave your dog at home.



The parking lot is located on Bear Creek Road. The lot fills up quickly on weekends, so consider visiting on a weekday. Unfortunately, there is no off-site parking nearby, so make sure you have a backup plan in case the lot is full.

Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve: **Woods Trail**

If you're an experienced hiker looking for more mileage and elevation gain, look no further than Sierra Azul. The wide Woods Trail winds around the north side of Mount Umunhum, climbing near the summit of Mount El Sombroso before linking up with the Kennedy and Limekiln trails. On this trail, you can enjoy spectacular views of the bay. Dogs are allowed on the west side of the preserve.

The Jacques Ridge parking area is located near the intersection of Hicks Road and Mount Umunhum Road, From there, vou can access the entrance to Woods Trail. You can also park near the trailhead for Kennedy Trail (also six feet wide) located off Kennedy Road in Los Gatos, about 1.5 miles west of the intersection with Shannon Road. This trail links up with Woods Trail, but parking nearby is limited.

Rancho Cañada del Oro: Llagas Creek Loop

The Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve features twelve miles of trails that offer both easy and more difficult options. The half-mile Llagas Creek Loop is great if you're looking for an ADA-accessible paved trail. It's perfect for strollers and wheelchairs, and is wide enough to allow for proper social distancing. The Llagas Creek Loop starts just off the parking area next to Casa Loma Road. If you're looking for something more challenging, try Catamount Trail to Bald Peaks Trail. Both have one-way direction hiking. Visitors must travel one-way along the Longwall Canyon Trail, from the Mayfair Ranch Trail junction to the Bald Peaks Trail. The trails also feature wide-open sections that cut across the hillsides and through wooded

To get to the Rancho Cañada del Oro parking lot from Highway 101 or 85, go west on Bailey Avenue, then left on McKean Road and right on Casa Loma Road.

Source: Adapted from Wide Trails for Walks and Hikes While Social Distancing by Nik Rau, POST website: openspacetrust.org.



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324 ALTA VISTA LANE LOS GATOS Listed for \$1,450,000



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- Social media and online marketing
- No flyers or hard copies of marketing materials
- No Open Houses or Broker Tour
- In person viewings by appointment only
- · Social distancing, masks required
- Pre-approved buyers only
- List of 'Off Market' & 'Coming Soon' listings available

We are experiencing an INCREASED DEMAND for mountain properties, due to greater flexibility to work from home, combined with a desire for more space during these times. Many listings are attracting multiple offers due to low inventory. This is an excellent time to SELL! Mortgage rates still at historic lows!

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6276 sqft · 5ac · 6 beds · 4.5 baths · office, library, billiard room & bar
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23880 WRIGHTS STATION ROAD
3280 sqft · 3.59 acres · 5 beds · 3.5 baths
beautiful 1987 built home, formal gardens, lawn,
sports court, trails in the redwoods.
Listed for \$2,195,000



23020 OLD SANTA CRUZ HWY
29 acres · Main house 7454 sq ft · 5 beds · 5.5 baths · 3 bed guest house
36x60' barn/garage · pastures · orchard · sports court · observatory
outdoor kitchen/living area & fireplace
Listed for \$5,678,000



19975 SKYLINE BLVD.

86 ac · 5 beds + 3 full & 2 half baths · 4740 sqft
Sunny knoll top estate built in 2001,
Monterey Bay views, usable land with zipline.
Listed for \$2,349,000



21475 SUMMIT ROAD
2833 sqft · 7.5 ac · 3 beds · 3 baths
Ibed/I bath, 780 sq ft apt over 4 car garage
Silicon Valley views, outdoor kitchen,
custom fire pit table, swim spa & hot tub.
Listed for \$2,299,000



25505 SOQUEL SAN JOSE 2896 sqft · 6.4 ac · 5 beds · 3 baths Sunny usable acreage · fruit trees Christmas trees · room for horses Listed for \$1,699,000



25470 ADAMS ROAD
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Serene parklike setting. Usable land
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ON-GOING CLASSES AND MEETINGS

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

Sundays

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

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

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

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

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

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

Yoga at the Redwood Estates Pavilion, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m., or online. Call 408-354-8700.

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

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

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

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

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

Santa Clara County Bookmobile See SCCID.org for library services on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Fridays

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

Centering and Silence (meditation) at 8:30 a.m., in the Loma Prieta community room 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.





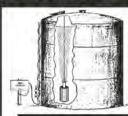
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SPECIAL EVENTS

Scheduled events are subject to change due to COVID-19 precautions.

Check websites to confirm.

Friday, August 21

Loma Prieta Education Fund holds its annual Fore the Kids golf tournament, followed by a silent auction, catered dinner, and entertainment, at Seascape Golf Club in Aptos. Shotgun start at noon. Find out more, register, and buy tickets at www.lpef.org.

Saturday and Sunday, August 29 and 30

The C.T. English Home and School club will hold a Goodwill/E-Waste drive, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Building Blocks Preschool parking lot (23845 Summit Road). If you have any questions, email ctehsc@gmail.com. If conditions improve sooner, we will try for an earlier date.



Farmers' Markets

We are fortunate to live in an area where many small, family-run farms grow regional produce, raise freerange meats, eggs, and dairy items, and harvest sustainable seafoods. Many offer their goods through local farmers' markets, which have largely remained open as essential food outlets under the shelter-in-place orders.

Purchasing your food from local farmers' markets ensures that you getting the freshest foods, but also supports local jobs, promotes the region's strong farming tradition, and keeps your spending local. Here's when and where you can find them:

Tuesdays

Felton

120 Russell Avenue 1 to 5:30 p.m.



Wednesdays

Downtown Santa Cruz

Cedar and Lincoln streets 1 to 5 p.m.

Saturdays

Aptos

Cabrillo College, 6500 Soquel Drive 8 a.m. to noon

Scotts Valley

Community Center, 360 Kings Village Drive 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Westside Santa Cruz

Mission Street extension and Western Drive 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saratoga

West Valley College Parking Lot 2, Allendale Avenue and Science Way 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sundays

Live Oak (Santa Cruz)

15th and East Cliff Drive 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Los Gatos

Town Park Plaza, Main Street and N. Santa Cruz Avenue 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.





Loma Prieta Club **Kvara Vivanco Cortes Wins Barbara Perry Community Service Award** Susan Zerweck

Kyara Vivanco Cortes, an eighthgrade student at C.T. English, won the Loma Prieta Club's 2020 Barbara Perry Community Service Award, with 282 hours of community service. She is the adopted daughter of Julie Scopazzi and Tim Avery. Although sheltering in place prevented us from giving her the award at a special luncheon, we are proud to honor this exceptional young person.

Her mother, Julie Scopazzi, told us about Kyara's growth in community service.

"Kyara was placed with us through the foster-care system in 2014. At the time, she was afraid of dogs, policemen, and firemen. Six years later, she is often found in the AKC dog-show ring as a junior handler and apprentice to one of the world's most accomplished professional handlers. She puts dogs twice her size on the grooming table and handles them in the show ring. It's a partnership that is built on trust and respect.

"In addition to volunteering with the



Kyara Vivanco Cortes

American Kennel Club, Kyara volunteers for the Los Gatos Lions Club, Theatre in the Mountains, and the C.T. English wrestling program. Community service is sometimes glamorous, and other times it involves scrubbing walls. She is always happy to help.

"She has spent the past few months during the shelter-in-place as an intern on a congressional campaign, where she is phone banking and learning about the use of social media. When she isn't grooming a dog or talking politics, she might be playing percussion in the C.T. English band or preparing for Los Gatos High School."

Loma Prieta Club **Mountain Student Scholarships** Patti Hughes

The Loma Prieta Club awards our 2020 scholarships to Kayleigh Khandelwal and Lance Pharand. They are graduates of Loma Prieta and C.T. English, and are majoring in engineering with plans for future doctorate

Kayleigh Khandelwal will study environmental engineering at U.C., Berkeley. With four years of academic honors and advanced-placement courses in English, science, math, psychology, computer science, history, and government, Kayleigh found time to volunteer with the Leo's Club, LGHS Link Crew, and Theatre in the Mountains. She also participated in sports, including figure skating, competition cheerleading, and gymnastics. She worked as a chemistry and math tutor, a coach at West Valley Gymnastics, and a stage manager for Theatre in the Mountains.

When the COVID-19 pandemic made grocery shopping impossible for many mountain seniors, Kayleigh volunteered her time and prodigious computer skills to help set up the infrastructure for an onlineshopping program operated in partnership with Summit Store. She built order and volunteer systems, a communications program, and the volunteer-scheduling

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Kayleigh Khandelwal

system. She also helped deliver groceries to mountain homes when an extra driver was needed.

Our committee members are glad she is going to college not too far from the mountains. We thank her for the work she did to make our lives safer. She also entertained us with her *Peace Train* dance routine with her father in the Mountain Jam *A Song Around the Mountain* video (santacruzmountainjam.org).

Our second recipient, Lance Pharand, is majoring in mechanical engineering with a minor or perhaps a double major in computer science. Accepted at Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Toronto, and two other top-rated engineering universities, Lance is still considering his decision.

Lance has four years of honors and AP classes in math, science, government, and computer science. He took mechanical-engineering-related courses in metals manufacturing, graphic design, and principles of engineering at LGHS. As a junior, he also enrolled at West Valley College and earned "A" grades in linear algebra, engineering physics, and intermediate calculus.

Working for professors in the mechanicalengineering department at San Jose State University, Lance volunteered to design and donate demonstrations of kinematic clamps, a thermalized system, and a voicecoil motor.

He tutored students in his neighborhood in math. While at C.T. English, he provided the school with a grant after placing second in a Bay Area Khan Academy/Googlesponsored math competition.

A wide receiver for the LGHS football team, Lance broke his femur in his junior



Lance Pharand

year. During his extended recovery, he saw the story of Jeff Bauman, a runner who lost both legs in the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, who taught himself to walk again.

Lance was inspired by Bauman's story, and those of other amputees who returned to running. Paraphrasing what he wrote in his essay: "Those stories changed my mindset and crafted my image of mechanical engineers. Devising innovations and changing lives, they are real-life superheroes. Mechanical adaptations have helped me to walk and run again. Their example gave me relentless grit and mental strength. I know I am 'Boston Strong.'"

What would Lance like to pass on to others? "Never stop learning, because life never stops teaching."

Thank you to everyone who helped make it possible to honor these two outstanding students in this difficult year. They show us hope for the future.

To paraphrase a well-known saying: "It takes a Loma Prieta Club." When the shelter-in-place forced the cancellation of our annual May picnic and fundraiser, we didn't have the funds for our annual scholarships.

But thanks to members like Caroline Slivkoff, who sold \$900 worth of tomatoes she and her husband raised, and Jenny Yamate, who raffled off generously donated vacation retreats, the scholarship committee was able to beat the odds.

We thank community members who purchased our heirloom tomato plants, everyone who bought raffle tickets, and our hardworking, texting, zooming, emailing scholarship-committee members: Judy Clark, Patti Hughes, Shannon Impey, Judy Stark, and Susie Clarke.



Skyland Church's New Minister Reverend Melanie Weiner Deana Arnold

Skyland Community Church has a new senior minister, Reverend Melanie Weiner. She has served several churches in our area, focusing on faith formation and education for all ages, most recently at Foothills Congregational Church in Los Altos.

The Foothills congregation valued her stimulating sermons, Biblical knowledge, spiritual wisdom, and, most of all, her ability and desire to connect with people of all age groups. Reverend Melanie has also been a volunteer chaplain in the Santa Clara County Jail.

She currently lives in south San Jose, but she is a transplant from the Hill Country of rural central Texas. She looks forward to getting involved in the mountain community, not only with the church, but also with people throughout our neighborhood.

In her spare time, Reverend Melanie enjoys creating interesting things with yarn or fabric, hiking local trails, or reading with her face in the sun and her toes in the sand.

We are confident that Reverend Melanie will be an inspiring presence in our mountain community. Her first worship service will be on **Sunday**, **July 5**. Whether by video or in person, we warmly welcome you. More information can be found on our website at www.SkylandChurch.com.



Melanie Weiner

exploring

Big Birds Visiting Egret Rookeries Neil Wiley

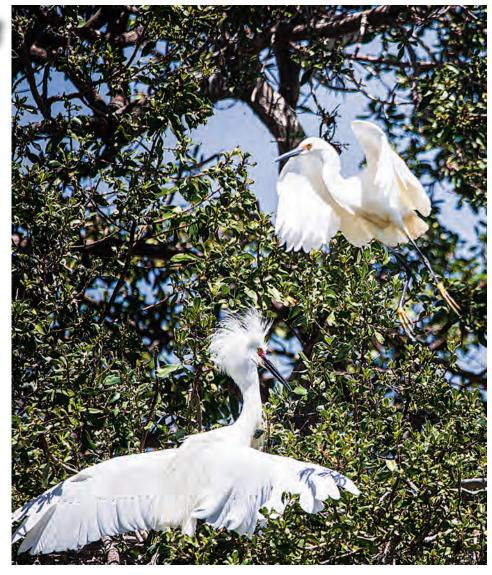
Great egrets, snowy egrets, and blackcrowned night herons flock together in tree rookeries to build nests, nurture their offspring, and make lots of noise.

Sometimes, egrets look more graceful than swans. Other times they look like clowns. They climb out on slender branches that a squirrel wouldn't attempt, to reach small twigs for their nests. They fall, sometimes dropping upside down, but then with one sweep of their wings, they turn and glide to the ground, or fly away to find food, or perhaps for the exercise. They may be tired of sheltering in place. We all know the feeling.

They don't exactly sing, but their "gaarloops" are loud, funny, and not particularly musical, except perhaps to other egrets. They often share the same tree branch while building giant but fragile-looking nests. Perhaps they like high-density living while brooding their babies in high-rise apartments with no walls.

I visited two rookeries in early June, the perfect time to see and hear the noisy circus.

The first was an egret nursery at Lakeshore Park, in a Newark residential neighborhood. The center of attention is a small kidney-shaped lake with three rookeries. You can see the main rookery island from the parking lot. The island is only about twenty feet away from a path that circles the lake. When I was there, the little island was filled with about a hundred residents. Most were loud snowy egrets. I could tell they were snowys because they had orange feet. The bigger great egrets have black feet.



I wrote a poem that honors these foot attributes.

The Egret

To tell a great egret from a snowy is no great feat.

Just look at their greatness and look at their feet.

The snowy egret has feet that are yellow. The great's black feet carry a much greater fellow.

It's a short walk to the first bench where you can sit, watch, and set up your camera. It's not far, but if you want to fill the frame with a bird subject, I recommend a 400-or 600-mm telephoto lens. You also need patience. You can see the birds, but they are often partially hidden by branches. It's like looking through a window. Sometimes you see a little, sometimes a lot. (Not that I look through other people's windows.) When they are fluffing and improving their nests, they often pose for a few seconds, but when they fly or fall, it can be a blur.

The egrets are relatively close, but the geese are even closer. Close to a hundred Canada geese have traded migration for a comfortable abode in the park. They are messy and spoiled, like children who never left home. They are harmless, but watch where you step. If you have time, it's an easy walk of about a mile around the lake.

My second stop was the Shorebird Way colony in Mountain View, supported by Google, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon





Society and the city of Mountain View. Situated in a Google complex of small office buildings, on narrow roads softened by many trees, it seems a strange place for birds to nest. Yet the trees along a one-block section of Shorebird Way were filled with loud snowy egrets and quieter black-crowned night herons.

The birds are even happier because Google has closed the road, limited landscaping work, and left the nearby buildings nearly empty. In the middle of a workday, the small parking lot at the end of the road was also nearly empty.

Although it was a warm day, it was cool and shady under the tall trees. The only problem was looking up to see the birds, and pointing up a heavy telephoto lens. While I was there, I saw only two other photographers.

Other places to see big birds include Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge around the southern end of San Francisco Bay, Lexington Reservoir, Elkhorn Slough at Moss Landing, and Safari West near Santa Rosa.

Directions

To reach **Lakeshore Park**, take Highway 17/880 north to Thornton Avenue, CA-84E, exit 19. Take one of the left lanes, and cross over the freeway on Thornton Avenue. Then, make a right on Cedar Boulevard, right on Edgewater Drive, left on Chelsea Drive, and right into the Lakeshore Park parking lot.

To reach the **Shorebird Egret Rookery**, take Highway 17 to Highway 85 north toward Mountain View. Use one of the

right two lanes to exit 24C toward Shoreline Boulevard. Turn right on Shorebird Way. You may have to turn left, then right, then right again. Shorebird Way may be closed at the 1209-1231 section.

For more information about the Shorebird Egret Rookery, visit https://scvas.org/egrets.







From Marlene Wiley's Mountain History Archive Shelley Cothran The Backwoods Blackstone Joan Barriga

In the early 1900s, Edward E. Cothran, a prominent San Jose attorney, bought 500 acres high in the Santa Cruz Mountains, from Mercedes Demoro.

Mercedes' late husband, Rafael, had been a Spanish sea captain who owned seven sailing ships. Rafael made his fortune transporting Chinese workers from Hong Kong and Shanghai to San Francisco in the early 1850s.

On top of a ridge, overlooking the Demoro property, stood a large white cross. When Cothran acquired the land, one of the deed requirements was that the new owner preserve the wooden cross. It was an agreement kept by two generations of Cothrans.

Cothran and his sons, Shelley and Ralph, operated a small sawmill at the ranch. They bought their supplies and picked up their mail at Wrights, a nearby settlement that had grown up with the coming of the South Pacific Coast Railroad.

After World War I, Wrights slowly declined. Neighboring San Jose, down in the valley, was beginning to experience minor growing pains. Still largely agricultural, San Jose was attracting more industry and a growing population. Water consumption increased, and deeper wells had to be drilled. Sites for dams and reservoirs were explored in order to impound the new sources of water needed in the valley.

San Jose Water Works, the water supplier since 1866, began quietly acquiring land in the Santa Cruz Mountains. By the early 1930s, the Cothran property was surrounded by SJWW land, and the trouble began.

The Cothran-SJWW feud started in 1933, when Ed Cothran cut down a couple of redwoods on his property. The water company claimed that he had muddied Los Gatos Creek. They sued him for \$10,000.

An experienced attorney, Cothran fought the suit in court. He argued that the trees were on his property, and the water company was trying to prevent him from doing anything profitable with his land.

Shelley and Ralph carried on their father's legal battle after his death. Although

Shelley's formal education had ended with the fourth grade, he was undeterred. He studied his father's law books and read Shakespeare until his command of the English language was "awesome," according to a newspaper account.

In 1936, SJWW bought Wrights, "lock, stock and barrel." The brochure, *A Wealth of Good Water*, published by the water company at the time, gives an idea of the company's attitude:

"The town [Wrights] consisted of 125 acres of land. All that remained of the village itself were fourteen buildings—two or three homes in good condition, and several moldy old structures that were falling to ruin. The company purchased outright both the land and the buildings. It tore down all the buildings except the houses and the structure that once served as a hotel, restaurant, and Post Office building. In one end of this ancient building the U.S. Government still maintains a Post Office for residents of the surrounding area." The Wrights Post Office was officially closed on November 16, 1937.

At this time, SJWW employed men on foot and on horseback—"riders"—to give "special protection" against contamination of the creek at this point. The special protection included armed deputy sheriffs who patrolled the land on horseback along Los Gatos Creek "from Los Gatos practically to the headwaters near Mt. Loma Prieta."

Rights-of-way were granted to landlocked property owners to enable them to reach their homes, but the roads, once public property and paid for with public tax monies, were now on the water company's property.

Early in December 1936, Shelley and Deputy Sheriff William Hughes, a SJWW rider, met on a road near Wrights. They got into a scuffle when Hughes thought Cothran was going to reach for his gun, that was leaning against a nearby tree. Judge Bell found Hughes not guilty (even though Hughes admitted he had struck Cothran "lightly" several times). Judge Bell warned Hughes about using excessive force in carrying out his duties.

Less than a year later, on May 13, 1937, Ralph went to collect the mail at Wrights Post Office. He was challenged to a fight by another rider, Deputy A. E. Waibel, "a water company employee who was armed."

To even the odds, Ralph went home and got his own gun. He returned to the post office and was promptly arrested. Deputy

Waibel charged that Cothran threatened him with a firearm and was "hallucinating." The Los-Gatos Times-Observer reported on the trial: "Cothran is suing both the water company and Waibel on grounds that he was jailed maliciously on an affidavit of insanity—a charge on which he was later acquitted by a jury. He claims that the company had him imprisoned as a part of an attempt to get control of the land owned by himself and his brother, adjoining Water Company holdings at Wrights."

After Cothran's acquittal on the insanity charge, Waibel then charged him with attempted murder. Ralph spent an additional five months in county jail because he refused to post a \$2,000 peace bond.

By now, what had started with a charge of "muddying" Los Gatos Creek had grown into charges of insanity and attempted murder. There was no end in sight.

In January 1938, Shelley and Ralph were returning home when their car skidded on a muddy road and stalled. They were cutting some saplings beside the road to extricate the car when Deputy Hughes came along. Hughes ordered them off SJWW property, and emphasized his order by firing a couple of shots. The Cothrans left the car where it was and walked home. The next morning, they swore out a warrant for Hughes' arrest. The \$500 bail was promptly paid and Hughes claimed "there wasn't a shot fired." Hughes added an interesting complaint: after the Cothrans filed charges against him, they later appeared at his place after dark—and "were pulling up ferns near his water tank." (Malicious mischief? Hallucinations?)

Up to this, the battle had been about control of land, water, and property-access rights. Property owners felt that they literally were living in an armed camp. They looked upon Shelley Cothran as their spokesman against the water company's lawyers, and he relished the job.

Cantankerous, bombastic, and hard-drinking, Shelley provided entertainment for the courts, copy for the newspapers, and hope for his neighbors. The battle was about to expand.

In 1949, SJWW closed Wrights Station Road. Shelley took on the Santa Clara County board of supervisors. With the end of rail service in March 1940, and the closure of Wrights Station Road nine years later, area residents found their only access was Summit Road. This added miles to their travel.

This was not only inconvenient, but posed



a very real danger of being trapped by a forest fire. Difficult access by emergency vehicles slowed response time. The Santa Clara County board of supervisors had sold a portion of the road to a private company (SJWW) that only added fuel to the fire. In April 1962, Shelley headed a group of petitioners. They appeared before the supervisors to demand that Wrights Station Road be reopened "in the interest of fire protection and safety."

A ten-day fire at Austrian Gulch in 1961 also made this a matter of concern to residents. "If the road had been open during the Austrian Gulch fire last year," said Bruce Franks, chairman of the Alma Fire District, "firefighters would have been able to reach the fire an hour sooner."

Other petitioners accused the supervisors of ignoring their pleas for years. Shelley grimly forecast a fire of "destructive proportions" if Wrights Station Road remained closed. The matter was referred to attorneys for further study.

Seven months later, the supervisors came back with their decision: The Public Works Department had their permission to build an emergency fire trail. It would be secured at either end with chained and padlocked gates since it passed through private (SJWW) property.

Cothran wasn't at all satisfied by the outcome. He wanted the original road reopened year-round, but the board voted 3-2 against spending the \$25,000 to reopen the mile-long stretch of road.

Supervisor Della Maggiore argued that the road was not the county's responsibility, despite residents' claims that they had seen county crews working on it. The supervisor conceded that county road crews had worked on the road, but that didn't mean the road belonged to the county. Anyway, he added, the gates could always be knocked down in case of an emergency.

Such a narrow defeat, after 28 years of struggle, would discourage most people, but Shelley wasn't most people. Shelley was "A man of commanding voice and presence," said one newspaper article. The article described how Shelley would stop by the newspaper office after a day in court to regale the staff with stories and explain legal intricacies to them.

A friend recalled that "Mr. Cothran enjoyed a bit of brandy before his court appearances." When a judge once asked Shelley if he smelled liquor on his breath, Shelley turned the question to his advantage: "... If the Court's sense of honor is as keen as the Court's sense of smell, then you will see the folly of the Water Works' position."

Shelley was a consummate showman in court, acting as attorney, litigant, witness, executor of his father's estate, and heir. "He was a cantankerous son of a gun," said longtime friend Connie Kidwell.

She attended a number of his court appearances and described one: "He would stand tall and dignified while firing questions at an empty witness chair. Then he would sit in the witness chair and answer those same questions in a meek and humble tone." Judges enjoyed the bombastic language and colorful presentations, often coming up to shake hands with him before a case. But the lawsuits dragged on year after year. Shelley decided to bring matters to a head in March 1973.

One spring day, he and a few friends finished planting the last of some Douglas fir seedlings. He was 83, and knew that he'd never live to see them grow tall, but he remarked that others would enjoy them.

The next day, Shelley made up his mind to file a \$1.5 million suit in superior court against the county supervisors, Department of Public Works, and San Jose Water Works. He charged that they had attempted to confiscate his land with a grading ordinance that threatened him with six months' jail time and heavy fines for "maintaining the family cemetery, firebreaks, dams, and existing roadways."

He left the courthouse at noon and stopped off to visit friends near Holy City. At 3 p.m., he returned to his cabin to find it in flames. Shelley first attempted to put out the fire himself, filling buckets of water from the sink. He soon realized that it was useless, so he went outside to call for help.

His closest neighbors, renters who lived in a nearby cabin, were not at home. By then the fire had made too much headway to be stopped. "There's nothing but ashes now," he told the deputy fire marshal in an interview the next day. Shelley knew that he had made a lot of enemies over the years and believed that the fire had been deliberately set. Not only was his home destroyed, but his law books, legal papers, and mementoes accumulated over an 80-year period were gone. He was left with only the clothes on his back.

The county fire marshal investigated and concluded that there were "very suspicious circumstances" surrounding the fire. Shelley's dog, locked in the cabin when he left, was found outside when he returned. A gas can was found in the driveway. Specific threats recently had been made in the presence of witnesses. The fire had originated in two rather questionable locations: the bathroom and the living room. The marshal concluded that there was lack of evidence of arson.

The ashes had barely cooled before Shelley's friends began constructing his new cabin. It was built with logs from his own property. Nine months later, a few months after his 84th birthday, he held a "Great Fandango" to celebrate the completion of the new home on the site of the original. The occasion was noted in the newspapers with photographs and articles.

Shelley continued to make court appearances. He used his increasing deafness as an excuse to ignore the judges' admonitions. When he broke his hip at age 90, it marked the end of his courtroom career. The broken hip also forced Shelley to move in with friends, where he stayed until his death four years later in May 1985.

His friend Connie Kidwell remarked that his illness and dependency "softened his demeanor," but not entirely. He managed to muddy Los Gatos Creek one final time. His ashes were scattered over his property and eventually found their way into SJWW's protected stream.

Perhaps his best obituary appeared in a local newspaper, maybe the one he stopped by after appearances in court. It read: "He was never dull."

Sources:

"A Wealth of Good Water," San Jose Water Works, Los Gatos Times-Observer

Shelley Cothran, autobiographical notes

Reprinted from the Mountain Network News, May/June 1995 and September/October 1995 issues



Birds In Flight

There is freedom waiting for you, On the breezes of the sky, And you ask "What if I fall?" Oh but my darling, What if you fly?

~Erin Hanson



Tree swallow (above) by Mercury Freedom Blue heron (below) by Neil Wiley



Caspian Tern by Mercury Freedom

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Collin Cook New **Team Member**





Bald eagle by Mercury Freedom







Loma Prieta Joint Union School District
An Update from the Superintendent
Lisa Fraser

I hope you are remaining well during a challenging time.

Thank you for your support this school year. It was a year unlike any we've experienced, but we made it through with unwavering support from our community, teachers, staff, and parents, and the resilience of our mountain students.

Although we could not celebrate our graduates in traditional fashion this year, we cheered them on and distributed diplomas during a festive car parade on June 4. We also prepared a virtual graduation and fifth-grade promotion ceremony that brought joyful closure to an unconventional school year. Our teachers and support staff diligently provided remote learning and maintained virtual connections with our

students throughout the school-closure period, for which our parents have expressed appreciation.

As we continue to prepare for an uncertain road ahead in the COVID-19 era, I want to share what we do know. First, we are planning to be back together in person as soon as it is safe to return. Second, the Loma Prieta Joint Union School District remains committed to innovative, engaging teaching, and a learning environment that continues a tradition of excellence. Third, we continue to plan for a bright future that ensures students attending our mountain schools are prepared to succeed in high school, college, and in their chosen careers.

We are faced with stark fiscal challenges. The ongoing health crisis has affected just about everyone financially. Loma Prieta Elementary and C.T. English Middle schools are no exception. School funding was limited. The level of school funding by the State of California is one of the lowest in the nation. We are looking at tens of thousands of dollars in further lost revenues. We are approaching the expiration date of our existing Measure H parcel tax, approved by LPJUSD voters in 2013. It expires after the 2020-21 school year.

Measure H funds are critical to our district. We rely on these funds to supplement inadequate state funding.

Measure H helps maintain our outstanding core academic programs in reading, writing, math, history, and science. It also helps us pay for our wonderful teachers.

We are considering asking our community to renew this existing parcel tax without increasing the tax rate. This will help us protect the high quality of education.

Measure H currently costs homeowners an annual assessment of \$164 per year. Without the renewal of Measure H, we will be forced to make drastic cuts to academic programs, increase class sizes, and maintain only basics at our schools. Renewing Measure H won't address all our funding needs, but it will help retain exceptional teachers and protect core programs, especially in this period when state funding is likely to decrease.

As we continue to evaluate the possibility of placing a renewal measure on the ballot, we want to hear from you. If you missed our virtual town-hall event and board workshop in June, please ask questions and share your input. For more information, email Eileen Bevans-Franks at e.bevans@loma.k12.ca.us, or call us at 408-353-1101.

I will update you as we receive new information from the state, Santa Clara County Public Health Department, and the Santa Clara County Office of Education. Thank you for your support, and stay well.

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Loma and CTE Graduates

Julie Bourque

In a COVID-19 virtual world, we celebrated the end of our school year and distance learning the best way we could, by doing a drive-through drop-off and pick-up of school items.

Teachers and staff were present to say goodbye to our fifth- and eighth- grade graduates on June 3 and June 4, respectively.

Fifth-Grade Graduates:

Brice Amark, Elijah Asheghian, Lyla Barber, Harry Bradbury, Everett Brown, William Cramer, Emma Crawley, Lyle DePiazza, Chloe Eldridge, Courtney Eldridge, Samantha Ematrudo, Violet Ford-Pustelnik, James Gallagher, Thomas Gallagher, River Haas, Cole Hastings, Nolan Hochleutner, Liam Inglis, Farah Jones, Tahlia Jones, Lachlan Kanter, Violet Kernion, Owen Kobel, Brianna Kopman, Leonardo Madrigal, Mina Manfredi, Daniela Margulis, Piper Mason, William Maupas, Noah Meshenberg, Grace Murray, Aleida Nunn, Sophie Riese, Jeiran Rokni, Griffin Sinclair, William Smith, Payton Steffen, Giana Tosetti, Violet Van Winkle, Olivia Velton, Etienne Vincenot, Sophia Walraven, and Shyla Werdebaugh.

Eighth-Grade Graduates:

Kalia Lynnea Adams, Serena Almaneih, Sebastian Amark, Theadin Geirstein Bachman, McKenzie Beal, Ellie Brown, Karolina Buszko, Benjamin Reichler Caldwell, Joshua Chen, Mia Cismondi, Eve Connally, Amanda Craig,

Alexander Davis, Louis Eldridge, Sydney Ematrudo, Diego Estrada, Andrew Kenneth Fichthorn, Tovar Miles Friedman. Claire Isabella Galbo, Claire Marie Garcia, Matthew Gladney, Deirdre "Divi" Vivienne Greene, Stella Grimm, Anabella S. Griswold, Nicole Hansen, Sasha Hart Avey, Aspen Hespeler, Justin Holbrook, Angela Horton, Zahara Catherine Ismail, Henry Jensen, Maxwell Jones, Vincent Jones, Braxton Jorgensen-Cabral, Twyla Avalon King, Boxer Kopcsak-Yeung, Alexandra Isabella Kopman, David Lei, Michael Lei, Luke Kingsley Leonhart, Arch John Ljepava V, Mirin Longhi, Sydney Sofia Madrigal, Ryan Mains, Leo Alfred Manfredi, Ellen E. Maupas, Benjamin Alan Moore, Charles William Morris-Caffall, Dalton Wyatt Murphree, Parsa Nolan, Spencer Nils Ollmann, Frank C. Parker, Luciana Patino-Pintor, Ava James Ptarcinski, Elena Rexach, Erin Cassidy Rodenbaugh, Max Roskow, Elora Josephine Sanders, Hayden Santos, Bradley Schwarz, Myles Edward Silva, Shae Nicole Simpson, Connor Sinclair, Arun Singh, Edward Smith, Corin Harley Stammers, Rachel Mariana Stephens, Genevieve Rothchild Suorsa, Michael Taylor, Cameron Makai Thompson, Megan Vaughan, Michael James Vick, Aurora Audrey Marielle Vincenot. Kyara Vivanco Cortes, Cody Watson, James Weisbach,

C.T. English Awards:

Valedictorian

Claire Galbo

Salutatorian

Elena Rexach

Liena Rexacii

William Anger Award
Teddy Smith

Olga Brecke Award

Luke Leonhart and **Hailey Yoder** Adam Colbran-Patterson Award

Sebastian Woodthorpe

Tony Kovac Award Claire Galbo

Jesse Saltz Award

Ryan Mains and Ellie Brown

Outstanding Student Leader Award Rachel Stephens

Casey Wise Award

Connor Sinclair

Brian Anthony Davis Award

Diego Estrada and Aspen Hespeler

Loma Prieta Club Service Award **Kyara Vivanco Cortes**

Cheetah Award

Charles Morris-Caffall and Divi Greene

Loma Prieta Joint Union School District Two Board Seats Available in November

Eileen Bevans-Franks

In November, two seats will be available on the Loma Prieta Joint Union School District board of trustees.

Community members may seek a leadership role on the board. Candidates must be 18 years of age or older, registered to vote, and a citizen of California. Candidates must reside in the district, and file their declaration of candidacy between July 13 and August 7. For more information, call Eileen Bevans-Franks in the district office at 408-353-1101.



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Helena Wimboeck, Madeleine Wong,

Sebastian Woodthorpe,

Hailey Kym Yoder, and Andrew Zhang.



Lakeside School Kathy McKinney

As this unique school year came to a close, we couldn't hold our traditional spirit-day celebration. Instead, many Lakeside students participated in a virtual "Olympics" competition. Students took on toilet-paper tossing and flipping challenges, fitness competitions, and engineering challenges. They videotaped their efforts and shared them with their fellow students. It wasn't spirit day, but it was a lot of fun.

Lakeside celebrated the promotion of its class of 2020 with a drive-by parade. Teachers and staff members spread out along the sidewalk to offer congratulations to our students as they slowly drove by. The parade continued up Black Road and through the Las Cumbres neighborhood, where many of our students live.

After the parade, our school community enjoyed a virtual graduation celebration. The celebration included a video featuring farewell messages from the teachers. Students spoke about their favorite Lakeside memories, and gave inspiring speeches. We also enjoyed a slideshow of photos of the students throughout their elementaryschool years.

It may not have been the promotion ceremony we would have preferred, but it was a touching celebration of our graduates: Cruz Arena, Jacqueline Birnbaumer, James Daly, Jonathan Dang, Adelaide Davis, Samantha Flint, Toby Horton, Daxton Kopcsak-Yeung, Joshua Lee, Lydia Lin, Rowan Manning, Ava Norquist, Montoyo (Mana) O'Brien, Jake Rogers, Jaxon Silva, Olin Taylor, and Mia Williams. Congratulations, again. We wish you well as you embark on your middleschool years.



Lakeside is exploring options for reopening school in the fall. In May, we held a town-hall Zoom meeting to share ideas, and then formed a committee of classroom teachers and instructional staff, parents, and community members.

Our priorities include keeping students and employees safe and well, determining the conditions necessary and options for reopening, developing the best learning environment possible given those

conditions, and creating an equitable learning environment for every student. We will keep the community apprised of the committee's progress.

Photos by Katherine Manning and Marianne Yeung





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Lexington School Deanna Wilk

On May 29, Lexington held its 2020 fifth-grade exhibition, exploring "What It Means to Be Human." Our students' ideas, inquiries, creativity, and passions were presented in a virtual display, thanks to the dedication and innovation of our teachers. The exhibition is the final project of our fifth-graders' IB education at Lexington. As fifth-grader Tamu Chapman succinctly says, "What you've learned from six years of school." They have learned a lot.

Working from the idea that our connection with the environment, others, and ourselves lead us to take action, each student chose a topic they found compelling. They used specific inquiry questions to guide their research. They read articles, conducted interviews in the community, created meaningful art, wrote a research essay, chose an action to take, and reflected on what they had learned. Seeing their deeper understanding, sense of wonder, and resolve to act responsibly was gratifying.

Students researched topics related to taking care of ourselves and others. Topics included the effects of addiction, society's role in prevention and care, and healthy lifestyles. They studied truly equal education for all, supporting youth, and art as a way to communicate and create personal joy during our time of shelter in place and beyond.

They learned about human struggles, such as racism, homelessness, poverty, and hunger. They delved into how human impact has created deforestation, ocean trash, the death of sharks, agricultural problems, garbage, and food waste.

They explored the effects of climate change on polar bears and reptiles. They

showed innovative thinking by studying aircraft fuel-efficiency design and affordable-housing options. They studied the positive effects of animals in our lives, and explored how racing greyhounds is exploitative. They investigated the repercussions of COVID-19 on the economy, and the impact sheltering in place has on our carbon footprint.

"They have learned that through knowledge one is frequently moved to take action," says Kristin Johnson, IB coordinator at Lexington. Our fifth-graders took personal action, and encouraged the community to love and be loved by animals. They donated to food banks, and reduced their carbon footprint, raw-material usage, and meat consumption. They learned the value of composting and growing their own food. The students learned about, befriended, and stood up for people subjected to racism. They also created youth community groups to foster connection, exercise, healthy eating, and doing things that give you joy.

Thank you to our fifth-graders for sharing their learning and inspiring our community to take actions that make life better. Thank you to fifth-grade teacher Robyn Hamilton, IB coordinator Kristin Johnson, volunteer mentors, and parents, for supporting students in their projects.

The fifth-grade class donated critter cams and a bat box for our Lex Life Lab, to track nocturnal animals and encourage area bats to pollinate and nourish our gardens. Thank you to the fifth-grade class.

Congratulations to our fifth-grade graduates: Riley Aker, Sadie Bins, Tamu Chapman, Jack Curtis, Darcy Dawson, Luke DeGraff, Zanden Forbord, Ella Ihde, Sampo Kneckt, Kyrie Langseth,

Jordan Lehr, Emmett Lopez, Dylan Lumma, Brandon Maldonado, Haley Maldonado, Kian McCarthy, Analeia Pacheco, Otis D. Peak, Cara Peterson, Brooke Sanders, Sophia Sidor, Liam Swinnerton-Davis, Owen Whitman, Jonathan Wilk, and Sara Wood.

Best wishes for joy and wonder in the learning ahead.

The Lex community will dearly miss principal Lauren Honda. You can read about her twenty-year career at Lexington School as we honor her in the next issue of the *MNN*. Jason Deppong, who started his teaching career at Lexington, will be Lexington's new principal. He comes to us from the Old Mill School in Mill Valley, where he served as principal.

Building Blocks Alexandra Hughmanick

The school year wrapped up from a distance with virtual promotions, end-of-year certificates, mailed mementos, and cherished memories. While the school grounds closed in mid-March due to shelter-in-place orders, the engagement did not stop. Families enjoyed regular programming from teachers Sally and Nicole, including story time, craft lessons, and even goat yoga. Moreover, Building Blocks families stayed connected through social media and by sharing videos each week.

The Building Blocks community hosted its first direct-giving fundraiser in early March. We raised over \$20,000. Donations fund the majority of supplies that are needed to maintain a safe and enriching campus, including the interactive supplies the children use daily (art supplies, sporting goods, books, etc.).

We are very grateful for the unprecedented generosity from our families, friends, neighbors, and the broader community. A very special thank you to fundraising chair, Jennifer Chen, and our sponsors: Prime Tree Care, Cole & Riese Real Estate Group, Hills Construction, Valley Sports Camp, Coverage Plus Insurance Agency, Pahl & McCay, The Infantino family, Summit Store, Zanotto's Family Markets, and Villa del Monte Winery.

While the end of the year is bittersweet, and this year's unprecedented circumstances test us all, we are grateful for the strength of this incredible mountain community, and the importance you place on fostering our next generation.



Lexington's fifth-grade graduates. Photo by Deanna Wilk



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