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mountain network news

March 2021



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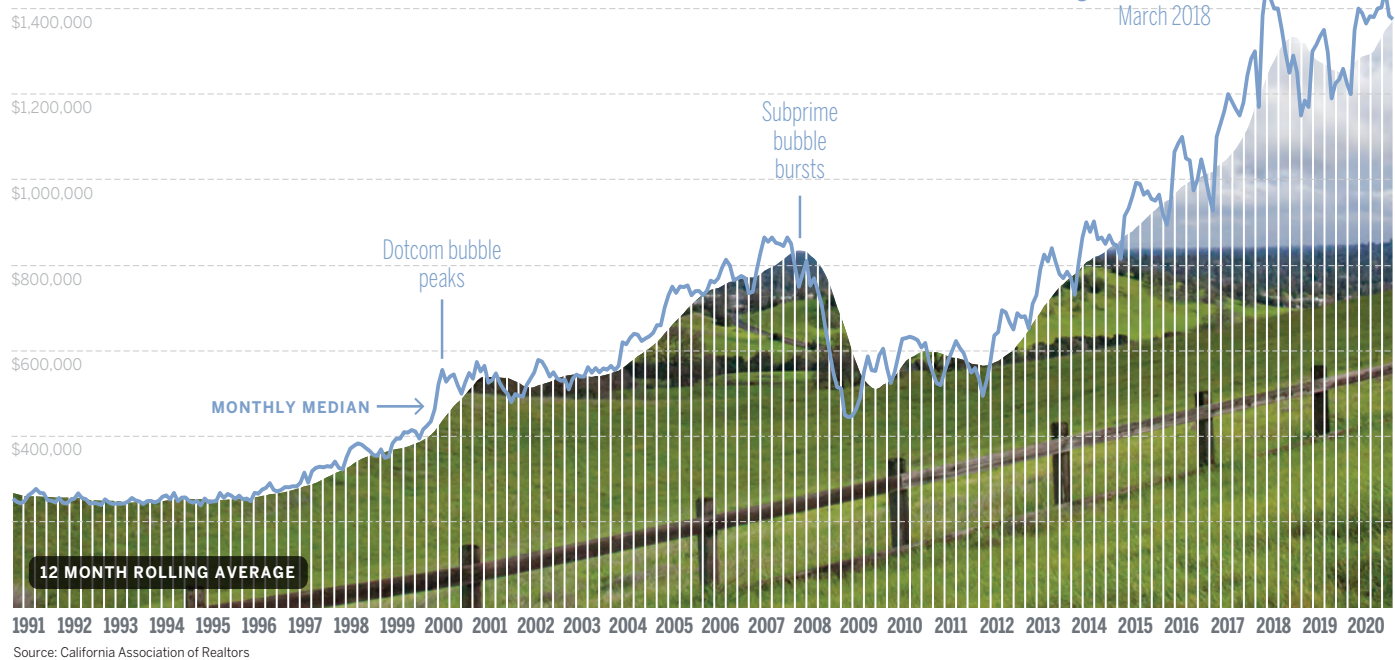
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DRE 70010073

Scotts Valley



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**Benjamin Guillard**  
408.596.1111  
DRE 00772203

**Elvie Scott**  
408.806.9316  
DRE 00809125

Los Gatos Mountains



SOLD

**22095 Old Santa Cruz Highway**  
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5 Bed | 3 Bath | 3231 Sq Ft

**Lisa Sgarlato**  
408.396.7231  
[lisa.sgarlato@compass.com](mailto:lisa.sgarlato@compass.com)  
DRE 01342694

Scotts Valley



SOLD

**17010 Villa Glen Drive**  
\$1,075,000  
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[megan.devivo@compass.com](mailto:megan.devivo@compass.com)  
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Los Gatos Mountains



SALE PENDING

**21398 Sunnyside Road**  
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3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1586 Sq Ft

**Lisa Sgarlato**  
408.396.7231  
[lisa.sgarlato@compass.com](mailto:lisa.sgarlato@compass.com)  
DRE 01342694

Los Gatos Mountains



SALE PENDING

**21487 Old Mine Road**  
\$588,888  
1 Bed | 1 Bath | 798 Sq Ft

**Ed Dee**  
408.896.1117  
[ed.dee@compass.com](mailto:ed.dee@compass.com)  
DRE 01383829



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COMPASS

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**Photography and imaging**  
Neil Wiley

**COVER****Colors of a Winter Storm**

**Photography**  
**by Bruce Fournier**

**Winter storms**  
**brought needed rain.**

**They also offered**  
**magnificent**  
**skylscapes.**

**The**  
**pandemic**  
**brought**  
**sickness**  
**and**  
**death.**

**It challenged**  
**our social structure**  
**and economy.**

**But it encouraged**  
**more introspection,**  
**respect for life,**  
**and a reordering of our values.**

**The price is high.**  
**Let's hope we are worth it.**

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**Articles**

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

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# Lisa Sgarlato

# IS

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## 22095 Old Santa Cruz Highway

Los Gatos Mountains

\$1,699,000 | 5 Bed | 3 Bath | 3231 Sq Ft

Incredibly charming remodeled home. Lovely stained glass windows, custom wrought-iron and mosaic tile work, gorgeous oak beams, staircase, cabinetry and hardwood floors. Master suite with walk-in closets. Upstairs loft play area or office. Separate family room area could be in-law unit. Expansive 400 sf trex decks with peak valley views and lovely front porch. Separate 1 bed, 1 bath, 500 sq ft cottage! Loma Prieta Elementary, CT English, and Los Gatos High. Fantastic location minutes to town. Paradise found!

## 17784 Arapaho Trail

Los Gatos

\$1,100,000 | 2 Bed | 2 Bath | 1750 Sq Ft

Charming Chemeketa Park home! Updates throughout. Spacious storage and 2-car garage. Los Gatos schools. Virtual tour at: [17784ArapahoTrail.com](http://17784ArapahoTrail.com)



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# resources

## **Skyland Community Church Little Free Food Pantry** Shannon Edwards

Martin Luther King Jr's National Day of Service was a resounding success at Skyland Community Church. As part of the Biden/Harris pre-inauguration campaign, our Little Free Food Pantry was registered as a service/donation site.

More than a dozen generous people brought more than a hundred bags of food to Skyland Community Church. Much of the food went to unemployed strawberry pickers, who will be returning to work this month.

One person collected food for a week on her front porch in Los Gatos, and filled her truck with over fifty bags of food for the mountain. Another man from Los Gatos arrived with his car full. He spent his entire stimulus check at Safeway to help feed our neighbors. People came from Morgan Hill, Gilroy, Los Gatos, Soquel, and Felton to help our little free food pantry in the mountains.

Would you like to help? We welcome donations, as food is always needed. Spread the word to those who need a helping hand during these difficult times. The church porch



has food, paper products, and toiletries available 24/7 at 25100 Skyland Road. For more information, call 408-353-1310, or visit <https://skylandchurch.com>.

Our food supply changes daily, but on Thursday afternoons we get deliveries of fresh produce and bread from Grey Bears. Donations of staples are always appreciated. Pasta sauce, coffee, flour, sugar, oil, canned meats, chili, toilet paper, snacks, drinks, breakfast foods, and meals are great choices.

We are planning another masked, contactless drop-off of donations on **Sunday, February 28**, from 1 to 3 p.m. If you have any questions, call me at 408-353-2710, or email [shannonedwards14@gmail.com](mailto:shannonedwards14@gmail.com).



Happy Saint Patrick's Day & Welcome to Spring 2021, 95033!

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## resources

### **California Eviction Laws Updates to Address COVID-19**

**Christopher Loweth, Esq.**  
Pratt & Associates, APC

Since August 2021, a statewide moratorium on evictions has been in place. This moratorium is only directed toward tenants who have suffered financial hardship due to COVID-19. The deadlines set by the COVID-19 Tenant Relief Act of 2020 (Tenant Act) expired on February 1, 2021. To prevent an avalanche of evictions, on January 29, 2021, those deadlines were extended, creating a complicated set of procedures intended to protect tenants who cannot pay rent due to COVID-19 financial hardship. The new law, known as Senate Bill 91 (SB 91), also creates a framework for the State of California to use federal funds to pay a percentage of outstanding back rent to landlords.

The most significant effect of SB 91 is the extension of the eviction moratorium and the date when landlords can sue in small claims court. The existing eviction deadline of January 31, 2021, has been extended to June 30, 2021. Evictions for failure to pay rent cannot begin until July 1, 2021. Claims for back rent (separate from eviction) can be brought starting on August 1, 2021. Additionally, tenants now have until June 30, 2021, to pay 25 percent of any rent due since September 2020.

The revised mechanics of eviction set by AB 3088 continue. Since September 2020, a landlord must provide a 15-day notice to pay or quit. There are specific items referencing changes in the law that have been made due to COVID-19 that must be included in any notice of default. This is spelled out by the statute and must follow

the statutory language exactly. As with AB 3088, the tenant must provide a signed declaration of COVID-19-related financial hardship to the landlord within 15 business days of receiving a notice to pay or quit.

SB 91 requires a mandatory notice (just like AB 3088) to any tenant who has missed rent from March 2020 to January 2021. That notice must be sent to tenants by the end of February 2021. This notice advises tenants of the existence of the Tenant Act and identifies the additional protections granted under the act. It *only* has to go to tenants who have missed one or more rental payments. SB 91 also clarifies situations not addressed by AB 3088. Landlords can't add late fees and can't apply a tenant's security deposit toward back rent. They also must apply any rental payments to the current month's rent before applying it to back rent.

Like AB 3088, SB 91 does not cancel rent, but there are new provisions that allow a landlord to be paid by state or local rental-assistance programs. As previously, past-due rent can be sought in small claims court. Any "COVID-19 rental debt" is also now recoverable in small claims court. These cases can be brought starting August 1, 2021.

There is a new restriction. The landlord must certify that they "made a good-faith effort to investigate whether governmental rental assistance is available to the tenant, seek governmental rental assistance for the tenant, or cooperate with the tenant's efforts to obtain rental assistance."

The next significant component of SB 91 deals with rental assistance that the State of California intends to make available to landlords who are owed back rent from tenants. SB 91 appropriates \$1.5 billion in federal aid to pay for rent owed by tenants. The State of California (or an applicable local rental-assistance program, if one exists)

will pay up to 80 percent of all outstanding rent. In exchange, the landlord must agree to forego the remaining 20 percent of COVID-19 rent. The rental-assistance fund is set to be operative by March 2021.

As an alternative, the landlord can recover 25 percent from the state and seek to recover the remaining amount from the tenant. When recovering the remaining rental debt in small claims court, however, the landlord must certify that a good faith effort was made to investigate rental-assistance programs.

SB 91 also states that any rental debt or eviction that occurs because of a failure to pay rent due to COVID-19 cannot be used as a reason to deny anyone housing and cannot be a basis for a refusal to rent to "an otherwise qualified, prospective tenant." In other words, the California government intends to prevent any eviction or difficulty in paying rent from limiting access to future housing. Whether that is adequate or not remains to be seen.

In sum, Governor Newsom and the state legislature have created a very complex set of rules to stave off a potential avalanche of evictions. They have also committed to paying landlords back rent through programs that are expected to be implemented this month. There will certainly be several unexpected consequences from the recently passed laws. As a result, it is imperative that any property owner seeking to evict a tenant seek the aid of an experienced attorney.

**Christopher Loweth is an associate at  
Pratt & Associates.**

**Pratt & Associates law firm, founded in  
2006, is located in Los Gatos. The firm  
provides personalized service and advice to  
businesses, landowners, homeowners, and  
individuals.**

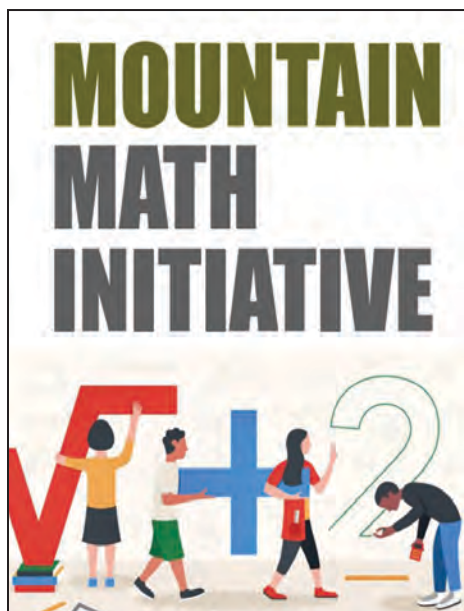
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#### Mountain Math Initiative

#### Free One-On-One Math Tutoring Marcella Jones

Due to great demand from the community, the Mountain Math Initiative is pleased to announce additional services to support our children. We offer free weekday drop-in help for multiple levels of math (K-Algebra 1). We are now able to add free, scheduled one-on-one help for students who benefit from more individualized tutoring.

We have many dedicated Loma and CTE alumni volunteers who love to work with our community's students.

If you are interested in setting up free one-on-one tutoring, specified to your child's needs, reach out to the MMI volunteer coordinator, Marcella Jones, at [mountainmarcella@gmail.com](mailto:mountainmarcella@gmail.com). She will match you with a tutor. For more information about the Mountain Math Initiative, visit <https://dmkissner.wixsite.com/mountainmath>.



#### Nonno's Italian Cafe for Sale

Amy Sirota

After 26 years in business, Ralph DiTullio has decided to retire. He is selling Nonno's Italian Café.

Located in downtown Redwood Estates, Nonno's is a long-standing community asset, with a restaurant, bar, pizza oven, outside dining areas, and bocce courts. The 24,000-square-foot property and business are being sold together.

Regulars of Nonno's are hoping we can find a local buyer to keep our village well open. For more information, call Mike D'Ambrosio with GM Interco at 408-630-0101, or visit [www.interocommercial.com/listings/77392](http://www.interocommercial.com/listings/77392).

#### Grey Bears

#### Moving Toward a More Sustainable Economy

Leslie O'Malley

Is the "convenience economy" making it impossible to reach our goal of zero-waste? How do we create as little waste as possible? An expert panel will dissect current California legislation for plastics, recycling, waste reduction, product stewardship, and extended producer responsibility. The discussion will also include ways to further Grey Bears' efforts to conserve resources and promote reuse and recycling programs.

Join us on **Wednesday, March 3**, from 5 to 6 p.m., for a panel discussion about moving toward a more sustainable economy. You can listen live on 90.7 FM (KSQD), or on Facebook Live (search for Grey Bears on Facebook).

The discussion will be hosted by Len Beyea and Grey Bears executive director, Tim Brattan. Panelists include Mark Murray, Executive Director, Californians Against Waste; Nate Pelczar, Special Projects Manager, California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC); and Jeff Donlevy, General Manager, Ming's Recycling.

## Pratt Associates

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## Santa Cruz County Let's Meet

### First District Supervisor Manu Koenig

Since I was sworn in on January 4, things have been busy. I'm looking forward to resuming monthly, third-Wednesday meetings with the mountain community. The first regular meeting will be **Wednesday, March 17**, from 5 to 6 p.m., via Zoom. Register at my county webpage. Go to [www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us](http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us), click on "Government" and then "Board of Supervisors."

I have heard your concerns about roads, fires, and connectivity. County Fire Chief Larkin has shared a priority list of eight alert wildfire camera locations with me. One of my top priorities is to fund and install those cameras before the next fire season.

The county's wireless communication facilities ordinance will be reviewed by the planning commission soon. Hearing from the mountain community about the lack of back-up power for cell towers, our goal is to require towers to have back-up power for at least a week. This could be accomplished with a small solar panel and battery installation. Our new First District planning commissioner, Tim Gordin, and I are working together to accomplish this in the updated ordinance.

In regard to roads, we're considering ways to use one-time federal-stimulus money to establish new work programs for road maintenance. Our goal is not just one-time repairs, but for plans that lead to a long-term increase in resources for maintaining our rural roads.

Many have been concerned about the vaccine rollout. We are making excellent progress and in mid-February, Santa Cruz County ranked third in the state for vaccinations per capita in counties with population over 250,000. People 65+ are eligible for vaccination.

We will move forward with mass vaccination of critical occupations such

as law enforcement, educators, and farmworkers when 50 percent of people 65 and over are vaccinated. We expect to reach these goals in early March. If you're eligible, you can find a location to be vaccinated by going to <https://www.santacruzcounty.us>. Click on "Coronavirus Information," and then "Vaccine."

Affordable housing has also been on the top of my docket. At the January 26 board of supervisors meeting, I authored and the board unanimously passed Item 12 to begin legalizing tiny homes. This will include moveable tiny homes on wheels, accessory dwelling units (ADUs), primary dwellings, and ultimately tiny-house villages. The ordinances are being fine-tuned by the planning department. Multiple opportunities will be available for public input before the board reviews a final draft.

I'm pleased to introduce our First District analysts. Together we'll help you navigate county services and create policy to improve our community.

**Amy Miyakusu** has been employed by Santa Cruz County since 2009, most recently as a senior analyst for the Department of Public Works. In 2017, Amy won a bronze employee award for a project that dramatically reduced errors and streamlined staff processes, saving hundreds of hours in staff time. Amy enjoys ice

hockey and stand-up paddle boarding. She lives in Santa Cruz with her husband and three cats.

**Jamie Sehorn** was born and raised in the First District, attending Capitola Elementary through Soquel High schools. Jamie earned a bachelor's degree from U.C., Berkeley in development studies (international economic development). She brings skills in research and writing to the First District office. A third-generation Santa Cruz resident, Jamie, her husband, and their three children enjoy playing on the sand and in the surf, walking in the forest, and fishing in our bay.

**Kristina Kincaid Glavis** brings her collaboration, planning, and organizing skills to our office. A native Californian, Kristina earned her bachelor's degree at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. She has professional experience in education, technology, and as a Pilates instructor. The proud mom of two teenage boys, Kristina is active in the community as a commissioner of the Parks and Recreation Department for the City of Santa Cruz, and as a Harbor High water polo team parent.

I look forward to seeing you at our March 17 meeting. You can email my office at [First.District@SantaCruzCounty.us](mailto:First.District@SantaCruzCounty.us), or call me at 831-454-2200.



### 670 MOUNTAIN VIEW ROAD, SANTA CRUZ

This lovely, updated ±2,471 square foot home sits on a quiet ±4.5 acre parcel with complete privacy. The picturesque setting offers the beauty of towering redwoods and the luxury of warm, bright sunlight. Only 10 minutes to Soquel and Scott's Valley. *Offered at \$1,225,000.*

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**FireSafe**  
**The Goat Trail Project**  
 Emily Drain, Jim Young,  
 and Eugenia Rendler

The Goat Trail project was conducted by the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council and the South Skyline FireSafe Council. The focus was on Skyline Boulevard, an area that spans both Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. Due to the severity and density of brush, grasses, trees, and other potential fuels, a wildfire could have rendered several communities in the area helpless.

It was a two-year project divided into two phases. Phase I began in early January 2019 and ended in July 2019. Phase II began in August 2019 and was completed in November 2020. The success of this project is due to the dedication of Jim Young (SCCFSC) and Jane Manning (SSFSC).

The purpose of the project was to create a fuel break/escape route for the communities in the area. Shaded fuel breaks were used to create a defensible-space landscape that may slow down fire speed, intensity, and severity. Creating a break in the landscape

vegetation and keeping a potential fire lower and slower along the ground allows first responders more time to safely respond to conditions and allows residents to evacuate.

With the help of Dudek Environmental, a few biological species were identified and flagged to ensure they would not be harmed. Necessary treatment plans were altered accordingly for any such species.

While many contributed to the project, the final Goat Trail report said, "...would like to acknowledge the contribution made by Caltrans. They were committed to the project from start to finish. They gave us the permits and permissions required, as well as four to five personnel every day, to make sure the work was accomplished safely. Their traffic control helped us finish the project with no reported accidents or injuries."

Jurisdictions and funders include Caltrans, Midpen Regional Open Space District, CalFire, Santa Clara County, and Santa Cruz County.

In conclusion, while there were a few properties that refused treatment, the overall project was a success. As stated in the final report, "Fire does not recognize property lines." Preparing for wildfire is a year-round commitment, and your neighbor can be your best source of assistance. The best fire prevention is created when communities work together to create defensible space for the entire neighborhood.

**The Goat Trail Phase 2 final report  
 can be found at:**  
<https://sccfiresafe.org/projects/past-projects>.



**Land Trust of Santa Cruz County**  
**Progress on the**  
**Laurel Curve Wildlife Crossing**  
 Neil Wiley

The design for the wildlife crossing under Laurel Curve is complete. Construction will begin this spring. It only took nine years to get this far.

Research by UCSC and the Puma Project used collared pumas, wildlife cameras, and animal roadkill data to establish the need for the crossing.

To plan the crossing, the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County and the Moore Foundation invested \$5.5 million to reserve three properties, totaling 460 acres.

Then the Land Trust, with the help of John Laird and Mark Stone, Caltrans, Santa Cruz County RTC, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Wildlife Conservation Board, and the Coastal Conservancy, funded the development of the project.

Construction funds were raised through the Land Trust's "Keep Santa Cruz Wild" campaign and additional support from the Santa Cruz RTC through Measure D funding. The Caltrans Region 5 biologists and engineers then designed the crossing.

Caltrans will also provide \$2.1 million in construction support.

I can almost see local animals forming a queue at the tunnel entrance.



**One section of the Goat Trail before (left) and after (right) the fuel break.**





**Obituary**  
**Charlie Norman**

Charles "Boonie" Morton Norman was born in Big Flat, Arkansas, on July 18, 1925. The youngest of three, he had two older sisters, Mary Dell and Irabelle. Charlie's father died at a young age. His mom, Verdi, and his stepfather, Paul Mattingly, ran a small cafe/pie shop and gas station.

Charlie joined the Navy during World War II. He served as a Signalman Second Class on merchant marine ships for three years.

While still a young man, Charlie met his future wife Robbie "Bobbie" Nell Burris. His family knew her family and would visit her farm from time to time. When Charlie came back from the war, Bobbie knew he was "the one." Bobbie remembers his engagement proposition. They had gone on a date and when it came time to drop her off at home, it was pouring rain. So, while they sat in his car waiting for the rain to lighten up, Charlie asked Bobbie if she could "stand looking at him for the rest of her life?" They were married in August 1947.

Bobbie worked while Charlie attended college at Northeastern State in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, on the GI Bill. He graduated with a teaching degree and taught industrial arts in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

They wanted more than Arkansas could offer so they moved to California where Charlie's older sister, Mary Dell, lived. First, they lived in the Monte Sereno hills, and then moved to the Summit Road area in 1951. Throughout the years, the couple would move further and further up the mountain.

Charlie worked at Globe Printing and had

a sign-making business. Later, he started his own contracting company. He built many mountain homes and drilled many wells.

They had three children: Dave, Amber, and Steve; nine grandchildren: Tara, Clay, Jarrod, Dana, Matthew, Danielle, Cody, Derek, and Jesse; and ten great-grandchildren: Jade, Kortney, Gracee, Kaya, Tori, Sierra, Justiss, Tripp, Cole, and Paige.

The Summit Road area would be Charlie Norman's legacy. He, along with others, started Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue, the Loma Prieta Community Foundation, the Amateur Radio Club, Mountain Emergency Response Corps (MERC), and Theatre in the Mountains. He played Santa Claus in the theater's very first production.

He also helped commission the Community Foundation and organized volunteers to build the amphitheater, the new Loma Prieta school/gym after the 1989 earthquake, and the Gazebo. He also was involved with the installation of the school's generator, and the foot bridge across Summit Road. He was a school board member for several years. He was involved in almost every institution in the Summit community.

Charlie was a wonderful guitar player and songwriter. His interests also included Morse code and ham radio, which he used to speak with people all over the world. He was an avid ham-radio club member. He and Bobbie hosted an annual camp at their Loma Prieta Way home for years.

The couple were beloved neighbors to the Loma Prieta/Mt. Bache community. They helped any neighbor in need and hosted many barbeques in their beautiful picnic area. They were a shining light, inspiration, and model for the mountain community. They truly embraced "love thy neighbor."

When Charlie was ninety years old, he and Bobbie moved to Fallon, Nevada, to live closer to their daughter, Amber. Charlie died peacefully on January 27, 2021 surrounded by family. Charlie and Bobbie were married for almost 74 years.

He will be deeply missed. He was a beloved husband, dad, grandpa, and great-grandpa. He was full of wisdom, integrity, energy, confidence, and compassion.

A celebration of life will be planned for the summer or early fall of 2021. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his honor to the Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire and Rescue ([lomaprietafire.org](http://lomaprietafire.org)), or the Loma Prieta Community Foundation ([lpcf.org](http://lpcf.org)).

**Reprinted from the**  
**Loma Prieta Club Newsletter**  
**Memories of Charlie Norman**

Bobbie Norman's husband, Charlie, passed away on January 27, 2021, at their home in Fallon, Nevada. Charlie is legendary in our mountain community, as evidenced by these memories shared by Loma Prieta Club members and spouses.

**Patti Hughes**

*While I know this was not unexpected, it saddens me so much. Charlie, like Bob Taylor, is one of my "mountain heroes"—wise in the way that only comes from experience, always ready to help with reliable advice, a strong back, a tractor, or just the right tool. He was so quick with a smile and a story that you felt glad to be around him. His advice included "Always take care of those around you...." When I needed a sign to go with the daffodils honoring the victims of 9-11, Charlie didn't hesitate to make it. When the county took it down, he made me two more, just in case I needed another replacement. I think of him whenever I come up the exit ramp and see it. He is one of the very special people who helped build the great mountain community we are lucky to live in today.*



**Ditty Smith**

*Boy, if you ever needed help or info, just call Charlie! Len and I hosted Super Bowl parties for years and Charlie always made a pie. He was a great cook. Will he be missed? He was Mr. Community. Wonderful memories!*

**Renee Pressler**

*I have wonderful memories. I'll share one of them. Charlie was a great jitterbug dancer. When the Jeskys owned La Tienda (now Summit Store), they had a party at their home. We tore up the dance area! He would whirl and spin me around. I simply loved him. I missed him when they moved. I miss him now!*



### Bonnie Cloyd

Charlie was such a pillar of this community and was so helpful with so many things. There are a million and one stories about him. Here is one from me. When I was decoration chair for the picnic one year, I was talking to Charlie about the decorations I wanted to make, but I wasn't sure the best way to construct them. He offered to help. We built the "Brown Derby" restaurant and many other things relating to "Hooray for Hollywood." Renee, Lisa, Norlyn, and I spent many hours in Charlie's barn creating our masterpieces. At one point, Charlie said he would work on our main sign, and we would meet up with him in a few days. When we arrived, Charlie had

made the frame of a giant sign. It was about three times bigger than what we had in mind. It was a great sign, and we all worked on completing it. It took four men to put it up on the barn. Not easy. When I was talking with Bobbie, I said I hadn't thought about how to store the decorations and since they were so big (we were all very enthusiastic). I wasn't sure what I would do with them. She said, "That's simple, we will put them in Dave's barn," which we did. I wonder if they are still there. What a fun time we had with Charlie!



### Jim Bowen

I first met Charlie in the '90s and got to know him better when I joined The Ole Farts. He was an amazing man. No task was too difficult, and he was always willing to help anyone, anytime. He was a man of action. When he thought PG&E was too expensive, he built a

solar-powered well pump. This was long before solar became popular, but that was Charlie. It seemed no task was too tough for him. I called him The Mayor of The Summit. He will be greatly missed.

### Nancy Campi

Our third son, Jeff, had just graduated from high school when Charlie was finishing building our house. Charlie asked him if he would like to come to work as he was starting another house. Jeff so enjoyed his experience of learning how to build from a patient teacher that he became a carpenter, and then a contractor. Charlie will always have a special place in our hearts.



# Thinking of selling your house?

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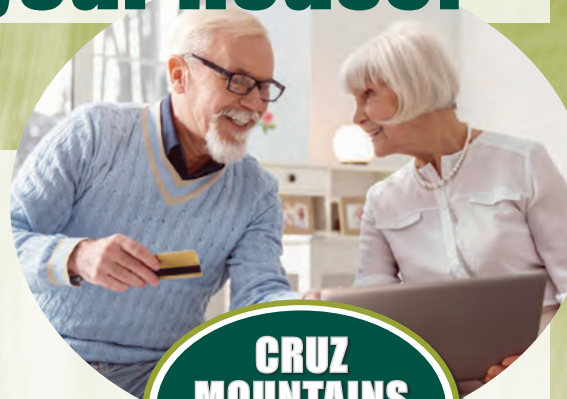
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#### Obituary

### Eileen (Moore) Bennett

Eileen Estelle Bennett (née Walsh) passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 23, 2021, in Felton, at the age of 64. She was surrounded in her final days with the love of her family. Eileen is preceded in death by her mother Stella, father Frank, and sister Dottie.

Born on October 10, 1956, to parents who were Irish and Mexican immigrants, Eileen grew up in Pacifica with her three siblings. Devoted to physical fitness her whole life, Eileen was an initial member of the Pacifica Bobby Sox League, the community's first organized girls' softball program. She played during the league's inaugural year.

Eileen's love for sports led her to study physical education at San Francisco State University. While there, she competed in three sports. She eventually landed in her career-defining role as physical education teacher at Loma Prieta Elementary School.

Eileen touched the lives of countless students, parents, and fellow teachers during her many years at Loma Prieta, where she was also known as Eileen Moore. She promoted health, fitness, sportsmanship, and kindness for all students regardless of ability. She always inspired them to try their best. Eileen was legendary for organizing the annual Jog-a-thon fundraiser where she worked tirelessly to bring special guest speakers to the school and raise money while promoting physical activity. The Jog-a-thon was truly a community event for all. Eileen's saying, "Pace, not race" was her famous motto. Years later, her students recall the motto as a guideline for physical education and life.

Eileen was the devoted wife of Steve Bennett, whom she married in 2011. Steve and Eileen lived in Felton, and enjoyed gardening, live music, cooking, and spending time with friends. They also enjoyed traveling to Washington to visit Eileen's son and her three adored granddaughters. She was also a beloved sister and aunt, and a friend to many. In her later years, Eileen developed a love for painting, creating artwork for friends and family.

Eileen is survived by her husband Steve, her son Casey, three granddaughters, her sister Mary Ann, her brother Joe, and several nieces and nephews. Her zest for life, good humor, and inspiration will live on always. A private memorial service will be held for friends and family.

### Remembering Eileen

Many in our community mourned the loss of Eileen (Moore) Bennett in January. Eileen was a legendary teacher who taught physical education (P.E.) at Loma Prieta Elementary School for decades. This month, we asked former students, parents, and co-workers to reflect on how Eileen impacted them, or to share their favorite memories.

#### Linda Hopkins

*I met Eileen in the early 2000s as a parent at Loma. I liked her so much that even when my boys had left the school, I found myself returning to help with the Jog-a-thon. That was HER day; she was our "constant" (as was evident when we celebrated her last Jog-a-thon), but she always made it about the kids. I will never hear "Who Let the Dogs Out" without a tug at my heart for this amazing woman. Godspeed! She will forever be in my heart.*

#### Raquel Marin

*It is hard to imagine celebrating the opening of our new track and field without Eileen. She would have been so proud to see it finished. Because of her, my sons developed a joy of exercise, and I developed a love for running. She made her students feel good about their accomplishments,*

*whether they ran ten laps or two. She encouraged them to do their best. "Pace, not race" was her motto, and will be forever Loma's. She was and always will be a legend here. Heaven has a new angel!*

#### Cayce Hopkins

*Ms. Moore is someone who taught me to love the outdoors and express myself by exercising when upset. She taught me to push myself, and that it was OK to be different, because we are all unique. She wasn't just a P.E. teacher when I was growing up. She acted like someone who was family. She taught students to love exercising, and it has stuck with me over the last 13 years since I was in her class. I remember the time I tried to beat the lap record during the Jog-a-thon, and she had the biggest smile on her face when I completed each lap. I thought I could do it and pushed as hard as I could, but didn't reach that goal. When I finished, she saw how upset I was. I was sitting on the grass, bawling my eyes out, and she came up and gave me what I needed. She gave me a hug, and she told me I did my best, that 16 laps was amazing, and that she couldn't be more proud of me. That's the type of teacher she was, with a heart of gold and a smile that would radiate to everyone around her.*

#### Laura Quirke

*My son Colin says that Eileen had a big influence by introducing him to sports at a young age. Her class was always his favorite. My three children have become great athletes. Colin and Ashleen had full athletic scholarships to college. Colin is now training for the Olympics, in the discus. He has dual citizenship and competes for Ireland, and has been #1 in the country for many years. Mrs. Moore helped all my children discover their love of sports and competition.*



### Corey Kidwell

*It is difficult to calculate Eileen's impact on the health and lives of the Loma Prieta community. Eileen Bennett was an irrepressible advocate for fitness, good health, nutrition, good sportsmanship, and fair play. She was also a champion of good things for kids and pulling together to do the right thing. She inspired generations of Loma students. She played a particularly important role in the lives of young women. She empowered girls to be strong, creative, and passionate, and to proudly throw like a girl! Eileen earned the respect of all who knew her. In fact, she is probably one of the few people in the district who was universally liked and respected by all. Her opinion of you mattered. She was one of those people who called on each of us—regardless of age—to work harder, give more, and finish strong. She always led by example—the most powerful kind of leadership. Her family called her "Cookie." Around Loma, she was one tough cookie who made each of us a better person to have known her.*

### Amy Korb

*We are very thankful for the many healthy lessons that Mrs. Bennett taught all of our children at Loma Prieta. I will also remember her fondly for reinforcing an important lesson for me: remembering to keep things in perspective. The planning committee for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Jog-a-thon purchased a gift to thank her for bringing this event to the community year after year—a large official track-and-field timer clock. We all thought it was a great idea, and by installing it at the track we'd help future students who could use it to better pace, not race, their way to the finish. It was put up at the event, but in future years it wasn't used. Ever. It was conveniently forgotten. What this competitive mom realized was that Eileen had a better sense of the big picture. The Jog-a-thon wasn't really about which classes won, which students finished*

*first, or who set records. It was about everyone feeling fit, having fun, reaching for a goal, and trying to do their best. That silly clock didn't give Eileen the flexibility she knew she needed for some races. Sometimes, what was really important was having a couple more seconds before that fire truck horn blew, so that a particular little someone—fast or slow—could get that extra lap mark. After all, this was not a major track race, it was a joyous elementary school "funraiser." Our mountain community was lucky to have her champion this event, along with the annual school talent show and the Presidential Physical Fitness program. Our condolences to her family, and may her memory be a blessing to all who knew her.*

### Karren Zook

*I will always remember my kindergarten students collapsing in a heap on the floor of the Loma forum, just back from running the mile, their little faces red and sweaty. "Ms. Bennett," they would complain, "my heart is beating so fast!" Ms. Bennett would smile and reply, "That is your heart saying 'thank you, thank you, thank you.'" I had the good fortune of teaching alongside the great Ms. Bennett at Loma Prieta Elementary School. As a young teacher, I learned more from her than anything I was taught in graduate school. Eileen showed me that a teacher's job is to really know your students—to understand their passions, their strengths, and their struggles. Eileen loved Loma, she loved teaching, and most of all, she loved her students. With her passing, I am reminded of the countless students who were nurtured, inspired, and loved by Eileen Bennett. Across this mountain hearts are beating...thank you, thank you, thank you!*

### Landaiche family

*Eileen glowed with enthusiasm and kindness. She was a friend and instructor who helped shape the values and self-image of every student at Loma. We all remember her signature floppy*

*sun hat—one of my kids strived to exhibit sportsmanship and helpfulness all year for the honor of earning Mrs. Moore's hat (which meant more than any official award). We still have it! Her noon-jogging program also made a big mark—inspiring my daughter to run 96 miles during her lunch breaks one year. Growing up in the mountains without neighborhood play groups, it was through Eileen's P.E. classes that a whole generation of students learned to interact and play with others supportively. My kids still use outdoor games and activities as the venue for meeting up with their friends...and will never forget the shining star who made fitness fun.*

### Shayne Hopkins

*I may have only known this strong woman for a few years in elementary school as a P.E. teacher, but she did more than teach. She inspired me to exercise every day and helped me develop my love of long-distance running. She was one of the best teachers at Loma, and a good friend of mine when I was little. She always went the extra mile. I will never forget the Jogathons she helped organize. I will always remember Mrs. Moore and how she kept P.E. interesting, even for the non-athletic students.*



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# people

## Obituary Scott Earl Fitinghoff 1964-2020

Scott Earl Fitinghoff of Cupertino passed away suddenly on November 26, 2020. He was 56.

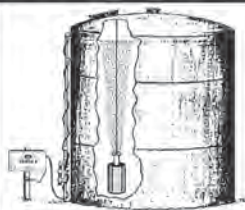
Scott was a founding principal of Cornerstone Earth Group, a local provider of geotechnical engineering and environmental consulting services. Prior to Cornerstone, Scott worked with Lowney Associates in Mountain View, Woodward Clyde in San Jose, Schaefer Dixon in Irvine, Pacific Geotech in Morgan Hill, and Freeman Kern in San Jose.

Scott grew up in the Santa Cruz Mountains above Soquel and attended Baymonte High School in Scotts Valley. His early years were filled with fishing in the west branch of Soquel Creek and Hester Creek, swimming at the Willows, participating in 4-H and beekeeping, and picking and fancy-packing persimmons for shipping as far away as England, all while attending grammar school and high school.

Scott received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1987 from San Jose State University, and his master's degree in geotechnical engineering from U.C., Berkeley, in 1989. He earned his California geotechnical engineering license in 1998. He taught GE140, geotechnical engineering, at San Jose State University in 2007.



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Ron Helm, president of Cornerstone Earth Group, writes, "With deepest regrets, we announce the recent passing of Scott Fitinghoff, senior principal and senior vice president with Cornerstone Earth Group. Scott was instrumental in the founding and success of our firm. He and the founding principals shared up to thirty rewarding years together as business partners, becoming as close as brothers. Together we learned how to run a successful engineering firm, suffering some setbacks and more than once helping each other back up again. He would never let us fail. As we reflect upon the high standards that he espoused, we will be reminded of the many benefits we enjoy as employees of the company that he helped found."

Scott was involved with the organizations American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Public Works Association. His APWA tribute follows: "Scott was an incredibly talented engineer, with a unique combination of education and practical experience, and an incredible source of knowledge for all who

worked with him. He cared deeply about those that he worked with, especially training young people to be thoughtful engineers. He worked with many clients on some of the most challenging projects in the Bay Area. They included projects with significant engineering and regulatory challenges, including schools, large earthwork projects, public works, and

airports. Scott leaves behind an incredible legacy of knowledge and friendship for all that had the opportunity to work with him. He will be sorely missed in our lives."

Scott was a loving and dedicated father who enjoyed a renewed interest in beekeeping and shared the hobby with his son. He was also a regular supporter of and participant at Burning Man, and was a founding member of Camp Upsie Dasium with his brother Sean. Scott, his wife Li Wei, and son Lucas traveled extensively throughout the United Kingdom, Europe, and Asia. He was looking forward to revisiting Barcelona as soon as it was safe to do so.

Scott's curiosity for life and all that it offered was vast. His family and friends will deeply miss his clarity of thought, empathy, kindness, and wildly entertaining, astute sense of humor.

Scott is survived by his wife Li Wei, son Lucas, parents Arthur and Ann, and brother Sean, as well as his mother-in-law Chiu Ling Chen, brother-in-law Robert Chen, nieces Candice and Farrah, and nephews Darrel and Emilio.



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### 1321 Terra Vista Court

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SAN JOSE



### 14830 Corralitos Lane

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Offered at \$1,200,000



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## Proposition 19 Information

### Where can I move?

Eligible homeowners could keep their lower property tax bill when moving to another home anywhere in the state of California.

### Can I purchase a more expensive home?

Yes, eligible homeowners can use the special rules to move to a more expensive home. Your property tax bill will go up but not by as much as it would for other homebuyers.

### How many times can I use the special rules?

Homeowners who are over 55, or severely disabled, can use the special rules three times in their lifetime.

### Who is eligible?

Proposition 19 allows homeowners 55 and older, the severely disabled, and wildfire or natural disaster victims to carry their low property tax assessments with them when they purchase and move to a replacement home in California.

### What property is eligible?

The original and replacement properties must both be the primary residence of the homeowner and located in California. They can be existing homes or new construction. To be considered a primary residence, it must be eligible for the property tax Homeowner's Exemption.

On November 3rd, 2020 California voters approved Proposition 19. Starting April 1, 2021, this new law expands the special rules allowing eligible homeowners to transfer their property's assessed value to the purchase of a replacement property.

**Please contact me for more information on Prop 19 and how it may affect your home buying/selling goals.**

### How long do I have to complete the sale?

The purchase of the replacement residence must be within two years of the sale of the old residence.

### How do I apply?

To obtain the tax exemption, the taxpayer must file an application with the assessor in the county where the replacement property is located.

### What is the value of my home?

The market value of the home is its fair market value. This may or may not be the same as the purchase or sale price if the assessor determines otherwise.

### What if it is a lesser value home replacement?

If the replacement home value is the same or less than the value of the original home, then the assessed value of the original home is transferred to the replacement.

### What if it is a higher value home replacement?

The homeowner may purchase a replacement residence at a higher value and still benefit from Prop 19. The old (lower) tax base carries over to the equivalent value of the replacement residence, and the excess value of the replacement residence is added to become the new tax base. For example, if a \$2.0 million home (with a low assessed value of \$700,000) is sold and replaced with a higher value \$2.5 million home, the assessed value of the replacement home will be \$1.2 million [i.e. \$700,000 (old value) + \$500,000 (excess value)]. The owner is taxed on a new assessed value of \$1.2M with Prop 19 instead of \$2.0M (actual purchase price) without Prop 19. The tax savings can be significant.



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# 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

Tai chi 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

Santa Clara County Bookmobile  
Order items for pickup at [www.scclld.org](http://www.scclld.org), or call 408-273-2326, ext. 3060.

#### March 11

Loma Prieta Playfield/Building Blocks, 1 to 3 p.m.

#### March 23

Lakeside School, 2 to 4 p.m.

#### March 25

Redwood Estates Pavilion, 2 to 4 p.m.

Yoga at the Redwood Estates Pavilion. We meet on Zoom and (weather permitting) 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.

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.

### Saturdays

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

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

### Sundays

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

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

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Saturday and Sunday, March 13 and 14

C.T. English Home and School Club Goodwill/E-Waste donation drive, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For location details and more information, visit [www.ctehsc.org](http://www.ctehsc.org).

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# gallery



*Clockwise, from above:*

*A preening heron,  
a Cooper's hawk,  
and a peeking sea lion.*

*Photos by Mercury Freedom*



**Many arms are not enough**  
**The Sunflower Sea Star**  
 Bruce Sudweeks

The iconic sunflower sea star can be as large as a trash can lid. It has up to twenty arms covered in suction cups. But large size and many arms may not be enough to protect it from extinction. It is already on the critically endangered list.

In 2013, a sea star wasting syndrome caused a massive die-off of sea stars.

It took scientists eight years to determine the cause of the wasting disease. Some of the early theories involved viral infection, bacterial infection, or a combination of both. A research study released on January 6 determined that bacteria is involved, however it's not an infection. The bacteria multiply on the surface of the sea star, producing a barrier that deprives the sea star of oxygen.

The species of bacteria attacking the sea stars proliferates with warmer ocean temperatures. Over the last few years, 61,000 population studies have been performed by 60 different institutions. It is estimated that 5.75 billion sunflower sea stars have died. This adds up to a 91 percent population decline along the west coast of North America. The last sunflower sea star I saw in Monterey Bay was in March 2015.

This loss is important. The sunflower sea star is a key predator of the purple sea urchin that is currently ravaging the kelp forests along the west coast of the United States. Loss of the kelp forest threatens gray whales, sea otters, and abalone.

The critically endangered listing is one step above extinction. Captive rearing and reintroduction may be required to keep the species alive.



*Photo taken at Monastery Beach in Carmel in July 2014.*

**Angelé Price**

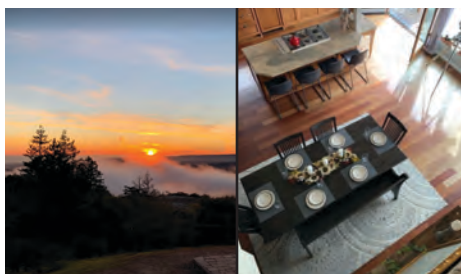
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# exploring



*Valleys, mountains, and clouds at the newly open-to-the-public Foothills Park.  
Turn the page to read more.*

# exploring

What's old is new  
Foothills Park  
Neil Wiley

For fifty-one years, you couldn't walk in Foothills Park unless you lived in Palo Alto. Now it's open to all, thanks to an ACLU lawsuit that forced the city council to rescind their residents-only discrimination.

Yippee! What a wonderful gift for the rest of us who enjoy nature.

This is not a little urban city park. It's a large 1400 acres, with spectacular views, trails offering a range of difficulty from easy to strenuous, a pretty blue lake with ducks, and a range of natural environments that include chaparral, woodlands, huge meadows, lovely creeks, and little waterfalls.

My first visit to the park was on a sunshiny Saturday morning after a week of rain. Lots of people were taking advantage of an unusually warm, dry day in a new park, but I never felt crowded.

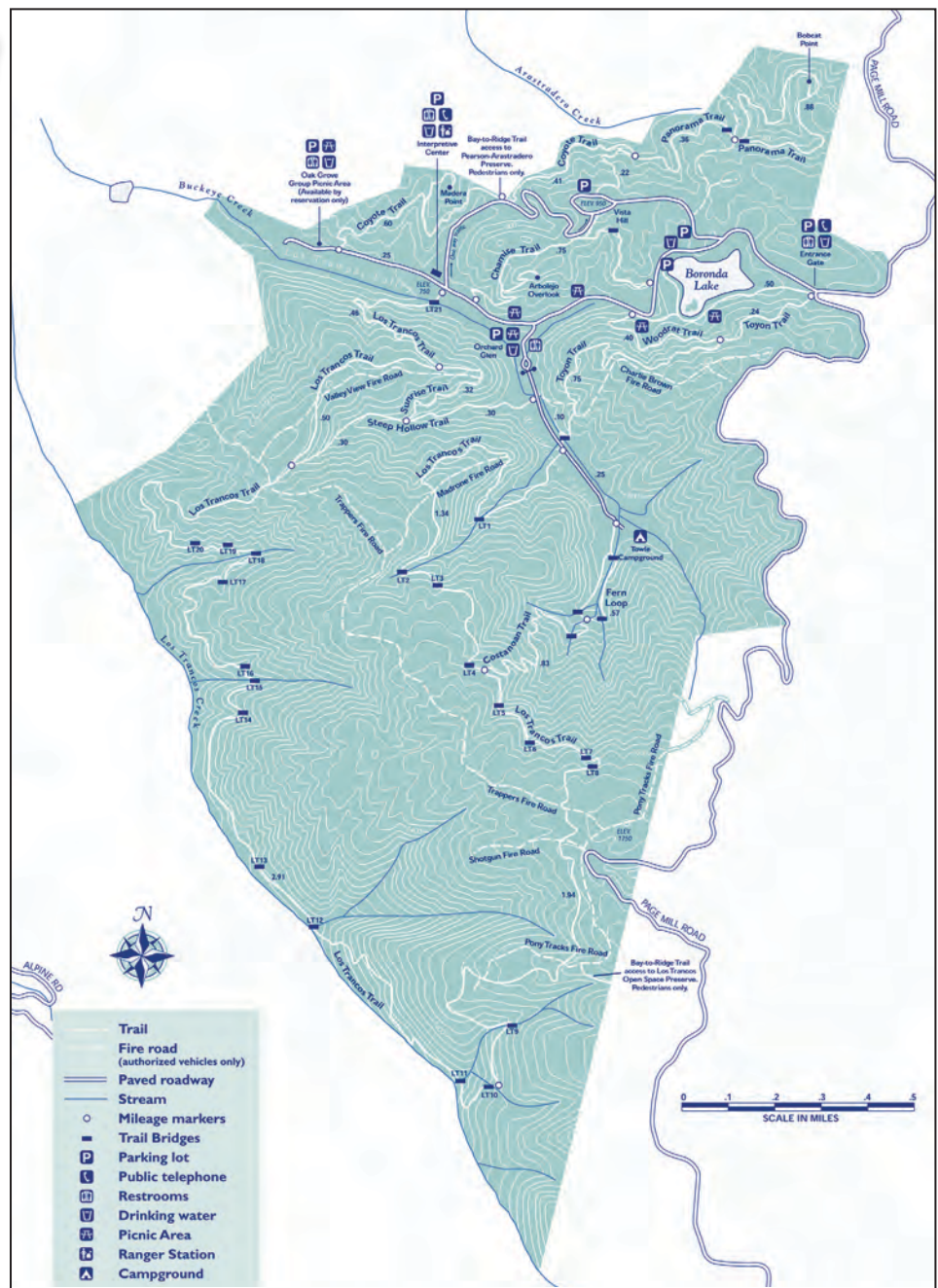
The secret is good design. Instead of one massive parking lot, you can park deep in the park in several lots and roadside areas. The first lot serves the lake, the next is close to the Chamise Trail on the north, and Toyon Trail on the south. Further along the road, you can find the trailhead of the park's longest trail, the 7.7-mile Los Trancos Trail.

If a long hike sounds too ambitious, you can drive from the Interpretive Center to Vista Point. Here you'll find spectacular views of the entire peninsula, several areas for parking, and the entrance to Panorama Trail for more views to the north.

Of course, you can always walk up to Vista Point via Chamise or Coyote trails.

I saw a group of senior women who had walked up. I could tell they were experienced hikers. Each carried two walking sticks and wore neck protection.

I walked several other trails, including Toyon and Woodrat. On shady Woodrat, I saw a woman placing a twig in a pile of



sticks in the crotch of a tree. She told me that she places one twig there on every hike. I didn't count the sticks, but she must come here often. (Perhaps she was helping the woodrats. They are known for building twig nests in trees.)

Although signs at Woodrat say it is a one-way trail, I ran into several people who couldn't read. Even so, one-way traffic on a single-track reduces most awkward passing and COVID-19 danger. Where possible, it seems like a good idea.





I'm looking forward to walking some other trails. The Fern Loop climbs through a dark, wooded canyon past ferns and some waterfalls. Coyote Trail takes you up a mildly sloping trail and a side trail to Madera Point overlook. Chamise Trail offers views of Los Trampas and Wildhorse valleys as you walk from Vista Hill down to Boronda Lake. Sunrise Trail offers views of Wildhorse Valley and Boronda Lake while connecting Steep Hollow and Los Trancos trails. Steep Hollow Trail doesn't look like much fun. It is steep and dark.

Los Trancos Trail is challenging, too. The first miles are steep, it's long (almost eight

miles), and one-way, so you can't quit. I've heard, however, that it is a beautiful experience. If I survive that experience, I'll report back.

Nothing is perfect. Crowding, especially on weekends, may get worse. If too many people show up, the park may close the gates. Entrance fees, now \$6 on weekends, may increase and be charged every day. I think payment is necessary to maintain a heavily used resource, but charging for open space may be seen as an act of discrimination.

You'll need a mask. Dogs are only permitted on weekdays on a leash. Bicycles are allowed only on paved roads. Remote-control and coasting devices, such as skates, are not allowed. No collecting. No smoking. No fires except in designated areas. COVID-19 has forced the closure of the interpretive center, the Oak Grove barbecue site, canoe rentals, and water fountains.

Official park hours are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., but to avoid Highway 280 commute traffic, you may want to get to the park later and leave earlier.

For GPS, you can use the address 11799 Page Mill Road, Los Altos Hills. My GPS and Google directions agreed on a route that takes you off 280 north at El Monte Road (Exit 16), past Foothill College to El Monte, left on Moody, right on Altamont, and left on Page Mill. Watch for the park entrance gate on the right.

Foothills Park is one of the most interesting and beautiful open spaces in our area. I only hope that we don't love it to death.



# history

From Marlene Wiley's  
Mountain History Archive  
**Mountain Floods, 1937**

Neil Wiley

Marlene's Mountain History Archive includes two full file cabinets and ten shelves of local history along three walls. More than fifty large white binders are dedicated to families, events, and publications. One binder is devoted to miscellaneous newspaper articles. I found one story there that is especially relevant after our winter rains. Even though our weather caused

problems, it was mild compared to the disasters caused by one rainstorm in 1937.

Here are some highlights from the February 15, 1937 issue of the *San Jose Mercury Herald*.

**"LOS GATOS DAMAGE.** Los Gatos, the picturesque mountain community whose streets stripe the western slopes like ribbons, caught the brunt of Saturday's storm with 3.81 inches of rain.

Run-off damaged the garden at the rear of the Lyndon hotel and flowed through streets, where it left a litter of mud and debris and caused a costly stone wall buttressing at the rear of Publisher Hyland

Baggerly's garden at Main and Alpine streets to tumble apart.

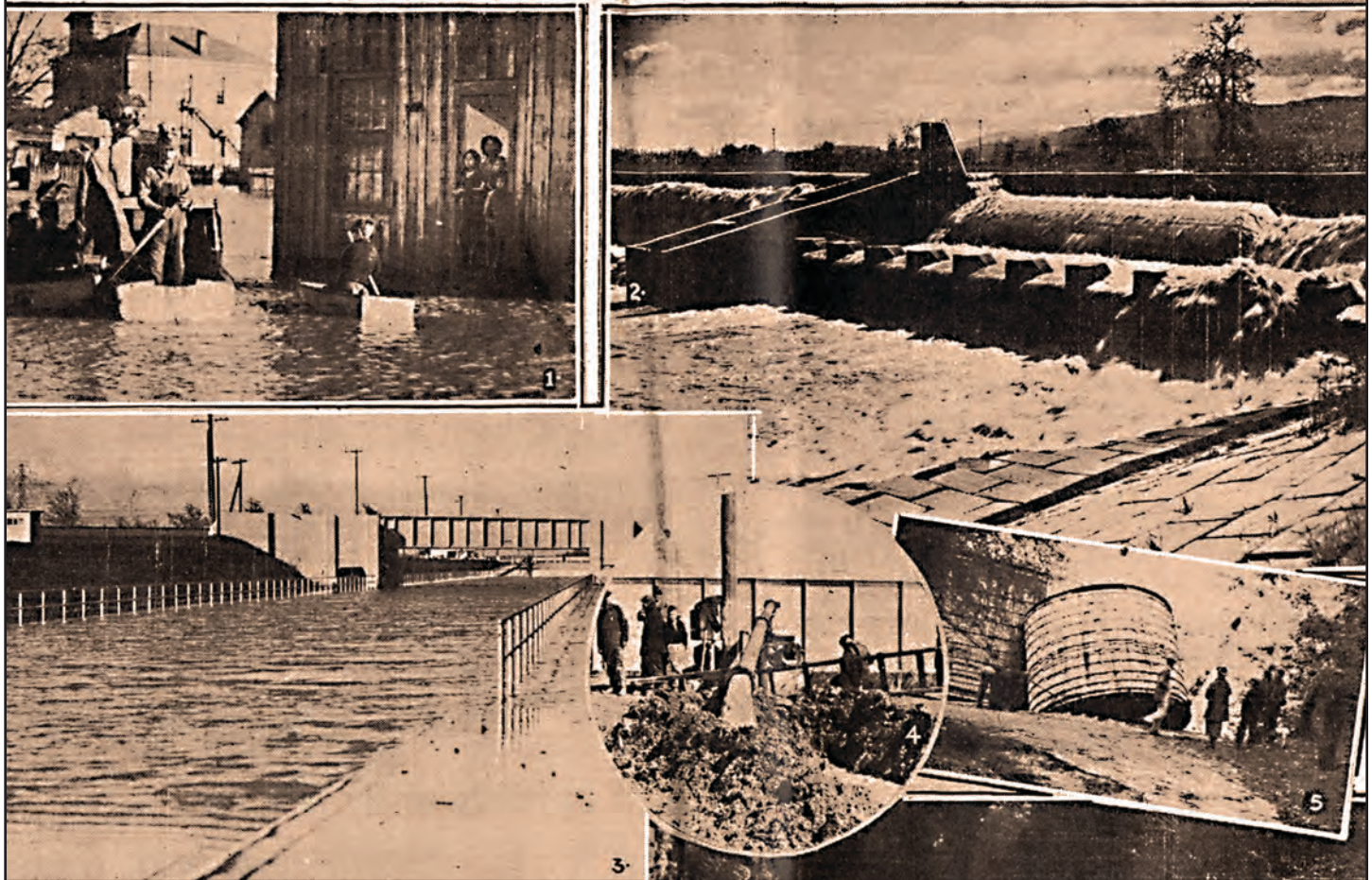
At Chemeketa Park a few miles up the Santa Cruz highway south of Los Gatos, the flood concentrated on a convenient gully piercing the center of the thickly built-up summer colony and before run-off stopped had carried tons of debris into the park.

A pretty cabin which stood near the gully was a target for a shower of mud and rocks, and emerged from the attack with a coating nearly two feet thick.

Run-off undermined foundations of a giant water tank, part of the resort's water system, and the big structure toppled over on its side, adding its deluge to the rest.

SAN JOSE MERCURY HERALD: MONDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 15, 1937.

## When Levees Worked Backwards ❖ ❖ Valley Flood's Odd Pranks



Some of the odd things Saturday's heavy rain did around Santa Clara Valley (1937):

Caused Alviso residents to take to their boats when their WPA levee "went into reverse." (1)

Sent sparkling cascades of water spilling over the Page percolation dam. (2)

Made the Lafayette Street subway barrel, north of Santa Clara, a long concrete-lined swimming pool. (3)

Caused highway maintenance engineers no end of worries pumping out the Madrone underpass, flooded for the second time in nine days. (4)

Toppled an 8000-gallon water supply tank and a redwood tree beyond to add to the worries of the drenched Chemeketa park settlement on the Santa Cruz Highway (Old Santa Cruz Highway). (5)

The worst slide on the Santa Cruz road was at the old Sugar Loaf cut, scene of serious slides since the new road was built. As fast as power shovels tossed the earth aside, more slid down the wet slope to strew the road.

Redwood Estates, another summer colony a few miles south of Los Gatos, had its share of inconvenience from the storm. Trees toppled under the blast, and power poles fell, bringing power company trouble-shooters on the run. Directing the work of rehabilitation was Mayor Marc Vertin of Los Gatos, manager of the estates.

Red earth slid onto the Los Gatos-Santa Cruz Highway at a dozen spots as rain-drenched cuts gave way, and power shovels, scrapers, and shovel crews worked 24-hour shifts clearing up the mess.

Traffic was stopped at both Los Gatos and Santa Cruz, and drivers warned they might proceed at their own peril. The road to Santa Cruz was passible to the careful passenger car driver, although trucks and busses rarely attempted the trip.

Slides blocked the north-south road from Santa Cruz through Felton, Ben Lomond, and Boulder Creek to the Saratoga summit, although a few hardy motorists got through.

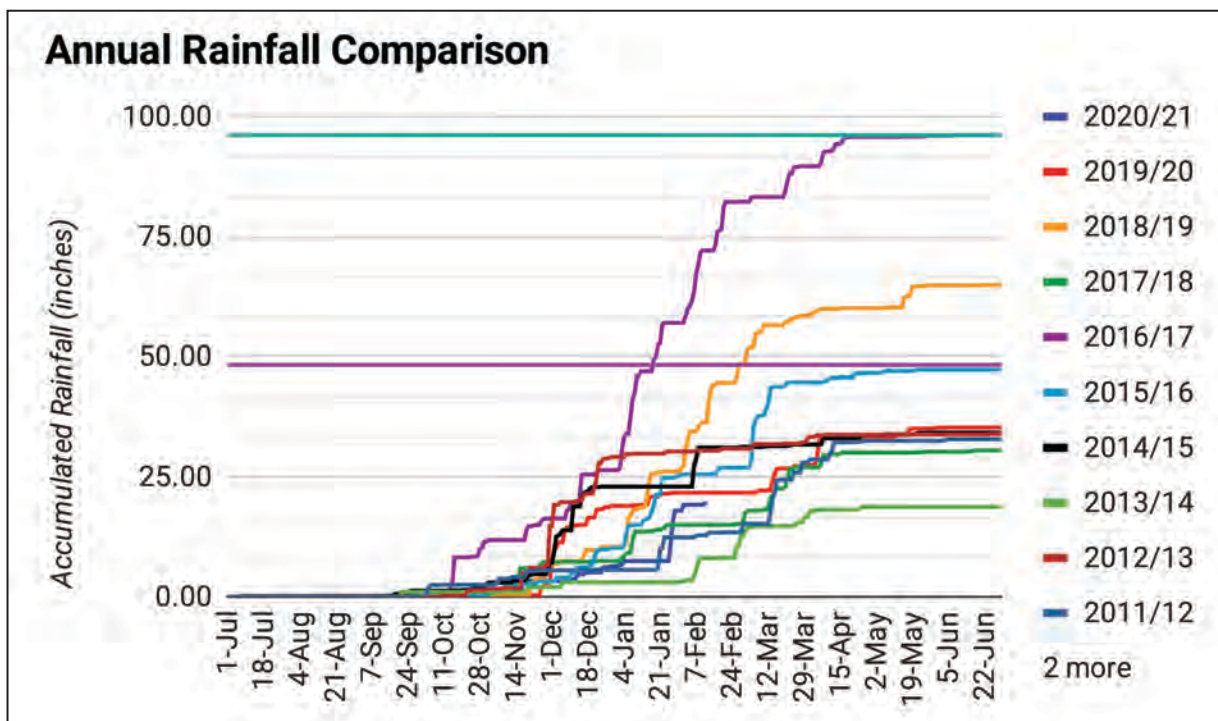
From Santa Cruz came the report that the Olive Springs bridge on the old San Jose road was washed out, and more than a foot of water ran through the Monterey Bay Lumber Company at Olive Springs."

So far, we are better off than our predecessors in 1937, but that's what we said last year. We can only hope.



**Steam shovel and trucks clear slides south of troublesome Inspiration Point. (6)**

**A hard day's work clearing slides on the Saratoga-Summit Road. (7)**



### Wet and Dry Years

Jeff Powell and the Halls left our mountains, but they left the Miller Hill annual rainfall comparison charts to share with the mountain community. Although rainfall varies greatly in the local areas, the graphic data shows differences in wet and dry years for one geographic location.

Kevin Arnold shared these rain numbers for Miller Cutoff. They are consistently comparable with Miller Hill. This is not true, however, for other areas of the mountains. For many years, hydrologist Brook Kraeger assembled rainfall data for mountain locations that showed wide variations. Early mountain farmers and orchardists watched rainfall by location. More or less rain in your farm or orchard could mean success or failure.

# **schools**

## **Lexington School**

Deanna Wilk

Lexington School has welcomed students back to campus. It is exciting to see students being dropped off and walking to their classrooms for a full morning of learning alongside their classmates and teacher. Regular on-site COVID-19 testing, daily temperature checks, mask wearing, social distancing, and frequent handwashing are key to our reopening and keeping students and staff safe.

Our TK/K through second-grade students began in-person learning on February 1, and our third- through fifth-graders began on February 8. Each class is following the hybrid Roomers-and-Zoomers model that was piloted by our first-grade class late last year. Half of the Roomers attend Mondays and Tuesdays, and the other half attend on Thursdays and Fridays, from 8:30 a.m. until noon. TK/K students have a shorter in-person morning and our full-time Zoomers, about 30 percent of students, can join as Roomers starting with our updated ramp dates: March 15 through April 19.

This would not be possible without the positive and hard-working collaboration of our district-wide teacher and parent workgroups, and leadership from the superintendent and school principal, LGUSD trustees, and Los Gatos Elementary Teachers Association.

LGUSD board of trustees member and Lexington parent Courtney Monk explains, "We had weekly meetings for nine months with our teacher workgroups. Parent workgroups discussed reopening models and options. A critical component



of building trust and assurance with the staff was the implementation of over twenty whole class in-person pilots. Offering student testing prior to the start helped provide assurances to staff. A Roomers-and-Zoomers live-streaming model was instrumental in bringing the community together. We listened to all the concerns and needs of stakeholders."

Dedicated time for professional development, upgrades to technology, and the support of school principals also helped make the reopening plan a reality.

Barring a few technology issues, the first days of re-opening went well. "Our teachers are truly amazing with their ability to be flexible, patient, and determined to make the Rooming-and-Zooming model work," says Lexington principal, Mr. Deppong. "Students are learning about the new boundaries and direction of traffic on campus to keep everyone safe. They



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are wearing their masks and washing or sanitizing their hands often.”

The support of additional staff is also appreciated. Ms. Arantxa is Lexington’s new hybrid-classroom aide. She carries out temperature checks before school, and supports the classroom teachers at school and via Zoom. Ms. Sue is our dedicated roving substitute and helps where needed when not subbing.

Making Lexington better is something we can all do. That’s certainly what fifth-grader Henry Monk thought during fifth-grade’s IB unit focused on government and decision making. He suggested a student council. He Zoomed with Principal Deppong to discuss creating Lexington’s first virtual TK-5 student council. He visited each classroom via Zoom, encouraging students to run as class representatives to give voice to their class’s concerns, suggest ideas for taking

action, and be part of the decision-making process to improve and inspire student life at Lexington.

Congratulations to our new student council members. In TK/K they are Scarlett and Ellis; in first grade, Fiona; in second grade, Ariana and Hope; in third grade, Cami and Eliza; in fourth grade, Jack and Isadora; and in fifth grade, William and Justin.

They wrote and presented winning speeches to their classes and shared some great ideas, such as Cami’s proposal for students to design a new Lexington T-shirt and write cards

for children in hospitals. Their first Zoom student-council meeting with Principal Deppong is in the works. We look forward to hearing what actions students want to take and how we can make decisions together.





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# **schools**

## **Lakeside School News**

Shama Marshall

This month, our students are participating in a read-a-thon. Students collect pledges from friends, family, and neighbors, and then track how many minutes they read in one week. The money our students raise supports the Lakeside School Foundation, which helps fund science, art, physical education, counselors, technology, and teacher supplies. If you would like to support our students and our school, visit <http://tiny.cc/lakesideschool>.

With the opening of Lakeside Elementary School's campus for a pilot special-education learning pod program in early February, students were able to participate in both remote learning and hands-on, in-person instruction. The pilot program has grown from two to four days a week, from 8 a.m. to noon, and expanded to include students from kindergarten through fifth grades. Students receive supervision and support from Lakeside's behavior specialist, while speech, language, and occupational therapy services are also available in-person for students in the specialized learning pod. Beginning March 1, additional services such as adapted physical education and orthopedic consultation services will also be available. Various models have been developed that include zooming some students in while the teacher is providing in-person instruction, direct pull-out services, and supervision for remote learning. Students in this cohort have also been able to enjoy recess opportunities, safely socializing with friends on our playground while maintaining physical distancing.

Our district continues to move forward with our reopening plan. We have hired a remote-learning teacher to support students who choose to continue with their remote-learning program, selected the online curriculum, and developed the remote-learning schedule. Across campus, many facilities have been upgraded to accommodate the new public-health guidelines. We have installed hand-washing stations and floor markers for physical distancing, upgraded HVAC systems, and secured redwood tree rounds as seats for outdoor classrooms. We have installed plexiglass dividers within classroom settings, and additional barriers for pick up and drop off times. As student and staff safety continue to be a priority, the district has secured the PPE beyond what has been recommended for in-person learning.

We look forward to returning our students and staff to campus as soon as possible.



**Loma Prieta Joint Union School District  
Board of Trustees  
Seeking Leadership  
Lisa Fraser**

A vacancy on the Loma Prieta Joint Union School District board of trustees was created when Alex Hall, who was elected to the board in November 2020, moved out of the Loma Prieta district boundary area on January 22, 2021. Pursuant to California Education Code section 5091, when a vacancy occurs more than four months before the end of a board member's term, the board shall, within sixty days of the date of the vacancy, either order an election or make a provisional appointment. Our board of trustees is moving forward to fill the vacancy through a provisional appointment.

A call for applicants was included in the February issue of the *Mountain Network News*, posted on the main page of the school district website under "District News," and sent to the district parent community via email. Applications can be obtained by contacting the school district office. All submissions must be received no later than 4 p.m. on **Thursday, March 4**, to be considered for the appointment. A special board meeting will be held in mid-March to interview applicants and make a provisional appointment within the required sixty-day window. The person appointed will be sworn in at the April 14, 2021, regular board meeting and will hold office until the next regularly scheduled election for board members on November 8, 2022.

Following the provisional appointment, registered voters in the Loma Prieta district may, within thirty days of the provisional appointment, present a petition for a special election to the Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools. A petition must be signed by at least the number of registered voters of the district equal to 1.5 percent of the number of registered voters

of the district at the time of the last regular election for governing board members, or 25 registered voters, whichever is greater.

The Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools shall then have thirty days to verify the signatures on the petition. If the petition is determined to be legally sufficient, the provisional appointment is terminated, and the County Superintendent of Schools shall order a special election to be conducted no later than the 130 days after the determination. If an established election date occurs between the 130<sup>th</sup> and 150<sup>th</sup> day following the order of the election, the County Superintendent of Schools may order the special election to be conducted on the established election date.

The board of trustees is acting in the most responsible manner to fill the vacancy through a provisional appointment within the prescribed sixty-day window. If a petition is determined to be legally sufficient and the provisional appointment is terminated, it is possible this school board vacancy may last for a period of 221 days, should an election be held on August 31, 2021, and 284 days, should an election be held on November 2, 2021.

Trustees are acting in the most fiscally responsible manner in their effort to make a provisional appointment. Recently, the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters/ Elections Department provided an estimate for the cost to participate in a special election as follows:

**August 2021, vote-by-mail ballot  
special election**

Low estimate: \$167,905  
High estimate: \$272,846

**November 2021, vote-by-mail  
and vote center election**

Low estimate: \$350,963  
High estimate: \$570,315

In addition, the estimated cost of candidate statement pages is \$2,360 and is not included in the above estimates. The candidate statement has traditionally been paid for by the Loma Prieta Joint Union School District, but could be born by the candidate.

Should any other agencies participate in either the August or November 2021 elections, some expenses would be shared resulting in a reduction of the cost to the district. For example, in the 2020 general election, with a vast number of agencies participating and sharing the expenses, our district's cost to participate in the Santa Clara County school board election was a mere \$13,600. This would not be the case with an August or November special election.

The Santa Cruz County Elections Department adjusts their estimate for the cost of an election every two years. Their current estimate is \$9 per registered voter.

The cost to participate in a regular election versus a special election is a compelling factor in the decision-making process when agencies consider participating in an election.

With the \$428,000 budget reductions that must be made for next year due to the defeat of Measure N, the district can't afford to incur the costs of a special election. The timeline to fill a board vacancy becomes much longer when a provisional appointment is opposed. Having a five-member board seated sooner rather than later also ensures full community representation.

I encourage you to place your trust in the board of trustees to appoint a qualified community member who will help to govern the Loma Prieta Joint Union School District in an equitable manner.



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# **schools**

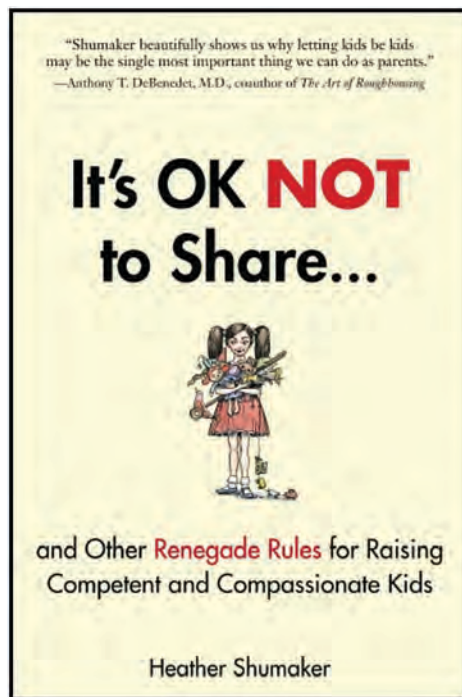
## **Building Blocks Raising Confident, Creative Kids During a Pandemic**

Nicole Gomez

As part of a close-knit network of statewide co-op preschools, Building Blocks families often get unique, low-cost (or free!) opportunities for parent-education events. Recently, we joined an online presentation and extended Q&A with sought-after speaker, Heather Shumaker, author of *It's OK to Go UP the Slide* and *It's OK NOT to Share*, organized by our local chapter of the California Council of Parent Participation Nursery Schools.

Shumaker presented many of her “renegade rules for raising confident and creative kids” and covered topics such as coping with big feelings, safely navigating physical play, and different ways to handle mishaps other than forcing children to apologize.

With children spending more time at home during the pandemic, parents need to hear how to provide these types of rich learning experiences that honor children's ideas, creativity, and, as Shumaker describes,



“what’s in their soul.” Building Blocks Preschool facilitates children’s ideas and allows the space, materials, and opportunity to make a big mess so that children can create their own learning. Often it is tricky to manage setting boundaries that allow this radical play in the home. Shumaker offered very digestible insight and simple

ideas on how to incorporate opportunities into everyday life. She encouraged the audience to create “a place where ideas can be welcomed.” Materials such as cardboard boxes (which can be painted and mangled to their heart’s content), dress-up clothes that are OK to get muddy, and things such as balls, boards, and other knickknacks can give children the space they need to be freely creative.

Conflict is a wonderful opportunity to gain and practice skills. At Building Blocks, we find that children are very capable of finding solutions that are acceptable for everyone. It takes practice and some adult guidance, but allowing space for children to solve their own problems is worthwhile. For example, Shumaker discussed how “forced sharing” can associate negative feelings with sharing. This can delay the intended



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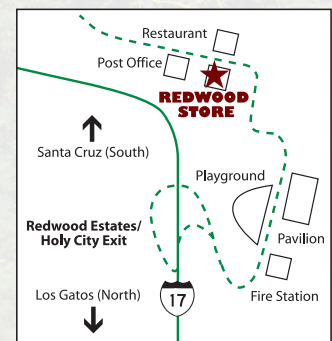
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outcome for children to be kind, empathetic, and generous people.

She offered a tangible alternative that provides opportunities to experience emotions, set boundaries with other children, and learn to be efficient negotiators. The solution involves waiting until a child is all done. Children often surprise us by how quickly they volunteer to give their friend a turn when we give them the space and time to finish what they are doing. They begin to associate sharing with a feeling of pleasure, rather than frustration.

As a teacher and co-director, I was delighted that these ideas reinforce our program's philosophy. For example, "keep it friendly, keep it safe" are the two rules we have at Building Blocks. I was reminded that there is much opportunity for our own growth as adults, if we examine why children's ideas sometimes make us uncomfortable.

Dumping glitter all over the table makes anyone cringe, but sometimes it's important

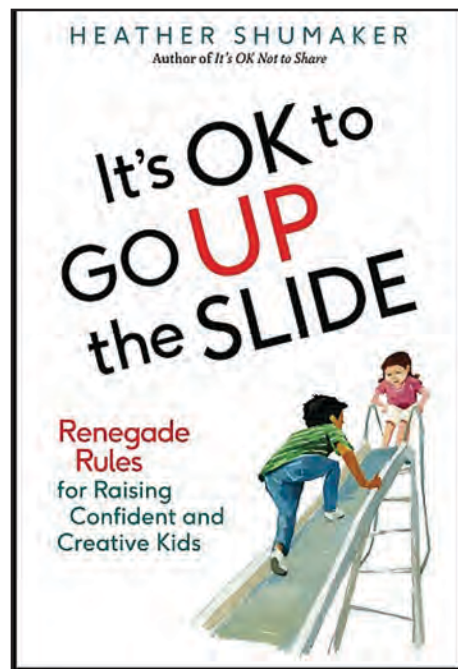


that we stop and ask ourselves why we don't want them to do something. Why can't they grind the chalk into fairy dust? Chalk is only \$1 at the Dollar Tree. Why can't they go up the slide? Is someone else coming down? Turn it into an opportunity to problem solve the situation and practice negotiating.

Children's minds are amazing. We can learn as much from them as they can from us. I challenge parents to look at why they want to say no to a child's idea. Could you find a way to say yes? If not, honor your feelings, as well. It's OK to tell a child that you are not comfortable with an idea. It's

also OK to tell them you aren't even sure why you're uncomfortable. This will help them learn about their own comfort zones, another important life skill.

Building Blocks is working toward a safe reopening plan. We would like to extend big virtual hugs and a tip of our hat to parents doing their best under unprecedented circumstances. We look forward to when we can safely play together again.



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*Redwood Estates resident Jordan and her chicken Rocky were spotted strolling downtown.*

*Photo by Amy Sirota*

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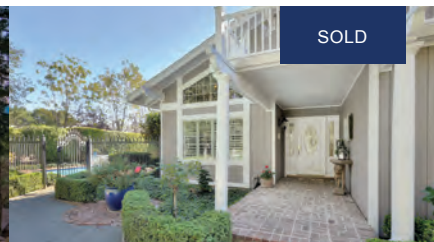
4 BD | 2 BA | +/- 2,021 SQFT. | 1.8 AC  
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