

A stylized, metallic-looking letter 'm' with a 3D effect and a gradient from light to dark grey. It is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the image, floating above the trees.

m

March 2022



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Santa Cruz



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COMPASS

**The March issue of
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to somewhere.

It is the
evacuation route
to Highway 17.

And when Highway 17
Is closed...

...It is the connector
to the north
on Old Santa Cruz.

...to the south
on Soquel-San Jose.

...to Highland Way
on the southeast.

It can't be
the road to Paradise.

We have seen that road.
We don't want to take it.

Work has begun
through our own local
FireSafe County Roads group.

We have support from
PG&E,
the Resource Conservation District,
state senator John Laird,
supervisor Manu Koenig,
and the FireSafe Council
of Santa Cruz County.

If you live along
the Summit-Highland corridor,
your permission is needed
this month to do the work along the road.

Don't let us down.
You can help.

Make sure that
Summit Road is not the end.

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20971 Delaware Trail Los Gatos

\$750,000 | 20971DelawareTrail.com

1 Bed + Studio | 1.5 Bath | 1135 Sq Ft | 11,123 Sq Ft Lot

Chemeketa Park home bordered by Majestic Redwoods in a charming neighborhood. Inviting living room with distressed wood flooring, wood stove and a dining bar overlooking an amazing updated, spacious kitchen. One bedroom privately located downstairs with a half bath. Full bath on the main level with stall shower and sunken tub. Separate studio could be a 2nd bedroom, office or exercise room. Excellent location, close to town in a wonderful community. Lexington Elementary, Fisher Middle, Los Gatos High!

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COMPASS

resources

Santa Cruz County First District Supervisor Safer Evacuation and Early Fire Detection Manu Koenig

The FireSafe County Roads program is now underway. The objectives are three-fold. First, to develop and provide emergency escape routes for residents by reducing the fire risk and intensity along the Summit Road/Highland Way corridor. Second, to provide access to emergency vehicles during disasters. Lastly, to improve the ISO fire rating in our community. The latter is a score provided to fire departments and insurance companies by the Insurance Services Office, that reflects how prepared a community is for fires.

This project, coordinated through the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County, will create a shaded fuel break along critical county roads. It will remove small trees, underbrush, and low hanging limbs on trees within 100 feet of the road. Large (over 8-inch diameter) healthy trees are retained, while dead and dying trees are removed, along with trees leaning into the roadway. Without this vegetation, future

wildfires will burn with less intensity, with a slower rate of spread, and with decreased potential for fire to climb into treetops. This will make fire suppression easier and evacuation safer during a wildfire.

Thanks to a \$50,000 PG&E grant, a pilot project was completed in fall 2021 that cleared two acres at the intersection of Summit and Soquel-San Jose roads.

Phase two of the Summit shaded-fuel-break project has begun. The RCDSCC was awarded a \$585,000 grant from CalFire. It is now applying for permits for the entire 5.7-mile stretch running from Highway 17 to Mt. Bache Road. The RCDSCC anticipates this round of grant funding will cover 2.6 miles (60 acres) of shaded fuel break from Highway 17 to Loma Prieta Elementary School, with expected completion later this year.

We have applied for an additional \$300,000 grant to cover the remaining costs. For more information about the Summit shaded-fuel-break project, call Matt Abernathy, RCDSCC forest health specialist at 408-355-3137, or email mabernathy@rcdsantacruz.org.

ALERTWildfire Camera System

Santa Cruz County uses the ALERTWildfire camera system for early

wildfire detection. Last fall, our office introduced an item to improve this system by installing several new fire-camera sites.

This February, the board of supervisors received an update from the Office of Response, Recovery, and Resiliency on the progress of this effort. As part of the county's settlement agreement with PG&E regarding their wood debris activities after the CZU Fire, two new ALERTwildfire cameras are being installed at the Dream Inn in Santa Cruz and at the Watsonville Airport. Both sites are expected to be operational for the 2022 fire season.

Another location to be operational at the start of the 2022 fire season is at the Silver Mountain Winery off Summit Road. The new camera at this site will provide sweeping visibility and greatly expand early detection capabilities for the Summit area and Soquel valley.

OR3 staff is discussing these issues with CalFire, county fire, and PG&E staff, and the ALERTWildfire team to identify other key priority locations to install new cameras. They will look at the following areas in particular: the north coast region, in the Swanton area or in Bonny Doon, and upper Highway 236. To learn more about this project, visit <https://www.alertwildfire.org/region/centralcoast/>.

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Keith & Shelly Kanady

Broker Associate
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KTP

**KANADY TEAM
PROPERTIES**

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Soquel-San Jose Road

Improvements are coming for Soquel-San Jose Road, an important corridor for many first-district residents. Last December, the Regional Transportation Commission released \$1,455,000 for the project, funded by state gas-tax revenues. It will include improved bike lanes and pedestrian crossings, as well as critical pavement resurfacing along the bottom 3.15 miles of Soquel-San Jose Road, from Soquel Drive to Laurel Glen Road. The specific start date

for this project is not yet set. It will depend on state-funding availability.

Monthly Meetings

We host monthly in-person meetings (with the option to join on Zoom) at rotating locations throughout the first district on the second Thursday of every month. View the meeting calendar at <https://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/government/boardofsupervisors/district1.aspx>.

FireSafe County Roads Application and Permission Forms

The next activity for the team and the community is to obtain signed agreement application and permission forms from our landowners along the project route. The RCDSCC requires these signed forms by mid-March. This will allow contracting and start of work by late May 2022.

This work will benefit our residents and our visitors. The project teams have no intention of interfering with the homeowners' responsibility to create landscaping and defensible space around their homes. The shaded fuel break stops where your landscaping and defensible space starts. The contracts will be closely supervised to avoid any conflict.

Note from Larry Lopp, Santa Cruz Mountain Alliance President & Fire Safe County Roads Project Leader: Please call me at 408-772-4922, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon, if you have questions or need help to complete permission forms.





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Keeping Santa Cruz CONNECTED

resources



Recycling and Repurposing Jennifer Straw

While preparing to put our house on the market, we compiled a list of resources to help us reduce, recycle, and repurpose belongings that we no longer needed. Even if you're not moving, these resources may help clear out clutter without sending it to the landfill. Check with the organizations in advance for any changes to their donation regulations, additional items they accept, and hours of operation.

Friends of Los Gatos Library Bookstore will accept donations of up to 100 lightly-



used books and DVDs at a time on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 1 to 3 p.m. Donations can be dropped off at the side door of the Los Gatos Library, at 100 Villa Avenue in Los Gatos. Visit friendsofsglib.org, or call 408-354-2665.

Lego™ Replay allows you to pass on Lego bricks to children in need. They provide a free shipping label. To find out more, google Lego™ Replay.

GreyBears, Chanticleer Recycling Center, accepts e-waste, shredded office paper, CDs, DVDs, and cassette tapes (commercial music and movies). Covers must be intact. Visit greybears.org, or call 831-479-1055.

Hope's Closet Donation Center, 2555-2557 Soquel Drive in Santa Cruz, accepts children's clothing, toys, and books in very good condition. They are open for donation drop-off on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Find out more at hopesclosetthrift.com.

The **Goodwill Truck** comes to the Loma Prieta/C.T. English and Lakeside parking lots a few times per year. Watch for dates in the *MNN* and local road signs.

95033free (<https://lpcf.org/groups>) allows you to post items you are giving away online. Most items are snapped up very quickly. You cannot use this resource for a garage-type sale of multiple items.

The **Buena Vista Landfill** in Ben Lomond accepts cardboard and metal (including holiday lights) for recycling. It also has stations to drop off yard waste, wood, ceramics, concrete, carpet, treated wood, propane tanks, appliances, and mattresses. There are specific days for dropping off household hazardous materials such as paint and fluorescent bulbs. Visit <https://dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/Home/RecyclingTrash.aspx> for more information.

For **GreenWaste** customers, additional trash, recycling, and yard-waste pickups



are available. GreenWaste will also pick up bulky items. We used the service for removing a mattress and box spring. Check your GreenWaste newsletter for helpful information, visit them online at www.greenwaste.com/santa-cruz-county, or call 831-426-2711.

Zappos will recycle your used denim jeans and shoes, and provide you with a free shipping label. Find out more at <https://www.zappos.com/about/zappos-for-good/recycle>.

If you have a car you want to donate, the **Walnut Avenue Family and Women's Center** will pay for towing and you will get a tax deduction. Find out more at www.cars2charities.org/give/walnut-avenue-family-and-womens-c.

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400stellarway.com

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community

Preparing for Spring

Tish O'Reilly

Spring's first blush is yellow. When I think about preparing to work in the garden every spring, I can't help appreciating the gardeners who planted the daffodils along Summit Road. Planted in the fall, they naturalize (expand and multiply) each year. They are the first to show their seasonal color, bobbing their bright yellow heads in the breeze as we drive by. As spring turns to summer, the daffodil bulbs go dormant, die back, naturalize through the winter, and bloom again to delight us the next spring.

That's what gardeners do. We prepare for the next season as we work in the current one. Start with the weeds. A weed is defined as a plant in the wrong place. If we're lucky they are seasonal.

As you weed the garden beds, don't worry about pulling all the weeds all the time. Pull the ones that come up easily, those about to bloom or produce seeds. Catching them early will save you time this season and the next.

Your next step is to get out the hand pruners and the loppers. Take a little steel wool and WD40 to get a clean tool, then perform a quick filing for sharpness. A sharp tool saves your muscles the hard work of a repeated cutting while reducing damage to plant branches.

When deciding which branches to remove, start with the dead ones. You'll notice their coloring is usually darker and more brittle, with less flexibility than the others. After that, take out the crossover branches to leave a straighter, more open center of the plant. Branches with a little space between them allow for air circulation, better insect and moisture control, and encouragement for plants to grow better and fill out in the sunlight.

As far as garden maintenance goes, I'm a big believer in having the tool you need at the ready. Do a little of this, and a little of that so that projects are more manageable. This brings more enjoyment to the process as we appreciate our own home gardens. Having your tools ready makes for an easier job, so keep pruners, a garbage can or large bucket, leaf rake, and a flat shovel and broom for cleanup and scooping leaves. Prune a few plants at a time and clean up as you go. Working in your garden, like any ongoing project, can be managed one clip at a time.



The Yellow Team

Here are some recommended deer-resistant, and drought- and frost-tolerant plants for the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Pictured clockwise, from top left: Black-eyed Susan, deciduous azalea, forsythia, lemon red-hot poker, King Alfred daffodil, euphorbia, and monkey flower.

You can find me in the garden, or at www.pacmthort.com.

Free Battery Back-Ups Security and Savings

Richard Estevez
Quality Conservation Services

When mountain resident Kevin McKinney first heard about a free whole-house battery back-up system available to select PG&E residential customers, he thought his home would never qualify. It seemed too good to be true—there is no such thing as a free lunch, let alone a free \$26,000 battery. For three years, he tried unsuccessfully to get into the Self-Generation Incentive Program that provides the batteries. After reading that the first step is to sign up for PG&E's medical-baseline program, he had already qualified and signed up for that. Kevin quickly discovered that when grants for the program were issued, the batteries were being scooped up by eager homeowners before he could even find out they were available.

With over 20 PG&E outages in one year that shut down his migraine-preventing CPAP machine and the family's water supply powered by an electric well pump, it was time to get serious and call a professional.

It was at this point that he discovered Quality Conservation Services. Within several weeks of enrolling, Kevin was screened, evaluated, certified, and inspected until his funding was approved. He now

has a space prepared and is awaiting the installation of his home's free battery back-up system.

The free battery back-ups are funded through the California Public Utility Commission's Equity Resiliency program, which helps at-risk single-family homeowners in high-fire-threat districts. (Almost all *MNN* readers live in such districts.)

Families who report a serious medical condition or are PG&E "medical baseline" customers normally qualify, as do households that use an electric well pump for their water supply *and* have moderate or low incomes. (In Santa Cruz County, that would be four-member Santa Cruz County households earning less than \$90,000 annually.)

The battery back-ups are designed to provide power during utility-initiated power outages due to forest-fire danger, but they also provide power during weather-related outages. The back-ups can operate the entire house for a limited time, but most users limit it to essential circuits to provide power for a week or more.

The battery system can also provide everyday savings on a home's energy bill. By charging the batteries during low-cost off-peak hours and then using the batteries to power the house during high-cost on-peak hours (normally 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.),

a household can significantly reduce their utility bills. Any on-peak power not used by the family can then be sold back to PG&E at their peak period rates.

Initial screening for the free battery program can be done by phone through QCS. (There are other programs with fewer restrictions, and many require a customer payment. QCS handles only no-cost programs, although they will provide a referral to others.) If the home passes screening, QCS sends the information to a specialty company, such as Swell Energy, that undertakes the rather complicated and cumbersome procedure of securing final-application approval, funding, and permitting on behalf of the homeowner.

After the design and permitting is completed, the actual installation (normally featuring a TESLA PowerWall system) is completed by QCS or another trained, licensed, and experienced installer. Swell Energy then oversees the paperwork and other follow-up work as needed.

You must be a single-family homeowner in a fire-threat district, with a reported medical condition or enrolled in the PG&E's medical-baseline program, *or* with a moderate- or lower-income relying on an electric well pump for water supply.

For information, or to verify if you are eligible, call Fernando Martinez, 925-302-6903, or visit www.qcsc.com/enroll.

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community

Summit Riders Back In The Saddle Suzanne Suwanda

After almost two years on pandemic-induced "stall rest," the Santa Cruz Mountain riding club, Summit Riders, is saddling up for another year of equestrian fun and camaraderie.



Summit Riders president Melany Moore and her American mustang, Sage



Summit Rider member Zoe Gonzalez with Sugarbaby from the Bear Creek pony program

Equestrian enthusiasts across the region are invited to join (or renew membership) and participate in a variety of horse-themed endeavors, from family-friendly play days and clinics to campouts and trail rides. An arena workday is being planned as well as other activities.

Membership forms can be found on the club's website: www.Summit-Riders.com.



Robert Cornelius and mare Pumba in Henry Cowell Redwoods

Frequent posts of interest to equine fans can be seen on the club's Facebook page @ SummitRiders.

Founded in 1967, non-profit Summit Riders has seen generations of equestrians enjoy and share their love of horses, special friendships, and the joys of living in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Photos by Jessica Gonzalez

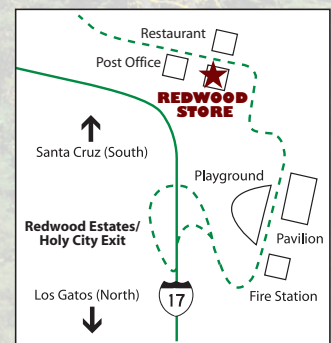
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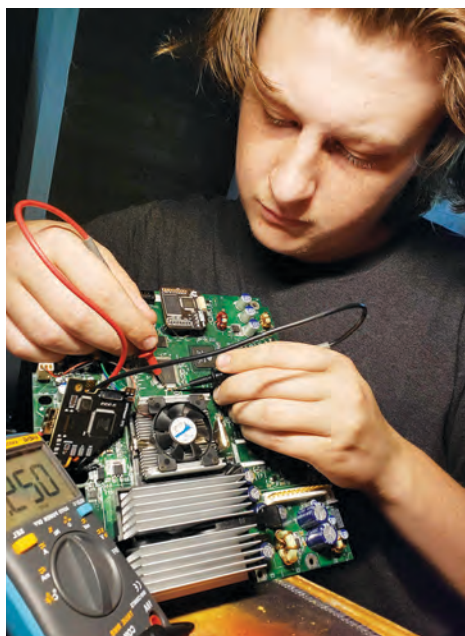


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Zack Maurer**

My name is Zack Maurer. I recently started my own electronics-repair business locally in the Santa Cruz Mountains. I have had a passion for engineering and personal electronics my whole life, and have hands-on experience working on hundreds of repairs. The focus of my business is on mobile repair and diagnostics. I can come to you for most repairs. I work on many

kinds of electronic devices, including phones, tablets, video game consoles, computers, and other personal electronics. For more information, visit my website at Southpawrepair.com, or call me at 831-515-6916.



Shelley Bates of Redwood Estates announces the release of The Professor Wore Prussian Blue, book six in her Mysterious Devices steampunk mystery/adventure series.
For more information, visit <http://www.shelleyadina.com>.

people



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Jerold O'Brien, winemaker for Silver Mountain Vineyards, won a Best of Class award for his 2014 Santa Cruz Mountains Syrah at the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition in January. He has been producing organically grown, handcrafted, award-winning wines in small lots since 1979. His winery offers one of the widest selections of wines in the Santa Cruz mountains, including gold-medal-winning pinot noirs, estate chardonnays, Bordeaux blends, rich syrahs, and rosés. For more information, visit silvermtn.com.

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calendar

ON-GOING CLASSES AND MEETINGS

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

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

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

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fridays

Karaoke at the Summit House Beer Garden and Grill on the second and fourth Fridays of the month, starting at 6 p.m.

Saturdays

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Thursday, March 9

The Bookmobile visits the mountains:

Lakeside School

9:45 to 11:45 a.m.

Building Blocks Preschool

12:15 to 12:45 p.m. and 2:30 to 3:45 p.m.

Redwood Estates Pavillion

4:15 to 5:15 p.m.

Saturday, March 12

Fitness/Health Rep will speak at a vision board checkup event, at the Mountain Bible Church community room, 23946 Summit Road. Lunch will be served, All are invited. 10 a.m. to noon. Email AnnScherer@gmail.com for more information.

Building Blocks will host a family fun day, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the school, 23845 Summit Road. Enjoy lots of activities and a raffle with great prizes. All are welcome.

Summit Riders work party at Parker Horse Ranch arena, 24705 Miller Hill Road, 2 p.m. to dusk. Volunteers are needed to help repair and refresh the arena. Pizza and live music provided by Summit Riders. Call 408-886-4792 for information and to sign up.

Midpen Considering Draft Redistricting Map for Adoption

Public Hearing to Be Held on March 23, 2022

Midpen está considerando adoptar el borrador de redistribución de distritos

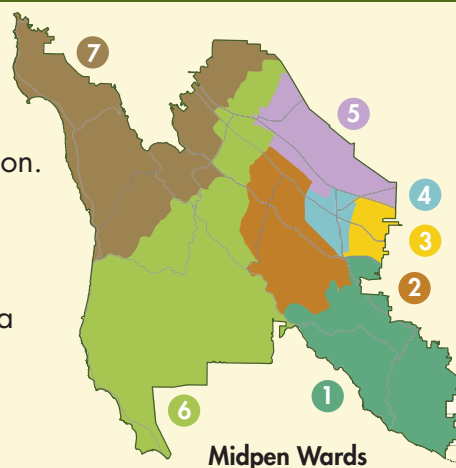
La audiencia pública se realizará el 23 de marzo del 2022

In January, the Midpen board of directors reviewed three redistricting map options and selected their preferred map that will be **considered for adoption at a public hearing on March 23**. If adopted, this map would be used in the November 8 general election.

Find Out More!

Go to openspace.org/redistricting to access our Ward Redistricting website, to see the draft map and data in detail and sign up for notifications.

Staff contact: GIS Program Administrator Jamie Hawk, jhawk@openspace.org or 650-691-1200.



Saturday, March 19

Men's night out to benefit the Lakeside School Community Foundation, from 4 to 8 p.m. Enjoy an afternoon of tree-felling and log-splitting, followed by barbecued ribs and beer. Cost per person is \$25. To sign up, visit www.lakesidescf.org/events.

Thursday, March 23

The Bookmobile visits the mountains:
Lakeside School

9:45 to 11:45 a.m.

Building Blocks Preschool

12:15 to 12:45 p.m. and 2:30 to 3:45 p.m.

Redwood Estates Pavillion

4:15 to 5:15 p.m.

Wednesday, March 30

Lakeside School Community Foundation holds a dine-out fundraiser at Super Duper Burger, 15991 Los Gatos Boulevard. Present our flyer (www.lakesidescf.org/dine-out-flyers). A percentage of your purchase will benefit our school.

Animal Photography



Amy Sirota's Tyger CATches the news in Redwood Mistakes



Neil Wiley's Villa Deer Monte

*Shoot your favorite animal (with a camera),
tell us your first name
and the general area of the shooting,
and just for fun use a pun.
Email your animal (picture)
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It could become famous
in the Santa Cruz Mountains.*



What's newt at Alma Bridge Road

Angelé Price

BEFORE



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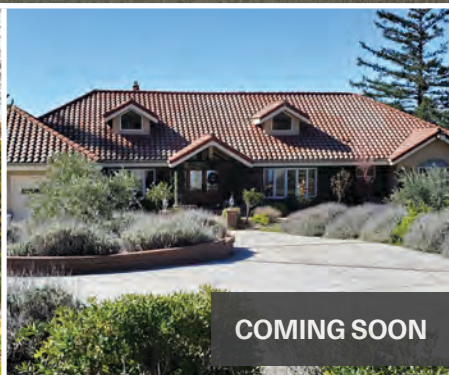
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exploring

The City of Santa Cruz

Pogonip

Neil Wiley

Let's begin with the name. Pogonip could have been named for a special bouncing stick, a gaming website, Walt Kelly's comic strip's title character (an opossum), or my brother's little dog that bit him when we wrestled.

Instead, pogonip describes a phenomenon that occurs in the mountains of the western United States when fog condenses into tiny, biting ice particles. The word comes from the Shoshone tribe language as *payinappih* (cloud). In the 1800s, English-speaking settlers altered the word to pogonip. In turn, this led to the phrase **Beware the Pogonip.**

This phrase exaggerated the danger of breathing icy fog. It also reflects today's rumors that Pogonip Open Space is unsafe. While the southern area is shared by homeless people, indications of drug use, and the development of the Homeless Garden Project, I never felt threatened.

If this is a concern, you can avoid the more urban park entrances at Harvey West Park and Golf Club Drive. Instead, you can park at the end of the residential Spring Street or at the U.C., Santa Cruz upper campus along Glen Coolidge Drive. The Spring Street entrance gives you a longer, but flatter route. The Glen Coolidge Drive entrance requires a steep, but short, climb back to your car at the hike's end, but the beautiful scenic views of ocean, forest, and meadows are worth a little sweat. (The entrance has no signs, but you'll see cars parked on the right side of the road.) Long-distance hikers, bikers, and equestrians can park at Henry Cowell State



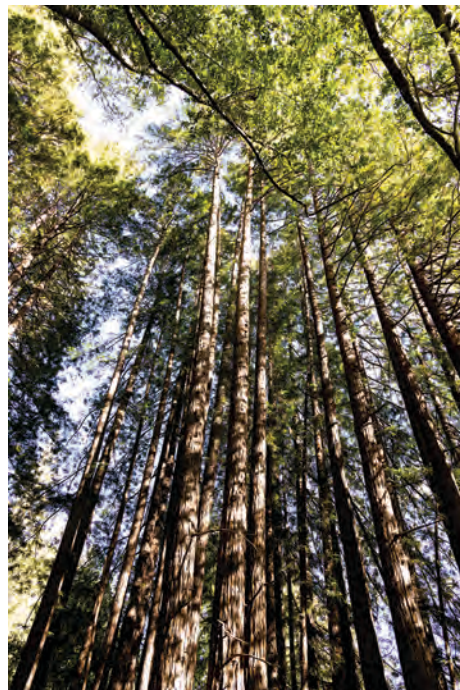
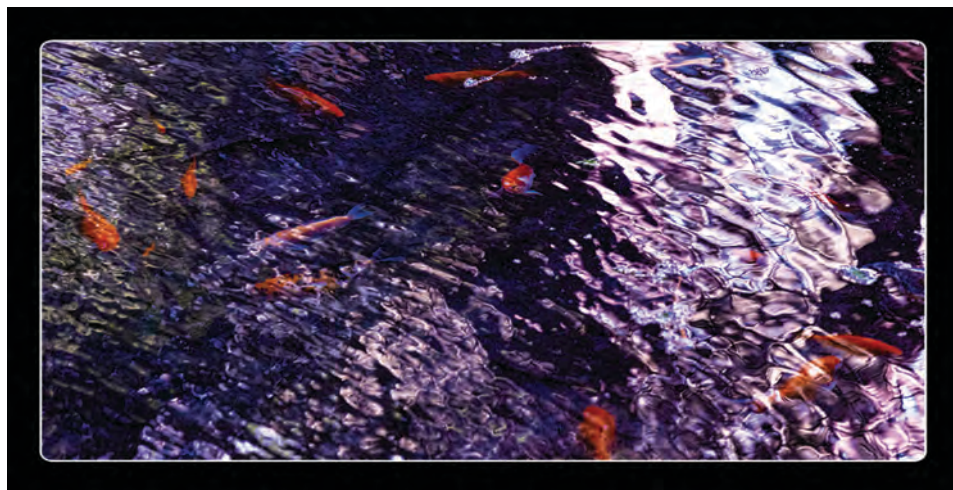
Park, and then take the Rincon Connector Trail to the north end of Pogonip.

What's it like? In a relatively small 640 acres, this open-space preserve packs many interesting sights and different environments. Enjoy views of Monterey Bay, green hills, and Santa Cruz. Visit

historical lime kilns, a small koi pond, a giant rock garden, and an old clubhouse. Hike trails under forest shade (oaks, madrone, bay, eucalyptus), walk in the sun through giant meadows, or go upland to see 100-foot-high firs. (If you are an expert, you may find the only four redwoods in the park.)

The entrances are not well-marked, but most major trail intersections have small signs. Climbs are easy to moderate. (The exceptions are the rather steep Lookout Trail and the unmarked path up to the Glen Coolidge Drive entrance.)

To reach the interesting single-track Spring Box Trail, walk north on the Spring Trail. Watch for three white steps on the left just past a tiny step-over stream. The trail takes you past an unsigned koi pond on the right, and then up and right to the Lime Kiln Trail and the lime kilns. A few steps to the right you'll see a path up and behind the lime kilns. A right on the path takes you to a little valley filled with more than a





hundred rock pyramids and other pieces of rock art. If there was the slightest tremor, they would have fallen. It reminded me that art is temporary.

A narrow trail past the rock garden loops back to the intersection of Lime Kiln, Rincon, and Fern trails. Although you won't see many ferns until near the end of this trail, the Fern Trail is a pleasant walk through almost a mile of mixed forest. I met only one person on this trail. He was going the hard way—uphill.

When you reach the large meadow called the Prairie, turn left on Brayshaw Trail, or go through the fence and turn left on Prairie Trail. Either route takes you to the only two picnic tables in the park. After a brief rest, you'll soon reach the abandoned clubhouse of the Casa del Rey Club and Golf Links, established in 1912. Although protected by a chain link fence, the old clubhouse still reflects the grandeur of a rustic resort. You can still see the tennis courts, filled-in swimming pool, and some nice views of Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay. Although the clubhouse is destined to be demolished, it's still an interesting old building.

When the golf club closed in the 1930s, Dorothy Deming Wheeler reopened the facility as a polo field. The Pogonip Social



march 2022



and Polo Club became internationally famous, perhaps because it was one of the few polo fields open to coed and women's teams.

To complete the return loop, you can walk the Brayshaw Trail, with a left on Spring, and a turn right at the unsigned path to the Glen Coolidge Drive. If you are parked on Spring Street, continue on Spring Trail south to your car.

Of Pogonip's 11.5-mile trail system, only four are open to multi-use (including bicycles and horses). They include the 1.5-mile Emma McCrary Trail that runs along the length of the park from Golf Club Drive. This trail connects to Henry Cowell Redwood State Park via the Rincon Connector Trail, and to U.C., Santa Cruz via the U-Con Trail.

Walkers without dogs can enjoy the 1.2-mile Pogonip Creek Nature Trail and the 0.5-mile Lookout Trail with views earned by climbs.

Walkers with leashed dogs can walk most Pogonip trails, including Brayshaw, Fern, Limekiln, Lower Meadow, Ohlone, Prairie, Spring, Spring Box, and a section of Rincon.

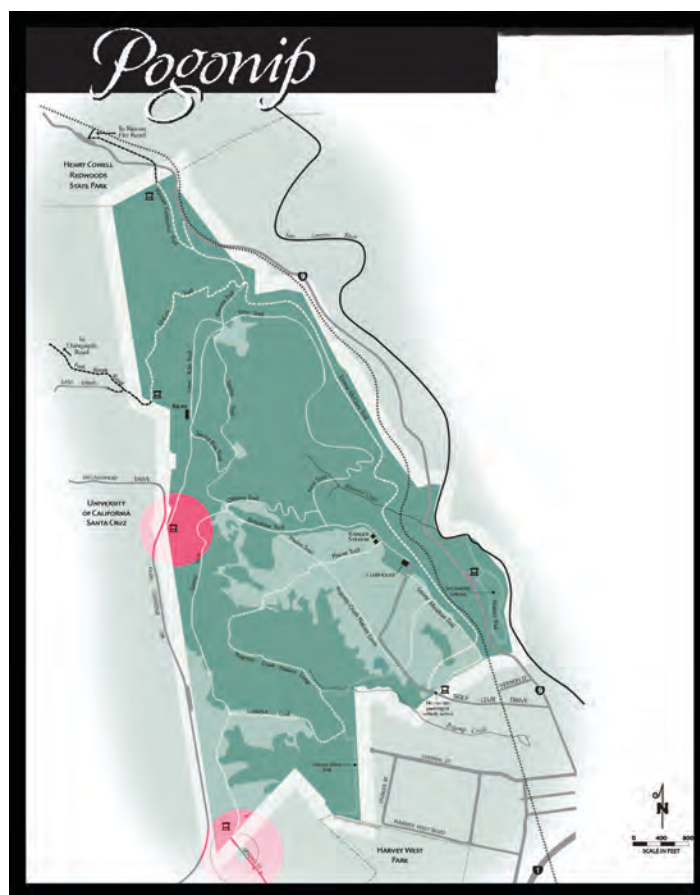
The Spring Trail is a relatively flat, wide, shady, and mostly smooth dirt trail with some rocky sections. Perhaps because the trail is next to U.C., Santa Cruz, most hikers were young. I saw young runners,

a few groups of young women, and dog walkers of every age.

On my return hike, I walked slower until I reached the Spring Trail where, by chance, I met a friendly woman. We shared travel stories, occupations, and trivia that made the walk more interesting. We turned up a narrow, unsigned trail to where cars were parked. The view was great. A hawk flew a few feet away from me.

One problem. I had parked my car at the Spring Road entrance. We were at Glen Coolidge Drive.

I was preparing to walk several miles, but my new friend said, "I'll drive you." She did. In a world of COVID and paranoia, this woman helped a stranger. I hope I can pass it on—perhaps past COVID.



history

Marlene's Mountain History Archive Mountain Family Histories Neil Wiley

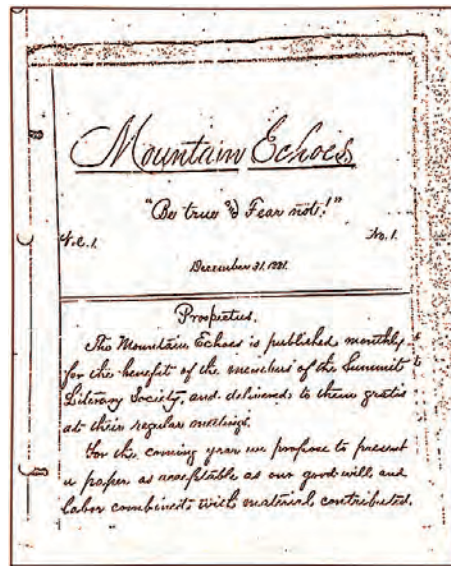
Mountain history tells the stories of early settlers, such as the colorful Mountain Charley (Charles Henry McKiernan), and first families, including Schultheis, Averill, Burrell, Wright, Morrell, McCrackin, Meyer, and Goldmann.

Several mountain pioneers wrote their own stories. **Lyman Burrell** wrote his memoirs for *Mountain Echoes*, the local handwritten paper for members of the Summit Literary Society. His series of articles, noted by the editor as the first volunteer contributions, were entitled *Reminiscences of an Octogenarian*. They were "published" in 1881 and 1882. They were published again 115 years later in 1996 as a series in *Mountain Network News*.

Lyman Burrell described his first impression of the Santa Cruz Mountains: "It seemed a vast, solitary wilderness—no houses, and no roads. I knew that bears and lions dwelt here, but I feared them not."

Lyman's wife **Clarissa Wright Burrell** wrote her own history in a series of letters to family members. These letters, excerpts from her brother's diary, and her father's *Reminiscences* are included in *The Burrell Letters* published by Westgate Press in 1950. Finding a copy may be difficult. Only 200 copies were printed.

Although not available in book form, the



Mountain History Archive includes the handwritten diaries of **Juanita Goldmann**, from 1898 when she was 15 years old to her death in 1962. She writes about growing up in the Santa Cruz Mountains in amazing detail. She lived with her parents at the Villa Bergstedt, a beautiful estate

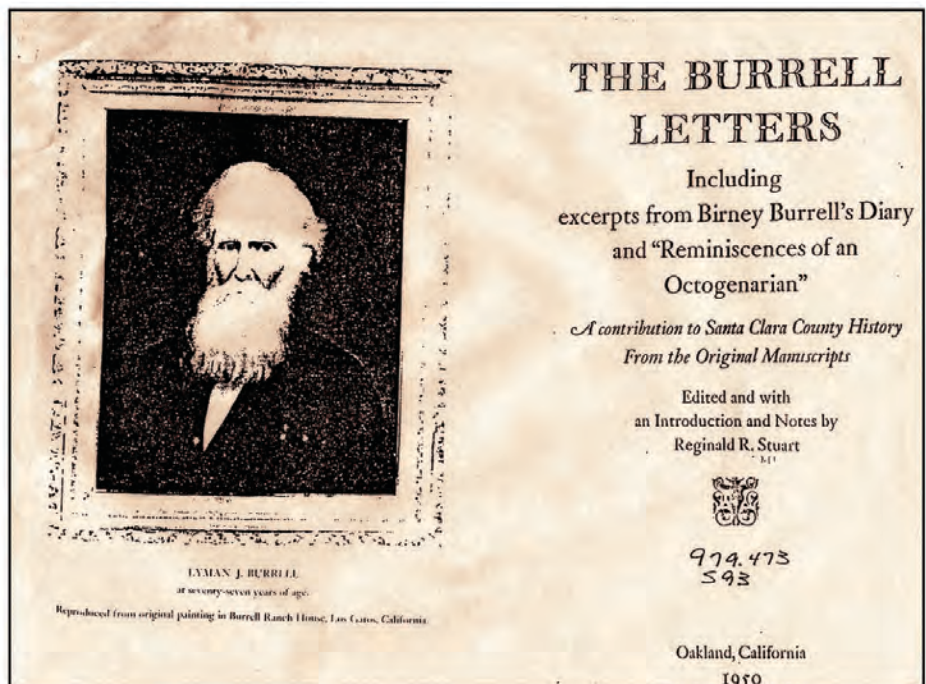
located four miles from Wright's Station at the end of Loma Prieta Avenue. Some excerpts from her diaries were printed in several issues of *Mountain Network News* in 2003.

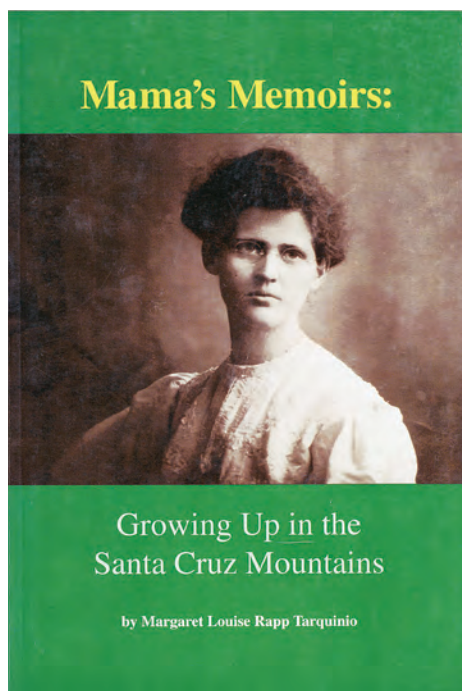
A newer history, *Mama's Memoirs: Growing Up in the Santa Cruz Mountains*, is based on the stories of **Emma Ingraham Rapp**, who lived in our mountains from 1901 to 1975. Her daughter, Margaret Louise Rapp Tarquinio, and granddaughter, Janet Tarquinio, compiled these stories in a book of 277 pages and over 60 photos.

It is a great read: funny, real, and local, especially if you live in the Summit/Skyland area. It takes you to places like Skyland, Laurel, and Holy City. How can you go wrong with chapters like these: Grandpa's Mail Order Bride, Store Bought Teeth, Discord in the Harmony Missionary Society, and Mama's Driving? Our copy was published in 1995 by Vista Del Mar Press, Los Gatos. It may be available from other publishers and through Amazon and other book dealers.



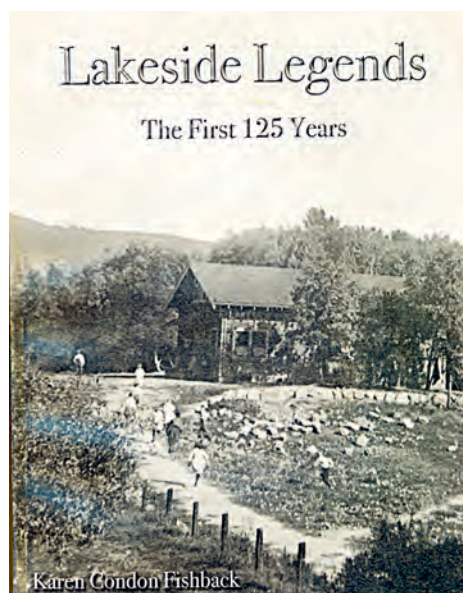
Juanita Goldmann





Karen Condon Fishback's book *Lakeside Legends, The First 125 Years* tells the stories of people living in the Lakeside School district. The author says that it took her 25 years to write it, but she had help. She graduated from Lakeside in 1956, but she received reams of material from **John "Bud" Mersereau**, a retired professor and 1938 Lakeside graduate, and **Jeff George**, retired NASA scientist and 1971 graduate. More than 25 other people are listed as major contributors.

The first nine chapters cover the early days in the mountains, including electricity, telephones, mail delivery, the 1906 earthquake, losses, resorts, social events, and things that happened after school. Twenty-three chapters in part two focus on the



march 2022

Lakeside School history from beginning to the centennial, from a one-room school to the teaching of radio, TV, computers, and rocket science. It tells many personal stories from students, teachers, and administrators. No publisher is listed, but you can purchase a copy of the book at Lakeside School.

Dick Lake published *Nuts from Hazelhurst*, a book of true stories and poems written by his grandmother **Laura Sears**. My wife, Marlene, wrote the introduction for the book. In the preface he expresses his gratitude to her, saying

"Without her help this book would not have been published."

It is not an ordinary history. Instead, it records the memories of a young mountain woman through her own stories and poetry. For instance, here is her poem about mountain travel:

One can take the train at Laurel.

Or at Wright's four times a day.

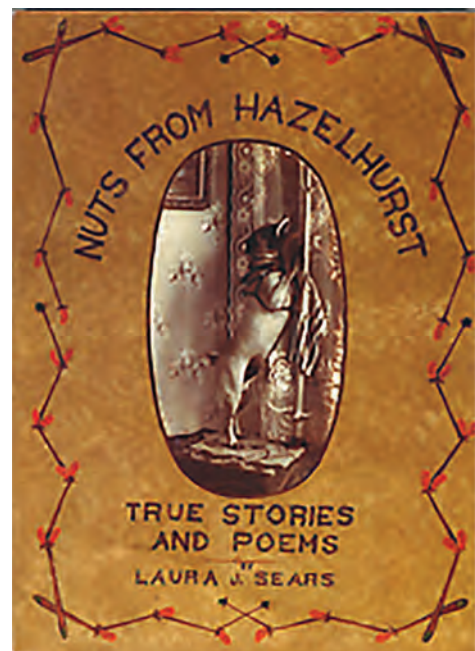
Forty minutes is the time that is required.

There's a city either way.

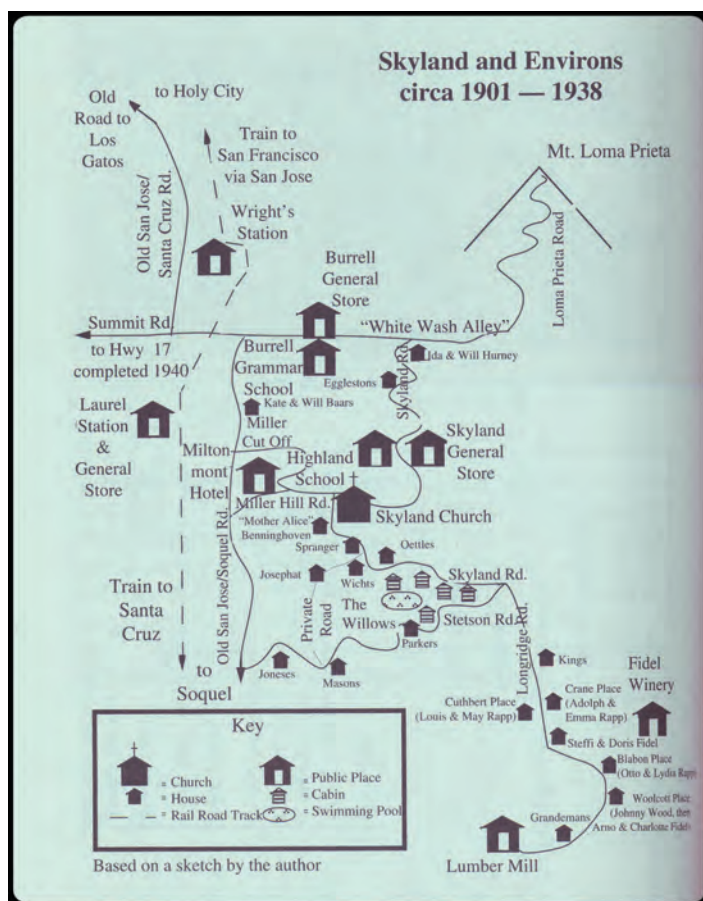
Santa Cruz or San Jose.

Lectures, theatres, and concerts till you're tired.

In her introduction, Marlene said that Laura's poems and stories record a way of life long gone. Her writing tells of mountain



animals, including lions, cats, lambs, dogs, pigs, birds, and snakes. She gave advice and reported on local controversies. Her recipe to cure the blues was to get busy. Her poem *The Battle of Skyland* relates the community's struggle to get rural free mail delivery. Many of her poems and essays were published in the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* or *The Mountain Realty*. *Nuts from Hazelhurst* may be available on eBay, but the book is difficult to find.



Celebrating life in the Santa Cruz Mountains

page 21

nature

Blacksmith and Señorita Fish

Bruce Sudweeks

Whenever I see blacksmith fish in local waters, I think they are on holiday from Southern California, but it turns out that Monterey Bay is the extreme northern edge of their range.

When I researched these social, charismatic fish, I discovered that they are very fastidious. In order to satisfy their neatness and OCD tendencies, they have made a symbiotic arrangement with the *señorita* fish that also has sparse population density in our local waters.

The *señorita* fish cleans the annoying parasites from the blacksmith while having a snack for its efforts. Through my research I also found out that male blacksmith are dedicated fathers. They locate the nesting site, give it a thorough cleaning, invite the female over for the mating activities, and take care of the eggs by guarding, cleaning, and aerating.

Don't tell our wives.




From top:
a blue heron,
a flock of turkeys,
and a baby killdeer.

Photos by Mercury
Freedom



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Surfers in the sunset
Photo by Bruce Fournier

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schools

Lexington School

Deanna Wilk

Lexington students are having fun learning through exploring, making, sharing their ideas, and collaborating. Our first graders experimented with ways to communicate by using cups, string, and the properties of sound, and creating codes with light and kazoo. They broadened



their perspective on how people express themselves.

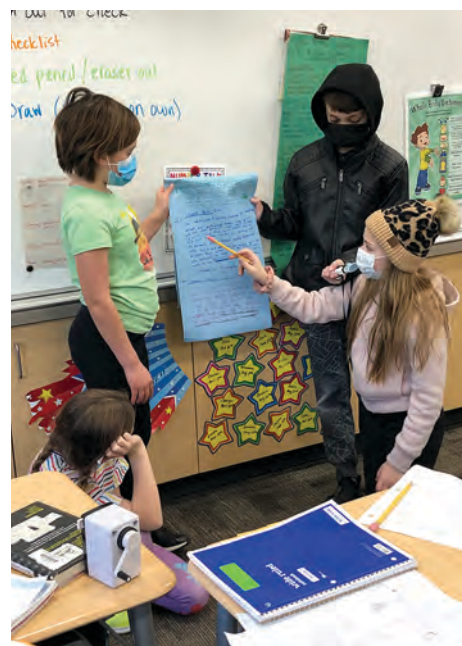
Third graders took what they learned about musical instruments to make their own out of found materials: Maracas filled with various items, string instruments using elastic and wire, a trombone of plastic pipes, and drums of different shapes, sizes, and materials. They presented and played their instruments so that everyone could hear the sound effects of different designs. Then the class had a jam session.

On Martin Luther King Day, fourth graders reflected on Dr. King's words and shared what they have a dream about. They discussed equality, peace, real listening, and caring for each other. They learned "that all people that have lost hope will find a golden light in their tunnel and have hope, that black lives matter, all lives matter, all people

can go to school, all women will be treated fairly so many children do not have to go through an unfair life, people will reverse the effects of climate change, and one day I will wake up and everybody will listen to each other."

Fourth graders practiced listening to each other as they shared their hopes. They also practiced these words every day in the classroom.

Fourth graders are collaborating in small



Two Unique Mountain Homes For Sale



This awarding-winning home was designed and built by Paul Mehus as a personal residence, then updated by Testorff Construction and Heidi Anderson Spicer (Archworks) in 2005. Unique design and modern environmental efficiency welcome its new owners. Situated on ~1.25 private acres of drought-tolerant gardens and mountain views in the desirable "Villa del Monte." Radiant heat flooring in the bathrooms, Timbertech decking, 5-KW owned solar panel system, battery backup, solar hot water heater, electric car charger in the detached three-car garage, and surround sound system, Los Gatos schools. Offered at \$2,398,888 Open House March 5/6 2-4 p.m.

This Adams Road home offers a carefree lifestyle. Enjoy pristine Monterey Bay sunrise views, plus the magical Redwood trails inviting a daily hike or riding in the nearby Demo Forest. This ~3520 square foot home offers four+ bedrooms, three baths, a loft/office, and oversized two-car garage. The solar is owned, Trex decking, automatic backup generator, and low maintenance gardens are just a few of the extras. Set on ~1.25 flat acres with a separate ADU downstairs, perfect for extended family or potential Airbnb/rental. Soaring ceilings and walls of glass give you exquisite light, views of nature, and sunlit warmth. Los Gatos Schools. Recreate here! Offered at \$2,395,555. Open House March 12/13 2-4 p.m.



Jeanette Demma MacDonald, CALIFORNIA REAL ESTATE, Call my cell 408.348.1915, email me at jmacdona@buycalre.com, or visit www.californiahomechoice.com

groups to summarize the historical events that took place between the end of the mission system and the California Gold Rush. Each group focused on a different event to better understand it, and presented it to the class. The class inquired about how localized events have far-reaching impact, the types of economic, environmental, and social changes resulting from major events, and pinpointed what systems developed out of these changes.

Our student Green Team recently met to collect trash around one of our outdoor classrooms. It was trash hunting with a purpose: to collect data. The three most common items they found were plastic straw wrappers (from juice boxes), protein bar wrapper pieces, and masks. Using this information, they held a brainstorming session on what programs they could put in place to divert these items directly into the trash. Thanks to parent Jackie Marquez for supervising.

Lexington celebrated International Mother Language Day during an assembly. Several students and principal Mr. Deppong, told the story of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* in parts, using Russian, Spanish, Malayalam, Polish, Norwegian, French, and Hebrew.

It was fun to hear the familiar story told, and see it loved, in so many languages. The kindergarteners sang *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star* as the finale. Students made posters about Lexington in their mother language, with English translation, and wore clothes with different languages written on them to add to the spirit.

Fifth grade Spanish club members read the Spanish version of the book *Encanto* to interested students in the library.

Kindergarten registration is in full swing. Visit the Lexington office to pick up a registration packet to find out more about our school.



Photos by Jason Deppong

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Lakeside School Community Foundation Hila Propp

Lakeside students are well into our annual read-a-thon, discovering new favorites and revisiting well-loved stories. Students are striving to read (or be read to) at least 20 minutes per night, and many students have



surpassed 300 minutes. Teachers and staff have shared their most beloved children's books. First-grade teacher Kajsa Byrne recommends *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown. Margalette Ezekiel, who is working as a long-term substitute in the TK/kindergarten class, shared her favorites: *Pierre* by Maurice Sendak, as well as the original *Mary Poppins* by Pamela Lyndon Travers.

Participants gathered pledges and could win \$50-\$100 in prizes by reading the most minutes or gathering the highest pledges. The class with the highest pledges will win a popcorn party. All of the money raised will directly fund science, art, P.E. counselors, technology, and supplies for teachers. Thank you to our parents for cultivating a love of reading at home, as well as to teachers, staff, and the student council for helping us put on another successful fundraiser.

In February, families and community members spread out on picnic blankets and lounged in camping chairs under the stars to watch the movie *Luca*. It addresses challenging yourself, making friends despite differences, and silencing your inner critic. Our fifth-graders sold snacks and drinks to raise funds for science camp. Free community events such as these are a top priority for LSCF as we strive to safely



build bonds with our mountain families. Special thanks to Holly Stewart, Kate Manning, and Mary Poling for setting up and cleaning up.

Let someone else make dinner and participate in one of our monthly Dine Outs. Enjoy dinner at Super Duper Burger, 15991 Los Gatos Boulevard (Building 3) on **Wednesday, March 30**. Just present a flyer at checkout, and a percentage of all purchases will benefit our school. You can print out a flyer from www.lakesidescf.org/dine-out-flyers.



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Lakeside School News

Shama Marshall

Lakeside's production of the play, *Lady Foxhound Rubies*, is well underway. Actors in transitional-kindergarten through fifth grades are rehearsing during lunch and after school. Karen Fishback, who graduated from Lakeside in 1956, wrote, directed, and produced the play. (She is also the author of a local history book, *Lakeside Legends*.) First-grade teacher Kajsa Byrne is volunteering her time to lead singing practice.

Thanks to the generous support of the Lakeside School Community Foundation, our students enjoyed a Lunar New Year assembly presented by the USA Prancer Education Group. Lakeside students experienced the New Year "lion dance" and enjoyed an impressive *Kung Fu* demonstration. Chinese treats were provided

by the Guo and Sha families. Throughout the week, Lakeside teachers provided reading and hands-on activities to support deeper cultural appreciation, understanding, and acceptance.

Thank you to our parents and community members who support the Lakeside School Community Foundation. Without your support, amazing assemblies such as this would not be possible.

Transitional-kindergarten and kindergarten registration are now open for the 2022-2023 school year. If your child turns five before September 1, you may register them for kindergarten. If your child turns five between September 1 and December 1, you may register them for transitional-kindergarten. Email ljsd@lakesidelosgatos.org, or call 408-354-2372 for more information.



Lakeside Joint School District Board Trustee Vacancy

Dr. Sean Joyce
LJSD Superintendent

The Lakeside Joint School District Board of Trustees intends to fill a trustee seat left vacant, by the resignation of longtime trustee Dr. Linda Kelley on February 2. The board plans to appoint an eligible applicant for this open seat at the board meeting on **Wednesday, April 6**. A candidate must be registered to vote, 18 years of age or older, a citizen of California, a resident of Lakeside Joint School District, and not disqualified by the constitution or California laws from holding a civil office. Applications are available on the district website, at www.lakesidelosgatos.org, by calling 408-354-2372, or emailing ljsd@lakesidelosgatos.org. Applications are due in the district office, 19621 Black Road, Los Gatos, CA 95033, by **Friday, March 25**, at 4 p.m.

Men's Night Out

Join us for an afternoon of tree-felling and log-splitting, followed by barbecued ribs and beer. Cost per person is \$25, and will benefit educational programs at Lakeside School. Join us on **Saturday, March 19**, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. To sign up, visit www.lakesidescf.org/events.



schools

Los Gatos-Saratoga Observation Nursery School Amanda Demers

This month, a head teacher for Los Gatos-Saratoga Observation Nursery School (commonly known as Mountain School), Yoshi Ramanujam, shared her thoughts about Mountain School:

“When we first moved to California, we were looking for preschools and many families recommended Mountain School. My children enjoy the outdoors, and I was looking for a parent-participation preschool, so we enrolled.

“At the end of the school year, the teacher (Lilo) came up to me and asked if I’d be interested in assistant teaching in one of the classes. It was completely unexpected, and I was surprised and flattered. I learned so much as a parent in the program, and I’m still learning as a teacher. The children grow up so fast during the year, and each one is different and unique.

“As the children learn and play, parents are encouraged to step back and observe as their children experience the world around them. Parents quickly realize that when we give our children freedom, they gain confidence. We watch them struggle.



We watch them succeed. The parents and teachers are there to help them navigate rough terrain, take risks, and interact with classmates. The children are encouraged to listen to their own bodies and follow their natural curiosity. They find joy in exploring their natural surroundings with friends.

“The written observation component of the Mountain School program is unique. Sometimes it seems like a chore, and sometimes it feels like treasured memories in the making. Writing observations while their child explores allows the parent to

reflect on their child. The focus is not on “what should I be doing as a parent” but instead “how does my child interact with the world?” That leads to “how can I encourage them to be their best selves?” Writing observations allow us to see the world through our children’s eyes as they explore, dig, and run with wide-eyed enthusiasm. It’s a moment to observe a worm wiggle on the ground, or marvel at how tall a tree is.

“Parent participation appeals to parents who would like their children in a social setting, and would like to share the experience with them. I’ve heard many stories of children and parents who meet in Mountain School, and develop friendships that last a lifetime.

“As a parent, I enjoyed attending class with my sons. It’s hard not to compare your kids with others, but you eventually start to see the positive qualities in all children, including your own, and how everyone contributes to the group dynamic.”

If you are interested in finding out more about Mountain School, visit us online at www.lgsons.org, or email info@lgsons.org.

Enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year is open now. Scan this QR code with your phone to register.



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**Building Blocks
Spring Giving Campaign
and Family Fun Day**
Alexandra Hughmanick

Building Blocks strives to make preschool possible for every child in our mountain community. We are currently hosting a spring giving campaign in support of our scholarship fund.

The fundraiser runs from **February 28 to March 11**, culminating in a Family Fun Day on **Saturday, March 12**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Building Blocks. All community members are invited.

Enjoy field games, tie-dying T-shirts, planting succulents in pots painted by the students, and a raffle. Raffle tickets are \$10 each. Items include 49ers tickets, local wine, artwork, plants, and more. The event will be held rain or shine. Our campaign goal is to raise at least \$6,000. Tax-deductible donations can be made through buildingblockscoop.org/support.

Our program is designed to meet the developmental needs of each student. We offer activities that encourage growth in language, motor skills, creative expression, social-emotional development, and sensory-



motor development.

We believe that children and adults learn best through active, hands-on discovery and that play is the child's best medium. We incorporate free play along with activities designed and guided by teachers and parents.

We stimulate natural curiosity and support children in learning how to interact with others. We assist them in effectively expressing themselves, and encourage them to try new experiences.

These lessons will provide them with what they need to succeed in everyday life as well as in their future formal education. Our program consists of truly listening to children and adults. By doing so, we respect their thinking, creativity, and growth.

Building Blocks is enrolling now for the 2022-2023 school year. For details, visit buildingblockscoop.org/admissions.



**Theatre in the Mountains
Who's in Whoville?**
Kiyoko Whiteside

Rehearsals are underway for *Seussical Jr!*. Performances will be held **May 13, 14, and 15** on the Loma Prieta Community Center main stage.

Artistic staff includes director Caitlin Papp, assistant director/choreographer Kiyoko Whiteside, and vocal director Melanie Camras. They are supported by producers Erin Asheghian, Ellen Farrow, and the Theatre in the Mountains steering committee. This production features a wider age-range of performers than we have had in many years. We welcome longtime and new TIM families to this production.

Theatre in the Mountains is a volunteer-run organization. We are looking for community members who want to participate and use their special skills such as building, painting, and sewing to make our productions even better. We also have jobs for people who have time for administrative tasks. To help, email theatreinthemountains@gmail.com.

We want to acknowledge the Theatre in the Mountains steering committee, led by chair Jennifer Daniher, for staying engaged over the past two years. They pulled together over the past few months to make sure this production was possible. The TIM steering committee includes Cris Vaughan, Mark Vaughan, Pradeep Sanders, Kyle Fox, Kiyoko Whiteside, Stephanie Randazzo, Ellen Farrow, JB Hanselman, Bridget Freiri, and Chris Arns.

Tickets will go on sale in April at <http://www.theatreinthemountains.org>.

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