A photograph of a forest stream with large rocks and tree stumps. The stream flows through a dense forest, with sunlight filtering through the trees. The water is clear and flows over large, smooth rocks. Several tree stumps are visible, some covered in moss. The forest floor is covered in fallen leaves and branches.

mn

mountain network news

February 2021



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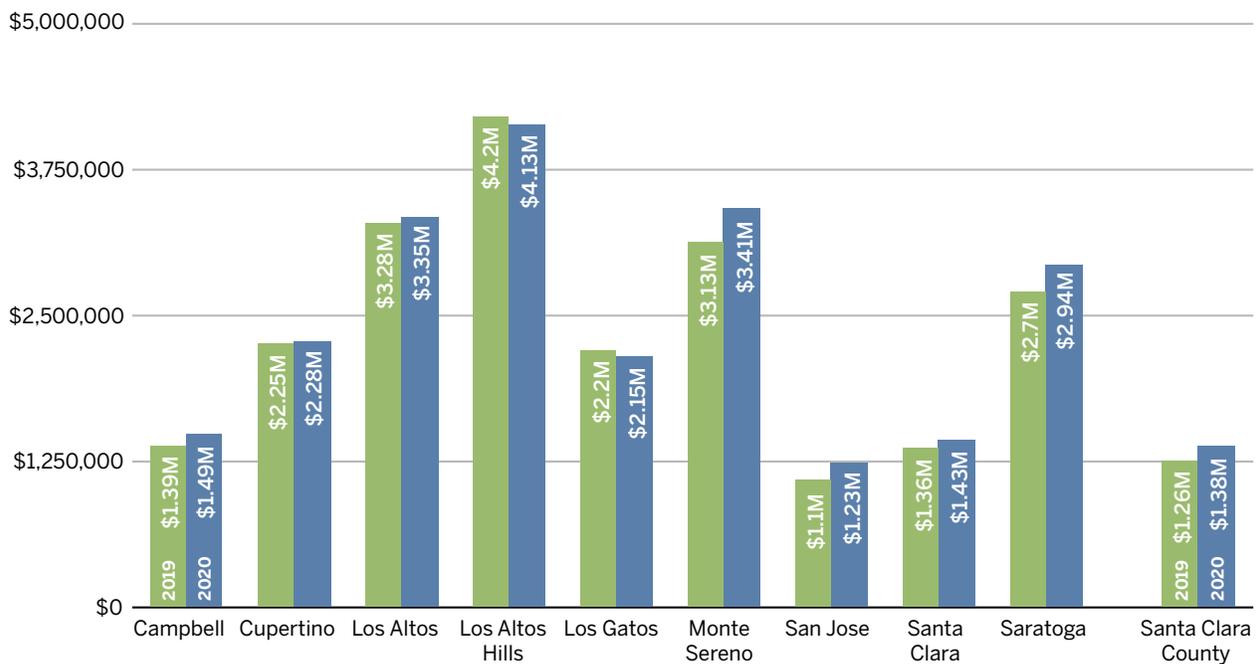
Golden Gate

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Median Sales Price by City - 2019 vs 2020

SINGLE FAMILY HOMES · SOURCE: MLSLISTINGS



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Los Gatos Mountains



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DRE 00780027

Los Gatos Mountains



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lisa.sgarlato@compass.com
DRE 01342694

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sebastian.frey@compass.com
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DRE 01342694

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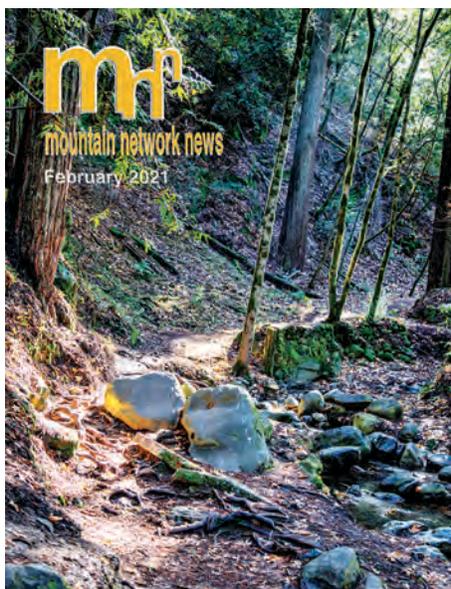
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Four-color page or 2/3 page	add \$500
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Frequency discounts available.	
Classified and business directory	\$8 per formatted line

Circulation

More than 4000 homes and businesses in the Santa Cruz Mountains



Cover

**Sanborn Narrows Trail
 Sanborn Park**

The Trail Ahead

The trail is not promising.
 Covered with rocks, mud, and debris,
 it looks impassable.

But a few steps ahead
 you'll find a smoother path.

Our trail won't be easy either.
 So watch your footing.

Be careful.
 Be hopeful.
 And wear your mask.

These are dark days,
 but happier trails are ahead.

Find the bridge.

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DRE 01342694



21398 Sunnyside Road

Los Gatos Mountains

\$949,000 | 3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1586 Sq Ft

Charm abounds in this Aldercroft Heights home. New wide plank flooring throughout. Living room entry with wood-stove, leads to dining room. Charming kitchen with reclaimed redwood cabinets, beautiful quartz counters, and a lovely breakfast area. Master suite has wood stove and leads to deck. Central heat in main part of house, wall heater in bedrooms, Spacious workshop and storage areas, potential wine room/art studio. Charming staircase with train cart to carry your groceries. Lovely decks with views! Gardening and picnic areas. great commute location, close to town near reservoir with kayaking, fishing and hiking trails nearby. Best LG Schools: Lexington Elem, Fisher Middle, Los Gatos High.



20100 Old Santa Cruz Hwy

Los Gatos Mountains

\$1,150,000 | 2 Bed | 1.5 Bath | 1176 Sq Ft

Don't miss this well-crafted mountain home that includes extra loft space. Garage plus 500 sf mechanics workshop. Sunny open floor plan with vaulted ceiling, refinished hardwood floors, oak cabinetry. Loft area easily serves as extra bedroom space. Master bedroom has walk-in closet and separate deck. Double pane windows and skylights, sliding door leads to handsome redwood deck overlooking forest and peak views of Lexington. Central heat, Oakmont community water. Garage has extra soundproof room. Separate 200 sf studio apartment on lower level has private entrance and deck. Easy commute location. Excellent Los Gatos schools: Lexington Elementary, Fisher Middle, Los Gatos High.



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COMPASS

RESOURCES



Fox Equine
Free Manure Compost
 Keith Kanady

Fox Equine is offering free self-serve manure compost to the mountain community. It is available for pick-up on Skyland Road. Call 510-396-7067 to make arrangements.

Fox Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation has been working in our Santa Cruz Mountains for over seven years. Not only do they rescue, rehabilitate, and re-home abandoned and abused horses, they provide services to the community in the form of horsemanship programs, lessons, and camps. These activities provide a safe environment for both children and adults to learn about horses. Rescued



horses are used for all of the activities, further rehabilitating the horses, while providing these opportunities for our mountain community.

The County of Santa Cruz has informed Fox Equine that they will now require a Level 5 permit to continue operations. These permits cost up to \$7,500—a price beyond the means of a rescue organization where all income is used for the maintenance of the horses and further rescue operations.

Fox Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation

hopes the community recognizes the valuable services the organization provides, both to the horses and to the community itself. There are few riding facilities in the mountains still open, and even fewer that provide horsemanship programs and classes in a COVID-19-safe environment. The organization is a 501c3 operation, so all donations are tax deductible.

Anyone can donate to their GoFundMe for the Level 5 permit, or directly through www.foxequinerescue.org. For more information, call 510-396-7067.



HAPPY NEW YEAR! WE ARE THANKFUL FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S CONTINUED SUPPORT!

There is unprecedented demand for mountain homes right now!
 Take advantage of this golden opportunity for some of the highest sale prices ever seen.



23509 Summit Rd, Los Gatos Mtns
 Sold for \$2,459,000

21104 Brush Rd, Los Gatos Mtns
 Sold for \$2,325,000

21972 Gillette Dr, Los Gatos Mtns
 Sold for \$1,868,000

185 Snow Crest Rd, Los Gatos Mtns
 Sold for \$1,589,000

2020 Year to Date Sales

13 Buyers and 27 Sellers Represented Totalling Over \$70 Million in Sales

ADDRESS	SALE PRICE	ADDRESS	SALE PRICE
107 Drysdale Dr, Los Gatos	\$4,200,000	18360 Las Cumbres Rd, Los Gatos Mtns	\$1,300,000
318 Templeton Ln, Los Gatos	\$3,155,000	333 Santana Row #249, San Jose	\$1,262,500
14711 Golf Links Dr, Los Gatos	\$2,921,800	106 Almond Hill Ct, Los Gatos	\$1,260,000
15625 On Orbin Dr, Los Gatos	\$2,800,000	23637 Sky View Ter, Los Gatos Mtns	\$1,255,000
504 Nino Ave, Los Gatos	\$2,525,000	26199 Pierce Rd, Los Gatos Mtns	\$1,225,000
21121 Brush Rd, Los Gatos Mtns	\$2,500,000	17210 Melody Ln, Los Gatos Mtns	\$1,225,000
25279 Terrace Grove Rd, Los Gatos Mtns	\$2,125,000	121 Mcenery Rd, Felton	\$1,222,500
17361 E Vineland Ave, Los Gatos Mtns	\$2,000,000	21565 Old Mine Rd, Los Gatos Mtns	\$1,197,500
8 Orchard St, Los Gatos Mtns	\$1,860,000	132 Victoria Ln, Aptos	\$1,185,000
25991 Mar Vista Ct, Los Gatos Mtns	\$1,825,000	13990 Long Ridge Rd, Los Gatos Mtns	\$1,180,000
23501 Summit Rd, Los Gatos Mtns	\$1,650,000	16900 Old Ranch Rd, Los Gatos Mtns	\$1,149,000
5272 Old San Jose Rd, Soquel	\$1,555,000	205 Old Orchard Rd, Los Gatos Mtns	\$1,125,000
1004 Patricia Wy, San Jose	\$1,525,000	671 Cresci Rd, Los Gatos Mtns	\$975,000
223 Wixon Ave, Aptos	\$1,520,000	925 The Alameda #305, San Jose	\$815,000
22180 Summit Rd, Los Gatos Mtns	\$1,447,875	88 N Jackson Ave #119, San Jose	\$645,000
23558 Sky View Ter, Los Gatos Mtns	\$1,445,000	8663 Lilly Ave, Gilroy	\$624,000
18131 June Ct, Los Gatos Mtns	\$1,400,000	142 Castillion Ter, Santa Cruz	\$590,000
22595 Old Santa Cruz Hwy, Los Gatos Mtns	\$1,350,000	1 E Julian St. #109, San Jose	\$455,000
15253 Old Ranch Rd, Los Gatos Mtns	\$1,332,000	303 Tradewinds Dr. #4, San Jose	\$445,000



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community

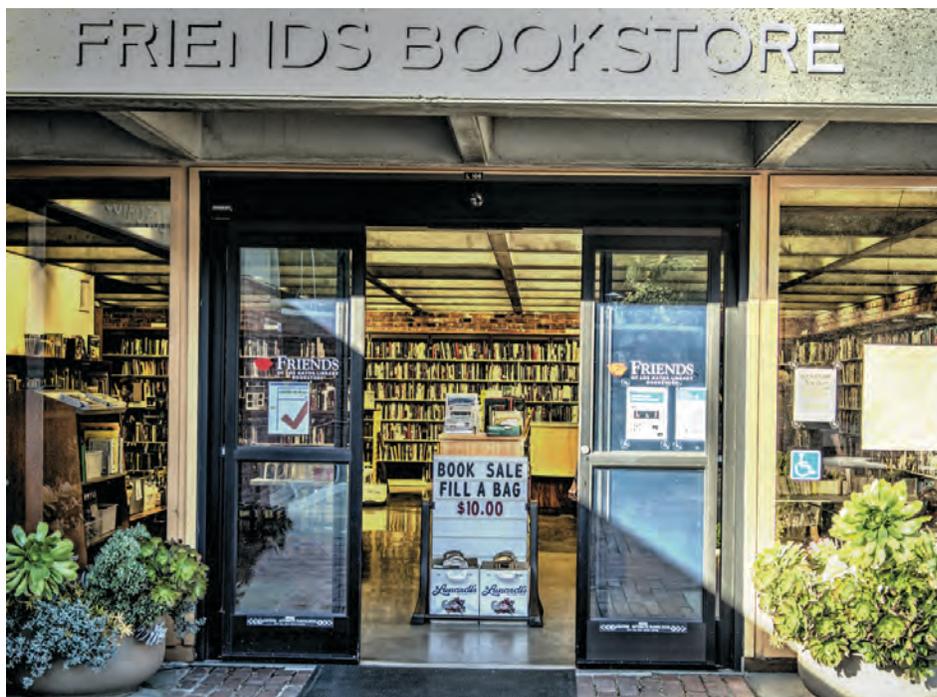
Friends of Los Gatos Library New Services from your Library Cheryl McKenzie

The Friends of Los Gatos Library reopened their bookstore in October. We began taking book donations through a sign-up process. You can find out the details and schedule a drop off on our website at <https://friendsofglibrary.org/bookstore/book-donations>.

We need merchandise to stock our shelves. So, if you would like space on your shelves for new books, please donate those you've already read.

All of the proceeds go to support the library. While open for patio pick-up at the moment, the library continues to provide a wide range of programs for the community. Some are virtual, but still require funds to make them available.

For example, art kits are now available for checkout. These come with supplies that can be borrowed and used to make your



own art projects. You return the supplies, but keep the results of your own projects. Kits include mini-canvas kits, canvas

board kits, and watercolor kits for painting activities. Also available are bookbinding kits and EZ-Cut stamp kits.

This initiative supports reusing, recycling, and sharing resources to promote a greener community. It also encourages our community to keep on expressing creativity through the visual arts. For more information, email Grace Song at gsong@losgatosca.gov.

Our bookstore is the only one in town. Now, there is a special sale you can't afford to miss. One bag of books costs only \$10.

Our hours, until further notice, are Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, from 1 to 5 p.m.

We're located in the former children's section of the old Los Gatos Library on Civic Center Plaza, south of the new library. The address is 110 East Main Street, in Los Gatos. To find out more, visit our website at www.friendsofglibrary.org.



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Something New!
A Positive Demonstration
 Jenny Whitman

Before dawn on a cold, drizzly Monday morning, a steady stream of cars lined up along Montevina's frontage road. By 6:30 a.m., more than fifty cars with blinking tail lights had parked. People stood by their cars holding light-up cheer cards, sparklers, and glow sticks. An ABC Channel 7 news team was ready.

Was this a rally, demonstration, or a new parking lot?

No, these were the neighbors and friends of Marcus Bannon. They came out to surprise him and wish him well as he headed to San Francisco and his first cancer treatment at UCSF.

The idea was the brainchild of his friend and longtime neighbor, Patrick Keller. He says, "It was inspired by all the policeman and fireman lines you see when folks are honoring someone who has passed. We want to flip that, and give the good thoughts ahead of time, when they are needed."

Patrick's wife, Lisa, agrees. "Marcus is larger than life. He has so much love to give people and will help anyone at the drop of a hat. He and his wife, Jodi, have improved people's lives and supported families. It is time for us to lift them up and support them on this journey. We feel honored that we can be on the front lines for them. We wouldn't have it any other way."

She continues. "Jodi and Marcus are the most in-love couple I have ever met. They get teased by their friends about how affectionate they are with each other. They work, live, and vacation together." Lisa pauses a moment before continuing, "Marcus chokes up when he talks about his wife and three daughters."

Jeff Strachan is standing nearby in a gorilla suit spinning a **BANNONIZE EM** sign. Jeff met Marcus eleven years ago at a fundraiser for Lexington School, which both their daughters attended. They became fast friends. "Marcus is the guy that when I'm ninety years old, I would like to be sitting next to him on a porch, drinking an ice-cold beer, talking about our families, the events, adventures, and other things that we have experienced with life's journey."

Why the ape suit?

"Marcus was the emcee at my wife's birthday party last February. I dressed up as a dancing gorilla. Marcus has a wicked sense of humor and enjoys being in character and having a good time for special events. In



fact, he has a matching Sasquatch outfit. Marcus teased me about the cost of the suit, but I assured him that I would wear it again someday. Little did I know that I would be wearing it at a Bannon rally."

Jeff's wife, Michelle, holding a light-up *Gooo Marcus!* sign, agreed. "We're here at 'o'dark-thirty" because we all love Marcus. He's been giving to the community forever and this is an opportunity to give back. Marcus, you got this!"

Aaron Cockerill met Marcus at an annual Montevina Progressive Christmas party ten years ago. Aaron remembers Marcus wearing a kilt. Aaron is elated, but not surprised by the show of community support.

"Marcus has touched so many people in this community. In fact, if you were to walk around downtown with him, you would see Marcus greeting friends. Everyone seems to know him. Marcus is very social and tons of fun. He is outdoorsy and loves to plan family vacations with other families."

"Oh, and did you know he loves to sing?" Aaron continued. "He has been the lead singer in more than one band. In fact, he

and his wife have hosted music festivals at their home to raise money for local schools."

Jodi and Marcus have also been very active in other aspects of local fundraising, such as the Los Gatos Lions Club.

"Let me tell you the way Marcus thinks," Aaron said.

"All Marcus is looking for is positive reinforcement. As soon as he was diagnosed, he wanted to learn from other people who had similar experiences. Then he was already thinking of domain names or a URL for a service that could provide support for others from his experience. He is an amazing man."

Lenny Garcia is in the restaurant business and has known Marcus for 15 years. He has played drums in Marcus' band and also does the cooking for family fishing trips. "Marcus is one of the best guys you could know, caring and understanding. He rocks."

Jaleh Hobson is a neighbor. "Marcus' charisma lights up a room. His kindness and affectionate personality are what everyone is attracted to. He is a natural as a father and community leader. I cried on my way down to the rally this morning."

Sue Cristallo met Marcus years ago when he brought his daughters to meet her horses. "I've always known Marcus as a big-hearted fellow who has been part of the action, or the reason for it."

The morning after the event, Marcus' wife Jodi reported the good news that Marcus tolerated the medications without any reaction and that the radiation went well. She added how touched she and her family were at the community outpouring of support. Jodi is using the Caring Bridge website to keep family and friends updated on Marcus' progress: You can visit <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/marcus2020story>.



Celebrating life in the Santa Cruz Mountains

community

Mountain Matters

This month, we asked local business employees what they enjoyed most about working in the Santa Cruz Mountains.



Julie, C.T. English Middle School

The school is close to home, and I love that I have essentially no commute to and from work. I get to work with friends, people I've known for years. And you can't beat the gorgeous view from our school! I feel very fortunate to work here.



Curtis, Summit Store

It's a sweet spot between the Monterey Bay and Silicon Valley. I'm also a resident and community member, so I really like the camaraderie and the small-town vibe where people know each other.



Mary, Redwood Estates Store

I like that I don't have to commute on Highway 17. I like this community; everyone is friendly and kind up here.



Stevie, Nonno's

It's close to where I live, and I'm a student, so it's really convenient as a side job. It's really hard to find a part-time job elsewhere right now.

THE REDWOOD ESTATES STORE

...in beautiful downtown Redwood Estates!

EBT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED

We wish all of our neighbors a most happy and healthy New Year in 2021!

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Open Every Day
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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Craft Beer
Fine Wines & Liquors
Gourmet Coffees



Ruby, Summit Store

People up here are very personable. Living and working here, I get to know a lot of people, and it's great.



Shama, Lakeside School

The mountain community has made me feel very welcomed, cared for, and included over the last three years. Parents and other community members frequently enter our school office with suggestions of how to help community members in need, or to bring in homemade goods as thank-you gifts for staff. Fruits, vegetables, books, furniture, and all manner of needed donations arrive on our office bench many times without a name to give credit. These gestures fill the office with laughter and positivity. Even our youngest students reflect these values every day in their remote-learning classrooms by expressing care for the classmates, sharing their concerns for society, and when they are on campus, caring for our school facility. I also love the simple joy it brings to commute to such a beautiful campus every day.



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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people

Obituary

Richard Charles Nelson Kristen Spears

Richard Charles Nelson passed away peacefully on November 11, 2020, at the age of 96. He was the loving husband of Doris Nelson, who is 97. They shared 67 years of love and companionship together.

Born in Randolph, Nebraska, Dick was the son of Alfred and Efa Nelson. Dick and his brother, Don, developed a lifelong love of cars as they grew up around their father's Chevrolet dealership.

Dick was drafted at 18 during World War II. During his time in the 102nd Infantry Division, he landed in France and was in combat in the Netherlands and Germany.

After his service, Dick attended the University of Nebraska, where he graduated with a degree in engineering. He completed further studies in chemical engineering at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York.

Dick initially worked for the General Electric Company in their general engineering lab, but later transferred to the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory in



Niskayuna, New York. There, Dick was proud to have the opportunity to work on the innovative nuclear-powered USS Skipjack submarine, as well as other cutting-edge nuclear projects.

Later in his 33-year career with General Electric, Dick was involved in the licensing of various nuclear reactors around the United States, including Diablo Canyon, the only nuclear power plant currently operating in California.

Upon his retirement, Dick continued to enjoy living in the Santa Cruz Mountains. He was an active member of the Sons

In Retirement, where he enjoyed the fellowship of weekly meetings.

He and Doris also traveled extensively with his SIR group. One of his favorite trips was a cruise through the Panama Canal, where he appreciated the engineering of the intricate lock system.

Throughout his life, Dick enjoyed the ocean and sailing. He was never afraid to take on a project. He built a sailboat and an RV in his garage. He enjoyed camping at Silver Lake with his family each summer. He was well-known for his delicious waffles and pancakes. His famous recipe will continue to be used for generations in his family. He was a loving father and grandfather.

Dick is survived by his wife, Doris Nelson; his sons, Richard and Randal (Michelle); his daughter, Kristen (Stan); five grandchildren, Nicole, Lisa, Scott, Brittany, and Kaitlyn; and three great-grandchildren, Brayden, Georgia, and Carter. Another great-grandchild is due to be born in February. Dick was predeceased by his brother, Donald.

Due to the present circumstances related to COVID-19, we encourage friends and family to share their memories of Dick virtually on <https://www.forevermissed.com/richard-charles-nelson>.

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**Redwood Estates Postmaster
Michele Lopez retires**

I started my postal career at the Los Gatos Post Office, 32 years ago. I first did distribution. It required learning all the streets in Los Gatos and rural areas. Then I had to learn how to sort letters, flats, and parcels for the correct route.

I decided getting up at 1 a.m. every morning wasn't for me, so I went to window training, and became an on-the-job trainer to teach other window clerks. I also worked in personnel, passports, and claims for the Los Gatos Post Office.

I transferred to Los Gatos Dell Station as the lead clerk, managing all the clerks in the office.

Then I came to Redwood Estates as officer in charge, not intending to stay. After a few months, I realized how much I enjoyed working here! I became postmaster in February 2019.

The customers have treated me as if I were part of the community. I've enjoyed working with customers. I've made many friends.

I feel connected to the mountain area because of my father-in-law, Henry (Hank) Lopez. He started delivering mail in the mountains in 1967. My husband, John Lopez, started delivering mail in 1981. He went on to become postmaster of the Los Gatos Post Office. He retired a year ago as the Campbell postmaster.

Of all the jobs I have done for the Postal Service, working in Redwood Estates has been by far the best one of all. I thank everyone I have interacted with for being so nice, and for the great conversations and friendships. I will miss you.



Kanady Team Properties Presents

For more information on these homes and lots, and to arrange a tour, please call us at 408.316.1666.

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Offered at \$3,495,000

LOS GATOS MTNS



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MILPITAS



Countryside Estates
2 lots remain with site approval
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gallery



*A surfer at sunset (above)
and a bird's-eye view of
Jupiter and Saturn (left)*

Photos by Bruce Fournier

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New Discoveries
Bruce Sudweeks

Every year, the California Academy of Sciences generates a press release detailing new species discovered in the previous year. This year's press release stated that 213 new species were found in 2020, including 101 ants, 22 crickets, 15 fish, 11 geckos, 11 sea slugs, 11 flowering plants, eight beetles, eight fossil echinoderms, seven spiders, five snakes, two skinks, two aphids, two eels, one moss, one frog, one fossil amphibian, one seahorse, one fossil scallop, one sea biscuit, one fossil crinoid (or sea lily), and one coral.

A few stand-out species deserve extra attention. A newly-discovered fossil amphibian is special because it appears to have a ballistic tongue like a frog. This means that the evolution of the ballistic tongue may have occurred 100 million years earlier than originally thought.

The new seahorse species has been hiding in plain sight at a popular SCUBA diving site in Australia. One of the 11 newly discovered geckos lives in the large city of Guwahati, India. It was also hiding in plain sight.

It is thought that science has only described about ten percent of the species on our planet. One of the newly-described sea slugs was found in the Philippines. It looks like the Sidegill sea slug that lives in Monterey Bay, pictured above.



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23020 Old Santa Cruz Hwy, Los Gatos
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COMING SOON

24210 Summit Woods Rd, Los Gatos
Listed for \$1,795,000



PENDING

500 Cresci Rd,
Listed for \$1



SOLD
represented seller

15401 Blackberry Hill Rd, Los Gatos
Sold for \$2,550,000



SOLD
represented seller

Loma Prieta Winery
Business sold separately
Sold for \$2,500,000



SOLD
represented seller

19975 Skyline Blvd, Los Gatos
Sold for \$2,325,000



SOLD
represented seller

21099 Brush Rd,
Sold for \$2,3



SOLD
represented seller

25505 Soquel San Jose Rd, Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,699,000



SOLD
represented seller

19980 Skyline Blvd, Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,665,000



SOLD
represented seller

1247 Lennon Way, San Jose
Sold for \$1,625,000



SOLD
represented seller

15410 Stetson Rd
Sold for \$1,6



SOLD
represented seller

23558 Sky View Terr.
Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,445,000



SOLD
represented buyer

24861 Hutchinson Rd.
Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,400,000



SOLD
represented seller

18371 Las Cumbres Rd.
Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,340,000



SOLD
represented seller

870 Hampswood Way
San Jose
Sold for \$1,335,000



SOLD
represented buyer

24179 Summit
Los Gat
Sold for \$1,3



SOLD
represented seller

1602 Sparkling Way
San Jose
Sold for \$1,180,000



SOLD
represented seller

14150 Old Japanese Rd.
Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,100,000



SOLD
represented seller

16850 Sundance Dr.
Los Gatos/Morgan Hill
Sold for \$1,045,000



SOLD
represented buyer

22707 Summit Rd.
Los Gatos
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pi Rd, Los Gatos
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SOLD

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COMING SOON

294 Burrell Ct, Los Gatos
Listed for \$1,050,000



h Rd, Los Gatos
\$2,300,000



SOLD
represented seller

2851 Lowell Ct, San Jose
Sold for \$2,299,000



SOLD
represented seller

23880 Wrights Station Rd, Los Gatos
Sold for \$2,075,000



SOLD
represented seller

23101 Highway 9, Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,750,000



on Rd, Los Gatos
r \$1,612,000



SOLD
represented seller

19075 Skyline Blvd, Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,516,000



SOLD
represented seller

25470 Adams Rd, Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,465,000



SOLD
represented seller

324 Alta Vista Dr, Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,450,000



mmitt Woods Dr.
s Gatos
r \$1,335,000



SOLD
represented seller

21600 Stagecoach Rd.
Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,260,000



SOLD
represented seller

25510 Adams Rd.
Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,255,000



SOLD
represented seller

21915 Bear Creek Way
Los Gatos
Sold for \$1,232,000



SOLD
represented seller

952 Kenneth Ave.
Campbell
Sold for \$1,230,000



rm Hill Way
s Gatos
r \$975,000



SOLD
represented buyer

24615 Skyland Rd.
Los Gatos
Sold for \$850,000



SOLD
represented buyer

13667 Long Ridge Rd.
Los Gatos
Sold for \$785,000



SOLD
rep seller & buyer

447 Alberto Way C130
Los Gatos
Sold for \$675,000



SOLD
represented seller

465 Ribbonwood Ave.
San Jose
Sold for \$660,000

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CONTACT US NOW IF YOU ARE THINKING OF SELLING OR BUYING THIS YEAR!

sereno

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

February 10

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

February 22

Lakeside School 2 to 4 p.m.

February 24

Redwood Estates Pavilion 2 to 4 p.m.

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

Fridays

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

Saturdays

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

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

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

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

Sundays

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

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday, February 20

Cornish pasty pop up by Kerry Adams with the Happy Pasty, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Building Blocks Preschool parking lot, across from Summit Tree Farm. For more information, email kerrycmt@sbcglobal.net. Sorry, no preorders.

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valentines



Molten Chocolate Cakes

Ellen Bond

It's just the two of you, celebrating your relationship. Perhaps it's been just the two of you since March, 2020. You're not dining out this year, so you need the ultimate Valentine's Day dessert: simple, sexy, and indulgent.

Prep Time

- Active:** 20 minutes
- Total:** 35 minutes
- Yield:** Four 6-ounce cakes

Ingredients

- 1 stick unsalted butter
- 6 ounces bittersweet chocolate, preferably Valrhona

- 2 eggs
- 2 egg yolks
- ¼ cup sugar
- Pinch of salt
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour

Directions

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. Butter and lightly flour four 6-ounce ramekins. Tap out the excess flour. Set the ramekins on a baking sheet.

In a double boiler, over simmering water, melt the butter with the chocolate. In a medium bowl, beat the eggs with the egg yolks, sugar, and salt at high speed until thickened and pale.

Whisk the chocolate until smooth. Quickly fold it into the egg mixture with the flour.

Spoon the batter into the prepared ramekins and bake for twelve minutes, or until the sides of the cakes are firm, but the centers are soft. Let the cakes cool in the ramekins for one minute, then cover each with an inverted dessert plate. Carefully turn each one over, let stand for ten seconds and then unmold. Serve immediately.

This recipe can be made ahead. The batter can be refrigerated for several hours, but bring it to room temperature before baking.

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COMPASS

exploring

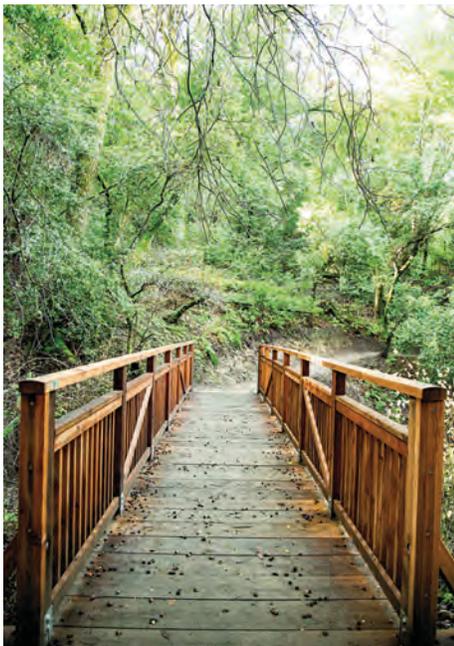
A new local trail
Quarry Park to Sanborn
Neil Wiley

Let's begin with something new. A steep, but short, trail takes you up out of Saratoga's Quarry Park about 6/10 of a mile to a brand-new single track with 2.65 miles of easy switchbacks. You pass over four bridges, through forest, with occasional views of big homes, vineyards, and rounded hills.

This project took a lot of time and money provided by the City of Saratoga with support from Midpeninsula Open Space, Santa Clara County Parks, and San Jose Water. (The water company provided some of the property used by the trail.)

The trail, built by the non-profit Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz, is cool. I mean really cool, as in deep shade. Footing is as smooth as a baby's bottom, except for short sections of gravel where necessary to prevent slides. Trail design makes the climb easier by staying on side slopes with modest grading and a series of switchbacks. This does get a bit boring, especially when you look up to see four more levels above you, but it's better than climbing straight up.

Occasional nature signs, big rocks, and variety in foliage make the walk more interesting, but the single track does not allow side-by-side hiking or easy passing. It would also be more comfortable to have an occasional rest stop with a bench or rock chair.



Reaching the top is a bit of a letdown. It's just a roughly circular space, a winery sign, and a few sittable rocks. If you are using this as an out-and-back trail, it is still a good place for a snack or a brief rest. When you walk back down to Quarry Park, you can cruise on automatic.

You have other options. Instead of turning back, you can continue down Winery Road, which becomes a trail to Sanborn Park. The road goes downhill around many curves with a gradual grade and large mirrors on the blind curves. But, when it reaches a junction with the trail, it becomes a private

road with warnings of big trucks and other unfriendly signs indicating that this is not a legal trail. You stay left to continue on the Saratoga-to-the-Skyline Trail. It goes downward, but it is often rough and steep, especially the last switchback to a connection with Stuart Ridge Trail (Junction 26).

This takes you to the Sanborn Narrows Trail that follows a creek bed out to parking along





the Sanborn Road entrance. The creek bed has lots of little waterfalls and interesting rocks, but it's a scramble with a little rock climbing and at least one ford. After a heavy rain, it may not be passable.

Now what? You can turn around and retrace your steps, but that first switchback uphill is tough. Perhaps a better approach is to use a two-car shuttle. You can have one car parked on the east side of the Sanborn Park Entrance, the other at Quarry Park.

It is a very short drive between the two locations. Of course, it would be even closer if you could park at the Winery Road between the two trails, but it is private property and illegal, except for an occasional special group tour.

I've hiked both of these trails, up and back. Saratoga to Winery Road is longer, but smoother. Sanborn to Winery Road is shorter, but steeper. The total length together is 9.1 miles. Horses and leashed

dogs are allowed from Saratoga-to-the-Skyline, but not on Skyline-to-the-Sea.

If you have lots of time, you can continue your trip through Sanborn Park up to Skyline (6 miles), and then hike 31 miles through Castle Rock Park and Big Basin (when it reopens) over the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail ending at Waddell Beach and the Pacific Ocean. (Better bring some camping gear.)

For more information, including a map, virtual trail opening, and a virtual hike, visit Saratoga-to-the-Skyline Trail/Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

Saratoga Quarry Park

Neil Wiley

About two miles west of Saratoga on Congress Springs Road (Highway 9), you'll see a small sign on the left for Quarry Park. It's a nice place to see local history, enjoy a shady place for a picnic, or take short walks on gravel paths with a few short, but steep, climbs. (It's also the entrance to the Saratoga to Sanborn Trail.)

Although a gravel quarry doesn't sound like a great destination, the forested hillside topography and multiple paths reveal one surprise after another, explained by interpretative signs with historical information. Near the parking lot, you can see a large loading structure that serves as a historical art gallery. Across the lot is a view down to Saratoga Creek. A short walk up to the next level opens to a series of four picnic areas, all in comfortable shade. Throughout the walk you discover historical treasures—old tools, machines, tanks, rocky stairways and walls, tunnel openings, gears, wheels, and a not-so-historical sandy volleyball court. Many interpretive signs enrich your experience. A walk to the upper terrace takes you by a weedy grass pond, over a tunnel, and steeply up to a scenic overlook.

The trails are short, but a map is helpful. (You can see a big map in the parking area.) The gravel paths prevent muddy shoes and trail erosion, but they are slippery, especially on the steeper slopes. A water-bottle fill station and bathroom are located in the parking lot. Parking and entry are free.

To reach the Saratoga to Sanborn Trail, go up the hill toward the vista point. A sign shows the entrance to the trail.



history

From Marlene Wiley's
Mountain-History Archive
Ghost Towns

of the Santa Cruz Mountains

Marlene's archive includes a giant white binder containing copies of the original *San Jose Mercury Herald* newspaper series, "Ghost Towns of the Santa Cruz Mountains," by John V. Young, published from April to December, 1934. The archive also contains an edited version of the series, that was published as a book in 1979. Based on these sources, here are some brief descriptions of our local ghosts.



The first Lexington School, 1859

Lexington

Some say that Lexington was named by John Logan in honor of Lexington, Kentucky. Others credit J.P. Henning, who brought the name from Lexington, Missouri.

By 1867, the town was one of Santa Clara County's "most active centers of commerce." The town was two miles above Forbes Mill, in a gray flat where the Jones Hill road emerged from Limekiln Gulch, now at the bottom of Lexington Reservoir.



The second Lexington School, 1911

This junction of roads was the perfect place to change horses after a difficult pull over Jones Hill. It also provided a tollhouse to fund the road.

A business directory for 1867 listed a redwood-pipe manufacturer, wheelwright, grocery store, hotel, petroleum company, lumber merchants, blacksmiths, and eight sawmills.

Lexington suffered when the railroad came to Los Gatos, and stages no longer stopped in the town.

Alma

A quieter town a mile to the south of Lexington, Alma was home to the Forest House, a stage stop, and a hostelry, later to become a post office. A schoolhouse was built by Louis Hebard.

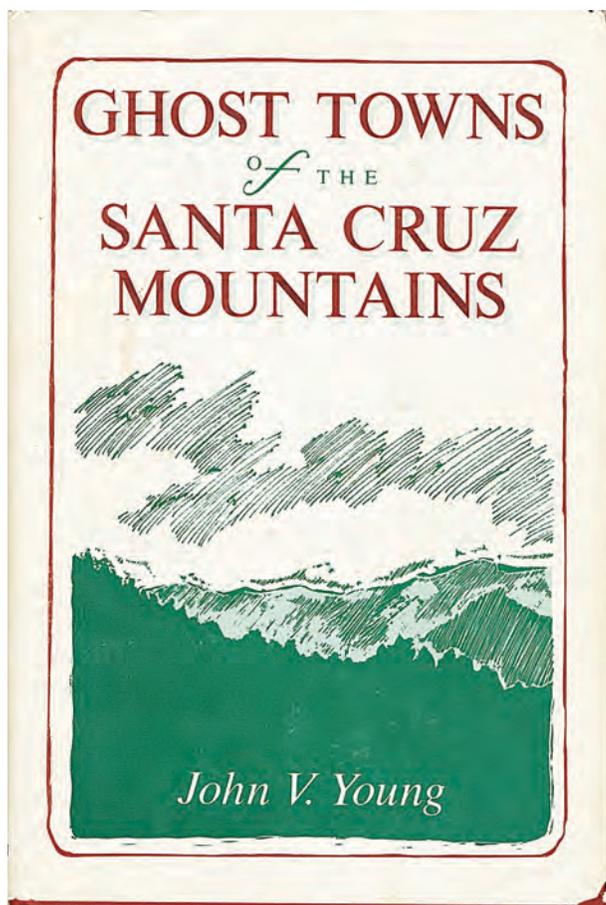
The first Forest House was an imposing two-story building that housed four upstairs bedrooms, and downstairs, more bedrooms, plus a saloon, dining room, and kitchen. Later, a new owner built a more imposing Forest House, with six rooms below and ten above. It was the largest hostelry between Los Gatos and Santa Cruz.

A postal inspector from the U.S. Post Office decided to rename the location Alma in 1873. The post office remained in operation until 1952, when the town was

abandoned to make way for the Lexington Reservoir.

James L. Flood, famous owner of the Flood estate, lived uphill on Bear Creek Road. He didn't like the dust on Bear Creek, so he built his own private road to Alma.

After the railroad was built, Alma became a popular picnic spot. It was also known for the notorious "mile of saloons" between



Forest House



Downtown Alma



Alma Falls

Lexington and Alma. At one time, twelve saloons competed for business.

Austrian Gulch and Germantown

On the slopes of Sierra Azul, upstream from Wright's Station, Austrian and German refugees established the colony called Austrian Gulch in the early 1870s. They erected vineyards and a community winery on a 1,000-acre tract.

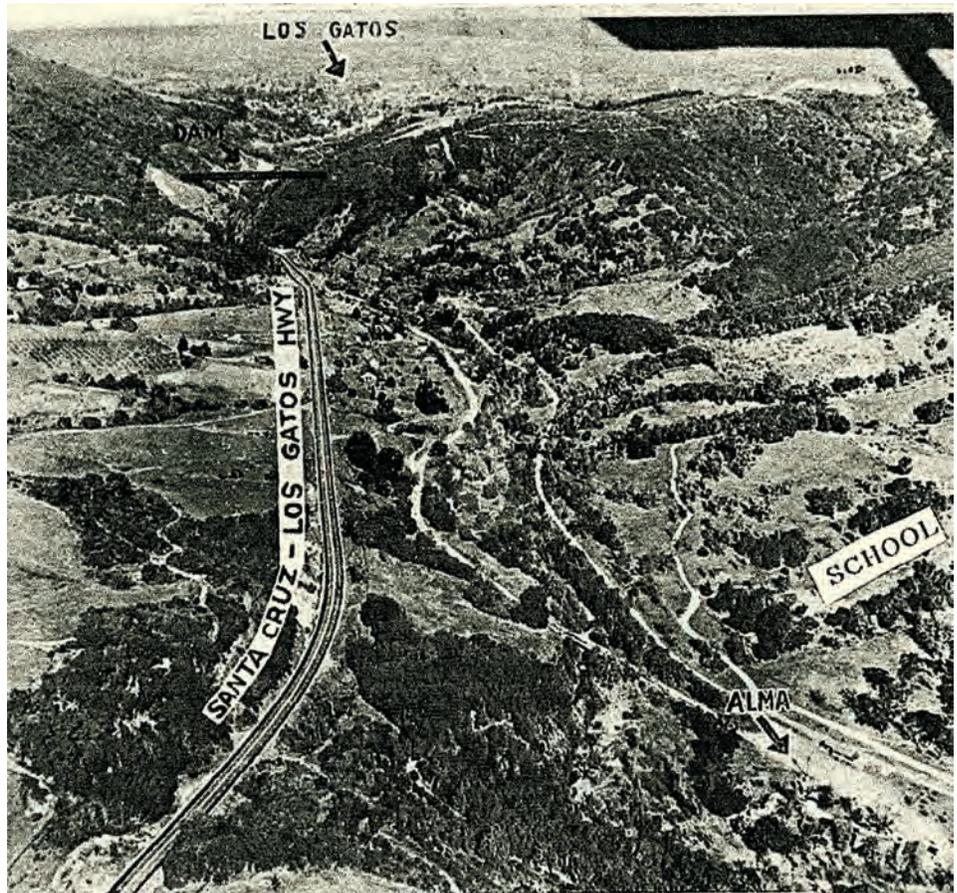
The area was beautiful but the soil was thin. They were struggling to survive, and in 1889 a heavy rainstorm created a raging wall of water that washed away orchards, vineyards, and homes. Thousands of gallons of wine ran down Los Gatos Creek, creating a giant red wave flowing all the way to Campbell.

In the following years, several fires destroyed the remaining structures. Nothing remains of Austrian Gulch and Germantown.

Wright's Station

When the railroad arrived at the northern portal of the Summit Tunnel in 1877, the only building was a woodcutter's shack. Thirsty laborers encouraged development of "The Tunnel," which was primarily a saloon. The favorite drink was the "Discovery," one gallon of raw whiskey with four tablespoons of water.

When the construction crews left, "The Tunnel" became Wright's Station. By 1882, the town had a store, hotel, saloon, and blacksmith shop. Development was slowed in 1885 when a fire destroyed the entire



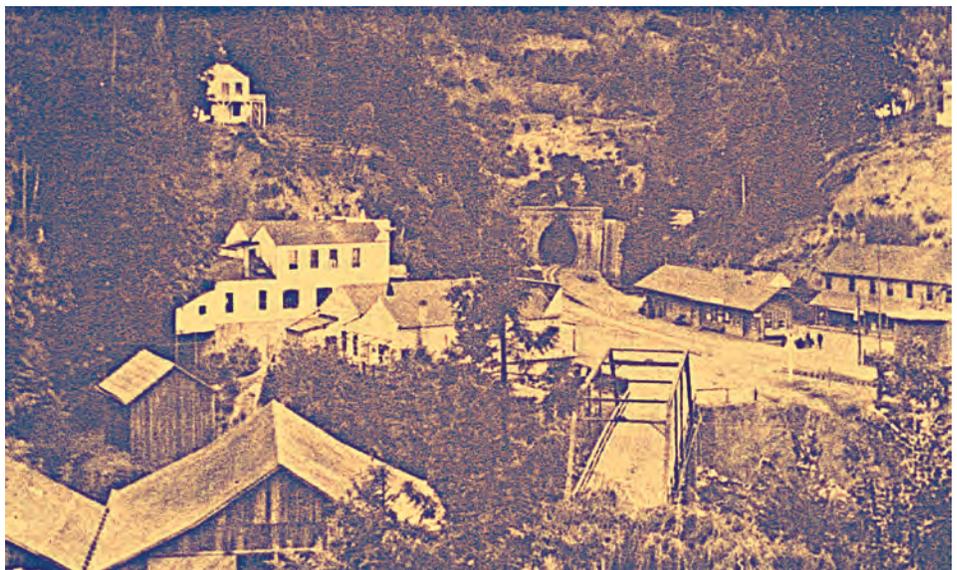
Aerial survey of Alma, before the construction of Lexington Dam

town. In spite of the setback, Wright's became an important shipping point for produce from 3,200 acres of bearing trees and vines from local orchards, farms, and vineyards.

Wright's also became a destination for recreation when Sunset Park became the most popular picnic park in California. Between 1900 and 1910, as many as four-

to five-thousand people would arrive on the train for fun in the redwoods on a single day. Hotels, cabins, and cottages did great business, as the railroad ran three and sometimes four times a day from Los Gatos and Santa Cruz.

Times changed with better roads, more accessible beaches, and larger tourist attractions. Prohibition and competition



Wright's Station

history

from valley orchards, with lower shipping costs and easier production, sealed the town's fate.

Now, nothing is left but the closed-in tunnel entrance and the old iron bridge.

Burrell

The village of Burrell was named for Lyman J. Burrell, famous for being an early settler, fighting a grizzly bear, and ranching with long-horned cattle. The village didn't have a post office, but it was home to the Santa Cruz Mountain Telephone Company's central office, a critical service. The village had a blacksmith shop and a store between the Burrell ranch and the



The view from Patchen



Burrell School watercolor by Jean Warren

James Wright home. Later, the Burrell School was founded. The school building now houses the Burrell Winery.

Patchen

A historic marker on Old Santa Cruz Highway is all that is left of Patchen. It's not surprising. From 1872 to 1925, the Patchen post office moved around to at least a half-dozen locations. First, it was at the junction of Mountain Charley Road and Old Santa Cruz Highway. That was a step up from an earlier time when mail was deposited in a nearby tree. Next, the post office moved about half a mile north to the home of D.C. Feely. Then it moved to a ranch known as the White and Gibson place, then on to the Edgemont summer resort. Other temporary moves aren't even listed.

Even the origin of the name "Patchen" was disputed. Some said the post office was named after a famous racehorse. Others had a more colorful source. They claimed that when the postal inspector saw an old man sewing, he asked him what he was doing. The man said "patchin." Whatever, the government record says that Patchen was established as a post office on March 28, 1872.

Patchen is also known as the home of the Summit Opera House, a community center that served as a meeting place, theater, and dance hall. (I've heard that the hall had a nice springy dance floor.) It was torn down in the early 1940s. The lumber was hauled to Laurel for another building.

Laurel

Located between the south portal of the

Summit Tunnel and the north portal of the Glenwood-Laurel Tunnel, Laurel was a product of the railroad. It began as a lumber mill, providing railroad ties, firewood for engines, and other wood products. Next came a general store, post office, depot, and warehouses. In 1882, Laurel gained its own school.

In 1899, Frederick Hihn started mill operations in Laurel. His steam-operated bandsaw cut 50,000 board-feet a day from lumber brought from his timber operations on Laurel and Soquel Creeks.

Early settler John Schultheis built a road to connect his Summit ranch with Laurel. The road, while passable, is still substandard.



The Schultheis ranch

Skyland

This settlement began at Highland Hill in 1867, followed by an adjoining community that wanted to be higher, so they named it Skyland. The area had its own school and church, plus a few resorts. But, narrow mountain roads and remote access kept the area more rural. During the

height of the mountain-produce boom, it was successful. But the local economy was damaged in 1906 by the dreaded grape disease, *phylloxera*, and the 1906 earthquake. Although limited by poor roads and distance from services, its citizens appreciated its quiet remoteness.

In 1934, a new route was opened using the Inspiration-Scotts Valley realignment. The curves were easier, and the grades smoother. Thousands of weekend tourists and commuters bypassed Glenwood. The Glenwood store and the service station closed.



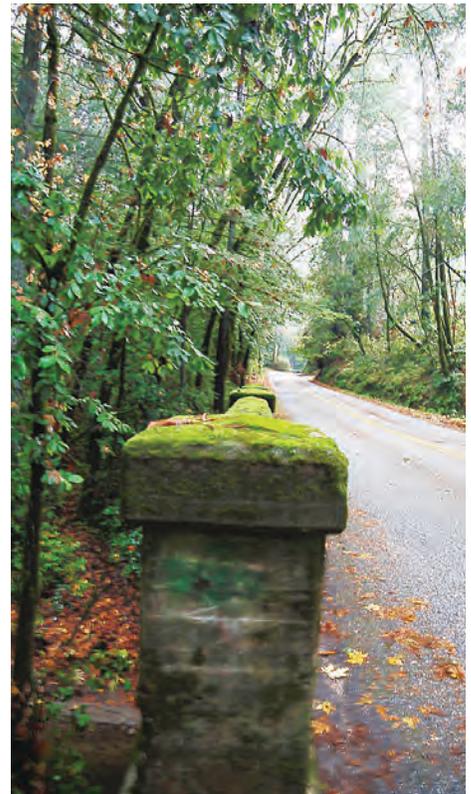
The Willows pool in Skyland

Glenwood

In the 1890s, millionaires and would-be millionaires enjoyed a luxury hotel just north of Scotts Valley. People might spend a month or more at this mountain resort.

Then automobiles, modern highways, and shorter vacations took their toll until a new highway was built from Los Gatos to Santa Cruz. The Glenwood Highway replaced the old Soquel and Mountain Charlie roads in 1916, bringing more food and gas businesses.

You can still drive down Glenwood Drive and pass over the old concrete bridge built in 1915. It is more pleasant, quieter, and shadier than Highway 17, but don't count on seeing any gas stations.



Glenwood Drive today



Skyland School

schools

Lexington School
Deanna Wilk

On December 11, Lexington students performed their first Zoom play—“Sour Grapes and Other Grumpy Fables”—written, directed, and adapted to teletheater by Lexington’s librarian, Barbara Lougée.

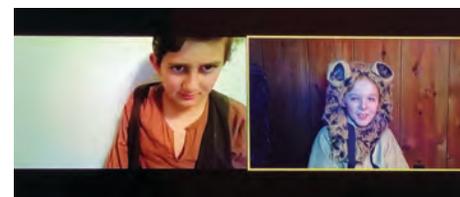
Sixteen determined, problem-solving thespians persevered, got creative, and interacted like never before to bring the wisdom of Aesop’s fables to life: “There is Always a Way” from *The Crow and the Pitcher*, “Never Give Up” from *The Tortoise and the Hare*, “Gratitude is a Sign of a Noble Soul” from *Androcles and the Lion*, and others.

Performing from their individual homes, the actors danced and sang, and used props, eye contact, and body language to communicate. They brought the energy, cleverness, sincerity, and skepticism of their characters to the screen.

“The play was a really powerful experience,” said Mrs. Lougée. “The kids did so much work on their own, in their homes. They had to turn their cameras on and off at the right time, and play to



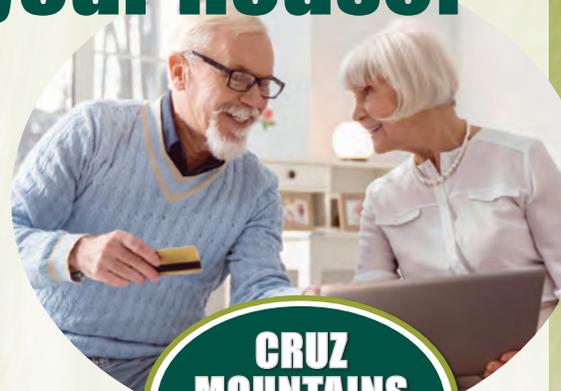
Barbara Lougée



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the faces of the other actors on a screen. They changed costumes and used props by themselves. There was a lot of growth. I was so proud of them.”

The experience was one that students will never forget, from trying to figure out how to make it work smoothly over Zoom, to connecting with friends they hadn't seen in a long time. From the excitement of doing something totally new, the students embraced the new type of theater and the risk, freedom, and ownership that came with it. They did a tremendous job. Thank you to Lexington risk-takers who made the school play of 2020 one to remember.

Lexington students are spending more time exploring art. Our district art teacher, Kelly Martin, couldn't be more thrilled: “Teaching art lessons online has been a really amazing experience this year. I have been able to provide weekly art lessons for first to fifth graders. It is exciting to expand the diversity of artists and art in the curriculum.” Kindergarteners have a monthly lesson. The expanded art program will continue as Lexington moves to the Roomer and Zoomer model.

Each four-week period, Mrs. Martin introduces a new art focus, connected to the elements of art and principles of design. She begins with a live Zoom lesson that introduces the concept, then leads an art activity. Next, there's a virtual art-history lesson that includes a mini-lesson from the Art Docents of Los Gatos. Finally, she leads students on a two-week-long virtual grade-level project.

Value, the dark and light of a color that artists use to make objects look three-dimensional, was the art concept fourth-graders explored in November. Students used watercolor pencils to create color values in a leaf and an object of their choice during a live lesson. They learned, then discussed, in their digital class discussion Padlet, how artists like Claude Monet and

Kay Sage used values. Then, they drew and colored three-dimensional gems and crystals.

Thank you to the Art Docents of Los Gatos, and the Los Gatos Education Foundation for funding the LGUSD elementary-art program. Thank you to the Lexington Home and School Club for funding Lexington's school play, and for sending the students off with a fun school-wide live Zoom magic show before the break.

On-campus learning has been delayed by two weeks to accommodate quarantine after the holiday break. In early January, the plan was for kindergarten through second-grade Roomers to begin on-campus learning on January 25, with third- through fifth-grade Roomers beginning the following week, if the case count in Santa Clara County was below 28 cases/100,000 people on January 19. The case count will be checked every Tuesday, with classes starting the next Monday if case-count criteria is met. Lexington is ready to welcome back students.



Hattie, fifth grade



Schyler, first grade

Photos by Barbara Lougée, Deanna Wilk, and Kelly Martin



Kalista, second grade



Sean, fourth grade



Comu, third grade

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schools

Loma Prieta Joint Union School District Track and Field Renovation Project

Lisa Fraser, Superintendent

We are excited to announce that thanks to your support of Measure R, we are now at the finish line of the Loma Prieta track and field renovation project.

Construction on the track and field renovation began in June 2020. The two-month hardening period following the sod installation will conclude on February 1. Construction fencing will be removed on February 3.

The track-and-field renovations include a new all-weather track surface, a new irrigation system, field upgrades, a new infield and backstop area, and other track and field amenities, such as a long-jump pit, discus cage, shot put area, and safety lighting until 10 p.m. Construction of the new outdoor restroom nearby is underway. It should be completed in March.

Due to COVID-19 impacts, the district will host a virtual soft opening of the facility on **Wednesday, February 3**. Although the facility will be open to the public on this date, we must comply with the California Department of Public Health current guidance regarding the usage of outdoor playgrounds and recreational facilities.

Visitors to our newly-renovated facility and playgrounds must comply with these public-health requirements:

- Face masks over the mouth and nose are required for everyone two years of age or older, with caregiver supervision at all times.

- Do not use the facility when members of different households are unable to maintain a physical distance of six feet, or when the capacity limit has been reached. Capacity limits will be posted. Caregivers must ensure adults and children from different households remain at least six feet apart.
- Maintain a six-foot distance between children and adults of different households, including children waiting to use play structures or play areas, and families waiting to enter the play facility.
- There is no eating or drinking allowed in the playground area to ensure that face masks are worn at all times.
- Wash and sanitize hands before and after playground use.
- Limit your visit to thirty minutes per day when others are present.

We look forward to the day when we can run freely without rigid restrictions. In the meantime, let's work together to keep our community healthy and safe.

We want our community resource to last for many years to come. We ask visitors to take good care of the facility. In particular, the all-weather track surface is vulnerable to damage from food, beverages, or chewing gum left on the track. Wheeled sports equipment (rollerblades, strollers, bicycles, skateboards) are also problematic. Please help us protect the track surface by keeping these items off the track.

Thank you for your continued support of our mountain schools. Put on those running shoes and enjoy.

See the new track and field at this website: <https://app.truelook.com/?u=lb1510264655>.

Additional information regarding Measure R bond projects can be found on our district webpage, <https://www.loma.k12.ca.us>, under District News.

Loma Prieta Joint Union School District Open School Board Seat Deana Arnold

The Loma Prieta Joint Union School District announces an open position on the board of trustees. Due to a change in residency, Alexandra Hall resigned her position on the LPJUSD board of trustees in late January. The board is grateful for her dedicated service as a board member and we wish her the best of luck in her future adventures.

Alex notes, "It has been such a privilege to serve this wonderful school district with its exceptional leadership, committed staff, tireless parent volunteers, and supportive community. This school district truly embodies the resilient spirit of these mountains, and I regret having to step aside due to changes in my own life. I was heartened to see such active participation in the voting process last year, with many new voices, passion for our children, and a collaborative spirit. I know the board will find an excellent new trustee."

This creates a vacancy on the Loma Prieta board of trustees. The board will hold interviews in March to identify a member of our community to serve on the board until the next board elections in November 2022. Candidates must be 18 years of age or older, a registered voter, a citizen of California, and a resident of the district.

Interested persons are encouraged to request a candidate's information packet and application by calling the district office at 408-353-1101, or by emailing Eileen Bevans-Franks at e.bevans@loma.k12.ca.us. Completed applications must be received by district-office staff before 4 p.m. on **Thursday, March 4**. Board members will review all applications and establish a special meeting date to interview qualified candidates.

If you have questions regarding this appointment, call the Loma Prieta district office at 408-353-1101, extension 0.



Lakeside School
Kathy McKinney

When Lakeside School reopened after the winter break, we had no heat or hot water in the main building or classrooms. After two days of unsuccessful attempts to convince AmeriGas of our desperate need for them to refill our propane tanks (they said it would be 7-10 days), Santa Clara County supervisor, Mike Wasserman, and his staff, came to our rescue. Our propane tanks were finally filled. Staff and students in our learning pods were grateful for the return of heat and hot water.

Wasserman and his team also helped us reschedule a fire marshal inspection of the newly installed alarm system in the Lakeside Clubhouse. Originally scheduled for March 2020, the inspection was cancelled due to the pandemic. Thank you to Mike Wasserman and his terrific team for supporting our school.

In preparation for reopening our school to in-person learning, we have installed hand-washing stations throughout campus, along with improvements and equipment to address proper ventilation in all classrooms. We added signage and a large acrylic barrier in the office. We

have portable acrylic carrels (if needed for specific conditions or students), PPE, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant. We also moved our family-learning pods from portable classrooms to the Clubhouse. Parents who need reliable access to the internet for their own work, while supervising their children as they participate in the remote-learning day, can access these pods at no charge.

Until we can safely reopen for in-person instruction, we also offer families the option of signing their children up for supervised student-learning pods in our Community Center. This option (which has been eight months in the making, since the YMCA

closed the Clubhouse in March) has been especially helpful for parents who are essential workers or are otherwise unable to supervise their children during the school day. Students from multiple grades access these student-learning pods, where a responsible adult supervises and assists, as needed, with their remote-learning school day. Like a return to a one-room schoolhouse, we have seen older students actively mentoring and helping younger students (while wearing masks and maintaining physical distance) in these pods.

Lakeside School has partnered with Marco Polo Kids to offer after-school Mandarin language classes. Students from any school in our larger Lakeside community and mountain area, in transitional kindergarten through fifth grade, are welcome. These classes are an enjoyable way to expose students to a foreign language and culture, while engaging with their peers in a virtual environment. As soon as in-person learning becomes available, this program will offer in-person classes, too. To find out more, email smarshall@lakesidelosgatos.org.



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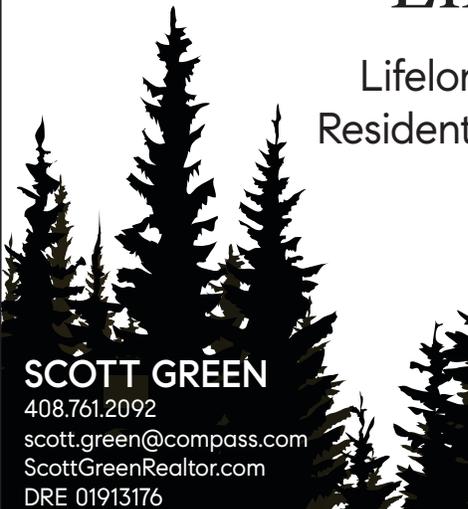
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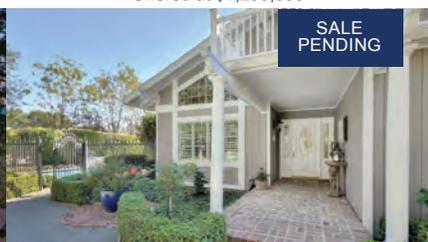
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