



august 2026

mr

From THE LEARY GROUP YOUR TRUSTED REAL ESTATE ADVISORS



Live in your own gated retreat, watching red-tailed hawks glide below. Let the quiet surroundings calm your mind.

15220 Upper Ellen Road, Los Gatos

Gated Community with Breath-taking Views | Solar, Backup, Battery Storage
4 Beds | 3 Baths | ±3,798 sf | ±6.36 acre Lot | Offered at \$2,150,000



15220UpperEllen.com

SALE PENDING!

15795 Adams Ridge, Los Gatos

Perched above the Monterey Bay
on approximately 2.6 private acres
3 Beds | 3 Baths | ±2,760 sf
Offered at \$1,849,000

SOLD!

439 Alberto Way #A, Los Gatos

Serene senior community at
Los Gatos Commons
3 Beds | 2 Baths | ±1,452 sf
Sold for \$880,000

COMING SOON!

23914 Summit Road, Los Gatos

Excellent location with pool
3 Beds | 2.5 Baths | ±1 usable acre
Offered at \$1,499,000



23054 Evergreen Lane, Los Gatos

3 Beds | 2 Baths | ±2,776 sf | Lot ±42,732 sf | \$1,699,000



Summit Sisters Endless Summer

August 28th, 5–8:30pm at Los Gatos Town Plaza



PAULA LEARY LIC. #01469235
408.425.3345 | P.LEARY@GGSIR.COM

TERRY LEARY LIC. #01854782
408.921.4343 | TERRY.LEARY@GGSIR.COM

663 Blossom Hill Road Suite 200, Los Gatos | Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.

Golden
Gate

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Lisa Sgarlato

Transitions Made Easy

408.396.7231

lisa.sgarlato@compass.com

LisaSgarlato.com

DRE 01342694

IS

23005 Del Monte Way



Los Gatos

\$2,999,000 | 5 Bedrooms | 5 Baths
4692 SqFt of Living Space | 1.26 Acre Lot

Incredible location for this stunning remodel on Summit Road at Villa del Monte. Gated entry and set on a private, sunny, 1.26 acre lot with gorgeous fountains, beautiful oaks, and a vineyard, this beautiful home features a grand entry and flexible floor plan with In-Law/ADU potential. Spacious and beautiful light throughout, travertine and hardwood floors. Chef's kitchen, formal dining, and a spa-like primary suite! Amazing entertainment spaces and so many upgrades throughout! Co-listed with George Montanari.

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Numbers 01079009 and 01272467. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

COMPASS

**The August issue of
Mountain Network News
Volume MMXXVI number 8**
23409 Deerfield Road
Los Gatos, CA 95033

Email to kathy@paralleldesign.com

Telephone: 408-529-1431

Publisher
Kathy McKinney

Cover Design
Amy Sirota

Editorial staff
Deana Arnold, Ellen Bond,
Gina Foster (editor emeritus), Karole Ishida,
Jana McBurney-Lin, Suzanne Overstreet,
and Neil Wiley.

Articles

We invite individuals and organizations to submit letters and articles. Email kathy@paralleldesign.com. For information, call 408-529-1431. We reserve the right to edit submissions. We assume no responsibility for errors, omissions, or authors' opinions. Deadline: 10th of the preceding month.

Advertising

Closing date: 10th of the preceding month. We assume no responsibility for advertisers' submissions.

2026 Ad Rates

Business card, vertical (3 3/4" high by 2 1/2" wide)	\$165
Business card, horiz. (2 1/4" high by 3 3/4" wide)	165
Jumbo business card (2 1/4" high by 5" wide)	236
Quarter-page, vertical (4 1/2" high by 3 3/4" wide)	302
Quarter-page, horizontal (2 1/4" high by 7 1/2" wide)	302
Third-page, column (10" high by 2 1/2" wide)	412
Third-page, horizontal (3 1/4" high by 7 1/2" wide)	412
Half-page (4 1/2" high by 7 1/2" wide)	495
Two-thirds page (2 columns, 10" high by 5" wide)	616
Two-thirds page (6 1/4" high by 7 1/2" wide)	616
Page (10" high by 7 1/2" wide)	935
Special position	add 20%
Four-color page or 2/3 page	add \$500
Four-color half, third- or quarter-page ad	add \$250
Four-color business card	add \$100

Frequency discounts available.

Classified and business directory \$9 per formatted line

Circulation

More than 4000 homes and businesses
in the Santa Cruz Mountains



Our Cover

American Barn Owl

Photo by Mercury Freedom

Mercury captured this shot
of an American barn owl
along the shores
of Lexington Reservoir.

Two owl fledges have
taken up residency in an
owl box that his neighbor
Jim Scholfield installed
five years ago.

Barn owls eat mice, rats,
voles, gophers,
and other small rodents.

They may be noisy,
but they do good work.

Read more about Jim's owls and
see more photos
on page 26.

Contents

events

95033free swap meet	5
Mountain Market	5
Burrell Winery events	6
Family history group	6
Music in the Park	6
Pizzeria Vittoria	6
Live art performance	7
Mountain History Barbecue	8
The Cats	9
LG Lions Date Night	9

community

Flying drones responsibly	10
Chemeketa Park turns 100	11
Cultural exchange	12
Assessment sticker shock	13
Lago Lomita Vineyards	13
Bear Creek Stables	14

calendar 17

exploring

Solo hike in Monte Bello	18
--------------------------	----

history

Bringing fruit to market	20
--------------------------	----

people

Shawn Mortensen	22
Masha Strebkova	23
P.E.O. scholarships	24

nature

Jim Scholfield	26
Mercury Freedom	27

schools

Loma Prieta school district	28
Digital equity at mountain schools	29
I am three	29

classified and business directory 30

mountainnetworknews.com

Call Kathy McKinney at 408-529-1431
or email kathy@paralleldesign.com.

© Mountain Network News, 2026

events



95033free Swap Meet Miriam Watson

Join us for a community swap meet on **Saturday, August 1**, from 9 a.m. to noon, in the Loma Prieta Gymnasium at 23800 Summit Road. Bring usable, clean items to share—whether it's one item, an armload, or a truckload. All items are free to take as long as you bring something to contribute. If you don't have anything to swap, a \$5 donation allows you to take as much as you want.

Drop your items off at 9 a.m. The best selection will be from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Collection for resale is only permitted from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Only bring items in good, usable condition. No junk, please! If it seems ready for the landfill, don't bring it.

Unclaimed items must be picked up by noon, with no exceptions. Unfortunately, there will not be a Goodwill truck this time.

For more information, email Miriam at ilovethemountains@gmail.com, or Leslie O'Malley at h2ominded@gmail.com.

**Promote your local event
in the
Mountain Network News.**

**Email
kathy@paralleldesign.com
or call
408-529-1431**

Mountain Market Marla Ellis

Summer is the perfect time to visit the Mountain Market. We're excited to welcome new vendor Resendiz Fruit Barn, offering a delicious variety of fresh, locally grown, 100-percent pesticide-free fruits, including peaches, nectarines, apricots, pluots, cherries, grapes, watermelons, cantaloupes, honeydew melons, figs, and more.

Make Friday nights at the market your summer tradition. Enjoy authentic Oaxacan tamales, delicious tacos and Mexican favorites from La Cueva Food Truck, classic American fare from Grillman Food Truck, and live music every week while you shop.

Enjoy the best flavors of the season, support local farmers and businesses, and experience everything Mountain Market has to offer. Shop fresh. Support local. We'll see you there!



events

Burrell School Winery

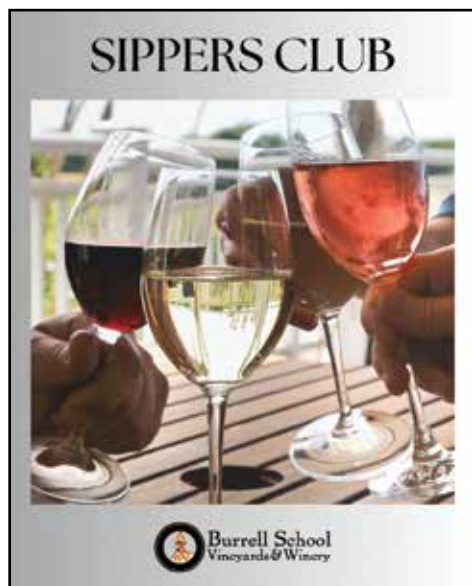
August Events

Rich Leonetti

On **Sunday, August 2**, we welcome our Sippers Wine Club members for a fun afternoon in the gazebo and rose garden, from 1 to 6 p.m. Members and their guests will taste the new summer-release wines as well as some additional selections available at special club-member prices. If you're not a member, no problem. Visit our website at burrellschool.com/wine-clubs to check out our options. There's something for everyone.

The winery will be closed on **Saturday, August 29**, for a private wedding in our rose garden and vineyard. The tasting room will be back to regular hours on Sunday, August 30, from 1 to 6 p.m.

Burrell School is the perfect venue to host your upcoming wedding, private party, or corporate event. Visit our website at burrellschool.com/private-events or call us at 408-353-6290.



Family History Group

KT Kaupert

Your family is a part of America's 250-year story. What can you discover about your family ancestors?

Join us for a free family history group, on the **second Tuesday of every month** beginning **August 11**, at 7 p.m. We will meet at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at 23185 Summit Road. Bring your laptop and your grandparent's or great-grandparent's names, along with any vital information you may have.

Our resident family history consultant, Sue Bryson, will be available to help you get started in this fun and fulfilling activity. Search millions of ancestor profiles, photographs, and historical documents on FamilySearch.org. Build the branches of your own family tree as the automated tree builder guides you along.

As you add information, it will search for ancestor connections. A huge archive of historical documents (immigration and census records, etc.) will be available to search.

Records can help tell the story of your family. Access is free. It's amazing what connections you can discover.

For more information, call KT Kaupert at 408-204-4066.



Town of Los Gatos

Music in the Park

The town of Los Gatos offers free public summer concerts **every Sunday afternoon through August 23**, from 5 to 7 p.m., on the Los Gatos Civic Center Lawn.

The lineup includes The BentPeter Band on **August 2**, Lindsay and the Cheeks on **August 9**, Miko Marks on **August 16**, and Harry and the Hitmen on **August 23**. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy free live music as the summer winds down.

Pizzeria Vittoria

August Events

Mike Lerman

Pizzeria Vittoria in downtown Redwood Estates offers a variety of specials in August.

On **Friday, August 7**, we will celebrate International Beer Day with \$25 pitchers and the launch of a new, limited-edition pint glass. On **Saturday, August 8**, we will offer cat-themed pizza specials in honor of International Cat Day.

Bring your "middle" children on **Wednesday, August 12** for a free cupcake on Middle Child Day. Whether you're left-handed or not, join us on **Thursday, August 13** for left-handed hot dog specials.

Be sure to come by to kick back and relax on **Saturday, August 15**. We'll feature live acoustic music and s'mores specials in honor of National Relaxation Day.



Burrell School
Vineyards & Winery

TASTING ROOM / PRIVATE EVENTS

Tasting Room Hours
Friday-Sunday 12pm-6pm

24060 Summit Road
Los Gatos, CA 95033

(408) 353-6290
burrellschool.com

**From Tokyo to 95033
Gallery Show and
Live Art Performance**

Christina Lopp Schwabecher

Lifetime mountain community member Christina Lopp Schwabecher has been living in Tokyo, Japan, with her husband and two children, for the past nine years. During that time, the family learned about Japan and Japanese culture. Lopp's children grew up and graduated from high school there. Her youngest son Julian, who left Loma Prieta Elementary after third grade, graduated from The American School in Japan in May, 2026.

During her time in Tokyo, Lopp studied several Japanese art forms: *Shodo*, Japanese calligraphy; *Sumi-e*, Japanese ink drawing; *Nihonga*, Japanese painting; and most recently *Mokuhanga*, woodblock printing. Learning about these techniques, and how to create traditional Japanese art materials, led to a rich cultural experience.

With both kids about to be in college, Lopp returned this summer to her beautiful mountain home, but with a new perspective.



Lopp's first solo art show, *Too Many to Ignore*, premiered at Hiroshige Gallery in Tokyo in May. It featured themes of the power of the feminine. She used many of the techniques she has learned over the years. She turned her attention to another dimension of gathering—what she describes as a “field of presence,” where collectivity transcends shared physical space.

Inspired by the quiet spirit of the folk toy-turned-collector's item, *kokeshi* dolls, she introduces these feminine figures as recurring motifs—icons of memory, care, and continuity. Their presence draws attention to feminine stories often overlooked, asking what it means to be seen, held, and remembered.

A selection of Lopp's artwork will be on display at Skyland Community Church's Whitaker Hall **Sundays throughout August**, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Whitaker Hall is at 25100 Skyland Road.

Lopp will feature work she has created since her solo show, contemplating connections across the Pacific Ocean: *From Izu to Santa Cruz*.

You can meet Christina and view the live performance of a large brush painting at the

opening on **Friday, August 7**, at Whitaker Hall, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Small works will be available for purchase. To RSVP or for more information, email christina@lopp.com or just show up.



 **Endlessss Pizza & Salad Bar**
Tuesdays, 5-7pm Live music + good neighbors

 **ALOHA FRIDAYS:** Every Friday, 4pm till close: huli huli chicken, kalua pork everything, teriyaki ribs, POG Beermosas

 **We Cater:** special events, family gatherings, massive munchies? Pick up a tray of BBQ and more with 24 hour notice



events

Loma Prieta Museum Mountain History Barbecue Roger Mason

The annual Mountain History Barbecue will be held on **Saturday, September 26**, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Mason-Taylor Ranch, 22849 Summit Road. This annual family event will include a barbecue lunch, live music by The Wildcat Mountain Ramblers, old-fashioned children's games, a history scavenger hunt, and a guest historian presentation. Hats, shirts, and local history books will be available to purchase. We will pay special tribute to the Summit Riders Horseman's Association, which was formed



in 1967 to serve the mountain community and is now closing.

The event will be held in our historic redwood grove. The property was homesteaded by the Schultheis family in 1851 and includes early Native American sacred sites, the location where Mountain Charlie recovered after a grizzly bear attack, early farming and farm buildings, old wagon roads, a Georgian Victorian house, and more.

If you'd like to read more about local history, you can purchase a copy of a new printing of *A Howling Wilderness* by Dr. Stephen Payne, or *Holy City Riker's Roadside Attraction* by Betty Lewis. Both are available for a donation of \$25. Purchase your copy at the Mountain History Barbecue, email

lomaprietamuseum@gmail.com, or call 408-529-0254.

If you would like us to continue with free community history events, let us know by volunteering or making a tax-deductible donation. More information is at www.lomaprietamuseum.org.

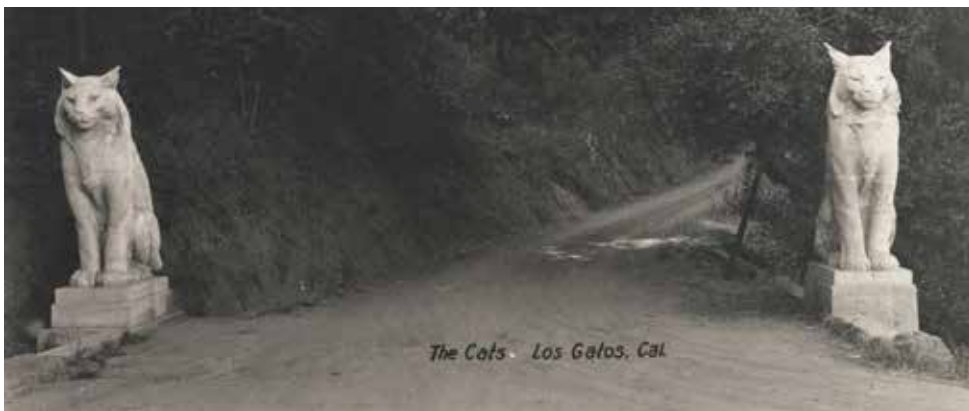


Golden Gate Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

A GUEST COTTAGE
that's not in your own backyard
A STARTER HOME
close-by, for your newlyweds
Simply Delightful
25405 ADAMS ROAD, LOS GATOS

Lovely views across to the Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve
Close to Summit Store, farm stands, LG schools, worship, & wineries!
Lots of Parking | Privacy | High-Production Well | Zoned Heat & AC
\$1,099,000 | 2 Bdrms & 1 Bath | ±1400sf on ±2.7ac | Wonderful Natural Light

KATHRYN HARROLD
BEAUTIFUL REPRESENTATION, ALL PRICE POINTS
408.307.5687 | k.harrold@ggsir.com | @KathrynProperties on socials | Lic. 01374512
663 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos | Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.



NUMU

The Cats Estate: Charles E.S. Wood and Sara Bard Field

New Museum of Los Gatos

The iconic white stone cats, Leo and Leona, that guard the entrance to the grand estate known as "The Cats," are familiar to all of us who drive Highway 17. Charles E.S. Wood, an author, civil-rights advocate, and artist, and his wife Sara Bard Field, a poet and suffragist, purchased the land in 1919. They built their grand estate as a home and artists' retreat.

On **Thursday, August 20**, the New Museum of Los Gatos (NUMU) will host a talk by longtime Los Gatos resident and local historian Alan Feinberg about The Cats Estate and its famous residents.

The event is free with registration, and begins at 11 a.m. with a brief tour of the history gallery. NUMU is located at 106 E. Main Street in downtown Los Gatos. Seating is limited. Registration and more information is at www.numulosgatos.org/events/the-cats.



Los Gatos Lions Club

Date Night

Bob Kalpin

Mark your calendars and buy your tickets for the Los Gatos Lions Club's annual Date Night. This food, wine, and beer tasting event will be held outdoors on **Sunday, September 13**, from 4 to 7 p.m., at Campo di Bocce in Los Gatos.

This fundraising event provides much-needed financial

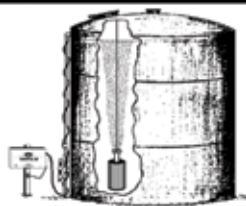
support for mental-health initiatives at Los Gatos High School, R.J. Fisher Middle School, and C.T. English Middle School. In 2025, the Los Gatos Lions Club provided \$40,000 to fund licensed therapeutic student-counseling services and mental-health support at these schools.

Tickets are \$100 and will not be available at the door. Date Night generally sells out, so purchase your tickets early at www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/los-gatos-lions-presents-date-night--2026.

In addition to food, wine, and beer, enjoy live music, raffle prizes, and both silent and live auctions.



OZONE WELL WATER



The Healthy Way To Treat The Well Water In Your Atmospheric Holding Tank Or Cistern

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|---------|
| ✓ IRON | ✓ MANGANESE | ✓ TASTE |
| ✓ SULFUR | ✓ ACID pH* | ✓ ODORS |
| ✓ BACTERIA* | ✓ TURBIDITY* | ✓ COLOR |

Solve your well water problems with the latest proven purification technology. The Triple O system continuously ozonates, circulates and filters the water in your holding tank, producing water quality second to none. This energy efficient system uses only 55 watts. Easy to install and maintain. Ozone reverts rapidly to oxygen and leaves no harmful byproducts. **Satisfaction Guaranteed***. For more information, please visit our web site at www.TripleO.com

*Limits Apply. Contact Us For Further Details.

Factory Authorized Local Dealers

Capitola Pump	831-475-5364
Pure Valley Water, Inc.	831-438-6400
Quality Pump Service (Formerly Dang Pump)	415-367-5136
Pure Water of Watsonville	831-252-3930
Quality Water of Aptos	831-689-9710
Rayne Dealership of Santa Cruz	831-423-0517



**Triple O
Systems, Inc.**

408-378-3002
www.TripleO.com
Sales@TripleO.com

© 2024 Triple O Systems, Inc. • Proudly Manufactured in USA

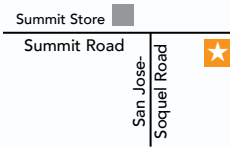
Dr. Brent C. Lay



Dental Services Offered:

- ✓ Complete exams
- ✓ X-rays & cleanings
- ✓ Fillings, root canals
- ✓ Extractions, cosmetic dentistry
- ✓ Nitrous Oxide for relaxation
- ✓ Full & partial dentures
- ✓ Tooth Whitening
- ✓ Implants & more...

Sun's out...
SMILES OUT!



Call or text us at: 408-353-1191
Email: bclayoffice@gmail.com

24900 Highland Way, Los Gatos, CA 95033

Flying Drones Responsibly Greg Kirkham

Building, programming, and flying drones can be an enjoyable hobby for children and adults. Like any form of aviation, however, it comes with responsibilities.

Drones have become valuable tools for photography, mapping, emergency-response, agriculture, infrastructure inspection, and recreation. Unfortunately, they also make the news when they're flown irresponsibly. Here are a few recent examples:

A California man agreed to pay more than \$65,000 in restitution and faces up to one year in federal prison after his drone collided with a Super Scooper firefighting aircraft during the early days of the 2025 Palisades Fire. Even a small drone can ground firefighting aircraft when lives and property are at stake.

In June 2026, a Florida man was arrested after allegedly shooting at a sheriff's office "Drone as First Responder" aircraft. Shooting at any aircraft—manned or unmanned—is a federal crime. Law-enforcement drones often display flashing red and blue emergency lighting, just as their patrol vehicles and helicopters do.

Federal authorities have confiscated hundreds of drones for violating FAA temporary-flight restrictions. These restrictions establish protected airspace around stadiums and fan-festival events, like the World Cup. Operators who ignore these restrictions risk losing their drone, and may face federal criminal charges. Civil penalties can reach \$100,000.

Many locations are off-limits to drone operations. National Wildlife Refuges generally prohibit launching, landing, or operating drones, and many state, county, and local parks either prohibit drone operations or require special-use permits. In Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties, it's important to check the rules before you fly.

These incidents are reminders that drones are aircraft and operate within the national airspace system. Before every flight, pilots should verify the airspace, check for any restrictions, and remember that drones must always yield the right-of-way to manned aircraft.

The distinction between recreational and commercial drone operations can also surprise people. Taking aerial photos to market a home for sale is clearly a commercial operation. Even flying a drone

at the request of a sports team, business, or organization may fall outside the recreational exception, depending on the purpose of the flight. When a flight is not conducted solely for recreational enjoyment, FAA regulations may require the pilot to hold a Remote Pilot Certificate.

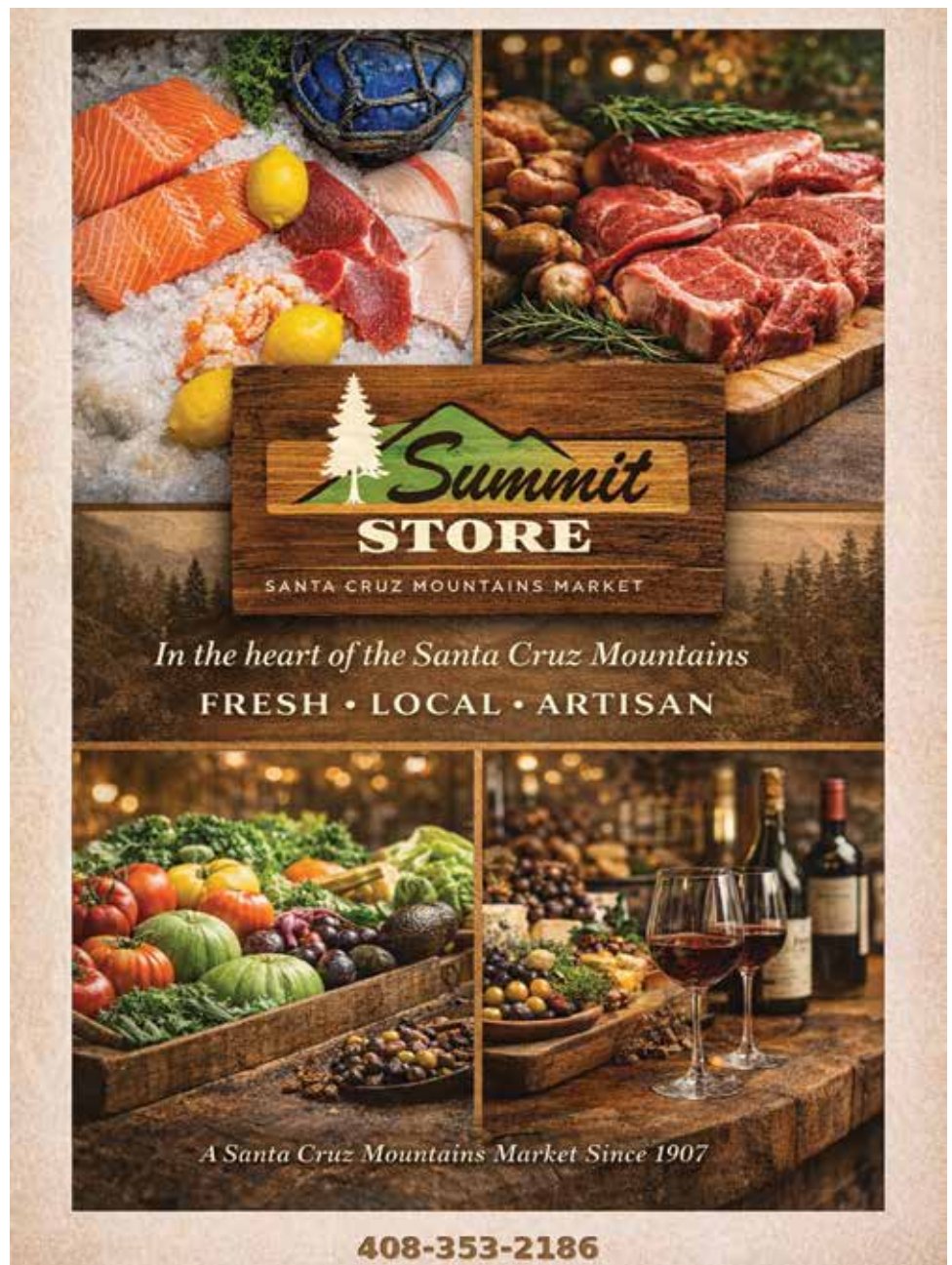
If you're considering hiring a drone pilot, ask a few questions. Reputable pilots should be able to provide proof of their FAA Remote Pilot Certificate, explain how they check airspace restrictions and temporary flight restrictions, obtain airspace authorization when required, and carry liability insurance appropriate for their operations.

If you see a drone overhead, it's worth remembering that not every drone is invading someone's privacy. It may be documenting storm damage, inspecting

a roof, mapping vegetation for wildfire mitigation, assisting emergency responders, or simply being flown recreationally in compliance with FAA regulations. The best drone pilots are often the least noticeable. They fly safely, respectfully, and with careful planning.

By understanding the rules and respecting the shared airspace above our neighborhoods, we can all help ensure drones remain a safe and valuable tool for recreation, business, and public safety throughout our mountain communities.

Greg Kirkham is the founder of LoretoGeo.com, a Santa Cruz Mountains-based drone mapping and photogrammetry company focused on wildfire preparedness, land analysis, and community planning.



Summit STORE
SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS MARKET

In the heart of the Santa Cruz Mountains
FRESH • LOCAL • ARTISAN

A Santa Cruz Mountains Market Since 1907

408-353-2186

Chemeketa Park Turns 100 A Request for Stories and History

Fred Schenkelberg

Chemeketa Park turns 100 years old this year! While young compared to other communities across the mountains, it's a great milestone for us.

There are many stories and historical facts of interest surrounding our mountain homes. As part of our 100th anniversary, we're working to capture and record as many stories, memories, and events that we can. It's the shared stories of a place that make it a community.

If you have stories, memories, historical items, images, or anything else related to Chemeketa Park, we'd love to talk to you. We plan to record the stories so future generations may enjoy our rich history.

Do you know about the community store? Did you ever visit the gas station in the park? Perhaps you know someone who rode the train and stopped at Chemeketa Park. What do you recall? Let us know.

Email me at fms@garlic.com, or call/text to 408-710-8248, and we'll arrange a time to talk.



**Wireless & Fiber Internet
for the Santa Cruz Mountains**

Fast | Reliable | Local

831.439.7873
Surfnetc.com

surfnet
Communications

A Host Family's Perspective Cultural Exchange Angela Wuerz

When people think about an *au pair*, they often think about childcare. While dependable childcare is one benefit, many host families discover that the experience offers much more. *Au pairs* bring different cultures, languages, traditions, and perspectives into a family's daily life, often becoming trusted role models and cherished members of the household.

One local mountain family recently shared their experiences hosting *au pairs* through Cultural Care. Their story highlights the practical support the program can provide, and the meaningful relationships and cultural connections that can develop.

The Arak-Eng family shared, "When I joined the Cultural Care Au Pair program in 2019, my two boys were just 2 and 4 years old. I had recently started working as an in-house attorney in the Silicon Valley, we were living off Summit Road, and my husband was out of town at least half the time. Like many working parents, I needed help.

In our close-knit mountain community, someone connected me with a consultant from Cultural Care. From our first conversation, it was clear that she genuinely cared about both the young adults in the program and the host families she supported. After speaking with her, I began the search for an *au pair*.

Over the years, our family has had wonderful experiences. Our first *au pair* from Cultural Care was a young man from Sweden who adored my boys and was always planning fun adventures. Later, we welcomed a young man from Portugal who shared his love of sports and kept the boys active, engaged, and constantly on the move.

Like any childcare arrangement, things



were not always perfect, but we had support. Whenever challenges arose, our consultant was there to help both our family and our *au pair* navigate them. Our current consultant, Angela, continues that commitment of support. She is kind, fair, assertive, and deeply dedicated. Her guidance helped me better understand what our family needed, establish clear expectations and appropriate boundaries, and find the right match.

Now we are preparing to welcome our third male *au pair*, or "bro-pair," as they are affectionately known. He is from Poland, and my boys are already excited to explore nature and learn coding with him. For our family, the *au pair* program has provided much more than childcare. We love having an older role model in our home, who brings a new culture, perspective, and energy into our daily lives. The practical help, especially with driving and managing busy schedules, has been invaluable. Even more important is knowing that my boys are receiving attention, encouragement, and guidance from someone I trust.

Hosting an *au pair* from Cultural Care has been one of the best childcare decisions I have ever made. It has provided our family with dependable support, meaningful cultural exchange, and relationships that have enriched my boys' lives in ways I never expected."

While every host family's experience is unique, many find that welcoming an *au pair* enriches their lives in ways they never anticipated. Children gain exposure to different cultures, families build international friendships, and young adults from around the world experience life in an American community.

Opportunities remain for families interested in learning more about hosting. The organization is expanding its network of local childcare consultants in other parts of the country to support growing communities of host families.

To learn more about the Cultural Care Au Pair program, call me at 408-771-5219, email angela.wuerz@lcc.culturalcare.com, or visit culturalcare.com/lcc/awuerz.

Rick Dentoni
Cristi Dentoni-Martin

(408)369-1245



automaticgateinstallations.com



Specializing in 95033
TRUST ESTATE SALES

Trustees, Timelines, Family Dynamics

Michael Scherer
Broker Owner 01224636

23111 Santa Cruz Hwy 17 Los Gatos 95033

Mike@MountainMike.com

408-353-6453



**The Palace on Summit Road
A Survival Guide to
Assessment Sticker Shock
Keith Kanady**

It arrives in a plain white envelope, looking innocent enough, sandwiched between a pizza coupon and a dry-cleaning flyer. But then you open it. You blink. You rub your eyes. You check the address to make sure you haven't accidentally been deeded a small European chateau or a private island.

It's definitely your house, and according to the latest property-tax assessment, your humble abode—the one with the temperamental dishwasher and that one floorboard that squeaks if you breathe on it—is apparently worth more than a gold-plated penthouse.

Welcome to assessment sticker shock. It's that magical moment when the county decides your backyard shed is a detached luxury studio and your cozy living room is a grand hall. Suddenly, you're feeling very fancy, but your bank account is feeling very nervous.

You aren't just a helpless bystander in this financial drama. You can appeal. The process of appealing is a bit like a polite, paper-based duel. First, you have to gather your evidence. This involves looking at comparables, looking online at what the neighbors' houses sold for while muttering, "But their kitchen hasn't been updated since 1994!"

Next, you'll fill out forms that ask for a lot of details, occasionally making you feel like you're defending your home's honor. You'll find yourself highlighting every tiny flaw you usually try to hide. That crack in the driveway? That's not a nuisance; that's exhibit A. The leaky faucet? That's a water feature that lowers your home's value.

It feels a little absurd to spend your weekend proving your house isn't quite as glorious as the county thinks it is, but it can pay off.

The good news? The appeal process is there for a reason. It's a conversation, not a sentence. So take a deep breath, put on your detective hat, and start gathering those comps. If you need a hand navigating the paperwork or just want to vent about how your bungalow isn't actually a chateau, I can pull a list of recent comparables in your neighborhood to help you prove that your home is, in fact, a home and not a royal estate.

Keith Kanady is a real estate broker with Compass. You can call him at 408-316-1666 or email Keith.Kanady@Compass.com.

**Lago Lomita Vineyards
Weeds:**

**An Ode to the In-Row Harrow
Robin Porter**

In our vineyard, weeds take nutrients and water from the soil that our vines could really use. They also slow down other vineyard operations such as pruning, thinning, and harvesting.

The first method we tried to clear the weeds was to deploy an army of gas-powered weed whackers. There's a human problem with this—I call it distracted whacking. We have over 14 miles of vineyard rows. It's boring work. We also have a great view, especially on clear, sunny days. If the weed whacker accidentally contacts the rootstock, it will break through the periderm, or bark. Like trees, this is the protective layer that helps deter insects and disease. You won't see the effects of damage right away. It could take years, but the vine is compromised. If you do this every season, you'll end up with more vines at risk. We knew there had to be a better way.

Today, we use an in-row harrow that attaches to our tractor. It consists of a mulcher made of vertical rotating blades that shreds weeds, incorporates them back into the soil, and aerates the soil. As you drive the tractor down the vineyard rows, an adjustable hydraulic sensor at the front works as a feeler system to signal to the mulcher when a vine is in the way. When this sensor contacts the vine, the mulcher component immediately moves out of its path. The tractor continues to move forward, and as the sensor clears the vine, it signals the mulcher to move back into the space between the vines.

This whole system can move between 1.5 and 3.0 miles per hour. It takes a few days to do our entire vineyard, but it only takes one tractor operator (my husband, Mark) instead of a crew of workers with weed whackers. It also doesn't damage the vines and provides



soil benefits at the same time.

Mark may be the best in-row harrow man in all the land. The invention of the in-row harrow made it possible.



WINE ENTHUSIAST RATINGS
'24 Pinot Noir Lester Vineyard 97
'23 Pinot Noir Partners' Reserve 96
'23 Pinot Noir Beauregard Vineyard 96
'23 Consonante 95 Cellar Selection
'24 Pinot Noir Coast Grade Vineyard 95 Cellar Selection

SOQUEL VINEYARDS

Wine Tasting
Saturday & Sunday 11AM-4PM
8063 Glen Haven Road, Soquel | 831.462.9045

CASUAL MOOD • SERIOUS WINE

FIND US AT THE SUMMIT STORE!



Friends of Bear Creek Stables A Milestone Celebration Years in the Making Rachael Parakh

Friends of Bear Creek Stables hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the evening of July 1, the same day the non-profit began managing the stables' operations and programs. We commemorated the hard work, dedication, and advocacy that have kept the stable doors open even while most throughout the state have closed.

Jenny Whitman and Nancy Cole, who founded the Friends non-profit in 2013, each held an end of the burlap ribbon made with horseshoe handles. Friends' vice



president Melany Moore cut the ribbon, while president Rick Parfitt cheered on with the rest of the invitees. It was a special evening as three horses ceremoniously passed through the open ribbon to symbolize the start of public programming at the stables. Ron Gromer rode Stormy, Cristin Reichmuth rode André, and Audrey Palmer hand-walked Dually.

Many members of the ad hoc team were also in attendance: Bob Alexander, Anne Black, Marcie Colonna, Peggy Kauffman, Toni Kent, Sue Landaiche, Craig Gleason, Karen Holman, Melany Moore, Nancy Cole, Jenny Whitman, Rick Parfitt, Cristin Reichmuth, Cathy and Ron Gromer, and Zoya Girshfeld. It was a reunion of the working groups who researched the feasibility

UNMATCHED, SOUL-STIRRING VIEWS
NAKED EYE VIEW
FROM SPA BATH BALCONY
1061 SUMMIT ROAD, WATSONVILLE

Golden Gate | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY





PRIVACY, HARDWIRED SECURITY
GROUNDSKEEPER

WELLNESS, HAPPINESS
YOU WON'T WANT TO LEAVE

NATURAL MATERIALS
SOARING CEILINGS THROUGHOUT

\$3,499,000 | 3 Bd. & 3 Full Ba. | ±2500SF ON ±15.5AC | BONUS ±2500SF FULL WALK-OUT BASEMENT | USABLE LAND



KATHRYN HARROLD
BEAUTIFUL REPRESENTATION, ALL PRICE POINTS
408.307.5687 | k.harrold@ggsir.com | @KathrynProperties on socials | Lic. 01374512
663 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos | Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.



of operating Bear Creek Stables under a non-profit model. For six months, they explored, developed, and recommended options for the stables to operate long-term as an outdoor-education facility. Their findings prompted the MidPen Regional Open Space board of directors to give this model a chance.

After the ribbon cutting, attendees toasted the occasion with sparkling cider. As the

golden hour arrived and the sun began to set, guests toured various locations around the stables while others headed down to the lower arena for a delicious array of snacks prepared by Friends' board members: Marcie Colonna and Peggy Kauffman.

For more information and to learn about our upcoming programs, visit our website: friendsofbearcreekstables.org.



PWP+
Pure Water Plus+

**Water Tank
Cleaning Service**

Call for a quote!

408-370-7130

**WE DELIVER BULK
POTABLE WATER**



**BIG & small
We clean
them all!**

Serving Northern California





**QUALITY
PUMP SERVICE**

24 hour Service

- Sump Pumps
- Booster Pump Systems
- Filtration Systems
- Well Pumps
- Sewer Pumps
- Portable Pumps
- Residential & Commercial

(415) 367-5136

CSLB#997078
Licensed Bonded & Insured

Family Owned & Operated



23457 SUMMIT ROAD

Los Gatos • **\$2,750,000**
5 Beds • 4 Baths
3,417 SF + 400 SF Guest Unit • 2.246 Acres



26756 ADAMS ROAD

Los Gatos • **\$2,295,000**
5 Beds • 4.5 Baths • 3,798 SF • 1.1 Acres



600 RIDGE TOP ROAD

Los Gatos • **\$2,295,000**
3 Beds • 3.5 Baths • 3,322 SF • 13 Acres



23758 HUTCHINSON ROAD

Los Gatos • **\$1,695,000**
4 Beds • 2.5 Baths
2,655 SF • 0.487 Acres



23584 SKY VIEW TERRACE

Los Gatos • **\$1,599,000**
4 Beds • 2.5 Baths • 2,992 SF • 1.2 Acres



25970 MAR VISTA COURT

Los Gatos • **\$1,450,000**
3 Beds • 2.5 Baths • 2,284 SF • 2.473 Acres



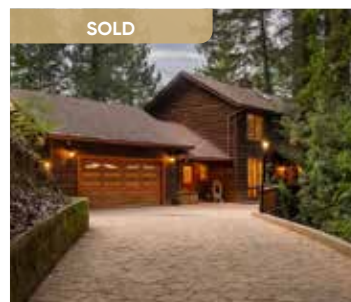
21386 SUNNYSIDE ROAD

Los Gatos • **\$1,449,000**
3 Beds • 3 Baths
2,889 SF • 11,356 SF Lot



20245 GIST ROAD

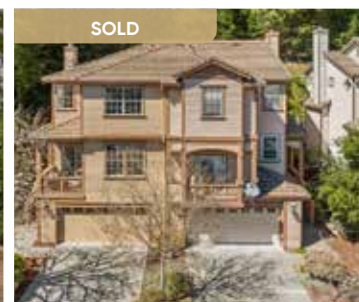
Los Gatos • **\$550,000**
Vacant Lot with Building Pad
Site Approval • Valley Views • 3.57 Acres



SOLD

489 NORTHRIDGE DRIVE

Scotts Valley • **\$1,388,000**
3 Beds • 2.5 Baths • 2,401 SF • 0.74 Acres



SOLD

101 WOODHILL DRIVE

Scotts Valley • **\$1,075,000**
3 Beds • 2.5 Baths • 1,813 SF Lot



DRE 01310611
REALTOR®



DRE 01402005
REALTOR®



DRE 02173932
REALTOR®



DRE 02198568
REALTOR®

CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE — SERENO —

Rebecca Smith, Karen Izzo, Terese McCoy, & Suzanne Merrick
408.309.9076 | karen@sereno.com

John & Barbara Harriman
408.332.4780 | barbara.harriman@sereno.com



DRE 01389088
REALTORS®



The information contained herein has been obtained from third party sources deemed reliable, but its accuracy is not guaranteed. Christie's International Real Estate Sereno has not and will not verify the information and assumes no responsibility for its accuracy. Buyer should verify and investigate all information to Buyer's satisfaction. If your home is currently listed with another agent, please disregard this marketing material.

calendar

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday, August 1

95033free community swap meet will be from 9 a.m. to noon, in the Loma Prieta Gymnasium at 23800 Summit Road.

Friday, August 7

Christina Lopp Schwabecher opens her gallery show at Skyland Community Church's Whitaker Hall with a live performance of a large brush painting, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Whitaker Hall is located at 25100 Skyland Road.

Tuesday, August 11

Explore your roots at a family-history study group, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 23185 Summit Road.

Thursday, August 13

The Bookmobile visits the mountains:

Building Blocks Preschool,

12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

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

Redwood Estates Pavilion,

4:15 to 5:15 p.m.

First day of school at Loma Prieta, C.T. English, Lakeside, and Lexington schools. Remember to slow down when school is in session.



Saturday, August 15

Make-A-Wish Greater Bay Area's Walk for Wishes is at Vasona Lake County Park in Los Gatos. For more information or to register, visit wish.org/greaterbay/walk-wishes-1.



Thursday, August 20

NUMU hosts a history talk about The Cats Estate and its famous residents, beginning at 11 a.m. NUMU is located at 106 E. Main Street in downtown Los Gatos. Registration and more information is at www.numulosgatos.org/events/the-cats.

Thursday, August 27

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 Pavilion,

4:15 to 5:15 p.m.

ON-GOING CLASSES AND MEETINGS

Mondays

Alcoholics Anonymous meets at Skyland Church, 8 p.m. Join us on Zoom: Meeting ID 364 362 970, PW: 046518

Outdoor yoga on the mountain, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. Email anouk@anoukyoga.com for information.

Tuesdays

Town walking group meets at 9:30 a.m. at the Adult Recreation Center, 123 Main Street in Los Gatos.

Vinyasa Flow from 9 to 10 a.m. Book at www.cupsofyoga.com, or call Jaime at 831-200-8802.

Qigong class on Zoom from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Email Amandaring@gmail.com for information and Zoom URL.

Gentle Restorative Yoga with Amy Schendel from 6 to 7 p.m. Book at www.cupsofyoga.com, or call Jaime at 831-200-8802.

Wednesdays

Flow and Unwind yoga from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Book at www.cupsofyoga.com, or call Jaime at 831-200-8802.

Thursdays

Gentle Flow from 9 to 10 a.m. www.cupsofyoga.com, or call 831-200-8802.

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

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

Fridays

Power-inspired Vinyasa from noon to 1 p.m. Book at www.cupsofyoga.com, or call Jaime at 831-200-8802.

Mountain Farmers Market from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m., on the Loma Prieta Playfield.

Saturdays

Summit Speakers meets on Zoom from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. For more information, call 408-497-5102, or email smbeauchamp885@gmail.com.

Summit Ultimate Frisbee meets from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Loma Prieta Elementary School field. More information at summitfrisbee.org.

Sundays

Summit Ultimate Frisbee meets from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Loma Prieta Elementary School field. More information at summitfrisbee.org.

Vinyasa Flow from 9 to 10 a.m., and Gentle Flow 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Book at www.cupsofyoga.com, or call 831-200-8802.

Preparing Exploration

Featuring a Hike in Monte Bello

Neil Wiley

To prepare for my solo hike in Monte Bello Open Space Preserve, I read several articles that detailed the environment of the preserve, including maps and text from the MidPen Regional Open Space website and brochures. I also read a detailed article in *101 Great Hikes in the San Francisco Bay Area* by Ann Marie Brown.

I assembled directions and maps on paper and my cell phone, put a safety chain around my neck for my safety communications service, and shared the details with my next-door neighbor, who could follow my trail. He knew where I was, when I would return, and who to call.

When you are out in a large preserve, you need to take care of yourself. I bring a hat, two bottles of water, some heathy snacks, a small safety kit, map, flashlight, extra camera batteries, and extra SD cards. (On this hike my cell phone died, so next time I'll be carrying a small battery charger.) I recently added a camera harness to keep my hands free.

On hikes in rough terrains, I might use walking sticks, but they get in the way when you are using a camera.

Why do you care what this old man carried? I met six people on this hike. Not one was prepared. They had no water, no food, and some had no map. None had a backup.

This hike was only 5.5 miles long, but it could seem a lot longer if you are lost, hurt, or very tired. A little preparation makes hiking a safer and more enjoyable experience.

The hike. Monte Bello is my new favorite preserve because of the beautiful scenery. It is also a challenge with a long trek up to Black Mountain.

My exploration began with a challenging drive up narrow and curvy Black Road, followed by a ride on my favorite highway (Skyline Boulevard) to a right turn on Page Mill Road.

Drive east for 1.7 miles to the preserve entrance on the right. Maps are available at a small stand. (Everyone should have their own map.)

Follow a single-track trail down to a stone bench. It's a great place to sit and enjoy a beautiful view of canyons and large hills. In the distance, you can see our local Mount Umunhum.

Look at your map and do a quick



equipment check. You follow the left fork of the Nature Trail to a right on Canyon Trail and left on the narrow single-track Belle Vista Trail.

This is where you may want to drink your water. There are views, but it is a continuous climb with little shade, and no room to rest or dodge the occasional biker. You'll look forward to seeing the Old Ranch Road on the right at 1.3 miles that takes you to the Black Mountain Backpack Camp.

The camp offers a few concrete tables, a toilet full of flies, non-potable water, a



payphone, and best of all, shade and a place to restore. I finished my first bottle of water and some snacks. The site also offered some wildlife sightings, including a coyote who walked about ten feet away. When I barked at him, he glanced at me. I think he yawned and said: "You are not a dog." Many small birds joined me. I think they were looking for food scraps.

Although the elevation gain was 1,093 feet and the total round trip was 5.5 miles, the hike up to Black Mountain summit was only 0.5 of a mile. Rest and food made the climb relatively easy.

The summit displayed a giant cluster of microwave towers. To the east, you can see the entire San Francisco Peninsula, but your photos may suffer from blue haze. As a bonus, you can see the beautiful Stevens Creek Canyon to the west.

The way back is via a steep descent on the wide Indian Creek Trail where I met a young couple. The woman was surprised that an old man was on this hike. I was surprised that they were starting their climb near dark without water or food. I hope they made it to the summit.

Walking down this wide trail offers views of giant buttes and deep canyons down to Canyon Trail, a left on Stevens Creek Nature Trail, and an easy climb along a stream and then up through grasslands back to the bench with a view and the preserve entrance,

It is a great experience. My only victim was my failing cell phone. Be sure you monitor your phone, use multiple devices, or add a charger. When signage is good, you may not need on-line mapping, but it can help if you get lost.

Enjoy exploring. Be prepared. If you have more helpful ideas to share, email me at mnnnews@comcast.net.



The Rapp Family Bringing Fruit to Market Lou Rapp

Adolphus Rapp began farming in the Summit area in 1904. Here's a glimpse at 12 months at the Rapp orchards on Skyland and Adams roads.

Winter work. In September, a cover crop of vetch was spread throughout the orchard. Vetch produces nitrogen that feeds the soil, protects it from erosion, and controls weeds.

We used a single-disc blade plow to make drainage ditches to divert water out of the orchard. During storms, Adolphus went out with his hip boots on to make sure the water was draining properly in the orchard and that the reservoir was not overflowing.

In the middle of November, when most of the leaves had fallen off the pear trees, Adolphus started pruning. He usually had pruned all the fruit trees by January 1.

Adolphus' pruning crew was composed of six men plus our neighbor Floyd Freed. Floyd ran the crew when Adolphus had to step away to take care of some business. A model A orchard truck transported the crew back and forth between the Skyland Road and Adams Road ranches.

After pruning, the next step was to push the tree limbs on the ground away in a two-foot circle from the trunk of the tree. When they disced the orchard in the spring, the disc would cut up all the tree branches and turn them back into the soil. Each worker was provided with a three point 12-foot orchard ladder, a hand clipper, one long-handled lopper, and a saw for the limbs that were too big for the loppers.

The pruning and picking crews stayed in the bunkhouse. Every year, the state inspected the structure to make sure it was in good condition to house the workers. It was the original house Colonel Slaughter built in 1876. Later, in 1885, the colonel built another house that is still standing today next to the original bunkhouse.

In January or February, when the ground was dry enough for the tractor, Adolphus planted new two-year old, grafted trees. First, Adolphus planted pear seedlings in a nursery between one row of trees. He took sign wood (cuttings) from selected pear trees in the orchard and grafted them onto the seedlings. The next year, he dug up the nursery row and replaced trees that were not producing well.



WWII Fuel Rationing. During WWII, ranchers were given gas ration tickets by the War Price and Rationing Board. The ranchers went to town only when necessary, to save gas for the farm. Sugar was rationed, which ranchers needed for canning fruit and vegetables.

Pest Control. The Santa Cruz County game warden gave the ranchers deer-hunting permits because of the damage deer did to the fruit trees. The ranchers could not keep the meat and had to take the dressed-out deer to the local fire station on Highland Road.

Adolphus kept the gophers in check by baiting the gopher holes with carrots laced with strychnine. When ground squirrels started burrowing in the orchard, the county came in to eliminate them.

Adolphus purchased a John Bean spray rig for \$5,000 in 1958. It held 500 gallons on a full tank, which equates to 5,000 pounds pushing behind the tractor in the steep part of the orchard.

Ranchers in the Santa Cruz Mountains used crawler tractors because wheel tractors were too dangerous. There were places on the ranch where you could only go downhill due to the weight of the spray rig and the slope.

One year, when the ground was not completely dry yet, I started to make a turn at the bottom of a steep row. The weight of the sprayer pushed the tractor toward the edge of the drop off. Luckily, I was able to maneuver the tractor to keep from being pushed over the edge of the bank. I stopped for a minute to slow my racing heart after the close call.

In the spring, around the first of March, Adolphus went to the Watsonville farm



supply store to purchase the pesticides he needed for the spring and summer. He always asked for advice on what to spray to target certain insects. Most of these synthetic pesticides were developed in the 1940s.

Some of the insecticides were DDT, Deildren, Seven, Malathion, Parathion, and Stop Drop. The first spray in the spring was applied when the pear trees were blooming. This killed mites and kept fungus from forming scabs on the skin of the fruit. We applied codling moth and pear psylla spray in May, when daytime temperatures reached 50 degrees. The moth doesn't damage the fruit, but when their eggs hatch into the worm stage, they can tunnel into the fruit. At the end of June, we sprayed the apples trees for codling moths, and the walnuts for aphids.

Two weeks before it was time to start picking, we applied Stop Drop spray to the joints where the pears were connected to the trees. This kept the pears from falling off the trees before it was time to harvest.

Today, we understand how toxic these chemicals are and what precautions to take. At age 13, I started driving the tractor to spray the orchard. I remember making turns with the tractor and spray rig on a hot summer day. I felt the spraying mist and enjoyed how refreshingly cool it felt. The pesticide manufacturers and chemical companies never warned ranchers and farmers about the dangers of these pesticides, or to wear protective clothing.

Each morning and again after lunch, we greased and gassed up the spray rig and tractor. It took about 80 gallons of gas per day to run both. We ran the tractor at full speed in low gear in order to adequately apply the spray the trees. It took two and half days to spray the 100-acre orchard.

After we finished spraying, it took another half a day to clean the spray rig and tractor.

My exposure to chemicals growing up is probably one of the reasons that I, and many other famers my age, have developed Parkinson's. Be mindful, as you can still purchase these same insecticides at your local nursery or hardware store.

Dryland Ranching. In the Santa Cruz Mountains, the practice of dryland farming, with no irrigation to the orchards, was common. Dryland farming results in fruit with a higher sugar level. In the early 1900s, when my grandfather took the train from Wrights Station to the fruit wholesale produce market in San Francisco, he could tell which fruit came from the Santa Cruz Mountains. It always tasted sweeter.

The ranchers in the mountains managed



the soil to preserve moisture for the trees in the summer. In May, it was time to disc the orchard. The tractor chopped the grass and branches from the winter pruning back into the soil.

In June, it was time to roll the orchard. We pulled an eight-foot wide roller compactor, with a series of four-inch wide rollers connected across an eight-foot span. A drag frame levelled the orchard, compacted the soil to retain moisture, and got rid of sprouting weeds.

By this time the ground was very dry and dusty. If the wind was going your direction, you could find yourself in a dust cloud. You could barely make out the pear tree in front of the tractor you were driving.

In July, we looked for signs of pear fire blight. Fire blight is caused by the bacterium *Erwinia amylovora*. If we found it, we used a pair of pruning shears or a saw to cut the branch off about three inches below the last damaged cancer on the bark of the branch. The pruning shears or saws had to be disinfected with a bleach solution between cuts, so the bacteria didn't spread around the orchard. If we didn't act swiftly, fire blight could kill off half the trees. Every infected branch was immediately burned.

Also in mid July, we installed one-inch-thick wooden boards to prop up branches that had so many pears on them they might break without support.

Fruit Harvest. Royal Land cherries were the first summer fruit that we picked. How

we picked them depended on which cannery the cherries were being taken to. They were picked stem-on for maraschino cherries, or stem-off for canning. Everyone in the family helped pick cherries. We did not get weekly allowances, but we did earn money per box of summer fruit we picked.

After the cherries were harvested, around the end of June, there was a lull of activity at the ranch. We often took a camping vacation.

At the end of July, we applied Stop Drop to the pears. A few weeks before picking started, ladders and buckets were inspected to make sure they were in good condition. We numbered these to track how much to pay each worker. When they dumped their full buckets in the bins, their card was punched to keep a tally of how many buckets they picked each day. A good worker could pick 100 buckets in eight hours. The ladder supports were tightened up and painted as needed.

One year, a member of the crew suggested that Adolphus paint the ladders green so that if immigration flew over, the ladders would blend in with the pear trees. After that, all the ladders were painted green.

A representative from the cannery came to the ranch and tested a random sample of pears from the orchard for sugar levels. When the sugar levels were high enough, the rancher was given the OK to start picking the pears for the cannery.

In August, picking would begin. Ranchers had to anticipate the number of boxes that would be needed in an area of the orchard, and spread out enough boxes to keep ahead of the picking crew. Our foreman Floyd watched the pickers to make sure they picked quality fruit. The workers were given a ring about two and a half inches in diameter. They were not to pick a pear smaller than that because it was too small for the cannery to process. The cannery would not accept a load that had too many small pears, or pears with worms or scabs.

Adolphus took two to three 12-ton loads a day to the cannery, leaving the ranch with the first load by 6 a.m. In his best year, Adolphus hauled 350 tons of pears to the cannery from both ranches. It was a 40-mile, three- to four-hour round trip from the ranch to Wools Cannery at Tully and Center roads in San Jose and back.

It took two weeks for the first picking of the hundred acres. Then the picking crews would start over again. By this time, the small pears that were left behind from the first picking had grown big enough to be acceptable by the cannery.



Pears were the one crop that had to be picked green. If they were left to ripen on the tree, the center of the pear would be too ripe to be processed at the cannery. After the load was accepted by the cannery, the pears were placed in a cold-storage building for two weeks. Then they were taken out of cold storage and allowed to ripen in the boxes outside for a time. After being in cold storage, all the pears in the boxes ripened at the same time and were ready for processing.

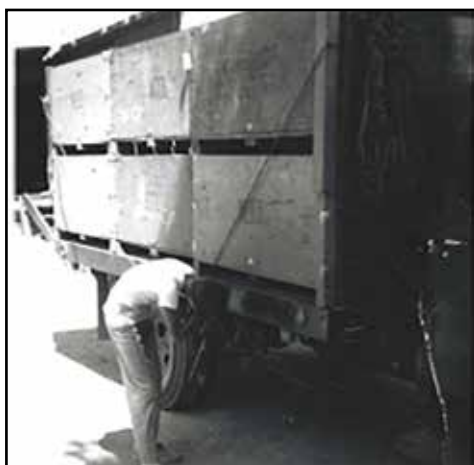
In 1960, Wools Cannery converted to using bins for the pears instead of boxes. The boxes held 40 pounds of pears, while the bins held a ton each.

After converting to bins, the workers were paid by the bucket rather than by the box. A worker was given a new punch card every morning, and every time they dumped a bucket of pears, their card was punched. Everyone's cards were collected at the end of the day. If the workers stayed for the whole picking season, they got a bonus per bucket. If the rancher didn't offer the bonus, some pickers would leave before all the pears were picked, which left the ranchers in a bind.

My mom Lorene cooked meals for the pickers and kept track of all the workers' payroll daily from the punch cards. The pear harvest was a very busy time for our family.

In September, the apple crop was ready to pick. We grew five acres of several varieties of apples including Crab Apple, Yellow Delicious, Red Reliculous, New Town Pippens, Rosey Cheeks, Jonathon, and Rome Beauty. There was also an old German variety called Bietemhiemer. It was a very large cooking apple about 6 inches in diameter. Adolphus won the apple contest at the Santa Cruz County Fair every year with them. The county fair was the end of the crop year at the Rapp Ranch.

This article is an excerpt. Read the full article and see more photos by scanning this QR code.



people

LGSUSD Board of Trustees

Candidate Bio

Shawn Mortensen

I am a parent, community volunteer, and current member of the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District Board of Trustees. I am seeking election to continue representing the mountain community on the LGSUSD board.

As a longtime mountain resident, my wife and I have proudly raised our three children in our local public schools. Our children attended Loma Prieta Elementary and C.T. English Middle School before continuing on to Los Gatos High School. My wife, Janice, is a science teacher at Los Gatos High School, giving our family firsthand experience with the opportunities and challenges facing students, educators, and families throughout the district.

I have spent years volunteering in support of local schools and youth programs. I served for nearly five years as president of the Los Gatos High School Home and School Club, helping strengthen partnerships between families, teachers, and school leadership. I have also volunteered with the Wildcat Foundation, coached Los Gatos Little League and Los Gatos United Soccer, served as president of the Encore Swim Team, and participated in the Project Cornerstone program, regularly reading to my sons' Loma Prieta classes to help foster youth social-emotional competency.

Professionally, I serve in business development with MAI Construction, where I work closely with public- and private-sector clients to develop long-term partnerships and deliver successful outcomes.

As a trustee, I am committed to maintaining academic excellence, supporting student wellness, exercising sound fiscal oversight, and ensuring transparent,



thoughtful decision-making. I believe every student deserves the opportunity to succeed in a safe, supportive, and inspiring educational environment.

I am running for re-election to continue serving the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District because I believe

strong public schools are the foundation of a strong community. I remain committed to listening to families, supporting educators, and making decisions that put students first while preserving the excellence that makes our high-school district exceptional.



**septic & plumbing
construction**

831-345-1823
garrisonsepticandplumbing.com
license 967752 - since 1999

**EXCAVATORS
BACKHOES**

**BULLDOZERS
BOBCATS**



**MASON
TRACTOR**

BEN MASON
(408) 353-2836 OFFICE
(408) 761-0794 CELL

**CLASS A GENERAL ENGINEERING
BONDED / INSURED
LICENSE# 870450**

Local Artist

Masha Strebkova

Kathy McKinney

Masha Strebkova is a local artist who works from her home studio on Montevina Road. Earlier this summer, she participated in the Silicon Valley Open Studios tour, which featured hundreds of local artists displaying their work throughout Silicon Valley. She was the only artist in the mountains included on the tour.

Masha paints large-scale abstract works on raw canvas. Her husband builds the wooden frames in her home studio. She stretches and attaches the canvas and gets to work.

Working with raw canvas is different from painting on a coated canvas. On a coated canvas, an artist can paint over or correct their work. On a raw canvas, once the paint is applied, it becomes part of the fabric and cannot be changed.

Masha explained that her artistic process begins not with an image, but with a feeling—often curiosity, wonder, tenderness, or the quiet balance between uncertainty and hope. Paint becomes a language for what is difficult to express in words.

She is drawn to raw surfaces and stains. She shared, “I allow chance, dilution, and gravity to participate in the work, treating the canvas as a place where control and surrender coexist. Each painting evolves slowly, through attention and listening rather than

resolution. My paintings are not illustrations of emotion, but containers for it—spaces where feeling can exist without explanation.”

You can view Masha’s work at mashastrebkova.art, or on Instagram (@[masha_strebkova_art](https://www.instagram.com/masha_strebkova_art)). Some of her work will be featured in Skyland Community Church’s Whitaker Hall in November.



Angelé Price

*From the Valley to the Sea
& the Mountains in between*

ACTIVE



25991 Mar Vista Ct.
Majestic and stunning design with views of Monterey Bay resting upon 2.4 sunny flat acres. 3 bd., 2.5 bath plus library and bonus bedroom. 3284 sq. ft. \$2,100,000

PENDING



249 Cresci Rd.
Mostly flat, sunny lot with potential pretty views. 3 acres. \$225,000

SOLD!



2081 Sufonet Drive
Remodeled, expanded & re-designed in 2021, like brand new, modern home w/double door entry situated in the sought-after Carlton n'hood bordering Los Gatos. 4/2.5 1755 sq. ft.

SOLD!



2 No Name Road
A gem! 2.5 flat, sunny acres with 3000 +sq ft of living room. Solar, powerwall, and tons of charm! 3 beds, 2.5 bath. Price upon request. \$1,730,000

SOLD!



805 Old Mill Pond Rd.
Luxurious, contemporary home set on a sunny site with views. Dramatic high ceilings & amazing open space concept. 4 bedrooms and approx. 2800 sf ft. 9 acres. \$1,350,000

COMPASS

Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Numbers 01079009 and 01272462. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.



VOTED



A Vision for Your Life

BRE #01187585

408.605.3005

angele.price@compass.com
www.angeleprice.com

people

Mountain Students Receive P.E.O. Scholarships Carolyn Dufort

Loma Prieta and C.T. English alumni Alexis Dorn, Sierra Fong, Mia Fong, and Michaela France were recently awarded generous scholarships from the Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.). These four mountain students and other local recipients were honored at a scholarship brunch held at the home of retired Loma teacher, Mrs. Carolyn Dufort, assisted by mountain residents Elaine Bryant, Julie Bourque, and Miriam Watson.

Alexis will enter the University of Puget Sound. Sierra is a pre-med student at the University of California, Los Angeles. Mia is attending medical school at the University of California, Davis, and Michaela is completing her nursing degree at California State University, Sacramento.

P.E.O. is a women's organization founded in 1869. It is devoted to helping women achieve their educational goals. Last year, California P.E.O. awarded a total of \$1.23 million in scholarships to 327 recipients. For more information, visit www.peocalifornia.org or email CarDufort@gmail.com.



From left:
Alexis Dorn, Sierra Fong,
Mia Fong, and Michaela France

SILVER MOUNTAIN
 V I N E Y A R D S



SUMMER
FUN
AT THE
WINERY

408.353.2278
SILVERMTN.COM



TREE SOLUTIONS
 HEALTH CARE FOR TREES

Tree Pruning Experts
Proper Pruning Techniques
ISA Certified Arborist
Fruit Tree Care
Disease and Pest Management
Tree Care Consulting
Licensed Pesticide Applicator
Sick Tree Therapies
Tree Care Experts Since 1999

Family business since 1999

831-425-1833

www.treesolutions.com

jim@treesolutions.com

Defensible Space Clearing

Are you prepared for Fire Season?

Schedule your weed cutting, brush clearing/chipping and discing now!

- Mudslide cleanup
- Standing & fallen tree removal & cleanup
- Culvert & ditch cleaning
- Dumpster service – debris cleanup & hauling
- Weed cutting/mowing/discing
- Defensible space clearing
- Tractor work – loader/ excavator & scraper for road grading & repair
- Community road & neighborhood brush chipping
- Land clearing – large & small properties

**SCOTT
GREEN**
408.761.2092

*Serving the Santa Cruz
Mountains since 1985*

*Mountain Resident
for 55 years*

An Owl Box for Who?

Jim Scholfield

In 2021, at the start of the COVID-19 lockdown, I was retired and had virtually nothing to do. Inspired by my boredom, I decided to build an owl house.

I looked up plans that were suitable for smaller owls. The recommendations were to build a sturdy box from plywood with an appropriate entrance, a ventilated roof, and drains. I found a suitable tree with a notch about 15 feet above the ground, facing north but at an angle that I could see from inside my patio.

It was a good effort, but absolutely nothing happened in that owl box for five years, until recently.

In early July, my wife Megs and I heard some strange noises after dark. Megs thought skunks had moved in under the deck, but we found nothing. On a hunch, I used the Merlin app, which can identify birds by their calls. The app immediately identified the sound as the call of an American barn owl. This was a hoot!

Megs had been hearing the same screeching but much softer, for a few weeks. Once the two chicks were big enough to come out of the owl box, they began making their begging noises much more loudly—for most of the night, I might add. Unbeknownst to us, this family of barn owls had been living under our noses (80 feet away) for the previous two months.

Barn owls are mostly nocturnal, secretive, and prefer quiet environments with access to rodents. We don't hear or see them until after the sun has set. They go back inside 30 minutes before sunrise. No wonder we were unaware of them.

Their nocturnal habits make conventional photography very challenging due to the lack of light. The use of tripods and slow shutter speeds is required during these brief

windows of useful light. Another method is to set up an Infrared wildlife camera. We installed one about 20 feet away, and set it to take motion-activated eight-second videos after dark.

IR illumination is generally invisible to wildlife. These cameras are a lot of fun if you're interested in what's wandering around the back yard at night. Most of the videos were of the owl pair sitting on the box, but a few showed them learning to fly.

It is hard to guess how long the fledges will be here. The American barn owl's range includes most of the central and western states. They prefer mixed vegetation with open grassy areas and easy rodent hunting. The Lexington Reservoir area has lots of trees with small open spaces. We're delighted they're here and hope they come back next year.



CSL #948403

HUERTA'S
TREE SERVICE
& DEVELOPMENT INC.

- Full Tree Service
- Stump Grinding
- Fully Insured
- Free Estimates

Juan Carlos Huerta
(408) 833-2977

P.O. Box 968 | Los Gatos, CA 95031
juancarlos@huertastreeservice.com
www.huertastreeservice.com



Jim and Megs' barn owls
Photo by Mercury Freedom

schools

Loma Prieta School District Kevin Grier and Amy Ramsay

Loma Prieta Elementary School and C.T. English Middle School are looking forward to another exciting school year. Enrollment information is available on our website at www.loma.k12.ca.us. The first day of school is **Thursday, August 13**, with an 8:20 a.m. start time for both schools. The parking lot will be busy on the first day, so allow extra time for drop-off and parking. We encourage families to slow down, follow staff directions, and use extra caution as students and families make their way safely to campus.

Speaking of parking lots, one of our summer projects using our bond funds was to transform our south parking lot (aka the “mud lot”) into a viable parking lot for our families and community. Thanks to the efforts of our director of facilities and vendors, we now have a 35-car parking lot that includes an entry/exit asphalt apron to avoid tire ruts. While there are no painted lines in the parking lot, we have offered an environmentally friendly option to determine parking patterns. The lot will be closed nightly after 8 p.m. and on weekends to avoid vandalism.

You may have noticed that we have finally entered the digital age with our new marquee. We successfully replaced our old manual letter signage with a state-of-the-art digital sign panel. This will allow us to more easily update important information for our families and the community, including safety messages. The sign will be turned on in the morning and off by 10 p.m.

We welcome new families to our district. We will host a new family coffee event on **Thursday, August 13**, beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the C.T. English gazebo. New families and first-time kindergarten parents are invited to meet staff, connect with other families, and ask questions about the day-to-day life of our mountain schools.

All families are invited to attend our annual root beer float welcome-back event, hosted by the C.T. and Loma Home and School Clubs, on **Tuesday, August 11**. Loma class lists and middle school schedules will be available beginning at 4 p.m. on the Loma field. We hope you'll join us as we reconnect with friends, welcome new families, and kick off another wonderful year of learning together.



Digital Equity for Mountain School Districts

Santa Clara County Office of Education

Reliable internet and power can be a challenge for our small mountain school districts. Winter storms, downed power lines, and the rural environment can lead to disrupted connectivity. Sometimes, schools are forced to close, interrupting learning for students and creating a barrier for community outreach in times of crisis.

“In a small mountain school district like ours, reliable technology and uninterrupted connectivity are essential for teaching, learning, communication, and student safety,” said Lakeside superintendent/principal Steve Burrell.

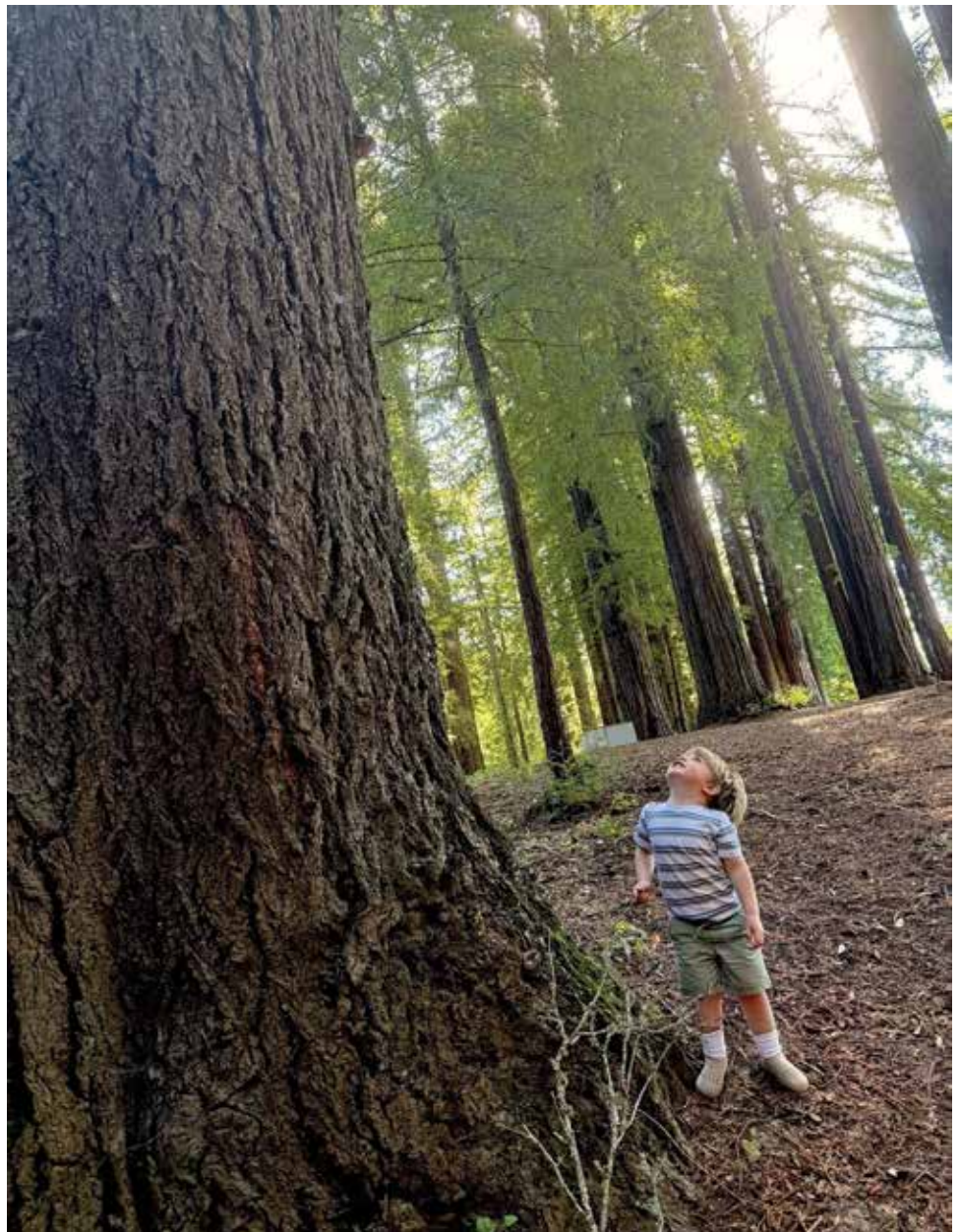
Through a digital-equity effort led by the Santa Clara County Office of Education, two small mountain school districts now have the infrastructure they need to stay connected no matter the weather conditions. Funded through a federal grant by the office of former Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, the Digital Equity Project brought upgraded systems and resilient power solutions to both Lakeside and Loma Prieta school districts.

The work included full network upgrades, including replacing routers, switches, and wireless-access points. Wi-Fi access was expanded to outdoor spaces to better serve students, staff, and families across campus. New generators and backup systems were installed to ensure schools can remain open during power outages. These systems keep the internet running and classrooms open during prolonged interruptions.

“The Digital Equity Project has had a tremendously positive impact on Lakeside School,” Burrell said. “The successful completion of both the generator project and our full network refresh has provided infrastructure and connectivity that meets our operational and instructional needs.”

“While the completed project can go unnoticed by anyone who would arrive on campus to see a building or a structure, it is equally (if not more) important to today’s school districts to have a relevant, upgraded IT infrastructure that is capable of keeping pace with the evolution of technology aimed to support our students,” said Loma Prieta superintendent, Dr. Kevin Grier.

The new systems include extended support agreements and infrastructure to last many years, ensuring districts can maintain high-quality connectivity without ongoing strain on local resources. Regardless of weather and outages, students will have access to what they need to connect, learn, and thrive.



I am Three Jessie Thorsen

Today my teacher said, “Let’s grow as tall as the redwoods!”

I reached my arms way up high. I stood on my tippy-toes. I stretched and stretched. “I’m getting bigger!” I laughed.

Then we all became trees.

I was a giant redwood. My feet were roots that stayed in the ground. My arms were branches. The wind whooshed through my leaves. I didn’t move when the pretend wind blew because redwoods are strong.

My friends were trees too. We made a whole forest. Some trees were tall. Some trees were wiggly.

Then I heard a big “Caw!”

It was Sarah the hawk! She flew high above our forest, looking all around. We waved our branches and said, “Hi, Sarah!” She glided

away to visit the other trees. I wondered where she was going next.

Soon there were pretend birds making nests in our branches. Our teacher asked, “Who else lives in the redwoods?” I yelled out “unicorns!”, but I also heard my friends say lizards and sharks and dinosaurs and cats and I really hope the shark doesn’t eat the cats. Maybe the dinosaur will eat the shark.

Then the rain came.

The drops fell on my leaves. Then the sun came out, and everything sparkled. I liked being a tree.

Then it was time to wash hands and my teacher said, “The redwoods are ready to walk.”

My roots turned back into little feet, and my branches turned back into little arms. But inside, I still felt as tall as a redwood tree.

classified

AERIAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE FLIES YOUR PROPERTY, get your own aerial view first. Drone-based wildfire-preparedness assessments. Identify risks, improve defensible space, and better understand your property from above. Local resident. Licensed and insured. Straightforward insights you can act on. loretogeo.com.

ANIMAL CARE

PURRFECT PET CARE. Mtn Resident. Reliable care for all of your animals. Sandi Greenhill, 408-348-5771

PARADISE DOG BOARDING. Unlimited playtime on 5 fenced acres. Comfy beds indoors. A vacation for your dog while you're away. Text/call 831-600-5651

DEB'S PET CARE. Since 1989. Daily visits. Quality time. Insured. Deb Arneson. 831-331-1992

CHIPPING

AFFORDABLE CHIPPING. Silver Maple Tree Service LLC. Hourly rate, call Jay 408-480-6776. silvermapletreeservicellc.com.

CLEANING

ARNS CARPET CLEANING. Hard floor and grout steam cleaning. Deep carpet, stair, area rug, and upholstery cleaning. Non-toxic, fast-drying method. Free estimates. 408-656-5323

LANGARICA HOUSECLEANING
Eco-friendly. 831-707-0975 Alejandro,
831-707-7301 Maria

LUANNE'S HOUSECLEANING.
831-706-2510. Est. Mtns since 1995.
Detail-oriented, tailored to your needs,
goes the extra mile. Great refs.



KARLA'S CLEANING LLC. Standard and deep cleaning, move-in/out, post construction, and extras. Licensed and bonded. 408-849-9404, karlaramos4@hotmail.com, www.karlascleaning.com.

COLLEGE CONSULTING SERVICES

COLLEGE CONSULTING for HS students. Help with college essays, application support from start to finish, and academic coaching. 408-910-8181.

CONTRACTORS

TDA CONSTRUCTION, General Contractor. Decks, sheds, remodels, additions, and more. Licensed, bonded, and insured. Teunis Aarenoudse. 669-246-0972, info@tda-construction.com

DOORS, WINDOWS AND MORE. Licensed and bonded. 40+Years of experience. bruce@doorswindowsandmore.com, 408-472-4478

PACIFIC MT. HORTICULTURE
Design. Build. Cultivate.
www.pacmthort.com. #582726

CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICES. Home improvement and remodeling. Kirk@constructive-services.net. 408-505-2500

SUMMIT DECK DOCTOR: Deck refinishing, repair and build. Deck staining season is ON! Our slogan is "Looks good, lasts long, job done." We can get your deck done by the weekend for you to enjoy all summer! Summit residents get priority. 23 years in business. Call Rupert at 408 353 DECK (3325) for a free estimate. Lic#B928487.

ELECTRICAL

BINGO ELECTRIC provides quality residential and commercial electrical services. Specializing in troubleshooting, repairs, installation, main/sub panel upgrades. Generac certified technicians for scheduled maintenance services. 888-433-4024

MASTERSON ELECTRIC. Commercial & residential electrical contractor. Call Tom Everett, 408-580-7026 or email tmastersonelectric@gmail.com. Lic# 1110981

EXCAVATION

C. STILLE EXCAVATION.
Ifyoucandreamitwecandigit.com. 408-781-2731. Lic #620755

CUNNINGHAM TRACTOR, INC. For all your earth-moving needs. Providing quality dirt work for mountain residences. Kevin 408-515-1871. lic# 1000058. www.cunninghamtractorinc.com

MASON TRACTOR GRADING & EXCAVATING. Give us a call. We'll move the earth for you. Lic#870450 office 408-353-2836 cell 408-761-0794

FIREWOOD

MOBILE FIREWOOD SPLITTING. We cut, split and stack your fallen trees into usable firewood. Call Jay 408-480-6776. silvermapletreeservicellc.com.

HANDYMAN

LOW-COST CONSTRUCTION & REPAIR. Roofing, Decking, Retaining Walls, Home Additions & Remodeling of all kinds. You name it, we do it. No job too big or too small. Super workmanship and excellent local references. 831-840-6642

HAULING

HAULING AND DEMOLITION. Junk removal, house clean-ups, tenant move-outs. No job too big or too small. Insured. Call 408-956-4807.

KNIFE SHARPENING

KNIFE AND CHAINSAW SHARPENING in Villa Del Monte. Text or call Michael 650-906-4332

Shop Local!
Support the
small businesses
that help bring the
Mountain Network News
to over 4,000 homes
every month.

LAND CLEARING

LAND CLEARING. Tree trimming, brush removal, poison oak removal, fire protection. Hardscape and landscape, weekly and monthly maintenance. Call 408-956-4807.

SERNA'S LAND CLEARING AND HAULING.

Land clearing and fire breaks. Brush and poison oak removal. Debris clean-up and hauling. Chipping and firewood. Mulching tractors. Fecon equipment. Call 831-227-6373.

C. STILLE EXCAVATION.

Ifyoucandreamitwecandigit.com. 408-781-2731. Lic #620755

LAND CLEARING & MORE. Chaparral and grass removal for defensible space. Wood chipping and masticating equipment. Stump grinding. Lot clearing. Ditch cleaning for rain prep. Excavator work. Small demos. Grading, asphalt patching. Hole drilling for retaining walls or fences. Delivery up to 5 tons of quarry material. Call or text 831-588-4372.

LANDSCAPING

PACIFIC MT. HORTICULTURE

Design. Build. Cultivate.
www.pacmthort.com. #582726

R. SMITH LANDSCAPE CONCRETE.

Pavers, decks, artificial grass, retaining walls, fences, and more. 408-849-6701. rodolforsmith@gmail.com.



MOTORCYCLE/ATV REPAIR

ADVENTURE READY MOTOSPORTS

Motorcycle/ATV/SXS maintenance and repair. Jason Snetsinger 408-838-8383
www.adventurereadymotosports.com

NOTARY PUBLIC

CRUZ MOBILE NOTARY SERVICE.

Both counties, same day and after-hours service available. Ann and Mike Scherer. 408-353-6453



PAINTING

LICKETY-SPLIT PAINTING. Specials on interior painting. Save \$\$\$. Mountain resident. Neat, clean, responsible, high quality, low rates since 1994. Lic#693617. Robert, 408-265-0564

PEST CONTROL

A RELIABLE PEST CONTROL. 408-559-7378. Licensed, Bonded, and Insured. Free Estimates. Rats, Ants, Spiders, Yellowjackets, Wasps

PHYSICAL THERAPY

MOVING MOUNTAINS PHYSICAL THERAPY.

Home therapy services from a Doctor of Physical Therapy. karen@mmpmtlosgatos.com, 408-357-9887

PRESCHOOL

VILLA DEL MONTE MONTESSORI

PRESCHOOL 650-793-4520
www.villadelmontemontessori.com

ROOFING

ROYCE'S ROOFING. Specializing in roof repairs and reroofs. Can your roof use some TLC? Maybe a new roof? Gutters or roof cleaned? Schedule your free est. Lic# 890941. Exp. Since 1993. 408-353-6115

SPA SERVICES

SANA SPA ON SUMMIT. A spa for healing, beauty, and self-care. Located less than a mile from Highway 17, we offer facials, microneedling, waxing, massage, cosmetic and body art tattoo. A quiet, welcoming space designed for your comfort and care. Stay local. By appointment only, text 408-707-4528.

STUMP GRINDING

STUMP GRINDING. None too big or too small we grind them all. Call J.J. 408-480-6776. silvermapletreeservicellc.com.

WATER

WATER LEVEL MEASUREMENT. See your water tank level on your phone or computer anytime. Notifications + API. 408-835-3828, www.HydriQ.net

BULK POTABLE WATER DELIVERY & WATER TANK CLEANING SERVICE

Pure Water Plus - H2O4U.
Call for quote 408-370-7130

CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICES, INC.

System design. Water treatment and distribution. Water testing and filtration. State and county compliance sampling and reporting. System automation. Troubleshooting. Tank replacement. KIRK@CONSTRUCTIVE-SERVICES. NET. 408-505-2500

C. STILLE EXCAVATION.

Ifyoucandreamitwecandigit.com. 408-781-2731. Lic #620755

YOGA

CUPS OF YOGA. For your day, week, heart, soul. Yoga studio and events. Group and private yoga classes on the Mtn. Jaime 831-200-8802, www.cupsofyoga.com.



PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN JOSE, CA
PERMIT NO. 6094

CARRIER ROUTED

*****ECRWSSSEDDM*****

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF
MOUNTAIN LIVING!



Grateful to be serving
the mountain community
and surrounding areas

JILL COLE & NANCY COLE

Reach out and set up a time to discuss your real estate needs.
It would be our honor to assist you!

Jill@team-cole.com

**SOLD
WITH MULTIPLE
OFFERS**



200 SURMONT DRIVE

5 BD | 3 BA | 3,059 +/- SQ. FT. | 15 +/- ACRES
PANORAMIC VALLEY VIEWS, OFFERING
A BLEND OF PRIVACY, TRANQUILITY, & POTENTIAL.
OFFERED AT \$3,799,000
SOLD



19975 SKYLINE BLVD.

5 BD | 4.5 BA | 4,740 +/- SQ. FT. | 86 +/- AC
EXTRAORDINARY ARCHITECTURAL ESTATE
WITH MONTEREY BAY VIEWS!
OFFERED AT \$3,190,900
ACTIVE



12336 INDIAN ROCK WAY

4 BD | 3 BA | 3,679 +/- SQ. FT. | 6.45 +/- AC
STUNNING MODERN CONTEMPORARY
WITH BREATHTAKING VIEWS!
OFFERED AT \$2,048,000
ACTIVE



15171 OLD RANCH ROAD

2 BD | 2 BA | 1,684 +/- SQ. FT. | 2.63 +/- AC
MOUNTAIN RETREAT WITH DISTINCTIVE
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNS. MINUTES FROM HWY 17.
OFFERED AT \$999,000
ACTIVE



JILL COLE
DRE 01489680

JILL COLE
408.219.3416
Jill@team-cole.com
www.jill-cole.com

NANCY COLE
DRE 00621248



COLDWELL BANKER REALTY 410 N Santa Cruz Ave. Los Gatos, CA 95030

©2026 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office is Owned by a Subsidiary of NRT LLC. Real Estate Agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are Independent Contractor Sales Associates and are not employees of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage or NRT LLC. CalBRE License #01908304. BRE License #01908304.