

CONNECTION

Sharing the day-to-day learning experience

at

Community Homes & Services

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www.communityhomesandservices.com

Marin Through Our Eyes

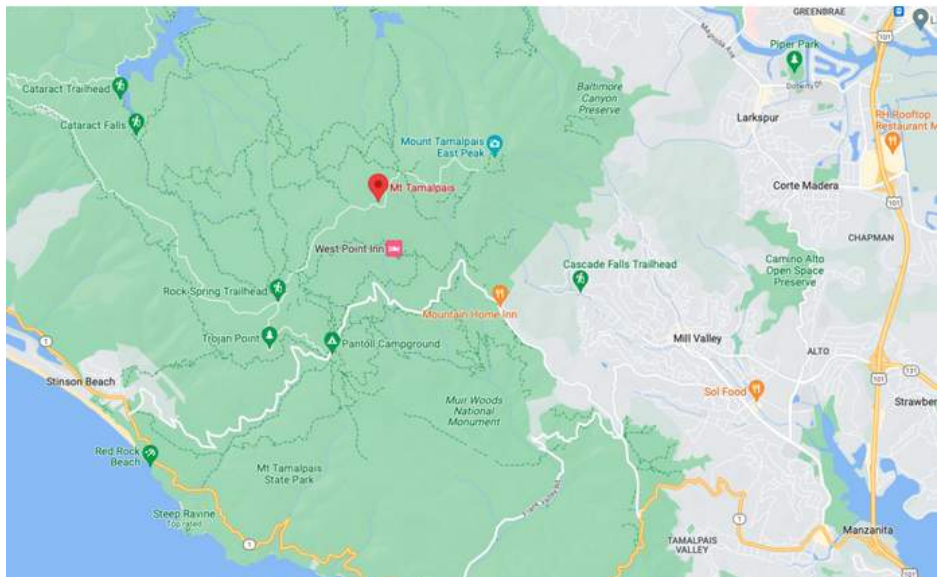


with Joes' group

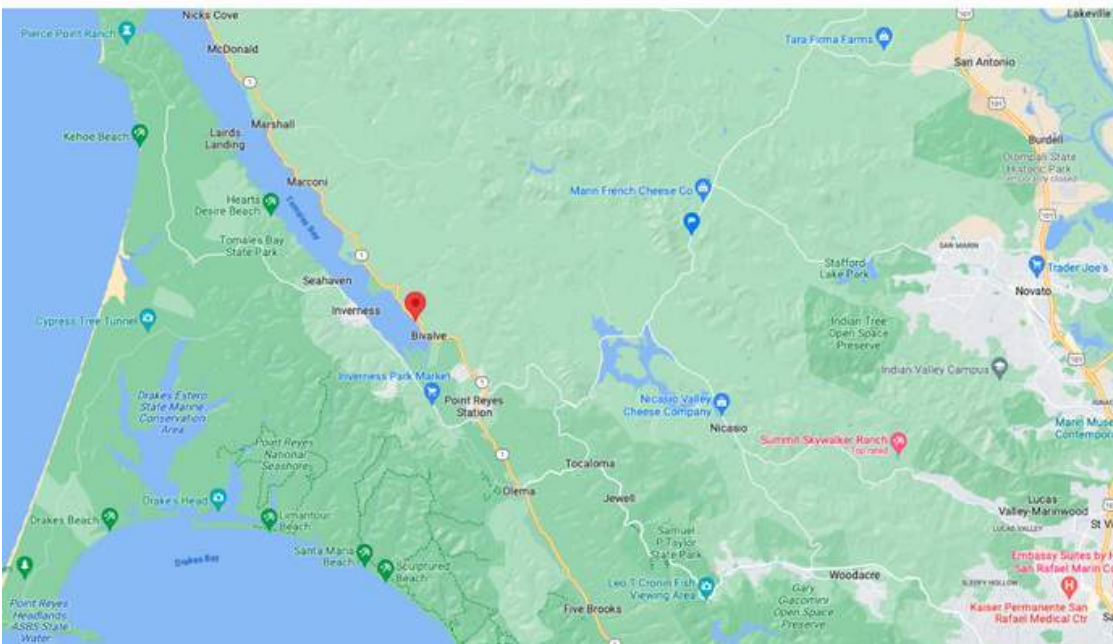
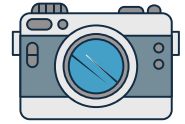
Marin County is known for its beautiful rolling hills and sprawling valleys. In fact, there are so many great views to behold in Marin that Bert, Joe, Mike, Phoebe, and Tyrone couldn't decide on a "best". So, of course, we went to a few of our favorite lookouts to snap some photos with our handy digital camera. In the following pages, you'll find pictures of the views, as well as map that show where each photo was taken.

Which view do you think is best?

When it comes to views, it's tough to beat Mt. Tam. So we drove up through Mill Valley, dodged the many, many cyclists on Ridgecrest Blvd, and found this nice spot for Mike to snap this photo.

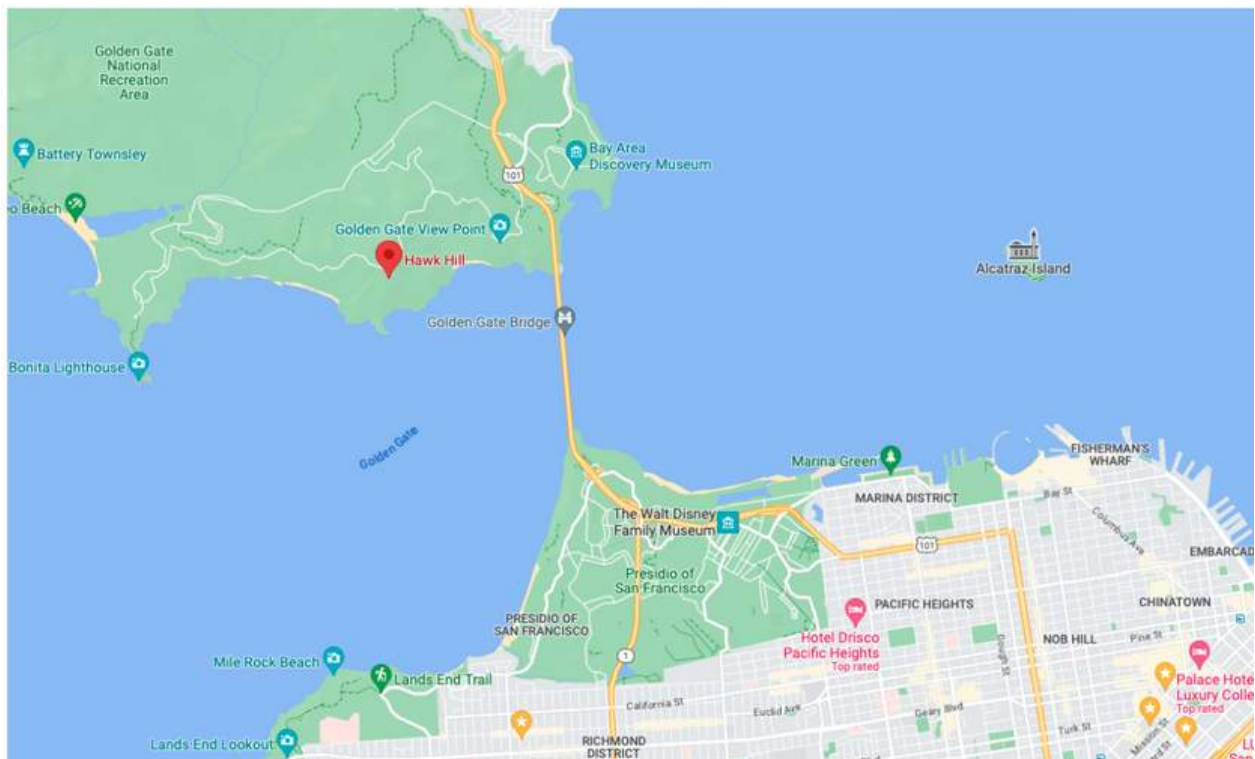
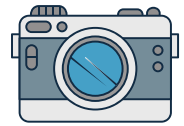


Not every beautiful view involves ascending a mountain. For example, check out this photo of the Tomales Bay - taken by Tyrone near Inverness.



The little red arrow shows where the photo was taken.

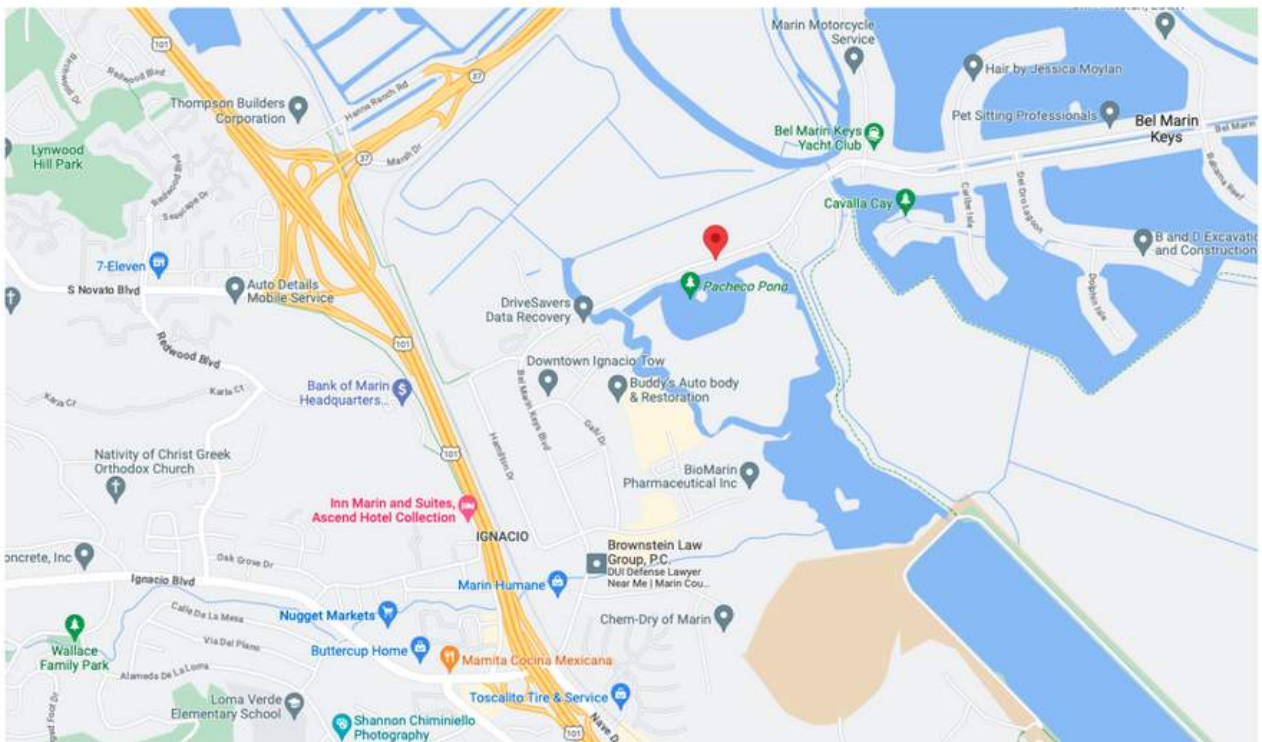
Hawk Hill offers great views of San Francisco and the surrounding area. Phoebe took this cool picture of a boat crossing under the Golden Gate Bridge.



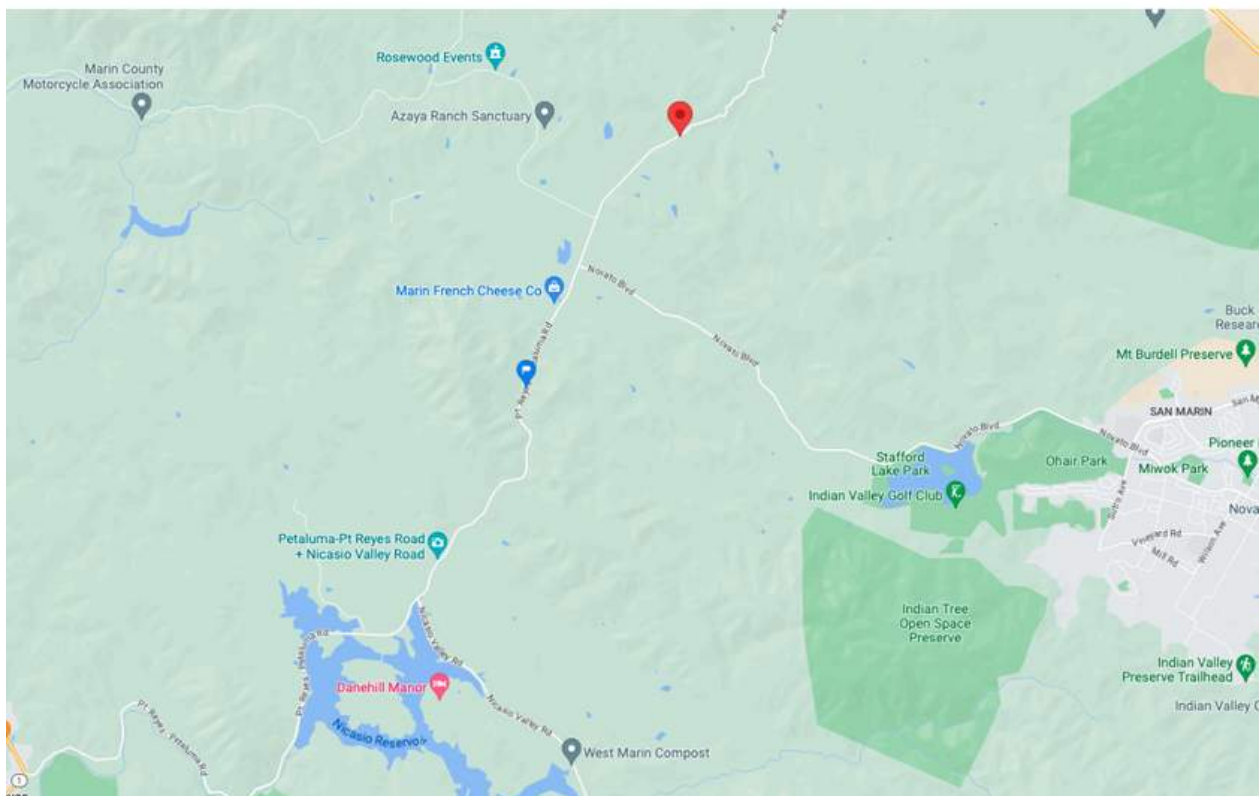
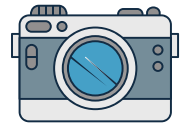
Pacheco Pond is 120 square acres and drains into Novato Creek. It's a great place to go bird watching! Because we love egrets, and the island in the photo doesn't have an official name, we're calling it "Egret Island".



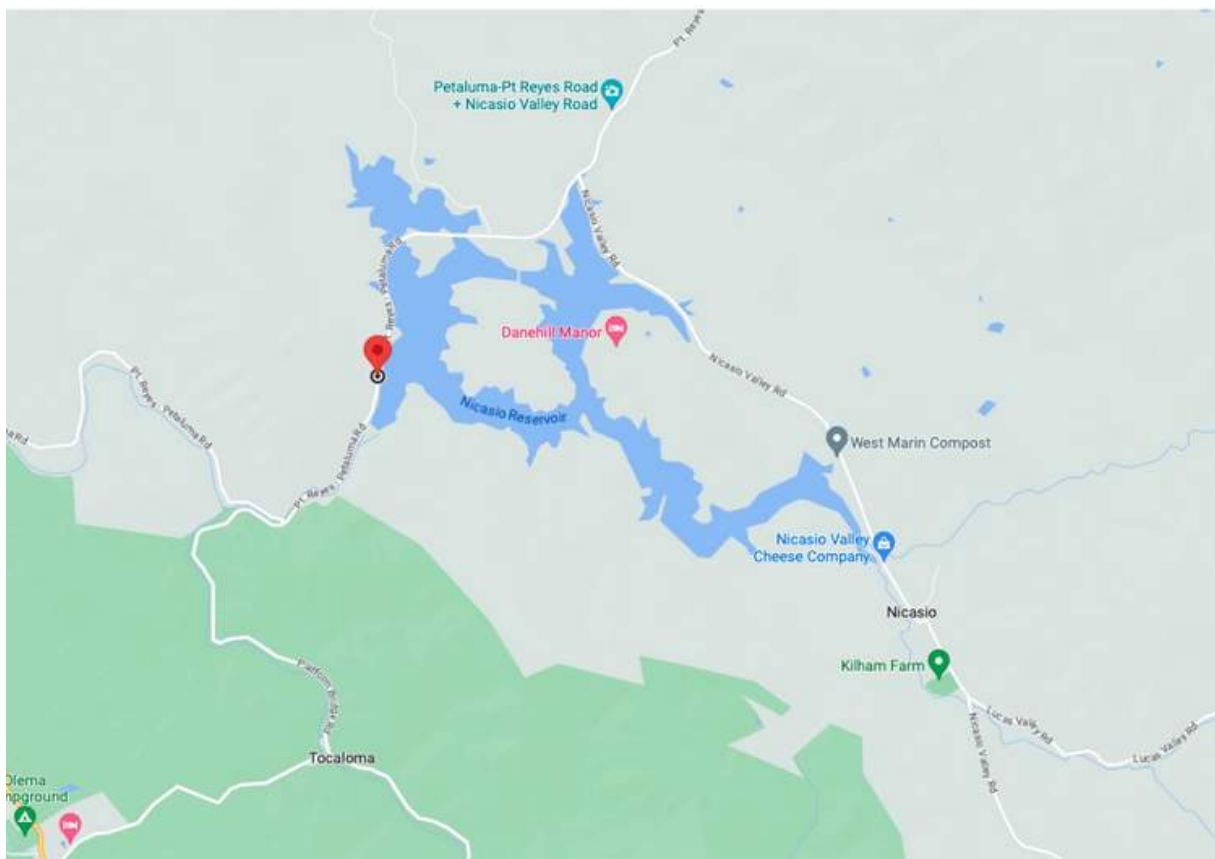
Photo by Mike.



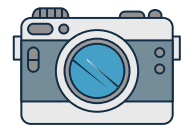
If you take Pt. Reyes - Petaluma Road from Novato to Petaluma you'll come across this lovely view off to the right. Bert snapped this one during a quick pit stop.



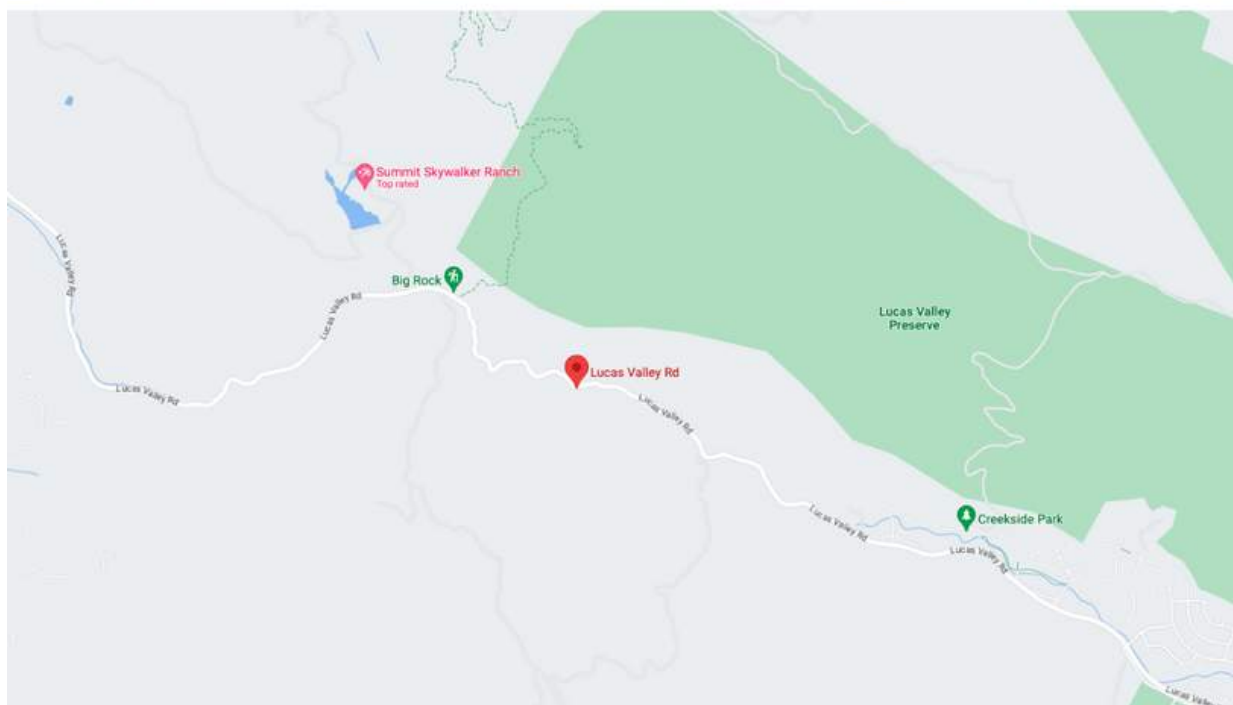
Mike thought this view of Nicasio Reservoir was worthy of a picture
- we agree!



And lastly, Big Rock is a good place to go on a hike, and a great place to take photos. This majestic view was captured by Tyrone.



We had fun exploring and taking pictures and we hope that you enjoyed armchair traveling with us!



SEPTEMBER 2023 NATIONAL DAYS

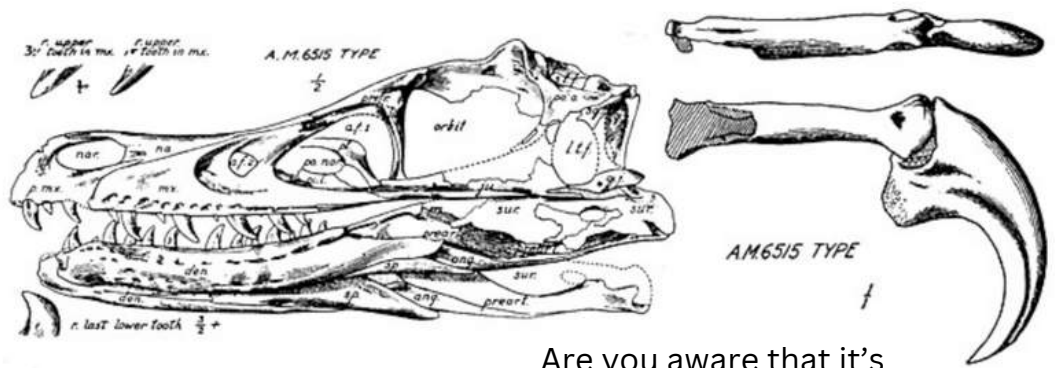
Disaster Preparedness Month
Velociraptor Awareness Month

with Jennifer

- 9/1 - World Letter Writing Day
- 9/3 - National Doodle Day
- **9/4 - LABOR DAY- HOLIDAY**
- 9/6 - National Read a Book Day
- 9/8 - World Literacy Day and Star Trek Day
- 9/9 - Emergency Services Day
- 9/11 - 911 Remembrance Day
- 9/12 - National Video Games Day
- 9/13 - Roald Dahl Day and Fortune Cookie Day
- 9/15 - Rosh Hashanah
- 9/16 - Batman Day and Collect Rocks Day
- 9/19 - International Talk Like a Pirate Day
- 9/20 - National String Cheese Day
- 9/21- Miniature Golf Day
- 9/22 - Hobbit Day and National Elephant Appreciation Day
- 9/23 - First Day of Autumn and National Baker Day
- 9/25 - Comic Book Day and One Hit Wonder Day and World Dream Day
- 9/27 - Ancestor Appreciation Day
- 9/28 - Good Neighbor Day
- 9/29 - Coffee Day
- 9/30 - Chewing Gum Day and Ghost Hunting Day

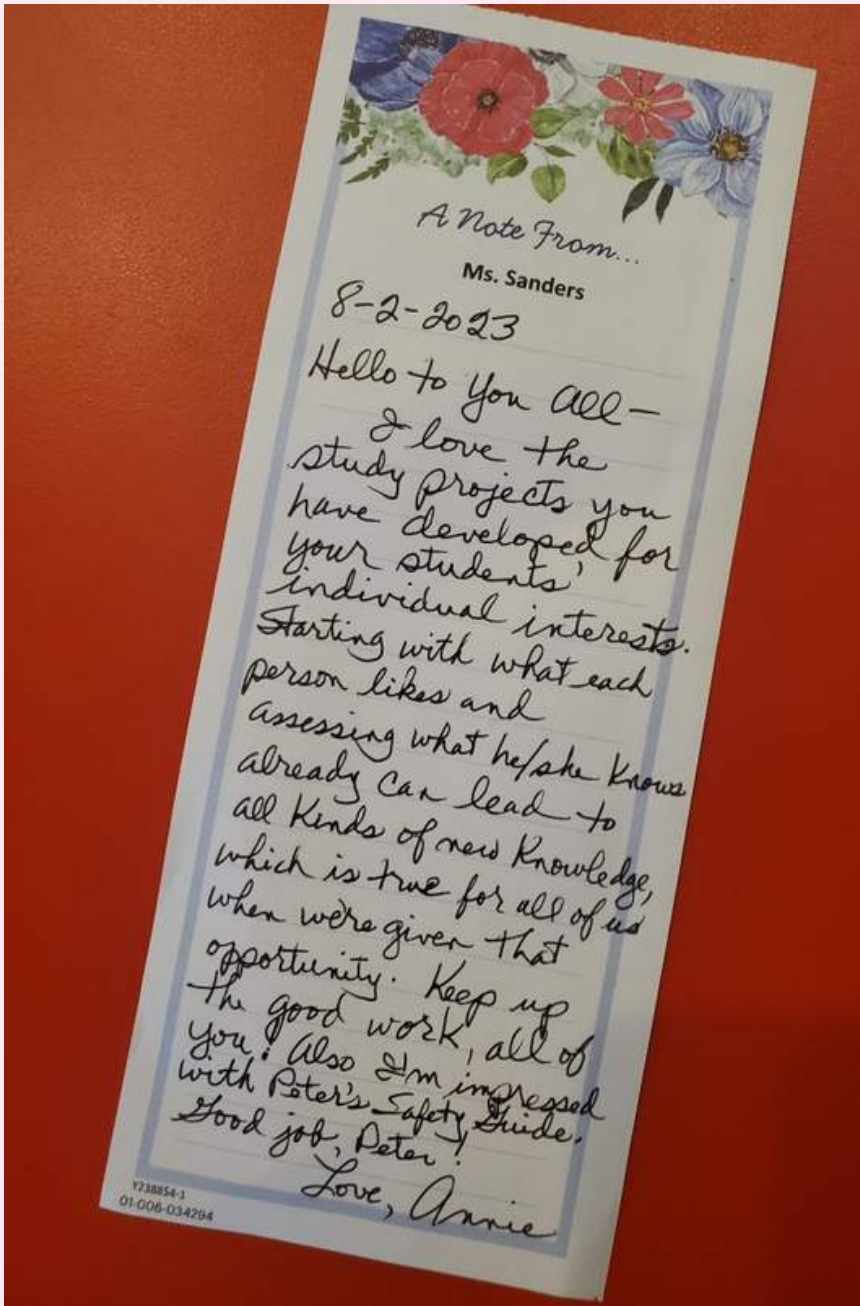


VELOCIRAPTOR AWARENESS



Are you aware that it's
Velociraptor Awareness Month?

A Little Appreciation Sprinkled In...



According to ThoughtCo.com
<https://www.thoughtco.com/things-to-know-velociraptor-1093806>, velociraptors were meat-eaters that weighed approximately 30 pounds and stood just 2 feet tall and 6 feet long. Teeny by dinosaur standards!

And they had feathers NOT scales. What??? Paleontologists believe velociraptors had feathers due to having quill knobs, like today's birds, on their bones where feathers would have attached.

Why does this come as a surprise? Because the velociraptors in "Jurassic Park" were based on a *lie*. The movie special-effects people confessed that they modeled their velociraptor after the much bigger (and much more dangerous-looking) raptor *Deinonychus antirrhopus* which lived 30 million years BEFORE the turkey-sized velociraptors evolved.

Raptor imposter!

Happy BIRTHDAY

to

9/2 - Steve

9/3 - Cindy

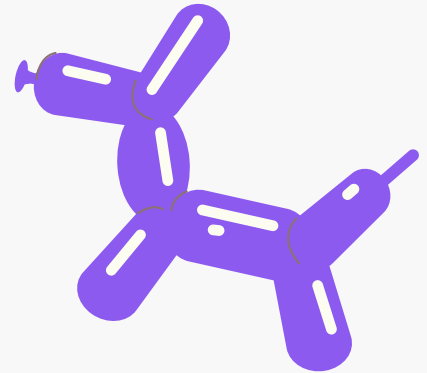
9/4 - James

9/13 - Jehann

9/23- Pamela

9/26 - Iris

9/30 - Frank



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We Tried Balut

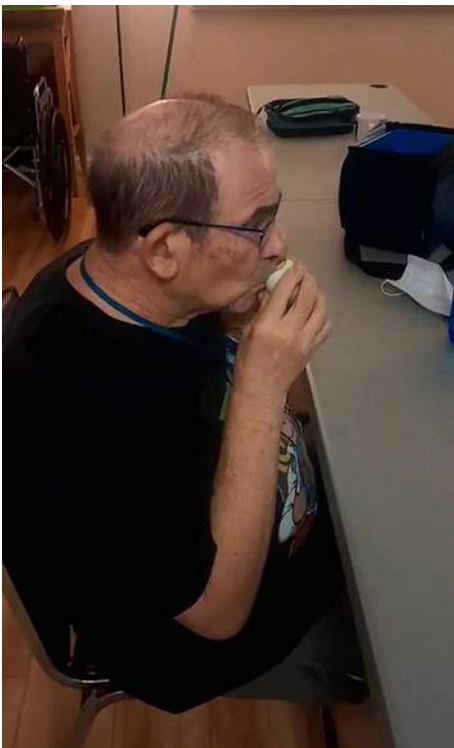
A Street Food in the Philippines

A balut is a fertilized bird egg (usually a duck) which is incubated for a period of 14 to 21 days, depending on the local culture, and then steamed. The contents are eaten directly from the shell. Some of us were a bit squeamish, but others ate their balut with gusto and maybe a bit of reluctance!



Balut

- Dave, who is known to have quite a refined palate, was game.
- "It's good, balut-tastic, as Jake would say. Just tested like bird bone broth and a regular hard-boiled egg. I'd eat it again!"- Russell
- "We ate the balut, and it tasted good, just like a duck tastes."- Dave F.





INTRODUCING THE

SNAIL MAIL PEN-PAL CLUB!

Calling all letter writers, writers-to-be, pen and pencil enthusiasts, and stationery aficionados! Do you love the feeling of finding a hand-written letter in your mailbox? We do, too! That's why CH&S is launching a new pen-pal program: The Snail Mail Pen-Pal Club!

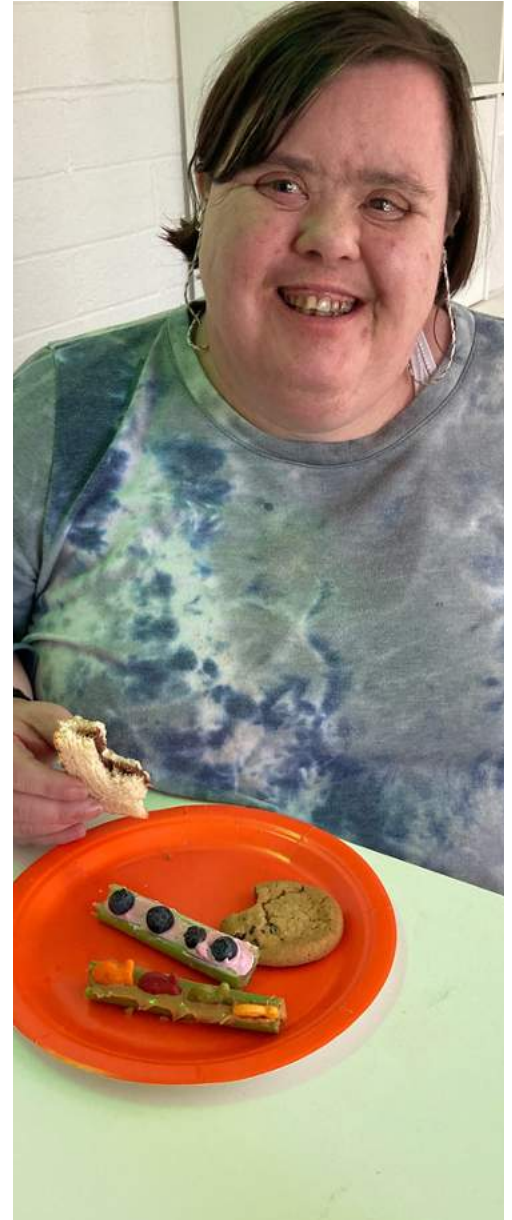
In today's digitally driven world, there is a certain charm and magic to handwritten cards and letters. In addition to the nostalgic factor, there are scientific studies proving the real life physical and mental health benefits of putting pen to paper, such as improved memory and lowered levels of stress and anxiety. Other perks include improved penmanship, connections with friends new and old, and a thoughtful and meaningful sense of accomplishment.

While letter writing is usually a solo activity, getting like-minded letter writers together helps get people excited about the process, exposed to new stationery and accouterments (think stickers, rubber stamps, postage stamps), and an added level of connecting socially. Also there should be snacks, we think!

The Snail Mail Pen-Pal Club will meet on the first Friday of each month at the Project Center at 866 Grant Avenue Unit 3 in Novato, from 10-12.

Stationery, stamps, light refreshments, and outstanding company will be provided. Our first meeting falls on Friday, September 1st, which is World Letter Writing Day!

Project Center Grand Opening in July



Nino Surveys the Situation

with Jennifer

Connor started Santa Rosa Junior College's College to Career Program last month, and we could not be prouder! He is attending classes at SRJC Monday through Thursday, and coming to Life College on Fridays, so luckily we are still able to see him and hear all about how he is doing. Here are some interview questions Nino and his teeny-tiny microphone asked recently:

What are some differences between college and high school?

They don't bully in college like they do in high school. People are friendlier. There are more classes in college than in high school.

What is your most challenging class? Are any of your classes seeming "easy"?

I think adapted physical education, because it's a lot of exercise. It's hard having homework in all of my classes—it's a lot of work to do. I have a period of prep where I can go over assignments and homework and that seems the easiest.

Have you met many new people?

I have met some new people. I have some friends who are in the same classes as me. I've met them for lunch outside of class before.

What kind of food is on or near campus? Where do you like to eat your lunch?

There is a Taco Bell and a Chic Fil A, and a Mexican restaurant that is opening soon. There is a food court but there's nothing I would really like. I mostly eat french fries and drinks and candy in the cafeteria.



Art and Creative Writing

with Jennifer



Art and creative writing in Bruce's classroom during studio time! Devlin is working on a script, and Darren "just felt like doodling!" (left)



**9/21 IS
MINIATURE GOLF DAY!**

Miniature golf traces its origins to 19th century Scotland. The imaginative courses, adorned with iconic windmills and obstacles, offer playful challenges. Did you know that beyond leisure, competitive mini golf is a thriving sport with global tournaments? WHO KNEW?

This fun and competitive pastime has even inspired pop culture references, appearing in movies and TV shows. Surprisingly, there are dedicated miniature golf museums showcasing its evolution and impact. If you are a mini golf fan, here is Atlas Obscura's list of "18 Mini Golf Courses You Should Go Out of Your Way to Play" which includes courses in Minnesota, Iceland, and Romania! Check it out here: <https://www.atlasobscura.com/itineraries/unique-mini-golf-courses-world-tour>

Our trip to Pier 39

with Jennifer and Michelle

Located along the historic SF waterfront, Pier 39 is the most visited destination in San Francisco. At Pier 39 there are unique novelty shops like the Left Hand Store, the Sea Shell store and a Magnet Shop, restaurants, street performers, a 2-story carousel, the Aquarium by the Bay, and much much more. Surrounded by a picture perfect backdrop of the city's skyline, the Golden Gate Bridge, the Bay Bridge, and Alcatraz Island, it's no wonder it has been voted the best place to "people watch" several times throughout the years.

On our trip, we walked the entire pier and enjoyed the beautiful views. We visited several of the fun novelty shops. At the Magnet Shop, Jennifer bought a realistic rubber hamburger magnet because everyone should own a hamburger magnet, right? We shared a bucket (that's right a BUCKET) of mini made to order donuts from Trish's donuts. They were out of this world delicious. Justin, Nino, Yvette, and Leo rode on the carousel, while Jennifer, Andrew and Michelle chose to watch and, of course, wave to them. The last place we visited on our iconic journey was the Aquarium by the Bay, where we saw garibaldis, California's State fish, schools of sardines, and of course SHARKS. Yvette tried to touch a bat ray in the tide pool but they were way too quick and dodged her attempts. Andrew loved the otters and the cherry head red foot tortoise, and Nino got a kick out of the enormous set of Great White Shark teeth on display. It was a fun and exciting day, and the perfect way to end Shark Week!



More on our trip to Pier 39

FUN FACTS:

with Jennifer and Michelle

- Margaret Majua, the owner of the Left Hand Store is actually right handed.
- Did you know that Pier 39 had a diving pool? In 1978, a diving pool was the main attraction at Pier 39.
- Have you ever wondered what it would be like to jump in a pool of Jell-O ? On St. Patrick's Day in 1980- the Pier 39 Diving Pool was filled with 6000 gallons of green Jell-O for a benefit for Multiple Sclerosis. Margaret the right handed Left Hand Store owner was amongst the 50 participants who took the plunge.



We enjoy choosing and participating in activities that are tailored to our individual interests, talents, and needs. And most importantly— we have a lot of fun too!



Stafford Lake



We love Stafford Lake Park! Did you know that the lake is man-made, and there is no boating or swimming allowed because it's a North Marin Water District reservoir? Fish, however, are allowed to swim in the reservoir and licensed anglers over age 16 can fish from the shore for catfish, bluegill, and bass. You can get your fishing license here: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Online-Sales>

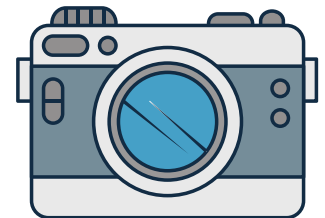
For non-anglers, there are hammocks, swings, and a zip line! Plus Terwilliger Nature Trail is a nice stroll where waterfowl, raptors, and songbirds have been seen.

The park is home to Stafford Lake Bike Park and it also features an 18-hole disc golf course! We love to explore Marin County parks with our friends!

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September 2023 Connection Magazine

The Photojournalism Issue



Join us as we
geographically and
photographically explore
Marin and Sonoma
Counties.