

# Summer winds down in LG

by **Olivia Hill**  
*Humor Editor*

This September, Los Gatos town residents are excitedly awaiting the return of their two favorite end of summer events: the annual Los Gatos Park Dance and the Los Gatos Wine Walk are perfect events for anybody wishing to soak up the last lazy weeks of summer heat.

Anyone in town during Labor Day weekend will be able to head to Oak Meadow Park to dance under the stars at the third annual Los Gatos Park Dance. On Sat., Sept. 5, from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Oak Meadow will host The Houserockers and their opening act, The Johnny Neri Band. The Houserockers are a ten-piece band out of Los Gatos that features bass, drums, keyboard, two guitars, and a five piece horn section and was recently named the "Best Cover Band in the Bay Area" by KFOX radio. The band covers songs by popular artists and groups like The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, and Bruce Springsteen.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a picnic and spend the night dancing, enjoying the music, riding Oak Meadow's attractions- the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad and the W.E. Bill Mason Carousel, and play-

ing bocce ball on the park's courts. This free event is open to everyone.

Two weeks later, on Sat., Sept. 19, the semi-annual Wine Walk will be taking place in Los Gatos. The event will last from 1:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. as participants stroll through town, stopping at various shops, restaurants, and the shady trees in Plaza Park. Wine buffs will be able to have the experience of a tasting room while listening to live music, sampling locally made wine, and snacking on savory treats from downtown restaurants.

Over 30 local wineries will be showcasing their products alongside restaurants like California Cafe, Blue Line Pizza, and Andale's on the Patio. In addition to this, 25 businesses will be participating, including Kitsch Couture, Prim Boutique, and Village House of Books.

The Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce is currently selling tickets for 50 dollars. Wine enthusiasts should hurry to buy their tickets because the Wine Walk sells out quickly. The event is open to anyone over the age of 21. Go head out to these events for a fun way to end your summer.

(Sources: Los Gatos Chamber, Redwood Estates)

# LGHS welcomes new staff

by **Jessica Blough**  
*Center Editor*

On Mon., Aug. 3, Principal **Markus Autrey** announced his resignation from his post at LGHS. Autrey accepted a position as the Deputy Superintendent of Palo Alto Unified School District, leaving former Assistant Principal **Kristi Grasty** to serve as Interim Principal until the school finds a replacement. Autrey released a statement to students and parents before the school year began that expressed his plans for the next school year, saying, "My time at this high school and in this district has been some of the most memorable, rewarding, and enjoyable years I have had in my career... I will miss the students tremendously."

Rather than replace Grasty while searching for a new principal, the district has decided to stick with the three assistant principals they hired last year in addition to Grasty: **Amy Drolette**, **Kevin Rogers**, and **Shelby Edwards**. She was promoted from her previous role as Athletic Director last spring. A growth assessment last year recommended the hiring of another assistant principal, for a total of four, but did

not require it. The school will undergo a thorough search for a new principal and continue with three assistant principals for the time being rather than rush into the hiring process. Students can expect a new permanent principal by mid-October to early November, according to Grasty.

Additionally, two guidance counselors from last year left their positions at LGHS: **John Benz** and **Amy Gutierrez**. The school began the hiring process to replace them during late spring of last year, resulting in two new additions to the guidance department. **Ashley Tomlinson**, the guidance counselor for last names J-Mon, transferred here from South San Francisco High School. She may be new to campus, but she is "honored and thrilled to be on the counseling staff, and really excited to get to know [her] new students." **Farah Manganello** joins LGHS from an international school in Germany, and she now handles guidance for last names A-Da. Despite the changes in staff, Grasty commented, "I feel confident the students will be served well."

# California faces potential end to extreme water shortage

by **Rowyn van Miltenburg**

*News Editor*

On Thurs., Aug. 27, officials announced that Californians cut water use by 31.3 percent in the month of July, exceeding Governor Jerry Brown's 25 percent goal.

Felicia Marcus, the chair of the State Water Resources Board, believes the brief heavy rainfall in July, along with strict enforcement, conservation, and warnings by water agencies, helped the state improve its water usage.

Marcus added, "Californians' response to the severity of the drought this summer is now in high gear and shows that they get that we are in the drought of our lives. This isn't your mother's drought or your grandmother's drought, this is the drought of the century."

The drought is making California a hotbed for wildfires, especially during the state's current wildfire season. With multiple wildfires ablaze across the state, firefighters are flocking to contain them. At the same time, citizens are looking ahead and beginning to prepare for the potentially

large storm season.

The severity of the drought has many Californians eager for the possibly huge El Niño effect brewing in the Pacific. Bill Patzert, a climatologist with NASA, says that "[This El Niño] definitely has the potential of being the Godzilla El Niño." While its effects are uncertain at this point, California would need one and a half times its normal rainfall

to get out of the extended drought, which is unlikely to happen.

While rainfall in any capacity will benefit California, citizens worry the state is not prepared for massive amounts of rain. Californians have begun stocking up on emergency supplies and clearing debris basins. In 1998, California experienced heavy storms which caused wide-

spread flooding and mudslides, taking 17 lives and costing the state over half a billion dollars.

El Niño has also caused some worry about the fate of the 2016 Super Bowl, which will be held at Levi's Stadium. Officials have even been discussing possible ways to handle potential street closures due to flooding.

While the future could hold promise for more water, California is currently very dry. Researchers at UC Davis estimate more than 21,000 people are out of work this year due to the drought. Those affected are mostly in the agriculture business, where the lack of water is costing the industry 1.8 million dollars, as 576,000 acres of land are not being utilized.

Though the next few months are sure to be an uphill battle with the looming possibility of El Niño and the severity of the drought, the state's recent conservation of water leaves officials optimistic for further improvement. (Sources: NBC News, NPR, Time, The Fresno Bee, Los Angeles Times, San Jose Mercury News)



CALIFORNIA RIVER BED: This dry river bed is one of thousands across California, as the state continues to suffer from the drought.

# Students travel to Europe

by **Sophie Comeau**

*Web Editor*

This summer, French and Spanish teacher **Sandra Plyler** took a group of around 30 students to England, France, and Spain for a ten-day adventure. The group left on June 22 and returned on July 2. The trip included guided tours of the locations and free time for the students to explore the cities on their own. Also, a tour guide accompanied the group during the entire trip. Most of the traveling was done by bus.

London was the first stop on the tour. The group arrived in London after 15 hours of travel and went straight into London to explore. During their two-day stint in London, the students visited Big Ben, Tower Bridge, Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus, and many other locations. Students also got a lot of free time to explore London with their friends or go to Windsor Castle.

After leaving London, the group took the underwater train across the English channel to Paris, where they spent a day and a half. In Paris, the group visited Notre Dame, The Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, and the Champs-Élysées in the first day. The second day included an optional trip to Versailles, followed by a visit to the Louvre, with six hours of free time to explore Paris after. To finish off their stay in Paris, the students went on a boat cruise along the Seine at sunset and visited Montmartre.

The group then departed from Paris and headed to the Loire Valley. The first stop was a small town right outside of Paris called Chartes. The group spent half a day in the small town viewing the cathedral before getting back on the bus and travelling to Chateau de Chenonceau, which is built over a tributary of the Loire River. After spending the afternoon at Chateau de Chenonceau, the group hopped on the bus again and moved along to Tours, the capital of the Loire Valley.

After staying in Tours, the students went to Bordeaux. In Bordeaux, they had a guided tour of the city and free time to explore. Upon leaving Bordeaux, the group travelled to many places in one day. Dune du Pilat, which happens to be the biggest

sand dune in Europe, was the first stop. Students got to roll or run down the dune. A small beach town called Arcachon was the next stop on the drive. The group got two hours to swim or explore the village. The day ended with a visit to Biarritz, a coastal town right on the border between France and Spain.

The group had one last stop in France at Saint-Jean-de-Luz, where they could explore the small town in the morning, and then they went to Spain. The group visited San Sebastián and had the whole afternoon to explore the coastal town. The group finished their tour in Barcelona, where they visited Las Ramblas and had the option of watching a flamenco performance.

The group then flew home from Barcelona, but the students will never forget their travels.



LONDON, ENGLAND: One of many cities that the students visited.

# Cold War station will open

by **Abbigale Berry**

*Web Editor*

The up and coming hiking destination Mount Umunhum will be under construction before being opened to the public in 2016.

In the last year, it seems that everyone in Los Gatos has made the hike to the top of Umunhum, either to admire a beautiful sunrise or to enjoy the expansive view of the Bay Area. While up on the mountain, you have probably noticed an old, abandoned building. This mass of concrete is known as "The Cube" and was used as a radar station during the Cold War by the Almaden Air Force Station from 1957 to 1980.

During that time, The Cube operated 24 hours a day searching for Soviet bombers. Today, the building sits empty at the top of Umunhum and has been untouched for more than 20 years. Last year, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District finished demolition of former Almaden Air Force Station buildings and received a grant to pave a public-access road to the top. This process is slated to begin next summer. Funds have already been used to construct a new 30-car parking lot near the 4.5 mile hiking trail to the top. While other construction is relatively straightforward, controversy over the future of The Cube has been stalling construction.

The Umunhum Conservancy group, for example, represents historic preservationists

hoping to conserve The Cube in its current form. The District told Umunhum Conservancy that it has until Fall of 2017 to fundraise \$1.2 million to keep The Cube. Sam Drake, president of Umunhum Conservancy, believes they can make it, having raised over \$300,000 already. Many other projects have been proposed as far as what will happen at the summit of Umunhum.

The Mount Umunhum Summit Project, the official title of the District's plan, is currently debating three options for construction regarding The Cube. One option is to return the area to its natural state and tear down the station. This would result in an extensive 360-degree view of the Bay Area overlooking parts of San Jose, the Monterey Bay, and the San Francisco Bay. The second option is to tear down parts of the radar station leaving a few walls up. The District would then build a patio with a sitting area using the station's walls. Visitors would be able to see parts of the former radar station, and the walls would shield visitors from winds and provide shade from the sun. The final option, supported by the preservationists, would completely shut off the radar station to the public. The project would repair the walls and replace the roof, but keep it as a historical sight. This is the most expensive option for Mount Umunhum construction.

As of now, the future of The Cube is up in the air with many different options currently being explored and debated. (Sources: San Jose Mercury News, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District)



MT UMUNHUM: Mount Umunhum (left), the radar station, and Mount Thayer (right) can be viewed from Santa Teresa.