

APTOS TIMES

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COMMUNITY NEWS THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

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It wasn't the 'Big One'
1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake

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Expanding Storage
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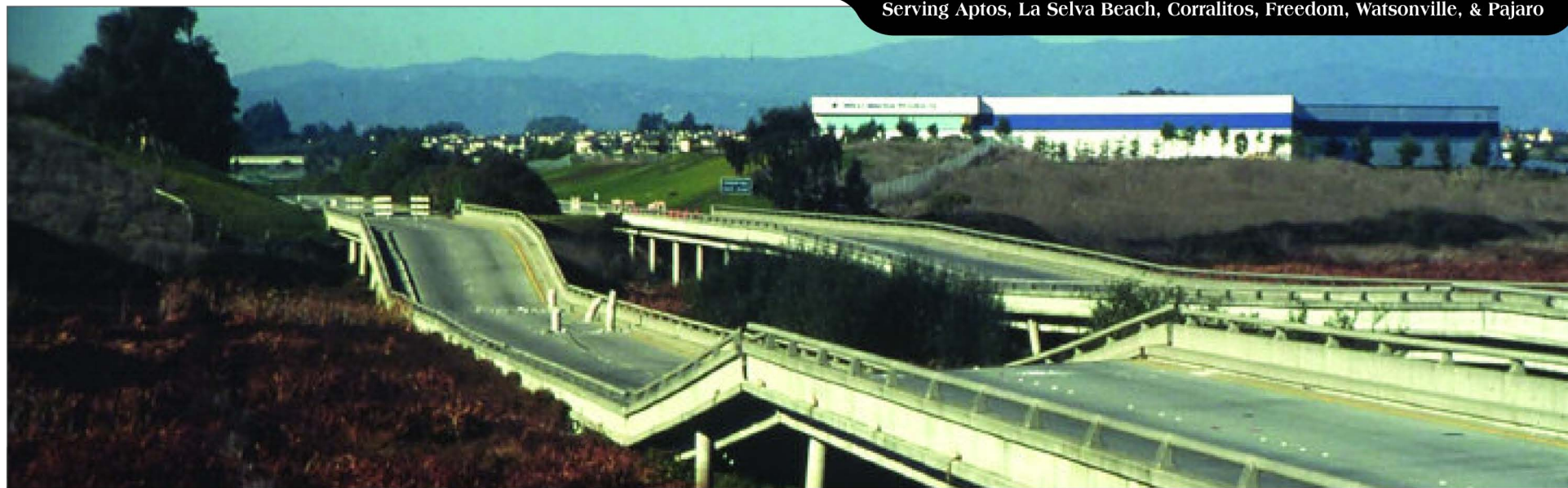
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Pianist plays at Cabrillo Music Hall

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Serving Aptos, La Selva Beach, Corralitos, Freedom, Watsonville, & Pajaro



Highway 1 bridges collapsed across the Struve Slough in Watsonville during the October 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

Twenty Years Ago ...

By Noel Smith

It was Tuesday, October 17 1989 about 5 p.m. I was at my desk at our condo in Soquel working on my Macintosh SE. Also on the desk was a 13" TV that was tuned into the opening moments of the cross-bay World Series game between the San Francisco Giants and the Oakland Athletics. My wife was upstairs in her artist's studio.

All hell broke loose. First, a medium jolt hit causing that split second hesitation of the universe waiting to see if that was all. It wasn't. A series of shakes that seemed more like a battering ram slamming against the house began, determined to break the universe into little pieces. Everything on the walls began falling. Glasses dishes and cups began flying out of the cupboards adding to the din as they crashed to the floor. The computer and TV were jumping up and down on the desk as the

headed for the edge.

My wife didn't hesitate. She managed to keep from falling as she ran down the stairs and out the door yelling for me to follow. I kept waiting for the world to stop. I noticed that our grandfather clock was starting to fall over. I put my arms around it to hold it up. Then my brain finally got back into gear as I thought, "You're going to look pretty silly when they dig you out of the rubble holding onto this clock." I made it out the door just as the quake shuddered to a halt.

We stood outside with our neighbors. We were all in shock not knowing what the next second might bring. A series of strong aftershocks began to be felt at unpredictable intervals. My senses became so attuned to the feel of the earth moving even the slightest bit that it was about two years before I stopped being aware when trucks or buses were driving by. To this day when there is an earth-

quake, I can tell you whether it was a 3.5 or a 4.0 temblor.

Someone said we needed to turn off the gas. A person who knew where the shutoff valves were located in our complex ran off with a couple of others to get them turned off. Our next-door neighbor needed to go to the bathroom. We assured her that it would be all right, as things seemed to have settled down. She went inside. A couple of minutes later there was another of the seemingly endless series of aftershocks. About ten seconds later she came running out the front door screaming with her slacks still around her ankles.

The sun was low in the west and reflecting off a second story window. When I looked at the sun's reflection, I could see it was in constant motion like a bell that has been struck but is still vibrating long after the sound has stopped.

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'UCSC Celebrates Pixar'

UC Santa Cruz Celebrates Pixar — a week of lectures and film screenings featuring guest film and digital media specialists from Pixar Animation Studios and UCSC—will take place October 20-23, in downtown Santa Cruz and on the UCSC campus.

The celebration is in honor of a visit by Ed Catmull—the Academy Award-winning president of Pixar ...

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The Online Kids Quiz

Facts and Myths About How to Protect Children on the Internet

For kids, cyberspace is like both sides of Alice's mirror.

On one hand, it can be a safe, positive experience where kids can grow and learn. On the other hand, it can be a very attractive wonderland that hides beneath the surface a wide variety of dangers lurking for the uninformed and unguided. Research shows that without supervision, it can become the latter.

According to The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy and CosmoGirl.com (in the sex and tech survey which surveyed 1,280 teens and young adults), a significant number of teens (20 percent aged 13 - 19) have electronically sent, or posted online, nude or semi-nude pictures or video of themselves. And although the research showed most teens and young adults are sending sexually suggestive content to boyfriends/girl-

friends, while other teens (15 percent) say they are sending such material to those they only know online and not in real life.

Combine this state of our culture with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Cox Communications study, which found 71 percent of teens ages 13 to 17 reporting having received messages online from someone they do not know, with 40 percent responding and only 18 percent telling an adult, and we have a great concern for our children's welfare online.

As a way of determining which way your child may be leaning, Mary Kay Hoal — President and Founder of Yoursphere.com, the kids-only safety-first social networking site— presents a quiz for parents to separate the fact from the fiction about kids online.

Q: Most social networking Web sites and

forums verify identities and screen members before accepting them.

A: FALSE — In fact, most social networking sites do not screen new members at all. The only thing you need to have to become a member of Facebook or MySpace is a valid email address. Beyond that, anything goes.

Q: Having a profile on a social networking site set to "Private" safeguards a person from anyone intending them harm.

A: FALSE — Members with profiles set to private can still get friend requests and are just two clicks away from pornographers, trolls, or others intending harm.

Q: The best way to keep your kids safe and happy is to simply keep them off social networking sites altogether.

A: FALSE — Kids can benefit greatly in life by participating in online social networks. Research shows youth are picking up basic social and technical skills they need to fully participate in contemporary society. Kids can add new media skills to their repertoire, and are able to engage in self-directed learning and enjoy friendship-driven and interest-driven online activities. This helps provide a more well-rounded development both in terms of education and social skills.

Parents should use filters and firewalls as a foundation for keeping kids off of the wrong sites, and keep the computer in a public room at home to encourage acceptable behavior. First and foremost, parents should talk to their kids and remind them of how to behave safely on the Internet, just as parents would advise them in how to stay safe when they are out with their friends on a Saturday night.

Q: It's the "fringe kids" that are in danger on social networking sites.

A: FALSE — By the time kids are teens, they no longer have the aversion to talking to strangers that they had as a small child. The fact that the communication takes place online, and is not in person, provides them a false sense of security. They don't feel they would ever be con-



vinced to meet a potentially dangerous online friend offline. However, according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Cox Communications, 30 percent of teens have considered meeting someone that they have only talked to online and 14 percent have actually had such an encounter. So, it's not just the fringe kids — it may very well be your kids who are in danger without the right guidance and safeguards.

"Just because the Internet CAN be a scary and concerning place for our children, it doesn't mean that is HAS to be one," said Hoal, who created Yoursphere after struggling with how to regulate her own daughter's online activities. "With communication, education and very simple, non-invasive monitoring techniques, every child can have a safe and rewarding online life and every parent can sleep a little better at night." ■

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A proud wife and mother of five children (both biological and adopted, ranging in age from 5-18 years old), Mary Kay faces the same challenges every parent does. While Mary Kay readily admits that she didn't "get" the whole online social networking phenomenon at first, she quickly recognized its importance in her kids' lives. Drawing on her corporate entrepreneurial experience as a media strategist, advertising, marketing and publishing VP formerly with CMP Media LLC, Mary Kay built the Yoursphere team.

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