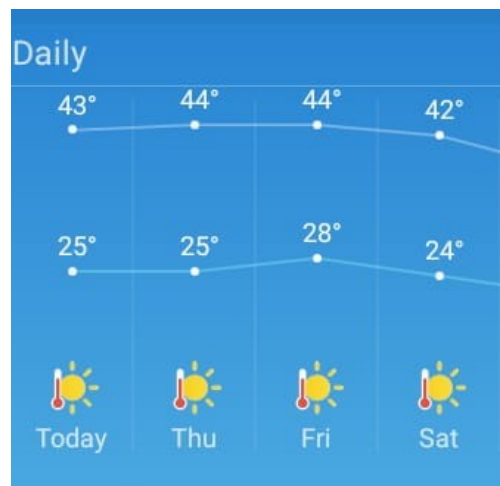


Dear Everyone



Greetings from a rather hot San Francisco. This graphic shows the story of the last few weeks. Of the thirteen summers we have spent in San Francisco, this one stands out as being especially relentless. Usually we get a few days of extreme heat followed by a big thunder storm which brings the temperature down for a day or two, but this year the rain has been sparse and the heat has been intense. Normally our cool-off strategy is a dip in a pool, but at these temperatures the water in the pools at the moment would be more suited to making coffee than for bathing, and touching anything metal is liable to cost a layer of skin off your hands.

Summer activities at the riding school are still happening four mornings a week, but we have lowered our aspirations to having everyone ride as efficiently as possible in order to get the horses bathed and tied up to graze under the trees with big buckets of water, and the humans busy soaking each other with the sprinkler and spare buckets.



Despite Omecron causing havoc around us, we have been given permission to hold our Scout summer camp, with some Covid related guidelines. The province of Cordoba is lending us a big ranch out in the hills which some of the leaders went out to inspect last weekend (photo left). It is everything we could possibly have asked for;- woods, a river, well-kept facilities, clean drinking water, grounds big enough to lose the kids for several days, and as an added bonus, several degrees cooler than the city - it actually hailed during the afternoon we were there. So now we are busy finalising fund-raising, paperwork, programme, and organising kids, equipment and fixing sufficient tents to accommodate everyone. We will be approximately 25 people, and part of the covid protocol is that we can put a maximum of four Scouts into each six-person patrol tent, so we are having to resurrect and mend some of our semi-retired gear. Today we also have to pay the deposit to secure our bus hire.

The rest of life is moving along in summer mode. Church activities continue, with somewhat reduced attendance, due to a combination of covid and heat. Hazel preached a well-received sermon the other week on the visit of the Magi, and Martin is preaching at the service this evening. Our household continue to take two steps forward and one back, meaning that average progress is usually in the right direction but sometimes is difficult to see. Teen could do with some prayer for her, and for wisdom for us supporting her. She can often see what she needs to do, but lacks energy, motivation and self-esteem to do it. At the moment she is struggling to manage some challenging aspects of Baby's behaviour - he is now aged six and has an imaginative range of negative strategies to secure his mum's attention. Thank you for all your prayers and support. We hope you have a good month.



Hazel
X
Martin



Joni & Daniel



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