Local communities caring, supportive

My letter starts as my deepest gratitude for the support I have received for the loss of my Santa Cruz surfer, mountain guide son, Rick Gaukel, and will end as a testament to our communities.

Through Colorado Mountain School, Rick was very closely connected to Boulder. One of his mountain guide buddies attended Rick’s memorial here in Santa Cruz. When he learned of the hundreds of cards received including ones from Supervisor Zach Friend and Mayor Hilary Bryant, of the endless flower tributes including one from the Capitola Police Department, of the Cabrillo staff members Kristin Fabos, Ray Kaup and Ray Rider who personally supported and attended the memorial at Cabrillo Horticulture Center, of the meals provided daily by Delta High School, Cypress High School and Branciforte Small Schools for up to 40 friends and relatives, of the many school and community members including Dian and Dave Higganbotham, Tati Starets, Patrick Saporito and Trevor Cavanagh who gave of their time, this Boulder, Colo., mountain guide said, “We don’t have this community in Boulder. I want to bring my family here to Santa Cruz.”

We don’t need to travel to find out what Boulder offers, we have what we need here in Santa Cruz County, caring and loving communities.

MARY GAUKEL FORSTER, Capitola

Congrats to Cabrillo baseball, softball

Hats off to both the men’s baseball and women’s softball teams for having extended their seasons by reaching the State Super Regionals. This speaks volumes about how our county is represented by such great teams.

In particular, I would like to personally thank coach Bob Kittle for welcoming my son Jerry into the men’s baseball family. Jerry has special needs and coach Kittle gave him his dream spot. Watching the players and coaches interact with Jerry was truly wonderful.

Congratulations again to such stellar baseball teams.

JAMES SKOLNIK, Santa Cruz