

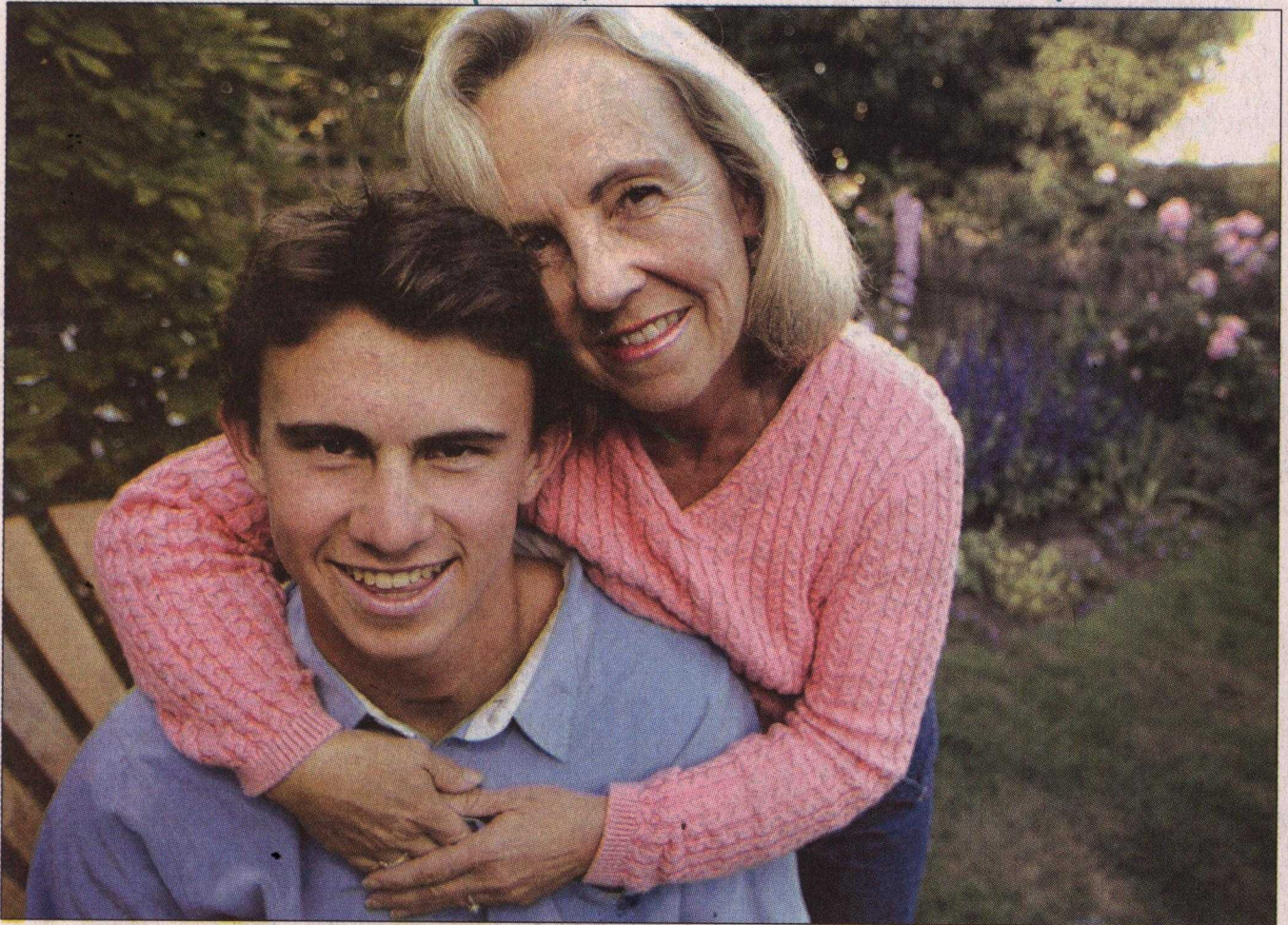
*'I was always afraid that if I had another kid, there might be a bigger earthquake.'*

KIMBERLY KELLY-GODDARD

# ROCKING BIRTHDAY

*Earthquake - Ten years later*

*10.17.06*



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

Scott Goddard was born the morning of the Loma Prieta quake. His mom, Kimberly Kelly-Goddard, was in Dominican Hospital's Santa Cruz maternity ward when the temblor hit.

## Son's birth one part of a memorable day in Santa Cruz

by **ZOE BLUMENFELD**  
SENTINEL CORRESPONDENT

**SANTA CRUZ** — When Scott Goddard was born, he was such a special baby the earth did a little dance, his mother Kimberly Kelly-Goddard boasted with a smile.

His birthday was Oct. 17, 1989, and that "little dance" was the Loma Prieta earthquake. The phrase understates what was the strongest quake on the San Andreas Fault since 1906, clocking in at a 6.9 on the Richter scale, leaving more than 60 dead — including six in Santa Cruz County — and wrecking many of the buildings in downtown Santa Cruz.

### More Inside

■ Hawaii cleans up after Mother Nature issues 'wake-up call.'

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The earthquake, exactly 17 years ago today, was centered 8 miles north of Aptos.

"Maybe that's why I didn't have a third child," said Kelly-Goddard, who lives in the same Live Oak home today as she did in 1989. "I was always afraid that if I had another kid, there might be a bigger earthquake."

Scott was delivered by Caesare-



Contributed photo

New mother Kimberly Kelly-Goddard rocks her son Scott shortly after his birth on Oct. 17, 1989.

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# Quake

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an section at Dominican Hospital the morning of Oct. 17. When the quake hit at 5:04 p.m., Kimberly was hooked up to an intravenous line in her hospital room and her son was in the nursery.

"It was totally terrifying," she said. "I was trapped and completely panicked. The TV was shaking, I thought my IV was going to rip out of my arm, and I didn't know where my son was."

Kelly-Goddard and her husband Toby were not allowed to leave her room for 30 minutes after the quake, and it was the longest 30 minutes of their lives, Kelly-Goddard recalled.

"There was such an extreme range of emotions," she said this week. "There was the incredible joy of having a baby all the way to the total terror of being unable to keep your family safe."

Back at home, Kelly-Goddard's 2-year-old son Brook was awaiting the arrival of his new baby brother with his grandmother. Just after 5 p.m. their home, decorated for Scott's homecoming, started to shake and objects fell from the walls.

While Brook and his grandmother tried to shield themselves from debris, they were thinking about the well-being of the rest of their family. The two got a call from Kelly-Goddard and her husband soon after the aftershocks subsided, letting them know everyone was safe.

After Kelly-Goddard found out her son was OK, she started meeting other new mothers who experienced the same terror.

"When I was able to wander around, we did talk to other parents," Kelly-Goddard said. "We all decided to get together for a pot luck a year later. There was such a connection because everyone realized what was important."

## Loma Prieta earthquake

■ A 6.9 earthquake struck 8 miles north of Aptos at 5:04 p.m. Oct. 17, 1989.

■ Felt from Oregon to Southern California with 90 aftershocks.

■ Six Santa Cruz County residents died, 63 people dead throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, 300 injured, 3,000 left homeless.

■ Hundreds of homes deemed unsafe or destroyed.

■ Hundreds of businesses damaged or destroyed, displacing thousands of workers. Roughly 50 percent of the buildings in downtown Santa Cruz eventually demolished due to quake damage.

■ \$1 billion in estimated damages and \$70 million in losses to frozen food industry and agriculture.

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According to Santa Cruz County Office of Records, there were 15 children born in Santa Cruz County that day.

Seventeen years later, Scott is a junior at Aptos High School and a water polo player.

"I don't really remember anything about that," he said. "My mom always tells me that I have a very special birthday."

While the Loma Prieta earthquake is something Scott and his family will never forget, Kelly-Goddard was able to save Scott from a slightly smaller disaster.

"My father-in-law kept calling the hospital room after the quake and was suggesting that Scott should be named Richter," Kelly-Goddard laughed. "I finally just had to hang up the phone because the last thing I wanted to do was name my child Ricky or Richter after such a horrible earthquake."

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Contact Zoe Blumenfeld  
at [kalexander@santacruzsentinel.com](mailto:kalexander@santacruzsentinel.com).

## Be ready for the next major earthquake

■ Duck, cover and hold: When a quake hits, duck under a heavy piece of furniture, cover and hold.

■ Have a family disaster plan: Designate a meeting place that is outside the home. For example, meet on the sidewalk in front of your house.

■ Have an out-of-state contact number: When a natural disaster hits, local lines often will be very crowded so it is a lot easier to reach an out-of-state number.

■ Know the school's earthquake plan: Since schools aren't allowed to release a child to someone who is not on the emergency card, parents should fill out school emergency cards, keeping in mind people who might retrieve your children in case of an emergency.

■ Plan for pets: Keep up-to-date tags. Add pet food to emergency kit.

■ Make disaster supply kits: Keep at home and in the car. Pack enough stuff for three days, including food, water, flashlight, portable radio, batteries, extra medications, sanitation wipes and plastic bags. Keep family documents such as marriage certificates, birth certificates, insurance forms, etc. in a water/fire proof container. Pack a light-weight first aid kit with extra glasses and a supply of cash.

■ Sign up for the Santa Cruz Fire Department's emergency response class. Call 420-5280.

SOURCE: Santa Cruz Fire Department