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Lighthouse Peddler

Issue #182 December 2016

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Point Arena Lighthouse Annual Open House Saturday, December 17 at Our Coastal Landmark

There are certain things we grow up loving—most of us, anyway—and we keep that affection close to our hearts as we mature into adulthood. My list, and perhaps yours too, includes trains, ships, stars, lakes, seas, and oceans; and lighthouses. Living on the coast we're able to look out the window of our house or our car and see a beautiful example of America's lighthouses. And this month we can get a closer look.

The Point Arena Lighthouse will host its annual Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 17 from 10:00am to 3:00pm. The Lighthouse grounds, Museum and Gift Store will be open to all guests free of charge during this event. Guests that wish to climb to the top of the Lighthouse Tower will be offered discount-



ed Tower Tours passes for \$5 and children 11 and under will be given free Tower Tours when accompanied by an adult. Hot mulled spiced cider and seasonal goodies will be served to all guests. Santa's Elf will be on hand to entertain

the children and pass on their wishes to Santa from 11:00am. to 1:00pm, with the first 25 children 11 and under receiving their choice of a free stuffed dolphin or shark. The Lighthouse Gift Store will also be offering many items at discounts of

25% to 50% or more the entire month of December.

For more information about any of these programs or events or to make Night Tour reservations, please contact the Lighthouse at (707) 882-2809, ext. 1.

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Nina Gerber & Chris Webster At Arena Theater A Treat For Mendonoma Fans December 10

Music fans know Chris Webster and Nina Gerber as two of the most skilled and artful musical talents anywhere. Webster's voice is uniquely compelling while Gerber's guitar is beautiful and powerful. Together they're magic. With originals, tasteful covers, soulful ballads, jazzy tunes and sweet folk, a great show is a certainty.

The Webster-Gerber folk duo perform Saturday, December 10, at 7:00pm at Arena Theater. Doors open at 6:30pm and tickets are \$20. The Arena Theater bar and snack stand will be open.

Since her accompaniment of Kate Wolf first earned her recognition, Gerber's skills as guitar player, producer and arranger have continued to draw critical acclaim and her contributions to acoustic music have earned her a loyal following. The Sebastopol native is equally at home in multiple genres, including folk, country, bluegrass, rock, and blues genres. She's performed and/or recorded with Karla Bonoff, Peter Rowan, Eliza Gilkyson, Nanci Griffith, Greg Brown, Lucy Kaplansky, Laurie Lewis, and others.

Webster has been called a soul singer beyond genre. In the course of recording over

20 albums on her own and with others, she has drawn equally from classic R&B thumpers and gospel-grass players, from rockabilly rave-ups and singer/songwriter confessions. Webster's broad experience in disparate genres is reflected in the recent compilation *My Name is Christine*, which contains selected tracks from her albums with eclectic NorCal band Mumbo Gumbo, as well as tracks from her first two solo albums and gems from the acclaimed bluegrass disc she recorded with her opera-singing sister Cassie Webster and ace guitarist Scott Nygaard, *Ten Thousand Miles*.

Advance tickets are available online at www.arenatheater.org; at The Four-Eyed Frog and The Sea Trader in Gualala; Arena Market in Point Arena; and Twist in Mendocino.

Whether it's on her own "solo" CDs - collaborations with some of the folk world's finest - or producing, arranging, or performing with countless others, Nina continues to prove with her guitar that some of the truest and most emotional communication requires no words. Still, when combined with the voice of another musician of heart, the result is affecting in an unforgettable way. It's our collective good fortune to have these two amazing musicians on the coast. Don't miss them. Mark your calendar for Saturday December 10. Your friends will be reminding you for years about this show.



Webster and

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Anna's Hummingbird Hummingbirds: Ambassadors of Joy

In some native-American cultures the hummingbird represents joy. On cold winter mornings, hearing this 4½ inch bird that weighs less than 4.5 grams, singing its heart out in iridescent pink, definitely brings me joy. If you see a hummingbird in December and January, it is very likely an Anna's Hummingbird since they are the only ones who hang out here all year.



Anna's are identified by their all green back and gray flanks. The dark head and throat of males, when reflected in sunlight, become brilliant rose red. Females also have a green back and gray flanks, and a patch of streaked red on their throat. Males aggressively defend territories of flowers. They will chase everyone including other hummers, other birds, moths and bees.

While feeding, they have an amazing ability to hover in one place by moving their wings in a figure eight. Anna's have

spectacular territorial and courtship displays. The male zooms straight up, almost out of sight then speeds down towards the female. At the last moment, he spreads his wings and tail to make an explosive pop and buzzing sound. The pair will sometimes mate while in the air. Then the rest is up to the female, who builds the tiny nest by weaving and securing it with saliva and spider web. She lays two tiny, white eggs, incubates them and rears the young. Nesting can start as early as December but generally runs from February to mid-March.

Our thanks to the Mendocino Coast Audubon Society for contributing this article. Each month, the Lighthouse Peddler will feature another bird regularly seen at or near the Mendonoma Coast. More information is at www.mendocinocoastaudubon.org. Photo by Laura Mountainspring at www.fineartamerica.com

Holiday Donation Programs at Redwood Credit Union RCU Supports Local Food and Toy Drives at Point Arena Branch

Redwood Credit Union (RCU) is now sponsoring holiday food and toy drives at its branch located at 280 Main Street in Point Arena, through December 16. The branch is accepting donations of new unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items for distribution by Project Santa.

"RCU's Point Arena branch is happy to provide a convenient collection site for food and toy donations to help those in need this season," said Robin Ashford, Point Arena

Branch Manager. All the Credit Union's other branch locations, including Ukiah, are also sponsoring holiday gift and food drives benefiting a variety of community non-profit agencies. A full list is available at www.redwood-cu.org/holidaygiving.

RCU offers financial, volunteer and leadership support to a variety of local nonprofit organizations and community efforts on a continuing basis, including Point Arena schools and Children's Action Network.



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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

It's December, perhaps the most festive month. Our landmark **Point Arena Lighthouse** hosts the Holiday Open House. (Cover). **Nina Gerber and Chris Webster** on stage December 10 at Arena Theater. (Page 2.) Anna's Hummingbird is the offering from **Mendocino Coast Audubon**. (Page 2.) **Redwood Coast Credit Union** reaches out to support community. (Page 2.) **MET Opera Live** features *L'Amour de Loin* at Arena Theater December 10. (Page 4.) The Festival of Lights continues at **Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens**. (Page 4.) **News & Notes**—short bits and late breaking news is here. (Page 4.) *It's All About Holidays and Music* at Gualala Arts December 10 & 18. (Page 5.) **Third Thursday Poetry** is at 215 Main December 15. (Page 5.) The **December Crossword** puzzle answers are here. (Page 5.) **Arena Theater Film Club** has three great films: *The Godfather II*, *Giant*, and *Malcolm*. (Page 6.) **Karin Uphoff's** Words on Wellness has thoughts on mushrooms. (Page 7.) **Brandybuck Studio Bizarre Bazaar** returns December 3 and 4. (Page 7.) **Sudoku** is here with numbers, sequences, boxes of nine, and other ways to drive you a little crazy. (Page 7.) Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on **Christmas Eve at Gualala Arts**. (Page 8.) **Winter Film Festival** at Arena Theater, Living Off the Land and Sea, plus some special guests, December 3. (Page 8.) **4th Annual Salon and Let Them Eat Cake**, at Gualala Arts, December 2. (Page 9.) Plenty of Things to do at **Garcia River Casino**. (Page 9.) **Collapsing Kelp Forest** is the topic at the Coast Community Library, December 4. (Page 9.) Answers to the big questions: the **Sudoku answers** are here. (Page 9.) **David Steffen** writes about Holiday movies and the memories they create (or reflect). (Page 10.) **The Bossa Nova at Christmas?** Why not . . . at 215 Main, December 7. (Page 11.) **War Horse: A National Theater Live From London** production, at Arena Theater, December 17. (Page 11.) Occasional contributor **Sally Marshall** writes about the "kitten from hell". (Page 12.) Things looking up? The New Moon/Full Moon is here. (Page 12.) **Mitch McFarland** considers the electorate and the electoral college in this month's Scuttlebutt. (Page 13.) The **Crossword Puzzle** is so exciting we moved it up one page. As always, Good luck. (Page 14.) Joel Chaban tells us "who or what is Sonoma Clean Power?". (Page 15.) **The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra** directed by Scotty Barnhart performs at Gualala Arts December 2. And we have a listing of **live music** not necessarily covered elsewhere. (Back cover.)

Our thanks to contributors Joel Chaban, Mark Hancock, Pam Huntley, Linda Kennedy, Julia Larke, Mitch McFarland, Sally Marshall, Blake More, Paula Ray Power, and Karin Uphoff.

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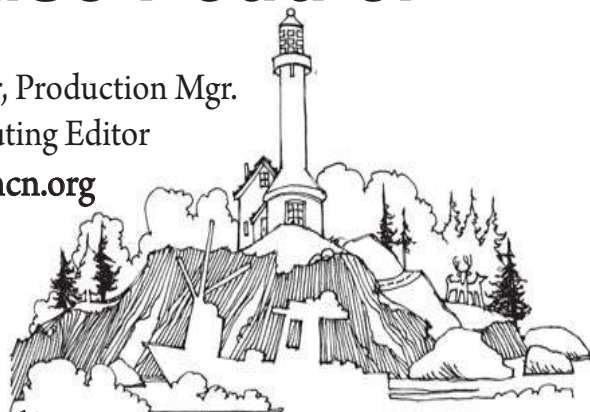
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Kaija Saariaho's *L'Amour de Loin* (Love From Afar) The Met Opera Live At Arena Theater December 10

Love is in the air . . . and on the big screen at Arena Theater. It's Opera, Live in HD, Saturday, December 10.

Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho's breakthrough opera, "*L'Amour de Loin*" ("Love From Afar"), a yearning medieval romance was described by the New York Times as "transfixing... a lushly beautiful score." Commissioned by the Salzburg Festival, where it was first seen in 2000, it will now finally have its Metropolitan Opera premiere in a dazzling new production by Robert Lepage, featuring glimmering ribbons of LED lights that ex-



tend across the length of the stage and over the orchestra pit. Debuting Finnish conductor Susanna Mälkki leads the performance, which stars Susanna Phillips as Clémence, Eric Owens as Jaufré, and Tamara Mumford

as the Pilgrim who carries messages of love between them.

The libretto is by Amin Maalouf. Set and costumes designed by Michael Curry. The approximate runtime is 3:00, with one intermission. Doors open at 9:15am, 9:55am start. Tick-

ets are \$24 general, \$22 senior, \$18 youth (18 and under), available in advance online and at the box office the day of the opera.

Festival Of Lights Continues at the Botanical Gardens through December 18

The 7th Annual Festival of Lights continues at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens in Fort Bragg. Each winter the Gardens transforms into a spectacular show of glittering color. This year's Festival runs rain or shine each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evening through December 18 from 5:00pm to 7:30pm.

After dark, the Succulent Garden morphs into a fantastic underwater scene of seaweed and floating jellyfish. A sailing brig that struck nearby reefs back in 1850 is reanimated with dazzling lights. A visit to Santa's workshop will delight the



little ones and give families a chance to snap a keepsake photo with Santa Claus on select nights, plus there's live music, local craft brews, and some of the best wine Mendocino County has to offer. The Holiday Sweets Café offers hot cocoa, cider,

and homemade goodies baked by members of Friends of the Gardens.

Tickets are at the Gardens' gift shop, Harvest Market in Fort Bragg, Out of This World in Mendocino, or online at www.gardenbythesea.org. (Sorry, no dogs are allowed.)

News & Notes From The Peddler In-Box

- There will be an art opening on Friday, December 2 at 215 Main Wine Bar in Point Arena from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Diane Cochran will be showing her new pastel studies of local scenery. She is calling this show "All Over the Map". The art will remain hanging through December 30.

- The Annual Garcia Grange Christmas Craft Fair and Breakfast is set for Sunday December 4 from 8:30am to 12:00pm. Breakfast options include various scrambles, plus Shane's Famous Potatoes, S&B Sausage, Biscuits and Gravy, Homemade Salsa and Hot Sauce, Jellies and Jams from Lisa's Luscious Kitchen, plus Tea, Coffee, Juice, Milk, and Water. All types of local crafts and wares will be available for purchase. Information is at 882-3425.


- Point Arena Merchants Association will host its annual Hometown Holidays on Saturday, December 17, from 4:00-6:00. Stores will offer holiday shopping specials and festive snacks and drinks. Restaurants will offer discounts if you show your receipt from a Pt. Arena merchant dated on December 17.

Other activities on Main Street include The Ernest Bloch Bell Ringers Sextet, Carolers and a Casari Ranch-decorated flatbed with free "Charlie Brown" Christmas tree giveaways. Drop your kids at Action Network to visit Santa & Mrs. Claus and have them enjoy children's activities while you get your shopping done at local stores and galleries. Shop, Eat, Drink, and Play Local.

- The City Council of the City of Point Arena is accepting applications for the role of City Treasurer for a one-year term beginning January 2017. 2-year terms of service will begin in January 2018. A full job description and the required application are available on the City's website, www.cityof-pointarena.net. Additional info is at (707) 882-2122. Deadline is 3:00pm, Friday, December 9, 2016.

- A group of local volunteers in the "Mendonoma" area is working to create an event to honor and celebrate the life and work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This event will take place Monday, January 16, from 10:00am to noon at the Gualala Community Center and will feature music, art and guest speakers.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Lois M. Moore, educator and author of the work "Voices of Successful African American Men". Planning meetings will take place at Sundstrom Mall from 5:00pm to 6:00pm, December 1, 8, 15, January 5 and 12. Members of the community are encouraged to take part in the planning of the event. Information is at (707) 684-9539.



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Gualala Arts Is All About The Holidays December 10 & December 18

The Ernest Bloch Bell Ringers, joined by the Coastal Singers, Don Kreiger on keyboard, Dan Laux on hammered dulcimer and Cyndy Solomon on recorder present their annual holiday concert Saturday, December 10 at 3:00pm in Coleman Hall at the arts center.



Tickets for this event are \$10 in advance (\$15 day of the event,) youth under age 17 are free with a paying adult. Tickets can be purchased at BrownPaperTickets.com or by calling 800-838-3006 or at the Gualala Arts Center of Dolphin Gallery.

Jeanne Jackson, Bell Director, found a rendition of "Joy to the World" written for handbells, organ and chorus, that she says is sure to be a highlight of the concert. The Coastal Singers, accompanied by Krieger, will perform four pieces, including Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" and a fast and furious rendition of "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

This will be the first concert the bell ringers have had a hammered dulcimer as accompaniment in the solo part of "What Child is This?" and Cyndy Solomon will accompany the ringers on recorder in "Valley of Peace."

Santa Claus will make a visit about 2:30 p.m. with candy canes, and coffee, hot cider and home-baked cookies will be served in the Jacob Elaine Foyer.

Then on Sunday, December 18, at 4:00pm Krieger, with Laura Leigh, directing bring

"Treasury of Songs II" to Coleman Hall. Children ages 5 to 13 will act out a live nativity scene to "Away in a Manger" and a community choir will sing favorites and traditional carols.

Tickets for the concert are \$12 for adults, \$5 for youth 17 and under, plus \$5 day of the event. Tickets can be purchased at BrownPaperTickets.com, Gualala Arts Center or Dolphin Gallery.

This short family-friendly concert also includes a musical rendition of the Clement Clarke Moore poem "T'was the Night before Christmas" and solos performances by choir members, which include Dayle Farina, Teo Ariola, Haidi Calkins, Jeremy Crockett, Pat Wilson, Sam Parsons, Jennifer Spangler, Kim Ghezzi, and Eric and Karen Wilder.



Santa Claus will make a surprise visit sometime during the program, handing out candy canes and listening to children's wants and wishes. Des-

serts and homemade goodies will be served afterward in the foyer. This event is sure to be a fulfilled celebration of Christmas Joy. Bring the family and meet your friends at the Gualala Art Center, Coleman Hall for "A Christmas Treasury of Song II."



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Solution to Crossword:

A politician thinks of the next election; a statesman of the next generation.

James Clarke

Solstice Celebration at Third Thursday Poetry Night Open Mic Poetry At 215 Main December 15

On Thursday, December 15 at 7:30pm, The Third Thursday Poetry Reading Series at 215 Main in Point Arena will feature the group's annual "Open Mic Solstice Reading & Party".

The reading will begin with live improv jazz followed by an open mic with jazz improv; the reading will conclude with more live jazz. Following tradition, there will be no featured poet this month, but instead all members of the community are encouraged to bring in extra poems & potluck food to share if they are inspired to do so.

Third Thursday Poetry is supported by The Third Thursday Poetry Group, many anonymous donors, and Poets & Writers, Inc. through a grant it has received from The James Irvine Foundation.

As we look back upon the past year, we would like to acknowledge those who have helped us shape our Co-op.

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Arena Theater Film Club Screens Three Films in December
The Godfather Part 2, Giant, and Malcolm

The curator of the Arena Theater Film Club continues to impress. This month the Club presents three films, giving film lovers three compelling reasons to be in attendance on Monday night in December.

Monday, December 5, the screen lights up with the drama of *The Godfather II*, the 1974 sequel to director Francis Ford Coppola's classic film, *The Godfather*. It stars returning cast members Al Pacino, Robert Duvall, Diane Keaton, Talia Shire, John Cazale, and adds in the talented Robert De Niro.

For this turn, Coppola presents the young Vito Corleone's rise and compares it with his son Michael's spiritual fall. The Corleone family roots are explored, tracing Don Vito's journey from Sicily to a life of organized crime in New York. In a parallel story, his grown son Michael extends operations to Cuba and contends with more betrayal and murder. The film received numerous nominations (including nine Academy Awards), and numerous wins including an Oscar for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Supporting Actor, and Best Adapted Screenplay for Coppola and Mario Puzo. Original successful films are tough. Original successful sequels are even tougher to create. Not to be missed. Rated 'R'. Run time is 200 minutes. 7:00pm start.

The Film Club shifts gears for its second offering. From the gritty streets of New York City and organized crime, to early and mid-century America, with *Giant*, Monday, December 12, 7:00pm.

In Oscar-winning director George Stevens's 1956 sprawling epic, Texas cattleman Jordan "Bick" Benedict (Rock Hudson) journeys to Virginia in the early 1920s, falls in love with aristocratic, independent-minded Leslie Lynnton (Elizabeth Taylor) and takes her back to his ranch, setting the stage for an inter generational saga that spans decades. Rounding out the principal players is James Dean in his last film appearance at age 24. Dean, who died in a car crash before the film was released, co-stars as sulking, nouveau riche Jett Rink—the root of Bick's worries.

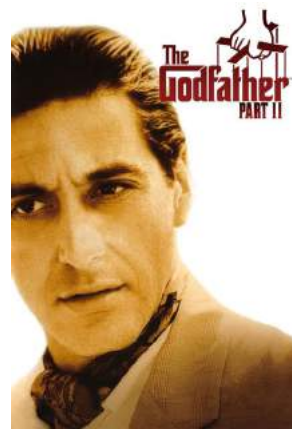
Beside the award to Stevens, *Giant* was nominated nine other times: twice for Best Actor in a Leading Role (James Dean and Rock Hudson), as well as Best Actress in a

Supporting Role (Mercedes McCambridge); plus Best Art Direction—Set Decoration, Color, Best Costume Design, Color, Best Film Editing; Best Music, Scoring of a Dramatic or Comedy Picture; Best Picture; and Best Writing, Best Screenplay – Adapted. The run time is 201 minutes and is rated 'G'.

The final selection for the month is *Malcolm*, a 1986 Australian film that, after the drama of *The Godfather II* and *Giant*, is a complete change of pace.

In this wacky heist film that swept the Australian Film Institute Awards, Colin Friels plays the titular character—a shy mechanical genius who gets caught up in a crime spree after being fired for building a tram. Forced to take in lodgers (Lindy Davies and John Hargreaves), Malcolm soon realizes that his skills for invention could be helpful to his new roomies, who happen to be thieves. Now, he must build the perfect getaway car.

Malcolm screens Monday, December 26, at 7:00pm. The cast also includes Chris Haywood, Charles "Bud" Tingwell, and Beverly Phillips. It's rated PG-13 and has a running time of 90 minutes.



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The Count Basie Orchestra mark appears
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Friday, December 2 5-7 pm
**Opening Reception
Gualala Salon & Salon de Refusés**
A Juried & Judged Exhibit
Burnett Gallery & Elaine Jacob Foyer
and
Let Them Eat Cake!
Fine Arts Cake Contest
Viewing 5 pm-6 pm
Champagne & Cake Tasting 6 pm

Holiday Celebrations at Gualala Arts

Sunday, December 10 3 pm
Local Eyes Series Presents
**A Holiday Concert
for the Coast**
Ernest Bloch Bell Ringers

Sunday, December 18 4 pm
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Saturday, December 24 5 pm
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Words On Wellness

by Karin Uphoff

The damp coastal weather invites an incredible variety of fungal flowers (otherwise known as mushrooms) to pop up everywhere. Though mushrooms grow in soil and were originally believed to be an offshoot of the plant kingdom, recent studies have shown that most fungi are more closely related to animals than plants. They can't photosynthesize (a requirement if you're a plant) and depend on the food made by plants for their nutritional requirements, the way we do.



Around 90% of land plants are in mutually-beneficial relationships with fungi through mycorrhizal associations where plants provide fungi with food in the form of carbohydrates and fungi help plants take up water, provide nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen, protect them from predators and boost their immunity. Indeed many of our beloved ecosystems, including our farmlands are dependent upon this relationship of reciprocity between plants and fungi.

It is strange to think that so much of the biomass of a mushroom we pick is underground. The cute little stuffed white button mushroom you nibble at the buffet table has a relative that occupies some 2,384 acres (nearly 4 square miles!) of soil in Oregon's

Blue Mountains. Based on the growth rate of this *Armillaria ostoyae* it's estimated to be 2,400 years old but could be as ancient as 8,650 years, which would earn it a place among the oldest living organisms as well as the largest. So what do fantastic fungal fruiting bodies have to share with us? Besides their high mineral and protein content, they have chemicals that support our immunity and prevent cellular damage. They also remind us of how sharing resources and deepening our relationships,

can build a sustainable community – that our beautiful displays of individuality are rooted in the common ground of all life that abundantly supports our being here. The simple act of connecting with our neighbors and cultivating communication despite our differences not only enhances the quality of life, but can save a life too. As you wander the forests this winter, imagine the “wood-wide-web” under your feet and how even the weight of your step is an interaction with a living creature. As you carefully pick, cook and enjoy eating these delicate winter fruits, do so with reverence for the complexity life presents and the gifts it brings.

Karin Uphoff is the author of Botanical Body Care.

More information about Karin is at <http://rainbowconnection.net>.

The Lighthouse Peddler suggests that it's really important for novice mushroom enthusiasts to work with a local forager who understands what's safe and not safe, and to understand the benefits or the risks.

Brandybuck Studio Bizarre Bazaar Holiday shopping right at home for South Coast Mendonomans!

Newcomers to the coast—and relative newcomers—learn something, even when they least expect it. I've regularly driven up and down a road known locally as Ten Mile Cutoff. My assumption is that it was carved out as a shortcut for locals traveling between Gualala and Point Arena, primarily to avoid driving Highway One during rush hour. (I assume you've heard about that rush hour traffic on Highway One, haven't you? I once saw two cars in less than 5 minutes. Whew!)

On my many drives along Ten Mile, I regularly see cattle and assorted wildlife, but a favorite 'marker' is when I drive northbound and approach Schooner Gulch. There's usually a white horse on the right, and a few cattle on the left. And that—Schooner Gulch and Ten Mile Cutoff—is where you'll find Brandybuck Ranch, and the 13th Annual Brandybuck Bizarre Bazaar. Mark your calendar and come join in the fun and merriment the weekend of December 3 and 4, from 10:00am to 4:00pm (note new hours) at Brandybuck Ranch.

For your gift giving pleasure you will find unique, funny, thoughtful, practical and affordable items. This is the perfect opportunity to support your local artisans and discover the perfect gift for that special person. Two Grand Raffle prizes this year include a tour of the B Bryan Preserve in Point Arena and a basket of donated artisan goodies, always a treasured delight. Gift certificates from local merchants round out the hourly raffle Sunday afternoon and you do not need to be present to win.

Enjoy a wide variety of sweet and savory hors d'oeuvres, hot apple cider, music and community while shopping and discovering new gift items from your favorite local artists represented in many areas of arts and crafts: jewelry, pottery, woodwork, soap, leather, farm raised products and fiber. We will also be welcoming new artists, Debbie Hull; lampwork beads, Matt Matijczyk; tile art, Wendy and Lorraine Ruddick; native jewelry, Denise



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Brandybuck Ranch is located east of Point Arena at Schooner Gulch and Ten Mile Cutoff. Watch for the signs and festive decorations. More information- 882-2269. And remember, Made Local, Go Local, Shop Local, Support Local Artists!



SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty : Easy

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HOW TO SOLVE:

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

(Answer appears elsewhere in this issue)

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Winter Film Festival at Arena Theater Features Films Perfectly Tailored For The Coast
“Living Off The Land & Sea: Local Industries That Sustain Us” Screens Saturday December 3

On Saturday, December 3, ACORN Partners in Education is presenting a winter film festival at Arena Theater in Point Arena: “Living off the Land & Sea: Local Industries that Sustain Us.” This film festival has been curated specifically for the Mendocino coastal community. Festival goers will have the chance to enjoy films relevant to the regional economy and join in discussions about the long-term sustainability of local industries. Films and panels will be offered on the topics of farming, fishing and cannabis growing, and filmmakers and community leaders will participate in a panel discussion and Q&A after each film.

The festival will kick off at 3:00pm with *Edible*, a short film produced by local farmer Allan Hogle, and will be followed by the feature film Casey Beck’s 2016 film *The Organic Life*.

Beck’s film chronicles a year in the life of a hopeful organic farmer and his skeptical partner, revealing a multitude of factors that threaten the sustainability of this traditional livelihood. (Readers may remember the above still from the film which was featured on the cover of the May 2016 issue of *The Lighthouse Peddler*.) The post-film panel will include Hogle and partner Astrid Ruhrmann from The Farm on the Gualala Ridge; “The Organic Life” filmmaker Casey Beck and featured assistant farmer Austin Blair; Patrick Cordrey, farm manager at Oz Farm and owner of Faultline Farm; and Jesse Hanna, small grain farmhand with Lundberg Farms. ACORN director and Windy Hollow Farm owner Jennifer Ketring will moderate the panel.

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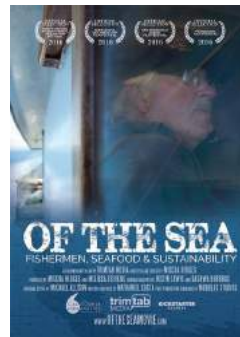
episode from the Viceland documentary series, will screen at 5:00pm. In this series host Krishna Andavolu explores the science, culture and economics of the legalization of marijuana; the episode presented focuses specifically on Mendocino and Humboldt counties. Panelists will include Nate Boucher, co-owner of local dispensary The Green Room Collective; Casey O’Neil, medical cannabis grower at Happy Day Farms and Board Chair of the California Growers Association; and Sherry Glaser, founder of Love In It Cooperative and performer of the one-woman show “Taking the High Road: Comic Confessions from Behind the Cannabis Curtain.” Local herbalist Gillian Nye will moderate.

The final presentation of the evening will be the feature documentary *Of the Sea* at 7:00pm, which tells the story of five California fishermen and shows how consumer seafood choices can influence ocean sustainability. The film won Best

Documentary Feature at the 2016 World’s Independent Film Festival and was an Official Selection at the 2016 Santa Cruz Film Festival and San Francisco Green Film Festival. Filmmaker Mischa Hedges will Skype in for a Q&A, joining panelists Chuck Cappotto, fisherman and President of Community Fishing Association of Bodega Bay; and Bob Askew, local fisherman and diver. The panel will be moderated by ACORN Board President Todd Orenick.

Cost for admittance is \$10 for one film; \$15 for two films; \$20 for all three films. Tickets will be sold day-of at the box office.

Plates of organic snacks will be available for purchase between screenings, the theater’s snack bar will be open, and beer will be sold in the theater balcony. For more information please visit www.acornpartnersineducation.org.



FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS RETURNS TO GUALALA ARTS ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Each year the Gualala Arts Center hosts a beautiful community Christmas Eve service, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. Candles and luminaries will light your way from the Gualala Arts Parking lot. Doors open at 4:30 pm, so you can find a seat before the program starts at 5 pm. Nine Bible readings are interspersed with nine Christmas carols that together tell the Christmas story of the birth of Jesus. To the accompaniment of Don Krieger on the keyboard, all join in singing the carols. The St. Paul’s Methodist Church Children’s Choir will sing “Away in a Manger.”

Readers represent the Mendonoma community as broadly as possible, with readers of various ages and ethnicities from many local faith communities. Pastor Debra Lyseck of St. Paul’s Methodist Church, Father Carlos Ortega of Saint Aloysius and Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Churches and Father James Knutsen of

Shepherd by the Sea Episcopal-Lutheran Mission will participate in the service, which is sponsored by Shepherd by the Sea. A special choral performance will close the service.

The event lasts one hour, and is free. If you would like to give a donation as you leave, all proceeds go to support the work of South Coast Crisis Aid, which distributes vouchers for emergency food, transportation, and lodging assistance throughout the year via local clergy and the Action Network in Gualala and Point Arena.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols originated at King’s College Chapel in Cambridge, England, in 1918 and was first broadcast in 1928. The Cambridge service is still broadcast worldwide each year. Our local Gualala version of this tradition began in 1992. It’s a wonderful opportunity to sing some favorite Christmas carols and to connect with other folks in our community at this special time.



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H O M E

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Two Events, For The Creative Senses • Friday December 2 at Gualala Arts

4th Annual Gualala Salon & Salon des Refusés

The opening reception for the North Coast Artists Guild Juried & Judged Exhibit is Friday December 2, 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Inspired by the original Salon des Refusés in 1863

Paris, the fourth annual Gualala Salon promises a showcasing of outstanding visual art and artists from the coastal community and beyond in this juried and judged fine art show.



The Paris Salon began in 1725 and a medal from the Salon was assurance of a successful artistic career; winners were given official commissions by the French government, and were sought after for portraits and private commissions. In those days, the Salon was one of the only ways an artist could establish a reputation and livelihood.

While the stakes are not quite so high for the Gualala Salon and Salon de Refusés, the prizes are some of the largest local artists see for their work—awards prizes of \$500 to \$1,000.

“It’s a play off the Paris Salon and allows artists in the community to provide some of the best work they have done and receive significant cash prizes,” said Curator Jane Head. As per the original Paris Salon, all work submitted will be juried and either accepted into the Salon or shown in the Salon de Refusés. Accepted work will be

shown in the Burnett Gallery and will be eligible for the First, Second and Third place awards. Rejected work will be exhibited in the Elaine Jacob Foyer and throughout

the Gualala Arts Center and will be eligible for the People’s Choice Awards of \$50, \$75, and \$100.

Every visitor to the exhibition will be asked to vote for three favorite pieces in the Salon de Refusés for the

People’s Choice Awards. In this way, all art submitted and all artists will be represented in the exhibit. There will be a special Judges Award of \$100 for best work for an artist under age 18.

This year’s Salon artwork will be judged by Michael Newhall, artist and teacher. Currently, Michael is the senior resident teacher at Jikoji Zen Center located in Los Gatos, California. He has an art studio at Jikoji along with his main and larger studio in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Newhall holds an MFA from the Art Institute of Chicago, has worked as an illustrator and designer, and has spent his adult life making art, mostly as a teacher or student and always as an artist.

The Gualala Salon is made possible by the generous donations of Jack Chladek, Sharon Nickodem, Roland Stoughton and other notable sponsors.

Let Them Eat Cake!

For an extra dose of fun, the fine art decorating contest “Let Them Eat Cake!” returns for a second year in conjunction with the Salon. Please note: Marie Antoinette will not be in attendance.

These fine art elaborate cake creations will be judged between 4:00pm and 5:00pm, on exhibit until 6:00pm and then visitors to both exhibits can enjoy cake and champagne.

Franny Burke of Franny’s



Cake and Saucer in Point Arena will be the judge in this year’s competition. Perhaps this is the year when you can have your cake and eat it too.

Garcia River Casino Plenty To Do This Month, Including New Years Eve With Richie Blue

Garcia River Casino has a lot going on this month. If you can sing (or you think you can sing...) there’s Karaoke Night on Saturday December 3 beginning at 9:00pm.

On Friday the 16th, Waylon & The Wildcats make a return visit to the Mendonoma Coast, with their Rocking Country Music. On Saturday the 17th Garcia River Casino will participate in the Point arena Hometown Holiday, offering a 10% discount at the River Grill with any receipt from a Point Arena Merchant. The River Grill serves food from 9:00am until 10:00pm daily.

For those of you who enjoy playing the slots, there are the favorites, and some new slot machines—Action Dragons and Quackpot.

Richie Blue, another musician returning to the coast, brings his band to lay down some down-home R&B on New Years Eve. It seems



like there’s always something going on at the Garcia River Casino. It’s located just a few minutes from downtown Point Arena at 22215 Windy Hollow Road. They have information at www.thegarciarivercasino.com, and at (707) 467-5300.

COAST COMMUNITY LIBRARY PRESENTS: KELP FOREST COLLAPSE • SUNDAY DECEMBER 4

On Sunday, December 4 at 2:00pm, Dr. Cynthia Catton, Environmental Scientist California Department of Fish and Wildlife will talk about this vital environmental issue. Northern California kelp forests have been hit by multiple environmental impacts linked to continuing warm



water known as ‘the blob’.

Dr. Catton, who has been studying kelp forest ecosystems and abalone populations in California for fifteen years, will explain how these events have upset the balance within the kelp forest and describe some of the im-



pacts on shellfish species, such as abalone and urchins. She will also present

kelp forest recovery actions that CDFW is developing and outline ways that people can become involved in these efforts.

The presentation at the library is free. Information is at the library: 882-3114. The Library is at 225 Main Street in Pt. Arena.

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“Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it whether it exists or not, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedy.”

Ernest Benn

“Boy, have I got a dolt for you. . . .”

Anonymous

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Solution to Sudokun

First they came for the Socialists,
and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists,
and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews,
and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—
and there was no one left to speak for me.

Martin Niemoller (1892–1984)


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I'm still a kid. I love the holidays, and one of the things I enjoy this time of year is reliving Thanksgiving and Christmas memories through films. Turkey dinner was the sit-down altar where we communed together as a family. Film is where we see ourselves again or for the first time. Viewing can be particularly enjoyable when watching the film with friends or family, as we have favorite scenes—some in common and some unique to us. After all, memories are about life, real or imagined or some combination of the two. This month I've decided to offer you my list of ten films that are worth watching every holiday season, from Thanksgiving Day to New Years Day.

#10: *Prancer*: This 1989 film features a midwest farmer/single dad, his 9-year old daughter, and a reindeer named Prancer. It has sentimentality but also a first rate realism and charm. Directed by John Hancock Prancer stars Sam Elliott, Rebecca Harrell, and Cloris Leachman. Roger Ebert wrote "[Jessica is] a 9-year-old who still believes in Santa Claus, and uses logic to defend her position: If there isn't a Santa, then maybe there isn't a God, and if there isn't a God, then there isn't a heaven, and, in that case, where did nine-year old Jessica's mother go when she died?". Heavy stuff or heady stuff? Either way, you can handle it and feel good about this unusually good holiday treat.

#9: *A Christmas Carol*: There have been many film versions adapted from Charles Dickens' story, but this 1951 version is my favorite. It features Alastair Sim as Ebenezer Scrooge, Mervyn Johns as Bob Cratchit, and Michael Hordern as Jacob Marley. The story is timeless and worth watching every Christmas. Whether you become tearful or not, it's a century old story, in a half-century old film, shot in glorious black and white, and it still delivers.

#8: *Home Alone*: Few movie stars have had the ability to be both charming and annoying on screen and in real life, and all before the age of 12. Forget the annoying part. Macaulay Culkin helps drive this 1990 film with sufficient believability as the young child left home by highly distracted parents. Culkin benefits from the direction of Chris Columbus, the writing of John Hughes, and the comedic performances of Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern. It's been a quarter century since the film was made yet the basic premise holds up. If it seems like too much work, watch it for Pesci and Stern. The film wouldn't work without them as the bumbling thieves.

#7: *The Santa Clause*: Tim Allen's turn in this 1994 holiday-flavored feature film was a surprisingly good idea. In short, Santa dies on the job, Tim Allen's character steps in to save the day and discovers that he is now (and

forever?) the new Santa Claus. It's funny with some tugging at the heart. It's the Twinkie of Christmas movies. Enjoy it and don't think about the calories. The Washington Post had it right: "The Santa Clause would be another formulaic Christmas special without Tim Allen."

#6: *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*: Not all of the films from National Lampoon have been winners but this 1989 spinoff from the original *Vacation* is a lot of fun. Chevy Chase and Beverly D'Angelo return as the Griswold parents, along with a new

Audrey (Juliet Lewis) and a new Rusty (Johnny Galecki). It's also worth watching Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Nicholas Guest as the way-too-hipster next door neighbors "Margo and Todd Chester". We can watch the film and look back on our fond memories or on the horror of sharing Christmas with the entire family. Good fun.

#5: *Planes, Trains, and Automobiles*: No holiday season would be complete without this 1987 film. One of Steve Martin's better outings, and John Candy is as perfect as he can be. The unlikely twosome becomes mutually dependent as they attempt to travel from New York to Chicago by way of Kansas and Missouri in an effort to get home for Thanksgiving. As with most films written and directed by John Hughes, the music is top notch (including Martin's traumatized "you're messin' with the wrong guy".) The film is wonderful and it always reminds me of how much the world misses John Candy.

#4: *Miracle on 34th Street*: On the surface this is a film about a nice old man who calls himself Kris Kringle and claims to be the Santa Claus. Threatened with being declared insane, a young lawyer steps in to defend Kringle, arguing in court that he really is Santa Claus. While Kringle's sanity is the central theme, the real centerpiece of the 1947 film is about a single mom's journey (and ours) to have faith, and to believe in something that may be difficult or impossible to prove. While that sounds like religion, the faith here is far more about life itself. But it works on both levels. The cast is a who's who of post WWII Hollywood faces: Maureen O'Hara,

John Payne, Edmund Gwenn, Gene Lockhart, Natalie Wood, Granville Sawyer, William Frawley, Jerome Cowan.

#3: *The Bishop's Wife*: This 1947 film is also about Christmas and faith. But relax, this is not a film that looks or feels anything like a tent-revival. It's an intelligent story based on a visiting angel named Dudley (Cary Grant) entering the life of protestant minister Henry Brougham (David Niven), who's marriage to wife Julia (Loretta Young) is tested along the way. There are numerous religious moments but the film is anything but preachy. There are lofty (sometimes heavenly) goals, a couple of sermons, a boys choir, some shopping, lunch at a French restaurant named Michel's (of course), a few snobs, and some solid citizens. Sit back and simply let yourself get lost inside this film. Rounding out the cast are Elsa Lanchester, Regis Toomey, James Gleason, and Monty Woolley.

#2: *It's A Wonderful Life*: Frank Capra presents the life and times of George Bailey and Mary Hatch (James Stewart and Donna Reed). In just over two hours, we are treated to their lives and ours. Like the old nursery rhyme, this 1947 film features tinkers, tailors, soldiers, sailors, doctors, a rich man and more. As Bailey's life moves forward, he's forced to reflect on how he's helped change things for the better, and with an angel's help, he sees an alternate version of how his life—or lack thereof—could change everything and everyone. Like other Capra films, this one is rich in characters and character actors, including Lionel Barrymore, Thomas Mitchell, Henry Travers, Beulah Bondi, Frank Faylen, Ward Bond, Gloria Grahame, and H.B. Warner. And for trivia buffs, there is the perfectly-cast voice of Moroni Olsen as Franklin, the never seen senior angel narrating the film.

#1: *A Christmas Story*: This 1983 film narrowly edged out the others for #1 simply because it speaks to me on so many levels. Instead of just seeing the enjoyable chaos surrounding the lives of the Parker family, I can clearly see my own family growing up in Milwaukee; our version was all Wisconsin, not Indiana. Yet like 'old man Parker', my father did swear at the furnace (and other things). I did want a BB gun for Christmas. We lived in our version of that neighborhood, on that street, in that house and we had our own Bumpus family for neighbors. And there was plenty of innocent "drama" surrounding our lives as Christmas approached, but there was also the sense of family and time together. I love this film. Regardless of any memories I might like to forget, my reality is of a time when, as Jean Shepherd tells us, "all was right with the world".



**'Tis The Season to be . . .
 . . . Doing the Bossa Nova?
 Oh Yes! December 7**

If he were still with us, the legendary actor, Jimmy Stewart, famous and possibly most remembered for his role in the iconic Holiday film, *It's A Wonderful Life*, might aptly have said in anticipation of an upcoming Mendocino Coast performance, "It's A Wonderful Gig!" Naturally, Stewart would have been referring to "Christmas in Rio," now in its fourth year with Quartet Enchantment and returning by popular demand to The Fireside Room at The Sea Ranch Lodge on Wednesday, December 7th, from 6:00-9:00pm.

This special feature hosted by Harrison Goldberg, and part of the ongoing Sunset & Jazz Series (normally held at the Lodge on the second Thursday of each month), will pair the local saxophonist with the stellar musicians who comprise Quartet Enchantment: Chris Doering, 7-string guitar, Don Watanabe, upright bass, Gabe Yanez, drums . . . and once again, introducing the band's special guest artist, charismatic vocalist, Teo Ariola, who will pay tribute in the Portuguese language to the beautiful melodies and infectious Bossa Nova rhythms of the late and legendary Brazilian composer/pianist, Antonio Carlos Jobim.



In addition to the Brazilian selections, and in keeping with the Holiday season, Quartet Enchantment will offer their good and holiday-joyous latin arrangements of Christmas tunes in addition to playing some of their originals along with those timeless classics from The Great American Songbook. Relax in the Lodge's cozy fire-lit setting while enjoying delicious food offerings paired with your favorite beverage. And there's no cover charge!

**National Theater Live From London: *War Horse*
 Returns to Arena Theater December 17**

An encore performance of the internationally acclaimed West End production of *War Horse* will broadcast at Arena Theater as part of its National Theater Live series on Saturday, December 17, at 1:00pm. (Doors open at 12:30pm.)

Since its first performance at the National Theatre in 2007, "War Horse" has become an international smash hit, capturing the imagination of millions of people around the world.

Based on Michael Morpurgo's novel and adapted for the stage by Nick Stafford, "War Horse" takes audiences on an extraordinary journey from the fields of rural Devon to the trenches of First World War France. Filled with stirring music and songs, this powerfully moving and imaginative drama is a show of phenomenal inventiveness, according to the National Theatre Live.

At its heart are astonishing life-size puppets by South Africa's Handspring Puppet Company, who bring breathing, galloping, charging horses to thrilling life on stage. *War Horse* is directed by Marianne Elliott and Tom Morris, designed by Rae Smith; lighting is by Paule Constable and movement and horse choreography by Toby Sedgwick. The puppetry directors are Basil Jones and Adrian Kohler, with video design by 59 Productions Ltd, song-making by John Tams, music by Adrian Sutton and sound by Christopher Shutt.

The play has a runtime of 180 minutes including a 20-minute intermission. Tickets are \$18, \$5 youth (18 and under), avail-

able online at www.arenatheater.org. Arena Theater is located at 214 Main Street, Point Arena, California. Arena Theater is a member-supported community theater owned and operated by the Arena Theater Association, a 501 (c) (3) not for profit corporation. For additional information visit: www.arenatheater.org.



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November 29

Full Moon



December 14

Kitten From Hell: A Note From The Midwest • by Sally Marshall

I've noticed in the last few years that boat landings have become a convenient place for people to deposit unwanted pets. I would imagine them thinking along the lines that people who use boat landings love nature and would be sympathetic to discovering four abandoned kittens huddled together. They're right; and so it happened one day, as our group was loading boats at the landing, that I spotted these tiny kittens.

This particular boat landing is somewhat secluded with a woods and swamp, so the kittens could easily go into hiding as they did when I approached them. I decided to come back later with some cat food and see if I could get them to come out again.

With bag of kitten chow in hand, I called to them while traversing the perimeter of the woods until I saw one little face peeking out from the foliage. Pretty soon the others emerged. I slowly crouched down and tossed a handful of food towards where they were hiding. They immediately scampered to the chow and gobbled as fast as they could. I still couldn't get near them - they were too frightened, so I came back the next day to feed them again. This went on for several days and I was able to observe that one was the leader and more aggressive; then there were two that stayed way back, and one, the littlest, that carefully crept closer each time I was there. The next day I brought along my pet taxi and set it up in the back of the truck. As I did our feeding routine, I kept dropping some chow closer to me, and that little one came close enough for me to grasp it by the scruff of the neck (same as mama cat does). I put it in the pet taxi where it proceeded to go nuts for a while. Then, it settled down and looked at me as if to say "Well, now what are you going to do?"

So, the kitten came to my house and I settled it on my three-season porch where it immediately hid behind the chest freezer. I put down food, water and a litter box and hoped for the best. The next morning the food was eaten, the water dish spilled, litter box used, kitten hiding behind freezer. OK. By afternoon, I had coaxed it out of hiding; it tolerated a bit of petting and even purred. By the next day it was sitting on my lap—nice kitten (sure).

My first indication that I had brought home a "wild child", was the destruction of my Asian Impatiens, a lovely plant that had delicate branching and produced beautiful pink flowers - not any more! The plant was

literally in shreds with the broken branches hanging there in dismay. He then proceeded to attack a climbing plant and also discovered that the soil was fun to play with, so I came home to a nice mess that day. After watching him wrestling with a shoe and pulling down the tablecloth, I decided he needed some toys, so I got a couple of catnip mice and a small ball. This actually worked for a while.

I usually spent some "quality time" with him on my lap where he would purr loudly while biting my fingers - OW! Then he discovered my feet - especially my big toes which he chomped down on. This biting routine was going to have to stop as I was getting poked full of holes and

scratched on my hands and feet, so I decided we were ready to learn the NO! word. This took a lot of time and patience, but he eventually got the idea that he couldn't play with me like his toys, which he terrorized. If pets have a personality type, he would be considered a type A, over-achiever.

After a few weeks on the three-season porch, it was time to introduce him to the house (Oh, boy!). His reaction was possibly the same as a small child's first trip to Disneyland. I have a lot of big tropical plants, some four to five feet tall, lace curtains, comfy furniture and lots of space to run around in. The first thing he tackled was my parlor palm, pulling down the big fronds, until I shouted the NO! word. Then he decided to play with the dirt in another large pot, scattering it all over the place -NO! Next, he tackled my antique table runner which, unfortunately, has (had) nice tassels on the ends - NO-O-O-O! Then he sat there looking at me with that cute face as if to say "I really think you're over-reacting".

The next stage of his personality development could be described as the "cat burglar", as he would steal pens, my reading glasses, bookmarks, toothbrushes, anything he could carry off and hide somewhere. He has lots of his own toys, he just prefers my things. When he got a little bigger, he could jump up on the counter, which he demonstrated by trotting off with my hamburger patty. The NO! word was followed by a volley of expletives, as he nonchalantly sat there cleaning his anus and ignoring me. I realized that I needed a better strategy for dealing with the little monster and to keep one step ahead of him as a preventive measure to save what was left of my nice little house.

So, I've managed to secure everything he can walk off with and, when he's been busy



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terrorizing my house plants, rearranging the curtains to his own preference, dumping over the wastebaskets, and racing through the house at breakneck speed, I will put him out on the three-season porch to "cool his jets". He normally likes it out there, but not if he has to be out there all night, which I sometimes have to do to keep my sanity. He has the usual "morning crazies" but, if this goes on too long—out on the porch; same with the "evening crazies"—out on the porch.

At this point, you are probably wondering why I didn't just take him back to the boat landing. Occasionally I would threaten him with exile, but could never quite do it. There is something unique about him, and I realize that he was meant to be my cat (karma). If we were to have a conversation, it would probably go something like this:

Me: I'm going to take you back to the boat landing if you don't straighten out.

Cat: No, you're not.

Me: Yes, I am.

Cat: No, you're not, because I'm just too cute.

Me: No, you're not.

Cat: Yes, I am.

See what I mean?

Scuttlebutt

by Mitch McFarland



I'm sure you are all are as sick of politics as I am. Since the election, I have been consciously avoiding the news. Waves of fear and nausea pass over me. I try to dismiss politics as relatively unimportant in the big picture of my life. Nice try, but I know better.

The thing that really sticks out for me is the Electoral College business. Everyone, it seems, is writing about it, and so they should. Thus, we all know by now that this was the 5th election in which the candidate with the most popular votes lost the election because of the Electoral College. Hillary beat Trump by a greater margin than many previous winners of the presidency.

We all know about the 2000 election and the Supreme Court's our-ruling-only-counts-this-time gift to George Bush. What you may not know is that in 2004 only 60,000 votes separated Bush and Kerry in Ohio. If 35,000 voters had switched, Ohio would have gone to Kerry and he would have become President, yet Bush beat him by 3 million votes!

Benjamin Harrison lost the popular vote by 90,000 votes in 1888, but beat Grover Cleveland with nearly 40% more Electoral College votes.

In 1876 Rutherford B. Hayes-R won the election (by a margin of one electoral vote), but he lost the popular vote by more than 250,000 out of only 4 million ballots cast.

How about this? In 1824, John Quincy Adams was elected president despite not winning either the popular vote or the electoral vote. Andrew Jackson was the winner in both categories. Jackson received 38,000 more popular votes than Adams, and beat him in the electoral vote 99 to 84. Despite his victories, Jackson didn't reach the majority 131 votes needed in the Electoral College to be declared president because of a third party candidate. In fact, neither candidate did. The decision went to the House of Representatives, which voted Adams into the White House.

When a third party keeps any candidate from getting 51% of the votes in the College the choice goes to the House of Representatives. What you may not know is that they choose on a one-state one-vote; thus Wyoming's 560,000 people get an equal voice with California's 37 million. That sounds fair. While we are on the subject of unfairness, electors are apportioned by one for each state House member and one for each senator. Thus, Wyoming has 3 electoral votes and California 51. We have 17 times more votes, but 66 times as many people.

In case you aren't convinced something is wrong how about this: states that have

"Getting rid of the Electoral College would be great, but it is unlikely to happen when the loser of the popular vote sits in the White House."

an even number of House members may deadlock in the College if they have an equal number of republicans and democrats A deadlocked state cannot vote at all for a presidential candidate. But, to produce a winner, one candidate would still have to win 26 states, even though several states might be deadlocked. If no presidential candidate can get to 26, there is no constitutional mechanism for producing a winner.

Many are calling for the abandonment of the electoral college. It would get rid of the idea of "red" and "blue" states (a concept invented by the media). Candidates don't campaign in states they know they will win (or lose), so that 3/4 of the voting public never sees the candidates in their state. Is it any wonder half the voting public doesn't vote?

Our current system even can disproportionately affect our politics. Imagine if a President (before Obama) wanted to recognize Cuba. After all, we recognize China,

Russia, Saudi Arabia and other totalitarian regimes, so why not little, helpless Cuba? Because Florida is a swing state and that action might make a sitting president lose an election, so screw Cuba. Look at Trump. He is opposed to alternative energy, but loves ethanol subsidizes. I wonder why?

Getting rid of the College would be great, but it is unlikely to happen when the loser of the popular vote sits in the White House. Indeed, all the "losers" that became President were Republicans (except Adams, of course, when the party didn't exist). In 1960 Nixon almost became the only Republican to win the popular vote (he was only 115,000 votes behind) and lose in the College (by 84 votes!).

Some think a better alternative is a measure called the National Popular Vote. It is a compact among the states in which states individually agree to give all their electoral votes to the winner of the popular vote. It doesn't take effect until enough states have joined the compact to insure that this system will determine the outcome in the College. In other words until the compact states represent at least 270 electoral votes.

So far 10 states and the District of Columbia have passed legislation agreeing to join the compact starting with Maryland in 2007. California passed it in 2007, but Schwarzenegger vetoed it. After he left office California passed it again. The ten states and D.C. represent 161 electoral votes or 31%. Legislation has been introduced in all 50 states, but Republican opposition has prevented the National Popular Vote from passing in the other states. This one-man-one-vote thing doesn't sit well with Republicans, since they are the minority party. After all, Republicans have won all 4 elections in which the winner of the popular vote lost the election. And look at all their vote suppression efforts. Popular votes don't seem like a good idea to many Republicans. Many of the rich, white men that set up our system undoubtedly felt the same way.

Not all Republicans are of that mindset. Republicans Jake Garn (Utah), John Buchanan (Alabama), David Durenberger (Minnesota), Tom Campbell (California), and Jon Anderson (Illinois) are all members of the advisory committee of the National Popular Vote group.

A 2007 poll found that 72% favored replacing the Electoral College with a direct election, including 78% of Democrats 60% of Republicans, and 73% of independent voters. Republican Pat Garofalo has introduced National Popular Vote legislation in Minnesota because of the fact that electoral votes for each state are apportioned according to the

number of "persons" in a state. That includes undocumented "persons", so states with lots of illegals have more representation than they might otherwise.

You can't pick up a paper or turn on the Internet without reading something about getting rid of the Electoral College. You are probably bored with thinking about it. I'm surprised you read this far. But lots of people made noise about doing something after Gore lost, but talk quickly disappeared. We can't let that happen again. We have to keep pounding this issue until something is done so that losers don't become winners.

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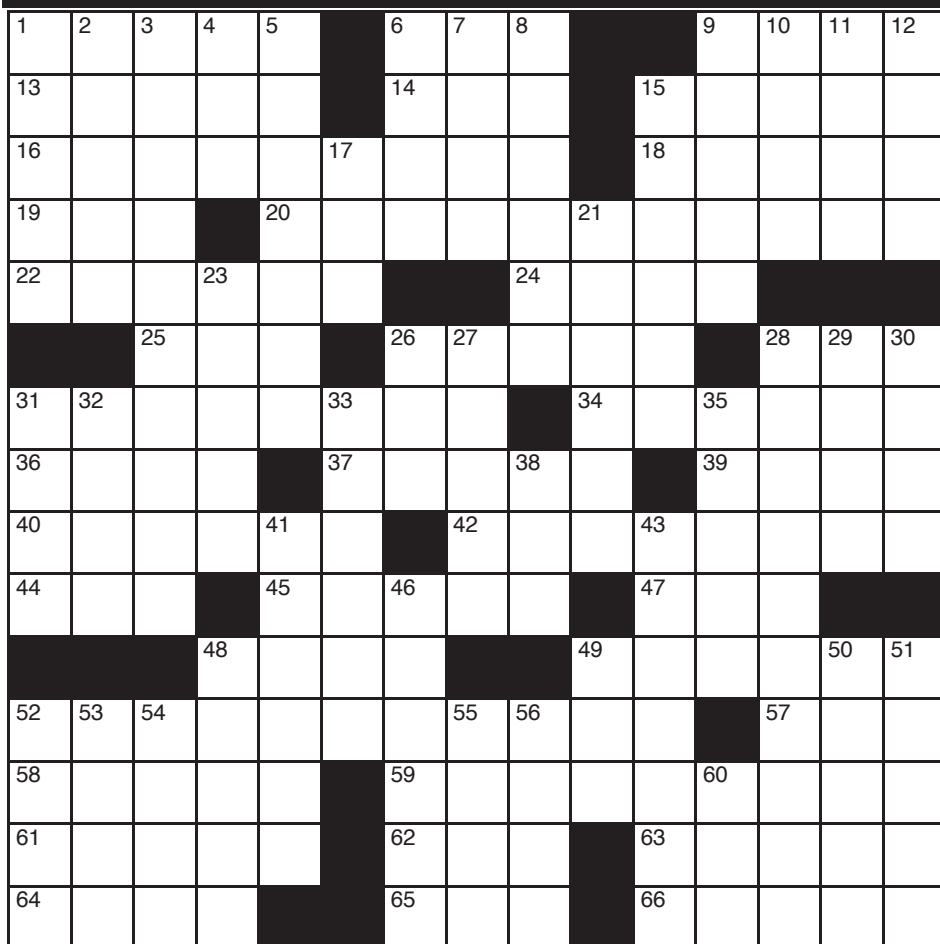
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The Crossword

by Margie E. Burke



ACROSS

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- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Part of a calyx | 42. Audio accessory |
| 6. Caustic chemical | 44. Casual attire |
| 9. Bed board | 45. Before the due date |
| 13. Belief | 47. Witch's work |
| 14. Aquatic shocker | 48. Joined the party |
| 15. Tiresome task | 49. Mackerel's cousin |
| 16. Kansas City stadium | 52. Power cable with extreme voltage |
| 18. Company dodger | 57. Arresting figure |
| 19. Cut (off) | 58. Model |
| 20. Street musician's instrument | 59. Climate type |
| 22. Depressing | 61. Like some vegetables |
| 24. Computer command | 62. Horse-and-buggy _____ |
| 25. Number in a Kutcher TV title | 63. Carpenter's joint |
| 26. Dull | 64. Weight deduction |
| 28. Any doctrine | 65. Electricity source |
| 31. Sham argument | 66. Accumulation of fluid |
| 34. Hypnotic state | DOWN |
| 36. Pinocchio, at times | 1. Burn badly |
| 37. Go fish | 2. Trial partner |
| 39. Astronomer's sighting | 3. Commit |
| 40. Aim | 4. "Without further _____" |
| | 5. Uncultivated |

6. Give the eye
7. Orbital period
8. Alec, among the Baldwin brothers
9. Driftwood site
10. Marathon
11. Environs
12. Fork-tailed flier
15. Shade of green
17. Cow chow
21. Not the former
23. Sentient
26. Word before & after "oh"
27. One of Charlie's trio
28. Inebriate
29. Glance over
30. Insignificant
31. Buttonhole
32. Fork part
33. Butterfly, e.g.
35. Pale with fright
38. Not of the cloth
41. In a tidy way
43. Unit of speech
46. Signed a lease
48. Irritate
49. Clobber
50. ___ pole
51. Verdi specialty
52. Sword handle
53. Creative spark
54. Spur or helical
55. Red Cross supplies
56. Muslim leader
60. Do away with

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Your New Electricity Option • by Joel Chaban

Starting June 2017, all PG&E customers in Mendocino County, both residential and commercial (that's just about everyone, including YOU), will automatically be switched to Sonoma Clean Power (SCP) as their provider of electricity. It's hard to grasp, I know. PG&E's a monopoly, right? Well, not anymore.

You now have a choice: PG&E or SCP. You can keep PG&E by 'opting out' when the switch to SCP occurs next year. But why would you want to opt out? SCP's rates are lower, provide more renewable energy than PG&E, and provide some great economic benefits to Mendocino County.

Of course, PG&E will still deliver your electricity -- that won't change. And if the power goes out, you'll still call PG&E to come and fix it. You will still have all the same residential and commercial billing plans like 'time-of-use' to choose from. And if you have a special low-income discount from PG&E, you will still receive your discount.

If you have solar panels tied to the grid, you will still continue to receive Net Energy Metering (NEM) credits. If your solar panels generate more electricity than you use, SCP will send a check to you if your credits amount to more than \$100. Having solar panels is the only reason why you'd want to opt out: NEM credits are not transferrable to SCP. Once your NEM credits have been applied is when you'd want to opt back into service from SCP.

And you will still receive your bill from PG&E; however, the bill presentation is going to change. Because of this change, you need to attend one of SCP's workshops that will be happening around the county next year as part of SCP's efforts to educate our population about these changes.

Beginning next year, you will receive notices from PG&E and from Sonoma Clean Power about the coming changes. Some notices will come as separate mailings and some will accompany your PG&E bill. Don't throw them away. Read them!

It's a movement – a movement that started in 2002 with California legislation – and is moving so fast that, it's predicted, 60% of all California residents will get their electricity from a Community Choice Energy (CCE) provider such as SCP within the next five years. Marin Clean Energy, the first Community Choice Energy agency to deliver electricity in 2010, has already added service to Richmond, Benicia, El Cerrito, San Pablo, and areas of Napa County just as SCP is add-



ing Mendocino County to its service area. In 2017, Marin Clean Energy plans to add cities from Napa County and Contra Costa County.

Sonoma Clean Power began delivering to customers in 2014; Lancaster Choice Energy in 2015; Clean Power of San Francisco in August 2016; and Peninsula Clean Energy in October 2016.

In 2017, it's predicted the following CCE's will begin delivering electricity to customers in Silicon Valley, San Jose, Alameda County, Davis and parts of Yolo County. By 2021, it's predicted the following counties will have CCEs: Los Angeles, Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Ventura and San Diego.

Some history. California passed Assembly Bill 117 in 2002 to allow the creation of Community Choice Energy (legally called Community Choice Aggregation). This bill allows local agencies to pool or aggregate electricity on behalf of their residents. What this means is that CCE agencies can contract, generate, set rates for, and sell electricity just as PG&E does. The bill also specifies the incumbent investor owned utility, PG&E, continues to provide transmission, distribution, and maintenance services, and handles the metering and the billing for CCE customers. Then in 2010, California Assembly Bill 790 was enacted to provide a code of conduct that requires the distribution utility, PG&E, to cooperate with the Community Choice program. PG&E spent nearly \$45 million to fight this legislation and lost.

Besides California, six other states have CCE programs: Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Illinois. They basically start up the same way: all customers from the 'investor owned' utility are automatically switched to become new customers of the 'non-profit' CCE; and if you want to continue as a customer with the investor owned utility, you need to opt out.

Opting Out. Material you receive next year from PG&E and SCP will explain how you can opt out. But be aware of this: customers who opt out of SCP before or within the first 60 days after the start of service with SCP can return to SCP service at any time. Customers opting out of SCP service 60 days after SCP service starts will be subject to PG&E's terms and conditions of service, including not having the option to return to SCP for one year. There's more to know. So be sure to attend an SCP workshop coming to your neighborhood next year!

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Quilt Raffle Fundraiser for the Coast Community Library Drawing December 21 To Benefit FOCCL Library Building Retrofit

One of the things we learn to live with here on California's Mendocino coast is the idea that it can actually get chilly at night. Here's an opportunity to help one of the lucky ones warm up. On the first day of winter, December 21, Friends of Coast Community Library will have a drawing for a quilt created by local quilting expert and library volunteer, Judy Riddle. The quilt titled "Diamond in the Rough" is from a 2004 pattern published by quilter Debbie Caffrey. The quilt is twin size and the multi-color pallet within the design will compliment any decor. "This quilt will make a very special holiday gift for some lucky person," remarked librarian Julia Larke.

Back in September* we wrote about the 'seismic challenge' that the library was fac-

ing. Since then, much support has been coming in. However, the work continues to complete the retrofit and preserve the library for generations to come. Why not take a look at the quilt or just go ahead and buy a few raffle tickets?



"Diamond in the Rough" can be seen on display in the library's Community Room. Raffle tickets cost \$3 each, three for \$7, or seven for \$15 and can be purchased at the Coast Community Library's circulation desk. The winner need not be present to win. Proceeds from the raffle will be used to help fund the library's seismic retro-

fit. Imagine winning. Imagine snuggling up in it. Or imagine giving it as an amazing holiday gift.

*See "Time To Come Together To Help The Coast Community Library" in the September *Lighthouse Peddler*.



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• 2nd: The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra directed by Scotty Barnhart is coming to Gualala Arts Center Friday, December 2, and it's a performance you don't want to miss. Tickets for this night of jazz are \$38 in advance, plus \$5 the day of the event. Youth 17 and under are free with a paying adult. Tickets can be purchased at BrownPaperTickets.com or in person at Gualala Arts Center or the Dolphin Gallery. This event is sponsored by North Coast Brewing Co., Andrea A. Lunsford, Susan Ferrin, Michelle Haleodsky, Seacliff, Whale Watch, and Gualala Country Inn.

• 3rd: There will be a Mendocino English Country Dance on Saturday, December 3, at the Caspar Community Center in Caspar. Newcomer instruction at 7:30pm. Calling and instruction by dance leader Alisa Dodson.

• 4th: The musical quartet Huckleberry Jam will return to 215 Main Street in Point Arena on Sunday, December 4, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The group's genre is largely Americana, a blend of traditional, roots, folk, and blues; and includes a tribute to the great Leonard Cohen, who died on November 7. Huckleberry Jam members are Sharon and Jim Lieberman, Pam Powell, and Richard Custer. There is no cover for this performance.

• 7th: For the fourth year Quartet Enchantment returns to The Fireside Room at The Sea Ranch Lodge on Wednesday, December 7th, from 6:00-9:00pm.

• 8th: Molly's Revenge and special guest vocalist Christa Burch with Irish dancers present an evening of music, song and dance associated with the festive season, including Christmas songs both old and new, all played with a Celtic twist, and something new for our regulars. Thursday, December 8, Eagles Hall, 210 North Corry Street, Fort Bragg. 7:30pm.



• 16th: Waylon & The Wildcats make a return visit to the Mendocino Coast, with their Rocking Country Music.

• 17th: 215 Main will have a live jazz show following the Hometown Holidays event in Point Arena.

• 31st: Blues guitarist, singer, and songwriter Richie Blue describes his life as "45 years on the Boogie Highway", but he adds "no bar too far." That includes the Garcia River Casino where Mr. Blue will bring his 'down home R&B' to the casino's stage for a New Years Eve party.

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