



November 2025

Volume 30 Number 3

Celebrating the Heart of Our Community

by Alicia Phibbs



On Saturday, October 18th, we hosted the 2025 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner to honor the incredible people who form the backbone of Bridgeville. Your efforts never go unnoticed, and we want to express our deepest gratitude for all you do to make our community thrive!

We'd like to give special recognition to several groups and individuals who tirelessly serve Bridgeville:

- The Bridgeville CERT team for keeping our rural mountain community disaster ready. Your work is essential!
- The Volunteer Fire Department for your bravery, commitment, and continuous training. Thank you for always being ready to respond to our calls.
- The BridgeFest Committee, all of the pie bakers, and the day-of volunteers who stepped up and got the job done. A massive shout-out to Mike Koster for dedicating his time and talent to keeping the music sounding amazing.
- Our amazing Food Pantry volunteers who help tackle the two most hectic days of the month, allowing us to efficiently distribute food to our community

as well as to our neighbors in Blocksburg and Dinsmore.

- Lena Fuller for graciously dedicating her time to keeping our community warm with her beautiful handmade blankets.
- Ted Lichti for dedicating every Wednesday to hosting his fantastic community art class.

Announcing Our 2025 Award Winners!

The evening culminated in recognizing these outstanding community members for their extraordinary service:

- Lauri Rose received the Randy Krahn BridgeFest Volunteer Award. Lauri was the definition of commitment this year. She attended every meeting, contributed to every aspect of planning, and served as an exceptional mentor. Lauri not only donated valuable time, energy, and raffle prizes, but she personally sold an incredible number of tickets and stayed late the night before BridgeFest to ensure all the pies were complete. Her efforts were instrumental from start to finish.
- Julie Stephens was awarded Bridgeville's Best Baker. Julie's goodies are out of this world, and she selflessly donates them to all our bake sales, drive-through dinners, and fundraisers.
- Tom and Maureen Smithey were honored as BridgeFest's Dynamic Duo. Tom and Maureen are new to the community, but just one conversation with them, and you'll feel like you've known them for years. They both helped tremendously at BridgeFest by working the booths, baking pies, and assisting everywhere they could.
- Haylee Gaston was named Volunteer of the Year. Haylee is a rockstar, volunteering at nearly every event, including youth night, pantry day, and every fundraiser. She is an invaluable asset to Bridgeville, and we are so grateful to have her support.

Thank you again to every single volunteer. Your passion and commitment are what make Bridgeville such a wonderful place!



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HWY 36 Traffic Report

To get current traffic reports check:
<https://roads.dot.ca.gov/> or call
Caltrans 1 (800) 427-7623

Please drive carefully at all times. *Slow Down.*

Who are the members of the Bridgeville Community Center Board of Directors?

Joyce Church, Rachel Benavidez, Brooke Entsminger, Lauri King, Gabby Wotherspoon

Bridgeville Community Center Mission Statement

"The Bridgeville Community Center is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all our community members. We are committed to bringing people of all ages together to encourage good health, self-esteem, creativity, and personal development."

Bridgeville Community Newsletter

Published monthly by the Bridgeville Community Center

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Blazer News



[Editor's Note: In the October issue, some copies had a typesetting error in the Blazer News column that was corrected in later printings. Apologies to John Blakely for the oversight. In the article, Mr. Blakely was talking about the impacts of the HWY 36 slide on the school and employees. Here is the corrected final paragraph.]

For Bridgeville School the slide is more than just making it more difficult to get to town or, more importantly, for town to get to us. It's had a profound impact on employment and staffing. We lost a Resource Teacher, a part-time support teacher, and a classroom aide either directly or indirectly due to the tenuous road situation between here and the coast. That was compounded when we developed the need for an additional classroom aide and a bus driver. We decided to expand our search for prospective employees by advertising locally, within the community. The response has been strong and positive. We have hired one very capable new classroom aide and a Wellness Coach and have encouraging prospects for another aide, and a bus driver. All of the new hires and prospects live on this side of the slide. And that's our new reality. The school and the community must rely, now more than ever, on the resources we have on *This Side of the Slide*.



Humboldt County Bookmobile



Read A
Book
They Deliver



Bridgeville School	10:30 - 12:00
Dinsmore (next to Laundromat)	12:45 - 2:15

The Bookmobile comes to Bridgeville and Dinsmore the second Tuesday.

Bookmobile: (707) 267-9933

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Printed on 100% recycled paper

Comments and corrections are always welcome. Management is not responsible for any errors, omissions, or other editorial mis-statements, intentional or otherwise. The views expressed by the authors do not necessarily reflect the Bridgeville Community Center or its staff. If you have any other concerns, please submit them in triplicate.

Southern Trinity Area Rescue

Emergency Medical Technician Course

Class Start Date: Saturday January 17th

Located at the WeCare clinic in Mad River CA

321 Van Duzen Rd.



Online/ in person Hybrid class – In person labs are 9am -5pm every other Saturday January 17th until May 23rd

Class Pre-requisite – Current CPR certificate (CPR class offered 1/10/26)

If interested please email Brooke: bentsmingerstar@gmail.com



\$75 Course Fee

Free For STAR Volunteers



CRAFT FAIRE

Saturday, November 1, 2025

9am to 4pm

Mad River Community Hall

Van Duzen Road, MadRiver

It's your Christmas Shop-opportunity!

*ARTS AND CRAFTS

*CHRISTMAS ITEMS

*RAFFLE

*HOMEMADE SOUPS

*BAKED GOODS

AND MUCH MORE!!!

HTRA

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707-382-5176

PATSYLEWIS54@GMAIL.COM



Vendors \$10/Table



Happy November, Bridgeville!

Our community is buzzing with holiday spirit and heartwarming events to bring us together this month. On November 11, from 12 PM to 2PM, all veterans and their families are warmly invited to the Bridgeville Elementary School gym for a special Veterans Day lunch, where our very own Laurie Church will serve a delicious meal. On November 13, our monthly potluck takes on a cozy fall vibe—bring a Thanksgiving-inspired dish or a seasonal treat to share and connect with neighbors in a joyful, festive atmosphere. On pantry day in both November and December, we're spreading holiday warmth with special holiday food boxes packed with seasonal goodies to make your Thanksgiving and winter celebrations truly memorable.

For low-income families, TruConnect, a Life-line program provider, offers a fantastic opportunity to stay connected with a free cell phone and free monthly wireless service, including talk, text, international calling, and 8GB of data for California residents, with no contracts or bundles; to apply, visit www.truconnect.com or call 1-800-430-0443 to check eligibility, which includes households at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or those enrolled in programs like SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, Tribal TANF, or Federal Housing Assistance, requiring a valid CA state ID or driver's license. Let's come together in Bridgeville to celebrate, honor our veterans, and embrace the holiday season while taking advantage of these wonderful community resources!

Brandon Benavidez
BCC Director



	ART Class with TED Wednesdays at 10 am	
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Please spay and neuter your pets. Need help getting your cat fixed? Call 707 442-SPAY



Healthy Spirits

By Lauri Rose, RN BSN HNB-BC

We've discussed the difference between happiness and gratitude before. Though gratitude often leads to happiness, they aren't the same feeling. It's the same with gratitude and awe. The roots of the word gratitude are in the Latin word *gratus*, meaning pleasing and thankful. We are often thankful and feel gratitude for the things that cause us awe – like a sunset, or a closely observed ant colony. But, the word awe comes from an ancient word meaning fear. Sometimes, when I look at particularly spectacular sunset it can be so overwhelming it does arouse a feeling that tingles on fearful. But, awe goes beyond fear into a territory I think of as wondrous; a word which in ancient times meant 'a strange or marvelous thing'.

Sometimes awe-inspiring wonder-filled happenings can wallop you for days. That's the way I'm feeling right now about something that happened recently in our community. Some friends were having problems with their health and they were falling woefully behind on the necessary fall tasks. Which is hard when you live a country lifestyle because weather doesn't care if you have your vegetables canned or your wood in the shed. Cold comes whether you are able to be prepared or not.

Unable to find help among their immediate friends in the timeframe needed (it *is* a busy time of year) they put out a Facebook post. Six people, strangers to each other, *and* to my friends, answered the call. Asking nothing for themselves except a chance to be of service these community members lightened their own lives by helping others. In a single day the necessary tasks got done.

That kind of willingness to serve awakens in me both awe and gratitude. I hope that we are not a unique community. I hope these kinds of selfless acts are going on all over the place, all the time. But, for me this was a wondrous and awe-inspiring moment. Not only did we help our neighbors, but we made friends with people outside our usual circle, people we'd never have met otherwise. What a gift.

What I want to say to everyone this month, when we are especially thinking of gratitude and thankfulness is: THANK YOU community for being so special. Thank you for creating a culture of helpfulness, open-heartedness and willingness to reach outside of our comfort zone and across community circles to embrace everyone. We are awesome and wondrous. And, I am grateful to live here. We should indulge our shared humanity and celebrate it every day, not just at Thanksgiving.

Work Hard, Forgive Often, Practice Gratitude



BCC Commodities/Food Pantry

Friday, November 21

Bridgeville BCC

10am - 4pm

Dinsmore Airport

9am - 11am

Blocksburg Town Hall

1:30pm - 3:30pm

Call BCC at 707 777-1775 for more information.



Community Pot Luck Lunch And Get Together

Second Thursday of the month

Thursday, November 13, 2025 11:00

Women's Gathering

Sunday, November 16, 1:00 - 3:00



Become a UC Master Food Preserver!

2026 UC Master Food Preserver Training Class for Humboldt / Del Norte Counties

This program shares research-based information about home food safety and preservation through classes, media, and outreach events led by our certified volunteers. Ready to join us?

More information on our website:

<https://ucanr.edu/county/ucce-humboldt-del-norte-counties/2026-mfp-training>

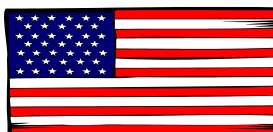
Applications are due by the end of
Wednesday, December 31, 2025.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Food Preserver Program

There may be peace without joy, and joy without peace, but the two combined make happiness. ~ John Buchan



Veteran's Day
November 11

"Dear MFP" (*Master Food Preserver*)

By Dottie Simmons



With the Holidays coming up fast many of us are thinking about gifts for family and friends. Food is always appreciated, and Flavored vinegars are an easy gourmet treat you can easily make now.

Flavored vinegars add excitement to special dishes and salad dressings. They are easy to prepare and are ready in 10 days to 4 weeks, depending on your taste.

Prepare vinegars in larger jars, then decant into decorative bottles when done.

Wash and sterilize the jars or bottles. Sterilize by boiling for 10 minutes covered in water. Wash and scald caps and leave in hot water until used. If using corks, dip in boiling water 3 -4 times.

If using herbs, use 3 to 4 sprigs per pint of vinegar. Use only the best, undamaged sprigs and leaves. Or substitute 3 Tablespoons of dried herbs.

If using fruits or vegetables, wash thoroughly. Raspberries, blackberries, strawberries, peaches, pears or citrus zest are favorites. They can be combined with spices and herbs such as cinnamon sticks or mint leaves. **Other flavors** include peeled garlic, green onion, peppercorns or jalapeño or other hot peppers.

Cut larger fruit or vegetables in smaller pieces and use **1 to 2 cups to 2 cups vinegar or the peel of one orange or lemon to 2 cups vinegar.**

Choose vinegar to match the flavor. White or white wine vinegars are best for delicate herbs.

Cider vinegar with fruits. Red wine vinegar with stronger herbs such as rosemary, and is an excellent base for salad dressings.

Place chosen flavoring in jar. Heat vinegar to just below boiling, around 190°-195°, and pour over ingredients, leaving 1/4" headspace. Wipe rims and attach lid tightly. Store, undisturbed, in a cool dark place at least 10 days before testing. Test by placing a few drops on plain white bread and taste.

When you like the flavor, strain through several layers of damp cheesecloth or a coffee filter. Repeat until the vinegar is clear, then bottle.

You can add a few clean berries or washed sprigs of fresh herbs to each bottle before sealing. Add a decorative label, including the date and it's a lovely gift!

Flavored vinegars keep in a cool, dark, place for up to 3 months. Refrigerating extends the quality for 6 to 8 months.

Two personal favorites are **Raspberry Vinegar**, made as directed above, wonderful in dressings for mixed greens or fruit, and **Lemon-dill Peppercorn**, made with the peel of 1 lemon, 4 sprigs of fresh dill and 1/2 teaspoon whole peppercorns. Excellent in salad dressings or seafood marinades.

Enjoy!

Note: See ad for UC Master Food Preserver Program



BRIDGEVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Our area allows us to burn our dried vegetation on approved days. Bridgeville is in Zone 1 and a non-standard (Residential) (Burning 1 to 10 acres of vegetation per year). A burn permit through the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District is \$65.

The permit has conditions - Burning is only permitted on a Permissive Burn Day (Call the Burn Day Hotline 866-287-6329); Burn no more than one pile at a time with the maximum size of 10 feet in diameter; Burn hours are 6am until one hour before sunset; Property size must be more than one half acre; Notify Fire Department prior to ignition (Bridgeville Cal Fire Station 707-777-3636, Cal Fire Dispatch 707-726-1280, Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Department 707-599-8048); Approved combustibles are dried vegetative matter burned only on the property where it is grown; A responsible person aged 18 or older shall be present at all times until such fire is completely extinguished; Maximum care must be taken to keep smoke from drifting into populated areas; This permit must be shown to a public officer or fire official upon request; Area within ten feet of the outer edge of the burn pile must be clear of all flammable material; Water supply must be present on-site and of sufficient capacity and volume to extinguish the fire at any time; All burning must comply with Federal, State, County, and local fire protection agency burn requirements; This permit does not authorize burning during periods when burning has been suspended, restricted, or otherwise prohibited: **No large stumps (greater than 16 inches); DO NOT burn wet or green vegetation; Burn sufficiently dried vegetation hot and clean; Smoldering fires should be extinguished; It is never legal to impact your neighbors with smoke, ash or odors; No Burn Barrels allowed.**

Note - There are timberland-related burn permits for over 10 acres, please refer to NCUAQMD and Cal Fire for permit conditions.

Word for word, this is a right from the NCUAQMD Non-Standard Burn Permit. Two big points from this through the eyes of the Fire Department - Burning at night will get you in trouble because it is against the rules of the burn permit and someone will call it in because they think someone's house is on fire. Please, don't smoke out your neighbors because they can call it in as a nuisance and the Fire Department can tell you to put it out. Burning unapproved materials, unattended and escaped burn piles may lead to fines through both the NCUAQMD and Cal Fire. Take care when you burn.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
Stay Warm, Stay Fire Safe

ARE WE CRAZY OR WHAT? (BACK TO THE LAND in our 70's and beyond)

Time has Wings

Whoosh. Time has flown by. From 2009, when we moved onto bare land, till about 5 years ago our bodies were young, our minds were sharp, our ambitions were high....and it was easy to work the phone. Then....bang, those proclivities began to dawdle. It doesn't mean we have beginnings of dementia but that we are just getting older and things are different.

LIKE...

From DIY building the cabin, the woodshed, the barn, the equipment shed and the permanent greenhouse in the first 10 years...to wondering who could help us build a little shed for the clothes washer.

From using our chain saws to buck wood, using our axe to split the wood ...to asking others to help us buck the wood (we can now split hydraulically and still stack).

From rising at dawn to do our exercises before the start of the day...to sleeping in late and not having time to exercise. (This is planned exercise, not work exercise)

From flipping open our phone and having reception to call out...to having to pay Musk for his Wi-Fi so we have that reception again.

From Calling people or looking at posters at the post office...to having to become adept at social media in order to see what's going on.

From each of us having four good arms and legs, and having good backs...to one arm, one hip, one knee, possible another knee and two backs out of whack.

From growing and harvesting many vegetables and fruits to can for the year...to par-boiling, then using food saver containers to freeze a few vegetables and fruits.

From rows and rows of vegetables...to just a few (see above for knee and back out of whack)

From going to town to do errands, shop and visit friends all in one day...to skipping the friends and some errands due to brain slowdown, body exhaustion – saving enough energy to drive back home.

From having lots of free time to watch educational videos, taking a poetry class online, a painting class, writing a letter, phoning friends and relatives ...to very little down time because it takes so long to do all the things we have to do.

And at the end of the day, our meals have become simpler as we watch Netflix for *Someone Feed Phil*, or *The Great British Baking Show*, or *Jeff Dunham*.

Though time has changed us; giving us less energy, less strength to do what we have to do or want to do, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. We have more time to be together.

Kate McCay and Lyn Javier
TwoCrones Ranch, Larabee Valley

Community

Facts & Faces

2025 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Every year our Bridgeville Community Center puts on a dinner to celebrate the volunteers who have put in their ideas, time and efforts to further our Center's success.

Our volunteers have helped in the office, helped with BridgeFest, helped with commodities and helped serve our neighbors at community dinners, events and forums...plus much more.

We appreciate every one of our volunteers who have been there for us throughout the years.

2025 Awards were presented. The Randy Krahn Extraordinary BridgeFest Volunteer award was given to Lauri Rose. The Bridgeville Community Center Volunteer of the Year award went to Julie Stephens. The BCC volunteer award was given to Haylee Gaston. Plus, Sarah Bender won the Lena Fuller Beautiful Blanket!



Let's Party!!



Thank You

THANK YOU SPONSORS for making the newsletter possible.

Bridgeville Community Center is a Federal non-profit organization. Please consider donating to support the newsletter and the community center.

To be a sponsor for this newsletter, please send a contribution of \$25 or more to BCC, or through our website via paypal:

Bridgeville Community Newsletter
P. O. Box 3, Bridgeville, CA 95526

For Information, contact BCC at (707) 777-1775



326 I Street Eureka, CA 95501
707-444-3044

The Mad Group - Invites you to join us!!

When: Sundays @ 2:00 - 3 pm

Where: Lars Lane off Van Duzen Rd
(new meeting place)



Mad River Community Breakfast

Van Duzen Hall, Mad River
8am - 11am, First Sunday



Bridgeville Trading Post

What to be a STAR? - EMT classes starting in January. Southern Trinity Area Rescue (STAR) is needing volunteers for the volunteer ambulances service. Please call Brooke at 707-574-6616 ext. 2090.

Volunteer Firefighters Wanted- The Bridgeville, Mad River, and Ruth Volunteer Fire Departments are looking for volunteers. The house they save may be yours or your neighbors. Contact them directly to sign up. Bridgeville Fire: 707-599-8048, Mad River Fire: 707-574-6536

From the Editor: *A short note of thanks to our regular columnists, Laurie Rose who was writing here since the beginning 30 years ago; Kate McCay and Lyn Javier, the two crones from Larabee Valley; and Dottie Simmons, our local master food preserver. They all volunteer monthly to share spirits, information and craziness that feeds our community. Mucho Thanks, Attila*



November Community Calendar Weekly

- **Art Class with Ted** - Wednesdays, 10am
- **Craft Faire**, Mad River Hall, Nov 1, 9-4
- **BVFD Meeting** - Tuesday, November 4
- **BCC Board Meeting** - Thursday, November 6, 3:30
- **BVFD Training** - Saturday, November 8, 10am-2pm
- **Bookmobile**- Tuesday, November 11, 10:30 -12 noon
- **Veteran's Lunch** - Tuesday, November 11, 12 noon - 2pm
- **Community Pot Luck**, Thursday, November 13, 11:00
- **VDWFSC Meeting** - Thursday, November 13, 5:30pm
- **Bridgeville CERT Meeting** - Sunday, November 16, 9:30am
- **Women's Gathering** - Sunday, November 16, 1pm - 4pm
- **Pantry Day** - Friday, November 21
- **THANKGIVING** - Thursday, November 27
- **Bridgeville Community Center Closed** Thursday and Friday, November 27 & 28

Happy Thanksgiving to All

Bridgeville Community Newsletter
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BCC.

**JOYFUL
THANKS**

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Don't start Smoking. Save money and save your health. Call 1 (800) NO BUTTS			Art Class 10am Wednesdays ↓			1 HTRA Craft Faire Mad River Hall 9am-4pm
	2  FALL BACK	3	5 	6 BCC Board meeting 3:30	7	8 Fire Dept training
9	10 Fire District Meeting	11 Veteran's Lunch, noon Bookmobile	12	13 Community Potluck, 11:00 BES Board Meeting	14	15
16 Bridgeville CERT 9:30 Women's Gathering 1- 4	17	18	19	20	21 USDA Pantry: - BCC 10am-4pm - Dinsmore Airport, 9:00 am-11 - Blocksburg 1:30	22
23	24	25	26	27 	28 BCC Closed	29 
30						 SAY NO TO PLASTIC

WEEKLY: Tuesday - Friday 9am - 4pm

Mondays: BCC CLOSED

Art with Ted - Weekly - Wednesdays 10am

BCC Board Meeting first Thursday of the month.

NOTE: BCC closed November 27&28

www.BridgevilleCommunityCenter.org

HOW TO CONTACT US

You can call us at 707-777-1775. Email us at BridgevilleCommunityCenter@gmail.com

Or come to our office located on Kneeland Rd at the Bridgeville School.

Visit us on facebook - Bridgeville Community Center

Or come to the Community Pot Luck lunch.