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October 2020



Mendocino Coast's **Lighthouse Peddler**

The Best Original Writing, plus the Guide
to Art, Music, Events, Theater, Film,
Books, Poetry and Life on the Coast

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Democracy

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• More Coal & Pollution
• Nuclear & Fossil Fuels •
Restrict Womens Rights •
End Social Security . . .

Autocracy

→

**It's Decision Time.
Please Register! Please Vote!**

For those wondering why this is the cover story of a monthly newspaper that focuses on local events, the answer is simple. Election Day is coming, and as many have already stated, no election in our various lifetimes is more important than this one. It's clearly an event, and regardless of which side of the presidential debate you're on, it's important that you vote. In our opinion, the current president has not earned a second term. He has lied 20,000 times. He misled the public on multiple occasions about the nature and danger of the Corona Virus. He called . . . *Cont'd on page 13.*

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Arena Theater and
MET Opera Present
Two PPV Concerts in HD
Anna Netrebko • Oct 10
Diana Damrau & Joseph Calleja • Oct 24

The Metropolitan Opera's pay-per-view series featuring opera's biggest stars performing in striking locations around the world continues in October.

The MET Opera has been a high-demand ticket since Arena Theater began carrying the operas more than a decade ago. The opera stars continue to shine and these are performances created with the same great stars and focus on quality that opera lovers have come to expect from the MET.

Each concert is scheduled for a Saturday at 10:00am local time. However, after pur-



chasing your PPV ticket you can watch each concert again (and again) for 12 days. Just click the link in the confirmation email and enjoy the performance. Here are the October concerts:

• **October 10:** No artist has provided more can't-miss moments in recent Met memory, and megastar soprano **Anna Netrebko** (pictured above) promises to add another one with this live performance. Audiences can expect hair-raising excerpts from some of her signature roles, as well as exciting selections that she's never before performed with the company.

• **October 24, 10:00am.** **Diana Damrau and Joseph Calleja**, both longtime Met audience favorites known for holding nothing back onstage, are sure to pull out all the stops for this performance. This outstanding soprano-tenor pairing presents a program of popular arias and duets, broadcast live from a spectacular 16th-century cathedral on the beautiful isle of Malta.

A link for the PPV tickets for the concerts is at ArenaTheater.Org. When you sit back and get ready to watch the concert, give some thought to Arena Theater. The MET retains 100% of the money for these MET PPV performances. You can help Arena Theater by clicking on the donate button at ArenaTheater.org.

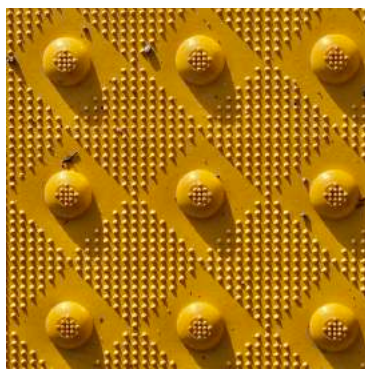
Coast Highway Art Collective • Photography & Glass
A New Exhibit • Opens October 3

The Coast Highway Art Collective in Point Arena is hosting an opening reception for a new exhibit featuring the visual poetry through photography of Geraldine LiaBraaten and the glass works of Colette Coad. The reception is on Saturday, October 3, from noon to 6:00pm.



By extending the hours of the opening, guests, the artists and the staff can better adhere to social distancing guidelines. Under the current guidelines, 4 guests at a time will be allowed inside to view the exhibit. Guests will be encouraged to social distance on the open-air patio until space opens inside the building. Please note, face-masks are required.

This year marks LiaBraaten's golden anniversary as a photographer. Over the years, she has worked with media assignments of newsworthy events, stock photography, outdoor art fairs, gallery exhibits and nonprofit fundraisers. She has an instantly recognizable style by the use of color, diagonals, pattern and "oddness." Her work has evolved from large panoramas to small semi-abstracts. The element of surprise, plus recognition and discovery, moves the viewer from "What the heck IS that?" to "Aha!" LiaBraaten invites the viewer to have as much fun with the images as she has. "I don't do darkroom work or image manipulation, not out of any purist mindset



but because I have no patience with technology, nor interest in changing my images. What I saw through the viewfinder is what you get in the image," says LiaBraaten.

Eight years ago, Coad took a glass fusing class and fell in love. "Glass has always intrigued and fascinated me. I think the dichotomy of it being both dangerous and fragile while being so beautiful is captivating. I love the way it looks in different light and the almost endless combinations of col-

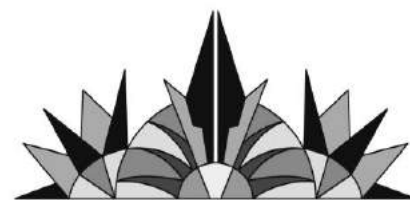
ors and even textures that can be created," says the artist.

Coad had a very busy and fulfilling career in management consulting. She traveled extensively in North America and Europe while raising her family with her husband. Although she loved what she did and it offered many creative opportunities, she felt none of those opportunities were artistic. And then, in retirement, she discovered glass. "I had never thought of myself as an artist," says Coad. "I have never taken an 'art' class. Over the last eight years I have taken many glass classes that focus primarily on technique. I think I have found my 'inner artist.' The Mendocino area offers so many opportunities to explore and discover what will unleash your inner artist. Last March when Covid19 started impacting everything we do I wondered if anyone would ever see any of the pieces I planned for the show in October. I wondered if the show would even take place. I decided that



I would create pieces for myself and that is what I did. It was very freeing."

The Coast Highway Art Collective is regularly open Thursday through Sunday from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Selected artwork by Collective members and guest artists are on display in the gallery's front courtyard. The gallery is located at 284 Main Street, Point Arena, the little red building next door to the Redwood Credit Union. More information is available at www.coast-highway-artists.com



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Our thanks to October contributors Rozann Grunig, mai haiku, Mitch McFarland, Blake More, Tom Murphy, Mary Jane Schramm, David Steffen, Karin Uphoff, Hannah Weinberger from Crosscut, and Jennifer Bort Yacovissi.

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"Through eighty six years of perpetual motion,"
if he likes you, he'll smile and he'll say,
"some of it's magic, and some of it's tragic,
but I had a good life all the way"

From "He Went To Paris" by Jimmy Buffet

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"Every heart sings a song, incomplete, until another heart whispers back. Those who wish to sing always find a song. At the touch of a lover, everyone becomes a poet."

Plato (428-348 BC)

Third Thursday Poetry Zoom made possible by the Arena Theater and continues to be supported by Poets & Writers, Inc. through a grant it has received from The James Irvine Foundation.

Berkeley Poet Abe Becker Featured Virtually At

3rd Thursday Poetry October 15

The Arena Theater and Point Arena Third Thursday Poetry present a virtual Third Thursday Zoom Poetry reading at 7:00pm on Thursday, October 15. This month features Berkeley poet Abe Becker, with open mic to follow. To watch or participate as an open mic reader, please email blake@snakelyone.com.

Abe Becker, AKA The Poet Laureate of Awkward, is known for writing and performance that is equal parts vulnerable, morbid, and silly. He hopes that by depicting heavy subjects like grief, clinical depression, and disability with levity he can encourage honesty in himself and others that will hopefully spur positive change.

Abe has a background in music and theater, and began to give poetry the most attention in the Bay Area slam poetry scene around 2007. He has been a five time member of the city of Berkeley's poetry slam team, winning group piece finals at the National Poetry Slam in '09, and in 2018 becoming Berkeley's grand slam champion. He was also grand slam champion of UC Berkeley, where he represented the university nationally as poet three times and coach three times; he made the finals of CUPSI, (collegiate nationals), three times.

Some of Abe's recent publications include: Juked, Fourteen Hills, Fifth Wednesday Journal, After Happy Hour Review, CLAM, Sweet Wolverine, Drunk In A Midnight Choir, The East Bay Review, The Oakland Review, Sparkle + Blink, and Be About it Zine. He has read his poems and led workshops in homeless shelters, retreat centers, k-12 schools and Universities, Libraries, theaters, pubs, house parties, BART, and wherever else seemed important.

Abe works, and writes about working, as a caregiver (primarily for quadriplegic people), a pet sitter, and a poetry instructor. He is better with animals than people but through therapy, writing, and various woowoo Bay Area tactics, he hopes to bridge the gap. Regardless though, he hopes to grow as a poet every day, creating what feels authentic and helpful to himself and audiences, and that his writing is generally equal parts fun and sad. Abe also hosts and curates Get Lit, Nomadic Press' monthly new work series in Oakland.

Abe's writing is a hybrid between theater and poetry. He loves mixing genres of art and has a background in singing and drumming, so reading poems with musicians is one of his favorite things.

Here's a caregiving poem published in Juked:
<http://juked.com/2019/08/abe-becker-my-boss-prefers-a-euphemism-to-the-term-sex-toy.asp>

"My Valuables—What Really Matters?" Opens October 2 An Interactive Community Exhibit at Gualala Arts

Gualala Arts Center reopens in October with a new exhibit and a unique opportunity for visitors. The exhibit, opening October 2 in the Elaine Jacob Foyer and Burnett Gallery, is titled "My Valuables—What Really Matters?."



It's a new, personal and interactive exhibit curated by Holly Stiel. This show will combine a variety of art forms and take visitors on an inspiring journey through the artists' ideas of

what is valuable, via these disparate mediums, personal collections and recollections.

Stepping inside Gualala Arts Center, visitors will come face to face with the interactive exhibit planned for the Elaine Jacob Foyer. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own memories to share during this exhibit, and sharing is simple. Bring an image and a description (or short personal story) on a half-sheet of paper or (preferably) on a 5"x7" card. These personal memories will be tacked to the walls of the Jacob Foyer, to be shared with everyone who comes through the exhibit. After posting your memory and enjoying the posted memories of others, take time to explore the sculptures, photography and paintings in the Burnett Gallery.

"My Valuables" brings art inspired by the devastating, destructive and distressing aftermaths of fires, floods and various catastrophes. The artists take a deep look at what matters, and what is ultimately valuable. The show explores the meaning we attach to our "stuff" through the memories and stories we have attached to those things.

Peg Videtta's sculptures are inspired by the figure. Her spatial awareness and love



of form stem from decades of ballet, mod-

ern dance and the study of physics. In this exhibit Videtta has taken loss and given it new meaning and new life. Like a phoenix rising she has transformed what was burnt into something new sparking hope and contemplation.

The sculptures, like a phoenix literally rising from the ashes, bring new life to what was lost. The goal of the exhibit is for each person to embark on their own personal journey, imagining their own unique valuables, and it is an opportunity to reflect on what is important in these times of ever-present climate-caused adversities.



Bill Apton has been taking photographs most of his life. Over the years he has amassed a very large body of work covering subjects from Americana to coastal California to nature, still life, portraits, and travel (both in the United States and around the



When our daughter was born in 1988 a good friend presented us with this gift for Caitie. While I could not imagine a sterling silver baby rattle, my friend Bob probably thought he covered 2 needs with one gift. First, Bob knew the many twists and turns of our emotional rollercoaster over the more than half-dozen years we waited for our adopted daughter. Second, he instinctively knew that the noise made by her playing with a metal-on-metal baby rattle would drive us crazy. He was right on both counts. We've come to appreciate the tarnished silver color and all of the dents as wonderful parts of the memory.
David & Dolly Steffen

world). The curiosity that drives Apton is evident in much of his work, as is his devotion to capturing strong, vibrant images in a style that his wife, Holly Stiel, describes as "masterful: graphic, humorous and bold."

Adding an even more personal touch, a video with music has been created by artist, writer, poet and curator Holly Stiel, along with composer Jana Stanfield.

Holly Stiel, a Gualala resident, is a Poet, Performance Artist, Author, Speaker and entrepreneur. She brings a love of words, storytelling, and a deep heartfelt connection to relationships on all levels that has allowed this show to come to fruition.

The exhibit continues through Sunday, November 10.

Arena Theater's Have-A-Seat Campaign Goes Green With A Refocus On Solar Loan

The Arena Theater Association announced that its 2015 "Have-A-Seat" campaign to pay off a \$155,000 mortgage, succeeded in July of this year. "We're thrilled that we reached our goal and thank all our supporters who have contributed to this campaign," said board member Steven Archer. "The Have-A-Seat campaign will now go green and refocus on paying off the loan for our solar system."

While the mortgage has been paid off, there are still some seats remaining, and the Arena Theater board has decided to refocus the campaign to help pay off its solar loan and to help minimize energy costs. A seat will still be \$1,000 and donors will receive a plaque with a name of their choice.

The 50-panel solar system, installed on the theater roof in 2016 by local company Pete and Sun, with electrical work done by Randy Kolosick, has reduced the theater's monthly electrical bill from \$700 to \$100. The price tag for the \$75,000 project also included costs for an entirely new roof cladding by Cortland Roofing. "Paying off the solar loan will save the theater up to \$6,000 dollars a year," said former board member Mitch McFarland.

"And we have the first donor to our solar campaign, thank you!" announced Brabara Pratt. Long-time theater member and volunteer Linda Reno, whose husband Danny tragically passed away a few months ago, mailed in a \$1,000 check in honor of Danny.

Donations to the solar campaign can be made by going to the Arena Theater website, www.arenatheater.org/support/have-a-seat/ or by calling the office at 707 882-3272 for more information. Located at 214 Main Street, Point Arena, California, Arena Theater is a member-supported community theater owned and operated as a 501 (c) (3) not for profit corporation. For additional information visit ArenaTheater.Org.

Get Registered! The Coast Community Library Will Help You Get Ready To Vote.

As you may have noticed from the cover story there's an election coming up (and if not, check out the cover story). This is an important election on November 3 and everyone needs to vote!

To help everyone be ready to vote in November, our Coast Community Library is providing voter information and voter registration forms. Although the library is closed (except for returns and curbside pickup), voter information brochures as well as registration forms are available in a rack near the entrance to Coast Community Library, 225 Main Street, Point Arena, Monday through Friday, 10:00am to 5:00pm. Forms for both



Mendocino and Sonoma County residents will be available (and also for "all counties".) It's worth giving this some thought even if you believe you are already registered. (Note: voters will need to re-register if [a] you change your name, or [b] change your address, or [c] change your political party affiliation. Online voter registration is also available at <https://registertovote.ca.gov/> People can also register by completing a paper voter registration form and mailing or hand delivering it to a county elections official.

- Election day is Tuesday, November 3.
- Deadline to register online to vote is Monday, October 19.
- Deadline for registering by mail to vote is (postmarked by) Monday, October 19.
- Deadline to register in person to vote is Tuesday, November 3.
- All registered voters will automatically be mailed a vote-by-mail ballot for the November 3 General Election.
- The early voting period runs from Monday, October 5 to Monday, November 2 but dates and hours may vary based on where you live.
- Local County Registrar for Mendocino County: (707) 234-6819. Sonoma County: (707) 565-6800 or Toll Free: (800) 750-8683.

Thanks to our local library and librarian Julia Larke. She can be reached at (707) 882-3114 larkej@mendocinocounty.org.

Registration Opens For The Flynn Creek Circus October Childrens' Camp

Flynn Creek Circus, a favorite summer coastal visitor, will not be touring this year but they have a special opportunity for children: a Covid-safe children's camp this Halloween! Fun, challenging, physical activity with all safety protocols incorporated. Kids will have room to play and learn in the colorful big top with the guidance of the professional circus staff. This limited enrollment workshop will train students in aerial arts, tight-wire and acrobatics while working to each student's level. Two sessions are set for October at Friendship Park, 998 School Street in Mendocino, under the Flynn Creek Circus big top tent.

Beginning-to-advanced level students between the ages of 9 to 15 are welcome to



explore circus arts in the ample space. Students will receive in-depth instruction from highly qualified performers in this limited enrollment format. The workshop will culminate in an end of workshop recital for the kids to show off what they've learned. Open-air canopy space and the use of face shields, sanitation and physical distance are some of the extensive protocols in place to keep children and staff safe while enjoying their activities. A complete list of the Pathogen Spread Prevention protocols can be found on the Flynn Creek Circus website and registration page. The recital performance is free admission. Seat reservations are required and limited. Online registration is open now at flynncreekcircus.com.

Session I is October 26-28, 1:30pm to 5:00pm each day, with a recital on Wednesday the 28th from 3:00pm to 4:00pm.

Session II is October 29-31, from 1:30pm to 5:00pm (Th. & Fr.), 11:00am to 2:30pm (Sa.). Recital on the 31st at 1:30pm.

Enrollment fees are \$300/session. Proceeds benefit Circus Mentors Inc 501C3. Limited scholarships are available. Direct any scholarship inquiries to circusmentors@gmail.com. We recommend early registration to guarantee placement. Information and registration is at FlynnCreekCircus.Com.



Gualala Arts
SINCE 1961
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46501 Old State Hwy
Gualala, CA 95445

GUALALA ARTS CENTER OPENS!

New Exhibit at Gualala Arts "My Valuables" What Really Matters A Community Event, Opens Friday, Oct. 2, 11 am - 7 pm

New Exhibit at Dolphin Gallery "Textiles, Drawings and Clay"

**Jennie Henderson
Mike Henderson
Opens Saturday, October 3
11 am - 7 pm
At Dolphin Gallery
Cypress Village, Gualala**

While at the Dolphin, pick up some Sees Candies!



BAKU: Live Virtual Concert Rescheduled for Sunday, October 11 at 4 pm. Find the link and make a donation at GualalaArts.Org.

Make Plans to visit Gualala Arts in October for "Take A Treasure, Leave A Donation." Look through Coleman Hall and Find Something You Like!

Please note: face masks are required and social distancing will be the norm, with a limited number of people allowed in all public spaces.

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Solution to Crossword:

Full Moon



October 1

New Moon



October 16

"Raiders of The Lost Ark" is the next Drive-in Movie at Arena Theater. October 10, 2020, at 8:00pm. Information at 707-882-3272.

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Arena Theater Presents Six More Films For Streaming in October *RBG, Once Upon A River, Conviction, 12 Hour Shift, White Riot, Native Son*

While we continue to spend more time at home, Arena Theater presents six more films that you can screen online at home (or anywhere, actually), with ticket purchases that benefit Arena Theater. So get comfortable and select one or more movies to watch this month and know that each film purchased through the Arena Theater website will benefit Arena Theater. The films will stream to your home on your computer or tablet, via Chromecast, through the Kino Now app on Roku, and on AppleTV.

"RBG", directed by Betsy West & Julie Cohen is a 2018 release, and as David Fear (in Rolling Stone) added in their review, "You may love or hate her, bad-mouth her or bow down to her. But you have to recognize the impact that Ruth Bader Ginsburg has made to the fabric of our country." The late U.S. Supreme Court Justice had a lengthy legal legacy while becoming an unexpected pop culture icon. But the unique personal journey of her rise to the nation's highest court has been largely unknown, even to some of her biggest fans—until now. The film "RBG" explores Ginsburg's life and career and was co-produced by Storyville Films and CNN Films. It will be available to stream through October 8.

Also available now is "Native Son". Directed by Rashid Johnson and written by Suzan-Lori Parks (adaptation) and Richard Wright (based on his novel), the film features Ashton Sanders, Margaret Qualley, and Nick Robinson. The storyline has a young African-American living in Chicago entering a seductive new world of money and power after he is hired as a chauffeur for an affluent businessman. Reviewers have consistently praised the film and its young cast. "Native Son" has a runtime of 104

minutes, and is available to stream through October 8.

A third film available now is "Conviction". Starring Marina Fois and Olivier Gourmet, the film is based on true events, fictionalized here. The focuses on Nora (Fois). Since Nora attended the trial of Jacques Viguier, accused of the murder of his wife, she is convinced of his innocence. She



Clockwise from top left: "Conviction", "Once Upon A River", "12 Hour Shift", "White Riot", "Native Son", and "RBG".

convinces a tenor of the bar, Maître Eric Dupond-Moretti (Gourmet) to defend him for his second trial, on appeal. The film is in French, and has runtime of 110 minutes, and is available through October 8.

"12 Hour Shift" is a 2020 American black comedy-thriller, written and directed by Brea Grant and starring Angela Bettis, Kit Williamson, and David Arquette. Bettis plays Mandy, a drug-addicted nurse involved in a black market organ-trading scheme. Bodies start to pile up when Mandy and her cousin try to find a replacement kidney for an organ trafficker. The film also features music composed by Matt Glass. The film has a runtime of 86 minutes and is available to stream through October 15. The subject matter suggests this film is not for children.

Haroula Rose's 2019 feature film, "Once Upon A River" is available to stream this month. Reviewer Danielle Solzman wrote,

"Bonnie Joe Campbell's novel comes to the big screen in this well-made feature. Margo Crane (Kenadi DelaCerna, making her feature debut) is a Native American teenager living in rural 1970s Michigan. What drives the teen in this coming-of-age story is the search for her estranged mother (Lindsay Pulsipher). As Margo goes on this journey, she utilizes what she's been taught by her father (Tatanka Mean). . . . Charlotte Hornsby's cinematography is stunning to say the least." The film is available to stream through October 15.

For a complete change of pace is 2019's "White Riot", a film also known as "Rock Against Racism". As Chris Waywell reviewed in Time Out, "White Riot' is seen as part of punk, but its real background is a 1970s Britain where white megastars like Rod Stewart, David Bowie and Eric Clapton could blithely endorse extremist views while the primetime BBC ran blackface variety shows . . ." "White Riot" blends fresh interviews with queasy archive footage to recreate a hostile environment of anti-immigrant hysteria and National Front marches. As neo-Nazis recruited the nation's youth, RAR's multicultural punk and reggae gigs provided rallying points for resistance. Running time is 80 minutes. The film is available to stream from October 16-29, 2020.

Once you've decided on a film (or all six), go to ArenaTheater.org, and click on the ticket price. This will take you to the film distributor's website where you can purchase your "ticket", and that purchase will help support Arena Theater. The theater also provides a detailed page of FAQs to make your streaming event a little more stress-free. More information is at ArenaTheater.org.

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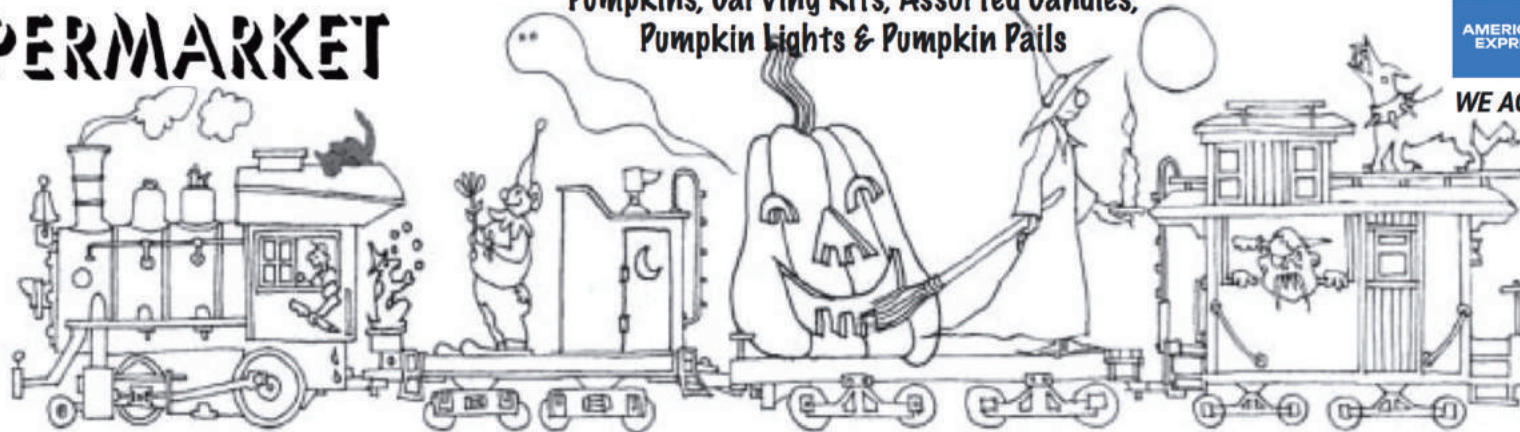
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Words on Wellness • "Gathering Seeds"

by Karin Uphoff

As I walk along Big River on a sparkling early autumn morning, the splashes of an otter family can be heard, as they slide down the muddy banks and tease each other into the water. Otter parents use play to teach their juveniles the serious business of how to feed themselves on fish, frogs and crayfish. Fall is a busy season for most temperate species whether migrating long distances or gathering and caching food. Humans get busy canning and drying summer produce or winter-proofing home before hoped-for winter rains come, and otters remind us of the importance of play. Integrating play into your day can boost emotional well-being, your creative process, healthy bonding, and getting things done in a joyful spirit.

I'm here gathering seeds, this time those of wild fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*). The stalks are well over my head, and dried out, but their sweet scent of food and medicine carries down the trail. Fennel seed is an excellent addition to salads, curries, fish, and baking. For cooking and tea you can pick the dried or nearly dried seed heads and put them in a paper bag until fully dry. Then shake the heads and pull off the seeds catch-



ing them in the bag. Pour your catch into a bowl to sort out any unwanted material and store in a glass container.

Fennel seed is one of the most effective and pleasant digestive aids. Making a tea (simmer it for extra strength) or adding it to cooking, can reduce digestive cramping, gas and bloating. The volatile oils contained in the seed stimulate mucus membranes in the digestive tract, encouraging motility and peristalsis while also being antispasmodic to smooth muscle. The tincture or tea is effective for treating intestinal spasms that result from conditions like irritable bowel, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease and leaky gut. Fennel tea is a favorite for nursing mothers trying to stimulate milk production and its digestive relief passes through breast milk, reducing infant colic. Fennel can relieve nausea, aiding recovery from stomach flu, food poisoning and hangovers. It is often added to formulas that address liver stagnation. The still-green seeds can be tinctured in a solution of glycerin and vodka for a month – play around by adding fresh ginger, peppermint and orange peel for a tasty and effective formula to ease indigestion.

Karin C. Uphoff, is a Master Herbalist, Iridologist, Bodyworker and author of

Botanical Body Care: Herbs and Natural Healing for Your Whole Body. Learn more at: www.karinuphoff.com

California Gull: "From Mono Lake To Utah"

Birders don't use the term "sea gull" because many gulls spend most of their lives far from the ocean.

The California Gull breeds around Mono Lake, but spends so much of its time in Utah that it's the state bird. A Salt Lake City monument honors California Gulls because the birds twice saved crops of Mormon settlers from grasshopper plagues.

It takes four years for California Gulls

to attain adult plumage. Adults have gray backs, show white spots on their black wing tips; their feet and legs are greenish-gray. Bills have black spots on the lower mandibles. Breeding adults have clean white heads, and narrow red rings around dark eyes, and they add a red spot to the black on the bills. First winter California Gulls



are dark brown with black-tipped pink bills and pink legs.

California Gulls are common migrants and winter visitors. They feed at lakes, marshes, agricultural fields, estuaries, cities, garbage dumps, and at sea. They will feed on the surface for small fish. On land, they eat bugs, carrion, and eggs and young of other birds. In summer, when they move inland, they are considered an aid to farmers because they eat grasshoppers, cutworms and mice.

California Gulls nest on islands in fresh water or alkaline lakes. They make nests of sticks, weeds, rubbish and feathers. The pair incubates three darkly blotched eggs for 25 days and both feed the young.

Our thanks to the Mendocino Coast Audubon Society for contributing this article about the Fox Sparrow. Each month, the Lighthouse Peddler features another bird regularly seen at or near the Mendocino Coast.

More information is at www.mendocinocoastaudubon.org. California Gull image by Gabe Raggio from Pixabay.

A Single Net Could Save Puget Sound's 'Problem Animals'

By Hannah Weinberger • hannah.weinberger@crosscut.com

Washington Fish and Wildlife officers have had to resort to some strange alternatives to save large carnivores like bears and cougars.

July 7, 2020

It was a classic "orphaned-bear-cub-in-a-tree" situation, says Capt. Alan Myers, head of wildlife enforcement with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for North Puget Sound.

Some years ago, Myers and his partner tracked a black bear cub to a tree; it had been sighted and reported by concerned citizens. Removing large carnivores like bears and cougars typically requires a special high-strength tarp that attaches to a tree base to catch a tranquilized animal, but Myers and his partner didn't have one. With four or five cameras from media organizations filming, the wildlife officers decided to improvise with a regular tarp, thinking it would be strong enough to hold the cub's weight.

"He fell down about 50 feet, and shot right through — just ripped right through that tarp and hit the ground really hard," Myers recalls. "I just remember thinking, 'What a calamity to have occurred.' I was horrified that we were not able to save that animal and give it a future because we just didn't have the tool available."

As Puget Sound's urban development encroaches farther into bear and cougar habitat, more people are reporting "problem" wildlife encounters, Myers says. That can include sightings, injured animals, or aggressive behavior. Because apex predators are important to forest ecosystems, killing or euthanizing them is less optimal than deterring them with nonlethal scare tactics (like dogs) or removing them nonlethally.

But for years, Myers has had limited access to that essential, high-strength tarp. The six-county region has only one specialized catch net. At about 50 pounds, it's light enough to carry through a forest, but strong enough to withstand the weight of a knocked-out mammal and catch it 6 feet above the ground without collapsing. Myers estimates that catch nets improve his officers' chances of safe removal by 90%. "You don't have that net available, and you're taking big chances," he says.

The nets can last 10 or more years, mainly because they aren't used very often. "Sometimes it is years between deployment, but you have to have them on hand in case the need arises," says WDFW's Sgt. Kim Chandler. It

can take hours for officers to get to the nearest net, often when time is of the essence.

But on June 22, WDFW secured funding from the Mountain Lion Foundation for a new, tailor-made catch net, costing \$2,700 and currently being built by Washington Tent and Awning. The lone net is used primarily for bear removals in King County, while the new net will be deployed for both cougar and bear removal in Snohomish, Skagit and Whatcom counties. Employees and wildlife advocates say the agency has been grossly underfunded, so it often pursues grants from hunting and conservation groups instead, Myers says.

For Myers, the catch net couldn't come soon enough. "The number [of sightings] seems to be swelling each year. ... It wasn't

logistically feasible for us to deploy that one net way outside of certain areas, because we knew we were going to need something to backfill it," says Myers, who has been involved in about 15 nonlethal cougar re-



movements and three or four times as many bear removals in his 20 years on the force. He says Whatcom and northern Skagit counties were hotspots for sightings last year. But the number of sightings doesn't necessarily indicate anything about the size of cougar or bear populations.

"While it may seem that cougar encounters are increasing, we must realize that the human population in Washington has grown from 4.1 million in 1980 to 7.6 million in 2018," a recent WDFW pamphlet explains. "That, coupled with the growing popularity of outdoor recreation, especially high-speed sports like mountain biking and trail running, means more people are passing through cougar habitat, yet cougars are almost never seen."

But when a cougar killed a cyclist in North Bend in 2018, Myers says people were "spooked" for a long time. Cougars spotted on Mercer and Vashon islands over the past few years also drew fear and fascination. A current legislative House bill would override a 1996 law banning hunters from using hounds to hunt cougars by providing for a small pilot hound-hunting program, and the state Fish and Wildlife Commission voted to increase the number of cougars people are allowed ...

Continued on page 9

“Textile, Drawing and Clay” at Dolphin Gallery and Gift Shop

New Exhibit featuring the works of Jennie Henderson and Mike Henderson Opens October 3

The Dolphin Gallery and Gift Shop presents two artists and longtime residents this month, Mike and Jennie Henderson. The exhibit, “Textiles, Drawing and Clay,” opens Saturday, October 3, from 11:00am to 7:00pm at the new Dolphin Gallery in Cypress Village, Gualala. The show will continue into November.

Local residents since 1977, Mike Henderson (drawings and clay) and Jennie Henderson (textiles) will be showing a wide sampling of the art they have created in their three-studio home in Point Arena. While this will be Jennie Henderson’s fourth Dol-

phin exhibit, it will be the Henderson’s second Dolphin showing together since 2014. In their October/November show, Jennie Henderson will feature a breadth of textile arts including hand-spun, hand-woven



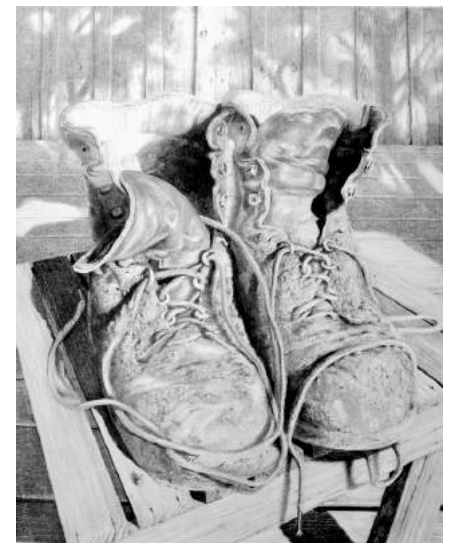
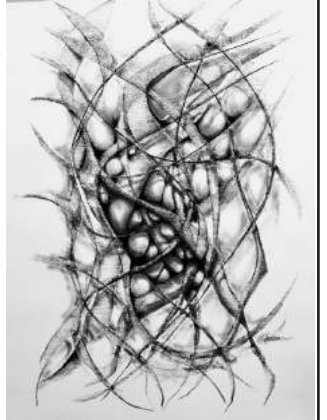
rugs and throws along with ice-dyed napkin sets, dishtowels, and silk scarves. And for the first time, she will be showing large, “transparent weave” pieces.

Michael Henderson will be showing several new works from his drawing studio that combine abstraction and realism in a developing “Sticks and Stones” series, along with a few of his favorites, and a few oldies from his collection that have never been shown. There will be pottery pieces as well, both black fired and pit-fired ceramics in several sizes.

This year many area artists missed the dynamic of the annual Studio Discovery Tour, which brought visitors into the artists’ studios and homes. Mike Henderson added “Since we truly missed our Studio Discovery Tour loyal visitors, Jennie and I hope that they will visit the Dolphin Gallery exhibit and see ‘the real stuff.’”

The Dolphin Gallery is at 39114 Ocean Drive, Cypress Village, Gualala.

Open Thursday through Monday, 11:00am to 4:00pm. Information is at 707-884-3896 and at GualalaArts.org/dolphin-gallery. This exhibit featuring Jennie and Mike Henderson—“Textile, Drawing and Clay”—will continue through November 30.



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 with the light shining
 out of its soul.”
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phin exhibit, it will be the Henderson’s second Dolphin showing together since 2014.

In their October/November show, Jennie Henderson will feature a breadth of textile arts including hand-spun, hand-woven

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Mendonoma Health Alliance Announces A Self-Management Workshop • Begins October 1

This month, Mendonoma Health Alliance (MHA) will once again offer the Self-Management Workshop. MHA is once again offering a Self-Management Workshop for people with Chronic Conditions. It is free (as in no-charge) and your commitment is taking the time to attend each one of the weekly classes.

This special series of classes is based on the Stanford University Chronic Disease Management Program. This free seven-week class is scheduled from Thursday, October 1 through Thursday, November 12, and meets from 9:30am - 12:00pm. Unlike earlier in-person classes, this series is available as a series of online "Zoom" meetings. MHA will also provide technical help to assist your participation.

Topics include: • Managing Symptoms • Healthy Eating • Medication Usage • Stress

Management • Making informed Treatment Decisions • Setting Goals • Working with your Health Care Provider. It's all about learning how to live a healthier life with chronic conditions.

Information is at (707) 412-3176 x 102, or at info@mendonoma-health.org. Space is limited so consider registering for this class as soon as possible.

The Mendonoma Health Alliance covers the coastal communities of northern Sonoma and southern Mendocino counties. Communities include (north to south) Irish Beach, Manchester, Pt. Arena, Gualala, Annapolis, Sea Ranch, Stewarts Point, Timber Cove and Cazadero, California. More information is available online at Mendonoma-Health.org. MHA is here for us. Take advantage of the programs offered in support of our communities.



PUGET SOUND'S 'PROBLEM ANIMALS' (Cont'd from page 7)

... to hunt, despite evidence that this increases human-animal conflict.

"I think that [increase in sightings] was possibly an offshoot of that heightened worry in awareness from the public from having experienced that trauma, and seeing that trauma proliferate through the media," Myers says. "So for a while there, everything we were getting was a cougar being seen in everybody's backyard and near schools."

HOW NONLETHAL REMOVAL WORKS
When wildlife officers get a call about a wildlife sighting, they formulate a response based on the animal's behavior. Myers says most

people contact WDFW after seeing an animal close to homes or schools. If there isn't an imminent threat, an officer can often calm someone over the phone.

But for more precarious scenarios — like when an animal eats or threatens someone's pets or livestock — an officer will visit the scene to evaluate the environment.

"Many times, if the animal is left alone, they will move on, but sometimes there is [a] need to capture the animal, and that is at the discretion of the officer or biologist that responds," WDFW bear and cougar specialist Lindsay Welfelt says via email.

If an animal is still on the scene, multiple officers determine whether they can remove and relocate the animal safely or if they need to euthanize it. "It generally is much harder for us to justify releasing an animal that has depredated on somebody's livestock or pets, and certainly if it's a serious threat to humans," Myers says.

Large carnivore removal can require three to four officers wearing pistols, tasers and pepper spray; at least two officers respond to smaller animals like cubs. Those tools are typically used only in "extreme" circumstances: Tranquilizer dart guns and live baited traps (culvert traps for bears and "big box cage" traps for cougars) are favored. In tense situations where public safety is a priority, Karelian Bear Dog handlers will arrive to harass the animals away from people.

Westfelt says both bears and cougars tree themselves in response to perceived danger. When officers arrive at a treed animal, they'll unfurl the catch net and attach it to the base of a tree like a skirt; officers or bystanders will hold the net only rarely.

Officers then tranquilize the animal, which Myers says is the hardest part of the process. "It becomes very difficult to get that tranquilizer right so that you can dose the animal safely, without overdosing the animal, or without

underdosing in the animal," Myers says. "Either one of those are fraught with major danger. It's really sometimes more of an art than a science. But [it takes] a lot of experience to make that right."

Without a catch net, officers try to tranquilize the animal in a position so it either doesn't fall or it gives officers time to scramble up the trunk and grab it before it hits the ground or a major tree limb. Without the proper catch net, Myers has resorted to using alternatives like fir boughs or — in an incident in a dump yard — an old mattress. Regardless, it's an adrenalized affair.

"You've got to constantly be on your game," he says. "I made a lot of mistakes, and some



of them were caught on camera and some of them weren't. I was thankful for the time that they weren't, but I learned from every one of those situations."

PREVENTION OVER REMOVAL

Myers says the most important tool — and the one officers spend most of their time on — is educating people on how to better

coexist with wildlife, including ways to avoid inadvertently attracting large carnivores to human-populated areas.

"Most often it's not an animal problem, it's a people problem," Myers says. "People's knowledge and understanding of wildlife and natural resources in the state of Washington are what really matter. If they have a little 5-acre hobby ranch on the outskirts of town that butts up against a heavily forested area, it's like ringing the dinner bell to a predator such as a cougar who's passing by."

Education can take the form of one-on-one consultations or even Karelian Bear Dog demonstrations.

Both of these activities are harder to accomplish during a physically distanced pandemic. The Mountain Lion Foundation also is creating online educational films and workshops.

"Those are the things that really kind of charge my batteries, when you can help people [understand]," Myers says. "It accomplishes so much more than us rushing out to a scene and having to do the extreme [thing] of removing this animal from a situation in which it did nothing wrong — to now have to traumatize it, potentially hurt it or kill it. What did you solve? You solved nothing. So I love education for that reason alone. It is oftentimes a lifesaver for these animals and for our resources."

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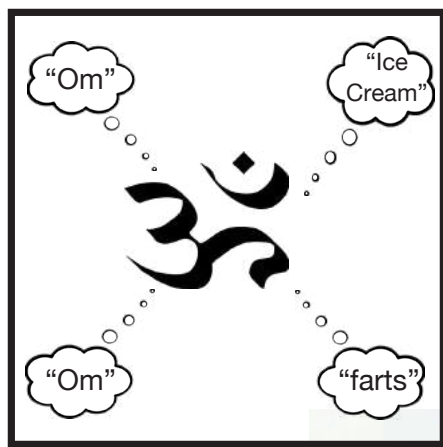
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Pandemic Relief

by David Steffen

Since the first whiff of news about a possible new virus on the march to America, our lives have changed. Fewer things to do or places to go. In-person conversations with good friends are 6-feet apart (barely qualifying as in-person) and when going anywhere, we're now 'all masked up'. Some of us are seeing a lot more of our family members, while others are not, separated by too many miles to embark on a visit. Zoom, zoom-room, zoom-call and zoom-meeting are now part of a wider lexicon. Since March the virtual meeting has become a communication option for people who six months ago only thought 'zoom' was about moving quickly. Ironically, sitting in front of a camera and zooming now means we're not really moving at all. And yet, some of us are discovering humor, solace, entertainment and more within close quarters.

Writer Steph Fairyrington decided—among a variety of options and after consultation with her spouse—to create time within the day to stay close to their four-year old daughter and develop coping mechanisms for the lack of extracurricular activities. As she chronicled her child-raising philosophy in a recent Washington Post essay, Steph began reading "Full Catastrophe Living" by meditation teacher Jon Kabat-Zinn. While that's not a book title I'd be drawn to, Fairyrington



tells her readers that last year she created "a nightly routine following bedtime stories that included three deep breaths, moments of silence and expressions of gratitude. . . . Although the novelty of the routine amused her [daughter] enough to attempt the practice—a few deep breaths, saying something she's grateful for—it very quickly devolved (or evolved?) into giggles and wiggles and epic levels of sarcasm that made her seem more 14 than 4. When I'd do a deep sonorous 'om,' she'd laugh her way through her own iteration which sounded like 'ooooohhhhhh.' When I'd ask what she's grateful for, she'd say, 'Ice cream and farts.' When she'd exhale too boisterously through her nose (not her mouth, like I told her to), snot would often

surface on her face, unleashing spasms of utter joy." Bottom line? They're coping.

Let's take a moment to consider what we know about crocodiles and whales. What most Americans know about whales they learned from three films: "Moby Dick" (a legendary giant and anti-social Sperm whale), "Free Willy" (oxymoron alert: a friendly Orca 'Killer' whale), and "Star Trek: The Voyage Home" (a pair of time-traveling humpback whales). Whales live in the ocean. Then there are crocodiles, which can be found throughout the tropics in Africa, Asia, the Americas and Australia. Actually, your studies probably already confirmed that there are crocodiles in Australia. Paul Hogan provided absolute scientific confirmation in the films "Crocodile Dundee I, II, and III".

Earlier this month some day-sailors observed three humpback whales exploring the Alligator River in Australia's Northern Territory. (No, there are no alligators in Australia. As with so many other things, the original European explorers got that wrong.) But there are two things worth noting. First, there are definitely crocodiles in the Alligator River. It's loaded with crocodiles. Second, crocodiles are absolutely carnivorous animals, feeding on almost any moving objects in their path: fish, reptiles, birds, mammals and more. (More, in this case, occasionally includes unlucky humans.)

It appears that all three humpback whales spent a few weeks in the Northern Territory, having taking a break from ocean living and embarking on a 20-mile inland swim. Hey, it happens. A dozen years ago, two humpback whales were seen enjoying the waters of the Sacramento River Delta, before heading west to San Francisco Bay and returning to the Pacific Ocean. Locals named them Delta and Dawn. Returning to the land down under, two of the three wayward whales in the Alligator River seem to have quietly returned to the sea. (No evidence of a crocodile-whale encounter was found.) The third took a little longer. Once spotted, the whale developed a fan-base of observers who tracked the humpback as it took advantage of the high tide, and it too returned to the sea.

My final anecdote for fellow shut-ins is to tell you that there is another migration to Woodstock. Regular readers may recall that in August 2019 I wrote about the 50th Anniversary of Woodstock. The festival, not the town. The festival was perfectly chronicled



and retold by Joni Mitchell in her marvelous song "Woodstock", and no self-respecting Boomer would ever declare that they don't know the song, never heard of the festival or hadn't heard of the town. On this last point we'll cut you some slack. The purists will tell you that "hey man, the concert wasn't in Woodstock. It was in Bethel, man." The fact that Max Yasgar's farm was more than 50 miles from Woodstock in Bethel matters not. Simple proof? Walk into a bar frequented by music-loving Boomers and ask, "Were any of

you dudes at Bethel?" Crickets. Ask again, "Were any of you dudes at Woodstock?" Expect to hear "Yeh, man" or the more assertive response, "Dude!" which suggests s/he is insulted that anyone would have to ask.

The ghosts of Jimi Hendrix, Joe Cocker, Janis Joplin, Richie Havens, Sly Stone and others may still spend time in Woodstock, New York. But for everyone else, it's becoming a little pricey. Peace and love have given way to a real estate boom. It seems that pandemic-weary New Yorkers—re-labeled "Cidiots" (as in City Idiots)—have been arriving in droves. Woodstock, the place, is happening again. In recent years people have been finding their way to the Woodstock area. Real estate prices have soared, private schools for their kids have long waiting lists (with tuition costs between \$15,000 and \$20,000 per year.) According to the Washington Post, the influx of people has accelerated during the pandemic. We're not yet at that "will the last person leaving New York City turn off the lights"



moment. The Bronx, Manhattan, Brooklyn, Staten Island, and Queens will always be there. But its like the sum total of the stress associated with living in semi-lockdown has literally driven city-lovers 100 miles north.

Among those who relocated really early are Don and Susan LaSala. They purchased a home 20 years ago. No ordinary home—musically and historically speaking—they purchased "Big Pink". Doesn't ring a bell? One

summer the home was occupied by Robbie Robertson, Richard Manuel, Levon Helm, Rick Danko and Garth Hudson: The Band. These five musicians backed up Bob Dylan on some of his mid-sixties touring. In 1967 the house became one of the most iconic structures in music history when The Band wrote and recorded their first full album: "Music From Big Pink". LaSala's home is now available as a B&B rental at \$550 per night. With restrictions.

Like I said, Woodstock is happening again. Inevitably, the recent influx has prompted a reverse migration. The Post quotes a local who "mentions a family who has decided to leave Woodstock, not because of density but to take advantage of the frothy, manic [real estate] market in Ulster County. They're selling high and buying low. . . . They told me if the times were not so 'nutso,' they would have never sold." Nutso is, of course, in the eye of the beholder. And by buying low, their money goes further enabling them to move back into the city. In "Big Yellow Taxi" Mitchell wrote "They paved paradise and put up a parking lot". These days it appears that parts of paradise are now very desirable parking lots. Fair is fair. The garden is always in the eye of the beholder.

Far left: "Om" adapted. Upper left: Humpback breaching in Sacramento River Delta, CC. Lower Left: Big Pink CC.

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"Nothing Is Wrong and Here Is Why: Essays"

A Book by Alexandra Petri • Reviewed by Jennifer Bort Yacovissi

I love reading Alexandra Petri's column in the Washington Post, irresistibly called "Petri Dishes." Whatever insanity is going on in the world, whatever the latest outrage to vomit forth from the current administration, I look to her to slice directly to the heart of the absurdity with her signature brand of arched-brow irony—satire suitable for all ages, from Boomers through the full alphabet of generations.

The thing about satire, though—given its constitution of prickly barbs embracing an angry core—is that it typically works best in small doses, which is why Petri's column is the perfect medium for her message. Creating a collection served up in book form risks reader exhaustion from an overdose of snark. I found I could only appreciate her oeuvre—and keep my blood pressure at safe levels—by taking in a few essays at a time.

As one might imagine from a glance at the cover of *Nothing Is Wrong and Here Is Why*, which features Goya's "Saturn Devouring His Son" ("While Also Wearing a MAGA Hat"), the collection spends significant time on the foibles of the Trump administration, starting from the early days when it was still auditioning for the part. Ah, yes, back when so many of us could smugly imagine that we just needed to get through the campaign and it would all be over.

Ha, ha! Instead, we installed the brain trust that, on March 17, 2017, reposted Petri's column in its newsletter and on the 1600 Daily because it appeared to support the president's recent budget proposal. Perhaps they read no further than the title, "Trump's Budget Makes Perfect Sense and Will Fix America, and I Will Tell You Why," but you'd think someone might've spotted a few of the all-caps entries, like, "we will be able to buy lots of GUNS and F-35s and other cool things that go BOOM and POW and PEW PEW PEW."

As with any of the books that take us back into those days in 2016 and 2017, what's most striking here is to be reminded of the original cast of characters and to consider, "Wow, there's a name you don't hear anymore. I wonder what he's up to these days."

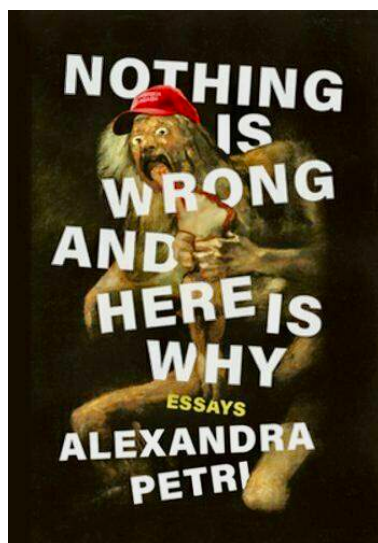
A fine example is Petri's reboot of Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, with Paul Ryan and Reince Priebus in the roles of Vladimir and Estragon, hopelessly waiting for the candidate's "pivot to presidential" that never comes. The scene features a jarring cameo by then-campaign manager Paul Manafort before he was a convicted felon. (The only reason he's still vaguely on our radar is because covid-19 recently got

him sprung from prison.)

Here's another: Remember Scott Pruitt? EPA? Think hard. Ritz-Carlton moisturizing lotion, \$43,000 soundproof phone booth, special mattresses?

Exactly.

In "A Moderate Speaks: By God, Won't Someone Else Take a Stand?," Petri doesn't need to mention Bob Corker or Jeff Flake, but she channels their self-inflicted



impotent outrage as her imagined senator vows to "stand alone against this shameful process that threatens all that I hold dear by issuing a series of scathing statements to reporters on my way to vote for whatever this mystery bill is."

Mercifully, not every essay focuses on the national nightmare of the current presidency. After all, there's always the evergreen outrages of racism, misogyny, gun violence, and anti-vaxxers to vie for our attention.

Some of Petri's best work in this collection focuses on gender, sexism, and #MeToo, and has a subtler, sharper edge. The reader senses that this subtlety is her tell that she's seething, as in the devastating essay, "Some Interpersonal Verbs, Conjugated by Gender," which quietly lays bare society's enduring concern for a boy's future over a girl's psyche:

"He is drinking; he is drunk; he was drunk.

"This will ruin his life; this is going to ruin his life.

"He did something; she had something done to her; something happened.

"She is putting herself in this position; she put herself in that position.

"She should know better; she should have known better."

In other essays on the daily indignities levied on womankind, the tone is weary rather than angry, as in, "Play the 'Woman

Card' and Reap the Rewards," in which Petri suggests, "Show the Woman Card to your health-care provider and you will enjoy new limits on your reproductive rights, depending on what the legislators of your state have decided is wise." She explores this concept in more detail in "I Am a State Legislator and I Am Here to Substitute-Teach Your Biology Class."

It's been said that our current president has killed satire, and, certainly, ever since that infamous escalator ride into history, there have been plenty of real-life headlines that, in earlier days, could only have come from the Onion.

Still, the world was a crazy place before a reality-TV star stumbled into the role of the most powerful person on earth, and it will continue to be crazy after he is drummed back out. Which means Alexandra Petri will always have plenty of material. I'll warrant, though, that she's looking forward to having not quite so much.

Jennifer Bort Yacovissi's debut novel, *Up the Hill to Home*, tells the story of four generations of a family in Washington, DC, from the Civil War to the Great Depression. Jenny writes a bi-monthly column and reviews frequently for the *Washington Independent Review of Books*, and serves on its board of directors.

She also writes a bimonthly column for *Late Last Night Books*. Her short fiction has appeared in *Gargoyle* and *Pen-in-Hand*. Jenny is a member of PEN/America and the National Book Critics' Circle. Previously, she served as chair of the Washington Writers Conference and as president of the Annapolis chapter of the Maryland Writers' Association.

MTA Expands Services To and From Sonoma County

For everyone needing a ride to Sonoma County, Mendocino Transit Authority has announced that routes #65 and #95 are returning to the MTA schedule, on October 12. Route #65 offers service from Fort Bragg to Santa Rosa with one trip daily, Monday through Saturday. Route #95 has service from Point Arena to Santa Rosa with one trip daily, Monday through Friday.



Mendocino Transit Authority

ity will be operating on a reduced Covid-19 schedule, until further notice. MTA provides safe, essential public transportation with hand sanitizing stations on board. Please remember that face masks and social distancing are required.

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Scuttlebutt

by Mitch McFarland

A friend who was too young to be politically aware during the Nixon years recently asked me if things were politically worse now or then. It was a good question because both eras are characterized by major street protests and a morally bankrupted president. The answer, of course, is not a simple one. Comparing different eras is always a tricky business.

How do you compare systemic racial inequality and white supremacy with 55,000 dead soldiers fighting a war merely to prop up the military industrial complex? Both are life and death issues that in some way had effect on virtually every American. Perhaps because I was living in cities during the Nixon years and participated vigorously in the anti-war protests, I would tend to think that the fight against the war was, if not more important, more fervent than the current protests. Of course, if I was an African American who had friends killed by police I would probably feel differently. We should also take in account that black men died in Vietnam in larger proportions than whites. May I also add that I have had a cop stick a gun to my head for no reason whatsoever when I had no weapon and offered no resistance of any kind. That made that culture war seem very real to me.

So let's call the protests then and now a wash. Each deeply affected millions in our country and brought the nation historic upheaval. One ended a war much too late and the other is hopefully changing our national attitude about race (also much too late). I suppose it just depends on your point of reference. Are you a black parent fearing letting your sons go out at night or are you a potential draftee into the quagmire of Southeast Asia?

When it comes to the Presidency it is a no-brainer. Not many people despised Nixon more than I, although millions joined me in my disgust. Nixon was a small-minded, mean-spirited man politically who fanned the flames of racism, sent thousands to their death in Vietnam (not to mention the geometrically larger number of Asians killed), plotted to subvert our democracy, lied to the American people while attempting to cover up his misdeeds and plotted revenge against his "enemies".

Hey, this sounds a lot like Trump if you substitute his immigration policies for the Vietnam War, but let the comparisons stop there. Though Nixon put his own self interest before the country, I never believed that he didn't love our country. It is obvious to anyone who cares to notice that Trump only loves himself (reflected in the adula-

tion from his disciples), junk food, and sex. The nations well-being is not even on his list. He has no interest in anything that exists outside the triangle between his hand, his mouth and his genitals. He could be described as an evil infant.



Nixon also created the Environmental Protection Agency in the year that Time magazine gave the environment the "Issue of the Year" award (1970). Need I point out Trump's views on the environment? Nixon restarted the food stamp program, but mainly because his domestic policy advisor, John Ehrlichman, saw revolution brewing in the street and noted that only hungry people will risk their lives in a violent revolt.

What truly makes today's politics worse than during the Nixon years is the character of the Republican party. It was Howard Baker, the Republican Senate Minority leader, who went to the White House and told Nixon to resign for the good of the country. Try to imagine Mitch McConnell doing that to Trump.

Although religious conservatives were welcome in the Republican party during the Nixon years, the party had not been taken over by people whose politics are based primarily on religious doctrine. The other cornerstone of today's Republican party—the conspiracy freaks only—occupied the fringes of the party. It was the John Birch and Ayn Rand people then and even they didn't believe in a flesh eating cabal of pedophiles. They only feared communists.

Of course, there was no Internet then. Today social media platforms make it possible to reach every uninformed, gullible, naïve, angry, disappointed, frustrated, or racist person who cares to look. There they will find whatever is needed to justify and amplify their feelings. That is why Trump proudly declared, "I love the uneducated!"

Another thing to consider is that the stakes are higher now. The environment worldwide is far worse off. Population pressure is

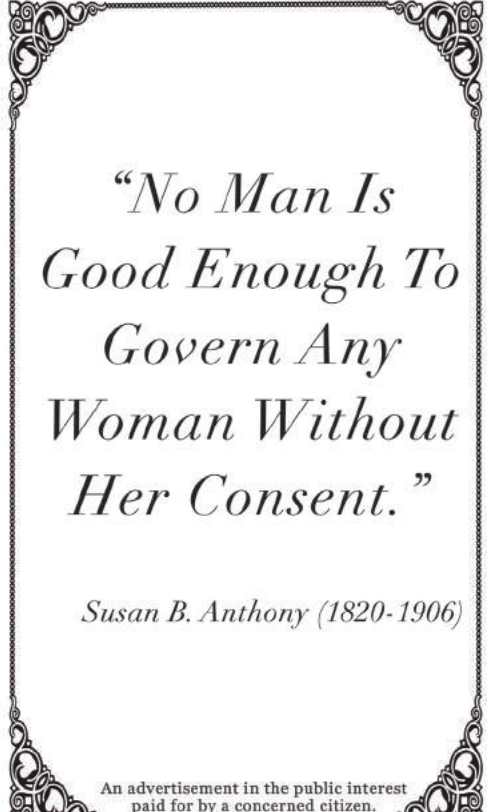
making every issue more urgent and there is a global pandemic that requires leadership, not denial. I can't imagine Nixon reacting to 200,000 dead Americans by saying, "I don't take any responsibility."

So, without trying to downplay how messed up things were in the Nixon years, I have this to say: I have been closely following politics since I was a teenager and what we are going through politically right now is the worst I have ever seen in those 60 years. So congratulations Millennials, you have suffered through two major recessions and the worst political climate since the Civil War.

Ruth Bader Ginsberg is dead so here's a shout-out to those Democrats in the Great Lakes States who couldn't bring themselves to vote for Hillary Clinton because she didn't pass their purity test. I'm sorry she rubbed you the wrong way. Perhaps the Trump Supreme Court appointees come closer to your definition of honorable.

I'm afraid I need to particularly point the finger at white women in those states. 61% of non-college educated white women voted for Trump while 53% of all white women voted for him. Yes, 62% of all white men voted for Trump, but I have very low expectations for them. I sure hope for their sake none of the stay-at-home voters or their daughters ever want to end a pregnancy.

Images: Nixon/other, courtesy Wikiimages. on Pixabay.



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Her Consent."*

Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906)

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New Exhibit At Artists Collective In Elk Stuart Greenberg Featured in October

The Artists' Collective in Elk will be featuring the painter Stuart Greenberg. He will be showcasing his original oil paintings and archival giclee reproductions; featuring portraits, seascapes, landscapes, and mind-

Artist's Collective in Elk scapes, during the entire month of October at the Artist's Collective in Elk.

Come and see his work and all the other artists' work at the gallery located in downtown Elk at 6031 South Highway 1, next door to Queenies Roadhouse Cafe and the Post Office.

More information is at Artists-collective.net, and at 707-877-1128.

COVER STORY Cont'd.

our fallen soldiers "losers" and "suckers". He ignored Russian bounties on American troops in Afghanistan. He abused the power of his office by enriching himself, his family, and his personal (privately-held) businesses by, for example, directing the American Ambassador in Britain to get the British Government to select his personal golf course in Scotland to host the British Open. As a writer quipped, "He hasn't landed the tournament yet. But attempted sleaze is still sleaze." He has used his pardon power to free unrepentant felons who have pled guilty to their crimes.

Instead of bringing the country together he has used chaos to rule this democracy. He's promised since before the 2016 election that he has a new, better, cheaper healthcare plan. No plan has surfaced, although every time he's asked about it he responds by saying "we'll introduce it in the next few weeks". He's been in office for 200 weeks and there is no health care plan and at the same time he is in front of the Supreme Court trying to overturn the Affordable Care Act. He prefers coal, oil and nuclear energy to anything else, ignoring the obvious benefits of, for example, solar energy. He wants to restrict a woman's rights to reproductive options. He hopes to end Social Security. He prefers autocrats like Russia's Putin, Turkey's Erdogan and North Korea's Kim Jung Un, to democratically elected leaders.

In 1787, Benjamin Franklin was asked if the United States would be a monarchy or a republic. Franklin's response was "A republic, if you can keep it."

All of that being said, vote your will. Vote your conscience. But vote.

Arena Tech Center Offers Enrichment Classes Beginning October 5 Youth and Young Adult Classes Offer Virtual Zoom Classes

Striving to do their part to add youth and young adult enrichment in these challenging times, the Arena Tech Center is offering a series of free, virtual Zoom classes beginning Monday, October 5. Unless otherwise noted, each class offering is one hour and held in a regular schedule Monday through Friday From October 5 until November 20. All classes are taught by ATC staff and extended staff – all employed by the Point Arena School District and thus gone through background approvals. Ages noted in individual offerings when applicable.



Mondays -- Tech Talks & Tips with John Bove, 4pm – all ages.

Learn how to make your computer work for you, instead of struggling to understand it. Classes will double as open help forums and how-to guides on a variety of subjects. Everything from the basics of Internet safety to scripting and programming using Python.

Tuesdays – Brave Space with Blake More, 4pm – all ages (but may split into two groups depending upon interest)

Peer talk for tweens and teens. This hour long "hang-out" is designed to provide a safe environment for youth to connect. This online "space" is designed to provide youth with a non-judgmental, supportive atmosphere in which they can unmask their true selves, talk about real stuff and speak freely.

Tuesdays -- Daring Dancers with Margaret Grace, 5pm – all ages

Do you love to move your body and dance to music? Join us Daring Dancers in an exploration of movement, music, and many rhythms. Each class we will learn fun and simple choreography for different types of rhythms such as salsa, reggaeton, cumbia, merengue, hip-hop, and more! In addition to choreography, we will ignite our own self-expression through ecstatic dance along with some interactive games to loosen up our muscles and move freely through the spirit of dance. Be bold, be fierce, be daring!

Wednesdays – Beginning Rhythmic Gymnastics w/ Thea Torgersen 2-3pm, ages 4-9

Beginner level rhythmic gymnastics classes focus on body awareness, physical fitness, coordination with both the body and hand apparatus, developing flexibility and strength, as well as mental focus, musicality and creativity. Students must wear fitted clothes that allow movement. No loose shirts or baggy pants. Socks or bare feet. Long hair should be pulled back from the face. Free zoom option for online participation for ATC youth. A limited number of class materials such as jump ropes, balls, hula hoops, ribbon can be provided upon request.

Wednesdays – Secret Magic Mind Power with Wendy Biswurm, 4pm – open to all ages

Can you create what you REALLY want in your life? Yup. YOU CAN! Become the magician of your own reality. Amazing but true, ANYONE can learn the secrets of 'manifestation'. Together we will explore the most wonderful gifts we ALL have and how they work together like MAGIC. We may even discover something completely new. Anything is possible! If you are ready for the power tools to create, you will be amazed what you can do. Join us. Looking forward to our magic time together!

Thursdays – Fun with 3D Computer Modeling & 3D-Printing with Brendan Mobert, 4pm – ages 16 and up

Using the free and open-source software "Wings 3D," we will explore how to doodle first thoughts, design detailed models and iteratively engineer prototypes for printing. This will be a light and introductory expedition into the world of 3d modeling.

Fridays – Science and Futurism with Brendan Mobert, 4pm – 13 and up

Each week we'll discuss the newest discoveries in science and technology and then explore their potential to the short and near term future. These will be safe, group discussions designed to keep things fun and thoughtful.

To access these classes, participants must have access to a desktop or laptop computer or a tablet on which the Zoom app can be installed. The device should be equipped with a camera and microphone. Please email blake@arenatechcenter.org to register and receive an encrypted zoom link so students can log on to the platform and participate.

Coastal Singers: "Singing With Yourself" New Sessions Now Through Mid-December

It's not too late to join the Coastal Singers, under the direction of Sue Bohlin, and assisted by Bob Geary, which resumed SINGING WITH YOURSELF! via Zoom, Tuesdays from 2:00pm-3:30pm. Sessions are designed to allow returning members and new ones to gain experience in one or more of these areas: 1. Breath control & awareness thru chant and singing. 2. Music reading & understanding via sight-singing exercises. 3. Music theory via analysis of harmony, rhythm, and form. 4. Music history as told thru the music. 5. Languages: English, Spanish, French. Semester fee (ending mid-December) is priced on a sliding scale between \$50-80 per person, or \$100 for the whole family to participate. While public singing is still not allowed in California, the physical act of singing (whether alone, with family members or an isolation buddy) is healing for the body, mind and spirit. All are welcome to join. No audition required. More info is at 884-5477.

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Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Give and take?
- 5 Drilling grp.
- 9 Express gratitude to
- 14 Hit the road
- 15 Tennis whiz
- 16 Spine-tingling
- 17 Mythical ship
- 18 Ration
- 19 Wrinkled plum
- 20 Cranky complainer
- 22 Don Juan, e.g.
- 24 Eagle's nest, alt.
- 25 Chilling, say
- 26 _____ of limitations
- 28 "On the double!"
- 32 Treated badly
- 35 Cry loudly
- 36 Pool member
- 37 Kerr of "The King and I"
- 39 "Eat Pray Love" star
- 41 Forest forager
- 42 Personal take, for short
- 44 Even though
- 45 Agile
- 46 Glass raiser
- 48 Cotillion honoree
- 49 Type of pitch
- 53 Shakespeare specialties
- 57 Candle feature
- 58 Pertaining to the ear
- 59 Chew (on)
- 61 She played Sabrina in the '70s

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- 62 Up to
- 63 Top spot
- 64 Who follower
- 65 Short-tempered
- 66 Can't do without
- 67 Cousin of a gull
- 8 One who's owed
- 9 Plains dwelling
- 10 The lady's
- 11 Lily variety
- 12 One of three in 1492
- 13 Razor-sharp
- 21 One of the Fondas
- 23 Arctic vessel
- 27 Made into a movie, say
- 28 18-34, for example
- 29 Withered
- 30 "Nay" sayer
- 31 Annoyance
- 32 Combines
- 33 Car alarm?
- 34 Lyft rival
- 38 Rowdy youth
- 40 Sanction
- 43 Chemical bonding number
- 47 Kind of oil
- 48 Snake's underside
- 50 Shove off
- 51 "Door's open!"
- 52 Hard-nosed
- 53 Lacking slack
- 54 Ancient letter
- 55 Star anagram
- 56 Horse's walk
- 60 Tie the knot

DOWN

- 1 Old West transport
- 2 Fret
- 3 Prophecy
- 4 Kind of note
- 5 Ewe's mate
- 6 Spotted wildcat
- 7 Bacterial infection

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"Interview With A White Shark"

by Mary Jane Schramm, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Each fall, adult and sub-adult white sharks, *Carcharodon carcharias*, come to Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary to feed on seals and sea lions. Since the 1980s, researchers from Pt. Blue Conservation Science, the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Tagging of Pacific Predators (TOPP) project and others have studied them, so agencies such as NOAA's Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and others can better protect these ecologically important apex predators.

Recently, a Farallones staffer interviewed one of the white sharks, Tom Johnson. The longest/best studied shark in the world, "TJ" is considered the Patriarch of Predators. He brought some interesting perspectives to the conversation.



MJ: Welcome, Tom. Why the name, "Tom Johnson"?

TJ: I had just bitten a seal at the Farallones, and a whale watch naturalist by that name

snapped a quick shot of my dorsal fin. He donated the first photo in the researchers'



new Photo ID catalogue, hence the moniker. Kind of presumptuous, since we have our own names, but they're helping us out here. I'm indebted. That was thirty-some years ago.

MJ: In addition to photo IDs, tagging helps researchers to study you. Were you fooled when researchers fed you a transmitter in a chunk of seal meat?

TJ: Hey, a meal is a meal, and a little extra roughage probably wouldn't hurt.

MJ: We know that juvenile white sharks have started moving into your territory each spring, now that the ocean is warmer. Are they welcome?

TJ: Not really. Their music is atrocious, they don't have the right moves or the right attitude. Their taste in food – it's all over the place: fish-seals-fish-seals ... so, decide already! But with experience they'll learn

that the best things in life – seals and such - can be found in better places than near shore. Go offshore, and go deep, Baby, go deep!

MJ: How do you feel about cage diving?

TJ: I'm all for cages. Some people belong in cages. They're less likely to hurt anyone, in a cage. Let them out and next thing you know, they're stabbing you and calling it self-defense.

MJ: Many surfers fear white sharks. Should they fear you here in our sanctuary?

TJ: Some of my best friends are surfers. Look: we share the ocean, and if I take a nip now and then, it's to be expected. I'm a shark; it's my nature. But I tell you: we really hate the taste of neoprene wetsuits, so it's not intentional--not really.

MJ: How long have you been feeding in the Farallones marine sanctuary?

TJ: Well, it goes back much longer than the beginning of the research. It was when I got an appetite for meat. And by the way, we don't call this place, "the Farallones," we call this the White Shark Café, because dinner is always being served. Five stars.

MJ: But researchers call the mid-Pacific feeding area the White Shark Café, too. Can there be two?

TJ: Well, how many McDonalds are there in the world?

MJ: Do you have a food preference? Fat elephant seal pups, or leaner sea lions?

TJ: Seals. I want the fattest, juiciest meal I can find. Fat is where it's at. Skinny sea lions, they're good hors d'oeuvres, but you're hungry an hour later.

MJ: What else do you do at the offshore White Shark Café? Do you mate?

TJ: Hey, that's personal! But I will say, I always have a date Saturday nights. And the older females are the best company, in my experience.

MJ: Thank you, Tom, for taking time from your busy hunting schedule. Is there anything special you wish to say?

TJ: Mostly, just leave us alone. Take photos, attach little satellite tags, it's okay; we can tolerate that. But watch it with the drift nets and the high speed boats. Don't dump your garbage in my house. And turn the thermostat down! Clean up your act so the rest of us can enjoy the ocean, too.

Learn more about white sharks and sanctuary protections at www.farallones/noaa.gov. Also, Pt. Arena Lighthouse Peddler August 2019, "When White Sharks are the Catch of the Day."

For more information on the sanctuary's seabird research, education and resource protection, see <https://farallones.noaa.gov/eco/seabird/>, and <https://farallones.noaa.gov/science/access.html>

Mary Jane Schramm
NOAA Greater Farallones - National Marine Sanctuary
Maryjane.schramm@noaa.gov
IMAGE: Upper left: "Tom Johnson, the white shark". Credit: Voyage to White Shark Café/MBA-NOAA. Lower left: "Southeast Farallon Island." Credit: Joshua Hull, USFWS. Above: "Tom Johnson, the photographer/naturalist." Credit: Thomas M. Johnson.

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Edited by Margie E. Burke

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	1	6				5	
	4			3			

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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Seven Easy Steps You Can Take Now to Save Gualala's Main Street (part 3 in a series)

By Tom Murphy

For two decades, the Gualala Town Plan promised to make Highway 1 a "scenic element" of the historic downtown. Yet over the past year, the Streetscape planning process has devolved into a confusing and divisive mess that some say could transform Gualala's Main Street into a strip mall.

The good news is that it's easy to fix this right now—if enough people choose Streetscape options that fit within the Town Plan at an upcoming Caltrans Town Hall. The truly horrible news is that if they choose options outside the plan, they could easily trigger another decade of divisive debate over Town Plan amendments. That would delay long-awaited safety improvements.

Caltrans has tentatively scheduled the virtual Town Hall for Wednesday, October 28, though that may slip into November. To get a link to the Gualala Town Hall (or a paper ballot), readers must contact Caltrans now at (707) 445-6600 or email Bonnie.Kuhn@dot.ca.gov whether they live in Gualala or any neighboring area.

The agency has dropped a controversial plan to send post card notifications to 2,288 Sea Ranchers but to only about half of Gualala and to no other neighboring communities. The reversal came after the Lighthouse Peddler reported on the draft plan last month.

Caltrans has remained tight-lipped on the options it will present at the meeting, but it has hinted in emails that some choices may stray from Gualala Town Plan requirements. At last fall's Town Hall, Caltrans offered similar options without making it clear they would likely require amendments to the Gualala Town Plan.

For example, if Town Hall attendees choose to include a fourth lane for on-highway parking, or to move a bike lane from the shoulder so that it shares a traffic lane, they will, in effect, be asking to amend the Town Plan. And the Town Plan is very, very difficult to amend. It took Mendocino a decade to amend its plan.

Easily Avoided Delay

Amending the Gualala Town Plan would require time-sucking hearings by the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG), Gualala Municipal Advisory Council (GMAC), Mendocino County planners, county Planning Commission, county Board of Supervisors, and the famously restrictive California Coastal Commission. The same panels took many years to approve the current Town Plan in 2002, and it would likely take at least as long to change it.

Again, this worst-case scenario is easy to avoid right now. The two sides on Streetscape have relatively minor disagreements, mostly about whether there should be two lanes of

on-highway parking through town, or just a single lane that could be used for turn-pockets and interim parking. Keep in mind, almost all motorists park off the highway already.

Obviously, that difference clearly isn't worth a decade of debate. In August, GMAC urged Caltrans to apply a three-lane design as required by law. It also advised MCOG to honor its existing agreement to provide interim parking at the Surf Center while its owner builds an off-highway parking lot.

7 Simple Steps

While Caltrans hasn't revealed exactly what it'll be asking at the Town Hall, we can make some educated guesses. Here are seven easy things all of us can do to fix this very broken process:

1. REGISTER FOR THE TOWN HALL. Right now: send an email to Bonnie.Kuhn@DOT.CA.GOV and tell her you want to participate in the Gualala Town Hall, either online or by mail. Feel free to share your opinion on the project with Caltrans. Then be sure to attend the meeting or fill out forms.

2. CHOOSE THREE LANES, NOT FOUR. The Town Plan requires three lanes, but the last Town Hall resulted in calls for a fourth lane for parking through town. That is not only unneeded, but very expensive—probably upwards of \$15,000 per space. Because it violates the Town Plan, a fourth lane would trigger the lengthy amendment process.

3. INSIST ON SEPARATED BIKE LANES. Bike lanes on shoulders mean that kids and seniors won't have to share a traffic lane with cement mixers and timber trucks. "Sharrows," or shared lanes, would sustain current dangers. The Town Plan requires a "Bike Lane/Shoulder." Sharrows would maintain hazards and require an amendment.

4. REQUIRE LANDSCAPED SIDEWALKS. If you put a concrete sidewalk next to the asphalt roadway, you have nothing but pavement from businesses on one side to those on the other—like a strip mall. The Town Plan requires landscaped sidewalks. You should, too.

5. WHAT ABOUT RETAINING WALLS? Gualala is built on a slope, so some retaining walls are inevitable. Caltrans can minimize them by building three lanes instead of four. Native landscaping will reduce any visual impact. Trading off landscaping, separated bike lanes, or sidewalks over would add years of delay.

6. SIGN THE PETITION: Go to Change.org/SaveGualala to support the three-lane concept. While there, add a short comment. Caltrans and MCOG will read and consider every word.

7. TELL YOUR NEIGHBORS. Spread the news. Tell friends from Manchester to Annapolis to register for the Gualala Town Hall, to sign the petition, and to support the three-lane plan for downtown Gualala.

NOTE: image below shows 3-lane traffic design with bike lanes. Photo of existing parking can be found on page 13.

Tom Murphy is Vice Chair of the Gualala Municipal Advisory Council and a Member of its Gualala Community Action Plan (Streetscape) Committee. You can reach him at GMAC95445@gmail.com to share your thoughts or volunteer to help.

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NOTE: This design allows all Town Plan features plus interim parking where needed within 58 feet, about the width of the existing Surf Center crosswalk. Some want to add a fourth lane for parking that forces elimination of bike lanes, landscaping, or sidewalks while expanding the road width to 64 feet. Critics argue that would result in a "strip mall."

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Get Out! October Events. Poetry, Theater, Art, Radio, Online and more.

Please be advised that many events currently on the schedule are VIRTUAL events. They will be done remotely with attendees and guests participating through an internet connection. Most virtual events can be accessed from home with a good internet connection. Read footnotes below calendar for details.

- Thursday 01: New exhibit featuring Stuart Greenberg at Artists' Collective in Elk.
- Thursday 01: MHA weekly Self Management Workshop (thru Nov. 12).
- Thursday 01: On Demand: "RBG": New doc. about Ruth Bader Ginsberg (thru Oct. 8).¹
- Thursday 01: On Demand: "Native Son". New film by Rashid Johnson (thru Oct. 8).¹
- Thursday 01: On Demand: "Conviction". New film (thru Oct. 15).¹
- Thursday 01: On Demand: "Once Upon A River". New film (thru October 15).¹
- Thursday 01: On Demand: "12 Hour Shift". New film (thru October 15).¹
- Friday 02: 11:00am, Opening of "My Valuables" What Really Matters. Gualala Arts Center
- Saturday 03: 11:00am, Opening of "Textiles, Drawings and Clay" at Dolphin Gallery
- Saturday 03: 12:00pm, "Photography & Glass" opens at Coast Hwy Art Collective, Pt. Arena
- Monday 05: 9:00am, Early Voting Begins for November election.
- Saturday 10: 10:00am, Anna Netrebko in concert. A MET Opera Performance.¹
- Saturday 10: 8:00pm, Drive In Movie at Arena Theater. "Raiders of the Lost Ark".
- Sunday 11: 4:00pm, BAKU, live-streamed (only) concert. Link at GualalaArts.org.⁴
- Thursday 15: 7:00pm, 3rd Thursday Poetry featuring Abe Becker. (via Zoom)³
- Friday 16: On Demand: "White Riot". New film (thru October 29).¹
- Saturday 24: 10:00am, Diana Damrau & Joseph Calleja, MET concert live.¹
- Monday 26: 1:30pm, Flynn Creek Circus Childrens Camp (thru October 28).
- Thursday 29: 1:30pm, Flynn Creek Circus Childrens Camp (thru October 31).
- Friday 31: Halloween
- November 3: Election Day

1. On Demand cinema through Arena Theater (ArenaTheater.Org)

2. MET Opera stars on demand. Access the performances at ArenaTheater.org.

3. To watch or participate as an open mic reader email blake@snakelyone.com

4. BAKU concert is ONLY live streamed via GualalaArts.org.

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