



December 2024

Volume 29 Number 4



Season's Greetings, Bridgeville, and Happy Holidays from my family to yours!

We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are enjoying the festive season! As we count our blessings this time of year, we're thrilled to share that our last food pantry served over 150 households, providing food for almost 300 people. We gave out Turkeys, pies, and various festive goodies. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our incredible volunteers—James, Renee, Kay, and Laurie—who helped make this holiday blessing possible. Your kindness and dedication mean the world!

We'd also like to thank **Grocery Outlet in Fortuna**, the **Humboldt Area Foundation**, and **Shake Fork Farms** for their generous support in helping us spread some holiday cheer to the community.

Mark Your Calendars!

Our **Holiday Dinner and Craft Fair** will be held on **December 7** from **3pm to 7 pm**. Craft Fair begins at **3 pm**, with food being served starting at **5 pm**. Come share in the holiday spirit, enjoy a delicious meal, and support local vendors with one-of-a-kind gifts perfect for the season. We'll also have a **Community Center Raffle** with great prizes to help you get into the holiday mood!

In addition, we're excited to announce that the **BridgeFest Committee** is working hard at planning for next year's festival! We're looking for volunteers for various roles, so if you're interested in helping out, please stop by the community center or call us. Your support will make this holiday season extra special for our community.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and a season filled with love, joy, and peace. We can't wait to celebrate with you at our upcoming events!

Warmly,
Brandon Benavidez



Veteran's Day Luncheon.



Bookmobile in action, Katie is here every second Tuesday of the month, and Maria is checking out a book.

Community Survey Coming Soon!

In the spirit of building a stronger, more connected community, we'll soon be rolling out a Community Survey. The survey will be available in the office, and also on-line at:

<https://forms.gle/P3Rz2cdbd7pSnG627>

Community Matters

Van Duzen Watershed Fire Safety Council & Firewise Community

MEET & GREET

WED. DEC 11 2:30 - 4:00
at the Bridgeville
Community Center & School



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

Attila Gyenis—Editor

Bridgeville Community Center

PO Box 3

Bridgeville, CA 95526

Tel: (707) 777-1775

Email— BridgevilleNews@yahoo.com
www.BridgevilleCommunityCenter.org

BridgeFest BroadCast!

We are pleased to announce that Alicia Phibbs will be the 2025 BridgeFest coordinator (on a volunteer basis). She brings her enthusiasm, her volunteer coordinating and event planning experience to the table. Side note - she is also the new Bridgeville Community Center event coordinator.

We had our BridgeFest vision meeting wrap-up meeting November 22nd. BridgeFest is both a fundraiser for the Community Center, as well as a community event to build community, to entertain community, to celebrate community, all with the purpose of fulfilling our mission statement (see below). Meeting attendees (in-person and on zoom) were Alicia Phipps, Chantal, Maria, Lauri King, Attila, Kate, Lyn, Lauri Rose, Brandon, and Dolly.

'2025' will be the 100th anniversary of the old bridge, and we will be incorporating the 100th anniversary celebration into BridgeFest 2025.

We are going to start the BridgeFest volunteer recruitment process during the Holiday Dinner, with an information table. Check out how easy it is to be a volunteer. You will also get a BridgeFest Badge.

We look forward to successful BridgeFest 2025 where aliens and humans come together on the old bridge for the Flying Saucer Contest, and recognize once and for all who is the Grand Emperor of the Universe. It could be you. Plus enjoy the music, food, kid zone, and vendors.

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, December 10th.

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.



BRIDGEVILLE COMMUNITY CRAFT FAIR & HOLIDAY DINNER



Saturday, December 7, 2024

CRAFT FAIR BEGINS AT 3:00 PM

Gift items for the Holidays



**HOLIDAY DINNER
STARTS AT 5:00 PM**

This is a **FREE** community event. **EVERYONE** is invited to the gathering that features local crafters, and a delicious meal shared with your friends and neighbors. BCC will provide the main meal, including the main dish, potatoes, green salad and beverages.

Please bring your favorite desserts as potluck if desired.

Volunteers are needed to make this event a success, so please call the BCC to sign up to help.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US AT
THE BRIDGEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER
TO ALL OF YOU!**



Healthy Spirits

By Lauri Rose, RN BSN HNB-BC

As I write this column the stores are skipping over Thanksgiving and going straight to Christmas. It makes me sad. But, after all these years, I have learned to let it go and enjoy the music. As the Buddha says, 'don't push the river'. You, reader, don't have to fight the good fight because by the time you read this it will be December, and you can enjoy the decorations guilt free.

It has been quite a year for divisiveness, but during December, when we are supposed to be thinking about renewal, rebirth, Christ's life, etc., let's dust off our kindness and see the humanity in each other. For the holidays let's think about what binds us together, not what pushes us apart. Please put down your red tie, or blue tie, and pick up the purple one that has Christmas lights flashing on it.

While those tie lights are annoying the heck out of you, think about the people you know who are happiest. Are they the ones pointing guns at each other and fisting it out in bars? Probably not. The people you like best are the ones who laugh and smile and give a hand to those around them. They are the people making connections and raising up their family and neighbors. You can be that person too. And what better time to start than Christmas?

You should give all year round but, at this time of year the opportunities to give are practically screaming at you. Toys For Tots and Coats For The Cold have barrels everywhere, the Bridgeville Community Center is always in need of funds and in-kinds, the kids' Christmas Store can use new and gently used items so kids can afford presents for their families (Bridgeville School or S. Trinity/Van Duzen schools). Your neighbor, whose back is out, may need help getting wood in. Your neighbor, whose car is broken, could be offered a ride. The guy/gal at the Costco driveway would appreciate a dollar.

Please don't second guess your generosity. When your intuition and your heart says 'give', give in and give. Don't stop your kindest impulses by getting all judgmental about what the person might do with the gift, or if you might be taken advantage of. Let God sort that out. God isn't asking for results, that's his bailiwick, God is just asking you for action. Do your best. Nothing feels better than extending yourself and seeing how your actions made someone else's life better.

Remember, when your heart strings are tugged it is God prompting you to be his little elf off the shelf. And, you don't have to restrict it to the holidays, keep it up year-round.

Bridgeville Holiday Dinner and Craft Fair is December 7th. I hope to see you there.

Practice Gratitude, Forgive Often, Work Hard

Community

Facts & Faces

A slice of our Community life in Information and Photos
Submit photos and/or news to katemccay123@yahoo.com by 20th of each month

LAURIE CHURCH

Laurie is our Bridgeville Elementary School cook and is much appreciated when she caters the BCC events.

She is a kind, gentle & talented woman who has two children, graduated from BES and is part of the longstanding Bridgeville area Church family.



TRAVIS FULLER

Travis received the 2024 Randy Krahn Extraordinary BridgeFest Volunteer Award for being there when we needed him. He is a caregiver as vocation and has been involved as a volunteer with BCC for many years and we applaud him!



Friends at 2024 Volunteer Dinner

Over 40 BCC volunteers attended this annual dinner to applaud their services. Pictured here are, from left, Melody Driscoll of Blocksburg, Mark Middleton of Dinsmore and Kent Stanley of Carlotta/Bridgeville.



A 1999 Congregation of friends for New Years!

From left, around back edges to front: Dennis, Jen, Mark, no ID, Celeste, Pam, Rose, Attila, Autumn, Michael, Ellen & Blake, Fred And baby Devan. In Middle circle. from left: Dave, Emily, Lauri and Brooke.

km&rk

"Dear MFP" (*Master Food Preserver*)

By Dottie Simmons



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says bacteria including *Clostridium perfringens* can grow in cooked foods left at room temperature and that many outbreaks have been linked to foods commonly served during the holidays, such as turkey and roast beef.

DEH along with the CDC recommend following four simple steps to lessen the chance of foodborne illness: Clean, separate, cook and chill.

Clean your hands with warm, soapy water for at least 20 seconds before and after handling food. Thoroughly wash all surfaces, utensils and dishes with hot, soapy water and rinse with hot water before and after each use. Wash fruits and vegetables under cool, running water to prevent the spread of bacteria, even if you plan to peel them.

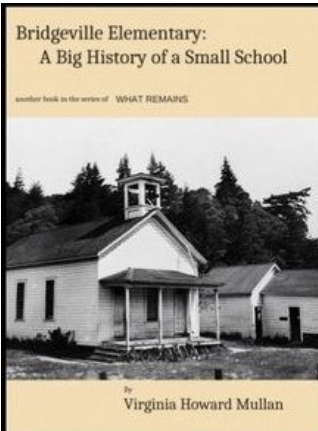
Separate raw and cooked foods to avoid cross contamination. Keep fruits and vegetables away from raw meat, poultry, eggs and seafood. Also, keep raw animal products separate from each other. Frozen turkeys and other meat should be thawed in the refrigerator, in a sink with cool water that is changed every 30 minutes or in the microwave.

Cook food to proper temperatures. Set the oven temperature no lower than 325 F, and be sure turkey and other meats are completely thawed before cooking. Using a food thermometer, make sure that the internal temperature of the turkey is at least 165 F at the thickest part, including the stuffing if it's cooked inside the bird. Cooking times will vary.

Chill turkey and other perishable foods in the refrigerator within two hours of being cooked, and do not eat leftover meat, stuffing or gravy that has been refrigerated for longer than three-to-four days.

For more information about food safety, call the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition's Safe Food Information Line at 1-888-723-3366 or the U.S. Department of Agriculture Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-674-6854.

Holiday food safety tips are also available at www.foodsafety.gov.



Bridgeville Elementary: A Big History of a Small School by Virginia Howard Mullan

The book is available this holiday season at Eureka Books, Greens Pharmacy in Fortuna, and Pierson's Made in Humboldt section.



BRIDGEVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Bridgeville Fire Protection District has a new Chairperson Melody Zaboli. She has been a board member for around two years. It was a unanimous vote for our new leader. Thank you for taking the reins on the District, hoping for a smooth sleigh ride during the transition.

It's definitely winter time in Humboldt County. Rain, snow, wind, tall rivers, rushing streams, all the things that make traveling in our area challenging. Having a box of emergency gear in your vehicle is very important because of the inevitability of road closures and delays. Drinking water, blankets, flares, first aid kit, jumper cables, tarp and fire extinguisher. It seems like a lot of stuff until you need it. A bag with traveling supplies like a towel, shaving stuff, toothbrush, soap, socks, underwear and extra clothes can really come in handy anytime. Having a "window breaker-seatbelt cutter" within reaching distance of the driver, might just save a life whether it's yours or someone else's.

Thank you to all of you that got hold of me about new locations for more fire stations. Some ideas for station locations come with modest to high price tags. All ideas for station locations will be brought before all members of the District and Department with impact studies directed toward locations that best suit our needs. Our District is striving to improve our response time with most of the effort empowering areas most in need.

We hope to see you at the Holiday Dinner and Craft Fair December 7th 3pm to 7pm at the Bridgeville School. Our Department will be raffling away prizes and doing some demonstrations. Please stop by for a chat about the Fire District, fire safety and ways that you can support the volunteers. Our Department's monthly meeting is on the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm in Bridgeville. Any questions or comments feel free to contact us at 707-599-8048,

Chief Katzdorn.



BCC Commodities/Food Pantry

Friday, December 20

Bridgeville BCC
10am - 4pm

Dinsmore Airport
9am - 11am

Blocksburg Town Hall
1:30pm - 3:30pm



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

Kak da platite za putuvane 101 (Bulgarian for "How to pay for Travel 101")

Throughout our years together as a retired, budgeted couple, we have been extremely lucky, and wily, to be able to travel as much as we have.

It all started with Kate selling her Blue Lake house in 2005 and instead of taking all that money and depositing it into another house, she decided to save most for later, then use a little of it to help us travel a year to Alaska and beyond. Just a little. Enough to pay for part of the repair of Lyn's 1978 - 24 foot Americoach RV so the generator, heater and engine worked better, plus remodeling into a Hippy Heaven! The rest of the Alaska trip expenses were covered by our monthly retirement incomes. Each month when we were finally broke, we stopped and waited for the income to arrive again. Then filled the tank and took off! Easy. And what a trip! *Alyeska "Great Land" (Aleut word for Alaska)*

The next big trip we took was in 2014 to Europe for almost two months! You say, wow! They must be rich! For 4 years, with assistance from a good budget, Kate's pruning prowess and Lyn's networking skills, we saved a little at a time throughout these years; enough to pre-pay the necessary stuff a little at a time. We paid for the flight one time, then later reserved and pre-paid for Airbnb sites, then saved more to pre-pay for train, bus and tickets. We paid for all the required expenses but for money needed for food, fun and fancy. We kind of figured out what cash we thought we needed, the EU foreign exchange and what fees to pay for ATM use, etc. and saved for that. And off we went for another trip of a lifetime without having to pay for it later. *Bei Tem-pi* (Italian for Good times!)

In 2017, our new Danish friends we met during that Europe trip called and invited us to their Viking Wedding in Klitmoller, Denmark. This time we didn't have a lot of time to save, so got the money by delaying repair of one of our vehicles (which meant one less vehicle to drive for a while), plus didn't buy the sit-down mower we wanted at that time. So, there it was. And we were off for two weeks with them, Copenhagen and Amsterdam. *Flaedelig bryllupsdag!* (Danish for Happy Wedding Day!)

We have had more travels, and more ways to save for them. It all has taken creative thinking, some working time and plenty of dreams! We now live on those memories until the next time!

Happy Holidays!

Lyn Javier & Kate McCay
TwoCrones Ranch,
Larabee Valley

Blazer News



I told Dona, my wife of 51 years, this morning that I planned to write the Blazer News column for the Bridgeville Community Center Newsletter today. She asked what I was going to write about and my response was that I didn't know. An obvious topic would be the annual winter holidays, Thanksgiving and the various winter religious and spiritual traditions. I wish a peaceful, joyous, and warm and dry Holiday Season to everyone! The Holiday spirit is for all to experience and enjoy and it is especially important for children. I was searching for something other than the typical Holiday column.

When I arrived at school that morning, I wrote a lengthy column about communication and coincidences. It just didn't feel right even though I thought it was well written and important. The next morning as I walked through the Bridgeville Community Center next door to the school office, I couldn't help but notice the food commodities stacked high throughout the room. At that point the topic for the School News became crystal clear.

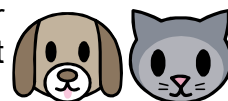
Every month the Community Center offers food packs at their office and distributes them out Highway 36 to Dinsmore and over the Alderpoint road to Blocksburg. This program is supported by Food For People in Eureka, the Humboldt Area Foundation, and the Bridgeville Community Center itself. In the month of November, due to the Holiday Season, there are significantly more items available. Rice, carrots, onions, potatoes, sweet potatoes, apples, pears, oranges, bread, cereal, gravy mix, jam, vegetable oil, tomato sauce, tuna, canned fruit, canned vegetables, cranberry sauce, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti noodles, mac & cheese, powdered milk, peanut butter, and oatmeal were some but not all of the food items that jammed the Community Center that morning. In addition, turkeys are available in November and hams in December. If families don't have the ability to cook a turkey, gift cards are available to purchase a cooked turkey or ham. What an incredible service the Bridgeville Community Center does for our community. If this isn't the spirit of the season, I don't know what is. And what an undeniable reminder to us all what the Holiday season is really about. Peace, love, kindness, and generosity grace the season.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

John Blakely
Superintendent



Please spay and neuter your
pets. Need help getting your cat
fixed? Call 707 442-SPAY



RESERVE YOUR SEATS NOW!

FREE Disaster Preparedness Training For the Whole Family (ages 9+)

Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025 9:00am-5:00pm

Bridgeville School Gym - 38717 Kneeland Road, Bridgeville

Bring your family and learn what to do before, during and after a disaster, relevant to your area. Each person in family will receive valuable preparedness items. Includes a Family disaster plan, a life-saving first aid kit and more!

Sponsored by
Blue Lake Rancheria Resiliency
Training & Innovation Center



Hosting & Lunch Provided by Bridgeville CERT

LIMITED TO 25 STUDENTS

PLEASE RSVP BY Feb 18, 2025

To Reserve: (707) 668-5101 X1049

Or rtic@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov



Better Food for Better Living

**[Click GetCalFresh.org](http://ClickGetCalFresh.org)
to apply online**

Bridgeville Trading Post

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

Thank You

THANK YOU SPONSORS

for making the newsletter possible.

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

THE CENTRAL OFFICE



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

Community Calendar

- **Playgroup** Mondays 9:30 – 12 noon,
- **Playgroup** Wednesdays 9:30 – 12 noon
- **Art Class** Wednesdays, 10am
- **BCC Board Meeting**, Thursday December 5
- **BCC Holiday Dinner and Craft Faire**, Saturday December 7, Craft Fair 3pm, Dinner 5pm
- **Book Mobile**, Tuesday December 10,
- **Firewise Meeting**, Wednesday December 11
- **Womens Gathering**, Sunday, December 15, Yoga 12 noon, Wreaths and Tea 1pm
- **Pantry Day**, Friday, December 20,
- Senior Lunch, postponed until January
- Community Potluck postponed until January

Office closed for holidays, Tuesday & Wednesday December 24/25 and December 31/1.

Happy Holidays.

Bridgeville Community Newsletter
PO Box 3
Bridgeville, CA 95526

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If you wish to be added or re-
 moved from the Newsletter
 mailing list, please contact the
 BCC.

Share the gift
 of kindness.

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Fire Board meeting 6pm	4	5 BCC Board Meeting 3:30	6	7  BCC Holiday Dinner and Craft Faire
8	9 Fire District meeting	10 Bookmobile 10:30 - noon	11 Firewise Meeting	12	13	14 Fire dept training
15 Women's Gathering	16	17	18	19	20 USDA Pantry: - BCC 10am-4pm - Dinsmore Air- port, 9:00 am-11 - Blocksburg 1:30	21 First Day of Winter
22	23	24	25  Happy Holidays	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve	 SAY NO TO PLASTIC			
				 Don't start Smoking. Save money and save your health. Call 1 (800) NO BUTTS		

WEEKLY: Tuesday - Friday 9am - 4pm

Holiday Schedule

Closed December 24, 25, 30 and January 1

Mondays: BCC CLOSED

Playgroup - Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30 - 12 noon

Art with Ted - Wednesdays 10am

BCC Board Meeting on first Thursday of month at 3:30pm

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