Willits Weekly | Edition 13 | August 10, 2017





Capability Brown

Louis Rohlicek 'makes rock move' with his custom stonemasonry designs



Above, left: This wall of David Groezinger's studio shows the "bending rock" technique, taught to Rohlicek by his mentor, Michael Eckerman.

> Photo by Louis Rohlicek

Above, right: Stone stairs with tiered retaining walls at Greg and Laura Stebbins' home.

At left: Louis Rohlicek leans against one of the stone gateways to Tom and Mary Allen's residence.

> Photos by Ree Slocum

Landscaping and stone work can be an important part of a home. They're a greeting – creating a passageway to complement a house and make a statement about the people within it. Louis Rohlicek is a landscape designer with a passion for stonemasonry who has worked with many people in Mendocino County, designing and building the perfect complements to the outside or inside of

their homes.

working different landscaping jobs in San Francisco. He was a

college graduate with a master's degree in history and political

science, and he found that becoming a full-time professor

"looked good on paper but felt terrible." He didn't go on to get

his PhD. After he and his wife, Sally, moved to San Francisco

from Chicago, Rohlicek wanted to work outside. He turned

to landscaping and, when he made stone steps for a client,

which was his first stone-masonry job, he discovered it was

Wanting to live more rurally, the Rohliceks moved to Spy

Rock Road in 1973. They got involved in the Laytonville

community, where Rohlicek approached the high school about

doing their landscaping. The wise administration saw he had

capabilities as an educator, so hired him to teach ornamental

horticulture to the school students. It became a perfect way for

the school to build its first greenhouse and garden beds while

very satisfying and he'd found his life's work.

Rohlicek, 74, discovered his career

in stonemasonry by accident while

Ree Slocum

Features Writer ree@willitsweekly.com

couple moved to Willits a few years later, and Rohlicek, along with Gary Owen and Yorgos Savides, formed the Mendocino Landscape Association. Rohlicek worked with the partnership, landscaping and working some stone until 1990, when he decided to strike off on his own to focus on his passion for

Friends were visiting from England when the Rohliceks were tossing around ideas for his new business name. Sally Rohlicek, who's English by birth, came up with the perfect name: Capability Brown Landscaping. A very entertaining household name in England and an appropriate name for Rohlicek's business.

Lancelot "Capability" Brown was a landscape designer in early 18th century England who revolutionized landscaping.

Before Brown began his unique designing and building of stone retaining walls, fences, walkways, gardens, paths, ponds and bridges, everything was pretty much designed in a very geometric and symmetric, Versailles-gardens style. Brown's designs were more fluid, mimicking nature and the rolling hills of the English countryside. A lot of Brown's structures, including bridges, are made without mortar. Rohlicek's designs and building techniques are all of that and more.

Michael Eckerman, a stonemason and mentor of

Read the rest of Stone

Over on Page RE4

Get your office, agents, open houses and listings included in our next edition on

September 14

Call for ad space: **April Tweddell**

Willits Weekly Ad Representative

707-972-2475

Call or email!

april@willitsweekly.com

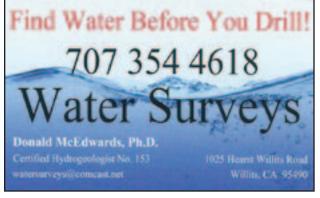
Kerniny's Fies 299 E COMMERCIAL SI WILLITS, CA 95190 KEMMYSPIES@GMAIL.COM Mon-Fri 6 am to 4 pm





















August 8 to October 31, 2017.

additional incentives of their own, with

a bonus incentive for low income-

chargers. Although Mendocino County

EV dealers are not participating in this

incentive program at the Santa Rosa

SCP's board of directors recently

approved an additional incentive

available to Transportation Network

Company drivers (such as Uber and

dealerships.



3. Drive on EverGreen

renewable energy instead. Get started.

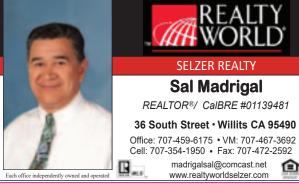
Platinum Chevrolet.

1. Get an Electric Car

SCP has negotiated some exceptional deals on electric vehicles. View vehicles.

Drive EverGreen

Sonoma Clean Power customers can save big on an electric vehicle, with a free home charger





Sign up for **Carpet One / Synchrony Financial;** 1 year no interest/equal payments at www.mysynchrony.com

For detailed Carpet One Customer Services & Policies, please visit our web page at http://www.carpetone.com/policy

UKIAH (CARPET ONE & HOME 300 HASTINGS AVE., UKIAH, CA | 707-462-1554 | CARPETONE.COM

2. Charge Up

Install an affordable home charging unit, Stop driving on gasoline. Use 100% local

and help us support local renewable energy. Learn how.

As a follow-up to last year's Electric incentive will be available for "fare miles," meaning miles driven for a Vehicle Incentive pilot program, which customer. More details will be available saw 206 customers purchase or lease steeply discounted electric vehicles, on that incentive soon.

phase two of Sonoma Clean Power's "We were encouraged by the strong Drive EverGreen program will run from interest we had in the program last vear." said SCB Board Chair Bruce Okrepkie. "We are thrilled to be able In keeping with SCP's commitment to reducing emissions from cars, the to expand the program to our newest customers in Mendocino County this agency has negotiated significant discounts on nine models of electric year," added Okrepkie. vehicles at seven Sonoma County

In response to information that over dealerships. SCP is also offering half of Sonoma County's emissions are transportation-related. SCP felt compelled to develop a customer qualified customers, and free home program aimed at getting more EVs on our roads. "In our first year of serving customers, we reduced electricityyear's program, SCP's Mendocino related emissions by half, compared to County customers are eligible for the PG&E," said SCP CEO Geof Syphers. "We knew we could do even more by promoting electric cars and charging them with clean, renewable energy,"

To apply, people need to get a certificate verifying they are SCP EverGreen program, visit DriveEV.org Lyft) who use electric vehicles. The customers at DriveEV.org. Once or call 1 (855) 202-2139.

approved, customers learn the amount of incentives they are qualified for and are welcome to proceed with negotiating a purchase or lease of a qualified EV from one of the participating dealerships, including Hansel Ford, Hansel BMW, Hansel VW, Jim Bone Kia, Jim Bone Nissan, Mercedes-Benz of Santa Rosa, and

"There's no guarantee how much longer federal rebates up to \$7,500 will be available on new EVs," said SCP's Director of Programs Cordel Stillman. "This program is too good to pass up for anyone even remotely interested in the benefits of driving an EV."

Sonoma Clean Power is a not-forprofit public agency, which is the public electricity provider for Sonoma and Mendocino counties. SCP provides cleaner energy at competitive rates and promotes local solutions to climate change.

For more information on the Drive

United Policyholders Tip of the Month | August 2017 Too close for comfort

With wildfire season in full force it is so important to know what to do if a fire comes too close for comfort. If you are told to evacuate immediately, do so ASAP.

If there is a chance you may have to evacuate, take action:

1. Document your home and "stuff." If you do not have a home inventory, create one before you evacuate. Take pictures or a video of each room and the exterior of your house to document your property. An easy and fast way to do this is by downloading the free UPHelp Home Inventory App.

2. Pack important documents. When told you have to evacuate your home, you may feel overwhelmed on what to take. Along with sentimental items that are irreplaceable, here is a list of important documents that disaster survivors recommend you take, based on their personal experiences:

- Insurance policies and related correspondence
- Family photos
- · Passports and birth certificates
- Tax and loan documents
- · Stocks and bonds Wills and trusts
- Plans/blueprints of your home

3. Start saving receipts ASAP after evacuating. Your insurance company will reimburse you for "additional living expenses" incurred due to the loss of use of your home because of a mandatory evacuation order or damage that makes it uninhabitable. Please note: If your home isn't

damaged and your temporary living expenses are modest, you may be better off paying them out of pocket to avoid filing an insurance claim that goes on your record and can increase the cost of your insurance.

4. Contact your insurance agent. Get confirmation that you are covered for a total loss. Email or call your agent and keep good notes of the conversation. Make coverage adjustments ASAP and make sure they are "bound" (effective

5. Use United Policyholders as a resource. We hope you will be able to return home safe and sound. All the resources below – and more - are available at www.uphelp.org

• If your home wasn't damaged in the fire (whew), get a copy of "Wise UP" to learn what matters in home insurance.

 After a wildfire evacuation, read "Returning to your home after a wildfire: A post-evacuation checklist.

• If your home suffered damage, our "Roadmap to Recovery" program will help you navigate the insurance claim process. Start with our "Top 10 Claim Tips."

We hope you never need these tips, but many do – including the Detwiler fire survivors in Mariposa County, California. Please consider making a donation https://donatenow. networkforgood.org/1437516 so we can support the survivors starting on the road to recovery. United Policyholders' work is funded by donations and grants from individuals, businesses

To read past Tips of the Month, visit http://uphelp.org/

United Policyholders, 381 Bush Street, 8th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104, is a voice and an information resource for insurance consumers in all 50 states. Please visit www.uphelp.org to learn more.

WESTWOOD REAL ESTATE Kent Westwood, Broker CalBRE #01293875 (707) 984-7078 Joe Morf, Agent CalBRE #02005443 (707) 496-1144 "Zillow Premier Agents"

Redwood Meadows is an active independent senior community featuring 101 apartment homes, primarily a mix of one and two bedroom apartments which are single story 4-plex cottage-type set amongst seven acres of park like landscaping.

We are a smoke-free and pet friendly community. We boast a community center where activities are held like card games, Bingo, birthdays and socials. We also have a barbecue area for residents to get together for social functions.

Redwood Meadows is conveniently located adjacent to the William F. Harrah Senior Center with a thrift store, cafeteria and taxi service, and Howard Memorial Hospital is just blocks away.



1475 BAECHTEL ROAD WILLITS, CA 95490 707-459-1616 MON-FRI 10:00-4:00





A new roof can transform the look and functionality of your home

ample thought to the roof unless there is a leak or another sign of damage. It's easy to forget about the roof when materials are working properly. Some people put off replacing or repairing a roof simply because of the costs of such undertakings. However, the right roof can improve the appearance of a home and provide protection against the elements, potentially preventing damage to a home's

Roofing materials have evolved over the years, but the most common type of roofing material is the asphalt shingle. These shingles are a relatively modern invention, with the first "asphalt prepared roofing" serving as a forerunner to asphalt shingles, appearing in the late 1800s.

Roofing materials will need to meet a particular area's fire codes and must be able to withstand any extreme weather conditions common to the geographic region

be heavier than others and may require special framing. Work with an experienced roofing contractor to learn more about your available options and to shed light on any special installation or maintenance issues to consider before construction begins.

The following are just some of the roofing materials homeowners may want to consider.

· Asphalt shingles: The most popular roofing material, asphalt shingles, are guaranteed for 20 to 30 years, which helps solidify this choice as a smart-value product. For some homeowners, a downside to shingles is that. because they are so popular, they're seen everywhere. So those homeowners looking to make a unique statement with their roofing materials may want to choose a different

· Wood shingles and shakes: A wood roof is another

possibility, but some homeowners find wood roofs require more money to install and more effort

When renovating a home, homeowners may not give where the home is located. Certain roofing materials may to maintain than roofs made with other materials. Wood shingles are sawn from logs and are thin, while shakes are thick, rough and formed by being split from logs.

> · Clay or concrete tiles: These tiles add texture and elegance to a roof. Clay or concrete tiles are very durable and quite heavy, so they must be installed by a professional. These tiles can make Mediterranean-, Spanish- or Missionstyle houses stand out even more. Their long-lasting nature can help offset the price tag.

> · Metal: Metal roofs are usually made from fully recyclable steel, aluminum or alloy, making them an ecofriendly choice. Metal roofs also reflect the sun's rays and can be an energy-efficient option in hot climates.

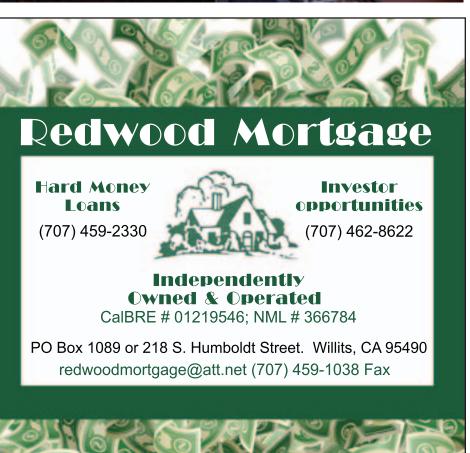
> • Slate: One of the longest-lasting materials available in roofing products, slate is fireproof and comes in various natural colors and shapes. Once installed, slate requires very little maintenance. However, slate can be costprohibitive, because its delicacy and weight requires extra roofing support and professional installation.

Changing a roof means years of improved performance and an instant uplift to the look of a home.

A roofing crew from Dunlap Roofing works on a new roof at a Hilltop Drive house in Willits on a warm June day this summer. Thanks to property owner Julie Goodwin, in the real estate business herself, who gave the OK to feature photos of the work in Willits Weekly's Real Estate section. Dunlap Roofing – their motto is "Done once. Done right. Dunlap" – is a fully insured, fully licensed and bonded roofing company offering a full range of residential and commercial roofing services throughout Mendocino County. Visit www.dunlaproofing.com to learn more, call their Ukiah office at 462-7506 or their Fort Bragg office at 964-8735, or email contactus@dunlaproofing.com.









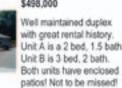
MENDO REALTY, INC.

MENDOCINO COUNTY'S PREMIER REAL ESTATE COMPANY

1460 South Main Street, Willits • (707) 459-5389



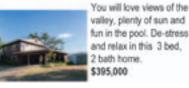












Willits Valley sits this

2 bed 2 bath, superior

country property! 20 +/- fully

fenced acres with full sun,

gently sloping meadows.





707-367-0389

707-841-7778





Roxanne Lemos-Neese

707-484-6489



Patsy Broeske

707-841-8053

ontact one of our experienced agents to find homes for sale in Willits or Mendocino County. mendocinocountyproperties.com • coldwellbanker.com



Above: A retaining wall in the Rohlicek yard with stone mimicking a geological structure called an

"uplift." At right: Steps with a river-stone water course running through steps off of Tom and Mary

Severly COMPANY

320 S State St Ukiah M-F 9-5 · 462-2570 · Cal BRE#00548508

NEW LISTING!

Affordable, Clean and Convenient!

This quaint 3 bedroom 2 bath home with central air/heat, will bring comfort year 'round! Efficient kitchen w/appliances and dishwasher, make meal time a breeze! Walking distance to Ukiah's stores, banking, library and historic museum, make this property a great opportunity for the first time buyer or List Price \$325,000

www.beverlysandersrealtyco.com

391-3564

621-3424

462-1414

Kim Getts

01472968

Amy Wray

01992352

Carmen Saye

0136686

Allen's patio. At right, below: One of the retaining walls at the Stebbins residence, with flows of

stone running through the masonry.

investor!

Eric Garbocci

01099717

Lea Bergem

01852651

Leonard Winte

01255644

At left: An outdoor Rumford fireplace at Black Oak Ranch. Notice the river rock design mimicking the flow of smoke. This type of fireplace has a reputation of being the most efficient style. Above: Chuck Ream commissioned this pool for his water-

Photos by Ree Slocum

From Page RE1

Rohlicek also talked about seeing the movement of water and rocks when lying on a beach along the Eel River and thinking, "I've got to try that!" Much of his stone work reflects this idea, with upheavals of earth, or the flow of water or smoke interspersed in his rock design.

For 15 years he's been a member of the international organization, The Stone Foundation. It's an organization for stonemasons only, not people working with concrete blocks or pavers. When Rohlicek attended their yearly symposium in Ventura, California, he participated in building a large stone wall with no mortar called a "dry stack." There were four instructors, and each had a slightly different style. The

Rohlicek, a hands-on kind of guy, works with at least one other

plan for clients. He teaches his assistants the basics about stonemasonry and the proper way to do it. It's that's like his. Then both can then be working together in different sections using Rohlicek's design. It sounds like a great way to learn the trade.

River Rohlicek, Rohlicek's son, studied sculpture in Santa Cruz and has become a stonemason in British Columbia. When referring to consulting with River about how the son has done work new to the father, Rohlicek said, "I'm not afraid to ask questions, so I ask questions all the time." It must be a breath of fresh air to have the father learning from the son.

All the time Rohlicek has been a stonemason in the county, he's also utilized his college education. If you look at the schedule of classes offered by Mendocino College, you'll see Louis Rohlicek's name as an instructor teaching Political Science or History. He's taught the classes once or twice a semester for quite a few years. "It's a nice balance to working with stone,"

"The one concession to old age that I've made for myself is that in the winter I start a little later so that I can dawdle over The New York Times and drink my

What's in Rohlicek's future? "I'll do [stonemasonry] as long as I can. There'll be a time when Nature says, 'Enough! Sit down!' And when that happens that's how it is, but it hasn't happened vet!"

You can contact Louis Rohlicek and Capability







Rohlicek's who lives in Santa Cruz, "opened my eyes to things that were possible," Rohlicek said. "He taught me how to bend stone. Not literally, but how to place it also important to him that the person do it in a way so that it moves: creates curves and courses through

project was divided into four sections and participants were split into four teams and

> able to spend part of each day learning each instructor's style while completing the wall. The beautiful results can be seen in downtown Ventura. Rohlicek uses the technique in his own

person when implementing his Brown Landscaping at 707-459-2237.

COLUMN | How's the Market?

Being a good tenant

into a seller's market. Prices are up, inventory is down, and buyers outnumber sellers. However, if you would rather rent than buy right now, here are some tips on how to be a

Find a property that fits your needs. You can find places for rent listed in your local newspaper, via an online search, or through a professional property management company.

Make sure you're dealing with a reputable landlord, and that the person you're dealing with is, in fact, the owner or legitimate property manager. Scammers sometimes pose as landlords and advertise properties

for rent. They accept your application and your deposit, but get "called away" and cannot meet with you. They abscond with your money and personal information and never send you the keys. If possible, it's best to deal with people you can meet with face-to-face.

Pay attention to the condition of the property. This is the honeymoon phase. If the place doesn't look nice now when the landlord is trying to rent it, it's unlikely the landlord will put in more time and money to fix things once you've moved in.

Tell the truth. Complete the rental application thoroughly and in good faith. You should assume the landlord will verify the

Read your lease agreement, and pay attention to your obligations. You don't have much negotiating power after you've signed your name. If you have questions, ask them up front.

Use a move-in checklist and take pictures. If the landlord doesn't offer a move-in checklist, make one for yourself. Take inventory of what's broken or missing, as well as the condition of appliances and other features. Photographs and/or video footage are a great way to catalog the property.

Confirm that the locks have been re-keyed.

Hey Willits friends and neighbors: Hopefully

you've made the most of your summer, and

Now is a great time to think about end-of-

year financial planning. I want you to glide

into the holidays without a (financial planning)

you are able to fully enjoy the last weeks.

So, here is my fall financial

Meet with your accountant

and/or financial planner:

It's a good time to check in

on how your investments

are doing as well as what

your 2017 tax situation may

look like. You still have time

to adjust where you might

be overspending, time to

donate, etc., and if you have

not maxed out contributions

to your retirement accounts.

Review health insurance: Open enrollment

begins mid-fall with many employers.

Perhaps you did not need as much medical

care this year, so you may be able to get a

Get on top of your Flexible Spending

Accounts: If you under-estimated your

health spending, be sure to put more in there

next year. If you have excess - spend it

plan with a higher deductible. Take a look.

please do so.

care in the world.

planning pep talk.

COLUMN | Numbers by Nick

The real estate market continues to evolve
No one wants prior occupants to have access to their home.

> Prepare for an emergency. Find out where the breaker box is, along with the emergency shut off for water and gas. Also, inspect the property for smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Landlords are legally required to provide them.

> Communicate with your landlord. Tenants sometimes fear that sharing bad news with landlords about needed repairs will result in a bigger rent payment. The truth is, a good landlord will appreciate being informed about problems when they're small and easy to take care of. A little leak is usually cheap

to fix; massive dry rot is not. Replacing an electrical outlet is relatively easy; losing your property to fire is not.

Move out well. When you leave a property, give appropriate notice (check your lease agreement) and really clean the place. Use your move-in checklist as you move out. Ask the landlord for a pre-move-out inspection, so they can tell you what they

Richard Selzer

Fall financial planning pep talk

Nicholas Casagrande

charged for them later.

believe requires attention. This gives you an opportunity to fix things yourself rather than to be

you're wondering how much to pay for rent, look at what similar homes in the area are renting for. If the one you're interested in is really high or really low, pay attention. Be aware that the security deposit cannot legally be more than twice the monthly rent for an unfurnished property. Be informed.

If you have questions about real estate or property management, please contact me at rselzer@selzerrealty.com or visit www.realtyworldselzer.com. If I use your suggestion in a column, I'll send you a \$5 gift card to Roland's Bakery. If you'd like to read previous articles, visit my blog at www. richardselzer.com

Dick Selzer is a real estate broker who has been in the business for more than 40 years.

Risk management, review your insurance

policies: Auto, home ... when was the last

time you did this? Things change - make

Check in on your spending and debt: Are

you ignoring or are you making progress

paying off? Your credit

card company likely

provides a breakdown of

your spending by category

- take a look. If you are

surprised, you may need

to adjust for the last few

Budget for holiday gifts

and fun: Think of your

gift-expecting friends and

family, and designate what

you want to spend on your

Proper planning for fall

will help you end the year

with little stress and give you a good start to

As always – I would be happy to help. Get

Nicholas Casagrande, EA, is an accountant and a

financial advisor. His firm, NC Financial Group, is a wealth

management firm serving individual clients as well as small-

to-medium-sized businesses. Client work includes personal

and corporate taxes, investment planning, insurance, and

in touch, please. Thank you and my best.

months of the year.

sure you have the correct coverage.

COLUMN | Real Estate Beat

More than a house

It often seems like my job is much more masculine aspects exist within all humans than being a real estate agent, at least what most people think of as the job of being an agent. Some years ago I had a lovely and actually affects us deep down inside. Many amusing card and gift of beautiful flowers from some clients that I had great affection for. The note was addressed to "Dr. Bill." These clients had had a strong connection to the house they had built and, years later, had to sell to relocate. They struggled to let go of to them. their precious home. I spent many hours with them working through the process of letting go. Their house was literally a part of them. It was intimately connected to their psyches.

People have deep connections with the house they live in. Many people don't even realize that connection exists. Those connections go much deeper than just a building, mobile home or piece of land. Why? Isn't a house just a building that we can move and instincts. on from, or in to?

Some years ago my friend, Kurt Ackermann, mentioned the term "mental equity" regarding the over-pricing of a house by some home sellers. They actually assign a dollar value to their memories and love for the place. A value that the "market" does not assign a dollar value to.

A home – a house – is a symbol of something that is much more profound than only a "roof over your head." The great psychologist Carl Jung in his book, "Man and His Symbols," wrote that symbols imply "something vague, unknown or hidden from us."

He wasn't speaking about physically hidden, but rather psychically, emotionally or mentally "hidden." The house is such a symbol - a very potent symbol with deep emotional roots into our very lives and beings.

In his master work, "A Dictionary of Symbols," J.E. Cirlot talked about the symbol of the house. He talked about the house as a feminine symbol. Why feminine? This has nothing to do with sex. It has to do with the interior of the human psyche, one's interior. The enclosed garden where things grow is often part of a home, just as the female has the almost mystic ability to grow another human being within her body. A house surrounds us, sometimes protective, sometimes ominous.

Since, psychologically, feminine and

South facing property with one

sunny pasture, year around spring

bedroom, one bath home. Additional cabin, both with solar power, propane refers, 29 foot deep pond with several types of fish, swimming dock. Large open regardless of their physical sex, we must look past sex and try to understand what people often dream of a house. But the "dream house" is a symbol. Dr. Jung might say that everything in a dream is an aspect of the dreamer. The dream is trying to help one understand something that is important

The outside of the house can represent the psychological exterior, or mask, of the person - what one is presenting to the world or on a personal level, the condition of something happening in one's own life. The basement can represent that person's foundation, and beyond that, what's going on deep inside the womb, the connection with the "Mother Earth," which is the unconscious, creativity

According to Cirlot, the stairway is a symbol that connects one to other

> levels of the self. A kitchen is a place of transformation and of nourishment. What if the kitchen is empty? Is the dreamer needing to find a way to nourish his / herself in a spiritual or psychological way? Are other people, aspects of the dreamer, in the kitchen? What do they represent to you?

Bill Barksdale

Each room can have a different symbolic meaning. Its meaning is personal to the one experiencing it, so how do you feel about that room and what's in it? What does it bring up to you, both intellectually and emotionally, when you

The roof and upper floors may represent the head and thinking. This area might be exploring conscious self-control, or how one is thinking about their life. If the roof if blowing off, are you feeling exposed or vulnerable? Are the rooms organized? Is there something scary or threatening there?

Of course, the house is also literally and symbolically related to one's physical safety, nurturance and quality of life.

A house is much more than just a place to live. In some ways, it's literally one's self.

Bill Barksdale has been a real estate agent in Mendocino County for over 25 years. He can be reached at Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty Inc.: 707-489-2232 or bark@pacific.

ZACH

CARPENTER

707-671-6392

CalBRE #01722126

CalBRE #02031821

water, water storage for the home and cabin. Established garden,

Several large outbuildings, quiet

neighborhood. Possible owner

financing. \$550,000

orchard, back up generator.



"Give Back Homes"

A portion of my commission goes towards helping build homes for families in need.



272-2839

972-6856

621-3434







Above, from left: Bronze Sea poses sagaciously in front of Seabiscuit's historic stud barn. Seabiscuit descendant Bronze Sea in foal to Einstein. Giselle (by Atta Boy Roy) descends from Seabiscuit, War Admiral and La Troienne.

Ridgewood Ranch – the 'Home of Seabiscuit' – features new additions

Submitted by the Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation

Another season of guided historic walking tours are offered at Seabiscuit's home, Ridgewood Ranch, a few miles south of Willits where Highway 101 bisects the 5,000 acre property. "We are very grateful for our newest additions," said Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation President Jacqueline Cooper. Seabiscuit descendant, Bronze Sea, a 10-year-

old thoroughbred mare, for one, is in foal. The mare, along with a handful of other Lil'Biscuit's that descend from the legendary racehorse, are privately owned and available for viewing during seasonal tours.

"It has been a miracle of sorts finding a suitable sire. We originally planned to breed Bronze Sea to Lucky Pulpit, sire of California Chrome," said Cooper, Lucky Pulpit's untimely passing at age 16 prompted a whirlwind stallion tour to find a suitable mate for Bronze Sea. Many expressed support including bestselling author Laura Hillenbrand and others who spent hours researching stallion prospects.

"I am honored to have Laura's support. She has been such a good friend throughout this entire process." beamed Cooper. Other experts chimed in, including pedigree consultant, Alan Porter, co-creator of the TrueNicks system, provided key information about select sire and broodmare sire lines, and Ellen Parker, noted for her reins-de-course work, provided a detailed pedigree analysis and mating recommendations based on Bronze Sea's female family.

DNA analysis by Dr. Steven Tammariello of ThoroughGen and the Institute of Equine Genomics was also quite revealing about Bronze Sea's propensity for speed and endurance. "Based on DNA analysis Bronze Sea's energy-production genes are above average, which is good for aerobic capacity of her offspring," Cooper said. The trait is said to be consistent with that of champions.

"If we have learned anything through this experience," Cooper continued, "it is this, when fate turns unexpectedly, we are given an opportunity to learn more and to make the most of it. While I was deeply grieved at the passing of Lucky Pulpit, and the process of choosing another stallion was not without challenges, we were shown such wonderful and unexpected support. It all worked out in the end."

Unexpected offers included a free breeding to Rousing Sermon by the owners of Lucky Pulpit and Gervinho at Legacy Ranch. Finnegan's Wake was also offered for free to Lucky Pulpit booked mares.

After considering all of these stallions and more, Cooper finally settled on the Brazilianbred Einstein, winner of California's richest race, 2009 Santa Anita Handicap. "So fitting that she is in foal to a stallion who won the race that became Seabiscuit's greatest quest." wrote

Laura Hillenbrand in a congratulatory note to Cooper.

Einstein who hails from Adena Springs, bears that honor and won the Santa Anita Handicap at age 7, as Seabiscuit once did. A late bloomer, he exhibits some of Seabiscuit's best traits, including strength, toughness and endurance. Interesting, too, this son of Spend A Buck may also represent the best of the War Admiral line via Buckpasser, not to mention

he is a true black beauty. Bronze Sea's foal is due next May. Cooper would very much like to campaign the foal to increase awareness of the Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation and its mission.

Cooper added a second mare to their modest thoroughbred breeding program, the Washington-bred Giselle. "Giselle was advertised as a retiring racehorse of the Pacific Northwest," she explained. The grey mare is of the rare Seabiscuit line through her stakes winning sire, Atta Boy Roy, and descends from one of the greatest broodmares of the 20th century, La Troienne. "She is such a beautiful filly. Only 3 years old and racing trim, she will be turned out at Ridgewood this summer, allowed to grow and mature," said Cooper. "We feel very blessed to have her here."

The horses descending from Seabiscuit are included in the guided tours at Ridgewood Ranch, along with several of the historic buildings still remaining from the Seabiscuit and Howard era. "It is the goal of the foundation to preserve and protect the cultural legacy of Ridgewood Ranch," Cooper said. The Carriage House is currently in the final phase of rehabilitation thanks to a generous contribution of Lloyd Schwing in the memory of his late wife, Anne Marie. The project is spearheaded by SHF chairman and longtime ranch resident Tracy Livingston.

"In keeping the 'Secretary of Interior standards' of rehabilitation, we try to use as many of the original materials as possible," said Livingston. Sixteen original bi-fold doors will be beautifully restored and reinstalled with the help of P&K Woodworks in Redwood Valley and Menton Builders.

A new stud barn roof for Seabiscuit's stud barn, now listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is slated in 2018 to prevent the building from deteriorating. "We are in a race against time," said Cooper. "This is the reason why the foundation is doing the work of historic preservation and land conservation. We don't

want any of this to be lost. The historic buildings, the grounds, they should all be enjoyed by future generations long after we are gone."

Tour proceeds are in support of this guest. Seabiscuit's stud barn, historic Howard House, the Carriage House and old growth redwood grove are also available for private events rentals in support of historic preservation. For tour information and reservations visit www. seabiscuitheritage.org.

'Claws for a Cause'

Annual benefit dinner set for September 2 at Ridgewood Ranch

Willits Rotary Club, South Ukiah Rotary, members of the Redwood Empire Lions Club, and the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center are gearing up for the annual "Claws for a Cause" dinner and auction, on Saturday, September 2 from 5 to 9 pm.

This popular event will be located at the "Historic Howard House" on the famed Ridgewood Ranch, home of the legendary racehorse Seabiscuit, just a few miles south of Willits off Highway 101.

Guests will enjoy this beautiful and historic setting with an evening of fine dining planned and prepared by Adam's Restaurant of Willits, live music by "The Ed Reinhart Band," whole live Maine lobster accompanied with filet mignon steak, appetizers, dessert, beer, wine tasting hosted by Barra of Mendocino County, and the very popular dollar auction and silent auction.

To make a contribution and/or be one of the event sponsors contact: Diane Cannon, board president, Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center: 707-489-8372 or Mike Smith, Willits Rotary Club event coordinator: 707-972-2471.

Event tickets are available for purchase at DFM Auto Repair in Ukiah and Willits Furniture Center or from Erin Holzhauer, Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center program director/instructor: 707-391-3873 and Sheryl Mitchum, Redwood Empire Lions Club event volunteer: 707-391-2485.

All proceeds from this event will benefit the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center, a 501(c3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing equine-assisted activities to children and adults who are challenged physically, developmentally, socially and/or emotionally. For more information about the program, visit: "Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center" on Facebook.

- submitted by the Seabiscuit Therapeutic Riding Center

