November 2026
Volume 36 - No.11

The Scoop

54th - HAPPY - ANNIVERSARY

The mission of the Ukiah Senior Center is to enhance and improve the quality of life for all Ukiah seniors, their families, and caregivers, and to enable seniors to remain as independent as possible for as long as possible.

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There Is No Funding Fairy: How Small Nonprofits Stay Afloat

***Liz Dorsey,* USC Executive Director, Ukiah Senior Center**

There are so many things I love about living here in Ukiah - the scenery, the climate, the small-town feel. My very favorite is the community. We are lucky to have many organizations that have been doing good work here for decades.

Unfortunately, that can be a double-edged sword. We assume that because a nonprofit has operated for many years, it has everything it needs to continue. And many people assume that if a program is meeting an important need, it must surely have a grant, government funding, or a wealthy benefactor to keep it afloat.

Many good causes are undermined by the same harmful assumption. “Surely somebody else will support that.” “Someone else will volunteer.” “They probably have government funding for that.” “They’ve been around forever - I’m sure they’re fine.”

The reality for many small nonprofits is that there is no funding fairy. Just because an organization has served Ukiah for 10, 20, 50, or even 100 years does not mean it will be able to keep the lights on next year. So how do smaller nonprofit organizations maintain the funding they need to do their work and serve our community?

What nonprofit funding actually looks like

We see these funding challenges firsthand at the Ukiah Senior Center, where I’m the Executive Director. They are fairly universal concerns. Small nonprofits like ours don’t have one large pool of funding; instead, we rely on a patchwork of event revenue, business support, grants - and most importantly - individual donors.

Small nonprofits have to balance fundraising with the work they exist to do, such as running the food bank or animal shelter, teaching a class, or connecting participants with the resources they need. This can be a major challenge for a small staff. And while grants can help, they are often restrictive, with cumbersome applications and reporting requirements. A grant might pay for a specific program or population, but leave other very real costs unfunded, like staff time, rent, utilities, technology upgrades, and insurance. And even when grants are available, there is no guarantee an organization will receive one.

Small communities like Ukiah face particular challenges. We have many worthwhile organizations, but a limited pool of donors. This can result in nonprofits competing for the same volunteers, dollars, and attention.

So what does this mean for those of us who believe in the good work so many of our local organizations are doing?

What does it mean to actually support an organization?

Many people already give generously to local nonprofits. Others may be uncertain of how best to offer support, especially at a time when rising costs and limited budgets are daily concerns. Supporting an organization simply means getting involved with what you think is

important and giving back in a way that works for you and the nonprofit you care about. It could mean donating monthly, whether that's $5, $25, or $1,000. It might mean volunteering, attending events, donating time or expertise, or telling someone else about the organization. It doesn't mean supporting every worthy organization or giving more than you can afford.

To be sure your time and money are spent well, it's wise to ask questions before you give: How long has the organization existed? What do they do on a daily basis? Who does that work? What happens when funding falls short? What needs are they seeing in our community?

A mission statement or a website visit won't always convey the whole picture. You can spend time at a nonprofit's physical location or events to get a better feel for the people, programs, and work behind the organization.

Whatever you are passionate about - veterans, seniors, animals, the environment, early childhood education, mental health advocacy - there is likely an organization right here that would love to know you, hear your passion and concerns, and find ways to partner with you.

I like to imagine what would happen if every member of our community regularly donated or volunteered with one organization they care about. It would sustain nonprofit budgets, fill needs for volunteers, and help organizations make a bigger difference for the people and causes they aim to serve.

There is no funding fairy. But it's incredible what can happen when many individuals decide to get involved with the things that matter to them.

Welcome New Members

Bruce Smith
Carol Ann Cassidy
Cherie & Gary Alton
Dorothea Winter
Gail Viera
Jim Brende
Katherine Houshmand
Nicole Rains
Ray Chadwick
Sandra Ford

In Memory

In Memory of David Salisbury

Grant & Julee Howell

Thank You Renewing Members

Carolyn Smith
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Connie Gaspar
David Akka
Johanna Kalies
Kay & Monte Hill
Kim Paz
Lawrence Siegel
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Oni La Gioia
Patricia Trenholm
Pauline Hurme
Sharon
Susan Barros
The Dragon's Lair
Tom DesRoches

Holiday Craft Fair

Shop & Celebrate the Season!

Sharing the spotlight with our Thanksgiving meal on the front cover of this month's Scoop is the Ukiah Senior Center's Holiday Craft Fair! Join us Saturday, November 14, and Sunday, November 15, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Bartlett Event Center, 495 Leslie Street, for two days of holiday shopping and community fun!

Browse a wonderful selection of handmade crafts, holiday decorations, unique gifts, and one-of-a-kind treasures from local vendors. Whether you're looking for that perfect Christmas gift or a little something special for yourself, you're sure to find plenty of inspiration!

And don't forget to come hungry! Delicious soup will be available for purchase, along with a holiday bake sale featuring sweet treats to enjoy or take home.

The Holiday Craft Fair is a wonderful opportunity to support local crafters, get a head start on your holiday shopping, and enjoy time with friends and neighbors.

Mark your calendars, bring a friend, and join us for a festive weekend!

For more information, call (707) 462-4343, ext. 209.

Little Wishes, Big Difference!

Sometimes it's the little things that make the biggest difference! Our Lunch Bunch and Bartlett Event Center programs have a few items on their wish lists, and we're reaching out to our wonderful community for a little help.

Thanksgiving Celebration

Thanksgiving is a time to gather, give thanks, and enjoy a delicious meal with friends and loved ones. This year, Ukiah Senior Center invites you to celebrate the holiday with us at the Bartlett Event Center!

Our kitchen team is preparing a wonderful Thanksgiving feast with all the traditional favorites. Whether you're joining us in person or taking your meal home to enjoy, we're looking forward to sharing this special holiday with you.

Thanksgiving Meal Details

Thursday, November 26, 2026

Bartlett Event Center

495 Leslie Street, Ukiah

Drive-Thru Pickup: 11:00–11:30 AM

Dine-In: Doors open at 12:00 PM, with meal service beginning at 12:30 PM.

Tickets: $20 per person, with a $5 discount for Ukiah Senior Center members.Tickets are available at:

- Bartlett Event Center, 495 Leslie Street
- Mendocino Book Shop
- Online at tickets.ukiahseniorcenter.org

Ticket sales close Monday, November 23, at 4:00 PM. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Thanksgiving is about more than what's on the table. It's about the people gathered around it, the friendships we share, and the sense of community that makes the holiday special.

Whether you're celebrating with family, friends, or making new connections, there's a place for you at our Thanksgiving table.

For more information, call (707) 462-4343, ext. 209.

We hope you'll join us for a Thanksgiving filled with good food, warm company, and gratitude!

Transportation News

Please join us in welcoming Joseph Elliott to the Ukiah Senior Center team!

Joseph recently joined the Senior Center as a Relief Dispatcher and Volunteer Coordinator, but you may see him helping in several different areas. From Transportation to the Bartlett Event Center, the Administrative Offices, and even the Thrift Store, Joseph is quickly becoming a familiar face around the Center.

When asked what attracted him to working at the Senior Center, Joseph's answer was simple: “Being able to help as many people as I can. He enjoys the variety of tasks that come his way, especially knowing that each one makes a difference for someone.

Joseph hopes to bring a fresh perspective to the team, finding ways to make everyday tasks easier, improve communication, and help things run more smoothly. One thing he has especially appreciated since joining the Center is how friendly and welcoming everyone has been.

Joseph has roots in the Ukiah area, having lived here until he was 13. His journey took him to several other places, including Maryland and Sacramento, before returning to the area. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time playing video games on his PlayStation.

When asked what might surprise people about him, Joseph said how easy he is to talk to. He wants members, volunteers, and staff to feel comfortable approaching him with questions, concerns, or suggestions. He believes listening to one another is an important part of making the Senior Center an even better place for everyone.

We're happy to have Joseph on the team! The next time you see him around the Center, be sure to say hello and give him a warm welcome!

Need a Ride? We’re Here to Help!

Getting around shouldn't be a challenge! At Ukiah Senior Center, our Transportation Program helps older adults and adults with disabilities stay active, independent, and connected to the community.

Whether you need a ride to a medical appointment, the grocery store, or another local destination, our friendly drivers are here to help you get where you need to go.

Our ADA-accessible buses accommodate passengers with mobility challenges, including those who use wheelchairs and walkers. We offer convenient door-through-door service, ramp assistance, and wheelchair securement to help make every trip as safe and comfortable as possible.

Need to Travel Out of Town for a Medical Appointment?

We can help with that, too! Our Outreach Coordinator, Heather Haydon, assists older adults and adults with disabilities with arranging transportation to out-of-town medical appointments. If you have an upcoming appointment outside the Ukiah area and aren't sure how you'll get there, give Heather a call to discuss available transportation options.

Our Transportation Program is about more than getting from one place to another. It's about helping people maintain their independence, access important services, and stay connected to their community.

Local Transportation Hours:

Monday–Thursday, 8:45 AM–4:00 PM

Transportation Office Hours:

Monday–Thursday, 8:00 AM–4:30 PM

For More Information:

Local Transportation: (707) 462-4343, ext. 204

Out-of-Town Medical Transportation:

Contact Heather Haydon, Outreach Coordinator,

M-TH Hours: 10-4 P.M. at (707) 462-4343, ext. 206.

At Ukiah Senior Center, we're proud to help keep our community moving, connected, and independent—one ride at a time!

Medicare Open Enrollment

Open enrollment happens from October 15 - December 7 and is the time each year when you can make changes to your coverage. The changes you make during open enrollment are effective January 1 of next year. (The plan must get your enrollment request by December 7.)

If you are enrolled in Original Medicare you can join, drop, or switch to another Medicare drug plan. You can change how you get coverage by switching from Original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage Plan or from a Medicare Advantage plan to Original Medicare. You can also join, drop, or switch to another Medicare Advantage Plan with or without drug coverage at this time.

For information on how to make changes call Medicare directly at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or contact Heather Haydon at hhaydon@seniorctr.org 707-462-4343 ext. 206 for more resources.

We've Moved

There have been a few changes at Ukiah Senior Center, and we're excited to share that our administrative offices have moved to a new location within our building!

Previously located in Room 3, which we shared with our Lunch Bunch program, our administrative offices are now in Room 1, the first door on the left as you enter the building.

The move includes our Outreach, Transportation, and Accounting departments, along with the Executive Director's office and Administrative Assistant's office.

While we will certainly miss seeing the smiling faces of our Lunch Bunch participants throughout the day, we're happy to give them more room to enjoy their activities, socialize, and spend time together. After all, Lunch Bunch is all about friendship, laughter, and making wonderful memories!

Our new office space allows us to better organize our departments and continue serving our members and the community.

Same friendly faces, same great service, just a new room!

The next time you stop by, remember to take that first door on the left. We look forward to welcoming you to our new space!

Ukiah Senior Center Administrative Offices

Room 1 – First Door on the Left

499 Leslie Street, Ukiah

(707) 462-4343

THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL WOODYGLEN FALL FEST!

What a wonderful evening! Thank you to everyone who came out and joined us for WoodyGlen Fall Fest. We loved seeing our community together enjoying the pumpkins, flowers, hayrides, great food, and wonderful music from The Back Porch Trio.

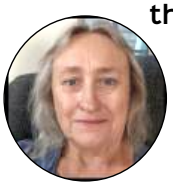
A very special thank you to Pirate Pete's Pumpkin Patch for welcoming us, and to all our volunteers, staff, sponsors, donors, and everyone who helped behind the scenes to make the evening possible.

Most of all, thank YOU for coming out and supporting the Ukiah Senior Center. Your support helps us continue serving seniors in our community every day.

We're so grateful you spent your Saturday evening with us — we hope you had as much fun as we did!

Thrift Store

Cozy Deals & Holiday Treasures at the Thrift Store!



Hello, Thrifters, and Happy Harvest!

Cooler weather is here, and the Ukiah Senior Center Thrift Store is ready to help you get cozy, save big, and celebrate the season!

Bundle up for less with our wonderful selection of sweaters, jackets, and coats for the whole family.

- Adult sweaters are just $2.99
- Jackets and coats starting at $7.99.
- Children's jackets and coats start at only$4.99
- Scarves galore for just 99¢!

Shopping for the little ones? We've got some incredible bargains! Choose from 1 to 10 pieces of children's clothing for just 99¢ total! Need socks? Pick up 1 to 5 pairs, in any size, for just 99¢ total! Both specials have a minimum purchase price of 99¢, whether you choose one item or the full amount.

And the savings don't stop there! All Halloween merchandise is 50% off, making this the perfect time to stock up on spooky treasures for next year.

Ready to get into the holiday spirit? Explore our large selection of Christmas decorations! From traditional favorites to wonderfully unusual finds, there's always something special waiting to be discovered. If it's unique, chances are we have it!

Our inventory is constantly changing as treasures find new homes, so stop by often and see what's new. You never know what you'll find!

Happy thrifting! Ukiah Senior Center Thrift Store

497 Leslie Street, Ukiah

Help Us Fill Our Kitchen with Holiday Cheer!

The holidays are a time for sharing, giving, and bringing people together around the table. At Ukiah Senior Center, our kitchen is preparing for a busy holiday season, and we could use a little help from our wonderful community! Your donations help us prepare delicious holiday meals and homemade treats for the seniors we serve. These are the items needed.

- Turkeys
- Potatoes
- Yams
- Green beans
- Stuffing bread
- Mini marshmallows
- Cranberries
- Whole hams
- Flour
- Butter
- Brown sugar
- Baking soda
- Baking powder
- Vanilla
- Yeast for bread
- Chocolate chips

For more information or to arrange a donation, please call (707) 462-4343 ext 209.

Thank you for supporting Ukiah Senior Center and helping us make the holidays special for the seniors in our community!

Bartlett Hall Needs and wish list

- Hot chocolate packets
- Coffee-Mate creamer
- Plastic cutlery
- Liquid White-Out
- Sharpie pens markers
- Post-it notes

Lunch Bunch Program needs and wish list

Our Lunch Bunch program provides a welcoming place for participants to enjoy activities, friendships, and companionship.

A few everyday supplies help make each day special.

- Hot chocolate
- Coffee creamer
- Ranch salad dressing

Monthly Board Meeting Open to Ukiah Senior Center Members and the general public

Thursday, November 19th

at 2:30 P.M.

Room 8

Administration Building

To schedule a Zoom call or learn more, send an email to: director@ukiahseniorcenter.org

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707-391-3227

Volunteers...the Heart of the Center

This month, we're excited to shine our Volunteer Spotlight on Elisabeth Hovland, who has been sharing her time and enthusiasm with the Ukiah Senior Center for approximately three years.

After retiring from the school district, Elisabeth found herself with more time on her hands and a desire to do something meaningful. She knew there were seniors in the community who could benefit from a little extra connection and encouragement.

"I thought there's more seniors out there, so I'd love to help them to be more active and to keep them happy," she shared.

Originally born and raised in Turlock, Elisabeth attended college at Humboldt before spending time in Oregon and eventually settling in Ukiah in 1993.

For Elisabeth, the best part of volunteering is simple:the people! She especially enjoys hearing their stories and learning about their different backgrounds and experiences. When asked what she would tell someone considering volunteering, Elisabeth didn't hesitate to share how much fun it can be. From meeting interesting people to participating in dances, fundraisers, and other Senior Center activities, she believes there's something special about being involved.

"If you are a people person, it's a place to go and get to know the people," she explained. "It's rewarding!"

We're grateful to Elisabeth for the time, kindness, and positive energy she brings to the Ukiah Senior Center. Volunteers like her help make our Center a welcoming place where friendships grow and everyone feels connected. Thank you, Elisabeth, for being part of our Senior Center family!

Volunteers Needed at Bartlett Event Center!

The Bartlett Event Center is looking for friendly, dependable volunteers to help keep our activities and events running smoothly. Whether you enjoy working with people, helping behind the scenes, or lending a hand wherever needed, we have a place for you!

We currently need volunteers to assist with Bingo snack bar, Bingo sales, on-call front desk coverage, and event setup and cleanup. Each of these roles plays an important part in creating a welcoming and enjoyable experience for everyone who visits the Center.

Stop by the Bartlett Event Center at 495 Leslie Street, Ukiah, or call (707) 462-4343, ext. 204, for more information.

Our next Volunteer/FUN Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 5, at 10:00 AM at the Bartlett Event Center, 495 Leslie Street, Ukiah.

Join us as we share ideas, discuss upcoming events, and explore ways volunteers can help make a difference at the Center. Whether you can lend a hand regularly or just occasionally, there's a place for you!

We're inviting both current volunteers and anyone interested in becoming one to attend! No experience is necessary, just a willingness to help and a desire to make a difference.

Come to the meeting, bring a friend, and discover how you can get involved. We need YOU to help keep the FUN!

Join us for Bingo and Bunko in the Bartlett Event Center. Snack Shack will be open during Bingo. Events are non-smoking and open to adults 18 & over. All proceeds benefit Ukiah **Senior Center.**

SUNDAY BINGO BASH
November 8th

Sales begin at 11:00 a.m.
Games: 1:00-5:00 p.m.

- Minimum buy in $18, includes every game
- Minimum payout $35 every game
- A chance at 3 BLACKOUTS
- Meal Special $10 Lasagna, Garlic Bread To-Go
- Present your membership card for a $2 meal discount.
- Bring a NEW player and both will get a choice of either a free Double Action sheet or a free 4-6-8 sheet to boost your chance of winning that day's payout. Payouts are based on attendance.

TUESDAY BINGO
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Sales begin at 3:00 p.m.

- Bring a NEW player and you'll both receive a free Early Bird sheet — to boost your chances to win $30! Payouts are based on attendance, invite your friends.
- Birthday Month Bonus Our gift to you, a FREE packet of Specials

THURSDAY BINGO
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Sales begin at noon

- Bring a NEW player and you'll both receive a free 6-on sheet to use in your choice of game giving you extra chances to win that day's payout!
- Payouts are based on attendance.

MONDAY BUNKO
November 16th

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

- Raffle Prizes
- Bring a new player and you'll both receive 5 FREE raffle tickets!
- $15 per person.
- Present your membership card to receive a $3 discount.
- Entry includes:
- Dinner with sides and dessert included
- Door Prizes
- Bunko Game
- Bunko prize.

A Stitch in Time Yarn Group

Beginning this Thursday, yarn enthusiasts of all skill levels are invited to join us from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Whether you enjoy knitting, crocheting, or want to learn something new, this is a wonderful opportunity to share your skills, make friends, and enjoy some creative time together.

Facilitated by Rosemary, this welcoming group is open to beginners and experienced crafters alike. Bring your own yarn, supplies, and creativity!

Need supplies? Stop by the Ukiah Senior Center Thrift Store! A limited selection of yarn, knitting needles, crochet hooks, and other crafting supplies may be available. With new treasures arriving regularly, you never know what you'll find!

Meet Our Newest Bingo Royalty

Alisha Knight has been crowned our Thursday Bingo Queen, and Vickie Grivette is our Tuesday Bingo Queen!

These two lucky ladies have earned their royal titles and will enjoy special perks and a little extra royal treatment throughout the month. We hope they enjoy every moment of their reign!

Could you be our next Bingo Queen or King? There's only one way to find out! Join us for Bingo, enjoy some friendly competition, share a few laughs, and maybe even take home a prize or two.

Whether you're a longtime Bingo regular or thinking about joining us for the first time, there's always a seat waiting for you!

Congratulations, Alisha and Vickie! Enjoy your reign, and we'll see everyone at Bingo!

Happy November Birthdays !

Barbara Schweitzer
Ben Franklin
Bernice Kam
Bev Rae
Bob Miller
Bonnie Tillotson
Bruce Page
Charlotte Blackwelder
Chris Harris
CiCi Winiger
Daphne Macneil
David Bennett
David Hollister
David San Diego
Denise Kawkeka
Diane Dallas
Diane McClure
Dolly Brush
Donald Smith
Donna Glass
Edward Dick
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JoEllen Howard
Jonathan Shepherd
Joyce Archain
Judith Johnson
Karl Cauckwell
Katherine Houshmand
Kim Dickson
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Linda Johnston
Lisa Doster
Lorelie Manix
Margaret Cole
Margaret Ruffidge
Marie Myers
Mary Lou Heller
Maureen Bell
Michael Webster
Nancy Blancett
Nancy Bray
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Ice Cream Social

Our November Ice Cream Social has been moved to the THIRD Monday of the month, November 16th, instead of our usual fourth Monday!

There's something special about sharing music with friends, especially when the performers are part of our very own Senior Center family!

Join us at the Bartlett Event Center on Monday, November 16th at 2:00 PM for our monthly Ice Cream Social, featuring live entertainment by the Mendo C Notes!

The Mendo C Notes are more than just a singing group. They're a dedicated group of volunteers who meet weekly at the Ukiah Senior Center to practice, enjoy their love of music, and share their talents with others.

Their music reaches far beyond the Senior Center! As our volunteer outreach chorus, the Mendo C Notes perform throughout the community, bringing familiar songs, smiles, and companionship to those who may not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy live entertainment. Their performances are a wonderful reminder of how music brings people together.

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, what better time to celebrate a group that generously shares its time and talents throughout the year?

Admission is $5, and current Ukiah Senior Center members receive $2 off. Current members celebrating a birthday in November get in FREE!

Don't forget the raffle! Purchase tickets for a chance to win some wonderful prizes.

A heartfelt thank-you to our generous donors and dedicated volunteers who help make our Ice Cream Social possible each month. We couldn't do it without you!

Bartlett Event Center | 495 Leslie Street, Ukiah

For more information, call (707) 462-4343, ext. 209.

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499 Leslie Street

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A Year-End Gift Makes a Difference

As the year comes to a close, we invite you to consider a year-end gift to the Ukiah Senior Center (USC).

Every day, USC provides services, meals, transportation, resources, and opportunities for connection that help seniors and adults in our community maintain their independence and quality of life. These services are made possible through the generosity of people like you who believe in our mission.

Your year-end gift, no matter the size, helps us continue this important work and be here for those who depend on us.

To make a year-end gift, please mail your check to Ukiah Senior Center, 499 Leslie Street, Ukiah, CA 95482, or donate online at https://donate.ukiahseniorcenter.org/.

Thank you for believing in USC, supporting our mission, and helping us make a difference in our community. We are truly grateful for you.

With appreciation,

Liz Dorsey
Executive Director
Ukiah Senior Center, Inc.

Holiday Giveaway Kicks Off on December 1st, 2026

Join us for our inaugural green envelope event for the month of December & win big!

What is it? NO PEEKING GIVEAWAY! Come into the Ukiah Senior Center and **dine-in** with us in December and leave with a green envelope. Each envelope contains a gift, BUT you cannot open your gift until you come back into dine with us in January. Any envelope that is opened prior to January is no longer valid.

When is it? Giveaway kicks off December 1st, 2026, and runs through December 31st, 2026, and you can come in to reveal your gift January 4th- 28th, 2027.

What can I win? We are giving away hundreds of gifts envelopes! Win a free meal, a box of See's candy, thrift store discounts, homemade goodies, grand prize gift baskets, and so much more!

Rules & Restrictions Do Apply- This event is for dine-in guests only, one envelope per visit, must return for dine-in lunch service in January with your envelope UNOPENED to reveal your gift. One envelope opened per guest, per visit in January, subject to availability, non-transferrable, no cash value, some exclusion & restrictions apply.