

Political



By Jim Shields

We’re hoping in the future to pull some Pol Types from the archives since we believe Jim’s writing was timeless

No Other Journalist Like Jim Shields

By Bruce Anderson-Editor/ Publisher of the Anderson Valley Advertiser

There has been no local journalist I’ve held in higher regard than Jim Shields, perhaps because we shared the impossible of producing a weekly newspaper week after week, month after month, year after year for more than forty years. And agreed, mostly, all that time in our mutual assessments of county functioning.

But there’s no ‘perhaps’ about how much I valued Jim’s friendship and how I admired his solid journalism all those years. Jim had no peer in his dogged coverage of county politics, a coverage that didn’t win him many friends in Ukiah but vital coverage that kept the rest of us were unfailingly informed.

I don’t know how he did it. Production of a weekly newspaper seemed to me almost more than I could manage, but Jim made it look easy, all the while working full time at a second under-appreciated and, in its way, more difficult task — manager and guarantor of a steady supply of potable water for the ever-growing community of Laytonville.

A weekly newspaper and go-to guy for his community’s water!

I will always remember first meeting Jim, his wife Susan and his elderly mother, Lois, at Observer headquarters in central Laytonville. It was quite an impressive operation, with grandma answering the phone, Lois busy at the paste-up boards and Jim writing and editing at a pre-internet time that editing was nearly a full-time task in itself as letters and articles had to be made presentable (and often decoded) prior to publication.

We both supported Johnny Pinches for supervisor, won over by his cowboy candor and honest devotion to an efficient, thrifty functioning of “Mennacina County,” as the old rancher pronounced it. Jim knew how the county worked. Or didn’t work. As did Pinches, who carried a thoroughly annotated county budget with him wherever he went, unnecessary spending underlined in vivid red.

Dominated by the illiberal liberals who dominate local affairs in all of NorCal, Jim Shields, unfailingly gentlemanly in person and print, deftly cultivated both sides of most issues, all the while holding weekly print tutorials on how local government functioned.

Jim was an omni-capable man, and a truly fine journalist in an area that gets little serious attention from outside media. I was always proud to call him my friend, and I will always miss him.

Jayma, I’m delighted that you will be carrying on.

(Jim Shields was the MCO’s editor and publisher, and also managed the Laytonville County Water District. He had a radio program “This and That” every Saturday at 12 noon on KPFN 105.1 FM, also streamed live: <http://www.kpfn.org>)



75¢ • September 11, 2025 • Volume 50 #32• 75¢



James Joseph Shields  
March 1, 1947-September 3, 2025

James Joseph “Jim” Shields, 78, of Laytonville passed away peacefully on September 3, 2025, while working on the latest edition of The Mendocino County Observer newspaper. Jim was born in Bloomington, Illinois on March 1, 1947 to Robert E. Shields and Lois Marie Plotts Shields. Jim married Susan Staley on October 6, 1981 at Chateau Lake Louise in Canada. Susan preceded Jim in death in October of 2013.

Surviving are his two children Jimmy (Maria) Shields and Jayma (Roland) Shields Spence, and his grand-dog Chiquita. Jim leaves behind his extended animal family, including Lily the Horse and his many cats, who he loved very much, and they loved him right back. Additionally, Jim is survived by brothers Tom (Judy), John (Nasrin) and Kevin and numerous nieces and nephews. His parents, siblings Robert Jr. and Patricia preceded him in death.

Jim’s early life was filled with many interesting details. Jim spent time on his family’s Illinois Farm and also assisted with the Shields Family’s Grain Elevator in Illinois. He raised many farm animals and participated in FFA. Jim’s freshman year he attended Roanoke-Benson High School where he participated in basketball and baseball and was considered a talented player and was also on the student council. The Shields Family moved to the Bay Area during his adolescence where Jim graduated from San Mateo High School. In high school Jim was on the student council and the senior class council. He played on tennis, basketball and baseball teams while in high school. He really enjoyed his debating class as well as history and political classes. San Mateo High is where Jim met his first wife Donna Leonhardt, where they were married in 1966, a marriage that brought the birth of Jim’s son “Jimmy”. Donna and Jim’s marriage would end in 1979.

Jim also attended CSM and graduated from Illinois State University with a BS in Political Science and History. Jim would tell a story about how he was interested in becoming a lawyer, and through a friendship that was established with a professor at Harvard University, was offered a scholarship to attend the prodigious Harvard School of Law. Jim ended up moving a different direction when he joined the Airline Industry instead, and joked he was a Harvard dropout.

Jim was employed by Western Airlines starting off as a “Ramp Rat” (as he referred to himself), where he was one of the people responsible for loading cargo onto the planes at San Francisco International Airport. Jim would entertain us all with his stories from his Ramp Rat days, which ranged from loading Fighting Cocks onto the plane and accidentally releasing prize-winning Greyhounds onto the tarmac.

Working in the airline industry in Los Angeles, is where he would meet a beautiful, smart, caring, funny and no-nonsense Customer Service Agent named Susan. With their good friends, co-workers and allies, they would form the “Airline Transit Employees” union despite pushback and resistance from Western Airlines, the corrupt union that represented WA employees and the federal government. Despite long-odds, the employees decided to trust Jim’s leadership, and voted to accept the new union.

With his charisma, intelligence, knack for understanding legal issues and love of politics, it was perfectly suited he would become involved in the labor movement, where he was voted in as the President of the Airline Transport Employees Union. Jim would also serve on the Board of Directors of Western Airlines. Through his career in the labor movement, Jim experienced many interesting people, situations and problems; none of which phased him. With his union work came so much history that paved the way for many conditions and regulations that are still in place in the airline industry today. For example, Jim was surrounded by women in the Union, thanks in large part to Susan’s personality- she attracted smart, capable and strong women leaders into their circle. Jim began inviting the women into the board room (which was basically unheard of in the 70’s & 80’s). The gruff, old-school union men would openly question his decision to allow women into this role, to which Jim came back with a witty quip to put these guys in their place. Eventually, with Jim’s leadership and trust-building the women were not only invited to the table, but given leadership roles within the Union, and offered protections from gender-discrimination in the industry.

Jim also allowed women to bring their babies to work, since him and Susan welcomed Jayma in 1982, Susan would bring Jayma along to union meetings and gatherings in various states and Canada. It was said that passing around baby Jayma during tough negotiations broke the ice and got some hard-ass men to soften a bit for the betterment of the Union.

In the mid-to late 80’s the airline industry was facing many challenges, including the recent de-regulation of the industry, that Jim would forever say “screwed” the airlines, its workers and its unions. Upon the merger of Western Airlines to Delta Airlines, Jim decided it was no longer for him, and in 1987, Jim, Susan and Jayma moved to Laytonville (Northern Mendocino County), eventually purchasing the Laytonville Ledger which became The

See Jim, back page

North County Community News & Briefs

This Saturday!

5th Annual Nor Cal Shred Fest

The NorCal Shred Fest returns to Laytonville Skate Park on Saturday, September 13th, with an all-ages event, featuring six hard rock bands, skateboarding competitions, great food vendors, huge raffle, beer & wine garden, and free camping! This year, we welcome two ska bands from SoCal into the mix, THE ODD ADVANTAGE and THE LONDON SYSTEM with their upbeat blend of rocking guitars and horns not usually experienced in our area. A suggested entry donation of \$10-\$20 gets you through the gate, which opens at 1:00 pm. All proceeds from Shred Fest go towards insurance, maintenance and upgrades for Laytonville Skate Park!

Farmers’ Market News!

By Gloria Harrison LFM Manager

Gloria will return next week

HappyDay Farms Newsletter

By Casey O’Neill

I love the way that playing music brings people together, a shared rhythm that makes for a joyful experience. I love to lose myself in the beat, letting my mind go as my hands play the drum without thought or control. I play by feel, by ear, listening and adapting based on the other instruments around me. Music is a tapestry of sound, woven together as a picture in my ears. I hear the different contributions as we mesh and find the shared groove, or as we fall apart and shift and regroup. Jam sessions are fun in part because of that sense of effort to find something that works, and the joyful abandon and feeling of relief when the tension dissipates into something that flows. I love how the shared experience of playing together creates a basket or container that holds us together, whoever happens to be there with whatever instruments are present. The jokes and shared language that evolve in the moment, the sense of camaraderie, the grins and nods when the rhythm slips into place. Last night as we played around the campfire we kept joking about “hunting and fishing” to find the beat, the co-creation of something that felt good that we all wanted to play. We’d catch a rhythm and boom, off to the races with joyful abandon. Reels and jigs led by the fiddle, whimsical flute tunes, crashing drumbeats. I love the ebb and flow as folks come in and out of the session as the evening moves along. Smoke a little reefer and feel the music change in my mind, accentuated and enhanced as my hands play the drum. Enjoy cold drink and hot food among friends and community, a shared sense of gathering and merriment that pervades the evening. Laughter, jokes, stories and music all bring joy to the faces around the fire, lightening the burdens and reminding me of the joy of living. I think of the ways that music is like life, sometimes easy and smooth and sometimes uncomfortable and offbeat. How when things get weird you just have to keep playing, to listen, to find each other and get back in sync. That even the best grooves have to end, and that those are moments for reset, for checking in, for rebuilding to begin again. Playing music reminds me to listen, to hear what’s happening around me, to accommodate and to be supported in turn. When we play together we form tacit agreements, often unspoken yet real in their effects. We experience the joy of life, of presence, of the moment at hand. All else drops away, worries forgotten in the joy of playing. Music has been with me for as long as I can remember, and playing percussion has been part of my

See O’Neill, page 3

# Opinion/Public Forum Page

## Letters

To the Editor:

My father was a chain-smoking Irish journalist. I can distinctly remember, as a young boy, the pungent smell that permeated the walls of the San Francisco Chronicle: a dusky mixture of newsprint, sweat and strong tobacco—think Gauloises. Moving to Laytonville in 1989 I first went to the Post Office to secure an address, then upstairs to the buy a subscription to the Observer. Walking in the door, there it was. That smell. Newspaper people! That was my introduction to the Shields family, Lois, Susan, Jim and, later, Jayma. The beginning of a beautiful relationship. Beth and I have long appreciated and enjoyed our friendship with the family. Through trials—Susan’s passing—and triumphs—Jayma and Rolands’ wedding—the Observer arrived every week in our mailbox. Jim was a chain-smoking, Irish journalist. A staunch supporter of working people, but no mere shill for the left. He called ‘em like he saw ‘em, with insight and intelligence. He would have been at home in the tumultuous atmosphere of 1930’s San Francisco, where my father came of age: Harry Bridges and the Longshoreman’s Union, the General Strike of ‘34. But he was here in Mendocino County, enlightening us on the foibles, failures and fallacies of local government. He excelled at ferreting out misdeeds and corruption. He was irreplaceable. Jim’s passing hit me in a very personal way. Reminded me of the impermanence of our fragile mortality. And when I cross over into the unknown realm beyond life, I hope it is with the same appropriate elegance as Jim Shields. At his desk, working on his beloved newspaper, he fell asleep.

Dennis Hogan  
Laytonville

To the Editor:

Well Jim.... I got the news about you leaving when I least expected it. I knew you had struggled with your health the past year, but I just believed you’d just keep on keepin’ on. You went just as you should have – ready to bang out another Political Type, telling us all about it. I’ll miss you. Words don’t feel adequate. I’ll look over to see if your truck is parked at the Observer Office every time I go to the post office, because I always did. And if I caught you outside, we’d BS for a few minutes about the state of the world, ask how we’re each doing, give a hug, and always look at each other with a smile. We go way back, don’t we? Back to the days when Laytonville still had an active theatre and you and Susan had just arrived in town with 3 year old, Jayma, and your mom Lois in tow. Susan was the stage director for “South Pacific” and you were a stagehand. Jayma was just a baby, hiding behind Susan’s leg the first time I met her. So much more in these last 39 years that have flown by in the wink of an eye. Too much to even be able to pick out the best or most important. You, Susan, and Jayma were there when we got married, but you had to leave before you could eat because the paper awaited. We were just glad you all were there even for just a little bit. I wish I could condense all my memories into this one letter to you with meaning, but

### The Mendocino CountyObserver

Editor and Publisher: Jim Shields  
CFO/Office Manager/Copy Editor-In-Chief: Jayma Shields Spence  
Graphic Artist/Skateboard Reporter: Roland Spence

Office located at :  
50 Ramsey Rd.  
P.O. Box 490  
Laytonville, CA 95454  
Telephone (707) 984-6223; FAX (707) 984 - 8118  
Email: observer@pacific.net  
No portion of this publication may be used without written permission from the publisher .

The Mendocino County Observer is a legal newspaper of general circulation so decreed March 21, 1981, by the Mendocino County Superior Court, case number 18281 and amended on December 18, 1991, case number 18280.

#### Subscription Rates

The Mendocino County Observer (USPS 532670) is published weekly by the Long Valley Publishing Co. Periodicals postage paid at Laytonville, CA. POSTMASTER: send address changes to The Mendocino County Observer, P.O. Box 490, Laytonville, CA. 95454. Subscription rate: one year \$30 Mendocino County residents, \$32 out-of-county, \$35 out-of-state. Senior discount \$2 off foregoing rates. The MCO is printed at Western Web Inc., Samoa, CA.

## Letters

I just can’t. There’s so much and it fills me with smiles and tears, and it will take a long time to process it all. But let me say this to you, dear friend. I wish I had been able to see you one last time. I wish I could see that tall, lanky guy peddling away on his bike. I wish I could hear that smokey voice and deep laugh one more time. Turn on the “PFN to listen absent mindedly going about my Saturday work and hear you, Kevin, and Mike. But I can’t and you are already off on the next adventure with Susan and Lois, surrounded by all the kitties and doggies who loved you in this life. So, I hope you know, my friend, I will always remember, and never forget you. See you on the other side....

Beth Hogan  
Laytonville

To the Editor:

It is hard to even imagine Laytonville without Jim Shields. He held the soul of our community in a safe place ... he was the rare journalist who truly cared about his readers and had faith in all of us. Well, maybe not the Board of Supervisors ...

Jim and I shared a history of being journalists back in the days when it meant something and how we loved to talk the “J” talk together. I sure will miss that.

As he said in a column back in May, “This paper’s role has always been to act as an advocate for good government. Not perfect government but a government that understands, believes, and acts that their primary role is to solve problems not create them.” Brilliant!

Jim may be the last of a dying breed, of tough minded yet always compassionate journalists who we could actually trust. Jayma, my heart is with you at this difficult time, but you know darn well that your dad would want you to carry on. May the Observer survive with you at the lead - it’s in your DNA from both your amazing parents.

With Love to you You, Roland, and our whole precious town,  
Nikki Lastreto  
Laytonville

To the Editor:

Jim Shields was a true journalist who loved Mendocino County. He followed our show, and we read his newspaper. Our hearts go out to the entire Shield family. Jim will be missed. He was a valuable human being. Jim was one of the “good guys” and he was one of my heroes in local journalism. Our deepest condolences.

John Sakowicz and Mary Massey  
co-hosts and co-producers, “Heroes and Patriots Radio” on KMUD

Dear Jim,

Had I only known, I would have said . . . Thank you for our wonderful talks, be they 5 minutes or an hour. I always learned so much. Water, Fire, LAMAC, Politics, Mendocino County, Brown Act, History, the list is long. You gave so much to Laytonville for so long and leave behind big shoes to fill. We’ll do our best but it won’t be the same without you. Rest in peace, we’ll take it from here.

Sue Carberry

### Letters To The Editor Policy

- 1) “Never get into an argument with people who buy their ink by the barrel.” —Mark Twain
  - 2) The First Amendment rules.
  - 3) No personal attacks — the guy you’re calling names may be bigger than you are.
  - 4) Keep your language clean — your mother may be one of our readers.
  - 5) Prefer letters to be sent by email. If not, please type your letter. No long-hand, we’re not handwriting experts.
  - 6) All letters must be signed in the writer’s true name, must include an address and phone number (if any) for verification purposes. You don’t want some idiot to sign your name to a stupid letter — it’s a bad reflection on you. Names will be published (unless the writer has sufficient reason for requesting anonymity), but addresses and phone numbers will not be published.
- Letters should be sent to: Letters Editor, The Mendocino County Observer, P.O. Box 490, Laytonville, CA 95454.

## Letters

To the Editor:

Hi Jayma, I would like to share my favorite memory/story of your dad. Although I didn’t know him super well, he was always such a great person! When Hailey and I would go for our evening walks, your dad was out riding his bicycle or just cruising the subdivision, he would always wave at us and holler “hello Hollywood” he always told me that I belonged in Hollywood, I should be a movie star. I would always holler back “hello paparazzi”! He would laugh and wish us a good evening. I am sure going to miss him!

Alena Voiselle Musgrave  
Laytonville

To the Editor:

Terrible, shocking, and extremely sad news.

I didn’t know Jim well personally, but we corresponded occasionally online, and I always found him clear eyed, knowledgeable, articulate and kind. I always held him and his wonderful Observer in the highest regard. His work on behalf of the people of Mendocino county is well known and I don’t need to list his contributions here. To say he was a pillar of the community is a gross understatement. The same holds true for saying he will be missed. The world has lost a voice much needed in these troubled times. My sincere condolences to his family and friends. I hope they can take some comfort in knowing that his conviction, integrity, and industriousness was appreciated by myself and many others, far and wide.

I once told him that the Observer was a national treasure and I meant it. Hopefully a way will be found to carry on his good work on this very special publication.

Kurt Silvershield  
Athens GA.

To the Editor:

Dear Jayma and Roland and Jim,

My heartfelt sympathy to you. Jim was a good friend to Todd and me. And such a stand-up guy for Laytonville. He will be sorely missed. Love,

Ginny Detzel  
Ukiah

To the Editor:

Oh Jayma, I am so sorry for your loss. Jim was a good man and he and I had many fun and interesting conversations about life and politics. He will be sorely missed.

KC Meadows  
Editor, Ukiah Daily Journal

To the Editor:

Warmest spiritual greetings, On Sunday, the American government removed the Washington, D.C. Peace Vigil, (which was across the street from the White House in Lafayette Park since June 3, 1981 with a U.S. Parks Department permit since June 3, 1981, 24/7 365). The official reason given was that the peace vigil is a “homeless encampment”. This ends whatever basic sanity is left in the District of Columbia, which is already compromised by an unimaginable number of national guard patrols and Metropolitan Police units, who are responding to an out of control criminal situation everywhere.

Please know that in the future, I am socially autonomous. I am no longer accepting America’s problems, while receiving practically nothing in support. Feel free to take care of your own problems from now on. And stop complaining that I request money and housing. Your criticism has always been irrational at best. PS- Am already receiving responses from the president’s correspondence department, who assure me that my complaint has been sent to various appropriate federal agencies for

NEW EMAIL:  
Please take a minute to update your address book -Letters to the editor, meetings and events information, and other items of interest can be sent to the Observer by E-mail at: observer@laytonville.org

## Letters

re-view and possible action. Meanwhile, feel free to do a Mendocino County fundraiser for me and then send the money to me at Paypal. me/craiglouisstehr I’ll get the heck outta Washington, D.C. and return to Mendocino, force the local government (which does not apparently appreciate me) to give me what is legally and sanely mine as a senior American citizen, and then we’ll all go for pints at The Forest Club. ;))

Yours for Self Realization,

Craig Louis Stehr  
Washington, D.C.

To the Editor:

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I am encouraged to see that you are considering the forward-thinking proposal of allowing Original Cannabis Business License (OCBL) holders to participate in direct-to-consumer sales through a micro-business license. This step would be transformative—not only for producers like myself, but also for the County’s revenue streams. It is truly a win-win.

Given the urgency of the moment, I respectfully ask whether this item can be fast-tracked. I recall that an asphalt plant was able to move quickly because it qualified under a Mitigated Negative Declaration. Since OCBL holders were grandfathered in, I am curious if a similar path could be taken here.

A direct-to-consumer pilot project for small cannabis farmers would allow us to stand alongside our fellow Mendocino farmers, vintners, and artisans at local markets. Imagine visitors being able to enjoy the authentic farmer-direct experience that our county is known for—personal, unique, high-quality, and rooted in place. This would not only strengthen our agricultural economy, but also enhance Mendocino’s reputation as a premier eco-tourism destination—where one can experience natural beauty while accessing clean, organic, small-batch cannabis grown by local families.

Most of our cultivators operate, grow, and live in rural and remote areas. By creating opportunities for them to come into town, participate in markets, and sell directly to consumers—just like our olive oil, wool, wine, and other agricultural producers—we support both community vitality and long-term economic resilience.

The timing could not be more critical. If we fail to act swiftly, we risk losing the very foundation of our small farming community. Now is the moment to shift the conversation from expansion to sustainability and profitability.

Thank you for considering this important step for Mendocino County.

With respect,

Traci Pellar  
Laytonville

To the Editor:

Dear Supervisors, Our small farm in the mountains of Covelo has had a (County permit) currently known as CCBL license since 2017, and earlier this year finally received our State Annual license. Yet we remain stymied by heavy restrictions, some of which do not make sense eight years after the original County Cannabis ordinance was passed. We know you cannot change the Federal status (we hope it’s soon descheduled, not rescheduled), or State laws, which are overly burdensome and slow to amend. But you do have some power in our County. Like so many of the complex issues affecting the cannabis industry from banking, to social media, fair / free trade, shifts in laws cannot happen without the political will. Reconciling the State vs County regulations is a big part of it. Being creative about structuring our County Microbusiness license to accommodate most of our local industry would bring more taxes back to the County, rather than what’s happening now, farms, distributors and retailers in our County are struggling, many are closing. Origins Council put out a white paper about State Microbusiness licenses. It clearly showed the original intent to assist small farms in rural areas was not met, and in reality this license type mostly benefited small businesses in urban areas. Most of the barriers identified were due to advantages in the way zoning is regulated in populous areas.

See Letters, page 3

HappyDay  
from Front Page

life for more than thirty years. Just like the rhythm it has ebbed and flowed, sometimes unplayed for weeks or months, but always there, always ready when I want it. Music lightens my steps and eases my burdens, carrying me through the hard parts of life and lifting the good times even higher. As I wind down a restful, joyful weekend, I reflect on the summer gone by and the weeks of heavy work to come. I am glad for the respite, energized to return to fall planting and harvest. The work continues, flowing into the final rush of the season as it has done so many times before. Seeds sprout, grow and make their way through the cycles of the farm to land on plates and in bowls as sustenance for people I love. The magic of life continues as the seasons change and so do I. As I age I feel a deeper gratitude for community, for the people I get to spend this life with, which motivates me to be better, to strive for excellence and shared meaning. As always, much love and great success to you on your journey!

Meetings & Events

Thursday, Sept. 11th, 6:00-7:30pm: Inland Valley Women’s Chorus begins its 32nd season, meeting at the Holy Trinity Church, Mary & Martha Room, 640 S. Orchard Ave. (next to the DMV) in Ukiah. IVWC sings songs of peace, joy, social justice, and healing. New members are welcome! No audition or prior experience required. For information, contact Madge Strong, (707) 459-1493 or email mstrong827@outlook.com

Letters

Another reason small farms need the ability to take back control back of their business and commerce directly, is that many retailers who were able to avail themselves of the State Microbusiness license are now vertically integrated. In other words, they’re cultivating, distributing and retailing their own brands, making it harder for a small farm to even get placed on a retail shelf. The supply chain is broken. We were told recently by the Mendocino Cannabis Dept that without changes in policy, we are not eligible to apply for a County Micro-business license. Most of us who have endured the last eight years of licensing turmoil are not going to make it as wholesale farms. We urge the County to consider adopting a stance that would allow small farms to explore additional activities that would suit their individual situations. In our case, the farm is atop a mountain and down a rural road, with no residence on the property. We are licensed to cultivate 5k sq ft of our 27 acre parcel (down from our original 10k due to financial stress). Our farm is likely not a good option for onsite retail, but it could be a hub for us to create our own product distribution, delivery, sell our own products at events, and eventually direct-to-consumer shipping. Those are activities that would actually lessen traffic to our location as well as increase our ability to run our business and increase our local sales. We all know local profits affect local taxes. We support the Original Cannabis Business License - OCBL concept, which has previously been shared with at least some Supervisors as well as the Cannabis and Planning & Building department heads. Rather than repeat the actions outlined in the OCBL, we will attach it here. To summarize: The OCBL would facilitate diversification of other activities. Every phase 1 farm in Mendocino could be granted the ability at the County level to have an OCBL as a kind of all inclusive micro vertical integration license (self distribution, processing, packaging, non solvent manufacturing, eventually self retail - probably delivery only for most rural parcels, direct shipping, etc). OCBL would, of course, all be based on approvals each particular parcel

See Letters, page 5



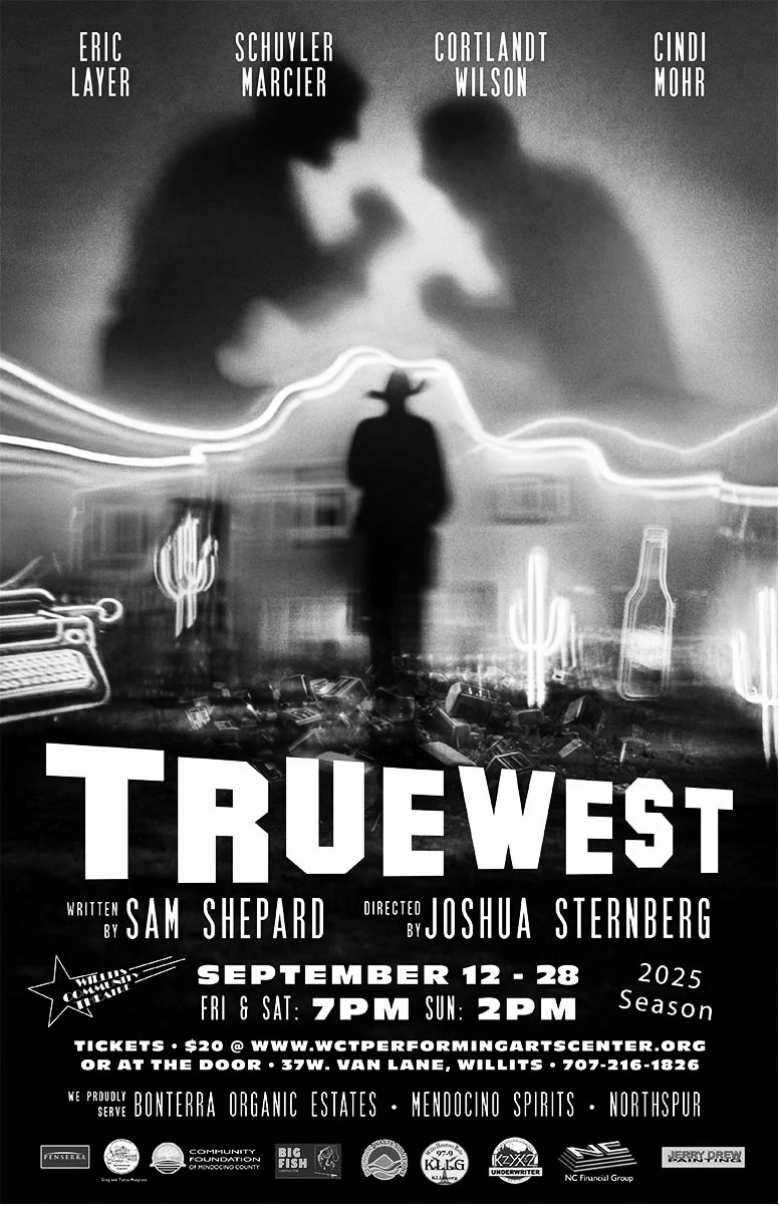
Remembering Jim  
By Diane Ackermann

The first time I met Jim Shields was in late summer of 1988. Jim, his lovely wife Susan and six-year-old Jayma had purchased the old conservative rag, the Laytonville Ledger, renaming it the Mendocino County Observer. Not only had the name changed but the tenor of the newspaper as well. I liked what I read; these new owners were bright, open-minded people and not like the reactionary staffers of the old Ledger. It was late August because George H.W. Bush had just secured he GOP nomination. His acceptance speech by brilliant speech-writer Peggy Noonan rang with cheerful optimism citing a “kinder and gentler nation” and “a thousand points of light”. So I penned a thousand word op-ed piece comparing the speech’s optimism with the harsh reality of what was actually happening in the world. Brimming with ideals and righteous indignation yet sorely lacking in self-confidence, I scurried into the Observer office, plopped the piece on Mr. Shields’ desk saying, “Maybe you can use this.” And raced out the door before he had a chance to reject me to my face. I had not even introduced myself. When I saw the following week’s paper, I was utterly amazed to find my article printed! I cannot say I was dumbstruck because I sat down and immediately wrote another article and ran it into the newspaper in an awkward parody of my previous week’s performance. And by God, he printed that one too! The following week I was sitting in the Crossroads, scrawling out words on the back of lime green flyers when Jim Shields walked in the door. He pointed at the green paper. “Is that my copy?” he asked. “Well,” I stammered, “it will be, but it’s not typed yet”. “I don’t care”, he countered, “hand it over”. And just like that, he snatched up my neon sheets of writing and walked out the door, pausing only momentarily to order over his shoulder, “Staff meeting tomorrow 8:00 AM. Be there.” What had just happened? I was befuddled. Staff meeting? What? Obviously, I had no choice in the matter, so I dutifully obeyed his imperial command the next morning with no more self-confidence than I’d had on my two other brief visits. He introduced me to Susan and other staff members as “the Observer’s new weekly columnist” AND offered me the copy editor job as well. Since I was only working a few waitressing shifts at the Laytonville Inn, I was over the moon at this proposal. I was also taken aback. Copy Editor? Was I the only person he knew that could spell and put together a decent sentence? Later this did become apparent to me when I edited the Senior Activities writer’s 300-word run-on sentence. Yep. Every week this delightful lady would submit her recap of senior goings-on with nary a breath of punctuation anywhere. Perhaps she felt there was a premium on commas and periods. Anyway, that day was the beginning of a beautiful friendship with the Shields family that has lasted to this day, as well as an education that I could not get from any university. From our encounter at the Crossroads, I had initially pegged Jim as a man of few but forceful words. But the man I grew to know and love was a gentle soul, a good father and loving husband. He cared so much for this adopted hometown that he spent his life working to better it. Jim Shields was my mentor and my friend. Although I only saw him rarely in the last thirty years, the warmth always remained. I visited Laytonville a few years ago and we laughed together as we had so many times all those years ago. He even splashed our photo on the front page of the paper with the title “The Star has Returned!” That gave me a good laugh. There is one less star in my firmament tonight and a huge hole in my heart. Thank you, Jim for being a good man, a good friend and a good teacher. Thank you for giving me free rein to write whatever I wanted to say and to trust that I would do that to the best of my abilities. Thank you for believing in me when I did not and for helping restore that self-confidence that I was so lacking when I first came through your door. You were instrumental in changing my life for the better; thank you for that. Good luck on your next journey Jim. Try not to work so hard this time and be sure to give my love to Susan and Mom Lois. I’ll miss you . . .



Meme of the Week

If I'm going to take  
health advice from a  
former heroin addict  
I choose  
Keith Richards.



LAYTONVILLE AREA  
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY  
TWO-WAY RADIO SYSTEM

GMRS  
RADIO  
REPEATER  
SYSTEM IS  
NOW  
ONLINE!

THE REPEATER PROVIDES GENERAL  
COVERAGE OF LAYTONVILLE  
AND THE IMMEDIATE SURROUNDS  
WITHIN 5-7 MILES

THE PRIMARY SYSTEM PURPOSE AS DESIGNED IS TO ALERT  
THE COMMUNITY OF EMERGENCIES AND PROVIDE PEOPLE  
(GMRS LICENSEES AND THEIR FAMILIES), I.E. 'THE  
COMMUNITY,' WITH AN UNINTERRUPTABLE MEANS TO  
INTERCOMMUNICATE, IN THE EVENT OF A SIGNIFICANT  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS OUTAGE OR SYSTEM FAILURE  
AFFECTING THE LOCAL AREA.

THE SECONDARY SYSTEM PURPOSE IS THE GENERAL, DAY-TO-  
DAY RECREATIONAL USE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY FOR  
FAMILIES TO USE AND INTERCOMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER

HAVE A GMRS LICENSE AND GEAR? SET YOUR GMRS RADIO TO  
CHANNEL 23, INPUT TONE 136.5Hz AND KEY THE MIC AND  
DROP YOUR CALLSIGN, SAY HELLO, SEE WHO'S ON-THE-AIR!

GENERAL MOBILE  
GMRS  
RADIO SERVICE

For more information, the Radio Group meets at the Book Room on Branscomb Rd. every 1st and 3rd Friday at 1PM.

“This and That”

Listen to Jim Shields’ show on KPFN 105.1  
Politics & Local News Every Saturday at 12  
noon Streamed Live: <http://www.kpfn.org>



Joseph Feigon

Computer and Network Solutions  
Commercial and Residential Service  
• Data Recovery • Design •  
Wireless • Video • Internet •

707/984.4400 [help@mendocomputerguy.com](mailto:help@mendocomputerguy.com)



Pictured above: Jim Shields giving speech at ERRP party on July 14, 2019

### Jim Shields – Community Organizer

By Pat Higgins

When the Eel River Recovery Project moved to Laytonville in early 2018, I did not know Jim Shields even though I had submitted articles to the Mendocino Observer. To fully engage the community in July 2019, we held a party and BBQ at our office that we shared with Evan Engber and BioEngineering Associates next to Gieger’s Market. As the party got underway, Jim got everyone’s attention and began a testimonial speech about the good works of ERRP and how lucky Laytonville was to have us. I was floored by his compliments and really felt at that point that we had become part of the community.

We would not have been able to organize nearly as well, or to have accomplished everything we have, without the access to the Observer. It allowed us to do outreach and connect with people who were potential clients. As long as our copy was clean, and we provided a high-quality photo, we almost always had the eye-catching top of the front page or “above the fold” as they say in the newspaper business.

Jim was a strong political ally, if he identified with your cause, and when I ran into political road blocks or irrational government action I would always consult him. We all know how busy his life was, but he would always take time to listen and provide guidance. In many cases, Jim would calm me down and help me approach things that were vexing me more dispassionately and strategically. When things escalated to where there was confrontation, he would bring our issues to the Laytonville Area Municipal Advisory Committee and arrange for them to ally.

Jim was quick with letters of support for ERRP from LAMAC and on occasion delivered letters of support from the Laytonville County Water District, if agreed to by their board. These letters to the funding agencies showed that ERRP was rooted in the community and helped us win millions of dollars in grants to help improve the environment and create jobs. I took great delight joining Jim on his “This and That” show on KPFN, where he really got it off his chest. He loved to impart his perspective on the world around him, to alert his neighbors and to skewer bureaucrats and speak truth to power. I remember my first show with him when I

arrived at noon, and simply sat and listened until he was wound down enough to yield the floor. He asked good questions to draw me out and usually expressed strong support for the work we were doing. We will all miss Jim tremendously, and I intend to step up contributions to the Observer to help it endure and thrive into the future because it is so essential to the community. While his passing is very sad, he lived a full life and lived longer than projected given his conditions. After such an amazing life, you can’t ask for your money back.

### Meetings & Events

**Saturday, September 13 from 1-10 p.m.** Laytonville Skate Park presents the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Shred Fest! Live music, skateboarding, huge raffle, food, bar and guaranteed funall for a good cause. More info (707) 984-8089

**The Book Shop** at the Old Laytonville High School (200 Branscomb Road), winter hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12-4 p.m.

Also, inside the **Community Room** (located at the Old High School): Computer, WiFi and printer. Seed Library. Rare Book Collection. Groups that meet regularly are: Tapestry Family Services “Hear Us” group for families and individuals just needing a little extra support or guidance on Wednesdays.

**Emergency Radio group** meets on 1st and 3rd Friday each month from 1-2pm. Book Club meets the 2nd Friday from 3-4 p.m. Fiber Arts meetup on 2nd Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 Family Art Class on Wednesdays from 3-4 p.m. Tech Help Wednesdays from 12- 4 p.m. If you are a local group who wants to use the Community Room for your meeting or event, please stop by the Book Shop and inquire!

**The Laytonville Grange**, located at 1620 Branscomb Roadmeets every first Wednesday of the month at 4pm and breakfast is every second Sunday from 8am-11am.

# Mammogram

onsite mobile screening event

Get your mammogram in Laytonville! One day only!



**SEPTEMBER 25, 2025 • 9am - 4pm**

**Early Detection Saves Lives!**

**MAMMOGRAPHY**  
Mammography is typically covered for women over 40 without symptoms. Patients under 40 must meet the following criteria:

- Must have doctor's order (No self-referrals)
- If under 30, the doctor's order must specify why you are high risk (strong family history, BRCA mutation, etc.)
- Self-pay required if insurance will not cover exams under 40

**INSURANCES**  
A number of HMO and PPO insurances are accepted. Please check with your events coordinator for more information.

**GET RESULTS**  
Mammography results within 14 business days.

**Long Valley Health Center**  
**50 Branscomb Road**  
**Laytonville, CA 95454**

**Call to schedule:**  
**(707) 984-6131 ext 114**

No Insurance? You can receive a FREE SCREENING courtesy of: California's Cancer Detection Program - Every Woman Counts (COP-EWC) Department of Health Care Services

To qualify for the FREE service, you must:

- Be 40 years of age or older
- Have low household income
- No insurance

Screening services provided by: **alinea** MEDICAL IMAGING a Rezolut partner



### Letters

Dearest BB (Brother Bear),

I hear you quit reporting on dysfunctional government and went on a permanent vacation!! Whaaa?.... Aren’t you gonna miss being endlessly busy, barely sleeping or eating to help your community function?

Well, good for you my friend!!

We all loved and will miss your stories and your deep dive into history and fact. So many times you would start with the classic Jim Shields words “Like I said” or.. “Like I’ve been saying”... you saw things with a steady gaze and clear (most of the time) head.

I will miss you however fabulous it is the place you have escaped to though. I don’t know when I will be able to visit, but I am glad that no matter where I go or what I do, you will be in my heart forever.

You are and were one of the best friends a person can hope to have. So solid, so caring, and such a problem solver! You made us all feel a little better knowing you were there at the gate, watching, reporting and of course, commenting.

Nobody can fill those big bear shoes, who would want to. It’s best if we just leave them at the door and remember the man who wore them and walked his talk to the end. You are a legend of a dude and I am grateful we had such a fun friendship.

I sure will miss you Brother Bear and I love you very very much. Thank you for dealing with me in such a good way for all these years. It was a privilege to be your friend.

Love Always,

**BAMB**  
(Bad Ass Mama Bear)

## The Weather Report

August	High	Low	Rain	Sky & Conditions
--------	------	-----	------	------------------

**The Weather Report will return when Jayma figures out how Jim did it :-)**

# SKATE NIGHT IS BACK FOR FALL!

## UPCOMING SKATE NIGHT SCHEDULE

These are the days we will have Skate Night

**August 29**

**September 5 & 26**

**October 3, 10 & 24** (special Costume Skate Party on 10/24!)

**November 7 & 14**

**FRIDAYS @ HARWOOD HALL FROM 6-8 P.M.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL (707) 984-8089**

*Want to have a birthday party @ Skate Night? Call to reserve*





Jim pictured with his son Jimmy

# THE FARMHOUSE KITCHEN

A Cottage Industry Bakery

LAYTONVILLE, CA

— Orders Welcome —

**Beth Hogan**

707-984-6288 • 707-354-4233

License #FD2324



### Meetings & Events

Thursday, Sept. 11th, 6:00-7:30pm: Inland Valley Women’s Chorus begins its 32nd season, meeting at the Holy Trinity Church, Mary & Martha Room, 640 S. Orchard Ave. (next to the DMV) in Ukiah. IVWC sings songs of peace, joy, social justice, and healing. New members are welcome! No audition or prior experience required. For information, contact Madge Strong, (707) 459-1493 or email mstrong827@outlook.com

**Are you curious about Covered California & Medi-Cal?**

*We Can Help*

**Laytonville Healthy Start 707-984-8089**  
**Long Valley Health Center 707-984-6131**



# Remembering Jim Shields: A Heart That Served

By Kirsten Shakti Thompson from the Divine Mother Center, Laytonville

Though Jim and I didn’t meet in person very often, he became one of my dearest friends through the countless letters we exchanged about the Observer and the occasional arti-cles I contributed. What started as business correspondence always blossomed into something much deeper - we’d share what was happening in our lives, and Jim would respond with the kind of heartfelt comments that reminded you why small-town con-nections matter so much.

We discovered early on that we shared something special: a genuine love for serving people in need. Jim was always so encouraging about our annual Christmas Baskets project for families in our community. Through that work, my friendship with his daugh-ter Jayma and her husband Roland began, and I came to admire the entire family for the countless ways they gave back to our town.

I watched Jim navigate both the easier years when Susan, his beloved “life force,” was by his side, and the more challenging recent years when he carried on alone. Jayma’s devotion to helping her father never went unnoticed - her love for him was evident in everything she did. Jim was blessed to have such a caring daughter, and she was blessed to have such a father worth caring for.

How fitting that Jim passed peacefully at his desk - the same place where Susan had started the newspaper that he then faithfully continued, week after week, year after year. He was exactly the kind of person every community needs: hardworking, open-hearted, and always ready to help. I’m grateful beyond words that our paths crossed in this life and that we shared such a heartfelt connection. I know Jim is smiling now, reading all these loving tributes from everyone whose life he touched. That’s just the kind of man he was - always more interested in others than in himself.

## Letters from page 3

can obtain at the County Planning & Building and the State DCC as well all the other agencies with oversight of cannabis licensing. The reason to exempt some of the zoning and other requirements for small farms, who are already under far heavier constraints than typical agriculture including crops and ranching, is with the goal of promoting a healthy industry-wide ecosystem.

One of the biggest recent shifts to weigh in this decision is that we only had 6 State Annual licences approved in the County for years, but now there are 600+ State

Annual Licensed Cultivation sites approved in Mendocino County, the majority located in rural resource lands, such as ours is on Rangeland. The BOS was willing recently to allow 20k expansion in Ag land zones to benefit only a handful of farms. But most of County / State licensed farms are still left behind, unable to expand their footprint. Also, and more importantly, unable to expand their allowable activities onsite. Considering how to help these legal local farms survive can only benefit the County’s bottom line. Success will only happen with direct to consumer sales opportunities, from events like farmers markets to

shipping door-to-door. Those of us who want to stay small need to find ways to sell direct, to keep our ethos and stories alive. To do so makes the most economic sense, because, at the end of the day, a small farm is a small business contributing to the County coffers.

Right now, California Cannabis Medical Patient Shipping Bill - AB1332 is making its way through the State Assembly, so far with unanimous support. It would allow ONLY Microbusinesses, to sell via direct shipping to medical patients around the state. Also important to consider, federally, the SHIP act was recently re-introduced by our own north coast US Representative Huffman. These are reasons it is crucial to give small farms the ability to develop on-site strategies now that would best adapt to future success.

Use existing solutions to facilitate growth of our nascent industry. For example, the wine club model started as a workaround for Federal vs State to State laws, and there are ways it can be adapted to cannabis. We would like to see the BOS be bold and take action that allows small farms to remain viable businesses fostering true Economic Development and fulfilling the County Strategic Plan Priority Designation for cannabis of a thriving economy. Thank you for your consideration.

Laura Marty Clein,  
Martyjuana™

### ORIGINAL CANNABIS BUSINESS LICENSE

Introduction: The purpose of this proposal is to request amendments to Mendocino County Code that will thereafter, maximize small farmers’ opportunity to integrate their operations and reduce costs, allow activities as per the state’s regulations which now only benefit large corporate businesses in jurisdictions with less burdensome and expensive compliance, as well as generate taxable revenue (based on current conditions in the marketplace) on which the County depends.

The parameters of the Original Cannabis Business License (OCBL) will be applicable and specific to Mendocino County cannabis farmers ONLY. It is anticipated that streamlining of CCBLs to OCBLs is perfunctory and that Administrative or Use Permits are not required as applicants must be Phase 1 or 2 permitted businesses that established and maintained compliant operations prior to January 1, 2016, until today, on the same parcel without significant changes to operations. Minimal staff time to check via aerial imaging will suffice to determine the cultivation sites, relevant structures and PBS permitted buildings have not changed materially.

The proposed OCBL will maintain

**See Cannabis, back page**

## LEGAL NOTICES

**PETITION OF CHRISTOPHER CHARLES FOREST FOR CHANGE OF NAME ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No.: 25CV02496**

Superior Court of California  
County of Mendocino 100 North State St.  
Ukiah, CA 95482 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner CHRISTOPHER CHARLES FOREST filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: CHRISTOPHER CHARLES FOREST to Proposed Name: GEORGE CHRISTOPHER FOREST.

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING October 10, 2025 at 9:30 a.m., in Department E, Superior Court, County of Mendocino, Civil Division-Room, 100 North State St., Ukiah, CA 95482 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Mendocino County Observer Date: August 14, 2025 /s/Anne Moorman Judge of the Superior Court Published: Aug. 28, Sept. 4, 11, 18, 2025

## LEGAL NOTICES

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
*File No. 2025-F0355*

The following person(s) is doing business as:

**Weathertop Farmstead, 44901 Harmon Drive, PO Box 794, Laytonville, CA 95454.**

This business is registered by a General Partnership: Heather Benzing and David Barbee, PO Box 794, Laytonville, CA 95454. The registrant (s) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on July 1, 2025. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Mendocino on August 13, 2025. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires five years from the date it was filed with the County Clerk, except as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand /s/ Heather Benzing Pub: Aug. 28, Sept. 4, 11, 18, 2025



Jim pictured in 1968



**“We proudly support our local youth sports!”**

**YOUR BUSINESS HERE**  
**E-mail: [observer@pacific.net](mailto:observer@pacific.net)**

**the Observer**  
Mendocino County

**SBMC**  
*Savings Bank*  
OF MENDOCINO COUNTY  
Member FDIC

**CAMPBELL'S**  
**LONG VALLEY AUTO SUPPLY**  
 **AUTO PARTS**

**Save Money Over Newstand Price: Subscribe!**  
***The Mendocino County Observer***

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: MCO, POB 490, Laytonville, CA 95454 Call: (707) 984-6223 or email: [observer@laytonville.org](mailto:observer@laytonville.org)**

**Subscriber Rates: In-County - \$30, Out-County - \$32, Outside CA - \$35. Seniors (65 and older) deduct \$2 from above rates.**

[NORTHERNREN.ORG](http://NORTHERNREN.ORG)



MENDOCINO COUNTY



**Northern Rural Energy Network**  
YOUR LOCAL ENERGY SOLUTIONS



The Northern Rural Energy Network (NREN) is a new regional organization offering energy efficiency programs and services to rural communities in Northern California via local service providers. The local program administrator and implementor here in Mendocino County is the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG).

We are dedicated to helping folks increase the energy efficiency of their homes, businesses, non-profits, schools and municipal buildings to save energy and save money. We have recently launched the residential no-cost energy efficiency services featured below and will be expanding services in the coming months and years ahead. We encourage you to take advantage of these valuable opportunities, click the links below:



**ENERGY EFFICIENCY KITS**  
THESE KITS (VALUED AT OVER \$100) INCLUDE 8 LED LIGHT BULBS, SMART POWER STRIP, ENERGY USAGE METER, WEATHERIZATION STRIPS AND MORE. SIMPLY FILL OUT THE APPLICATION AND THE KIT WILL BE MAILED TO YOU AT NO COST! HAVE YOUR PG&E BILL HANDY WHEN FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION!

**APPLIANCE REBATES**  
WE ALSO OFFER REBATES TO HELP OFFSET THE COST OF QUALIFYING ENERGY-EFFICIENT APPLIANCES AND UPGRADES INCLUDING HEAT PUMPS, WATER HEATERS, INDUCTION RANGES, WASHING MACHINES AND MORE.





**HOME ASSESSMENTS**  
OUR TRAINED STAFF WILL CONDUCT A NO-COST PERSONALIZED ASSESSMENT OVER THE PHONE TO DISCUSS YOUR HOME ENERGY USAGE. AFTER THE CALL, YOU WILL RECEIVE A DETAILED REPORT WITH TAILORED RECOMMENDATIONS TO HELP YOU REDUCE ENERGY USE AND LOWER YOUR BILLS.  
EMAIL RICH AT [FELICER@DOW-ASSOCIATES.COM](mailto:FELICER@DOW-ASSOCIATES.COM) TO SIGN UP FOR A HOME ASSESSMENT!

[NORTHERNREN.ORG](http://NORTHERNREN.ORG)

**CONTACT US**

(707) 397-2099

CLASSIFIED ADS

HEALTHY LIVING

Alcoholics Anonymous  
All open meetings

TUESDAYS - 7 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous 3rd Tues 6:30 p.m.- THURSDAYS - 7 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAYS - 6 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous  
LOCATION: Laytonville Fellowship (AA) meets at the Long Valley Garden Club, 375 Harwood Rd. Laytonville. NA meets at Good News Fellowship Church, Foster and Harwood Road, Laytonville. For info please call 354-4864

Freethinkers Group - An AA meeting without religion - has been moved to Willits. For location and meeting times please call 984-8339

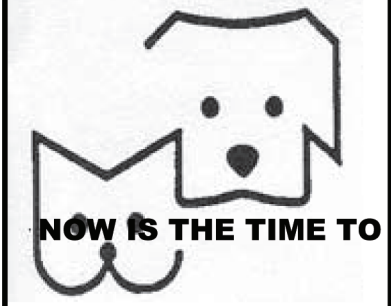
RED ROAD meets on Mondays at 5pm at the Cahto Tribal Center. Follow signs for the Red Fox Casino, then keep going straight up the hill instead of turning into the casino area. 300 Cahto Drive. For info call 984-6197

Playgroup for children 5 years old and younger and their parents. Come play games, socialize with other kids and parents. Laytonville Healthy Start provides the toys and a snack, all you do is show up and play! Playgroup new day and time! Thursdays 11:30-1p.m. at Harwood Hall. Information: 984-8089.

Laytonville Healthy Start Diaper Drive  
Bring unopened packages in any size to Healthy Start, Harwood Road and Willis Ave. For info call 984-8089.

NEED FINANCIAL AID  
Getting your cats or dogs Spayed or Neutered?

Application forms are now available in Laytonville at the Observer office and at the Feed Store



Call SNAP at 462-7874

SNAP (Spay Neuter Assistance Program) is a nonprofit organization and if you would like to make a tax deductible donation, please mail to: SNAP, POB 4, Talmage, CA 95481  
Donation Jars are also located at many Merchants businesses around Laytonville

Observer Published Thursdays Ad and Editorial Deadline Tuesday at 5 p.m. For Ad info call (707) 984-6223 or email observer@pacific.net

SERVICES

WATER DELIVERED  
R. Skinner  
(707) 354-0101 or 354-1011

Event Space Rental  
Rent the Long Valley Garden Club  
Hourly: \$20/ \$30 with kitchen  
Full day: \$100/ \$130 w/ kitchen  
2 hour minimum  
(707) 984-7430

C BROWNS R N E R  
•Pay at the Pump  
•Gas - Reg &  
•Diesel  
•Groceries  
•Beer & Wine  
Open: 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.  
365 days a year  
459-4854 • 1799 S. Main St. • Willits

LAYTONVILLE DISPOSAL CO.  
SEPTIC TANK PUMPING SERVICE  
Lic. #927978  
984-8245  
Leave Message

Laytonville MINI-STORAGE  
FOR INFO CALL 984-8000

Laytonville County Water District  
• Have a question?  
• Interested in a water hookup?  
Remember:  
Before digging on your property, call our office. It's the law.  
Customer Service Office  
Open Mon-Fri  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Tel: 707-984-6444  
email: info@lcwdh2o.org  
P.O. Box 32  
45020 Hwy 101  
(Boomer's Bar Bldg)  
Laytonville, CA 95454

Observer Fire Starters/ Wrapping Papers Now Available  
\$1 Per Bundle  
All Proceeds Donated To Spay-Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP)  
Stop By Observer Office (Post Office Building) or Call 984-6223

"This and That"  
Listen to Jim Shields on KPFN 105.1  
Politics & Local News Every Saturday at 12 noon  
Streamed Live: http://www.kpfn.org

Space for Rent/Lease  
Businesses welcomed Office space or Home 2 bedroom 1 bath in LAYTONVILLE  
In town next to Long Valley Clinic  
Contact Mary Polson  
707-354-1544 text  
References needed first last and cleaning deposit available soon

Registering A Fictitious Business Name  
A Fictitious Business Name statement (D.B.A. or "doing business as") must be registered with the county clerk of the county of the registrant's principal place of business if the business is any of the following:  
• Sole proprietorship doing business under a name not containing the owner's surname, such as Smith Accounting Services;  
• Partnership; or,  
• Corporation doing business under a name other than its legal name

You must contact the Mendocino County Clerk's office, in Ukiah, for information regarding filing or registering fictitious business names.  
The statement must be filed within 40 days of the commencement of business or before the statement on file expires. Along with the original, the county may require several copies of the statement for filing. The county clerk will certify and return all copies to the registrant, keeping the original. Within 30 days after filing a fictitious business name statement, the registrant must publish the statement in a newspaper of general circulation in the county of its principal place of business. The notice must appear once a week for four successive weeks. Within 30 days of the last publishing date, the newspaper will file an affidavit of publication with the county clerk's office.

Note: A Fictitious Business Name statement generally expires five years from the date it was filed with the County Clerk. A New Fictitious Business Name statement must be filed before the expiration.  
The Observer charges \$75 to publish a Fictitious Business Name statement and filing the affidavit of publication. Stop by the Observer office (second floor of Laytonville Post Office building, or call (707) 984-6223 for information.

Observer Classified Rates  
1 Week - \$7  
2 Weeks - \$13.50 (\$6.75/wk)  
3 Weeks - \$19.50 (\$6.50)  
4 Weeks - \$25 (\$6.25)  
5 Weeks - \$30 (\$6)  
6 Weeks - \$34.50 (\$5.75)  
Rates are for 1-20 words  
Each Additional word(s) over 20 is 30¢ per word.  
More than 6 weeks - Repeat 6 week rate.  
Private Parties only.  
Bargain Box Rates  
10 words or less  
\$5 per week  
Any Category — Private Parties Only  
Payable in advance — no refunds for early cancellation

Real Estate For Sale

Selzer Realty & Associates  
POWERED BY RE/MAX GOLD  
SPECIALIZING IN NORTHERN MENDOCINO COUNTY HOMES | RURAL LAND | ON & OFF GRID  
SELZERREALTY.COM  
Alison Pernell, Realtor®  
DRE #02055690 707.972.1364  
alisonpernell@gmail.com  
Real Estate with Integrity

SENDING OUR READERS A HEARTFELT "Thank you!"  
We would like to thank our new subscribers requesting to receive The Observer in your mailbox, those subscribing for friends and family, our long-time readers for promptly renewing your subscriptions and our retail outlets who continue to carry our family-owned and operated newspaper.  
We couldn't do it without your support!  
-Jim, Jayma & Roland  
PS - If you're interested in having The Observer mailed to your PO Box or residential address, email or call us to subscribe.  
E-mail: observer@pacific.net Ph: (707) 984-6223

LEGAL NOTICES

Laytonville County Water District  
Restriction On Outdoor Irrigation/Watering With LCWD Potable Water  
Outdoor watering/irrigation is allowed seven days per week. However no irrigation/watering is allowed from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Restriction On Outdoor Irrigation/Watering Violation Procedures  
For violations of the Restrictions On Outdoor Irrigation/Watering, the following progressive steps of warning and fines shall occur:  
• A first violation will result in the customer receiving a verbal warning (confirmed in writing), along with a copy of the Outdoor Irrigation/Watering Policy.  
• A second violation will result in a fine of \$25.  
• A third violation will result in a fine of \$50.  
• A fourth violation may result in the customer's service being restricted or shut off.

Cannabis Information & Complaint Hotlines  
1-844-421-WEED

The County's Cannabis Information Hotline is (1-844-421-WEED (9333)). It's for all cannabis related inquiries, questions, and/or to be directed to the appropriate department associated with the inquiry. All interested parties will call one number for cannabis related inquiries. This hotline includes options on how to register cannabis complaints, where to apply for permits, where to pay cannabis related taxes, information regarding the building permit process, as well as general information regarding the County's Cannabis Cultivation Program.  
For criminal complaints call the MCSO TIP LINE at 707-234-2100.

Office Lease

Commercial Office Space for Lease on Highway 101. 1,300 sqft, 2 bth. 619 818 4743 cell

Advertise Your Business for low weekly rates  
(707) 984-6223 or email observer@pacific.net

Red Road Wellbriety  
Sundays 4 pm-5 pm Potluck  
Please feel free to join us  
Everyone is welcome to share  
Cahto Tribe Center  
300 Cahto Drive  
Laytonville, CA 95454  
For more info: Annette facilitator 707-513-6274

Business Opportunity  
Laytonville Business For Sale  
Great Opportunity! "Tina's Treasures"  
Tina's Tired!  
Inquire Within Store

# True West, Sam Shepard's Darkly Comic Tale of Brotherly Rivalry, Runs September 12-28 at Willits Community Theatre

By Steve Hellman, WCT

True West, Sam Shepard's searing tale of brotherly rivalry, identity, and the crumbling myth of the American West, opens at Willits Community Theatre on Friday, September 12 for a three-week run. Directed by Joshua Sternberg, this intense and darkly funny drama depicts brothers Austin and Lee reuniting at their mother's suburban home, where the calm quickly unravels into a volatile battle of wills.

Sternberg, in his directorial debut at WCT, says the action unfolds in very condensed and concise moments of familial conflict. What emerges are two brothers working out truths about themselves in relationship to each other. "It's an adventurous ride for the audience" Sternberg says, "in how it takes you through a tableau of emotions, from sadness to elation, humor, and even a little fear or anxiety."

Shepard has said of his script, it presents the messy process of finding out who we are while also considering the possibility of who else we could become, explains Sternberg. "It's a deep dive into identity that plays itself out on a grimy surface." Featured actors Schyler Marcier, Eric Layer, Cindi Mohr and Cortlandt Wilson bring True West to life where the only thing more dangerous than the desert is the truth.

Performances are September 12-28, with shows on Friday and Saturdays at 7:00pm and Sunday matinees at 2:00pm. Tickets are \$20 and available at the door or online at: [www.wctperformingartscenter.org](http://www.wctperformingartscenter.org). The WCT playhouse is located at 37 W. Van Lane, Willits. Box Office: (707) 216-1826.

Support for WCT is provided by NC Financial Group, Jerry Drew Painting, Big Fish Construction, Julia Morgan Redwood Grove, KZYX and KLLG radio, Community Foundation of Mendocino County, Penserra Group, and Redwood Waste Solutions.

## Long Overdue Domestic Compact For America

By Ralph Nader

Running on the following Domestic Compact for America is a winning election strategy for candidates at the local, state, and national levels. Most of these long-overdue programs are supported by both liberal and conservative families who live, work, and raise their children, facing unaddressed necessities of life and livelihoods.

Labor Day celebrations should be about more than department store sales and clambakes. America's labor unions, at both the national and local levels, should circulate this agenda widely on Labor Day, because it is also a Compact for American Workers.

This agenda is being sent to Liz Shuler, President of the AFL-CIO and to the presidents of other major unions, including those representing postal workers, flight attendants, electrical workers, auto workers, steelworkers, service workers, nurses, textile workers, and agricultural workers.

You might ask yourself: how many of these protections and benefits is Trump opposing? These are good yardsticks by which to compare his deceptive rhetoric to his misdeeds. The basic question is, whose side are you on? The key elements of the Compact are:

Raising the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 per hour to at least \$15 per hour, benefiting 25 million workers.

Raising all the Social Security benefits, frozen for over 45 years, paying for it by increasing the Social Security tax on the wealthy, benefiting over 60 million elderly. This was supported by about 200 House Democrats in 2022 but was blocked by the Democratic Speaker from going to the floor. Rep. John Larson, the bill's champion, can provide further explanation.

Restoring taxes on the very under-taxed super-rich and corporations (85% approval).

Establishing a children's tax credit, cutting child poverty in half, with over 60 million children benefiting. Very popular with parents regardless of their political party affiliations.

Instituting Medicare for All, safer, more efficient, and much less stressful than our current approach to healthcare.

Cracking down on corporate crooks stealing consumer dollars, wages, and worker pensions.

Adopting social safety nets long

available in Western Europe and Canada.

Passing labor law reforms put forth decades ago. (See my column on Taft Hartley at [Nader.org](http://Nader.org))

Investing in crumbling public services and infrastructures.

Paying for the above by restoring taxes on the very under-taxed super-rich and large corporations and by ending huge corporate welfare giveaways and debloating the runaway, unaudited military budget.

Why has the Democratic Party declined to lead with such an agenda, which has been proposed for years by various citizen groups?

One reason is special interest campaign money. Another is that the Democratic Party contracts out many of its campaigns to corporate-conflicted consulting firms that have long pushed weak messaging that leads voters to keep wondering what the Party stands for. These consulting firms know the answer –

See Nader, page 8



**HIGH COUNTRY ROOFING INC**  
W.C. & G.L. **707-367-4656** LC#1129684  
[WWW.HIGHCOUNTRYROOFINGINC.COM](http://WWW.HIGHCOUNTRYROOFINGINC.COM)

Located in Laytonville

Serving areas of Mendocino and Southern Humboldt counties

**707-367-4656**

**Free Estimates**

Insured with G.L & W.C License # 1129684



Shields Family Enjoys Jayma & Roland's Wedding  
March 29, 2014

Pictured above are members of the Shields Family with bride and groom, Jayma and Roland.

Front, left to right: Nasrin Shields, Maria Shields, Roland Spence, Jayma Shields Spence

Back, left to right: John Shields, Jim "Jimmy" Shields, Jim Shields



JOIN US  
EVERY THURSDAY  
FOR LAYTONVILLE'S



**WEEKLY  
PLAY GROUP!**

WHAT? A WEEKLY FREE COMMUNITY PLAY GROUP  
SUPPORTED BY LAYTONVILLE HEALTHY START

WHO? CHILDREN AGES 0-5

WHEN? STARTING THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> AND  
CONTINUING EVERY THURSDAY THEREAFTER FROM  
12:30PM-2:00PM. COME AND GO AS YOU PLEASE!

WHERE? THE COMMUNITY ROOM AT THE BOOK SHOP:

200 BRANSCOMB RD. LAYTONVILLE 95454

KIDDOS CAN ENJOY BOOKS, ART, SOCIALIZING & MORE!

.....

QUESTIONS? TEXT OR CALL (702) 340-1164

\*A PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST BE PRESENT WITH CHILD  
DURING DURATION OF PLAY GROUP



## Laytonville Area Churches

### Good News Fellowship

Pastor David Sanchez Weekly  
Worship Services: Sunday Morning  
Service – 11 a.m.  
Potluck directly following Service  
Wednesday Potluck – 12 noon  
Wednesday Bible Study – 1 p.m.  
Location:  
Foster and Harwood Road,  
Laytonville, CA 95454  
Phone: 707-984-7042

# North County Services “A Guide To Who Does It Best!”



**LONG VALLEY  
HEALTH CENTER**  
"When you feel better, we feel better!"

Did you know? LVHC also offers:

- Medical Care for Adults & Children, Prenatal Care, Family Planning, STD Testing.
- Dental
- Mental Health, Substance Abuse Treatment
- Assistance to apply for Health Benefits

Call to make an appointment today!  
**707-984-6131**



**Ken's Auto Repair**  
FACTORY TRAINED  
FOREIGN & DOMESTIC REPAIR IN WILLITS  
**(707-459-3270)**

- TUNE-UPS
- AUTO ELEC. SERVICE
- CARBURETORS
- CA SMOG
- BRAKE SERVICE
- AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE
- LUBRICATIONS
- BATTERIES
- ELECTRONIC FUEL INJECTION
- COMPUTER ENGINE CONTROLS

**Metal Fabrication & Design**  
Gates • Ornamental Iron • Railings • Fencing  
• CUSTOM WELDING •

By Joe Munch

Calif. Contr. Lic. #791200 (707) 984-9310



**Woods Tree Service**  
Environmentally Conscious  
Trimming • Clearing • Topping  
Hazard Tree Removal  
Storm Damage  
Free Estimates  
24 hr Emergency Service  
Vernon Wilson **707-354-0075** not licensed.



**Laytonville Healthy Start  
Family Resource Center**  
Celebrating over 20 years  
of serving our community!  
Check out our wide variety  
of programs & services  
[www.laytonville.org/healthystart](http://www.laytonville.org/healthystart)  
**707-984-8089**  
Open Mon. - Weds. 9am - 5pm



**THOMPSON  
GAS**  
Propane Gas - Residential & Commercial  
PROPANE CYLINDERS FILLED  
Check Our Large Selection of Propane Appliances  
**8-5 Mon. - Fri. 25 Harwood Rd. & HWY 101**  
**707-984-6127**



**The Observer**  
Mendocino County  
Ph: (707)984-6223  
[observer@pacific.net](mailto:observer@pacific.net)  
2nd Floor Post Office Building • Laytonville



**KPFN 105.1  
FM**  
LOCAL COMMUNITY  
RADIO LAYTONVILLE  
ON A RADIO NEAR YOU!  
LISTEN ONLINE: [WWW.KPFN.ORG](http://WWW.KPFN.ORG)



# Jim

from front page

Mendocino County Observer. New-comers, Jim and Susan got push-back from some “Old Timers” when they bought the Ledger and decided to cover hard news, politics and stories such as the then raging timber wars and not just Chamber of Commerce press releases, local sports, wedding announcements, as had been the norm. Some local business owners protested the coverage and cancelled ads in the paper due to covering these issues, because Jim and Susan didn’t just take the side of the dominant timber industry of the times. “Granny Lois” Shields (Jim’s mother) would move out to Laytonville in the 1990’s and assist with the running of The Observer, which was growing in popularity thanks to Jim’s coverage of Mendocino County politics, when at the time, he was providing coverage of the Board of Supervisors that not many local media outlets were covering.

Jim’s knowledge of history, labor and politics really shaped his ability to take on the bureaucratic system that often screwed the common person. Jim began to act as a local government watchdog, where he would use The Observer’s pages to cover the issues, allow the readers to weigh in via the Letters to the Editor section, and invited collaboration with other journalists to share coverage of important topics. Jim was known to appear at the Board of Supervisors meetings, where he would use his public comment time to educate, lecture or call BS on the Ukiah-area Bureaucrats. Through his efforts, he built long-lasting friendships with county workers who needed a cheerleader, his readers, and surprisingly the people he originally called BS on. For those of you who knew Jim, you knew his style of calling something out- it starts with a preamble on the historical nature of the current problem we faced, a lecture on why we should find this issue important, and then closing remarks on why we needed to side with him for the good of the order.

Through his desire to keep an eye on politics and be an advocate for Good Government, Jim founded the County’s “MAC” system. This was a way for the unincorporated communities, that weren’t a city, to be able to advise their local repre-

sentative(s) on issues that mattered most. Jim was the Chairman of the Laytonville Area Municipal Advisory Council, and forged friendships and trusted relationships with his fellow council members, as well as the agencies and organizations that would attend the LAMAC meetings.

Jim was also the long-time District Manager for the Laytonville County Water District, a job he got when the water district approached him for advice in the late 1990’s/ early 2000’s, and the rest they say is history. Jim worked many long hours at the Water Plant and District office, he was known to be running the water plant after 10 p.m. to save the District money on the enormous PG&E bill. If there was a water leak, big or small, Jim was there to assist Jay and Steve, whether they needed his help or not. Over the years, Jim forged many new friendships with his Water District co-workers, board members and customers. Up until the end, Jim was working with various agencies to save the Water District from financial collapse post-cannabis legalization. Jim spent most waking-hours doing things behind the scenes to prop the Water District up, his dedication to the LCWD will be sorely missed. Jim leaves behind a dedicated and hard-working crew at LCWD, Tracey, Steve and Jay, along with a capable board of directors, Mike, Kary, Tim and Jayma.

Locally, Jim did so much for the Laytonville community and residents. The list is really too long, but some highlights include: setting a sprinkler system to pull backwash water from the water plant, so that it not only was a benefit to the Water District to discharge what was essentially “trash water” but it was also a benefit to the Harwood Park ball field, and made it green 365 days of the year. Jim, with his wife Susan, and their friend Pam, founded the North Pole Toy Express, a Christmas toy drive for the Laytonville kids, we now affectionately call Pam & Susan’s North Pole Toy Express to honor Pam and Susan who enjoyed playing Santa every holiday season. After Susan’s passing, Jim assumed the role of feeding various colonies of feral cats (a term he didn’t like using, because truth be told, what you or I would consider a feral cat, was not feral around Jim). Jim loved causes that supported his Feline Friends, such as the respected non-profit “Spay Neuter Assistance Program” (SNAP). SNAP worked with Jim to fix populations

of Laytonville cats. Jim and Susan donated proceeds from the sales of Observer “fire-starter” newspaper bundles to SNAP, a tradition that Jayma carries on.

When there was a problem in Laytonville, or in Mendocino County, Jim was approached for advice on how to fix it. He saw the devastating potential of the legalization of marijuana and how it could ruin the local and regional economy, and as Jim said one day on KPFN’s This & That” “we walked into legalization with our eyes wide shut.” He would stand on his soapbox at every LAMAC meeting or water board meeting or Board of Supervisors meeting that Mendocino County’s cannabis regulations were killing the mom and pop growers, which in turn killed our local economy.

Up until the end, Jim was preparing a fight with the County on the ridiculous code enforcement complaints that blanketed our area, and was going to be appearing at an upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting to let the bureaucrats know their BS wasn’t going to fly.

For those who knew Jim, you know the enormity of his departure. There is a big hole in our community right now, and we may or may not be able to patch it in his absence. We have lost a giant community contributor. We have lost a champion for the working person/small business owner. We have lost history that would provide context for today’s problem and today’s solution.

Jim was a strong Irish-man, a Union Man, a newspaper man, a water man and a community man. Jim loved exercising, and religiously worked out for at least 1-hour per day, where he kept a log on a clipboard documenting how many minutes of cardio, reps of weights and stretches he did. Jim and Susan owned a sailboat in Marina Del Ray and in the 80’s loved sailing every chance they could. Jim loved riding his bike, which in turn many Laytonville residents loved seeing him on his rides. In his earlier years, he also loved running, bocce ball, and tennis. In the 90’s Jim coached the Laytonville Warriors Basketball team, and Jayma was his water girl/ scorekeeper and Susan took photos for The Observer.

Jim was an avid listener and fan of music. He loved The Stones, Kinks, Doors, ELO, the Punk movement at the Mubuhay Gardens, and had many stories of seeing up and coming bands in LA in the 70’s and 80’s. Throughout his life Jim had a strong commitment to social justice and tried to help achieve those aims in various ways.

Jim often turned to Irish poems or sayings and this IRISH BLESSING was a favorite of his:

**May the road rise  
to meet you,  
May the wind be  
always at your back.  
May the sun shine  
warm upon your face,  
The rains fall soft  
upon your fields.**

**And until we meet again,  
May God hold you  
in the palm of his hand.  
May God be with  
you and bless you:  
May you see  
your children’s children.  
May you be poor in  
misfortune, rich in blessings.  
May you know nothing  
but happiness  
From this day forward.  
May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be  
always at your back.  
May the warm rays  
of sun fall upon your home,  
And may the land  
of a friend always be near.  
May green be the  
grass you walk on,  
May blue be the skies above you,  
May pure be the joys  
that surround you,  
May true be the hearts  
that love you.**

**MEMORIAL FOR JIM**  
  
Jayma, Roland, Jimmy and Maria are planning a memorial celebration of life for Jim on Saturday, October 4 from 3-6 p.m. at the Laytonville Rodeo Grounds, next door to the Laytonville County Water District Plant. If the weather is iffy, we will gather inside Harwood Hall. Please bring a potluck dish to share or dessert. If you feel compelled to help honor Jim- pay your water bill; subscribe to The Observer (or gift a subscription), or place an ad. Jim and Susan haven’t raised the rates on the newspaper in over 20 years, so every little bit helps keep it going, since Jim invested his own monetary donations into the newspaper.  
  
Donations in Jim’s honor can go to an organization of your choosing: SNAP (Spay Neuter Assistance Program of Mendocino County); Pam & Susan’s North Pole Toy Express; Laytonville Healthy Start Community & Family Resource Center or KPFN/Bella Opus 105.1 FM

If you would like to be in touch with Jayma, an email can be sent to [jayma@laytonville.org](mailto:jayma@laytonville.org) or mailing address PO Box 490, Laytonville, CA 95454 or (707) 984-6223. Thank you to everyone who has expressed love, sorrow and offers to assist, it is helping Jim’s survivors more than you may know.

## Nader

from, page 7

have the Party do what is necessary to outraise the GOP in campaign contributions from corporate PACs, the super-wealthy, and Wall Street titans.  
  
When the labor union chiefs just write campaign checks to the Democratic Party without demanding an authentic, publicly visible agenda for workers, the pressure is off the Party’s leadership to cease being a corporate Party or to recruit younger leaders to provide needed energy from the Democratic National Committee down to the grassroots. Without this energy, there is no serious effort to mobilize informed voters who demand these changes and overdue redirections.

## Goodbye to a True Laytonville Legend

By Elina Agnoli, Attorney at Law

Even though it is 2025 and most people get their “news” online through unvetted, misinformative social media posts and memes, I am and always have been so grateful for our local paper and the solid information it has shared with me and with our community at large. When I was in high school and wanted to learn about journalism, Jim Shields showed me the way, and taught me the importance of local independent news. I enrolled in college as a print journalism major due in large part to the influence of our local paper and the larger-than-life figure who ran it.

Every Friday for as long as I can remember, I would sit down and open The Observer, and share a moment with Jim Shields. Whip smart, witty, politically-savvy in all the right ways, hard-working, involved in everything, and seemingly not afraid of anything, suffice it to say that Jim was a true pillar of this community. It seems unreal to think that I won’t be able to rely on him any longer to keep me up-to-date on the inner workings of Mendocino County and its many, many missteps and foibles. His passing leaves a black hole in our community. He gave so much to this place, including fathering my classmate Jayma Shields-Spence, a gem who, like her dad, works tirelessly for this community.

More and more lately, given the state of the world, I want nothing more than to sit down with a “real adult,” someone wise and true like Jim, and have them assuage my worries, and tell me everything is going to be ok. But then I look in the mirror and see my grey hair, or the crow’s feet around my eyes, and realize that at 43, I am probably a “real adult.” So, perhaps to honor Jim and perhaps just because it’s the right thing to do, I think it’s time for our generation to step up and try to be a little more like Jim - be bold. Be informed (read the paper?). Ask the hard questions. Volunteer your time. It’s on us, now. Open a business, maybe? Keep it running and stick with it although challenges will no doubt arise. Above all, let’s make sure we keep using our voices to make our community a better place.

## Cannabis

From, page 5

the same permit size as approved for the farmers’ CCBL, hence not impacting the evaluations recorded in the Mitigated Negative Declaration related to current cannabis operations. An OCBL will mirror the definitions and activities allowed under the Department of Cannabis Control’s (DCC) Microbusiness license, thus permitting OCBLs to operate cultivation, manufacturing 1, distribution and retail activities which pertain to, utilize and incorporate only plant material grown on the OCBL premises. Any manufacturing done under an OCBL will be composed of OCBL raw materials. Distribution will be self-distribution of farm products. Retail will be via storefront dispensaries, delivery, farmers markets and tourist visits—until regulations change at the federal level. The OCBL concept is the best way to provide the opportunity for small, local farmers to sustain their farms, homes and businesses. The current economic conditions and local compliance obstacles will not support and maintain small farmers, the backbone of Mendocino County’s cannabis industry. To continue producing the high quality, small batch, and award winning cannabis Mendocino is famous for, a new, more competitive license is required.

- An OCBL will allow:
1. Current and continuously licensed cultivators, who have cultivated cannabis on the same parcel/premises prior to January 1, 2016 and licensed under Phases 1 or 2 are eligible to apply. The Mendocino Cannabis Department has reported in their June 26, 2024 Deliverables Report that 638 applications in process and/or CCBLs issued could conceivably apply for OCBLs.
  2. The OCBL will be a stand-alone license to which current DCC Microbusiness criteria apply. Applicants transitioning from CCBLs to OCBLs must fulfill all requirements to obtain a DCC Microbusiness License to qualify for an OCBL.
  3. All current language in Chapters 10, 20 and 6 requiring cannabis “Microbusinesses” to operate as a “home occupation” or “cottage industry” shall be deleted from the County Ordinances and Muni Code pertaining to OCBLs.
  4. No changes to current CCBL operations, as presented in the most recent license renewal, will be allowed in the new OCBL license, unless verified by a scientific amendment approved by DCC.
  5. Activities allowed as “accessory uses” of the OCBL may take place in structures permitted by PBS as AG Exempt or Utility structures.
  6. OCBL Permit fees shall be \$150 annually for 2500 sf or less, \$300 for 5000 sf or less, and \$500 for 10,000 sf or less operations.
  7. OCBLs will pay County cultivation taxes based on 1% of gross revenue or whatever is parity with the tax rate for bulk grape production, whichever is greater.
  8. Existing Microbusinesses may convert to OCBLs, if eligible, or continue as per their CFBL.
  9. No residency requirement in RL, TPZ and FL zones shall remain.



**DC CONSTRUCTION**  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR  
License # 1110703  
**REMODEL • REPAIR • UPGRADE**  
*Break ground to turn key  
and everything inbetween.*  
DANIEL CARSE  
OWNER / OPERATOR  
**707-357-1482**

**LAW OFFICE OF  
ELINA N. AGNOLI**  
*“An attorney you’ll swear by, not at”*  
*Handling most civil matters,  
including*  
♦ **Real Property** ♦  
♦ **Wills and Trusts** ♦  
♦ **Personal Injuries** ♦  
**707•984•6121**  
**eagnoli@gmail.com**  
140 Branscomb Road, Laytonville