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REALESTATE SECTION





Ready for the Rake

Removing leaves from the yard is a task that homeowners must perform each fall. Thousands upon thousands of leaves can drop from a single tree. Multiply that by the number of trees on a property, and it's no surprise the task of leaf cleanup can seem so daunting. Furthermore, not all leaves are shed at the same time, so several cleanup sessions may be necessary before the last leaf is banished from the yard.

Just like removing snow, leaf cleanup can be a taxing job if done by hand. For people unaccustomed to exercise, cleaning up leaves can turn into quite a workout. According to the Discovery Health Calorie Counter, raking leaves for one hour can burn nearly 292 calories. Shoulders and arms will feel the burn. Raking leaves is considered moderate physical activity, similar to brisk walking. Those who find themselves straining or

out of breath should take a break, and these tips also make the job safer and easier.

- Wear layers when cleaning up leaves. It may be cool at first, but it's easy to work up a sweat after raking for awhile. Layers can be peeled off so as not to get overheated or risk hypothermia from sweating in chilly temps.
- Pay attention to your posture while raking. James Weinstein, chairman of the Department of Orthopedics at Dartmouth Medical School, recommends forming a wide base with the feet and holding the rake slightly toward the end of the handle with one hand three-quarters of the way down the handle from the other. Do not twist the spine; move your entire body. Avoid overuse of muscles on one side of the body by switching sides periodically.

- Do not try to rake or blow leaves on windy days. Wind will only make the task that much more difficult, which could lead to overworking oneself.

- Avoid overfilling bags. For those who plan to mulch and bag leaves, remember that compressed leaves can get heavy pretty quickly. Do not over-fill bags, as they can be hard to move or bring to a recycling center.

Using a leaf blower to push leaves into piles will reduce the strenuousness of the task, but leaf blowers can be heavy and noisy and gas-powered blowers can produce a considerable amount of exhaust.

Raking leaves can be quite a chore. It is important that homeowners take steps to prevent injury while cleaning up leaves in their yards.

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COLUMN | Journal

A fall morning

It's a foggy morning, cold outside. The water for tea is heating up on the stove. Our old cat, Rudi, is curled up at my feet, it flew by in the backyard. I always love these foggy mornings. There's something The dogs running out ahead

of us, sniffing and exploring who had been there the night before – a raccoon or skunk family, perhaps a mountain lion or bear. They all shared the land with us.

One thing I miss, living in town, is the harbinger of spring, the song of the hermit thrush. I always noted in the household journal when the first one sang his flute-like song. I don't hear them here in town. The hermit thrush

has a whole repertory of songs as it marks take for granted. There are precious few its territory. That must be one of the most beautiful and elegant of bird songs. One would sing its song, then another would answer from a different location, repeating that same tune. "I hear you. My family will live over here in this part of the forest and you that part," was the message.

But this is fall, not spring. The seasons mark the passing of time. I'm having a lot of tomatoes ripening at the same time, load up the bins in the fridge or make into juice. Those will last us for months – morning smoothies sweetened with our own apples. I've been reading Dr. William W. Li's book, "Eat to Beat Disease: The Science of How Your Body Can Heal Itself." He is a big fan of eating apples every day.

We cleaned the chimney and spark arrester of the woodstove recently in preparation for that comforting warm glow of the hearth. My morning writing chair is snuggled next to the woodstove where we can both enjoy that steady heat along with a cup of tea. Rudi will move to his favorite spot in front of the stove once it gets going. house but next to the woodstove is his

I saw the most amazing yellow leaves but many choose not to. Many choose vesterday when out walking, and then to believe they alone have the truth for passed a tree of brilliant red. Year-round napping. A blue jay just squawked as we are surrounded by every shade of green here in our Northwest California, that and the gold of the summertime grassy mysterious and almost mystical about the hills. I remember how my late sister-infog. When we lived in the country, I loved law. Corinne, used to love visiting in the walking in the woods when it was foggy. summer. She was amazed by the colors

> that surround us here. Being from Northern Illinois, where the land is flat and filled with miles of corn fields, she always appreciated the hills and mountains of our magnificent Pacific Northwest.

> Recently we were driving on impossibly twisty Highway 20 to visit friends for lunch on the edge of the blue Pacific Ocean. I remarked how people come from all over the world to behold the awe-inspiring redwoods that we sometimes

of the really huge, ancient old-growth redwoods left. There are few living things on Earth as splendid and truly amazing as

We have a sacred duty to preserve those that remain, so that future generations can actually be in the presence of something that has lived for hundreds, or even well over a thousand years! Think of it, when William Shakespeare and Genghis Khan so that's a big component of our evening roamed England and Asia, some of these salads. There are apples to harvest and trees were already ancient, the Roman Empire was collapsing in the sixth century, Siddhartha Gautama was a baby, not yet the Buddha - and these trees, some still living today, were sheltering the original inhabitants of this land. To touch an oldgrowth redwood tree is to literally touch one of the greatest living survivors on Earth. We are privileged to share such a truly amazing place!

> These are challenging times. Human history has often been a history of conflict. Like the predatory but beautiful blue jay that flew over my backyard a while ago, who often feeds on the eggs of other songbirds, humans too squawk and stalk and try to dominate each other.

Why, I don't know. We have the capacity

He has his many spots throughout the wintertime favorite. to be intelligent enough to live in harmony, **COLDWELL BANKER** Tara Moratti **MENDO REALTY** 707-367-0389 - Cell "New On The Market!" \$348,500 • 2168 Buckeye Rd. acious and Sunny! This ranch style floor plan has an open concept living rea that invites you outdoors for sunrise views. In addition you can access
the deck from the primary bedroom that looks over your fully fenced yard that features mature fruit trees, berries, and gardening beds. There's a large attached 2 car garage with bonus workshop space and storage. Extra res that make this property more valuable than most include the over 0.36 +/- acre lot, 4000^+ /- gallon storage tank, no direct neighbors, large area under home that can be used for storage, central heat & air, woodexcellent condition. Pest Clearance stove, and all appliances included. This is a terrific value in today's market Specializing in Mendocino County Real Estate www.LivInMendo.com • livinmendo@gmail.com

Keeping up with inflation

INFLATION ... it's been in our news for weeks, even months. What is it and how does it impact us?

COLUMN | Numbers by Nick

At its most basic, inflation is an increase in product and service prices.

Rising inflation means you have to pay more for the same goods and services things like groceries and gas. Our salaries often do not keep pace with inflation, our cost to live increases and our buying power



Nicholas Casagrande

The Consumer Price Index measures the

increase of 6.7 percent over two years.

• The 12-month inflation rate in September 2022 was 8.2

percent CPI; we have not seen this level in 40 years. • The rate in September 2020 was 1.5 percent CPI – an

• A 2-percent inflation rate is deemed "good" and good

economists believe the global supply shortage brought on by COVID shocked our economy and many items are in short supply. Other contributors: the deficit, increased

How is inflation managed? One of the main ways

Chana Eisenstein, DVM Brittany Kessler, DVM Celina Borucki-Gibson, DVM "Dr. BG" East Hill ✓ Veterinary Clinic

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is that the Federal Reserve increases interest rates. This reduces the money supply and slows down purchases for businesses and consumers.

What can you do?

• Make sure you have a diverse nvestment plan for the long term, so that you can better deal with the ups and

 Revisit your household budget. Look at your recurring expenses and see if any consolidation of services is possible.

Please reach out to me - I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss your goals, your budget, your tax and savings strategies.

With gratitude,

This information is for general purposes only. Please consult a financial professional for your own situation. Individual circumstances do vary.

Why is inflation creeping up? This is debatable but Nicholas Casagrande, EA, is an accountant and a financial advisor. His firm, NC Financial Group, is a wealthmanagement firm serving individual clients as well as small-to-medium-sized businesses. Client work includes shipping costs, labor shortages, and increased consumer personal and corporate taxes, investment planning, insurance, and real estate. NC Financial Group's Willits office is located at 675 South Main Street; contact 855-240-6606 or nicholas@ncfinancialgroup.com (taxes) or Nicholas.Casagrande@Ceterafs.com (investments) for more information.













\$1,200,000

4001 BRANSCOMB ROAD, LAYTONVILLE MENDOCINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA 95454 Thirty (30) pages brochure with Photographs seen at www.4001BranscombRoad.com.

\$1,500,000 ITEMIZED REPLACEMENT VALUE.

Home sits in the middle of a meadow, with private open space, far from other homes, (but on main County road between California Highway 1, and 5 miles from Highway 101.) Own your own park with this level 10 acres lot. 60 trees - Redwood grove properly spaced, and pond in the middle; and, a large rock formation waterfall and 40 large plants behind the pond; with qualified night lighting facing these plants. It took 20 years to make this one of the best landscaped properties in Mendocino Countv. 1,800 sq. ft. home with 600 square foot garage. Level building pad, with full infrastructure -

shovel ready" for addition or second residence. Twelve feet tall cathedral ceilings. Four very large picture windows and glass French doors on rear side of home face panoramic sunrises. The sun rises into all rooms with all day sunlight. No rocks, debris, dead or dying or trees on lot. It took 2 licensed contractors and 10 permits to develop this property for what it is today.

State of the art 2,500 gallons reverse osmosis water well storage and treatment system. State of the art reverse osmosis sewage treatment and disposal system for residence, with the full legal capacity for secondary unit.

No deferred maintenance or repairs needed

anywhere in home, or garage, or on property. Section One structural pest control clearance. Modular construction is above stick built homes. Concrete perimeter foundation and 4 one foot tall by 63 feet long steel beams for stability. 50 years duration roofs installed 3 years ago. Dual layered and stained cedar siding on home.

Not in "A Very High Hazard Severity Zone" as per statutory disclosures statement. Property complies with all 35 requirements and/or recommendations for fire safety.

All 62 documents which are required to be provided to buyer are attached to the contract versus providing them during the escrow period. Seller will provide copies of all relevant receipts for parts, materials, and labor, over these years. All 55 operating manuals exist in 3 large binders. Contact owner/developer/seller after reading the detailed information on this Internet site. Contact information is provided on that site.



everyone else, and therefore a right to

dominate others. Like the predatory,

small-brained blue jay, we often choose to

threaten and say "you're either with me or

against me," but that's just a domination

We can choose to "live and let live," to

find a way to live in some sort of harmony.

We're intelligent enough but not smart

enough it seems. As President Kennedy

said when I was just a child, we can destroy

all that human kind has created in just 24

hours. Blue jay has no such ability. Only

our will to find our way to live and let live in

one has all the answers. Only a fool thinks

they do. "What fools these mortals be," said

But I see I've strayed from my peaceful

state of mind on this beautiful, foggy

morning. I don't control what others do,

only my own thoughts and deeds. I have to

keep reminding myself of that. We all have

that quiet, peaceful place inside, but one

has to occasionally sit quietly and breathe,

Rudi just yawned and stretched out with

a cat smile on his face – then contentedly

Bill Barksdale was inducted into the 2016

Realtor® Hall of Fame, and served as chair

of the County of Mendocino Assessment

Appeals Board, settling property-tax

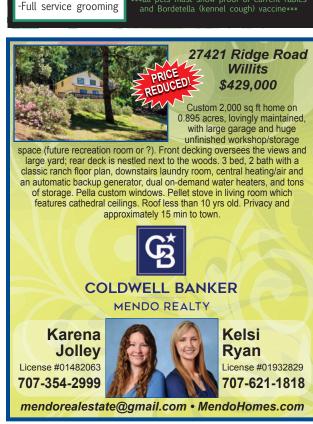
Barksdale's columns on his blog at www.

Shakespeare – some but not all, I hope.

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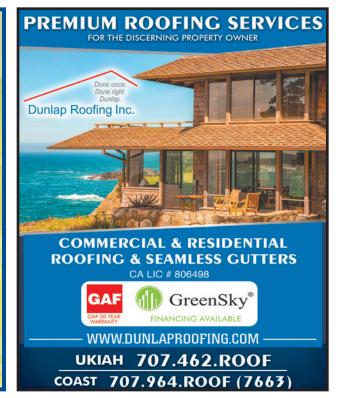
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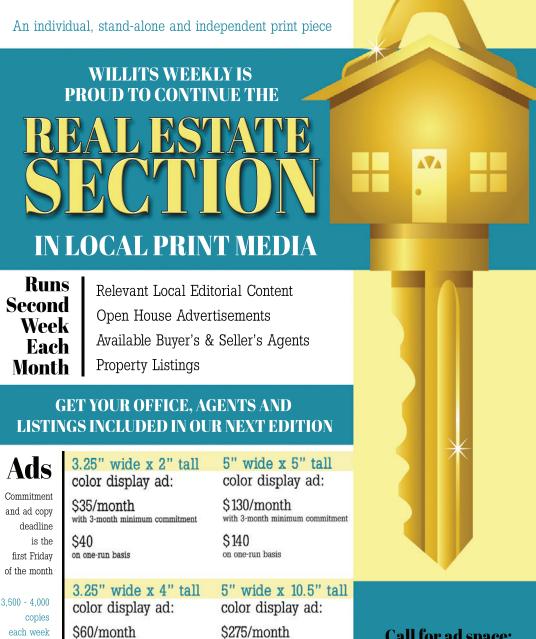
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COLUMN | How's the Market?

Buying homeowners insurance in a fire-prone area

Insurance companies are always trying to reduce risk to improve their bottom line and, if idealists are to be believed, to prevent the heartache associated with the problems insurance is designed to cover.

A few months back, I received a little love note from my insurance company stating that if I wanted to maintain my home's coverage, I had to complete the seven items on their checklist.

Some of the recommendations were reasonable, like trimming the branches hanging over the house and removing a tree. I was happy to comply with these requests. However, the list also included items that did not pertain to insurance-related risks, and frankly, were none of their business.

For example, they didn't like the fence next to my driveway. Mind you, this fence is purely aesthetic. It isn't intended to prevent someone from falling down a mountainside or anything.

Since I complied with their requests, they couldn't cancel my insurance coverage midterm. However, once the current term was up, they let

me know they would not renew my policy. No reason was given. Just, "Nice knowing you. Good luck." Apparently, I'm not the only one. After my client paid to have trees and brush removed to create a fire-safe clearing of 100 feet around his home, he received a similar letter

canceling his insurance. When he started shopping for a replacement policy, he discovered his annual premium would go from about \$4,000 to \$20,000.

Since he owns his home and is free and clear, he's

recommend. However, given our fire-prone region, it's getting harder and harder to find affordable homeowner's insurance. It's hard to blame the insurance companies when the last five years have seen thousands of homes in Mendocino, Lake, and Sonoma counties go up in flames.

For those of us who choose to live here, we need to understand that insurance companies will set premiums

based on the risks they are taking - and that insurance companies may demand new building standards to deal with the effects of climate change.

With more frequent and intense wildfires, and potentially stronger storms of all sorts, we're seeing a continuing trend in new construction and subdivision planning to mitigate risk.

Construction materials are changing from clear-heart redwood siding and Hollywood shake shingles to Hardie-board siding and nonflammable roofing. In many areas, builders are opting for (or being required to use) firehardened windows. In addition, subdivisions

are being designed with a stronger emphasis on emergency evacuation.

We're also seeing a significant change in landscaping with designs that keep flammable shrubbery farther from homes and a reduction in ladder fuels under trees, which can move a small grass fire into a significantly more dangerous tree or crown fire.

While I don't blame insurance companies for aligning their premiums with risk, I do believe that some are using climate change as an excuse to raise rates even when

debating about going without insurance, something I don't there is no evidence of increased risk.

As an example, I own a four-plex and the homeowner's insurance company for that property sent me a note demanding that I install a fire alarm and burglar alarm in each unit to be monitored 24-7 by a dedicated phone line.

The alarm installation would have cost more than \$20,000, and that didn't include the cost of the phone line or the monitoring from an alarm company, plus any costs to maintain equipment. I opted to find an insurance company that wanted my business, rather than one looking for an excuse to get rid of it.

If you cannot find homeowner's insurance, there is a company of last resorts – the California Fair Plan – which will insure almost any structure against fire and extended losses. However, because they accept all risks, they're very expensive. Also, they don't provide liability insurance, so you'll need to purchase that elsewhere.

Since most people cannot afford to purchase a home without financing, homeowners' insurance is a must. Lenders typically dictate the type and amount of insurance you need to qualify for their loan. You many think the insurance premium is too high, but candidly, lenders don't much care what you have to pay for it, so long as you get it.

If you have questions about real estate or property management, contact me at rselzer@selzerrealty.com. If you have ideas for this column, let me know. (If I use your suggestion in a column, I'll send you a \$25 gift card to Roland's Bistro!) If you'd like to read previous articles, visit https://selzerrealty.com and click on "How's the Market?"

Dick Selzer is a real estate broker who has been in the business for more than 45 years.



Richard Selzer Columnist



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Almost 20 acres of gentle open land only 7 minutes from town I bedroom I bath (+loft) cabir needs some finish work to be complete. A 20x30 metal shop with a concrete slab, 7 GPM well and a spring, plus PG&E makes this the prefect home-

PRESENTED AT: \$330,000 3 bed. 2 bath home, large

attached 2 car garage with bonus workshop space and storage. Over 0.36 +/- acre lot, 4000+/- gallon storage tank, large area under home that can be used for storage, central heat & air, woodstove, and all PRESENTED AT: \$348,500

This home is in wonderful condition. Large family room and large master bedroom and bathroom. One car garage with laundry area plus a two car garage at the rear of home Nice backyard with a covered PRESENTED AT: \$399,500





property on over a third of an re. Vaulted cedar ceilings and ylights, beautiful brick fireplace and hearth. Functional kitchenette, storage, counter space and refrigerator. Includes two re-strooms. Brooktrails Golf RESENTED AT: \$334,900



bedroom 2 bath home on I+/- acre. Vaulted cedar ceilings and bamboo flooring. Wood stove as well as central heat and air. The kitchen features oak floors, recently painted cabinets, large kitchen island with built in rood cutting board and gas REDUCED TO: \$372,500

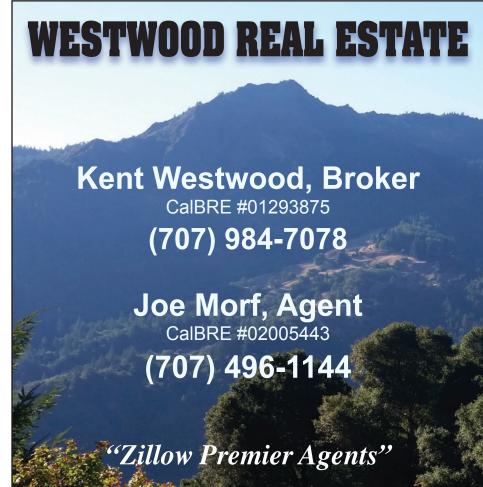


3 bed, 2 bath, 1800+/- sq ft home with attached 2 car garage. Yard is fully landscaped and includes 3 outdoor areas for entertaining. Vaulted pine ceilings. Kitchen and baths have quartz counter tops, newer sinks and fixtures. Pest clearance and Home Warranty included



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\$295,000 **Sweet Traditional Style** Home Looking for New Owners Warm, spacious and comfortable multi-level home with great views. 1,911 sq.ft. with 3 bedrooms, possibly 4, and 2 baths. There is a

den/office that could be a 4th bedroom. French doors open to the deck and lovely view. Open kitchen design, living room with cedar wood ceiling. Appliances stay, low an application and borders greenbelt. \$360,000



3.3+/- Level Acres Great opportunity for a commercial business or investment roperty. There is a 1,700+/- sq. ft. office building with 4 separate offices and 2,646+/- storage attached The metal shop is 4,608+/- sq. ft. with drive thru bays and roll up

roximately 3 acres are paved. There is a new septic system and city water. Used previously for years as a truck shop business. Many more details call for information



With 1352 sq.ft., 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths. Open floor plan including living room, kitchen and dining. Recently purchased a new range, refrigerator and garbage disposal, plus a new 30 year roof. Pretty views, private, large yard for landscaping. \$260,000



Nice Manufactured Home With 3 bedrooms and 2 baths located in a quiet mobile home park. Lots of kitchen cabinets. Great location, private back yard. Appliances stay, wheel chair ramp. \$105,000

