

# SIERRA COUNTY SENTINEL

NOVEMBER 20, 2020

Your Essential Hometown Newspaper

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## MainStreet Christmas Cash Mob Planned

By Linda DeMarino

MainStreet Truth or Consequences is aware of what a devastating year this has been for our local small businesses. To help, they will be doing a project called "12 Days of Christmas - Virtual Cash Mob". A cash mob is a group of people who assemble at a local business to make purchases. As we cannot assemble, they will be doing this virtually through the MainStreet Facebook page.

Each night, starting on December 1 and going through December 12, the MainStreet team will be on location at a different store. The hosts will present various items from that store that viewers can purchase. This will be a live stream and each store will have 40 items; many that will make great gifts for the holidays.

MainStreet T-or-C is looking forward to this project and believes it can help save our local businesses with support from the community. Keep an eye out for information next week in the Sentinel and on the MainStreet Truth or Consequences Facebook page.



**Weather**  
Sierra County  
**Lake Levels**  
Lake Elevation  
(11-17-20):  
4,295.61 ft.  
(1 Year ago):  
4,337.53 ft.

SOURCE: National Weather Service

	HIGH	LOW
November 13	74	40
November 14	74	39
November 15	67	41
November 16	71	44
November 17	74	46
November 18	75	48
November 19	77	48

### Extended Forecast

<b>Friday, November 20</b>	Mostly Sunny - high <b>81</b> , low <b>48</b>
<b>Saturday, November 21</b>	Mostly Sunny - high <b>75</b> , low <b>50</b>
<b>Sunday, November 22</b>	Partly Cloudy - high <b>73</b> , low <b>48</b>
<b>Monday, November 23</b>	Partly Cloudy - high <b>68</b> , low <b>44</b>
<b>Tuesday, November 24</b>	Sunny - high <b>68</b> , low <b>36</b>
<b>Wednesday, November 25</b>	Sunny - high <b>67</b> , low <b>41</b>
<b>Thursday, November 26</b>	Partly Cloudy - high <b>68</b> , low <b>38</b>
<b>Friday, November 27</b>	Mostly Sunny - high <b>60</b> , low <b>35</b>

### QUIET MOMENTS

Dear Lord, Some days feel too hard, We're hurting. Struggling. Fighting fear and worry at every turn. Thank you that in the midst of it all, You haven't left us to fend for ourselves. Forgive us for doubting You are there. Forgive us for thinking You've forgotten. Forgive us for relieving we, somehow, know the better way. You are fully trustworthy. You are All-Powerful. You are Able. You are Lord over every situation no matter how difficult it may seem. You are Healer and will never waste the grief we carry today. You will use all things for good in someway. Amen

## Where Business Is Family

By Jim Shiley  
SENTINEL

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In this year of the coronavirus chaos, it's the small, local businesses that have carried the heaviest load when it comes to the public health restrictions. Big companies and chain franchise establishments, while of course still dealing with hardships, often have the financial flexibility and deep pockets to better weather the storm. Not so the small shops, restaurants and other businesses which line the streets of our community.

Last Friday's announcement from the Governor had local businesses scrambling to adapt and change once again. They have been forced to find new ways of operating in order to stay afloat and keep their businesses alive and viable, as we struggle to get to the other side of these public health restrictions. Some, most notably restaurants, have fallen back on the take-out model they adopted earlier in the year. Others are paving brand new business models and actually creating exciting new opportunities.

Some establishments have been able to keep the doors open, though operating under restrictions. These are the "essential services." One such business is Western Fix, at Fourth Street and Date, Sierra County's newest western wear retail store. Owner-operator Yvonne Garcia-Rios explained, "Because I offer a dry-cleaning service I'm classified as an essential business. I opened not long before the first lockdown happened, in March. It had already been part of my business plan to do dry-cleaning, though I was going to phase it in over time. I was able to push that forward. That's the only way I could stay open"

Western Fix, which offers laundry service as well, also is a destination spot for a wide range of clothes, boots and shoes and plenty of other items, mostly on a western fashion theme. The business, like other essential services, is restricted in how many can come in at a time, and adheres to all public health, masking and cleaning protocols. "The community has been super supportive of my shop," Rios told us. "This town always finds a way to get through the toughest of times. People always help each other. It's all family, after all. We are trying to support other businesses by doing monthly drawings for a gift certificate to our customers, to Tony's Restaurant, Carmen's Kitchen and to Tips & Toes Salon. With our own business, we will take out to curbside for those who would rather not come inside and will even do home delivery to our customers."

Restaurants have found their operating plan change repeatedly through the months since March. From take-out only, to patio dining, to limited indoor service and back and forth with that and now, limited again to only take put or home delivery. Los Arcos on Date Street has switched back and forth with each new change in the restrictions in their efforts to keep the food and drink flowing. "When all this started," said Bobby Middleton, "I thought very briefly about just closing the doors until we could open as normal. But there's more than 20 employees that depend on working here for their paycheck. Even though business isn't even paying the bills, it was important to keep things going as much as we could for them,

(ESSENTIAL' Continued On Page A5)

### SHOPS ADAPT TO SURVIVE



This town always finds a way to get through the toughest of times. People always help each other. It's all family, after all."

Yvonne Rios, Owner  
Western Fix



(SENTINEL Photos/Jim Shiley)

STILL SERVING UP THE FOOD AT LOS ARCOS



DRY-CLEANING KEEPS THE DOORS OPEN AT WESTERN FIX



BRINGING THE GOODS OUT TO YOU AT REBEL ROADRUNNER

## Abandoned Properties Get City's Attention

By Chuck Wentworth  
SENTINEL

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Although the Truth or Consequences (T-or-C) City Commission's November 18 regular meeting agenda included a number of action items, most of the morning's session focused on measures addressing problem properties, as well as the proposed property exchange/sale involving three lots owned by the municipality.

### PROPERTY ISSUES ADDRESSED

Responding to numerous complaints from community members and a lack of response to code enforcement efforts, commissioners considered a series of resolutions calling for immediate action regarding residential properties located at 724 Van Patten, 1515 Corzine, and 1101 Bosque.

Four resolutions (23,24,25,26-20/21) addressed the presence of unsafe and/or dangerous structures, as well as heavy weed overgrowth present at both 724 Van Patten and 1515 Corzine. Each issue was the focus of a separate resolution for the respective properties. A fifth resolution was also considered, regarding issues at 1101 Bosque centered on a

(CITY' Continued On Page A2)

## County Reviews Drainage Study

By Chuck Wentworth  
SENTINEL

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While the Sierra County Commission's November 16 regular meeting included several important action items, Tuesday's session was highlighted by a presentation detailing the completion of a long-awaited master drainage plan. Joined by several participating members of his team, Wilson & Company engineering manager Eric Hamilton offered board members an overview of the near year-long study, as well as recommended solutions for six areas identified as major concerns.

At the outset of the presentation, county manager Bruce Swingle acknowledged that Sierra County has been plagued by drainage issues and flood concerns throughout its history. He emphasized a long-standing need for proper evaluation and effective flood mitigation plans, and said the county was fortunate to have received an approximate \$400,000 appropriation from the legislature to initiate this important study last year.

In addition to sharing his appreciation for the efforts of Wilson & Company's team of professionals, Swingle acknowledged valuable contributions made throughout the process by

(STUDY' Continued On Page A3)



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SIERRA COUNTY  
**SENTINEL**

Officed Closed:

11.25.20 & 12.24.20 - 1.3.21

Thanksgiving Issue

**DEADLINE CHANGES FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

Material Deadline Distribution Date

Nov. 20th

Nov. 24th