

15 MINUTES

Home full of heart

Gabrielle Green changed her entire career when she first joined the team at Little Red Hen, which she said also changed her life. She started as an instructor and now, nearly six years later, she's the manager of a new, "higher end" home gift store on one of downtown Chico's busiest corners with the opening of Little Red Hen Home. After more than 20 years in publishing, Green says the change was never about career advancement, but about Little Red Hen's staff and mission. The nonprofit operates as an educational program that provides on-the-job work experience and skill training for over 175 people with developmental disabilities. The addition of the home store puts the organization at six retail locations across Chico, in addition to multiple other support programs. After the recent closing of Zucchini & Vine across the street from Little Red Hen Vintage, Green and other staff members jumped at the chance to lease the space at 204 Main St. The shop offers upscale versions of classic home items, like board games, spices and specialty oils, and décor. Stop by weekdays, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., and weekends, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Why the decision for Little Red Hen to expand?

It allows us to employ more people and we can continue to



PHOTO BY JOSH COZINE

grow our program. The population of adults with disabilities or developmental disabilities and those with autism is increasing, and many are going to be aging out of the high schools in the future, and it's really important that they have a place where they can have a career, earn full wages, have dignity and potentially grow to advance to other areas. The need for employment for this diverse population is staggering, so we're responding to the demand. We have the [plant] nursery, the kitchen store, a floral store, a gift shop, a vintage store, and so the home store seemed like a beautiful extension.

What were renovations like?

I think this process has been about two weeks. We used our team from [Little Red Hen] Tools

& Trade. We all had a vision and came together. And this building is gorgeous; it was the perfect canvas to build on, so it wasn't hard to make it look beautiful.

Where do you get your products?

We operate five other stores, so we have some from them, and we purchase new product. Erika [Birkholm] is an extremely talented buyer of products and we all are involved in curating it.

Did the holiday season spur you to open the store so quickly?

Yeah, absolutely. But we also wanted to bring beauty and vibrancy to this corner and keep it as gorgeous as our predecessors. It's an important location and it's important for there to be beauty and life in here as quickly as possible.

—JOSH COZINE

THE GOODS

Turkey, cider and relocations



by
Meredith J. Cooper
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Happy Thanksgiving, everyone! It's always been my favorite holiday, as it's traditionally a time to be with family and stuff our faces. As the years go by, traditions change. This year will be my first not celebrating with family—but I'll be with friends, and they know good food, so all's well.

The other thing I've always loved about Thanksgiving is the fact that it's about gratitude, a time to reflect on all of the good people and things in our lives. What irks me is the newish trend of stores opening on Thanksgiving with outlandish sales, forcing employees to work so greedy consumers can flock to their doors instead of staying home and appreciating what they already have.

As has become my annual tradition the past few years, then, I want to give a shout out to the national retailers that have bucked that trend and decided to keep their doors shut till Black Friday: **Barnes & Noble, Costco, Guitar Center, Hobby Lobby, Home Depot, Joann Stores, Lowe's, Petco, PetSmart, Pier 1 Imports, Staples, TJ Maxx and Trader Joe's.** These, at least, are the ones listed by USA Today. I'd bet the majority of mom-and-pop shops stay closed, too.

STELLAR CIDER A relative newbie on the scene, **Cellar Door Cider** is already knocking it out of the park. Owner **Bryan Shaw** was recently awarded a gold medal at the U.S. Open Cider Competition for his **Grasshopper** hopped cider. It also got a judge's award for most creative name. Congrats! The tasting room is open Saturdays 2-6 p.m. at 11 Commerce Court, Ste. 2.

NEW DIGS **Nor Cal Brewing Co.** is making a move. I'd been wondering what was going on over at the old **Winchester Goose** space at Eighth and Broadway ever since I got word that **The Bank Club** had changed course and was looking for a different location. Turns out, Nor Cal Brewing is moving its taproom there. I look forward to checking out the next incarnation.

NEW 'DO For those who've come to enjoy the ambiance and expertise of **Cool Kidz Cuts**, do not fear—the popular hair salon has not closed. Owner **Tammie Harvey** tells me she was planning on shuttering the place due to high overhead, but five days before her planned closing date she found a perfect spot to relocate. Look for her and her crew—they specialize in kids' cuts, but also work with adults—at the newly named **Taming Tangles** at 1360 Longfellow. Call 897-0123 for an appointment.

MORE STYLE I was walking downtown the other day and spied activity going on inside of the space underneath **Crush**. Curious, I popped in and came upon the lovely ladies from **Envee Hair Studio & Spa** cutting away. Turns out their salon on Second Street was damaged during the same storm that took out **Woodstock's Pizza** (which has reopened, by the way, while their new space on Main Street is being fixed up). While it's being repaired, they're enjoying the picture windows looking out onto Broadway.

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