

Willits drought makes state-wide news

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The city's swift action to make water conservation mandatory for Willits residents generated attention across the state, with coverage from KGO-TV in San Francisco and a couple of daily newspapers.

Reporters from the Santa Rosa Press Democrat and Los Angeles Times have covered the city's water emergency and noted the possible effects the region's well-known but underground agriculture may have on the city's water supply.

"I definitely feel this is a greater issue outside the city opposed to inside," says City Manager Adrienne Moore.

Moore believes most of the higher water users the city has on a list have not been identified as grow houses. She gave orders for water meters of high-users to be read once each week.

Looking at a list of the town's high water-users, Moore said there were only three on the list circled for follow-up.

Read the rest of
State News

Over on Page 4

MCOG may be 'favorable' to funding planning for Railroad Avenue corridor

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City Hall staff is giving it another try, working to perfect their pursuit of grant money to plan and design a new road to connect Baechtel Road to Railroad Avenue

The city tried to nab money for the project last year through the Mendocino County Council of Governments, but MCOG voted in favor of other proposals.

The city is trying again. MCOG board members "seem favorable to the idea of funding the actual connector part of the project," Councilwoman Madge Strong said. "They have a bunch of money left for the coming allocation."

Strong was speaking

Read the rest of
Railroad

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Photos by
Maureen
Moore

Has Spring sprung?!

Buds? Bulbs? Babies? Bathing suits?! OK, well probably not the latter, but with the 70-plus degree weather we've been having, it sure wouldn't be a surprise.

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The high ridge of pressure keeping the winter rains from falling has kickstarted the flora and fauna into mid-March mode as stems are starting to bud, bulbs starting to push up, farm animals starting to give birth, and chickens already laying eggs.

With around 15 hens in my henhouse at present, it's not uncommon to have three eggs a day waiting for me when the chickens get tucked in at night, and it's still January!

Raising laying chickens and collecting your own eggs is a great backyard project, even for those living within the city limits.

City ordinances allow for small animals to be raised in residential neighborhoods: "Not more than six adult rabbits

and/or hares, and domestic fowl (hens only), providing not more than twelve of any one combination of such animals, and fowl may be maintained on a parcel."

Area pet shops including J.D. Redhouse, Rainbow Ag and Mendocino County Farm Supply have everything you need to raise chickens, from hatching in incubators to nest boxes and crumbles for mature hens.

Starting with more mature hens is the easiest way to instant-gratification egg collection, though raising chicks from the egg is a great way to learn about agriculture and animal husbandry. Willits 4-H and Willits FFA (Future Farmers of America) have chicken groups to aid members in their projects, and many groups and forums online can help get you started, too. One site, www.BackyardChickens.com, is a very complete and thorough resource for all levels of chicken raising.

Read the rest of
Eggs

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Top left: a basket of backyard chicken eggs; top right: a Barred Rock hen, sometimes also called Plymouth Rock.

Above: left: the first narcissus are starting to bloom with the warm weather; right: the benefit of a mixed flock is the ability to make ombre egg cartons. Eat your heart out, Pinterest-ers.

Below: Some of the members of the flock, including black Araucanas, Marans/Partridge Rocks, a Rhode Island Red, or "Little Red Hen," as she's known around the coop, and the Buff Catalana rooster, "Diego," who thoroughly enjoys his harem of 15.



County moves forward with PACE program

Supervisors overcame the second of three hurdles to establishing a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program in Mendocino County on a split vote Tuesday.

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The administrative hurdles consisted of a number of legal hoops the board has to jump through to get the program running. Those hoops included holding a public hearing on the program, adopting a resolution of formation of a special Community Facilities District (congruent with the extent and parameters of the county itself), adopting a resolution describing how the PACE program will work, adopting an ordinance levying a special tax within the boundaries of the Community Facilities District, and authorizing the county to perform a validation action for the program.

According to Second District Supervisor John McCowen, a validation action is an action wherein the county essentially sues itself to establish the program can run successfully.

Supervisors McCowen, Dan Hamburg and Dan Gjerde voted in favor of taking all the actions; John Pinches and Carre Brown opposed the moves.

The PACE program is a county-sponsored but

independently financed program that allows property owners to take out a loan against their property to purchase and install energy-saving and energy-generating technology, such as solar panels or energy-conserving windows. The property owner pays back the loan, with interest, over a long period of time, typically 20 years.

The program is voluntary, and the special tax being levied is the assessment against the properties that receive the loans. The county assists the program by separating PACE-related property taxes from standard property taxes, and by directing those PACE-related property taxes to Ygrene Energy, the company coordinating and financing the program in Mendocino County.

Hamburg noted efforts to create a PACE program in this county have been ongoing for the past five years. The idea got no traction until June 2013, when it was presented to the board of supervisors. At that time, a number of local banks expressed their dislike of the program, claiming federal home loan agencies Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae did not like PACE loans, which claimed priority over their own loans, and therefore would not support a PACE loan being superimposed over one of theirs.

Read the rest of
PACE

Over on Page 11

County takes first steps on drought emergency

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The board of supervisors' Drought Emergency Ad-Hoc Committee has established a drought hot line (463-4589) for county residents with their own water systems, to help assess how badly they are being impacted.

County Executive Office staff person Brandon Merritt told the board Tuesday that, as of January 21, some 40 people had called the hot line to report trouble with their water supply.

Data provided by Merritt indicated that of the 30 people who had called by January 15, 16 reported

Read the rest of
Drought

Over on Page 4

Drought forces outdoor burning ban in county

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Three local agencies and CalFire have declared a ban on outdoor burning in Mendocino County in the last week: the Brooktrails Community Services District, the Little Lake Fire Prevention District, and the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District.

The ban imposed by the Air Quality Management District prohibits outdoor burning throughout all of Mendocino County.

According to Air Pollution Control Officer R. A. Scaglione, "The district will reevaluate the open burning prohibition upon return of favorable weather conditions and once fire safety concerns have been addressed."

Strikingly dry conditions have fire departments here and statewide thinking about safety, banning outdoor burning during a season when rural residents like to burn a pile of leaves or debris from around their home.

Those that buck the Little Lake Fire Department's rules and burn anyway will pay if a burn pile gets away from them. Willits area pyros will be faced with paying costs of fire suppression activities and may face an additional possibility of fines from an illegal fire, the fire department stated.

Increased fire danger due to significant drought

Read the rest of
Burn Ban

Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Report: Town Hall wrestles with water issues

To the Editor:

The hot topic of water drew a crowd of more than 80 people to a Town Hall meeting at the Little Lake Grange on January 19. There were brief presentations by Scott Herman, City of Willits Water operator, and Robert Melliush, director of utilities of Brooktrails Township, with additional information from Willits City Manager Adrienne Moore, followed by lively discussion from many participants.

The initial presentations, and answers to later questions, helped clarify the existing water situation in Willits, Brooktrails and Pine Mountain.

City of Willits: The City of Willits has an estimated 192 acre-feet, or about 100 days' worth of water still in its reservoirs, thanks to significant reductions in use and limited recharge from springs. The city has imposed a Stage V emergency that limits water use to 150 gallons per day per residence of up to four occupants, and requires commercial and industrial users to reduce by 35 percent from last year's levels. (Let the city know if you have more than four residents or other special circumstances.) In the next bills, usage will be noted in gallons as well as "units." (A unit equals 748 gallons.)

The city is now developing an emergency water supply system that involves using two existing city-owned wells (Elias and Park), piping that water to a temporary water treatment facility near the Park well, and blending that water with reservoir water. It's estimated that this system can extend existing supplies by about three months, with continued water conservation measures. Councilmember Bruce Burton said at the meeting that using the Boy Scouts' Wente Lake seemed more challenging (in cost, timing, and legal questions) than this approach; also Wente Lake is already low.

There were questions about the level of arsenic and other toxic elements, especially in the Park well. The wells have recently been tested, and the results will be posted on the city's website, available at City Hall, and reported at the next Willits City Council meeting. The treatment facility will need to assure that the "blended" water at least meets state drinking water standards. Some were concerned that the state standard (10 parts per billion) is too weak to reduce the health hazard of arsenic. No level is safe, said Dr. Mills Matheson. City Manager Moore said the decision on treatment cost and effectiveness would likely be made by the city council.

During the current water emergency, no new water hook-ups are allowed.

Brooktrails: Brooktrails is at the highest risk of totally losing their water supply of any development in the county. It has an estimated 75 acre-feet, or about 80 days of water supply in its reservoirs, assuming the now-imposed conservation measures limit use to 110 gallons per day per residence. Brooktrails is working diligently on correcting leaks throughout the system. (Sometimes it is better to hold off on a small leak, as repair then requires flushing the system, using more water than is saved.) A significant leak at Lake Emily was repaired

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

a few years ago.

Pine Mountain: Robert Melliush reports that Pine Mountain is not in really bad shape, though conservation is also urged there, with a limit of 110 gallons per day per residence.

Both the City of Willits and Brooktrails are monitoring, warning and working with any customers using excessive water. In most cases people will voluntarily fix leaks or take other corrective actions. If necessary, however, Brooktrails can put water restrictors on the line, and the city can issue fines and even impose jail time. In addition to the information noted above, comments from the public raised issues of concern and lots of ideas on how to conserve water.

Freeway Bypass Water Use: This was a concern raised by a number of speakers. Caltrans has stated the project used 4 million gallons of water last year for dust control and compaction. Most of that was from several valley wells, with a smaller amount coming from the city's treated wastewater. This coming season, water usage for the project could be higher, as the season will be longer, and cement requires much larger amounts of water. Some commented that this information should be subject to public review. It's "our water, our survival."

Some questioned the wisdom of using city "wastewater" – if sprayed on fields it recharges the underground aquifer, whereas used on the freeway, it mostly evaporates. And overuse of well water may impact other valley wells (including the city's). Another issue with draw-down of wells is subsidence. In the San Joaquin Valley, some places have collapsed by 30 feet or more.

A related concern was the impact of the 55,000 wick drains installed in the wetlands on recharge to the valley's underground aquifer as well their effect on nearby wells. A question was also raised about whether toxics may be leaching from fill dirt into the aquifer and streams.

A final issue regarding the bypass project was whether the extensive use of Main Street for heavy trucks carrying fill through town may have caused damage to underground water mains. Melliush said mains are about four feet deep and are designed to withstand that kind of heavy traffic. The city has recently upgraded most of the old mains and has plans to replace the section north of Commercial to Casteel in the coming year. With an aging water system, however, underground leaks are a challenge – both in the city and Brooktrails.

Fire Danger: Several noted that the drought is also creating severe fire danger, as the forests are so dry. Will we have enough water to fight fires? Melliush noted there are some emergency water sources, and also the Brooktrails Fire Department, the Little Lake Fire Department and the County of Mendocino Air Quality Management District (all of Mendocino County) have issued burn moratoriums, to reduce the risks and also not to waste precious water on even controlled fires.

"Big Picture": A number of people spoke in more philosophical terms about our human relationship to water. Water isn't the problem; we, our lifestyle, and corporate users are. Water isn't just a "resource" – it's our lifeblood. There's no such thing as "waste" water; all water recycles. Water belongs to all: plants, fish, trees as well as human beings.

Ongoing Measures:

Education for children about water use was suggested. Moore said the City of Willits has already sent some good information for use in school curricula. Adults also need more education on simple, effective conservation measures: suggestions were to put announcements on radio about how to save; frequent news articles; letters-to-the-editor; and regular notices with the water bills.

One commenter, Marcia Rautenstrauch, noted it's hard to expect the water providers (e.g. the City of Willits and Brooktrails) to promote long-term conservation, since their operating revenue depends on water use. She also said we need to address the water use of pot growers, including illegal stream diversions. She supports Supervisor John Pinches'

effort to renegotiate how much water Sonoma County is taking.

Other suggestions for significant measures that could be implemented over the mid- or long-term included:

- Installing water catchment systems with cisterns for storage. (If cisterns aren't legal, they should be, with safeguards against back-flows into the domestic water lines.)
- Installing greywater systems: These are legal in the City of Willits, which has a list of certified installers.
- Tim Rice said there were water recirculation and filtration systems in use in Sweden where shower water can be recycled. Many places in the U.S. have installed reuse systems, which are more than paid back from water savings. Why not such systems for the new hospital and the college campus?

Immediate water conservation measures:

One critical recommendation was, "Do not run water as a way to avoid pipes freezing!" People should instead insulate their pipes. Insulation material is available at local building supply stores, and it's worth getting the better quality stuff. In fact, consider wrapping pipes with heat tape, which uses very little electricity.

Seemingly small leaks can also cause major water loss. About a quarter of toilets are leaky, often unnoticed. Put some blue food coloring in the tank and see if any shows up in the bowl. Also check your meter: if the meter is spinning when you're not using water, you have a leak. Call the city with any questions. Put new washers on any dripping faucets.

The major domestic water users are: toilets, showers and laundry. Sprinkled throughout the evening were many other excellent ideas for quick ways to cut back water use. Here is a brief summary:

- For private wells: Install a \$30 gauge that shows how much pressure is being pumped and what the water level is in the well.
- For toilets: A low-flush attachment can be bought (\$20) and easily installed. Easiest is "if it's yellow, let it mellow." Flush the toilet with water collected from the shower or rinse water. (Pour the bucket directly into the toilet bowl, not in the tank.)
- For showers: a \$10 plumbing part can allow shutting off flow while you're soaping up, similar to a hose wand.
- Bathroom sink: turn off water while brushing teeth or shaving.
- Wait for full loads for either dish or laundry washing.

Moderator of the Town Hall, Carlin Diamond, urged people to send their great ideas to the newspapers to be published for all to see. She announced that the next Town Hall will be March 16. For information contact Carlin at 459-4850.

As I said at the Town Hall, we need to be prepared for long-term weather changes and to seek long-term community-wide solutions; conservation must become a way of life. The City of Willits could be proactive, for example, by trying for a grant to install low-flow toilets and showers. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors took another step toward approving a PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program on Tuesday. A PACE program would enable financing for water conservation (and other) improvements for property owners, to be paid back on their tax bills; The City of Willits could join this program.

Madge Strong, City Councilmember, Willits

Restitution costs astonishing

To the Editor:

The legal case of Will Parrish deserves our attention. The ramifications are important for all who lift their voices in protest. Will occupied a wick drain ditcher for 11 days to prevent Caltrans' drilling of plastic tubes 80 feet deep into Little Lake Valley to drain wetlands in the path of their Willits Bypass. Will has been charged with "criminal restitution" fees amounting to \$480,000.

Will has been in negotiations from the beginning of his arrest until now, with a court case scheduled to start on January 28. The restitution fees brought against Will, as well as against a few other protestors who blocked Caltrans vehicles, surely intend to squelch civil disobedience by slapping fear into the heart of those who find no other means to get their voices heard.

Examine the itemized financial list of "Caltrans Claims Against Will Parrish" at www.savethelittlelakevalley.org/caltrans-

claim-against-will-parrish. Caltrans makes astounding claims about its construction costs that we should all be aware of, making the economic waste of the construction all the more apparent.

They list \$2,920 for an excavator working for 8 hours (idled by protestors), which amounts to \$365 an hour. How much of that was what the driver got paid?

Or \$632 for a "laborer" at the wick spool for 8 hours, which means he's getting paid \$79 an hour. No wonder the building trades unions were behind this pork-barrel construction project – and made sure that local politicians approved it!

How about the \$6,120 costs for CHP to guard the protestor from getting any food or water? The extravagant use of police in contrast to the actual threat they faced has been one way Caltrans and their supporters have maligned the protest against this bypass. For example, they restricted traffic on 101 on the day Will was extracted, only to further emphasize a supposed need for a bypass, when that level of police surveillance and precaution out on the highway was not necessary at all.

How about "Liquidated Damages" for one day at \$28,500 relating to "delay costs." What does that even mean?

And why should we trust what Caltrans claims? Remember this same organization only budgeted \$12.7 million for mitigation costs of damage to forests, creeks and wetlands, while contractors' bids to do the work started at \$39 million, three times higher than the Caltrans estimate. How can we trust their accounting? How can we trust their responsibility to the people and the environment?

We can and should support Will in the negotiations to reduce the restitution fees and to protest the state's attempt to silence him and strike fear into the hearts of all of us who found the methods Caltrans used to impose this bypass the actual criminal.

Please write letters to our local media, call up radio talk shows, write letters to local officials and to District Attorney David Eyster, and point out that the restitution fees are hugely inflated and are clearly a political ploy by Caltrans to silence the protests. We still need to let our local officials know that we are paying attention to this case and that we will not watch silently while Will Parrish takes the fall for what so many of us have found reprehensible – but perhaps did not take the same dramatic risks he did to prevent the destruction of Little Lake Valley.

Kim Bancroft, Willits

Get a flu shot

To the Editor:

It is not too late to get a flu shot this year. Influenza is in town and, as everyone knows, it is hitting hard this year. The variety sweeping through the area is variously known as Influenza A, H1N1, and Swine Flu. These are all the same this year, and this variety is hitting hard the young and the healthy. The cardinal symptoms are fever, cough, headache, generalized aches, and weakness.

Howard Hospital has had eight confirmed cases admitted to the hospital related to this flu with one death. The severe cases, roughly 5 to 10 percent of those afflicted, involve the lungs with pneumonia. This year's flu vaccine is a close match for this disease and gives excellent protection.

Virtually anyone over the age of six months is eligible for this shot, and it remains available at doctors' offices, pharmacies, and through Public Health. Although the shot takes about two weeks to develop full immunity, there is some protection within two days.

My advice for those that avoid such things is "make an exception this year."

Dr. John Glyer, Willits

The drought

To the Editor:

This is a restatement of a conversation I heard while waiting in line at the Post Office in Willits, and I felt it was important to pass it on. There would be a lot more hope and help if people would remain positive and look "on the brighter side," till we are given relief from the drought.

"We love God and God loves us.
God is here in Willits in this drought.
Never fear. God provides."

Belief works on many levels.

Betty Spence, Willits

Willits Weekly | January 23, 2014

Song Notes by Bruce Burton

"Spring Valley": This tune reminded me of a ranch with the same name that belongs to friends of mine.

"Burbeck": This name refers to property my company owned along the Skunk railroad line. A friend wrote a poem, about this property, called "Noyo Redwoods Jubilee". Sometime, I hope to perform this as a backup to her poem.

"Moon River/Lucky Old Sun": These are two of my all-time favorite tunes. My mom was an Andy Williams fan, so this is in memory of her.

"Mayor's Message": This title commemorates twenty plus years (and counting) in local government. This is for my sister Bev, who also has years of public service and is my most treasured advisor.

"Sawmill Breakdown": The irony of this title was too much to pass up. Having owned and operated a sawmill for close to 40 years, the simple fact of life in the sawmill business is breakdowns. Mine breaks down in some way, large or small, every day. This tune is a tribute to Earl along with a heavy influence of J.D. Crowe.

"Home Sweet Home": I think of my dad when I play this song and the many times he sang it, along with others like "Home on the Range" and "Red River Valley." He was a great campfire singer and had a repertoire which always seemed to include something new to me, even after 60 years of listening.

"Whiskey Before Willits": This tune is a tribute to three of my banjo idols. Here, two banjos play "Whiskey before Breakfast" and "Green Willits" individually and in unison.

Tony Trischka and Béla Fleck

Read the rest of
Songs
Over on Page 9

Furry Friends

Sugar Cat

Meet Sugar, a super sweet tabby girl! She loves to look out the window, dreaming about her new family... hoping they will come to meet her, fall in love with her, and take her home with them. She is approximately 1.5 years old, and has medium-length fur. Sugar had previously been adopted from the Ukiah Animal shelter – but unfortunately her owners found they were allergic to cats, and so she came back. She is currently living in our colony room, along with many other wonderful cats, so she could go to a new home to live with cat-friendly cats. She just loves to sit quietly and hang out or, if someone is around, she's very affectionate and loves to be petted. She has already been spayed and fully vaccinated, and so she's ready to go home with you when you adopt her! We hope you will come to meet Sugar, and consider adopting this beautiful girl.

The Ukiah Animal Shelter, 298 Plant Road, is open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. We have many other wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here as well. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.pawstoadopt.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info: contact Adoption Coordinator Katherine Houghtby at 707-467-6453 or houghtbyk@co.mendocino.ca.us.



Photo by Eldon Miller

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Let's Take the Long Way Home

Bruce Burton's new CD 'a compelling collection of songs'

"Let's Take the Long Way Home" is a new CD by banjo player Bruce Burton who – when he's not playing banjo – spends his time running the Willits Redwood Company sawmill and serving on the Willits City Council.

The CD, recorded at Jim Nunally Studio in Crockett, features well-known bluegrass players Bill Evans (also a banjo player), Jim Nunally (guitar), Sharon Gilchrist (bass),



The cover photo from Bruce Burton's new CD (above) and banjo (below). Photos by Jerr-Ho Idarius

John Reishman (mandolin), Tom Bekeny (mandolin), Alisa Rose (fiddle), and Nell Robinson (harmony vocals). Other musicians include jazz bassist Cindy Browne, vocalist Ken Carter, Mike Witcher on dobro, and Willits resident Bear Kamoroff on the bass.

A review of "Let's Take the Long Way Home" is featured in the January issue of "Bluegrass Breakdown," the monthly publication by the California Bluegrass Association. Reviewer Brenda Hough admires the different styles of the songs on the CD: "Bruce Burton has produced a compelling collection of songs that not only highlight his accomplished banjo skills but breathe heart and soul into some fine original songs."

As Bill Evans puts it, in notes written for the CD, "Bruce's seven original compositions include hard-driving bluegrass, gypsy-esque minor-key excursions, beautiful ballads, a lively Irish melody, a couple of swampy blues tunes, a Bach workout, and a murder ballad that sounds so sweet you won't know what hit you."

"Let's Take the Long Way Home" will be available soon at Main Street Music.

Flags for Martin Luther King Day

Willits was adorned by American flags Monday, to commemorate the Martin Luther King Day holiday, thanks to Boy Scouts from Troop 212, who put out 150 flags along Main Street and some of the side streets, too.

Members of Willits Boy Scout Troop Number 42 are now sharing the duty of putting out flags for 11 different national holidays each year with members of Troop Number 212. The special days when the flags go up in Willits are: Martin Luther King Day (3rd Monday of January; January 20, 2014), President's Day (3rd Monday of February; February 17, 2014), Armed Forces Day (3rd Saturday in May; May 17, 2014), Memorial Day (last Monday in May; May 26, 2014), Flag Day (always June 14), Independence Day (always July 4), Labor Day (first Monday in September; September 1, 2014), Patriot Day (always September 11), Election Day (the Tuesday

following the first Monday in November; November 4, 2014), Veterans Day (usually November 11; November 11, 2014) and Pearl Harbor Day (always December 7).

For more information about Boy Scout Troop 212, call Scoutmaster Ken Pedersen at 972-3286. For more info about Boy Scout Troop 42, call Scoutmaster Verd VanBezooyen at 489-5364.



Flags out on Main Street
Photo by Maureen Moore

In the Stars...

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20

Aries, your tendency to say what you feel can come across as being impolite. Many, however, appreciate your honesty and unwillingness to mince words.

TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21

A loved one needs some help, Taurus. This week you will have to figure out a way to assist this person and still tend to your own pressing affairs.

GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 21

Gemini, focus your energy on someone important. This may be a friend, family member or even a romantic partner. Brush up on your relationship skills in the meantime.

CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22

You have a natural charm that immediately puts others at ease, Cancer. If you are wooing a client, they will be putty in your hands. Just open your mouth, and you will win them over.

LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23

Leo, your stubbornness comes into play this week, and it could cause a rift with friends or colleagues. Try to see their point of view, and put off any serious disputes for another time.

VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22

Virgo, spend a little time this week plotting your next getaway. You tend to be happiest when you're on the move and exploring. Everyone needs an escape now and then.

LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23

Enjoy some local culture this week, Libra. Take in a concert, an art show or a theater performance. Just enjoy anything that will educate and entertain at the same time.

SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22

Scorpio, you may find that someone you thought was weak is much stronger than they appeared. This person may not need as much of your assistance as you initially thought.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21

Sagittarius, analyze any problems you may have by breaking them down into smaller tasks. Then you can tackle one thing at a time and come to a happy resolution.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20

Capricorn, your children or the youngsters in your life will be the center of your universe this week. Make the most of this time and enjoy kids' carefree natures.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18

This week may be a little boring, Aquarius. Make the most of your down time, as you could use a few slow days to recharge your batteries and plan your next move.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20

You are bubbling with energy, Pisces. Make the most of this energy by exercising, partying or taking a day trip.

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
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63		64	65			66			67		68	69		
70						71					72			
73						74					75			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Permanently disfigure
5. Demilitarize
10. Flat-bottom crater
14. 6th Jewish month
15. "1836 siege" of U.S.
16. For in Spanish
17. Bunco games
18. Musical world for the iPhone
19. Smile
20. Charlotte's Web's White
21. His wife became salt
22. For example
23. Perceived
27. Violet-red color
30. Pzifefighter Muhammed
31. Dentist's group
32. Lowest feudal class
35. Passover feast and ceremony
38. Netherlands river
42. College teacher
43. Associated press
44. Exist
45. Wyatt __, OK Corral
46. Antlered cervid
47. Church announcement of a proposed marriage
49. Dried leaves of Catha edulis
50. Anoint

CLUES DOWN

1. Ceremonial staffs
2. Sun-dried brick
3. 007's creator
4. Married woman
5. Obstruct
6. 12th Jewish month
7. Opposite of minored
8. Leave out
9. Twice Pres. of Harvard, Derek
10. Gas usage measurement
11. Swiss river
12. Spirit in The Tempest
13. Kitchen stove
24. Crocus spice
25. Raised railroad track
26. Injure permanently
27. Partial paralysis (pl.)
28. School in Newark, DE
29. Individual baking dish
32. Democratic Party of Germany
33. Poetic word for before
34. Eggs of a fish
36. Environmental Protec. Agency
37. One point N of due E
39. Express pleasure
40. Macaws
41. Seaport (abbr.)
48. Tagging the base runner
51. Inspector General
53. City of Angels
54. Made from an Oak tree
55. So. Am. rattles
57. Thai money in 1928
58. Expressed pleasure
60. Nutmeg seed covering spice
61. Small indefinite quantity
64. Between E and SE
65. Chest muscle (slang)
66. Used for hitting the ball
67. Tooth caregiver
68. Military Aircraft Group
69. Brew

Puzzle Answers on Page 9

How To Sudoku:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a Sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Sudoku

	6		1			2	9	
1			6				7	
						4		1
					9	7		
	9		8					
		7			2			
7	2			6				
		1	9		8		3	
		5		4				2

Level: Intermediate

COLUMN | Mendocino County Fisheries

Low flows and water woes

By this time in a normal year there would be Chinook salmon in tributaries to Outlet Creek, swimming upstream to perform the spawning rite. The definition of "normal" weather seems to be changing, with fall rains becoming scarcer and our current drought approaching severe conditions.

Water quantity is a hot topic for rural residential folks, ranchers and farmers, as well as municipalities. There's a lot of worrying going on, but not much can be done about the lack of rain. Conserving available water is the one effort that everyone can make, and there are dozens of ways it can be accomplished, at work and at home. For some good ideas, look at the City of Willits water conservation web page and the Brooktrails Township website: <http://thecityofwillits.com/city-departments/water/water-conservation/> and <http://www.btcsd.org/>

Lack of water not only affects people, but fish and other animals too. Runs of salmon and steelhead are less numerous than they should be in our Willits creeks. This low flow period has prevented Chinook salmon from reaching their natal spawning grounds in Willits, Mill, Baechtel, and Broadbuds Creeks.

Recently Chinook have been observed spawning in the mainstem Eel River because they cannot wait indefinitely for stream flows to rise. Unfortunately those Chinook progeny will not know the Outlet Creek system, and may not return to this area when it comes time for them to spawn. As juveniles, the young fish then hatched in the Eel River will be subject to predation by the non-native Sacramento pikeminnow, possibly resulting in a significant reduction of Chinook salmon in the Outlet Creek watershed.

According to our local fisheries biologist from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, this year represents the only remaining brood year of Coho (silver) salmon in the Outlet Creek basin. This means that adult Coho salmon are expected to return to Outlet Creek this year. The other two brood years are no longer present in Outlet Creek and its tributaries. Coho salmon typically migrate upstream to this area in January and February, and are probably milling about down in the estuary right now. Hopefully the Coho salmon run will be saved by a series of rain events, but the window is getting smaller.

Just as a gentle reminder, this year's low-flow condition could severely limit the recovery potential of our native salmonids. With that in mind, the few adult fish that make it up to the smaller streams to spawn are even more important than if this was a "normal" wet year. Keep an eye on your fish. Approach spawning fish carefully, and use binoculars to watch them spawn to prevent harassing them. If you get big fish in your creek and want to share the observation, please give me a call.

Joe Scriven has been working on salmonid habitat projects in Mendocino County since 1998. His ability to catch steelhead has not improved during that time, but he still enjoys being on the water. He works for the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District as a fisheries biologist and project manager. Contact him at 462-3664 ext. 104 joe.scriven@mrcrd.org.

The rest of Drought | From Page 1

they were nearly out of water; 14 others said they were out.

The ad-hoc committee also has sent a memorandum to all county water districts, cities, and commercial-scale water purveyors, asking whether water districts had sent information to their customers on ways to conserve water, whether the districts had enacted emergency ordinances to enforce water conservation and, if so, what kind of methods were they contemplating using to enforce compliance.

The memorandum also asked if recipients would support a countywide ordinance to enforce water conservation.

According to county CEO Carmel Angelo, most of the water districts responded positively to the memorandum. However, Angelo added, so far there has been no response from Laytonville or Point Arena. Angelo asked the supervisors representing those areas (Dan Hamburg for Point Arena and John Pinches for Laytonville) to use their influence to ensure water districts and providers from those two communities respond.

Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman reported his office plans to vigorously investigate and book people who illegally divert or steal water. Allman suggested a lot of water diversion in this county is for marijuana production and said the Sheriff's Office was going to be especially vigilant this year regarding that.

"At this point, water preservation is a very high priority for the Sheriff's Office, probably more for the water diversion than for the marijuana," Allman said. "I am not talking about medical marijuana, and not about the mom-and-pop grows. I am talking about the in-your-face, large marijuana grows out there. For people who are contemplating doing that this year, I would encourage them to hold off. Because we will go after them for water diversion, and in this county, a jury will convict for water theft, maybe sooner than they would convict for cultivation."

Allman said his office also has set up an anonymous tip line for people to report water theft or illegal water diversions. The number is 234-2100.

CalFire Mendocino County District Chief Chris Rowney told the board he has imposed a ban on outdoor burning on all State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) within the Mendocino District. SRAs here include state-owned parks and forests, such as Jackson Demonstration State Forest, as well as private lands not serviced by local fire districts.

Rowney also said CalFire crews responded

recently to a car fire in Comptche that boded ill for the upcoming firefighting season. Rowney said fire from the flaming vehicle spread to surrounding brush and forestlands, traveling three miles from the road before it was put out. "The incident took place early in the morning, too," Rowney said. "So it is very serious out there."

Third District Supervisor John Pinches once again berated his colleagues and other governmental officials for their failure to plan for the drought.

"The Los Angeles basin and Las Vegas are two areas that get very little rainfall. As little as we've gotten this year, they each get about half of what we've gotten so far this year. And they are doing all right. Why? Because for the last 100 years, or 70 years, they have been planning and finding solutions to their water problems.

"We have solutions," Pinches said. "But there has been no interest in the solutions we have. We have not done anything to increase [our water] supply in 75 years. Until we go in a new direction and start talking about water supply, we are not going anywhere.

"Now we are learning a lesson about that failure, over 75 years, to plan. It's a hard lesson," Pinches said, "and we are going to have to pay for that lesson."

Supervisors also unanimously approved an urgency ordinance amending Chapter 7.1 of the Mendocino County Code. The new language, in accordance with the emergency proclamation recently signed by California Gov. Jerry Brown, calls upon county residents to voluntarily reduce water use by 20 percent. The ordinance also requests all the water agencies and water districts to report to the county water agency on how much they have reduced water delivery.

Second District Supervisor John McCowen criticized the ordinance, arguing it should have called for a 50 percent reduction in water use. First District Supervisor Carre Brown said supervisors do not have any authority to go further than the governor of California.

County CEO Carmel Angelo said the actions the actions taken so far were taken so the county could apply for state drought relief when those services become available.

"Are we in front of the drought?" Angelo asked. "Probably not. Our goal was to be proactive, to get in front of the drought, so that when state resources become available, we would be the first in line."

The rest of State News | From Page 1

Since the city began calling for water conservation this winter, the gains have been visible. Water plant operators have reported the supply is holding steady and has even gained days' worth of water.

Staff also has been busy looking at the city's conservation policy to try and figure out how the numbers came to be.

In the Level V water emergency approved by the city council, the Willits Municipal Code allows residential water users 150 gallons per day. Commercial and industrial water-users are asked to cut back 35 percent – including restaurants.

"I do not know how staff at that time arrived at those recommendations," Moore said.

Like the city, water providers in Brooktrails and Pine Mountain have asked for conservation from residents. The Pine Mountain Mutual Water Company has imposed a 125 gallon per day limit. Brooktrails calls for 110 gallons.

The City of Willits will make allowances for situations where there are two families on one property, or multiple residences on one water meter.

The Willits Municipal Code allows homes with more than four occupants to receive an allowance of 50 gallons for each additional occupant.

Residents can make their case for extra water in writing to the city. Moore said the city last week received one letter asking for more water.

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Francis ... saint and dog

Episcopal Church sponsors guide dog named after patron saint of animals

Puppies are adorable. Three-month-old, blonde, curly-haired and dark-nosed Golden Retrievers are extra cute, and little Miss Francis, Tom and Shirley Schott's new trainee for Guide Dogs of the Desert, is no exception.

The Schotts have raised six other guide dogs though the volunteer program. Francis has been with them since January 2 of this year. Dogs stay in the preliminary training for 18 months, going through the required avenues to determine their future. Many with the correct temperaments and learning abilities go on to assist the blind, while others, who take "career changes," get to visit nursing homes, assist veterans, go to work as police and drug dogs, or become breeding dogs to further the genealogy of the group's breeding program.

The website explains that "Guide Dogs of the Desert breeds 90 percent of the puppies used in our puppy raising program. We currently utilize Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, Standard Poodles, and some German Shepherds. Puppy raisers receive their puppy at approximately 8 to 10 weeks of age, and they keep them until they are between 18 to 20 months of age. These are normal puppies that will chew, bark, whine, and cry. And ... they are not housebroken."

Francis is still a long ways away from her determining day. Now, she's focused on the basics: pottyng outside, sitting politely, not jumping, and just plain hanging out.

After making a few successful appearances at the St. Francis of the Redwood Episcopal Church, she has already become a hit with the fellowship, as well as dog-adoring community members around town.

The Schotts' last dog, Robbie the poodle, also attended the church services with the family, and was the inspiration for the church to help sponsor the couple's current dog. One of the perks of sponsorship is naming rights to the new pup. What was more fitting than to name her after the church's namesake, the patron saint of animals, St. Francis?

Sponsors' funds go to help support medical and kenneling costs for the dogs and the operational costs of the organization.

The Schotts first became



Guide Dogs OF THE Desert

Above: Episcopal Church representatives Joanne Kerseg and Claudia Smith-Hill pose with the puppy raisers: Tom Schott holding Francis, Jessica Holland, and Shirley Schott.

Below: The lovely Francis (left) who often gets to go on walkies with Jessica, the Schott's granddaughter and fellow dog lover.

Photos by Maureen Moore



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Read the rest of Puppy | Over on Page 9

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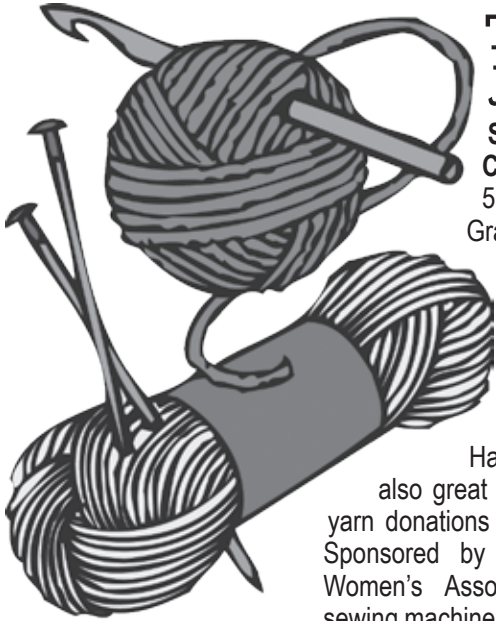
SPARETIME SUPPLY

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Thursday, January 23

Sewing, Knitting & Crochet Circle: 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, during the Willits Farmers Market, January through April. "Bring your current project or some yarn, hooks, needles if you have them and want to learn something new.

Hand-sewing and mending is also great 'circle' work. We still want yarn donations of any kind and amount." Sponsored by the Little Lake Grange Women's Association. There are also sewing machines and materials available in Room 10. Info: 459-6362.

Community Hu Song: "In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song Thursday, January 23, at 6 pm, at HU (pronounced 'hue') is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra and can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475."

Shanachie Pub: twice-monthly E.T. Jazz Jam, featuring vocalist Sarah Ryan, Michael Cantwell on piano and keyboards, Aaron Bellomo on guitar, and Jesse Bessoni on drums. Jazz standards infused with funk, hip hop, world and free-form jamming. Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, January 24

"ABBA Father": 15th annual event sponsored by Women's Advance Ministries of Lake and Mendocino Counties, Agape Bible Church. Tonight from 7 to 9 pm and Saturday, January 25 from 9 am to 4 pm. "This is a time for women to come together, have fun, share a laugh and sing, while being inspired by a Christian motivational key note speaker. With dessert on Friday and lunch on Saturday. Saturday workshops include:

Introducing LocalLights

The Just For Fun Choir has started up again and is accepting new members of all ages and abilities. The choir is directed and accompanied by Nancy New. First meeting was Monday, January 22, and meetings will continue at the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, on Mondays from 1 to 2:30 pm. "We sing all kinds of music, from Irving Berlin to James Brown." For more information call Nancy New at 459-1276.

Save the Date:

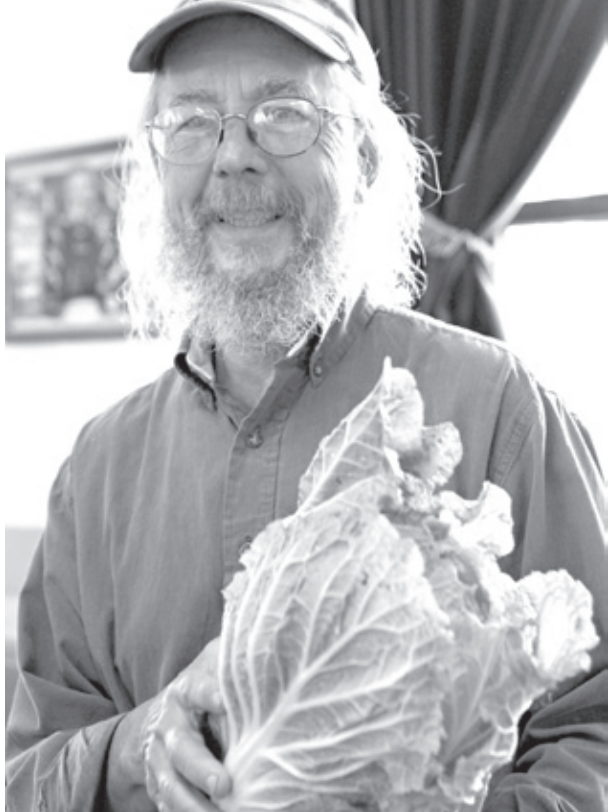
Fruit Tree Workshop with Richard Jeske, February 8, Little Lake Grange

Valentine's Day, February 14, don't forget to show some love to your sweetie

Sip Some Soup, February 15, Willits Community Center

"LocalLights" Concert Series, February 23, Willits Community Theatre

Farmers Market Manager Michael Foley



What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

"Overcoming," "A Mother's Heart at the Loss for Her Fallen Soldier," and "Faithful Father." Featured speaker Cheri Gregory; entertainment by the Beaudettes. \$45 before January 16; \$50 after and at the door. Register online and for more information go to: www.womensadvanceministries.com.

Shanachie Pub: The Julian Temple Band all the way from New Zealand. Bluesy folk, with "heart wrenching violin, gravel & grit vocals, percussive acoustic guitar, insane percussion and solid bass," featuring "Upsidedownbackwards," their top 10 hit in NZ. Visit www.juliantempleband.com. 9 pm. \$5 cover. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, January 25

"ABBA Father": Agape Bible Church. See Friday, January 24 listing for details.

Willits Community Theatre Master Class: Tony Award-nominated actress, Linda Posner, teaches the second of two master classes on "Acting & Auditioning," today from 10 am to 1 pm. Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. Fees for each class are \$25 adults, \$15 students, with full scholarships available to cover all costs. Scholarship applications can be downloaded from the website. Info: www.willitstheatre.org or call 459-0895.

Black Light Birthday Bash: Studio Joy-The Place for Zumba celebrates its 1-year anniversary tonight, with a dance party. Doors open 7 pm; dancing starts at 7:30 pm. 1262 Blosser Lane. Dress to impress, white and neon glow the best. Tickets \$10; ages 13 to 17, \$5; 12 and under free. Buy ticket early to be entered into the raffle drawing for one monthly pass and two 5 class punchcards. Info: www.studiojoywillits.com or call 707-841-7499.

Shanachie Pub: CD release party with Mendocino County band Julian & The Upside Sound (formerly the Julian Trio +1). Based on the fiddle, mandolin and vocals of 16-year-old protege Julian McClanahan, backed by the cittern, vocals, and bass playing of veteran musician Michael Charnes, the highly trained cello work of Darin Smith, the guitar and vocals of Julian's father, Brad McClanahan, and the newest addition of Caleb Morelli on bass, banjo &



accordion. Visit: www.facebook.com/juliantrio. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, January 26

Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast: the every-fourth-Sunday breakfast today, from 8 to 11 am, at 291 School Street. Choose Hank's Famous Buttermilk or Sourdough Multigrain made-from-scratch pancakes, Beeler's Quality Bacon, organic local farm fresh eggs made to order, real butter, juice, organic coffee or tea. \$7; \$6 for seniors; \$4 for children under 12. Sides of organic yogurt, fresh fruit in season, Amish maple syrup upon request.

Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop: Free class taught by Dave Watts of Sanhedrin Nursery, from 10 am to 2 pm. Meet at Mendocino County Museum, North Entrance, Room No. 2. (follow directional signs). Rain or shine. No charge: Questions: 459-9009.

Willits Redwood Little League 2014 season sign-ups: Today from 11 am to 2 pm at Old Mission Pizza, 1708 South Main Street in Willits.

Saturday, February 1, from 10 am to 1 pm at Wheels Cafe, 44930 Highway 101 North. Bring all required documents with you: birth certificate and address verification. Fees are \$75 for the first child and \$50 for each additional child. There is a volunteer incentive to earn \$25 back after completing five hours of work. "We are still in need of coaches! Please let us know during sign-ups if you are interested!" For more information, call Melissa Coughlin: 707-287-8386. "Stay tuned to the Willits Redwood Little League Facebook page for try-out information and updates about this year's baseball season!"

Willits Weekly is excited to announce that the new 2014 Community Directory from Soroptimist International of Willits will be distributed in next week's edition of our newspaper.

The 2014 book, compiled this year by Willits Weekly's own Maureen Moore, will be inserted into the middle fold of the January 30 edition in all papers distributed at businesses and in our newspaper boxes. Our mail subscribers, however, will have to track a phone book down in town, as the postal increase set for January 26 means mailing costs would be too high with the extra weight of the phone book.

Willits Weekly will also have the phone book-filled editions at the Winter Willits Farmers Market, at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, from 3 to 5:30 pm on Thursdays.

This year's Community Directory is getting a fresh update, and includes news stories about Soroptimist International of Willits over the past several months, information on applying for the club's scholarships and awards, and an easy form allowing new and returning advertisers a chance to get their spot reserved in the 2015 book.

Stay tuned for more information next week about new Willits Weekly advertising "bundle" opportunities, for current and future Community Directory advertisers.

Swim Coach Wanted

Willits Otters Swim Team, which has been around for 40 years, needs a coach to continue the program this year! Swim season is February through August, Coaching experience desired.

Otters Swim Team trains Monday through Thursday, 5:30 to 7 pm. One weekend per month required for swim meets. Call 707-513-0739 if you can help out.

Ongoing Events:

restaurant for lunch. Noon. Thursday, January 23, the group will meet at the Asian Buffet. "We meet and have lunch and share our experiences, joys and sorrows. It helps to have friends that understand." New members are welcome.

Big Screen video games:

Fridays from 4 to 5:30 pm at the Noyo Theatre. Arcade-style games, multi-player, with both casual and cartoony fighting games. Everyone gets a chance at the controller. Moderated by assistant manager Steve Thornton: "Gamemaster Steve." Fridays afternoons to start, with hoped-for expansion to an evening tournament-like event. \$5 (no gift certificates or passes accepted). 57 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-6660.

"Budding Artists":

Exploring the Artworks of Children: An exhibition by students from the Room to Bloom pre-school and the Willits Elementary Charter School, on display through January 26 at the Willits Center for the Arts. 71 East Commercial Street.

Willits Community Theatre auditions: WCT is holding auditions at the Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane, today at noon and February 3 at 6 pm for "The Dining Room," a play by A.R. Gurney, which will run from April 18 through May 4. Six actors (three men and three women) will play 57 roles that cover a variety of characters from ages 6 to 60). Maria Monti, who will direct "The Dining Room" for WCT

"tap-danced her way into show business – first as a child performer, then as a teacher. For the past 18 years she has been the drama teacher at Ukiah High. Though she says, at one time: 'The very idea of opening my mouth and speaking lines was absolutely frightening,' she has acted in several Willits productions, playing Big Mama in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" and acting in "The Fantasticks" and "Park Avenue" (a one-act play by Woody Allen). Most recently she choreographed The Music Man for the production at Mendocino College. For info about the play or the auditions, call Monti at: 456-0901.

Monday, January 27

Willits Flu Clinic: Mendocino County Public Health sponsors an adult (19 years of age and older) walk-in flu vaccination clinic today, at Willits Integrated Services Center, 221 South Lenore, from 10 am to 2 pm. Open to the public; no appointment necessary. Suggested donation: \$10, but no donation too small and nobody turned away. Info: call Karen Broderick, LVN, at 472-2681.

California Retired Teachers Association Lunch: Members of the California Retired Teachers Association will meet today at 11:30 am at the Country Skillet, 708 South Main Street. It will be a no-host lunch ordering from the menu with individual bills. Paul Ubelhart will speak about the Honor Flight honoring WWII and Korean veterans. Visitors are welcome. RSVP at 462-9486 or email fmjillette@sbcglobal.net.

Tuesday, January 28

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad movies: "American Hustle" and "The Nut Job" and "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

Tree Seedling Sale in Laytonville

Annual sale began Monday at Laytonville Elementary School, 150 Ramsey Road, and will continue until seedlings are sold out (this will likely be the last week), 2 to 3:30 pm. Sponsored by and to benefit the school's Kindergarten and first-grade classes. Seedlings are \$1.50 each; year-old potted trees are \$2 each. Seedlings include: Red Barberry, Giant Sequoia, Port Orford Cedar, Ginkgo, Douglas Fir, Sitka Spruce, Coast Redwood, Monterey Cypress, Incense Cedar, Rock Rose, Ponderosa Pine, Japanese Maple (green), European White Birch, Red Gum Eucalyptus, Common Purple Lilac, California Redbud and Jeffrey Pine. Inquiries: 984-6123, ext 107 or almostfreetrees@yahoo.com

Water Savings Tips

From Kristin Miller: "I am keeping some containers (glass jars, 24 ounce yogurt tubs) next to my sink, for quick storage of any water that I use for rinsing vegetables, etc., and then I use that water to rinse other dishes or recyclables. Once you get into the habit, it becomes a challenge to see how many times you can re-use the water."

From Pat L. Wormington: "An on-demand water heater placed under sinks eliminates wasted water. We installed one. It saves water, power, and time."

From Monika DeShong Hale: "Put a bucket in the tub while you run water to get hot water, and use that water to flush your toilet or wash cars."

Email your water saving tips to Willits Weekly at willitsweekly@gmail.com, or post on Willits Weekly's Facebook page.

Gallery hours are Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm, through January 26. Info: 459-1726.

Willits Frontier Twirlers:

Beginner's classes in basic and mainstream square dance at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, from 6:45 to 8 pm, then dancing until 9 pm, with professional caller Lawrence Johnstone, who will teach and call. Every Monday night; classes are free for beginners. Info: 459-9526.

Free SAL programs:

Free Sheriff's Activity League programs at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 pm; Karate: Kids aged 5 to 11 from 6 to 7 pm, Tweens, Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565

Ag Arts Work Days:

for Grange School of Agricultural Arts: scheduled on many Saturdays at the school site at Ridgewood Ranch, 16200 Highway 101. Skilled and unskilled help needed. Bring gloves and tools, if you have them. Follow the "Farm School" signs. Please drive slow on the ranch. Lunch available for those

Thursday, January 30

Sewing, Knitting & Crochet Circle: 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, during the Willits Farmers Market. See Thursday, January 23 listing for details.

Friday, January 31

Shanachie Pub: "Mendocino Homegrown Music" by Redbud: original rock, blues, pop, reggae, ska & more. Featuring Yoli Rose on rhythm guitar & vocals, Bob Dress on bass & vocals, Hal Wagenet on lead guitar & vocals, and Tobin Hendricks on drums & vocals. 8 pm to midnight. No cover. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.



Saturday, February 1

Theater Tech Master Class: Professional theatre techs, Joe Dowling and Kevin Moore, teach the second of four master classes on "Theater Tech" today from 10 am to 1 pm, with a class on "Rigging, Lighting and Sound." "Nuts and bolts of light and sound instruments, their uses, adjustments, mounting and programming; hands-on experience." Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. Two more Saturday tech classes are scheduled for March 8 ("Lighting and Sound Design") and March 29 ("Set Design and Construction"). Check willitstheatre.org or call 459-0895 for more info.

Willits Redwood Little League 2014 season sign-ups in Laytonville: from 10 am to 1 pm at Wheels Cafe, 44930 Highway 101 North, in Laytonville. See January 26 listing for details.

Sunday, February 2

Free Vegetarian Cooking Class: part of the 2nd annual series of monthly vegetarian cuisine cooking classes sponsored by Howard Hospital and 7th Day Adventist Church. 145 Haehl Creek Drive. 1 to 3 pm. Taught by Sher and Connie. "Come enjoy these free monthly cooking classes on Vegetarian Cuisine. Learn how this dietary change can alter and benefit your health. Come for a healthier you!" Class schedule: Today: diabetes & blood sugar control; March 9: heart health & healthy fats; April 6: cancer prevention & control; and May 4: bone health & inflammatory problems. For more info or to pre-register, call Sher at 707-841-0377.

WHS 2014 Spirit Week

Willits High School's Spirit Week is set for the week of February 3 through February 8. The Spirit Rally will be on Friday, February 7, in the high school gymnasium, and the dance, with the theme of "White Winters Night," will be on Saturday night, February 8, from 9 pm to midnight, also in the gym. Spirit Week itself will have the theme of "Monster Week." Monday, February 3 is Freshman Day ("Werewolves," wear gray); Tuesday, February 4 is Sophomore Day ("Zombies," wear brown); Wednesday, February 5 is Junior Day ("Mummies," wear white); and Thursday, February 6 is Senior Day ("Vampires," wear black).

Foster Parent Orientation

Tapestry Family Services hosts "Foster Parent Orientations" for residents of Willits, Ukiah, Redwood Valley and Potter Valley on the first and third Thursdays of every month. In February, the orientations are set for Thursday, February 6 and Thursday, February 20, from 5:30 to 6 pm. 290 East Gobbi Street, in Ukiah. Come learn what it takes to become a successful foster parent. Info: call Kippy Burns at 707-463-3300 extension 115, or go to www.tapestryfs.org

who RSVP by Friday each week (drop-in volunteers welcome, too). Work days (rain or shine) set for: January 25 and February 8, 15 and 22. These volunteer days will focus on renovating the schoolhouse, building student housing,

planting cover crop, and pruning in our well-established orchard. Custom work days or events can be scheduled by contacting director Antonia Partridge at (707) 272-1395 or farmdirector@californiagrangecommunity.org. More info at <http://californiagrangecommunity.org/agschool/mission.html>.

Brooktrails Lodge Winter Schedule:

every Thursday night at 8 pm: "Dream Capsule Entertainment," featuring local musicians and talent; Happy Hour, and Ladies' Night specials. Every Friday night: Open Mic, with drink specials and prizes. Every Saturday night: "Electro-Dance" at 7 pm. Info: Shawntee Wirth at dreamcapsuleindustries@gmail.com or 459-6792.

Laytonville Winter Farmers Market:

Mondays from 2:30 to 4:30 at the Laytonville Grange, 1620 Branscomb Road. Buy local: vegetables, apples, juice, bakery, beef, lamb, pork, jewelry, aprons, children's clothing, knife sharpening and more.

Congratulations Column



Olivia Grace Prescott

Olivia Grace Prescott was born in Salem, Oregon, on December 8, 2013, to Cheryln Prescott, originally of Willits, and to Oliver Prescott, originally of Hilo, Hawaii. Her grandparents are Megan Howlett-Prescott of Willits, Karl Prescott of Hilo, Hawaii, and Michael and Melodee Scofield of Willits."



Birthday Girl Ally

Happy 15th birthday Ally! We love you! Love, Mom, Dad, Emily, and Sophia



Birthday Girl Lilja

Willits Frontier Days wishes a Happy Birthday to Lilja Lamkin, our 2013 Frontier Days Sweetheart!

Super Seniors & Free Play!

Earn & Receive Free Play:
Sundays until February 23rd
8:00AM to 10:00PM

- Earn 50 points, Receive \$20 Free Play
- Earn 100 points, Receive \$40 Free Play

(Guest limited to one per promotion day)

Super Seniors:
Thursdays until March 27th
8:00AM to 6:00PM

Random Hot Seat Drawings every hour from 9:00am until 6:00pm (50 and older only)

Guests can choose: \$40 in cash or \$60 Free Play if they win drawing

Guests 55 and older can play \$20 coin in and receive \$15 Free Play and a coupon for either a free breakfast (8am – 10:30am) or a free lunch special (11am – 6pm)

JACKPOT

100 Kawi Place in Willits
459-7330



Above: The only vehicle parked in front of LoBuck\$ last week was the one belonging to the workers cleaning up inside. Below left: Looking northwest across the empty building. Below right: Looking east from the former dairy and chips area toward the old video center.

Photos by Maureen Moore

Well now what?

While LoBuck\$ building awaits new occupant, Mariposa Market and Jara’s Market are still shopping options



A few shelf tracks and card racks, tangled copper wire, a soccer bouncy ball, and crumbles of memories were all that was left inside the old LoBuck\$ building last week, as a busy crew was hauling the last of the fixtures out to be sold at auction down south.

The store’s closing has left a large vacancy in the Evergreen Shopping Center’s anchor building, and the effect of losing Willits’ second supermarket has been felt by local shoppers, especially those shopping “shoulder to shoulder” at the other major supermarket in town: Safeway.

But Safeway isn’t the only grocery option in Willits: Mariposa Market and Jara’s Mexican Market sell groceries, too.

An informal survey posted on Facebook this week asked residents what kind of business they hoped to see occupy the now-vacant LoBuck\$ space. Answers included: a bowling alley, an office/computer/stationery store, a Krispy Kreme donut shop, a family recreation center, a

and this was surprising to other readers and to Willits Weekly, too.

Because, although Safeway provides many name-brand and brightly colored kid and family favorites, many great alternatives, options and deals can be found at the locally owned natural foods store, Mariposa Market, 500 South Main Street, and the Hispanic market, Jara’s Market, located at 1661 South Main Street.

If you have never been into Mariposa Market, or haven’t been there in a while, go check it out.

The store’s products span a huge array of choices that most shoppers would pick up regularly at chain supermarkets: they just also happen to be natural or organic, and that doesn’t mean tofu-flavored cookies! Mariposa Market has tons of delicious goods that all families and lifestyles can enjoy, and it is easy to get many items checked off your regular shopping list while cruising their aisles. A storewide sale every month helps save shoppers money, too, as does a 10 percent senior discount for those aged 60 and over who ask for it at the cash register.

Mariposa’s organic produce is the best quality in town – and prices are reasonable, especially for in-season produce. Mariposa’s organic produce is usually cheaper than Safeway’s organic produce, and sometimes even less expensive than Safeway’s non-organic produce.

Items in the bulk bins – including pasta, corn chips, rice, oats, lentils, beans, dried fruit, flour, sugar and much more – are also great deals, allowing you to buy just the amount you need, by weight, as opposed to a whole 13 ounce bag of chips, a 5 pound bag of sugar or a 16 ounce box of pasta.

Fresh breads, bagels and sweet baked goods from area bakers like Rowland’s Bakery in Willits, Fort Bragg Bakery, Schat’s Bakery in Ukiah, and Costeaux French Bakery in Healdsburg are great reasons alone to make a trip to Mariposa. There’s a bread delivery schedule up next to the bread shelves, so you can see which days the bread comes in from each supplier.

Jara’s Mexican Market also offers a wonderful selection of Hispanic options, including a meat counter in the back of the store. Ethnic treats, candies, juices, dessert breads, big bags of rice and beans, spices and much more can be found lining the shelves. Food orders can also be placed directly at the grocery store for lunch or dinner choices, and Jara’s array of Mexican plates offer an authentic flavor.

While Willits awaits the new occupant of the building – one of the most-mentioned choices is Harvest Market, a local family-owned “chain” with stores in Fort Bragg and Mendocino – residents should consider taking this opportunity to check out the other options Willits already has. You never know, you might discover something new that you really enjoy.

Dinner For 2 \$19.95

Each plate includes: 1 Burrito, 1 Enchilada and 1 Corn Taco with Rice and Beans and a small bean dip.

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Community Hu Song

In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community HU Song Thursday, January 23, at 6 p.m. at Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial Street. HU (pronounced hue) is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra and can help you experience divine love and an inner calm. All faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475.

Computer Help

Need help with your computer? I will come to your home or business. PC and Macintosh. Repairs and configuration \$35/hr. Tutoring \$15/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email macamergerin@yahoo.com.

For Rent

2 bedroom, 2 bath home with fenced yard, \$1,000/month. Call Tracy at 354-0048.

For Rent

Convenient Willits westside in-town location. 2 bedroom, 3 bath with attached sunroom. One large room has own entrance and bathroom, possibly an office. One-year lease. 367-5946.

For Rent

Office/message or art studio for rent. Centrally located. 1 room, with shared reception/waiting room. Off-street parking. Utilities included. \$250/month. Available now. 707-621-3900.

For Rent

1 bedroom, 1 bath downtown apartment for rent in Willits. \$600/month plus \$1,000 security deposit. Water and garbage paid. Available February 15: call 459-4599 for info.

Help Wanted

Dental Hygienist Needed. Immediate RDH temp position available. Job starts 1st week of February for approximately 5 months. Please call 459-4664 for information.

Help Wanted

Housekeeper wanted for Baechtel Creek Inn. Must be able to go up and down stairs, lift up to 30 pounds, and be reliable and willing to work. Apply in person.

Help Wanted

U.S. Post Office, City Carrier Assistant 1, Willits. City Carrier Assistants hold temporary appointments for periods not to exceed 360 days. Applicants must have a valid state driver’s license, a safe driving record, and at least two years of driving experience. Applicants must live within 50 miles of the facility address, 315 South Main Street, Willits, California, to be eligible. \$15.30/hour, paid bi-weekly. Veterans who are entitled to veterans’ preference and/or covered by the Veterans Employment Opportunity Act may apply. This job has an exam requirement: applicants who do not have an exam score are being invited to take the exam. Contact: grace.b.zipagan@usps.gov.

House For Rent

2-bedroom, 1-bath house for rent within Willits city limits. Has small garage in back. Available 2/1/14. \$950 per month. Call for application: 459-3141.

House For Rent

\$750 a month. Brooktrails, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, separate outside building. Large lot, enclosed yard. Pet(s) OK. Must be: handy, have local references, job, car. 459-1798.

New Patients Welcome

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Old Cars Wanted

ALWAYS LOOKING for Cars, Scooters & Motorcycles! ‘40s thru ‘50s. Show Car to Parts Car. Please call Alan: 489-7165 or email agrossman@pacific.net.

Pinball Machines

PINBALL MACHINES for sale. 459-6372.

Rummage Sale

Every Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm at 1st Baptist Church, 145 Wood Street. Rain or shine. We accept rummage donations, and have an ever-changing selection of goods!

Swim Coaches Wanted

Willits Otters Swim Team, which has been around for 40 years, needs a coach to continue the program this year. Swim season is Feb. through Aug. Coaching experience desired. Monday through Thursday, 5:30 to 7 pm. One weekend per month required for swim meets. Call 707-513-0739.

Young Artist Classes

Beginning Tuesday, January 21. Ages 5 & up. Drawing skills, pastels, Waldorf watercolor, fabric. Tuesdays, 2:30 -3:30 & 4-5 pm. \$10 includes materials. Ann Maglinte, Rm. 7, Willits Grange, 291 School Street. greengables@wildblue.net

CLASSIFIEDS!

\$10 | 30 words | 2 weeks!

Puzzle Answers From Page 4

M	A	I	M		D	E	M	O	B		M	A	A	R
A	D	A	R		A	L	A	M	O		P	A	R	A
C	O	N	S		M	U	J	I	K		G	R	I	N
E	B				L	O	T				E	G		
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E	A	S	E		A	C	N	E	D		A	L	A	E
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4	6	8	1	7	5	2	9	3
1	3	2	6	4	9	5	7	8
5	7	9	2	8	3	4	6	1
8	5	6	3	9	7	1	2	4
2	9	4	8	1	6	3	5	7
3	1	7	4	5	2	9	8	6
7	2	3	5	6	1	8	4	9
6	4	1	9	2	8	7	3	5
9	8	5	7	3	4	6	1	2

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Thermometer for Food Bank reaches \$23,875

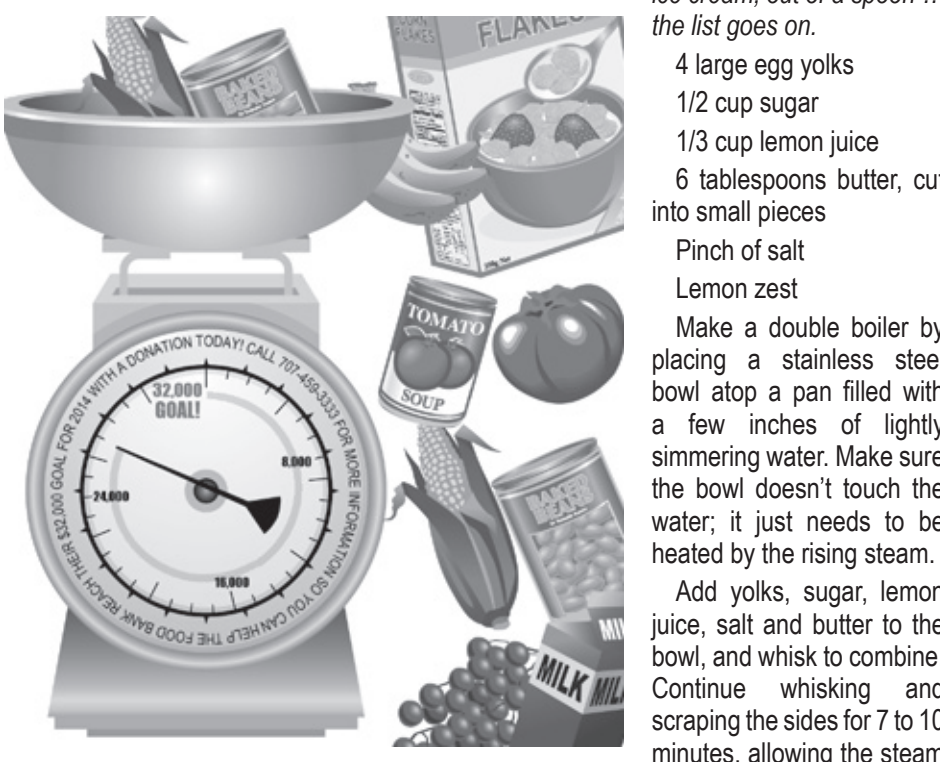
The Winter Fund Drive for Willits Community Services and Food Bank is moving closer to its goal, with this week’s generous contributions bringing the total raised to \$23,875. This year’s Fund Drive goal is \$32,000.

These local contributions, says Jim Marill, executive director of WCS, help to “keep the doors open and the lights on” more than any other resource. Funding goes to help support the efforts of the food bank year-round and to provide a safety net of vital services to the needy in the Willits community.

Contributions – every dollar is appreciated – can be mailed to Willits Community Services, 229 East San Francisco Street, or dropped off at the WCS offices at that address.

For more information, “like” the WCS Facebook page (found under “Willits Community Services and Food Bank”) for updates, or contact WCS directly at 459-3333.

Contributors this past week include: Kate Black & Kim Bancroft; Nancy Boone; Brian & Kathleen Ferri-Taylor; Peter & Deborah Greig; Galen Hathaway; Sally Henckell; Robert Houtz; Robin Kane; Greg & Mary Kanne; Agnes Marie Karlin; McBride’s Kennel; Carol Orton; Dennis & Katharine Rohrs; David & Gae Shelton; Phillip & Kathy Shuster; Diane Smalley & Wallace Stahle; Gene & Carley Stewart; Laura & Michael Wagner; and Willits Mini-Store.



The rest of Songs | From Page 3

recorded this on one of their albums, and I liked so much that I asked Bill Evans to record it with me. I’ll let you guess which of us is playing which tune. Hopefully someone mistakes Bill for me!

“Banks of the Ohio”: Bill Evans said, “People get tired of listening to a dozen banjo songs in a row.” I was shocked at that, but deferring to his opinion, I picked this tune because it tells a story – albeit a grim one.

“Dypsy Gypsy”: I’ve always liked tunes which explore boundaries for the banjo.

“Hard Pull”: The phrase “hard pull” is a common logging/trucking term referring to an adverse grade which takes considerable time and diesel power to conquer. This tune’s foundation melody comes from a hard pull on the third string.

“Maggie’s Dream”: This one is for my sister who is one of the most beautiful, sensitive, smart and sassy people ever.

“Bach Partita #3 for Violin”: Having carried this song for over 15 years, finally recording it has had a liberating effect. Now I can put it away. Although others have recorded this on banjo better than me, I was compelled to give it a go.

The rest of Eggs | From Page 1

Chickens are great at cleaning up your compost and household scraps (they adore yogurt, bread, cottage cheese, pasta, cabbage, berries, fruit and veggie peels and much more!), and they can help reduce bugs and weeds in your yard. They also make great fertilizer to use on your patch of garden.

Then ... there’s the eggs.

No mass-market egg will ever look the same once you have cracked open a happy-home-raised chicken’s egg. The yolk is almost orange (the more bugs the chickens get to eat, the more orange the egg yolk). It’s amazing. It will also be the “eggliest” egg you can imagine. Full of nutrients and goodness, you will start finding all sorts of new ways to enjoy eggs.

Here’s one great option for using eggs:

Lemon curd

This thick lemon spread can be eaten just like you would use butter, jam or frosting: on muffins, on toast, as cake filling, atop ice cream, out of a spoon ... the list goes on.

- 4 large egg yolks
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup lemon juice
- 6 tablespoons butter, cut into small pieces
- Pinch of salt
- Lemon zest

Make a double boiler by placing a stainless steel bowl atop a pan filled with a few inches of lightly simmering water. Make sure the bowl doesn’t touch the water; it just needs to be heated by the rising steam.

Add yolks, sugar, lemon juice, salt and butter to the bowl, and whisk to combine. Continue whisking and scraping the sides for 7 to 10 minutes, allowing the steam to slowly cook the yolks while the whisking action emulsifies the mixture.

All of a sudden, the mixture will begin to thicken quickly and will start to look more pudding-like in texture. To test, coat the back of a wooden spoon with the curd, then run your finger through it. Does the curd fall back together, or does your mark remain? If it remains, the mixture has reached “nappe” consistency (“nappe” is the French term for “coats the back of a spoon”), and can be removed from the heat. If the curd falls back together, cook it a bit longer, and test again.

Now comes the butter. One piece at a time, add the butter, whisking until the butter has completely dissolved before adding the next piece. If you need to, set the bowl back over the steam very briefly to warm the bowl to keep the butter melting as you whisk.

Once all the butter has been added, strain the mixture through a fine sieve to remove any over-cooked egg bits. Store the curd in the refrigerator with a piece of plastic wrap pushed down onto the surface of the curd.

If you double this recipe, there’s usually just the right amount of leftover egg whites to make an excellent vessel for lemon-curd delivery: angel food cake.

Enjoy.

February kicks off

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**Farming
in Africa**

Bottom: One of the first training sessions at Oasis GROW BIOINTENSIVE in Senegal.



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Lauren Sinnott, a city councilwoman and former Point Arena mayor, told the board she supported the program. She said she had sought a loan for energy upgrades to her house from a local bank, but was turned down. She added she was optimistic she would be able to move to clean, renewable energy through the Ygrene program.

Art is Fun!

Student artists enjoy classes at the Grange on Tuesdays

Young artists attended the first class of a four-month series with artist and teacher Ann Maglinte at the Little Lake Grange Tuesday. Students first drew a glass jar with colored pencils, and then filled the jars with fairies, flowers, butterflies and bugs.

A handout showing simple line drawings of bugs helped the students draw their own

insects. "We're learning about symmetry," Maglinte said, "learning about how different parts of the bugs are the same on both sides."

Students in the 2:30 to 3:30 pm slot, ages 5 and up, included: Aleah Perrill, Julian River, Amber McBride, Grace Croskey and Chloe Nunez. Students ages 7 and up are welcome in the 4:30 to 5:30 time slot on Tuesdays. Classes in the sunny warm art studio at the Grange will continue through May.

"We'll be doing watercolors, oil and chalk pastels, tissue paper collage and more," Maglinte said, "working on our drawing skills and exploring the Waldorf approach to watercolor and form." The older kids will also be doing cartooning and fabric art (printing on fabric) as well.

Classes are \$10 each, including all art materials. Students can join at any time, and payment plans are available. For info, contact Maglinte at greengables@wildblue.net or call 984-6747.



Above: Art teacher Ann Maglinte with students Aleah Perrill, left, and Amber McBride, right.

Far left: Young artist Chloe Nunez smiles over her work.

Left: Student Grace Croskey concentrates on getting her drawing just right.

Below: The motto of Maglinte's class displayed on the studio blackboard.

Photos by Jennifer Poole



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