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By donation

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Willits mayor, city manager testify on drought in Sacramento

Jennifer Poole
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Willits Mayor Holly Madrigal and Willits City Manager Adrienne Moore were invited to represent small rural communities at a California Assembly oversight hearing in Sacramento on Tuesday. The hearing examined the "Impact of the Drought on Vulnerable Communities' Access to Drinking Water," and was hosted by Assemblyman Luis A. Alejo.

Alejo told the Willits delegation he'd invited them to testify to "be the face and the example of what many rural communities are going through."

Willits is on the list of rural towns – now down to 10 communities from the original 17 – identified by the California Department of Public Health with drinking water systems most vulnerable due to drought conditions.

Mayor Madrigal told committee members the "silver lining" of the drought is that it has "highlighted the vulnerabilities in our water system, and allowed

Read the rest of **Sacramento** | Over on Page 11

Many applying for county jobs online

Mike A'Dair
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NEOGOV, the county's new on-line job application system, is a big hit, Deputy Mendocino County CEO Heidi Dunham told the board of supervisors on February 11.

NEOGOV rolled out in August 2013; since then the county has not been accepting paper job applications.

Since mid-November, Dunham reported, the county's Department of Human Resources has offered 74 civil service recruitment events, received 1,853 applications, and held 32 exams over 44 days of testing.

Dunham noted HR received 285 applications for one entry-level position with the county road crew.

After hearing Dunham's report, Third District Supervisor John Pinches quipped, "I guess the county's still a good place to work."

Currently 13 positions are listed as available on the county's Department of Human Resources website: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hr/openings.



Eric Glassey stands with 2014 Sip Some Soup winners: Christin Nelson of Mariposa Market, Tam Adams of Emandal, Adrian Horton of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, and Cody Bartholomew, Charlotte and Don Griffiths of Ridgewood Ranch.



Above: Shawna Handschug and Izzy Perry of Healing Central Chiropractic with their Sweetheart Soup.

Below: Cody Bartholomew gets milk out of the "First Aid" dispensary at Ridgewood's Wildfire Soup table. A phone with an ambulance ring attached to the top of the dispensary added to the humor and, surely, winning the award.



Sip Some Soup

Mariposa Market takes first place

This year's voters at the annual Sip Some Soup fundraiser for Willits Daily Bread chose Mariposa Market's Hungarian Mushroom Soup as the No. 1 favorite in the soup contest.

Christin Nelson, who works in the deli at Mariposa, made the soup, from a recipe she makes at home. "I worked at a place in Portland, Oregon," she said, "and we used to make it all the time. They closed down, and they let us take the recipe." Nelson used oyster, hedgehog and crimini mushrooms in the soup, which had a stock made from local lamb, with onions and leeks.

Nelson, who is one of four deli workers who make the soups Mariposa sells each day during the cool weather seasons, has made Hungarian Mushroom Soup a couple of times for the store. "And I will make it again," she said.

Second-place soup was a Moroccan Red Lentil Soup by "Tam's Soup of the Week," from Tam Adams of Emandal. And the third-place choice was the Willits Seventh Day Adventist Church's Veganlicious Rainy Day Creamy Butternut Squash Soup. Ridgewood Ranch won

Read the rest of **Soup** | Over on Page 11



Above: Taster Sam De La Paz smiles as he sampled soup at the 2014 event.

Below: Bear and Sharon Kamoroff preside over the Willits Toy Run table, where a "Born to be Wild Rice, Beef and Mushroom Soup" was available for the tasting.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Left: Howard Memorial Hospital's Holly Sears, Amber Compa and Brady Heiken serve their Tortilla Bisque soup.



Right: Jack Isborn serves up Fiesta Corn Chowder at the Willits Senior Center table. More photos: <http://photographress.zenfolio.com/sipsomesoup2014>

News from Congressman Huffman

U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) has signed a bipartisan congressional letter addressed to President Barack Obama, asking him to direct Attorney General Eric Holder to downgrade the federal listing of marijuana under the Controlled Substances Act.

Currently, marijuana is classified as a Schedule I drug, along with heroin and LSD. Schedule II, which is reserved for drugs considered to be less dangerous than Schedule I drugs, includes cocaine and methamphetamines.

Huffman joined 16 other congressmen in signing the letter. Eight of the 17 signatories were California congressmen.

"Lives and resources are wasted on enforcing harsh, unrealistic and unfair marijuana laws," the letter states. "Nearly two-thirds of a million people every year are arrested for marijuana possession. We spend billions every

year enforcing marijuana laws, which disproportionately impact minorities. According to the ACLU, black Americans are nearly four times more likely than whites to be arrested for marijuana possession, despite comparable marijuana usage rates."

The letter asked Obama to tell Holder to "delist or classify marijuana in a more appropriate way, at the very least, eliminating it from Schedule I or Schedule II."

Huffman votes against 'flawed and cynical' Central Valley water bill

Huffman recently voted against what he called a "flawed and cynical" House bill affecting water deliveries in the Central Valley and Bay Delta areas.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Emergency Water

Read the rest of **Huffman** | Over on Page 11

City working feverishly to secure new water supplies

Zack Cinek
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Although recent storms have boosted the city's water supply some, Willits remains a town working feverishly to find extra water.

City reservoirs are about 50 percent full, but Water Manager J.C. England says he still does "not consider it good because it should be full."

Construction of the emergency water system advances daily, and a water line from a city-owned well north of town has reached the proposed site of Willits' emergency water treatment plant.

Faced with 100 days or less of water when the emergency began, the city set out to find more water in 90 days or less. Early on it looked like the Elias well north of town and the Park well at the old ball fields could be linked together at a temporary water treatment plant. But plans changed, and now a permanent emergency water treatment plant will be constructed. The city still intends to hook up the arsenic-plagued Park well, but it will not likely be used unless the water situation becomes dire.

Another well may be drilled by the city instead.

"I think [that water] is best left for keeping your ball fields irrigated," says

Read the rest of **Water** | Over on Page 11

Thinking of starting a business?

List of properties may help

Zack Cinek
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Aspiring entrepreneurs may want to get a copy of the mayor's new list of available manufacturing properties in their hands.

Compiled with the help of other Willits people, Mayor Holly Madrigal's list aims to be a directory for entrepreneurs to get as much information as possible about industrial land.

"I think there are about 30 properties available right now; some of those are just bare land," Madrigal said.

Madrigal rolled out the list at a city council meeting last week, noting she took on the project after seeing a Willits

Read the rest of **Properties** | Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers



Two thumbs up!

To the Editor:

Two thumbs up to "Flaming Idiots," the new show at the Willits Community Theatre. We saw the dress rehearsal, and it was incredibly funny. I was in tears from laughing several times. I knew it was a comedy, but I wasn't expecting so much humor.

It was extra-funny for us, because it's about the restaurant business, and features Ardella's waiter Elk McCarthy as an "aspiring water." I can't do it justice. If you like to laugh, you have to go see this show!

Lori Dorholt, Ardella's, Willits

Cease and desist order

To the Editor:

At the January 30, 2014 meeting of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, I appealed to members to

One night, July 10, 2013, about 2 am, hundreds of truck runs of dirt went down our little county road to a Caltrans-purchased property, where the rigs dumped 212 double loads from the topsoil of the wetlands. The mounds were spread and left there, as though that would save uprooted plants and seeds. It is a dry-farming field by a dry creek, not a wetland like the previous site.

Floodlights that could be seen and excavation equipment heard for miles made a nightmarish scene, all for Caltrans to claim something was being done to mitigate the wetlands damage. It turned out that the dirt taken was from ancient Pomo sites, contrary to NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) law. Such is the Caltrans' mockery of mitigation: make-work on a million-dollar scale.

The question before the board is actually very simple. Are they protecting the water quality of the Willits valley or endorsing its damage for all future time? This constitutes a test of whether the board as an agency actually fulfills their mandate.

No provision has been made by Caltrans for the resident wells that will be drained in the valley when Caltrans pumps millions of gallons for construction. This is effective theft. Universal access to groundwater, the law of the land in California, was never meant to include huge agencies taking valley water to build a gargantuan, exorbitant and unnecessary freeway structure.

What is so tragic is that, even now, if the huge northern interchange plan were abandoned in favor of an at-grade interchange, already designed by Caltrans, 25 to 30 acres of wetlands can be saved.

Power does not retreat without a demand. Given the drought, the expected exorbitant use of water by Caltrans even under drought conditions, and the documented impunity Caltrans has displayed in violating its written commitments to the water board, the agency is amply justified in suspending the 401 permit.

We rely on the board's mandate to protect water quality here, in order to stop Caltrans

from further permanent and unnecessary damage to our valley, damage affecting all who will live here, long after Caltrans has acquired another ill-gotten building bonanza.

William Ray, Willits

Thanks from Sober Grad

To the Editor:

Well once again the Willits community came out to our Pancake Breakfast, even in the glorious rain! Thank you for your continuing support of our efforts to provide an alcohol- and drug-free grad party for the Class of 2014.

We could not have put this event on without the help of many individuals and local businesses. This year almost everything was donated, which made our fundraiser even more successful. Thank you to Barbie Svendsen, Brown's Corner, Mariposa Market, Flowers by Annette, Geigers/Long Valley Market, Raley's, Safeway, WalMart, Costco, Crush Steakhouse, Applebee's, The Grange and Pleasant View Dairy.

A big shout out to the kitchen crew of the Grange: Liam UICearbhaill, Fred Bieberbach, Mike Burgess, Richard Jergenson and Joyce Connor. As usual you were great cooking up your delicious pancakes, scrambled eggs and bacon.

We also wish to thank Suzie Dunham and Barbie Svendsen for coordinating this event. The leg work in getting the supplies and obtaining donations from all of these businesses is time-consuming, and we appreciate all of their time and energy.

Thanks also to the seniors and their parents who sold tickets and came and helped with the seating of guests, taking their orders, serving their breakfasts, busing the tables and entertaining them with songs around the piano – a special treat!

Joyce Waters for Willits Sober Grad Party Planning Committee



Left: Emmy Heiken, Kathy Tilton and Chelcee Spaggiari are excited for the upcoming U-JAM fitness party on February 28.

Below: The ladies show U-JAM's "peace" hand pose.

Photos by Maureen Moore

Let the music drive you!

WHS seniors to hold U-JAM fitness party for senior project

"It's really meant for our generation!" explained Willits High School seniors Emmy Heiken and Chelcee Spaggiari, who are planning a U-JAM exercise event and fitness party for their senior project this year.



U-JAM is similar to other music-based dance and aerobic classes, but infuses urban, Latin, Bollywood and hip-hop beats and moves into the routines. Songs are recognizable to the younger audience, and the class promises an "intense cardiovascular workout that features easy-to-learn dance steps that make you sweat, tone your body and leave you craving more!"

The girls heard about U-JAM from WHS Health Teacher Jennifer Barrett and decided to take a class with local instructor Kathy Tilton.

Enjoying themselves during the 75-minute workout, which "FLEW by!" according to the girls, they decided to scrap their original plan of learning to change oil and a car tire, and put on a U-JAM event instead.

"We're getting to do what teenagers like to do," explained the girls. "Dance, hang out with friends, and live a healthy lifestyle. It's a fun way to exercise!"

The event will be held on Friday, February 28 from 6 to 7:15 pm at the Blosser Lane Elementary School cafeteria.

The event is free to attend and is open to men and women of all ages. Children are welcome to attend, too, but must be accompanied by an actively attentive adult, as there are lots of quick movements and big group motions.

More info: 841-0498.

— Maureen Moore



Drought tips from Health & Human Services

What you can do to stay healthy, conserve water and thrive when it is dry? Here are some tips from the Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

Rainwater harvesting

In a rainwater harvesting system, rain is gathered from a building rooftop or other source and held in large containers for non-drinking use such as watering gardens. To prevent mosquitoes, keep containers covered with a lid or fine screen. If left uncovered, standing water should be used within several days to prevent mosquito breeding.

Reuse produce wash water

Always wash fruits and vegetables before eating. No detergent is necessary. You can fill a bowl or tub with

water, wash several different items by rubbing them by hand or scrubbing items with rinds, grooves or waxy skin, such as cucumbers, squash, citrus and potatoes with a brush to remove pathogens. Then use the water to mop the floor, flush the toilet or water non-food plants.

Drinking water

Do not drink from streams or other sources of untreated, unfiltered water. Assume that all open bodies of water in Mendocino County may be contaminated with giardia, a harmful bacteria. All drinking water needs to be safe and

clean even in a time of scarcity. Clean drinking water is not the place to cut back on water usage.

Clean well water

Make sure wells are sealed to ensure that water is clean and potable. Be conscious of changes in color and taste of well water. If you notice changes, get your well water tested. Sample vials and instructions can be picked up at the Mendocino County Environmental Health offices in Ukiah and Fort Bragg for analysis by Alpha Laboratories for a fee of \$35.

Have something to say?
Send us a Letter to the Editor!

The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters from area residents, focusing on Willits issues, activities, events and people, have priority. Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred.

Letters & Commentaries must have a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No anonymous letters will be published.



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Little Lake Clinic staffers 'Go Red For Women'

Above: The staff at Little Lake Clinic wear red to raise awareness about women's heart disease.

Employees at the Little Lake Health Clinic in Willits wore red to work Friday, February 7, to celebrate "National Wear Red Day," which raises awareness about women's heart disease.

Staffers at Mendocino Community Health Clinic's other centers, Hillside Center in Ukiah and Lakeside Health Center in Lakeport, also participated in "GoRed Day." Not only did staffers wear red, they decorated the clinics and handed out educational material in English and Spanish about risk factors and ways for women to stay healthy.

"National Wear Red Day" started in 2004, and is observed on the first Friday of February every year.

According to the American Heart Association, heart disease is the top cause of death in American women; it is more deadly than all forms of cancer combined.

Because the symptoms for men and women are different, many women who suffer from heart disease do not realize they are at risk until it is too late. Sweating, lightheadedness, chest pressure, nausea, and jaw pain are all symptoms of a heart attack in women.

MCHC CEO Linnea Hunter said: "I'm really proud of our employees for getting behind this. We had more than 160 employees at multiple sites really get involved to raise awareness, and that's what it takes: people getting involved."

As a Federally Qualified Health Center, MCHC is held to high quality standards and does not refuse care based on a patient's ability to pay. Its health centers provide medical, dental, and behavioral health care and accept Medi-Cal and other insurance. To learn more, visit littlelakehealthcenter.org or call 456-9600.

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Puzzle Page

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 B M T I D N U N L G L U D A Y S T R I P
 A T A O O D O O G G P R O Z D S T S W N B
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 N C I I S D E W T R E E S C O I B N G
 B G C B K S G E O R S N E C O Z I N G E

Crossword Puzzle

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | |
| 14 | | | | | 15 | | | | 16 | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | 18 | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | | | | | 20 | | | | 21 | | | | |
| | | | | 22 | | | 23 | 24 | | | | | |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | | 32 | | | 33 | 34 | | |
| 35 | | | | | 36 | 37 | | | 38 | | | | |
| 39 | | | | | 40 | | | | | 41 | | | |
| | | | | 42 | 43 | | | | 44 | | | | |
| | | | | 45 | | | | 46 | 47 | | | | |
| | | | | 48 | | | | 49 | | | 50 | 51 | 52 |
| 53 | 54 | | | | 55 | 56 | | | 57 | 58 | | | |
| 59 | | | | | | | | | | 60 | | | |
| 61 | | | | | | | | | | 63 | | | |

CLUES ACROSS

1. Int'l. language specialist's org.

- 6. Filament container
- 10. Amounts of time
- 14. Double curves
- 15. Clumsiness
- 17. Incapable of compromise
- 19. Mekong River people
- 20. Chinese broadsword
- 21. Rescue squad
- 22. Cablegram (abbr.)
- 23. Mold-ripened French cheese
- 25. Don't know when yet
- 27. Rivulet
- 30. Wild Himalayan goat
- 32. Astronaut's OJ
- 33. Scientific workplace
- 35. Xenophane's colony
- 36. Exchange
- 38. Semitic fertility god
- 39. Chit
- 40. Sylvia Fine's spouse Danny
- 41. Sole
- 42. Benne plant
- 44. Small amount
- 45. Sodas
- 46. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 48. UC Berkeley

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Labor
- 2. North-central Indian city
- 3. About aviation
- 4. The sheltered side
- 5. Salem State College
- 6. Twofold
- 7. Unusually (Scott.)
- 8. Floral garland
- 9. Birthplace (abbr.)
- 10. Tooth covering
- 11. Confederate soldiers
- 12. Signing
- 13. Point midway between S and SE
- 16. Ground where each golf hole begins
- 18. A lyric poem with complex stanza forms
- 22. Atomic #73
- 23. Thin wire nail
- 24. Ancient Germanic alphabet character
- 25. Jupiter's 4th satellite
- 26. Woman's undergarment
- 28. African antelope
- 29. Afrikaans
- 30. Vietnamese offensive
- 31. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 32. Scot word for toe
- 34. Journalist Nellie
- 36. Compress
- 37. Whiskies
- 38. Feathery scarf
- 40. White clay for porcelain
- 43. Keeps in reserve
- 44. Infectious lung disease
- 46. Draws off
- 47. Chinese chess piece
- 48. Parrot's nostril opening
- 49. Once more
- 50. One from Serbia
- 51. Fleshy, bright seed appendage
- 52. Plural of os
- 53. The horned viper
- 54. Japanese apricot tree
- 55. Taxi
- 56. Bustle
- 57. Feline
- 58. Malaysian Isthmus

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| ALLERGIES | FIELDS | NATURE | SNEEZING |
| BABIES | FLOWERS | NEST | SPRING |
| BLOOM | GARDENING | OUTDOORS | SUNSHINE |
| BUDDING | HATCHING | PICNIC | SWARM |
| BUMBLEBEE | HATCHLING | POLLEN | TREES |
| CHIRPING | HIKING | RAINY | UMBRELLA |
| CLOUDS | HUMMINGBIRD | REPRODUCTION | WARMING |
| DAYTRIP | INSECTS | SCENTED | WEEDS |
| EGGS | LAWNMOWER | SEASON | WILDLIFE |

Sudoku

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!

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

Level: Intermediate

COLUMN | Willits Real Estate Today



It feels like we just made it past the holidays, and now we are already into the new year and tax filing season. I know the subject of taxes is a subject that many of us would prefer to not think about. But, it's a topic that bears mentioning, especially around the discussion of real estate.

If you are planning to do any real estate

Jake McFadden
Columnist

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truck and cell phone bills as a business deduction, that expense is counted against your realized NET income by the IRS, the state and the lender. That amount alone could kill your ability to qualify for that refinance or purchase loan that you may be planning on getting.

So, it's imperative that you consider your real estate financing goals when filing your business and/or income tax return. A good loan agent will know what you need to do to get positioned for a loan in the next 24 months. That is why I always recommend talking with a lender before you file your taxes, to find out what your personal income requirements will be when you go for that real estate loan.

You may find out that you need to restructure one or more of your business deductions to up your net income to a level to get the loan you desire. Although paying more taxes is counter-intuitive to most of us, it may be a necessary evil to get the loan you want, in order to buy or refinance your property. Also, you may find out from your tax professional that you can depreciate those expenses the following tax year and recoup some of those expenses then.

While you're talking with the loan officer, you can ask about structuring your banking and/or accounting to a format that will be easily acceptable to the lenders. They will know what the banks want to see in regards to your personal and/or business cash flows. Finally, although there may be immediate tax consequences to reducing your tax avoidance strategies in this filing season, you may find the savings that you'll realize via the low-interest-rate financing that's available right now to be an equitable trade-off, especially in the long term if you are getting a 15- or 30-year mortgage.

If you would like to know more, please contact your local accountant and real estate professionals.

[The information, terms and conditions cited are subject to change; please consult your tax professional for tax advice.]
 Jake McFadden is a lifelong member of the Willits community and a second-generation real estate professional. He may be contacted at his office on 36 South Street in Willits, or by email: jakemcfadden.mendorealetor@gmail.com.

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COLUMN | The Medicine Chest Garden

Root tea for winter weather

When cold winter temperatures arrive, it is a good time to start the day with a hot cup of roots herbal tea.

One of my favorites is burdock and roasted dandelion, a combination of roots that is delicious and healthful as well. I specifically use roasted dandelion root because the flavor is enhanced by the roasting.

Both herbs are stimulating to the liver, tonic to the kidneys, and high in iron as well as other minerals and vitamins. This rich, dark brown tea is sometimes referred to as a "coffee substitute," but not by diehard coffee drinkers! However, this tea can be added to your cup of coffee, in increasing amounts over time, if you want to reduce your coffee consumption.

Both roots are considered slightly "cooling" in nature. If you have a tendency to feel chilly, and want to drink this tea regularly, add a little grated fresh ginger root to add warmth.

Here are a few more of many possible additions and preparations:

- Milk or milk substitutes (almond, rice, hemp milks, etc.) can be added if desired.

- Sweeteners, such as honey, agave and stevia, can be added if the taste, initially, is too bitter. However, that bitter taste is part of the tonic medicine, so use just enough to make it palatable, and then over time, reduce the sweetener to zero. You may find that you learn to enjoy that healthful bitter taste, which is often missing in our Western diets.

- Peppermint leaves add a lovely, minty flavor and uplifting energy.
- Milky oat is a nerve tonic, often called "food for the nervous system."

- Nettle leaves are a nutrient-dense herb that is a whole body tonic, and specifically tonic to the adrenal glands.
- In warmer weather, the roasted dandelion and burdock combination is delicious when refrigerated and drunk cold.

Making the tea:
 Put 2 cups of cold water into a non-aluminum pot, and add 1 heaping tablespoon each of burdock and roasted dandelion roots. Add more or less to taste preference.

Bring the water to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer with the lid on for 10 to 15 minutes. Strain out the herbs.

If you are adding ginger, other roots or dried berries such as hawthorn, add them at the beginning. If you decide to add dried leaves, after the roots have been simmered, turn off the heat, add the leaves, stir them in well, put the lid back on, and let it steep for another 10 minutes. (This is called a decoction.)

Strain out the herbs and drink. To your health!

[This information is not intended to diagnose, prescribe or replace the advice of a qualified health professional.]

Upcoming classes:
 For women who want to learn more about using herbs in your life for mind, body and spirit, enrollment is underway for the Yerba Woman Herbal Apprentices Program (now celebrating its 19th year), which begins in March. (All other classes offered are open to men and women.)

To receive a brochure or to be put on the mailing list for classes, call Donna at 459-5030 or email motherland@pacfic.net.

Donna d'Terra is a Willits area herbalist who has been teaching herb classes for 25 years.

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New Officers at Little Lake Grange #670

This year's new officers at the Little Lake Grange No. 670, adorned with traditional sashes, before the start of the February Grange meeting. Front row, left to right: Beth Reidel ("Flora"), Jane McCabe ("Gatekeeper"), Kimbal Dodge ("Pomona"). Second row, left to right: Joyce Diane ("Lady Assistant Steward"), Pat Norris ("Chaplain"), and Maggie Graham ("Treasurer" and "Musician"). Third row, left to right: Amanda Senseman ("Secretary"), Karina McAbee ("Executive Committee"), Lila Ryan ("Lecturer"), Hank Strook ("Overseer"), and Michael Foley ("President"). Back row, left to right: Fred Beiberbach ("Executive Committee"), Richard Jergenson ("Executive Committee") and Mike Burgess ("Steward"). Not present: Annie Waters ("Ceres").



Furry Friends

Sweet Fuzzy

Meet Fuzzy, a 4-year-old domestic medium-hair mix, looking for love and new home. He is a very sweet and affectionate guy, and is currently living in our multi-cat colony room here at the Ukiah Animal Shelter. We think he will make a great family pet or a companion. He is already neutered and ready to go to his new home, so we hope you will come meet him or one of our other wonderful cats and kittens.

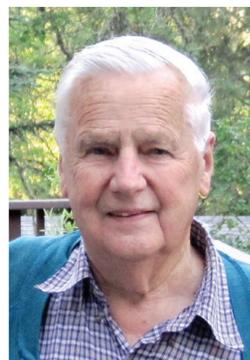
Through the month of February, we are having an adoption special for cats and kittens of all ages. The adoption fee is one cat is \$30, and for two cats adopted the same day, the adoption fee is \$50. We also have many barn cats available for free, to qualified adopters.

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. For more information, contact Adoption Coordinator Katherine Houghtby at 707-467-6453 or houghtbyk@co.mendocino.ca.us or come in during shelter hours.



Photo by Bob Gardner

OBITUARY | William Richard Schatz



William Richard Schatz of Willits died peacefully in his sleep on Saturday, February 8, 2014, at home. He was 94. He was born on April 17, 1919 in Portland, Oregon to George J. and Anna M. Schatz. A service will be held at St. John Lutheran Church, 24 Mill Creek Drive, on Saturday, February 22, 2014 at 11 am. Reception to follow.

William grew up in Portland, Oregon. There he graduated from high school, worked, married Garnie Laura Witbeck, and started a family. Having grown up in a railroad family and having worked railroad jobs, he decided to try a new adventure, working for his new step-father's garbage collection business in La Grande, Oregon. After several years there, he returned to railroading. He took a job with the Southern Pacific RR in California and soon moved his family there. After a couple of moves, the family settled in Fort Bragg, California, working and retiring

from the California Western RR. He spent his retirement years in Willits.

As a young man he loved to be outdoors. He loved to horseback ride, fly fish, duck hunt, ice skate, swim, play tennis and horseshoes, and picnic with his family. In his later years, he even took up jogging. Always a Boy Scout, he believed in volunteering and doing community service. He was a lifelong member of the Lutheran faith.

Bill is survived by his wife of 25 years, Frances, and his children, Dale Schatz, Garnie Mullen (Bob), Esther Sutphin (Joe), Ellen Schatz and Leatha Andersen. He also is survived by 11 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

We will miss Dad but rejoice in knowing that he will be reunited with his son, Larry, and his two brothers, George and Victor.

Arrangements made by Anker-Lucier Mortuary of Willits.

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Congratulations Column



Congratulations to Bettye Bays of Willits on becoming a great-great-grandmother! Her great-great-grandson Khonner Mathew Madrigal, 7 pounds, 12.5 ounces and 20 inches long, was born on February 7.



My Love Imagine that we made it this far with only some small scrapes, bruises and scars. 222 our number is true 222. O' how I love you. Happy Anniversary. Your Love.

SPARETIME SUPPLY

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Store Hours:
 August - February
 Mon - Sat: 9 am - 6 pm
 CLOSED Sunday

Thursday, February 20

Shanachie Pub: solo performance by Fort Bragg guitarist/songwriter Steven Bates. 6 pm, no cover. Visit www.myspace.com/stevenbatesmusician. 50 B South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

"Nuclear Night": presented by Now and Then Films, "Our Nuclear Nation: Radiation Concerns from Fukushima Daiichi." Excerpts from short films including "Nuclear Nation" will be shown. 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Featuring issues revolving around nuclear power in general and the Fukushima threat specifically. Discussions to include: personal radiation monitoring with Geiger counters & health measures you can take to protect yourself long-term from radiation in your body. "We hope to guide the process between false hope and scaring everyone so much that they cannot act. We don't want people to leave with a feeling of hopelessness and helplessness. In a few words: Our goal is to inform and empower." Suggested donation: \$5. Info: 459-6362.

"Flaming Idiots": a new "rollicking comedy" by English playwright Tom Rooney is the first play of the 2014 season at the Willits Community Theatre Playhouse. Directed by Damian Sebhouian, the play is about two guys who "face a serious restaurant problem": they have no customers. "Flaming Idiots" plays Thursdays (7 pm), Fridays (8 pm), Saturdays (8 pm), and Sunday, February 23 and Sunday, March 2 (2 pm) through March 2. Tickets are available in person at Goods' Shoppe in Willits, online at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/566116, or by phone at 459-0895.

Friday, February 21

"Flaming Idiots": Willits Community Theatre, see Thursday, February 20 for details.

Shanachie Pub: Darius Lux, singer/songwriter: "soulful, rockin' pop music." 8 pm, no cover. Visit www.dariuslux.com. 50 B South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, February 22

Mendocino Film Festival: "Spotlight on Willits": Willits is hosting the first event of the Mendocino Film Festival 2014 season today, featuring three film programs at the Noyo Theatre, two Q&A sessions, and a reception at the Willits Center for the Arts. The first film, at 2 pm today, is "The Horse Boy," which documents the journey to Mongolia of an autistic boy and his family seeking equine therapy. Visit www.horseboymovie.com for more info. A Q&A following the movie will be hosted at Brickhouse Coffee at Commercial and Main streets, features experts in the field of equine therapy. A program of nine short



Save the Date

Willits Educational Foundation's Drive Through Tri Tip Dinner, Friday, March 7

Guitarist David Rogers, March 8, Willits Community Theatre

Junior Class Rummage Sale, March 8, Willits Community Center

Ongoing Events

Willits Farmers Market: Winter market at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, from 3 to 5:30 pm. Winter produce, hot house tomatoes, local meats, dinner, crafts, live music (David Partch this week) and more.

Girl Scout Cookie Sales: through March 16, around town and door to door. See dates and times on page 12.

"Art in the Middle": the February show at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Features art work from Willits middle-school students. Gallery hours: Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm. Info: 459-1726.

Willits Community Drum Circle: 7 to 10 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Every 2nd and 4th Fridays. Free. Everyone is welcome. Info: 459-4932

Smoking Cessation Program: Free "Freedom from Smoking" class sponsored by the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. Every Wednesday at the HMH Conference Room, 1 Madrone Street, 6 to 7 pm. RSVP to Jennifer Barrett at 707-540-4208. Walk-ins are always 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.

Willits Frontier Twirlers: Beginner's classes in basic and mainstream square dance, Monday nights 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. Info: 459-9526.

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

Work Days for Grange School of Agricultural Arts: scheduled on many Saturdays, including February 22, 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 who RSVP by Friday each week (drop-in volunteers welcome, too). Info: Antonia Partridge at (707) 272-1395 or farmdirector@californiagrangegrange.org. More info at <http://californiagrangegrange.org/agschool/mission.html>.

Shanachie Pub: Open mic every Wednesday at 8:40 pm. Sign-ups start at 3 pm. 50 B South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Just For Fun Choir: directed and accompanied by Nancy New. Meets Mondays at the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, from 1 to 2:30 pm. Accepting new members of all ages and abilities. Info: call Nancy New at 459-1276.

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@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.

What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

"feel-good" films is set for 4 pm. The theme is communication, and the presentations are both thought-provoking and hilarious. The reception at 5:30 pm will be held at the Willits Center for the Arts and is presented by Adam's Restaurant and Shanachie Pub, featuring culinary delights, cheese and beer pairings, and a short musical performance by Schindig. The final film at 7 pm, "This Ain't No Mouse Music," follows the efforts of Chris Strachwitz of Arhoolie Records, as he captures authentic American music in its natural habitat. Visit www.nomousemusic.com for more info. Recording engineer David Silberberg will host a Q&A afterwards at the Noyo Theatre. Tickets, \$11 per film or \$20 for any one film plus the 5:30 pm reception, are available at the Noyo Theatre box office and online at BrownPaperTickets.com (keyword = "Spotlight on Willits"). Info: 707-937-0171 or visit www.MendocinoFilmFestival.org or www.facebook.com/MendocinoFilmFestival.

"Flaming Idiots": Willits Community Theatre, see Thursday, February 20 for details.

Shanachie Pub: House of Love monthly DJ night presented by Podge, featuring Gabriel Black and guest artists: "all forms of House Music from 1996 to the present, concentrating on deep, funky & groovy tunes, with some Latin & Jazz undertones as well as Electro." 9 pm, no cover. 50 B South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, February 23

Grange Pancake Breakfast: 8 to 11 am at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. "Choose our Sourdough Multigrain or Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes, Beeler's Quality Bacon, organic local farm fresh eggs made to order, real butter, juice, and organic coffee or tea." Every fourth Sunday. \$7; \$6 for seniors; \$4 for children under 10. Extra sides of organic fruit in season, applesauce, or Amish maple syrup \$1.

"Animals Are Soul, Too": Eck Worship Service at Willits City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street, at 11 am. "Do you marvel at the love connection between you and your pet? Join us at our free, non-denominational service. Everyone is welcome." Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Questions: Call April: 707-972-2475.

"Flaming Idiots": Willits Community Theatre, 2 pm matinee. See Thursday, February 20 for details.

LocalLights Presents: the inaugural concert in this series features singer/songwriter Marjo Wilson, followed by Julian and the Upside Sound. 7 pm at the Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. Tickets are \$10; \$15 for front-row seats; and \$5 for last-row seats; at Goods' Shoppe. Advance tickets to the whole series are \$45 for regular tickets and \$70 for front-row seat tickets: call David Partch, 459-7054, for info and advance tickets, or check www.willitstheatre.org/localights-at-wct-produced-by-david-partch. Marjo Wilson is a local singer/songwriter: born and raised and still living in Covelo, who has fronted the Marjo Wilson Band for many years. Marjo's music often reflects upon her home – the land, the mountains, the animals, and the people of what she fondly refers to as "the wild lands!" She sings of things like "personal freedom" and "natural born rights" with a country roots flavor, a deep sense of beat, and a rocking core. The Willits audience will be privileged to experience Marjo as a solo act ("just me and my guitar") for the first time in years. Julian and the Upside Sound features Julian McClanahan-Calvert, who recorded his first CD, "Father and Son," at age 9 and formed his own trio, The Julian Trio, in 2007. Now that he is a senior in high school, his current band (Upside Sound) has become a quintet and he has just released his fifth album. Band members include: Julian McClanahan-Calvert, violin, mandolin, vihuela, vocals; Brad McClanahan, guitars, vocals; Michael Charnes, cittern, bass, vocals; Darin Smith, cello; and Caleb Morelli, bass, banjo, accordion, etc.



Director of Friends of the Eel River, and Hog Farm resident Suzie Barsotti, an activist and member of the Trees Foundation, who promotes green growing practices. "A recent story in the New York Times and state Fish & Wildlife report that marijuana crops are threatening forests, wildlife and water through the use of pesticides as well as thousands of gallons of scarce water." Call-in number: 895-2448.

Tuesday, February 25

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: This week's Tightwad movies: "Lego Movie," "Monuments Men" and "Robocop." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

Thursday, February 27

"Do Large Marijuana Grows Threaten Water and Wildlife?": the topic today of "Mendo Matters" radio show, 9 am on KZYX Radio, 91.5 FM. Join host Paul Lambert of Willits and his guests, Scott Greacen, executive



director of Friends of the Eel River, and Hog Farm resident Suzie Barsotti, an activist and member of the Trees Foundation, who promotes green growing practices. "A recent story in the New York Times and state Fish & Wildlife report that marijuana crops are threatening forests, wildlife and water through the use of pesticides as well as thousands of gallons of scarce water." Call-in number: 895-2448.

U-JAM Exercise Event & Fitness Party: Men and woman of ages are invited to this free event, 6 to 7:15 pm at the Blosser Lane Elementary School cafeteria, 1275 Blosser Lane. Children with "actively attentive" adults are also welcome. U-JAM is a music-based dance and aerobic class, with urban, Latin, Bollywood and hip-hop beats and moves. Presented as a senior project by Willits High School seniors Emmy Heiken and Chelcee

Friday, February 28

"Grow More Food; Use Less Water," 3-day Biontensive Gardening Workshop by Ecology Action, today through March 3. The workshop includes lectures and discussion on "on Sustainability and Efficient Resource Use, Crops and Diet, Fertilization, Compost and Compost Crops, Soil Preparation and Preservation, Seed Propagation, and Income," and one afternoon of demonstration at the Common Ground Research Garden/Mini-Farm. Presenters include John Jeavons, author of "How to Grow More Vegetables: Than You Ever Thought Possible on Less Land Than You Can Imagine," and Dan and Margo Royer-Miller, biontensive farmers working in western Ohio. For more information, and to register, visit www.growbiontensive.org, or call Ecology Action at 459-0150.

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Dinners can be picked up between 4 and 6 pm at the Willits Rodeo Grounds on East Commercial Street. Tickets are available at Cat's Meow and the Goods' Shoppe, by calling Warren Lewis at 459-4429, or through Linda Colvig, Joan Thomas, Anne Hammond, Mike Colvig and George Husarek at the schools. Ticket deliveries happily arranged.

Willits Weekly wants to list your event or special meeting for free in our Calendar! Email details (date, time, location, contact info, cost if any) to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Send us your digital photos or graphics as well (higher resolution photos are best). There is no charge for promoting Willits, Laytonville or Covelo events in Willits Weekly's calendar.

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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, February 27, at 6 pm, at Willits City Hall, 111 East 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.

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, no cover and free-form jamming. Every 2nd and 4th Thursday, 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

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Spaggiari. Info: 841-0498

Water-Wise Forum: "How to Grow Food & Plants in a Drought" at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, 7 pm. Short presentations and shared discussion on using or re-using water in local food production in local gardens and small farms in this drought. No charge. Presenters: Dave & Jenny Watts of Sanhedrin Nursery, on "specific plant water needs, prioritizing your garden water use"; David & Ursula Partch on "permaculture saves water!"; DripWorks on "drip irrigation, volume meters, timers"; John Jeavons of Ecology Action on "biontensive water saving, soil building & planting methods"; Jamie Chevalier of Bountiful Gardens on "understanding water needs per plant for best results"; Alan Adkisson on "mycelium: the use of effective microorganisms for added drought resistance in soil & crops; Larry Desmond on "our local water sources & water geology"; Max Meyers on "aquaponics can save water"; Michael Foley, president of the Willits Grange, on: "local food report from the Farmer's Guild"; Ann Waters, California State Grange program director, on "introduction to hugelkultur and olla jars." "We have invited merchants and community members with drought-tolerant seeds, plants, shower savers, drip lines, water purifiers and more to show and tell." To get a table for your water-related goods, call: 459-6362. "Bring your wild and crazy ideas on re-using water: what is working for your household?" Strips of butcher paper will be placed along the Grange hallway for your input." Co-sponsored by Little Lake Grange and WELL. Info: 459-6362.

The Mendocino County Museum Road Show: An old-fashioned traveling variety show bringing county history to life in stories and song, debuts in Willits. 7:30 pm at Willits High School, 299 North Main Street. Doors open at 6:30 pm, with a gallery show of related exhibits to view in the lobby. Tickets are \$15 adults; \$10 youth 6-20; discounts for group purchases. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details. For more info, visit www.mendocinomuseumroadshow.org or call the museum at 459-2736.

Shanachie Pub: Shawn Coleman, rock / acoustic / blues from Redwood Valley, 8 pm. No cover. Visit: www.reverbnation.com/shawncoleman. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, March 1

Shanachie Pub: Savannah Fuentes Flamenco. 8 pm. \$15. "El Sol de Medianoche, Flamenco en Vivo": a night of powerful Spanish Flamenco music and dance featuring Seattle dancer Savannah Fuentes, Singer Curro Cueto of Seville, and guitarist Jose Vega of Cadiz. Visit: <http://www.savannahfuentes.com>. 75 seats. Tickets at: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/562206>.

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Every Drop Counts

Photos by Doug Pollard

Brooktrails photographer Doug Pollard caught these lovely images in his garden after last Thursday's rain.

"You know how it is with gardens at this time of year," Pollard said. "It's all kind of bleak. You're not looking to find the beautiful flowers I often like to photograph.... But there they were, these glistening reflections. When you look for these tiny little signs of life that are happening, it's such a kick."

Pollard took these photos with a digital camera on a tripod, a Nikon D 7000, with a Tokina 100 mm lens "designed for macro work or portraiture," he said. "For these particular shots, I added a little supplemental Nikon close-up lens. I had fun, experimenting with going beyond 1 to 1 in terms of the macro."

But, Pollard says, he's "not so much into the technical

level." He uses his photography "as a way of getting myself out in nature, which is what I really love, natural beauty, art in nature. I try to reflect it and get into a meditation, as far as seeing things, like with the drops of rain.

"It gets me connected, and reminds me of the bigger picture, the beauty within and all around us that we can see. I like to share that. I hope the vision of seeing that way helps other people go look for it: there's so many things to find."

Pollard's cards are for sale at Mariposa Market, Goods' Shoppe and Ace Copy here in Willits, and at Ukiah Natural Foods in Ukiah. Pollard does photography for the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens in Fort Bragg, and



has been part of the Mendocino Arts Council. He's done a number of shows, and he sells prints, too. His prints and cards are available at several outlets on the coast: the Mendocino Art Center, where he had a show last April, and at Icons and The Highlight Gallery in Mendocino, and at the Botanical Gardens, too.



Wanted: Old West Characters



Above: The 2013 Black Bart Gunfighters pose together after their performance at Willits Frontier Days.

Right: Blanks are fired from the rifles for the show, but the sound of the "Bang!" is real as can be! Far right: Madame Molly in costume.

Photos by Maureen Moore

Black Bart Gunfighters seeking new members

Black Bart Gunfighters want you! The fun-loving group of Willits residents who've been providing authentic Western entertainment for more than 40 years now is seeking new members.

"We have a lot of long-time members," said group secretary Emily Broadus (she plays schoolmarm "Missouri Jane"), "but we really want to get the young people involved.

"It's keeping the old West alive," she said, "but we're out there having fun, too. We do a lot of laughing. We like to entertain people, but also open their eyes to what it was really like back then."

All the gunfighters emphasize the "fun" part: I've been in the group now for a number of years," said Al "Crusty" Robinson. "It's good fun. The expressions on the kids' faces and how they react, kind of spurs you on to do more. Every year I keep saying this is going to be my last, then I see the faces of the kids, and I don't think I'll ever quit."

The Black Bart Gunfighters perform multiple times during the week-long Frontier Days celebration in Willits, but the group also puts on shows at the KOA Campground every other weekend in the summer, and performs elsewhere in California, too.

"We did the Fort Bragg Rodeo [Shoreline Rodeo] last year for the first year," Robinson said. "We've performed in Manteca, in Redding, Red Bluff, Turlock, you name it, we'll go,"

Read the rest of **Black Bart** Over on Page 11



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Coming Saturday, 2/22 Mendocino Film Festival Spotlight on Willits

LEGO MOVIE

(PG)
1hr 40mins

Friday: 5:30 & 7:45pm
Saturday:
12:45 & 3:00pm
Sunday: 1:00,
3:15, 5:30 & 7:45pm
Mon-Thurs: 5:30 & 7:45pm

Times for 2/21/14 - 2/27/14

MONUMENTS MEN

(PG 13)
1hr 58mins

Friday: 4:45 & 7:30pm
Saturday: 5:15 & 7:45pm
Sunday:
1:30, 4:45 & 7:30pm
Mon-Thurs:
4:45 & 7:30pm
(Monday 4:45 show is open caption)

ROBOCOP

(PG13)
1hr 58mins

Friday: 8:00pm
Sat/Sun: 2:45,
5:15 & 8:00pm
Mon-Thurs:
5:15 & 8:00pm

This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5

The rest of Sacramento From Page 1

the City of Willits to make some changes to improve our situation."

With Willits water coming to town through one major water line, a major earthquake could mean water issues for the City of Willits, just as the driest year recorded in Willits records has done.

Madrigal thanked the Department of Public Health and other agencies that have been helping Willits put together a plan to identify and supply back-up water, using irrigation wells and a second water treatment plant. "The plan we've come up with has is really going to serve us well into the future," she said, and Willits is on target to move forward with the plan. "I'm very confident that we will be able to get off that Vulnerable Communities list that you've been looking at, and I'm really looking forward to that," Madrigal said.

But, the challenge at this point is funding. "As with many small municipalities, we do not have the funding to be able to complete this plan," Madrigal told committee members. "This is outside our normal budget system.... We're really looking to our regional partners and our friends here at the state to help us meet that need."

Madrigal also noted that the

economic impacts of the drought on local agriculture and ranches are yet to be felt.

Madrigal and City Manager Moore also talked about how Willits residents had stepped up to conserve water, with Moore going through the timeline of how the city has implemented first voluntary and then mandatory conservation measures. Moore talked, also, about funding sources for the nearly \$2.1 million project.

"We were very pleased and very fortunate to be awarded the first grant in the state, \$250,000, for funding" the emergency water project, and "we are also pursuing a \$500,000 grant from USDA, but in total that's \$750,000, which falls extremely short of the cost of the project.

"Whatever we don't cover with grant funds," Moore continued, "we will be looking for a low or no-cost loan, such as through USDA but, again, that will come back on our ratepayers."

The February 18 hearing can be streamed online at http://calchannel.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=7&clip_id=1821.

The rest of Black Bart From Page 10

including private parties, weddings, birthday celebrations and special events.

The gunfighters perform skits, but they also mingle with the crowd, staying in character, before and after the shows.

It's important to the group that their costumes and characters are authentic: no plastic shoes or zippers, for example; everything the characters wear and use as props should be as it was in the late 1800s. Any old West characters are welcome, played by men, women and even children over 9 years of age who perform with their families, including barkeeps, traveling preachers, school marms, bootleggers, gunfighters, dance hall ladies, cowboys, good guys and bad guys, sheriff's marshals and pioneers.

The group will help new members develop their characters and find costume items and props. "A lot can be bought at Goodwill and places like that, and a lot can be made over," Robinson said. "Vendors that deal in old-time costumes are expensive."

"We have lots of resources that we share with people," Broadus said, "to help them put their costumes together, to learn how to wear their hair and their hats: nothing modern-day."

The group, of course, is named after the famed Black Bart, the "gentleman bandit," who robbed Wells Fargo stagecoaches in Mendocino County and across Northern California between 1875 and 1883.

Gun safety is an important part of the Black Bart Gunfighters group: Each member who handles guns goes through gun safety training, and the group starts every show with a gun safety demonstration.

Black Bart Gunfighters are a nonprofit group, and any funds raised are used for local scholarships.

Now is a good time to think about becoming a Black Bart Gunfighter, with time to get costumes ready and to practice skills before the busy season starts up again this summer. Anyone interested in joining or finding out more can send a message via the Black Bart Gunfighters' website: www.blackbartgunfighters.com, call Robinson at 459-3409, or drop by one of the meetings, held on the third Wednesday of every month. The next meeting is March 19, at 6 pm, at Old Mission Pizza.

Here I lay me down to sleep To wait the coming mornow, Perhaps success, perhaps defeat, And everlasting sorrow. Let come what will, I'll try it on, My condition can't be worse; And if there's money in that box 'Tis munny in my purse.

— Black Bart
A poem left at the site of Black Bart's July 25, 1878 holdup of a stage traveling from Quincy to Oroville.

The rest of Water From Page 1

Joe Ziemann of Water Works Engineers. Ziemann's firm has assisted city engineers working on the project.

Councilwoman Madge Strong feels the city should stave off using the Park well, or drilling a new well, as long as possible.

Engineers have not picked a location for the new well, but water from it may not be any better than that from the Park well.

The Elias well, an artisan well with an agricultural history, produces water that would only need to be treated for manganese – a secondary contaminant that could stain laundry and tiles if left untreated. However, engineers said Elias well water can be used as drinking water.

"We do not need to run the town 100 percent on these wells," Councilman Bruce Burton notes. The Elias well alone could provide about 75 percent of the water the city needs.

Arsenic and manganese

The city says test water test results from the Park well show levels of arsenic at 120 parts per billion. At public meetings, engineers stated the California Department of Public Health's drinking water standards allow for 10 ppb of arsenic.

Both wells are high in manganese: the Park well tested at 3,300 ppb and Elias registered 2,000 ppb of manganese, the city states.

The city says the Park well also shows 1,900 ppb of iron in its water.

The Willits' 2012 Consumer Confidence Report, issued in June 2013, lists levels of contaminants in the city's water like aluminum, fluoride and haloacetic acids.

Arsenic is not on the report's list of water contaminants from the city's two reservoirs south of town.

Good for the town?

The new water treatment plant will cost the city about \$2 million. Completion of the plant would provide several boons to the community, including an emergency water supply in case of natural disaster, such as an earthquake ... or another drought.

"We have a good opportunity now, so we do not have to go through this again," Councilman Ron Orenstein says.

Councilman Larry Stranske sees a chance to rebuild a city water tank on Baechtel Road, if the tank can be bypassed for the duration of construction. "This is a good situation, and I think it will make our community a better community."

The California Department of Public Health came through last week with \$250,000 in funding for the project.

The city's water fund has about \$1.3 million, fill-in Financial Director Gordon Elton said during a previous briefing.

The rest of Huffman From Page 1

Delivery Act was introduced into the House on January 29 and passed on February 5 while California languished in the unrelenting grip of the worst drought in the state's history.

The bill was opposed by California Governor Jerry Brown, Attorney General Kamala Harris and Secretary of Natural Resources John Laird. The Executive Office of the White House also criticized the bill, saying it "undermines years of collaboration between local, state and federal stakeholders to develop a sound water quality control plan for the Bay-Delta." According to a statement from the White House Executive Office, if the bill becomes law, the president's senior advisors will urge him to veto it.

The rest of Soup From Page 1

the prize for "Best Table Decorations."

Sip Some Soup organizer Cindy Savage, the director at Willits Daily Bread, said the event raised close to \$5,000, with about \$1,500 coming from the silent auction. This is the second year Sip Some Soup has had a silent auction. "It's really nice that the community businesses donated items like they did," she said. Savage also thanked "everybody who came and all the contestants for supporting Willits Daily Bread," as well as the 7th Day Adventist Church for providing cookie and brownies and Tam Adams and the Emandal crew for the bread and jam.

List of the 19 contestants: Ken Knight, Pizza Soup; Frank R Howard Memorial Hospital, Tortilla Bisque; Mendocino County Museum, Coconut Curry Chicken Soup; Tam's Soup of the Week,

Huffman spoke out against the bill, and tried several legislative maneuvers to defang it, both of which failed.

"If signed into law," he said, "HR3964 would elevate junior water rights above the needs of the North Coast, putting at risk the environment, fisheries and the fishermen that rely on them, as well as tribal water rights and fishing. It would bring chaos, conflict and uncertainty to California water politics at the worst possible time."

After approval in the House, the bill moved to the Senate. An internet website associated with the House of Representatives predicted HR3964 currently has a 28 percent chance of becoming law.

The rest of Properties From Page 1

resident running around to get information, only to move his light manufacturing plans to Southern California.

Councilmembers shared some of their business experiences and philosophies:

Councilman Larry Stranske says the city council needs to look at the out-of-pocket expenses facing new businesses.

Stranske and his wife, Virginia, run a jewelry shop downtown and had been in business before they reopened Kimberly's last year.

"The original cost to people starting a business is absolutely really high," Stranske said. "You have a whole lot put into it before you get anything."

Councilman Bruce Burton co-owns Willits Redwood Company located near the corner of Franklin Street and Blosser Lane.

"It is not about trying to get someone else to

do it – do it yourself," Burton said.

Councilwoman Madge Strong suggested finding demand for supplies locally and finding out what the local economy's needs and wants are.

Madrigal's project, the Manufacturing Resource Catalog, was put together with help from April Tweddell, part-time City Planner Alan Falleri, Building Inspector John Sherman, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lynn Kennelly, and Lynn Dee Johnson. The list names parcel numbers with information like: is the property available or unavailable, ownership, zoning, water, and shop space ... if there is any.

To view the list for yourself, navigate the internet to the City of Willits website and download the agenda for the February 12 council meeting.

The rest of Results From Page 9

•Most Mechanically or Technologically Creative Experiment in Grades 6-8: Bridgette Bjorklund, Grade 3, Willits Elementary Charter School

• Most Regionally or Seasonally Appropriate Experiment: Saul Vazquez Cendejas, "Resources! Who Cares?," Grade 12, Willits High School

Award Sponsor: California Forestry and Vegetation Management

Prize: Gift Card
• Excellence in Science (tree or plant related): Christian Erickson & Nick Karkar, "Green = Clean," Grade 5 Blosser Lane Elementary

Award Sponsor: The Flower Lady

Prize: Gift Certificate
• Excellence in Science: Room 27, Mrs. Southard's Class

Award Sponsor: Curves

Prize: Merchandise and Gift Certificate
• Excellence in Science: Delayna Cortis, "Chemistry of Baking: Can You Make Your Own Baking Powder?," Grade 9, Willits Charter School

Award Sponsor: PG&E

Prize: Hats
Excellent Electricity Related Projects:
• Hunter Paris, "Solar Energy," Grade 3, Brookside Elementary

Award Sponsor: J.D. Redhouse

Prize: Ice cream gift certificate
Excellence in Science:
• Aleen Hernandez, "Cabbage

Chemistry," Grade 5, Blosser Lane Elementary
• Daniel Lacount, "Can Morning Dew on Grass Predict Rain?," Grade 3, Willits Elementary Charter School

• Omar Bahallo, "A Nail or Screw, Which Is Better?," Grade 3, Willits Elementary Charter School

• Shelby Rose Bowen, "Red Green or Blue - Do You Have a Clue?," Grade 3, Brookside Elementary

• Grant Forrester, "Now You See It - Now You Don't," Grade 3, Brookside Elementary

• Devin Johnson, "Traveling Submarines," Grade 3, Sherwood School

• Jessica Holland, "Dog 'Poop Bag' Test," Grade 4, Blosser Lane Elementary

• Sheridan Wood, "Dropped Padded Egg Protection," Grade 3, Brookside Elementary School

• Zannah Sischo-Haendle, "Quartz Magic," Grade 5, Willits Elementary Charter School

• Loni Smith, "Sticky," Grade 4, Blosser Lane Elementary School

• Conan Campbell, "Slinkly vs. Angle," Grade 8, Baechtel Grove Middle School

• Devon Difazio & Josh Redding, "Food Power," Grade 5, Sherwood School

Award Sponsor: Padula Ranches

Prize: Gift Card
• Stephany Brundage, "Purple Madness," Grade 8, Willits Charter School

Award Sponsor: Elmac Industries

Prize: Gift Card
• Project with "Good Science"
• Alyssa Fraser & Jada Smith, "Breaking Glass," Grade 5, Blosser Lane Elementary School

Award Sponsor: Sara Hanna Consulting

Prize: Cash Prize
• Outstanding project in Environmental Science or Natural Resources
• Jessica Holland, "Dog 'Poop Bag' Test," Grade 4, Blosser Lane Elementary School
• Alexis Krauss & Emily Pinnell-Stewart, "HELP! Haloacetic Acid," Grade 12, Willits Charter School

Award Sponsor: Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic

Prize: Gift Card
• Jack Buckingham, "Peep This," Grade 3, Brookside Elementary School
• Sky Aragon, "A Candle in a Jar," Grade 5, Willits Elementary School
• Stormie Fischbach, "Lemon, Lemon," Grade 4, Blosser Lane Elementary School

• Helena Rooney, "The Nut Butter Dog Experiment," Grade 3, Brookside Elementary School

• Jeremy Cortis, "Battery Test," Grade 3, Brookside Elementary School

Award Sponsor: Baechtel Creek Medical Clinic

Prize: Gift Card
• Genevieve VanMeter Owens, "Should We Drink Our City Water?," Grade 5, Willits Elementary School
• Lauren Van Pelt, "Video Game Exercise" Grade 6, Willits Charter School
• Maddy Hoagland & Kaira Mora, "Static Electricity with Balloons," Grade 3, Brookside Elementary School



Scouts!

Boy Scouts keep flags flying, and Girl Scouts cookie sales are in full swing

Boy Scouts:

The boys were out on Monday, February 17 displaying and collecting the American flags which lined Main Street in honor of Presidents Day.

Donations are also accepted by the Boy Scouts for the flag program, and locally owned Yokum's Body Shop was proud to donate funds to the group to help the continuation of the program. This year's donation should allow the group to purchase three new flags.

"We've been donating for around 20 years," explained Bobbie Yokum. "It's a wonderful program."

Yokum's Body Shop's Johnnieann Johnstone noted that she thought the flags really "make the community look so nice," and that the program and the Boy Scouts really help "teach the kids respect and keeps the tradition going for our community."

The flags go out on the street for national holidays. Anyone wishing to donate to the flag fund can call Scoutmaster Verd VanBezoooyen at 489-5364.

Girl Scouts:

The outside verandas of many local businesses have been dotted recently with green tablecloths and the patch-filled vests of Girl Scouts selling their famous cookies. The sale is running from now until March 16. Boxes are \$5 each.

Yokum's Body Shop, wanting to support the Girl Scouts equally, said they would support all the girls who come to the shop selling cookies.

At right is a schedule of where each troop plans to sell at varying locations. This calendar can also be found online at www.ilovecookies.org.



Above left: Assistant Scoutmaster Roger Wear poses with Boy Scouts Josh Wear, 14, Levi Scaggs, 12, and Tristan Wartell, 10, all of Troop 42.

Above right: Troop 42 Boy Scout Ryan Miltmore, 11, holds a flag.

Left: Scoutmaster Verd VanBezoooyen helps Miltmore load up the last of the flags collected Monday evening.

Below: Mariah Rodriguez pulls her cookie cart.

Second down: 2013 sellers Brieana Evans, Crissy Evans and Jasmine Wear.

Thursday, February 20
Safeway of Willits
Troop 91121 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Troop 10256 9:00am - 12:00pm
Troop 10256 12:00pm - 3:00pm
Old Mission Pizza
Troop 10151 2:00pm - 5:00pm
Troop 10151 5:00pm - 8:00pm
Troop 10286 11:00am - 2:00pm

Friday, February 21
Safeway of Willits
Troop 10286 12:00pm - 3:00pm
Troop 10256 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Troop 91121 9:00am - 12:00pm
Old Mission Pizza
Troop 10151 2:00pm - 5:00pm
Troop 10151 5:00pm - 8:00pm
Main Street Music
Troop 10151 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Saturday, February 22
Safeway of Willits
Troop 91121 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Troop 10286 12:00pm - 3:00pm
Main Street Music
Troop 10286 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Sunday, February 23
Safeway of Willits
Troop 10735 9:00am - 12:00pm
Troop 10286 12:00pm - 3:00pm

Thursday, February 27
Scoops
Troop 91121 3:00pm - 6:00pm

Friday, February 28
Safeway of Willits
Troop 91121 3:00pm - 6:00pm

Saturday, March 1
Safeway of Willits
Troop 10735 9:00am - 12:00pm
Troop 10151 12:00pm - 3:00pm
Troop 10151 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Tower Mart
Troop 91121 10:00am - 3:00pm

Main Street Music
Troop 10286 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Sunday, March 2
Safeway of Willits
Troop 91121 9:00am - 12:00pm
Troop 10735 12:00pm - 3:00pm

Thursday, March 6
Scoops
Troop 91121 3:00pm - 6:00pm

Friday, March 7
Safeway of Willits
Troop 91121 3:00pm - 6:00pm

Saturday, March 8
Safeway of Willits
Troop 91121 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Troop 10735 9:00am - 12:00pm
Troop 10286 12:00pm - 3:00pm

Sunday, March 9
Safeway of Willits
Troop 10735 12:00pm - 3:00pm

Thursday, March 13
Scoops
Troop 91121 3:00pm - 6:00pm

Friday, March 14
Safeway of Willits
Troop 91121 3:00pm - 6:00pm

Saturday, March 15
Safeway of Willits
Troop 91121 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Troop 10735 9:00am - 12:00pm
Troop 10286 12:00pm - 3:00pm
Tower Mart
Troop 91121 10:00am - 3:00pm

Sunday, March 16
Old Mission Pizza
Troop 10286 11:00am - 2:00pm
Troop 10735 12:00pm - 3:00pm



Left: Cecilia Cramer of Troop 10286 holds Thin Mints.

Above: Courtney and Cecily Potter and Charley Lamprich sell cookies at Safeway of Willits.

Second above: Annie Romberg and Kira Wear sell cookies at Main Street Music.



Imagination Station

Preschool/Childcare Center

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Hours: Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
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Drop in for a tour!

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* TIRES * OIL CHANGE * TUNE-UP * ALIGNMENT *
* FRONT ENDS * BRAKES * ENGINE REPAIR *

Adam's TIRE & AUTO SERVICE CENTER 707 459-4626

Fax: 707 459-1607 Adam Meza, Owner
230 Shell Lane Willits, CA 95490



"Animals Are Soul, Too"

You are invited to an Eckankar Worship Service this Sunday, February 23, at 11 a.m. Willits City Hall
111 E. Commercial Street, Willits
Free, non-denominational service.

Everyone welcome.

Sponsored by Eckankar:
Experience the Light and Sound of God

Questions? Call April, 707-972-2475



Mariposa Market

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