

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

By donation

State cites city for violating water standards

Zack Cinek
Reporter
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The California Department of Public Health has issued a citation to the city for violating drinking water standards following a July test.

The CDPH cited the city for its levels of haloacetic acid. Under CDPH regulations, a tank at Walker Road is sampled and tested quarterly, according to a City Hall memo.

Results from a recent test are under the limit, but will still result in a citation, due to being averaged with the July test.

The problem is not just local, but is statewide, Water Plant Supervisor J.C. England said. "We are keeping tabs; this is a warning before something can get really bad."

In a public notice, the city stated "a major challenge is how to control and limit risks from pathogens and minimize disinfection byproduct formation at the same time. Disinfection byproducts tend to be highest during the warmest time of year, or during periods of long detention times in storage tanks."

The location of the site is a "worst-case scenario" for the city, according to CDPH. "It is closest to the plant, but it is farthest away," England said. "It is kind of keeping water in the system a little bit too long."

Willits City Council members voted unanimously last week to combine the two citations, an action City Hall says the CDPH will accept.

The city plans to release a public notice to water customers, schools, rental property owners or managers, and business property owners, managers or operators in the next few days.

"We have already drank the water, and that is what it breaks down to," Councilman Larry Stranske said.

A memo from the city manager and the head of the water system says the water is safe to drink: "It is important to clarify that this does not pose an acute health risk, and is not an emergency. Citizens do not need to boil their water or take other corrective actions. If there are any specific health concerns, citizens are advised to consult their doctors," the memo states.

The city will be working to make its water better. "Nothing is a complete cure-all – you kind of have to attack it from a lot of different angles," England said.

City Manager Adrienne Moore said the city will



Pumpkin Party

Kaleb and Aybrie, two of the youngest of the J.D. Redhouse family, were hard at work Tuesday, practicing their pumpkin-carving (and eating!) skills in preparation for Friday's

Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration in downtown Willits

The public is encouraged to come and vote on the best pumpkins and enjoy all the other festivities from 4 to 8 pm on Friday.

Counter-clockwise from top:

Ashtan Bloomquist, Aybrie, 4 months, Kaleb, 6, and Jake Whitehurst plan out their pumpkin carving for J.D. Redhouse.

Kaleb shows off a handful of successfully scraped pumpkin goo and seeds.

Aybrie (left) intently watched Kaleb and Jake (right) work on the pumpkin.

Aybrie gets her first taste of pumpkin from mom Ashtan, and seems to have found new appreciation for the fall holiday.

Jake teaches Kaleb how to follow the pattern with the kid-friendly carver.

Photos by Maureen Moore



County, Ukiah to seek tax-sharing agreement

Both the Ukiah City Council and the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors have appointed representatives to a joint ad hoc committee to negotiate a tax-sharing agreement between the two jurisdictions.

Supervisors John McCowan and Dan Hamburg will represent the county; Mayor Doug Crane and Councilman Phil Baldwin will represent the City of Ukiah.

The decision was made October 8 at a joint meeting of the two bodies held in the Ukiah Conference Center.

Mike A'Dair
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The tax-sharing agreement under discussion will presumably find some way to divide sales tax and transit occupancy revenues that are generated in a still-to-be-determined area that would include part or all of

Ukiah, and/or part or all of the county land that is located within Ukiah's sphere of influence.

Apparently, the siren call of the tax sharing agreement is visionary enough to excite the passions of progressives, and idealistic enough to

excite the fears of conservatives. Veteran politicians and supporters of "smart growth" see a tax-sharing agreement as a way to de-fiscalize planning decisions.

Second District Supervisor John McCowan implied having an agreement was almost a prerequisite of good planning.

"I believe if we have an agreement, we can avoid the poor planning decisions of the past," he said.

Willits Mayor Holly Madrigal, the

Read the rest of Tax-sharing | Over on Page 11



Willits Weekly editor Jennifer Poole, left, and The Willits News publisher Debbie Clark hold "Yes on Measure I" yard signs at the Willits Firehouse Friday. See page 2 for Willits Weekly's endorsement of Measure I. Also, stop by the firehouse Friday evening during the Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration for yard signs and brochures or to talk with firefighters about Measure I.

Photos by Maureen Moore

Edition No. 25

Trustee candidates address school district issues

Jennifer Poole
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Questionnaire:

As there will be no forum for the public to hear candidates for the Willits Unified School District board of trustees in the upcoming November 5 election, Willits Weekly sent a questionnaire to all the candidates: incumbents Cynthia Carni, Bob Harper and Chris Neary, and challenger Laurie Harris. There are three seats up for election. Below are the candidates' answers, edited slightly for length and clarity.

Question 1: Motivation: Why are you running for election/re-election?

Cynthia Carni: I am running for reelection because I value education and our community. Working on a board with the students' best interests in mind is a rewarding and enriching experience. And there constantly is much to learn and many ways to help!

Bob Harper: Because for the last 12 years, we've cut the budget every year, program after program, laying off lots of employees. And now it looks as if the state is going to help us have a balanced budget within a year or two, maybe sooner. So I want to be part of putting things back.

Laure Harris: I believe the district is in real trouble; we need to change the way things have been done in the past.

Chris Neary: I believe I can assist the district to get through the financial crisis created by the 2010 bond measure, which has consequences which threaten the district's financial stability.

Question 2: School bonds: Looking back, could you give a general comment on the school bond scenario, whether or not you were on the board at the time?

Bob Harper: I was on the board, and I think we need to keep the promise that we made: we estimated the tax rate on the average bill to be \$29 for every \$100,000 of assessed evaluation. It turns out that's not what happened, with the real estate values going down instead of rising. My proposal is to not sell any more bonds until assessed values come up high enough to support them.

Laurie Harris: I think the bond was misrepresented and mismanaged, and we will all be paying for this for a long time.

Read the rest of Candidates | Over on Page 11

Vote 'Yes' on Measure I

EDITORIAL | Willits Weekly

Willits Weekly and The Willits News agree: the Little Lake Fire Protection District needs a new firehouse. If passed, Measure I, the fire tax measure on the November 5 ballot, will give community residents the opportunity to borrow construction monies – at a low fixed-interest rate of 3.75 percent – from the USDA Rural Development Fund.

The extra tax assessment to pay back these borrowed funds is \$14 a unit, with the average property owner paying \$28 for their lot/parcel and their home. That's less than 8 cents a day.

The term of the loan, 40 years, is longer than a typical 30-year loan: but, unlike the

school bond debt, this loan can be paid off early, and civic-minded residents can help do that by donating a little extra toward the repayment fund every year.

Not only is the existing firehouse too small (the district's 38.6 foot ladder truck can't fit in its facility's bays and has to be kept at the Baechtel Road station), and the Fire Rescue unit had to be specially made to fit, it is not earthquake-safe.

The North Coast hasn't had a major earthquake for a long time, but it could come any day. If emergency personnel were unable to access fire engines or equipment quickly due to a crumbled building after an

earthquake, lives could be lost.

Right now, the firehouse engines exit on Commercial Street. Fire Chief Carl Magann says sometimes the traffic is backed up so far east of the light, the engines can't get through right away. The new firehouse, although built on the same lot, with only 2,700 square feet of added space, will have bays that exit on Humboldt Street.

That existing lot is not very large: the architect who drew up plans for the new \$3.2 million facility says it's the smallest footprint he's had to work with for a new firehouse. But it's important to have fire and rescue equipment close to downtown,

recreation facilities and schools.

Borrowing money for any purpose is always expensive. One calculation shows property owners in the district will pay a total of \$2.24 million in interest on the \$2.4 million that Measure I would authorize the district to borrow. But the Little Lake Fire District, with 10,000 "units" in 360 square miles, needs a modern firehouse that better meets 21st century needs.

Measure I has to get two-thirds of the vote to pass. Willits Weekly urges voters to vote yes on Measure I on November 5.

What do YOU think?

Yes on Measure I

To the Editor:

Election Day, November 5, is right around the corner, and Measure I needs your support. Do not think that because there are not many items on the ballot that your vote is not needed.

Voting YES on Measure I will allow a temporary special tax for the construction of a new Willits Fire Station. This improvement is badly needed. Our current firehouse is seismically out of date and way too small for our current equipment. Some engines and equipment cannot even be stored in the current firehouse because they do not fit!

The safety and efficiency of our Fire Station is what allows our first responders to properly serve our community. When emergencies occur, we do not want our firefighters dealing with an inadequate building. After an earthquake, what if the fire doors jammed? Our community should not take that risk.

The Little Lake Fire Department has been hard at work raising over \$1.3 million dollars for construction, but now they need our support to get it done. They have made the project more modest and have sought every way to lower the cost. They know that our community is not wealthy and so they are making every dollar count.

This temporary tax will sunset when the money is raised to pay off the USDA construction loan for the new Fire Station. Please join me in supporting our firefighters and ensuring the safety of all residents for years to come. Please vote YES on Measure I.

Mayor Holly Madrigal, Willits

Yes on Measure I

To the Editor:

By now, all registered voters should have received their sample ballot, and mail-in voters should have received their "Vote By Mail" ballot. A very important ballot measure is in front of all the voters within the boundaries of the Little Lake/Willits Fire District.

Measure I is a critical ballot measure. The Little Lake Fire Department's main building is over 60 years old and could fail during the next sizable earthquake. Measure I is a temporary Special Tax Measure that would raise property taxes for single-family residences approximately \$28 per year.

The funds raised can only be used to build the new building. The elected members of the fire district's Board of Directors have been planning for a replacement building for over 10 years and have placed over \$800,000 in a reserve fund to get the project started. The new building will allow the district's ladder truck to be housed at the North Station, which is critical for commercial building, school and apartment protection. The overall cost of the new structure is estimated to be \$3,400,000.

Living in a fire district where the vast majority of our brave firefighters are volunteers, will you please join me in voting

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.



Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

Volume 1, Number 25
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Above: Miss Dawn's Room Kindergarten class.

Below: Brookside students Sydney, left, and her friend, Tula, at the wheel.

Bottom: Shaili, left, and Luis from Brookside Elementary School.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

Fire safety and fun

Brookside students enjoy a trip to the Willits firehouse

Four Kindergarten and first-grade classes from Brookside Elementary School walked down to the Willits Fire Department for visits on Wednesday and Thursday last week.

"Anybody been to the firehouse before?" asked Little Lake Fire Protection District training officer Chris Wilkes to members of Mrs. Morgan's K/1 class Thursday morning. Lots of hands went up. "Are we going to go on to the fire trucks?" asked one seasoned young visitor. "Yes, for sure," Wilkes replied. But a "lecture," a video, and some test questions came first.

These kids know a lot more about fire safety than us older folks did at their age, thanks to information offered at the schools, "lots of information online" provided by the National Fire Protection Association, and visits like this to the fire station. When asked if they knew what they should do if their clothes caught on fire, many enthusiastic kids shouted back, "Stop, drop and roll!"

Read the rest of [Fire Safety](#) | Over on Page 9

Smoke alarms do save lives

The Little Lake Firefighters Association, with the help of other local organizations, is once again providing free battery changes, smoke detector installations and home fire inspections this fall. On November 2, between the hours of 10 am to 2 pm, uniformed representatives from the Little Lake Firefighters Association will be available to visit the homes of fire district residents with replacement batteries and smoke detectors.

If you are a resident living in our district or know someone who would benefit from this service, please call the Little Lake Fire Protection District office at 459-6271 to schedule a free appointment. Although this program is designed for our community's seniors and disadvantaged families with young children, we will provide assistance where we can.

Landlords and property managers are urged to make sure their tenants are properly protected and that required smoke detectors are in proper working order. Tenants are asked to request assistance through their landlords.

To learn more about the Little Lake Fire District's local fire detector campaign activities, call 459-6271.



Tires LES SCHWAB

Peace of Mind Tire Protection

- Free Flat Tire Repairs
- Free Tire Rotations
- Free Tire Rebalancing
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We're celebrating our 6th Anniversary!

HOMETOWN CELEBRATION & ANNIVERSARY SALE

Sale Dates: Friday October 18, Saturday, October 19 & Sunday, October 20

Winter Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-6:00, Saturday 10:00-6:00, Sunday 10:00-4:00

FISKARS \$11.99 ea or \$9.99 ea when you buy a case of 6

RAIN GEAR & MUCK BOOTS

15% OFF Rain Gear & Muck Boots

TOYS & GIFTS

25% OFF Toys & Gifts

CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR

30% OFF Clothing & Footwear

TREATS & SWEET SHOP

Savory Pot Pies are back!

SEASONAL FUDGE FLAVORS

Pumpkin Cheesecake
Dark Chocolate Orange
Pumpkin Praline
Peppermint

BUY ONE POUND, GET A HALF POUND FREE

Fudge FLAVORS

Puzzle Page

In the Stars...

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20

Aries, avoid making promises unless you intend to keep them. If you cannot commit your time or effort, then explain the situation rather than backing out later.

TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21

Others view you in an entirely different light than you view yourself. Taurus. Consider their perspectives and keep an open mind. It might just help you grow as a person.

GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 2

Many ideas are running through your head, Gemini. But you have to stick with one idea and go with it. Though this may seem like trying to find a needle in a haystack, the focus will pay off.

CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22

Someone puts all of their faith in you this week, Cancer. Don't be nervous about living up to their expectations. Just operate the way you always do and things will work out.

LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23

Sagittarius, this week you will be occupied this week. The only difficulty will be narrowing down exactly what you want to do. Give this decision the attention it deserves.

VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22

Sagittarius, this week you will have to do a number of things on your own. Make the most of this situation, as it might just prove to be a good test of character.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20

A change of scenery could provide the change in perspective you need right now, Capricorn. The trouble is finding the right time to get away. Plan a weekend trip if you can manage it.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18

Aquarius, even though you may not relish the role, you often have to be the voice of reason. Express yourself clearly but take others' ideas into consideration as well.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20

Scorpio, you do not have the patience for puzzles this week. Encourage coworkers and family members to be concise as possible when declaring their intentions.

LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23

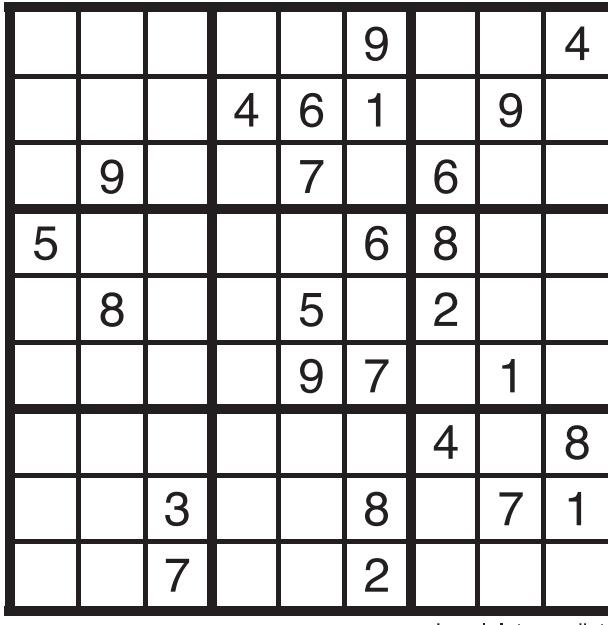
Libra, sometimes you put blenders on to situations that make you uncomfortable. It is your way of coping. But this week you need to keep your eyes wide open.

SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22

Scorpio, you do not have the patience for puzzles this week. Encourage coworkers and family members to be concise as possible when declaring their intentions.

Sudoku



Level: Intermediate

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!

Video of Brooktrails candidates night now available

About 30 people gathered at the Little Lake Grange October 6 to find out what's going on with opportunities for local investing and building local enterprises. The forum was sponsored by WELL (Willits Economic Localization), a non-profit group active on these issues since 2004. Willits Mayor Holly Madrigal, president of the WELL board of directors, emceed the afternoon event.

John Kuhry, director of Mendocino County EDFC (Economic Development and Finance Corporation) kicked the forum off, reporting about exciting progress on several projects: a small-scale local meat processing plant, a wool processing facility, and a co-work facility in the old Ukiah jail. EDFC is on the verge of creating a DPO (direct public offering) that will allow local investors to help finance such projects. For further info, go to www.edfc.org.

Willits Weekly recommends Brooktrails voters wishing to be well-informed about the upcoming November 5 election view this forum.

Go to <http://vimeo.com/channels/403871/7675213> to open the page with the video.

Willits Weekly recommends Brooktrails voters wishing to be well-informed about the upcoming November 5 election view this forum.

— Mike A'Dair

WELL Forum, October 6

Invest in Main Street, Not Wall Street

Celebrations, also promotes local businesses in other ways. Kennelly noted that 72 percent of Mendocino County enterprises are locally owned, and patronizing these local businesses keeps our money benefiting local jobs and economic activity. Contact Kennelly at info@willits.org.

Roger Wilson and Cyndee Logan were enthusiastic about the new Wowser maker-space and academy located in the warehouse just west of the new Mendocino College campus. Community members have already invested more than \$200,000 to create this space. Wowser's goal is to use local resources, teach and share skills, foster creative ideas, and serve as an incubator for "makers" of all ages. Members can start by using communal space and equipment; then create their own space if their business grows. Info at Michael Foley, manager of the Willits Farmers' Market and Little Lake Grange master, introduced exciting ideas for expanding local farming. One idea is to raise \$6,000 in matching funds to encourage food-stamp recipients to shop at the farmers markets. A second

is expanding local CSAs (community supported agriculture) by having large employers match CSA shares for their employees. Foley would like to expand the Grange Grains program to include locally grown oats. To do this, local farmers would need access to a combine, which leads to the idea of creating a local tool-sharing collective – through the Grange or another group. A "Mendocino-made" brand could help market local food products. Finally, Foley wants us to be training and finding suitable, affordable land for new farmers.

The agriculture school at Ridgewood Ranch – a project of the State Grange – is a major step toward this goal. For more info, contact Michael at 216-5549.

Madge Strong, WELL Coordinating Committee member, described WELL's Pay It Forward fund, which accepts tax-deductible donations to a revolving fund for assisting local enterprises. The fund currently has nearly \$3,000 available and has made one \$500 loan. WELL is seeking qualified applicants whose business meets the triple bottom-line: good for the planet (sustainable, using local resources, etc.), good for people (e.g., jobs), and profit (so it can pay back the loan). For info contact Strong at 459-9697.

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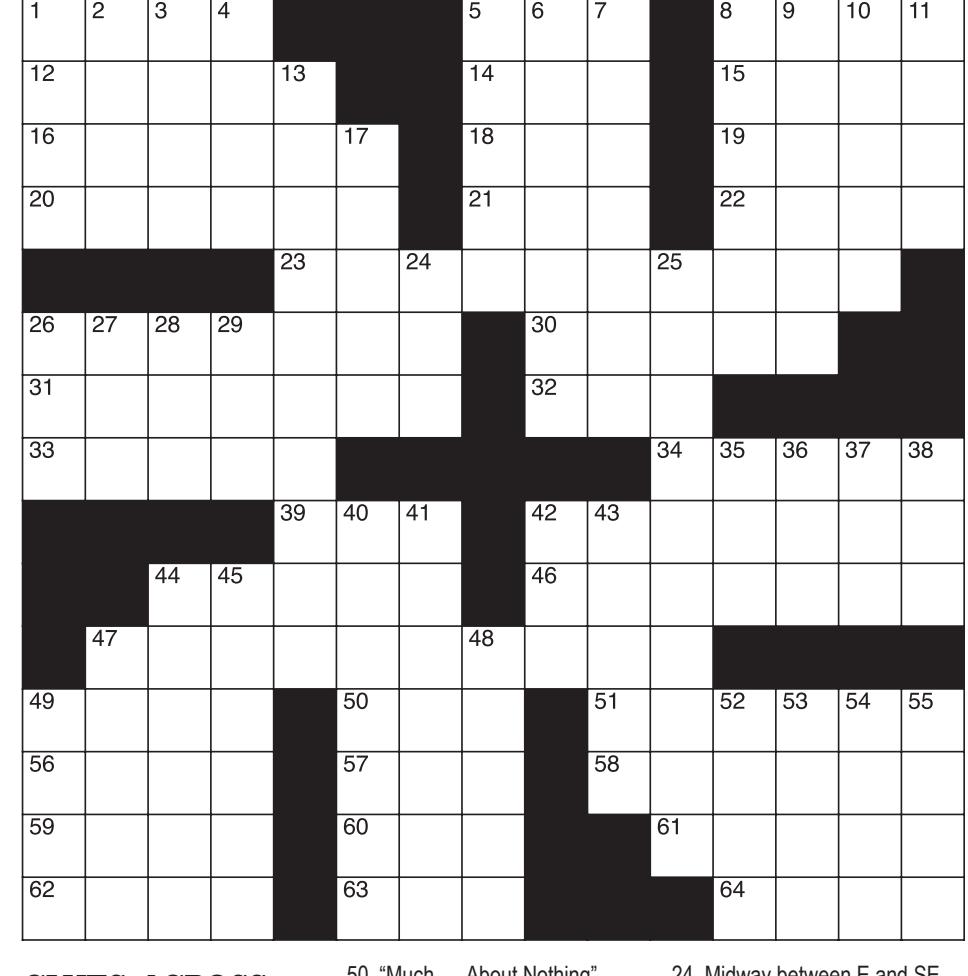
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Activities & fun for kids of all ages

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Pepsi is one
- 5. Kilocalorie (abbr.)
- 8. Canadian flyers
- 12. Bright fleshy seed covers
- 14. Exclamation of triumph
- 15. Dawn (Spanish)
- 16. Former Spanish currency
- 18. Illuminated
- 19. A benefit bestowed
- 20. Spanish beaches
- 21. Solid water
- 22. Baby flowers
- 23. Surrealistic comic strip
- 26. Uncontrollable tremors
- 30. Dapper
- 31. Ear shell
- 32. Russian river
- 33. #1 soup noodle brand
- 34. Relating to a tube
- 39. Air Reserve base (abbr.)
- 42. Relating to Deism
- 44. More dried-up
- 46. Pear-shaped vowels
- 47. Creator of 23 across
- 49. Leavened rum cake
- 50. "Much _____ About Nothing"
- 51. Two-sided discussion
- 56. Snakelike fishes
- 57. Fold
- 58. Removed writing
- 59. Away from wind
- 60. Small time unit (abbr.)
- 61. Look at with fixed eyes
- 62. Former Soviet bloc
- 63. Vision organ
- 64. Three-banded Armadillo
- 65. "About _____" (2)
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Buildings of historical interest

along the 10,000 Step Willits Walk for Health and Wellness, courtesy of Jed Diamond and compiled from "The Architectural Heritage of Willits"

Part 2 - the second half from last week's edition!

#13 - 307 Redwood Avenue - built in 1914
The house was built by Dan DeShell for A.H. Thompson in 1914. The house is important, because it is another example of the Craftsman bungalows that DeShell built in the 1910s in Willits. DeShell was also the builder and architect responsible for the offices of the Northwestern Lumber Company. Additionally, this house is important because of its association with its first owner, A. H. Thompson. Thompson was the woods superintendent and foreman for the Northwestern Lumber Company.

#14 - 284 Redwood Avenue - built in 1907
The Northwestern Redwood Company was very important to the growth and the economic vitality in Willits at the turn of the century. The lumber mill provided many jobs in the community, and the company's subdivision was where many of their employees lived. Unlike many lumber companies of the day, they did not have a large company town. Instead, they built houses for certain important members of the company to live in. This house was built for A.A. Wilson, the bookkeeper for Northwestern. He served a four-year term on the Willits City Board of Trustees, including being chosen mayor in 1915.

#15 - 240 Redwood Avenue - built in 1913
The architectural style of this house reflects William Whited's experience with building Queen Anne-style cottages in Willits. This style is very popular in Willits and continued to be built in the area long after the style lost its popularity in more urban environments. This house does not have all of the bargeboard trim that Whited's first house at 263 East Valley Street has, but does, however, have a similar floor plan.

#16 - 216 Redwood Avenue - built in 1910
The house is significant both in that it is a good example of the type of construction done in the Willits area near 1910 and that it is an important element in the Redwood Avenue streetscape. Beyond its architectural importance, it also gains significance from its builder and first owner, David Leander Sawyers and his wife, Sarah Whited Sawyers. David Sawyers came to the Little Lake Valley in 1857 with his family. As a young man he worked on the family homestead, but at the age of 24, he started working road construction in Mendocino County. In 1876 he married Sarah Whited, the aunt of Charles, William and LeRoy Whited. All three brothers were involved in house and road construction with David Sawyers in the Willits area.

#17 - 165 Pine Street - built in 1885
This house is one of the oldest buildings in Willits. It was owned in 1885 by G.W. Raymond. That same year Raymond was listed in a local directory as being a laborer. Raymond also left his mark on the town in the form of the name of the alley that enters Pine Street near his home. The primary importance of the house, however, in addition to its association with Raymond, is the house's architecture, which is unique to Willits, though common in the area. It is shaped like a Colonial saltbox, an architectural style that was common in the 19th century during the early settlement of Mendocino and Humboldt counties, as saltboxes are modest houses and easy to build with limited resources.

#18 - 134 Pine Street - built in 1885
This house at 134 Pine Street was built between 1877 and 1885 and is therefore one of the few houses remaining in Willits that dates back to the original town of Willitsville. It was first owned by T.C. Gibson, who in turn sold it to W.H. Orender, who was a sheep farmer in the valley in 1885. The house is important not only for its association with these early residents in Willits, but also for its style of architecture that is rare in the area.

#19 - 291 School Street - built in 1922
From 1877, when Hirani Willits first plotted the town's streets, this area was set aside for a school, and the street running in front of the block was named accordingly. In the early 1920s, the School Board of Trustees, comprised of John Keller, Dr. F. H. Camp, and Palmer Holt, determined to building a new school, had a San Francisco architect draw up the plans. The school building is important architecturally in Willits, as it is of a style rare in the town. It is also important as it was built during a period when the town's economy was beginning to slow down, but the town's residents were willing to spend \$40,560 for a new school.

#20 - 300 East Commercial Street - built in 1914
In 1914, the Northwestern Pacific Redwood Company decided to move their main office from their mill site at Northwestern to the East Commercial Street site in Willits. The company had been formed in 1901 by A.W. Foster, the president of the Northwestern Railroad. The building housed the office of Little Lake Industries in the Mission Revival style and features a red-tile covered hip roof. The tower, like the rest of the building, is covered in wide overlapping boards.

Día de los Muertos

Se observa el Día de los Muertos con una ofrenda o altar construido en la casa y en el cementerio para dar la bienvenida a los difuntos que regresan a la tierra el 1 y el 2 de noviembre. Es una reunión de los vivos con los vivos y los vivos con sus queridos muertos. Lo que los difuntos disfrutaban en la vida se recuerda en la preparación del altar. Se ponen fotos, flores, comida y bebida, papel picado, copal, agua y todas las cosas preferidas del difunto.

Es una tradición feliz que reconoce la muerte como algo natural: simplemente una parte de la vida misma.

Invitamos a toda la gente a visitar a nuestra ofrenda para conmemorar el Día de los Muertos a la Biblioteca en Willits. Si quieren poner algo para conmemorar a alguien especial, pueden llamar a Donna a la biblioteca o Norma a 272-1190.

- Norma Hanson

Day of the Dead exhibit at Willits Library

In honor of the Day of the Dead Mexican celebration on November 1 and 2, Mendocino College Spanish professor Norma Hanson and her Willits Spanish 1 class put up two Day of the Dead altars at the Willits Library. The altars are on display now through November 3. The Willits Library, 390 E. Commercial Street is open Mondays (10 am to 6 pm), Tuesdays and Wednesdays (10 am to 8 pm), Thursdays (10 am to 5 pm), and Saturdays (10 am to 5 pm). Closed Sundays and Fridays. Info: 459-5908.

Pg.6

What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits



Thursday, October 17

Friends of the Willits Library Book Sale: annual event opens today with a preview for members of Friends of the Willits Library this evening from 6 to 9 pm. Open to the public on Friday, October 18 from 10 to 6 pm, Saturday, October 19 from 10 to 4 pm, and Sunday, October 20 from 10 am to 3 pm. On Sunday, books are \$3 a bag all day.

Now & Then Films: "Gasland, Part II," Josh Fox's film about "fracking." Filmmaker Josh Fox uses his trademark dark humor to take a deeper, broader look at the dangers of hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," the controversial practice of injecting water, sand and chemicals underground to crack rock formations and free up oil and natural gas. 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Suggested \$5 to \$10 donation. Info: 459-6362. Visit www.gaslandthemovie.com for more info on the film.

Friday, October 18

Friends of the Willits Library Book Sale: see October 17 listing for details.

Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration in downtown Willits:

Don't miss this 7th annual celebration of "Think Local, Buy Local, Be Local," presented by the Willits Chamber of Commerce's Local First Committee, from 4 to 8 pm in downtown Willits. Enjoy a pumpkin carving contest for all area businesses (vote for the "People's Choice," and "Art in the Alley," an art exhibition in the alley between the Noyo Theatre and The Bistro restaurant.

Downtown businesses will be open late, offering specials and goodies. Other businesses, nonprofit and community organizations, crafters, and many other groups will have booths with information about their offerings, special games, and freebies, and musicians and Zumba dancers from Studio

Joy will perform. Please stop by Willits Weekly's booth in front of Ardella's to say hello! Info: 459-7910 or info@willits.org.

Shanachie Pub: Moon Lady/Moon Man presents The Afro-Funk Experience, following the Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration. 9 pm. \$10. Delivering home-grown Afro-Funk, Afro-beat, reggae and original Bay Area funk, with dual guitars, bass, drums percussion, trumpet and saxophone. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, October 19

Final Seabiscuit Tour of the Year: Walking Tour of Ridgewood Ranch: Home of Seabiscuit. 9:30 to noon. Docent led tours \$20; children under 11 free. Info/reservations: 459-5992; seabiscuit@instaweb.net or www.seabiscuitheritage.org/tourschedule.php.

Friends of the Willits Library Book Sale: see October 17 listing for details.

"Willits On Stage": a variety show featuring

friends, neighbors and special guests, showing off their talents, to benefit Willits Community Services and Food Bank. Willits High School Auditorium, 7 pm. Hosted by Les Tarr and Ed Reinhart and friends. Performers to include (in no particular order): Ricky Carrillo, piano; Aurelie Clivaz, poetry & breakdance; Zumba Fitness, dance instructors & students; Verne Ostrander, songs; Chantrelle, harmonies by Madge Strong, Helen Falandes, and Diane Smalley; Myranda Goben, modern dance; Terri Davis, songs; The Cheap Jewels, bellydance with Gina, Lazula, and Delana; Rachel Kononchuk, songs; Pearl Marill, improv dance; Jeremy Miller & Megan Wolf, swing dance; Chad Eventide, juggling; Harvey Frankle, song & dance, accompanied by Jenny Watts; Myranda Goben, modern dance; New Blu Trio, harmonies by Nancy New, Anita Blu, and Don Fiers; Susan Byers, flamenco dance; Melinda Clarke & Conga Luna, with Cuban Dance (Conga Luna): Kathy Cantwell, Lily Phoenis, Lil McFadden, Louise Marzano, and Nancy Miller; and The Swamp Poodles, music by Ed Reinhart, Les Tarr, Mark Webb, and special guest, Bob Simon. Tickets \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. Advance tickets available at Goods' Shoppe, Main Street Music and Mazahar. Info: 456-9429.

Community Rights Workshop: two day workshop, October 19 and October 20, with Paul Cienfuegos on the creation of

a community rights ordinance. Sliding scale: \$60 to \$260. If interested in attending, call Peter Norris at 456-9968. Info at: www.paulcienfuegos.com.

Sunday, October 20

15th annual Willits Walk for Wellness and Community:

This fall's free 10,000 step/5 mile walk around town features 20 historic homes and buildings along the route. Registration starts at 9:30 am at J.D. Redhouse, for "men, women, children and well-behaved pets on leashes." who will start the walk at

10 am, rain or shine. Bicyclists are also invited. This walk also coincides with the 125th anniversary of Willits' founding back in 1888 – its "sesquicentennial" anniversary. Walkers will get a sheet that describes each building briefly. You can walk as much or as little as you like. Water and assistance provided along the route with the Harrah Senior Center van, WHS students will mark "milestone" cards, as walkers reach their stations, and chef Adam Celaya of Adam's Restaurant, will offer treats following the walk. For more info or to volunteer: call Jed Diamond at 459-5505.

Friends of the Willits Library Book Sale: see October 17 listing for details.

St. Anthony's Mexican Food Sale: Another fundraiser in the church hall, 58 Bush Street, from 11:30 am to 3 pm. The Mexican community will be selling fresh, homemade tamales, enchiladas, tacos, atole, rice and beans. Enjoy at the hall or to take home. Come early! The September 29 food sale sold out in 90 minutes, raising \$2,000 for St. Anthony's Church.

HazMobile Collection: at the Willits Corporation Yard, today and Saturday, October 26, from 9 am to 1 pm, 380 East Commercial Street. The public can bring up to 15 gallons per vehicle per day of toxic items like paint, antifreeze, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, gasoline, solvents, acids, bases, and toxic cleaners. Auto and household batteries, mercury and fluorescent light tubes (limit: 60 feet of tubes) are accepted by the HazMobile. Explosives and road flares are excluded. Free to households; small business waste by appointment and by fee. Please ensure items are kept in their original containers (except motor oil which can be consolidated), that nothing is leaking, and that all containers are tied down. Info: 468-9704 or www.mendoRecycle.org.

Saturday, October 26

HazMobile Collection: Willits Corporation Yard, see Friday, October 25 listing for details.

WHS Boosters Abalone Dinner: fundraising dinner for Willits High School's sports programs. Two seating at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street, at 5:30 and 6:30 pm. Dinner includes deep-fried abalone, ravioli with homemade sauce, salad, garlic bread, and desserts from the WHS cooking club. The abalone is donated by the Department of Fish & Wildlife, from poached abalone that has been confiscated. Board members of the Willits Boosters Club will be doing the cooking. Tickets are \$20; only 200 tickets will be sold; and pre-sale tickets are preferred, though there might be a few tickets available at the door. Tickets available at the House Doctor or call Donna at 459-2752 or Mark and Sheri Mercer at 459-3445 to have tickets delivered

Tuesday, October 22

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

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 classes through October. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more info.

Wednesday, October 23

Night of the Living Dead" Halloween Party: 10 pm tonight at Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street, "featuring DJ Zombie T

Open Mic at Shanachie Pub: Every Wednesday at 8:40 pm. Sign-ups start at 3 pm.

Tuesday movies: "Gravity," "Cloudy 2," and "Runner Runner." 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

Eckankar Discussion and Community HU song: 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial Street. Ongoing spiritual discussion; a HU song "is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra and can help you experience divine love and find inner peace." Families and all faiths are welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar. Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475.

Friday, October 25

HazMobile Collection: at the Willits Corporation Yard, today and Saturday, October 26, from 9 am to 1 pm, 380 East Commercial Street. The public can bring up to 15 gallons per vehicle per day of toxic items like paint, antifreeze, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, gasoline, solvents, acids, bases, and toxic cleaners. Auto and household batteries, mercury and fluorescent light tubes (limit: 60 feet of tubes) are accepted by the HazMobile. Explosives and road flares are excluded. Free to households; small business waste by appointment and by fee. Please ensure items are kept in their original containers (except motor oil which can be consolidated), that nothing is leaking, and that all containers are tied down. Info: 468-9704 or www.mendoRecycle.org.

Oktoberfest: An afternoon of good food, good entertainment, and good company at Willits Community Theatre, 37 W. Van

Lane, from 2 to 5 pm. Featuring performances by Necole and Tim Suttles, Jon Mather, Richard Jeske and Friends, the Just For Fun Senior Choir, New Blu Trio and Joey Kroh. Tickets are \$20 and are available in person at Goods' Shoppe, 56 South Main Street, or by calling WCT at 459-0895 to reserve by credit card.



Ongoing Events:

"Nancy Reed & Friends" – October show at the Willits Center for the Arts. Gallery hours: Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm; Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm; through October 27. Info: 459-1726.

Farmers Market at City Park: Fall produce and more from area farmers, plus live music, flowers, crafts, baked goods, dinner and more. Last three Thursdays at City Hall, from 3 to 6 pm. Farmers Market moves to Little Lake Grange starting in November.

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

Open Mic at Shanachie Pub: Every Wednesday at 8:40 pm. Sign-ups start at 3 pm.

Mushroom Wine & Beer Train

The 2013 Mushroom, Wine and Beer Train, a fundraiser for the Mendocino County Museum in Willits, is set for Saturday, November 2.

After breakfast catered by Kemmy's Pies, guests at both the Willits and Fort Bragg Skunk Train depots will take the Skunk Train to Camp Mendocino, with roving musicians, historians and sparkling beverages.

At Camp Mendocino, county winemakers and brewers will show off fine spirits, wines, beers and coffees, and guests can enjoy a Mushroom Cook-Off Contest, mushroom walks, wine talks and more. Tickets are \$95. For more info: www.MendocinoMuseum.org or 459-2736.



Halloween Party at Shanachie Pub

Halloween Party at Shanachie Pub: Thursday, October 31 starting at 7 pm. Live dance music by Funkacillin plus DJs Podge and Turtlebear. 7 pm. \$10. Sponsored by Adam's Restaurant, offering Creole food, ribs, and garlic fries on the patio. Costume contest with prizes from Adam's Restaurant, Simaine Winery, Headroom, Mazahar, J.D. Redhouse, Cat's Meow, Hellagood Desserts and Shanachie Pub. 50 B South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

“Eleemosynary”

Don't let the title put you off. "Eleemosynary" just happens to be the favorite word of Echo, one of the three characters in this final play of the 2013 season opening at Willits Community Theatre on November 8 for a 10-date run.

Written by award-winning playwright Lee Blessing and directed by Joe Dowling, "Eleemosynary" focuses on the family dynamics in the lives of three generations of women. The grandmother, Dorothea, played by Anna Wilson, is a new age eccentric. Her brilliant daughter Arlie, played by Mary Burns, is constantly on the run trying to escape from her domineering mother and her responsibilities to her own daughter, Echo. Echo, played by Tara Logan, is trying to understand both of them and a whole lot of other things at the age of 16. Here is a study of family relationships and the need we all have for connection and forgiveness.

"Eleemosynary" will be playing Friday, November 8 and Saturday, November 9, and Thursday through Sunday the two following weekends. 7 pm on Thursdays; 8 pm on Fridays and Saturdays; 2 pm on Sundays. Tickets can be purchased in person at Good's Shoppe, 56 So. Main St., Willits, or by calling WCT at 707-459-0895 to reserve by credit card.

– Willits Community Theatre

See's Candy Sale & 4-H Fundraiser

Willits 4-H is holding a See's Candy Sale to raise money for their program until October 18. All 4-H members have packets and can be contacted to place your orders, or interested persons can call Kara Garman at 354-1224 for more information.

</div

too, as well as adult education like fire extinguisher training and home safety. "We just did a group of 40, employees at the Rancheria casino," Magann said.

One interesting part of the lecture was when Wilkes asked, "Would you ever be scared of a firefighter?" and "You'd never hide from a firefighter, right?" as volunteer Mike Neely, a probationary firefighter, who'd greeted the kids in civilian clothes, came back into the room in full firefighter gear, including a breathing apparatus. "That's kind of a scary mask," Wilkes said, "and a scary voice – a Darth Vader voice," as Neely talked through his apparatus. The kids were paying close attention; it seemed like they were absorbing another lesson they wouldn't forget.

After the learning time, came the even more fun time, when kids were allowed to climb up – or be lifted up – onto the fire engines, some of them taking the wheel and pretending to drive, while parents and teachers made sure they didn't run out onto Commercial Street.

About 90 kids visited the fire station over both days. When they got back to their classrooms, each visitor got a red plastic fire helmet, a badge, and a build-your-own-little-firefighter project.

Mr. M.J. Furry Friends



Photo by Rod Coats

Meet M.J., a 10-year-old purebred Dachshund, weighing in at 21 pounds. Though he's an older guy, he still has lots of spunk in his step! He was surrendered by his previous owner due to having "accidents" in his house, but we have not seen that behavior when he's in our adoption room.

Like most Dachshunds he does not know he is a smaller dog, and he does alert-barking which is part of their personality trait. In the short time we've had him, what we know about him is that he's very affectionate, walks well on a leash, and he absolutely loves to hang out with you. We hope you will see the good qualities in this sweet and handsome guy. M.J. is already neutered, and ready to go home! We have a fund to help with the adoption of senior dogs, so we may offer a senior discount for this dapper guy.

M.J. and his canine and feline friends are located at the Ukiah Animal Shelter, 298 Plant Road in Ukiah. The shelter hours are: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm, and Wednesday from 10 am to 7 pm. Please visit our shelter website to see more photos and bios of M.J. and our other amazing adoptable dogs: www.pawsadopt.com. For more information, please visit during shelter hours, or contact Katherine Houghtby at 707-467-6453.

The rest of Snarky | From Page 5

be not so nice and show my teeth to an affront?

Inhibition of anger doesn't work, nor does

exaggeration. In almost all instances, drama clouds the mind and affects those around you in a negative way.

It's important to mention that there is a gender divide with the issue of anger: men tend to be more comfortable with anger than women, while women tend to be more comfortable with the emotions of hurt and sadness.

Obviously, it stands to reason that an awareness of our feelings, especially these more "snarky" ones, would be beneficial to our lives, as would be the tools to deal with them more effectively.

I am offering a special eight-week class for local residents, called "Taming Your Snarky Dog," which is an opportunity to learn greater emotional

awareness. Awareness of our emotions and how they affect our life is key. Another benefit of this class will be learning and practicing tools to deal with these emotions in ourselves, as well as the emotions of others, including family members or fellow workers.

This class will be limited in size and will offer engaging and meaningful interaction designed to bring greater balance and harmony to our lives. Confidentiality is a fundamental aspect to this kind of class.

If you are interested in participating, contact me for more information at 459-2101.

Wolfgang Ronnefeldt, M.A., is a counselor with 10 years of experience teaching Anger Management classes for the County of Mendocino. The "Taming Your Snarky Dog" class is scheduled for October 20 through December 16, on Monday evenings from 6:30 pm to 9 pm. Cost: \$200. For info and to register, call Wolfgang at 459-2101.

Restaurant and Motel, which is now known as Brown's Corner.

Andy became the No. 1 Piper Airplane sales associate in the USA, while managing the old Willits Airport on Commercial Street. He trained many Willits residents to fly and sold them airplanes. During that time he made many trophy hunting and fishing trips to Alaska, Canada and Mexico.

Andy was involved with building Wagon Wheel Mobile Home Park, having set up and sold most of the homes existing there today. He continued to sell motor homes, cars and trucks into his 90s, while staying very involved in the stock market.

Andy lived an exciting and adventurous life and will be sorrowfully missed by family and friends. Services were held Wednesday, October 16 at Anker-Lucier Mortuary in Willits, followed by a full military graveside service at the Willits Cemetery, and a potluck gathering at the Wagon Wheel community room. Pastor Glenn Hayes of Kelseyville Baptist Church officiated the services.

Saturday October 19, 2013, at 2 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts.

All are welcome. Please bring a memory if moved to do so. We are grateful to the community for their caring generosity during our loss.

— Elizabeth Wiley

Classifieds & More

TELL OUR ADVERTISERS
you saw it in Willits Weekly!

Addition / Decking / New Home

Willits Charter School has the following job openings: P/T Instructional Aide M-Th Mornings 14 hrs/wk, \$10/hr; Kitchen Helper M-Th Afternoons 12 hrs/wk, \$10/hr. Please submit resume to WCS. Call 459-5506 for more info.

Help Wanted

Are you looking to add a room, remodel, add a new deck or replace an existing one, build a new custom home or have pest work done? Local licensed contractor #386275 since 1979. Zanardi Construction. Andy: 707-459-6670

Body Life Studio

Group classes & individual instruction for fluid, dynamic movement, stress management and personal growth. Jenna Byrns has 30 years experience teaching in college and community venues.

www.bodylifestudio.com 707.972.0049

Help Wanted

Position available for a registered veterinary technician. Please bring resume to the Willits Pet Care Center at 90 South Street.

New Patients Welcome

Phillip J. D'Angelo, DDS
Cosmetic/Family Dentistry
707-459-6644

Community Hu Song

In our fast-paced world, are you looking to find more inner peace? Join us for a Community Hu Song Tuesday, October 22, at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial Street. Hu is a simple, uplifting prayer or mantra and can help you experience divine love and find inner peace. Families and all faiths welcome. Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475.

Old Cars Wanted

ALWAYS LOOKING FOR VANS, 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.

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 macamergini@yahoo.com.

Consignments Accepted

Gavel Down Sales, located at 1611 South Main Street, is open Tues through Sat, 10 am to 5 pm, and is accepting quality home furnishings for consignment. Contact Kapila at 707.459.1300.

Yard Sale

Saturday, October 19, 10 am to 2 pm. No early birds. 23291 Eastside Road, Willits. Household items, exercise bike, propane BBQ, and other miscellaneous items. Cash only.

Saturday, October 19, 10 am to 2 pm. No early birds. 23291 Eastside Road, Willits. Household items, exercise bike, propane BBQ, and other miscellaneous items. Cash only.

Eckankar

Have you had a spiritual experience? You are invited to participate in an ongoing, spiritual discussion Tuesday, October 22, at 6 pm at Willits City Hall, 111 E. Commercial Street.

Sponsored by Eckankar: Experience the Light & Sound of God. Information? Please call 972-2475.

Get Willits Weekly

at home

Help support your locally owned community newspaper with a mail subscription: Willits Weekly is delivered in Friday's first-class mail to Willits addresses: \$75/year or \$40/6 months. Send check and mailing address to: P.O. Box 1698, Willits 95490 or pay using our PayPal account at www.willitsweekly.com.

CLASSIFIEDS!

\$10 | 30 words | 2 weeks!

Puzzle Answers From Page 4

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

C	O	L	A	K	C	L	R	C	A	F
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P	E	S	E	T	A	L	I	T	B	O
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B	A	B	A	D	O	D	E	B	A	T
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Condolences Column



Wilbur 'Andy'
Anderson

OBITUARY

Longtime Willits resident Wilbur "Andy" Anderson went home to be with the Lord, Sunday, October 6, 2013, at home in Lakeport with family by his side.

June 30, 1919 in San Francisco to Gerhard and Rose Anderson. Andy is survived by his loving wife, Margaret Anderson, of Lakeport; son Steve (Monica) Anderson of Willits; daughters Diane (Dale Fet) Anderson of Lakeport and Sharon (Fred) Scoville of Sacramento; grandson Tyler (Meghan) Anderson and great-grandson Apolio Anderson of Ukiah.

Andy grew up on a large family ranch in Sherwood Valley, where they raised milk cows and sheep, earning high awards and numerous ribbons as a 4-H member. He was also a highly decorated Eagle Scout. After the war broke out he joined the Army Air Corps, where he became one of the top Army squadron captains, training many B-17 and B-24 pilots for combat during World War II.

Returning home, Andy started his own logging and trucking business, during which time he and his brother Charlie built Andy's (Honky Tonk) Bar.

Andy died on October 6, 2013, at 95 years old.

Services were held Wednesday, October 9, at 10 am at the Willits Center for the Arts.

Memorial for Hugh Wiley

Saturday October 19, 2013, at 2 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts.

All are welcome. Please bring a memory if moved to do so. We are grateful to the community for their caring generosity during our loss.

— Elizabeth Wiley

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The rest of
Tax-sharing From Page 1

only candidate for Third District Supervisor present at the meeting, said: "I think if we can welcome new businesses without trying to woo them, we will all benefit."

Opponents of a tax-sharing agreement, including incumbent Third District Supervisor John Pinches, view any compact as a net loss to the county.

Pinches believes the county gains more from having lands, businesses and industries that lie outside Ukiah, yet within its sphere of influence, under county jurisdiction, rather giving them to Ukiah and receiving only a portion of their tax revenues.

After naming a number of service losses sustained by Third District outlying areas in recent years, Pinches said any net loss in revenue to the county would mean those outlying districts would be hit again. "This is not about money, it's about services," he said.

Pinches' sentiments were echoed by Baldwin, who argued a tax-sharing agreement may be little more than a chimera. Baldwin said there had been little interest in the issue among his constituents, and noted the night meeting was sparsely attended by the public.

"And yet tonight we hear this drumbeat: 'Get it done. Get it done.' Why?" he asked. "Where is all this pressure coming from?"

"The City of Ukiah cannot jump into an agreement that would guarantee a reduction of services in the city," Baldwin said.

The situation is made more complex by recognizing the City of Ukiah plans to annex some portion of county land lying north of the city. That annexation has been in the works for sometime, and only needs an agreement on sharing property taxes to move forward.

The property tax agreement is not part of the tax-sharing agreement under discussion by the ad hoc committee. Therefore, the portion of sales tax revenue under discussion is, in effect, a gift to the county, a case of getting something rather than nothing.

A tax-sharing agreement between the county and the city would mean the two entities would agree to stop competing with each other to attract new businesses and industries to their respective jurisdictions.

Both sides have yet to agree on a "make whole" provision, which would guarantee that if one party did not earn its full base-year tax increment, the other party would fund it up to the base-year revenues.

Both sides also have yet to agree on a "Costco" addendum, which would exempt Costco tax revenues from being part of the tax-sharing agreement, for an undetermined period of time.

Theoretically, this portion of the agreement would prevent the county from prohibiting growth or new industry from locating in the area under discussion, which could render the agreement both pointless and onerous to the city.

"I think virtually everything is up for negotiation," McCown said.

Ukiah businessman Ross Liberty urged the joint committee to reach an agreement. "This is not a zero sum game between the city and county," Liberty said.

"It is actually a zero sum game between the city and the county on the one hand, and corporate America on the other."

According to Liberty, it is the businesses and developers who site, build and operate huge stores and mega-malls, who benefit from the lack of a county-city tax-sharing agreement.

The rest of
Candidates From Page 1

Chris Neary: The bond issue was imprudent in that it relied upon ascending property values in the middle of a recession and locked the district in for the life of the loan. I was not on the board at the time, but I believe it was reasonable for those who were on the board at that time to rely upon the financial advisor.

Cynthia Carni: The bond scenario is hopefully getting some answers and resolution. A very slow, difficult time for our community and the board, with many factors contributing, but yet we did get some much-needed infrastructure and physical spaces that have improved each site. It is a very complicated problem that I have witnessed since the beginning, when I was appointed to the school board to replace a departing member.

Question 3: Labor: The school district and the Willits Teachers Association are now in "fact-finding" for the first time in many years, regarding the district's plan to cut five days from the school year to help balance the budget. Do you agree that cutting five days from the school year is the best or only way to resolve budgetary difficulties at this time?

Laurie Harris: Our students cannot afford to lose another five days, period. Two or three years ago they lost five instruction days, and I do not agree this is the way to resolve the budget issues.

Chris Neary: Reduction in the school year is the best way to balance the budget, but is not in itself a desirable thing because it reduces teacher compensation and reduces the educational opportunity for students. Because salaries constitute the largest budget item by a wide margin, reduction has to start with salaries. Of all the ways to reduce salaries, school year reduction is the most preferable, because it defers the reduction to the end of school year, so it can be reevaluated before being imposed, as the variables of income such as average daily attendance and scope of additional state funding are known, while straight layoffs would have their effect even if revenue improves over projections. In other words, school year reduction, even if recognized contractually, is avoidable, while layoffs are not.

Cynthia Carni: Union negotiations are a very politically powered part of the district and education, and a process I have learned much about. Our district's unions have historically been at polar ends of the facts, how/why we see it, to spend and work for the interests of the teachers, where the district places the student foremost. The district also is responsible for sales tax revenues for Ukiah will be \$4.5 million for the same year. If the final agreement stipulates that both Ukiah and the county divide sales tax revenues for both the city and unincorporated areas, \$6.1 million would be split in some way.

However, it is likely the dividend will be much smaller. It could be the final agreement will stipulate that only sales tax from a portion of the unincorporated area will be shared. That would put only about \$1 million at issue. Or the potential pact could say only sales tax revenues from new businesses in the unincorporated area would be subject to the agreement. In that case, the amount of money put up for grabs could be very small, or even nothing, if no new businesses locate in the agreed-upon area.

Mendocino County Counsel Thomas Parker outlined the areas of the compact yet to be agreed upon, including which year will be selected as the base year and what the formula for dividing up the dividend will be.

Both sides have yet to agree on a "make whole" provision, which would guarantee that if one party did not earn its full base-year tax increment, the other party would fund it up to the base-year revenues.

Both sides also have yet to agree on a "Costco" addendum, which would exempt Costco tax revenues from being part of the tax-sharing agreement, for an undetermined period of time.

Both sides have yet to agree on a "poison pill" agreement, which would prohibit the county from changing the land-use designations in the areas subject to the agreement.

Theoretically, this portion of the agreement would prevent the county from prohibiting growth or new industry from locating in the area under discussion, which could render the agreement both pointless and onerous to the city.

"If you can survive that, you can survive anything – to put it into perspective," Orenstein said.

It was a summer of yucky water for Willits, and in August the city responded to complaints that its water tasted bad and smelled, in the words of some townsfolk, like pond water.

The city explained the poor taste and odor coming from the tap was due to an algae bloom sparked by low reservoir levels and high temperatures at the time.

The city tested water several times per week and reports test results to the CDPH.

Although WUSD has made "huge strides" in digging out of its financial crisis, Johnson said, "we also need to build the capacity never to go back again, to build a better future for everybody and never do this again."

The governor's education budget is a "moving target," she added, "and we are moving very cautiously. Things could change tomorrow."

Johnson said 85 percent of the district's budget goes to salaries, and also noted teachers had been able to earn back three of the five days proposed to be cut through paid "professional development days" in August, paid for by funds in a restricted account that could only be used for that purpose.

Cynthia Carni: I have been a board member for the past six years. Both of my children graduated through our district. I work part-time at Howard Hospital as an RN in OR/PACU [operating room/post-anesthesia care unit]. I have lived in Willits and made it my home for the past 30 years.

Bob Harper: I've been an educator for 42 years. I've been an elementary school and upper-grade classroom teacher, a principal and a superintendent in Napa County. After my wife and I retired to Mendocino County, I taught basic math and beginning algebra for 10 years at Mendocino College. I have a life credential for teaching K-14 from the state of California and a life credential for administrative services. I have a BA in psychology and child development and a master's degree in education, school administration.

Laurie Harris: I am a parent and a volunteer. I've had three students in the school district for the last 11 years. I've volunteered on campus each week with each of my children. I've worked as an aide, both regular and special ed, in the Willits schools, as well as driving all of my kids and their teammates to their sporting events, which I can honestly say has been one of my greatest joys. I have been a police dispatcher and a senior center bus driver; I've done in-home health care; and I am a compassionate straightforward person, who believes in a common-sense humorous approach to life.

Chris Neary: Implementing Common Core standards is an exciting time in education reform: the standards are to measure and ensure each student has the necessary skills for success in life. I see the focus on the depth of knowledge necessary to understand key principles that will guide future learning. This depth, along with global benchmarking, ensures that our students measure and compete against the best from around the world. The school board should provide leadership to success throughout the process, support our teachers with the resources necessary to implement the new teaching regime, and lead in educating the public on these dramatic and systemic changes.

Bob Harper: I've been an educator for 42 years. There's always a new look at the curriculum, and a new brand and flavor, but you have to teach a foundation of basic skills that students can build on. The kids ought to know their basic number facts before leaving second grade, and their multiplication tables by the end of third grade. Organized and regular drilling on that, as old-fashioned as it seems, actually promotes creativity and success, because the kids are so successful in mathematics, they have more time for reading, music and plays, and outdoor activities.

Cynthia Carni: I believe we will find a way through all of the financial problems facing the district. Attendance is increasing through improvement in the economy and heroic efforts by the teachers and administrators.

Bob Harper: What I hope for our school system is that all students are so strong academically, and so well-prepared, they will truly have a choice of whether to go to college or pursue some other dream, and can be successful on either of these paths.

Question 6: Other: Any other comments?

Chris Neary: I believe we will find a way through all of the financial problems facing the district. Attendance is increasing through improvement in the economy and heroic efforts by the teachers and administrators.

Bob Harper: What I hope for our school system is that all students are so strong academically, and so well-prepared, they will truly have a choice of whether to go to college or pursue some other dream, and can be successful on either of these paths.

The principals, who've added days of work, "are also wearing multiple hats," Johnson said. "If we were short in one area," Johnson said, "it's in administration. It's a concern to me that I make sure we have administrative support at all the school sites. Right now there is a lack of support."

The rest of
Water From Page 1

have a much better treatment plan when work being done to upgrade the water treatment facility is completed.

City Engineer Tom Mannatt told the council his staff is working to support ongoing work at the plant.

"We are going to be working on that throughout the winter, Mannatt said.

Councilman Bruce Burton said he wanted to know if the problem required a second opinion. "I need something to get a foothold on," Burton said. "Otherwise I do not think I can be very helpful in the process."

With more education funds anticipated to be allocated to the Willits school district under Gov. Jerry Brown's new education formula, "there's no need" to cut five days from the school year, Nunez said.

Superintendent Johnson agreed the "primary item" the fact-finding was focusing on was the district's request for "five furlough days across the board, for administration as well as classified staff" in addition to teachers. "The five furlough days help us support the budgetary crisis that we are still in," Johnson said.

"If you can survive that, you can survive anything – to put it into perspective," Orenstein said.

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Chris Neary: I am a graduate of the Willits school system. I have been a lawyer for 38 years, and I am actively engaged in ranching. I served on the school board from 1980 to 1992. I came back on to the board last November because I believe that the school district is facing a crisis due to unanticipated results of the 2010 bond measure.

Bob Harper: I've been an educator for 42 years. There's always a new look at the curriculum, and a new brand and flavor, but you have to teach a foundation of basic skills that students can build on. The kids ought to know their basic number facts before leaving second grade, and their multiplication tables by the end of third grade. Organized and regular drilling on that,

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Congratulations Column



Engaged
Rich & Kim

Congratulations to Rich Venturi and Kim Chin on their recently announced engagement. Both families are very happy about the union. They will make their combined home in Willits.

Back in the Air

Right: The view behind Shell Lane and Redwood Meadows senior housing, looking west across the construction.

Below: Looking northwest over East Valley Road and the Shuster's trucking yards. Cement pads delineate where the columns will sit for the elevated portion of the freeway.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Aerial view of the construction site behind Shell Lane and Redwood Meadows senior housing, looking west across the construction.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Willits Weekly took another aerial look at the Willits bypass route, thanks to Table Bluff Helicopters, on Saturday, the day of the "Take a Stand for the Willits Wetlands" Rally



Above: Julia "Butterfly" Hill, famous for her two-year-long tree-sit in Headwaters Forest, and (right) Priscilla Hunter, one of the founders of the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, address the crowd at the rally.

Photos by Ree Slocum



Above: Participants at Saturday's rally form a circle for a healing ceremony on the wick drain area of the Willits bypass. After negotiations, Caltrans agreed to give rallyers access to the bypass route for the ceremony.

Photo by Ree Slocum

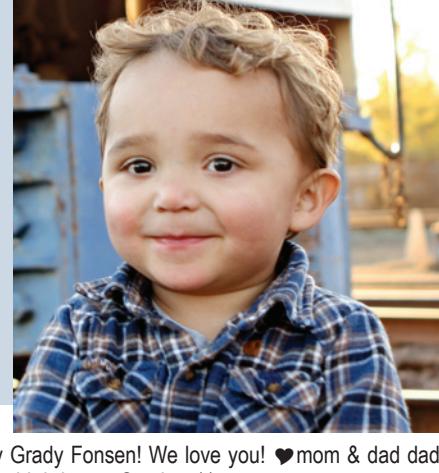


Above: left: The south end of the bypass construction, looking north up the route. The current freeway shows in the bottom left corner of the image. **Right:** The north end of the bypass construction, looking south. 101 shows just to the left of the tree line at the right side of the image.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Grady Fonsen
2nd Birthday



Happy 2nd birthday Grady Fonsen! We love you! ❤ mom & dad dad. Grady celebrated his birthday on October 11.



Happy Birthday
Jennifer Poole

Happy Birthday to Willits Weekly editor Jennifer Poole who was born on October 17, 1955, in Boston, Massachusetts. Poole celebrated birthdays in Marblehead and Beverly, Massachusetts; in York, Farmington and Ogunquit, Maine; in the Florida Keys, and in Berkeley, Oakland, San Francisco, and San Jose, California, before moving to Willits in 1992. Salutations and good wishes (and newspaper subscriptions?) will happily be accepted Thursday, October 17 at the Willits Farmers Market from 3 to 6 pm.

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Trivia
 How many Oreo Cookies have been eaten since they were introduced in 1912?
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 ~~~~~~  
 Last Week's Answer: Up to 19 mph!
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