

Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Online & Print



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Edition No. 26

By donation

Pohlson announces write-in campaign

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Brooktrails resident Ginger Pohlson has announced she will run as a write-in candidate for the Brooktrails Township Community Services District Board of Directors. Her announcement comes just two weeks before the November 5 election.

When asked why she is throwing her hat into the ring, Pohlson said, "I feel this field of candidates needed another qualified challenger."

"I have the experience to be an effective Brooktrails



Read the rest of **Pohlson**
Over on Page 9

Measure I Fire Tax Forum tonight

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
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A community informational forum on Measure I, the fire tax measure on the November 5 ballot, is set for Thursday night at the Willits City Council Chambers, 111 East Commercial Street, from 6:30 to 8 pm.

The forum is hosted by the Willits Chamber of Commerce. Fire Chief Carl Magann and several members of the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors will be available for questions.

In its invitation to the community, the chamber says this forum is designed "to provide information as well as answer questions our local businesses and citizens may have about Measure I, a proposed special tax on the ballot for the November 5, 2013 election, intended to provide funds for the construction of a new replacement fire station at 74 E. Commercial Street."

Copies of the actual ordinance and the resolution establishing the ordinance, if passed by two-thirds of the fire district's voters on November 5, are available at the Little Lake Fire Protection District office at Commercial and Humboldt Streets. Brochures and yard signs supporting Measure I are also available at the fire department office.



AUTUMN in the trees

Beautiful autumn leaves all around Willits remind us that fall is a great time to plant trees! Consult with your friendly local garden centers, Sanhedrin Nursery (1094 Locust Street; 459-9009) and Sparetime Supply (208 E. San Francisco Avenue; 459-6791) to find out about colorful trees that do well here in Willits.

Photos by Maureen Moore



City toys with new rules for off-site signage

The city has a chance to reshape its rules for businesses that want to hang a sign in town off the site of their property.

Zack Cinek
Reporter
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The City's Revitalization and Economic Development Committee met Tuesday, and some of the talk centered on sign policy.

"I really do not want to see signs around town that look like they were made by my 10-year-old grandson," Councilman Ron Orenstein said.

The Willits Municipal Code bans off-site signs. At city council meetings, both the Harrah Senior Center and Shell Lane business owner Jeff Spence vented their frustrations after the city told them to remove off-site signs.

Businesses run by Spence and Barb Ivy on Shell Lane lose business, and the senior center's popular thrift shop stays a best-kept-secret, without Main Street signs pointing the way.

"My inclination might be not necessarily banning them, but setting standards for what signs should look

Read the rest of **Signage**
Over on Page 11

Committee putting together 'nuts and bolts' of new food truck policy

Talks about changing Willits' food truck policy continued at this week's Revitalization and Economic Development Committee meeting, with members seeking agreement on the nuts and bolts of a more detailed policy to take to the Willits City Council.

Zack Cinek
Reporter
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The committee discussed a policy that would still keep food trucks off Main Street, with set hours of operation, no music, and a requirement that trucks display permits and pick up trash.

Willits Mayor Holly Madrigal presented a summary that included parts of proposals crafted earlier by committee members Ron Orenstein and Tim King.

"The items I put on the outline were the ones I [felt there was] consensus on," Madrigal said.

The committee has been discussing food truck policy since the city council

Read the rest of **Food Trucks**
Over on Page 11

City plans for life after bypass construction

Willits is planning for life after bypass construction – and one city committee is spurring efforts to make the town a winner.

Zack Cinek
Reporter
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The city's Revitalization and Economic Development Committee began reviewing a draft of Willits' downtown plan last month. The committee meets monthly, and Mayor Holly Madrigal and City Manager Adrienne Moore think it could be a clearing house for all "save-Willits" planning.

"I hope that groups are going to be communicating with each other," Moore told the Revit-ED Committee last week.

The committee recently began looking at a draft of the Downtown Plan written for the city in the late 1990s by Mogavero Notestine Associates.

Alan Fallari, Willits' retired and now part-time city planner, explained the plan was not official city policy, but

Read the rest of **Post-Bypass**
Over on Page 11

Court favors county on Harris Quarry project

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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The County of Mendocino was largely in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act when it approved the environmental impact report and project plans for the Harris Quarry expansion project, Superior Court Judge Cindee Mayfield has ruled.

The Harris Quarry is located alongside Highway 101 about seven miles south of Willits, just south of Ridgewood Summit.

Keep The Code, a local environmental group opposed to the quarry expansion, sued the county on 20 points contained in the project's environmental impact report. Mayfield upheld the county on 18 points, siding with Keep The Code on two points.

Her ruling means the EIR

Read the rest of **Quarry**
Over on Page 9

Oregon man arrested in Willits in mother's murder

A 23-year-old man from Eugene, Oregon, is being held in Mendocino County Jail after being arrested Tuesday afternoon in connection with the slaying of his mother.

Sean Patrick Kelley, 23, was arrested "without incident" by sheriff's investigators at 4:45 pm Tuesday at a family member's Primrose Drive home in Brooktrails, and taken to county jail pending extradition to Oregon, sheriff's Sgt. James Schnitzius said.

Kelley is suspected of murdering his mother, 59-year-old Susan Carol Jackson, inside her rented Springfield, Oregon, home.

Jackson had likely been dead for "one to two days" when a neighbor followed the smell of burning food to her room and found her body Tuesday morning, according to Springfield police Sgt. David Lewis.



Read the rest of **Arrested**
Over on Page 11

What do YOU think?

Yes on PACE

To the Editor:

Since 2009, Mendocino County has been discussing the creation of an energy and water efficiency funding program under the state legislated Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program.

The funding can be used by any Mendocino County property owner to improve energy and water savings improvements on their property including, but not limited to, items such as insulation, double glazed windows, new furnace and air conditioning, drip irrigation, rain water storage and solar energy systems, among others.

PACE programs are now offered in 34 states, and there are hundreds of individual programs at city and county levels. Locally, Sonoma and Lake counties have PACE programs in place, and in Sonoma County there have been more than \$50 million in property improvements done since they started their PACE program, providing long-term savings to property owners, as well as jobs and economic development to local contractors, suppliers and service providers.

Mendocino County has researched other PACE programs in California, and the county's General Services director has recommended Ygrene (www.ygrene.us) as a program provider for PACE, that can implement a county-wide (including cities) funding assessment district at no cost to the county.

At a recent Board of Supervisors meeting, a vote was taken to cease the contract negotiations with Ygrene and, subsequently, an ad hoc committee was formed to further research Ygrene and other PACE providers. After holding public meetings and obtaining more information, the issue is set to be brought back to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, November 5, at 1:30 pm, where the ad hoc committee will present their findings and make recommendations.

It is critical that PACE supporters let the Board of Supervisors know that they should proceed with approving this very important voluntary funding program to allow all Mendocino County property owners to be able to have access to the funding.

If possible, PACE supporters should attend the board meeting at 1:30 pm on November 5 to speak directly to the supervisors, as well as call or email your representative to tell them of your support. The agenda for the Board of Supervisors November 5 meeting will be posted sometime on Friday, October 31, at <http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/bos/meetings/PublishedMeetings.htm>; where you can check it for any agenda updates.

Keith Rutledge, Willits

Next Town Hall meeting

To the Editor:

The first of five Willits Town Hall meetings was held on September 22, with 73 people attending and much lively conversation taking place. The second Town Hall meeting will be held November 17, with the topic for the afternoon being "Community Traffic Circulation: Getting Around in Willits."

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.

Willits Weekly
A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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

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Bill Barksdale, Larry Desmond and Richard Jergensen – local citizens who've been involved in transportation issues – will each make a brief presentation to stimulate discussion. Bill will speak on "Planning for Joyful Change," Larry on "Bicycles and Walking," and Richard on "Trolleys and Trains." All attendees will then be invited to share their own ideas on the subject.

The same format as the first meeting will be followed: with a moderator, two mobile mikes, the names of those wanting to speak being listed on a whiteboard, to be called in turn, and a time limit for each speaker. At the first Town Hall, this format allowed everyone to hear what was being said, kept the conversation on track, and allowed time for everyone who wanted to talk to give their input.

All members of the 95490 community are invited to attend and have their opinions heard. The meeting will be held Sunday, November 17, at 4 to 6 pm in the Willits City Council Chambers. Mark your calendars!

Carlin Diamond, Willits

On bypass protests

To the Editor:

I got to sit and talk with John Trudell before the Poet Tree event at AREA 101 recently, and I asked him if he was aware of and had an opinion of the Caltrans bypass project around Willits and the activism in its regard. Though he said he was not up on all the specific details of the situation, he did share his opinion: "First off, I don't see anything new happening here ... except the added dimension that non-natives are being treated like natives ... same lack of respect," he said, then cited CAMP and COMMET (county marijuana eradication programs) and logging activism as local examples of this lack of respect.

"I don't know why citizens are surprised. The State doesn't really listen," Trudell said. "Do I have a solution how to stop them? No."

Coincidentally, we were interrupted during our talk by the event organizer, who asked Trudell to confirm whether or not he could accept an invitation to speak at the "Wetlands Healing Ceremony" scheduled at the north end of the Willits bypass route the following week. Trudell declined the offer due to other commitments, but I asked him for his thoughts on the ceremony and the effectiveness of prayer.

Without answering directly, he first went into what turned out to be a preview for what he shared on the stage that night.

He suggested "some well-thought-out clear thinking," because "emotionally reacting through the years doesn't seem to have been an effective solution."

He talked a lot about energy, saying "everything is based on energy ... the system was designed to feed on that."

"How do we not cooperate with them? That's a key," he said. "Out of this we need to start evolving ... do it without feeding energy to it."

He explained that civil disobedience is "still cooperating" by virtue of engaging the system. "Aren't all of the protesters capitulating conspirators every time they drive on a Caltrans roadway? How many miles did they all log on Caltrans highways running around to all of their protest activities and lawsuits," Trudell queried later in the

evening during his performance.

Though these actions may "temporarily feel good," Trudell said, a way NOT to feed your energy into the system – non-cooperation – "would be to put all the time, energy, and effort into educating the public about not feeding it."

"Let's evolve our thinking. We manifest our power through thoughts," he said. "We shouldn't be driven by emotional reactions. In the end we have to learn how to out-think ... can't out-fight them."

Bringing the conversation back to where we started, Trudell concluded: "I think people should pray. Prayer is important, followed by well-thought-out answers."

With Trudell's words still ringing in my ears, the day arrived for the "Wetlands Healing Ceremony." I prepared to go not only as a reporter but also as a citizen, a community member, and as a mom, concerned and hurting over what has transpired in our Little Lake Valley this year. With acorns and water collected from the land we care for, kids in tow, and a prayer in my heart, I headed to the north end of town.

I decided to drive past the area of the event firstly, to assess the situation from a reporter's view and, secondly, from a mom's view. Recovering from colds, the kids were not at their peak, so I wanted to ensure that they could have a safe, supported experience while I got my "reporting work" done.

As we approached the area of the event, my "mommy" antennae alerted immediately, and my protection system instantly engaged. Though it was just past noon, and the event was just beginning, to me the energy felt chaotic and disturbing. I kept driving past the event before pulling over to turn back around to go back. I took a deep breath, struggling with a sudden onslaught of emotions. I turned the truck around to head back and settle in for the day, despite my intuition telling me, "no, no, no." I had a job to do, after all, and we sincerely wanted to share in the healing ceremony.

Coming back through the activity zone, I saw and felt so much "energy," conflicting agendas and a multitude of emotions and judgments, and accusations and defenses, all swooping and swirling around, seeking hosts to feed upon. My mind screamed a final warning, "Get the 'F' out of here!"

My heart split open, my guts clenched, and my throat tightened as I slowed at the "performer parking" area to see if my "press" status would get me a parking space (which it did not). I already knew our time there was going to be short, but looking around all I could see was a maze of barriers, herding mechanisms for crowd control, fencing, CHP present and attentive, and signs directing and declaring who could do what where....

With my emotions already activated from the first drive-through, I knew I would not have a "grip" this day, in this space ... to do my job or to provide a fun, loving experience for my kids.

I felt their already low energy waning in the back seat as we continued back southward through the zone. I pulled into the high school parking lot to think, but by the time I actually stopped the truck, I already knew full well that we were not going back to that event and that we had a healing ceremony of our own to share and to offer – away from this end of the project!

I sent a quick email to my editor, notifying her that I was bugging out on the event.

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Then I pulled out of the lot heading south, offered a prayer to the North, and didn't look back.

Without going into great detail on personal spiritual matters, I will share that we had a wonderful experience on our own, with each of us making our own offerings to Little Lake Valley, to the planet, to our community, and so on. It was one big "YES" after we got clear of the activities on the north end.

As we finished sowing our acorns and sharing our water with the Valley, a hare popped up out of a grass clump in front of us. She hopped off none too quickly, stopping once to look back at us with a seeming nod of head and tilt of ear, as if to say: "I approve. Thank you."

Cat Lee, Willits

Phonebook Time!

It's time again for the Soroptimist International of Willits to organize its annual Willits Community Telephone Directory, and we are looking for the community's participation again this year! This is the 42nd edition of this well-loved telephone directory published by the Soroptimists. Keeping the focus of the book on Willits residents and businesses, the directory contains only local numbers provided by AT&T, and numbers for those who have contacted us for inclusion directly.

The directory is the largest fundraiser for our women's service group, and is run on a volunteer basis. All proceeds collected (minus expenses) are gladly returned to our community in the form of scholarships and awards to local women recipients, donations to organizations including Project Sanctuary, the Willits Kids Club, the Sister to Sister program and other women and girl-focused causes.

For the first time this year, we are excited to be collaborating with another women-run business: Willits Weekly, the only locally owned and independent newspaper in Willits. This collaboration was created to bring our advertisers an additional advertising option: repeating the ads from this year's phone book in Willits Weekly at a bundled rate, or you can just select our great phone book advertising on its own. Also, Willits Weekly will proudly distribute this year's phone book – inside the newspaper – the week the phone book comes out, and will run ads from the phone book alongside Soroptimist-themed content over the months following the phone book's release.

This community directory has proven itself to be a great value for your advertising dollar, as it is used by everybody in town and is also a wonderful resource for visitors staying in our hotels. We look forward to having the community's business in our 2014 edition!

Past advertisers have been sent out reminder letters, and new advertisers are welcome to contact Elizabeth at 972-9320 or email Willitsphonebook@gmail.com to get included this year!

Elizabeth Sinofsky
President, Willits Soroptimists

Due to an editing error, the start date for Wolfgang Ronnefeldt's upcoming class was incorrect: "Taming Your Snarky Dog" will start Monday, October 28 and continue on Monday evenings through December 16. Info: 459-2101.

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Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits



Top left: Veronica Cacho, Carmen Molina (holding baby Brooke Dorbin) and Holly Sears get ready to check things out downtown. Top right: Healing Central's Shawna Handschug checks out Cricket the dog's "bones." Right: Shannon Walton, co-owner of the Main Street Smoke House Barbecue, offers samples.

Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration



Many locals and visitors came out and celebrated under the Harvest Moon last Friday for Willits' annual fall Hometown Celebration.

Businesses offered deals; restaurants created tasty treats; and booths offered fun and freebies for festival-goers. Thankfully, the weather couldn't have been more ideal.

The Chamber of Commerce's pumpkin-carving contest for businesses had two winners: the judges chose the beautiful pumpkin display at the Main Street Smoke House as their winner, and the "People's Choice" award went to Cat's Meow for its window display of carved "cat"



Below: Glen Helton, Mary Pappadakis and Don O'Riley of the Willits Lions Club.

At bottom: State Farm ladies Rosa Rodriguez and Christine Edmonds hand out beads in the company's signature red color.



Left top: Jane McCabe, Elizabeth Sinofsky and Jan Lambert of the Soroptimist International of Willits pose at the booth during Friday's celebration.

Left center: Christina Bowers and Madison Lawrence have fun at Buster's Burgers & Brew, chatting with friends and watching the crowd.

Left bottom: Candice Kelley of Service with Style, a new local mobile bartending service, shows off her shaker skills during the celebration.

Photos by Maureen Moore

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pumpkins ending with a "Meow."

Chamber Director Lynn Kennelly said 384 votes were cast for the "People's Choice" pumpkin that evening, with many of the ballots embellished with comments like: "clever," "very festive," "so fun," "no contest, you win," "best ever," "love it," and "beautiful."

COLUMN |

The Medicine Chest Garden

California Bay Laurel

The California Bay Laurel (*Umbellularia californica*) is a tree found throughout our bioregion. (It is also known as pepperwood and myrtlewood.)

Right now, the nuts, which look like miniature avocados, are ripe and falling on the ground. To make a tasty treat, collect the nuts and let them dry enough that you can easily peel off the outer covering, and then let the nuts dry completely.

Roast the nuts in a 450 degree oven on a cookie sheet for about 15 to 20 minutes, stirring every few minutes until they are brown, but not scorched.

Cool the nuts and then remove the outer shell with a hammer. Next, grind the nutmeats in a grain mill, Vitamix or blender. Stir in a small amount of sweetener, such as honey or organic powdered sugar, and then form into little balls.

These Bay nut balls taste somewhat like chocolate, and also have a stimulating effect similar to chocolate.

I learned how to make Bay nut balls from Tamara Wilder, who teaches classes on "primitive technologies." For more information, check www.paleotechnics.com.

Bay Laurel tree leaves are also useful. Put a handful in the jar with your grains to repel insects, or in chicken roasts as a louse preventative, or with your garlic to increase storage time.

The leaves have the reputation of relieving a headache when they are crushed and gently inhaled, but too much of an inhalation can actually cause a headache.

Now is the time to collect and dry your Bay nuts for use in the coming months. They will store for a year or more. Happy Autumn!

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

Donna d'Terra is a Willits area herbalist who has been teaching herb classes for 25 years. She may be contacted at motherland@pacifi.net.

Dinner For 2
\$1995

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

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Puzzle Page

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

In the Stars...

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20

Aries, it's important to know that someone close to you supports you no matter what. Don't let self-doubt overwhelm you. Others support you for a reason.

TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21

Set your long-term goals and work hard to make them a reality, Taurus. Goals can help you stay on track and provide much-needed motivation when you hit rough patches.

GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 2

Gemini, even though you may not be getting all of the recognition you hoped at work, others are paying attention to your accomplishments. Just be a little patient.

CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22

Romance could be heading in your direction, Cancer. If you are in a relationship, then that relationship might grow even stronger. Plan a romantic getaway soon.

LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23

Leo, you may want to keep some thoughts to yourself this week. Others may not be fond of you rocking the boat at this time, so let things settle down.

VIRGO

Aug 24 - Sept 22

Surround yourself with people who can make you feel good and provide lots of support, Virgo. This week you may need all of the encouragement you can get.

LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23

Expect a self-esteem boost when you begin to feel better about all of your options, Libra. Although you may not be in love with all of the possibilities, many are very appealing.

SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22

Scorpio, you have an uncanny sense of imagination and your creativity will be running strong this week. Share some of your ideas with a trusted friend or family member.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21

There are many cosmic energies working in your corner, Sagittarius. You just need to be in tune with the changes that are happening all around you.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 20

Capricorn, anticipate some confusion regarding your social life this week. This can grow into a stressful situation if you let it. Instead, keep a level head and trust that things will work out.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21 - Feb 18

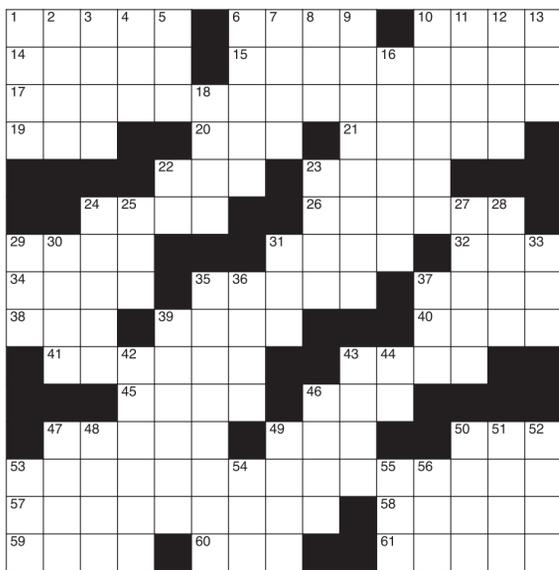
Aquarius, career concerns dominate your thoughts these next few days, but you have other things on your mind as well. Devote ample time to all of your concerns.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20

Pisces, exotic thoughts creep into your head, but you have some mundane chores that need tending to as well.

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- 1st, 2nd & 3rd in baseball
- Sew up a hawk's eyes
- N'Djamena is the capital
- Be a connector
- To acustom
- Cornflower
- Former CIA
- Bark sharply
- Actress Barkin
- Cathode-ray tube
- Shallowest Great Lake
- Surface of a plane figure
- Bird of prey
- A large number
- Chums
- Express pleasure
- Capital of Yemen
- Sanctify
- Hyperbolic cosecant
- Central Standard Time
- Seed of the legume family
- Drove in golf
- Without difficulty
- Without (French)
- Politicians (informal)
- Not happy

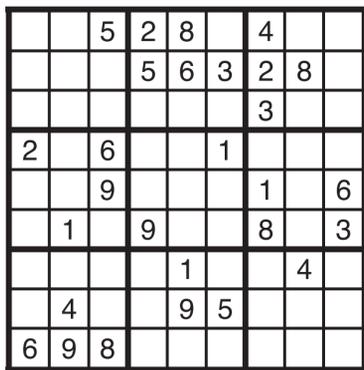
CLUES DOWN

- Lymph node plague swelling
- Freshwater duck genus
- Dog attacks
- Eilat Airport
- Visualize
- A young pig
- Wyatt __ OK Corral
- Point one point S of due E
- Those who give freely
- Small slice of meat, especially veal
- Dislike intensely
- Egyptian sun God
- Animal lair
- Dutch flowers
- A Greek harp
- O. Twist's author's initials

CLUES DOWN

- Periods of time
- ___ Claus
- Actress Lupino
- Green regions of desert
- Any competition
- Salem, MA, teachers college
- Container for display
- Ink writing implement
- Hogshead (abbr.)
- As much as one can eat
- Puts in a horizontal position
- Cotangent (abbr.)
- Vitamin H
- Book hinges
- Voiced musical sounds
- In the year of Our Lord
- Japanese entertainment firm
- Comedian Carvey
- Bird reproductive bodies
- Rests on a chair
- River border
- Softest continent
- Plural of ascus
- Prefix for ill
- Small bark
- Geographic Information System
- Mauna __, Hawaiian volcano

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!

COLUMN | Willits Real Estate Today

Buy vs. Rent

In the last column, we talked about the basic qualifications for a mortgage loan, and we mentioned some of the easy "Low/No Money Down" financing options available to buyers today. A new question was spawned from that discussion: What is the difference between renting and buying? As the market continues to be attractive for buyers, it's a natural consideration for those who aren't yet property owners. However, there are some distinct differences between the two when you start to consider tax implications, property maintenance responsibilities and expenses.

The following is an example of costs a prospective buyer can expect to incur when they become a homeowner.

A renter is paying \$1,250 a month for rent and wants to purchase a property at a comparable monthly cost. The prospective buyer has little or no money for a down payment, but does have a job and reasonably good credit. The buyer obtains a "government subsidized \$0-money-down loan" to purchase a home for \$199,000.

Here's how it may look:
 Estimated monthly expenses
 Loan: \$990
 Taxes: \$240
 Home Insurance: \$50
 Property maintenance savings and/or expenses: \$249 per month
TOTAL monthly expenses: \$1529 per

month (minus tax-deductions; see below)

Unlike when renting, potential property owners should budget for maintenance expenses and improvements. You will need to maintain – or improve – the condition of your property in order to protect your investment. When you sell the property again, you will have a better chance of getting your equity back or making a profit, depending on the property condition, improvements, and the current market rates. So, a buyer would be wise to estimate about

1.5 percent of the purchase price for upkeep each year, since that's usually about what it costs on average.

Property ownership demands more financial responsibility than renting. However, the good news for the property owner is that, besides building equity by owning property, many tax incentives are still available to write off some of the property expenses.

Let's say your household income puts you in the 25 percent tax bracket. Some of your mortgage payment is tax deductible: \$700 is the monthly interest on your loan, and it's deductible, as is the \$240 a month in property tax. To roughly calculate your return, multiply \$940 by 25 percent, and you could get back the equivalent of about \$235 per month.

So subtracting \$235 in tax deductions from your monthly expenses of \$1,529, leaves you with a total of **\$1,294 a month** in home ownership expenses.

"But wait, there is more!"

In addition to the property tax incentives, there are even more income tax incentives that make home ownership such a popular investment. If you spend money to make

energy efficient improvements to your home, or to install renewable energy sources, you may be able to deduct a portion of your expenses. Additionally, some types of home improvements can potentially lower your tax obligation in the form of capital gains when you sell your home.

Finally, if you live in your house for two of the last five years before you sell, the IRS will not collect tax on the sale profit (capital gains) of up to \$250,000 if you're single, or \$500,000 if you and your spouse file a joint return. This is a really nice tax incentive for a lot of reasons! There aren't many investments that Uncle Sam allows taxpayers to enjoy without taxation! I personally know a few clever investors who have used this tax incentive to enjoy tax-free profit. But, that's a whole other subject, and one you should consult with your tax professional about.

Owning your own home has benefits that go beyond financial, too. You can do what you want with your property, and it doesn't require a landlord's permission. And, the property improvements that you make directly benefit you.

However, it's probably safe to say that home ownership usually requires a shift in financial priorities in comparison to renting. So, take an honest look at your budget, and plan for a home that is comfortably within your financial reach.

If you would like to know more, please contact your local real estate professional. (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 jakemcfadden.mendocorealtor@gmail.com.

COLUMN | Equine Health

Colic

Colic is a condition most horse owners fear. The term refers only to abdominal pain, but since the horse's abdomen is very large and complicated, there are many causes of such pain. I think some understanding of this disease complex can help horse people make effective decisions when confronted with a colicky horse.

Colic is a leading cause of illness and death in horses all over the world. This article will focus on the signs of colic and treatment options. For those interested in a more technical description of different types of colic, please see my website at www.mobileequineveterinary.com.

Horses exhibiting abdominal pain show some fairly consistent signs, but it's important to remember that some are more stoic than others. Almost all horses in abdominal discomfort show very little to no interest in food ... and that's just not right. Any horse with a poor appetite should be examined further!

A horse with a very mild colic may just be depressed and off feed. A slightly more painful horse may paw the ground, stretch out, flare its upper lip and/or lay down quietly. As the degree of pain increases, so do the signs most horses show: so moderately painful horses may start trying to roll and severely painful horses can be out of control, throwing themselves on the ground and thrashing. Controlling pain in these horses is important, as they are at

significant risk of displacing or twisting part of their GI tract – thereby creating a problem that is fatal or that can only be resolved surgically.

Surprisingly, the degree of pain a horse initially shows may not correlate well with the severity of the problem causing it. For instance, a horse with a large amount of intestinal gas may be in terrible pain, but if its pain is managed, so it doesn't twist a piece of bowel, it should recover. Alternatively, a horse that starts out in mild to moderate pain may have a large impaction – a displacement or an enterolith – which if left untreated or if treatment is delayed may cause rupture of the colon and death.

Consider colic an emergency, and I try to see these horses as soon as possible, preferably prior to the administration of any long-acting painkillers like Banamine (flunixin meglumine). While it is true that some horses respond to a single injection of this drug, it is only a painkiller and often does not address the cause of the pain – or the real problem. In some cases, the horse will look better for hours, only to deteriorate quickly once the meds wear off. Treatment and diagnosis of many forms of colic is much more effective and affordable when done early in the course of the disease.

So what happens when a vet examines a colicky horse, and why is it worth paying for? I evaluate the horse's demeanor, temperature, heart rate, respiratory rate, gum color/relaxation time and GI sounds. Most colics don't have a fever, but other diseases routinely cause one. Horses with a belly ache often have an increased heart

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

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Hometown Business

All about commerce, life, and the need-to-know info

Promoting Willits

Willits Fan Page takes the next step

Willits Fan Page entrepreneur Eldon Miller is taking his internet social media advertising business to the next level, setting up an office in the Chase Bank complex, at lucky #7 at 234 South Main Street.

Miller's Willits Fan Page on Facebook is "bridging social gaps in our community while expanding networks," the page announces.

Miller started Willits Fan Page in April last year, initially focusing on businesses, figuring out how to help them make connections and promote themselves in the Willits community itself and beyond.

He was able to enlist a good number of local businesses that he does regular posts for on his Willits Fan Page. Miller's fees for the service run about \$30 to \$50 for six months, and "you [the customer] control the content," he said.

The Willits Fan Page is a business Facebook page, not a personal Facebook page, so you don't have to have a Facebook account to check out what the page offers at: www.facebook.com/WillitsFan. Of course, with a Facebook account, you can do more: comment or share the content.

With Willits Fan Page, Miller endeavors to up the profile of Willits and to share the diversity of businesses, the creativity of the musicians and visual artists, the fun of the Skunk Train and "nature, animals, positive community events," he said.

"Frontier Days this year ... I started playing with that," Miller said, "and people liked it." Miller also posts alerts from Caltrans and CalFire, as well as sharing content from local media and his own photographs.

By opening an office for Willits Fan Page, Miller is expanding his ability to outreach and engage with the community. "I recently became a Lion's Club member," he said. Willits Fan Page also had a booth at the Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration last week, featuring the Chamber of Commerce's prize wheel.

Luckily for Willits, Miller is a high-energy person because, in addition to the Willits Fan Page project, he still has his day job as a Call Center Supervisor for DripWorks. He also is on call three days a week as a volunteer firefighter for the Little Lake Fire Department.

"After 4, it's Willits Fan Page all night," Miller said. Having the new office, he added, will make it more convenient

Below: Eldon Miller and wife, Kristin Vesey Miller, pose next to the prize wheel at their booth at the Harvest Moon Hometown Celebration this year. Photo by Maureen Moore



for his customers to work with him. "Even if I'm not in the office," he said, "they can put stuff in the mail slot."

Miller is a family man, with his wife, Kristin Vesey Miller, and three school-aged sons.

Born in Florida and raised in Idaho, Miller first fell in love with Willits when he came here after high school. A career choice landed him in Phoenix, Arizona for 12 years, but he said he knew that was "not the place to raise his family."

Willits Fan Page recently launched a website "for the older set," Miller said, and for folks who aren't comfortable on Facebook: www.willitsfanpage.com.

Miller always is eager to know what's happening in and around town, so give him a call with your idea, story or event to promote on the Willits Fan Page's 24-hour hotline: 707-518-0166.

Business Bits

Short stories and fun facts about Willits' commerce

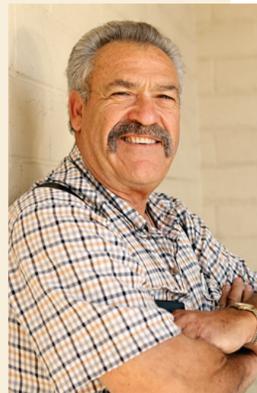
Chuck Persico now with ER Fuels

Since 1972, Chuck Persico has owned a business in the fossil fuels industry, and he is now bringing his expertise to Eel River Fuels, Inc. as their new commercial accounts representative.

Looking to help all Mendocino County residents, and those in surrounding areas, with their heating, fuel and oil needs, Persico will be available to discuss options best suited for current or new clients.

Contact Persico at 272-1746 or 462-5554, or stop in to the ER Energy's storefront near Safeway in Willits to get more information or to sign up.

– Maureen Moore



Chuck Persico

New Office for Rowland Realty

Rita Rowland Realty has moved to a new office at 282 South Main Street, across Highway 101 from the Willits Post Office, in the First American Title Company building.

Rita Rowland has 42 years of experience in the real estate field, and is ready to help folks in the Willits area and surrounding community with their real estate needs, including finding a new buyer just the right home, looking at properties through the multiple listing service, connecting with a lending professional, assisting with a sale if the seller has already found a buyer, and much more. Contact Rowland at 489-1014.

– Maureen Moore



Rita Rowland

Kimberly's to re-open on Main Street

Larry and Virginia Stranske's jewelry repair business, Kimberly's, is reopening at 75 South Main Street, just south of Main Street Music. "We've had so many calls," Virginia Stranske said. "People drop in at my home to ask about repairs. We feel young enough for one more little kick-start." The Stranskes hope to be open by November 1, after a rehab of the building facade is complete.

Larry Stranske will do jewelry repair (sorry, no watches or clocks), and the shop – named after the Stranskes' daughter – will carry a small inventory of traditional and some vintage jewelry.

– Jennifer Poole



Virginia and Larry Stranske paint the new Kimberly's sign

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Thursday, October 24

Shanachie Pub: bi-monthly E.T. Jazz Jam, featuring Lincoln Andrews on upright and electric bass, Michael Cantwell on piano and keyboards, and Jesse Bessoni on drums. Jazz standards infused with funk, hip hop, world and free-form jamming. Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday. 8 pm. No cover. Fellow jazz musicians are encouraged to bring their instruments and partake during the second set, so long as it fits. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Measure 1 Community Informational Forum: Hosted by the Willits Chamber of Commerce, 6:30 to 8 pm at the Willits City Council Chambers, 111 East Commercial Street. To provide information as well as answer questions our local businesses and citizens may have about Measure 1, a proposed

special tax on the ballot for the November 5, 2013 election, intended to provide funds for the construction of a new replacement fire station at 74 E. Commercial Street. Fire Chief Carl Magann and several members of the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors will be available for questions.

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.



Critical Mass Willits Halloween Ride: Meet at 7 pm at the Grange. Everyone is invited! No one is in charge! Bring your bike and lights! Wear a costume!

What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

Join bicycle riders and enthusiasts for a group bike ride around town. Costumes encouraged.

Shanachie Pub: Julian & the Upside Sound. 8 pm. No cover. Acoustic quintet led by Julian McClanahan on fiddle, mandolin and vocals. Original and traditional music for upbeat dancing and listening: Americana, Alternative, Celtic, Swing, and Latin Jazz. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, October 26

Basic Literacy Tutor Training Workshop: Literacy Volunteers of Willits needs tutors. If you can read, then you can teach someone else to read, write and speak English. Literacy Volunteers will train you and furnish you with all the tools you'll need. 9 am to 3 pm, at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. For reservations, call Pam at 459-1586 or email lwv@willitsonline.com.

WHS Art & Travel Club Rummage Sale: 9 am until the afternoon at Les Schwab Tires 1565 South Main Street. Fundraiser for Willits High School students planning a trip to France and Spain in June. Anyone wishing to contribute rummage items can call Tristane at 972-8929 or drop items off at the sale this morning.

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

Scoops 2nd Annual Pumpkin

Carving Event: Bring your own pumpkin. "We provide the kid-safe carving tools and clean up the mess!" Costumes encouraged. Free hotdogs from the BBQ. 1 to 3 pm at Scoops Frozen Yogurt & Deli, 110 North Main Street. Info: 272-9646.

WHS Boosters Abalone Dinner: fundraising dinner for Willits High School's sports programs. Two seatings at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street, at 5:30 and 6:30 pm. Dinner includes deep-friend 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

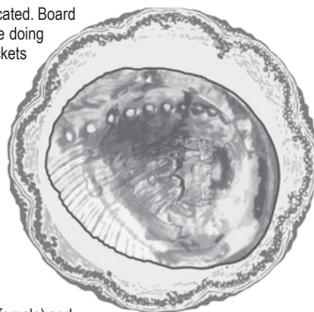
"Night of the Living Dead" Halloween Party: 10 pm tonight at Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street, "featuring DJ Zombie T rocking the grave stones!!" Fun, dancing, costume prizes for best Zombies (male and female) and Best Overall (\$50 cash). Info: 459-4977.

Sunday, October 27

Willits Grange Pancake Breakfast: from 8 to 11 am, at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Organic coffee and real maple syrup upon request. Traditional plate: Hank's Famous Buttermilk Pancakes, eggs made to order, real butter, bacon, juice, coffee or tea; \$6. Organic "Local Plate": multi-grain sourdough pancakes, organic maple syrup from an Amish Farm in Michigan, organic local farm eggs; organic yogurt &/or fresh fruit in season; \$7.

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 Neicole 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 Good's Shoppe, 56 South Main Street, or by calling WCT at 459-0895 to reserve by credit card.

Aliens vs. Robots Community Potluck & BBQ: at the Coffee Garden, 25287 Sherwood Road. 3 to 7 pm. Costumes encouraged; bobbing for apples; pumpkin carving; bean bag toss; Barbie launch; bouncy house. Info: 459-1261. (rescheduled from October 20).



Monday, October 28

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 through October. Info: Emmy Good at 367-7475.

Tuesday, October 29

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. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

Confronting the Controversies: Biblical perspectives on tough issues. The community is invited to Tuesday night talks at the Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street. Soup dinner at 5:30 pm; talks from 6 to 7:30 pm. Please RSVP: 459-2855. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more information.

Halloween Textile Skill Sharing: 7 to 9 pm at the Willits Grange, 291 School Street, Room 10. Theme: Halloween Cloaks & Costumes: Last minute rip and sew; tuck and go! Bring a curtain, sheet or blanket for making a cloak...other cool used stuff, your old clown suit, your costume ideas to fit, sew up and share. Machines available - bring seam rippers, etc. Suggested donation of \$2 pays for heating and use of space. Sponsored by Grange Women's Association. Info: Annie at 459-6362.

Thursday, October 31

Harvest Party: hosted by Agape Bible Church, 290 South Lenore Avenue, 5 pm to 8 pm. A fun, safe, Halloween alternative for kids of all ages. Costumes encouraged, candy, food, games, skit, music and giant jump house, all indoors. Questions: 459-1905.

Fall Festival Party: hosted by the Latter Day Saints Church, 265 Margie Drive.



Community is invited, with activities for kids 12 and under. 5:30 pm to 7 pm. Fun, food, games, prizes, and trick or treating for the younger kids, in a safe environment. Please no masks, no cross-dressing, or gory costumes.

Halloween Party at Shanachie Pub: Live dance music by Funkacillin - a mix of originals and "old school" funk touched with rock and soul - with Lex Krauss (guitar) of Mendocino and Rootstock fame, Cherie Sheraque (vocals) formerly of Groove Approved and currently of Samba Jamba, Jim Dooley (trumpet and keyboard) of all of the above plus others including Pura Vida and Los Piratas, Blair Rowland (drums) formerly of Tubesteak Jones and currently with Dumstruck Genius, and Nick Ford (bass) of GD.X. 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, Sirmaine Winery, Headroom, Mazahar, J.D. Redhouse, Cat's Meow, Hellagood Desserts and Shanachie Pub. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, November 1

Graveyard Gala: A dance for youth 18 and under at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. DJs will play a variety of music. \$5 at the door. 7 pm to 10 pm. Youth will be breathalyzed upon exiting. Sponsored by the Willits Charter School Student Government.

Saturday, November 2

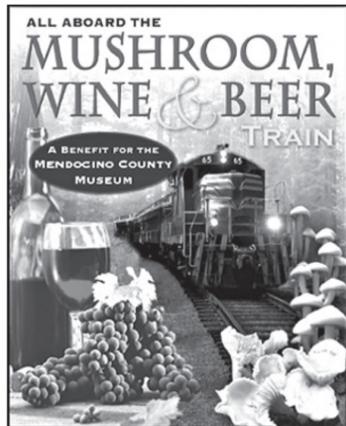
2013 Mushroom, Wine and Beer Train: to benefit the Mendocino County Museum; the signature event of Visit Mendocino County's 14th Annual Mushroom, Wine and Beer Festival. After breakfast, guests at the Skunk Train Depots in Willits and in Fort Bragg board the train at 10 am, for a day of mushroom, wine, beer and entertainment festivities. \$90. Info: www.MendocinoMuseum.org or 459-2736. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.



Willits Photography Club Annual Show: 12th annual show by members of the Willits Photography Club at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial. Dedicated to Ray Hansen, and including several images of Hansen's from Monument Valley. Show opens tonight with artists' reception from 7 to 9 pm and runs through November 30. Gallery is open Thursday and Friday from 4 to 7 pm and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 3 pm.

All Aboard!

Mushroom, Wine and Beer Train - November 2



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 of Willits, guests at both the Willits and Fort Bragg Skunk Train depots will board the Skunk Train to Camp Mendocino at 10 am, enjoying roving musicians, historians and sparkling beverages on the trip out.

At Camp Mendocino, nestled among the trees above the Noyo River, county winemakers and brewers will show off fine spirits, wines, beers and coffees.

Guests will also enjoy a Mushroom Cook-Off Contest, with local chefs from Adam's

Restaurant, Aquarelle Cafe & Wine Bar, Assaggiare Mendocino, Camp Mendocino, Cliff House, The Ledford House, Little River Inn, Mendo Bistro and Mendocino Hotel, preparing a selection of savory and sweet bites. Dishes will be accompanied by freshly baked bread from Emandal.

Media celebrity judges from Sunset Magazine, Bay Area News Group, KGO Radio and the Santa Rosa Press Democrat will be on hand to select the winning dishes.

Also on the schedule: mushroom walks with local mushroom expert Eric Schramm, cooking demonstrations by Nicholas Petti of Mendo Bistro, a discussion of "Mendocino Roots & Ridges: Wine Notes from America's Greenest Wine Region" by author Heidi Cusick Dickerson and photographer Tom Liden, music by Marcus McCallen, and more.

The return trip on the Skunk Train features more entertainment, delicious chocolates, port and Mendocino County brandy. Tickets are \$95. Info: www.MendocinoMuseum.org or 459-2736.

Seed Cleaning Workshop

A free hands-on seed cleaning workshop hosted by the Long Valley Garden Club in Laytonville at 375 Harwood Road. With Gina Covina.

Wednesday, November 6, from noon to 2 pm, starting with a potluck.

Different kinds of seeds will be provided, but you can bring your own.

Info: 984-6587.



The Dumb Supper 2013

A benefit for Phoenix Hospice, "The Dumb Supper" ritual is set for Saturday November 2 - All Souls Day - at 7 pm at The Muse, 30 San Francisco Street. \$5 to \$20 donation for hospice. Please arrive by 6:45 so the ritual can begin on time; bring your own favorite plate, chalice or cup and spoon; wear deep rich colors.

"The Dumb Supper" is a silent sharing of food, especially favorite foods - with the dearly departed dead, whether it be your great grandmother who passed many years ago or a recent bereavement.

"You are invited to bring small remembrances and things to honor your dear ones - photos, heirlooms, or even a family tree.

We will build family altars using these objects that you bring.

They will be returned to you after the ceremony. You will be able to speak about your dear ones - about their photos and favorite foods - after the "bell" has rung, bringing the silent portion of the event to a close. We will have time together telling stories of our beloved dead."

Participants are invited to bring any favorite foods - simple finger foods - of their departed beloveds: "as simple as a bar of chocolate, cookies, a bottle of beer, or as delicious as homemade cornbread."

RSVP to Mana at 707 354-2475

'Eleemosynary'

at the Willits Community Theatre



Tara Logan

escape this 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

Can we talk with each other about controversial issues?

Willits United Methodist Church invites the community to explore difficult issues and help us understand the different views people have about these issues. Join us as we look for guidance amid these difficult controversies and debate.

The 7-week series (started Tuesday, October 22) is called "Confronting the Controversies...Biblical perspectives on tough issues." It is a video/book study series and the issues are: Euthanasia, Evolution, Death Penalty, Separation of Church and State, and Prayer in Schools and Abortion.

We will begin with a soup dinner at 5:30 pm and the program will run from 6 to 7:30 pm at the Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street. Please RSVP: 459-2855

Willits Weekly | October 24, 2013

Día de los Muertos

Se observa el Día de los Muertos con una ofrenda o altar construido en la casa y en el cementario 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



Willits Weekly | October 24, 2013

Fun at the Methodist Church

The Willits Methodist Church, 286 School Street, across from the Little Lake Grange, hosts its monthly 4th Friday Fun Night

on October 25, starting at 6 pm. "This is our fourth year of having fun monthly potlucks with a theme," says Jeff Judson. "This month the theme is autumn colors, and meatloaf is on the menu." There will be a free-will offering donated to a local non-profit, conversation and board games. All are welcome; "bring a potluck dish and an appetite." Info: Lorri at 456-9338.

Also, on Halloween night, Thursday, October 31, the Methodist Church will be offering coffee, tea, cocoa and apple juice, outside near the corner of School and Pine, to all out Halloweening that night. 6:30 to 8 pm. Really hard rain will cancel.



Since 1972, Soroptimist has been helping women the world over *reclaim their dreams* through the Women's Opportunity Awards program. This program provides cash grants to women who are working to better their lives through additional skills training and education.

You are eligible to apply if you are:

- A woman with primary financial responsibility for yourself and your dependants
- Attending an undergraduate degree program or a vocational skills training program
- Have financial need

Are you trying to improve life for yourself and your family?

Are you going back to school?

Do you need financial assistance to complete your education?

For information about applying to the Women's Opportunity Awards program, please contact:

Soroptimist International of Willits California

Name Elizabeth Sinofsky Or Jan Lambert

Email Delightfulbrews@gmail.com / Janlambert2009@gmail.com

Phone 707-972-9320 or 707-841-7819

Club Application Deadline December 15th, 2013

Amount of Club Award \$750.00

www.soroptimist.org

Condolences Column



OBITUARY John Moore

OBITUARY | John Moore

On Saturday, October 19, and at the age of 92, John G. Moore went to be with his wife of 65 years, Ginnie, who passed away in July of 2012. Moore passed peacefully in his sleep around 1:30 pm at the home they shared in Willits for more than 25 years.

Those continuing the Moore family legacy include sons Christopher, Kevin and Robin, daughters Jennifer and Dodie, grandson Sean, (and all their spouses), granddaughters Maureen and Eva, and great-grandchildren Hailee and Ellie.

The family would also like to express their gratitude to all those who helped care for both John and Ginnie in their final years, most importantly Pam, Derry and Arlene, who all went above and beyond for the family during this difficult time.

The family held a small ceremony Tuesday at Empire Mortuary, and plans are being made for a community gathering in January 2014.

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m•pho•tog•ra•phress

[fuh-tog-ruh-friss]

noun: Maureen Moore: a person who creates fabulous photo moments

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Kitten Extravaganza



Photo by Katharine Kleiber

We are having a Kitten Extravaganza!! Please come to the Ukiah Animal shelter, at 298 Plant Road to meet our wonderful adoptable cats and kittens. Through October 31, we have a reduced adoption fee of \$30 per kitten or \$50 for two kittens, and half-off the adoption fees for adult cats.

There are lots of kittens and cats at the shelter right now, and we look forward to meeting you!

Please visit during shelter hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm, and Wednesday, 10 am to 7 pm. We also have many adoptable dogs; to see photos of adoptable dogs, please visit our shelter website: www.pawstoadopt.com or call Katherine Houghtby at 707-467-6453.



Top: Jeannie Wolfe and her dog Zy.

Above: Tim Knudsen and his dog "Sparky," who was adopted from BONES (Better Outcomes for Neglected Strays).



Left: From left to right: Dick Winkler (president of SNAP, Mendocino County's Spay-Neuter Assistance Program), Maggie Weaver (president of the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County), Barbara Thrasher (founder of BONES in Covelo), Charlene Zanella (Animal Rescue of Anderson Valley), and Megan Barber-Allende of the Community Foundation.

Animal welfare groups get checks at Dog Park

The Community Foundation of Mendocino chose the Frank Grasse Dog Park in Willits as the location to give out the first checks from two new permanent endowment funds. The Animal Welfare Fund for Inland Mendocino County and the Don Farrell Fund are both designated to help organizations that spay and neuter dogs and cats in inland Mendocino County.

The check reception ceremony was held on Tuesday, October 10. Thirty people attended. Susanne Niggard, executive director of the Community Foundation, and board member Jim King, addressed the crowd. Megan Barber Allende, director of Grants & Programs for the Community Foundation, presented the checks

Each of the four grantees – Animal Rescue of Anderson Valley, Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, BONES (Better Outcomes for Neglected Strays) and the Mendocino-Spay Neuter Assistance Program – received \$400.

The two new permanent endowment funds were set up thanks to two anonymous donors and a bequest from Don Farrell of Willits. The annual grants from these programs help to sustain "one of the most important things we can do to help dogs and cats," the Community Foundation press release states, "by helping to keep their population controlled, reducing the impact on the shelters, and increasing the chances that the animals will find loving homes."

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Read the rest of Dog Park | Over on Page 9

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Class

"Taming Your Snarky Dog" class by counselor Wolfgang Ronnefeldt, M.A. An opportunity to learn greater emotional awareness and tools to deal with emotions in ourselves and others. Monday evenings starting October 28 through December 16, 6:30 to 9 pm. Cost: \$200. Info: 459-2101.

Help Wanted

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

Computer Help

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

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PINBALL MACHINES for sale. 459-6372.

Found Cat

Large tortoiseshell female cat. Lovely distinctive coloring with a lot of white. Found on Valley Road, where Live Oak Road comes in, 1 block west of East Side Road. Very affectionate. Cat showed up 6 to 8 weeks ago. Call 459-9228 if this is your lost cat or if you're interested in adopting her. Family would like to keep her, but older male cat disagrees.

Dog Training Classes

Starting Monday, Nov. 4. Six-week course. Willits Community Center. Puppy class 5:15 pm; Level 1 6:30 pm. Space is limited! Info: Wellmanneredmutts@gmail.com. 463-3647.

CLASSIFIEDS!

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The rest of Quarry | From Page 1

for the project remains certified, but the project is no longer approved.

"They will have to re-apply," said Keep The Code's Bob Whitney. "They can get that done by the end of next year."

Speaking on behalf of the county, County Counsel Thomas Parker said the county was "certainly pleased the court ruled for us in so many issues that Keep The Code challenged us on." He noted Mayfield's ruling means Willits-based Northern Aggregates will have to do additional work on the long-contested EIR if the project is to move forward.

Parker said he has not yet heard from Northern Aggregates owner Frank Dutra on what he and the company plan to do. Dutra was not available for comment when Willits Weekly twice attempted to contact him.

Mayfield ruled two areas of the EIR need additional work. The EIR, she said, needs to examine some alternative to the provision that the asphalt plant will be open for 100 nights a year, and the document needs to consider some alternative to the proposal that the asphalt plant must be a permanent plant.

"The EIR failed to consider the viability of a temporary asphalt plant," said Whitney.

Whitney added Keep The Code was disappointed Mayfield ruled the county did not have to submit a new EIR for the portion of the quarry project involving the board of supervisors' adoption of an overlay zoning ordinance, permitting asphalt and concrete plants to co-locate with gravel mining operations when those mines are located on rangeland.

"We didn't expect Mayfield would side with the applicant and the county on that one, that they wouldn't have to do a new CEQA analysis on that overlay zoning ordinance," Whitney said.

"What they did, in effect, was to say, 'Here's all the existing quarries in the county, and here are all the quarries that are in operation, with current permits.' Then they said, 'None were in a good position to actually install a concrete or asphalt batch plant alongside those quarries, except for the Harris Quarry. Therefore, we don't have to do an EIR on the broader potential impacts.' We felt that was unfair and improper. We argued they should have done that. They did that for the project, but they didn't do that for the potential impacts that would arise from approving that zoning overlay ordinance over the entire county."

According to Mayfield's ruling, the county argued applicants do not have to examine environmental impacts if those impacts are speculative. Mayfield agreed with the

county on that one.

"We are not against the quarry, per se," said Whitney. "We just didn't want an asphalt plant there. It's heavy industrial in a not very good location."

Mayfield's ruling is the latest chapter in the epic struggle by Northern Aggregates to expand the quarry at Ridgewood Summit, which opened in 1983 under a permit authorizing the landowners to extract up to 10,000 cubic yards of rock a year. In 1997, it was granted a 10-year permit allowing the extraction of up to 75,000 cubic yards of rock per year.

In 2004, Northern Aggregates owner Frank Dutra requested a permit to build an asphalt plant on North State Street in Ukiah; however, that application was denied when it was determined a plant would pose irreconcilable conflicts with existing residential development in the neighborhood.

At that point, the board of supervisors told Dutra his project could go forward if the asphalt and concrete plants he wanted were sited near the gravel mine. In order to do that, the county would have to draft and approve an amendment to the county's zoning ordinance that permitted industrial operations alongside gravel mines, and Dutra would have to pay for the process.

Dutra accepted the county's offer, and in 2007 he unveiled his proposal: a 90-year permit that would allow extraction of up to 200,000 cubic yards of rock a year, plus allow him to site both an asphalt plant and a concrete plant on his Ridgewood Summit property.

An EIR was begun in early 2007 and completed in December of that year. Public criticism on many aspects of the project prompted Dutra to put it on hold while the bugs were worked out of the EIR.

A revised draft EIR was ordered in January 2010 and the project was scaled back. The request for a 90-year permit was reduced to a request for a 30-year permit. The 200,000 cubic yards of rock was reduced to 150,000 cubic yards. The proposal for a concrete plant was eliminated, and the final offer was for the gravel mine with an asphalt plant to be located around the mountain on Black Bart Drive.

Public hearings on the completed draft EIR were held in the summer of 2011. The board of supervisors approved both the final EIR and the project in April 2012. Keep The Code sued the county in May 2012.

Puzzle Answers From Page 4

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

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The rest of Pohlson | From Page 1

director," Pohlson said, pointing to her four years of service as a Brooktrails board director from 2002 to 2005. Pohlson also has served six years on the board of the Brooktrails Property Owners Association, the last two years as president of the board, and currently serves on the Redwood Empire Fair board of directors.

"I will work to ensure [Brooktrails] infrastructure is in good working order, and I will plan for realistic capital improvements and replacements," Pohlson said. "I have

the experience to find solutions, to encourage inclusiveness and deliberation, and to work collaboratively with residents and outside agencies.

"My passion is to work with people to create a collective plan of action that achieves the community's desired goals."

Pohlson added Brooktrails residents who may wish to talk with her about her views on township issues may call her at 459-5438, or on her cell phone at 513-6561.

The rest of Dog Park | From Page 8

These funds are "field of interest funds," allowing a donor to define their personal area of interest or specific town or community. Now that these funds are established, anyone can add gifts in any amount through a current gift or a bequest. For more information about donating, call 468-9882.

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Heartwarming stories & local tidbits



Newbie
William Jacob
Cronk

Kacie and Jake are pleased to announce the birth of their son, William Jacob Cronk. He was born in McKinney, Texas, on July 11, 2013 at 5:08 pm. He weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces, and was 19 1/2 inches long. William is the grandson of Bill and Shirley Cronk of Willits and Jay and Lynn Kinney of South Bend, Indiana.



Part 1 | Canoeing the Eel

The plan was to canoe the Trinity River from Willow Creek to its confluence with the Klamath River at Weitchpec.

Most Northern California rivers are quite low by September's end, but, thanks to water releases from upstream, the Trinity would have sufficient flow for canoeing. I'm talking about enough flow to accommodate four guys, two canoes, camping gear, a week's worth of food, beer, wine, gin and tonic. In other words, the essentials.

Then came the second storm in September, and things changed.

We knew the storm was coming. I'd been checking NOAA forecasts for three weeks. By the time my canoeing pals arrived in Willits, the forecast for rain was 100 percent. Not to be denied our river outing, we set out anyway. Weather be damned!

We didn't head for Willow Creek, though. We holed up in the Eureka Inn. We figured to sit out the downpour in this

grand old hotel, reading, playing cards, discussing politics, sipping port in front of the hotel's fireplace. It was the only civilized thing to do.

The first night at the Inn was very pleasant. Tucked into the big sofas in the expansive lobby, enjoying drinks from the hotel bar, we were probably about to launch into a discussion of the Higgs-Boson particle, when Tom remembered that the final episode of "Breaking Bad" was to be shown the next day. Not only that, but episodes of the show were airing continuously, leading up to the finale.

I was only mildly interested. A story about a high school chemistry teacher who turns to making meth to make ends meet had never appealed to me. But Tom and Phil had been watching the series from the beginning, and they loved it. They both launched into the telling of the whole story. By the time they finished, I was totally sucked into the long, sordid drama. I couldn't wait to see the final

episode.

In the morning, after breakfast in the hotel's dining room, someone suggested going upstairs for a minute to see what episode of "Breaking Bad" was airing at the moment. Just a peek. It was a big mistake. Except for a brief foray at midday for pizza, Tom, Gary, and I never left the chairs lined up in front of the TV. Tom was our guide through the horrors unfolding before our eyes, explaining characters and details from past episodes relevant to the present. Phil managed to escape for a while, interested mainly in the finale.

Nine hours later, Walter White lay dead on the meth lab floor, the neo-Nazis were machine-gunned to death, and young Jesse Pinkman was free. We sat immobilized in our chairs. Someone managed to turn off the TV. I felt like a jellyfish jacked up on Heisenberg's blue stuff. We staggered like zombies into the

Read the rest of
Eel
Over on Page 11

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Día de los Muertos

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 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.

Photos by Cat Leo

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Forum on sixth-grade reconfiguration next week

School Superintendent Pat Johnson will preside over a Community Open Forum next week to get feedback regarding the decision the school board make last spring to move sixth-grade classes from Baechtel Grove Middle School to Blosser Lane Elementary School. The forum is set for Wednesday, October 30, at the Willits High School auditorium, starting at 5 pm.

"It'll be just myself taking notes and hearing the concerns," Johnson said. "We have a lot of information from last April's meeting. The board has directed me to look at this again, and come back with a revised recommendation." A full-house meeting at the Willits High School cafeteria in April revealed a lot of unhappiness with the idea

of moving older students from Baechtel Grove to Blosser Lane.

Johnson has already had meetings with staff and with parents to get their feedback, and plans one other future meeting, "for the community to hear my recommendation," before going back to the school board early next year.

The reconfiguration plan was proposed by then-interim Superintendent Deb Pearson as a way to counter then-declining enrollment. One change - teaching third-grade classes at Brookside Elementary School, instead of at Blosser Lane Elementary School - was already implemented this fall.

The rest of
Signage
From Page 1

like so they are not crappy and look uniform," Orenstein said.

City Planner Alan Fallari told the committee he thinks businesses could allow off-site signs as long as signage does not exceed city square footage regulations for a particular property.

City Hall has said its enforcement of Municipal Code regulations is driven by the number of complaints received.

Mayor Holly Madrigal has suggested changing the sign ordinance to permit off-site signs on real property.

"I think it detracts from the look of the town if we let just anyone throw up a sign," Orenstein said.

Carlin Diamond, organizer of Willits' 95490 Town Hall meetings, said signs could be regulated by

size, possibly as an interim policy. But Diamond, not a fan of signs at Evergreen Shopping Center, added, "All of those signs are very objectionable to me."

The city could make a list of the types of signs it will not allow, such as flashing signs, Fallari said, or it could approve new design guidelines for off-site signs.

Tony Shaw, executive director of the Employers Council of Mendocino County, was on hand for the meeting.

"I would not recommend design guidelines for signs," Shaw said. "It will become too complicated with people's brands."

- If you care to go, the Revit-ED committee meets again November 5.



One of Willits' food trucks: Taqueria Ramirez

Photo by Zack Cinek

The rest of
Food Trucks
From Page 1

heard concerns about food trucks and similar enterprises earlier this year.

"I seem to recall we were preferring to keep trucks off streets and on private property - off the roadway, whatever," Orenstein said. "My thinking was that it would sort of be a general list of principles."

With an updated summary or general list of principles, Orenstein and Madrigal both said the rest of the city council will want to weigh in on possible changes to the ordinance.

Committee member Tom Woodhouse said he would like the city to adopt a simple, flexible policy. "I do not want to create a long law that is cumbersome and creates more government," he said.

To Orenstein, food trucks are mobile and have the ability to park where the action is. "We have

construction in my neighborhood, and I have no problem if a truck came by in the morning with donuts and coffee," he said.

A city ordinance currently bans food trucks and mobile vendors from doing business on Commercial and Main streets and within a one-block radius of those streets.

The new rules will center exclusively on food trucks, not, for example, mobile vendors selling jewelry or produce.

"You have to be careful how you define food truck-mobile vendor," former City Planner Alan Fallari told the committee.

Madrigal said she wants to bring a new policy summary to the next Revitalization and Economic Development meeting.

The rest of
Post-Bypass
From Page 1

more like a "first cut" for city staff to review. "A vision," Fallari said: "Do we still have that same vision for what we want the plan to be?"

The plan sets boundaries for downtown, from north of State Street south to Oak Avenue, drawing lines west to include the Little Lake Grange building and other streets a block or two east of Main Street.

Madrigal summarized the plan in a four-page-long list of the leading items.

The plan suggested attention be given to parking, pedestrian safety, the Van Lane and Muir Lane alleys, and a Railroad Avenue north-south corridor street.

Committee member Tom Woodhouse said the city council pulled the plug on the new plan. "I think the public is tired of not being supported by the council," he added.

With Caltrans set to repave Main Street when freeway work is done, committee members discussed how the city could pursue better sidewalks and streets with pedestrian-friendly designs.

"You have to make conditions favorable, and businesses will do it," Fallari said. "We need to improve relations with Caltrans and work with them better."

Employers Council of Mendocino County head Tony Shaw came from Ukiah to sit in on the meeting. The ECMC aims to give businesses a voice, and Shaw said he has tried to get several businesses to make Willits home.

He named basic items potential employers require: a water connection, sewer connection, zoning clearance, utilities - including broadband

Internet, natural gas and electricity - transportation, and an encroachment permit, if needed.

Shaw says businesses will go to another town if they cannot have those. "You need to look at those basics if you are looking at attracting business."

Mendocino County Museum director Alison Glassey told the committee an idea for a Commercial Street light parade is an event she thinks could engender a positive response in the community.

Glassey said the museum will work with the city on boosting Commercial Street. "At some level the museum owes Willits, and somehow Willits owes the museum."

Councilman Ron Orenstein said he thinks there are a lot of good ideas, but warned businesses will not be coming to Willits without an employable workforce. "I feel strongly the city has a role in creating an environment to make things happen," Orenstein said.

The rest of
Eel
From Page 10

rainy night in search of sustenance to feed the adrenaline uselessly pumping through our bodies.

We recovered with the passing of the storm.

By morning, bits of blue sky began to appear. But a new reality had set in. Heavy downpours in the mountains had swollen the Trinity considerably. Phil found through an app on his phone that the river flow had gone from 400 cfs (cubic feet per second) to 3,000 cfs and rising. This was exciting for rafts and kayaks, but it was far too dangerous for open canoes. We had to change rivers.

The Eel River was a possible alternative. Before the storm, the Eel had been too low for canoeing, but now the flow had risen to a level that, though still low, was canoe-able. With five days left on our outing, we decided to canoe down a familiar stretch of the Eel: a 30 mile run from Alder Point to the McCann bridge.

We loaded up, drove back to Garberville, crossed east to Alder Point, and were on the river by 4 pm.

The Main Fork of the Eel below Alder Point is a very easy river for canoeing, with Class I rapids flowing through forested wilderness. Thanks to previous trips on the Eel, as well as Phil's survey maps, we knew where to look for campsites. But it was never a sure thing. Winter floods eliminated sandy beaches or created new ones. So Phil used his maps, and we all kept our eyes open.

We reached our first campsite about two hours downstream. We knew this site well. A large and familiar rock rose from the river on the right. A railroad tunnel was visible above the opposite shore. There were plenty of flat, sandy areas around the large rock for sleeping. A deep swimming hole with a sandy bottom below the camping area made the whole place a perfect campsite.

With darkness coming on fast, we found sleeping areas, changed clothes, and set up the kitchen. Gary, our fire-maker, gathered rocks and built our campfire. We ate a light supper and relaxed by the campfire, adding layers of clothing as the night got colder. During night, a heavy dew soaked the outside of our sleeping bags.

In the morning Gary lit the fire, and we boiled the water for the morning coffee. There's nothing like that first cup of coffee around the morning campfire. On our canoe trips, however, you can't have your morning coffee until you've performed the morning ritual: you have to completely immerse yourself in the river.

It sounds harsh. Actually, it is harsh. But as with most forms of torture, the hardest thing to endure is the anticipation. You reluctantly take off your clothes. You wade into the water. You gear yourself up for the shock. You plunge in.

And then an amazing thing happens. You find that it's not that bad. By the time you're drying off, you notice you're not even cold. You're also wide awake. The coffee and campfire are merely pleasant pleasures to help you savor a lovely morning.

Gary, Phil, Tom, and I have been canoeing together for more than 30 years. In our younger days the morning ritual was an exercise of your youthful vigor. Now, as spook-ridden aging gaffers, we don't dare to not plunge in, lest we offend the river gods and get severely punished.

Part 2 of "Canoeing the Eel" coming soon.

The rest of
Colic
From Page 4

rate, and knowing that rate is useful - the higher it goes, the more concerned I am.

Many colics will have a transient heart murmur. Knowing what's normal for your horse pays off here: Did he have that before? Respiratory rate tends to increase with pain. Gum color is really important. Normal horses have light pink gums, and when you press on them the color comes back in less than 2.5 to 3 seconds. Moderate cases of colic usually have pale gums and a close-to-normal refill time. Sicker horses are becoming dehydrated and metabolically unstable. Their gums will get darker, and their refill time will increase.

Horses should always have GI sounds all over their abdominal cavity - usually slightly more on the right side. Many colicky horses have a decrease in overall GI motility. It may be possible to hear sand or dirt, and some horses will have abnormal gassy sounds.

After completing a physical, I will usually sedate the horse and do a rectal exam, during which the organs in the back third of the abdominal cavity can be assessed for location, presence of excessive gas or ingesta, pregnancy, abnormal masses, sand, and quality/quantity of feces. Sounds bad, but it is an informative exam.

Next I pass a tube through the horse's nose and into its stomach... wow. I can see that my tube is in the esophagus (food tube) and not the trachea (air tube) by watching it go down the left side of the neck. Once in the stomach I check for gas and then for food backed up into the stomach. Horses can't vomit, so it's important to know whether or not things are backing up into the stomach - a condition called reflux. If no reflux is present, I will pump water, and a variety of other compounds, into the stomach, depending on my exam findings. This will help move things along this massive GI tract - but it will take many hours.

Some horses go on intravenous fluids at this point. This will help maintain good hydration status and may be used to overhydrate a horse in an attempt to pass an impaction. This procedure is not terribly expensive and often produces good results.

Now for the bad news: there are types of colic that can only be resolved by surgery, which has to be done at a hospital. For most of my clients, it's a 3- to 5-hour drive to the nearest surgical facility. That's a long time for a horse with a surgical form of colic. Surgery is very expensive and not an option for lots of horses, but for those for whom it is, getting there on time is critical.

These horses are very ill, metabolically unstable, difficult to safely anesthetize, and may require many hours of surgery. Getting surgical cases to surgery in time is a very important responsibility for veterinarians in the field, and it's not always easy to tell which horses need to go. I will err on the conservative side and do everything I can to make sure a horse gets there in time for surgery to save it - if it doesn't turn out to need surgery, that's great.

I encourage horse owners to call a veterinarian at the first sign of colic. Some horses get better on their own or with some owner-administered pain killers, but many don't, and the time that passes between noticing the problem and assessing/treating it thoroughly can truly be time you wish you had back. No one wants the expense of an unexpected vet call - but if your horse is sick, it's probably worth it. How much would it cost if you had to try to replace him?

Dr. Sheri Corbin has provided mobile equine veterinary care in Mendocino and Lake Counties for 12 years. She has extensive interest and experience in equine dentistry, endoscopy, digital radiology, reproductive care and preventative medicine. She is also the on-site veterinarian for Willits Frontier Days. Check www.mobleequinevet.com for more info, or call Dr. Corbin at 456-6781.

The rest of
Arrested
From Page 1

Jackson had suffered "obvious trauma to her neck and head" but was not shot, Lewis told Springfield's Register-Guard newspaper. Police declined to provide additional information about how Jackson was killed.

The Springfield home's owner, Gold Beach resident Carla Fletcher, said Tuesday during a telephone interview with the Register-Guard: "There was an issue with [Jackson's] son showing up [at the home] with other people."

Lewis confirmed Kelley had previously visited his mother against her wishes. Kelley was previously arrested October 7 after reportedly threatening Jackson with a knife.

Witnesses told police they had last seen Kelley at his mother's home on Sunday. Kelley allegedly took Jackson's car and drove it to a spot in rural northeastern California where it was found abandoned on Monday. Kelley then allegedly traveled to Willits.



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Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits

Below: Charley and Bobbie hold up their Walk-A-Thon T-shirts after completing their laps.

Walk-A-Thon

Elementary students walk for their schools

Second-graders walked and power-walked around, lap after lap, at Brookside School the last half-hour before lunch Tuesday, during the Ninth Annual Walk-A-Thon. Asked if they were having fun, all the kids said "Yes!" Some enthusiastic walkers had to be reminded that it was a "Walk" event, not a "Run."

Brookside and Blosser Lane elementary school students participate together in the Walk-A-Thon, said Brookside Principal Olga O'Neill, who walked herself Tuesday morning with the kids.

The Walk-A-Thon is sponsored by the PTO (Parent Teachers Organization), and raises funds for general, extra school needs. The walkers are still collecting pledge money, O'Neill said, so total funds raised this year are not yet known, but in past years the Walk-A-Thons have raised between \$8,000 and \$12,000.

"It is our one big fundraiser," O'Neill said. The money raised by Brookside kids is used at Brookside, and the money raised by Blosser Lane students is used at that school.

Funds raised sponsor the book giveaway program, where every kid in school gets a new book four or five times a year. They're also used for assemblies, physical education equipment, family nights, and more: "It helps pay for everything the PTO does," O'Neill said.

Local business sponsors give money upfront to pay for the Walk-A-Thoners' snazzy T-shirts, and they sponsor kids, too. Students raise money based on the number of laps they complete, but many sponsors just give a flat fee.



Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
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All grades at Brookside – with an enrollment of 486 kids – participated in the Walk-A-Thon at different times of the morning, as well as 20 or so pre-school kids: a total of more than 500 kids. "Every kid in the school walks," O'Neill said. The principal thanked the "very generous" business sponsors, and members of the PTO who organized the event, especially Jennifer Drew and Windi Kvasnicka.

Baechtel Grove Middle School is planning their 2013 Walk-A-Thon for Friday, October 25. "The theme for our walkathon is 'Stand Up and Be Healthy,' said Tami Jorgensen, registrar/principal's secretary at Baechtel Grove. "Our students will be looking for sponsors for this event, and they will be walking to earn their goal of \$5,000." Students in the sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade Student Council and Leadership classes organize Baechtel Grove's Walk-A-Thon, and funds raised help pay for field trips and student activities. Donations are gladly accepted.



Left: Second-graders walk at the Brookside and Blosser Lane Walk-A-Thon. Right: Kids from Mrs. Milliken's class enjoy last week's Walk-A-Thon.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

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