



‘The State of the Eel River’

Eel River Recovery Project holds November 15 meeting in Willits

The Eel River Recovery Project is hosting a meeting at the Willits Environmental Center on Tuesday evening, November 15 from 6 to 8 pm, to report on the state of the Eel River based on five years of data collection and to have a community discussion on building a sustainable culture compatible with maintaining aquatic ecosystem function. ERRP Managing Director Pat Higgins will present and then lead discussions.

ERRP has been working with citizens to support volunteer monitoring and data collection throughout the Eel River watershed since 2012 to help assess the health of the river and its tributaries. Collecting data with watershed residents helps each better understand the condition of their creek or river reach, but it also gives them data they and their neighbors can trust about flow and water quality trends.

ERRP does not get involved in advocacy and avoids assigning blame, if scientific results suggest ecological deterioration. Instead ERRP has been working to get more information to rural residential land owners, including cannabis farmers, about how to conserve water and to prevent water pollution by creating a farm plan and implementing sustainable agricultural practices.

The “State of the Eel River” talk will include a discussion of fall Chinook salmon population trends, pikeminnow abundance and distribution, water temperature patterns based on hundreds of probes deployed, and the extent of toxic cyanobacteria proliferation in the Eel River. Although cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, have always been present in the Eel River, it wasn’t until around the year 2000 that it began to develop toxic blooms that have proved fatal to dogs. The University of California Berkeley has assisted ERRP since 2013 in studying cyanotoxins, and study results suggest that problems are most acute in the middle reaches of the South Fork Eel River.

After collecting data for several years, ERRP concluded that work was needed within the community to conserve water and prevent water pollution. The State Water Resources Control Board funded an Eel River citizen monitoring and educational outreach project beginning in May of 2015 that not only provided support for citizen monitoring, but also for substantial outreach to the cannabis culture to promote agricultural best practices.

The Rules: LETTERS

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters focusing on Willits and 3rd District issues, activities, events and people have priority. Willits Weekly prints letters from residents of Willits and the 3rd District only. To encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to once a month.

Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred. Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author’s name and city of residence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer’s name will be considered.

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Adding local food

Avenues to Wellness workshop for Willits eatery owners

By Doreen Blumenfeld, for Avenues to Wellness

Local cafe owners from Willits came together on Monday, October 23 to talk about topics including local food availability, national eating trends, and how to provide residents in our area with fresh, flavorful and tasty new menu choices.

Sponsored by Avenues to Wellness, a Frank R. Howard Foundation program, the discussion was initially led by Jen Dalton from North Coast Opportunities. Dalton has been working with the Culinary Institute of America to implement a “Menus of Change” program in Lake County. With an extensive history in marketing local food industries as well as supporting other good-food related projects, Dalton brought some new concepts to the group.

Menus of Change focuses on healthy, sustainable and delicious food choices. Small steps of change might be offering more vegetable choices, serving more seafood and increasing whole, intact grains. How to honor individuals’ traditional food preferences, while also using creativity to meet new culinary or dietary needs, was part of a lively discussion.

John Bailey from NCO presented the second half of the meeting, which was an introduction to the exciting concept of our local Mendo-Lake Food Hub. This service is available to cafes, grocery stores and school districts throughout Lake and

Mendocino County. The Food Hub is a simple, reliable and affordable way to purchase local produce for food service businesses.

Farmers in Lake and Mendocino Counties harvest produce based on weekly orders, so the customer is guaranteed to have the freshest and highest quality produce. The produce is trucked to various food storage areas in the county, and then delivered directly to the commercial customer. All produce storage and delivery meets the highest standard for food handling.

The Food Hub is a win-win situation for our community. Commercial customers can share certain bulk items, order ahead for seasonal use items, and can be assured that their ordered item is on the delivery truck when it visits their place of business. Farmers can have greater assurance their produce will be sold, which helps the sustainability of their farms. The challenges of small cafes owners needing to order from large commercial produce companies or to travel to more urban areas for supplies can be reduced.

It was agreed upon by all that Willits is a special area and the heart of Mendocino County. Abundant local foods, community collaboration, and the chefs’ unique culinary skills and experiences create an exciting and innovative future for our local cafes during this time of transition.

\$10 million for rural school bus replacement

Some \$10 million in funding to replace aging and dilapidated school buses in rural and small school districts has been approved by the California Air Resources Board.

Working with the Air Resources Board, state Senator Mike McGuire helped advance a budget proposal this year to allocate \$10 million and implement a grant process “designed to meet the unique needs of small and rural school districts,” according to a press release from McGuire’s office.

“We have spent the past year developing a grant process and funding allocation that will be successful for California’s rural and small schools – which have among the oldest and dirtiest burning school buses in the state,” McGuire said. “This year’s budget agreement will now bring twice the original allocation, \$10 million to our state’s small schools, putting fuel-efficient, cleaner-burning school buses on the road.” That, he notes, “will improve health outcomes for school kids and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”

The statewide grant administrator of this program will be based on the North Coast. “To ensure the program will be run by someone who lives and works in a rural area, and is familiar with the unique and special set of circumstances small, rural schools face,” the press release said.

Now that the funding has been approved, the North Coast Air District will begin administering the grants. The grant will award up to three electric school buses or one conventional fuel bus to individual applicants.

In addition, CARB Chairwoman Mary Nichols is implementing a survey of old school buses across the state so the board will have a better understanding of the

statewide problem.

“Small and rural school districts have been left out of the school bus replacement funding allocations for too long, and we are grateful to have worked with the Air Resources Board to make this program a reality,” McGuire said. “We have fought hard to ensure rural students are not left behind, especially when it comes to their health, safety and educational opportunities, and we couldn’t be more excited to see this program moving forward.”

Rural school districts transport a significant share of their total student population compared to larger districts, which means, per capita, rural students are exposed to higher forms of pollutants. The California Air Resources Board has stated bus-related exposure to exhaust fumes is due to the time spent commuting by school bus.

Exhaust fumes are known to be one of the leading causes of asthma.

While small and rural school districts want to advance environmentally preferred transportation alternatives, these districts are challenged to afford bus replacements because they have less discretionary funding and limited access to other types of funding that urban school districts often use to replace aging bus fleets, the press release stated. McGuire added: “Moreover, rural transportation costs per student are typically higher due to the greater distance rural students are required to travel to and from school.”

The \$10 million Rural School Bus Replacement Pilot Program was approved October 20.

This report was based on a press release from the Office of State Senator Mike McGuire.



Raising cash with the Color Run

Willits students and adults raise \$27,000+ for local schools

The community had the opportunity to show its true colors at the second annual Willits Unified School District Color Run Saturday at Willits High School. The event was the celebratory cap to fundraising efforts by students to collect money for the Blosser and Brookside elementary schools, Baechtel Grove Middle School, and Willits High School.

Andria Stone
Features Writer

The students collected donations from the community in order to gain various prizes, including a Color Run T-shirt, packets of colored powders, and blowhorns. For every \$30 raised by the student, he or she received one color packet, though additional packets could be purchased for \$2, at the event.

Windi Kvasnicka, the coordinator for the event, discovered the Color Run two years ago. “We had been doing a walk-a-thon every year as a fundraising event, and it was starting to get old and

tired. The Color Run seemed like it would be fun. And it has been!”

Several booths, with chairs and tables provided by Sparetime Supply, sold coffee and donuts as well as tutus, leggings and white wigs which showed off the colored powders to dazzling effect. Shortly before the run, participants took part in a “Blast Party,” in which they took turns “blasting” themselves and each other with color packets while dancing the Cupid Shuffle and the Macarena, with music provided by Ukiah’s Ken Steely, a professional DJ of 35 years.

Once the run began, a rainbow of color swept around the track as both kids and adults ran, walked or danced the 12 laps, equaling three miles, while more color was added to the participants at four points along the way. The exact number of students and adults involved in the fundraiser is uncertain, but there were certainly plenty in attendance at the event itself, which had been

postponed once due to heavy rain. The delayed gratification no doubt added to the exuberance and enthusiasm displayed that day.

“Not only does the Color Run help the schools, but it encourages health and fitness,” said Deborah Welch, parent and participant. Her son, 7-year-old Ahmad Eason II, raised \$95 for the event, receiving three of the much-desired color packets. “It really gave my son something to look forward to. He set and reached a goal, and had fun doing it. Some of these kids are really dedicated,” she added.

The fundraiser generated more than \$27,000 dollars, of which 70 percent will be shared amongst the four participating schools. Welch was pleased to hear that the schools plan to host a Color Run again next year saying: “It’s a great way to be involved in the community, and even if it takes a few days to get all of the blue out of my hair, it was worth it!”



At top, from left: Charley Lamprich, left, Rylee Gamble and Haley Kvasnicka stop mid-run to pose for the camera. Alissa and Ella Swinney show off their colors. Ready for the run, from left: Ivan Estrada, Dayana Estrada, Aliyah Nieto, Danielle Estrada and Marco Nieto.

Above: Mimi Crook throws some colored powder at the passing runners.

Below, from left: A cloud of blue engulfed runners at one station. Deborah Welch with her son Ahmad Eason II. Runners getting set for the start. Color Run organizers Kevin and Windi Kvasnicka.

Photos by Damian Sebouhian



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Mon-Thurs: (2D) 4:15 & (3D) 6:45pm

DOCTOR STRANGE
(PG-13) 1 hr 55 mins
Fri-Sun: 1:00, 3:30, 6:00 & 8:30pm
Mon-Thurs: 5:00 & 7:30pm

THE ACCOUNTANT
(R) 2 hrs 8 mins
Fri-Sun: 12:00, 2:45, 5:30 & 8:15pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:30 & 7:15pm

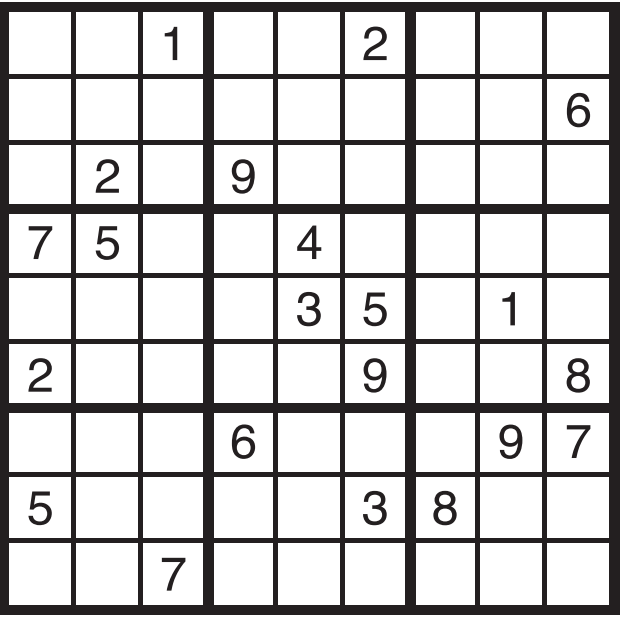
Movie Times for 11/11 thru 11/17

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

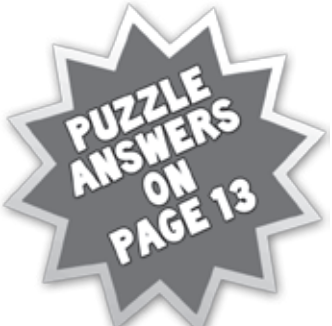
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Marjorie Burton Haselswerdt
After a long illness, Marjorie Burton Haselswerdt died on October 18, 2016 in Buffalo, New York. Marjorie was born in Oakland, California, to Hattie and Ed Burton. The family moved to Willits in 1950. Marjorie was educated at Willits High School, UC Davis, and Michigan State University, where she received a Ph.D. in English literature in 1980.
Marjorie loved her family, loved children, loved the sun, loved those less fortunate than her, loved music, and loved her in-laws, Vivian and Vernon Haselswerdt. She loved to cook and she loved adventures. She taught English to undergraduates at Canisius College in Buffalo, NY, taught English as a Second Language to students at the State University of New York at Buffalo, and worked in drug and alcohol counseling. Marjorie also wrote rock and roll reviews and criticisms for a variety of publications. She raised three wonderful children; Jake, Ella and Annie.
She is survived by her husband, Mike, her children, and her grandson, Mickey. She is also survived by her sister, Beverly Burton James and her brother, Bruce Burton, and several nieces and nephews. Memorial donations may be made to the Willits Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, Willits, CA 95490.

Crossword
Puzzle &
Sudoku

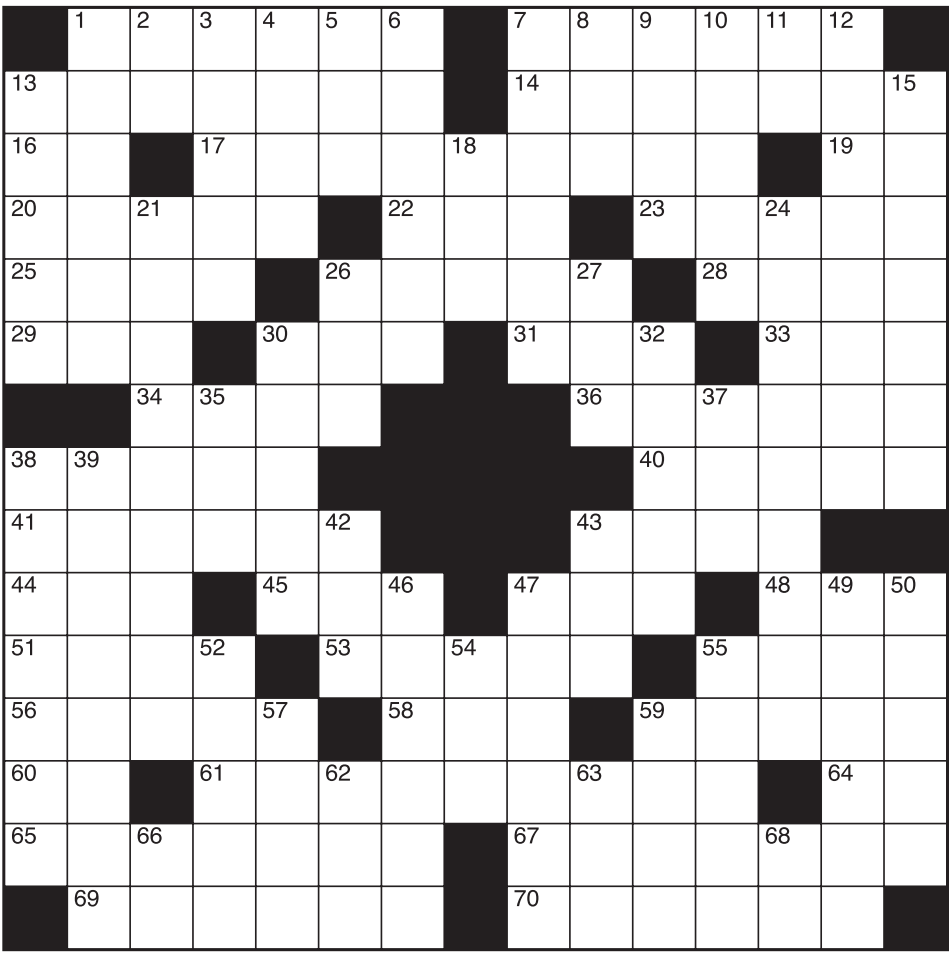


Level: Advanced



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!



SAFE GIFTS WORD SEARCH

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

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. State confidently
7. Replaced
13. Day of remembrance
14. Molecular process
16. Indicates position
17. Paper-and-pencil game
19. Military policeman
20. Nests of pheasants
22. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
23. Seat
25. Functions
26. Sheets of glass
28. Minute arachnid
29. Separately managed account
30. A bachelor's place
31. Dodge truck
33. ___ Farrow, actress
34. Discussion
36. Delayed
38. Liaison
40. Sediment deposit
41. Leased
43. Without
44. Woman (French)
45. Folk-pop artist Williams
47. Congressman (abbr.)
48. Resembles a pouch
51. Superior
53. Stalin's police chief
55. Razorbill is

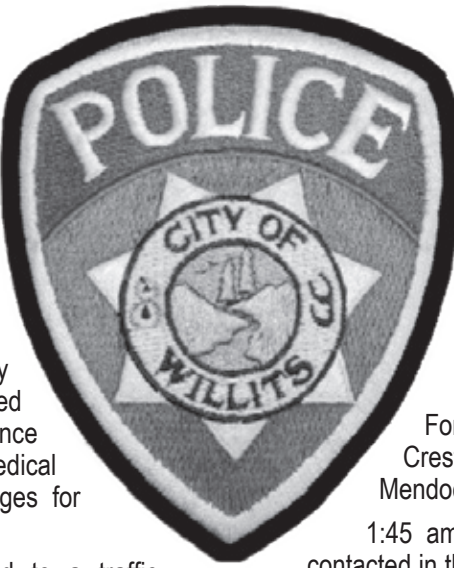
CLUES DOWN

- 1. Mental condition
2. Senate Bill
3. Where constructions take place
4. Ancient Olympic Site
5. Not just 'play'
6. Set of four
7. 'The beautiful game'
8. American time
9. Big man on campus
10. Syndrome of the eye
11. Spanish be
12. Cotton cloths
13. Roman guardian
15. Displays of food of Nations
21. Female deacon
24. Adrift
26. Hit lightly
27. Test for high schoolers
30. Whittled
32. River in western India
35. Small crude dwelling
37. One-time AC/DC singer Scott
38. Holds up a shirtsleeve
39. Mental faculties
42. Blot
43. A very large body of water
46. Redecorated
47. Mineral
49. Tree that bears spikes
50. Type of boat
52. Calypso music
54. Director Howard
55. Longtime U.S. Senator Specter
57. Buddhist serpent deities
59. Attempt to fly in falconry
62. ___ de plume
63. Wheel
66. Cerium
68. Rural delivery

WPD Activity Report

October 29 to November 4

Prepared by WPD Sgt. Jake Donahue



October 29

7:30 am: WALKER, William (49) of Willits was contacted during a traffic stop in the 1200 block of Locust Street and arrested pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.

3:15 pm: DUMAN, Rocky (25) of Ukiah was contacted during a traffic stop in the 1200 block of Locust Street and arrested pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.

4:20 pm: PICKETT, Jason (39) of Willits was contacted in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane and issued a citation for an active Mendocino County warrant.

October 30

10:30 am: EZELL, Dallas (24) of Willits was contacted during a disturbance complaint in the 1300 block of South Main Street and arrested pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.

October 31

4:30 pm: Officers responded to a traffic collision in the 800 block of South Main Street.

6:20 pm: Officers responded to a traffic collision in the 1300 block of South Main Street.

November 1

12:20 am: Officers responded to contact a subject who was profusely bleeding inside of a business in the 700 block of South Main Street. Upon contact, it was determined the subject was bleeding from a large incise wound on his arm that he'd sustained punching through a window of a nearby business. The subject was released into the custody of ambulance personnel and transported for medical treatment prior to criminal charges for vandalism.

11:45 am: Officers responded to a traffic collision in the 1000 block of South Main Street.

November 2

9:15 am: Officers contacted HEREDIA, Armando (39) of Sacramento during a traffic stop in the 10 block of Barbara Lane. Heredia was found to be in possession of a small amount of methamphetamine and released with a citation

pursuant to 11377(a) HS.

11:50 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

1:55 pm: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.

9 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of McKinley Street. Upon arrival, they contacted the victims, who reported a subject driving a white SUV engaged them in a brief verbal confrontation, fired a single shot from a handgun, and quickly fled the area. No one was injured as a result, and the incident is under investigation.

November 3

11:30 am: SPECIEDAY, Cheyenne (23) of Fort Bragg was contacted in the 600 block of Crest Drive and issued a citation for an active Mendocino County Warrant.

1:45 am: SHINAULT, Robert (47) of Willits was contacted in the 21000 block of Meadowbrook Drive and arrested pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.

4 pm: PAEYENEERS, Zachary (32) of Willits was contacted during a traffic stop in the 300 block of Blosser Lane and arrested pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.

6:50 pm: Officers responded to a traffic collision in the 200 block of Sherwood Road.

10:10 pm: Officers responded to a traffic collision in the 200 block of Sherwood Road.

November 4

11:15 am: MENDOZA, Francisco (26) of Willits was contacted in the 1400 block of South Main Street and issued a citation pursuant to an active Mendocino County warrant.

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Above, from left: WCA manager Holly Madrigal, left, with artists Laura Wiecek, center, and Diana Hinkle, featured in November's show, "The Women's Book Club." Natalie Moss at the keyboard at Brickhouse Coffee. Melissa Hand of Outre sings at Brickhouse Coffee Saturday night, accompanied by Eric Kaplan on guitar. Below, left: The crowd at Brickhouse Coffee listens to artist Marjo Wilson, center, sing and play with friends. Below, right: An added part of the opening party included interesting interviews with the artists Leslie Rich, back center, Laura Wiecek, and Diana Hinkle.



Art on Commercial

Arts Center, Brickhouse both have big openings on Saturday night

Saturday night was a big night on Commercial Street in Willits. Two art openings drew crowds of people from Willits, Ukiah and Laytonville. At the Willits Center of the Arts, the night began at 6 pm with a members-only wine and appetizer event catered by Adam's Restaurant, with the doors open to the public at 7 pm. People streamed in to view Laura Wiecek's small, intimate works of 45 books with origami folded, cut, and sometimes mathematically arranged pages, and Diana Hinkle's large paintings "mostly based on color and form. A figurative landscape," according to Hinkle.

New WCA curator Gary Martin had a shelf built along the walls under Hinkle's paintings with Wiecek's books widely spaced and elegantly arranged along the shelves. The night of the opening, murmurs spread throughout the rooms with words like "classy," "crisp," "clean and sharp,"

Above, right: Laura Wiecek's book art displayed with Diana Hinkle's figurative paintings. Below, from left: Delicious finger food was catered by Adam's Restaurant in Willits. Laura Wiecek's book art and Diane Hinkle's figurative paintings - creatively orchestrated by new curator Gary Martin - complement each other well. "Hibiscus," one of Leslie Rich's travel sketches in Jamaica.



"uncluttered" and "elegant" expressed by the admiring viewers.

Upstairs, the large gallery room was filled with Leslie Rich's watercolor paintings. She treated us to her plain air painting experiences "from wherever I am: Mendocino, Southern California, home, Hawaii, Jamaica."

During the beginning of the evening, WCA manager Holly Madrigal interviewed each artist for a crowded and attentive room brimming with people wanting to know more about the artists and their awe-inspiring work.

Meanwhile, at the end of the block in Brickhouse Coffee, Marjo Wilson and friends rocked the block with Wilson's own acoustic Americana mix of original songs accompanied by John Teglgard from Denmark on ukulele. The musical event was the opening reception

for Wilson's "Retrospective Ranch Art" paintings, which cover the Brickhouse walls, and will be on display through December.

Natalie Moss treated the overflowing crowd to her bluesy-rock originals sung in a husky voice.

Soon after Moss's show, the "Outré" duo, Melissa Hand and Eric Kaplan on guitar entertained the room with their unique sound. Finishing the evening off, a few members of Wilson's Strum Class played some oldies, and folks sang along.

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Photo by Dan Bell

Photo by Rich Cooper

Curtis Deshiell and Roger Ham pose with the new reflection bench next to the Vietnam Memorial in front of the Mendocino County Museum.



Photo by Maureen Moore

Veterans Day: A day to remember, to reflect and to honor

By Roger Ham, contributing writer

Veterans Day honors all American military service veterans, both the living and the dead. It is largely intended to thank the "Living Veterans" for their loyal and dedicated service to their country.

How it all began: World War I was drawing to a conclusion and officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, 1918. That date, November 11, 1918, was regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars."

In November 1919, President Wilson

proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. However, Armistice Day was not recognized as a legal holiday until May 13, 1938, when an act of Congress was approved making November 11 of each year a day dedicated to the cause of world peace.

Armistice Day was a day set aside primarily to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II, which required the greatest mobilization of military force in our nation's history, and the conclusion of aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and replacing it with the word "Veterans."

With the approval of legislation signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on June 1, 1954, November 11 became a day to honor veterans of all wars involving the United States of America.

Veterans Day is a time to honor not just those who have fought in battle, but, in fact, all of the outstanding men and women who have served in our nation's Armed Forces since the founding of our great nation, 240 years ago.

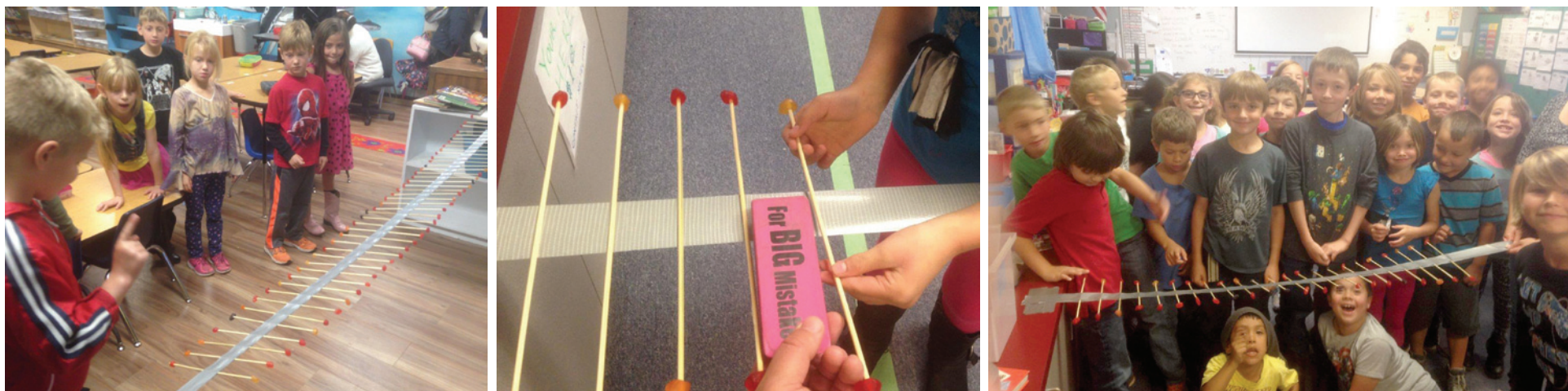
Not all veterans have seen war, but a common bond that they share is an oath in which they expressed their willingness to die defending this nation.

Veterans, 22 million strong (1.2 million who are women), from WW II, Korea, the

Cold War years, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq, and the war on terrorism deserve to be remembered and respected for their service to America. It is an obligation that society never forgets the sacrifices of our military and the families impacted by their defense of our nation.

So, on November 11, at the 11th hour, take a moment of silence to focus on the historical significance of this day. Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good of America.

Roger Ham is a Vietnam veteran and the commander of the American Legion, Post 174, in Willits.



At top, from left: WECS first-grade students experiment with the wave machine. Students carefully build the wave machine. WECS second-graders pose with the wave machine. Above: First-graders look on.

Willits Elementary Charter School students explore music's sweet side

By Christine Feldman, for WECS

Willits Elementary Charter School's primary students are learning about music in a unique way. Music teacher Tyler Balthrop ("Mr. B") gave young scholars a taste of the science of sound waves by making "wave machines" with grades K through 2.

The students have been learning about the science of music: that sound moves in waves, that the ears process the waves into information, and that different notes are actually different frequencies with either bigger or smaller waves.

"They learned that your inner ear converts waves of energy into a signal, which your brain transforms into an audible sound," said Balthrop. "They learned that lower frequencies seem to have more energy because they produce bigger waves, and that there are so many things you might not realize are happening when you hear music."

The machines were made out of skewers balanced on a long piece of duct tape with fruit-juice gummies on the ends of the skewers as counterbalances. When one skewer was tapped, the others rose and fell as a wave of energy traveled along the length of tape.

The students all helped design, build, use – and then happily helped eat – the machines!

"A suspension bridge like the Golden Gate moves in much the same way when an earthquake hits," said Balthrop. "It creates a wave designed to keep the bridge from breaking into pieces."

Director Kara McClellan said the project fulfills the WECS philosophy in multiple ways. "The students are the explorers, interacting with real-world phenomena. The lesson connects music to science and engineering. And it's a fun, hands-on way to teach kids how to collaborate."

Balthrop added: "I got the idea from similar 'machines' used in laboratories to show energy waves. There are many videos and instructables on how to make wave machines out of different materials. I chose this one because it was simple, inexpensive, and could be built by the students themselves – and then eaten – a big plus that kept the students interested."

Anyone can do this simple, fun and educational experiment on their own at home.

Christine Felton is a Grade 2/English Language Development teacher at Willits Elementary Charter School.

HAPPY VETERAN'S DAY
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2016

SPARETIME SUPPLY

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

FALL HOURS:
MONDAY - SATURDAY: 9 AM TO 6 PM CLOSED SUNDAYS

208 EAST SAN FRANCISCO AVE. WILLITS, CA 95490
PHONE: 707-459-6791 WWW.SPARETIMESUPPLY.COM

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Bring in your military I.D. and get a FREE Gyro Valid 11/11/16

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707-456-9293 HOURS: M-W: 11-4 & Th/F: 11-7 42 S. Main Street

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277 N. Lenore Ave. WILLITS, CA

... for 48 years, the choice has been easy;

WILLITS FURNITURE OR BUST!

Join us for our anniversary sale now through November 19



Above, from left: Tania and Pamela work one of the check-in tables at the Willits Community Center. Judy affixes an "I Voted!" sticker on Jeremy at the Brooktrails Community Center. Doreen and Sue are ready to check in voters at the Willits Community Center. Below, left: Volunteers Loraine, Sue, Shirley, Sheryl, Claudia, Tania, Melody, Kathy, Sandra and Pamela smile for the camera. Below, right: Brooktrails volunteers Evie, Rouchann, Jeanette, Judy, and Stacey smile for the camera from the Brooktrails Community Center.



Willits polls busy on Election Day

Business was good at the Willits Community Center polling place on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8. The parking lot was often full, and the polls were busy for most of the day, poll volunteers said. Many voters were spotted around town wearing red, white and blue "I voted!" stickers.

"Most of the polling places [around the county] were doing well," said Mendocino County Assessor-Clerk-Recorder Sue Ranochak, the county's voter registrar. "I am excited about the turnout."

The county voter office on Low Gap Road in Ukiah was "busy all day," Ranochak said. "We were answering questions, and the office was pretty full for most of the day. Even the polling place across the hall – that has had as little as seven people vote – had 83 voters yesterday."

Ranochak said her office sent a troubleshooter to Fort Bragg, to check out reports that people were waiting in line to vote at the C.V. Starr Community Center. "But everybody waiting was patient, and everybody was polite," she said.

Ranochak said her crew was hoping to get into the "counting room" Tuesday to start counting an additional 22,000 mail-in ballots that had been processed and were ready to tabulate, but she and Deputy Voter Registrar Katrina Bartolome were too busy. "We have quite a pile," she said.

The "final election night report" posted on the county's website at 1:55 am Wednesday morning reflects mail-in and early-voting ballots received early enough to count before Election Day, as well as ballots actually cast at the polling places on Tuesday. In recent elections, the majority of Mendocino County's votes have been counted after that report – most of them mail-in ballots dropped off at the polls – and this election is likely to be no exception, Ranochak said.

California's postmark-plus-three law means ballots postmarked by November 8 and received by the voter office three days after Election Day are also valid: This year, due to Friday's Veterans Day holiday, the postmark-plus-three deadline has been extended until Monday.

The deadline for the voter office to release the final, certified results is December 6.



Photos by Mathew Caine



Above: A busy day at the polls on November 8. Below: Voters checked in with the volunteers before taking their ballot to the voting booth. At left, top: Youth volunteers Destiny, Tara and James greeted visitors. At left, below: Voters could come in and vote, or drop off their mail-in ballots in the large black bin like this one at the Brooktrails Community Center.



Redwood Meadows is an active independent senior community featuring 101 apartment homes, primarily a mix of one and two bedroom apartments which are single story 4-plex cottage-type set amongst seven acres of park like landscaping.

We are a smoke-free and pet friendly community. We boast a community center where activities are held like card games, Bingo, birthdays and socials. We also have a barbecue area for residents to get together for social functions.

Redwood Meadows is conveniently located adjacent to the William F. Harrah Senior Center with a thrift store, cafeteria and taxi service, and Howard Memorial Hospital is just blocks away.

REDWOOD MEADOWS
Senior Apartment Community

1475 BAECHTEL ROAD
WILLITS, CA 95490
707-459-1616
MON-FRI 10:00-4:00

Thursday, November 10

“That’s the Way It Was”: On Thursday, November 10, Jenny Watts will host a book reading and slide show at the Willits Library at 7 pm for her book “That’s the Way It Was,” a biography of her father. It is the story of a man whose life spanned most of the 20th century, who grew up in San Jose, endured family tragedy and shipwrecks, lived through two world wars plus Prohibition and the Depression, and raised a family in booming post-war America. “That’s the Way It Was” is a life story of a man who played his part in the events of the last century and who shares with us his keen observations of “the way it was.”

Shanachie Pub: David Gideon, jazz mixed with folk and country. Thursday, November 10, 5 pm. No cover. Visit <http://www.davidgideonmusic.com>. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.



David Gideon

families in recognition of their service.

Friday, November 11 Veterans Day

Veterans Day Breakfast: The Willits Post 174 of the American Legion hosts its annual Veterans Day Breakfast, on Friday, November 11 from 8 to 11 am at the Veterans Memorial Building, 191 North Main Street. Breakfast is free to all veterans, military and emergency response personnel, firefighters, law enforcement officers, and Boy and Girl Scouts.

“Reflection Bench” Dedication Ceremony: a new “Reflection Bench” placed next to the Mendocino County Fallen Vietnam Veterans Memorial will be



The Memorial Bench

Shanachie Pub: Guitarist Dusty Brough, performing with his trio: roots in Flamenco with Jazz, Folk, Brazilian, Gypsy and Balkan music. Friday, November 11, 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.



Bluegrass by Sideline

Saturday, November 12

Senior Center Bunko: Come play Bunko at the Harrah Senior Center, Saturday, November 12 from 1 to 3:30 pm. “The game is a fun and social activity in which players role dice and rotate tables at the end of each game. No experience is necessary. All are welcome. A wide variety of delicious snacks are provided. Each player receives a prize, and there

are additional door prizes available for lucky winners.” Raffle tickets \$1 each or six for \$5. 1501 Baechtel Road. \$12. Info: 459-6826

Sit N Sew: monthly drop-in sewing group meets at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, on second Saturdays. This month: November 12 from 1 to 5 pm. Free to all and open to the public. “Bring your sewing machine, tools, and any project you would like to work on.” Questions? Call Rachel at 354-0605.

Sunday, November 13

Full Moon Madness: Don’t miss this month’s “supermoon”! “The full moon of November 14, 2016 is not only the biggest, closest and brightest supermoon of this year. It’s the closest supermoon since January 26, 1948.” But in California, the best time to see this supermoon is actually tonight or in the early morning hours of November 14.

Bluegrass by Sideline: annual bluegrass show sponsored by Willits Rotary, featuring Sideline, a powerful group of seasons pro bluegrass players,

who formed a “side project,” which has become a main gig for its members. Sideline consists of Steve Dilling (banjo), Skip Cherryholmes (guitar), Jason Moore (bass), Ashby Frank (mandolin), Nathan Aldridge (fiddle) and Brad Hudson (dobro). Sunday, November 13 at 3 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. This is a fundraiser for high school scholarships. Last year Willits Rotary was able to give about 12 scholarships for \$1,000 each to Willits seniors. Tickets are \$20 advance (available at Willits Furniture and Willits Redwood Company) and \$25 at the door. Ticket info: 459 9566.

Willits Rotary presents Bluegrass by Sideline

Sunday, November 13

Willits Rotary is sponsoring its annual bluegrass show, featuring Sideline, a powerful group of seasons pro bluegrass players, who formed a “side project,” which has become a main gig for its members. . Sideline consists of Steve Dilling (banjo), Skip Cherryholmes (guitar), Jason Moore (bass), Ashby Frank (mandolin), Nathan Aldridge (fiddle) and Brad Hudson (dobro).

Art Menius, in Bluegrass Unlimited’s October 2015 edition writes of Sideline: “Sideline captures so much of what was great about bluegrass in the 1980s and early 1990s. In large measure, Sideline serves up what was contemporary bluegrass 30 years ago. It sounds traditional in 2015. Sideline’s driving bluegrass with killer harmonies and propulsive rhythm, well-chosen blend of new and old material, and especially the focus on being an equal ensemble takes the listener right back in time to when these guys were jamming in the campground.”

The show is set for Sunday, November 13 at 3 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. This is a fundraiser for high school scholarships. Last year Willits Rotary was able to give about 12 scholarships for \$1,000 each to Willits seniors. Tickets are \$20 advance (available at Willits Furniture and Willits Redwood Company) and \$25 at the door. Ticket info: 459 9566.

Laytonville Christmas Bazaar

December 4

The Laytonville Christmas Bazaar Craft Fair will take place on Sunday, December 4 at Harwood Hall in Laytonville from 10 am to 4 pm, featuring a variety of hand-crafted arts by over 50 local artists. Refreshments will be served. There will also be an opportunity for children to have their photos taken with Santa. Info: 984-8089. “The Christmas Bazaar is an annual fundraiser for Harwood Memorial Park and we appreciate the community’s support of this long-time event.”

What's Happening Around Town

are additional door prizes available for lucky winners.” Raffle tickets \$1 each or six for \$5. 1501 Baechtel Road. \$12. Info: 459-6826

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Willits Community Theatre is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub). See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.

Monday, November 14

Free Diabetes Screening: the new Howard Pharmacy is offering free diabetes screening, Monday, November 14, from 9 am to 2 pm. “Diabetes can lead to serious complications such as blindness, nerve damage, kidney disease, hearing impairment and even amputation. Screening for type 2 diabetes is important to ensure early diagnosis and treatment and prevent serious complications.” 3 Marcela Drive, Suite B.

Willits Garden Club Meeting: the monthly Garden Club meeting is set for Monday, November 14, with guest speaker Beth Breneman on “Fall Gardening.” Social time starts at 12:30 pm with coffee and refreshment; speaker starts at 1 pm; ends at 4:30 pm. Golden Rule Mobile Village Clubhouse, 16100 North Highway 101, 6 miles south of Willits, West of 101, south of Ridgewood (Seabiscuit) Ranch. Guests are welcome and there is no charge. Info: contact Fran Gardner 459-8733 or Kitty McMill 489-6203.

Tuesday, November 15

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all

ages, all showings. This week’s Tightwad movie: “Trolls” 2-D; “Dr. Strange,” and “The Accountant.” For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

“**State of the Eel River**”: Eel River Recovery Project presents “State of the Eel River: Organizing Options,” Tuesday, November 15, from 6 to 8 pm. “Find out about the health of the river and Willits creeks; Willits organizing?; Creating a sustainable cannabis culture.” Willits Environmental Center, 630 South Main Street. Light Dinner. No Charge for Admission. More at: www.EelRiverRecovery.org. See article on page 2 for more details.

all licensed, active or inactive, Vocational Nurses, Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of Mendocino County are invited to a Meet-Up and informational on Wednesday, November 16 from 6 to 8 pm at the Willits Library, 391 East Commercial Street, to help form a Mendocino County chapter of the American Cannabis Nurses Association. The ACNA web site is: americancannabisnursesassociation.org. Info: email janice. cinck@yahoo.com.

Wednesday, November 16

Cannabis Nurses Meet-Up: all licensed, active or inactive, Vocational Nurses, Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of Mendocino County are invited to a Meet-Up and informational on Wednesday, November 16 from 6 to 8 pm at the Willits Library, 391 East Commercial Street, to help form a Mendocino County chapter of the American Cannabis Nurses Association. The ACNA web site is: americancannabisnursesassociation.org. Info: email janice. cinck@yahoo.com.



Free “How to Be a Better DJ” classes

The following classes are offered free to anyone interested in becoming a programmer at KLLG! All levels of experience are welcome!

“Voice Style and Practice”: Thursday, November 10 and Saturday, November 12 from 12 to 1:30 pm, and Thursday, November 17 from 6 to 7 pm, with Roger Wilson, chief engineer, who will entertain you while you develop your personal voice style and radio personality. Also, you will get the opportunity to practice on the microphone and improve your skills.

“Programming Etiquette: FCC Rules and Regulations, Do’s and Don’ts”: Wednesday, November 16 from 6 to 7 pm and Monday, November 21 from noon to 1 pm. Michelle Cummins, programmer coordinator will review the fun stuff.... The information presented in this class will help you, the programmer,

and the station remain in good standing and stay “on air.” This information is mandatory for programmers.

“Working the Board”: Saturday, November 19 from noon to 1:30 pm. Roger Wilson, chief engineer, demystifies what to do with all of those buttons, knobs and sliders on the sound board in our DJ booth.

Classes are held at the KLLG Studio in the Little Lake Grange, Room #10, 291 School Street.

Stay tuned for more classes in the near future such as: Audacity/Hindenberg/Garage Band,

The Art of Interview, Sound Editing Software, live and phone interviews etc.... Class topic/time/day can be added or added as needed. Let us know!

Contact Michelle Cummins for more information: Michelle@KLLG.org or 707-972-1601

– submitted by KLLG Radio

Senior Center Lunch

Week of November 14 through 18

Monday: Baked Chicken
Tuesday: Pinto Beans
Wednesday: Meat Loaf
Thursday: Taco Salad
Friday: Turkey & Stuffing BIRTHDAY LUNCH

Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. 55 and older: \$5.50 per meal; under 55: \$7 per meal. Includes soup, entrée, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Seeking Thanksgiving volunteers!

Willits Community Services seeks volunteers to help serve at its 27th annual Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner, 11 am to 3 pm, November 24 at Harrah Senior Center. More info or to sign up: 459-3333.

WCA call for artists

Call for artists! The December show at the Willits Center for the Arts is “Small Works.” It will run throughout the month of December and should be perfect for holiday shopping.

Willits Center for the Arts members can submit up to six pieces, no bigger than 24” x 36” and priced no more than \$200 per piece. We want these beautiful artworks to sell! Jewelry, ornaments, and small ceramic works are all welcome. Be creative!

– Willits Center for the Arts

Willits Community Services and Food Bank

invites you to



27th ANNUAL WILLITS COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

Thursday, November 24, 2016
THANKSGIVING DAY 11 am - 3 pm

COME GIVE THANKS AND CELEBRATE THIS HOLIDAY WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Rd.



There is no charge. Anyone may eat for free. Donations are gladly accepted and will benefit WCS and Food Bank in their continuing effort to provide essential human services in our community.

Food Donors include: 101 Drive-in and individual contributions

Dinner Prepared by Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp Served by Community Volunteers

PLEASE CALL 459-3333 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS



Drop off submissions Thursday, December 1 between 12 and 3 pm. Acceptance will be determined by size and space availability. If you are not yet a member, it is not too late to join. Contact the WCA at 459-1726 for more information.

The WCA Holiday Crafts Fair, December 9, 10 & 11 at the Willits Center for the Arts, will have additional booths upstairs in the great room. Contact Bonnie Belt for information about the crafts fair. 459-1726.

Thursday, November 17

Cannabis Hour Radio: Emerald Cup founder Tim Blake of Laytonville is host Jane Fletcher’s guest on the November 17 “Cannabis Hour” show at 9 am on KZYX/Mendocino County Public Broadcasting. “Tim will talk about this year’s “Cup,” including the workshops, demonstrations, booths, food and entertainment, December 10 and 11 at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds in Santa Rosa. Tim and I will also do some post-election analysis of local and statewide cannabis measures.”

Saturday, November 19

Open House with Karen & Wolfgang: Saturday, November 19 from 10 am to 4 pm. “Discover great gifts: salves, totes, and unique potholders! Special Order (larger print) gifts from a wide selection of fabrics. 900 Exley Lane (extension of W. Mendocino). Information? 459-2101.

COLUMN | At the Movies



‘Doctor Strange’

The Story: Dr Stephen Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch) is a brilliant, overly self-important surgeon and, really, he’s a bit of an ass. A terrible accident cripples his hands. His desperate search for healing takes

him to Kathmandu, to the temple of the Ancient One (Tilda Swinton). Doctor Strange learns that our reality is flexible, and that our world is not the only world, that our world exists alongside of an infinite number of realities – not in the Universe, but in the Multiverse. And that not all of these parallel worlds are friendly. There is sentient and brooding evil out there in the darkness.

My Thoughts: This is a keeper. Visually, it’s breathtaking. It’s a ripingly good adventure and occasionally quite funny. As a Marvel Comics superhero origin story, this is one of their best. Cumberbatch is magnetic. Swinton as the Ancient One was a creative choice which paid off; she’s great (of course she’s always great). So yes, I loved this flick. Altogether, “Doctor Strange” is a psychoactive, Schedule One mind-blower. Go see it.

Parents: This superhero movie makes clear the solid virtue of duty and sacrifice versus the ultimate hollowness of ego-gratification. It’s for older kids, 12 and up.

Note: I’m a reviewer, not a critic, so let me point out that the critics (def. opinionated aliens) love this flick: 90 percent on Rotten Tomatoes.

Willisian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.

Sunday November 27, 2016

The Willits Wild Bunch presents the 24th Annual



Food & No Host Bar
Great Raffle Prizes
Everyone Invited
Rain or Shine



Run leaves Evergreen Shopping Center, Noon
Party at Little Lake Grange
291 School Street, Noon to 3 pm
Admission: One Unwrapped Toy (for ages 1 to 17)

Benefit for the Willits Children’s Christmas Program
Sponsored by the Willits Rotary Club
Special thanks to Willits Lions, the Grange, Little Lake Fire Dept. and Printing Plus
Information: HOG@bellsprings.com or call 707-489-3313

Save the Date:

“Small Business Saturday” in Willits, November 26
Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Harrah Senior Center, November 24

Ongoing Events

Willits Winter Farmers Market: the farmers market has moved inside for the winter at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. 3 to 5:30 pm (winter hours) every Thursday afternoon. Veggies, local meats and local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Willits Community Drum Circle: 7 to 10 pm at the Saint Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, 66 East Commercial Street. Every 2nd and 4th Friday. Free. Everyone is welcome. Info: 459-4932.

KLLG Radio Action Group: meets Mondays at 5:30 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Room 10. Learn about and participate in building Willits Hometown Radio. Volunteers needed. More information is available at www.KLLG.org or by calling Lanny Cotler at 367-1812.

Tuesday Night Potluck Bingo: Potluck dinner and bingo every Tuesday at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. “Be sure to bring a dish to share!” 5 to 7 pm; \$5 buy-in; 50 cents per card. Info: 459-6826.

Al-Anon Meeting: Thursday nights from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, at the Baechtel Creek Village Community Room (behind Rite-Aid at the Evergreen Shopping Center. Saturdays at 10 am at St. Francis Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall, 66 East Commercial Street. “Al-Anon Family groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience strength and hope to solve their common problems. We believe that alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery.”

Drop-in Knitting Circle: Due to popular demand, the Willits Library is holding the drop-in knitting circle every Saturday of the month, from 3 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. “Bring your projects to share and show off! We will have expert knitters on board who can solve any problems and teach everyone to knit Bring your own projects – we’ll supply the coffee! Sign-ups are not necessary – everyone is welcome to join in.”

Library Coloring Club: Want a little color in your life? Then by all means, come to the library! The Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, is hosting a Library Coloring Club, every Tuesday at 6:30 pm for ages 14 and up. “We’ve got the crayons and the paper – you bring the imagination.”

Soroptimists International of Willits: Women’s service club aimed at the betterment of girls and women. Meets second and third Tuesdays of every month, noon to 1 pm, at Old Mission Pizza, 1708 South Main Street, in the back room. Women interested in community service are welcome; new members are encouraged to join at any time.

Life Changes: Discussion and support group with Linda Posner, Wednesday from 10 to 11 am. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

Volleyball Open Gym: at Baechtel Grove gym; Sundays and Tuesdays at 7 pm. Some experience desired, but not required. \$5 per night; first night free. Info: Jeff at 354-1850.

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

Free Sheriff’s Activity League programs: at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 pm; Karate: Kids aged 5 to 10 from 6 to 7 pm, Tweens, Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

Shanachie Pub: Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday. 8 pm. No cover. “Local musicians ... take jazz standards and infuse them with funk, hip hop, world, and free form jamming. The outcome is unexplainable.” Open Mic Night every Wednesday. 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7:30 pm; pre-signup list starts at 3 pm when the Pub opens. “An eclectic array of local musicians and even performers from around the world!” 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Karaoke Night at Al’s Redwood Room: Every Wednesday night, starting at 9 pm. 207 South Main Street. Info: 459-2444.

Laytonville Summer Farmers Market: Mondays, June through October, from 2:30 to 5:30 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville. Local fresh fruits and vegetables, artisan goat cheeses, ranch meats, eggs, garden bouquets, handcrafted clothing, live music and much more.

LOOKING FOR SOME REGULAR, PART-TIME WORK?

LOVE OUR WILLITS WEEKLY CALENDAR?

Willits Weekly is looking for a Calendar Editor to help write our centerspread calendar of events in Willits and the Third District.

Attention to detail, enthusiasm for community and civic events, fast and accurate typing skills, and ease with a computer are all important requisites for the gig.

Call 459-2633 or email willitsweekly@gmail.com to learn more!

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Cuddly Clark

Clark is ready to go home! This fun-loving, 6-month-old tabby loves to be cuddled and held, and will jump straight into your arms and your heart! Clark is neutered, microchipped, and up to date on his vaccinations. All he needs is someone to be his new best bud! For more information on Clark or our other adoptable animals, call us at 707-485-0123, or visit at 9700 Uva Dr. in Redwood Valley.



The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, where you can come visit, play with and/or adopt dogs and cats, is open to prospective adopters from 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday, and from 11 am to 3 pm, on Saturday and Sunday. Visit www.mendohumanesociety.com for more info.

Delightful Arlo

Arlo is a 10-year-old delightful older gentleman. He is neutered and ready to go home with you right away. He is easygoing and would be a perfect match for a senior citizen. He weighs just 13 pounds.



The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. To view photos and bios of more of the wonderful adoptable animals, please visit www.mendoanimalshelter.com or visit the shelter. Please join us the 2nd Saturday of every month, November 12 this month, for our "Empty the Shelter" pack walk and help us get every dog out for some exercise! More info about adoptions: 467-6453.

OBITUARY |

Charles Edward Downing

Charles Edward Downing 88, of Willits passed away on October 28, 2016. He was born to Edward and Veva Downing of Laytonville on January 28, 1928. Charles graduated from Laytonville High School in 1946, and shortly after that went into the U.S. Navy.

Charles and his wife owned and operated Miller Distributing Company for 25 years. He is preceded in death by his wife, Billie June, his mother, Veva Downing, his father, Edward Downing, and a son, Kevin. He leaves behind a son, Allen, of Willits, stepdaughter, Toni Thelen, of Wichita Falls, Texas, and a stepson, Loren Bartow, of Boonville, California. He is survived by two grandchildren, Holly Smith of Yuba City, California, and Ryan Bartow of Ukiah, and a great-granddaughter, Skylar Smith, of Yuba City, California.

Death Notice |

Mozelle Strickland

Mozelle S. Strickland passed away peacefully in Ukiah, California on Monday, October 31, 2016 at the age of 99.

A Celebration service will be held at the Church of Christ in Willits, California on Saturday November 12, 2016 at 1 pm, with a reception to follow at the Baechtel Creek Village Clubhouse, 61 Alder Court, Willits.

Soccer | Juan Jacinto, 17, Senior

Position: Offensive midfielder

Breakfast of Champions: Cocoa Puffs

Love for the Sport: "The adrenaline and the excitement and the family mentality of the game."

How Long Playing the Sport: 14 years

The varsity soccer team's Senior Captain Juan Jacinto, midfielder, has had 12 goals and 3 assists so far this season. Juan scored both of our goals in our 2-1 league win against Cloverdale. He's been an exemplary captain this year. Juan was selected by the NCL 1 coaches to the First Team All League. Note: The photo shows Juan holding a first-place trophy won by his men's soccer league team, Team Jalisco. — Coach Noel Woodhouse



Undefeated season for Willits Youth Football

Congratulations to Willits Youth Football JV and Pee wee teams, which both finished their regular season undefeated with a 10-0 record! They are North Division Champs of the Mendo-Lake Empire Junior Football League. Both teams will now move on to play for the overall League Championship against the South Division Champs this Saturday, November 12 at Timberwolves Stadium in Fort Bragg. The Pee wee game starts 3 pm vs. Middletown. The JV game starts 5 pm vs. Lower Lake. We would love to see a big turnout of Willits fans to help support and cheer on this great group of talented kids! Go Green and Gold!

— Melissa Cramer for Willits Youth Football



Above, from left: Henna artist Hilary Kocher's redwood design on a participant's arm. There was a long line of women waiting for Kocher's specially designed henna art. A delicious beef and chicken BBQ with grilled veggies was served. Kathryn Sterngold and her daughter Maureen Moore, celebrating Sterngold's birthday at the event. Below: The Mendocino County Museum's event was well-attended.



Mushroom Madness

Wine, Mushroom & Beer Fest Saturday at Camp Wente



Above, from left: Matt Paradis of Laytonville's Big Chief accepts his first-place award. The other first-place winner was Saucy of Ukiah. The wild mushroom display by Eric Schramm of Mendocino Mushrooms. Sondra Campbell and Bonnie Butcher from Barra of Mendocino and Girasole Vineyard poured a selection of award-winning wines.

Best Mushroom Dish:

Judges' Choice: Saucy, Ukiah
Big Chief of Laytonville
People's Choice: Saucy, Ukiah

Best Beer:

Judges' Choice: North Coast
Brewing Company
People's Choice: Firestone Walker
Brewing Company

Best Wine:

Judges' Choice: Barra and Girasole
Vineyards, Bink Wines. People's
Choice: Rivino Estate Wines



Above, from left: Evelyn and Adrian Fisher of Nikos in Willits prepared button mushrooms in a Greek marinade. Clay Carpenter and Matt Paradis from Big Chief in Laytonville assemble a "Forager's Terrine" made with duck infused with six kinds of mushrooms. This was on a French country-type bread with a blood orange and port reduction. Big Chief's "Forager's Terrine" and Saucy's "Candy Cap Tiramisu" jointly won the event's mushroom dish award. Ray Roland from Roland's Bakery and Bistro prepared "Brunch Bites" (scrambled eggs on a homemade biscuit topped with porcini and chanterelle mushrooms). At right: Saucy's Cynthia Ariosta, owner, and chef Phil Castrono prepare their "Candy Cap Tiramisu."



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Brooktrails Women's Club
Quilt Raffle

A new handmade quilt is looking for a new home and owner. The Brooktrails Women's Club is raffling off this long queen-sized quilt, which measures 101" x 89" and is titled "Green Steppin' Stones." The raffle will be held in December, but tickets are available now.

Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5 and are available from Julie of Julie's Custom Sewing located at 1424 South Main Street or from Betty Lemmer at 459-6342.

Proceeds from the quilt will go to the group's scholarship fund. The quilt was constructed by Amy Elliott, quilted by Kaylynne Van Saun, and bound by Irene Durigan.



The quilt is currently on display at Julie's Custom Sewing, which is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm, with extended hours until 7 pm on Tuesday and Thursday for after-work shoppers and viewers.

Above: A close-up of the swirled quilted detail on the Brooktrails Women's Club quilt.

At right: The quilt, titled "Green Steppin' Stones," currently hangs on display at Julie's Custom Sewing in Willits.

Photos by Maureen Moore



From far left: Piment d'Ville brought their popular spicy piment d'espelette chili powder to the event. Harry Muhlhauer, right, talks with an event attendee about the Mendocino Brewing Company's selection of beer. The crowd was treated to lively music played by Twining Time from Willits.

Photos by Ree Slocum



Above, left: Looking north over the southern end of the bypass. Shell Lane's industrial buildings and Redwood Meadows Senior Housing are shown on the left of the image. Above, right: Looking east over the new northern interchange of the Willits bypass. At left: Looking south over the northern interchange and the raised viaduct, which veers south and east off of the interchange. A quick peek at the Willits "W" showed that the recently replaced lattice paneling is still in good shape.



An Aerial Tour

of the bypass on Friday, November 4,
one day after the official opening

Photos by Maureen Moore



Above: Looking north over the south end of the viaduct's beginning. The raised portion of the freeway is the viaduct and can be seen clearly where the asphalt turns from dark to light. The viaduct crosses over East Commercial, which runs horizontally across the image. The Roots of Motive Power barn, the ballfields, and the Willits Frontier Days rodeo grounds can be seen in the center of the image.

Below: Looking south over Willits. The bypass can be seen on the left, Main Street is in the center, and Locust Street is on the right. The northern leg of the Baechtel Road intersection can be seen near the bottom left of the image.

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Library board bylaws OK'd

Supervisors approved the recently revised bylaws of the Mendocino County Library Advisory Board at their November 1 meeting.

Supervisors approved the revised bylaws 4-0, with third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse out on a leave of absence.

Library advisory board Chairman Marc Komer reminded supervisors it had taken two years for the revised bylaws to come before the board for final approval.

Komer said the bylaws were approved by the library advisory board in 2014. After that, they were given to former Mendocino County Counsel Douglas Losak, where, according to Komer they "languished."

Interest in the bylaws was rekindled in April 2016, when Katharine Elliott became interim county counsel. Elliott offered some amendments to the bylaws; and these were approved by the library board. Then the revised bylaws were sent to county CEO Carmel Angelo, who added more language. These additions were also approved by the library board.

Finally the revised bylaws were brought before the board of supervisors.

The bylaws state: "The advisory board shall act in an advisory capacity to the board of supervisors. The function of the advisory board is to make recommendations to the county librarian and the board of supervisors regarding issues of county library

The rest of
Charter

From Page 1

other faculty and staff members listened in the room.

"I worked with them jointly multiple times, and we have a good working relationship," Westerberg said. "It's the relationship we're supposed to have with our fellow educators. Their high school has made a philosophical move towards a ... college prep-type environment. Their elementary's doing a great job, scores are good, and they're doing what they're supposed to be doing."

Glassey responded with kind words for Westerberg and the WUSD board.

"I really have to say that we're really enthused with the new superintendent," he said. "We'd love to work together for what's best for the kids in this community. And I feel like things are in place with the school board and the superintendent to do things jointly and really make this community better. It's good to have a school board that is our friend in the community and town."

The board also voted unanimously to reimburse the City of Willits for replacing the roof on the gym at Baechtel Grove Middle School. The city had already found a contractor and price for the repairs, Wayne Bashore for \$107,139, but Westerberg said they were waiting for the board's vote to make it official and move forward.

"It's a safety issue," he said, "and if that roof starts to cave in, we have a multimillion-dollar problem, not a \$107,000 problem like we have right now."

He explained that because the city technically owns the building, the work had to be contracted out, but since the schools were responsible for "80 percent or more" of the usage, it made sense for WUSD to pay for the repairs.

He also discussed how the roof repairs were part of a larger arrangement they were working out regarding the other two facilities they share with the city: the swimming pool and the tennis courts by the high school.

"We're very unique to have three facilities that are jointly shared and operated," he said.

In the most recent discussions, according to Westerberg, the school district would match \$10,000 from the city to repair the tennis courts, and take over control of the pool, essentially renting it to the city for \$5,000 during the summer.

Facility repair was just one of a few sports-related items on the agenda for the meeting. Trustees also voted unanimously to eliminate admission fees for winter events at all schools in the district. This will include all sporting events, as well as plays and other entertainment.

Prior to the vote, Westerberg said he didn't want money to be a hindrance to attending events for parents and others in the community.

"I feel real strongly about this. One of our goals ... is parental involvement and bringing parents to school and getting them here... My guess is that we will have a dramatic increase in the number of people who attend our activities."

He said the district could budget \$28,000 out of the Local Control and Accountability

operations, policy, services and programs for the county library, consideration of proposals or requests submitted by citizens or groups pertaining to the county library operations, review of budget programs and recommendations, and all matters affecting public library service in Mendocino County. The advisory board seeks input from the public and will make time for public comment at its meetings."

A bylaws subsection, "Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors," sparked some interest. It reads: "The Mendocino County Library Advisory Board shall submit an annual report to the library director by February 15 of each year. The library director shall submit the report to the board of supervisors on behalf of the library advisory board."

During discussions about the bylaws, Komer said, "We are comfortable with the report being submitted to the board by the library director."

Supervisor John McCowen made two small changes to the wording of the document. In one instance, McCowen recommended replacing the words "adoption or disavowal" in the phrase "adoption or disavowal of any or all of the proposed revisions" with the words "approval or disapproval." Komer said he liked the change, and the other board members nodded their approval.

McCowen also changed the phrase "after the revision" to "after a revision." Those changes were accepted by the board, and the bylaws were approved.

Plan, or LCAP, for the loss in revenue, and he and Trustee Georgeanne Croskey added there would likely be increases in donations, concession stand money and raffle purchases.

In addition, trustees voted unanimously to fund transporting students by bus to all sporting events. This was another idea of Westerberg's, who argued that relying on coaches and volunteers to drive various smaller vehicles to certain events was "an obvious safety issue."

"It's not acceptable, and it's not reasonable," he said. "We are on borrowed time for having an accident."

He added that as a trial for the policy, high school athletes rode in buses to all games during the fall, and it worked out well, with bus drivers being enthusiastic about getting the extra work.

Trustee Alex Bowlds praised the move saying: "I'm excited that we're taking athletics in the district seriously."

Also at the meeting, the school board voiced its disapproval of a letter from the Mendocino County Office of Education claiming the district's budget was not fiscally sound for the future.

Although the MCOE letter informed WUSD that its 2016-17 LCAP was approved by the county superintendent, it still placed them in "qualified" status because of concerns over future budget projections.

Westerberg and the board felt that designation was incorrect and based on outdated information that had been altered in recent budget moves.

"They used the date of our last year's audit to make projections for the next three years out," said Westerberg. "They didn't use where we're really at in our first interim. And so they projected a deficit spending in the third year, and put a qualified status on us which we're not."

President Chris Neary agreed, arguing the letter presented inaccurate information, including low attendance numbers (attendance in the district increased this year), and saying the county failed to follow state guidelines in its assessment.

Since in the next month the board is expecting an independent auditor to review and assess district finances from last year and the first interim, it was decided to wait and see what the audit said before officially rejecting the MCOE letter. Westerberg said, unlike previous years, the auditor will attend the December 14 board budget meeting to give the trustees an assessment.

"They'll present the audit, but I also want them to present our current picture on our current status," said Westerberg. "Because what I don't want to happen is what happened last year, where we felt like nobody knew our exact picture. I think we're in pretty good shape.... And I think that the audit's going to approve that.... We want an official independent resource to say, 'WUSD is here financially at this point.'"

The next school board meeting is set for December 7, with open session starting at 4:30 pm.

County appoints new Animal Shelter manager

Mendocino County CEO Carmel Angelo has announced the appointment of Richard Molinari as the county's new Animal Shelter manager. Molinari most recently served in the animal shelter and control industry as manager of the Animal Protection Unit with the city and county of Denver, Colorado. Previous to that time, he served as a supervisor with the City of Las Vegas Animal Control Unit and as Animal Services shelter director of the Eagle County Animal Shelter & Animal Control Units in Eagle, Colorado.

Molinari has over 24 years of experience in the law enforcement and public health sectors with federal, county and city agencies. He started his career as a police officer in the United States Air Force, stationed at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada, and volunteered for assignments in Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

CEO Angelo stated: "I am extremely pleased to have someone with Mr. Molinari's experience and expertise joining the county team as Animal Shelter manager. We have a strong team at our Animal Shelter, and Mr. Molinari's leadership and credible experience in both animal control services as well as shelter operations, positions us well for the future."

Molinari is accredited as an animal control officer through the National Animal Control Association & Code 3 Associates. During his career he has worked over 25,000 calls for service, impounded over 10,000 animals, conducted over 4,000 cruelty investigations, and instructed hundreds of officers on report writing and control techniques.

"I enjoy working in public service and look forward to working with the shelter team to provide exceptional customer service for the citizens and animals of Mendocino County," Molinari said.

Molinari will start work with the county on November 21, 2016.

For more information, please contact the Mendocino County Executive Office at 707-463-4441.

— submitted by the
Mendocino County
Executive Office

Willits man held following high-speed chase, crash

A 19-year-old Willits man was arrested following a high-speed chase that ended when he lost control of his vehicle and struck a tree in the 29000 block of North Highway 101.

The incident unfolded just before 3 pm on November 2 when a sheriff's deputy pulled over the car belonging to Justin Everet Phillips after Phillips failed to stop properly at a stop sign at the intersection of West Commercial and Main streets, according to a Sheriff's Office press release.

As the deputy approached the car on foot, deputies say, Phillips' car sped away.

A chase ensued along Main Street and continued north onto Highway 101, the Sheriff's Office reported, reaching speeds of more than 100 mph.

Ultimately, Phillips lost control of his vehicle, which crashed into a tree.

Phillips was transported by ambulance to Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital for treatment of injuries sustained during the crash. One of two passengers in the car was later airlifted to another hospital for treatment.

Phillips was released from the hospital on November 5 and arrested on suspicion of felony evading a police officer causing injury or death.

He was booked into county jail. Bail was set at \$100,000.

This report was based on a press release from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

Willits woman found with brass knuckles

A traffic stop at the intersection of Meadowbrook Drive and Sherwood Hills Drive just before 3 pm on November 5 ended with the arrest of a 25-year-old Willits woman.

Deputies discovered there were two active misdemeanor warrants for the arrest of Amanda Jewell, a passenger in the car, and placed her in custody.

While Jewell was being detained, deputies found a pair of brass knuckles in her possession, according to a Sheriff's Office press release.

Jewell was arrested for possession of brass knuckles and violation of probation. She was booked into Mendocino County Jail. Bail was set at \$40,000.

This report was based on a press release from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

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Pg. 15



Mariposa owner Mary Anne Trevey holds one of the donation boxes now at every register at the natural foods market.

Photo by Forrest Glycer

Below: One of the collection boxes at Mariposa Market.

Mariposa Market collecting donations for Standing Rock Tribe

Mariposa Market has started collecting donations in boxes at every register to support the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe with their campaign against the Dakota Access pipeline. The donations go directly to the Standing Rock Tribe, who have been protesting for several months in camps in North Dakota trying to stop construction of the pipeline through their land.

Standing Rock and their supporters say that the pipeline would illegally decimate sacred burial grounds and put their water sources significantly at risk. They've been joined by thousands from all over the world, including many from Mendocino County. The opposition to DAPL has built into one of the biggest environmental and indigenous rights movements in the country.

Mariposa owner Mary Anne Trevey said the idea for the donation boxes came from Tasha Jarshaw,

who works at the market.

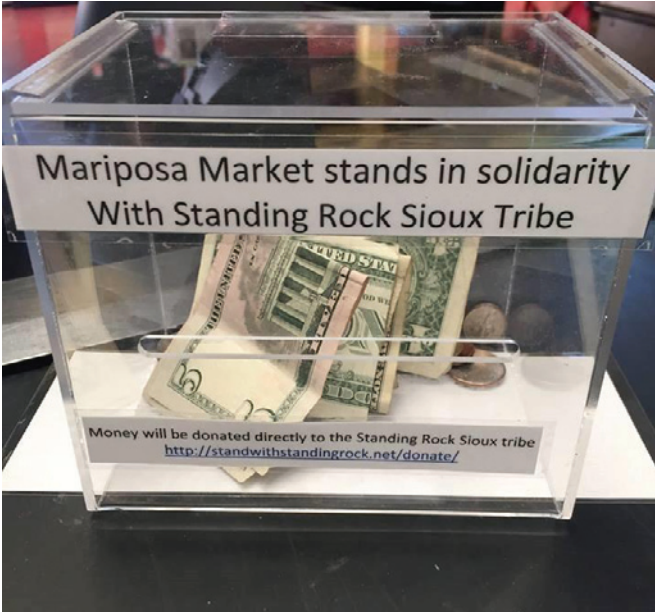
"She's the one that's been in charge of it," said Trevey, "and she's very excited about how much support we've gotten for this particular cause."

According to Trevey they collected over \$150 in the first couple of days of donations, which have now been going on for about a week.

"It's a very popular cause," she said. "(The Native Americans) have to fight so hard to get anywhere against the government, so I definitely want to support them.... They're working for the environment as well, and that's all of our environment. We should all care about it I think."

You can donate to the cause at Mariposa, or donate and learn more at <http://standwithstandingrock.net>.

– Forrest Glycer



Turkey day is coming up – order your special turkeys and pies soon

Mariposa Market is taking orders for Thanksgiving turkeys: You can order Diestel Organic Petite turkeys for \$4.69/pound (Diestel is a fourth-generation family farm in Sonora), or Mary's Non-GMO turkeys for \$3.29/pound and Mary's Organic turkeys for \$4.29/pound (Mary's Free Range Turkeys are from a third-generation family farm in the Central Valley). If you want to enjoy another traditional bird for the holiday, you can order a goose from Mary's, for \$8.99/pound.

The signup sheet is located on a table near the deli near the front of the Mariposa Market, and special orders will be taken "until all the slots are filled." Mariposa will be stocking up on turkeys to sell right up through the day before Thanksgiving, but placing a special order – "the sooner the better" – will ensure you get the kind and size of bird you want. For questions or phone orders, please call 459-9630 and ask to speak with the Chill Department.

You can also special order hometown favorites Kemmy's Pies from J.D. Redhouse. The special order deadline is November 17, and you can pick up your pies – priced from \$14 to \$18 – the day before Thanksgiving. Kemmy's offers more than 25 different pies for special order, including gluten-free and sugar-free options. Call J.D. Redhouse to order at 459-1214, or stop by to see the list of options.

– Jennifer Poole



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REAL ESTATE SECTION



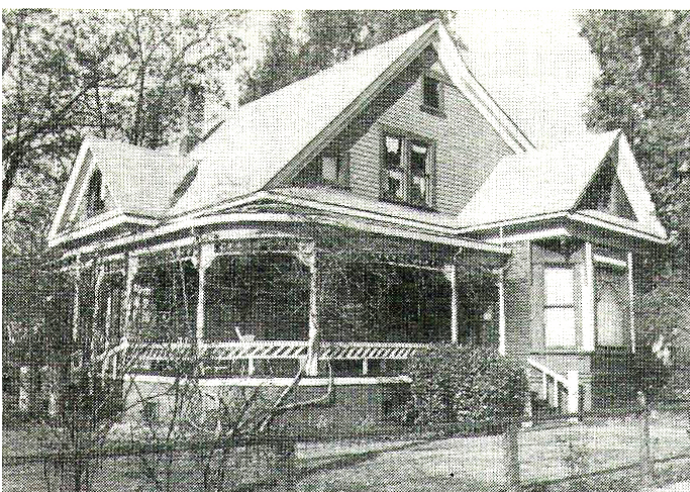
Looking south over Willits: the bypass, on the left; the railroad tracks, at center; and Main Street, on the right.

Photos by
Maureen
Moore



The future, the present and the past Willits Transformation

With the opening of the bypass on November 3, the future of the Willits landscape has forever been changed. Will this be good for the real estate market? Bad? Will new neighborhoods arise? Restoration efforts continue on existing housing? What do you think? Send us your thoughts about the coming changes in the post-bypass Willits real estate market. Email us at willitsweekly@gmail.com and share your ideas in our next Real Estate section!



72 South Humboldt Street built in 1904

The architectural style of the Bowen house, located at 72 Humboldt Street, and its date of construction belie its location in the original Willitsville Addition. The house was built for Henry Bowen around 1904, after the 1901 fire had destroyed the home of Mary Cook, originally on that site.

The style of the house is unique to Willits, it is one of the few Eastern Shingle Cottages in the town. The one and a half story house has a high gable roof that faces Humboldt Street. Two smaller gables are also found on the house; one covers a bay extension towards Humboldt Street and the second one faces south over a dormer window. All three gables have a small pediment formed by a narrow section of roof. All of the roof sections of the house are trimmed with box cornices, sloped soffit and frieze. One of the most distinctive characteristics of the house is the large wrap around veranda that is partially recessed.

At top: 72 Humboldt Street today, complete with a little more wisteria surrounding the porch. Above: The same home, as photographed in 1988. Reprinted with permission from the 1988 book "The Architectural Heritage of Willits," by Nelson A. Streib and Susan Pritchard, commissioned by the City of Willits.

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It's all about the details with home cleaning

I'm the first to admit that if I have a fresh set of carpet lines across my carpet, I feel like the house is clean, but when getting a property ready to sell (or preparing for the in-laws at Thanksgiving!), cleaning the things you might not catch on a routine clean can really make a difference.

"First and foremost, the smell of the home is the most important," said a local cleaning expert (we'll call her Mrs. Mop). "You may be used to your smell, but if anyone else is going to envision their lives there, having the rooms smell fresh and clean is a huge factor."

Now, this isn't to encourage a run on commercial spray air fresheners; spraying flower scents over a full kitty box just makes it smell like flowers *and* kitty box. Mrs. Mop recommends not only removing the box completely for house showings, but taking the time to find natural-smelling solutions instead.

"If the weather permits, having open windows and doors on the day of the showing is a great way to let in fresh air, and let out smelly air, too," explained Mrs. Mop. "Slice and bake cookies are wonderful baking in the oven; some lemons down the garbage disposal can be a great way to freshen the air. Also, a pot of barely simmering water with orange, lemon or other citrus slices and a cinnamon stick, cloves or other fall-time spices can make a nice aroma in the house that doesn't have that artificial smell."

Once the air is taken care of, Mrs. Mop noted removing clutter from horizontal surfaces was the next priority. Clean off the kitchen counter tops, tables, dresser tops,

and the bathroom counter, too. The less clutter, the more visible the space is and the larger the living areas look.

Next, detail areas like door jams, window sills and fan blades are good areas to check. Dirt and grime can collect under doorways: Getting out the fine detail vacuum tools to get crumbs out of the crevasses or scrubbing dirt and dust off of those high-traffic areas can make a big visual difference.

The track of window frames is another place where dust, pet fur, dead bugs, dander and other debris can collect. Removing the larger chunks with a vacuum attachment can start the process, but finish it with a good scrub: Mrs. Mop prefers an old denture toothbrush with its sectioned bristles which really allow good access inside the tracks.

Another place where bugs and dust ends up is inside light fixture diffusers, which are the glass or plastic covers that enclose the light bulb. Even "sealed" fixtures seem to have bug carcasses inside, and giving them a wipe and wash can make a room drastically brighter.

Dusting cobwebs and surfaces is also an obvious step, but going a step further and dusting behind photo frames and other wall hangings can dislodge critters and other things that can make those dark areas a home.

Another inexpensive, yet drastically beneficial tip is to replace the home's toilet seats. Some can get worn or pick up odors with years of use. Replacing the seats is inexpensive and is a great way to help homes look clean and fresh.

In bathrooms and in the kitchen, having your drains empty quickly and thoroughly is another nice visual for potential buyers – or guests – in your home. Pulling out the tub drain, removing and discarding the hair, and then treating the drain with a few scoops of baking soda, followed by vinegar can help clean out any additional gunk.

Mrs. Mop is a huge fan of using baking soda and vinegar for many of her cleaning projects. She makes her own lavender-infused vinegar – a great natural scent which lingers long after the cleaning is done.

"Making infused vinegar is simple," said Mrs. Mop. "Take one to two cups of the item you want to use for fragrance: lavender, lemon or orange peel, sage, rosemary – there's so many options – and mix it into a gallon of plain white vinegar. Let it sit for two to three weeks, and then dilute it with water when you're ready to use."

How much water? Depends on how strong you want the solution. Mrs. Mop generally dilutes to a 50/50 mix. This solution is used to do everything from mopping, to cleaning counter tops or windows.

"Now, make sure you don't ever use straight vinegar on windows," said Mrs. Mop. "The acidity will actually etch the windows and leave them cloudy. It's very important to dilute!"

– Maureen Moore

The most amazing vacuum

Over a year ago, I was fed up with my vacuum cleaner. Living on a dirt road with a dog and a cat, having to vacuum was a pretty common occurrence. I had an old machine and using it just felt like going through the motions: The payoff was never too exciting. I reached out to my friends on Facebook for a recommendation on a new vacuum.



"Tomorrow, I feel the need to purchase a new vacuum. Mine doesn't suck anymore and it's a one-person, two-animal, dirt-driveway problem. Anyone really like any certain budget brand that I won't need an 11th job to pay for? One especially effective for animal hair? One that #totallysucks."

The vote for the Shark brand vacuums was amazing. I decided to go for it, and I was able to order a Shark Navigator, shown at left, directly through Willits Power & Hardware.

I can only say, everyone was so right. It's an amazing vacuum, and I join the ranks of those recommending it now, too!

– Maureen Moore



At top, from left: Animal hair, dirt and debris fill a window track. A denture brush and elbow grease remove the gunk from the track. The cleaned track not only looks nice, but makes opening the window easier, too. At left: The Shark vacuum in all its glory while cleaning animal hair off a fabric pet bed. Check out those suction lines! Above: Cleaning the window sills can also make a great difference. This sill sits behind the couch and is out of sight until the furniture is moved.

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Residential real estate sales specialist Tara Moratti talks about the 95490 market

"There's never a dull day," said Realtor Tara Moratti about her real estate career in Mendocino County. Moratti, a broker-associate who works with Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty, deals with residential sales primarily, but she loves to work with land and ranches, too.

The residential real estate market in the 95490 zip code has now entered its usually slower, winter period. "With regular residential sales, most are happening between March and October 1," she said. "Usually with Thanksgiving, Christmas, the schools back in, things get a little slower." But for "country properties," she said, off-season is a good time to be on the market. Ranch work is slower in the off-season, and the fall / winter rains can make a country property more attractive than during the dry end-of-summer months.

Moratti says the Willits area market hasn't had quite "as great of a recovery" as the rest of the county. "It's been a slower increase," she said. The Brooktrails real estate market has been recovering, too, "but there's more demand for properties in town and in the valley than in Brooktrails."

One interesting point Moratti made this week, just a few days after the Willits bypass opened, is that the bypass could make buying a home in Willits or Brooktrails a better option for those with jobs in Ukiah.

"Their commute is quicker from Ukiah, now that the bypass is in place. It will be interesting to see if the bypass changes things."

There's a big price difference between the two zip codes, with an entry level home priced around \$250,000 in Brooktrails and Willits, and priced around \$350,000 in the Ukiah area.

Homes have been generally quicker to sell in Willits these days, with the inventory of homes for sale "holding small," Moratti said. "There's not a lot." This week, there are 32 homes for sale in the 95490 zip code, from one property listed at \$169,000 to a \$1.3 million property on Walker Lake Road at the south end of Willits, on 9 acres "with a really nice house and barn and shop and outbuildings" and beautiful views of the neighboring private

"lake." That country gem is listed with a Sonoma County agent specializing in "upscale properties."

In the last six months in inland Mendocino County, there have been eight properties with a residence that sold for over \$1 million. "Only one in Willits," Moratti said. "That was 358 acres out Irmulco – that's a different type of property – but the others were vineyard-type properties – that's what's getting you over \$1 million."

Of the other 31 homes currently for sale, most – 14 homes – are in the \$200,000+ range, and the next-largest grouping – seven homes – are in the \$300,000+ range.

Most buyers are looking in the \$250,000 range, Moratti said, and homes like that are not lingering on the market too long right now. "Most people want 3 bedrooms, 2 baths; they want to have a garage, and a nice-sized backyard, and not to be too close to their neighbors. If a property comes up that hits all those bells and whistles, they will get multiple offers."

Since January 1 in the 95490 zip code, 111 properties with residences have sold, for an average price of \$298,673 and a median price of \$255,000. That median price accounts for the "majority of homes sold," Moratti said, with the average skewed upwards a bit due to the sale of a top-end property. Stats for this year's home sales show "a pretty considerable increase," she said, now that more "regular sellers" are back in the market. "They can finally sell and move and have liquidity in their houses," she said.



Moratti has two main pieces of advice to sellers: "One is to always get their pest and fungus inspection report done before their home goes on the market, so they're not renegotiating the price" based on an inspection done by buyers. "For the \$250 or \$300 it costs you, it's well worth it."

Number 2, Moratti said, is to list their properties "as close to the most common sales price as possible. If they're really diligent about listing within 5 percent of the value of the last [comparable] property sold, they will sell in three to six months. If the property is overpriced, that could make the time period much longer."

Moratti concluded with a general comment about how she works in real estate: "It's important to me to give people information so they can make decisions, whether they're buying or selling. I see my role as a facilitator in how to move through the process, which can be a very challenging process, with emotions and personalities. With banks and lenders and the government and various restrictions, these can be rough waters to navigate!"

"I try to be positive and find solutions, and provide information so they can make a good choice for their life," Moratti said. "That's the absolute bottom line of it. And making it affordable for them is what stands out for people the most. It's always interesting!"

Tara Moratti, Realtor, is a broker-associate at Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty, CalBRE #01420657. Visit her web page to learn more, www.LivInMendo.com, or contact her at 707-367-0389 or tara.moratti@coldwellbanker.com.

COLUMN | Selzer on Real Estate

How's the market?

Be a savvy homebuyer

The most important way to prepare to buy a home is to get your finances in order. This means gathering the following: your credit report, financial documents like your tax returns and W2 forms to demonstrate your reportable income, bank statements to show your cash reserves, and an itemized list of your monthly obligations (e.g., rent, car payment, insurance payment, utilities, etc.). Gathering this data will allow you to figure out how much you can afford to borrow.

The next step is to figure out how much you want to borrow. Do you want to have a little money left over at the end of each month, or have some month left over at the end of the money? Is there growth potential in your job? Does your spouse plan to go to work and increase your household

income next year? Or are you planning to start a family and cut your income in half so you or your spouse can stay home with the baby? Be honest with yourself about what kind of payment will allow you to have the lifestyle you want.

Remember, owning your own home means a mortgage payment, tax and insurance payments, and maintenance expenses. On the bright side, it also means a substantial tax deduction as well as building equity in your own property instead of paying rent to someone else.

Once you've got your finances together, and you've decided on your price range, you'll need a real estate agent – one you like and trust. Tell your Realtor how much you're comfortable spending and the features you can't live without; share

your preferences about location, property size, square footage, number of bedrooms and bathrooms, and any special considerations, such as needing a one-story house or wanting to live in a specific school district. Be as picky as you can up front so your agent doesn't waste your time showing you homes you're not interested in.



Richard Selzer
Columnist

Be prepared to look at several homes, and tell your agent what you like and don't about each. It'll just speed up the process of finding homes that fit your needs. You should also be open with your Realtor about any contingencies. For example, you can only afford a home at this price after you receive the court settlement you're expecting or as soon as you sign the contract for your new job that you've been promised.

Read the rest of **Savvy** | Over on Page B6

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Agent Profiles | Roxanne Lemos-Neese and Elida Cardona

Women in Real Estate

Each month, Willits Weekly welcomes real estate offices to nominate an agent, male or female, to be showcased in one of our agent profiles

Roxanne Lemos-Neese

This month, Willits Realtor Roxanne Lemos-Neese will be celebrating 12 years as a licensed real estate agent. Lemos-Neese received her license in November of 2004 after attending Anthony Schools for her initial classes and then completing her continuing education with Nash Gonzalez at Mendocino College.

"I started originally with Garbocci Van Housen Realty and then worked at Pacific Properties, too," said Lemos-Neese. "Then, about six years ago, I moved over to Coldwell Banker, where I continue to work with buyers and sellers today."

Starting out just prior to the real estate bust offered Lemos-Neese a taste of what benefits the job could offer – and what a roller coaster of an industry it can be, too.

"I remember I had one transaction – the biggest one of my career up until this year – and then the market crashed," reminisced Lemos-Neese. "Being one of the agents of that time period really felt like being a part of a historical time in the industry. Even through those hard times, I really learned a lot about the market: how to deal with problems and try to help with everyone's unique situations."

Becoming an agent also rounded out Lemos-Neese's trifecta of knowledge about the real estate industry: more than 20 years ago, she worked at First American Title Company, working "on the other side of the desk" for real estate transactions, and through the eyes of a contractor's wife, Lemos-Neese also has a keen eye for structural and fundamental building problems and concerns.

Lemos-Neese married her husband, Robert Neese, in the late 1990s and enjoyed working with him through his part of the real estate industry.

"It really motivated me to want to get my license," said Lemos-Neese. "I knew I had experience in the title and escrow end, and then with the experience gained by learning from Robert, becoming an agent really seemed to be a natural next step."

"I wanted autonomy; I wanted to have hours that I could be flexible with and be able to say 'no' if I wanted. Little did I know, that wasn't really an option," laughed Lemos-Neese. "Once you start in the industry, you really just have to be on. I found that I really liked to be in the office and to be able to learn from other agents and other escrows in a way that one really benefits from being immersed in on a daily basis."

Lemos-Neese works mainly with residential properties and works up and down the 101 corridor, from Laytonville to Santa Rosa, though she notes her favorite area is a little closer to home, working usually down to about the Cloverdale area.

"I really love a personal connection with my clients and enjoy talking on the phone and meeting face to face for all the important steps," explained Lemos-Neese. "The Sonoma County market is certainly different, and how the agents interact and exchange information is more digitally focused."



Working on this personal level has allowed Lemos-Neese to make great connections with other industry professionals and to help guide clients down the right path to allow for a successful transaction.

"It's so important to make sure you do the steps in the right order," said Lemos-Neese. "I always encourage my clients to meet with a lender first. I've had a great working relationship with Debbi Mirabelli of Pinnacle Capital, among others, but finding a lender you can communicate with is so important. Then, get prequalified and clear on a budget you can afford. There's nothing worse than looking at houses first to find out that the one you fell in love with is \$50,000 or \$80,000 out of your price range."

Lemos-Neese noted her excitement to be a part of the process, working with buyers and sellers, and completing the transactions successfully for all involved.

"It's wonderful to get to go through the process with them," said Lemos-Neese. "Sometimes it can be quite an evolution; buyers think they might have their minds set, and sometimes what they end up with is not at all what they originally thought they'd want. It's fun to watch the process evolve, and it's really satisfying when you can give them an amazing place to live and raise their families."

To reach Lemos-Neese, call 484-6489 or stop by the Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty office located at 1460 South Main Street in Willits. Lemos-Neese is in the office Monday through Friday and would love to have people drop in and say hello!

– Maureen Moore

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Elida Cardona

Elida Cardona has been in the real estate market for 17 years, and in Willits since she was just 3 years old. This hometown Realtor started her career as an agent with Century 21 under the guidance of broker Priscilla Ryan. When Century 21 was purchased by Selzer Realty, Cardona stayed with the company and continues to offer experienced assistance for buyers and sellers in the Willits area.

With almost two decades of real estate sales under her belt, Cardona said she's been fortunate to remain in the field through the ups and downs of the cyclical industry.

Being bilingual has been a great advantage for Cardona, and she enjoys working with the Hispanic community in our local area. While Cardona works with sellers also, she noted that especially enjoys working with buyers and helping clients find the home of their dreams.

"Pairing a buyer with a home is such a wonderful feeling," said Cardona. "There's nothing like the moment when you hand over the keys to a new homeowner, especially when they might have thought it was something that they wouldn't be able to achieve!"

Cardona recalled one transaction that really stuck with her as a great success story, after she encouraged a renting family to go ahead and look at the possibility of being approved to become buyers.


"The family, complete with five kids, were living in a small trailer," said Cardona. "I decided to approach them about the possibility of homeownership, and they were worried that they just wouldn't be able to meet the qualifications, have enough of a down payment and whatnot, but I kept encouraging them and connected them with a great lender. The lender was able to qualify them, I continued to help them submit paperwork, made sure everything was signed and filled out correctly, and when they were interested in writing an offer on a property that I already had listed, the sellers were equally enthusiastic about having their property – which was their home before it was turned into a rental – returned to having a resident owner.

"The sellers worked with the buyers, and they were able to come to an agreement that worked for everyone involved. The family purchased the house and has made it into a beautiful home for themselves and their children. They've done yard work and really boosted the curb appeal and, even to this day, the buyers will thank me when they see me and tell me how happy they are with the house. It was great to be a part of helping them achieve something that they didn't think they could."

The idea of becoming a real estate agent really came clear for Cardona when she herself purchased her first home. She decided to start taking online courses and also

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The rest of

Savvy

From Page B3

Once you've found your dream home, be a savvy buyer. If you cannot make a quick decision, you could lose the house to a more organized buyer. Take care of anything that could slow the process down as soon as possible. If grandma has veto power over your house choice because she's loaning you the down payment, get her approval early.

Then, work closely with your Realtor to make an offer that spells out who is paying for what and exactly what is included in the sale. Who pays for inspections? Repairs? Loan fees? Closing costs? What stays with the house: hot tub, window treatments, pool equipment? Being a good negotiator means paying attention to the details. Your Realtor can help with this.

I was recently asked, "When does a real estate agent's relationship with a buyer or seller end?" I said, "When one of you dies." Smart Realtors know that people typically stay in their homes for about seven years. After that, they'll need a good real estate agent to help them buy and/or sell their next home, and if that agent has been helpful during those years, they'll be the first person the buyer or seller calls. So don't hesitate to ask for help from your Realtor even after the sale. They will be happy to be of service if it means you will remember them.

If you have questions about real estate or property management, please contact me at rselzer@selzerrealty.com or visit www.realtyworldselzer.com. If I use your suggestion in a column, I'll send you a \$5 gift card to Roland's Bakery. If you'd like to read previous articles, visit my blog at www.richardselzer.com.

Dick Selzer is a real estate broker who has been in the business for more than 40 years.

COLUMN |

Numbers by Nick

Organizing your accounts

Hello Willits Friends and Neighbors. Welcome to November's column – the purpose of which is to help you make wise decisions about your "money." I also want to make sure your finances are organized and ready for important life events like buying a home ... or for some fun.

The end of the year is a great time to get your finances in order – for taxes, for next year's commitments and adventures. In October's column I talked about getting a free copy of your credit report to review: You want to make sure that what's listed on your credit report is accurate and actually your history. Mistakes are made ... and if so, you need to contact the creditor or "issuer" and work to have the listing taken off this important catalogue of your credit history.

A 50 or 100 point swing in your credit rating can mean a better loan rate for car or home, etc. In case you did not get your credit report last month, here is the link once again: www.annualcreditreport.com. It's free.

OK, let's continue streamlining your accounts ... you'll want to take these one at a time:

Multiple bank/checking accounts: This is a great time to review, consolidate or close.

Review your statements: Do



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Columnist

you have any recurring debits for services that you are not even using? Contact them and have the debits removed.

Go paperless: You may have too many statements arriving each month. Determine which ones you want for record keeping, and go paperless with the others. Call the source or do it yourself via your account on their website.

Retirement accounts from an old employer: Best to set up an appointment with me, as there are quite a few steps here.

Life insurance plan review: If you have an older policy, if you need a new one, or if your family need(s) have changed.

Car insurance rate: There could be better rates out there, especially if you are a good driver or if a ticket(s) has fallen off your record. Worth a call!

Homeowners insurance: Have you added a garage? You want to make sure you have the right coverage.

Cell phone plan: If your contract end is coming up, that's



always a good time to speak with the competition to gauge how to negotiate with your current supplier.

Once you've done the above, be sure to properly destroy the checks, statements, and policies associated with the accounts you have closed.

Taking the time to renegotiate and/or de-clutter the above will go a long way in helping you feel a bit more in control of your money and life's protection plans, and it will make applying for a mortgage or home equity line of credit a smooth process.

I'd be happy to assist you with any of these tasks above. Than you, and Happy November!

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