



# What do YOU think?

## Disappointed

To the Editor:

This morning I am more disappointed and sad than I expected to be. Only 1,049 people voted yesterday [Tuesday, November 5]. Our community needed two-thirds of those to say that they could, or would, give their fire department, on average, an extra \$2.33 a month to build a much-needed new firehouse on Commercial Street; they did not.

Our fire district has been working so hard for the last seven years to come up with a way to either build a new station to replace the aging one or to find another place we could move to that would be geographically and economically feasible.

Our main concern was doing it in a way that would create the least amount of financial hardship for anyone in our community.

It is no accident that we have one of the best-equipped and well-run fire departments in Northern California. We have the best volunteers; we have a great board of directors; and we have a very dedicated staff – we always have, and we are proud of that.

Our community cares; our community supports this fire department; they have for as long as I can remember – until now. I'm not sure of the reason. The only thing I can think of is that they can't give any more of their tax dollars to their fire department: \$2.33 is too much, they're done, they've given enough, and the fire department will just have to manage with what they have.

And our fire department will manage: they will maintain the aging equipment they have, and cross their fingers that the engines will start when needed; they'll buy good used replacement engines that will fit in the old firehouse; they'll put out the rain buckets and spend more money trying to keep the rain from coming in; and they'll keep responding, just like they always have, no matter what the call. They will be there to help you, whenever they are needed, 24-7-365, that's how they roll....

Nancy Stipe, administrative assistant, Willits Fire Department, Little Lake Fire District

## Farm School progress

To the Editor:

The California State Grange School of Agricultural Arts is a new project with a mission to help train the next generation of farmers, provide workshops for home gardeners, and give youth an enriching farm experience. Funding from the California State Grange was recently secured, and a lease was signed several weeks ago at the Ridgewood Ranch, a few miles south of Willits. We are starting with about 10 acres that includes a mature orchard, a schoolhouse needing renovation, and a 6 acre field for crops and livestock.

Our first volunteer weekend, November 9 and 10, focused on demolition at the Grange Farm School building, and was tremendously productive. We tore several rooms down to studs, and they are now ready for installing new wiring and insulation. Thanks to all the volunteers last weekend for their help!

You can show your support for California Grange School of Agricultural Arts on Ridgewood



Photo by Ann O'Quinn

Above: Antonia Partridge looks at the Grange Farm School building blueprint, with Cody Bartholomew, representing the Golden Rule Church Association, owners of Ridgewood Ranch.

## The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

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

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Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Ranch by lending a hand at our upcoming volunteer days: on November 23-24, December 7-8 and December 14-15. Check with me to learn more or schedule a custom trip for your group: 707-272-1395 or farmdirector@californiagrango.org. To keep up with what's going on at the Farm School, check our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/antoniapartridge.farmteach.

Thank you to Cold Creek Compost, who gave us deep discounts on 20 tons of a custom blend of compost, with lime, gypsum and other goodies, mixed specifically for us based on the soil analysis done for us at a laboratory.

In the next few months, the Farm School is looking for donations. Please look at our "Wish List" on the web site (http://californiagrango.org/agschool/wishlist.html). We need small things like gloves for the farm and dishes for the house, and big things like a pickup truck and a trailer, to build our portable Egg-Mobile chicken coop on.

Farm School also has a job opening for a site coordinator who will live on-site and assist with teaching and farm maintenance. Please email me for a full job description: farmdirector@californiagrango.org.

Antonia Partridge, director, California State Grange School of Agricultural Arts

## Caltrans Bypass – Not a "Done Deal"

To the Editor:

Whether you thought it was a good idea or not, Caltrans has moved ahead building a 6-mile, 2-lane "phase 1" bypass of Willits. However, there are some problems - or perhaps opportunities.

Caltrans' permit for this project was contingent on mitigating the loss of about 70 acres of wetlands (the largest wetland fill in northern California in a half-century). Caltrans estimated the cost for initial construction of the mitigation lands at \$13 million, but the lowest bid was \$39 million. There is no funding for this \$26 million shortfall.

Note that required mitigation also involves monitoring and short-term management, also estimated at \$13 million, and long-term management in perpetuity, no doubt underestimated at another \$11 million.

Given that there is no wetland mitigation, the project should not have proceeded and further damage should cease. But of course abandoning the partly built project would be a travesty.

Fortunately, there is an opportunity to solve this dilemma: downsizing the 40-acre northern interchange. A simple intersection or roundabout (both already designed by Caltrans) to connect the two-lane bypass to the existing two-lane highway north of town could:

- Avoid paving and dewatering approximately 30 acres of wetlands
- Avoid further destruction of Pomo cultural sites
- Potentially allow the mitigation plan to also be downsized and less costly
- Substantially reduce the

amount of fill required (reducing trucking, water use, and greenhouse gas emissions)

• Allow the wick drains to either be removed or remain unactivated (only a fraction of the fill has yet to be placed in this northern area)

• Eliminate three bridges over Upp Creek and a fourth bridge of the northbound lanes

• Significantly reduce the project costs. This might enable sufficient funding for mitigation as well as "child" projects such as Main Street and Sherwood Road intersection improvements.

Phase 2 (involving further cost and damage to expand the bypass to 4 lanes) is not justified by realistic traffic projections and is unlikely to ever be funded. The full project was "sold" on the false claim that the Federal Highway Administration required it.

The common-sense revision of scaling back the I-5 style northern interchange could benefit all concerned. It would save state taxpayers money and avoid further embarrassment of a needless, damaging and controversial project. Moreover, a change of course on this project could be hailed as a major step toward the carbon-reducing, more sustainable transportation policy we clearly need.

Madge Strong, Willits

## What happened?

To the Editor:

Approximately 10 days post-election and I'm left to wonder, "What in the world happened?"

I will continue to donate to Brooktrails Fire Department whenever I can, in addition to paying the yearly special fire tax. And, I will continue to assist Little Lake Fire Protection District, too, whenever they schedule a fundraiser ... be it a fantastic gala or another string of raffle tickets hoping to win one of those gorgeous picnic tables from Willits Redwood Company.

Because, you see, this community desperately needs them both, and I want to be able to look the volunteers in the eye when I have to ask for help.

When I read about Randy Coburn of Coburn's Construction measuring, constructing and installing a new medical supply cabinet for Engine 5480 at no cost to Little Lake Fire Protection District, I thought to myself, "Now there's the community spirit I want to believe still exists."

Gail Richards, Willits

## If Not Cars, What?

To the Editor:

This question should stir up some lively discussion at the Town Hall meeting this next Sunday, November 17. The topic is "Community Traffic Circulation: Getting Around in Willits." Are there other options to cars? Most everyone should have an idea or two about the subject. Come and share them with your community neighbors.

Bill Barksdale, Richard Jergensen and Larry Desmond will jumpstart the conversation with short presentations on "Planning for Joyful Change," "Trolleys and Trains," and "Bicycles and Walking," respectively. Then, everyone there will have a chance to speak. Two mikes will guarantee we all can hear what's being said, and moderator Carlin Diamond will make sure no one goes over their allotted time.

Come join us. Come find out what your fellow neighbors are thinking about. Sunday, November 17, from 4 to 6 pm at the City Council Chambers. For more information call: Carlin, 459-4850.

Mary Zellachild, Willits

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# Hometown Business

## Dog Star Grooming

A salon for happy and healthy 'best friends'



Jessica Dubow, owner of Dog Star Grooming, poses with Piper the standard poodle, during their regular grooming session.

Dubow worked as a groomer at Dr. Barbara Mack's Willits Pet Center when she first moved up to Willits from Santa Rosa, but decided she wanted to open her own business.

Dog Star Grooming, in the plaza on the west side of Highway 101 south of the Evergreen Shopping Center, has been open since August.



Dubow grooms dogs exclusively, by appointment, from Monday through Friday.

This week, she was grooming a regular client, Piper, a standard poodle owned by Jim and Diana Hinckle of Woodline Design Custom Cabinetry. Jim Hinckle did the pet reception area in her new salon.

Piper gets a grooming every four weeks, and was clearly an old hand at getting made

Read the rest of **Dog Star** Over on Page 4

COLUMN | Equine Health

## Basic Vaccinations for Horses

Core vaccination recommendations for horses vary with location, age and lifestyle, and can easily be found through the AAEP (American Association of Equine Practitioners) or regional Veterinary Teaching Hospital – UC Davis in this area. These recommendations are made based on ongoing research, and they change as new information becomes available. The decision to vaccinate a horse against a disease is made when the risk of getting the disease and/or the severity of the disease if contracted outweighs the cost of or risk involved with vaccination.

Some knowledge about the diseases we have vaccinations for can help owners understand their horse's risk factors. Most of the core vaccines horses protect against diseases usually encountered in the environment, not from other horses. These include tetanus, rabies, West Nile virus and "sleeping sickness." Almost all horses should be vaccinated against these diseases, even if they live alone ... because exposure comes from environmental factors like dirt, mosquitoes and mammals like skunks and bats.

The decision to vaccinate against a disease is often made because the disease, if contacted, is very severe – like tetanus. Not only are horses very susceptible to tetanus, which explains the annual recommendation for vaccination, but they are at very high risk of exposure, because the bacteria that causes the disease is common in the ground. Horses contracting tetanus usually die, after suffering horribly.

Other recommendations, like that for rabies vaccination, exist because the disease is almost 100 percent fatal, and because if your horse gets

Sheri Cronin  
Columnist

rabies you are likely to have been exposed also ... at least likely enough that you'll need post-exposure vaccination yourself.

Do we see much rabies in horses? No, thankfully. Do we have rabies in the wild in Mendocino County? Yes: our most common vectors – or animals that spread the virus – are skunks and bats, but any warm-blooded animal – or mammal – can carry it. It's interesting that dogs legally have to be vaccinated for rabies, and no such requirement exists for other domestic animals. Most horses spend much more time in places like pastures or barns where exposure is more likely than for most dogs do, but that's the way it is.

West Nile virus and the viruses causing sleeping sickness have similar life cycles. They depend on birds and mosquitoes to complete their life cycles; horses and people are "accidental" hosts. This means that horses and people can get sick from the virus, when bitten by an infected mosquito, but the virus can't replicate or be spread by these hosts.

At this point most horses are vaccinated for these diseases, so we don't see many cases. However, the viruses are still around – in the bird and mosquito populations – so it's important to keep vaccinating for them. In the early 2000s, when West Nile virus first came to the eastern United States and began its trek west, there were thousands of horses affected. Generally, about one-third of infected horses die, one third recover, and the rest have permanent

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

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All the need-to-know info



It's time for the 2014 Phone book!

Deadline for ads is December 15  
Send an email to: [willitsphonebook@gmail.com](mailto:willitsphonebook@gmail.com)  
and get your business included this year!

Ad copy for changes can be sent to [WPBAdCopy@gmail.com](mailto:WPBAdCopy@gmail.com)

Now both businesses are located back at 1600 S. Main St. in Willits!

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# Puzzle Page

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

## In the Stars...

**ARIES**  
Mar 21 - Apr 20  
Aries, seek the advice of a mentor or confidante when a puzzling situation presents itself this week. Another person's perspective might be all you need to solve this problem.

**TAURUS**  
Apr 21 - May 21  
Taurus, getting the job done just isn't enough. You always need to get it done to the best of your ability and that's why others find you so reliable.

**GEMINI**  
May 22 - Jun 2  
Gemini, focus your energy on work this week, as a possible promotion is looming over the horizon. Give your best efforts, and you will soon be glad you did.

**CANCER**  
Jun 22 - Jul 22  
Cancer, sometimes the key to success is to know when to step back and recharge. This week, spend some time resting and relaxing, and you will have the energy needed to go forward.

**LEO**  
Jul 23 - Aug 23  
Leo, you may be looking for something new to occupy your time. Try learning a new sport or language. It will keep your brain sharp and pass the time in a productive way.

**VIRGO**  
Aug 24 - Sept 22  
Virgo, this week is a great time to stop procrastinating and to get back on track. Figure out a time when you have the most energy, and dive right into the task at hand.

**LIBRA**  
Sept 23 - Oct 23  
Libra, get behind a cause that will benefit your community. You have been interested in giving back to others, and this week presents a great opportunity to do just that.

**SCORPIO**  
Oct 24 - Nov 22  
Scorpio, you love to socialize with friends and family, but lately time has been hard to come by. Plan a get-together with friends and family.

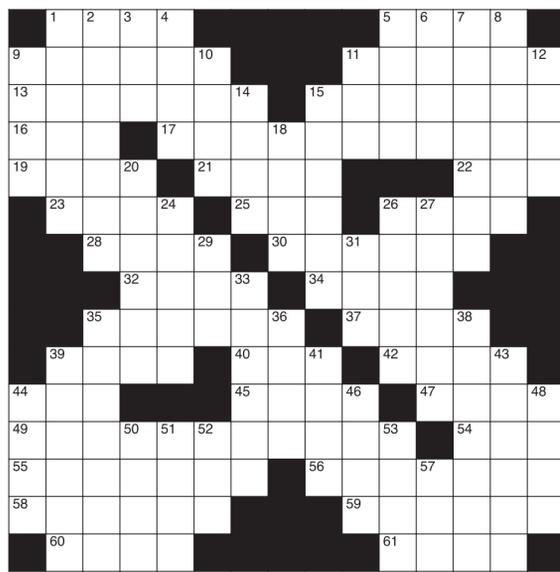
**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov 23 - Dec 21  
Sagittarius, you can handle difficult situations with ease and your loved ones know it. When such a situation presents itself this week, don't be afraid to take charge.

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec 22 - Jan 20  
Capricorn, others trust what you have to say and want to follow along with your guidance. Cherish this trust and think carefully before making decisions that affect your loved ones.

**AQUARIUS**  
Jan 21 - Feb 18  
Aquarius, sort out an ongoing issue that has been compromising your focus at work. Once you clear your mind, you can once again focus on your career.

**PISCES**  
Feb 19 - Mar 20  
Pisces, you may find yourself spending more time with your social circle than your family in the next few days.

## Crossword Puzzle



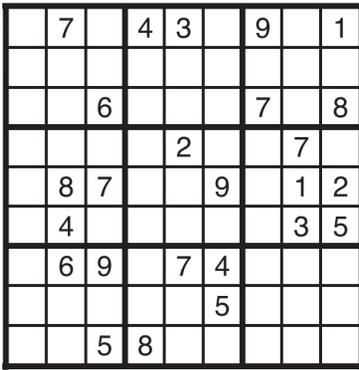
### CLUES ACROSS

- Reverberation
- Sonny's ex wife
- Drives elephant
- High-spirited tomboy
- Plans
- Gather materials together
- Brew
- Discovery child star
- Stalk of a moss capsule
- Capital of Yemen
- Local area network
- Belgrade River
- Straight or bobby
- Tennis player rank
- Helped (archaic)
- Lounges
- Dove sounds
- Int'l relief organization
- Planted crops
- Gobblers
- Animal companions
- Firth of Clyde city & river
- Korean writer Mogeum

### CLUES DOWN

- Birds of prey
- Fastest land animal
- Judge's moniker (abbr.)
- Part of Uttar Pradesh
- Italian crooner Perry
- Syringe
- Articles fit to eat
- Replace spent bullets
- International metal polish
- New Mexico artist town
- Elf (Brit.)
- Glowing gas element
- Break suddenly
- Blue colored
- Br. children's author Blyton
- Limicoline bird
- Burn plants
- Gulf of, Aegean Sea inlet
- Clysters
- Leguminous fruit
- Large tub
- Member of U.S. Navy
- Having physical sensation
- Colors clothes
- Plural of 33 down
- Grouped by twos
- Fence bar
- Cherry brandy
- Pixies
- Canadian flyers
- Emit coherent radiation
- Lot
- Area units
- Russian space station
- Tools for holes
- 5th sign of the zodiac

## Sudoku



Level: Intermediate



### How To Sudoku:

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

The rest of **Dog Star** From Page 3

to look her best.

"I'm a big believer in patience," Dubow said. "I want the dogs to have a happy, comfortable and relaxed grooming experience. If they have a positive experience the first time, it'll be that much better the next time."

Dubow is also a believer in natural dog products. She sells Megalast squeaky toy bears made - in a solar-powered factory in Texas - with non-toxic thermoplastic rubber. Also in stock are large and extra-large "Tug-A-Hemps,"

doggie rope toys made in Washington state from hemp grown just a couple miles down the road.

She was most enthusiastic about "Crittter Oil," a natural and safe botanical oil product that can be used for flea and tick control on animals, carpets and even outside on lawns. Crittter Oil helps



Dog Star Grooming sells large and extra-large "Tug-A-Hemps," interactive dog toys made with hemp grown in Washington state.

Photo by Jennifer Poole

promote healthy coats and skin, and is also good for itchy skin caused by allergies, and smelly skin troubles, too. Dubow enhances all her dog shampoos with Crittter Oil at no extra charge. "I want everybody's pets to be happy, healthy and protected," she said. "It's an awesome product."

Dubow is enjoying working in Willits. "People are down to earth, here," she said. "Their pets are pets, not accessories. I haven't had anyone ask for dyeing yet up here." In Chicago, she said, her "ritz" clients did sometimes want dye jobs for their dogs.

Dog Star Grooming provides full-service grooming, baths, brushing, nail clipping or nail filing ("sometimes dogs react to filing better," Dubow said), toothbrushing, and more.

The big bath in the salon has a ramp for ease of access and a shelf for small dogs.

Grooming is generally priced by breed. For an appointment or more information, call Dog Star Grooming, 1762 South Main Street, at 841-3003. Also check out Dog Star Grooming's Facebook page, or email jessica.dogstar@icloud.com for info.

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# Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits



## Apples Apples

Boxes of donated fruit make for a happy, healthier community

A full 213 boxes of donated fruit, harvested and donated by the Willits Grateful Gleaners this past summer and fall, made a sizeable reduction in the bounty of fruit that would normally go to waste in and around the Willits community.

Organized by a small group of dedicated team leaders, about 20 gleaners participated in more than 15 gleaning days to deliver beautiful unsprayed pears, plums, apples, Asian pears and walnuts to over 12 groups and nonprofit organizations. This effort was also due to the generosity of individuals with home orchards who were willing to have gleaners come to their property with ladders, pickers and boxes to harvest fruit from their trees.

Karen Gridley & Carol Cox  
Contributing Writers

This year the group recorded collecting about 125 boxes of apples, 55 boxes of pears, and 13 boxes of plums - and one box of chard! Sometimes the boxes are stored temporarily in the group's garage on Tuttle Lane, especially if they contain fruit that needs to ripen or be sorted. Volunteers deliver the fruit to the following groups and organizations on a rotating basis: Willits Daily Bread, Willits Community Services, the Senior Center, Willits Soccer Club, Girls' Soccer Team, Nuestra Alianza, the schools, after-school programs, and more.

The fruit is gratefully received by young soccer players, seniors who might like to make an apple pie, and people who wouldn't normally eat fruit because they can't afford it. For the after-school program, the fruit affords an opportunity for children to learn about the origin of the fruit or nut, how it grows and its value as a food.

Every year some of the gleaners do a pressing in order to make apple juice, since this is the best way to deal with apples not ideal for eating. The 64 quarts of apple juice pressed this year were used as a fundraiser for Willits Community Services and Willits Daily Bread.

The Grateful Gleaners are an example of community in action and a reminder that some earth-related tasks - like the harvesting of fruit and nuts - are best done with the help of many hands. Collective gleaning is where everyone comes out a winner: the homeowner who, for differing reasons, can't harvest his/her own trees; the gleaner volunteer who has the pleasure of working with others, donating fruit and taking some home; and the many people in the community who might otherwise not know or afford the pleasure of a delicious fresh apple or pear.

Being a gleaner involves picking fruit and vegetables (i.e., reaching, bending and some lifting), and a commitment to show up for at least one or two gleanings a season. If you are interested in being placed on the gleaner list for next year or want to offer access to your fruit trees for gleaning, please contact Marcia at 459-2614.



At top: Students from Mary Colvig's seventh-grade leadership classroom hold up the donated apples.

Above: Diana Hoyt of the Gleaners made the delivery to BGMS.

Photos by Maureen Moore

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**Thursday, November 14**

**Shanachie Pub:** bi-monthly E.T. Jazz Jam, featuring Lincoln Andrews on upright and electric bass, Michael Cantwell on piano and keyboards, and Jesse Bessoni on drums. Jazz standards infused with funk, hip hop, world and free-form jamming. Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

**“Eleemosynary”:** The final play of Willits Community Theatre’s 2013 season. Written by award-winning playwright Lee Blessing and directed by Joe Dowling, “Eleemosynary” focuses on the family dynamics in the lives of three generations of women: Dorothea (played by Anna Wilson); Artie (played by Mary Burns) and Echo (played by Tara Logan).

“Eleemosynary” plays Thursday through Sunday through November 24. 7 pm on Thursdays; 8 pm on Fridays and Saturdays; 2 pm on Sundays. Tickets can be purchased in person at Goods’ Shoppe, 56 South Main Street, or by calling WCT at 459-0895 to reserve by credit card.



Anna Wilson, Mary Burns and Tara Logan  
Photo by Creek Norris

**Friday, November 15**

**“Eleemosynary”:** Willits Community Theatre; see Thursday, November 14.

**Saturday, November 16**

**“Trio of Trios” Concert:** featuring acoustic musical harmonies by three Willits trios: Chanterelle, with Madge Strong, Diane Smalley and Helen Falandes; New Blu Trio, with Nancy New, Anita Blu, and Don Fiers; and Just Enough, with Kate Black, Clancy Rash, and Helen Falandes. The three groups all feature lush vocal harmonies, sometimes a capella and sometimes accompanied by guitar, bass and percussion. 7 pm at St.



Sandy Turner, organizer with the Willits Kids Christmas Tree Program, is asking those interested in adopting a family for Christmas this year to contact her by November 22

The Christmas Tree Program, sponsored by the Willits Rotary Club, has helped needy Willits children receive essentials (coats, rain wear, shoes, pajamas, blankets, etc.) and gifts to make the holiday season brighter for 25 years. These gifts are delivered via fire truck on Christmas Eve.

But some, Turner says, “have voiced an interest in adopting an entire family. Those who wish to do so are asked to follow a different path.”

Those interested in helping an entire family, should call Turner at 459-5827 (home) or 490-8872 (cell). “If I’m unavailable, leave a message with your contact information,” Turner said. “I will call you as soon as possible to discuss a suitable family.”

**‘Bringing It Home’ – Industrial Hemp**

The Now & Then Films series presents “Bringing It Home”: A documentary film about industrial hemp. Thursday, November 21, at 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange 291 School Street. “Industrial Hemp offers a host of innovative solutions for our troubled world - from reducing global deforestation and malnutrition to combating climate change with healthy, energy-efficient buildings.

“Hemp is a pesticide-free crop that can be harvested for healthier food, clothing and shelter here in the U.S. and around the world. It has the potential to replace 25,000 chemical, petroleum and synthetic-based products in our everyday lives with natural, healthier products that don’t cost us the earth or our health.

“Industrial hemp is a non-psychoactive plant, grown in 31 other countries that makes thousands of sustainable products and offers solutions for global warming, nutrition, poverty and deforestation. Here in the U.S., hemp could be a money-making crop for farmers and create jobs. But why can’t we grow it here?”

On September 27, Gov. Jerry Brown signed state Sen. Mark Leno’s “California Industrial Hemp Farming Act,” which will legalize industrial hemp production in California – when the feds allow it. According to Leno’s



# What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, corner of Main & Commercial Streets. \$10 donation at the door, but no one turned away. A portion of proceeds will be donated to Willits Daily Bread. Info: Anita at 349-4921 or Madge at 459-1493.

**“Eleemosynary”:** Willits Community Theatre; see Thursday, November 14.

**Majestic Coronation Harvest Tour:** Reggae at the Brooktrails Lodge, with one room featuring Black Redemption Sound, roots and dub, and one room featuring Ancient Youth Sound System, bass music, dancehall and dubstep. Many special guests and DJs. With ita! food and drinks by Fyah Red Ital Kitchen, and art showcase by Ras Elijah Tarfari. 24675 Birch Street. Show starts 10 pm. \$10 (\$5 before 11 pm).

**Shanachie Pub:** Cachito de Flamenco music, vocal and dance ensemble from the Bay Area, featuring Paloma Aspe, Mark Berry, Susan Byers, Alan Powell and Sara Maria. 7 pm. \$8. 50 Main Street. Info: Info: 459-9194.

**Sunday, November 17**

**“If Not Cars, What?”:** the second of a series of “Town Hall” meetings presented by the Willits Community Alliance, 4 pm to 6 pm at the Willits City Council Chambers, 111 East Commercial Street.

Topic: “Community Traffic Circulation: Getting Around in Willits,” featuring brief presentations by local citizens who’ve been involved in transportation issues, Bill Barksdale (“Planning for Joyful Change”), Larry Desmond (“Bicycles and Walking”) and Richard Jergensen (“Trolleys and Trains”), followed by discussion – “everybody has a chance to speak” – with a moderator, two mobile mikes, the names of those wanting to speak being listed on a whiteboard to be called in turn, and a time limit for each speaker.



John Schratz laughs as Steven Rojas tosses one of the turkeys to Richard Cervantes, under the supervision of Lt. Roy Ulatan  
Photo by Maureen Moore

**Community Turkey Day Dinner**

**24th Annual Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner:** Thursday, November 28 from 11 am to 3 pm at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. No charge; anyone may eat for free, but donations are gladly accepted and will benefit Willits Community Services and Food Bank. Food Donors include: 101 Drive-in, Sparetime Supply, and individual contributions. Dinner prepared by Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp, and served by community volunteers. Info or to volunteer: 459-3333.

**Fire Department Blood Drive**

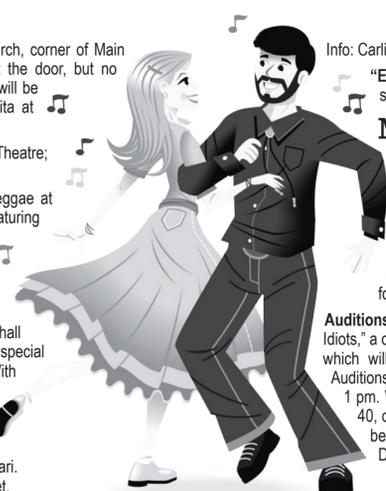
Little Lake Fire Protection District sponsors a Blood Drive on Friday, November 22, from noon to 4 pm at the Donor Coach parked at the Fire Department, 74 East Commercial Street. “Your donation saves up to three lives! Please come well-hydrated and nourished.” To schedule your appointment, visit www.bloodheroes.com, click “Donate blood,” and enter sponsor code “WillitsFire.” For more info, contact Rana Sadiq at 707-280-2563 or rsadiq@bloodcenters.org.

**Santa Photos with Maureen Moore**

This year’s Santa Photos with Maureen Moore of Mphotographress are scheduled for Sunday, December 1 from 11 am to 3 pm, at ER Energy, 851 South Main Street in the Safeway Plaza, and Friday, December 6 from 4 to 7 pm at J.D. Redhouse, 212 S Main Street. Half the proceeds from the ER Energy shoot will be donated to the Willits 4-H Club. Digital images will be available for \$5, and optional print packets will be available for physical print copies, too.

**Karate Classes**

Free Community Karate Classes in Willits on Tuesday and Thursday nights, at Willits Body Works Gym & Martial Arts Center, 1511 South Main Street. Tuesdays, start time 7 pm, for ages 10 years old and above. Thursdays, start time 6 pm, for ages 5 to 9 years old, and 7 pm for ages 10 years old and above. Sensei Mike Tobin, Kyoshi, instructing with Sensei Trinidad Sanchez. Through Sheriff’s Activities League; info: 468-4288.



Info: Carlin at 459.4850.

**“Eleemosynary”:** Willits Community Theatre; see Thursday, November 14.

**Monday, November 18**

**Willits Frontier Twirlers:** Beginner’s classes in basic and mainstream square dance at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, from 6:45 to 8 pm, then dancing until 9 pm, with professional caller Lawrence Johnstone, who will teach and call. Every Monday night; classes are free for beginners. Info: Emmy Good at 367-7475.

**Auditions for Willits Community Theatre:** for “Flaming Idiots,” a contemporary fast-paced farce by Tom Rooney, which will run February 14 through March 2, 2014. Auditions 6 pm tonight and Saturday, November 23 at 1 pm. WCT is looking for five males from ages 20 to 40, one male between 60 and 70, and two females between 20 and 40. Rehearsals begin mid-December. Contact director Damian Sebhounian for script, or just show up for a cold reading. Info: 707-599-5621 or dsebhounian@yahoo.com.

**Tuesday, November 19**

**Willits’ 125th Birthday:** Happy 125th Birthday to Willits! – Officially founded 125 years ago, on November 19, 1888.

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week’s “Tightwad” movies: “Thor (2D)” “Captain Phillips,” and “Last Vegas.” 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

**“Confronting the Controversies:** Biblical perspectives on tough issues”: The community is invited to this series of Tuesday night talks (through December 3) on issues such as euthanasia, evolution, death penalty, separation of church and state, and prayer in schools and abortion. Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street. Soup dinner at 5:30 pm; talks from 6 to 7:30 pm. Please RSVP: 459-2855.

**Brookside Holiday Bazaar**

The Brookside PTO presents its annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, December 7, 10 am to 3 pm at Brookside School, Spruce and Lincoln Way. Open to the public. Bring your camera to take pictures with Santa from noon to 2 pm. Raffle. Tables still available: call Windi Kvasnicka, 707-354-0755 to reserve a table.

**Toy Run Time**

(almost!)

21st annual Willits Toy Run: Sunday, December 21 to benefit the Willits Rotary Children’s Christmas Program. Motorcycle run starts at Evergreen Shopping Center at noon, and finishes at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, with a party, from noon to 3 pm. Dinner, live music, raffle, no host bar. Admission one unwrapped toy. Info: email HOG@bellsprings.com or call B.B. Kamoroff at 459-6372.

**BRONCO: Celebration of Accomplishments**

BRONCO, Building Resiliency Opportunities for the North County, is celebrating the achievements and outcomes of the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative with a morning of displays and information, Thursday, November 21, from 9 am to noon at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street.

“Over the last four years, a core group of community leaders have collaborated to create a foundation for positive change within the three communities of Willits, Laytonville and Round Valley. This celebration will include interactive displays, resources to share, and data fact sheets on a variety of topics including truancy, school safety, substance abuse prevention, mental health, school climate and early childhood behavior, that demonstrate significant positive changes.

“We want the community to know what is available! This is an opportunity to see how we have built and integrated sustainable systems through shared responsibility.”

For more information, visit www.sshsbronco.org/ or the Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/pages/SSHS-Bronco/134051470031874, or call Pat Sanborn at 459-5314, ext. 1109.

**Mendocino County Farmers Guild Potluck & Get-Together:** 6 to 10 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Info: Michael Foley, 216-5549.

**Thursday, November 21**

**BRONCO: Celebration of Accomplishments:** will include interactive displays, resources to share, and data fact sheets on a variety of topics including truancy, school safety, substance abuse prevention, mental health, school climate and early childhood behavior. 9 am to noon at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. More info: call Pat Sanborn at 459-5314, ext. 1109. Check article elsewhere on Calendar page for details.

**Annual Souper Luncheon and Bazaar:** Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School St. Bazaar features holiday crafts for sale: 10 am to 2 pm. Soup Luncheon features Clam Chowder, Turkey Sweet Potato, Butternut Squash and rolls, pies, coffee and tea: 11:30 am to 1:20 pm, for \$7 adults, \$3.50 children. Pie and coffee only: \$3.50. Info: 459-2855.

**Now & Then Films presents:** “Bringing It Home”: A documentary film about industrial hemp. 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange 291 School Street. Suggested Donation of \$ 5 - 10 . Info: 459-6362. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for details.

**“Eleemosynary”:** Willits Community Theatre; see Thursday, November 14.

**Friday, November 22**

**Little Lake Fire Protection District Blood Drive:** noon to 4 pm at the Donor Coach parked at the Fire Department, 74 East Commercial Street. “Your donation saves up to three lives! Please come well-hydrated and nourished.” To schedule your appointment, visit www.bloodheroes.com, click “Donate blood,” and enter sponsor code “WillitsFire.” For more info, contact Rana Sadiq at 707-280-2563 or rsadiq@bloodcenters.org.

**“Eleemosynary”:** Willits Community Theatre; see Thursday, November 14.

**Shanachie Pub:** Willits Power Equipment presents: Congo Sanchez, “the



From left to right: Emerald Waters, teacher Maggie Graham, Keely Ahders and Savanna Hofmaister.  
Photo by Joyce Waters

**Young Artists Recital**

Three budding musicians played some of their current repertoires to a small but entranced audience in the piano studio of Maggie Graham, their teacher, on Friday, November 8.

Emerald Waters, 11, played several pieces which included, “Morning Song” by Edvard Grieg, “America the Beautiful,” and an impressive “Golden Earrings.” Savanna Hofmaister, 12, offered two large recital pieces, “The Great Wall of China” and “Song of Kilimanjaro,” as well as the hauntingly beautiful and difficult “Gnosienne #1” by Erik Satie.

Keely Ahders, 14, performed a complex baroque “Sonatina in G” by Kuhlau, “My Sweet Elijah” by Spencer Brewer, and Yiruma’s “River Runs Through You.” A rousing duet of John Philip Sousa’s “Washington Post March” by Keely and Maggie concluded the program.

Refreshments, conversation and congratulations to the accomplished young pianists followed the music.

– Maggie Graham

backbeat of the Washington, D.C., party scene, one of the city’s most adept instrumentalists, and the favored sideman and producer for dance bands and world music ensembles alike.” Visit: https://soundcloud.com/congosanchez. Willits Power Equipment will be raffling off numerous prizes throughout the night. 9 pm. \$8 cover. 50 South Main Street.

**Saturday, November 23**

**Work Day Weekend for Grange School of Agricultural Arts:** Today and Sunday, November 24, 10 am to 5 pm, rain or shine, at the site of the new Grange farm school at Ridgewood Ranch. Skilled and unskilled help needed. Some potential tasks: cleaning up in the orchard, pulling T-posts, changing fencing around, and re-roofing a shed. Bring gloves and tools, if you have them. Please drive slow on the ranch. Contact director Antonia Partridge at (707) 272-1395 or farmdirector@californiagrangecenter.org to RSVP (drop-in volunteers welcome, too) , for directions, questions, or to join the outreach list. More info at http://californiagrangecenter.org/agsschool/mission.html.

**Auditions for Willits Community Theatre:** for “Flaming Idiots,” a contemporary fast-paced farce by Tom Rooney. See Monday, November 18 listing for details.

**Shanachie Pub:** The Gin Jars, “pre-WWII Hokum Blues & Jazz, with a taste of the Medicine shows and vaudeville of old.” 8 pm. No cover. Visit http://www.reverbnation.com/theginjars. 50 South Main Street.

**“Eleemosynary”:** Willits Community Theatre; see Thursday, November 14.

**Sunday, November 24**

**Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast:** 8 to 11 am, at 291 School Street. Choose Hank’s Famous Buttermilk or Sourdough Multigrain Pancakes, Beeler’s bacon, organic eggs made to order, real butter, juice, organic coffee or tea. \$7; \$6 for seniors; \$4 for children under 12. Sides of organic yogurt, fresh fruit in season, Amish maple syrup upon request.

**“Eleemosynary”:** Willits Community Theatre; see Thursday, November 14.

**Ongoing Events:**

**Farmers Market at Little Lake Grange:** Winter market at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Fall produce (cauliflower, broccoli, potatoes, lettuce and more) from area farmers, plus live music, flowers, crafts, baked goods, dinner and more. Markets will continue all winter from 3 to 5:30 pm.

**Willits Photography Club Annual Show:** 12th annual show by members of the Willits Photography Club at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Dedicated to Ray Hansen, and including several images of Hansen’s from Monument Valley. Other photographers include: Dave Smith, Dorothy Asbury, Bruce Haanstra, and Erin Creekmur. Show runs through November 30. Gallery is open Thursday and Friday from 4 to 7 pm and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 3 pm.

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

**Open Mic at Shanachie Pub:** Every Wednesday at 8:40 pm. Sign-ups start at 3 pm. 50 South Main Street.

**Brooktrails Lodge Winter Schedule:** every Thursday night at 8 pm: “Dream Capsule Entertainment,” featuring local musicians and talent; Happy Hour, and Ladies’ Night specials. Every Friday night; Open Mic, with drink specials and prizes. Info: Shawntee Wirth at dreamcapsuleindustries@gmail.com or 459-6792.

**Free Community Karate Classes** in Willits on Tuesday and Thursday nights, at Willits Body Works Gym & Martial Arts Center, 1511 South Main Street. Tuesdays, start time 7 pm, for ages 10 years old and above. Thursdays, start time 6 pm, for ages 5 to 9 years old, and 7 pm for ages 10 years old and above. Sensei Mike Tobin, Kyoshi, instructing with Sensei Trinidad Sanchez. Through Sheriff’s Activities League; info: 468-4288.

**Save the Date:**

**24th Annual Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner,** Harrah Senior Center, November 28

**Santa Trains Start,** Skunk Train Depot, December 1

**Laytonville Christmas Craft Fair,** Harwood Hall, December 1

**Santa Photos with Maureen Moore,** December 1 at ER Energy and December 6 at J.D. Redhouse

**Studio Joy 1 Year Anniversary Black Light Zumba Glow Party,** December 7

**Holiday Craft Fair,** Willits Community Center, December 13, 15 & 16

**Joe Dowling, director**

Joe Dowling, the director of the play “Eleemosynary,” currently playing at Willits Community Theatre, has always had that “let’s put on a show” attitude that’s kick-started many a theatrical career.

As an actor, Joe had his first role in high school in a one-act, “The Ugly Duckling,” a play that went on to a high-school drama festival where Joe won first prize for acting five lines. Senior year he was the boyfriend in Cornelia Otis Skinner’s play, “Our Hearts Were Young and Gay.” Years later he would move on to play Harvey’s pal in “Harvey,” and Norman (the Henry Fonda role), in “On Golden Pond,” just one of many roles he has performed here at WCT.

Joe Dowling, the light and sound designer, learned his skills at San Francisco’s Studio Eremos, where he began as an assistant for one play. When the designer quit, Joe took over and later became the resident lighting designer for the theatre.

Joe Dowling, the director, says he works

– Willits Community Theatre



Sallie Palmer  
Columnist

## Concolences Column

### Bernita Orvis

Bernita Orvis passed away on November 7, 2013 at the age of 94. Formerly of Napa, she had resided in our Willits community for the past 63 years. A native of Iowa, Bernita had been a teacher, a beautician, and a happy homemaker for her family.

An active community member, she had been a volunteer at the Willits Harrah Senior Center, and had worked with Mary Posey in the Helping Hands Program. Bernita is survived by her children: Garth Orvis, Kim Minert, Kirk Orvis, Allyn Nonneman, Tammy Orvis, and Janice Orvis; and by her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A loving matriarch, she will always be remembered with love and appreciation. Private interment will be in Napa with a family graveside service.

Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

### COLUMN | Well Mannered Mutts

## No such thing as a free dog

I used to volunteer at a local animal rescue group. I would help out with adoptions. People would ask what the adoption fee was, and I'd tell them. The adoption fee was



I was given my Black Labrador, Trooper. He was 5 months old, and the breeder wasn't able to find someone who would buy him,

Read the rest of **Free Dog** |  
Over on Page 9



## State historical commission supports Seabiscuit's barn

The California State Historical Resources Commission voted unanimously at its November 8 meeting to approve the nomination of Seabiscuit's stud barn at the Ridgewood Ranch to the National Register of Historic Places.

Jacqueline Cooper, newly elected president of the Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation, was present at the meeting at Sacramento's historic City Hall.

"The application will be forwarded to Washington D.C. within the week to be finalized," said Cooper, who attended last Friday's meeting at Sacramento's historic City Hall. An official response is expected within 45 to 60 days.

Commissioners watched a presentation on Seabiscuit's

Right: C.S. Howard and his champion racehorse, Seabiscuit.

Photo courtesy Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation



Right: The stud barn as it stands at the ranch today.



Photo by Maureen Moore

stud barn by State Historian William Burg before the vote.

Meeting minutes as well as a complete audio version of the meeting will be posted at the California Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Historic Preservation website: <http://ohp.parks.ca.gov>. Those interested can find a copy of the nomination by searching for "Seabiscuit" at the ohp.parks site or check [www.seabiscuitheritage.org](http://www.seabiscuitheritage.org) website for more information.

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# Classifieds & More

The rest of Identity | From Page 1

## TELL OUR ADVERTISERS you saw it in Willits Weekly!

### Algebra, Geometry

College Preparatory Mathematics, Individual Instruction. Mac Smith 459-MATH

### Body Life Studio

Learn how to move well and feel enlivened, stronger, balanced and confident. Practice movement that feels wonderful and changes your life! Classes and private lessons. [www.bodylifestudio.com](http://www.bodylifestudio.com) 972.0049.

### Brooktrails House for Rent

3-bedrm, 2-bath, plus 2 carpeted basement rooms. No smokers, no pets, no pot, NO exceptions. \$1,150 per month + 2 months security deposit. 272-1190.

### Computer Help

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

### Consignments Accepted

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

### For Rent

1,000 square feet of living space for rent on edge of town. For info, call Keith at 459-5432.

### For Rent

Medical/Health Office Space, Approx. 400 square feet with changing rooms. Separate entrance, front office staff available, shared bathroom. Main St/ Hwy 101 frontage. Available day or month, call 707-459-4689.

### For Rent

2 bedroom, 1 bath, close to downtown. No pets. No smoking. Water/garbage paid. \$770/month. Arcco: 459-9601.

**CLASSIFIEDS!**  
\$10 | 30 words | 2 weeks!

The rest of **Free Dog** | From Page 8

so he gave him to me. Initially, I planned to take Trooper through a training process I was studying, and then I planned to find him a nice home.

So I took Trooper through the training program, and he was a champ. All was going well, and I thought it was time to find him a home. He had been living with me for four months. Then, one night around 7 pm, after feeding Trooper his meal, I noticed he started to moan and groan. His stomach looked like a balloon.

Trooper had bloat (gastric dilation and volvulus). This is a life-threatening condition that needs immediate medical treatment. It's a medical condition in which the stomach becomes overdistended by excessive gas. It is also commonly referred to as torsion and gastric torsion when the stomach twists.

So, a mad dash to the emergency veterinarian in

Sonoma County was necessary. We made it in time, and Trooper would recover, but my wallet took a hit in the amount of \$300. But that was my regular vet was another \$100. Then I was advised that most dogs that bloat once generally bloat again during their lifetime. This meant I would serve Trooper best if I had him undergo gastropexy surgery (Anchoring the dog's stomach in a position so it cannot shift and become obstructed.) This cost me an additional \$1,600. Since he was going to need to recover from that surgery, the veterinarian suggested that I have him neutered at the same time. That was another \$150.

So my once-free dog was now a \$2,000 dog, and I had owned him for less than six months. That didn't even take into account the regular expenses of food, equipment, dog toys, etc. Another factor was he wasn't such an attractive candidate for re-homing now with his new medical condition.

Long story short, Trooper isn't going anywhere. He is now a permanent member of the family. I need to be careful of what he eats and watch for signs of bloat. He is a wonderful dog. He is also a shining example of "There is no such thing as a free dog!"

Sallie Palmer is a certified dog trainer with the International Association for Canine Professionals. She has more than 25 years of experience in training people and their dogs. For more information about Sallie and her programs go to [www.wellmanneredmutts.com](http://www.wellmanneredmutts.com).

### More of Signs

From Page 1

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

customers' attention to food or a gas station's offer to save money at the gas pump.

Sherman stated in a letter that he would like to see banners used for special events and grand openings, not for everyday business.

"Nobody that ever put one up took it down," said Sherman. Sandwich boards popping up on sidewalks and street corners are one other sign type not favored by the committee.

"It seems like sandwich boards

supported Moore's idea to generate questions. "There are many people in the community who are engaged at this point," Madrigal said.

Councilman Ron Orenstein said the council needs specific information "so we have a vision and a plan to move towards something."

Fixing Willits' aging sidewalks could be a place to start. "We do not have safe sidewalks on any block on Main Street," City Building Inspector John Sherman noted.

The committee had positioned itself at a prior meeting as a hub for all post-bypass planning around town.

"I think this is where the rubber is going to meet the road with a lot of recommendations," Madrigal said.

### Finding an identity

A theme reflecting the loggers and ranchers who worked and settled in our valleys and woodlands is among the candidates for Willits' "new" brand or identity, Chamber of Commerce President Ron Moorhead told the committee.

Moorhead said Willits needs to create an identity to sway visitors from stops in Hopland and Ukiah after the bypass is completed.

The Chamber and Moorhead would like to see a plan businesses can follow, such as when remodeling buildings.

Some possible themes or combinations of themes include ranching, Western, logging, Victorian, railroads, rustic wood, and vintage Willits.

"We have got a lot of cool houses and Victorian-style buildings that are 'Vintage Willits,'" Moorhead said.

Moorhead noted many residents came to Willits during the 1960s and '70s Back-to-

The rest of **Access** | From Page 1

Supervisor Dan Gjerde, a member of the Mendocino Council of Governments, said there is currently little MCOG support to direct state funding to the Brooktrails Second Access.

Willits Mayor Holly Madrigal, also an MCOG board member, confirmed that Gjerde's observations concerning the agency's mood were correct.

Dashiell told Willits Weekly that what Gjerde was referring to was that an additional \$3.5 million directed towards the Brooktrails Second Access would represent the entire State Transportation Improvement Project allotment for Mendocino County for the next 10 to 20 years. Dashiell added he suspects MCOG is reluctant to commit that kind of money to the Willits area, particularly after it has given some \$31 million to Willits over the past 15 years for the Willits bypass.

Third District Supervisor John Pinches said he did not support changing the purpose-and-need statement for the

The rest of **Vaccines** | From Page 3

neurologic dysfunction. Thousands of horses died prior to the emergency release of the vaccination still in use today.

There are other diseases like Influenza, rhino and strangles that are contagious between horses. These diseases cause much loss of function in performance horse populations and can be fatal or cause permanent debilitation. The need for vaccination against them is dependent on a horse's lifestyle, neighbors, general health and age.

During my career, I have vaccinated thousands of horses with very few serious reactions. I've seen many local reactions, low-grade fevers and general short-lived malaise. A few horses have exhibited allergic responses to a particular vaccine or a systemic response serious enough for me to stop using that vaccine in a particular horse. What definitely stands out more in my mind are the horses that have died needlessly from tetanus, West Nile and, yes, rabies.

Those were all horrible, prolonged,

should sort of be a no-go," Mayor Holly Madrigal said. Committee member Tim King said businesses in one area could use a certain set of signs.

Evergreen Shopping Center on the south end of Willits built a redwood sign with small black-and-white signs for each business in the center.

"Do we want our town to be an accident, which is pretty much how it is, or do we want it to be by design," City Manager Adrienne Moore asked.

More signage like Evergreen's could raise the town's aesthetic

the-Land movement, but added: "That was our history, not our heritage."

He added he does not expect any economic development money from the state or federal governments. "We are going to have to do it ourselves."

What the Chamber wants includes a vision for billboards and social media advertising to pull travelers off Highway 101, and low-interest loans for people who want to fix buildings, Moorhead said.

Scotia, the former Pacific Lumber Co. company town in Humboldt County, attracts tourists with its redwood architecture.

Willits could do the same. "Some of the best redwood architecture that has ever been done is here," city Building Inspector John Sherman said. "Heavy timber redwood architecture did not happen anywhere else - that is our heritage here."

Town Hall meeting organizer Carlin Diamond added she has been impressed when thinking about the number of artists living in the backwoods of Willits.

Diamond suggested a "cultural crossroads" theme that "may encompass a larger quality that we encourage here in Willits."

### Talks continue

Losses dealt to Willits businesses when new businesses build near the new highway interchanges is another issue the committee may be addressing soon.

"That is probably something we should start negotiations with right now," Orenstein said.

City Manager Moore said City Planner Alan Falleri has started work drafting a new city policy for food trucks.

A copy of the food truck rules is expected to be presented at the next Revit-ED Committee meeting, in 2014.

Second Access. Pinches asked the remaining funds in the Preliminary Studies and Engineering account - some \$200,000 - be spent on Alternative A studies.

When asked if Alternative A was the only remaining option, Dashiell said that it was not. "The supervisors didn't take anything off the table," he said. "What they did do was to tell me to do what I can to move this process forward."

"They said they didn't like B. They didn't want to change purpose-and-need, and they didn't tell me to go after the \$3.5 million.

"I can't do more on I-H, because I can't get permission to get in there," he added. "So about all I can do is put what we have left on A. And so that is what I am going to do."

"I am going to do all I can with the remaining money to get A in the best shape I can," Dashiell said. "Then I will have to stop until we can find some more money."

expensive and preventable deaths. Everyone involved in those cases was affected by the awful suffering we witnessed. I have also gone through post-exposure rabies vaccination after being exposed to an unvaccinated rabies suspect. That was a very expensive and frustrating experience.

Knowing that these diseases are out there is important. Arguing against vaccination because there have not been many cases is flawed, because most horses are successfully vaccinated, which - since the vaccines work - significantly reduces the number of cases we see. More importantly, if that one case happens to be a horse important to your family, the emotional and financial impact will likely be significant. If you have questions about vaccinations call a vet; we'll be happy to discuss these issues.

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

standard from the current norm. "They are crappy looking, and it is amateur hour," Councilman Ron Orenstein said.

Uniform signage could become what people turn to find a business in the future. "Everybody gets into the habit of looking for this," said Orenstein. "I do not see any problem with placing signs like that all over

Read the rest of **Signs** |

Over on Page 11

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Times for 11/8 - 11/14

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**SEASONAL FUDGE FLAVORS**



Above: Veterans and October 2013 Honor Flight participants Louis Schnitzler, Marion Strickler, Carl "Russ" Claddy, Paul Uebelhart, Paul Krause, and Kurt Ackermann pose in their Honor Flight shirts and caps outside the Senior Center after lunch.

**Veterans Day**  
gatherings in Willits

Members of the American Legion Post 174 and the Women's Auxiliary were scrambling eggs, frying ham, doing dishes and pouring coffee at the Veterans Day breakfast at the Legion Hall Monday morning.

The Legion puts on this breakfast every year in Willits, inviting all veterans, military and emergency response personnel, firefighters, law enforcement officers, and Boy and Girl Scouts to eat for free. Tip jars on the tables for the general public help defer expenses.

World War II veteran Louis Schnitzler, a former commercial bee-keeper and bee hauler, who also worked as a railroad conductor and brakeman, sat chatting with Vietnam veteran Earl Stevens. Stevens showed off his almost-new motorcycle jacket – a bequest from his buddy "Chainsaw" Legrasse, a Korean vet – that Stevens adorned with an American Legion patch.

Schnitzler was also present at another Veterans Day gathering Monday: lunch at the Harrah Senior Center with a group of six Willits veterans who'd participated in the North Coast Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. last month.



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

**D-Day**  
commemoration  
river cruises

Jenny Senter of Celtic Heritage Destinations in Willits felt moved to help the North Coast Honor Flights nonprofit after she and her husband, Chuck, were on the same flight a couple years ago as a group of Honor Flight veterans.

"My husband is a veteran; my brothers are veterans," Senter said. "These guys should be honored. I think every veteran should have the chance to see those monuments, and I wanted to try to help."

Senter will donate \$250 to North Coast Honor Flights for each cabin she books on next year's series of Ama Waterways river cruises commemorating the 70th anniversary of D-Day. Cabins must be booked by the end of January 2014, and as space is available. "These cruises sell out fast," Senter said.

The D-Day Commemoration cruises start and end up in Paris, and go through the heart of Normandy on the Seine River. They include a visit to Monet's village, Giverny, as well as an excursion to the famous Normandy beaches of World War II. The cruises, scheduled from April through November 2014, are already on sale, at \$1,000 off a stateroom for two, and active and retired military personnel receive an additional \$200 discount per person. For more information, contact Senter at 707-888-7834 or jsenter@celticheritagedestinations.com, or check www.celticheritagedestinations.com.

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Below left: Vietnam veteran Earl Stevens with his American Legion motorcycle jacket

Photos by Jennifer Poole

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Left: Pat Pergeau, acting secretary and historian for the Legion's Women's Auxiliary, with 1st Vice Commander Roger Ham and Matt Dearing, member of American Legion Post 174.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

The rest of **Signs** | From Page 9  
town.... They are neat and uniform."

The County Museum's sign at Commercial Street and Main Street was cut short of its original plans and is also off-site from the museum.

"The original design for the museum involved sculpture for a steam donkey or other piece of equipment," Madrigal said.

Museum Director Alison Glassey said the sign was placed with permission, from whom she did not know.

"I would like to redo it – to me it is a very boring sign," Glassey said.

Sherman provided the committee with a write-up and photographs identifying examples of signs that need to be addressed with code changes or by emulating the success of Evergreen's sign.

The rest of **MCOG** | From Page 1

The report explored how three levels of spending would affect the road system. The levels selected were \$25 million a year, \$13 million a year, and the current level of \$9 million.

If the county were to spend \$25 million a year on its road system over the next 10 years, the PCI would increase to 84 and system-wide deferred maintenance would disappear in the tenth year. If the county were to spend \$13 million a year for the next 10 years, the PCI increases to 60, but deferred maintenance swells by 30 percent, from \$97 million to \$130 million.

If the county is able to fund the Department of Transportation at its current level, \$9 million a year (the level that state and federal funds have allowed in recent years), the PCI increases very slowly to 50 in 2022. However, the backlog of deferred maintenance nearly doubles to \$176.3 million.

The report names two key reasons why the PCI now stands at 42. One is that pavement conditions are now declining rapidly and more money is needed to even keep the PCI at 42. The second is a five-fold increase in the price of asphalt between 1990 and 2010. Funding has not kept up, the report notes.



Above: World War II vet Louis Schnitzler with Korean vet Earl Stevens.

The rest of **Veterans** | From Page 10

veteran of the Korean conflict. Fellow Korean veterans Marion Strickler and Paul Uebelhart were also part of the lunch group.

"It was really tremendous," Strickler said. "Every place we stopped, Sacramento, Chicago, D.C., people cheered and came over to shake our hands. Little kids came over to shake hands and thanks us for our service." Strickler said this gave him confidence that kids were being taught their country's history. "We've had our day," he said, "but looking at those kids, things are looking good for our country."

The Honor Flight Network is a nonprofit organization that flies World War II and Korea veterans to Washington, D.C., at no cost to them, "to visit and reflect at their memorials."

The North Coast Honor Flights group honors veterans in Humboldt, Del Norte, Mendocino and Trinity counties. For more information, to make a donation, or to apply to participate in future honor flights, check http://www.northcoasthonorflight.com or call 707-822-7251.

**Canoeing the Eel, Part 2**

Editor's Note: We left the story of our four companion canoers after a storm-induced binge viewing of "Breaking Bad" in the Eureka Inn, and the decision to switch their itinerary from the Trinity River to the Main Fork of the Eel River due to the new water from the rainstorm. After their first night camping, and their first morning dip into the cold river waters, the canoers continue their trip down the Eel....

We set off after breakfast for a 10 mile run through the autumn countryside. There were yellow leaves appearing on the maples. Occasionally, the forest green would be lit up with an intense splash of poison oak red.

The water flow was low, creating long stretches of slow-moving water. At times we had to drag our canoes through gravelled shallow drops, a minor inconvenience. A bit more difficult was when the river flowed through fast-moving, narrow chutes, whose sharp turns had to be navigated quickly, with little room for maneuver. But occasionally, we would find a wide, fast-moving rapid that would give us relief from constant paddling.

Our day's destination was a campsite at Basin Creek. When we got there, we found the beautiful waterfall campsite on the right side of the river. Around the pool are flat, sandy areas, ideal for camping. It's very picturesque, and we used to stay there.

But the site has a few problems. You have to carry all the gear across a large expanse of gravel and rock to get to the waterfall. Also, the site is so popular that it's like a state park campground, without the benefit of ranger supervision. And there's not a stick of wood to be found for fire.

So we chose the sandy sites on the left bank. The area doesn't have the waterfall spectacle, but it's wilder, has lots of firewood, and is close to the river.

We got there by late afternoon, with plenty of time to relax, set up camp and gather wood. There were many deer and bird tracks in the sand. We also found lots of big cat tracks, looking fairly fresh after the storms. Winding up as someone's midnight snack could ruin one's whole

night, but I wasn't worried. I figured the mountain lion would ignore me, the vegetarian in the group, since I'd be exuding the Tofurkey sausage I had for dinner. The big cat would go after my steak-eating pals instead. Hey, that's nature.

We set off early the next morning. In the previous afternoon we had encountered some heavy gusts of wind. With low currents, the wind made our paddling pretty difficult. So we left early to avoid some of the wind.

By afternoon the wind was gusting pretty hard again. There was nothing to do but endure it and keep on paddling. We found our next campsite at Beatty Creek, after another 10 mile run. Scouting out potential campsites, we found the right bank was the better side. It had lots of flat, sandy areas for sleeping. But the site was very exposed to the wind, and occasional sand clouds would rise up and blow over the area.

So we chose the left bank. It was not as expansive, but it was more sheltered. We cleared sites for sleeping. That night was the coldest night yet, with lots of dew. I had to put on extra layers of clothes to stay warm.

In the morning the water seemed warmer than the air. That made our little ritual that much more pleasant.

We found that we had time for a day's layover. After a leisurely breakfast of coffee and pancakes, Tom, Phil, and Gary climbed the steep bank behind our campsite in order to reach the abandoned railroad line and follow the tracks for a hike. I chose to stay behind and read my book in the sun.

That evening after a couple of gin and tonics, we set about preparing a curry dinner. The wind had died, and the evening was peaceful and quiet. We got to reminiscing about another peaceful evening in our canoeing past. We had been canoeing the South Fork of the Eel. Giant redwoods lined the banks of the river. We were close to the Avenue of the Giants, within the boundaries of the Redwood State Park. We had found a beautiful sandy site for camping. It was a warm, peaceful evening, and the canoeing worries were behind us.

We were in the process of preparing our meal, when we heard a loud, amplified voice from the opposite bank: "You have exactly 10 minutes to leave your campsite!" Oh, no! Busted! We had read that the rangers didn't want people camping anywhere except designated campsites, but there

were no official campsites on the river and we thought were being discreet. The food was half-cooked, and it was well after sunset. "Could we at least eat our dinner?" Tom shouted hopefully to the disembodied voice of authority.

"Negative! You have exactly 10 minutes to leave your campsite!" OK! OK! We doused and covered the campfire with sand, put away the food, packed our gear, and set off down the river. The growing shadows on the water were making it really hard to see submerged logs and rocks. It would soon be very dangerous to stay on the water.

Phil's maps saved the day. It turned out there was a section of the river not far downstream that was not part of the park. We found it, pulled our canoes out of the water, set up a fast camp, got out the Coleman stove, and finished cooking our dinner. We were saved. "Anybody for a gin and tonic?" Tom asked. "Negative!" We drank wine instead.

It goes to show you never can tell.

Back in the present, we left the campfire as the heavy dew was once again descending. I crawled into my sleeping bag, and stared at the starry sky. A bright shooting star streaked across the sky. Then two satellites cruised through the stars. I tried watching for more, but my eyes wouldn't cooperate.

Our last day's canoeing was about four miles to the take-out at McCann Bridge. We were paddling through redwood country now. There was no wind, and the river was like glass as we glided under the trees. A blue heron, disturbed by our presence, kept flying in front of us until finally, tired of our impertinence, it flew overhead back upstream. An osprey wheeled above us, and several grebes flew upriver.

And still the water was like a mirror, giving us a memorable finale to our trip.

The wilderness slipped away when we saw cabins poking through openings in the trees. Soon we saw the low, concrete bridge that was our exit. We had reached our desired goal, but it also meant that our canoeing trip was over. It was that familiar, odd mixture of sadness and satisfaction.

There's a lesson to be drawn there, I'm sure.

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