

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Thank you to Dennis Miner

To the Editor:

It was Wednesday, November 11, 2015, Veterans Day. I had already raised my flag at my house yesterday in observance of the establishment of the Marine Corps anniversary. So, as usual, I went out to get my morning paper. Although I had errands to run in town, I saw a picture on the front page of the newspaper of a Vietnam Memorial dedication happening in Willits at 2 pm. I read the article and thought that maybe I can take in my trash cans, post my bills, buy stamps, go to the bank, pharmacy and grocery store, and still make it to this ceremony. So I grabbed my camera, loaded my trash cans, and went to town.

Patriotism, to me, is an important thing, so I took the time before leaving to attach a small American flag to my aerial. I got most of my errands done. Some businesses were closed for Veterans Day (no grudges, just ignorance on my part).

I got out of the grocery store at about 2:10 and thought, "Hey, I can still make it." I passed a huge crowd at the ceremony and parked at one of the two spots left to park in across from the Rodeo Grounds, next to Wayne Bashore's truck with his dog in the back (he barked at me).

As I began walking toward the gathering, another man and his son were heading there at the same time. We didn't exchange names, but we talked about our service: mine in Vietnam and his in Iraq.

We arrived just before Dennis gave his commemoration speech and the tongue-in-cheek joke about the county actually getting the stones installed in time for this ceremony. The county workers certainly deserved the applause; maybe not so much the laughter.

The Civil War song performed by the young lady, Necole Suttles, was absolutely perfect and very appropriate (and a capella, too). I happened to notice that the Iraqi vet had shed a tear. After the unveiling of the five stones and the reading of the men who "Gave Their All," I too became emotional and left a bit early.

My thoughts were about these men braver than myself who never got to come back to this beautiful county and wonderful people. I survived Vietnam, and 20 years ago moved to the beautiful town of Willits. There is no way to actually thank these fallen vets, but these stones of remembrance are probably the closest means of doing so. Perhaps someday there will also be stones erected for other fallen heroes from Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait.

Dennis, I don't know you, but thank you. I actually felt some closure about Vietnam from this ceremony.

Darryl Dyer, Willits

River, the Eel River pup

To the Editor:

Last Thursday, November 19, I, along with three other people, found a 3- to 4-month-old female puppy tossed away on the road to the Eel River. Driving on Hearst Road, I saw a vehicle in the road and a woman, Chrissy, who was trying to coax an animal towards her. I saw a bright red animal, and my mind wouldn't comprehend what I saw, thinking it was a pig. A microsecond later I realized it was a small dog.

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.

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

Volume 3, Number 133
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YOU'RE INVITED!

I got out of my pickup to see if I could help her. This poor little puppy, red from (we found out later) an infected case of mange, literally had about 90 percent of her hair missing. She was starved, skin and bones. Wounds on her body. Another driver, Eric, and his passenger Jessie (I think) arrived and stopped to help. The puppy, later named River, was cautious but with the help of a piece of leftover burger, came to Eric, who caught her and gathered her in his arms.

Chrissy and Jessie wrapped her in a blanket and got her into Chrissy's car, and Eric led the way to the Milo Foundation, who is hopeful about her recovery. She'll need a long time to recover and a lot of medical care. I don't know if your paper publishes this type of human (animal?) interest story, but this awful crime shouldn't be without community notification. A call was received at Animal Control. They, in turn, had contacted Milo Foundation for help and were very happy to hear River had been found and taken to the Milo Sanctuary. (Seems odd to me that someone who saw her wouldn't stop to help her, but call Animal Control.)

There are pictures of River on the Milo Foundation Facebook page and on GivingGrid, a donation site. These pics don't come close to showing her condition. Sadly, what I was reminded of when I saw the puppy, was having seen pictures from World War II of Auschwitz survivors. That's how thin she was.

Each Thanksgiving, my family talks about what they've been thankful for through the past year. This year will be a "no-brainer" for me. If you can go see River, it will make you sadder, if not cry. We all did. Four strangers when we met and friends when we departed.

Thanks for reading this. The little heart of the story is now, for the first time in her young life, warm, fed and loved. Finally.

P.S.: I hope people reading this letter will consider donating a few of the Black Friday dollars they are planning to spend to the 501(c)(3) nonprofit Milo Foundation (based in Albany) and Sanctuary (282 acre sanctuary east of Willits). A fund for River has been set up, with a goal of \$4,000, which has raised more than \$3,000 so far. You can check out the fund at www.givinggrid.com/riverthepup or help support the Milo Foundation by sending a check to P.O. Box 6625, Albany, CA 94706.

Cindy Scott

Boy Scouts and Sparetime to the rescue

To the Editor:

Have you ever wondered what it takes to mount a huge book sale like that which Friends of the Willits Library offered last Halloween weekend?

First of all, of course, it requires all of you, dear readers, to drop off your pre-read books in the book bin behind the library. Every week a stalwart crew of FOWL officers and volunteers sorts and packs the books and delivers them to the storage container which, for years, Mike Griggs has generously donated four our use at Sparetime Supply. Periodically our self-same valiant crew makes mysterious forays to the container to re-categorize and box your donations more accurately for sale days.

After several meetings, as the big sale approaches, we begin calling you and recruiting other good souls to help – especially for the first Sunday when pallet after pallet – 33 in all – of your books are delivered to the Willits Community Center by the good-natured Sparetime crews. Thanks so much, fellows!

Home rule

To the Editor:

The Charter Project of Mendocino County is a coalition of people striving to increase local sovereignty with a home rule charter. We want Mendocino to join the 14 other California counties that have established home rule charters under Article XI of the California Constitution.

The greatest advantage to being a charter county is that provisions of the charter have the same force and effect as state law [Art XI, §3(a)]. This means that whatever we write into the charter, once approved by the voters, will be like state law, but applicable only to our county.

In 2004, county voters approved Measure H, which banned GMO agriculture in Mendocino County – Mendocino was the first county in the U.S. to do so. Measure H had a domino effect in that many other counties in the U.S. followed suit and banned GMO agriculture. In response, the American Legislative Exchange Council pressured states to prohibit counties from banning GMO agriculture.

Measure H could be overturned if the state of California followed ALEC's lead and did not allow counties to prohibit

Read the rest of **Letters** | *Over on Page 4*

Willits Weekly
EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Playful Frankie

Frankie is a 2-year-old male mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 43 pounds. He has a very playful side to him, which will make him a nice dog for a family with children.

Frankie is a star in our off-leash play group sessions, and loves and plays with every dog he meets. Although Frankie is grown up, he reminds us of a playful puppy. This young dog is looking for a home where he gets daily exercise and, of course, lots of love and attention.

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6 pm. We have many wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.mendoshelterpets.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.



Feisty Foxy

Foxy is a feisty guy that loves to play and get into trouble. He is young and has an attitude. Foxy needs a home where his people will understand when he's had enough petting, and "Now it's time to play." He is really a great guy, and is very handsome. Come meet Foxy today, and take home a new family member!

Come out to meet Foxy and all of his friends. 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. 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley (right down the street from the Broiler). Info: 707-485-0123 or hsimc@pacific.net or visit www.mendohumansociety.com.



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Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku

**PUZZLE
ANSWERS
ON
PAGE 13**

| | | | | | | | | |
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| | 5 | | | | | 2 | 1 | |
| | | | | | | | 9 | 6 |
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| 1 | 9 | 5 | | | | | | |
| | 1 | | | | | | | |
| 6 | 3 | 1 | | | | | | |
| | | | 2 | 3 | | | | 8 |

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!

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|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | | 4 | 5 | 6 | | 7 | 8 | 9 | |
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| 59 | | | | 60 | | | | 61 | | | |
| 62 | | | | 63 | | | | | | 64 | |

CLUES ACROSS

- And so forth (abbr.)
- Used to be United ___
- Upper left keyboard key
- Inevitable ruin
- Consumed
- N.H. Maine river
- Sen. Thurmond
- More (Spanish)
- Oh, God!
- Designed chairs
- Insect living in organized colonies
- Anglo-Saxon theologian, c.700
- Ecclesiastics
- Magic incantation
- Swan Lake and Don Quixote
- Affirmative
- Conspiracy
- Citizen of Stockholm
- Light brown
- Roman judge
- Sonny & Cher classic
- Chopped mixture for stuffing
- Am. Nobel physicist Isidor
- Maya ___ of Vietnam
- Veterans Memorial
- Expressed pleasure
- In bed
- Finnish
- Canacol Energy stock symbol
- Leather strap for hawks
- UA fraternity est. 3-9-1856
- Low, sideless cart
- They ___
- Single Lens Reflex
- Point that is midway between N and NE
- Minor disagreement
- Promotional materials
- Bahama capital
- Rudiments of a subject
- Bleat
- Right linebacker
- Flower petals
- Early culture of Gr. Britain
- Worldwide internet
- 7th Greek letter
- When born (abbr.)
- Before
- Existing forever
- About name
- Myanmar monetary unit
- Island north of Guam
- Soft
- ___ Castell, makers of pens
- Excessively fat
- Eliminates
- A Hindu prince or king in India
- Carrier's invention
- Possessed
- Deserve through action
- Doyen
- A way to change color

CLUES DOWN

- Murrow, Sullivan & Koch
- Carrying bag
- Courtesy of Grantham
- Key fruit
- One kept in readiness
- Bring back to normal
- Avid
- Lots of
- Formal close (music)
- Dad's partner
- Point that is one point E of SE
- Myself

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The rest of
Letters | From Page 2

GMO crops. The same is true of Measure S, passed last year, which protects our county's water, particularly from fracking. However, if the new charter states that Mendocino agriculture must be GMO free, and that fracking is forbidden, they would have the same force and effect as state law and could not be overturned by the state.

Becoming a charter county is a three-step process. After the correct number of signatures has been collected and validated, there will be two charter measures on the June 2016 ballot for the electorate to vote on. The first is: "Shall a charter commission be elected to propose a Mendocino County charter?" The second will be a list of people who are running for charter commissioner. If a majority vote "yes" on the first question, then the 15 people with the most votes will be elected to the charter commission. They will draft a charter for the county that, once completed, will go on the ballot for the people to vote on. When approved by the voters and adopted by the California Secretary of State, it becomes equivalent to state law.

Other provisions could be included in a home rule charter, such as protections for the water, air, soil and scenic beauty within the county and Instant Runoff Voting, to name just a couple. In IRV we could vote for our favorite candidate [in local elections] instead of the lesser of two evils. If our No. 1 choice doesn't win, then our vote would go to our No. 2 choice. San Francisco uses IRV, saving money on runoff elections. We could also include anti-corruption laws that

prohibit donors outside the county from contributing to local candidates.

A county charter could also strengthen the case to establish a county public bank and remove our public funds from Bank of America, which has derivatives exposures on the world market 28 times greater than its total assets. Another worldwide economic downturn is inevitable. Although laws have been passed against bailing out any more banks, a precedent has been set for bail-ins - which allow the huge banks to make up their losses from a percentage of their depositors' funds.

So when the derivatives bubble bursts, our public funds won't be safe in BoA. The sooner we find a safe location for our county's public funds, the better. The Democratic Central Committee of Mendocino County and the California Democratic Party have both endorsed a Mendocino County public bank. When established, county funds will be used only for the public good, with any accrued interest returning to the county bank instead of to Wall Street.

Sign a petition now to get the charter question on the ballot and vote "Yes" on the charter question in June 2016!

Note: Most of this letter was written by Robin Sunbeam, a Ukiah member of the Charter Project of Mendocino County, with input from myself. For more information, please contact me at maryzel@willitsonline.com or visit <http://mendocinocountycharter.org>.

Mary Zellachild, Willits

Phoenix Hospice celebrates 'Light Up a Life'

Light Up a Life is a community celebration to honor and remember those we care about and love. Lighting a candle in honor of those who we love and may have passed, is a very old tradition that allows us to express what we often cannot communicate with words. The flickering flame of the candle helps to remind us of the souls that have impacted our lives. "We celebrate a life journey. Each candle tells the story of the light that glows from loving and being loved. For family in hospice, the journey includes watching someone you love move towards and into their death - with dignity, compassion and love. We are all changed by these experiences, and we continue to hold their stories in our hearts," says hospice volunteer coordinator Tammy Long.

Phoenix Certified Hospice of Mendocino County is holding the 12th annual "Light Up a Life" ceremony at the new Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital off East Hill Road on Thursday, December 3 at 6 pm in the Seabiscuit Conference Room. This evening will be filled with inspiration, music and encouragement for all.

For a small donation, a star will be placed on a beautiful tree in honor of a loved one no longer with us or to recognize a dear friend, family member, dedicated caregiver, doctor or pet, or to celebrate a birth or anniversary. Whatever the reason ... this event is a cherished way to pay tribute to those who have brightened your world. The names of those being honored will be read at the ceremony. All funds raised will go directly toward providing quality end-of-life hospice care for members of our communities.

The "Light Up a Life" tree will continue to be on display at the Adventist Health Home Care & Phoenix Hospice lobby throughout the holiday season, symbolizing the life, hope and dreams of our loved ones. If you would like more information on this event or have questions about hospice, you can call Phoenix Hospice at 459-1818.

- submitted by Phoenix Hospice



December 1 December 2 December 3

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Vegan Thanksgiving

Organic potluck is a new inland Mendocino County tradition

The Long Valley Garden Club in Laytonville held its fifth annual Vegan Thanksgiving Dinner potluck this past Sunday, November 22. People from Ukiah, Willits and Laytonville

brought an array of extremely tasty dishes, prepared with organic ingredients sans animal products.

Jon Spitz was the primary organizer of the event. "We started this four years ago with a group called Laytonville's Organic Vegan Experience, which stands for LOVE," Spitz said. "Last year we joined with the Garden Club, so now we hold the event here."

Spitz, who gave up meat and dairy products 25 years ago, expressed the importance of a vegan diet.

"In my view veganism is the most important thing going today," he said. "It positively affects our health, our environment, and the atmosphere. The meat and dairy industries use a lot of energy and water."

In fact, the United Nations, in a report on climate change,

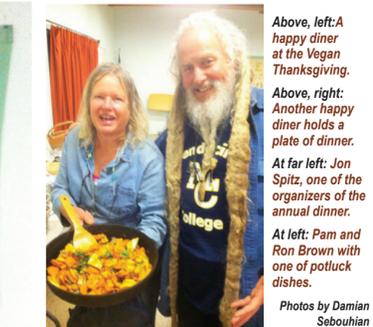
said that raising animals for food is "one of the top two or three most significant contributors to the most serious environmental problems, at every scale from local to global."

According to an article titled "Fight Climate Change By Going Vegan," found on the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals website, "A 2013 Loma Linda University study found that vegans have a greenhouse-gas footprint that is 41.7 percent smaller than meat-eaters' footprint and 13.9 percent smaller than vegetarians' footprint."

While there may be many political and social reasons to choose to go vegan, at the Garden Club's potluck, it was all about the food. Alongside traditional Thanksgiving dishes like sweet potatoes, squash and cranberry relish, people brought more eclectic fare, including "mixed bean bhajji," "cashew mushroom gravy," "curry cauliflower," "pumpkin coconut soup," and even a vegan pizza.

Not wanting to solely attend as an observer, this reporter

Read the rest of **Vegan** | Over on Page 13



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Above, left: Toy Run participants pose outside Rexall, the new location for the Willits Community Christmas Program this year. From left: Joni Gartemaker, Kat Harris, Bear Kamoroff, Jerry Harris, Katherine Houghtby, Gloria Westby, Tim Westby, Little Ava, Kim Venturi and Rich "Biker Claus" Venturi.

At top, right: Mazahar's Genevieve Bonnet picks up one of the program's drop-off boxes, that will be at the boutique from now until just before Christmas.

Above, right: Jerry "Top Hat" Harris, Sandy "Christmas Tree" Turner, and Kat "Tigger" Harris work on reading additional tags.

Below: Toy Runners strap trees onto a bike to help get area businesses, including, from left: Katherine "Steampunk" Houghtby, Little Ava, Kim "Sugar B" Venturi, Bear Kamoroff, Tim "The Baker Biker" Westby, Rich "Krispy" Venturi, Jerry "Top Hat" Harris, Joni "Big Red" Gartemaker, Gloria "Pinkie" Westby, Kat "Tigger" Harris, and Sandy "Christmas Tree" Turner.

Photos by Maureen Moore



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Christmas is coming!

This weekend: Tags out on trees and Toy Run party

The inside of the old Rexall building on Main and West Mendocino streets is looking more and more ready for the 2015 Willits Community Christmas Program, set to kick off this weekend with the Willits Toy Run.

The program provides assistance to families and children during the holidays, ensuring they have something to unwrap Christmas morning. Clothing, toys, books and other necessities are listed with age and sizing on the familiar green cards that will be hung on Christmas trees around town this weekend.

The Toy Run helps with an initial gathering of these toys, requiring one unwrapped gift as entry to the Sunday, November 29 party at the Little Lake Grange. The 23rd annual event is open to the public, and planners stress that everyone is invited to come.

The event will start with a motorcycle parade down Main Street, starting at the Evergreen Shopping Center at noon and ending at the Little Lake Grange, where food, music and more

await attendees. The event is sponsored by the Willits Rotary Club and features food made by members and a no-host bar.

Christmas Program organizer Sandy Turner noted that last year, the food options weren't as plentiful as they had hoped, so Turner invited anyone else interested in cooking or donating food to the party to please feel free.

"We really love the Toy Run people and are so appreciative of their help and support for the program," explained Turner. "It's our job to feed the Toy Run guests, and we want to make sure we're not scraping the bottom of the bowls again this year. Anyone who wants to bring extras, or grab a deli tray or something tasty to contribute would be really appreciated."

Meat, including chicken, tri tip and ribs, has been donated by Purple Moose; John Ford Ranch donated hot dogs; and through the efforts of Harry Muhlhauser at Mariposa Market, Diamond Ranch of Petaluma donated boxes of specialty



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Attorney Patrick Pekin to run for judge

Submitted by the Patrick Pekin for Judge campaign

Attorney Patrick Pekin has announced the launch of his campaign for Superior Court Judge for the spring 2016 election. Pekin is running for the open seat being vacated by Judge David Nelson, who has stated he will not seek another term.

An experienced trial attorney, Pekin has handled the toughest kinds of cases, including homicides and gang cases. Pekin also has litigated family law and civil rights matters, and serves as a hearing officer by contract with Mendocino County. He is a graduate of the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

Pekin, who has been meeting with voters and members of the legal community throughout the county, said: "I've been gratified by all the support I've received from the community. Whether it's judges or lawyers, winegrowers or small self-employed business owners, retirees or new parents, everyone has been extremely positive."

In addition to his work as an attorney, Pekin has a record of service in the community. Pekin is a firefighter with the Mendocino Volunteer Fire Department, where he is a first responder to fires, medical emergencies, car accidents, and cliff and ocean rescues. He is endorsed by current Mendocino Fire Chief Ed O'Brien, as well as retired Chief Danny Hervilla.

For four years, Pekin coached the mock trial team at Fort Bragg High School with his wife, Amanda, also an attorney. The Fort Bragg team won the Mendocino County Championship for the first time in the school's history and went on to compete

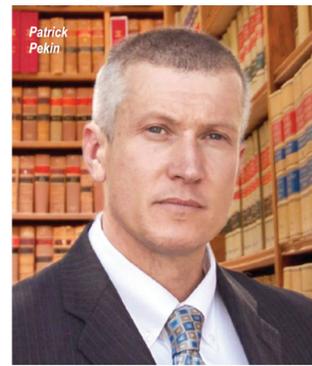
at the statewide level. His work has won the praise and endorsement of Carolyn Brown, the coordinator of the mock trial program.

Pekin has summed up his philosophy as: "I am dedicated to the law and serving my community. I believe a judge should be inspired by both."

With his wife and their three young sons, Pekin lives in Mendocino, where he has put down deep roots because of the county's natural beauty and strong community values. Pekin declared, "I am dedicated to preserving Mendocino County's uniqueness for the benefit of all our children."

Pekin concluded: "As a judge, I will continue the tradition of our current judges who are fair and listen to all sides before ruling. My experiences both in and out of the courtroom have broadened my worldview, and I believe will make me a better judge. Each person entering a courtroom deserves to be treated with fairness, dignity and respect, no matter their social standing, education or wealth - that's the type of judge I will be."

Pekin intends to actively campaign in every corner of Mendocino County, from Covelo to Gualala, seeing this as an opportunity to meet with county voters and hear their concerns. Pekin encourages everyone to learn more about him through personal contact and by consulting his website www.PatrickPekinforJudge.com.



More of Quarry | From Page 1

met: the property was used as a quarry or mine prior to January 1, 1976; mining operations were commenced in good faith and operations relied on a permit, if a permit was required; the mining operator incurred substantial liabilities for work and materials necessary for the mining operations; there was no substantial change in the work or discontinuance of work; and there was no change in the area covered by the vested right.

In statements made before supervisors in 2014, attorneys for Northern Aggregates argued the quarry had been in continuous use as a quarry since 1926, and the Church of the Golden Rule had operated the quarry as a commercial enterprise between 1963 and 1976. Northern Aggregates noted local contractor Bud Garman had said he operated the quarry from 1972 on, and local contractor Wayne Waters had said he used to buy rock from the quarry in the mid- to late 1970s to do work for Mendocino County.

Northern Aggregates attorneys used these statements to bolster their contention there had been commercial operations at the quarry going back well before January 1, 1976.

In an October 21 ruling, Henderson said those statements don't prove there was a commercial intent on the part of the owner of the property, Christ's Church of the Golden Rule.

Read the rest of Quarry | Over on Page 13

The rest of Found | From Page 1

the missing tyke, Van Patten said. Other search-and-rescue personnel - including units from Lake County Search and Rescue, CHP Redding Air Operations, Marin County Search and Rescue, Sonoma County Search and Rescue, California Rescue Dog Association, National Guard Air Asset from Camp Roberts, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, California Office of Emergency Services, Monterey Search and Rescue, Contra Costa County Search and Rescue, and Napa County Search and Rescue - were on their way to assist in the search when the crew of a CalFire helicopter "thought they spotted tracks that appeared to be related to human foot traffic," Van Patten said.

At the same time, a Laytonville CalFire engine crew "searching on foot in the general area" found Raina almost a mile northeast of her home" at about 5 pm, he said.

Dressed in only a shirt and diaper when found, the 40-pound 5-year-old had walked more than 400 feet down a steep, heavily wooded slope during her travels, losing her shoes along the way.

With overnight temperatures expected to dip into the 40s, rescuers described the girl as "a little bit cold," but unharmed except for several minor abrasions suffered during her walkabout. She was airlifted by helicopter to the Sheriff's Office command center at Sherwood School for a preliminary evaluation, then taken to Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital for a "precautionary medical examination" at her mother's request, Van Patten said.

"The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office would like to thank all the personnel and public safety agencies that assisted in the search operation," he added.

This is not the first time Raina has wandered away from home. Shortly after 5 pm on October 20, the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office received a report of a found child wandering near the intersection of 3rd Gate Road and Sherwood Road in Brooktrails. "The child was identified as ... Raina Rinker," Van Patten said. And shortly after 8:40 am on November 12, the Sheriff's Office received a report of a found child from a resident in the 27000 block of Skyview Road after Raina "appeared outside the resident's home at about 8 am," he said.

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Safeway Shoppig Center | WILLITS | 707-459-9700

Wednesday, November 25

Thanksgiving Pie Sale: This day-before-Thanksgiving Pie Sale at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, starts at 8:30 am, and continues until all the goodies are gone!

Thursday, November 26

Happy Thanksgiving!

26th annual Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner: Willits Community Services and Food Bank invites you to dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, from 11 am to 3 pm at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. "Come give thanks and celebrate this holiday with your community! 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 and served by community volunteers. Questions: call 459-3333.



Friday, November 27

Black Friday!

Black Friday in Willits: Set your alarms! These stores will be opening at 6 am on Black Friday: Tiger Lily's, Monkey Wrench Mens & Womens Wear, Tango Willits, MistyMaid & Sew Much More, Buttercups Children's Boutique, and J.D. Redhouse. Willits High School Class of 2017 is planning a fundraiser in front of Tiger Lily's, selling hot chocolate, coffee and goodies, starting at 5:30 or 6 am.

Shanachie Pub: Schindig plays its annual day-after-Thanksgiving party, Friday, November 27: "A band of homegrown Mendocino county boys playing a unique eclectic blend of folk, rock, country, blues with a jolt of world music



thrown in for good measure." Hear some Schindig tunes at www.reverbnation.com/schindig. With opener Sarah Rose McMahon, playing her "unique brand of folk-American originals and covers" solo and accompanied by Forrest Glycer of Schindig. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, November 28

Small Business Saturday!

Golden Rule Holiday Craft Fair and Bake Sale: This Craft Fair and Bake Sale is set for 9 am to 2 pm this year, at the Golden Rule Mobile Village, 16100 North Highway 101, south of Willits. Featuring knitted and crocheted handmade crafts, beaded crafts, holiday decor, baked goodies and much more.

Shanachie Pub: Rising Signs, the rhythm section of Rootstock, plays a fusion of rock, funk, reggae and soul infused with original grooves. "Bringing decades of combined musical talent and experience to the stage the trio will trade lead vocals and three part harmony throughout their sets." Visit www.facebook.com/risingsignsband. Saturday, November 28. 8:30 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, November 29

23rd annual Willits Toy Run: Santa's Big Party in Willits starts off from the Evergreen Shopping Center at about 11:30 am on Sunday, November 29, with a rain-or-shine motorcycle procession led by the fire engines from the Little Lake Fire Protection District. The bikers head to the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, where the whole community – you don't have to be a biker! – enjoys live music by the "world-famous Road Kings coming directly from their live concert tour at the North Pole," plus free lunch, a no-host bar by the Willits Lions Club, an auction, and lots of raffles. Noon to 3 pm. The only price of admission is an unwrapped toy for the Willits Rotary Christmas Program which distributes toys and other needs to children in the Willits area. Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus will lead the procession on their Harley Davidsons this year, and Santa says: "If you do ride, join in on the procession – all bikes, bikers and or motorcycle enthusiasts are welcome."



Tuesday, December 1

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. No Tightwad movies this Tuesday, December 1. For general movie showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

"The 5 Stages of Love": Join Jed Diamond, author and Ph.D., on Tuesday, December 1 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm for an Avenues to Wellness presentation at the Willits Senior Center on "The 5 Stages of Love." "Too many relationships break up just when the couple could enjoy themselves the most. Make 2016 the year you make real, lasting love a priority in your life." This is a free presentation; refreshments will be served; donations are appreciated. Call 459-2777 for more information or visit www.avenuestowellness.org. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.



630 South Main Street. Info: 459-4110.

Friday, December 4

Senior Center Christmas Store: Friday, December 4 through Monday, December 14 at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Monday-Friday, 9 am to 4 pm, Saturdays 10-4, Sunday, December 13, 8 am to 12 pm. Great prices on wonderful Christmas items; decorations, clothes, lights, gift bags, trees, and so much more.

"Scripted": Willits Community Theatre presents a winter holiday version of its popular "Scripted" series, opening Friday, December 4 for six shows. The stage production consists of six short, one-act plays centered on Christmas, family traditions and imaginary figures common to the year-end festivities. The plays are a mix of comedy, suspense, and romance and are selected from more than 130 script submissions received from playwrights across the country. Plays are: "In Outsourcing Christmas" by May Steelsmith; "Angela's Restaurant" by Chip Bolick; "The True Meaning of Christmas" by Kate Danley; "Two Turtle Doves" by Hal Corley; "Joe & Eddy's" by Jim Gordon; and "No Sound of Music" by Seth Freeman.



Directors for "Scripted."

Christmas raffle for a chance to win a wagon of toys.

Skunk Train Christmas Trains: first Christmas Train of the season out of the Willits Depot, 299 East Commercial Street,

include Kelly Kesey, Christopher Martin, and Bruce Andich, among many other local talents. Performances of "Scripted" will be on Friday and Saturday, December 4 and 5 at 8 pm, Sunday, December 6 at 2 pm, Friday and Saturday, December 11 and 12 at 8 pm, and Sunday, December 13 at 2 pm. Advance tickets are \$10 for all shows and available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006. The WCT playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

is Saturday, December 5 at 3:30 pm, but today's train is already sold out! "AMagical Christmas Train Ride through a story book about the giving spirit, friendship, and family traditions aboard our Magical Christmas Train. With a special visit from Santa for every family, this experience is a holiday celebration that is sure to become an annual tradition. The trip includes lots of holiday cheer with a strolling musician, playful elves and more all aboard a moving train. Your ticket includes the train ride, entertainment, cookies, and hot cocoa served in a souvenir mug. All Ages Ride. Future 2015 season Christmas trains out of Willits include Sunday, December 6 at 3:30 pm; Monday, December 7 at 3:30 pm; Tuesday, December 8 at 3:30 pm; Wednesday, December 9 at 3:30 pm; Friday, December 11 at 3:30 pm; Saturday, December 12 at 1 pm, 3:30 pm and 6 pm; and Sunday, December 13 at 1 pm. Check www.skunktrain.com/christmas.html for tickets or info about Christmas trains out of Fort Bragg. Or call the Fort Bragg depot at 964-6371.



Saturday, December 5

Senior Center Christmas Craft Faire: Saturday, December 5, 10 am-4 pm. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Beautifully hand-crafted items made by local merchants: Jewelry, Hand bags, Hats, Scarves, Baked Goods, Jams, even great gifts for guys.

Chasing Rainbow Dyeworks Open Studio: plus Yarn and Fiber Sale, Saturday, December 5 and Sunday, December 6, from 11 am to 4 pm. Chasing Rainbow Dyeworks is at 1700 Hilltop Drive: take East Hill Road to Hilltop Drive; if you pass East Hill Veterinary Clinic, you've gone too far. Info: 459-8558.

Christmas Express: Roots of Motive Power is hosting their annual Christmas Express Train event – featuring free steam rides around the loop – from noon to 4 pm on Saturday, December 5 at the Roots yard at 420 East Commercial Street. Santa will be handing out small gifts when the children talk with him. Other activities and sights will be: railroad decorated Christmas trees; cocoa and cookies; antique model train display; kids' coloring table; and, a Christmas raffle for a chance to win a wagon of toys.



"Mortalis": Willits Center for the Arts' December show features "Mortalis", original mixed-media artwork by Malakai Schindel. Opens Saturday, December 5 with an artists' reception, at the WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Runs through December 27. Gallery hours: Thursday through Friday from 4 to 7 pm; Saturday and Sundays from 12 to 3 pm. Visit <http://willitscenterforthearts.org>.

"Scripted": 8 pm at Willits Community Theatre; see Friday, December 4 listing for details.

Sunday, December 6

Sunday Bingo: monthly Sunday Bingo at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Doors open 10:30 am; snack bar opens at 11 am, games begin at 11:30 am, bingo buy in \$10, specials \$2 and up.

"Scripted": 2 pm matinee at Willits Community Theatre; see Friday, December 4 listing for details.

COLUMN | At the Movies



'The Mockingjay: Part 2'

Daniel Essman
Columnist

The Story: At the end of "The Mockingjay: Part 1" Katniss Everdeen was choked nearly to death by Peeta with his bare hands...Peeta, the man she loves. President Coin is continuing to use her as a symbol of the rebellion. President Snow views the rebellion as a perverted personal conflict: himself versus Katniss. The war goes on. The united rebels invade the capitol. Flames and horror and death is everywhere. No one is safe...



My Thoughts: Jennifer Lawrence is the most astonishing actress in the movies. She's not a technical actress, and that doesn't matter. Her physically is compelling and believable. Some of her scenes demand emotional complexity...demand subtlety...demand transitions from fury to tears...and she fills those scenes to perfection. I never thought she was acting, never pretending...she was there! She's the truth! I could watch her in anything.

Oh yeah, and "The Mockingjay" is an amazingly good movie. Suspenseful. Filled with action. Unpredictable. Morally intelligent. It's a great and a fitting end to the epic "Hunger Games" tetology. And a special shout out to author Suzanne Collins for her creation of Katniss, a deeply conflicted heroine.

Parents: Some terrifying scenes of monsters and mass slaughter. Not all the good guys survive. On the other hand, there are no scenes of false emotionality, no glorification of violence or of vengeance. The moral of the movie is that war is always tragic, even in victory.

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

'The 5 Stages of Love'

Tuesday, December 1

Join Jed Diamond, author and Ph.D. on Tuesday, December 1 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm for an Avenues to Wellness presentation at the Willits Senior Center on "The 5 Stages of Love."

Too many relationships break up just when the couple could enjoy themselves the most. Make 2016 the year you make real, lasting love a priority in your life.

Diamond has been married for 35 years and has five children and 15 grandchildren. He's the author of 13 books. His new book "The Enlightened Marriage: The 5 Transformative Stages of Relationships and Why the Best is Still to Come" will be released in 2016.

Free copies of his best-selling book, "Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places," will be given to all attendees.

This is a free presentation; refreshments will be served; donations are appreciated. Avenues to Wellness is the speaker series sponsored by the Frank Howard Foundation, "to promote health and wellness in Willits and the surrounding communities." The Harrah Senior Center is located at 1501 Baechtel Road. Call 459-2777 for more information or visit www.avenuestowellness.org.



Willits Winter Farmers Market: from 3 to 6 pm every Thursday at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Fall and winter produce, local meats and local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

The Emandal Chorale: ongoing rehearsals on Wednesdays, 5 to 6:30 pm, for the Chorale's 21st season, at the Little Lake Grange great hall, 291 School Street. No auditions: Open to all who love to sing.

Inner Resources Institute: three free programs at the new Inner Resource Institute, 1500 Hearst Road (at Hearst and Valley roads in the old Grace Baptist Church building). • Morning Meditation: Every morning at 6 am. • Kirtan: Every Thursday at 7:30 pm. Devotional singing and chanting led by Chinmayan. • Sunday Morning Service: 10:30 am. Satsang and fellowship consisting of a short talk on practical spirituality; meditation; Kirtan and worship; and a prayer service in which we pray for individual, family and humanity's needs. Info: 707-357-4676 or innerresourceinstitute@yahoo.com.

The Mentoring Program: Free classes for girls in grades 6 through 10 in the Willits school system. Friday afternoons from 4 to 5 pm. Class subjects rotate: Herbs, Crafts, Yoga & Movement, Life Skills, and Cooking and Home Arts. Room 4 in the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, the Cultivate Wellness Studio. Call Michelle Cummins for info: 972-1601.

Tuesday Wii Bowling: Every Tuesday at the Harrah Senior Center Dining Room, 1501 Baechtel Road. 1:30 to 2:30 pm. Info: 459-6826.

Thursday Night Bingo: Potluck dinner and bingo every Thursday at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. 6 to 8 pm; \$5 buy-in; 50 cents per card. Info: 459-6826.

Willits Frontier Twirlers Square Dance Club: Monday night workshops at the Willits Center for the Arts, upstairs in the great room. Newer dancers from 7 to 8 pm; plus dancing from 8 to 9 pm. Lawrence Johnstone, caller. Guests always welcome! Info: Jenny Watts, 459-9526.

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 drop in."

Ongoing Events

Willits Library Public Events: "Pajama Story Time" for families, Tuesdays at 7 pm. "Stories for Crawlers and Walkers," Thursdays at 11 am. Technology group for help with hand-held devices, Fridays at 1 pm. Youth 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, Wednesdays 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 not required. \$5 per night; first night free. Info: Jeff at 354-1850.

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.

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

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: Open Mic every Wednesday. 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7 pm. Movie Night every Tuesday. 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.

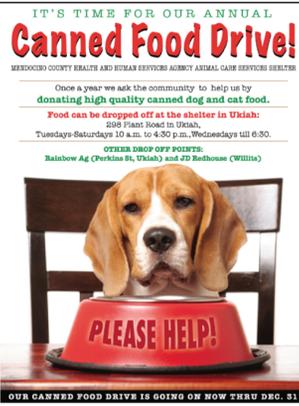
Laytonville Winter Farmers Market: Mondays, November to May, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville.

Save the Date:

Hot Winter's Night, Willits Community Center, December 11

29th annual Willits Holiday Craft Fair, Willits Community Center, December 11-13

Willits Community Christmas Chorale, LDS Church, December 13



Senior Center Lunch

Week of November 30 through December 4

Monday: Pork Chops

Tuesday: Salisbury Steak

Wednesday: Baked Chicken

Thursday: Roast Pork

Friday: Baked Cod

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.

Harrah Senior Center 1501 Baechtel Rd. 459-6826

www.willitscenter.com

A Hot Winter's Night



Friday, December 11, 6-9:30 PM

Music Art Poetry Dance Food presented by the WHS

Visual & Performing Arts Department A Holiday Gift to the Willits Community

Chamber Mixer & Tree Lighting Ceremony

Friday, December 11

Roots of Motive Power and the Mendocino County Museum cordially invite residents to the December Willits Chamber of Commerce Mixer and Tree Lighting Ceremony, Friday, December 11, at 5:30 pm. Music, fun & light refreshments: Visit the Engine Room for cookies and hot drinks. Special train demonstration and museum tours. 400 East Commercial Street. Tree Lighting starts at 5:45 pm. Info: Willits Chamber 459-7910 or info@willits.org



Thanksgiving Bake Sale

Wednesday November 25th 8:30am until gone

Delicious Home-made Baked goods At a wonderful price.

All proceeds benefit Transportation Department

Harrah Senior Center 1501 Baechtel Rd. 459-6826

www.willitscenter.com

Friends of the Willits Library \$1 Bookshelf

For Christmas gifts, reader Betty Hansen asks: "How about a new or used book at the Friends of the Willits Library's \$1 Bookshelf? You don't have to spend a lot of money on a Christmas gift. Books can be mailed as "Media Mail," too... more savings! The Willits Library is located at 390 East Commercial Street, and is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10 am to 8 pm; Thursdays from 10 am to 6 pm; and Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am to 5 pm. Closed Sundays and Mondays. For Thanksgiving week, the Willits Library will close early on Wednesday, November 25, at 3 pm, and will reopen Saturday, November 28 at 10 am.



Glitter Your World

Thursday, December 10

Harrah Senior Center

All are invited to Glitter Your World with Emmy Good, performing as her alter ego "The Emster." The Glitter Party will be held Thursday, December 10 from 10:30 to 11:45 am, in the Conference Room. You will have an opportunity to add glitter to your life with a variety of little projects.

Feel free to bring any item (candles, cones, anything), or we will have stuff you can glitter or make, such as holiday cards. There is no charge. Please sign up at the front desk as space is limited, and we want to have enough materials. Questions? Call Emmy at 367-7475. Guaranteed Good Fun!

DECEMBER CALENDAR

MONDAY

POINTS DAYS

5X POINTS

All Players Club members will earn 5X Points from 10A to 11P on the days of the promotion!

TUESDAY

ROOSTER

MORNING SESSION 8AM - 12PM
-3X POINTS (10A TO 12P)
-PLAY \$40 AND RECEIVE \$10 FREE PLAY
-52 FOOD SPECIAL BREAKFAST (10A TO 11A ON EACH SPECIFIC TUESDAY COUPON)
COUPON TO BE GIVEN BY THE PLAYERS CLUB
AFTER "PLAY \$40 - RECEIVE \$10" HAS BEEN RECEIVED

HOT SEAT DRAWINGS

9A, 10A, 11A & 12P - \$25 CASH FOR EACH WINNER

& OWLS

EVENING SESSION 6PM TO 10PM
-3X POINTS (10A TO 12P)
-PLAY \$40 AND RECEIVE \$10 FREE PLAY
IF REDEEMED ALREADY FOR THE MORNING SESSION,
\$75 TOTAL PLAY WILL BE REQUIRED FOR
\$10 BONUS PLAY FOR THE EVENING SESSION.
CUSTOMERS MAY REDEEM ONLY ONCE PER SESSION FOR THE BONUS PLAY.
-54 FOOD EVENING SPECIAL
(10P TO 11P ON EACH SPECIFIC TUESDAY COUPON)
COUPON TO BE GIVEN BY THE PLAYERS CLUB AFTER
"PLAY \$40 - RECEIVE \$10" HAS BEEN RECEIVED

HOT SEAT DRAWINGS

7P, 8P, 9P & 10P - \$50 CASH FOR EACH WINNER
CUSTOMERS MAY WIN ONLY ONE HOT SEAT PER SESSION

WEDNESDAY

POT O' GOLD

PLINKO

Hot Seats

11 Random Hot Seat Drawings
Approximate Times of Hot Seat Drawings
1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, 7pm, 7:30pm, 8pm,
8:30pm, 9pm, 9:30pm & 10pm

Winner will receive one Plinko Chip.
The Winner will place the Plinko Chip
in a slot of their choice on the top of
the Plinko board. The plinko chip will
slide down the board and will land in
one of 8 prize slots.
Prizes will be randomly placed at the
bottom of the Plinko board.

The prizes are: "\$25 Free Play", "\$50 Free Play", "\$75 Free Play", "\$100 Free Play"

New Year's Eve

HOT SEATS!

Round 1: 6pm to 8pm - 3 Random Winners/Hour (6 Total)
Each winner to receive \$100 Cash
Round 2: 10pm to 12am - 3 Random Winners/Hour (6 Total)
Each winner to receive \$125 Cash

New Year's Eve

late night BINGO!

Point "Buy-in" starts at 11:30P (25 Points) BINGO Games will be held at approximately 12:30am, 1:15am & 1:45am.

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| 12:30am Winner | \$300 Cash |
| 1:15am Winner | \$400 Cash |
| 1:45am Winner | \$500 Cash |

12pm to 2pm
2 winners/hour (4 winners).
Each winner will win \$30 in Free Play.

3pm to 5pm
2 winners/hour (4 winners).
Each winner will win \$50 in Free Play.

6pm to 8pm
3 winners/hour (6 winners).
Each winner will win \$100 in Free Play.

Customers may win up to twice each Sunday for this promotion.
All Free play that is won via the Hot Seat drawings must be used by 2am on the same gaming day,
or the winnings (Free Play) will be removed from the customer's account.

THURSDAY

SUPER SENIOR DAY

50% discount food coupon issued (to be used for that day only) when the customer has earned minimally 50 points from 10A to 7P

BINGO \$100 GAME
11AM, 12PM & 1PM
Players Club members must have earned minimally 50 points to receive a bingo card for the 11A, 12P & 1P bingo games.

\$200 GAME
7PM & 8PM

\$250 GAME
9PM & 10PM
Players Club members must have earned minimally 75 points throughout the day to receive a bingo card for the 7P, 8P & 9P bingo games.
If two customers claim the win together, the prize amount is "split" between the two winners.

SATURDAY FUN

HOT SEAT DRAWINGS



ROUND #1 • 11AM TO 2PM
2 RANDOM WINNERS/HOUR (6 WINNERS). EACH WINNER WILL WIN \$50 IN FREE PLAY. PLAYERS CLUB MEMBERS MUST PLAY MINIMALLY \$20 TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ROUND #1 HOT SEAT DRAWINGS.

ROUND #2 • 5PM TO 8PM
2 RANDOM WINNERS/HOUR (6 WINNERS). EACH WINNER WILL WIN \$75 IN FREE PLAY. PLAYERS CLUB MEMBERS MUST PLAY MINIMALLY \$30 TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ROUND #2 HOT SEAT DRAWINGS.

ROUND #3 • 9PM TO 10PM
3 RANDOM WINNERS/HOUR (3 WINNERS). EACH WINNER WILL WIN \$100 IN FREE PLAY. PLAYERS CLUB MEMBERS MUST PLAY MINIMALLY \$40 TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ROUND #3 HOT SEAT DRAWINGS.

ROUND #4 • 10PM TO 11PM
3 RANDOM WINNERS/HOUR (3 WINNERS). EACH WINNER WILL WIN \$200 IN FREE PLAY. PLAYERS CLUB MEMBERS MUST PLAY MINIMALLY \$50 TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ROUND #4 HOT SEAT DRAWINGS.

FRIDAY NIGHT

DECEMBER 5, 12 & 19
May start to redeem points for entries starting at 11A
Each drawing time has a prize value to it

PAYDAY!

PROGRESSIVE DRAWING

| | | | |
|--------|---------|-----------------------|---------|
| 7:00PM | 8:00PM | TICKET ENTRY DRAWINGS | 9:00PM |
| \$100 | \$100 | 15 POINTS/ENTRY | \$125 |
| 9:30PM | 10:00PM | 10:30PM | 11:15PM |
| \$175 | \$200 | \$300 | \$400 |

December 25 and January 1 ONLY

At each drawing (except the 11:15pm drawing), an entry will be drawn from the Raffle Barrel. The winning customer will have approx. one minute to claim their prize. If the number is not claimed the money for the specific drawing will be forwarded to the next drawing for the night. For example, if the 7P drawing has no winner, the \$100 will be forwarded to the 8P drawing and will be worth \$200.

The 11:15pm drawing will be on December 25 and January 1, ONLY. If there is no claim on the drawing, there will be an additional drawing. This process will continue until a winner has claimed the cash prize. Customers may win up to 2 times each week of this promotion.

(FREE PLAY)

NEW YEAR'S EVE CASH EXTRAVAGANZA

\$15,000 GIVEAWAY ON DECEMBER 31st!

Ticket Entries
Entries for this promotion can be earned on:
Wednesday December 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2015 - 15 pts/entry
Saturday December 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2015 - 15 pts/entry
Thursday December 31, 2015 - 20 pts/entry

On December 31 2015, drawing will take place at approximately:
5P (one winner) 8P (one winner)
6P (one winner) 9P (two winners)
7P (one winner) 10P (two winners)

Each winner will choose an envelope. After 10pm each winner will open their envelope to determine their prizes.

SLOT TOURNAMENT • DEC. 31st!

Early Session (Starts at 3pm)
-Registration starts at 1pm - Tournament Starts at 3P
-30 Points redeemed (points must be earned on the particular Thursday)
-Limited space available
3 Minute Tournament
1st Place - \$400 Cash
2nd Place - \$300 Cash
3rd Place - \$200 Cash
4th through 6th Place - \$75 Free Play (each)

Evening Session (Starts at 8pm)
-Registration starts at 6pm - Tournament starts at 8P
-70 Points total redeemed (points must be earned on the particular Thursday)
-Limited space available
3 Minute Tournament
1st Place - \$700 Cash
2nd Place - \$500 Cash
3rd Place - \$300 Cash
4th through 6th Place - \$100 Free Play (each)



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Star Wars: The Force Awakens

HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PT 2

(PG 13) 2 hrs 17 mins
Friday-Sunday: 2:15, 5:30 & 8:30pm
Monday-Thursday: 4:30 & 7:30pm

THE GOOD DINOSAUR IN 2/D & 3/D

(PG) 1 hr 40 mins
Friday-Sunday: (3D) 12:30 & 3:00pm (2D) 12noon, 5:15 & 7:30pm
Monday-Thursday: (2D Only) 4:15 & 6:30pm

CREED

(PG13) 2 hrs 30 mins
Friday-Sunday: 12:45, 3:30, 6:15 & 9:00pm
Monday-Thursday: 5:00 & 7:45pm



ALLLLL aboard the Roots of Motive Power

Christmas Express Train

Christmas spirit will be in the air at the Roots of Motive Power yard during the annual Christmas Express Train coming up next weekend. The event will run from noon to 4 pm on Saturday, December 5 at the Engine House and Roots yard.

Santa Claus will be in the Engine House, lending an ear to those Christmas lists, posing for photos, and handing out gifts to the small children.

The popular train rides will be held throughout the event, with the Heislur Bluestone Mining and Smelting #1 pulling the passenger car around the Roots loop. Train rides are free of charge and are a fun experience for kids and adults of all ages.

Other sights to see will include the railroad-decorated Christmas trees and antique model train displays; kids can get creative at the kids' coloring table; and everyone can enjoy hot cocoa and cookies. Willits High School students will be selling hot dogs as a fundraiser, too.

There will also be a raffle that day; the winner will take home a wagon full of toys, just in time for Christmas.

Roots of Motive Power is located at 420 East Commercial Street. For more information, check them out online at www.RootsofMotivePower.com or on Facebook under "Roots of Motive Power."

- Maureen Moore



Above: Parents and kids await their turn to talk with Santa in the Roots Engine House. On the right is the Bluestone Mining and Smelting Heislur #1, which will pull the passengers this year.
Right: "Choo Choo!!" The Mason County Logging Co. #7 in all its Christmas glory.
Photos by Maureen Moore



Laura LeClear

Laura LeClear, a World War II Coast Guard veteran, passed peacefully to her next big adventure on Veterans Day, November 11, 2015, with family by her side. She was 94.

Laura Rose LeClear was born on August 21, 1921 to Floyd Rayman LeClear and Nettie Lillian Miller in rural Assyria, Michigan. As a child of the Depression and one of seven children, she was familiar with hardship and poverty as a young girl.

Laura had to leave school for three years to care for her ailing mother and younger siblings until her mother's death in 1937. After graduating from high school, she joined the Coast Guard and served as a SPAR from 1944 until 1946, when the war ended. That year, she moved on her own across the country to attend Stanford University, and spend her summers working in the general store in Yosemite.

In 1948 she married the late John Shurtleff Stevens and raised three daughters in the Bay Area. Later as a single parent, she obtained her teaching credential and taught 1st grade at Regnant Elementary School in Cupertino from 1964 to 1984.

In 1984, Laura purchased and remodeled a Queen Anne's Cottage at the corner of School and Mendocino Streets in Willits. The historic Victorian is located on land originally owned by Hiram Willits, after whom the town of Willits is named. She had great fun furnishing it with lovely antiques, including a display of her extensive foreign doll collection, which she began collecting as a way to teach ethnic diversity to her elementary school students.

She turned that endeavor into the Doll House Bed and Breakfast, which she ran independently from October 1985 until 1992. After retiring as an innkeeper, she continued living in the Victorian, tending her heirloom roses and vast garden until 2009 when she relocated to a residential care facility in Ukiah.

Laura is much loved and missed by her daughters Susana Wilson of Willits, Anne Stevens of Merced, and Janet Stevens of Cupertino; grandchildren Sandra Lucier of Willits, Matthew Wilson of San Francisco, John Mayfield of Norfolk, VA, Jena Naranjo of Merced, and Nathan Stevens of Cupertino; and great-grandchildren Peace Southard of Pacifica, Alison Southard of Willits, Emery and Paige Mayfield of Norfolk, and Landon Naranjo of Merced.

Laura loved her family, gardening, reading, and all the magic and mystery of nature. The family wishes to express their gratitude to the loving caregivers at Observatory Care Home for their kind and gracious care over the last six years. A celebration of Laura's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please practice a random act of kindness in Laura's name.

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10th Annual Fire Department Bucket Brigade Blood Drive Challenge!

Little Lake Fire Protection Dist.

Friday, December 11, 2015
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Location: Donor coach
74 E Commercial St., Willits, CA 95490

To schedule your lifesaving appointment visit:
www.bloodheroes.com
Click "Locate a Blood Drive" & Enter Sponsor Code: Willits

For more information please contact Kim at 707-280-2563 or kwals@bloodcenters.org

Special thanks to all the firefighters who fought the California fires this summer!

Blood Centers of the Pacific 888-393-4433

#BucketBrigadeBloodDrive

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Clothing from: Footwear from:

Same Day Service available!

10th annual Fire Department Bucket Brigade Blood Drive Challenge
Little Lake Fire Protection District
Friday, December 11
1 to 5 pm
at the Blood Centers of the Pacific Donor Coach, parked at 74 East Commercial Street

To schedule a donor appointment, visit www.bloodheroes.com. Click "Locate a Blood Drive" and enter sponsor code "Willits." For more information, please contact Kim at 707-280-2563 or kwals@bloodcenters.org

"Special thanks to all the firefighters who fought the California fires this summer!"
All donors will receive a special 10th annual Bucket Brigade T-shirt!

At top, left: Willits Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez gives blood in the Pacific Donor coach, back on September 25.
At top, right: The Blood Centers of the Pacific Donor Coach.
Above, left: Technicians work inside the coach.
Photos by Rachel Belvin

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Thanksgiving Dinner Volunteers Wanted
Willits Community Services is requesting volunteers to help with the 26th annual Willits Community Dinner at the Harrah Senior Center. Those interested can call 459-3333 to sign up or for more info.

For Sale
Two king size mattresses, one with box spring and metal frame, 7 month old. Serta pillow top \$500. The other \$100. Both in excellent condition. 707-354-2473

Free Writing Class
FREE: Creative writing class, open to all ages, held at Willits Senior Center on the first and third Thursday of the month at 1:30 pm. Call Sue (972-6422) to reserve your spot, now.

Help Wanted
Adventist Health-Homocare & Hospice Services Mendocino County, FT - P/T - Per Diem positions: RN, Home Health Aide, Physical & Occupational Therapist, Great Team & Great Benefits. Call Trudy-H/R #456-3230.

Volunteers Wanted
The Willits Senior Center has many areas where your expertise and talents are needed. Front Desk, Thrift Store, Dining Room, Sunday Bingo, Sunday Breakfast, Special Dinners, Landscaping, Garden, Firewood. Come join our Team, Call Mariya at 707-459-6826.

Volunteers Wanted
Frank Howard Memorial Hospital is looking for positive members of the community to volunteer in various departments of the hospital. Hours: flexible and can include weekends. More info? Call 456-3245.

Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency
Currently recruiting for:
• Social Worker Supervisor I and II
• Account Specialist Supervisor/ Account Clerk Supervisor
• Screener
• Social Worker Assistant II

For further information on the above positions or to apply, go to: <http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hr/openings.htm>
Click on "Job Opportunities"

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The rest of **Vegan**
From Page 6

– an omnivore with vegetarian tendencies—took a risk in preparing a "spicy peanut noodle salad," a recipe I found on the Serious Eats website. Unfortunately, I didn't get a chance to eat any of it as the bowl was emptied by the time I got into the long line. Lesson for next year: make more!

What started out many years ago as just a few friends gathering for a vegan Thanksgiving meal, has turned into a rather large community event.

Louis Rohlicek and his wife, Sally, were among the event's originators. "It used to be at our house," Rohlicek said. "Then it got so big, we all decided to find a bigger space and brought it here to the Garden Club."

More than 80 people participated in the potluck and, by the time it was over, hardly any leftovers were to be found.

The Long Valley Garden Club is located on Harwood Road in Laytonville. The club's next event, scheduled for Wednesday, January 7, is titled "Garden Planning with Seed Saving In Mind" and features speaker Gina Covina of Laughing Frog Farms.

Here's the recipe for **Spicy Peanut Noodle Salad:**

Ingredients
8 ounces fresh Chinese noodles

For the dressing:
1/2 cup chunky peanut butter
3 tablespoons soy sauce
3 tablespoons fresh ground chili sauce (such as Huy Fong brand Sambal Oelek or Sriracha), more or less to taste
2 tablespoons juice from 2 limes
1 tablespoon toasted sesame seed oil
1 clove garlic, grated on a microplane grater
1 tablespoon sugar or honey
3 tablespoons warm water

To assemble:
2 large red, orange, or yellow bell peppers, sliced into thin strips
1 large cucumber, seeded and sliced into fine julienne or small half moons
1 cup mung bean sprouts
1 cup loosely packed fresh basil, mint or cilantro leaves
8 scallions, finely sliced at a severe bias to create long, thin strips
2 jalapeño peppers, with seeds and ribs removed, sliced into fine strips
1 to 2 red Thai bird chilis, finely minced (optional)
1/2 cup roughly crushed roasted peanut

Directions:
1. Cook noodles according to package directions. Drain and transfer to a large bowl of ice water. Agitate noodles until thoroughly chilled. Set aside while you make the dressing.
2. In a large bowl, combine peanut butter, soy sauce, chili sauce, lime juice, sesame seed oil, garlic, sugar or honey, and water. Whisk until homogeneous. Drain noodles thoroughly and add to bowl. Add bell peppers, cucumber, bean sprouts, basil leaves, scallions, jalapeños, and bird chilis (if using). Toss to combine. Serve immediately, topped with roasted peanuts.

The Church of the Golden Rule owned the property from 1963 to 1983, a period that brackets the vesting date," Henderson said. "The record is absolutely devoid of any evidence the church operated the quarry as a commercial venture or expended any money in connection with quarrying activities and/or rock crushing or screening. The record likewise contains no evidence the church incurred any liabilities for work and materials necessary for the surface mining operations" in reliance on nonconforming use status.

"The declarations of [Northern Aggregates co-owner Frank] Dutra, Garman and Waters

all describe some rock removal activities on the site at various times preceding and shortly following the vesting date," Henderson continued. "However, they attribute none of that activity to the church. Mr. Garman describes an 'honor system,' whereby people who needed rock could ask the church for permission to enter the site and remove the rock. There is no evidence or suggestion the church itself owned any equipment used in this permissive removal or engaged in any on-site work to facilitate the removal of even this limited amount of rock.

"The only reference to on-site equipment is the observation of Mr. Waters that in 1968 he observed a D6 Caterpillar operated by CDF. The court cannot infer from that observation that the church owned the D6, and, if so, incurred more than reasonable operation expenses in the observed work.

"The declaration of [Ridgewood Ranch's] Tracy Livingston establishes that 'from approximately 1962 to until

sausage and buns.

"The other thing we really need help with is the dishes at the end," explained Turner. "A few people stick around each year to clean up, and if we could get a new young crowd in to help with the dishes, that would be a huge help."

At the end of the event, toys and donations collected go directly to the Willits Community Christmas Program to help complete the requests this holiday. Toys will be lined up in the program's "store," where items can be pulled to complete the incoming tags.

Once the trees are put up at retail businesses and other locations this weekend, community members are encouraged to select a tag, and purchase one or all items requested. Some residents make it a family occasion, with the kids helping to shop for presents. The items – please leave them unwrapped! – can then be taken to Rexall or dropped off at any of the drop-off locations, including J.D. Redhouse, Mazahar and Main Street Music. Please be sure to include the tag with the items.

To complete the list of items on each tag, volunteers will pull from their store, or use donated funds at the end of the event to do a final shopping trip to complete the requests.

One note Turner wanted to stress this year was the lack of books in their back stock.

"Rex and Virginia Thompson used to sponsor 500 books each year for our program," explained Turner. "However, Rex passed away, and Virginia and her

The rest of **Quarry**
From Page 7

1983, the church never conducted commercial mining operations at the quarry." These declarations are at variance with Mr. Garman's declaration that he "operated the quarry from the early 1970s until Mr. Dutra took over the quarry."

"Mr. Garman's declaration that he operated the quarry in the early 1970s is at variance with an April 1988 letter from the then-owner [Cullen] authorizing him to obtain a use permit and operate the quarry at that time.

"It appears to the court that Mr. Garman was confused in his declaration as to the date he commenced operation of the quarry.

"On the issue of whether the church conducted commercial surface mining operations during its ownership of the quarry, the declaration of Tracy Livingston ... [is] in conflict with that of Bud Garman. The court finds the Livingston ... declaration on this issue more reliable than the Garman declaration," Henderson wrote.

According to Mendocino County Deputy County Counsel Matt Kiedrowski, Henderson's ruling does not immediately affect Northern Aggregates' operation of the quarry, because Northern Aggregates has a use permit in place. A prior lawsuit, also filed by local citizens' group Keep the Code against Mendocino County, challenging the environmental impact report supervisors certified in connection with a Northern Aggregates request to renew the use permit, is still under litigation. Because that suit has not yet been adjudicated, the contested use permit is still valid.

"Northern Aggregates is operating legally at the present time," Kiedrowski said.

The rest of **Christmas**
From Page 6

daughter have since moved out of the area, so we're looking for a community member – or a group – to step up and help keep us in books."

Turner noted that books are a frequent request each year and should be appropriate for any of a range of ages between infant and 12 years old.

The bike program is still in swing, too, with veteran fixer Rick Maddox working away to ready 50 bikes for distribution on Christmas Eve through the Willits Community Christmas Program.

There's still time to sign families up for the program; those interested should contact teachers at school or church officials, or speak to Family Services, all of whom Turner is connected with and who know how to get people connected.

Or, Turner said: "I know some people may be embarrassed or uncomfortable contacting other agencies, and so therefore anyone wishing to speak directly to me can come to Rexall, or call me, and we can make sure to help anyone in need this holiday season."

While trees are being set up and tags are being filled, Turner and the crew will be hard at work getting things ready for the volunteer wrappers who will be gathering the second or third week of December.

"We love having people stop in and wanting to help," explained Turner. "We may not have anything right at that moment, but please come in and see what the program is about and how you can help when we're ready!"

Turner can be reached at 459-5827 or 490-8872.

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Jewelry • Gifts • Furniture • Imports
 Open November 27, 28, & 29 at 9 am

20 Highway 20 in Willits
 Sale valid November 27, 28 & 29
Mon-Fri: 10am-6pm Sat-Sun: 10am-5pm

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 Popular in the Bay Area and New York!

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Karen Gridley

Willits artist Karen Gridley "loves the meditative nature of sewing and believes that pieces made by hand express the love that lies in the heart." You will be able to see her colorful custom work for yourself at the 29th Annual Willits Holiday Craft Fair, December 11 to 13 at the Willits Community Center.

Karen Gridley came to her career as an artist slowly. After studying political science and international relations as a young woman, she joined the Peace Corps, which had her traveling to Africa. Africa became a learning ground for her as she returned over the years as a health educator. Among the many things she absorbed from Africans was their bold use of color and design. She loved how the native people created items of beauty that enriched their everyday lives. She envied the African tailor who worked with spontaneity with no written patterns. She has applied those pattern-making skills to her own craft.

Gridley's love of creating colorful and useful items led to her establishing her business over 25 years ago. Through trial and error, Gridley has honed her art into a line of custom-designed functional items such as bags, potholders and purses. Her potholders have become very popular as it becomes increasingly hard to find quality potholders.

Gridley shared that years ago she found it increasingly hard to find the durable quilted fabric she required. She found a way to control the quality by having her fabric quilted to her specifications. She purchases fabric locally, combines the fabric with backing to her liking, and then ships it to Kansas City, Missouri for custom quilting. This allows her the benefit of custom fabric and creates unique color combinations that she



Across the top: Hatmaker Tess McGuire models her own felted hats.

Above, top: Janae and Gary Stephens have over 85 years of combined experience in art to create their distinctive line of Organic Attire. Above: Janae and Gary Stephens' grandchildren, Arielle and Tristan, model Organic Attire clothing.



Far left: Karen Gridley's potholders are very popular! At left: Karen Gridley in her studio with her custom quilted fabric.

Photos by Jenny Senter

then uses for her quilted fabric designs.

This attention to detail also has her creating her own bias tape, with the help of local seamstress Thea Cohen, that she uses for edging. Her items are not only creations of love, but they truly are a one-of-a-kind! She is available for custom orders at 459-2101.

Tess McGuire, Hatmaker

Another fiber artist at the Holiday Craft Fair will be Kelseyville resident and hatmaker Tess McGuire. This busy woman spends a lot of her time traveling to art festivals, which she combines with visits to national parks, museums, and yarn and fabric shops. When not creating her beautiful hats, she enjoys remodeling houses, birding and hiking.

A native of Switzerland, McGuire moved to the U.S. in 1981 and Lake County in 2010. She started knitting when she was 6. As she went through school, she learned about professional design and finishing techniques. She applied this knowledge to making sweaters, socks, doll clothes and scarves.

She is a lifelong learner and continues to take classes in fiber arts and design. She discovered felting (or "filling," as the technical term for felting a knitted garment is known), after seeing a felted hat in a yarn shop. The process of creating felted hats fascinated her. It involves hot water, soap and friction to turn a loosely knitted fabric into a warm, solid and virtually waterproof garment.

Six years ago, McGuire started her business, Tess Read the rest of

Holiday Craft Fair
 Artisans offer locally made gifts and cheer at annual December show

By Jenny Senter, features writer

Craft Fair Over on Page 15

The rest of **CalFire** From Page 1

visit the CalFire website at www.fire.ca.gov, or check with your local agency.

Rowney also encourages north county residents to take advantage of the cooler months ahead to prepare for the 2016 fire season by creating 100 feet of defensible space around their homes. Detailed information on defensible space is available on the CalFire website, or contact CalFire Mendocino Unit Headquarters, at 459-7414.

The 2015 fire season has been an extremely active year, even more so than in 2014, California fire officials note. Statewide, CalFire and local agency

firefighters battled more than 5,900 wildfires within state responsibility areas that burned nearly 308,000 acres. That's more than 1,700 more wildfires this year than usual.

CalFire's Mendocino Unit responded to 120 wildfires that charred 388 acres.

"Residents are reminded to still take precautions outdoors in order to prevent sparking a wildfire," Rowney said. A leading cause of wildfires this time of year is from escaped landscape debris burning.

"Before you burn, ensure it's a permissive burn day by contacting the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District, and make sure you have any required burn permits," he said. "During

The rest of **Craft Fair** From Page 14

McGuire, Hatmaker, and has been experimenting with different shapes and colors for her hats ever since. She sells her felted hats at art shows all over California and the U.S. She finds the work is seasonal and makes about 1,000 hats between August and February each year. She sells her hats wholesale, retail, consignment, online, and through catalogs. Stop by McGuire's booth to see her hats or, for more information, visit her website at www.tessmcguirehats.com or contact her for more information at info@tessmcguirehats.com.

and trash cans to deposit the baggies. One of the great things about this walking opportunity is that you can drive right up to it and easily find a place to park, in the big parking lot between the Mendocino County Museum and the Willits Skate Park.

Brooktrails has a network of greenbelt hiking trails (the Brooktrails office has maps of the trails, although the office will be closed for the long weekend), as well as the Brooktrails Par Course. The par course features a small children's playground and some picnic tables, as well as benches along the way.

About halfway around the course, you'll enter the Ohl Redwood Grove, across a pretty wooden footbridge. You can park near Summer Lake – going up Sherwood Road, take the Birch Street left (with the left-turn lane), and then the second hairpin left off Birch. If you get to the Brooktrails Community Garden and Brooktrails Lodge, you've gone too far down Birch.

Another option, about 15 minutes east of downtown Willits, is the Little Darby Nature Trail, maintained by the Bureau of Land Management. Take East Commercial Street, which turns into Hearst-Willits Road, and then continues straight as Canyon Road. On Canyon Road, you'll pass the old Willits dump and the sign for the Wente Scout Reservation on your right, and then, on your left, you'll see the sign for Little Darby with its small parking lot.

Little Darby trail has two main loops: you can

The rest of **Petitions** From Page 1

Angelo, Orange, Placer, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Tehama counties.

The first phase of the process is circulating the initiative petition and getting enough valid signatures to place the measure on the ballot.

The second phase of the process takes place in the voting booth. In the June 2016 primary, if the measure qualifies for the ballot, election voters will be asked to vote on the question: Shall a charter commission be elected to propose a Mendocino County charter?

The same June primary ballot item will present names of people to be selected to serve on a commission to write the charter for the county. The top 15 vote-getters will be seated on the commission.

In the third phase of the process, the charter commission will write a charter for Mendocino County. The proposed county charter will be voted on during a future election, which constitutes the fourth phase of the process.

According to Ukiah activist Robin Sunbeam, a member of the Charter Project of Mendocino County: "The greatest advantage to being a charter county is that provisions of the charter have the same force and effect as state law. This means that whatever we write into the charter, once approved by the voters, will be like state law, but applicable only to our county."

Sunbeam gave as an example the provisions of Measure H, which voters passed in 2004 to ban genetically modified organisms in Mendocino County. She said if the state of California decides to disallow local bans on GMO crops, then the provisions of Measure H would become void. But if the provisions of Measure H are written into the proposed county charter and if voters approve that charter, then those anti-GMO provisions are inalienable – the state cannot later come along and throw them out.

Sunbeam suggested that other provisions – for instance including instant runoff voting as a regular feature of local elections – could be written into a county charter. She also claimed the commission could decide to include provisions in the charter that would prohibit people who live outside the county from contributing money to local political campaigns.

And finally, Sunbeam said being a charter county rather than a general law county, would "strengthen the case" for creating a public bank in Mendocino County.

The law in California regarding charter counties is not necessarily straightforward. The "County Structure and Powers" page on the California State Association of Counties website

burning, make sure piles of landscape debris are no larger than four feet in diameter, and provide a 10-foot clearance around to bare mineral soil around the burn pile. A responsible adult must be in attendance at all times with a water source and a shovel."

And CalFire Director Ken Pimlott reminded California residents to be especially careful of fire danger over the Thanksgiving holiday.

"Thanksgiving Day is often one of our busier days responding to home cooking fires; we would like to reduce that number by practicing a little extra fire safety," Pimlott said.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, three times as many home

cooking fires occur on Thanksgiving as on a typical day. Home cooking fires also spike on other major U.S. holidays, including Christmas Day, Christmas Eve and Memorial Day weekend.

"Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires," said State Fire Marshal Tonya Hoover. "That is why it is so important to 'keep an eye on what you fry' and stay in the kitchen when preparing your holiday meal so it isn't left unattended."

"And make sure you have working smoke alarms installed throughout your home," Hoover added.

This report was based on press releases from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

spend a leisurely hour hiking both the Forestland and the Brushland loops, or a half-hour hiking the Forestland loop alone. The well-maintained paths wind up and down the hill, but are not very steep: the path from the parking lot down to the end of the footbridge over the creek is the steepest grade on the walk.

The educational aspects of the hiking trail – attractive and informative signs along the way, describing the habitats and inhabitants of the preserve and including paintings by students at the Willits Charter School – make it a great hike for kids. You can take your dog, too: off-leash is OK, but only if your dog is "under your control at all times."

For more information about Little Darby visit www.blm.gov/cal/st/en/fo/arcata/little_darby.html.

Also on Friday, November 27, thanks to Save the Redwoods League, day-use admission to the 49 redwood parks that are part of the California State Parks system is free.

"Thanksgiving is a great American tradition," said Sam Hodder, president and chief executive officer of Save the Redwoods League. "This year, Save the Redwoods League wants to make it even better. We are starting a new tradition for Black Friday. We invite everyone to experience the moments of joy, renewal and inspiration that you'll find among our natural wonders, the ancient giant redwoods."

(And who's to say you can't enjoy the

describes the degree of "home rule" enjoyed by charter counties as limited.

"Charter counties, on the other hand, have a limited degree of 'home rule' authority that may provide for the election, compensation, terms, removal and salary of the governing board; for the election or appointment (except for the sheriff, the district attorney and assessor, who must be elected), compensation, terms and removal of all county officers; for the powers and duties of all officers; and for the consolidation and segregation of county offices. A charter does not give county officials extra authority over local regulations, revenue-raising abilities, budgetary decisions or intergovernmental relations."

The California state code section on charter counties agrees that, when a county adopts a charter, "the general laws adopted by the [state] Legislature ... shall, as to such county, be superseded by said charter." But, the code goes on to say: "as to matters for which, under this section it is competent to make provision in such charter, and for which provision is made therein, except as herein otherwise expressly provided."

Peter J. Egler, then-reference librarian at the Sacramento County Law Library, in a paper about teaching legal research, described the "matters" a charter county has purview over as "local affairs," but noted: "State laws take precedence over home rule charter ordinances as to matters that are not local affairs," and "home rule charters don't override the state's constitution."

Egler concluded: "There has been a large amount of litigation in the state of California debating what constitutes a local affair."

Dead and standing trees

The second petition currently circulating deals with the "hack-and-squirt" forestry practice, by declaring trees left standing for more than 90 days a public nuisance, and stating landowners with said trees are liable to pay costs to property owners who suffer damages.

The phrase "hack and squirt" refers to a treatment for tan oak trees in commercial forests, in which the prolific tan oaks are cut open with an axe or hatchet and an herbicide – usually Imazapyr – is squirted into the wound. The treated trees die within four months and are routinely left standing in the forest.

Mendocino Redwood Company, the county's largest private landowner, has stated it has treated more than 65,000 acres of its timberlands, and probably more than one million tan oak trees, with this practice over the past 15 years. MRC notes the dead and standing trees usually fall over within four years. Once fallen, the trees begin to decompose into the forest

redwoods after a morning of shopping the Black Friday deals?)

Many of the redwood parks to the south of us (and also Humboldt Redwoods State Park to the north) have already reached day-use capacity for Friday, due to this special promotion, but as of press-time, passes are still available for these Mendocino County redwood parks: Admiral William Standley State Recreation Area, Hendy Woods State Park, Jug Handle State Reserve, Mailliard Redwoods State Natural Reserve, Mendocino Headlands State Park, Mendocino Woodlands State Park, Montgomery Woods State Reserve, Navarro River Redwoods State Park, Russian Gulch State Park, Sinkyone Wilderness State Park, Smithe Redwoods State Reserve, the Standish-Hickey State Recreation Area and Van Damme State Park.

To download a free day pass – and for more information about our North Coast parks, including a beautiful brochure about the redwoods and a map – visit www.savetheredwoods.org/get-involved/visit/redwood-parks-pass/#parks.

And one last easy suggestion: bring the kids to City Park and let them play, while walking around all four sides of the park: If you go around four times, you'll have achieved a one-mile walk! Thanks to Elizabeth at Brooktrails Township, whose mother measured the park, for this easy Willits walking tip.

floor, adding duff which the company maintains is beneficial to moisture retention and nutrient recycling.

Some county residents are concerned these vast areas of dead and standing trees have created an unacceptable risk for fire danger.

The petition declares "trees greater in height than 5 meters, intentionally killed and left standing for more than 90 days, are a public nuisance, and the party responsible shall be liable for any resulting damage" when the tree is 1.) within 1,000 meters from critical infrastructure (such as public and private roads, driveways, fire lanes; telecommunication infrastructure; electrical infrastructure; water sources, including rivers, creeks, ponds, lakes; 2.) within 1,000 meters of a structure; and 3.) within a CalFire State Responsibility Area.

According to initiative petition proponent Ted Williams, chief of the Albion-Little River Fire Protection District, the language in the petition "safeguards firefighters from unnecessary manufactured hazards and residents from loss of critical infrastructure, including escape routes and telecommunications lifelines. It effectively places people before profit, shifting damage losses from the citizens to the corporations who stand to profit from radical forest management practices."

"It's about industry accountability," Williams said. For more about the ballot initiative, visit the Citizens for Fire Safe Forests website at www.citizensforfiresafeforests.com/ordinance.

Bob Mertz, CEO of Mendocino Redwood Company, claimed in a letter on the MRC website that what the company terms "fill treatment" (and which opponents of the practice term "hack and squirt") is "crucial to restoring the extraordinary public and private forests in our county."

Mertz said that rather than implementing another layer of laws and regulations, concerned citizens should participate in the Fire Safe Working Group created by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors in spring 2015. He also recommended concerned citizens take a tour of MRC forestlands.

People who want to tour the company's lands are invited to call MRC at 463-5113.

MRC's website also states the company is committed to lowering its reliance on herbicides. "The trend, however, is a reduction in herbicide use over the long-term. We are committed to phasing out the use of chemical herbicides as a routine management tool, in keeping with Forest Stewardship Council principles as we transition toward uneven-aged silvicultural regimes," the website states.

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Willits Bypass Progress

At left: Looking south over the northern interchange and the start of the viaduct. Above: The main on-ramps and off-ramps that make up the northern interchange. The current Highway 101 is in the shade of the trees at the top right of the photo.



Above: Looking south across northeastern Willits. Sparetime Supply's warehouse can be seen to the right in the photo. East Valley runs under the new bypass just out of frame on the left side of the photo. At left: Looking west over the southern interchange. Cars travel on the current Highway 101 on the left side of the photo. At left, below: Another view of the southern interchange, more to the southwest. Below, left: The old Coleman Ranch, on the north side of West Commercial as it runs under the new bypass. Below, right: These red containers at the northern interchange are part of a water treatment system designed to keep sediment out of the creek.

Photos taken November 23, 2015 by Maureen Moore



CHRISTMAS train



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