

Willits Weekly

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits
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Willits Environmental Center to shut its doors

Jennifer Poole
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After 25 years, the Willits Environmental Center office in downtown Willits is closing its doors. In a letter to members, the WEC's board of directors described the decision to give up the office as "agonizing."

"We have been wrestling with this decision for over a year," the letter reads, "but are now finally able and willing to face the present reality that none of us on the board is prepared to launch into any new projects at this time that would justify the cost of keeping our present office space."

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Woodhouse on new medical marijuana committee

Mike A'Dair
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Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse has been named to a new medical marijuana ad hoc committee, along with Second District Supervisor John McCowen. Both supervisors also served on last year's ad hoc committee on the economic impacts of cannabis in Mendocino County.

According to Woodhouse, the purpose of the committee is to create a medical marijuana pilot project for Mendocino County that conforms to new state law on medical

Read the rest of **Pot**
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Mental health board feels Cryer performing well

Mike A'Dair
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John Wetzler, chairman of the Mendocino County Mental Health Advisory Board, said most mental health board members seemed happy with the performance of Interim Mental Health Director Stacey Cryer at the October board meeting.

Cryer, director of the county's Health and Human Services Agency, became interim director of mental health when former director

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Above: Kenan Oshea carries a tree down the sidewalk. At right, the lamppost crew, from left: Logan Gamble, Kenan Oshea, Bill Wilson and Brian Fields, with Darin Bowlds in the bucket.



Here come the holidays

Four dedicated Willits City Public Works guys braved the mist and Willits Weekly paparazzi Wednesday morning to hang the traditional bell, present, tree and snowflake lamppost decorations from Commercial Street to the Willits Arch, officially welcoming the holiday season to Willits. In the evening hours, the blinking lights create a festive atmosphere for local shopping, dining or strolling downtown, and during the day they are a colorful contrast to the sometimes-gray skies.



The "Lamppost Sleigh" heads down Main Street.
 Photos by Maureen Moore



Darin Bowlds carefully places a bell, far left, and a tree, left, onto downtown lampposts.

Willits Toy Run

23rd annual Willits Toy Run was one of the best events yet

Walking up to the Toy Run party at the Little Lake Grange Sunday, the line of people holding toys waiting to get in snaked out the door and down the street.

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Inside, the joint was jumping, with tables filled with diners with plates heaped high, drinks being ordered, the band playing, and a crowd buying raffle tickets for one of the most plentiful local raffles of the year.

Leather and Harley Davidson patches were everywhere,

with plenty of corsets, too – accented with Santa hats and jingle bells.

The pile of toys in the hallway was huge – the only price of admission to the Toy Run party every year is one unwrapped children's toy. "We got the nicest collection of toys we've ever seen," said the Toy Run's Bear Kamaroff. "Not only the biggest pile, but high-quality toys. We saw people bringing bags of toys, and bikers riding with toys

More of **Toy Run** | Over on Page B1



Handley envisions old HMH as mental health facility

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Willits resident Margie Handley, who joined the county's Mental Health Advisory Board about six months ago, is a woman on a mission. That mission is to convert the old Howard

Read the rest of **Handley**
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City starts envisioning a 'new' Main Street

Damian Sebouhian
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With construction of the Willits bypass 87 percent complete as of November 20, according to Caltrans' latest update to the Willits City Council, the City of Willits must decide in the coming months what it wants Main Street to look like after Caltrans turns it over to the city.

Read the rest of **Main Street**
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State rejects county jail expansion funding

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The Board of State and Community Corrections has rejected a \$20 million grant request that would have allowed the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office to expand its Low Gap Road jail in Ukiah.

Sheriff Tom Allman learned of the decision

Read the rest of **Jail**
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MRC operating practices recertified

Mike A'Dair
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Mendocino Redwood Company has been recertified as operating in compliance with the standards of California's Forest Stewardship Council.

The inspection visit to the company's offices and lands took place in mid-August; the report was finalized on November 13. The report was written by

Read the rest of **MRC**
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Be aware of fraudulent automated phone calls

To the Editor:

The Savings Bank of Mendocino County has received numerous reports from people with 707 area code phone numbers who are receiving fraudulent automated phone calls indicating their bank card has been blocked. It appears these calls are not targeting any specific financial institution.

If you receive one of these calls, it is important that you do not provide any personal or card information. If you have received an automated phone call and have provided personal or card information, please contact your financial institution right away.

Savings Bank wants our customers to know that the bank does not make automated phone calls and will not call customers to activate their debit cards or to ask for account or card information. The bank will call customers if there is unusual activity, and it is suspected to be fraud. In this case, the calls are made in person, not automated.

The fraudsters appear to be using technology which allows them to falsify phone numbers in caller ID, referred to as "caller ID spoofing." This practice causes the telephone network to indicate to the receiver of a call that the originator of the call is a station other than the true originating station.

At Savings Bank, account security is a top priority, and we remain committed as ever to protect your personal and financial information and privacy.

Savings Bank of Mendocino County

Open letter to members and supporters of the Willits Environmental Center

To the Editor:

At a special meeting of the Willits Environmental Center Board of Directors on Monday, October 26, the board made the agonizing decision to close our office in downtown Willits.

We have been wrestling with this difficult decision for over a year, but are now finally able and willing to face the present reality that none of us on the board is prepared to launch into new projects at this time that would justify the cost of keeping our present office space, or to carry out the necessary regular fundraising to keep the doors open.

The board wants to acknowledge the fact that during our membership drive of the last several months over 70 people have become new members or renewed their lapsed memberships.

We're especially appreciative of board members Dave Beebe and Autumn Kessner, who maintained a presence at the Willits Farmers Market this season where they shared information about the WEC's work and recruited many new members.

However, as much as we need new members, we also need new energy ... people eager to enter the fray of actively protecting our natural environment. As much as the board wishes we could just keep pushing on, we as individuals need a break from the demands of being the "first responder" when our natural ecosystems are threatened.

However, because each of us remains committed to working in some way to protect the natural environment, the board voted unanimously to keep the WEC organization alive, even if in a contracted form for now. The Willits Environmental Center will maintain its non-profit status and continue to operate in accordance with our mission and bylaws.

We will remain a membership organization. The membership will continue to elect the board of directors at the annual meeting, and the board will continue to meet on a regular basis. The WEC will maintain an address and phone number, and will stay in touch with members via mailings as needs arise.

Several board members have expressed interest in

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

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What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

creating a website as a way of keeping the organization's doings and/or commentary accessible to members and the public.

But why step back now?

As most of you know, atmospheric CO2 build-up, global warming and potentially catastrophic climate change is the over-arching environmental issue facing humanity, including us! So, you may ask, "How can the WEC close its doors now, just when so many people are beginning to recognize the environmental consequences of climate change and the need to do something about it?" Excellent question, and the question the board has been asking itself every day for over a year.

As our long-time members will also know, since 1992 the WEC has been in the thick of trying to halt, or dramatically shrink the size and impacts of the Willits bypass project, an iconic example of why humanity is facing the frightening consequences of global warming. You can read past newsletters, or talk to board members for a detailed account of our efforts to move the powers that be, from the Willits City Council on up, to support an appropriate fix to the traffic congestion in Willits, including an appropriately scaled bypass if necessary. You'll also learn how we succeeded in stalling, and almost extinguishing this grossly over-sized bypass project through political organizing, education, nurturing the respect of some key decision-makers, including regulatory agency staffers and the 2005 director of Caltrans.

In the end, though, we were overwhelmed by a simple but all-powerful political reality – the City of Willits wanted a bypass. This consistent local support for a bypass and apparent disregard for the consequences to the natural environment made it possible for Caltrans to have its way and foist this irreversible assault on our community and our valley.

It is in this context that we board members need a break. We are emotionally worn-down by this long, and at least for Willits and the ecosystem of Little Lake Valley, unsuccessful effort. We need time to regain our balance from the fact that the City of Willits courted, welcomed and now seems proud of what any environmentalist can see as a local tragedy and a glaring example of why we are marching toward the climate precipice.

Willits chose an oversized freeway instead of internal traffic fixes: blithely ignored 395,000 tons of CO2 emissions from just the roadway construction alone; sanctioned the waste of its precious wetlands; seemed unconcerned about the damage to the valley's farmland and salmon and steelhead streams; never blinked at the loss of ancient valley oaks; and remained silent while much of the valley's native American heritage was decimated.

Willits missed a landmark opportunity to be part of the solution, and instead choose to ignore reasonable alternatives brought to the city's attention by local environmentalists year after year. Willits gave its support to a bypass project designed to handle 10 times the current traffic, a vision that if realized will contribute to an increasingly frightening future for our children and all life on the planet.

WEC's stepping back from the public "limelight" of environmental activism for now, however, has its positive side. We will leave open a space for others to fill, which can be a very good and even necessary thing.

So, please join us December 12 to say good-bye to our beautiful home of the last nine years; to celebrate 25 years of actually making things happen in this community and beyond; and to share your plans, large or small, for future activism.

If you have saved WEC newsletters or other memorabilia over the years and want to donate them to the WEC archives, please do so! We are collecting items that will help us tell the story of what the WEC has accomplished (and tried to accomplish) over these last 25 years and compile them into a written history at some point. Thank you.

WEC board members: Dave Beebe, Greg Byers, Thayer Craig, Rosamond Crowder, Ellen and David Drell, Autumn Kessner, and Craig Whitaker

Sherwood tribe's letter to Caltrans

To the Editor:

By this [November 25, 2015] letter [to Mike Bartlett, Willits Environmental Project manager, California Department of Transportation], Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo, a federally-recognized, sovereign Indian tribe and consulting party to the Willits Bypass Project pursuant to Section 101(d)(6)(B) of the National Historic Preservation Act is providing its formal notification that it cannot and will not sign the October 29, 2015 Caltrans-authored Draft Final WBP Programmatic Agreement.

In brief, SVBP does not believe the PA package provides a legally compliant, professionally responsible, or culturally appropriate process for identifying, assessing, and/or resolving adverse effects to historic properties that may be discovered or inadvertently affected during the implementation of the WBP. Moreover, SVBP's Tribal Council takes issue with Caltrans' new characterization of the consultation efforts that have occurred for the WBP.

Sherwood Valley's leadership also cannot abide the protocols included in the PA's Post-Review Discovery and Monitoring Plan and ESA Action Plan related to tribal monitoring. SVBP fought to become an invited signatory to the PA and has worked for years – and spent significant monies – with an eye towards signing the PA.

While the tribe has always intended to be a party to the PA, faced with an offensive agreement document and Caltrans' arrogant "take it or leave it" ultimatum, the tribe has been left with no option but to not sign.

The problematic Post-Review Discovery and Monitoring Plan

As clearly indicated in our September 2, 2015 letter to Caltrans, SVBP's Tribal Council cannot agree to or accept the definitions and thresholds Caltrans desires to implement regarding what constitutes (1) an archaeological site worthy of assessment and (2) a historic property, as defined by Section 106 of the NHPA and National Register of Historic Places bulletins. Specifically, as we have previously made known to Caltrans, SVBP finds that Caltrans' current PRDM Plan:

- Creates an inappropriately and unjustifiably high artifact density standard for what constitutes an archaeological site worthy of in-field NRHP-eligibility assessment;
- Sets a NRHP-eligibility standard for all featureless archaeological sites that is unrealistic and uncharacteristic of the archaeology of the Little Lake Valley; and
- Fails to require the minimum levels of effort and standards of practice that are necessary for Extended Phase I or Phase II archaeological investigations or Phase III data recovery.

In short, the PA and PRDM Plan simply will not protect or responsibly manage historic properties within the WBP APE. What the implementation of the PRDM Plan will do is: (1) appreciably limit the number of archaeological deposits found within the WBP APE that will meet the threshold for in-field assessment; (2) significantly decrease the number of archaeological sites within the WBP APE that will meet the threshold for post-review discovery/NRHP-eligible status; (3) greatly limit the amount of archaeological investigation and effort applied to data recovery; and (4) drastically diminish Caltrans' consultation obligations with SVBP, as well as the other consulting Tribes and agencies moving forward.

Equally troubling is how Caltrans arrived at this current version of the PRDM Plan. Rather than proceeding with the version of the PRDM Plan that Caltrans and SVBP had co-created in 2014, and thus agreed upon, Caltrans unilaterally re-wrote the PRDM Plan after February 2015 to purposefully excise any true historic property protections.

SVBP registered its copious concerns about the new direction of the PRDM Plan in its April 30, 2015 comments to Caltrans – comments which were echoed in no less than six subsequent communications with your agency from May-July 2015.

Caltrans' response to our entreaties was to further strengthen the agency's position, entrenching itself in thoroughly self-serving PRDM protocols. The ruinous and reprehensible result is a PRDM Plan that effectively circumvents agency responsibilities under 36 CFR 800 and the 2014 Statewide Section 106 Programmatic Agreement.

We can only hope that both the California Office of Historic Preservation and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation also recognize the October 29, 2015 version of the PRDM Plan for what it truly is – a vehicle and strategy by which Caltrans can eschew ever having to assess, avoid, mitigate, or consult about another inadvertent discovery of cultural resources across the Little Lake Valley for the remainder of the undertaking. What it most certainly is not

Read the rest of [Letters](#) | [Over on Page 4](#)

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'Mortalis'

Malakai Schindel's paintings and steampunk art featured at WCA

Upon asking Malakai Schindel what genre of art he is active in, you immediately realize the better question would be "What don't you do?" You'll get a much shorter answer.

"I don't play the accordion," he'll tell you. "That's pretty much it."

Malakai Schindel has been a fixture in the Mendocino County art and music scene for over 20 years and will be showing his latest (as well as some older) work from Saturday, December 5 through December at the Willits Center for the Arts.

There is hardly an art medium Malakai does not play in, from majestic, vibrantly colored oil on canvas to steam punk sculptures like guns, masks, and accessories that evoke an anachronistic theme.

"I started [with steampunk] somewhere around nine or 10 years ago, just before I knew it was a genre of art," Malakai said, adding that he doesn't necessarily consider all his work steampunk, per se. "The pieces are supposed to invoke an implied mythology; there's a story or universe where these things are actually used, so it certainly fits in the genre of fantasy with a sci-fi, yet retro look to it."

What most people throw away as useless junk, in Malakai's hands, is transformed into elaborate pieces of art. He incorporates an endless range of items from broken toys to vacuum cleaner tubes, gears, and even a broken punch-clock donated from Paradise Juice. His art studio is overflowing with an array of found objects, just waiting to be incorporated into an art piece.

One of his latest works-in-progress is a giant metallic

spider fashioned from an old TV tube projector, a child's learning toy, a flashlight headlamp, a Star Wars toy ship, and a can of WD-40. Employing a blow torch, he melts the found objects in place to shape an altogether new form, while keeping the integrity of the original source material. All one needs to do is look closely enough, and one can recognize the components.

"Some objects have a shape that will suggest the shape of another object," Malakai explained. "They can go together in a cohesive way so that one shape or form will lead into another."

While working, Malakai will often don a steampunk outfit. "The process involves a steam punk ideal where you're actually wearing goggles and a respirator, and you look like a mad scientist," he mused.

One of his non-steampunk sculptures is a dragon head fashioned from – among other things – a deer vertebra, a turkey breast bone, a coconut frond and a plethora of golf tees standing in for teeth.



Above, from left: "Mortalis," "Rebirth," and "Golden Dragon."
Artist Malakai Schindel holding his "Golden Dragon" sculpture.
Photo by Damian Sebouhian

Malakai first discovered his love for art back in the eighth grade during a mural project his teacher orchestrated. He was immediately fascinated by the mural style, and after graduating from high school, he enrolled into Cal Arts in Los Angeles for a semester, where he met and studied under Michael Miller.

"[Miller] was a great influence on my development as a young painter," Malakai said. "When I came back to Willits, I painted the Saint Francis mural." (That mural is painted on the west side of what is now the St. Francis

Read the rest of [Mortalis](#) | [Over on Page 4](#)

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in the Redwoods Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall just east of the new church at the corner of Commercial and Highway 101. The mural can be seen as the cover photo on the "St. Francis in the Redwoods, Willits, CA" Facebook page.)

Among his over 30 completed murals are also "Diversity Dragon," located at the Willits High School Plaza, "Cesar Chavez" at the Ukiah Community Center, "Mendocino County" on the south-facing wall of J.D. Redhouse, and of course, the series of Skunk Train murals at the Willits Depot.

Malakai's murals aren't limited to exteriors, either. "I just finished a kid's room," he said. "It's an entire forest that wraps around the whole room with redwood trees, forest animals, waterfalls and mountains."

One newer, untitled work to be shown at the Art Center was painted by Malakai on stage during a music event at Frey Vineyard. "It was done while several bands performed over the course of an entire afternoon; if you look closely you can see some of the musical elements that were involved."

Although most of his work steers clear of political commentary, he acknowledged there will at least be one piece at the gallery that "will probably ruffle some feathers."

The opening for Malakai's show at the

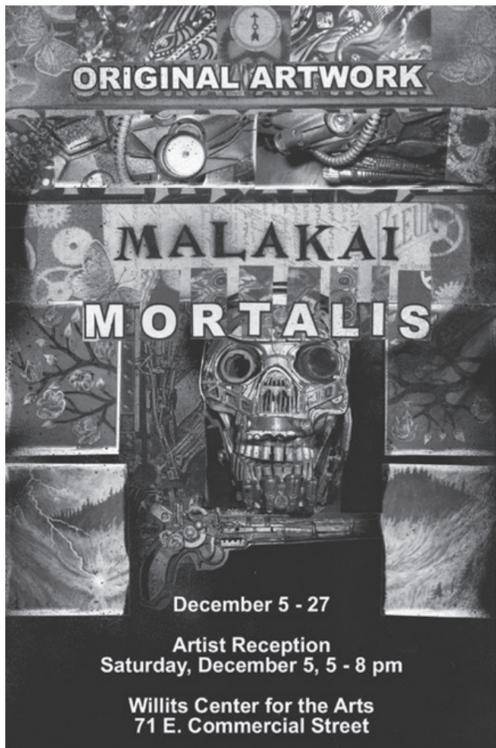


At right: The upcoming show's poster. Below: "Untitled."

Willits Center for the Arts is Saturday, December 5 with an artist's reception from 5 to 8 pm. Many of his pieces will be for sale to the public.

For more information about Malakai's art and music, visit his website at www.malakaischindel.com.

The Willits Center for the Arts is located at 71 East Commercial Street next to the Noyo Theatre. Info: 459-1726, or visit <http://willitscenterforthearts.org>.



is a customized set of alternate procedures for the WBP that upholds the NHPA and its implementing regulations.

The mischaracterization of consultation

At some point after Caltrans circulated the July 2, 2015 draft of the PA to the consulting parties and before the provision of the October 29, 2015 version, Caltrans unilaterally decided to rewrite the fourth "Whereas" clause on page 1 of the PA to indicate, as you [Mike Bartlett, Willits Environmental Project manager] wrote in your October 29 letter to SVBP, that "Caltrans has continuously consulted with the parties since 2005 on matters concerning cultural resources."

To be blunt, SVBP finds this alteration to PA language (that was previously agreed upon by all parties from February 2015-July 2015) to be nothing more than a blatant, politically motivated misrepresentation of the truth. Caltrans very well knows that there was a near complete lack of post-2005 consultation between the tribe and Caltrans. SVBP has voiced its great displeasure with this lack of consultation clearly and emphatically in both meetings and formal written correspondence between the parties from April 2013 until today.

These facts directly contradict the revisionist history Caltrans now desires to memorialize in "Whereas" clause #4 of the PA. SVBP's Tribal Council unequivocally rejects the PA for so blatantly misrepresenting the historic consultation relationship between our parties. SVBP also has no desire to support Caltrans in what it sees as your agency's attempt to appropriate portions of the PA for the purpose of perpetuating and legitimizing its WBP-based propaganda and/or providing your agency with a ready, albeit fraudulent, defense in your lawsuit with the other consulting tribes on this project.

The abuse of tribal monitors and monitoring

Given the history of the WBP, tribal monitoring is not only of utmost importance to SVBP, but is essential to the responsible stewardship of tribal cultural resources within and adjacent to Mitom Kai (Little Lake Valley). This is evidenced by the discussions at consultation meetings held between Caltrans and SVBP in 2013, the 2013 Monitoring Agreement between Caltrans and SVBP, and the various written protocols created and implemented by Caltrans project archaeologists from 2013-2014.

The foundation of the WBP tribal monitoring program has been that SVBP's monitors are permitted generally unencumbered access to the project APE so as to be "the eyes and ears" of the tribe in the field. These monitors serve to help ensure that previously undocumented cultural resources located in undisturbed soils are identified in a timely manner and protected until more thorough and proper in-field investigations can be undertaken.

The tribal monitors are also to oversee the archaeological efforts on the WBP to help identify any artifacts or features of special concern or interest. Additionally, since the winter of 2013, SVBP's monitors have worked on the WBP to help ensure that documented cultural resources are adequately protected via in-field ESA demarcations and frequent ESA checks and maintenance.

Notwithstanding the important role of tribal monitors, we have made Caltrans aware numerous times over the past three years (the most recent being during the July 15, 2015 WBP PA multiparty conference call) that SVBP's monitors do not speak for the tribe, have not been designated Page 3 of 6 as tribal representatives for Section 106-based consultation, and cannot formally speak to the appropriateness of archaeological work plans or data recovery plans in lieu of the Tribal Council.

Indeed, at Caltrans' request, by e-mail dated July 22, 2015, SVBP provided Caltrans with detailed information regarding the limitations on tribal monitors' authority on the WBP based upon their independent contractor agreements with SVBP. The PA and PRDM Plan, however, seek to assign Section 106-based consultation and decision-making authority to tribal monitors that they are not permitted to assume.

More importantly, the Section 106 regulations do not Pg.4 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Willits Weekly | December 3, 2015

authorize this; pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2(c)(2)(ii)(B-C), Caltrans cannot delegate our Tribal Council's government-to-government consultation rights to our monitors.

Caltrans' presumptuous and audacious actions can only be viewed as an attempt to greatly limit, if not completely circumvent, dialogue with SVBP's leadership. This egregious violation of 36 CFR 800 alone makes the whole of the WBP PA unexecutable. Furthermore, the tribe cannot sign the PA, as it intentionally subverts the previously described, proper and historic use of tribal monitors and monitoring on the WBP.

Specifically, the PRDM Plan and ESA Action Plan place unnecessarily rigid encumbrances on the tribal monitors that greatly limit their effectiveness, including:

- The provision of second-, if not third-hand, reports regarding ground disturbing activities within the WBP APE, in lieu of permitting tribal monitor presence at all weekly held construction- and mitigation-based meetings;
- Caltrans' refusal to provide tribal monitors with updated APE maps and construction-based plans;
- Caltrans' removal of tribal monitors from any ESA-based installations, checks, and/or maintenance;
- Caltrans' refusal to permit tribal monitors to freely check the totality of the APE to ascertain if contractors are undertaking unreported ground disturbance in native soils without monitors present, a problem that continually plagues this project; and
- Caltrans' requirement that tribal monitors seek permission from Caltrans or its contractors to even be on the job site, and then, after arrival, seek permission to observe an activity, move from one duty station to another, and leave for the day.

Additionally, SVBP is fully aware that Caltrans' inclusion of language in the PRDM Plan which gives the appearance of respect, partnership and shared power toward and with our tribal monitors is nothing more than duplicitous double-speak.

The true role that Caltrans intends for the tribal monitors to play has become evident based on recent agency practices. According to your own archaeology- and monitoring-based communications from March 2015-November 2015, while Caltrans has repeatedly stated that it is actively implementing the PRDM Plan, during this same nine-month period, our tribal monitors have endured: (1) the dismissal of every question about insufficient archaeological levels of effort; (2) the rejection of every concern about unmonitored ground disturbance in native soils; (3) the maligning of their character, harassment, and damage to personal property; and (4) the refusal of payment for services rendered.

Ultimately, SVBP is greatly concerned that the proper role and respect for tribal monitors on the WBP is not recognized. Caltrans' palpable and unabated contempt toward the tribal monitors has been made clear not only by your agency's spiteful treatment towards them and disparagement of their character, but also by Caltrans' scheme, as codified in the PRDM Plan, to hijack the tribal monitoring for your agency's own selfish ends.

After all, if executed, the PA will permit Caltrans to continue to abuse the individual persons of the tribal monitors and collectively treat them as second-class citizens, while simultaneously co-opting their very presence on the project to shield your agency from undertaking proper consultation with council and conducting professionally- and ethically-best archaeological investigations.

And, what's more, Caltrans knows full well that it can make overtures regarding tribal monitoring on paper that it has no intention of upholding in practice. After all, for the last nine months, Caltrans has blithely stated all that is acceptable and proper with regard to tribal monitoring in multiparty communications, and then renounced the very same in practice, in the field, with no defense or recompense for those individuals and resources your agency and its representatives have railroaded.

In short, SVBP finds the PRDM Plan to be nothing more than a shameless bit of self-preservation and promotion and one that should not be entertained, much less

formalized, as part of the WBP PA.

Conclusion

SVBP's Tribal Council not only emphatically disagrees with, but challenges, Caltrans' October 29 description of its PA-based efforts to date as "sincere," "satisfactory," "[considerate] of all parties' comments and concerns," and "in line with Section 106."

As evidenced by the content of this letter, SVBP has found the 2015 deliberations with Caltrans on the subject of the WBP PA to be disingenuous, disrespectful, exasperating, and in violation of both the letter and the spirit of the NHPA and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800; Executive Orders 13175 and 12898; President Obama's 2009 Executive Memorandum on Tribal Consultation; USDOT's 1999 Order 5301.1; ACHP's 2012 Consultation with Indian Tribes in the Section 106 Process Handbook; and Caltrans Director's Policy #19 titled "Working with Native American Communities" and your agency's own Standard Environmental Reference.

Furthermore, SVBP is greatly alarmed by the complete lack of institutional integrity that Caltrans has illustrated in 2015. Agreements made in good faith during consultation conducted in 2014 were unjustifiably abandoned, without explanation, leaving council with a PRDM Plan (and, thus, PA) that bears little to no resemblance to its 2014 precursors.

This "bait and switch" behavior is one that has long been used on indigenous people. And, when we think about the state of the WBP PA, the words of Red Cloud come to mind: "They made us many promises, more than I can remember, but they never kept but one; they promised to take our land, and they took it."

Tribal Council can only hope that the words we have shared in this communication will result in Caltrans revisiting and remedying the problematic and objectionable PA package it has hoisted upon our community. However, if Caltrans chooses to continue to ignore our concerns and act in an unethical manner, know that adverse memories of the WBP will forever inform and affect our relationship with your agency.

Understand that Caltrans has committed great harm to our ancestors' legacy – their handprints and footprints on the landscape. Your agency has also generated bad faith amongst our current leadership and staff. This knowledge will precede Caltrans in every communication it has with our community henceforth. It will also follow your agency when meeting with our indigenous brothers and sisters across this state.

Caltrans will not be permitted to forget the treachery and travesty it has committed for generations to come. And, respect and trust, if ever re-built, will come exceedingly slowly and at a great cost. That alone will be Caltrans' legacy on the Willits Bypass Project.

In closing, echoing the words of Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce: "It makes my heart sick when I remember all the good words and the broken promises. I am tired of talk that comes to nothing."

Mike Knight, chairman, Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians Tribal Council

cc: Chairman Michael Hunter, Coyote Valley Band of Pomo; President James Russ, Round Valley Indian Tribes; Vincent Mammano, California Division, Federal Highway Administration; Charlie Fielder, District 1, California Department of Transportation; Charlene Dwin Vaughn, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; MaryAnn Naber, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; Julianne Polanco, California State Historic Preservation Officer; Congressman Jared Huffman, CA-2nd District; Cynthia Gomez, Governor's Tribal Advisor & Executive Secretary, Native American Heritage Commission; Sahrye Cohen, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-San Francisco District; JoAnn Dunn, California Department of Fish and Wildlife; Brendan Thompson, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board



Community enjoys free **Thanksgiving dinner**

Four hundred and thirty people sat down to a delicious, free Thanksgiving dinner at the Harrah Senior Center on Thanksgiving Day.

The 26th annual feast was notable, in part, because of the smoothness of the operations. "Everything has been going smoothly. There's a lot of new people in the volunteer crews," said Jim Marill, executive director

of Willits Community Services and Food Bank, which coordinates and sponsors the dinner. "Chamberlain Creek did their thing, and we're always very grateful for that."

The Chamberlain Creek Conservation Creek crew members help cook the Thanksgiving dinner every year, with volunteer drivers picking up the roasted turkeys and

more from the Highway 20 facility, run jointly by CalFire and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and delivering the feast to the senior center.

According to Marill, about 70 community members volunteered to be part of the kitchen crew this year.

Ursula Partch, who covers the proceedings of the Mendocino County Employees Retirement Association for Willits Weekly, was the coordinator of the kitchen crew. Partch also said things were running smoothly. "The kitchen is running like clockwork, or so I'm told," Partch said.

Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse was in the kitchen, loading and unloading the dishwashing machine. "This is the most fun I've ever had," Woodhouse said.

The Willits Food Bank donated 36 turkeys, 25 pounds of carrots, two cases of celery, eight pounds of green onions, 300 pounds of tomatoes, 50 pounds of yellow onions, 18 cans of cranberries, 36 cans of green beans, 36 cans of yams, 84 pounds of stuffing, 11 gallons of salad dressing, eight gallons of milk, 30 pounds of butter, 15 pounds of flour, four pounds of salt and 25 pounds of sugar to the feast.

In addition, there were 100 pies on hand and 36 cans of whipped cream.

Marill said that while the Food Bank bought some of the food, much came from donations. "A lot was donated by 101 Drive In, and most of the rest was from individual donations," Marill said.

Marill also shared a comment he had been told about by one of the volunteers. Someone who was on the floor serving people overheard a man say to his wife, "We don't often get food like this. The people here in Willits are so loving."



Above, from left: Tables of happy Thanksgiving guests enjoyed the dinner. Supervisor Tom Woodhouse has fun loading up the dishwasher.

At left: WCS Director Jim Marill, at left, board member John Wagenet, and Pat Collins, community volunteer and former executive director of WCS. Kitchen volunteer Judy Folkes-Newton with a big pot of yams.

Below, from left: Diane Smalley and Anna Wilson work in the senior center kitchen. Volunteers Pat Norris, at left, and Diana Hoyt, with WCS board member John Wagenet.

Photos by Anita Blu



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THE GOOD DINOSAUR
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Sat/Sun: 12:30, 3:00, 5:30 & 8:00pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:30 & 7:00pm

HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PT 2
(PG 13) 2 hrs 17 mins
Fri: 5:15 & 8:15pm
Sat/Sun: 2:15, 5:15 & 8:15pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:15 & 7:15pm

CREED
(PG13) 2 hrs 13 mins
Fri: 4:30 & 7:30pm
Sat/Sun: 1:30, 4:30 & 7:30pm
Mon-Thurs: 4:30 & 7:30pm

Movie Times for 12/4 thru 12/10
This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in RED - All tickets: \$5

Thursday December 3

“Light Up a Life”: the 12th annual community celebration hosted by Phoenix Hospice, “to honor and remember those we care about and love.” Set for Thursday, December 3 at 6 pm in the Seabiscuit Conference Room at the new Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital, 1 Marcela Drive. “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.” 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. For more info about this event or about hospice, call Phoenix Hospice at 459-1818.



Them Travelin' Birds

“The Greater Good”: special screening of this “award-winning, character-driven documentary that explores the cultural intersections where parenting meets modern medicine and individual rights collide with politics. The film offers parents, doctors and policy makers a safe space to speak openly, actively listen and learn from one another. Mixing verité footage, intimate interviews, 1950s-era government-produced movies and up-to-date TV news reporting, ‘The Greater Good’ weaves together the stories of families whose lives have been forever changed by vaccination.” Thursday, December 3 at 6:30 pm at the Willits Environmental Center, 630 South Main Street. Info: 459-4110.

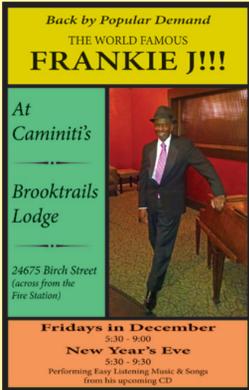
Friday, December 4

Senior Center Christmas Store: Friday, December 4 through Saturday, 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.

Photos with Santa: Get your photo taken with Santa Claus, by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress and Willits Weekly, \$5 for a downloadable digital photo. Friday, December 4, at J.D. Redhouse, 212 South Main Street, from 4:30 to 7:30 pm; a 50/50 fundraiser for the Willits Elementary Charter School.

“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 Mary 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 the show include Damian Sebohian, David Pritch, and Don Samson, along with Virginia Handley, Liz Delleit and Kevin Klay. On-stage actors will 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).

Frankie J at Caminiti’s: “Back by Popular Demand” at Caminiti’s Brooktrails Lodge, pianist Frankie J. performs Easy Listening Music & Songs from his upcoming CD. Starting Friday, December 5.



24675 Birch Street (across from the Fire Station). Fridays in December, 5:30 to 9 pm; New Year’s Eve, 5:30 to 9:30 pm.

Shanachie Pub: Them Travelin’ Birds, folk / Americana / neo-jug/punkgrass from Oakland. 9 pm. No cover. Visit <http://themtravelinbirds.com>. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

What's Happening Around Town

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. “Support crafters and shop locally. Find beautifully made items for your loved ones, or simply shop for yourself!” Plus Snack Bar and See’s Candy.

Photos with Santa: Get your photo taken with Santa Claus, by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress and Willits Weekly, \$5 for a downloadable digital photo. Today, Saturday, December 5, at Willits Power and Hardware, 1600 South Main Street, from 11 am to 1 pm; a 50/50 fundraiser for Rascal’s Rescue.

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.

Museum’s Holiday Wonderland: noon to 4 pm on Saturday, December 5 at the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street. “Historic holiday fun for the whole family! Take a stroll through Mendocino County Museum’s Holiday Wonderland. Free for all ages, guests will enjoy the annual Vintage Toy Display, live music, crafts and activities, games, story time, and Museum Gift Shop specials. This event complements Roots of Motive Power’s Holiday Express featuring train rides and Santa Claus!” Info: call the museum at 459-2736 or visit www.MendocinoMuseum.org.

Skunk Train Christmas Trains: first Christmas Train of the season out of the Willits Depot, 299 East Commercial Street, is Saturday, December 5 at 3:30 pm, but today’s train is already sold out! Update: as are, as of press time, the December 6 and December 12 trains out of Willits. The Skunk Train office says there’s always a possibility that seats might be available on sold-out trains due to cancellations, but reservations are always recommended! “A Magical 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 (sold out); 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 (sold out) 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.

“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>. See article on page 5 for an interview with Malakai Schindel.

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

Shanachie Pub: “The 12 Wrongs of Christmas” 9:30 pm. No cover. “more heavy bass beat treats, all you can eat, all night long with Hodge Podge, Arin G and Mountain Man!” 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, December 6

Senior Center Pancake Breakfast: 8 to 11 am at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Pancakes, eggs any style, and your choice of sausage, ham, or bacon, Adults \$7, Members \$6, Kids \$5.

Laytonville Christmas Bazaar: Annual Laytonville event features handmade arts and crafts from more than 50 local artisans, plus refreshments, kids activities, and photos with Santa. Sunday, December 6 at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue. 10 am to 4 pm. Info: 984-8089.

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.

Photos with Santa: Get your photo taken with Santa Claus, by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress and Willits Weekly, \$5 for a downloadable digital photo. Today, Sunday, December 6, at J.D. Redhouse, 212 South Main Street, from 12:30 to 3:30 pm; a 50/50 fundraiser for the Willits Junior Horsemen.

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

Monday, December 7

Holiday Open House at Savings Bank: the Savings Bank of Mendocino County holds Holiday Open Houses today,

Monday, December 7, at the local branches throughout the county, including Willits, at 145 South Main Street. Refreshments, drawings, Holiday Food and Toy Drive: “Please bring nonperishable food items and new toys for local Christmas efforts.”

Tuesday, December 8

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week’s Tightwad movies: “The Good Dinosaur,” “Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2,” and “Creed.” For movie showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

Thursday, December 10

“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 Harrah Senior Center Conference Room. “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. Guaranteed Good Fun! Please sign up at the front desk as space is limited, and we want to have enough materials.” Questions? Call Emmy at 367-7475.

WHS Booster Club Meeting: The next WHS Booster Club meeting is set for Thursday, December 10, at 6 pm at the Willits High School Food Center. Help support Willits High School athletics!

Friday, December 11

Willits Holiday Craft Fair: the 29th annual Willits Holiday Craft Fair, to benefit the Willits Center for the Arts, opens today, Friday, December 11, from noon through 7 pm at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street, and continue Saturday, December 12 from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, December 13 from 10 am to 4 pm. Food provided by the Willits Charter School Culinary Program. Falco singer/guitarist is set to perform today at 1 pm; Emandal Choral will sing at 6 pm. See article on page 8 for profiles of three of the artisans.

Fire Department Bucket Brigade Blood Drive Challenge: The Little Lake Fire Protection District plays host to the 10th annual Fire Department Bucket Brigade Blood Drive Challenge Friday, December 11 from 1 to 5 pm.

The Blood Centers of the Pacific Donor Coach will be parked at the Firehouse, 74 East Commercial Street. To schedule a blood 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 kwash@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!

Chamber of Commerce Mixer & Tree Lighting Ceremony: Roots of Motive Power and the Mendocino County Museum cordially invite residents to the 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.

A Hot Winter’s Night 2015: Willits High School’s 12th annual “A Hot Winter’s Night” is set for Friday, December 11 from 6 to 9 pm at Willits High School, 299 North Main Street. “Join our visual and performing artists as we celebrate the season with music (including the WHS Jazz Band & Concert Band), dance, poetry, and a visual arts exhibit, plus a sing-a-long with Jennifer Barrett. A small-town celebration of our youth, their

creativity, imagination and joyful spirits! A Hot Winter’s Night is the WHS Visual and Performing Arts holiday gift to our community.” The WHS Leadership Class is hosting a delicious soup dinner fundraiser from 5 to 6 pm in the Wolverine Café, aka “The Food Center,” plus free, scrumptious sweet treats during intermission. Info: Jered Sherrill at 459-7700, ext. 1536 or jeredsherrill@willitsunified.com or Carolyn Bakewell at 459-7700, ext. 1533 or carolynbakewell@willitsunified.com.

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

Saturday, December 12

Wreaths Across America: Willits American Legion Post 174 and the 4-H club will be participating in the “Wreaths Across America” ceremony honoring veterans, by putting wreaths on the veterans’ grave sites at the Willits Cemetery on Highway 20 today, Saturday, December 12, starting at 9 am. All are welcome to attend. “Wreaths Across America” is a national nonprofit organization whose mission – Remember, Honor and Teach – is carried out each year. Visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org for more info and how to get involved.

Photos with Santa: Get your photo taken with Santa Claus (and the fire trucks!), by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress and Willits Weekly, \$5 for a downloadable digital photo. Today, Saturday, December 12, at the Little Lake Fire Department, 74 East Commercial Street, from 10 am to 12 pm; a 50/50 fundraiser for the fire department.

Willits Holiday Craft Fair: 10 am to 5 pm today at the Willits Community Center. See Friday, December 11 for details. George Husaruk, flutist, will perform today at noon, and Nancy New and her Just for Fun Choir are set to sing at 3:30 pm today.

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

Sunday, December 13

Willits Holiday Craft Fair: 10 am to 4 pm today at the Willits Community Center. See Friday, December 11 for details. Falco singer/guitarist is set to perform today at 1 pm; and the Nancy Smith and Janice Winters Ensemble will perform at 2 pm.

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

28th annual Willits Community Christmas Choral: Sunday, December 13 at 6 pm at the LDS Church, 265 Margie Drive. This year’s performers are: The School of Developing Virtue Boys Orchestra; Room To Bloom Preschool; Jules Gregory; LDS

Choir; Chanterelle; St. Francis Episcopal Church; Willits United Methodists Folk Ensemble; John Walczykowski and Patti Walczykowski; Michelle Snider and Gloria Ulrich; Willits Brass; Ed Rinehart; Emandal Choral; and an international ensemble. Also, a community sing-a-long during a slight intermission. “And lots of cookies and hot cider will follow the program Please join us.” Questions?: Roni McFadden, 707-391-5461.



COLUJMN | At the Movies



‘Creed’

The Story: Apollo Creed’s illegitimate son Adonis Johnson quits his day job at some generic financial services company to become a professional boxer. Creed, as you will remember, was the heavyweight champion who fought Rocky way back when, and then died in the ring fighting a ‘roid-raging Russian named Drago who has nothing to do with this movie. That remembered and out of the way.... Adonis seeks out his late father’s legendary buddy Rocky Balboa for his canny guidance in the sweet science of fisticuffery.

My Thoughts: Starting off ... I, as did most everyone, loved the 1976 movie “Rocky.” This new flick draws on our affection for “Rocky” to propel another story of a young man willing to compete for personal validation in the boxing ring.

Along the way, the compelling issue of familial loss and the agony of being a survivor when one’s loved ones are gone provide some genuinely emotional moments in what is otherwise a story we’ve seen before. It all works. I liked the movie just fine.

Stallone was great (and understated) reprising his Rocky character. Michael B. Jordan had a serious shoulder chip as young Adonis Creed. You already know what this movie is about; but don’t let that stop you from going to see it, from enjoying it.

Parents: Powerful, realistic and bloody fight scenes. Not for little children.

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

Letters to Santa

“Make sure to let Santa Claus know what you want this year! Kids are invited to write letters and drop them off at Les Schwab of Willits, 1565 South Main Street. Letters will be printed in the December 17 edition of Willits Weekly!” Use the form on page 10 or send in your own!

Senior Center Lunch

Week of December 7 through December 11

Monday: Spaghetti/Meat Sauce
Tuesday: Pinto Beans/Cornbread
Wednesday: Meat Loaf
Thursday: Lemon Tilapia
Friday: BBQ Chicken
 Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. 55 and older: \$5.50 per meal; under \$5 per meal. Includes soup, entrée, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.



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Christmas Bazaar

Harwood Memorial Park Presents the Season
 Sunday, December 6th from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Harwood Hall, Laytonville
 Keep Your Shopping Local This Year!
 Handmade Arts and Crafts
 From More Than 50 Local Artisans
 Plus Refreshments, Kids Activities and Photos with Santa in Healthy Start
 For More Info, Call (707) 984-8089

Harrah Senior Center
 1501 Baechtel Rd.
 Date: 12/5/2015 Time: 10a.m.-4p.m.

Searching for that perfect gift? It’s at the Harrah Senior Center Craft Faire. Support crafters and shop locally. Find beautifully made items for your loved ones, or simply shop for yourself!

CRAFT FAIRE

Snack Bar, & See’s Candy

What’s Happening at the Senior Center

All events are held at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, 459-6826.

Ice Cream Social
 Monday, December 14, 1:30 to 2:30 pm.

Join us for pie and ice cream while the “Just for Fun Choir” sings some beautiful Christmas songs. Adults \$1.50; members \$1

Christmas Bake Sale
 Wednesday, December 23
 8:30 am until gone

Let us help you with your holiday baking. Buy delicious homemade goodies and help support your local senior center.

39th annual Winter Arts Faire

at the Mateel Center, Redway
 Saturday, December 12 and Sunday, December 13, 10 am to 6 pm: “Celebrate the winter holidays while supporting local creative vendors, handcraft artisans, and non-profits! Tickets: \$5 at the door. Visit www.mateel.org or call 707-923-3368.



Readings by Suzanne Wagner

Willits Weekly columnist Suzanne Wagner will give readings in Willits on Thursday, December 17, from 12 to 6 pm, at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street, as part of the 2015 Psychic Fair. Readings will be 1/2 hour each. \$20 donation suggested. Reserve your time in advance by calling Mazahar at 459-3034 or stopping by in person.



Christmas Express Roots of Motive Power’s Free Train Rides

Saturday, December 5
 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.

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.



Santa Photos this weekend

Santa Claus and Maureen Moore of Mphotographress and Willits Weekly, will offer local kids (and pets!) of all ages four opportunities to get your photo taken with Santa this year. \$5 for a downloadable digital photo. Friday, December 4, at J.D. Redhouse, 212 South Main Street, from 4:30 to 7:30 pm. Saturday, December 5, at Willits Power and Hardware, 1600 South Main Street, from 11 am to 1 pm. Sunday, December 6, at J.D. Redhouse, 212 South Main Street, from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. Saturday, December 12, get your photo taken with Santa and with fire trucks, at the Little Lake Fire Department, 74 East Commercial Street, from 10 am to 12 pm.

Sober Grad Committee needs candymakers

The Sober Grad Committee is planning four candy sales this holiday season to raise funds for the big graduation night party next spring. Can you help by making some homemade candy? Sober Grad volunteers will be selling candy on Saturday, December 5 at the Senior Center Christmas Fair (set up at 8:30 am; 10 am to 4 pm) and on Saturday evening, December 5 at the Santa Train at Roots of Motive Power (5 pm to end). Also on Sunday, December 6 at the Laytonville Christmas Bazaar at Harwood Hall (set up 8 am; 10 am to 4 pm), and at the Holiday Craft Fair’s Kids Fair at the Willits Community Center, Saturday, December 12 (10 am to 2 pm). Popular varieties include toffee, peppermint bark, turtles, dipped pretzels in chocolate and sprinkles, and fudge (nut free and with nuts). Tonia Silverstein is in charge of gathering the candy together. She will package it for you, too, and even pick it up. Call 456-9778 or 489-4412 to let her know what kind of candy you are making, so she can get labels made. Thank you for supporting Sober Grad!

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Imagination Station
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 Enrolling Year Round
 Hours: Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
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JOHN FORD RANCH
 RANCH RAISED NATURAL BEEF
 No Hormones, Pastured in Willits, California



At left, from top: A kiln-full of ceramics by Marlana River Designs.

Collectors of Marlana River Designs will be happy to find her art available the Willits Center for the Arts Craft Fair.

Ceramic artist and painter Marlana River.

At right, across: An example of the new techniques retired WUSD teacher Alice McAlister has successfully mastered.

McAlister explains the drop-out process used to create bowls like the one in her hands.

McAlister said that precise cuts of the glass are essential when creating her pieces.

Photos by Jenny Senter



to see her exciting new designs this year!

McAlister, who retired after teaching for Willits Unified at Baechtel Grove Middle School, shared that she is having a blast in her new career. She said both of her parents were research chemists working for Corning Glass works, and she thinks spending hours at the Corning Glass Museum watching the glass blowers at work was the beginning of her love of glass.

Many years later, in March 2014, she was intrigued when she found she could take fused glass classes in Santa Rosa. After three classes, she fell in love with fused glass art, and she bought her first kiln. She now owns three kilns and has added many tools and skills in order to create the designs she loves.

It is obvious when talking to McAlister, that she is passionate about her craft. Her knowledge of the techniques, chemistry and math required to create her art is endless. The fused glass she creates uses sheets of glass, usually a 1/8 inch thick, which are cut, arranged (usually double-layered), and then fused into one piece. The fusing might be a "tack" fusing where all the elements that are put together retain their shape and edges but are heated enough that



Alice McAlister, Fused Glass Artist

Alice McAlister brings years of creativity to her passion of creating fused glass as a functional art. Like so many artists, her art experience runs the gamut, including hand-thrown pottery, sewing, watercolors and folk art painting, but when she found glass fusing, she found her true passion. If you visited her booth at the Willits Center for the Arts Holiday Craft Fair last year, you are going to be excited

to see her exciting new designs this year!

McAlister, who retired after teaching for Willits Unified at Baechtel Grove Middle School, shared that she is having a blast in her new career. She said both of her parents were research chemists working for Corning Glass works, and she thinks spending hours at the Corning Glass Museum watching the glass blowers at work was the beginning of her love of glass.

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they become a solid unit.

A "full" fuse happens when enough heat causes the glass to flow in order to get a single smooth 1/4 inch piece. Most of the time these fused pieces go back into the kiln in molds, for "slump" time, which will give them a final shape. Some pieces require all three, full, tack and slump kiln time to get the effect you want. "It can get a lot more complicated," McAlister said, "but this is the basic process!"

McAlister stays busy not only with her fused glass business, but with family and her garden. Like many home-based artists, she finds it hard to balance what she needs to do with what she wants to do. She loves to travel and enjoys traveling to classes to learn new techniques for her glass art. McAlister also enjoys meeting and making friends with other glass artists and stays in touch via e-mail correspondence. She shared: "No one except a like-minded glass addict really understands the grip 'glass' has on you."

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Holiday Craft Fair

Local artists offer ceramics, fused glass and hand-cut wooden art

By Jenny Senter, features writer

Read the rest of **Craft Fair** | Over on Page 10

The rest of **Main Street** | From Page 1

A sustainable transportation planning grant for \$170,670 Caltrans awarded to the city earlier this year is designed to help to that by developing a "Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan."

Once the bypass is open – currently scheduled for the end of 2016 – Caltrans will eventually relinquish control of the northern segment of Highway 101 known as "the Main Street corridor." Highway 101 south of the current intersection with Highway 20, will remain under Caltrans management, and become State Route 20.

According to a November 15 City of Willits press release, the Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan "will develop a vision for the three miles of Main Street located within city limits." Before relinquishment construction begins – scheduled for fall 2017 – there will be a five-day public input workshop series, called a "charrette," to be held in spring 2016.

The purpose of the charrette will be to "work with residents and stakeholders to establish a shared vision and concepts for a pedestrian-friendly, inviting Main Street for residents, visitors and tourism."

Design elements could include "landscaping and tree planting, basic traffic calming measures such as bulb-outs, striping and signing for bike lanes, preparations for pedestrian-scaled lighting, and on-street parking configurations," the city's press release says.

"More extensive improvements, such as landscaped medians, additional traffic calming measures, gateway treatments, and street furniture – like benches and public art – will likely be planned during later phases of construction, as funding becomes available.

"City staff and Caltrans have already begun meeting with an advisory group to strategize on the creation of a bicycle and pedestrian-friendly Main Street," the city press release continues. "All efforts will be made to incorporate complete streets elements into the relinquishment construction project, slated to begin in fall 2017."

On November 13, the city released a request for proposals for design and engineering consultants to submit bids for the development of the Main Street plan, which will be based on community input and developed in coordination with the city and Caltrans. The proposals are

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

Tom Pinizzotto was moved out of the position and into the position of assistant HHSA director.

"Stacey did a great job during her part of the meeting. She gave us things we were asking for, for over a year," Wetzler said.

Wetzler said he had a lot of respect for Pinizzotto, whom he considers a friend, but was pleased with Cryer's approach to the job. "Tom was a knowledgeable director, and he knew a lot of people all around the state," Wetzler said. "I consider him to be a friend. But he didn't communicate well with the board. It was difficult to get a straight answer out of him."

Wetzler said with Pinizzotto as director, it was difficult for the mental health board to do its job. "It made our job difficult, because we felt we weren't getting good information," Wetzler said. "We were giving the board of supervisors vanilla or milque-toast reports because we had

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

Hospital building into a mental health facility for inland Mendocino County.

When asked what her goals are as a committee member, Handley said, "I'm hoping we can make a first-class mental health facility out of the old hospital. And I felt that, in order to do that, I had to get up to speed [about] the needs."

"Mental health [often] gets swept under the rug," she added. "And yet, one in four people will suffer from a mental health condition at some point in their lives. We just need to address it."

Handley, president of the Howard Hospital Foundation, played a key role in construction of the new Howard Hospital on Haehl Creek Drive. She said the newly vacant building on South Main Street is an opportunity the county shouldn't pass up.

"We desperately need a crisis center," Handley said. "We don't have a lock-down hospital, a PHF [psychiatric health facility]. I mean that's the last thing people need when they're in crisis, to be shipped off to some other county, separated from family and friends. And yet that's what we're doing."

"We also need a facility for drug and alcohol rehab. You know there's a lot that could be done, with young people for instance, who are on drugs – maybe we could help them? Maybe we could help them turn their lives around."

"I was talking to the college about them going in and starting a culinary school," she said. "Because the old hospital has a fine kitchen. So we put a school in there, and then they can cook for the hospital, so the food is taken care of."

due December 14, and the city will select the planning consultants by January 2016.

Three months after the charrette, according to a staff report in the November 10 city council agenda packet, "the consultant will prepare and circulate an administrative draft plan for review by the City, Caltrans staff and members of the advisory group. The plan will include conceptual designs and recommendations."

Based on feedback from those parties and the public, a final draft will be adopted.

"One of the consultant's first tasks," according to the city press release, "is to meet with the project management team and the Caltrans relinquishment team to discuss strategies for incorporating enhancement plans into near-term construction projects.

While the Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan will not be finalized until late 2016, Main Street enhancement designs will be well underway by next summer, ahead of the deadline for Caltrans' final relinquishment plans for Main Street.

A central challenge for establishing a plan will be projecting just how much traffic will be reduced due to the bypass.

The Main Street Merchants group has been meeting weekly, focusing on researching past traffic studies and "identifying potential locations for crosswalks, bulb outs, and parking alternatives."

According to some researchers, including the organization Save Little Lake Valley, "the bypass will divert only 20 to 30 percent of traffic, including trucks. It will not eliminate stop-and-go traffic for at least 70 percent of the remaining traffic and will eliminate only a small part of congestion." Bypass supporters like former Third District Supervisor John Pinches say they expect a 40 percent reduction in traffic.

City Manager Adrienne Moore said of the project: "This is a really exciting time for Willits! We are at a pivotal point in preparing for our future, with abundant opportunity for creating a vibrant community, a place where people choose to live, work, play and visit."

A new website has been set up by the City of Willits to provide project updates and information: www.willitsmainstreetplan.com.

Huffman blasts FDA approval of GE salmon

Submitted by the office of Congressman Jared Huffman

Congressman Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) blasted the recent announcement from the FDA approving the application for AquaAdvantage salmon, the first genetically engineered (GE) animal sanctioned for human consumption. The agency also determined that manufacturers of AquaAdvantage salmon will not be required to label the salmon as genetically engineered.

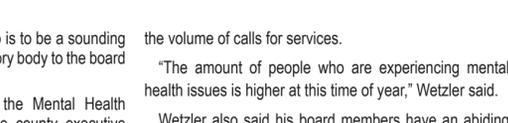
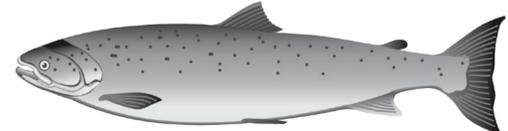
"I am deeply concerned with FDA's decision to approve AquaBounty's application," said Huffman, the co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Wild Salmon Caucus. "This is not just approving a 'new ingredient' concocted in a lab: by approving GE salmon, the FDA is allowing the release of a new hybrid animal that could pose a danger to our wild salmon populations, damage the ecosystems they live in, and undermine our domestic commercial fisheries.

"Consumers rightly support domestic and sustainable wild salmon fisheries, and this product will create confusion. It has no place in our waters or on America's dinner plates. I will continue to work with my colleagues and industry stakeholders – like Whole Foods and Trader Joes – who have already come out opposed to GE salmon, to halt this hazardous action by FDA."

Huffman, who serves as the ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on Water, Power, and Oceans, is a co-sponsor of bipartisan legislation that would effectively ban all GE fish in the United States by prohibiting the shipment, sale, transportation, purchase, processing, or release into the wild of GE salmon or other GE finfish unless the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service completes a full environmental impact statement and concludes that it will result in no impact to the environment.

Huffman was joined in his concerns by legislators from across the country including, Congressman Peter DeFazio (OR-04), Congressman Mike Thompson (CA-5), Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (ME-01), and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (CT-03), all of whom are ardent supporters of GMO labeling and providing consumers the right to know what's in their food. The legislators are all co-sponsors of Congressman DeFazio's bill, the Genetically Engineered Food Right-to-Know Act, legislation that would require mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods, including genetically engineered salmon.

Despite polling demonstrating that 90 percent of Americans support requiring mandatory GMO labeling, the FDA moved forward with a decision to finalize the existing policy which does not adequately inform consumers of the content of the food they buy. The policy allows manufacturers to voluntarily label their products as containing ingredients from genetically engineered sources rather than requiring companies to disclose genetically engineered ingredients.



the volume of calls for services.

"The amount of people who are experiencing mental health issues is higher at this time of year," Wetzler said.

Wetzler also said his board members have an abiding concern about provider staffing. "We wonder about how many jobs are going to be filled, or are they going to be filled?" Wetzler said. "We know that it's difficult to get people to want to live and work here. One thought we have is, we have to pay more. The people who are working have to make something close to what the going rate is, or we will never hire or never retain them. That's an ongoing issue."

Willits resident Margie Handley has been appointed to be a member of the mental health board, representing the Third District. For an interview with Handley, see accompanying story.

to get the county and/or Orner to use the old Howard Hospital building, Allman felt the building wouldn't work, because it has not been seismically retrofitted. [See accompanying story: "State rejects county jail expansion funding.]"

When questioned about Allman's views, Handley said she was certain Allman was wrong on this one.

"Orner looked into this specifically, and this is their read on it," Handley said. "The seismic reinforcement is necessary for acute care hospitals only. The old hospital building is perfectly fine for everything else. The last thing we need to do is to build a new facility, if we already have one that will work."

Willits Weekly was curious about the point Handley raised when she said the inland part of the county needs a crisis center, and asked Mental Health Advisory Board Chairman John Wetzler about the status of the inland county mental health crisis center.

Wetzler said Orner does run a crisis center ... of a kind. He described it as being housed in a small suite of rooms located at Suite D, 564 South Dora Street in Ukiah. According to Wetzler, it is open 9 am to 5 pm during regular business hours, five days a week.

Wetzler added the center is "understaffed," and much of the available staffing is provided by "peer counselors," rather than certificated professionals. It does have an observation room, where people in crisis can sit and relax for a short period of time.

"There is a room there; they call it an

observation room," Wetzler said. "It has a very comfortable chair in there. People can go in there and mellow out for a short period of time, a couple of hours. But after that you have to go."

Wetzler said the facility does have one trained psychologist on staff. Dr. Todd Harris, who works there part-time during regular business hours. But if someone is having a crisis after 5 pm on a regular weekday or anytime during the weekend, or if Harris isn't on duty when a mental health incident occurs, the Ukiah crisis center is of limited utility, according to Wetzler.

"The problem is, a lot of the time, there is no one there who can do an assessment. It takes a professional to do that. And you have to be in the room with the person who is in crisis. You can't do it over the phone. And a lot of the time, that isn't available for the inland part of the county at this time," he said.

"The mental health advisory board has been trying to assess: are we better off with what we have now, or was it better before? And on this one, it's hard to tell. This center is a lot like what the county was doing three years ago. Still, they are good people, and they are doing the best they can. But in our view, this is a close one. It's right on the fence," Wetzler said.

Willits Weekly attempted to contact Harris during regular business hours. He wasn't at the Ukiah crisis center at 9 am on Wednesday, and did not return our call by press deadline. We also called Orner's Mendocino County Program Manager Mark Montgomery, but he also was not able to return our call by deadline.

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!

PRIZES:

\$3,000 Cash	One Winner
\$2,000 Cash	One Winner
\$1,500 Cash	One Winner
\$1,000 Cash	One Winner
\$750 Cash	Two Winners
\$500 Cash	Two Winners

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)

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

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

Management reserves all rights to cancel or alter any promotion with little or no notice.

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Above, from left: Retired WUSD teacher Jackie Pealater says that working with her scroll saw to create her one-of-a-kind art is the best retirement job ever. Pealater will even create custom images of your pet. Jackie Pealater's hand-crafted earrings are a great gift option. Pealater's dog Christmas ornaments come in all breeds!

Photos by Jenny Senter



The rest of **Craft Fair** | From Page 2

and granddaughter. She brought with her a large collection of her paintings, which she plans to transfer into lithographs.

Her current focus is on working in her ceramics studio to create her signature pieces that she has sold all over the world, including a collection at Tiffany's. She and her daughter, Simone, and at times, her 7-year-old granddaughter, work together in her studio. River finds it is extremely rewarding to work with her daughter and to share her knowledge of art with her granddaughter.



River's pride is evident when she discusses her daughter Simone's work, and her "extremely talented" granddaughter will even be displaying her own line of ceramic designs at the Holiday Craft Fair.

This entrepreneur, who at one time owned a coffee house on Commercial Street, shares that when not in the studio, she loves to cook and bake. River also enjoys sewing and gardening, and somehow makes time for her various interests without compromising her business,

including working on a mural at Sherwood School. River's granddaughter is currently designing another mural that she and her grandmother will paint at the school.

Jackie Pealater, Picaro Gordo

The light in Jackie Pealater's eyes when she is discussing her retirement plan, Picaro Gordo, makes it evident that she's having a great time creating her individually hand-cut wooden art. Jackie Pealater taught life science, math, Spanish, and art for years in the Willits Unified School District at both Baechtel Grove and Willits High School. She has no formal art training, which will surprise her former students, but has always enjoyed creating art.

Pealater shared that she has a home-based shop "off the grid" where she relies on solar power to create her art. She loves her 16" scroll saw because it doesn't require a huge amount of energy. While many wood artists have moved on to CNCs (automated Computer Numerical Control routers), Pealater enjoys creating intricate designs with her "simple," more old-fashioned tool.

She often finds herself explaining to her customers that her scroll saw is very much like a sewing machine. She has never cut herself, because the saw blade is the size of a fishing

line or sewing machine needle. She finds her craft to be meditative and particularly enjoys the process of drawing and cutting her wooden designs. Her least favorite part of the process is sanding, which she finds boring.

She takes her hand-crafted wooden pet ornaments, portraits, puzzles, pet-themed tote bags, and crocheted phone purses to art shows, mostly in Lake and Mendocino counties, almost every weekend from the end of August through to the Holiday Craft Fair. She also sells on the internet through her website and has sold her art worldwide.

Although delivery can't be guaranteed before Christmas, Pealater says she is particularly fond of custom orders. She said people send her photos of their pets, and she makes personalized portraits for them. She creates wooden cutouts of horses, birds, reptiles, and wild animals, as well as dogs and cats.

You can find more information about custom orders on her web page, www.picarogordo.com. The Willits Center for the Arts Holiday Craft Fair will open Friday, December 11 from noon through 7 pm at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street, and continue Saturday, December 12 from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, December 13 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Mendocino County Museum

Holiday Shopping at the Museum Gift Store

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Harrah Senior Center
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Letters to Santa
Make sure to let him know what you want this year! Bring to Les Schwab of Willits by December 14!

Dear Santa:

Love:

Age:

Letters will be printed in the 12/17 edition of Willits Weekly

Tires LES SCHWAB

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

employees of the Rainforest Alliance.

MRC was created in July 1998 when Sansome Partners Limited of San Francisco purchased timberlands from Mendocino County timber giant Louisiana Pacific. The holdings included 219,000 acres in Mendocino County, and 9,000 acres in Sonoma County — a total of 228,000 acres, or about 10 percent of the county's area.

The FSC report rejected claims the company is creating a fire hazard by virtue of its tan oak treatment policies. It also rejected claims MRC has stepped up harvesting beyond sustainable levels or that it is, in reality, becoming a tree plantation.

The FSC report praised the company for its capable staff, its wise managerial policy, its willingness to communicate to stakeholders and other community members, and for the good work it has done on its road system.

Harvest volumes remain low

According to information found on the company website, which is current to 2014, timber harvest volume has remained low over the 16 years MRC has been in existence. The company states it has harvested 578 million board feet of timber since 1998: an average of 36 million board feet of timber a year for 16 years.

At the same time, the company has increased its standing timber inventory from 2.1 billion board feet in 1998 to a little more than 3 billion board feet as of 2014. That means that, on average over a 16-year period, it has been harvesting its timber at 1.2 percent of inventory.

Professor Hans Burkhardt and the Forest Advisory Committee of 1989-1992 recommended a percent of inventory harvest of 2 percent per year for industrial timberlands. Therefore, the data indicate MRC is cutting at a rate a little more than half of what Burkhardt and a majority of Forest Advisory Committee members recommended.

This low harvest volume was noted by Rainforest Alliance auditors. "Total harvest volume has remained consistent and substantially below the state-approved sustained harvest levels," the report stated.

John Andersen, an MRC forester based in the company's Fort Bragg office, put these abstract numbers into terms people can understand. "It's like a bank account," Anderson said. "Put in those terms, what we're doing is, not only are we not taking the principal out, we're not even taking out all of the interest. So what we're doing is, we're adding to the principal."

Hack and squirt no biggie, report says

The report also contained findings that negate or minimize concerns MRC is creating a potential fire hazard in its forestlands with its tan oak policy.

The company has treated some 65,000 acres of its forestlands with what it terms "frill treatment," which policy opponents term "hack and squirt." Using the treatment, standing, living tan oak trees are cut into with tools, after which an herbicide, often Imazapyr, is applied to the wound. This treatment usually kills the tree within four months, and it often stands for four years before falling to the ground and gradually decomposing.

Citizen activists are currently circulating an initiative petition for a measure on the June 2016 ballot that would declare frilled trees left standing in the forest for more than 90 days, and within 1,000 meters of public infrastructure, are a public nuisance. The measure, if certified for the ballot and then approved, would make the landowner responsible for damages in the event a disaster occurs that can be tied to a private landowner's tan oak treatment policy.

However, the Rainforest Alliance report states the company's tan oak treatment policy does not increase fire danger. "Interviews with multiple individuals with decades of fire suppression experience indicated the dead and dying tan oak does not significantly impact the fire hazard," the report states. "Specific evidence was provided to the auditors by firefighters based on the fire behavior observed in the 2008 fires on MRC lands [the Lightning Complex fires]."

"This evidence indicated there was not a notable difference in fire behavior in adjacent stands treated vs. not treated with herbicides, and in some cases the fire was easier to control in the treated lands. The leaves on tan oak contain oils that make even live trees prone to carry fire," the report states.

The report also contradicted claims the application of the herbicide has endangered the health of the workers applying it, or that a fire in those forestlands will unduly endanger the lives and health of firefighters. "Auditors reviewed MRC chemical use through interviews with personnel, direct observation of sites with herbicide use and review of documentation.

"MRC does not use any chemicals designated by the Forest Stewardship Council as highly hazardous. The chemicals are applied according to the laws and regulations of the state of California, including taking precautions to protect the health of forest workers and the public. Written prescriptions are prepared and site specific precautions are taken to both address worker safety as well as to protect non-target species.

"According to ToxNet Toxicology Data Network, a study conducted to measure the presence of herbicides, including Imazapyr, in the smoke of units treated with herbicides found there was no detection in 140 samples taken from 14 different fires occurring within 40 to 130 days of treatment. Evidence collected demonstrated MRC's use of herbicides is in conformance with the FSC-US (the Forest Stewardship Council of the United States) standards."

The Rainforest Alliance report commended MRC for its implementation of its policy on roads and watercourses. "The design and maintenance of the road system were identified as strengths," the report states. "A significant effort, as well as financial investment, has been made to decommission legacy roads impacting streams. Roads have been relocated to ridges, culverts have been replaced with bridges, and effective drainage structures such as rocked rolling dips have been installed."

The FSC certification is good through November 2020.

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

marijuana, which becomes effective January 1.

If local jurisdictions do not have medical marijuana ordinances and regulations in place by March 1, 2016, the law says the state will become the default cannabis regulator.

Woodhouse told Willits Weekly there are three new bills from Sacramento on medical marijuana, but the bills don't harmonize with each other.

"We are studying those bills, and we are watching Sacramento, because the word is there will probably be another bill that will try to clean up those other three bills," Woodhouse said. "The point is, we will be coming up with a pilot program here we will run next year. Then, we will roll out the whole thing in 2017."

Woodhouse said legalization of recreational marijuana, an issue widely anticipated to be placed on the November 2016 ballot, will have an impact on how California handles medical marijuana. "It will change things," Woodhouse

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

Board members did vote unanimously to keep the membership organization alive, maintaining the WEC's nonprofit status and continuing to operate "in accordance with our mission and bylaws."

But without the office — and the road-side sign which advertised events and editorialized on local and global environmental issues — the WEC will undoubtedly be a less visible force in Willits.

Founders Ellen and David Drell — with a group of like-minded citizens — opened the WEC in 1990, after a successful campaign to prevent a bio-mass power plant from opening in Willits.

The WEC has been involved in a number of environmental issues over the years: organizing forums to spotlight the environmental damage from illegal marijuana grows on public lands (and organizing actual cleanups, too), the REMCO pollution issue, and successfully opposing Waste Management Inc.'s proposal for a "dirty MERF" at the Little Lake Industries site on Commercial Street.

This "material recovery facility" would've taken a mixed stream of garbage and recyclables from all over Mendocino County and Humboldt County. "The WEC was opposed to that," Ellen Drell said, "and really felt that what Jerry Ward [of Solid Waste of Willits] was proposing, a major recycling facility on Blosser Lane — a "clean MERF" — was the way to go, rather than to go with a big multinational corporation in downtown Willits.

With the WEC as a base of support, Ellen Drell ran for Third District supervisor in 1994, against rancher John Pinches, who ended up winning decisively. Jim Eddie had served as the Third District's representative on the board for 20 years, since 1974.

"There were seven candidates in the primary," Ellen Drell said. "It was the first time in many, many years that the Third District engaged in a real campaign, since Jim Eddie had been our supervisor, uncontested, for so long. We had three debates, and the campaign brought a lot of issues forward, that had not come up before in the Third District, a lot of environmental issues. It was good, even though I lost pretty soundly."

The Drells are lifelong wilderness advocates who are proudest of their "biggest" achievement: adding a total of 140,000 acres of forestlands to the federal wilderness system. In 1984, the Drells, working with a statewide group, the Citizens' Committee to Save Our Public Lands, traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate for adding 40,000 acres of public lands to the Yolla Bolly Wilderness. Most recently, the Drells organized support for Congressman Mike Thompson's 2006 bill that designated 100,000 acres of new wilderness lands in Mendocino County.

"The WEC was really pivotal in developing the political support for that," Ellen Drell said, "which Mike Thompson needed, in one of the most environmentally hostile Congresses ever — at that time, at least. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors unanimously supported the wilderness bill in 2006, as did the City of Willits. The City of Ukiah supported it. Art Harwood supported it. We got pretty much unanimous political support, and that helped a lot.

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

several weeks ago.

The new jail wing would have housed mentally ill inmates who have committed a crime, as well as hardcore, violent offenders who need to be housed separately from other inmates.

Allman said the sheriff's office grant request was ranked eighth on the list by the corrections board, and the board fully funded the first six requests. The corrections board partially funded the seventh grant request. Mendocino County's request was the top-ranked grant request not funded.

Allman's plan to build a new wing for the county jail was an effort to deal with chronic jail overcrowding, which has become a reality since California began sending state prison inmates back to the counties for incarceration.

Allman said the change began in 2007, when the state Legislature passed Assembly Bill 109. Prior to that, the jail population usually held steady at between 185 and 200. Now the daily jail population is between 290 and 320.

Allman said the jail was built to hold a population of 304. Another factor in the overcrowding, Allman said, is that

said.

Woodhouse said the marijuana ad hoc committee will be meeting next week in Ukiah, but the meeting would not be open to the public. "The meeting is just for staff," he said.

"At this point, we're just brainstorming," he explained. "We're asking questions like, how many plants? Really it's like inventing a planning and building department. It's quite jumbled at this time."

Woodhouse was reached Monday morning in the city of Monterey, where he had gone for a four-day marijuana conference.

"We're way ahead of other counties on this, because of our experience with the 9.31 program," Woodhouse said. "Other counties don't know how to respond to this, so they're looking to us for leadership."

Woodhouse said he wants to hear from his constituents on marijuana and on medical marijuana, and suggested they call him at 707-367-6334.

"For me personally," Ellen Drell continued, "I'm very proud of that. It's a long-term success — unless Congress decides to dismantle the Wilderness Act. The wild public lands in our district are unique and spectacular, and diverse. And even though a great percentage of the people who live here haven't seen them in person, we should all be proud that we recognized their magnificence."

"It's what we're most proud of," David Drell added.

But there's no doubt, that for most local people, the Willits Environmental Center and the Drells will be remembered for their opposition to the Willits bypass, which campaign began only a year or two after the WEC opened its doors.

"Since 1992 the WEC has been in the thick of trying to halt, or dramatically shrink the size and impacts of the Willits bypass project, an iconic example of why humanity is facing the frightening consequences of global warming," the WEC letter to members reads.

Over the years, the WEC continued to try "to move the powers that be, from the Willits City Council on up, to support an appropriate fix to the traffic congestion in Willits, including an appropriately scaled bypass if necessary."

But eventually, despite years of organizing — including bringing Walkable Communities expert Dan Burton to town for a "transformative" three-day workshop jointly sponsored by the City of Willits and the Willits Chamber of Commerce — on-the-ground protests and litigation, the Willits bypass has become a reality, with 87 percent of the construction work completed as of November 20, as Caltrans recently reported to the Willits City Council.

"In the end," the WEC letter says, "we were overwhelmed by a simple but all-powerful political reality — the City of Willits wanted a bypass. The consistent local support for a bypass and apparent disregard for the consequences to the natural environment made it possible for Caltrans to have its way and foist this irreversible assault on our community and our valley.

"It is in this context that we board members need a break. We are emotionally worn down by this long, and at least for Willits and the ecosystem of Little Lake Valley, unsuccessful effort."

Ellen Drell emphasized several times how all the various work the WEC did was made possible by many volunteers and supporters: "There's a ton of people who helped, and who deserve recognition," she said. "Thank you to all the many people who helped and supported our efforts in so many ways over the years." The letter singles out for praise board members Autumn Kessner and Dave Beebe, who've signed up more than 70 new or renewed WEC members during a membership drive over the last several months.

But it's not just new members that are needed, Ellen Drell said, "it's new energy. And maybe with us stepping aside, others can step up." She cited as one positive example a group forming in Laytonville to try to establish a hiking trail from Cahto Peak right through the wilderness. "This would be a great hiking trail for local folks," she said. "It's beautiful; not just an hour's stroll, but a real wilderness experience."

Mendocino County does not have a place to put people suffering from a mental illness crisis.

"After the decision on the grant came down, I was very depressed for a couple of days," Allman said. "And then a couple of days later I had a breakthrough.

"I was driving to work and I realized, 'Why are we trying to build a new jail, when what we need here is a mental health hospital?' I would rather we pass a bond to build a new mental health hospital, than to build a new jail," Allman said. "We're gonna have to figure out a way to raise \$6 to \$10 million to build a hospital. And then we can start to rebuild our mental health system from the ground up.

"I believe the mental health dilemma facing the citizens of Mendocino County is the number-one public safety problem our county has," Allman said. "What we've been doing is kicking the can down the road, and it's not working."

When asked if Allman had spoken with Margie Handley, he said he had. "The old Howard Hospital will work great for a crisis center and a drug rehab center, but it won't work for a locked facility. That's because it hasn't been seismically retrofitted," he said.

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Above, from left: Brooke Harris and Norma Staley take tickets at the raffle table. Bikers ride down Main Street on their way to the Little Lake Grange. Eventgoers pile into the foyer of the Little Lake Grange to exchange an unwrapped toy for entrance into the event.

At right, from top: Diners enjoy the meal and mingle with others while listening to the sounds of Ray and The Reveleers. Glen Helton and the Willits Lions tend bar at the event. Richard "Biker Claus" Venturi and wife Kim "Mrs. Claus" Venturi accept presents from Rick Williams to add to the overflowing carts.

Below: Bikers head south on School Street on their way to Little Lake Grange.

Photos by Maureen Moore



More of **Toy Run** | From Page 1

stacked three or four high on the back of the bikes.

The Toy Run starts out at the Evergreen Shopping Center, and the bikers ride north through town to the Grange, led by Little Lake Fire Department fire engines blaring their sirens. Sunday's beautiful sunny weather was perfect for a ride, despite the chilly temperatures of the very early morning.

"It was a great event," Kamoroff said. "We were very pleased."

Toy Run organizer Rich Venturi, who played Santa Claus this year, concurred: "We couldn't have asked for anything better," he said.

In addition to all the toys, more than \$3,000 in cash was raised for the Willits Rotary's Community Christmas Program through donations, tips, raffle tickets and the live auction. The money will be used to help ensure every kid in the Willits area has a special delivery from Santa on Christmas eve, with toys, clothes and other gifts.

Rotary Club members worked the kitchen Sunday and dished out lots of tasty food, including tri tip and turkey and some fancy sausage hot dogs, as well as plentiful side dishes. The Lions Club manned the no-host bar. And Santa's helpers at the raffle counter sold raffle tickets so fast they actually sold out about an hour into the event. "It's one of our best years," said raffle elf Nancie Rice.

Ray and The Reveleers played classic rock'n'roll singalong favorites like "Train I Ride," "Honey Don't," "Hand Jive," "Tequila," "Suzy Q," and "Six Days on the Road" to an appreciative crowd. The band features Indiana Slim on lead guitar, Bear Kamoroff on bass, Telephone Ray on rhythm guitar, Mark Theis on drums, and Alfie John on saxophone. Katie Muhlhauser took a turn on stage, too, singing "Summertime" with the band.

The live auction – presided over by Santa Venturi and Sheriff Tom Allman – was also lively, with one of the highest prices being paid (\$165) for one of the most interesting raffle items: a piece of Willits history. John's Place owner Dan Chesser came in person to donate an auction item including a John's Place T-shirt, 10 wooden drink tokens, and four bottles of "Burnt Alcohol" that had survived the John's Place fire in November 2014. "You cannot buy bottles like this anywhere else in the nation," Sheriff Allman said. "Let's start it at \$100 – you will be the envy of Willits."

At the start of the auction, Venturi announced that the Willits Toy Run group was

Read the rest of **Toy Run** | Over on Page B7

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Four chances to get
**Photos with
Santa Claus**

For three days this weekend, and one day next weekend, Santa Claus will make appearances at local businesses to pose for photos with kids, pets and families! Local photographer, Maureen Moore (or "Photographress," as she likes to be called) will snap photos for \$5 each, and will provide digital images that will be available to download. These downloads can be saved to your computer or phone, or used to make prints and cards for the holidays. All sessions will be held as a 50/50 fundraiser for a local group: Willits Junior Horsemen, Rascal's Rescue, Willits Elementary Charter School, and the Little Lake Fire Department.

Friday, December 4

Photos with Santa: Get your photo taken with Santa Claus, by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress and Willits Weekly. \$5 for a downloadable digital photo. Today at J.D. Redhouse, 212 South Main Street, from 4:30 to 7:30 pm; a 50/50 fundraiser for the Willits Charter School.

Saturday, December 5

Photos with Santa: Get your photo taken with Santa Claus, by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress and Willits Weekly. \$5 for a downloadable digital photo. Today at Willits Power and Hardware, 1600 South Main Street, from 11 am to 1 pm; a 50/50 fundraiser for Rascal's Rescue.

Sunday, December 6

Photos with Santa: Get your photo taken with Santa Claus, by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress and Willits Weekly. \$5 for a downloadable digital photo. Today at J.D. Redhouse, 212 South Main Street, from 12:30 to 3:30 pm; a 50/50 fundraiser for the Willits Junior Horsemen.

Saturday, December 12

Photos with Santa: Get your photo taken with Santa Claus (and the fire trucks!), by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress and Willits Weekly. \$5 for a downloadable digital photo. Today at the Little Lake Fire Department, 74 East Commercial Street, from 10 am to 12 pm; a 50/50 fundraiser for the fire department.



**Christmas Wreaths to benefit
WHS Boys Basketball**

Willits High School Boys Basketball will be selling Christmas wreaths again this year as a benefit for the program. They are \$25 each, made of fresh holiday greens with bow and decorations. Get your order in now! Call or message Lisa Schmidbauer Burgess at 489-0326 or 272-0007 to pre-order. Thanks for supporting WHS Boys Basketball!



Send your letter to Santa

courtesy of Les Schwab Tire Center of Willits

There's still time to get your letter to Santa Claus, and Les Schwab Tire Center of Willits wants to help make sure he gets a chance to shop for all the special goodies on your list. Feel free to check out the "Dear Santa" letter form in the Les Schwab ad on page 10 of the A section of this edition, or draw your own letter or picture.

Wishes for this holiday season from the students at Learning Roots Preschool
Dear Santa,

- Dear Santa, Please bring me a remote control car. Love, Maele, age 4
- Dear Santa, Please bring me a big truck. Love, Michael, age 4
- Dear Santa, Please bring me an octonauts set. I love you. Love, Sophia, age 4
- Dear Santa, I want a teddy bear. Jaden, age 4
- Dear Santa, I want a Barbie doll, a house, a horse, and some friends for Barbie. Love, Chloe, age 4
- Dear Santa, Please bring me a dog. Love, Michael, age 4
- Dear Santa, I want 5 presents. Love, Bronach, age 3
- Dear Santa, I want 5 presents. Love, Broide, age 5
- Dear Santa, A dolly and a present with an Elsa doll please. Love, Payton, age 3

Dear Santa,
I want a singing Elsa doll that sings "Let it go" and I want to go to New York City and to see the Statue of Liberty with my family, and a dress for my dog Tika... oh and a horse!!!
Arabella Mondo, age 4

Dear Santa,
I would like cube box games of fighting. Could it come with controls please? If it or you can't, please get me Njagoo Legos.
Santiago Palino, age 6

Dear Santa,
What's it going? I'm okay. Are your reindeer up on the party roof? Give them carrots. I would like a present please. I need socks but want toys. Turtle presents & paw patrol I like. My baby brother wants Giraffe stuff. Thank you!
Jerett N., age 3 1/2

Dear Santa,
I want a Sew Cool sewing machine, VTech Watch, Dohvindi, Crazy Lights, Iphone5s, Little Live Bird, Laptop, and nerf rebelle agent bow.
Destiny Martinez, age 10

Dear Santa,
Thank you for the presents from last year.
Elvis, age 5

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**Willits Community
Christmas Choral**

Sunday, December 13 at 6 pm

The 28th annual Willits Community Christmas Choral is set for Sunday, December 13 at 6 pm at the LDS Church, 265 Margie Drive. This year's performers are: The School of Developing Virtue Boys Orchestra; Room To Bloom Preschool; Jules Gregory; LDS Choir; Chanterelle; St. Francis Episcopal Church; Willits United Methodists Folk Ensemble; John Walczykowski and Patti Walczykowski; Michelle Snider and Gloria Urich; Willits Brass; Ed Rinehart; Emandal Choral; and an international ensemble. Also, a community sing-a-long during a slight intermission. "And lots of cookies and hot cider will follow the program. Please join us." Questions? Call Roni McFadden: 707-391-5461.



Above, left: Attendees gathered to enjoy the Christmas Choral last year at the LDS Church.
Above, right: The LDS Choir, directed by Patti Walczykowski.
At left: Tom Allman of Willits Brass smiles at the audience.
Photos by Maureen Moore

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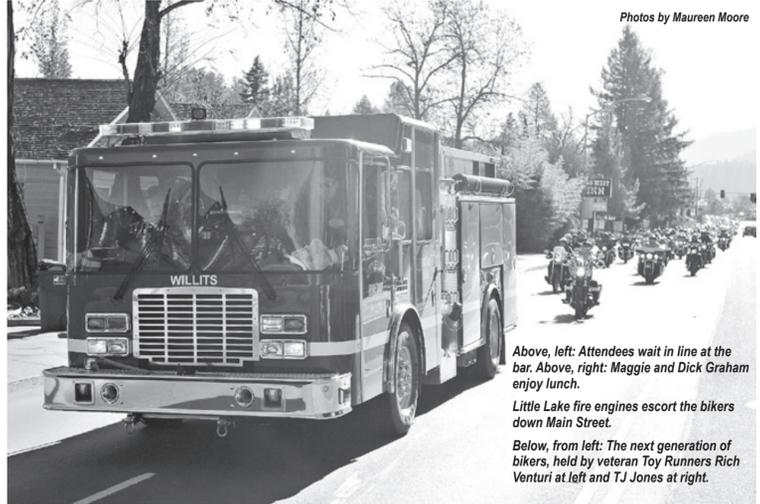
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Photos by Maureen Moore



Above, left: Attendees wait in line at the bar. Above, right: Maggie and Dick Graham enjoy lunch.
Little Lake fire engines escort the bikers down Main Street.
Below, from left: The next generation of bikers, held by veteran Toy Runners Rich Venturi at left and TJ Jones at right.



At left: Willits Weekly welcomed the community to the 2014 event. Above: Cookie Contest winners, from left: Judge's Choice winner Tam Adams, and People's Choice winners Ashlynn Dudley and Emma Garman. Above, right: The cookie swap table had just a few pieces left by the end of the night. Below, left: Devon Jones, left, and Nancy New will sing again this year at the party. Below: Mingling attendees at last year's event.

Willits Weekly Cookie Party
Friday, December 18 at Ardella's Downtown Diner

As the holiday season approaches, it also means time for Willits Weekly's annual Cookie Party! This year, the event will be held on Friday, December 18 from 5 to 7 pm at Ardella's Downtown Diner, 77 South Main Street in downtown Willits.

The community is cordially invited to attend this free event. Come listen to live music by Nancy New and Devon Jones, who will sing carols and play guitar, taste cookies made by Cookie Contest entrants, trade or take home cookies from the swap table, and mingle with others enjoying the festivities.

Businesses, individuals and service groups are all welcome to sign up to be bakers in the Cookie Contest and try their whisk at earning bragging rights and possession of the perpetual Golden Whisk and Silver Baking Sheet awards for all of next year.

Last year's Judge's Choice winner was Tam Adams of Emandal, with her Caramel Nut Bars, and People's Choice went to ER Energy's Emma Garman and Ashlynn Dudley, with their Crispy Caramel Deliciousness entry.

Last year's judges included Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman, Willits City Manager Adrienne Moore, and Willits Power and Hardware's Misty Gonzales and Rosanna Franceschini.

The team sampled 20 cookie entries at the 2014 event:



Flowers by Annette, Peanut Butter
Flowers by Annette, Cream Puffs
Lisa Reed, Mocha Crinkle
Lisa Reed, Christmas Snickerdoodle
Fernanda Ramos Diaz, Black Forest
Emily Leishman, Cinnamon Hot Chocolate
Mariposa Market, Chocolate Sea Salt
Tracy Crippen, Pecan Bars
ER Energy, Mary Fonsen, Double Chocolate Peppermint Crunch
ER Energy, Emma Garman and Ashlynn Dudley, Crispy Caramel Deliciousness
Healing Central Chiropractic, "sELFie" Peanut Butter
J.D. Redhouse, Divinity
J.D. Redhouse, Red Velvet Fudge
J.D. Redhouse, Peanut Butter Chocolate Fudge
Emandal, Apricot Thumbprints
Emandal, Mint Chocolate Chip
Emandal, Lemon Bars
Emandal, Pistachio Biscotti
Emandal, Caramel Nut Bars
Jade, Reindeer Scat
Lisa Ganet, Sugar Cookies

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The rest of December From Page B2

wholeness even in the smallest of parts and pieces that are drifting into your consciousness.

Yes, there will be moments of frustration and helplessness. Yes, you will question the sanity of what you are doing. But you are not crazy, you are just done with this old self. You are done with the fear that has paralyzed you for too long. You are done with caring what others think. Your heart is screaming at you, and it will no longer allow you to remain in a place that does not allow you to show the brilliant light that you are. Your heart demands space and its own voice for you and others to hear.

You are seeking expression of your clarity and confidence. Just be careful that as this energy comes out, you do not allow it to come across as arrogance. Inside yourself you have achieved a victory over your own opposition. You have freed yourself from a place of limitation. Others may not see that or want to accept that. But what others want is not important this month.

What is important is that you breathe the air of freedom and change. You take in the release that has been a long time in coming, and you show the way through your compassionate heart and in how you give permission for each person to have his or her own journey to awakening.

Celebrate your life with movement and dance. Allow your ecstatic self to weave its connection into all things. Let your beauty be the illumination for others potential.

You are of this earth, and your life is woven into the very tapestry of it. Within the movement is an inner silence and stillness of acceptance and love. When fear moves to the side and joy overtakes the soul, you become an unstoppable force for good.

Let that flow while it can, because life is forever shifting those waves backwards and forwards. Know that fear is not less important than joy. It is just that joy can be expressed at the same time as fear. When you understand that fear is a natural expression of a body that lives in this dimension of life and death and that the body will always notice fear in order to keep the body alive, then you will no longer need to focus on it so much. Feel the fear and then find the joy anyway.

Know you will die at some point, but do not fixate on that truth. Instead focus on the beauty of this moment and allow the joy and love to express through the form of limited existence. Know the fragility of the body, but know also the powerful expression of love that the soul longs to show.

Suzanne Wagner is a professional psychic who teaches the intuitive arts throughout the United States. She is the author of "Integral Tarot" and "Integral Numerology," which can be found on Amazon.com. For more information, visit www.suzwagner.com or call her at 707-354-1019.

Editor's Note: Suzanne Wagner will be giving readings in Willits on Thursday, December 17, from 12 to 6 pm, at Mazhar, 38 South Main Street, as part of the 2015 Psychic Fair. Readings will be 1/2 hour each. \$20 donation suggested. Reserve your time in advance by calling Mazhar at 459-3034 or stopping by in person.

The rest of Toy Run From Page B1

doing something "a little extra this year" and called up to the stage Andy Peterson from the Lake County Rotary Club to donate \$500 to that club's Christmas toy effort this year. "Thank you very much," Peterson said. "We'll put this to good use, I promise."

Venturi also made a sad announcement: "Our usual Santa, Al Robinson, is in the ICU," he said. "He's been Santa for 20-some-odd years. We're dedicating this Toy Run to Al." A bit later, Al's wife, Elaine Robinson, "Mrs.

Santa," arrived, and was given a standing ovation. "We send our love to Al," Sheriff Allman said. After the Toy Run, Kamoroff said, many of the Toy Run organizers went to visit Robinson in the hospital.

At the end of the event, Toy Runs coming up in Fort Bragg and in Lake County this Saturday, December 5, were touted, and the date for next year's Willits Toy Run – the 24th annual – was announced: Sunday November 27, 2016.



Above, left: Toy Run planners visit Al Robinson and his wife, Elaine, at Howard Memorial Hospital. The Robinsons played Santa and Mrs. Claus for many years with the Toy Run. "We want to thank all our friends and families for the love and good wishes for Al," said Elaine. "We love you all." Above, right: Ray and The Revealers play for the attendees of the 2015 Toy Run. Below: Some 150 bikes roll down Main Street during the parade.



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