

# Willits Weekly

EST. 2013  
A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits  
Donations Accepted Edition No. 83 **Thursday, December 4, 2014**



**Photos with Santa!**  
See page 16

## Caltrans plans herbicide use to mitigate blackberries

Kate Maxwell  
Reporter  
kate@willitsweekly.com

Caltrans has announced it will submit a management plan to apply herbicides on invasive Himalayan blackberries covering approximately 67 mitigation acres of the Willits bypass project.

The specifics of the plan will be developed by a yet-to-be selected contractor, and require approval by the State Water Resources Control Board under a general pesticides permit for "aquatic weed control," as well as a public comment period before the herbicides can be applied to the project site.

The agency informed three local tribes consulting on the bypass project of its plans in a November 7 letter from Caltrans Chief of North Region Environmental Services John Webb, posted November 25 on the official Willits bypass Word Press website, www.willitsbypass.wordpress.com.

The website post erroneously states: "On September 25, 2014, Caltrans prepared and submitted an "Herbicide Use Plan" to the NCRWQCB for review and approval. The plan was later approved."

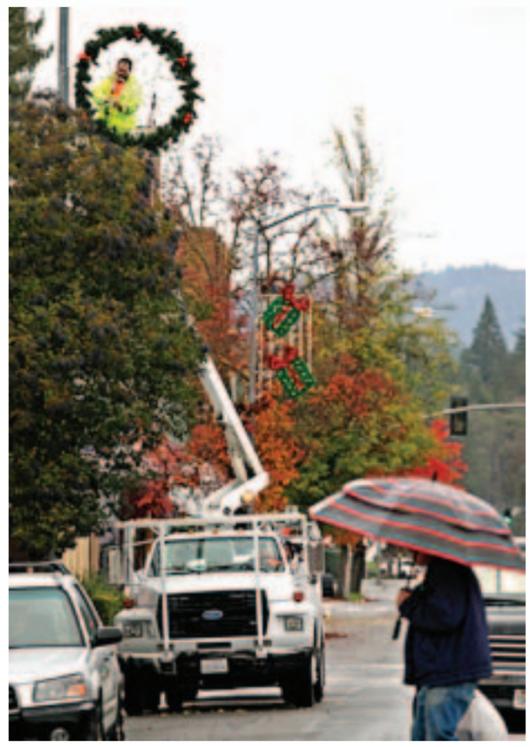
According to Brendan Thompson, environmental specialist at the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, Caltrans has conducted informal consultations with the agency about development of the herbicide plan, but has yet to formalize a plan to submit to the State Water Board.

Contacted for clarification, Caltrans Public Information Officer Phil Frisbie confirmed the plan is still in development and no application will be submitted prior to a contractor being selected to carry out the herbicide plan.

Himalayan blackberries are a widespread invasive species throughout much of the country, often establishing large stands with extensive root systems on riparian and wetland areas, crowding out native plants. Caltrans has made a commitment to planting more than 800,000 native trees and shrubs for the wetlands creation required for bypass mitigation, which means removing the blackberries before an area can be replanted with native plants. Earlier management plans include a long list of alternate management practices to be considered prior to herbicide use.

Caltrans has previously experienced issues concerning plans for

Read the rest of **Herbicide** | Over on Page 15



## Caltrans seeks more bypass funds

Kate Maxwell  
Reporter  
kate@willitsweekly.com

Caltrans will request an additional \$64.7 million in Willits bypass project construction funds from the California Transportation Commission at a December 10 meeting. If funds are approved, total project costs will rise from \$210 million to almost \$275 million.

The project requires 15 percent of these funds come from Mendocino County STIP (State Transportation Improvement Program) funds, utilizing future awards the county is expected to receive during upcoming funding cycles, according to Caltrans Public Information Officer Phil Frisbie.

The Mendocino County Council of Governments met Monday, and unanimously approved the local share of the new funding request, \$9.7 million.

According to a December 3 press release from MCOG: "It was generally agreed that this was a tough decision made at the expense of other planned projects in Mendocino County; however, the magnitude of the issue and the council's long-standing commitment outweighed other options."

Caltrans says the requested amount is anticipated to cover the budgetary overrun to complete the remaining 45 percent of work on the construction portion of Phase I of the bypass.

The \$64.7 million amount is based on an analysis of both projected risk factors, and costs from two seasons of delays and other "numerous unforeseen issues" that have "exhausted" the 10 percent funding contingency included in the initial funding award.

The 10 percent funding contingency is calculated on a project-by-project basis, based on project size, complexity, and duration.

In its agenda report to the California Transportation Commission, the agency cites 56 different risk factors included in the analysis to justify the need for additional funds.

Reasons include issues caused by permitting delays or additional requirements triggered by Caltrans' failure to comply with environmental regulations by permitting agencies – such as conducting adequate bird nesting surveys and meeting stormwater management requirements – as well as costs caused by accelerated mitigation work required this past summer by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The project has been delayed over Caltrans' failure to meet those regulations at multiple points over the last two construction seasons, as

Read the rest of **Funds** | Over on Page 15

## 'Tis the Season

### Willits gets its seasonal lamppost decorations Tuesday morning, despite rainy weather

Above, left: First-year City of Willits holiday crew elf, Shaun "Candy Cane" Payne, works in the bucket Tuesday morning, hoisting one of the 90-pound wreaths up the lamppost near El Mexicano on Main Street. Above, right: At the post in front of J.D. Redhouse, Payne smiles after successfully connecting one of the double package decorations. At left: Tom Bond checks lights in the "bulb barn" last week, readying the huge decorations for their 2014 debut. Right: Elf veteran Logan Gamble supervises rookie elf Payne from the ground.

Photos by Maureen Moore



## TOYS, TOYS, TOYS

Annual Toy Run event for Willits Community Christmas Program – see story on Page 7



Santa and Mrs. Claus, Tylor Yadon and Kevin Reedy pose at the Grange. Photos by Maureen Moore

### Caltrans begins study work on new Ryan Creek culverts

The last thing drivers navigating Oil Well Hill expected to see this week was a drilling rig parked in one of the lanes.

California Department of Transportation spokesman Phil Frisbie said the work was being done as part of the geotechnical studies needed to build new fish-friendly culverts on Ryan Creek.

Zack Cinek "It is always a good idea when working out final plans and specifications to confirm for ourselves the documentation we are looking at is accurate," Frisbie said.

The scene of holes being drilled into Highway 101 was on a 7 percent grade on the north side of the hill, where the southernmost fork of Ryan Creek passes below the road.

To passersby, the existing culvert is mostly out of view near the base of the mountain.

At the southern crossing, Caltrans plans to drill and then insert a new pipe through the fill. Just north of that spot, the state plans to excavate an existing culvert and replace it with one of a different design.

Frisbie said the project is expected to go out to bid in early 2016. Earlier this year, an initial study with a proposed negative declaration was released with a public comment period.

Frisbie says Caltrans is still preparing the final environmental document. In the earlier study, the cost of the work was estimated to be \$3.5 million.

Zack Cinek  
Reporter  
zack@willitsweekly.com

Read the rest of **Culvert** | Over on Page 15

### State water board rescinds water connection ban

The State Water Resources Control Board pulled back its October order to the City of Willits to halt all new water connections.

The board also ordered the city in October to secure a new long-term supply of drinking water.

Zack Cinek "The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, has rescinded the compliance order issued to the City of Willits on October 17," City Manager Adrienne Moore said in a Thanksgiving week statement.

The water board had said a previous curtailment of junior water rights in the Eel River watershed left Willits with no legal access to water.

The city asked the order be amended. City employees also provided more information to substantiate their request.

City officials hoped from the get-go they could get out from under the order or, at least, have the ban on new water connections lifted.

In a letter to the water board, the city said, based on talks with the Division of Drinking Water, that the October order was based on incorrect filings by the city.

The state issued water right curtailment notices in July, accompanied with a curtailed water rights claim form.

Moore said the city made

Zack Cinek  
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zack@willitsweekly.com

Read the rest of **Water** | Over on Page 15

# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

## Clarifying on REACH

To the Editor:

In regard to the proposed REACH project at the Willits Airport, Keep the Code would like to clarify the following facts:

- Keep the Code is a public benefit environmental California non-profit corporation and is not opposed to a REACH helicopter base project at the Willits Airport, if approved by the City of Willits with appropriate mitigation conditions and conservation measures to protect both human and natural resource environments.
- REACH should be familiar with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental review process, with experience on their other projects in 11 California locations.

- REACH announced in a news release their plans for the new regional air ambulance service at the Willits Airport this past July 30. However, REACH only submitted a Site Plan Review application signed on October 28 to the city about *three months later*. If REACH had submitted their application to the city and commenced the required environmental review in September, the process might have been completed by the end of this year. Instead REACH and the city delayed the proposed project by publicly asserting that the air ambulance operation was allowed under airport zoning, and therefore exempt from CEQA. Then, further delayed the project claiming that subleasing a temporary operation from another Willits Airport renter was not subject to city approval. The problem with these attempts to avoid environmental review is that they are contrary to law, and there would have been no public review or conditions of approval that protected both human and natural resource environments.

- Keep the Code communicated with the city over these past months that the proposed project may have a significant adverse impact to the environment. For example, the helicopter noise impact on adjacent residential neighborhoods and the harmful noise disturbance to the federal- and state-protected Northern Spotted Owls that reside in the adjacent forest habitat. When REACH and the city proceeded without environmental review, Keep the Code was compelled to hire an attorney to defend environmental laws.

- The question of how many lives will be lost or saved depends on response time during the environmental review and approval for the project. Delaying the application submittal to the city and the required environmental review does not save lives. Also, emergency helicopter pick-up at the Willits Airport or anywhere else closer to the medical emergency scene will not be affected by the proposed project's environmental review, as emergency

flights from an existing base with appropriate permits and environmental review is generally not subject to CEQA.

- The existing REACH base at Lampson Field near Lakeport and the CALSTAR base at the Ukiah Airport will continue to be operational to serve the region. The flight time to Willits by REACH from Lakeport is approximately 12 minutes, for CALSTAR in Ukiah to Willits the flight time is about 10 minutes. If the call for the helicopter was made at the medical emergency scene for pick-up at the scene, which is often the case with medical emergencies, then the Willits Airport would not be used for pick-up.

- In the case of patient transfer from hospital to hospital by air ambulance, which is currently supported from the existing location of Howard Hospital, driving an ambulance to the existing emergency helicopter heliport on Baechtel Road is substantially shorter travel time than to the Willits Airport, and the new Howard Hospital location opening this spring 2015 plans to have its own heliport.

- The use of the Willits Airport by public agencies in response to an emergency, such as fire or earthquake, would not require environmental review, as public service emergencies are not a project as defined by CEQA. In fact, the Willits Airport is a central element in the Brooktrails Township emergency plan.

- Our legislative and judicial systems do their best to balance competing interests with the law and nature. Interestingly, Governor Ronald Reagan signed the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) into law in 1970. After over 40 years you would hope that California governments, businesses and law-abiding citizens would be aware of, and abide by, the law. A primary goal of Keep the Code is that the cost of time and resources to protect and conserve our shared environment is worth the benefit of a higher quality of life here on Earth.

**Bob Whitney, for Keep the Code, Willits**

## Beware phone scams

To the Editor:

The latest scam by phone involves your computer. I had heard about this scam

## Willits Weekly's 2nd Annual Christmas Party!



**Friday, December 19  
from 5 to 7 pm**

at Ardella's Downtown Diner

**Cookie Tasting & Voting  
Live Music & Merriment**

Come celebrate with us!

Info: 707-459-2633 or 707-972-7047

last week on the internet. Today I received a call from someone with a very thick mid-East accent claiming to be from the Microsoft Corporation. He told me that my computer operating system was involved and that they noticed a problem with portions of my system that, if not repaired immediately, would cause my computer to become inoperable. He then asked me to give him access to my computer so that he could make the necessary repairs. I paused a moment, and said to him, "Do you think I am stupid?" He replied, "Yes, you are stupid, an a----- and a dumb s---." Then he hung up.

He obviously knew that I wasn't going to fall for this lame scam but, sadly, many people do. The way it works is that you allow them access to your computer and they cause some windows to open that makes it look like they are making repairs. They may also install malware to further their claim that the problem exists. Then you are hit with a repair bill adding up to a few hundred dollars or a thousand dollars for repairs they never made. They may even go so far as to sign you up for a monthly maintenance contract amounting to huge yearly cost.

The bottom line is: Never give access or any information to anyone calling you.

Another phone scam to be aware of is someone claiming to be from the IRS telling you that you owe back taxes and, if you do not pay up immediately, you will be arrested. Still another is someone claiming to be from the county telling you that there is a warrant out against you for not appearing for jury duty and that you must pay a hefty fine to a man who will meet you at a specified time at the courthouse steps.

Remember that no agency or banking institution ever calls to demand any kind of fine or back taxes. If you get a call like those mentioned, just hang up on them. If they continue calling, then you must call the

local police department or Sheriff's Office to let them know. If you have a friend or relative who may be vulnerable to calls like these, have a talk with them so that they are aware of the consequences.

**Andy Zanardi, Willits**

## Jury Duty Telephone Scam

To the Editor:

On November 11, the Willits Police Department received calls from local citizens reporting that an individual had called them, identifying himself as a lieutenant for the Sheriff's Department, and stating that since they have missed jury duty, a warrant for their arrest has been issued.

The citizens reported that the caller then told them the matter could be cleared up by paying \$5,600 in cash or "Green Dot MoneyPaks," which are to be purchased at a local Rite Aid, to a "Paul Clemons" who will arrange to meet them at a later date at the courthouse.

Please be aware that these calls are fraudulent, and this appears to be a variant of a scam that has been circulating around the state. No court or law enforcement employee will ever contact a member of the public and ask for personal or financial information (such as Social Security number, date of birth, or credit card number, or request payment via Green Dot money cards) in lieu of attending jury duty or to make up for failure to attend jury duty.

If you receive a phone call from someone demanding payment for an outstanding warrant for jury service, immediately contact your local police department to report the incident. The office number for the Willits Police Department is 459-6122.

**Gerry Gonzalez, police chief, Willits**

## Willits Unified School District

**Town Hall Meeting  
Part I**

**December 9, 2014**

**Willits High School Media Center  
299 North Main St.**

**5:30 - 7:00 PM**

**Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)  
Student Achievement  
District Multiyear Outlook**

**Be a Part of The Future**



At the Willits Art Center:

## Steampunk art, sculpture and fashion

Fans of the "steampunk" genre, those curious about it, or anyone interested in unique combinations of recycled materials and fashions,

should check out the new show at the Willits Center for the Arts this month. The show features an exciting display of many different steampunk-inspired art works by Willits artist Malakai Schindel and his wife, Kaylyn Marie.

"I'm trying to create a sense of bringing the future and the past

together into a common ground, and to invoke the feeling of traveling in time," said Malakai of the multimedia art works in his newest show, which opens this Saturday, December 6 with an artists' reception from 7 to 9 pm. The show features art, sculpture, and fashion creations designed over the last two years, with a few older favorites, as well.

The pair are both long-time artists and designers who have been working within

Read the rest of **Steampunk** Over on Page 15



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At top from left: One of Malakai's paintings; intricate earrings and necklace details by Kaylyn Marie; the Schindels in the image for the show's poster. Far left: Steampunk sculptures by Malakai. At left: A corset costume piece with necklace by Kaylyn Marie. Below: An octopus necklace design by Kaylyn Marie.



**The Rules: LETTERS**

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

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

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**Willits Weekly**  
EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Coziness and Life in Willits

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*Christmas Store*

**Date: Dec. 5-Dec. 14, 2014**  
Mon.-Sat: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Sun, Dec. 7: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Sun, Dec. 14: 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

**Lots of Christmas items for a very low price!**

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**Monday**  
**December 8**  
9 am to 4 pm

**Refreshments**

**Drawings**

**Holiday Food and Toy Drive**  
Please bring nonperishable food items and new toys for local Christmas efforts

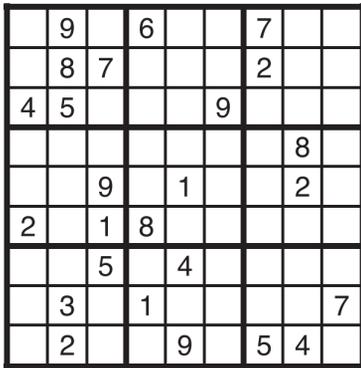
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# Puzzle Page & More

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

## Sudoku



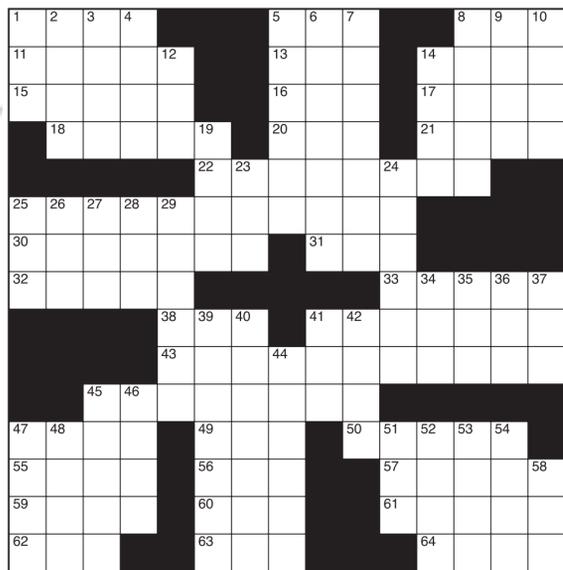
Level: Intermediate



### How To Sudoku:

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

## Crossword Puzzle



### CLUES ACROSS

- Breezed through
- What part of (abbr.)
- Reciprocal of a sine
- Moves suddenly
- Household god (Roman)
- Picasso mistress Dora
- Old Italian monetary units
- Brew
- Especially capable
- Coffeehouses
- Not
- Holly genus
- Work done after 40 hrs
- Immunization
- More aseptic
- The brain and spinal cord (abbr.)
- Cambodian monetary units
- Wrath
- Nicaraguan capital
- Artifact recycling center
- Injure severely
- A steep rugged rock or cliff
- Nothing

### CLUES DOWN

- Deaf signing
- Fashionable
- Girl's name meaning "snow" in Welsh
- Unhearing
- Heavenly body
- About heat energy
- New Jersey capital
- Steel rope
- Selling
- Eurasian land rail genus
- Point midway between S and SE
- Disfigure
- Sound unit
- Volt-ampere
- Mentally deranged
- TV taping device
- 4th Caliph of Islam
- Musician \_\_\_ Lo Green
- Golden state (abbr.)
- Importune
- A recess in a wall
- Honorable title (Turkish)
- Hairy coat of a mammal
- Small amount
- Arc of spectral colors
- Oval
- Gym floor padding
- Used of tobacco
- Overnight case
- Volcanic craters
- Tangerine grapefruit hybrid
- Military leader (abbr.)
- Enlarge a hole
- Express pleasure
- Bivalve mollusk
- Philippine island, city and harbor
- Unreturnable serves
- Malaysian Isthmus

## SNOWY WEATHER WORD SEARCH

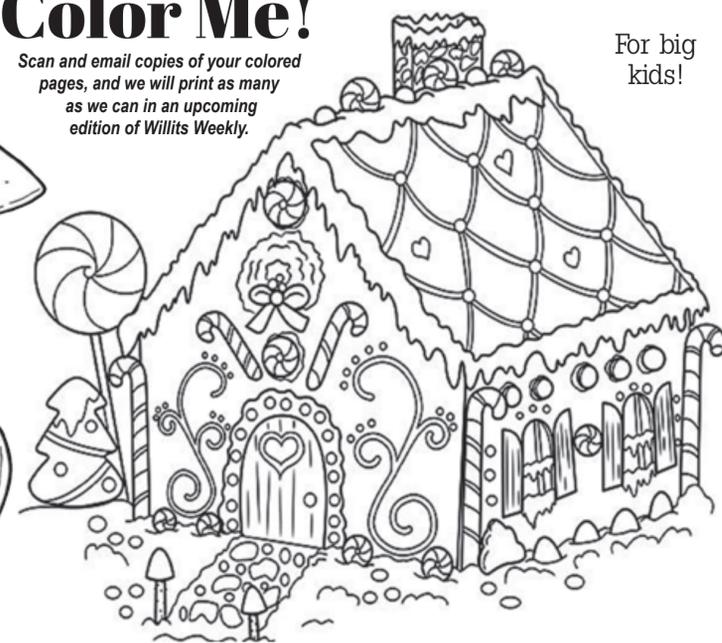
U S Z M N D A V O V Y T E F B F Z D O G  
 D N S Z O O N D P R N H F I P W L R L F N  
 L M D L O C I P R O C F G E D D N A Y I  
 D D R A E L R T R N A H R Y E W O Y C T  
 O Z N A C W E X F A L T M S P I Z I T L F  
 B L S C I H T L B L A I T B C E T I O I  
 R V S U M U A E A F B H B T I Z A L U R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

- |              |             |            |             |
|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| ABLATION     | CLIMATOLOGY | FRONT      | PERMAFROST  |
| ACCRETION    | CLOUD       | GLACIER    | SATURATION  |
| ACCUMULATION | COLD        | HAIL       | SLEET       |
| ALBEDO       | CRYSTALS    | HAZE       | SLOPE       |
| ALPINE       | DEICING     | HUMMOCK    | SNOWFLAKE   |
| ARCTIC       | DENSITY     | INDEX      | TEMPERATURE |
| AVALANCHE    | DEPTH       | LEVEL      | THAW        |
| BIGHT        | DRIFTING    | LUMINOUS   | THICKNESS   |
| BLIZZARD     | FREEZING    | MESOSPHERE | VISIBILITY  |



## Color Me!

Scan and email copies of your colored pages, and we will print as many as we can in an upcoming edition of Willits Weekly.



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Rotarian Tim King holds a boiled Dungeness crab. Photo by Maureen Moore

## Come Get Crabby!

Rotary Club's crab fundraiser this Friday, Saturday at Sweetwater Station  
 Crab fishing is looking good off the North Coast, and the Willits Rotary Club has announced its annual sale of fresh, boiled Dungeness crabs is on for Friday, December 5 from 9 am until 6 pm, and Saturday, December 6 from 9 am until sold out. The Rotary Club will set up on along Highway

Come to our **Holiday Party Dec. 12!**  
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## Willits Frontier Days donates truckload of toys to Willits Christmas Kids Program



For the fifth year in a row, the Willits Frontier Days Beer Crew (Dean and Rachel Verdort, Bruce Cartwright, Jeff and Tracy Duncan, Willy England, Fred and Marcy Barry, Rod and Karen Cavanaugh, and Tracy LeGris) pooled their tips and donated over \$700 worth of goods to this year's Toy Run.  
 The haul included clothes, dolls, trucks, hats, mittens, games, puzzles, coloring books, toothpaste, socks, crayons and more.  
 Along with the toys, Willits Frontier Days also donated a family pack of 2015 event tickets and a Jack Daniels and Coca-Cola Basket ("Jack and Coke") to the raffle.  
 From left: Jim, Jerry Turner, Laura Deffendal, Sandy Turner, Katherine Houghtby, Danielle Barry and Marcy Barry.  
 Photo by Maureen Moore

Formerly of Blue Sky Gallery  
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**PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR 2D/3D**  
 (PG) 1 hr 32 mins  
 Fri: (3D) 5:45, (2D) 8:15pm  
 Sat/Sun: (3D) 12:45 & 5:45, (2D) 3:15 & 8:15pm  
 Mon-Thurs: (3D) 4:45, (2D) 7:15pm

**HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PT. 1**  
 (PG13) 2 hrs 3 mins  
 Fri: 5:30 & 8:00pm  
 Sat/Sun: 12:30, 3:00, 5:30 & 8:30pm  
 Mon-Thurs: 4:30 & 7:00pm

**BIRDMAN**  
 (R) 1 hr 59 mins  
 Fri-Sun: 6:00 & 8:30pm  
 Sat/Sun: 1:00, 3:30, 6:00 & 8:30pm  
 Mon-Thurs: 5:00 & 7:30pm

**Sparetime Supply wishes everyone Happy Holidays!**  
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**Willits Community Services feeds 600+ on Turkey Day**

More than 600 free Thanksgiving dinners were served at the 25th annual Willits Community Services' holiday celebration at the Harrah Senior Center last week.

The center's dining room was bustling with volunteers, dishing up and serving up heaping plates of classic Thanksgiving comfort food. Tables of happy eaters, mostly full most of the day, were decorated with gourds and fall flowers, and the walls

At top: Priscilla Tarver, outreach coordinator for the Senior Center, and her husband, Clarence, after enjoying Thanksgiving dinner.

Above: Volunteer Linda Posner.

At right: A holiday centerpiece.

At bottom, from left: Sarah Schuyler, Lynda, Heather, Patsy Broeske, Judy Folkes and Ian.



Read the rest of **Turkey**  
 Over on Page 14



Above left: The fire engines led this year's parade, carrying Santa and Mrs. Claus to the Little Lake Grange. Above right: A happy Toy Run attendee smiles a rainy smile in front of the Grange.

At right: Event co-chair Richard Venturi poses with daughter Brie Jones and a donated bear at the entrance to the Toy Run.

Below: Bikers follow the fire trucks down School Street and pose in front of the Grange.

Photos by Maureen Moore



**The Run must go on!**

Toy Run has most successful event to date, despite rainy weather

Even though the parade of bikers was minimal in comparison to past years due to Sunday's rainy weather, the Toy Run had its most successful event to date, earning around \$3,600 for the Willits Community Christmas Program.

Though usually they are driven from the Evergreen Shopping Center to the Little Lake Grange in the open-air antique fire engine, this year, Al "Santa" Robinson and Elaine "Mrs. Claus" Robinson were chauffeured in two of three fire engines posed at the front of the parade of the 27 bikers who braved the weather.

However, riding in the official fire trucks allowed the sirens and lights to blare, creating quite the convenient pathway through traffic Sunday morning for the convoy of Christmas celebrators.

Admission to the event was just one unwrapped toy, but event co-chairman Bear Kamoroff said people were consistently bringing in more than one toy to donate at the entrance.

"There were so many great, high-quality donations,"

explained Kamoroff. "There was even one sweet woman who donated three crates of brand-new stuffed animals. It was so generous."

The Little Lake Grange was packed with around 250 community members and bikers who came to enjoy a tasty meal prepared by the Willits Rotary Club, drinks from the Lions Club, sodas from the Girl Scouts, music by The Wild Mendohouals, and the live auction and raffle. Mike Giles donated and cooked tri-tip and chicken to accompany the Rotary's meal again this year, as it was such a hit last year.

Though The Wild Mendohouals played tunes throughout the evening, at one point they accompanied Kamoroff, co-

Read the rest of **Toy Run**  
 Over on Page 14



**CHRISTMAS TRAIN**

This 90-minute round-trip train ride includes:  
 ✦ A visit from Santa and Elves  
 ✦ Music  
 ✦ Cocoa and Cookies  
 All guests encouraged to wear pajamas!

**SKUNK TRAIN**  
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 CHILDREN (2-12): \$25 • ADULT: \$35

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**Photos with Santa Claus**  
 are scheduled for **Sunday, December 7**  
 and will be held from **12 to 3 pm**  
 at our Willits Store

50% of the proceeds will be donated to the **Willits Junior Horsemen**

pho•tog•ra•phress  
 Photos by Maureen Moore

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WEDNESDAY: chimichanga with choice of beef or chicken, with side of rice and beans

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FRIDAY: two corn tacos choice of shrimp or fish with side of rice and beans

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## Thursday, December 4

**“Grange Futures”:** a potluck and presentation all about the populist history and future of the Grange: including a panel on current Little Lake Grange activities, art, music, and displays celebrating grange history, and a “dinner theater” demonstration of a traditional winter grange ritual. Organized by Willits’ Grange Farm School and the Greenhorns, a national young farmers organization with a mission to “promote, recruit, and support new entrants in sustainable agriculture.” The event is also set to go on to Sebastopol, San Francisco, Santa Rosa, Boonville, Fort Bragg, and other California granges. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Potluck dinner at 6:30 pm; bring a dish to share. Free but donations welcomed.

**Shanachie Pub:** twice-monthly Jazz Night (special holiday schedule: December 4 and 11), with local musicians. Jazz standards infused with funk, hip hop, world and free-form jamming. “Fellow jazz musicians are encouraged to bring their and partake during the second set, so long as it fits within the moment of sounds!” 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

## Friday, December 5

**Rotary Club Crab Sale:** The Willits Rotary Club has set its annual sale of fresh, boiled Dungeness crabs for Friday, December 5 from 9 am to 6 pm, and Saturday, December 6, from 9 am until sold out.

Along Highway 101 at Sweetwater Station, 425 South Main Street. The Crab Sale is the main fundraiser for the Willits Rotary Scholarship Program which awards scholarships to graduating seniors from Willits High School and Willits Charter School.

**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 Elementary Charter School.

**Shanachie Pub:** original and old school blues from The Blue Reptiles: “sometimes electric, sometimes acoustic, always rockin’ and havin’ fun.” 8 pm. \$5. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

**Diggers Dancehall Fridays:** Joey D Productions presents: Dancehall, Dubstep, Hip Hop, Reggae, Trance, Latin: Positive Music /Positive Vibes every Friday at Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street. 21+-. 10 pm to close. No cover.

## Saturday, December 6

**Rotary Club Crab Sale:** 9 am until sold out today; see Friday, December 5 listing for details.

**Farm Hack:** Fuel Farming for the 21st Century: a two-day workshop at Little Lake Grange, the Grange Farm School and Ridgewood Ranch, Saturday, December 6 and Sunday, December 7. “Join us for this opportunity to have a community-wide discussion about the possibilities of ethanol production and use for increasing sustainability.” Workshops, panel discussions, tours and demonstrations throughout the weekend. Starts at 7:30 am Saturday with continental breakfast at the Grange, 291 School Street, and ends Sunday with a 1 pm luncheon at Ridgewood Ranch’s Workshop Barn, followed by tours and demonstrations. Visit: “Mendocino FarmHack: Fuel Farming for the 21st Century” event page on Facebook; or contact Debbie Baron at 961-0717 or mendocinodab@gmail.com to RSVP.

**Senior Center Christmas Craft Faire:** 10 am to 4 pm at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Shop for beautifully hand-crafted items made by local vendors. “Grab a bite to eat from our Snack Bar!” Info: 459-6826 or visit the Harrah Senior Center website: www.willitseniors.com.

**Brookside School Holiday Bazaar:** 10 am to 2 pm at Brookside Elementary School, 20 Spruce Street. One vendor: Betty Hansen will be selling small 5 by 7 inch original oil paintings and Chris Hansen will display his recent book, “Secrets of Backyard Bird Photography.”

**Morning Roses:** open house at the Waldorf Preschool and Kindergarten of Mendocino County in Calpella. 10 to 11:30 am. Parents with young children ages 2 to 5 are welcome. “Together with your child enjoy making holiday crafts, listening to stories, and playing games. Info or to RSVP call 707-485-8719, visit www.mendocinowaldorf.org, or email enroll@mendocinowaldorf.org.

**Christmas Train Rides:** Roots of Motive Power presents its free annual Christmas Express Train rides, from noon to 6 pm at the Roots facility at 420 East Commercial Street. Free train rides for all, plus a visit with Santa, who will give the little ones a small gift. Don’t miss the last run of the #7 Baldwin steam locomotive for an indeterminate amount of time. Bring your cameras! Also cookies and cocoa, the famous train-decorated Christmas trees, model train and antique toy displays, and live music. “Come join the fun at the best Christmas party in town!”

**Museum Holiday Open House:** all are welcome to this free event at the Mendocino County Museum, 400 East Commercial Street, featuring the annual Vintage Toy Display, music by Jon Mather on the dulcimer, crafts with Emmy Good, and 10 percent off items in the Museum Gift Shop. 12 noon to 4 pm. This event complements Roots of Motive Power’s Holiday Express featuring Santa Claus, train rides, refreshments and more! Info: 459-2736.

**Studio M Upstairs:** The public is invited to Studio M’s 5th Anniversary Holiday Open House from 5 to 8 pm, at 1256 Blosser Lane. “Celebrating our five years providing movement improvement, health, and wellness services to our community.” With festive decor, music, hors d’oeuvres and drinks, and more. Info: 459-1840, macemoving@gmail.com or visit www.lisamacewillits.com.

**LocalLights Concert Series:** final concert of this year’s series features Bruce Burton and Friends, with Burton on banjo, Bear Kamoroff on bass, and John Mather on keyboard: Christmas classics, old standards, and new material from Burton’s bluegrass CD. Plus a Grand Finale to the season, featuring songs presented by a variety of musicians who have already performed at previous LocalLights concerts this year, including Twining Time (Anita Blu and John Wagenet), Chanterelle (Madge Strong, Diane Smalley and Helen Falandes), Verne Morninglight, and David Partch. Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub), at 7 pm. Tickets are on sale at Goods’ Shoppe, 56 South Main Street in Willits. Prices are

**THE ORIGINAL 28TH ANNUAL WILLITS HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR**  
FINE ARTS & CRAFTS

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12**  
12:00 NOON - 7:00 P.M.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13**  
10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14**  
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

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Willits Community Center 111 East Commercial St. Willits, CA

## Skunk Train Christmas Trains

The Skunk Train Christmas Trains will be departing daily from the Willits Depot starting Saturday, December 6, and going through Tuesday, December 23. The 90-minute round-trip train ride includes a visit from Santa and elves, music, cocoa and cookies. All guests are encouraged to wear pajamas! Trains depart at 3:30 or 6:30 pm. Get your tickets early: 3:30 pm trips from the Willits Depot on December 6 and 13 are already sold out, and other Willits departure dates have “only a few tickets left.” The Christmas Trains depart from the Fort Bragg Depot, too. To buy tickets, visit <http://skunktrain.com/christmas.html>.

**Senior Center Christmas Craft Faire:** 10 am to 4 pm at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Shop for beautifully hand-crafted items made by local vendors. “Grab a bite to eat from our Snack Bar!” Info: 459-6826 or visit the Harrah Senior Center website: www.willitseniors.com.

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Although the craft fair promises a range of professional artists displaying their unique creations, the fair also provides an opportunity for some younger locals to try their hand at a professional event, while raising money for their schools. The kids’ part of the fair is set for Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm, and will showcase a variety of holiday gifts created by local students.

Shauna Martin, coordinator of this year’s Kids’ Craft Fair, said students from kindergartners at Sherwood Elementary School to high schoolers from the Willits Charter School are participating. Students are working wreaths, scented candles, ornaments, and centerpieces to sell at the fair, with proceeds going towards art supplies, field trips, and support for other school programs. “I love the craft fair. We had a lot of fun last year,” said Martin. There is still room for more schools or kids groups to sign up, and those interested can contact Martin at 984-6769.

“It’s a great thing for the kids to get a taste of being a professional artist, and make some money for their schools!” said Bonnie Belt, craft fair coordinator. “Everyone knows when it’s happening, and there’s a rush to come buy things” to support the newest generation of local artists and their fundraising efforts.

Students from the Willits Charter School’s culinary program also get the opportunity to sell their goods at the fair by providing the menu sold over the course of the event. “It’s healthy, mainly organic food prepared by the kids in the culinary classes,” says coordinator Jason Erick, who says the menu has been refined over the last decade or more to include the most popular dishes, including turkey chili that takes two days to prepare and a variety of lasagnas. This year’s menu also includes a lentil soup, quiche, and salad. “We’ve been doing it basically since the charter school started,” he said.

“They put on such a great spread, and it’s very reasonably priced,” says Belt. Students in the school’s culinary arts program help with prepping, recipe design, and cooking the meals for the fair. In addition, parents and students from the school prepare holiday-inspired baked goods to fill the sweet spot for dessert. Students also assist with serving the meals from the community center’s kitchen, which helps fulfill their community service requirements. All funds from the meals will go towards supporting the culinary arts programs and for field trips.

“It’s a real gathering of the community,” says Belt, who has participated in the fair for the last eight years and coordinated it for four. “People can eat, and listen to music, and talk with friends they haven’t seen since last year’s fair!” Aside from providing a venue for local artisans to share their work with the community, proceeds from the booth fees and raffle tickets available at the door go towards (as in previous years) supporting the Willits Center for the Arts.

Inspired by the success of last year’s expansion to three days, this year’s fair will also continue on Sunday, in order to give everyone an extra day to visit the event.

# What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

\$15 for front row, \$10 for regular seats, and \$5 for last row. Proceeds to benefit WCT.

**Willits Center for the Arts:** December show showcases Malakai Schindel’s “steam punk” three-dimensional and canvas exhibit, featuring Kaylyn Marie’s steam punk fashions. Opening reception is tonight from 7 to 9 pm. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours: Thursday and Friday 4 to 7 pm; Saturday and Sunday, noon to 3 pm. Info: contact Malakai at malakaiart@yahoo.com.

**Shanachie Pub:** coastal guitarist Sean Van Buskirk, from the rock band The Cross-Tie Walkers. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

## Sunday, December 7

**Laytonville Holiday Bazaar:** Annual Christmas Bazaar at Harwood Hall, from 10 am to 4 pm, at 44400 Willis Avenue in Laytonville. “Keep your holiday shopping local this season with over 40 local artisans!” Toys, Wood Crafts, See’s Candies, Pottery, Glass Art, Jewelry, Quilts, and much more. Refreshments, Santa’s Workshop inside Healthy Start, and photos with Santa! Info: 984-8089.

**Bingo at the Senior Center:** monthly Bingo at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Snack bar opens at 11 am; games begin at 11:30 am; Bingo buy-in \$10. Special snack bar this month: choice of two mini crab cakes or cranberry-orange chicken, with tri-colored pasta salad or Katie’s Cole Slaw, and apricot-cranberry holiday bread (\$6); or Crescent Hot Dog Rolls with a Bowl of Chili (\$4); Holiday Cakes (\$2); Cookies or Chips (50 cents); and free coffee, water or tea. “A special “Thank You Menu” for all the Bingo players and volunteers.” Info: 459-6826.

**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 ER Energy, in the Safeway Shopping Center, from 12 to 3 pm; a 50/50 fundraiser for the Willits Junior Horsemen Association.

**Magician/Comedian Ken Garr:** a one-time-only performance at the Willits Community Theatre: a family-appropriate show features Garr’s humor and friendly demeanor, and his expertise at magic tricks. Garr’s magic and comedy are meant to enrich the atmosphere and delight audiences of all ages.” Advance tickets are \$15 in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at www.brownpapertickets.com; or by phone with a credit card at the WCT office, 459-0895. Tickets will also be available at the door.

**Shanachie Pub:** Flamenco with Noches de Invierno Gira Flamenca featuring Savannah Fuentes. 7:30 pm. \$12. Pub

opens at 6 pm for this special Sunday performance. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194. See article elsewhere in Calendar for details.

## Monday, December 8

**Senior Center Ice Cream Social:** 1:30 to 2:30 pm at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. This month’s entertainment: Claudia Dear & Eloise Toomey and “Name That Tune.” Pie, Ice Cream, Coffee and Prizes. Members \$1; Non-members \$1.50. Info: 459-6826 or www.willitseniors.com.

**Kiwanis Club Open Meeting:** Enjoy free pizza and learn about the Kiwanis Club of Willits. Old Mission Pizza, 1708 South Main Street. 5:30pm. Visit [www.kiwanis.org/kiwanis/about-kiwanis](http://www.kiwanis.org/kiwanis/about-kiwanis) for more info.

## Tuesday, December 9

**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: “Penguins of Madagascar,” 2D, and “Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1.” For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

**Photos with Santa:** Get your photo taken with Santa Claus and with fire trucks at the Little Lake Fire Department, 74 East Commercial Street, from 5 to 7 pm. 50/50 fundraiser for the fire department. Photos by Maureen Moore of Mphotographress and Willits Weekly. \$5 for a downloadable digital photo.

**Willits Unified School District Town Hall Meeting, Part I:** The public is invited to learn about the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), Student Achievement, and the WUSD’s “Multiyear Outlook.” Willits High School Media Center, 299 North Main Street. “Be a Part of the Future.” Info: District Office at 459-5314.

## Thursday, December 11

**Shanachie Pub:** twice-monthly Jazz Night (special holiday schedule: December 4 and 11), with local musicians. Jazz standards infused with funk, hip hop, world and free-form jamming.

“Fellow jazz musicians are encouraged to bring their and partake during the second set, so long as it fits within the moment of sounds!” 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

## Friday, December 12

**First Friday Celebration at Willits Library:** Willits Library returns to a Tuesday through Saturday schedule, with a free “First Friday” celebration

## Free Train Rides at Roots of Motive Power

Roots of Motive Power presents its free annual Christmas Express Train rides, Saturday, December 6 from noon to 6 pm at the Roots facility at 420 East Commercial Street, next to the Mendocino County Museum.

Free train rides for all – children and train buffs alike – plus a visit with Santa, who will give the little ones a small gift. Don’t miss the last run of the #7 Baldwin steam locomotive for an indeterminate amount of time. Bring your cameras!

Besides Santa and train rides, there will be cookies and cocoa, the famous train-decorated Christmas trees, model train and antique toy displays, and live music. “Come join the fun at the best Christmas party in town!”

Roots of Motive Power is an all-volunteer organization founded in 1982 to preserve and restore steam- and diesel-powered equipment used in the California north coast logging industry from the 1850s to the present. Visit [www.rootsofmotivepower.com](http://www.rootsofmotivepower.com) or “Roots of Motive Power” on Facebook to keep up with the activities of the Roots volunteers.

**Roots of Motive Power Presents: Christmas Express Train**

**Free Train Rides**  
Saturday Dec. 6th  
Noon to 6pm

Bring the kids, and kids at heart, to Roots where children can all learn what they want for Christmas and receive a little gift!

**After-Train Fun:**

- Take a Free steam train ride.
- Enjoy hot chocolate and cookies.
- See the famous railroad decorated trees.
- Listen to live music.
- Peruse a model train & antique toys.

Don't miss this special event! The last run of the #7 Baldwin locomotive before it's taken off for an indeterminate amount of time being rebuilt. (Weather dependent)

420 E. Commercial St. Willits, Calif. Next to the Mendocino County Museum.

today. Guitarist Mac Smith opens the program at 10 am, with guitar and songs for kids. At 12:15 pm, “How Schools Kill Creativity,” a streamed online TED talk by Sir Ken Robinson, bringing a brown bag lunch, free coffee and tea. Conversation after the 20 minute talk. Jewelry crafting for tweens, teens and adults from 2 to 4 pm, with copper wire and beads. Advanced registration is required for this: call the library at 459-5908 to register. At 7 pm, Friends of the Willits Library presents an author talk by Kim Bancroft; see other listing for details. New Willits Library hours (as of December 8): Tuesday through Saturday: 10 am to 8 pm, Tuesday & Wednesday: 10 am to 6 pm Thursday; 10 am to 5 pm; and Friday & Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm.

**“Bucket Brigade” Blood Drive:** Annual December blood drive hosted by the Little Lake Fire Department. The “Bucket Brigade” drive is organized by the Blood Center of the Pacific, to bring in blood donors in December or January, when donations are historically low. Fire departments in Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino counties participate in this drive: “Fire departments recruit community members, colleagues, friends and family to donate lifesaving blood in an effort to collect the most and win the Bucket Brigade trophy.” 2 to 6 pm at the main fire station located on 74 East Commercial Street across from the theater. Although appointments are not required and walk ups are welcome, donors are strongly encouraged to make an appointment by calling 707 280-2563 or visiting [www.bloodheroes.com](http://www.bloodheroes.com): click on “donate blood” and enter sponsor code WillitsFire to make an appointment. Donors will receive a free Bucket Brigade T-shirt. Bring a photo ID and arrive well hydrated and nourished.

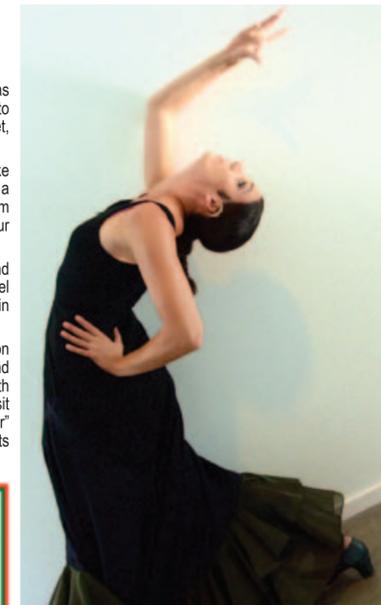
**Book Reading by Kim Bancroft:** free reading by Willits author Kim Bancroft, discussing her latest book, “The Heyday of Malcolm Margolin: The Damn Good Times of a Fiercely Independent Publisher.” The book commemorates the 40th anniversary of the founding of Malcolm Margolin’s Heyday Books in Berkeley. “a small press that for 40 years has spotlighted California’s best stories.” 7 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

## Saturday, December 13

**55th Annual AAUW Gathering Open House:** hosted by the American Association of University Women’s Willits Branch, 4 to 7 pm at 245 Redwood Avenue. Build-your-own-noodle-boat and other refreshments provided. Learn about AAUW projects like the 15th Annual Women’s History Project in Willits and Laytonville classrooms; the Sister to Sister Summit; Mendocino College becoming a partner with AAUW, thus providing free online AAUW memberships for full-time students; Jazz Trek, a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) summer camp for seventh graders; and our four scholarship funds. “Please join us and learn more about this organization whose mission is to enhance the education and learning of women and girls.” Call 459-4444 for directions or information regarding AAUW’s holiday mail scholarship fundraiser virtual tea party.

**KYBU Radio Third Anniversary Party:** 7 pm at the Round Valley Library Commons in Covelo. Live music, featuring Oakland’s Fox’s Blues Band (Blues, Funk, Rock, Soul), drinks food, raffle and fun. Free for current members: memberships and renewals available at the door. Info: [www.kyburadio.org](http://www.kyburadio.org).

**Sunday, December 14**  
Harrah Senior Center Pancake Breakfast: 8 to 11 am at the center, 1501



## Noches de Invierno Flamenco

Seattle flamenco dancer Savannah Fuentes returns to Willits Sunday, December 7, with her latest show: “Noches de Invierno/Winter Nights,” as part of a 16-date West Coast tour from Portland to Los Angeles. 7:30 pm at Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Tickets: \$18; \$12 for students; VIP tickets \$35; available at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com). Savannah will be joined by internationally recognized cantao (flamenco singer) Jose Anillo, one of Spain’s finest singers who, since the age of sixteen, has toured internationally with a myriad of Spain’s most esteemed contemporary flamenco artists. Bulgarian guitarist Bobby de Sofia is also on the bill. Visit [www.savannahflamenco.com](http://www.savannahflamenco.com).

Baechtel Road. Pancakes, eggs, and your choice of ham, bacon, or sausage. Adults \$7, Members \$6, and kids \$5. Info: 459-6826.

**Mexican Food Fundraiser:** St Anthony’s Catholic Church fundraiser, 10 am until sold out, at the Parish Hall, 58 Bush Street. Tacos, Al Pastor, Carne Asada, Chorizo, Menudo, Pozole and Tamales..... “Take Home or Eat Here.”

**27th Annual Willits Community Christmas Choral:** starts at 6 pm at the LDS Church, 265 Margie Drive. “Everyone is invited to come share an evening of music and song,” featuring performances by: The Willits Brass, St. Francis Church, Emandal Choir, Ed Rinehart, Chanterelle, and many more, plus a community sing-a-long of a few favorite Christmas carols. Refreshments will be served after the program. Info: Roni at 707-391-5461.

## Ongoing events

**Willits Winter Farmers Market:** from 3 to 5 pm every Thursday at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, with Produce, local meats and fish, local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, and more.

**The Emandal Choral:** this community chorus based in Willits is in its 20th season, and you are welcome to join! Every Wednesday from 5 to 6:30 pm. No auditions necessary. The Choral meets upstairs at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

**Willits Photography Club:** meets at the Willits Art Center, 71 East Commercial Street, on the second Saturday of each month from 10 to 12 noon. All levels of experience welcome. Come to the back door of the Art Center.

**Alateen Support Group:** for teens ages 12-17 that are friends and family members of problem drinkers and/or addicts. For teens only. Every Thursday, 6 to 7 pm, Room 44 at Willits High School, north of gym near pool. Contact: Aurelie at 707-489-1258 or Cindy at 707-972-4748 or cnylalmor@gmail.com.

**Junior Grange After-School Program:** an after-school program for kids ages 5 to 14, Mondays from 3 to 6 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, Room 10. Membership fee: \$1, plus \$1 annual dues. Info? Contact Zeynep at 707-972-8558 or zeyny34@yahoo.com.

**Cards and Games at Willits Library:** free games in the Willits Library’s Community Room. Tuesday bridge sessions from 1:30 to 3:30 pm; Thursday bridge sessions from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. New session added: Saturdays from 11 am to 1 pm. Info: Donna at 459-9035. Tuesday evenings: “Dungeons and Dragons, the Adventurers’ League,” from 6 to 10 pm. Both newbies and experienced players, ages 13+, are welcome to join. Info: Dan at 972-3154. Saturday afternoons from 2 to 4:30 pm: bring your chess set and have some fun with friends. All ability levels welcome. Info: Raymond at 841-0473.

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

**Free Zumba for Teens:** Zumba is always free for teenagers on Friday nights at Studio Joy, 1262 Blosser Lane. Class at 6 pm with Melissa. Info: 707-841-7499 or [www.studiojoywillits.com](http://www.studiojoywillits.com).

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

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

**Free Sheriff’s Activity League programs:** at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 pm; Karate: Kids aged 5 to 11 from 6 to 7 pm, Tweens, Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: [www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague](http://www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague) or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

**Shanachie Pub:** Open Mic every Wednesday and World Music Open Mic every Monday. 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam’s Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

**Karaoke Night at Al’s Redwood Room:** every Wednesday night, karaoke in the bar. 207 South Main Street. 459-2444.

**Live Open Mic Jam at Al’s Redwood Room:** hosted by Dream Capsule Entertainment, now at Al’s Redwood Room, 207 South Main Street, every Friday night, starting at 9 pm. Info: Mr. Larry at 707-354-3197.

**Laytonville Winter Farmers Market:** Mondays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at the Laytonville Grange. Buy local: vegetables, apples, juice, bakery, beef, lamb, pork, crafts, and more.

## ‘Birdman’

**Caveat:** I have not yet seen the movie. I am writing this less as a review and more as a celebration of a major motion picture event at the Noyo Theatre.

**The Story:** In the past, Michael Keaton played the character of Birdman in a super successful movie franchise, then left the franchise. It’s

20 years later, and Keaton wants to revive his career by producing a play on Broadway. This is a movie with elements of magical realism about past successes and possible present day failures: successes and failures in one’s life and family and in one’s career.

“Birdman” is directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu, justifiably famous for “Amores Perros,” “21 Grams,” “Babel,” and “Biutiful.” He has numerous “Best Director” Oscar nominations.

“Birdman” stars Michael Keaton, Zach Galifianakis, Edward Norton, Andrea Riseborough, Amy Ryan, Emma Stone and Naomi Watts, movie stars who are actors first and “stars” second. I admire them all and look forward to seeing this movie. 94 percent positive on rottentomatoes.com.

**Parents:** “Birdman” is an adult movie. Older teens and more sophisticated teens will like it and learn from it, but the movie is not for children.

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

## Save the Date

**Willits Weekly’s Annual Christmas Cookie Party, December 19, Ardella’s Downtown Diner**

# Christmas Calendar

December 5 through 11, 2014 - check next week to see what new sales are featured!

## December 6

**PET SUPPLY SALE!**  
Dec. 5, 6 & 7  
All pet supplies (excluding feed) are **25% OFF**

petmate Greenies Chukchuck

**J.D. REDHOUSE & COMPANY**  
A LOCALLY OWNED MERCANTILE  
212 S. Main St. • Willits • 707-459-1214

**PET SUPPLY SALE!**  
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**PET SUPPLY SALE!**  
Dec. 5, 6 & 7  
All pet supplies are **25% OFF**

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## December 8

**Tropic Tails**

Come visit the pet shop girls and their furry, feathered and scaly friends! We love our pets and understand how important yours are to you. Choose from a wide selection of everything your pet needs for a healthy and happy life.

**Pet & Food & Supplies**  
Open Mon-Sat  
10:30-6:30  
1661-E South Main Street  
Willits, CA 95490  
**707-459-4060**

## December 7

**MistyMade and Sew Much More**

Hand-Poured Soy Candles • Beads • Jewelry Making Supplies  
Yarn • Sewing Notions • Kids Crafts • Home Decor • Gifts and more!

**INFINITY LIGHTS 20% OFF Today Only**  
(Dec. 11th)

Check the store daily starting the 13th for the 12 Days of Christmas Savings

156 S. Main St.  
Willits • 707-459-1308  
Holiday Hours: M-F 10:30-6:30, Sat 11-5 & Sun 12-4

Hope to see you soon!  
Happy Holidays!

## December 10

**La Siciliana and Gavel Down Sales are teaming up to give you discounts!**

**Bring your same day receipt from either business to receive 10% off your purchase at the partner business.**

**La Siciliana**  
Restaurant & Pizzeria  
1611 S. Main  
Willits  
459-5626  
Open for lunch and dinner  
11am-9pm Tuesday-Sunday

**Gavel Down Sales**  
1611 S. Main, Ste. A  
Willits  
459-1300

## December 11

## December 5

**LAST CHANCE**

For a photo with **SANTA CLAUS**  
December 9  
Come by the **Little Lake Fire Department**  
from 5 to 7 pm

\$5 digital images  
Photos by Maureen Moore / HighEndPhotography  
5050 Fundraiser for LLPD  
Info: 707-972-7047

## December 9



Left: Roxie the dog watches as Rick lays gift bags down in order on the floor at the Sparetime Supply warehouse.  
Below: Clothes hang above hats and mittens.  
Below, left: Toys collected from the community line the shelves, ready to fill tag requests this year.  
Below, right: Teddy bears ready to be given out this Christmas.



# Getting ready to WRAP!

Willits Community Christmas Program gets ready for 2014 season

"The tags are out!" said Sandy Turner, coordinator of the annual Willits Community Christmas Program that helps provide holiday gifts to families around Willits. "We want to encourage everyone to grab a tag, buy one or all of the items listed, and return the gifts to us to wrap and deliver! Please don't wait!"

Tags will also be filled from the program's stockpile, currently at the Sparetime Supply wholesale yard, but there are still many other requests for specific items which are still needed.

What's big this year?  
Any and all "Frozen" Disney items,

electric guitars and even a drum set were requested, and warm clothes, rain boots, arts and craft supplies and baby dolls are always popular items.

Interestingly, there are less families listed this year, taking the usual 500 or so kids down to 300 or so this year, coming from only 147 families.

"I'm baffled how it's so low this year, but hopefully families are having more available funds and may not be in need of the program as much this year," explained Turner. "However, it is still the beginning of December, and I usually always have additional referrals that get added to the list as the month goes on."

Money collected throughout the year and received as donations during the official season

is desperately needed, as it ensures the program's ability to purchase the shoes, coats and clothing which are always a guarantee to be given.

"Really, \$5 and \$10 donations absolutely add up, and if that's all someone can give, we will happily take it!" said Turner. "We really want to stress that it is OK to not complete the whole tag. Just do one item, do half, whatever. It all helps us in the long run."

Wrappers will be needed soon, too, and anyone wishing to help wrap is encouraged to come by the Sparetime Supply wholesale yard at 475 East San Francisco Avenue between 10 am and 5 pm Monday through Friday to participate. Everyone is also welcome to call Turner at 707-490-8872 to set up a time to help, drop off donations or just for more information.



**Happy Holidays**

**STUDIO M INVITES YOU TO OUR 5TH ANNIVERSARY HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014  
FROM 5-8 P.M.

1256 BLOSSER LANE

DRINKS AND HORS D'OEUVRES WILL BE SERVED

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS — SPECIALIZING IN MOVEMENT IMPROVEMENT, HEALTH, AND WELLNESS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

CALL 459-1840 FOR MORE INFO OR GO TO:  
WWW.LISAMACEWILLITS.COM



Above: An elf assembles a little red wagon before wrapping.  
At right: Trees at Healing Central Chiropractic (above) and Main Street Music & Video (below) are ready with tags to be filled.



**Rain Totals in Willits**

Name	Location	Last 24 hours	So far this season
3rd Gate, south-facing	2,400 feet elevation	2.4 inches	22.3 inches thru 9 am, 12/3
Lucky Monkey's Ranch	2 miles west of Willits where Skunk Train tracks cross Hwy 20	1.9 inches	13.35 inches thru 9 am, 12/3
Willits Water Plant		1.3 inches	11.60 inches thru 9 am, 12/3
Brooktrails, southwest	2,300 feet elevation	Last 5 days: 5 inches	14 inches thru 3 pm, 12/3
Willits Sewer Plant		1.57 inches	2014 to date: 37.26 inches

## Bring on the Rain!

The recent rains are a welcome relief here in Northern California, but there's still lots of room in the Willits reservoirs for more. This picture was taken Tuesday afternoon at the Centennial reservoir, south of Willits. Rainfall predictions for the next week, as of Wednesday afternoon, are trending more toward "chance of showers" than "heavy rain."

Jeffrey Lorens, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service's Western Region, was quoted in the Los Angeles Times as saying: "The rain is welcome – it sure helps – but one good storm is not enough. We're still in a drought, and we will be for some time." Willits Weekly encourages readers to email in their rainfall figures to willitsweekly@gmail.com.

Photo by Maureen Moore

We're always here to help make sure holidays are bright!

707-459-9116

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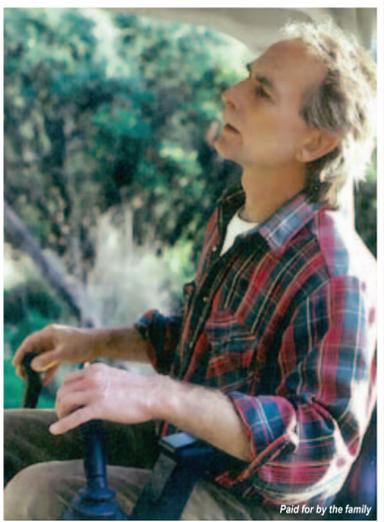
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 DR. VALERIE M. CANTRELL  
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 459-6723 or 459-4634  
 19612 N. HWY. 101 • WILLITS, CA 95490



A Celebration of Life  
**Scott Bulkley**

Scott Wohlson Bulkley, born on June 20, 1953, died on November 3, 2014.

A Celebration of Scott's Life will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2014, from 1 to 5 pm, upstairs at the Willits Art Center, 71 East Commercial Street. Bring your Scott stories! Wheelchair-accessible (elevator in rear). No alcohol permitted. Catered by Sarah Schleider. Potluck dishes welcomed.



OBITUARY | JoAnne Miller

**JoAnne Miller**

JoAnne Ellen (Becker) Miller passed away on November 19, 2014 at the age of 75. Born in Los Angeles August 3, 1939, she lived in Southern California until her family moved to Willits in 1977.

Knitting and crocheting were her favorite hobbies. She loved her family and friends and was always there to help anyone in need.

She was preceded in death by her brothers Ronald, Wayne, Wallace and Frank Becker.

She is survived by her daughters, Cindy Miller, Debbie Molina (Victor), Judy Lane (Patrick), her son Michael Miller, her sisters, Jeanne Ross (Earl), Eileen Becker, and Sandy French (Elmer), and her grandchildren, Vanessa Miller, Michael Miller, Jr., Monika Miller, Jeremy Ellis, Drew Lane, Brett Lane

Read the rest of Miller | Over on Page 13

OBITUARY | Elsie Ebbe

**Elsie Ebbe**

Elsie (Hansen) Lind Ebbe, a native of Denmark, made her final journey home to be with her Lord Thursday, November 27. Elsie came to America in 1924 with her family at the age of 14. They settled in Eugene, Oregon and later moved to Oakland, California, where she met her first husband, Carl Lind.

Elsie and Carl raised their two children in Oakland and Petaluma, where they were long-term congregants of Elim Lutheran Church. Elsie became a naturalized citizen of the United States on September 1, 1942, a duty she took seriously to her last days. Several years after the death of Carl, Elsie married Einar Ebbe, whom she met through family friends. Elsie and Einar made their home in Paradise, where they were members of Craig Community Church.

Elsie moved to Willits to be near her family in 2000 at the age of 90. Elsie was a faithful, loving, Christian woman who enjoyed gardening, animals, travel and especially the children in her life. For the past 3.5 years Elsie lived with her granddaughter, Cindy, and Cindy's husband, Gary

Read the rest of Ebbe | Over on Page 13

**TNT MARKET**

Authentic Indian food served every Thursday and Friday for lunch and dinner. Saturday just lunch.

Seniors  
**15% OFF one dinner**  
 Wide variety of Indian beer!  
 Fried chicken everyday!

**35 WEST COMMERCIAL**  
**WILLITS • 707-456-1290**

Welcome Santa to town on Christmas Eve at 1pm  
**GEIGER'S LONG VALLEY MARKET**  
 44951 Hwy. 101 Laytonville, CA 707-984-6911  
 Earn \$50 during December in our Customer Appreciation Month  
 Come by on December 17th from 3 to 7 pm for our Holiday Open House  
 Enjoy samples, prizes and sales store wide

**Willits Weekly CLASSIFIEDS**

\$10 for 2 weeks for 30 words!

**Algebra, Geometry SAT & ACT Test Prep**  
 Mac Smith 459-MATH

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

**For Rent**  
 Nice large 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhouse, close to shopping center, small backyard. No pets. No smoking. Washer & dryer on premises. \$795/month. Armo: 459-9601.

**For Rent, Office Spaces**  
 Three small office spaces in town. \$250 each. Includes utilities. Rent one, two or all three. 489-7165 or 459-3141.

**Help Wanted**  
 Laytonville Unified School District Announces the Following Vacancies:  
**Instructional Assistant** - 3 hrs/day, 5 days/wk. 8:30-11:30 am. Salary Range: \$9,800-13,530/hr. **Bus Mechanic** - 16 hours per week. Salary Range: \$14,710-20,320/hr. Paid holidays & vacation. Pro-rated health benefits may be available. **Substitutes - Bus Drivers, Instructional Assistants, and Teachers.** All positions are open until filled. Please call (707) 984-6414 for more info. EOE

**Help Wanted**  
 NCO Community Action-Mendo/Lake Counties: Farmers Market Promotion Coordinator for NCO. Strong mktg & people skills req. Bilingual pref. Mendo/Lake Co travel req. 20hrs/wk. \$22.00/hr. Job Desc & Appl at www.ncoinc.org or (707) 467-3200 ext.302 Closes: 12/4 @ 5pm (Postmarks not accepted). EOE

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

**Income Opportunity**  
 Seeking energetic, friendly, business-minded individuals with good people skills for part-time/full-time commission based opportunity with unlimited growth potential. You must be coachable and motivated to learn and earn. Call/text 707-456-7035.

**Rummage Sale**  
 Every Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm at 1st Baptist Church, 145 Wood Street. Rain or shine. We accept rummage donations, and have an ever-changing selection of goods!

**Santa Photos**  
 Three upcoming chances in Willits to have your photo taken with Santa!  
**Friday, December 5** from 4:30 to 7:30 pm at JD Redhouse & Company  
**Sunday, December 7** from noon to 3 pm at ER Energy Kitchen & Hearth  
**Tuesday, December 9** from 5 to 7 pm at Little Lake Fire Department  
 Digital images just \$5 each! Info: 707-972-7047

**SEWING AND ALTERATIONS**  
 Seamstress and Sewing Teacher  
 Barbara Carlon  
 Visit my webpage: Zibergirl.com  
 707-367-6182, Willits

**Things to sell?**  
 Willits Weekly's classified ads are an inexpensive and effective way to sell your goods, let people know about your services and get your word out to the community! Just \$10 for 30 words for 2 weeks! Email us your ad to willitsweekly@gmail.com. All classified ads go online and in print for one low price!

Gift Certificates available for Willits Weekly!

Willits Weekly  
 459-2633  
 972-7047  
 willitsweekly@gmail.com



COLUMN | Wowsor Makes  
**Wood loves glue**



Whenever you have to attach two pieces of wood together (and you want them to be permanently attached), glue is your best friend. Really. You may not have had much success with it before, but stick around and listen to this: The basic problem with wood is that when you attach two pieces with nails or screws (or even wood dowels), you are depending on the friction between the nail and the wood to hold the pieces together. As the wood dries out (and it always does), the friction lessens. Then the two pieces start to wobble around, and that causes the friction to fade even faster.

Glue to the rescue! By adding glue to the faces of the two pieces of wood (at the area where they touch), you now have a potentially solid joint.

For the glue to work well, you need five things:

1. There has to be enough surface covered by glue.

If you have a couple of 8-foot-long two-by-fours attached at the tops (like a giant upside-down "V"), and the joint area is 1 inch by 1 inch, you are not going to have much success. The glue works by making a relatively large area of attachment that prevents the two pieces from swiveling around the nail (or screw or bolt, or dowel). The nail holds the pieces together, while the glue simply keeps them from wobbling.

The fix: This one is trouble. If you can change the design (so there is more area where the two pieces touch), then you are golden. Otherwise, give it to someone else; let them struggle with a poor design.

2. You have to temporarily clamp the two pieces of wood together very tightly (while the glue dries).

Glue is not really "structural." If the two pieces of wood are not touching really solidly, then the glue has to act like a third piece of wood. And very few glues can do that well. Clamping the pieces of wood together allows the glue to only have to do its favorite job. And that is acting like Velcro. (Velcro can be pulled apart really easily, but try to slide or twist it; never.)

The fix: Wowsor has racks full of clamps for this very reason. With enough clamps you can press almost anything together long enough for the glue to dry.

3. The design of the joint has to make "glue sense."

If the two-by-fours are held together with one 8 penny nail, then the glue will be pulled apart very soon. (Remember, the glue does not help with pulling the pieces apart, only from twisting.)

The fix: Use a bolt that goes all the way through both two-by-fours, or use two or three nails. Or two screws. Anything to hold the two pieces together.

4. Pick the right glue. This is not too difficult (for wood). Pick a waterproof wood glue. Almost any of them will work. Do not use a "craft" glue. Few of them will "set up." If you can wash the glue off after it dries, pick a different one.

5. Let it dry completely! Remember when you made "candied carrots"? And they boiled over, so you pulled them off the stove, set the saucepan on the counter, and forgot about it until the next morning? Did you need a chisel to get the pan off the counter? I did. When you glue, you need to do the same thing (but on purpose). Let it "set up," dry, harden, gel, coagulate. Pick whatever word you like that will help you remember to wait for it to harden completely.

Roger Wilson is a founder and CEO of Wowsor, Mendocino County's largest makerspace. His focus is to teach people ways to make stuff with better results, or more easily, or faster, and even some things that are just for fun. Learn more at www.Wowsor.org.

COLUMN | Resendez Reads!  
**Make Memories With Holiday Books**



One of the sweetest parts of any holiday is sharing a traditional story by reading aloud. You don't have to have a child as an audience; you might be reading to your assembled family and friends who are quietly digesting the holiday meal.

Even the most non-conventional story becomes special through its inherent appeal and yearly repetition.

This week my daughter and I went through some of her childhood holiday books and spent a quiet moment cuddled up on the sofa reading aloud to each other. It brought back many happy memories to turn the pages of these stories that we knew so well. So, I encourage you to browse in a new book store for stories to add to your own collection, or to give as gifts. And if the books you remember have gone out of print, hunt them down in the local used bookstores. When I can't find something locally my favorite online used book dealer is Powell's Books in Portland, Oregon.

This year I'm giving a young friend a copy of one of my personal favorites, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" by Barbara Robinson. It's the story of a small-town church pageant that gets hijacked by the Herdman kids, "the worst kids in the history of the world."

The teachers dread having a Herdman in their class. The Herdmans had never shown up to Sunday school until they were told that there would be free cake. Now, this might become "the first Christmas Pageant in history where Joseph and the Wise Men get into a fight and Mary runs away with the baby!" This story never fails to make me laugh.

Another favorite is "A Child's Christmas in Wales" by Dylan Thomas. I have the edition illustrated by Quentin Blake. This book works very well read aloud by a group, each with a mug of a hot beverage to soothe the throat and some tasty tidbits for energy. It always makes me wish for snow as the kids in the story go out to peit each other with snowballs while the grown-ups collapse from overeating on the sofas.

You don't have to follow any religious tradition to find good stories. There are plenty of great books about Solstice, too: the trees, the animals and the beauty of winter.

So here's wishing you and yours a delightful time turning some pages.

Editor's Note: Chris Harper at The Book Juggler says they currently have at least one used copy of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," and can special order it new, too, as they can "A Child's Christmas in Wales," with arrival in just a couple days. The store has "a two-tiered cart" of other good used Christmas books that they pull out at this time of year.

Local poet, Fran Resendez, is retired from 20 years of bookselling at the former Leaves of Grass Books in Willits. Getting her first library card was one of the happiest days in her reading life.

Makes a great holiday gift!

**Get your Willits Weekly T-shirt**

Show the love for your local newspaper!  
**Sizes: M - XXL \$20 each**

Rurry Hiends Hoping for a Home  
**Playful Ocean**  
 Photo by Sage Mountainfire

Ocean is a 1-year-old neutered male Manchester Terrier mix. He is energetic and very playful. He would love a home with lots of toys and perhaps a backyard with some gophers, since Manchester Terriers are known for their rodent hunting skills.

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

**Letters to Santa**  
 Make sure to let him know what you want this year! Bring to Les Schwab of Willits by **December 12!**

Dear Santa:

Love: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Letters will be printed in the 12/18 edition of Willits Weekly

**Tires LES SCHWAB**

The rest of Miller | From Page 12

(Sarah), Jole Cunningham, James Robert Theriault (Christina), Joseph (Scotty) Theriault, and eight great grandchildren.

Services will be Friday, December 5, 2014 at the Anker-Lucier Mortuary Chapel. Following, family and friends will gather for a Celebration of her Life at the Agape Church Fellowship Hall in the church sanctuary.

Donations can be made to the William Harrah Senior Center in her memory

The rest of Ebbe | From Page 12

Bodensteiner, who had the blessing of having her in their home.

Elsie enjoyed her daily conversations with Cindy, and she played a mean game of dominos. Elsie was also cared for by providers of Mendocino Caregivers, especially Velma and Kathryn, who were her companions during the day. Elsie is survived by her daughter, Lois Smith of La Habra; son Lennart and wife, Joyce Lind, of Laytonville; step-son Peter and wife, Gloria Ebbe, of Basking Ridge, New Jersey; four grandchildren and their spouses; two step-grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren.

Elsie was preceded in death by her husbands, her parents, her three brothers, Ove, Henning and Hakon Hansen, and an infant sister. If so desired, memorial contributions may be made to the Willits Garden Club, 230 Haehli Creek Court, in her honor, or the charity of your choice. No services are planned at this time.

OBITUARY | Silvana Roseman

**Silvana Roseman**

Silvana "Beanie" Roseman passed away on November 21, 2014 at the age of 77. Born August 16, 1937, she was a native of Springfield, Illinois and a former resident of Metairie, Louisiana and Novato, California. Beanie is survived by her beloved husband of 54 years, Bernard Roseman; daughter Julie Roseman and son Douglas Roseman of Willits; daughter Candice Roseman of New Orleans, Louisiana; daughter Claudia (John) Hunt and grandson John Bernard Hunt of Southampton, New York; and sister Dea (Charles) Wilson of Owensboro, Kentucky.

Beanie lived life to the fullest. She enjoyed travel, cooking, gardening, playing piano and, most importantly, sharing time with her family.

Rabbi Shoshana Devorah officiated for the Graveside Services at Little Lake Cemetery in Willits, November 26, 2014 at 2 pm.

The family requests those wishing to make a contribution in her name to do so to Phoenix Hospice of Mendocino, 100 Sanhedrin Circle, Willits, CA 95490.

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

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The rest of **Turkey** | From Page 6

were covered with children's art work from area schools.

"We were very pleased with how everybody wanted to participate – and thanks to everybody who did!" said WCS director Jim Marill. "It was so pleasant. Everybody was very grateful and kind and friendly. It was just a beautiful event."

The dinner is a gift to the community from WCS, although donations are happily accepted, and generally pay for about half the costs of the community feast. "This is not a fundraiser," Marill emphasized. "We always lose money to present it as a project for the community, and as a kickoff to our winter fundraising campaign."

Chamberlain Creek Conservation Corps crew members were not present at Thursday's dinner this year, due to supervising staffing issues, but the crew did prepare the food at the camp kitchens for delivery to the senior center as usual, including 40 turkeys, 300 pounds of potatoes, and 50 pounds each of butter, brown sugar and onions.

– Jennifer Poole



The rest of **Toy Run** | From Page 7

chair Richard Venturi and Will Evans – dubbed the "Road Kings" – as the trio performed the theme song for the Toy Run, "King of the Road," in a "crowd-pleasing, chart-topping awesome performance," noted Venturi.

"We couldn't do this without the support of the community," explained Venturi. "I get misty following those trucks with the sirens blaring, all the fellow bikers at our side, and all the kids and families who came out to the sidewalk to watch and wave as we passed by. This is a great event!"

Kamoroff also expressed his appreciation and amazement; "We filled the U-Haul with toys gathered from the event. Despite the weather, the support for the event couldn't have been more amazing. We couldn't have done it without all the people who attended! We pulled it off!"

The chairmen also expressed a huge thank you to the members of Little Lake Fire Department and the Little Lake Grange.

All the toys gathered from the event were delivered to Sandy Turner of the Willits Community Christmas Program, where they will be dispersed to help fill the requests on the program's Christmas Tree tags, and then delivered to families on Christmas Eve.

Though many toys were donated, there are still many tags left to fill that hang on trees in stores all over town. Clothing, shoes, books, games and musical instruments are also needed to help complete this year's program. Contact Sandy Turner at 707-490-8872 or go by Sparetime Supply for more information on how you can help make Christmas bright for families in need this holiday season. Also, see more about the Willits Community Christmas Program in this week's Willits Weekly on page 11.

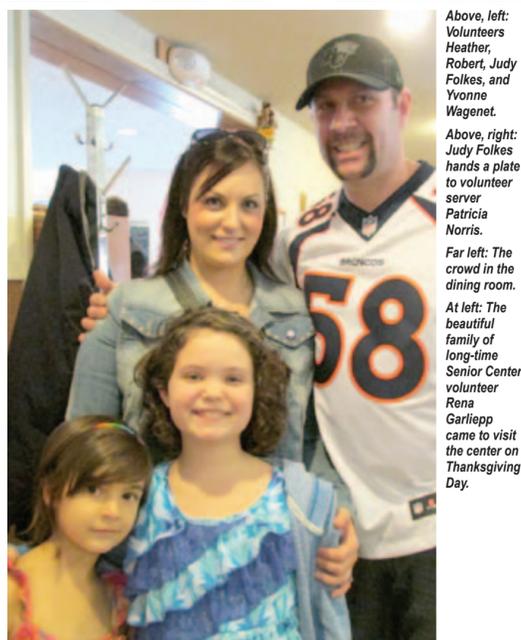


Above, left: Volunteers Heather, Robert, Judy Folkes, and Yvonne Wegenet.

Above, right: Judy Folkes hands a plate to volunteer server Patricia Norris.

Far left: The crowd in the dining room.

At left: The beautiful family of long-time Senior Center volunteer Rena Garliepp came to visit the center on Thanksgiving Day.



At left: Attendees drop off gifts as they enter the building.

Below: A fancily dressed Katherine Houghty greeted folks at the event, including the group of Girl Scouts who sold sodas and Toy Run patches.

Bottom, left: Jeanne King, Jolene Carrillo, and Sharon and Bear Kamoroff smile for the camera.

Bottom, right: Attendees bring in gifts, including a huge stuffed bear.

Photos by Maureen Moore



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

some errors when filing that form.

In its letter, the city said it examined water use under different scenarios of water conservation.

The city expects a supplemental water supply, linking wells in the valley to a new groundwater treatment plant, will be online by the end of July 2015.

Other calculations submitted by the city in support of its request included numbers on water storage and water use.

"Given the calculations and estimates provided, we feel we have demonstrated the ability to provide adequate potable water..." reads a portion of the city's letter.

The water board's order sought to stop new hookups and not allow connections approved with a "will serve" letter.

The order had provided the city with seven directives to follow that required documentation to be submitted to the state.

The directives included requests for data on new hookups, water conservation, a study on water source capacity planning, and progress reports on following such plans.

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

a similar steampunk style for many years, long before Malakai says he was aware of the genre's name. Often featuring Victorian-era designs and steam-powered machinery re-imagined in fantastical or futuristic industrial or western settings, the steampunk genre and style can be found in sci-fi literature, art works, and in places like the Willits Kinetic Carnival.

For the WCA show, art works will include "a wide display of intricate machinery," alongside wall paintings, biomechanical sculptures, a museum-inspired exhibit of ray-guns, and costumes and jewelry invoking more fantastical times.

"I like to take distantly related objects, that may have been a part of a bigger machine, and combine them to make something completely different," says Malakai.

Using varied and recycled materials to create multimedia pieces spanning different time periods, Schindel creates sculptures from found items from "all over: construction sites, old barns, burn piles, anywhere the material turns up."

That material includes gears, old electronics, wooden parts, ceramics, recycled plastics, vacuum cleaners and VCRs, bicycle pieces, and old toys. Materials are fashioned together in a range of ways, including mechanical combinations of nuts and bolts, as well as with blow torches and other processes, to create pieces that can include kinetic moving parts and special effects.

The show's overall theme is based in "black and metal and dark wood," but with many different mediums represented and displayed in vintage and antique settings. Aside from the range of sculptural works, the show will also include several of Malakai's canvas paintings and Kaylyn Marie's contributions of a more "elegant and feminine side" to the show, with her

costume, headpieces, accessories, and jewelry creations. "It's a little something for the ladies," she said. The recent art works in this show are often done in spare hours when the couple's two children are sleeping. "It's taken almost two years since the past show, since we often only have a few hours of creative time at night," said Malakai. "We have to grab the hours when we have them and get things done when we can," added Kaylyn Marie. Despite this, the pair have built up quite a collection to display this month. "The real challenge now is the last-minute process of elimination and refining what we can actually fit in the show," explained Malakai, as he detailed the variety of pieces he's been working on. "We had such a fun time at the last show, and it was really inspiring to create new work. We don't want to overwhelm people – but I think there will be something for everyone, and hopefully people will want to keep coming back."

Pieces from the show will be available for purchase, and both Schindels are also available for commissioned work for anyone inspired by the creations. Kaylyn Marie has designed many custom pieces for special events, and Malakai is the force behind many local murals and signs as well as other graphic design work. Visitors are encouraged to contact them with ideas: one recent commission included a replica of a Hans Solo weapon for this year's Halloween. The artists can be reached via malakaishindel.com, at malakaiart@yahoo.com, or at 459-2196.

Visitors to Saturday's opening reception are encouraged to dress up in their steampunk finest, and refreshments will be provided. The show runs through December 28 at the Willits Art Center, 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours are Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm.

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

the agency complied with requests from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Corps of Engineers.

Critics of the project say the delays have been caused by Caltrans' reticence to fulfill required environmental regulations according to schedule, while Caltrans' funding request includes increased costs associated with opposition to the project, such as delays caused by lawsuits concerning environmental violations, and additional CHP officers for security because of protests.

The agency's initial funding request included budget allocations for "State-Furnished Materials to fund Construction Zone Enhanced Enforcement Program to manage public traffic and safety," but the report notes the money was largely used "to manage protestors and vandalism."

The exact costs associated with additional security are still at issue in the civil trial of protester Will Parrish.

One issue listed in the summary under "other construction issues" includes the discovery of "additional" Native American archeological sites during construction, which local tribes have claimed is evidence of the inadequacy of Caltrans' initial environmental impact report. Only one site was identified in that report; almost 30 have since been uncovered.

Tribal representatives and consulting archeologists have discussed ongoing attempts to notify the agency of known cultural sites throughout the previous two seasons of construction work.

The agency also cites continuing issues with borrow operations needed to provide fill needed for project construction. Although Caltrans had initially filed for a permit to excavate Oil Well Hill for this work, the agency and its contractor later determined the old Apache Mill site north of Willits, now owned by Mendocino Forest Products, would be a more cost-effective location to get fill from.

That move was challenged by local environmental groups in a lawsuit this year. Caltrans claims the delay in accessing the mill site will result in increased costs, due to more stringent air quality regulations that start in 2015, limiting the availability of contracted trucks to move fill dirt.

According to Caltrans PIO Frisbie, the bypass mitigation work and funding is considered a separate project, although some costs cited in the filing are due to mitigation work, such as accelerated wetland construction and contracts for native plant seed collection.

Frisbie said the agency hopes to award the remaining four mitigation contracts early in 2015, as the initial bid was broken up due to unexpectedly high costs. Frisbie says the agency hopes to determine if additional funding will be needed for mitigation work by early summer, and will make a separate funding request if required. Those monies would be drawn from a different CTC funding pool.

Other factors included in the summary are "contaminated wood waste disposal, areas of unanticipated settling, plan discrepancies as well as roadway compaction issues." Frisbie said the wood waste issue was likely due to lead paint removal from the former CHP station by the railroad tracks, adding plan discrepancies were common "on a project of this size."

Frisbie said the risk analysis included high and low costs for each of the identified risk factors. The total amount was based on a 50 percent calculation of total risks.

If additional construction funds are needed, he noted, that need would occur toward the construction completion. "We hope at that point we would know an exact figure if we needed to go make an additional funding request," Frisbie said.

Frisbie said if the project did not use all requested funds, the money would be returned to the CTC for future project reallocation.

Caltrans District 1 Director Charlie Fielder, CTC Deputy Director Stephen Maller, and Rich Foley, risk manager for Caltrans, will update commissioners about progress on the bypass project before Fielder and Maller present the request for additional funds at the CTC's December 10 meeting in Riverside.

The summary request for funds is available at [www.dot.ca.gov/hq/transprog/ctcbooks/2014/1214/21\\_2.5e1.pdf](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/transprog/ctcbooks/2014/1214/21_2.5e1.pdf).

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

Caltrans' Ryan Creek project follows two other finished projects on the creek not far from the work being planned now.

In 2011, a crossing on a county road was replaced with a concrete arch design west of the highway.

Following that project, another culvert was retooled on a private road upstream of the highway in 2013.

The work at the two Ryan Creek crossings is part of the agency's permits for building the Willits bypass, the study released earlier this year stated.

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

herbicide use on bypass mitigation properties, as documented in a September 6, 2013, letter from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. In the board's initial approval of the "401 permit" for the bypass project, condition 34 states herbicide use is prohibited on the construction or mitigation areas of the project unless the agency makes a "compelling case" and obtains board approval of "best management practices."

According to Thompson, the clause exists in part as "a check" so the regional agency retains oversight of potential changes to permitted activity. However, the State Water Board is the agency with the authority to approve the management plan, which includes which specific pesticides will be used. The plan also will require Caltrans to file a separate request if herbicide use is planned on a different invasive species.

Frisbie's website post explains the decision to pursue herbicide use as due to scheduling constraints, stating: "Caltrans had anticipated using manual methods to eradicate 32 targeted invasive plants growing on mitigation parcels ... but the accelerated time schedule negotiated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of the reinstatement of a permit no longer makes this possible."

After expert consultation, the letter states, Caltrans has determined manual or mechanical removal of blackberries could take five to 10 years, which would prevent the agency from meeting mitigation performance standards. Frisbie explained the standards were not specific timeline targets, but involved a matrix of contract schedules Caltrans and the Corps of Engineers had negotiated to reach agreement on mitigation goals.

"These contract plans are always fluid, because you don't know what might happen," said Frisbie.

The mitigation goals were put in place after the Corps of Engineers determined Caltrans had not adequately met its project mitigation requirements, which were supposed to be taking place concurrent with construction.

Caltrans is requesting \$64.7 million in additional funds for the bypass project at a California Transportation Commission meeting on December 10, in part citing delays in mitigation work.

"Right out of the gate they are saying it is too labor-intensive," said Ellen Drell of the Willits Environmental Center. "The task before them is monumental, and they have no expertise. They were supposed to start mitigation along with construction, but actually have plenty of time to conduct mitigation. The anticipation was always that the mitigation parcels could take up to 10 years to complete. They're just looking to cut costs and corners."

Frisbie said invasive plant removal had not yet begun because initial bids for the single mitigation contract were much higher than anticipated, and so mitigation bids had been broken up into separate contracts.

He expects bidding on the invasive removal contract to begin early next year, after which the selected contractor will conduct site visits and evaluation, determine a "herbicide prescription" from a list of approved sources, and submit a specific management plan for approval.

The proposed plan involves cutting back the berry stands and applying herbicide to the remaining plant growth during the late summer or early fall, when no water is present and no rainfall imminent. Although the herbicide will not be sprayed directly onto water bodies, the permit covers herbicide use on federal and state wetlands and waters.

Some of the other specifics that have yet to be determined include scheduling and duration of the herbicide application.

The letter to tribes also outlines reasons why other management methods are not being pursued after expert consultation.

"I'm concerned about how this will affect our plants and our water," says Priscilla Hunter of the Coyote Band of Pomo Indians. "We have native basket-makers who gather plants with their hands and mouths. How will this affect them? Why construct new wetlands if you are just going to poison them?"

Once the plan is submitted and deemed complete by the State Water Board, it will be posted on the agency's program page for public review and a 30-day public comment period will begin.

The North Coast water board's Thompson says the plan will only be approved after a letter is issued from the State Water Board, which may include additional conditions not outlined in the general permit application.

Frisbie said although the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is not considered a regulatory agency on the project, Caltrans intends to notify supervisors of the plan and "take their concerns into consideration."

The posted announcement says "Caltrans is committed to reducing herbicide use" and now "rarely" uses herbicide applications in Mendocino County.

If herbicides are used, the public also will be notified via a herbicide hotline, which covers the four counties in Caltrans District 1.

The hotline number is 707-441-5834, or 800-999-1053.

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# Amazing Athletes

of Willits High School



**BASKETBALL |**

Hailey Riley, 17, Senior

**Breakfast of Champions:** English muffin, yogurt, berries and orange juice

**Position:** Point hard/wing

**Love for the Sport:** I love all of it: how we all have to be a team and work together to make everything happen.

Coach Jody Ward calls Hailey Riley "one of the most competitive athletes I've ever coached," detailing Hailey's struggles with a torn ACL. After getting the OK from parents and surgeon to try to play basketball with the injury, Hailey did strength and crossfit training, before starting practice drills. "After many hours of hard work, dedication and humility," Coach Ward said, Hailey participated in the first game of the season last week, and was a leader on the court, "playing valuable minutes in all four quarters."

**BASKETBALL |**

Will Smith, 16, Junior

**Breakfast of Champions:** Eggs and toast

**Position:** Center

**Love for the Sport:** I love that it's a team sport

Junior Will Smith was a starter on last year's record-breaking Willits High School basketball team.

He led our team in scoring and in rebounding in both games last week. He scored 16 points vs. Ukiah and 10 points vs. San Rafael. Unfortunately in two losses.

Will had a fantastic season last year, and we are expecting more of the same this year.

— Coach Duane Nelson

Photos by Rachel Belvin



## PHOTOS WITH SANTA

**Friday, December 5**  
from 4:30 to 7:30 pm at

**J.D. Redhouse & Company**

Fundraising for Willits Elementary Charter School

**Sunday, December 7**  
from noon to 3 pm at

**ER Energy Willits**

Fundraising for Willits Junior Horsemen

**Tuesday, December 9**  
from 5 to 7 pm at

**Little Lake Fire Department**

Fundraising for Little Lake Fire Department

Photos by Maureen Moore - Digital images just \$5 each - Info: 707-972-7047

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Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$50 Cash at 7, 8, 9 and 10 p.m.  
May win once per promotion day!  
For both Morning and Evening sessions: Play 50 coin-in (150 sessions), receive \$5 Freeplay and a \$2.00 Food Coupon

**TUESDAYS - Guy's Night**  
Earn 2X points all day.  
6:00-10:00 p.m.  
Play 50 coin-in (100 sessions), receive \$5 Freeplay. Hot Seat Drawings every half hour from 6:00-9:30 p.m. for \$25 cash, last drawing at 10 p.m. for \$100 Cash.

**WEDNESDAYS - Ladies Night**  
2X points all day.  
6:00-10:00 p.m.  
Play 50 coin-in (100 sessions), receive \$5 Freeplay. Hot Seat Drawings every half hour from 6:00-9:30 p.m. for \$25 cash, last drawing at 10 p.m. for \$100 Cash.

**THURSDAYS - Super Senior Day**  
The Senior Freeplay will be preloaded to the Players Club Card.  
10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.: Hot Seat Drawings each hour. Winners receive \$40 Cash.  
Half off lunch coupon for those participating.  
Specials posted at Creekside Café. 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Lunch hours.

**FRIDAYS - Friday Fun**  
1:00-9:00 p.m.: Earn 100 points, receive \$10 freeplay  
2:00-8:00 p.m.: Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$75 Cash  
9:00 p.m.: Hot Seat Drawing for \$100 Cash

**SATURDAYS - Saturday Night Paydays**  
6:00-11:00 p.m.  
Tickets will be randomly handed out twice an hour starting after 6:00 p.m. Drawing at 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 p.m. for \$200 Cash.

**SUNDAYS - Football Frenzy**  
12:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.  
Random Hourly Hot Seat Drawings. The Winner will choose a Football of their choice and have a chance win up to \$150 Cash.

100 Kawi Place in Willits **459-7330** Management reserves all rights.