

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

Online & Print



A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

By donation

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Edition No. 32

Caltrans building up 101 at base of Oil Well Hill

Zack Cinek
Reporter
zack@willitsweekly.com

Caltrans maintenance crews have been dumping dirt from dump trucks and shaping it with a bulldozer at the base of Oil Well Hill north of town.

The site of the dirt work is just opposite the Reynolds Highway intersection on the west side of Highway 101, where the north-bound lane opens to two lanes.

"What they are doing is they have stored the material temporarily at

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

Romero seeks 3rd District seat

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Clay Romero, 53, has announced his candidacy for Third District supervisor.

Romero has been a resident of the Willits area for 39 years and was a graduate of Laytonville High School. He has been married to his wife, Melanie, for 19 years and has one son. He is a self-employed machinist who works in Willits.

Although he has never been elected to public office, Romero ran twice for public office in the past. In 1995 he ran unsuccessfully for the Brooktrails board of directors and in 2002 he ran for California State Assembly. He was defeated by Tim Stoen in the Republican primary election of that year by a margin of

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



Willits will have cold weather all week, with a 60 percent chance of snow(!!) Thursday night. Make sure outside pets have warm places to sleep, or bring furry friends indoors during these very cold nights. Make sure water is accessible, by breaking ice layers on outside troughs and buckets, and give out extra feed to keep critters warm through the cold spell.

Photo by Maureen Moore



Above: left: Curtis "Twinkles" Collicott plugs in the decoration, illuminating the 30-plus bulbs as Logan Gamble (center) supervises the activities from the sidewalk. Right: Collicott poses with the finished decoration. Below: Collicott shows off his festive antler helmet.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Twinkling up the TOWN

On the Monday after Thanksgiving, the boys of the Public Works Department of the City of Willits get the green light to hang the annual holiday decorations down Main Street.

Stretching from the intersection of Commercial Street south to the intersection of Highway 20, trees, wrapped presents, wreaths and bells now decorate the lampposts down both sides of the road.

Curtis Collicott was the "man in the bucket" for the post out side of J.D. Redhouse, which received its 25-pound, 7-foot-tall decoration: two presents and cascade of lights.

Collicott made the antler helmet he wore on Monday, keeping the festivities bright, even during the gray, early morning task.

Decorations will remain up until the day after New Year's, when they will be removed and stored for next year.

- Maureen Moore

Willits trolley service on railroad tracks?

Zack Cinek
Reporter
zack@willitsweekly.com

Imagine a trolley to take passengers around town on the railroad tracks.

An idea for such a trolley is brewing, and is one way Willits residents can reclaim their railroading past while parking their cars.

"Willits has a rich history in railroad. We were originally built as crossroads for three different railroads," Willits resident Richard Jergenson said. Jergenson is president of the Mendocino County

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

Gassen seeks 3rd District seat

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Arno Gassen, who has worked as a janitor for the County of Mendocino for the past 17 years, has declared his candidacy for the office of Third District supervisor.

Gassen, 62, was born in Germany and grew up in Southern California. He describes himself as "the son of hard-working immigrant parents who came to the U.S. for a better life."

As a young man, Gassen served in Vietnam and is now deemed a disabled veteran.

Gassen has long been involved in SEIU Local 1021, the labor union for the majority of county government employees.

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

Willits Community Christmas Program Tags & trees are out now!



Above left: Kati and Harry Muhlhauser pose with volunteer Laura Deffendall, the daughter of Willits Community Christmas Program coordinator, Sandy Turner. Center: Santa and Mrs. Claus lead the pack of bikers from last weekend's Toy Run down Main Street. Toys collected at the event help to fill tags on trees, like this one at Willits Power (right).



Photos by Maureen Moore

It's time again for the annual Willits Community Christmas Program. Trees like the one pictured above are already all over town, for shoppers to select a child in need of help this holiday season. Eleven locations have already received their trees, including Buttercups Children's Boutique, Willits

Power Carhartt, J.D. Redhouse, Mazahar, Coast Hardware, Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital, Main Street Music, Healing Central, Willits Pet Care Center and the Unique Boutique - and the list is growing. Event coordinator Sandy Turner said 155 families are included in the program this year, and

Read the rest of **Xmas Trees**
Over on Page 9



What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

'Transportation funding crisis' Neighbor bashing

To the Editor:

I'm confused.

According to Sunday's Sacramento Bee, the fee to register a vehicle in California would more than double under a proposed November 2014 ballot measure designed to raise an estimated \$3 billion a year for the state's ailing road system.

The paper goes on to say that Will Kempton, who was Caltrans director from 2004 to 2009 and is currently executive director of Transportation California, along with Jim Earp, of California Alliance for Jobs, have filed documents with the California Attorney General's office. These documents say, among other things, that "California is facing a transportation funding crisis." So they want to put the fee increase measure on next November's ballot.

But what's really confusing me is: If there is a "transportation funding crisis," why is Caltrans wanting to spend half a billion dollars (assuming modest cost overruns) on an unneeded, elevated, freeway-style bypass around the little Northern California town of Willits, when a 2-lane, ground-level road would easily do the trick for a quarter of the cost?

Not to mention that a more reasonable bypass would reduce what is turning out to be the largest destruction of California wetlands in the past 50 years. And not to mention that we wouldn't have to lie awake at night listening to highway noise from the elevated freeway echoing off the hills.

Just asking.

Tom Frisio, Willits

A common-sense solution

To the Editor:

While the contractors have, for the most part, done an impressive job of building the Willits bypass, my objection has always been to Caltrans' over-built design. Caltrans insisted on a 4-lane footprint even though only two lanes will be completed for the foreseeable future. This design, particularly at the 40 acre northern interchange, causes unnecessary damage, unknown risks, and wastes taxpayers' funds.

To get an idea of the magnitude of the northern interchange, imagine the area of Willits from the Highway 20 intersection to the high school and from Main Street to the railroad tracks filled up to 30 feet in depth – about three stories high. Only about one-tenth of the fill dirt has yet been placed.

The roundabout already included in the Caltrans design is a feasible alternative to this gigantic interchange. It can safely accommodate large trucks, and it involves no "head-on" traffic in different directions. Down-sizing the interchange would save time, money and impacts by reducing trucking, compacting and paving, eliminating four bridges, and avoiding further wetland fill and destruction of Pomo cultural sites.

Caltrans is facing budget and schedule challenges of its own making on this project. Recently bids on the required wetlands mitigation plan (already a year-and-a-half behind schedule) came in at three times the engineer's estimate.

I would, at this point, dearly love to see the bypass completed, on schedule, and without further cost to the taxpayers or unnecessary damage to our valley. There is a common sense solution, if there is the political will to do it.

Madge Strong, Willits

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly

Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

Volume 1, Number 32
P.O. Box 1698
Willits, CA 95490
willitsweekly@gmail.com
www.willitsweekly.com
707-459-2633; 707-972-7047

Jennifer Poole, editor and reporter / jennifer@willitsweekly.com / 707-459-2633
Maureen Moore, designer and photographer / maureen@willitsweekly.com / 707-972-7047
Mike A'Dair, reporter / mike@willitsweekly.com
Zack Cinek, reporter / zack@willitsweekly.com

Justin Stephens, webmaster

For advertising inquiries, please call 707-459-2633 or 707-972-7047 or email advertising@willitsweekly.com

'Twas the Friday before Christmas ...

*'Twas the Friday before Christmas, at the Center for the Arts
An event was just starting, to warm the community's hearts.
The walls were hung with festivity and flair,
In hopes the whole community soon would be there.*

*The tables were set, the cookies were spread,
The plans of a wonderful party dancing in our heads.
Jennifer in her scarf, and Maureen in her sweater,
Couldn't think of a way for the party to be better.*

*When out on Commercial Street, there arose such a clatter,
We sprang from the stairs to see what was the matter.
Away to the entrance we flew like a flash,
And gasped as we saw the huge crowd gathering for the bash.*

*The streetlights shined on the plates, trays and tins
Of many cookies and sweets, baked with hope to take the win.
Honor and bragging rights would soon be bestowed,
For goodies that made everyone cry their best "Ho! Ho! Ho!"*

*Lynn from the Chamber, HMH, Willits Power, Les Schwab,
Ardella's, SugarKat and Emandal
Set up tables displaying their goodies for the tasting of all.
More rapid than eagles, the tasters they came,
And they sampled, and shouted, calling out their favorites
by name!*

*"It's delicious, this fudge!" "Those cookies, oh my!"
"The candy, divine! And the caramels, you must try!"
To the WCA building the people they ran,
"We must taste and cast our votes while yet we still can!"*

*Tallies were made, and the judges would name
The best treats made by those who competed and came.
Their photos in the paper the winners would see,
With copies, we hope, of the winning recipes.*

*After the judging, the party will still go on,
With cookie swaps (bring your own) until they're gone,
Christmas carols sung by the sweet Devon Jones,
And holiday spirit until everyone goes home.*

*The party will pay thanks to all who have shown such support,
For this crazy and amazing endeavor, WW, for short.
Join Willits Weekly to toast to next year's editions
Filled with news and community, innovation and tradition.*

*From 4 to 7 pm on Friday, December 20 we will be,
At the Center for the Arts with T-shirts and back issues to see.
We encourage all to come with this cordial invite,
As we say Happy Holidays to all, and to all a great night!*

Celebrate with WW!

December 20 at Willits Center for the Arts

The community is invited to attend Willits Weekly's first annual holiday party held on December 20 from 4 to 7 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts. A night of fun is planned, with Christmas music and merriment as well as the main event: a cookie contest.

We have invited a number of "celebrity" bakers to make treats for the contest including: Tam Adams of Emandal, Kathryn Sterngold of SugarKat Kitchen, Lori Dorholt and Kathy Albright of Ardella's, Lynn Kennelly of the Willits Chamber of Commerce, a team from Howard Memorial Hospital, and the ladies of Les Schwab Tire Center. (And the list is growing!)

Contestants will bake off dozens of cookies and holiday sweets which will be on display at decorated tables for the tasting. Attendees will be encouraged to sample and vote for their favorites. Judges will also cast their vote, and a "People's Choice" and "Judges' Favorite" award will be given. As well as bragging rights and a surprise prize, winners will have their photos in the paper, along with cookie and treat recipes.

There will also be a cookie swap table, so those who want to bring cookies and treats to exchange with other eventgoers can do so, and take home a bag of cookies at the end of the night.

A soundtrack of holiday music will keep the spirit of the evening festive, and the community is welcome to come and mingle and enjoy the evening at the Great Room upstairs at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

Willits Weekly will also have back issues available, and T-shirts and gift subscriptions packaged for holiday gifts. Can't wait to see you all there!

To the Editor:

I just finished reading a recent letter to this publication from Randi Covin – a letter dripping with sarcastic negativity toward her neighbors. About in the middle of this letter she stated that she was finding it hard to restrain her sarcasm.

Up to that point, I was cringing from yet another diatribe from someone who consistently demonstrates a contemptuous view of her neighbors. The comment brought me up short. I was immediately given to a bizarre flight of imagination: indirectly she claims restraint in her sarcasm; what would the letter have been like if she had tossed her restraint entirely?

Generally, when reading her letters, what is more appalling to me than her sarcasm is that she finds nothing amiss about heaping that sarcasm on her neighbors. I find that very disappointing and more than a little discouraging. This is a small town, and we all have to live together here. In fact, some of those "other bypass opponents" serve the community in very non-political and beneficial ways and do so for their neighbors regardless of what side of this issue they stand on. It seems to me that incessantly insulting such people is not an intelligent or thoughtful way to proceed – it seems to me that it comes off as mean-spirited.

I don't have a problem with sarcasm itself. In fact, I use it myself when dealing with the dishonest, the self-serving, and those who abuse their power. But to use it in blanket statements toward your neighbors in carefully crafted letters to the local newspapers is beyond even my curmudgeonly ability to imagine. I can not understand what sort of anger motivates someone to such behavior.

Now I know some will accuse anti-bypass folks of also insulting their neighbors – and I'm sure that is true. But I don't remember seeing them do it, over and over again, in letters to the town's newspapers. At the risk of repeating myself: what is said in the passion of the moment is not the same as what is considered carefully, written in a letter, and then sent as personal opinion to the town's newspapers.

I also anticipate a retort that some of the claims of the anti-bypass folks invite sarcasm. In that case I suggest a careful review of some of the statements made by pro-bypass folks. No one is saved from blame on this count. I will also point out that we are neighbors, and incessant sarcasm is hardly neighborly behavior over what, in the final analysis, is nothing but a difference of opinion.

I have no desire to correct Randi's assumptions and statements – that is for those more knowledgeable on these issues. I will point out, however, what I see as a glaring omission in her discussion of penalties she thinks her neighbors should endure for their acts of civil disobedience. Not mentioned at all is the ongoing blatant disregard for both civil and contract law on the part of Caltrans and its contractors. No mention is made of the willful disregard for sites of historical significance or aspects of the environment the law has long sought to protect. I have to wonder what penalties, if any, she thinks those law breakers should endure who are not her neighbors.

If Randi is the spokesperson for the pro-bypass folks in Willits and is accepted as such by them, I wonder if they understand that by extension her tone paints their portrait – a portrait that will hang in evidence long after this controversy has faded. I wonder if they realize that she is feeding a fire that will scar the community over this difference far longer than is necessary in a reasonable and thoughtful world.

Each time I read one of Randi Covin's letters I wonder if this can possibly be the quality of spokesperson the pro-bypass people really want for their cause.

Dennis Miller, Willits

Where are the WW boxes?

1. Old Mission Pizza	5. Ardella's
2. Brewed Awakening	Downtown Diner
3. Ace Copy and Shipping	6. Scoops
4. Willits Post Office	7. J.D. Redhouse
	8. The Country Skillet

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

6 Months - \$40 1 year - \$75 Additional donation included \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Willits Weekly | P.O. Box 1698 in Willits, CA 95490

Locally Owned | Independent | Editions Every Thursday | Online & In Print

QUESTIONS: 707-459-2633 | 707-972-7047

Web: www.willitsweekly.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/willitsweekly Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Please Join Us At Your Favorite Branch For Our Holiday Open House Celebrating 110 Years

Monday December 9 9 am to 4 pm

Refreshments Drawings Holiday Food and Toy Drive

Please bring nonperishable food items and new toys for local Christmas efforts

Savings Bank OF MENDOCINO COUNTY Member FDIC

Celebrating 110 YEARS OF VALUE 1903-2013

UKIAH MAIN 200 North School
SOUTH UKIAH 1100 Airport Park Blvd.
PEAR TREE 414 East Perkins
HOPLAND 13411 South Hwy 101
REDWOOD VALLEY 8431 East Road
FORT BRAGG 490 South Franklin
MENDOCINO 10500 Lansing
LAKEPORT 290 South Main
WILLITS 145 South Main
LAYTONVILLE 44920 Highway 101

Funds for 4-H

Santa Photos and Bake Sale earn \$370 for Willits Club

Left: Hailey Riley holds the money raised from the photos. Below: "Elves" pose at the bake sale table.

On December 1, "elves" from the Willits 4-H Club came to ER Energy to hold a bake sale and assist with "photographed" photos with Santa.

The photos raised \$95, and the bake sale, an additional \$275.

Funds raised will go to help fund field trips and more for the group. Interested in joining 4-H? Contact 354-1224 for info.

Photos by Maureen Moore

Furry Friends

Hoping for a home

Meet the very beautiful Toots! She spent her whole life as a beloved family pet, and it shows – she is very well-adjusted, socialized, smart and friendly. She is attentive, eager to please and seems to learn rules quickly. Unfortunately her family did not have fencing around their home, and this girl took herself on one too many field trips! While they had nothing but wonderful things to say about Toots, they felt that she needed a more active family or companion and a home with fencing and boundaries to ensure her safety. Because she has been a pet, she should be an easy addition to her new home. We believe that she is housebroken, and all she needs is lots of love and adventure!

The Ukiah Animal Shelter, 298 Plant Road, is open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. More info: www.pawstoadopt.com or call Adoption Coordinator Katherine Houghtby at (707) 467-6453.

Beautiful Toots

Photo by Rod Coats

Auto Mart Auto Repair

First Annual Holiday Season Special

Dec. 1st to Dec. 31st

\$29.95 + Tax Oil Changes

(Includes 5 quarts standard weight, non-synthetic oils, and one pro select oil filter – additional oil or premium filter will be extra.)

FREE Brake Inspection
FREE Tire Rotation
FREE 37-Point Inspection

(Oil change not needed for free inspections.)

All paid invoices will receive one drawing ticket into our Free Oil Change Drawing.

Two tickets will be drawn on Dec. 31st at 12 Noon for a Free Oil Change Services, valued at the regular price of up to \$50.00.

Specials not for commercial accounts.

Bill Carter - Owner 707-459-1344
101 N. Lenore Ave. • Willits

\$\$\$ EARN EXTRA INCOME \$\$\$ CARE PROVIDERS NEEDED NOW!

Make extra money while participating in a great opportunity!

Adults with Special Needs live with you and you mentor them to a better future.

Earn \$1,300 to \$5,000 tax-free/month.

Must have a spare bedroom, HS Diploma or GED, and clean criminal record!

CALL CATHY TODAY!
(707) 263-5875

California Mentor Network
Serving Lake and Mendocino Counties

We Come To You! Don't Haul, Give Us A Call

We Repair:
Generators
Rototillers
Water Pumps
Mowers & More
We Also Sell New Units!
Call Today: **354-1918**

DragonFly Natural Power

Trivia

Why was the game of Trivial Pursuit invented?

1st Person To Call or Text With The Correct Answer Wins A Free 1st Run Movie Rental!

Last Week's Answer: The fumes are highly toxic.

Brought To You By:
DragonFly Natural Power

Baechtel Creek Inn & Spa

There's a new place to shop in town!

For luxurious gifts for friends, family or yourself, featuring:

Gift Certificates to the Spa
Spa Robes
Eye, Neck and Body Pillows

Eminence Organic Skin Care
Caudalie Skin Care
CAUDALIE BEAUTY GROWS HERE

OPEN TO MIDNIGHT!

101 Gregory Lane Willits
707-459-9063

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

WILLITS POWER Equipment

707-459-6420 Carhartt

20% off

Clothing items only. Must bring in coupon - one per customer. Offer expires 12/31/13

Gift Wrap for the Pups!

Bring in your presents from November 30th till Christmas eve

and let Willits Power wrap them for you!

Prices range: \$2 - \$4 PER gift

ALL proceeds will go to the Frank Grasse Dog Park

Boxes are available if needed in store!

Puzzle Page

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

In the Stars...

ARIES
Mar 21 - Apr 20
Aries, delay your plans for the time being. A number of unexpected tasks that will require your undivided attention in the coming day, so clear your schedule.

LEO
Jul 23 - Aug 23
Leo, you will have to continue your rather hectic pace this week, even when you start to feel tired. Fortunately, you are excited about some of the things on your to-do list.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23 - Dec 21
Reestablish your priorities, Sagittarius. Doing so will help you live up to your end of the bargain on various commitments. If necessary, ask others for help.

TAURUS
Apr 21 - May 21
Assume the role of the strong and silent type this week, Taurus. You do not have to share your opinions with everyone, as an air of mystery may boost your popularity.

VIRGO
Aug 24 - Sept 22
Virgo, getting involved with the right people now opens doors that previously may have been closed to you. Do not squander the opportunity to use these new contacts.

CAPRICORN
Dec 22 - Jan 20
Expect to be busy for the rest of the month, Capricorn. With potential birthday celebrations and holiday tasks to complete, spare moments are few and far between.

GEMINI
May 22 - Jun 2
It can be easy to allow excitement to overtake your logic, Gemini. But you need to be patient and not allow exuberance to interfere with the tasks at hand. That is a recipe for trouble.

LIBRA
Sept 23 - Oct 23
Libra, conflicting emotions arise in the week ahead. You have the desire to fulfill people's expectations of you, but you also just want some time to yourself.

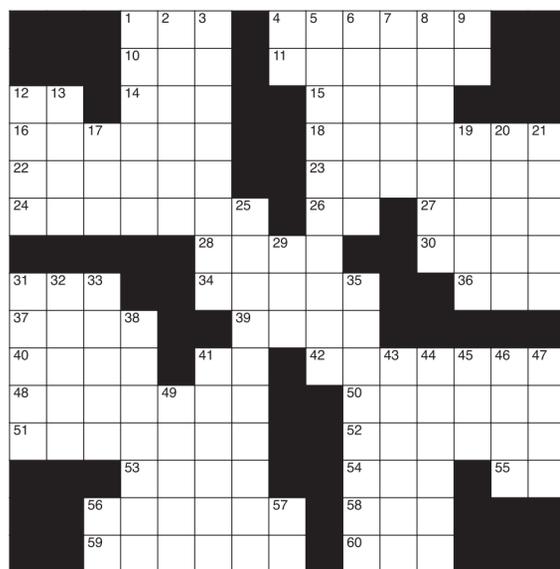
AQUARIUS
Jan 21 - Feb 18
Aquarius, learning a new skill this week will only add to your already vast repertoire of abilities. This is one more reason to have a positive attitude.

CANCER
Jun 22 - Jul 22
Cancer, a hefty workload at the office may zap your desire to do much else. However, don't pass up the opportunity when a social engagement beckons this week.

SCORPIO
Oct 24 - Nov 22
Scorpio, maintaining your focus on chores is nearly impossible this week, when you are easily distracted by anything else that sounds interesting. Try to get your work done.

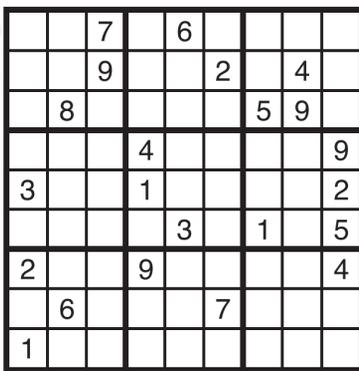
PISCES
Feb 19 - Mar 20
Emphasize feeling good about yourself this week, Pisces. Doing so will enable you to help others in the near future.

Crossword Puzzle



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Indicates before
 - Printed from a plate
 - Brain activity test
 - Wading birds
 - Atomic #18
 - Writer Tan
 - Tear
 - An unfortunate accident
 - Send out rays
 - Emphasize
 - Genetic throwback
 - A large and noisy party
 - With reference to
 - Mild yellow Dutch cheese
 - Aoudad
 - 100 = 1 tala in W. Samoa
 - Military mailbox
 - No. Saudi Arabian desert
 - Constitution Hall is HQ
 - Scree (plural)
 - Apple, pear, quince
 - Religious song
 - 17th Hebrew letter
 - Attached at the base
- CLUES DOWN**
- Female peafowl
 - Return to custody
 - Citizen of Cairo
 - What was that?
 - Gardens in fishbowls
 - Cause to be or to become
 - Civic of Accord
 - Chicories
 - Set of data
 - Fan-based music awards
 - Wealthy
 - Carbolic acid
 - Worldly rather than spiritual
 - Worked for income
 - A Loloish language
 - One point E (clockwise) of due N
 - Common college degree
 - Of cadmium
 - East by north
 - Delightful surprises
 - Color
 - Restricted in outlook
 - Liquid body substance
 - Ragged
 - Unagitated
 - Hostelry
 - Leopold's crime partner
 - Spanish footwear museum city
 - Slur over in pronunciations
 - Constitution state
 - Atomic #55

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!

COLUMN | Resendez Reads!



Gift books for all!

When I was a bookseller, I always enjoyed recommending books as gifts. Here are a few titles gleaned from my 2013 reading journal as suggestions for your holiday gift list. Almost all are readily available in paperback.

Let's start with fiction. The bestselling novel "Beautiful Ruins" by Jess Walter is a captivating look beneath the glamour of Hollywood, shifting back and forth from contemporary time to Italy in the 1960s during the filming of the epic movie Cleopatra. Walter's atmospheric story gradually reveals the emotional impact of unfulfilled relationships from the past.

"Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore" by Robin Sloan combines antiquarian books with the digital age in a delightful tale about curiosity, friendship and the importance of keeping an open mind.

For non-fiction readers, try the riveting memoir "Wild" by Cheryl Strayed, the story of a young and troubled woman hiking the Pacific Crest Trail.

A book about creativity and achieving your dreams that will spark the minds of old and young alike is "Steal Like an Artist" by Austin Kleon. Check out his video on YouTube: he's very inspirational.

For those who just want to laugh, try "Pu Pu Hot Pot: The World's Best Restaurant Names." Each page is a photo of an eatery's signage.

For the teen reader, try Jasper Fforde's new series "The Chronicles of Kazam." "The Last Dragonslayer" and "The Song of the Quarkbeast" are witty and suspenseful stories centered around the coming of age of Jennifer Strange, a young woman who can stay calm in the face of magical chaos and creatures with big fangs.

As ever, whether you read electronically, on the paper page or listen to audio books, please utilize our library system and take advantage of our county's delightful local bookstores, both new and used.

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.



Aikido Alchemy: Students promoted to Yellow Belt status



Gabriel Bixler, Tristan Hofmaister and Bodhi Waters from Aikido Alchemy in Willits mastered their requirements and were promoted to yellow belt status by their instructor, Davis Sensei.

The martial art of Aikido (Japanese: "way of harmony") is a self-defense system with the basic principle of "Do not fight force with force." Aikido uses few punches and kicks, but the attacker's force is redirected into throws, locks and restraining techniques. The development of courtesy and respect is an integral part of Aikido training.

Shown in the photograph with their students are Paul Rendon, assistant and Davis Sensei, instructor.

The Dojo address is 275 Franklin Street in Willits. For information regarding classes, please call 707-354-1454.

Gift Wrap for the pups

Willits Power Carhartt holds fundraiser for Willits Dog Park

Love dogs? Hate wrapping presents? Willits Power has a solution: Bring in your gifts, and for \$2 to \$4 per gift, their staff will wrap gifts for you, and donate the proceeds to the Frank Grasse Dog Park. Willits Power will match the total raised and present the monies to the park after the event's end on Christmas Eve. Boxes and a selection of festive papers are both available at Willits Power; all you have to do is bring the gifts! More information: 459-6420.

Left: Misty Gonzales, holding Rascal, and Mike Garrity wrap a toy at Willits Power. Photo by Maureen Moore

Willits United Methodist Church to Celebrate "Welcome" Sunday

Willits United Methodist Church will have a special worship service on Sunday, December 15 at 11 am to mark its decision to become a "Reconciling Congregation."

The local church will join hundreds of other Methodist churches that have taken an affirmative stand to fully include lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the life of the church. The service will affirm "that all people are created in the image of God and all are worthy of God's love and grace." Its Reconciling status also affirms the active inclusion of "the human diversity of race, ethnicity, faith history, economic status, marital status, physical and mental abilities and education."

The church's mission is to "reveal the transforming power of God's love to all people," and according to Pastor Rosemary Landry, the church has decided that "all means all."

The Reconciling Church Movement dates back to 1982 and since then has grown to include hundreds of inclusive United Methodist Churches in the United States. Becoming a Reconciling Church has been a long process for the Willits United Methodist Church, which has held discussions and Bible studies over several years to help its members discern the meaning and history of scriptures and the example set by Jesus. A Bible study group led by local retired pastor Ruth Rambo Brown earlier in the fall was open to the community, and the church formally determined to become a Reconciling Church on October 6 of this year.

Pastor Rosemary Landry will preach during the service, and special music will be provided by the Folk Ensemble. A reception in the fellowship hall will immediately follow the service. The community is invited to attend and join the celebration.

COLUMN | Trending



The new entrepreneurial landscape

While in the Seattle area a few weeks ago, I joined my 39-year-old niece and my nearly 4-year-old grand-niece on a quick trip to Barnes and Noble to pick up a book on horse breeds to go along with the collection of miniature horses that I had given her for her birthday. The 4-year-old, not the 39-year-old....

The last time I was inside a B&N was in New York at the Union Square Store, where I found myself mesmerized by the rows of periodicals and magazines which had more appeal to me than one of those fancy cupcake stores that everyone goes crazy for. My sweet tooth on that New York trip was happily satisfied by two bags full of assorted treasures.

The Seattle store saw me gazing at seven aisles of print confections that ended up filling one very large bag. Among the magazines, which ranged from gardening to art to poetry to current events, were three that gave rise to the thoughts which inspired this column: UTNE Reader, The Economist and Entrepreneur. Ironically, all three devoted considerable print space to economic opportunities for a wide range of age groups over the next five to 10 years and even beyond. In two words: "Think Entrepreneur."

For those of us living in Willits and the surrounding areas, standard modes of employment tend to be at the lower end of the earning spectrum and rarely offer employees potential for advancement or significant earnings. Members of the generation referred to as millennials (which includes new graduates) face a rather dismal financial future if they stay close to home unless they become part of a family business or think way outside the box.

Outside the box is the world of entrepreneurs who evaluate their surroundings and look for either "holes" or "niches." Holes indicate a consumer need not currently being met, while niches indicate an opportunity within an existing market. Think Willits Weekly, which has

Read the rest of Outside the Box

Over on Page 11

Flowers by Annette
Holiday Centerpieces, Arrangements & More!
World-wide shipping & Quick Local delivery!
1701 Valley Road, Willits
707-459-6588

FARMERS
CANTUA INSURANCE AGENCY
16 W. Valley Street • Willits, CA 95490
Bus: (707) 459-3276 • Fax: (707) 459-3298
www.NorCalQuote.com • rcantua@farmersagent.com
Auto • Home • Life • Health • Business

SHOPPE
OPEN 7 DAYS
For the Child in Everyone
Traditional Toys, Rubber Stamps, Paper Goods, Art Supplies, And So Much More!
56 South Main Street Highway 101 Willits, CA 95490
Phone & Fax: 707-459-1363



Above: Bikes lined the street in front of the Little Lake Grange after Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived for the party.

Left: Attendees pose with toy bears, brought as the door fee to the party. These bears and many other gifts will help fill the needs of the Rotary Christmas Tree Program.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

Imagination Station
Preschool/Childcare Center
Enrolling Year Round
Hours: Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Preschool: ages 2 - 5 • After-school daycare: ages 18 months - 9 years
Drop in for a tour!
7 South Marin Street • Willits
459-6543

Below: Rod and Karen Cavanaugh (front) ride down Main Street during the trip to the Little Lake Grange.

Photo by Maureen Moore



Toy Run FUN

A huge Thank You to everyone that attended our Willits Toy Run on Sunday. It was a great turn out - fantastic weather - with lots of toys, great food and music, and good biker camaraderie.

An even huger (is that a word?) Thank You to my fellow Toy Run Committee members (you all know who you are), the Willits Rotary, the Willits Lions Club, the Little Lake Grange. Awesome job, people... love you guys.

The Willits Rotary Christmas Program will again be a big success. And I can't forget all the local businesses that donated merchandise for our live auction and raffle... without your support the Toy Run would not be as successful as it is!

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.
- Rich Venturi, Willits Toy Run Committee



Left below: Kim Chin follows Santa and Mrs. Claus down Main Street and towards the party.

At bottom: Bikers lined the north-bound lanes of Main Street as they crossed the railroad tracks and funneled under the Willits Arch.

At right: Kat Harris waves from behind Jerry Harris as they ride down Main Street.

Photos by Maureen Moore

See many more photos from this year's Toy Run online at
<http://photography.zenphoto.com/toyrun2013>

NOVO THEATRE Willits, CA
Times for 12/6 - 12/12

FROZEN (In 2D & 3D)
(PG) 1hr 48mins
Daily: (2D) 5:00pm & (3D) 7:30pm
Sat/Sun: (2D) 12:00 & (3D) 2:30

HUNGER GAMES CATCHING FIRE
(PG13) 2 hrs 28 mins
Daily: 5:15 & 8:15pm
Sat/Sun: 11:30am & 2:15pm

DELIVERY MAN
(PG13) 1hr 45mins
Daily: 5:30 & 8:00pm
Sat/Sun: 12:30 & 3:00pm

Tight Week Tuesday Films:
Frozen, Games & Delivery Man
All tickets \$5.00

Sensory Sensitive Screening of FROZEN at noon on Sat 12/7 with lights on, lower sound and no ads



PONDEROSA & SUN REALTY
Tony Sorace, Land & Ranch Broker, Certified Financial Planner
635 S. Main St., Willits, CA 95490
707-459-5108 • 707-489-3763

45 Acres - One of a kind ranch close to Willits. End of Road privacy, 2100 sq. ft. home in pristine condition. Hardwood floors, custom cabinetry, tile counters. Amazing finishes throughout. Southern exposure. Gravity flow spring water system. Beautiful pond, orchard, gardens. Solar power. Amazing views. Excellent privacy.....\$675,000

Pine Mountain - 20 gorgeous acres with towering redwoods. Custom 3 bdrm/2 bth home with cozy western style cabin. Large shop. Exc. well, power, phone, etc.....\$499,000

Estate Sale - Beautiful custom home located on over an acre near Willits. Large kitchen with Corian countertops. Tile floors. Formal living room with wet bar. Office off Master Bedroom. Patio, large deck. Nicely landscaped.....\$289,000

www.pondsun.com • tonysorace@pacific.net

J.D. REDHOUSE & COMPANY
A LOCALLY OWNED MERCANTILE

Get ready for the holidays with

Kemmy's Pies

Classic \$13.00

Apple, Blackberry, Peach, CranApple, Blueberry, RasperNilla, Peach, Black Raspberry, Vanilla, Pumpkin, Pumpkin Walnut

Specialty \$15.00

Caramel Apple, Cherry, Brandy Apple, Nutty Maple, Pecan

Meringue \$15.00

Lemon, Coconut, Banana, Chocolate, Dark Chocolate Caramel



Order by December 13
Pick up December 24 by 5:45pm

707-459-1214



Friday, December 6

Santa Photos with Maureen Moore: today from 4 to 7 pm at J.D. Redhouse, 212 South Main Street. Digital images will be available for \$5, and optional print packets will be available for physical print copies, too. www.mphotographpress.com.

Classical Guitar at WCT: the Willits Community Theatre Guest Artist series presents classical guitarists Ryan Ayers and Giacomo Fiore, with a night of fingerstyle and classical music from around the world, including original compositions and timeless classics. 8 pm, WCT Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane. The evening will also showcase an instrument built by local classical guitar maker Greg Byers. \$15. Tickets at Goods' Shoppe, 56 South Main Street, at the door the night of the show, by phone at 459-0895 (with a credit card), or online at brownpapertickets.com/event/5016699.

Saturday, December 7

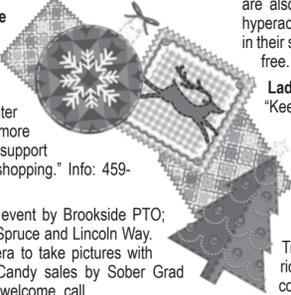
Christmas Flea Market: The holiday version of the monthly Grange Exchange features treasures for the season – new and old, hand-made and collectible: blueberry bushes to bird houses, clothes, jewelry, art, toys and books. Breakfast tacos for sale. 9 am to 1 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

Senior Center Craft Faire and Bake Sale:

10 am to 4 pm at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. With snack bar, bake sale and See's Candy on sale, as well as beautifully hand-crafted items. The Senior Center Craft Fair has been happening for more than 13 years: "A wonderful way to support your local crafters while Christmas shopping." Info: 459-6826.

Brookside Holiday Bazaar: annual event by Brookside PTO; 10 am to 3 pm at Brookside School, Spruce and Lincoln Way. Open to the public. Bring your camera to take pictures with Santa from noon to 2 pm. Raffle. Candy sales by Sober Grad committee – candy donations are still welcome, call

Work Day Weekend for Grange School of Agricultural Arts: Today and Sunday, December 8, 10 am to 5 pm, rain or shine, at the site of the new Grange farm school at Ridgewood Ranch. Also December 14 & 15. Skilled



Ongoing Events:

Willits Farmers Market: Winter market at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Fall produce (potatoes, winter greens, lettuce, hot house tomatoes and more) from area farmers, plus live music, flowers, crafts, baked goods, local beef and other meats, goat cheese, dinner and more. Markets will continue all winter from 3 to 5:30 pm.

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

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

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

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

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

Laytonville Winter Farmers Market: Mondays from 2:30 to 4:30 at the Laytonville Grange, 1620 Branscomb Road. Buy local: vegetables, apples, juice, bakery, beef, lamb, pork, jewelry, aprons, children's clothing, knife sharpening and more.

Save the Date:

Grange Farm School Work Days, December 14 & 15

Willits Weekly Christmas Cookie Party, December 20, Willits Center for the Arts

Winter Solstice Celebration and Spiral Dance, December 21, Little Lake Grange

WOWSER Winter Solstice Party, December 21

Methodist Church Christmas Eve Service, December 24

Music schedule at the Crafts Fair

Friday, December 13

12 pm David Patch
2 pm Farmer's Market Band
5:30 pm Emandal Chorale
6:00 pm New Blu Trio

Saturday, December 14

10 am Malakai
12 pm Keith Rutledge
2 pm Falko
4 pm David Patch

Sunday, December 15

10 am Falko
12 pm John Wagenet and Friends
2 pm Vern Morninglight

What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits



and unskilled help needed. Bring gloves and tools, if you have them. Please drive slow on the ranch. Lunch available for those who RSVP by December 6. Tours or custom work days available for your group! The mission of the Grange Farm School is to help train the next generation of farmers in sustainable farming. Contact director Antonia Partridge at (707) 272-1395 or farmdirector@californiagrango.org to RSVP (drop-in volunteers welcome, too). More info at <http://californiagrango.org/agschool/mission.html>.

Roots of Motive Power Holiday Express: Roots of Motive Power presents the annual "Holiday Express" Christmas Party on Saturday, December 7 from noon to 5 pm, at the Roots facility on Commercial Street. Features free steam train rides for kids of all ages, a visit with Santa Claus. Christmas trees, singing, model trains on display, and refreshments. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for more details.

"Frozen": a special sensory sensitive screening at the Noyo Theatre, 57 East Commercial Street. "Frozen" will play at 12 noon, with lights on, lower sound, and no trailers or ads. These screenings are meant for autistic kids and their families, but are also suitable for families with toddlers and hyperactive kids – no pressure for kids to remain in their seats or to stay quiet. \$6; kids under 3 are free. Info: 459-6660.

Ladies Christmas Tea: Agape Bible Church, "Keeping Christ in Christmas." 2 to 4 pm, 290 S. Lenore Avenue. Skits, music by the children's cast of "The First Leon," refreshments and small sandwiches. Free of charge. All ladies and teens are welcome.

Skunk Train Santa Trains: special Christmas Trains start today at the Willits Depot: 90-minute round-trip train rides, including a visit from Santa and his elves, music, cocoa and cookies. Departures at 3:30 pm, 12:30 pm and 6:30 pm, depending on the day. All guests encouraged to wear pajamas! Tickets: \$35 for adults; \$25 for kids (2 to 12). At least one trip scheduled every day from December 7 through December 23. Info: 964-6371 or www.skunktrain.com. Several trips out of Willits already sold out!

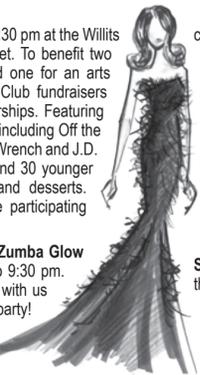


Sunday, December 8

Senior Center Pancake Breakfast:

8 to 11 am. Second Sundays at the Harrah Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Pancakes, eggs (any style), bacon, sausage, or ham, orange juice, coffee. \$6 members; \$7 non-members; under 12, \$5.

Santa Claus at Scoops: Santa will pose for pictures at Scoops Frozen Yogurt & Deli, 110 North Main Street, from 1 to 4 pm. Plus cocoa, cookies and apple cider for the family. Scoops will take your picture, and print it out to be picked up at Scoops later, or bring your own



camera. A free event. Well-behaved pets on leashes are welcome. Also Christmas trees for sale.

26th Annual Community Christmas Chorale: LDS Church, 265 Margie Drive, 6 pm. Singers and talents from all over the community, including Emandal Choir, plus a food drive, cards on the Christmas trees for the Willits Community Christmas Program, a community sing, a nativity, plus social time at the end of the program with cookies and hot apple cider. Info: 489-3702.

Monday, December 9

Savings Bank Open House: Savings Bank of Mendocino County invites the community to its Holiday Open House and Customer Appreciation Event, this year celebrating Savings Bank's 110 year anniversary. Today from 9 am to 4 pm. Giveaways and food, plus collection bins for food bank and toy donations.

Tuesday, December 10

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: "Frozen," "Games," and "Delivery Men." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.



Cast of "King Lear"

Wednesday, December 11

"King Lear": staged reading of William Shakespeare's great tragedy, which tells the story of a king who abandons his crown, yet wishes to continue to be treated like a king. It doesn't work out so well for him. With Lanny Cotler

as Lear, and a cadre of Willits' finest actors in the ensemble cast, this staged reading is directed by Mike A'Dair and will play tonight at 7 pm and Sunday, December 15 at 2 pm. Tickets are \$5 and will be available at the door. Info: 459-0895.

Supervisor Pinches on KZYX: Third District Supervisor John Pinches will be the guest on the "Mendo Matters" radio show hosted by Paul Lambert on KZYX radio, 91.5 FM, on Wednesday, December 11 at 7 pm. Pinches will discuss county water issues. Call-in number: 456-9991.

Friday, December 13

27th annual Holiday Crafts Fair: opens today from noon to 7 pm at the Willits Community Center. Open Saturday, December 14 from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, December 15 from 10 am to 4 pm. Fine arts and crafts for sale by nearly 30 artists and artisans, with live music throughout the event, and delicious food and beverages provided by the Willits Charter School. A benefit for the Willits Center for the Arts. Info: 459-4792. See list of participants elsewhere on Calendar page, and article on back page of Willits Weekly for more information.

Shanachie Pub: Mendocino Greenhouse & Garden Supply presents I-Taweh & The Reggae Lions, with special guest Nambu Robinson, plus DJ Tigerfish. 8 pm. \$10. 50 South Main Street.

Letters to Santa:

Last day to drop off your letters to Santa Claus at Les Schwab Tire Center of Willits located at 1656 South Main Street. Letters will be collected and run in the December 19 edition of Willits Weekly. Please keep letters one-sided and include illustrations. Can be handwritten or typed.



Katelyn Germann brought her letter to Santa to last weekend's photo shoot at ER Energy.

Saturday, December 14

27th annual Holiday Crafts Fair: see Friday, December 13 listing for details.

Sunday, December 15

27th annual Holiday Crafts Fair: see Friday, December 13 listing for details.

"King Lear": See Wednesday, December 11 listing for details.

"Welcome Sunday": the public is invited to a special worship service and reception marking the Willits United Methodist Church's decision to become a "Reconciling Congregation," joining hundreds of other Methodist churches that have taken an affirmative stand to fully include lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the life of the church. 11 am at the church, 286 School Street. Sermon by Pastor Rosemary Landry, with special music by the Folk Ensemble. A reception will follow. See article on page 4 in this edition of Willits Weekly for more details.

Swim Coaches Wanted

The Willits Otters swim team is looking for swim coaches, for February through August 2014. Coaching experience is desired. Coaches should be available Monday through Thursday, from 5:30 to 7 pm. Some weekends required for swim meets. Call 391-2154 for more information.

The Home Brew Reading

Student writers from Mendocino College will present their works in "The Home Brew Reading," Tuesday, December 17 at the Willits Community Theater, starting at 7 pm. Come enjoy hand-crafted brews and baked treats along with original poems and stories from Tiffany Bouchard, Caleb Briggs, Jeff Jennings, Tim O'Meara, Daniel Lamprich, Alex Aquilar, David Cesario, Laura Paeyeneers and Allison Deaton. Show is produced and directed by Steve Hellman. Donation at the door. WCT is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

Gift wrapping fundraiser for Willits Dog Park

Love dogs? Hate wrapping presents? Willits Power Carhartt has a solution: Bring in your gifts to the store at 1600 South Main Street, and for \$2 to \$4 per gift, staff will wrap gifts for you. Proceeds will be donated to the Frank Grasse Dog Park.

Willits Power will match the total raised and present the monies to the park after the event's end on Christmas Eve. Boxes and a selection of festive papers are both available at Willits Power; all you have to do is bring the gifts! More information: 459-6420.

WCT to offer reading of 'King Lear'

The Willits Community Theatre will perform a staged reading of William Shakespeare's tragedy "King Lear" on December 11 and 15.

The play has long been regarded as one of the greatest works in English literature. It's about a king who makes a series of bad decisions based on his almost complete misunderstanding of love.

The second plot in the play is a recapitulation of the first. In it, an illegitimate son schemes to have his legitimate brother disinherited. In the process, his father is caught in a power struggle between competing dukes and experiences "a rendition of ocular extraction with prejudice."

King Lear gives us a portrait of a world in which every value except self-interest has been expunged. It is as difficult to talk about the play as it is to comprehend it. As the English literary critic William Hazlitt wrote, "All that we can say must fall far short of the subject, or even of what we ourselves conceive of it."

For this reading, director Mike A'Dair has assembled a cast of some of Willits' most seasoned actors, including Dave Watts, Henry Shebitz, Patricia Willis, Lee Stipe, Gloriann Lucero, Dan Ramsey, Damian Sebouhian, Crystal Cook, Kevin Klay, Steve Marston, Christopher Martin, Bill Bruneau and Louis Rohlicek. Lanny Cotler will play the role of King Lear.

King Lear will play twice, on Wednesday December 11 at 7 pm and again on Sunday, December 15 at 2 pm. Tickets are only \$5 and will be available at the door.

Supervisor Pinches on KZYX

Third District Supervisor John Pinches will be the guest on the "Mendo Matters" radio show hosted by Paul Lambert on KZYX radio on Wednesday, December 11 at 7 pm. KZYX community radio can be found at 91.5 on the FM radio dial in the Willits area.

Pinches will discuss county water policies and why he thinks that Sonoma County owes Mendocino County money for the water they get from our county that gets sold to other communities.

Calls, questions and comments for Supervisor Pinches will be taken at 456-9991.

ROOTS & Santa

Holiday Express makes the season bright for children and families

Roots of Motive Power will hold its annual Holiday Express on Saturday, December 7, from 12 noon to 5 pm at the Roots loop track at 420 East Commercial Street in Willits. Santa will arrive in style on a locomotive lovingly restored and operated by Roots volunteers. Free rides are available to all on the Mason County Logging No. 7 (1910 Baldwin) along with the Long Bell Lumber Company and the Pacific Lumber Company Gibson speeders.

Visitors can also take a walk around the Roots Restoration Yard to view more of its historical collection of steam-powered logging and railroad machinery.

The Engine House will be decorated by Roots volunteers for the holidays, complete with a special tree festooned with train ornaments and visits with Santa Claus and helpers. The model train will take a scenic route around the turn-of-the-century lumber mill. Refreshments will be available for a small fee.

The Mendocino County Museum will welcome all with an Open House: free admission all day and free family activities from 12 noon on. The museum will be decorated for the season with lights and garlands throughout. Vintage toys from the museum's collections and from local individuals will be on display to showcase memories of holidays past.

First 5 Mendocino staff from VISTA and AmeriCorps will team up with Museum volunteers to offer fun and educational activities for kids, including a reading corner with holiday stories, fitness games and board games, as well as craft projects for both older and younger children.

The Museum Shop features toys, games, books and other special items for

19th Annual Winter Solstice Celebration and Spiral Dance

Solstice is the longest night and shortest day of the year, a traditional turning point towards the light from darkness. Join us for our traditional ceremony of drumming, songs and dance, elemental honoring, and spiral dance.

This year we honor the storytelling traditions of our grandmothers with a midwinter tale for children and adults about generosity and gifting.

The Spiral Dance, set for Saturday, December 21 at 6:30 pm, at Little Lake Grange, offers us a close sense of loving community and celebration of our future. Together we bring the light forth from the darkness. And so the spiral moves



Photo courtesy Roots of Motive Power

holiday gifts and is open when the museum is open.

This Saturday's event offers a perfect time for family, friends and community to enjoy the pleasures of the present holiday season while being reminded of our county's fascinating past.

The Mendocino County Museum, at 400 East Commercial Street, is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 4:30 pm and can be reached by calling 459-2736 or by visiting www.MendocinoMuseum.org.

— Roberta Werdinger

Candy still needed for Sober Grad sale

We received the following update from Tonia about the Laytonville Candy Sale: we made \$393, which is awesome! However, she needs more candy for this Saturday's sale at the Brookside Craft Fair. She has a request for peanut brittle (always a good seller); English toffee and turtles were a great success; she needs more nut fudge; still has some truffles on hand; and, of course, any of your favorite candies will be greatly welcome!

You can contact Tonia at 489-4412 or tonia_silverstein@yahoo.com. Or you can drop your candy off with Tonia between 9 and 10 am at Brookside on Saturday. The fair opens at 10 am and runs until 3 pm.

Thanks to all of you who made candy already – hope you can fill up the trays once again for Saturday; or if you were too busy over Thanksgiving to make some candy hope you can make some for this Saturday. And, if you can't make any, please stop by the craft fair and support Sober Grad by buying some yummy homemade candy for your holiday parties. — Joyce Waters, Sober Grad committee

BUD GARMAN
CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC.
LOR 07917

707-459-5859

Environmental Restoration - Ponds
Septic & Water Systems - Site Development
Roads - Water, Soil & Rock Delivery

Get ready for the New Year!

BODYWORKS GYM

Holiday Special:
10 uses for \$10

Offer good until 12/31/13
1511-C S. Main St. Willits 707-459-0594 Open 24/7

Available now at
Sparetime Supply

Christmas Trees

4' to 9' cut trees available
Douglas Fir • Noble Fir
• Nordman Fir •
2- to 5' live trees also available

208 E. San Francisco Ave. Willits 459-6791

While Supplies last!

Wishing you a
Happy Holiday from

T and T TOWING

707-459-9116 500 D. Piseleville Dr. UKIAH, CA
277 N. Lenore Ave. WILLITS, CA

Mariposa Market

Closed Thanksgiving Day
Back open from 11 am - 7 pm on Friday

Organic
Satsuma Mandarins

5-lb Gift Box - \$11.99

500 S. Main St., Willits
707-459-9630

Dinner For 2 \$19.95

Each plate includes: 1 Burrito, 1 Enchilada and 1 Corn Taco with Rice and Beans and a small bean dip.

BEST PRESENT COUPON
EXCLUDES FRIDAYS.
COUPON GOOD THROUGH 12/31/13

(707) 459-5702
Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

166 South Main Street Willits, CA 95490

Gift Certificates make amazing gifts!

m.pho.tog.ra.phress
[fuh-tog-ruh-friss]

Facebook 707-972-7047 maurengetsmail@gmail.com

Ready for Fabulousness?!

Please let me know when you'd like to schedule and we'll set up something fab.

A community Thanksgiving
500 diners enjoy a traditional Turkey Day feast

Members of the Willits Community Services board of directors helped usher guests to their seats, as – often – a short line of diners waited briefly for a place.

Volunteers, including 4-Hers and high school students, cordially waited on table, bringing salads first, then serving plates of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, yams and green beans. Other volunteers circled tables with serving carts covered with desserts or drinks.

Many of those eating were older people, but there were families with young children, too.

Some put money in the tip box even though the dinner was free to all. "We always come and donate money," one woman who came to eat with her husband said.

The food – including 45 turkeys – is cooked at the Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp off Highway 20, by three shifts of inmate crews. "We warm things up at the Senior

Top row: Diners and servers enjoy participating in this year's festivities including John and Luke (left) and Bob and Diana (right).

Middle left: Server Diana carries out two plates of the turkey, stuffing, potatoes, gravy and rolls to hungry diners.

Middle right: The crew of Chamberlain Creek inmates who served and helped cook the meal.

Bottom row: Left: Diners pose with volunteer Diana Pearl. Right: Ty Sumvan-Bickford poses with volunteers Bob and Harry.

Photos by Maureen Moore

The 24th annual Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner, thanks to the hard work of many volunteers, was a great success again this year: feeding about 500 people at the Harrah Senior Center.

Center," said Keven Copperfield, WCS board member, "but it's all cooked at Chamberlain, except the gravy, I think."

About 10 inmates helped serve out plates over the counter in the kitchen, enjoying the community spirit, too.

Funds for the food, apart from the turkeys which were provided by WCS, were donated by Thy – "call me 'T' like the first letter of my name" – Sumvan-Bickford, owner of 101 Burgers and 101 Donuts. "I usually donate about half the food," Sumvan-Bickford told Willits Weekly, but this year, she said, she was happy to donate it all and hoped to be blessed enough to do the same next year. Her daughter Dahvi was one of the young volunteers at the dinner.

Morgan and Emma, both 4-Hers, said they'd been coming to the Community Dinner to volunteer for four years, and always enjoyed helping to serve the food. They also can put the community service in their 4-H record books, Morgan said.

Royce Peart, a Willits High School student who waited on tables at the dinner, said he wasn't there officially representing any groups or clubs at the high

Center," said Keven Copperfield, WCS board member, "but it's all cooked at Chamberlain, except the gravy, I think."

About 10 inmates helped serve out plates over the counter in the kitchen, enjoying the community spirit, too.

Funds for the food, apart from the turkeys which were provided by WCS, were donated by Thy – "call me 'T' like the first letter of my name" – Sumvan-Bickford, owner of 101 Burgers and 101 Donuts. "I usually donate about half the food," Sumvan-Bickford told Willits Weekly, but this year, she said, she was happy to donate it all and hoped to be blessed enough to do the same next year. Her daughter Dahvi was one of the young volunteers at the dinner.

Morgan and Emma, both 4-Hers, said they'd been coming to the Community Dinner to volunteer for four years, and always enjoyed helping to serve the food. They also can put the community service in their 4-H record books, Morgan said.

Royce Peart, a Willits High School student who waited on tables at the dinner, said he wasn't there officially representing any groups or clubs at the high

Center," said Keven Copperfield, WCS board member, "but it's all cooked at Chamberlain, except the gravy, I think."

About 10 inmates helped serve out plates over the counter in the kitchen, enjoying the community spirit, too.

Funds for the food, apart from the turkeys which were provided by WCS, were donated by Thy – "call me 'T' like the first letter of my name" – Sumvan-Bickford, owner of 101 Burgers and 101 Donuts. "I usually donate about half the food," Sumvan-Bickford told Willits Weekly, but this year, she said, she was happy to donate it all and hoped to be blessed enough to do the same next year. Her daughter Dahvi was one of the young volunteers at the dinner.

Morgan and Emma, both 4-Hers, said they'd been coming to the Community Dinner to volunteer for four years, and always enjoyed helping to serve the food. They also can put the community service in their 4-H record books, Morgan said.

Royce Peart, a Willits High School student who waited on tables at the dinner, said he wasn't there officially representing any groups or clubs at the high

Classifieds

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

Body Life Studio
"Wonder and Awe Within" Workshop Dec. 15 from 1-5 Explore inspirational movement in the natural forces of breath, gravity, imagination. For adults. Questions, registration - bodylifestudio@gmail.com

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 macamerin@yahoo.com.

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

Culinary Arts Instructor/Cook
Willits Charter School is seeking a Culinary Arts Instructor / Cook. 30 hours/week. Contact Willits Charter School @ 707-459-5506 for further information.

For Rent
Christian lady has bedroom w/full bath to rent, with TV hookup. Golden Rule Mobile Village. \$400/month, includes TV. 1 small pet negotiable. No smoking, no drugs. Avail immediately. 459-9195.

For Rent
Large 2-bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Country view, but close to shopping. No pets. No smoking. \$77/month, including garbage. Armo: 459-9601.

For Rent
Large 2-bedroom, one bath apartment, with garage. Close to downtown. No smoking. Small pet negotiable. \$775/month. Water/garbage paid. Armo: 459-9601.

For Rent
Quiet, clean studio, close to downtown Willits, Westside, garbage and water paid, NS/HP. \$525/month. Armo: 459-9601.

For Rent
Office/massage studio for rent. Centrally located. 143 square feet, with separate waiting room. Off-street parking. Utilities included. \$175/month. Available now. 354-2473.

Found Cat
Young grey and white male 3/4-tail cat found on Locust Street on December 1. Sweet, vocal, wants forever home, or to go back to his actual home. Is he yours? Call 459-3141.

Help Wanted
Managing Director: WCT seeks permanent P/T administrator: publicity & marketing, computer graphics, finance, personnel, record keeping and community liaison. Salary negotiated. See willitsweekly.org for full job description. Submit resume to WCT, P.O. Box 80, Willits, or wct@willitsonline.com.

Help Wanted
Ardella's Downtown Diner now hiring all positions. Apply within. No phone calls please.

Help Wanted
Housekeeper wanted for Baechtel Creek Inn. Must be able to go up and down stairs, lift up to 30 pounds, and be reliable and willing to work. Apply in person.

Help Wanted
Maintenance person wanted for Baechtel Creek Inn. Must be available on weekends, and weekdays. Apply in person.

New Patients Welcome
Phillip J. D'Angelo, DDS
Cosmetic/Family Dentistry
707-459-4664

Old Cars Wanted
ALWAYS LOOKING for Cars, Scooters & Motorcycles! '40s thru '50s. Show Car to Parts Car. Please call Alan: 489-7165 or email agrossman@pacfic.net.

Pinball Machines
PINBALL MACHINES for sale. 459-6372.

Racing Truck
Traxxas Radio-Controlled Model Truck for sale. Includes recharging equipment. Used twice – never raced. Looks like new. Asking \$250 firm. Call evenings: 707-456-0381.

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!

Swim Coaches Wanted
Swim Coaches for Willits Otters swim team, Feb. through Aug. Coaching experience desired. Monday through Thursday, 5:30 to 7 pm. Some weekends required for swim meets. Call 391-2154.

Volunteers Needed
Come meet wonderful people and make a difference in your community. Pick up an application at the Harrah Senior Center on Baechtel Road. Hope to see you soon.

The rest of Caltrans

From Page 1

another location," Caltrans spokesman Phil Frisbie said.

Frisbie explained the dirt – likely from winter landslides – is being put there permanently to build up the surface near the edge of the highway. Observant drivers may have noticed the drop-off from the shoulder of the highway has been shortened somewhat as the fill has grown in size over the past weeks.

Maintenance crews have spots along Caltrans right of way where they may store dirt from a slide, but these spots do fill up.

Frisbie added if not for the work at Oil Well Hill, Caltrans would be looking at paying a landfill to take the dirt.

"We try to find places along the right of way that can be built up," said Frisbie.



Above: On the southwest slope of Oil Well Hill, a state bulldozer is parked at the site where fill dirt is being packed in and shaped at the base of a steep slope.

Below: Highway 101 is above the dirt and the tree trunks, where Caltrans relocated excess dirt to fill in alongside the road.



Photos by Zack Cinek

The rest of Xmas Trees

From Page 1

the sooner helpful community members can select, buy and return the items on the tags (currently being refilled on the trees daily); the easier the second half of the process – wrapping and distribution – will be.

Turner also stressed that even \$5 and \$10 monetary donations add up and are equally as appreciated as fulfilling full tags.

Drop off boxes for completed tags are located at J.D. Redhouse and Main Street Music.

The rest of Xmas Trees

From Page 1

"We really would like to stress for people to bring back fulfilled tags as soon as possible," explained Turner. "There is no 'too soon' to get them back to us."

Gifts from the Toy Run and other fundraisers will help fulfil tag requests as well.

Deliveries will take place Christmas Eve.

Anyone wishing to help with wrapping the gifts or for more information on the program can contact Turner at 490-8872.

Willits Weekly T-Shirts

A perfect gift for this holiday season!



What could be better this holiday season than to unwrap one of Willits Weekly's brand new "I ♥ Willits Weekly" T-shirts? The crisp black shirts are printed with white lettering on the front and our signature "WW" circle logo on the back.

Shirts are available in unisex sizes from medium to XXL and cost \$20 each. They come festively wrapped in cellophane and ribbon, ready for immediate gift giving.

Gift subscriptions are also available this year and make great gifts for locals as well as out-of-towners. Getting the paper delivered in the mail is a great way for people no longer living in the area to stay connected with our community, as well as convenient for locals who don't want to track down a copy in town.

Six-month subscriptions are available for \$40, and one-year subscriptions are available for \$75. A sewn newspaper bag with ribbon handles and fancy presentation certificate makes a Willits Weekly gift subscription a festive and quick choice for readers of all ages.

T-shirts will be for sale at J.D. Redhouse starting Friday, November 28, and will also be available at Willits Weekly's Winter Willits Farmers Market booth. The market is on Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange (skipping Thanksgiving Day).

For more info or to place an order: 972-7047 or email willitsweekly@gmail.com.

– Maureen Moore

Puzzle Answers From Page 4

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

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

OBITUARY

Herb Kamphausen

January 16, 1936 - November 26, 2013

Herb Kamphausen was born in China to missionary parents, and came to America at age 11. He was a manufacturing engineer. While living in Willits, Herb worked at Metalx and Warmboard. He was one of the pastors at Agape Bible Church in Willits. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, two sons-in-law, a son, a daughter-in-law, two grandchildren, two sisters and a brother.

Memorial services will be held at a later date. For service information contact Agape Bible Church. Eversole Mortuary is in charge of arrangements.

WOMEN
girl
goodwill
leadership
lives
Developing
education
willits
soroptimists
local

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

It's time for the 2014 Phone book!

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

Ad copy for changes can be sent to
WPBAdCopy@gmail.com

Memorial service for Pat Simonson

A memorial service will be held for Grace Patricia "Pat" Simonson, Saturday, December 7 at 1 pm at the Willits Methodist Church, 286 School Street.

Pat passed peacefully on Thursday, October 31 in St. Helena. (See November 7 edition of Willits Weekly for full obituary.)

Remembrances may be made to the Frank R. Howard Foundation of Willits Seniors, Inc.

Marc Komer
Legal Document Assistant

An Affordable Non-Attorney Service
Divorce, Living Trusts, Evictions, Probate, Incorporation, Name Change, etc.

www.mendolegaldocs.com
459-2775
104 W. Mendocino, Willits

I am not an attorney, and can only provide self-help services at your specific direction.

Ivy Accounting & Payroll

Quickbooks Pro Advisor, Bookkeeping Services, Tax Prep. No Business too big or small

Barb Ivy 707-489-5486 251 Shell Lane, Unit G Willits, CA 95490



Scooter Holder of Radical Sounds with customer Miguel Gutierrez and his family's Tacoma truck. Photo by Jennifer Poole

Radical Sounds

Car audio from stock to custom

"Let's make your sounds radical," says Gene "Scooter" Holder of Radical Sounds car audio & customs on Blosser Lane in Willits. "We do everything from mild to wild," says his partner, Matt Scribner.

Radical Sounds specializes in installing car audio: everything from replacing the stock audio system that came with your car to upgrading to high-quality custom decks, speakers, sub-woofers and amplifiers.

Want a "nice and clean," "loud, clear, low!!!" sound for your ride? Check out Radical Sounds.

Holder and Scribner started up their business eight months ago, and they are the only car audio installers in Willits.

Holder has been installing car audio systems in Willits and Ukiah for 12 years, and Scribner, more mechanically oriented, has been working with cars and trucks, including installing bolt-on accessories, for many years, too.

A new stereo system for your car – or as a gift for a special someone else – can run from around \$150 installed to about as high as your budget will bear. Most of the work Radical Sounds does is stock speaker replacement, with a lot of replacement amplifiers, too. But they've done top-of-the-line custom orders, with multiple speakers, that can run up to \$3,000 or even \$5,000.

Radical Sounds has outfitted a couple of boats with custom stereo systems, too: boats can have 10 or 12 speakers or more.

Holder and Scribner agree that the No. 1 car audio line is Memphis Audio, and they'd say the top three lines are Memphis, Kicker and JVC.

In addition to audio, the shop also

installs other custom items, after-market accessories, and safety features. An electronic running board solves the difficulty of getting up into those big trucks: this electric step will lower down for easy access when the truck door is open, and retracts up and under when the door is closed. Car alarms include a Prestige Security System, with a 2-way LCD remote start and command confirmation.

Another custom safety feature Radical Sounds installs are backup devices that show what's behind the car on an inside monitor, that "bring the blind zone back into view," to help prevent collisions and accidents with children or pets.

How about a "complete mobile entertainment" system, with DVD monitors that can be installed overhead or on the back of the front seat headrests, for the kids?

The front counter at Radical Sounds is stacked with catalogues for customers to browse, to see just what kind of car audio system or custom item they want. The guys will do any kind of special order, as well as install what's in stock.

Radical Sounds gives "free estimates every time," Holder said. The shop, painted in the company's colors – black and a deep "Amazing" red – is located at 1254 Blosser Lane. They're open 9 am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday, "and if you need us on the weekend, we're available."

For more information, call 459-1626, email Radicalsounds707@gmail.com, or check the "Radical Sounds" Facebook page. — Jennifer Poole

Access. Quality. Care.

Choose Little Lake FOR ALL HEALTH CENTER your medical care.

Primary care is the foundation of a healthy lifestyle. WE ACCEPT Medicare, Medi-Cal, Partnership & other insurance. No one is turned away because they can't pay.

Little Lake Health Center • 707-456-9600 • 45 Hazel Street • Willits A FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER • www.mchcinc.org

CHUCK PERSICO IS NOW WORKING WITH

EL RIVER FUELS INC.

PR-PANE EXCEPTIONAL ENERGY

ER ENERGY PROPANE

3371 N. State St. Ukiah, CA 95482
www.enerenergy.com

Chuck Persico
Commercial Accounts Representative
Cell: (707) 272-1748
Office: (707) 462-5554
Fax: (707) 462-2337

HOME FOR SALE

27555 Blue Lake Rd

This is a Fannie Mae HomePath Property! Located in the Spring Creek Subdivision! Property features district water service, electricity through PG&E, phone, and 2 BR/1 BA home finished in 1995 with vaulted ceilings, laundry room, enclosed porch, large deck attached to front of home. Private wooded location.

Listed: \$310,000

Tara Moratti, REALTOR
SPECIALIZING IN WILLITS REAL ESTATE

www.LivInMendo.com
1460 S. Main St. Willits
tara.moratti@coldwellbanker.com

CELL (707)367-0389
OFFICE (707)459-5389 ext. 106

BRE# 01428657

Letters to Santa

Make sure to let him know what you want this year! Bring to Les Schwab of Willits by

December 13!

Santa Claus
c/o Les Schwab
1565 S. Main St
Willits, CA

DEC 25

Dear Santa:

Love:

Age:

Tires LES SCHWAB

Letters will be printed in the 12/19 edition of Willits Weekly

CAPABILITY BROWN LANDSCAPING
(707) 459-2237

Stone Retaining Walls
Paver Walkways
Flagstone Patios
Stone Fireplaces
Gates and Pillars

"Stonework a Specialty"

Louis Rohlicek
License #542392



Clay Romero

The rest of **Romero** From Page 1

40.4 percent to 29.8 percent.

Romero attends the Agape Bible Church in Willits, where he serves as a sound technician. He is also a member of the Homeschool Legal Defense Association.

"I come from a conservative Christian background in which a work ethic, honesty and honor of traditional values instills care and respect," Romero said. "The ideal candidate elected must epitomize all that is

understand that the supervisor's position is not about power, but is about the willingness to serve selflessly. I trust and pray that I will convey these qualities in a position of the people's trust," Romero said.

"I am favorable to creation of wealth through businesses that offer manufacturing, farming or any other business that produces a physical product," Romero said. "I favor law enforcement concerns, the bypass, the Brooktrails second access, enabling a greater water supply to endure droughts, and minimizing local government complications. A simple government is an effective government."

Romero said that, if elected, he would continue the fiscal policy of incumbent Third District Supervisor John Pinches. "There might be a few things that Pinches and I disagree on, but when it comes to handling money, I think that Johnny did very well. I know that the proper handling of money is vital for this county," Romero said.

Romero said that people who are interested in learning more about him can watch him sing a song he wrote, "I'm Proud To Live In Willits, Little Lake Valley." Viewers can find it at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pT4tT10SG3g>.



Ponderosa pine saplings sprouting between the railroad ties north of town.

Photo by Zack Cinek

The rest of **Trolley** From Page 1

Railway Society.

On the tracks north of Willits, Douglas fir and Ponderosa pine trees have sprouted between the ties, and the rail crossing on Highway 101 north of the old truck scales has been entirely removed.

Further on up the line north of Willits, washouts, decaying tunnels and marijuana grows hinder recovery of any railroad activity. As does the Eel River's protected status under the federal and state Wild and Scenic River acts.

"It is an occupied zone up there," Jergenson said. "Willits south is a whole other conversation, and that is what I am excited about."

Twenty-five years ago the California Legislature formed the North Coast Railroad Authority. The railroad act intended "to ensure continuation of railroad service in Northwestern California, and envisioned the railroad playing a significant role in the transportation infrastructure serving a vital part of the state that suffers from restricted access and limited transport options. In 1992, the state purchased the railroad line from Willits north," a write up from NCRA stated.

The rest of **Dinner** From Page 8

school. "My family used to come and eat here at Thanksgiving," he said, "and I just thought I'd come down and volunteer."

Harrah Senior Center Director Allyn Nonneman said the center sent out about 50 Meals on Wheels Thanksgiving dinners to homebound diners that day, too.

Pat Collins, former executive director of WCS, said the community dinner first started back in 1989 when the former owner of the restaurant just east of the Willits Police Department (now Imagination Station) came into the Food Bank office one day and said: "We need to do something about Thanksgiving." He offered to put it on at

Jergenson calls for a county rail plan to be established. "We need to get rail service from Willits heading south."

Jergenson envisions a rail plan and joint powers agreement that will give Willits and the county an opportunity to provide passenger and freight service. Or it could be as simple as buying a couple of rail cars like the Skunk Train's M100 and M300.

A trolley serving Willits could make its northern-most stop at the tracks just south of the American Legion hall, across Main Street from Vassar's Pizza.

"We could be running a battery-powered trolley from as far north as the high school," Jergenson said. "What we have here is pearls on a string."

Other stops could serve Commercial Street establishments such as Mendocino College and the public library, and also across town like Safeway, Baechtel Grove Middle School, the Willits Kids' Club, the Willits Harrah Senior Center, and the new Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital.

Local Action: If you care to attend, be looking for a yet-to-be named rail summit anticipated to be held at the Little Lake Grange in early 2014.

his restaurant for free.

After a couple of years, the restaurant closed, and Willits resident Jeff Judson, who was on the WCS board at the time, "picked up the project," Collins said. Judson, who worked out at Chamberlain Creek, got the prisoners involved. Chamberlain Creek, with its kitchen facilities, has been a crucial part of the success of this community dinner. Where else in town, or in Mendocino County, could 45 turkeys be roasted, along with all the rest of the food needed for a meal for 500 people?

Donations for Willits Community Services & Food Bank can be sent to 229 East San Francisco Street, Willits, CA 95490. Info: 459-3333.

Wishing holiday cheer to all of you

BOOK LOVERS

The Book Juggler
707-459-4075
182 South Main Street Willits, CA 95490
www.thebookjuggler.com

fast & easy special orders
friendly, personal service
free gift wrapping
gift certificates
huge selection of new & used titles
convenient hours every day of the week

good about Mendocino County, be the best and brightest example, and

supervisor's position is not about power, but is about the willingness to serve selflessly. I trust and pray that I will convey these qualities in a position of the people's trust," Romero said.

"I am favorable to creation of wealth through businesses that offer manufacturing, farming or any other business that produces a physical product," Romero said. "I favor law enforcement concerns, the bypass, the Brooktrails second access, enabling a greater water supply to endure droughts, and minimizing local government complications. A simple government is an effective government."

Romero said that, if elected, he would continue the fiscal policy of incumbent Third District Supervisor John Pinches. "There might be a few things that Pinches and I disagree on, but when it comes to handling money, I think that Johnny did very well. I know that the proper handling of money is vital for this county," Romero said.

Romero said that people who are interested in learning more about him can watch him sing a song he wrote, "I'm Proud To Live In Willits, Little Lake Valley." Viewers can find it at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pT4tT10SG3g>.

The rest of **Out of the Box** From Page 4

nished itself into the local newspaper market, and which is doing so quite successfully. I mean no disparagement toward the Willits News, but clearly there was room for a newspaper that went beyond.

Even in large, urban areas with fierce competition there are both holes and niches. Facebook saw a niche and filled it; Amazon saw a hole and filled it to the point of overflow and then went even further to create satellite businesses.

If one has a passion, one can find a way to make it a business, brick and mortar are no longer required, greatly reducing the startup cost of a new business. Having one's head in the clouds is now an advantage.

Finding sweet spots has an entirely new twist, and thinking globally is no longer an arrogant delusion. In January, New Orleans is hosting Entrepreneur magazine's Six Annual Growth Conference: a mecca for anyone with an entrepreneurial spirit.

The Economist points to the retreat of corporate America into the shadows, while visionary, ambitious entrepreneurs carve out new landscapes of commerce. UTNE Reader looks at the exploding future of women and commerce, as the old model of the eight-hour, five-day work week dominated by men supporting families is no longer the dominant model. Our future is about anyone with imagination, drive and determination – male or female, young or old. I personally know one woman, a career New York publisher at the top of the organization, who retired at 66 and began to pursue her passion for Chinese brush painting. Today, she earns more money by far than what she earned at that New York publisher, and she is far happier.

Of course, I also know another much younger woman – Maureen Moore – who after working for me as my office manager "grew herself" into both a realtor, photographer and the co-founder/designer of this newspaper you're reading – all in her 20s. I had hired her when she was 18, and clearly she was going places.

Success and financial security are available to anyone, anywhere, as long as they are willing to pursue their passion. Even the failure of one venture does not mean failure in the next. True entrepreneurs are relentless, and they eat "failure" for breakfast. Willits is only a financial wasteland if one has an obsession with T.S. Eliot. Otherwise, there's always room in those clouds.

Nancy Ellis-Bell is a former professor and current literary agent/author who has lived in Willits for the past 20 years. Aside from her passion for the sharing of ideas, she is also addicted to parrots, koi and a garden that just won't stop growing.



Arno Gassen

The rest of **Gassen** From Page 1

He has served as a shop steward, as chief steward, as vice president of the Mendocino chapter of SEIU, and as a contract negotiator for county workers for seven years, from 2003 until 2010.

He said he is running for supervisor because of his concern about the county's finances and a lack of job opportunities here. During an interview with Willits Weekly, Gassen focused on the way county government has been treating its labor force.

"The county claims they're broke, but I know different," he said. "I know they are going to spend their money on something else, instead of giving back to the employees. I personally believe the board of supervisors, when it comes to finances, is being run by the CEO."

Gassen said he feels the county's way of dealing with its employees and the public is part of a long-term trend.

"I know for a fact that they've been lying about the budget for the past 30 years," he said. "I'm just tired of them lying. I'm just tired of it."

Gassen promises he will bring all of his life experiences to his job as supervisor. "As a man who was raised in an environment that values hard work, and as a man who has experienced the hardships of the working class, if I am elected to the board of supervisors, I will bring that perspective to the county's management organization," he said.

When asked why he decided to run for the board of supervisors, Gassen said, "Primarily, I am concerned with the lack of transparency and accountability regarding the county's budgetary and financial issues."

WILLITS COLLISION CENTER

AND **Kustoms BY SPENCE**

CUSTOM & INSURANCE WORK
COMPLETE AUTO BODY REPAIR

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED
BY JEFF SPENCE & BARB IVY

707-456-9088

251 SHELL LANE - UNITS G & J - WILLITS, CA

Well Mannered MUTTS

Dog Training
INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION • PUPPY HEAD START • GROUP CLASSES
BEHAVIOR CONSULTATION

Sallie Palmer
CERTIFIED DOG TRAINER

707-463-3647
CELL: 707-621-DOG5
WELLMANNEREDMUTTS@GMAIL.COM
WWW.WELLMANNEREDMUTTS.COM

Adam's Restaurant
50 S. Main St., Willits, CA
707-456-9226

Grass Fed Beef
Fresh Caught Fish
Organic Chicken
Local Vegetables

Earn \$50 during December in our **Customer Appreciation Month**

GEIGER'S LONG VALLEY MARKET
4495 Hwy. 101 Laytonville, CA 707-984-6911

Welcome Santa to town on Christmas Eve at 1pm

Come by on December 11th from 3 to 7 pm for our **Holiday Open House**
Enjoy samples, prizes and sales store wide

Willits Weekly
707-972-7047

Dark Chocolate Salted Caramel Dark Chocolate Orange Mushroom Walnut Peppermint Bark

SEASONAL FUDGE FLAVORS

OUR OWN CREAM & BUTTER

Fudge

FLAVORS



27th annual Holiday Crafts Fair

Gifts from local artists and artisans

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, with the City of Willits holiday decorations going up on Highway 101 and with the cold overnight temperatures and thick white frost on the roofs in the mornings.

And it's getting close to Holiday Crafts Fair time, too, which for the 27th year will offer fine arts and crafts at the Willits Community Center, Friday, December 13 through Sunday, December 15.

"It's all about creating community," said Karen Gridley, who will offer her hand-sewn potholders, tote bags, purses, lunch bags and cosmetic bags at the fair. "People love buying something from somebody who made it themselves."

Gridley uses colorful cotton fabric: "lots of batiks and specialty and animal fabrics," she said. Her potholders are available in heart shapes and traditional squares, usually in sets of two, with discounts for multiple sets. Her "It's in the Bag!" purses are available in four different sizes, in addition to a larger tote bag.

Gridley was originally inspired to make "practical affordable things that are useful and beautiful," after her travels in Africa, where the people "had everyday things around their place that were beautiful." She started with

a focus on reusable shopping bags: "People didn't carry shopping bags 20 years ago." Gridley was working as a recycling advocate for the County of Mendocino, and wanted to make a reusable bag "people identified with because they loved the fabric, so they'd take it with them."

Gridley will share a booth with Wolfgang Ronnefeldt, whose "Mendocino Medicinal" products are "innovative and traditional herbal medicines, salves and seaweed products" that blend "traditional European herbalism and the new innovative medical herbalism of Northern California." All the plant materials are wild-crafted or organically grown.

Ronnefeldt has been working with medicinal plants all his life. "I remember the first time my father sent me out into the field to pick yarrow, and I was not older than 5 years old," he said. "He just came back from a Russian prison camp, and wanted yarrow for a salad. That was a horrible salad," Ronnefeldt laughed.

Mendocino Medicinal's Royal Tyrolian healing cream for skin and muscles is made with basil leaves, comfrey leaves and roots, Vitamin E and, "of course, the famous dwarf pine oil," Ronnefeldt said, which grows as high in the mountains as trees can grow. "It has a wonderful smell." He got the recipe for this salve while hiking in the Swiss Alps, where it is called the "empress's salve."

See Calendar page for more details about the Crafts Fair, which is a benefit for the Willits Center for the Arts.

- Jennifer Poole



Top left: Karen Gridley's potholders adorn a Christmas tree, with tote bag and purse to the side. Top right: Kelp Help, one of Wolfgang Ronnefeldt's herbal medicines, is made with wildcrafted kelp. Above: A hand-sewn tote bag and purse from Gridley's "It's in the Bag" line.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

Room To Bloom Preschool
Where the love of learning grows
239 South Main Street - Willits

Morning & School Day Programs
8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Spanish • Art • Journals • Circle Time
Outside Play • Snacks • Group Activities
• Inquiry Based Learning •

Call Today to Enroll Your Child!
RoomToBloomPreschool.com 707-456-9743

Gift Certificates Make Great Gifts!

Happy Holidays!

December is the month of free giveaways for

Mane Effects Hair Design

Enter and Like us on Facebook!

1573 South Main Street in Willits 707-459-1429

New & Consigned Clothing
~
Fashion Accessories

The Unique Boutique

Located inside **The Body Shoppe** **621-3900**

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

Willits Depot
December 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

Fort Bragg Depot
December 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23

707 964-6371 • WWW.SKUNKTRAIN.COM
CHILDREN (2-12): \$25 • ADULT: \$35

open up the **Holiday Vault** 3 times a day

win up to **\$5,000 CASH** FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS

The gifts come early at Sherwood Valley Casino!!

SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO
100 KAWI PLACE, WILLITS CA
707-459-7978

EARN POINTS EARN SWIPES
PLAY UP TO 3 TIMES A DAY
EVERY SWIPE IS A WINNER!

DESSERT WITH A DOC SEMINAR SERIES

Breathe a Sigh of Relief

Don Coursey, MD
Ear, Nose & Throat Specialist

Join us for Dessert with a Doc

Dr. Coursey specializes in caring for people suffering with conditions of the ears, nose, and throat. He has a passion for helping his patients take a sigh of relief, and experience a better quality of life! Here's what you will learn at this FREE event:

- What is an ENT?
- Help With Your Hearing
- Help For Your Throat
- Help For Your Sinuses

Learn how you can take better care of yourself and **Live Younger Longer.**

December 17
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

275 Hospital Drive
Ukiah, CA 95482

In the Glenn Miller Conference Room, North Entrance of the Hospital right next to the Family Birth Center.

Space is limited. A healthy dessert will be served with light refreshments.

RSVP: 707.467.5270

www.uvmc.org

Ukiah Valley Medical Center
Adventist Health

YOU CAN ALSO WATCH THE EVENT LIVE AT UVMC.ORG/LIVE.