

Measure B oversight committee set to meet on January 24

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

The Mental Health Treatment Act's Citizens Oversight Committee established by Measure B will likely meet on January 24, 2018. County supervisors are expected to appoint five members to that committee before the meeting date.

County CEO Carmel Angelo told supervisors that, as clerk of the board, she will notify the four county officers already appointed to the oversight committee, as specified in Measure B. Those county officers include the CEO, the director of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (i.e., the mental health director), the sheriff, and the auditor – or their designees.

Angelo will notify two local organizations – the Mendocino County Chapter of the National Alliance on the Mental Illness and the county's own Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Advisory Board – that they are to appoint one representative each to the committee.

In addition to those six people, each county

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Meteorologist: dryness, heat, winds caused intensity of fire

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Multiple factors came together to create conditions that made the October 2017 fires that struck northwestern California the most devastating in the state's history, National Weather Service meteorologist Brad Charboneau told an audience last Thursday night in the Ridgewood Ranch Auditorium.

And that combination of conditions was not unique, Charboneau warned, and would likely happen again.

"This isn't something that is completely unprecedented. Similar fires have happened in this area," he said at the November 30 talk. "These conditions – even at this extreme – have happened similarly in the past and will probably happen again.

"This area," Charboneau noted, "is prone to extreme fire danger from time to time, and eventually the conditions will probably come together to result in a similar type of conditions."

Charboneau, who works in the NWS's Eureka office, detailed a number of

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Frost & Festivities



A cold Monday morning brought out the signs of the season around Willits

In the early morning hours of Monday, December 4, the frost blanketing the rooftops, fields and fence posts around Willits made for a wintery scene. When the sun finally started to peek through the thick fog, cows and City of Willits workers alike rejoiced that warmer hours were coming.

While the cows sunned themselves in the frosty fields, veteran municipal reindeer Cory Ungast, Kenan O'Shea and Logan Gamble helped newbie reindeer Kirk "Prancer" DeFranco from the Willits Public Works Department to hang the holiday-themed lamppost decorations from Commercial Street to the Willits arch.

Twinkling bells, snowflakes, trees and presents will glitter from the Main Street posts through December, welcoming local shoppers and providing community cheer during the holiday season.

– Maureen Moore

At top, from left: Rosehips still shine a bright red and make lovely additions to wreaths and swags for holiday decorating. City of Willits reindeer newbie Kirk "Prancer" DeFranco dons the ceremonial lamppost-hanging antler hat Monday morning. Blackberry leaves show their texture when laced with an edging of frost. Above: Cold cows enjoy the first bits of sunshine through the fog. City of Willits' Cory Ungast brings a wreath to the bucket truck.

Photos by Maureen Moore



At top: City of Willits' Kirk DeFranco, Kenan O'Shea and Cory Ungast pose together with one of the wreaths destined for the lamppost in front of the Willits Hub. Above, from left: Seed pods are outlined in a rim of frost. O'Shea plugs in the wreath. Redwood branches look Christmas-tree worthy with a frosty dusting. Below: East-facing hills were the place to be Monday morning – these cows knew it, too – where the sun first starts poking through the thick fog and is able to warm the cold noses of livestock (and humans!) alike.



Mendocino County firefighters fighting fires down south

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
willitsweekly@gmail.com

Firefighters from Mendocino County's volunteer fire departments and from CalFire's Mendocino Unit started heading down to the fierce and ferocious fires in Los Angeles and Ventura counties on Tuesday, as forecasters predicted the epic Santa Ana winds driving the fires will continue.

Little Lake Fire
Read the rest of **Fires** |
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Growers, county seek changes in state pot rules

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Both the County of Mendocino and the California Growers Association are calling for fundamental changes to state emergency cannabis regulations in comments sent to Sacramento. The CGA's comments were written November 30; the county's on December 4.

Both the county and CGA seek reinstatement of the 1-acre cap on total acreage that may be cultivated by one individual. Both organizations use identical language to argue for support of the 1-acre cap:

"Reinstating the 1-acre cap is consistent with the requirement that cooperative associations be capped at 4 acres. If the

Read the rest of **Rules** |
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Army Corps one-third done with task

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Homesite cleanup in Redwood Valley and Potter Valley from October's devastating Redwood fire is about one-third completed, according to Mendocino County Fire Recovery Director Tammy Moss Chandler, and the Department of Toxic Substances Control is "virtually all done" removing hazardous wastes from approximately 320 home sites in the burn area.

Contract crews working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have completed

Read the rest of **Corps** |
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What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Food at the crafts fair

To the Editor:

The holidays are quickly approaching, and Willits Charter School is excited to provide delicious food for all of the visitors and vendors at the Willits Holiday Craft Fair! This year our culinary instructor at WCS and her culinary classes will be offering some brand-new items including a fresh take on some of our favorites.

This year's menu includes: Vegetarian Broccoli Cheddar Quiche, Vegetarian Mushroom, Spinach and Roasted Tomato Quiche, Sausage Fennel and Sweet Onion Quiche; Lasagna served with choice of salad and roll; Roasted Butternut Squash Lasagna (gluten-free rice noodles) or Ford Ranch Beef and Vegetable Lasagna; Salad with roll; Garden Salad (ranch or balsamic vinaigrette) or Kale & Cranberry Salad (orange vinaigrette); Soup with roll: Slow-Cooked Chicken and White Bean Chili Soup or Lentil and Caramelized Veggie Soup (vegan); Sandwiches with Kettle potato chips: Roasted Turkey and Cranberry Sandwich on Croissant or Hummus and Garden Vegetable Sandwich on Telera roll (gluten-free bread also available).

Visitors can purchase a la carte items or a full meal. All meal items will be prepared by our culinary program under the direction of Culinary instructor Charlie Widner. Ms. Widner has worked at the Ritz Carlton, taught at a culinary school in Asheville, and owned a restaurant called the Tomato Jam Cafe.

Her famous "Cat's Head Biscuits" have been recognized by Roadfood's Michael and Jane Stern in their book, "500 Things to Eat Before It's Too Late: And The Very Best Places to Eat Them," as the "Best Biscuits in the South." We are proud to have Ms. Widner as our culinary instructor at the school.

Food will be available from the beginning of the fair until the very end! Be sure to come hungry, and enjoy a delicious meal between shopping for your favorite craft items and enjoying some music at the fair. All funds go back to our school so we can continue to provide enriching programs such as music, art, drama, dancing, and culinary programs. WCS appreciates your support, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Jennifer Lockwood, director,
Willits Charter School

'Door-through-door' transportation

To the Editor:

The Harrah Senior Center transportation services are available Monday through Friday from 8 am to 3:45 pm. We provide transportation to anyone 18 or older with a disability or anyone 55 or older. I think it's important to clarify the definition of disability: a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual. Passengers can have a care provider ride with them free of charge.

An important but often overlooked aspect of our transportation services is they allow individuals to maintain an active social lifestyle instead of being isolated at home and the mutually beneficial friendship that develops between our drivers and passengers. Here are two factual examples with names changed of the "door-through-door" service we provide.

Louise lives alone. She is 82 years old and has voluntarily given up driving because of poor eyesight. We thank Louise for making a responsible decision and empathize

with her, because she is losing some of her independence because she now relies solely on others for transportation. Louise doesn't want to be a constant burden asking friends and family for rides all the time, so she decided to try our service.

We understand the adjustment period Louise is going through because she is no longer driving. We reassure Louise it's our pleasure to be able to assist her. We explain it's our job to get her where she needs to go safely and to provide a steady hand if needed. We take Louise to and from her medical and dental appointments, to town to do her banking, to the Senior Center for lunch, and twice a month to get her hair done.

We drop her off so she can do her grocery shopping. We pick her up when she is done, load up her groceries, and ask her if she needs her groceries carried inside and placed on the counter. Louise feels comfortable relying on us to meet her transportation needs, so she decided to sell her car, and is relieved because she no longer needs to pay for gas, insurance or repairs.

Meagan, age 26, is discharged from Howard Hospital with a severely injured leg suffered in an auto accident. Meagan's expected recovery and rehabilitation will exceed six months and therefore qualifies her as a physically disabled passenger. Howard Hospital calls, and we arrange to pick Meagan up and take her home. She lives in Brooktrails.

We ask the hospital discharge coordinator if Meagan can transfer into our bus or if a wheelchair is needed. If she needs temporary use of a wheelchair, Howard Hospital lets us transport the patient to her destination and we return the wheelchair to Howard the same day. If she needs a wheelchair longer, the Senior Center provides wheelchairs for public use in 90-day increments free of charge.

We secure her in our big bus equipped with a motorized lift with tie downs, lap belt and a three-point seat belt. She's nervous and in obvious pain. We reassure Meagan we're going to get her home safely; we've done this many times. All the way home Meagan talks about the excellent patient care she received from Howard Hospital staff from the moment she arrived until we picked her up in the lobby. We strive to maintain that excellent patient care until we have Meagan safely in her home.

We transport countless passengers to and from physical therapy, medical and dental appointments, to pay bills, go to the bank, run errands, go grocery shopping or go visit friends. We have become a safe, reliable and trustworthy source of transportation.

For those of you who volunteer your time, donate money or merchandise, support our fundraisers, or donate items to our thrift store, we wish you could feel the gratitude we receive as result of your generosity and kindness.

Last year we provided 10,045 rides. We couldn't do it without you. The collaborative care of our community allows us to administer this door-through-door service that so many have come to rely on.

Our Christmas Store will be open through December 9. You can get all your Christmas items in one stop, avoid waiting in long lines, and enjoy a cup of hot cider. Our prices are more than reasonable. We have See's Candy for sale at the front desk – already Christmas wrapped.

If you would like to support our door-through-door service, the information is below. I would like to wish the entire community a very Merry Christmas from all of us here at the Willits Senior Center.

Make checks payable to: Willits Seniors Inc., and send to 1501 Baechtel Road, Willits CA 95490. Or make an online donation from our website at www.willitsseiorcenter.com – just click on the donation tab. Thank you.

Richard Baker, executive director,
Willits Seniors Inc.

Thank you

To the Editor:

Thank you to those who supported the giveaways for fire victims.

I clocked in over 60 volunteer hours with help from the following local community members: Jane McCabe, Carol Orton, Linda Posner, Rosemary Landry, Pat Moller, Alana Lopes, Kristin Fraser, Olivia Hill, Sherrie Ebyam, Andrew Madison, and Ashley Huffman.

I wanted to give a special thanks to Willits Charter School

staff for being the donation-receiving site. And to the Methodist Church and Rosemary Landry for hosting the space for us to have our giveaway events.

Jason Ferar donated \$100 worth of supplies to cover the expenses of running the three Fire Victims Donations Giveaways. Michelle Cummins and Willits Ecstatic Dance donated \$400 worth of \$50 gift cards for families of who lost their whole home in the fire.

Through December 18, I will take these very specific wish list items for families who lost their whole homes in the fire and deliver them to the family that requested the item: Garden tools, dehydrator, hard drive, chalkboard, small TV, possibly with VHS player, laptop, or landline phone in good condition.

Please call Aurelie Clivaz at 707-489-1258 or aclivaz@mcyp.org to arrange drop-off or for more information. Thank you,

Aurelie Clivaz, Mendocino County
Youth Project, Willits

Open Studio at Cultivate Wellness

To the Editor:

We are opening the Cultivate Wellness Studio at the Little Lake Grange on Thursday, December 14 from 3 to 6 pm, to share all the options we have available to give your family and friends for this holiday season and beyond. Find gifts for health and wellness for family, friends and yourself, including: "Organic Remedies" supplements, tinctures, salves, balms, oils, flower essences, essential oils, Chinese herbs, moxa sticks, books, CDs, and most importantly, session gift certificates for acupuncture, flower essences consultations, naturopathic and nutritional consulting, energy balancing, therapeutic body treatments, acupressure and shiatsu, pain management sessions, self-empowerment consultations and much more!

Visit the Farmers Market at the Willits Grange, get your locally grown produce, Farmers Market goodness, and locally made goodies, and then come over for a complimentary cup of herbal tea, and allow us to introduce you to salves, balms, tinctures, flower essences, essential oils, Chinese herbs, and the wide array of consultations we offer.

We are looking forward to seeing you, answering your questions and even giving you some introductory consultations!

And if we do not offer what you are looking for we probably can help you find it locally.

When you enter the Willits Grange, you will see the Open Studio sign; just follow the reindeer hoof prints to the right and you will find us in room #4, at Cultivate Wellness Studio, your local studio for all your health and wellness concerns!

Michelle Cummins and
Claudia Wenning, Willits



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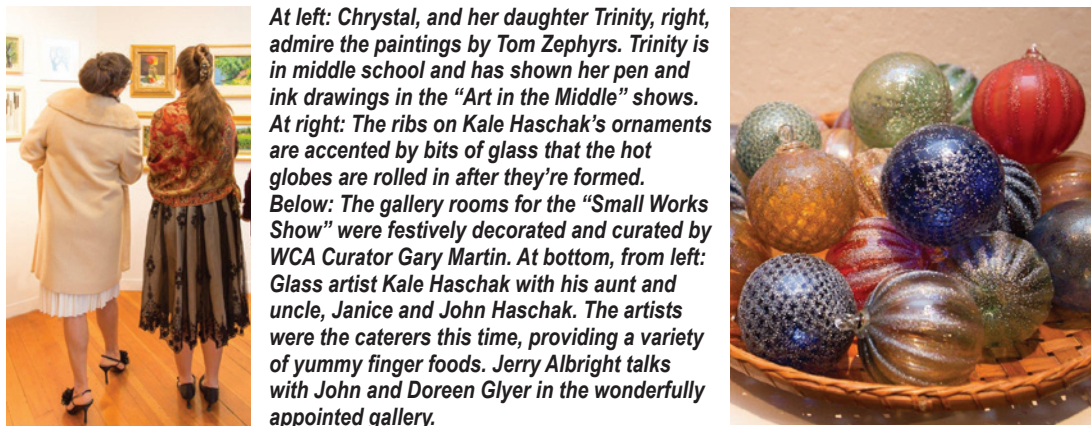
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At right: Curator Gary Martin uses shelving for some of the Art Center shows. Hanging on the wall are the works of Darrell Carpenter who will be showing with ceramic artist Doug Browe in January. On the shelves are clay pieces by figurative artist Devi Chase. Below, from left: Kevin Copperfield and his son, Spencer, admire the variety of artists' work. Fine artist Eva Strauss-Rosen fools around with her phone and the drawing she'd made of an ear as part of the phone's protective cover. Teresa Robertson is exhibiting her beautiful drawings of her dogs and other animals.



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elements or conditions that came together to create October's Northern California fire complex. After eliminating several conditions, such as bark beetle tree die-off (which didn't apply here), and long-term drought (which was over by May 2017), of the three major remaining elements (heat, fuel dryness, and wind), only one could be attributed to climate change.

According to charts Charboneau projected on a screen, the period from May to October 2017 was the warmest on record in California since 1895 – some 3.3 degrees higher than average, statewide. Over the summer, in Ukiah, 17 days topped 100 degrees and there were nine record highs.

Charboneau conceded it was difficult to attribute the near-record level of fuel dryness to climate change alone, because other factors also came into play. Every year – or nearly every year – California forests become very dry by the end of the summer, due to weather patterns that have existed in California, historically. It doesn't rain much in the summer here.

Although the moisture level in California's forest fuels was very low in August and September (close to record-setting low levels, but not at record-setting levels), it wasn't that far below average levels for that time of year, according to one of the charts.

Other factors affecting the moisture level in forest fuels appeared to be variable, he said, and could not be linked to climate change. There was a cool spell in mid-September, and during that time, moisture levels increased. There was no rain in September. (If there had been a rainstorm or two, as sometimes happens, the moisture levels would have been higher, and the fires would probably not have been so bad, Charboneau said.) And the long-term drought that had afflicted California from 2012 to 2016 appeared to be over by May 2017, a variable that actually left moisture levels in forest fuels that month higher than normal.

Because of those seemingly random conditions, Charboneau said he could not attribute the low moisture levels in mid-county forests to climate change alone. And yet he could not rule out the possibility climate change was a factor in driving moisture levels downward to critical levels.

"Climate change may have played a role in the severity of fuel drying after a very wet winter," he said. "If you think that temperatures are going to continue in that trend, then that's something you're going to have to consider and research."

Another factor contributing to the severity of the fires was the easterly winds that blew so strongly on October 8 and 9. Those winds, Charboneau explained, were due to a low-pressure zone over Idaho and northern Nevada and a high-pressure zone off the Northern California coast. He did not link the high winds to climate change, however; winds are blowing from somewhere to somewhere else all the time, Charboneau said.

These winds were blowing so strongly because of an inversion layer of warm air sitting over the California's coastal range some 5,000 feet above sea level on those days. Because of the inversion level, the winds could not rise freely and disperse into the upper atmosphere.

Instead, Charboneau said, they were either forced back down, over mountain tops and down into valleys – in what he called a "downsloping effect" – or they didn't even make it over the mountaintops and were forced around the mountains. Either way, the inversion layer increased wind speeds. "It's like what happens when you put your thumb over the end of a garden hose and turn on the water. The water speeds up," he said.

Charboneau presented data for wind speeds at various locations in northwestern California on the day the fires erupted. At Santa Rosa, winds were peaking at 68 miles per hour; at Hopland, 50 miles per hour; in Lakeport, 50 miles per hour, and at Hawkeye, the winds were gusting at 79 miles per hour.

He said NWS didn't know exactly how hard the winds were blowing in Redwood Valley or Potter Valley, because the agency (a division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) doesn't have observation instruments in those locations.

"The abnormally strong wind was likely a primary driver of the rate of spread in this fire," he said. "The 'downsloping' effect could really dry out those finer fuels."

However, he said he did not know how the fires were sparked.

Charboneau showed maps of the burn area of the Tubbs Fire in Santa Rosa from October 2017, and compared it with a map of the burn area of the city's 1964 Hanley Fire. They were surprisingly similar. The Hanley Fire extended further to north and east, almost reaching Calistoga, yet in the Santa Rosa area they were nearly identical.

Charboneau's presentation was sponsored by the Willits Environmental Center, the School of Adaptive Agriculture, Willits Economic Localization, and Church of the Golden Rule.

WPD seeks AM/PM armed robber

Willits police are searching for a lone gunman who robbed the AM/PM convenience store in the 890 block of South Main Street of an undisclosed amount of cash at about 3:30 am on Saturday, December 2.

The suspect is a white, male adult wearing a black, red-brimmed hat with gold marijuana leaves, a black hoody or

jacket, black jeans and red gloves, says Willits Police Officer Justin D'Orazio.

After the robbery, the man was seen walking west on Franklin Avenue, D'Orazio said.

Anyone with information regarding the suspect is urged to call WPD dispatch at 459-6122.

debris removal on some one-third of the homesites on their list for cleanup, and crews working for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have removed bulk asbestos from about 25 percent of the 159 properties identified as possibly being contaminated with asbestos pollution.

Chandler said the cleanup is moving forward ahead of schedule, and the Army Corps expects it will be done with the work by January 15.

Mendocino County Deputy Executive Officer Steve Dunncliff told supervisors on Tuesday that FEMA and the Army Corps agreed on Monday to allow the campgrounds at Lake Mendocino to be used as sites for FEMA residential trailers. Dunncliff added some preparatory work will have to be done prior to installation of the trailers. The goal, he said, is to get people whose homes were destroyed by the fires and are currently homeless into FEMA units by Christmas.

He added that the Redwood Valley 7/11 Committee (the Ukiah Unified School District's "surplus property advisory" committee) appears willing to approve turning the vacant Redwood Valley Elementary School into temporary housing for fire victims. If the committee approves the use, he said, the issue will be placed before the Redwood Valley school board.

FEMA also is working with the federal Small Business Administration to make loans to fire victims, Chandler said. The cap is \$200,000 for loans to rebuild a home, and \$40,000 to pay for household furnishings. Interest on the loans is extremely low – just over 1 percent.

Deadline to apply for these loans is Monday, December 11.

Chandler noted there are two ways to obtain a loan application form for the loan: either visit the Local Assistance Center in Ukiah next to Raley's Supermarket, which is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 am to 5 pm; or apply online at www.disasterassistance.gov.

The county believes it will have to abate only three properties, Interim Director of Planning and Building Services Nash Gonzalez told supervisors. These are properties where owners did not sign up for the Army Corps cleanup, and did not submit a form to the county Department of Environmental Health, stating they would undertake the cleanup themselves.

Department's Deputy Fire Chief John Thomen is the strike team leader for a Mendocino County "local government" strike team, made up of type 3 fire engines from the Willits, Ukiah, Hopland, Redwood Coast, and South Coast fire departments.

Four Little Lake Fire firefighters were among the volunteers on the strike team, Number XME 2160C, which drove in a convoy down to Los Angeles County on Tuesday. "They are down there on the Creek Fire as we speak," said Little Lake Fire Chief Chris Wilkes, "on Division Oscar."

Wilkes said the minimum crew for each type 3 engine was three or four firefighters per engine. The strike team could be out for as long as two weeks, Wilkes said. "The commitment that we make to the state is 14 days. We're rarely out for 14 days, but that's what we tell our firefighters – that they've made a 14-day commitment."

It's rare, too, for Northern California firefighters to be working fires in December. "It is rare, extremely rare," Wilkes said, commenting that the latest he'd been out fighting fires was Thanksgiving weekend, maybe 15 years ago.

But Willits residents should "rest assured," Chief Wilkes said, that with Little Lake and CalFire Mendocino Unit personnel in Southern California, Brooktrails Fire Department is on alert to help cover things here at home. "Our duty officer last night, on a vehicle accident, actually requested Brooktrails to respond, to make sure we had plenty of personnel," Wilkes said. "Mutual aid locally is working."

"That's the beauty of the mutual aid system," he said. "The LA firefighters came up here during our fires, and now our guys are down there. Everybody has to help everyone."

CalFire Mendocino Unit has sent 67 personnel so far down to Southern California as of Wednesday afternoon, said spokeswoman Tricia Austin, with more preparing to make the trek. The list so far includes four fire engines, two dozers, 15 individual firefighters, and four fire crews. The Mendocino unit firefighters have "all different assignments," Austin said. "There's so many requests."

CalFire has held all personnel on duty and is re-hiring seasonal firefighters to fight the blazes, Austin said. Austin couldn't say how long the Mendocino unit personnel would be away. "It's whatever is needed," she said, "and it depends on how things go with the fire. It's a dynamic situation, and unpredictable. Like I said, we're preparing to send out even more. The LA firefighters supported us, and now we're supporting them."

1-acre cap is not implemented for the first five years, the intended benefits of the cooperative associations in Business and Professions Code 26222 and following would become meaningless," the letters state.

"Furthermore, the failure to institute a lower individual cumulative cap specifically undermines the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act's intent to allow small farmers five years in which to transition to the regulatory market without the necessity of transforming into (or being bought up by) large-scale operations."

Both the county and CGA call for loosening the division between producers selling medical cannabis and those producing adult-use cannabis, using identical language: "Allow small cultivation licensees to permanently conduct business with both adult use and medical licensees irrespective of which type (A or M) license is held, beyond the stated transition period defined in Business and Professions Code 8214," both letters state.

"This will allow for long-term business planning and increase much-needed financial stability for small entrepreneurs during this volatile period."

Both the county and the cannabis association call for the definition of "Specialty Cottage Outdoor" cultivation to be changed from "a cultivation site with up to 25 mature plants" to "a cultivation site with 2,500 square feet or 25 mature plants."

Both organizations also seek redefinition of the term "canopy." However, the county's request is a bit broader.

The county letter states: "We request, for the purposes of determining the correct license type, that canopy be defined as 'the cumulative total square footage as measured by the drip line of each plant.' We fully understand that appurtenant areas may have land-use impacts and are subject to the jurisdiction of multiple agencies, but only the actual plant canopy should be included in order to determine the correct license type."

Both letters also use identical language to advocate loosening restrictions on microbusinesses. "Bureau of Cannabis Control Section 5500 specifies that all cultivation, manufacturing, distribution and retail activities performed by a licensee under a Type 12 microbusiness license shall occur on the same licensed premises.

"This requirement severely disadvantages rural cultivation communities which have significant zoning and land use obstacles to co-locating cultivation production with manufacturing, distribution and retail on a single premise. These rural cultivation communities are relying on vertical integration and direct consumer sales to support a viable cannabis industry.

"We recommend [the county letter "strongly recommends"] allowing microbusinesses to conduct licensed activities on separate premises."

The CGA and the county letters differ in some important respects.

The CGA letter has numerous recommendations not included in the county letter. The county letter seeks changes to state policy regarding track-and-trace programs; track-and-trace is not mentioned in the CGA letter.

"For over a year, Mendocino County has been involved in developing local regulatory safeguards to protect the public, patients, consumers and the regulated industry," the county's letter states. "In addition, Humboldt and Yolo counties have established local track-and-trace programs. When [these] programs are fully implemented, operators in these counties will produce some 70 percent of the regulated cannabis in California.

"We believe the state would be doing a disservice to local governments by taking too narrow of an interpretation of the statutes regulating cannabis activity which

eliminates local track-and-trace programs or local unique identifiers," the county's letter continues. "Mendocino County would like the state's track-and-trace program to work collaboratively with programs that have been procured at the local level to ensure a seamless and efficient rollout of a statewide cannabis tracking system that works for all parties."

The county letter asks the state to "ensure the state's track-and-trace system provides a secure application programming interface [with the county's track-and-trace system] at the earliest possible timeframe.... We further urge the state to consider recognizing the use of local unique identifiers within track and trace, so that the integrity of local proof of origin can be maintained."

Cannabis work resumes

At their Tuesday meeting, supervisors approved establishment of the position of cannabis program manager. By the same action, the board deleted one full-time position of assistant agricultural commissioner.

County CEO Carmel Angelo said the county's Human Resources Department would begin posting the cannabis program manager position by December 5, and that position will be posted for 30 days.

The creation of the cannabis program manager post is consistent with the board's plan to concentrate much of the county's cannabis-related regulatory and permitting activity into a stand-alone cannabis department or unit.

Angelo said she will reconvene the county's cannabis working groups within the next two weeks. When asked by supervisors whether she thought the working groups were effective, Angelo replied: "I thought they were quite productive, and it was unfortunate we were diverted by the fire. We plan to reconvene the working groups in December. We will schedule meetings within the next two weeks."

County Lead Planner Mary Lynn Hunt reported that Michael Baker International, the consultant hired by the county in October to draft three additional sections to the county's medical cannabis cultivation ordinance, will have its first meeting with county staff next week. The term "additional sections" refers to three as-yet-nonexistent sections of the cannabis ordinance, which have been called for by the public and have been agreed to, in principle, by supervisors.

They include an exemptions section, which will regulate when and under what conditions the county may grant a permit to a property owner who does not meet cannabis ordinance standards; an exclusionary section, which will clarify if and when a particular neighborhood wishing to ban neighbor medical cannabis cultivation from its environs may do so; and an overlay section, which is supposed to loosen zoning and setback standards in communities in which cannabis cultivation is widely accepted.

54 permits granted

Interim Agriculture Commissioner Diane Curry reported on the county's cultivation program. Her department has received 767 applications for permits, has issued 54, and has denied 15. Curry also provided the board with information on how many applications have been received from various zoning types.

According to her information, 263 property owners in the county's Rangeland zoning districts have applied for a permit, followed by 100 applications from the county's Upland Residential (40 acre) districts, as well as by 100 from the county's Upland Residential (20 acres) zoning districts.

Ninety-two property owners living or growing in Agricultural (40 acre) zoning districts have applied for a permit, followed by 63 property owners living in the county's Timber Production Zones, 53 property owners in the Forest Land zones, and 50 in the Rural Residential, 10-acre minimum zones.



Christmas Store

Senior Center offers holiday décor, ornaments, cards, lights and more

Opening day at the Harrah Senior Center's annual Christmas Store was busy with crowds of in-the-know shoppers looking for holiday deals. At 9 am, there were people in line waiting for the doors to open. "I opened the doors," said Senior Center Director Richard Baker. "WalMart's got nothing on us. You can't beat the prices, and the items for sale look just they are brand new. People really look forward to it."

Chief Christmas Store organizers Sue Sawyer and Dorothy Roediger stash away any

Christmas-themed items that come in to the Senior Center Thrift Shop throughout the year, saving them for the Christmas Store. Volunteers clean and spiff up the merchandise, including Charlie Herrera who specializes in fixing Christmas lights, Christmas trees, and anything electrical. "I help every year," Herrera said. "If it doesn't work, I can fix it, so we have more to sell."

Shopper Julie Sneed, carrying her baby Jessi, was pleased with the décor items she'd found, including a wooden sleigh. "I'm going to put arrangements in it, or lights – maybe some pinecones. I love decorating."

Mary Ann Pergler said she'd just moved to Willits from Chicago, and was enjoying her new hometown and the small Christmas tree she'd picked out. Another newcomer, Janice Gullett, also found a small tree she was delighted with.

"I always buy stuff, and then I donate it back in January," one shopper was overheard explaining. "It's like renting your Christmas decorations."

Director Baker said that wasn't uncommon. "We've got a lady who buys a Christmas tree every year and donates it back," he said. The Christmas Store has made more than \$6,000 each year the last couple of years, all of which goes toward supporting Senior Center programs.

The Christmas Store is open through Sunday, December 9; enter through the side door at 1501 Baechtel Road. The Senior Center is also selling See's Candy, already wrapped for Christmas, at the front desk. Call 459-6826 for more information.



At top, from left: The Christmas tree Mary Ann Pergler chose is decorated with red poinsettias and ribbons. Shopper Julie Sneed, with her baby Jessi, shows off her finds. Decorations for outside, as well as inside, can be found at the Senior Center's Christmas Store. Janice Gullett plans to add more decorations to her Christmas tree. Snowmen, greens, baskets and pinecones all ready for sale.

Above: The crowd at the Willits Harrah Center's Christmas store.

Far left: Santa welcomes shoppers. At left: Senior Center volunteer Charlie Herrera specializes in fixing Christmas tree lights.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

WINTER WONDERLAND MANAGER DRAWINGS

November 20th - December 19th

\$500 Cash Winner Once A Day At 8:00 p.m.

It Could Be You!

Join The Fun!

See Players Club For More Detail

SHERWOOD VALLEY CASINO

Thursday, December 7

Author Talk at the Library: David Barsamian will be sharing his latest book, "Global Discontents." Thursday, December 7. 2 to 4 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908.

"A Year in the Garden": Local garden columnist Jenny Watts will be offering her new book, "A Year in the Garden: Gardening in the Willits Area," at the Willits Farmers Market, Thursday, December 7, from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

Friday, December 8

Willits Holiday Craft Fair: The 31st Annual Willits Holiday Craft Fair, a benefit for the Willits Center for the Arts, opens at Willits Community Center and upstairs at Willits Center for the Arts on Friday, December 8, noon to 7 pm. It continues Saturday, December 9, 10 am to 6 pm and Sunday, December 10, 10 am to 4 pm. There will be a Kid's Crafts Fair on Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. The fair features music at both locations, also food & beverages by the Willits Charter School. Willits Community Center is at 111 East Commercial Street, and the Willits Center for the Arts is at 71 East Commercial Street. Info: Bonnie at 459-4792.

Santa Photos at J.D. Redhouse: Santa Claus and local photographers Maureen Moore will be at J.D. Redhouse, 212 South Main Street on Friday, December 8 from 5 to 7 pm, on Saturday, December 9 from noon to 2 pm, and on Sunday, December 10 from noon to 2 pm for the annual Santa Photos event. No appointments needed. "Feel free to come and see Santa, get a photo, and enjoy the merriment." Pictures are \$5 per group and will be offered only as digital images available for download. The events are held as 50/50 fundraisers and will benefit a different local group each day. Friday's event benefits the Mendocino County Care-A-Van. Info: 972-7047, or the event pages on Facebook under "Santa Pix - Part 1 - Friday," "Santa Pix - Part 2 - Saturday" or "Santa Pix - Part 3 - Sunday."

"Small Works" 2nd Opening: On Friday, December 8, from 7 to 9 pm, WCA will have a "2nd Opening" of the December show featuring the sale of smaller holiday gift items. Since this event coincides with the 1st day of the Holiday Craft Fair, it will extend the Upstairs at WCA Craft Fair hours to 9 pm. Wine and beer will be served. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street.

Come see Santa!

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WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
PRESENTS


Small Works Show
Opening

December 2nd
Through New Year's Eve
Opens @ 5 PM. Members preview
1 PM. Opens to the public.

300 member artists present their work.



GALLERY HOURS: WED - SUN, 11 TO 5 PM.
WILLITS CENTER FOR THE ARTS
71 EAST COMMERCIAL STREET 707-459-1726
willitscenterforthearts.org



Winter Solstice Celebration at the Grange

Wednesday, December 20
On the Eve of the Winter Solstice on Wednesday, December 20, 6 pm at the Little Lake Grange, let us celebrate the "return of de-light!" This year's theme is "Peace in our World, our Community and in our Hearts." Festivities include: drumming, singing, stories, candles and the Spiral Dance. All are invited to create a prayer flag (cloth provided) with a message of Peace. Wear winter finery if you choose, and most of all grace our community with the presence of your whole family. If interested in being a part of the presentation, there will be a rehearsal from 11 am to noon on Saturday, December 16, at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Children's dance, candle lighting, greeters, singers, poets all welcome. Donations appreciated. Information: Diane Smalley at 456-9514, or dancesmallay@willitsonline.com

What's Happening Around Town

Shanachie Pub: Illinosis "a psychedelic power trio from Satanville, CA." Friday, December 8, 9 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.



38. South Main Street, or at BrownPaperickets.com, or by phone 24/7 at 1-800-838-3006.

Shanachie Pub: Old River Road, an acoustic duo out of Hopland and Ukiah, plays traditional songs and covers. Visit: facebook.com/

OldRiverRoad. Saturday, December 9, 8 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, December 10

Senior Center Sunday Breakfast: Menu choices: Pancakes with eggs cooked your style, with choice of sausage or bacon, or biscuits & gravy with eggs cooked your style; additional meat sides: \$2 extra. Adults \$8; Senior Center members \$7; children (under 8) \$6. Sunday, December 10, 8 to 11 am, Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Santa Photos at J.D. Redhouse: with local photographress Maureen Moore, noon to 2 pm, Sunday, December 10. Sunday's event benefits the Willits 4-H Horse Group. See Friday, December 8 listing for more details.

Santa Photos at J.D. Redhouse: with local photographress Maureen Moore, noon to 2 pm, Saturday, December 9. Saturday's event benefits the Willits High School Class of 2018. See Friday, December 8 listing for more details.

Santa at Little Lake Health Center: Meet Santa from 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday, December 9 at Little Lake Health Center, 45 Hazel Street. The public is invited to bring the children to talk with Mr. Claus and join the elves for face painting, coloring contest and holiday crafts. Special guests include Little Lake Fire Department and Bikers Against Child Abuse (B.A.C.A.). For information: 456-9600.

Sit n Sew: Monthly drop-in sewing group meets at the Willits Library. Free to all and open to the public. Bring your sewing machine, tools, and any project you would like to work on. Saturday, December 9, from 1 to 5 pm. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Information: Rachel at 354-0605.

Cotton Dandee & Marjo at the Brickhouse Coffee: A Sing Along Holiday "Ho Ho Ho Down" with the Cotton Dandee Family Band. (= The Kids & Everyone). Special guest "Miss Mana" Young will teach American Sign Language so we can "Sign & Sign" with Cotton. "Super Beginners" – bring your ukuleles. Coffee, drinks, sandwiches and treats. Saturday, December 9, 2 to 4 pm. Brickhouse Coffee, 3 South Main Street.

Flamenco at WCT: the Bay Area dance company Caminos Flamencos presents "Tierra de Flamenco," an improvisational journey by flamenco artists who delve deeply into what makes flamenco great at its roots. With lead dancer and director Yaelisa. Saturday, December 9 at 8 pm. (Sunday matinee canceled.) Tickets \$25. Willits Community Theatre, 37 West Van Lane. Advance tickets available in person at Mazhar,

matinee show has been canceled. Ticket-holders may contact Brown Paper Tickets at 1-800-838-3006 to receive either a refund or change a Sunday ticket to the Saturday show at no extra charge.

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Above, from left: Susan Karp and Linda Grace read the list of names at the Light Up a Life Community Celebration of the Phoenix Hospice. Barbara Mercer shares a story about a client. Lynn Wood lights the first candle. Anita Blu and John Wagenet of Twining Time sing "Love and Happiness."

At right: Nancy Runyan and Tammy Long, director of volunteer services.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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Light Up a Life

Loved ones remembered and honored at annual Phoenix Hospice event

"I do this because it feeds my soul" – Roland Hulstein.

There was a palpable sense of heaviness in the Seabiscuit Conference Room at Howard Hospital during the Light Up a Life Community Celebration of the Phoenix Hospice – a heaviness of sorrow which was balanced and belied by the lightness of love and the caring of those in attendance.

Testimonials, songs and remembrances were offered to loved ones who had passed, some very recently, and to the employees and volunteers of the hospice who had earned the respect of the relatives and also their co-workers.

The heaviness seemed to dissipate in favor of the realization that family members and friends who died were no longer in pain or fear and had been helped in their journey by the caring and capable

hands of the people of Phoenix Hospice.

The purpose of the evening was to honor those who were no longer with us and those whose efforts made that transition as natural and painless as possible. It was also to raise funds to continue the work done by this organization which is now in its 30th year of service.

As one entered, there were lights to be ignited later in remembrance and ornaments to be purchased for a donation, on which people could place a name in respect to those who had passed or someone they wanted to honor. These were available to take home to place on their own trees.

The evening was opened by Tammy Long, organizer of the event and director of volunteer services, amongst other duties. She welcomed the

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

Far left: Lights were ignited in honor of those who had passed. At left: Almost 200 names were included on the list of those honored at the Light Up a Life Community Celebration of the Phoenix Hospice. Below, from left: Dr. Charlie Hott, hospice medical director, talks about his experience with hospice. Ken Rich sings "Give Yourself to Love" by Kate Wolf. Light Up a Life ornaments were available by donation to be hung in honor of lost loved ones. Necole Aguilar sings "Ave Maria" and was accompanied by Jon Mather. Nancy Runyan, director of Phoenix Hospice, honors a co-worker. Dennis Long, Howard Hospital chaplain, offers the opening prayer. Roland Hulstein, Phoenix Hospice chaplain, opens the candle lighting.



Above: Eva Strauss-Rosen's drawing of the Hog Farm's Master of Ceremonies Wavy Gravy.

The rest of **Small Works** From Page 3

chefs jauntily biking through a French-style landscape; another is of a different dog chef, with entertaining and unlikely companions, floating in a balloon over the countryside. "It's an amazing gallery with a lot of community support," Barrack said about the WCA. "It's well done.... It's spectacular actually. You can tell it's very, very professional." One of the galleries Barrack belongs to is the Healdsburg Center for the Arts. Look for her work there.

Glass artist Kale Haschak, who had a WCA show with friend and fellow glass artist Jonah Ward earlier this year, has quite a few of his beautifully detailed glass ornaments in the "Small Works Show," along with glass hummingbirds and bowls. Haschak's uncle and aunt, John and Janice Haschak, were at the show admiring their nephew's work and asked him questions.

Kale Haschak told his curious uncle how the glass ornaments are made: "I start with furnace-melted glass. I have bronze molds with metal ribs in them. When you blow the glass in the mold it makes thin spots and thick spots [because of the ribbing in the mold]. Then as you blow [the glass] up, the thin part expands more and quicker under heat so you get the thicker lines in it." When Haschak rolls the orb that's blown at the correct width for an ornament and at the right temperature, the raised lines pick up the tiny glass particles and create the texture on the unusual and beautiful ornaments.

Willits middle-school student Trinity was at the opening with her mother, Chrystal. Trinity isn't new to the WCA. She's had her work shown several times in the "Art in the Middle" show which features the work of students in the middle schools. She concentrates on pen and ink drawings, and one year her drawing was chosen for the show's poster. That's quite an honor. The two were also going to the concert, "Margie Rice Conducts!" at the Mendocino College Center Theater.

Some of Willits' favorite artists are selling their small works at the members show this year – with deeply discounted prices for some. You'll find Tom Zephyrs, Lynne Whiting, Ann Maglinte, Betty Hanson, Craig Gardner, Judy Chance Hope and Diza Hope, Donna Stropes, Doug Kell, Jeanne Koelle, Linda McDonald, Morgan Rex, Ron Greystar, Sandy Strong, Nan Trichler, Margaret Pirouette, and many more. New or newer to the Willits art scene are Virginia Macintosh, Loren Madsen, Jill Peacock, Jennifer Zeek, Nancy Finn, HP Bloomer, Kevin Copperfield and Loren Madsen, to name a few.

Martin said the WCA is currently running a membership drive and is looking at the "Small Works Show" as being a very good show this year for the artists selling their work and the WCA. As works of art are sold, people can take their purchases with them. The WCA plans to replace pieces that are sold throughout the run of the show.

There will be a special Friday night reception on December 8 at the Art Center, from 7-9 pm to showcase the artists and craftspeople upstairs at the Holiday Craft Fair, and also the "Small Works Show" in the downstairs galleries. There will be refreshments and time to socialize with friends while enjoying the unique artworks available and the beautiful holiday decorations by Gary Martin at the Art Center

The "Small Works Show" runs through New Year's Eve, and can be viewed during regular gallery hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm.

In order to become a member or volunteer, contact Lyndsey Burns at the WCA office: 459-1726.

For information about the Willits Center for the Arts, visit www.willitscenterforthearts.org.

The gallery is located at 71 East Commercial Street.

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Willits Location

'Flashbacks: A Memoir'

By Louis Rohlicek, WW contributor

Every so often one of us Willits people writes a book. This can be very good news.

While most people in Willits already live colorful lives similar to the lives of people in the "Game of Thrones" and "Sex and the City," a few of us suffer from a suspicion that we don't. This can lead to feelings of inadequacy and a sense of life wasted. Needless to say, we need help in overcoming this anxiety.

Help has arrived with Jim Gibbons' newly published book, "Flashbacks: A Memoir."

The book is a collection of articles written by Jim about his life on the Sausalito houseboats in the '70s and his living in Willits in the '80s and beyond. The articles have appeared over the years in the Willits News, the New Settler, and the Anderson Valley Advertiser.

Even if you never lived on a Sausalito houseboat, you'll recognize the world Jim describes. We all know some of the characters in his book. A few we've read about. Others we know personally. The book is full of adventures we can relate to.

In March 1969 Jim left behind his budding career as a poet, his marriage, his student life in Milwaukee, the joys of Wisconsin winters, and boarded a Greyhound bus to head west. As he says, he was not looking for a vacation. He wanted to escape. He needed a new life. He had some acquaintances living in San Francisco. He set off for the Promised Land with a hundred dollars. He hoped it would work out.

Here's how his new life started:

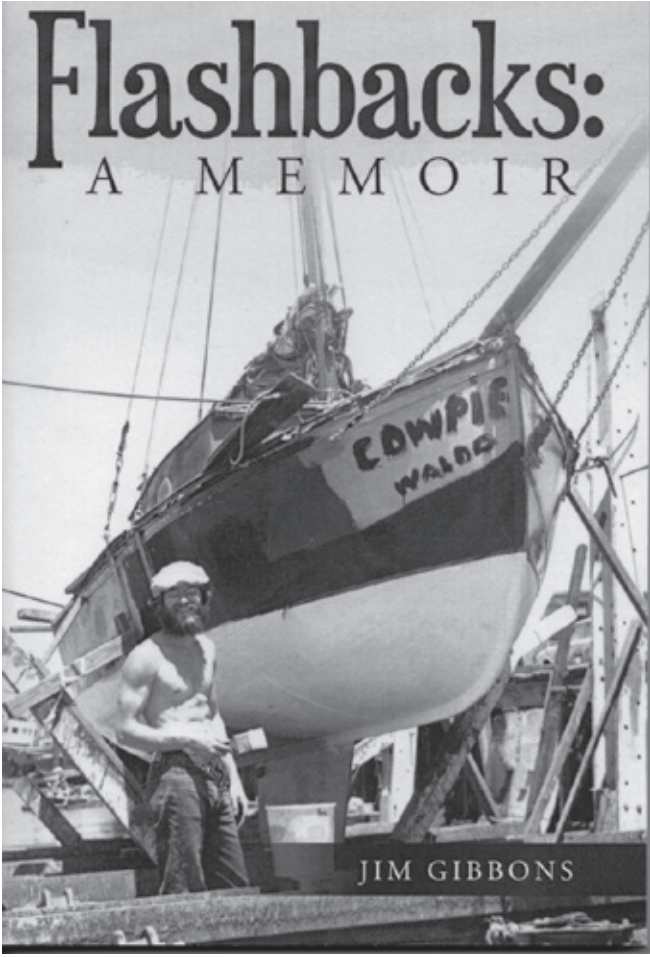
"To sum up my first week in California: I delivered drugs to an Oakland neighborhood in a black Cadillac; I walked over the Golden Gate Bridge without jumping off; I was seduced by astrology and put to sleep by a woman with, I found out later, a jealous, belligerent old man; I sailed out on the Bay for the first time; and stole a toilet from a famous musician. And that was just for starters."

Later he moved to Willits, built a cabin, met Yvonne, raised two sons, became a track coach, a teacher, a writer, and a long distance runner.

But, really, you need to read all of this for yourselves. And do your friends a favor and give them a copy of the book for Christmas.

You can get "Flashbacks: A Memoir" at The Book Juggler.

There will also be a reading by Jim at the Willits Library on Saturday, December 16 at 2 pm. Check it out.



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OBITUARY |

Donald Lamprich

It is with a heavy heart that we announce Donald Lester Lamprich – known as "Don" or "Donnie" – passed away November 28, 2017, peacefully at his home, surrounded by loved ones. Born June 4, 1934 at the then-Fort Bragg Hospital, now known as The Grey Whale Inn, where his doctor was finally vindicated for always having two basins ready, as his identical twin brother, Charles, followed him into the world.

The Lamprich family moved to Willits in 1946, where Don lived for the remainder of his life. Don started his lumber career at Willits Redwood Products when he was 15 years old. He married Jann 63 years ago on March 20, 1954. Twenty-eight years later, their first grandson, Joseph, was born on their anniversary. A quiet man, he was devoted to his family, and his grandchildren were the light of his life.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Letha and Ed, and his brother, Bill. He is survived by his wife, Jann; his twin, Charles, and sister-in-law, Billie; his two children, Lorelei and Jason; his daughter-in-law, Lori; as well as four grandchildren (Joseph, Hailey, David and Daniel), and numerous nieces and nephews. There will be a private graveside ceremony to honor their beloved husband, father, brother, grandfather and uncle.

The Lamprich family would like to extend their gratitude for Dennis Porter, Don's Home Health and Hospice nurse, who created a special bond with him at the end of his life, and displayed great amounts of compassion and kindness.

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



The rest of **Light** From Page 8

participants and thanked Mendo-Lake Home Respiratory Services and Ukiah Valley Medical Center, as well as all the other donors in the community, for supporting Hospice. Howard Hospital Chaplain Dennis Long offered the opening prayer, thankful for "the opportunity that we have to come together to remember those who have passed on. We thank you that there is no more pain and suffering for them."

Next was a beautiful rendition of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" from Necole Aguilar, accompanied by Jon Mather on the keyboards.

Roland Hulstein, chaplain of Phoenix Hospice, invited all those in attendance to light their electric candles. "Together we mourn and celebrate the lives of those we loved. We give thanks for those people we are remembering, give thanks for their lives. May our capacity expand for greater compassion and understanding."

Lynn Wood, Rosalie Anchordoguy, Jackie Beck and Fran Wyatt each lit one of the four candles in the front of the room as they offered words of encouragement and compassion. "The fourth candle is for the light that is awakened by what we do here," said Wyatt. "We give thanks for the gift of life, our lives, the lives of those we remember. May our love for one another carry on."

Chaplain Hulstein then offered a reading from a song from the recent film, "Coco," called "Remember Me":

Remember me though I have to say goodbye.
Don't let it make you cry
For even if I'm far away, I hold you in my heart....

Ken Rich played a Chumash "Song of Longing," played hauntingly on a drone pipe and sung with conviction. He followed this with a Kate Wolf song, "Give Yourself to Love."

Next up was Dr. Charlie Hott, the Hospice medical director and ER doctor, who has been working with hospice for close to 16 years. He eschewed talking about grief and compassion to honor two people close to him that he had recently lost, physician Jeff Howard and his first cousin, Jock Nelson. He went on to honor the staff with whom he works. "I've had about 4,000 people under my care that have all died," said Hott, "but we try to help them to die well." He added, "Our group still does not have compassion fatigue. We still cry. We still care."

Twining Time, with Anita Blu and John Wagenet, sang "Love and Happiness" and "One Light Shines Down."

People were then encouraged to share any thoughts or remembrances of loved ones, so that the others could learn better "how to love." Barbara Mercer offered a tale of a man who lived far off the grid who was dying and concerned that his partner of many years would not be taken care of. Barbara arranged for paperwork and people to trek up to his place in order to see that the couple was married, thus ensuring her continuing welfare and security.

People also spoke of their loved ones, read poems, wept, laughed at their memories, and generally shared their love and grief.

Susan Karp and Linda Grace read the almost 200 names of all those who were being honored, either loved ones or just caring people who had had a positive effect on the lives of the donors.

Necole Aguilar then enthralled those in attendance with a beautiful rendition of "Ave Maria."

The final speaker was Nancy Runyan, administrator for Hospice Homecare Services, who spoke in honor of the dedication of the staff and volunteers, thanking many of them individually.

"I find that death is ordinary," shared Chaplain Hulstein. "It happens to all of us. Having lived it from this professional perspective for so many years now – the ordinariness of what I experience with death and dying – I know that, someday, that will be me too."



Willits Holiday Craft Fair

Three-day, two-location event with art, crafts, gifts, food, music and more

Fine arts and crafts by more than 40 artists and artisans are on display at the 31st Annual Willits Center for the Arts Holiday Craft Fair, Friday, December 8 through Sunday, December 10. The fair is at two locations again this year, the Willits Community Center and upstairs at the Willits Center for the Arts, and features a special holiday reception at the WCA on Friday night from 7 to 9 pm.

Willits craft fair vendor Nancy Finn began her "craft journey in fiber" when she was just 7 years old, when she learned to knit. She went to college to study textiles, mostly weaving, and later, spinning and dyeing.

She spent the last 30 years in Willits dyeing yarn and spinning fiber for other spinners. This business included buying fleeces from local wool growers, as well as importing commercially processed, ready-to-spin fiber from Europe. Finn found that she loved mixing the colors so much that dyeing fibers accidentally became the focus of her work. She also raised angora rabbits and now has four rescued gelding alpacas.

In 2013, Finn said, she went to a textile guild meeting where the program for the day was to make a chain, using an ancient Viking technique of looping wire through itself. She found it fun, but she couldn't relate it to anything to create, and so set it aside. In 2015, she was surfing the web and came across the Viking technique of looping wire again. This time, she found it in the context of making chains for wire wrapped jewelry. Finn related: "As I looked more and read more, I learned that the wire wrapping patterns were based on a woven pattern called 'soumak.' The possibilities seemed endless."

Finn has found that she loves this art because it's related to the other crafts she has been involved with for so long. She particularly appreciates the fact that she can weave in her lap and finish a three-dimensional form in a short amount of time. She finds this art fascinating and infinite. Loom weaving is fun, but is defined so

Read the rest of Crafts Over on Page 11

The rest of Crafts From Page 10

much by warp and weft at right angles to each other, she said. Wire can go anywhere.

Looking toward the future, Finn said, "As I enter my fourth decade in Willits and I approach the time when I will see my textile business sunset, I plan to continue with wire for some time to come."

Pearls of Wisdom Design emerged from artist Hillary Schneider's intention to create artisan jewelry that is beautiful and honors life's blessings. Schneider's jewelry is all original work using precious metal clay, semi-precious stones and silver and gold-filled wire. Each piece is entirely handmade and deeply inspired by the natural and elemental world.

Schneider studied traditional jewelry fabrication in Carmel in the early 1990s. After traveling to Southeast Asia, the Middle East and India, where she studied design and fabrication from local artisans, Schneider settled in Mendocino where she continues to study jewelry-making techniques at the Mendocino Art Center while selling and showing her work throughout Northern California. Schneider specializes in hand-sculpted precious metal clay, capturing nature, elegance and simplicity into her design. Her three children and her garden provide extra inspiration.

Former Mendocino County residents, Sky Emerson and Leah Alfano, owners of Summit Side Photo and Video, are veterans – and a crowd favorite – of the Holiday Craft Fair. Emerson and Alfano collaborated to form Summit Side Photo & Video in 2010, were married in 2015 and now reside in Truckee. Their favorite quote by Dorothea Lang, "Photography takes an instant out of time, altering life by holding it still," resonates in their photography. They stop in time some of the most breathtaking scenery in nature. Their patience and great "eye" in setting up their photographs, their years of dedication to finetuning their art, and their attention to detail, allows their appreciation and love for nature to shine through.

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SB1 brings millions for transportation projects in Mendocino County

At its meeting Monday, the Mendocino Council of Governments, MCOG, approved the 2018 Regional Transportation Improvement Program, programming \$3,024,000 for transportation projects over the next five-year cycle.

The recent enactment of Senate Bill 1, increasing transportation taxes to fund a backlog of deferred maintenance throughout California, made it possible to fund these projects. Without it, MCOG officials had expected to see a shortfall of RTP funds until at least 2022. The state's fund estimate included \$3 million of new programming capacity for MCOG as a result of SB1. Statewide revenue projections are an estimated \$5.4 billion a year. An influx of new jobs has already started.

Cities and counties will receive increased Local Streets & Roads gas tax revenue directly from the state, to supplement existing maintenance budgets. Three cities in Mendocino County will get an additional reward for taxing themselves with voter-approved transportation sales taxes for the past 15 years. The Active Transportation Program, which funds bicycle, pedestrian and trails projects through competitive grants, is also augmented.

"The number one complaint that I hear is poor road conditions," commented MCOG board member and Third District Supervisor Georgeanne Croskey. "I think it's important for people to see that the money has to come from somewhere, and right now that money is going to be here because of SB1. If that law is repealed, the chances of getting our roads fixed will dramatically plummet. I want to help them, but we haven't had the money to help them. With SB1 hopefully we will."

SB1 created four new programs and supplemented four existing programs. Mendocino County gets immediate economic benefits from five of these: the State Transportation Improvement Program, Local Streets & Roads, Local Partnership Program, Caltrans state highway maintenance (aka "SHOPP"), and planning grants.

MCOG learned this week of its successful grant proposal for a \$179,000 Caltrans planning grant to develop a countywide pedestrian facilities inventory and feasibility study to fill infrastructure gaps. This will create a list of local prioritized projects, positioned and ready to compete in future cycles of the state's Active Transportation Program grants. The ATP combines hundreds of millions in state and federal funding programs for what is now called "active transportation."

Three of the cities in Mendocino County have enacted voter-approved sales taxes dedicated to transportation, joining a coalition of 20 "self-

help" counties. This qualifies them for state matching funds through the Local Partnership Program. Fort Bragg, Willits and Point Arena each will receive \$100,000 per year, far more than previous levels. MCOG staff worked hard on guidelines committees to ensure that rural agencies that taxed themselves were rewarded. The cities intend to use these funds to improve street and road conditions through repaving and maintenance work.

Projects that made MCOG's regional program list, subject to approval by the California Transportation Commission, are:

- North State Street improvements in Ukiah – environmental phase at \$132,000.
- US-101 Intersection/Interchange improvements in Ukiah Valley – design phase at \$468,000.
- South Main Street pedestrian improvements in Fort Bragg – environmental, design and construction at \$1,485,000.
- Gualala Downtown Streetscape – design phase at \$575,000.
- Sherwood Road Geometric Upgrade in Willits – construction at \$100,000.
- Willits Bypass Main Street Relinquishment – through construction at \$98,000.
- MCOG Planning, Programming & Monitoring at \$298,000.

"In addition to all of these benefits, we will be watching for improvements coming from the new Trade Corridor Enhancement Program over the long term," reported MCOG Executive Director Phil Dow. "Access to Mendocino County highways will improve through proposed work to be funded in adjacent counties that have projects ready for construction and eligible for this new SB1 program."

For more information on SB1 transportation investments, visit <http://rebuildingca.gov/>.

MCOG formed as a joint powers agreement in 1972, as mandated by state law, to disburse state and federal funds for transportation, to provide regional planning, and to serve as a regional forum. MCOG is overseen by a board consisting of two county supervisors, a countywide public appointee, and one council member from each of the four incorporated cities. For more information, call the MCOG office at 463/1859 or consult the agency's web site at www.mendocinocog.org.

– Submitted by the Mendocino Council of Governments

PG&E: CEO Williams visits Ukiah

PG&E Corporation CEO Geisha Williams met with local community leaders Monday in Ukiah to give updates on PG&E's efforts to help customers in the Mendocino County's fire-impacted areas and to lay out the energy company's strategy to help communities rebuild. The strategy's three major pillars are: respond – help first responders be more effective; rebuild – help communities rebuild; and resilience – identify solutions to increase infrastructure resilience.

PG&E has made several changes to make it easier on customers in the fire-impacted areas, such as providing a dedicated team, based in Ukiah, which will work directly with customers to provide a streamlined rebuilding process. For customers impacted by the fires, the energy company has suspended all collections, waived account re-establishment deposits, refunded original deposits, and waived installation and removal fees when providing temporary power.

"We appreciate meeting with Geisha Williams and the updates she provided on how PG&E is playing a role in recovery and how they will work with us to help our community rebuild for the long-term. PG&E has been a strong partner before, and we'll continue to partner with them during and after this recovery period," said First District Supervisor Carre Brown.

Respond: To help communities respond, PG&E will continue working with first responders, including firefighting agencies, on increasing their effectiveness in both preventing and combatting wildfires. PG&E donated \$100,000 to volunteer organizations in Mendocino County that are critical to emergency response initiatives, including the Potter Valley Volunteer Fire Department (\$25,000) and Mendocino County Sheriff's Search and Rescue (\$20,000), and recently \$55,000 was donated to the Community Foundation of Mendocino County to be distributed to the Redwood Valley - Calpella Volunteer Fire

Department (\$20,000), Redwood Valley Grange (\$10,000) and the Disaster Fund for Mendocino County (\$25,000).

"Our fire department appreciates the recognition from PG&E. This level of funding will enable us to conduct important training, and continue to protect our community," said Chief Brendan Turner, acting fire chief of the Redwood Valley - Calpella Volunteer Fire Department.

Rebuild: To help communities in Northern California rebuild, PG&E donated \$2 million to the North Bay Fire Recovery Fund, distributed \$1 million to local communities, organized volunteer efforts, and created resources for customers and builders. PG&E will continue to partner with federal, state and local government agencies around critical community needs related to both temporary assistance and longer term, sustainable campaigns.

"We want our customers to know that we're here for them every day and that includes seeing them through the aftermath of the wildfires with a streamlined and seamless process with our Service Planning department. We are here to provide what's needed regarding rebuilding and reconnecting PG&E electric and gas service," said Carl Schoenhofer, Senior Manager for PG&E's Humboldt Division.

Resilience: PG&E Corporation contributed \$1 million in shareholder funds to launch the "California Climate Challenge," a new corporate-giving initiative dedicated to helping communities be more resilient to climate change, which includes preparing for, withstanding and recovering from extreme events caused by climate change. In addition, PG&E expanded its Better Together Resilient Communities grant program. It doubled its investment from \$1 million to \$2 million or four \$100,000 grants every year for the next five years.

– Submitted by PG&E, North Bay, Sonoma & Humboldt divisions

Willits woman jailed for domestic assault

A Willits woman was arrested in the early morning hours of December 2 after she allegedly attacked her boyfriend during a domestic argument at the couple's home.

Deputies were called to the home in the 1800 block of Clover Drive about 6 am, said sheriff's Sgt. Quincy Cromer.

They found a 36-year-old man with visible injuries on his neck, who told them he had been assaulted by his girlfriend, Mary Franz, also 36, during an argument. The man told deputies Franz had grabbed him by the neck and struck him in the face several times, Cromer said.

Franz was arrested on suspicion of felony domestic violence/battery, and taken to county jail. Bail was set at \$25,000.

This report was based on a press release from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.



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Dec. 31, 2017
Door Opens at 5 pm

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Above: Santa's helpers, members of the nonprofit Willits Wild Bunch, helping out at the Willits Kids Christmas Program's HQ. From left, Top Hat, Pickles, Pops, Sugar Beet, Chewey (Santa), No-No, Tigger, Magoo, and Tranney Ray.

Tag Trees

The Willits Kids Christmas Program is in full swing, and anyone interested in fulfilling the wishes of a local child or family is encouraged to grab a card, shop for some or all of the items listed, and return the tag and unwrapped gifts soon to one of the drop-off locations. Each tree lists drop-off locations, but for questions about the program, or how you might be able to get involved, call Kim Venturi at 972-8782.

At right: Trees with gift tags listing a child's wishes for Christmas, like this one at J.D. Redhouse, are at local businesses around town. There's still time to choose a tag and buy a gift for Santa to give to a local child.

Photos by Ree Slocum



Wreaths for Rascal's Rescue

Twenty-two wreath-makers went home with big, beautiful, fresh green Christmas wreaths for the holidays last week, thanks to Willits Power's wreath-making event to raise funds for the Rascal's Rescue pet program.

"Misty and Mary had all the supplies to make the wreaths," said Willits Weekly's ad rep Jennifer Drew, who attended the workshop. "Ribbon bows and cinnamon pine cones brought them all together. It was an hour of fun for a great cause – I always try to support any of the Rascal's events because I love my four-legs kids! – and I walked away with a beautiful wreath for my home."

Rascal's Rescue is dedicated to raising money to help pets in need whose family cannot afford emergency care, creating awareness about taking general care of pets, and helping to increase the understanding of how

important it is to spay and neuter animals, and about the benefits of adopting versus breeding.

"We strive to help our local community give their pets a second chance," says founder Misty Gonzales. "I realized just how important my dogs are to me the first time I was faced with the difficult decision of spending the money for a procedure or putting her down. I thought to myself, 'I have the money, why not do it? She's hurt and needs my help.' So at 6 months old, Rascal had her jaw repaired.

"I know that so many families face these tough decisions, and the strain financially it can put on a person. So after years of taking care of four wonder dogs and a cat, Rascal's Rescue was born to financially support people and pets in need."

For more information, call Willits Power at: 459-6420.



Crafters pose with their wreaths, including clockwise from top, left: Allisha Rigano, Jenn Drew, Windi Kvasnicka, Pam Parrish and Fran Drew. Misty Gonzales and Travis Taylor and Mary Fonsen and Brianna Gijon. Jessica and Maria Diaz. Abbe Arkelian and Crystal Finnegan.



Small Business Saturday basket winners

The Willits Chamber of Commerce has announced the winners of the Small Business Saturday prize basket winners:



Jennifer Mahoney, Cat Lobere, and Kevin Tahrir. Each winner "shopped until they dropped," laughed Allison Findley, Willits Chamber coordinator, and got a full "passport" of stamps from making purchases at local businesses on Saturday, November 25, the day after Black Friday.

Small Business Saturday, a national event started in 2010, "is focused on highlighting our local shops that carry so many goodies at great prices," Findley said. "We were so excited to give out these wonderful baskets with over \$300 worth of goods from local merchants."

According to the 2017 Small Business Saturday Consumer Insights Survey, released by the National Federation of Independent

Business and American Express, the founder of Small Business Saturday, 108 million shoppers spent \$12.9 billion on November 25 at independently owned businesses.

"Small Business Saturday provides people an opportunity to discover and celebrate the variety of small businesses that make their communities thrive," said Elizabeth Rutledge, Executive Vice President, Global Advertising & Brand Management at American Express. "Beyond visiting their favorite go-to spots, shoppers say Small Business Saturday inspires them to visit places they have not been to before and would not have otherwise tried."

For information about Willits Chamber of Commerce activities or becoming a member, visit <http://willits.org>, call 459-7910, or email info@willits.org.



The Willits Chamber of Commerce's 2017 Small Business Saturday prize basket winners with their baskets, far left: Jennifer Mahoney, above, left: Cat Lobere, and above, right: Kevin Tahrir.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

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1 of 10

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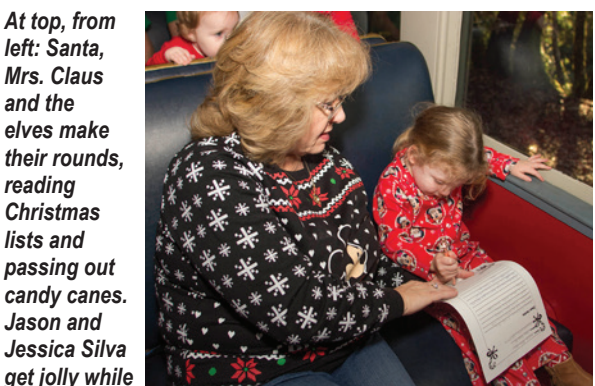
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30% Off Clothing & Footwear 25% Off Toys & Games 17	20% Off Pet Supplies 10% Off Pet Food 18	30% Off Flashlights, Lighters & Knives 19	30% Off Toys & Art Supplies 20	30% Off Watches & Jewelry 21	30% Off Clothing & Footwear 25% Off Toys & Games 22	30% Off Clothing & Footwear 25% Off Toys & Games 23
30% Off Clothing & Footwear 25% Off Toys & Games 24	ONGOING SALE DECEMBER 13th - 24th! 20% OFF Clothing & Footwear (Unless otherwise noted) 15% OFF Toys & Gifts (Unless otherwise noted)					

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At top, from left: Santa, Mrs. Claus and the elves make their rounds, reading Christmas lists and passing out candy canes. Jason and Jessica Silva get jolly while drinking hot cocoa. Above: A little girl signs Santa's list. Above, right: Teddy delights the young passengers. Below: Grady and Miles wait in line to board the Magical Christmas Train.

Photos by Mathew Caine



Christmas Train

Take a magical, festive ride aboard the Skunk Train for holiday fun

If you want to go somewhere, book a trip on Amtrak. If you want to have the time of your life, and laugh, shout, meet Santa and Morgan's bear, hang out with elves, have a fuzzy snowball fight, drink hot cocoa and eat cookies, listen to great Christmas music, and go nowhere in particular through beautiful scenery, book yourself and your family on the Magical Christmas Train out of the station at 299 East Commercial Street. The Magical Christmas Train runs from December 9 to December 23, and you can even bring your dog.

Mathew Caine
Features Writer
mathew@willitsweekly.com

There will be between one and four trains a day, and it is suggested that you book early in order to get the trip you want. For tickets, visit www.skunktrain.com/experiences/magical-christmas-train, or call 707-964-6371. Infants are \$10, as are tickets for dogs. Children can ride for \$39 and adults for \$49.

You are buying more than just a train ticket. This is a show, well-rehearsed and efficient with personable elves and wildly entertaining train singers. Whether it's Malakai or Greg Schindel, the Train Singers are guaranteed to delight the kids and the adults as well.

From the time your family arrives at the station, you will be greeted by happy elves whom you will make you feel right at home and help you to find where you are supposed to get tickets, board, find concessions, and generally put a smile on the faces of your entire family.

As you enter the train, the elves offer hot cocoa and cookies and create a party atmosphere that is pure fun. Morgan, a young pajama-clad girl roams the cars with her

teddy bear, offering to let the kids pet her friend. The Train Singer wanders the aisles with traditional songs of the holidays done with Train Singer flair. The concession stand is open with extra snacks and child and adult drinks.

Uh oh, Morgan has lost her teddy bear and can't find it anywhere. She asks the kids if they have seen it. No one has. Poor Morgan is sad at having lost her friend, but wait ... is that teddy? From the back of the train comes a large and ebullient bear to the delight of Morgan and the children. They are reunited and have fun playing with the kids and the families. Everyone laughs.

Halfway through the trip, as to be expected, Santa has landed and has entered the front of the train. He goes through the train talking with the youngsters, collecting gift lists and passing out candy canes. What would a holiday train be without this jolly old red-suited gnome?

Duck! Shell the elf has supplied the kids with fuzzy snowballs that are flying every which way in a fuzzy snowball fight. Nobody gets wet and cold, but everyone has a great time!

Families come from miles away, even Southern California, to be a part of this moveable party. Everybody has a great time, even the actors who are obviously into their roles and enjoy bringing smiles to the faces of the children and their adults. Even Lulu the dog seemed to crack a smile.

As the families left the train, someone shouted, "Everybody have fun?" and was greeted by a resounding chorus of "Yeah!!!"



Far left: Train Singer and Director Malakai Schindel wanders the aisles with traditional songs of the holidays done with Train Singer flair.

At left: Morgan (Cera Bacci) and her beloved teddy roam the car.

Photos by Mathew Caine

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FROM 10am to 2pm

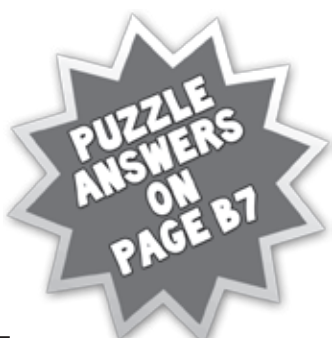
Bring your kids down to talk to Santa and join the elves for some face painting, coloring contest and holiday crafts!

SPECIAL GUESTS: Little Lake Fire Department and B.A.C.A Bikers Against Child Abuse

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Crossword
Puzzle &
Sudoku



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BAKING FUN WORD SEARCH

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BAKING POWDER
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- CLUES ACROSS
1. Female deer

4. Unfashionable people

8. Entranceway

10. Courteous

11. Level

12. Deli meat

13. Details

15. Stole

16. A genus of bee

17. Expressed as digits

18. Your child's daughter

21. ___ and flow

22. Small amount

23. Revolutions per minute

24. Criticize

25. Snake-like fish

26. Cooling mechanism

27. Inquiry

34. Engage in political activity

35. The lowest adult
- male singing voice

36. Endings

37. Irises

38. The highest parts

39. Kimono sashes

40. Bewilders

41. Mentally healthy

42. Used to traverse snow

43. Inflamed
- CLUES DOWN
1. Adventurous

2. Deliverer of speeches

3. Skin condition

4. Widened

5. James Cameron film

6. The 3rd letter of the Hebrew alphabet

7. Moved along a surface

9. Pharmacological agent
10. Charity

12. Seeing someone famous

14. Not happy

15. Farm animal

17. Give a nickname to

19. Uses up

20. Type of missile (abbr.)

23. Criticizes

24. Midwife

25. Entwined

26. Supervises interstate commerce

27. A way to convert

28. Female sibling

29. TV network

30. Tropical Asian plant

31. Line on a map

32. Denotes songbirds

33. Made publicly known

34. He devised mud cleats for football

36. Trends

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG
November 27 to December 3
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled **195** incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

November 27

12:40 am: Officers responded to a report of a shooting in the area in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

6:22 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of Franklin Avenue.

8:48 am: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 2000 block of Goose Road.

9:23 am: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

10:33 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of West Mendocino Avenue.

12:12 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of East Oak Street.

12:12 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

1:18 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

2:37 pm: Officers responded to a report of sexual assault in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.

3:31 pm: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 100 block of North Street.

4:56 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person near the intersection of North Humboldt Street and East Commercial Street.

10:03 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Hawthorn Lane and West Mendocino Avenue.

November 30

12:05 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Holly Street.

7:13 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of East San Francisco Avenue and Boscabelle Avenue.

9:54 am: Officers initiated a burglary investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.

11:03 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of South Main Street.

12:24 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

1:47 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of South Main Street.

December 1

1:10 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.

7:41 am: BRITTON, Talon James (22) of Willits was contacted near the intersection of School Street and West Mendocino Avenue. He was arrested on felony charges of resisting a police officer and on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance and violation of probation.

8:01 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 500 block of East Commercial Street and issued a warning.

9:57 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 100 block of Holly Street.

9:41 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 800 block of South Main Street.

December 2

3:25 am: Officers initiated a robbery investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

8:50 am: **PARK, Wayne Russell** (56) of Willits was contacted in the 27000 block of Poppy Drive. He was arrested on felony charges of robbery and unlawful possession of tear gas and on misdemeanor charges of damaging a wireless communications device. Park was held on \$150,000 bond.

9:02 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1500 block of South Main Street.

10:40 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 800 block of South Main Street.

Read the rest of **WPD** | Over on Page B7



Wayne Park of Willits.

8:36 am: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of West Commercial Street.

11:20 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.

11:35 am: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation near the intersection of South Main Street and East

Looking to find our
Willits Weekly
distribution boxes?

101 Drive-In, Scoops Deli, J.D. Redhouse, Willits Post Office, Cafe 77, Buttercups Children's Boutique, Willits City Hall, Willits Library, Mariposa Market, the old Country Skillet, Old Mission Pizza, Romi's Roadhouse, Brewed Awakening, Ace Copy and Shipping, Mendo Mill, the Harrah Senior Center, Grocery Outlet, Geiger's in Laytonville, Howard Memorial Hospital, Baechtel Grove Middle School and Willits High School.



struted around the yard showing off his catch. RR is a big dog, but he was easy to leash up. My, what big ears you have! RR is an affectionate dog who enjoys getting pets and massage.

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah. Adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm, and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. To view photos and bios of some of the other wonderful adoptable animals here, please visit online at: www.mendoanimalshelter.com. More info about adoptions: 707-467-6453. Please join us the second Saturday of every month, this weekend on December 9, for our "Empty the Shelter" pack walk and help us get every dog out for some exercise!

Furry Friends
Hoping for a Home
for the Holidays!

Roger Rabbit

Roger Rabbit is a 2-year-old neutered male Shepherd mix who weighs 75 pounds. We spent time with Roger Rabbit during his photo shoot, and he was lots of fun. He loved chasing an orange toy and was quite pleased with himself when he got it, and

Todd and Tobias

Todd and Tobias are super-sweet, cuddly guys who have a lot of love to give. Todd and his brother Tobias came in together and are pretty bonded, though they can still be adopted separately. But who can pass up these dashing handsome boys?! They will both need to stay mostly indoors because of their white fur and pink skin. We love these boys, and we know you will too. Come meet them today!



For more information on Todd and Tobias or other adoptable animals, call Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County at 707-485-0123, check www.mendohumanesociety.com, or visit the shelter at 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley. Open hours: 1 to 5 pm, Wednesday through Friday; and 11 am to 3 pm, Saturday and Sunday. To volunteer or help take the dogs for a walk, please join us on Sundays at 11 am for an orientation.

Willits Weekly's
CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

Check out these pecial deals and events happening each day this week

December 7

December 8

December 9

The Unique Boutique
High End Clothing & Handbags
Handcrafted Jewelry
Fashion Accessories
Holiday Hours:
11am-6pm - weekdays
11am-7pm - weekends
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MAUREEN MOORE TAKES
SANTA PHOTOS
FRIDAY, 12/8:
5 - 7 PM
SATURDAY, 12/9:
12 - 2 PM
SUNDAY, 12/10:
12 - 2 PM
\$5 DIGITAL IMAGES
\$0.50 FUNDRAISER

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December 10

December 11

December 12

Happy Holidays from
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1565 S.Main St., Willits, CA 95490

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Willits Weekly's
5th Annual Christmas Party
Friday, December 15 from 5 to 7 pm
Cookie Tasting & Voting
Live Music & Merriment
at Scoops Frozen Yogurt & Deli

December 13

Rocking 40 Enterprises - Firearms -
ARMING CALIFORNIANS SINCE 2013
Wishing Everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
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Larry, Virginia and family
75-A.S. Main Street,
Willits 95490
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Wed 10-5 ~ Fri & Sat 10-3

Pg.B2 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Willits Weekly | December 7, 2017 Pg. B3

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<http://www.downtownholiday.org/>

mta
 Mendocino Transit Authority



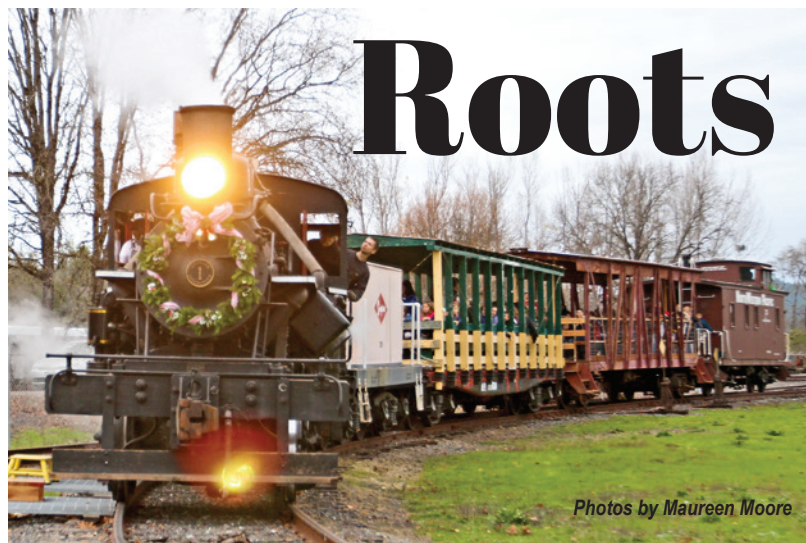
Photos by Mathew Caine



Far left: The Emandal Chorale sings for the gathered crowd before the tree lighting and Willits Chamber of Commerce mixer.

At left: New Mendocino County Museum curator Karen Mattson had the special duty of being the official keeper of the

plug which lit the tree, as well as the honor of being the one to plug it in after the crowd counted down from 10 to 1 out on the street below.



Roots

Photos by Maureen Moore



At left, top from left: Shane Grupp in the front of the Bluestone Mining & Smelting #1 locomotive. Tyler, back left, and Andy, back right, stand with excited kiddos Snow, left, and Jude at the Roots of Motive Power ticket booth sign. Train-themed ornaments hang from the trees inside the Engine House.

Far left: The Bluestone Mining & Smelting #1 locomotive rounds the bend, pulling three cars of passengers. At left: Members of the Roots crew who attended and ran the annual Holiday Express event.



Tree Lighting & Mixer



Above: Bakers and winners pose together at the 2016 Cookie Party, including from left: Jody Johnston, Kathryn Sterngold, Cat Lobere, John Pilatti, Carrie Oliver, Shawna Handschug, and Alaska, River and Izzy Perry. At left, from top: Alaska and Shawna pose together with their entry, which won People's Choice. The Judge's Choice award features a mini-cookie sheet, and the People's Choice award features a golden whisk. Each perpetual trophy bears the names of all the past winners. The new winners' names were added at the end of last year's event.

Cookie Party

It's almost time for Willits Weekly's annual Cookie Party! This year, we will be celebrating at Scoops Frozen Yogurt and Deli, 110 North Main Street, from 5 to 7 pm on Friday, December 15.

The public is welcome to come and sample cookies and vote for their favorite. Three esteemed judges will vote on the Judge's Choice winner, and Willits City Mayor Gerry Gonzalez will be choosing a winner this year for a new category: Best Decorated cookie. Each of the winning entries will earn their baker an inscription on the delightfully tacky, yet coveted, perpetual trophies.

Anyone interested in trying their hand at baking is very welcome! Entering the contest is free of charge, we ask bakers to create 5 to 6 dozen pieces (individual cookies can be cut into smaller pieces) for tasting. Bakers' set-up is around 4:30 pm. Official judges will taste and cast their votes at the beginning of the event, and People's Choice voting will finish at the end of the event.

Baker's forms are available via download at willitsweekly.com/WW-Cookie-Entry.docx or from the Facebook event page – just search on Facebook for "Willits Weekly Cookie Party."

We look forward to seeing you all there and celebrating our fifth holiday season with Willits Weekly!

More info: 972-7047 or willitsweekly@gmail.com

– Maureen Moore

At left: John Pilatti holds the Judge's Choice winning entry which he and his wife, Robin, baked last year. Below, left: 2016's esteemed cookie-tasting judges, from left: Tam Adams, Jessica Logan Koehler and Tom Allman.



Above: The Teken family checks out the antique trains on display in the Engine House.

At right: Grady Fonsen grins by the lights and tinsel.



Celebratory Saturday

Roots, Museum and Willits Chamber join up to offer holiday fun for the community

Trains, Santa, singing, mingling and more were all enjoyed during the annual Willits Holiday Celebration last Saturday on East Commercial Street. Roots of Motive Power, the Mendocino County Museum and the Willits Chamber of Commerce all gathered to provide an afternoon of fun for the community.

Santa Claus and his helper were stationed at the Roots Engine House from 1 to 5 pm on December 2, and offered free photos and free toys to families who wanted to stop in. Engineers were running the Bluestone Mining & Smelting #1 locomotive around the Roots track – this time towing two open-air passenger cars and the caboose.

"Having that second riding car really made the lines short," said Roots' Troy James. "We're able to fit around 100 to 125 people at a time, so we were able to clear the lines, make two loops, and then fill up with passengers again."

James also noted how well it worked to pair the celebration at the Engine House with the Willits Chamber of Commerce's mixer after Santa time, and with the Mendocino County Museum's tree lighting, too.

"I think it went really well, and was a great use of the Engine House, which was already decorated and ready," said James.

James noted that while the toys given out from Santa were about 50 fewer than last year, he felt the train rider attendance was up this year, despite the chilly cold.

"At least it didn't rain," laughed James. "It really was kind of perfect weather for a train ride!"

The Emandal Chorale joined together to sing for the crowd just before the giant tree in front of the Museum was lit, and then community members enjoyed wine and appetizers from Lisa Davis of Scoops Frozen Yogurt and Deli.

The museum also offered eventgoers a chance to check out their displays of vintage trains and the "Main Street: Then and Now" show which lined the gallery halls.

– Maureen Moore



Above, from left: The Castro family poses with Santa Claus, and Santa's helper, left, at the Roots of Motive Power Holiday Express event. The class of 2018 sold drinks and hot dogs at the Roots event to fundraise for their class under the guidance of Rebecca Smith, left. Students include, from left: Gisele Nieto, Grace Horger, Yotzil Patino and Alexis Reyes. Three generations enjoy the Roots of Motive Power event on Saturday, December 2 including, from left: Grandma Nancy New, mom Tamara Steffen, daughter Kyana Walker, and Kyana's dad, Matt Walker. Below, from left: Community members gathered together after the tree lighting in the Engine House for a Willits Chamber of Commerce mixer. Wine and appetizers were available, and attendees wandered the displays of vintage trains, twinkle lights and antique railroad equipment, keeping warm near the tall heaters! It was cold! Sharon and Bear Kamoroff snuggle close as they chat with Willits City Mayor Gerry Gonzalez. Willits Chamber of Commerce Coordinator Alison Findley pours wine. Brad Walton, left, stands with wife, Jill, right and daughter Holli Woodhouse. At right: Kathy and Phil Shuster enjoy the mixer. Far right: Wendy Wilmes and Tam Adams smile for the camera.



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25% OFF

Other in-store Yeti Specials

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 Come shop with us!
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 Starting December 18th!

Check out our Facebook page each day to see what the sale is for that day!

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 KITCHEN & HEARTH

ER Crow's Nest | UKIAH | 707-462-9676
 Safeway Shopping Center | WILLITS | 707-459-9700

Sign up to bake! Everyone's welcome to join in!
Info: willitsweekly@gmail.com or 707-972-7047

Willits Weekly's 5th Annual Christmas Party!



Friday, December 15
from 5 to 7 pm

at Scoops Frozen Yogurt & Deli

Cookie Tasting & Voting
Live Music & Merriment

Come celebrate with us!



Get ready to smile (or cry!) with Santa

Bring the family, your pets or a friend!

On Friday, December 8, it'll be time for Santa photos at J.D. Redhouse & Company with local "photographress" Maureen Moore!

As always, each photo session is held as a 50/50 fundraiser for a local community group or organization. The three-day fundraising event will start on December 8 from 5 to 7 pm (benefiting the Mendocino Care-A-Van); continue on Saturday, December 9 from 12 to 2 pm (benefiting the Willits High School Class of 2018); and finish up on Sunday, December 10 from 12 to 2 pm (benefiting the Willits 4-H horse group).

There's no appointments, just drop-

ins only. Digital images are only \$5 per combination/group of people.

Example: You have two children. You want a picture of each of them individually with Santa, and then then one with both of them together. That's three combinations - child #1 & Santa, child #2 & Santa, and then child #1 & child #2 with Santa = three groups at \$5 per group = \$15

Images will be available for download at <http://photographress.zenfolio.com/pixwithsanta> - past years' photos are still there too, if you missed downloading your photo from a prior event. More information: 707-972-7047.

— Maureen Moore

Cashing In! New Year's Eve 2018

New Years Extravaganza Hot Seat Drawings 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Every Two Hours For \$2,018 Cash!

Senior Cash Bingo - 12 p.m. Cash Prize of \$200! Second Chance Cash Prize of \$50!

Holiday Black Out Bingo 4 p.m. Cash Prize \$200 8 p.m. Cash Prize \$300 10 p.m. Cash Prize \$500

Balloon Bust 40 Point Buy In Starting At 6 p.m. Ticket Drawing At Approx 11:50 p.m. Cash Prizes Of \$500 up to \$2,018

Bring It In Hot Seats 6 p.m. - 11 p.m. For Cash Prizes Of \$25 - \$2,018

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

**Amazing Grace
Assembly of God Church**
803 Coast Street
P.O. Box 489, Willits
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Pastor, Bill Nobles
Information: 456-9668
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

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**Grace Community
Church**
Celebrating Life In Christ
25 Hazel Street, Willits
Adult Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m.
Worship Service &
Children's Church - 11 a.m.
Mid-week Bible Studies
Potluck every 2nd Sunday
Alan Klier, Lead Pastor
459-3106

**St. Francis
Episcopal Church**
1 North Main Street, Willits
707-459-3066
Church Services / Communion
10:00 a.m.
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
ALL ARE WELCOME
The Rev. Betsy Brunetti

**Willits Seventh-Day
Adventist Church**
399 W. Mendocino Avenue
459-6390
Stan Caylor, Pastor
Sabbath School - 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
**1st Sabbath of every month
family potluck at the school.**
22751 Bray Road, Willits

Willits United Methodist
A Christ centered, progressive church
ALL ARE WELCOME
286 School St. (at Pine)
Rev. Rosemary Landry, pastor
Worship Celebration
Sundays - 11:00 a.m.
Children's Sunday School - 11:15 a.m.
459-2855
Facebook: www.facebook.com/april@willitsweekly.com
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this column please call:
April Tweddell
(707) 972-2475
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News from Sanhedrin High School

Congratulations, Sanhedrin High graduates!

On Wednesday, December 6, two students, George Perez and James Jewell, graduated from Sanhedrin High School at the Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees' monthly meeting. Each student met the local and state requirements to earn a high school diploma.

Students of the Month

The staff at Sanhedrin High School unanimously voted the following students as students of the month for November 2017: Jose Archundia and Emily Bartow (Academic), Ashley Huffman (Citizenship), and Chloe Sanchez (Outstanding Achievement Most Credits Earned).

Criteria included grades, attendance, behavior, citizenship, and overall attitude. The students were presented the award on December 1 in an all-school assembly.

Adult Education Open House

Sanhedrin High School will have a Willits Adult School Open House Wednesday, December 13, from 6 to 7 pm. If you did not graduate from high school and want to earn a diploma, or know someone that would benefit from graduating from high school, please come and find out how you can earn a high school diploma or get hooked up in our Mendocino Lake Consortium for Adult Education.

Annual Poetry Guest Teacher

On November 28 and 29, Dan Levinson from California Poets In the Schools was at Sanhedrin High School and gave a two-day seminar on poetry. Students had the opportunity to write poetry at school during three different sessions over two days in Ms. Ritchley's English class. Students practiced different poetry genres and writing techniques. Students explored the concepts of emotions, shadows and heritage.

Willits

Wonder
Imagine
Love
Life
Illusion
Trust
Sacrifice

— Shira Adams,
grade 11

Silence within me

Shadows come from illuminating souls
Shadows travel with you in the dark
Or in the light
Shadows belong to a cold, foggy night
Shadows wonder into a glistening moonlight
They feed on your happiness

Or bitterness
Shadows know your fears and freights
They travel to the deepness
In your heart
— Alondra Vasquez,
grade 11

Untitled

My shadow lingers with me
Lingers through everything
Forcing me to face it, with every turn
Every painful mimic
Plunges toxic thoughts,
Constantly pushing onto me
Invading and indulging
Like ink expanding
Slowly draining out all color
Till the soft void
Unfolds, and the shadow
Seeps around your vulnerability
Blinding the truth
— Chloe Sanchez,
grade 11

Real World Shadows

Shadows come from everywhere
Constantly following
In a world of differences
A shadow will not lie
For they know no right or wrong
Shadows are what reminds us
Of who we are
Follow your shadow
You won't get far
Follow yourself
Truths will unfold
— Joshua Betts,
grade 12

Color of Water (excerpt)

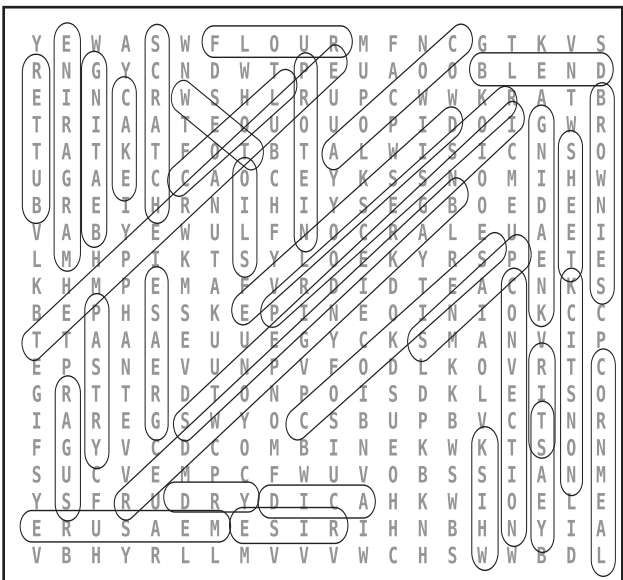
The waves in your head
overflowing
Causing to feel like you're drowning
The easy seas that are
smoothly going
Peacefully getting everything
Down and rolling
The tears coming down
your cheek
Are similar to the drops
going down the street
Doing as we believe is best
Afterlife is the greatest test
Water can flow and it can crash
Be water my friend
— Jorge M. Perez,
grade 12

He's My Boi (poem about shadows)

He's my Boi and never gets annoyed
Always got my back even I'm off track
Never there in the night
But when it's light
He really shines bright
— Keola Wilson,
grade 12

Sanhedrin Alternative Vocational High School in Willits is a vocational high school with the goal of having all students graduate with employable skills. Students receive core instruction at Sanhedrin and are required to enroll in a Career Technical Education program of their choosing at Willits High School. For more information, visit <http://shhs.willitsunified.com/> or call 459-4801.

— Submitted by
Sanhedrin High School



LEGAL NOTICES

WW136
**Fictitious Business Name
Statement**
2017-FF0796
The following person is doing business as: Suite 75, 750 South Main St., Willits CA 95490. This business is conducted by an individual: Christina Nicole Lawrence, 370 Laurel St., Willits CA 95490.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/27/2017.
Statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk on November 7, 2017.
s/Christina Lawrence
Pub dates 11/30, 12/07, 12/14, 12/21/2017

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Social Worker Supervisor I
Social Worker Supervisor II-A

For a complete list of current job openings and to apply:
www.mendocinocounty.org/government/human-resources
EOE

The rest of
WPD | From Page B2

11:23 am: MAXFIELD, Justin Case (20) of Willits was contacted in the 1600 block of South Main Street. He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of being under the influence of a controlled substance and violation of probation.

1:33 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 100 block of North Main Street.

2:08 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Northbrook Way.

3:27 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 600 block of South Main Street.

5:01 pm: COLEMAN, Paul (31) of Leggett was contacted in the 100 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested pursuant to 647 (F) PC (Public Intoxication) and on misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct (alcohol).

6:05 pm: Officers responded to a report of a shooting in the area in the 1200 block of Blosser Lane.

8:38 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1400 block of South Main Street.

December 3

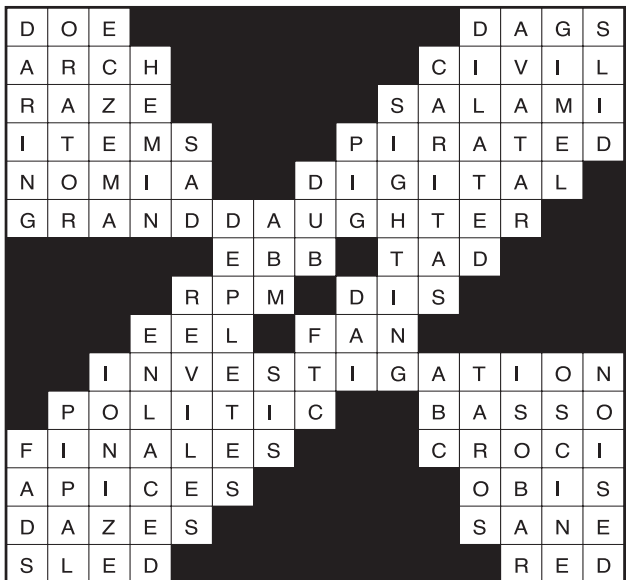
9:02 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of South Main Street.

2:42 pm: Officers responded to a report of threats in the 400 block of East Commercial Street.

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77 South Main Street, (formerly Ardella's). Open every day. 7 am to 3 pm. Come join us!

**Pottery Classes
at the Art Center**
Pottery Classes at the Art Center: Saturdays, January 6, 13, 20, 27. Children's classes at 12:30 pm (\$60 plus \$15 materials); Adults, 3-5 pm (\$120 plus \$30 materials). To register, call 707-459-1276 or email nancynew@willitsonline.com

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Opportunities**
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m-pho-tog-ra-phress
Photography by Maureen Moore 707-972-7047

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



Photos by Mathew Caine



30th Annual Willits Community Christmas Choral

Sunday, December 10

Enjoy seasonal music and song for the whole family at this free event at the LDS Church at 265 Margie Drive, on Sunday, December 10, at 6 pm. The 30th annual Willits Community Christmas Choral "looks to be the biggest yet," featuring performances by Emandal Choral, Willits Charter School, City of 10,000 Buddha's Boys Chinese Orchestra, St. Francis Church, Ed Rinehart, Inland Valley Women's Chorus, and many more. Hot apple cider and cookies will be served after the program. For information: contact Roni McFadden at 391-5461.

Above, from left: Aidyn McFadden sings "Do You Hear What I Hear?" at the 2016 Willits Community Christmas Choral. The choral draws a crowd every year at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Dawn McClelland sings "Santa Baby" at the 2016 event.

At left: Even without his harmonica, Greg Schindel and wife, Donna, were singing along with the performers at the choral. Below: The LDS Choir sings "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" at the front of the church, which was decorated with Christmas greens and lights.



Merry Christmas
From

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Above: Congratulations to, from left, Noel Woodhouse, Mike Austin and Ralayna Hearn, some of the top tennis players in Willits High School history, holding their court signs at the tennis court dedication ceremony on November 17. Above, right: Sisters Brianna and Megan Schneider hold the sign of the WHS tennis court that has been dedicated to them.



WHS tennis courts dedicated to top players

The recently renovated tennis courts at Willits High School were dedicated to the top players in school history at a November 17 ceremony.

Willits Unified School District Superintendent Mark Westerburg contacted as many WHS tennis coaches past and present as he could to get nominations. Court #1 is dedicated to Mike Austin, Class of 1990, who still lives in the area with his family. Court #2 is dedicated to Ralayna Hearn, also Class of 1990, who is a teacher at Brookside School. Court #3 is dedicated to Noel Woodhouse, Class of 1999, a Willits resident who has coached numerous sports at WHS, including tennis, soccer and volleyball. Court #4 is dedicated to Megan Schneider, Class of 2012, who now lives in Sonoma County, and Brianna Schneider, Class of 2013, who attends the nursing program at Mendocino College.

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We are a smoke-free and pet friendly community. We boast a community center where activities are held like card games, Bingo, birthdays and socials. We also have a barbecue area for residents to get together for social functions.

Redwood Meadows is conveniently located adjacent to the William F. Harrah Senior Center with a thrift store, cafeteria and taxi service, and Howard Memorial Hospital is just blocks away.



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