

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

REACH

To the Editor:

To the good people of Willits, Brooktrails, and surrounding areas: We have an opportunity to locate an emergency medical helicopter in our neighborhood. The benefit to our community could be immeasurable, and the location at the Willits airport with flight paths away from Brooktrails and over the north end of Little Lake Valley would minimize noise. Lives will be saved and revenue generated by having REACH here.

Like most of you, my love for this place requires us to weigh the pros and cons of any changes that come down the pike. Few of the changes we all face are so simple as this one. Yet there is a very small group that is willing to jeopardize this gift. They want to force, by threat of a lawsuit, the city to do a CEQA study. This study would be to make sure our federally funded National Air Transportation airport is environmentally suitable to operate an aircraft.

Now that may seem ridiculous, and that's because it is. But the cost involved could be high enough to force REACH to abandon this endeavor and locate elsewhere. They have a new, state of the art helicopter and are going to base it somewhere, and I would bet the vast majority of you would like to have it here.

I strongly believe, after having many conversations with representatives at REACH, they will be very good neighbors and more than willing to mitigate any problems that might arise. The folks at Keep The Code should understand that their concerns should be directed at the FAA, since they are the agency that approves and funds our airport, and we as citizens should be sure Keep The Code knows we want this valuable service here.

Michael Smith, Willits

Thanks to Howard Hospital

To the Editor:

I would just like to give a big shout out and kudos to Howard Memorial Hospital for the awesome and amazing care they gave my sister, Judi Kline. Also thanks to the ambulance service for arriving at her house and getting her to the hospital as quickly as they did. When a person is having a stroke, time is of the essence. I arrived at the hospital just minutes after she was brought in by ambulance. My brother-in-law, Dave Kline, was already there, and as we observed the activity going on around us, it was simply amazing. When Judi arrived by ambulance, they took her directly to x-ray, where they started the CT scan. Dr. Medvin

was on the phone with neurology in Santa Rosa, as they read the results of the CT scan as it was happening. It was confirmed that she was having a stroke, and the rest was all in the hands of Dr. Medvin and his professional staff, who knew exactly what to do in a case like this. Everything was timed, and they all worked together so calmly and quickly, knowing just what to do at every minute. They immediately started the IV for the TPA miracle drug (I call it a miracle drug), and within about 20 minutes, the transformation was starting. My niece Sheri, my son Marcus, my brother Don and his wife, Tanya, my mom, Lori Harris, my brother-in-law, Dave Kline, and I all witnessed her transformation from being a severe stroke victim, to almost back to normal within a short period of time. Judi is still weak and is undergoing physical therapy, but if it wasn't for the quick thinking of Dave to call 911 when he did, and the knowledge and quick reaction of the HMH Emergency Room, it could have absolutely ended up much, much worse.

So on behalf of myself and my whole family, we just really want to thank the ambulance service and Dr. Medvin and his staff that day for saving Judi's life.

Janie Newby,
former Willits resident

Caltrans cost overruns

To the Editor:

An open letter to California Transportation Commission members: Caltrans has messed up big time on its Willits Bypass project. From the get-go, they lied about the need for the overbuilt bypass by skewing critical data and traffic projections and falsely claiming the Federal Highway Administration would fund only a four-lane superhighway.

Next, Caltrans messed up on required migratory bird surveys, by not even developing protocols prior to commencing construction. They finally did some lame surveys when nesting season was in full swing, but only after citizens stood in front of operating brush hog machines and climbed into trees to protect them while regulators did nothing. These protesters risked life and limb to protect the environment and were duly arrested and prosecuted for their courageous, nonviolent actions. Caltrans' overkill response was calculated to be intimidating and costly to the public.

Caltrans messed up on Haehl Creek on the south end of Willits by denuding the hillsides, dumping sediment into the water and smothering salmon eggs, killing the young of the year and negatively impacting endangered species for generations to come. They messed up by cutting down thousands of ancient oaks and other trees while not doing any of their promised and required "mitigations" for over two years, causing "temporal loss," i.e., the theft of public

values in the waters, the habitat, the fish and the wildlife of the State of California.

They messed up the wetlands on the north end by desertifying the landscape and punching thousands of "wick drains" 80 feet deep into the soil to remove the water, negatively affecting the drainage and hydrology of the valley.

They messed up by not properly surveying for Native American artifacts and cultural sites in Little Lake Valley, mapping only one, important, known ancestral village, which they completely destroyed after telling the Sherwood Band of Pomo Indians the site would not be within the construction zone. Many other cultural sites have now been discovered "by bulldozer" during construction, yet Caltrans refuses to perform a proper EIS.

Now Caltrans wants to mess up even more by applying herbicides to streamside vegetation on 65 acres of so-called mitigation lands. Herbicides will poison aquatic habitats and soil organisms, plating the entire food chain at risk and contaminating reeds, grasses and other materials needed by Native weavers, endangering their health, as well as that of workers who will apply the chemicals.

Any "cost overruns" were caused by Caltrans' cavalier approach to the law, callous disregard for the environment and disrespect for Native Americans, arrogant attitude towards the public, and intransigent resistance to reasonable change.

The more money Caltrans and their contractors get, the more they mess up. Don't give them any more. Instead, tell these highway robbers to clean up the messes they've already made and direct Caltrans to scale back the northern end of the project to a roundabout/two-lane interchange to protect significant acres of wetlands, numerous Native American historical sites, and tens of thousands of tax dollars in plenty of time. Please do not approve Caltrans' request for \$64.7 million in additional funding for this bloated and benighted project that will also soak up all of Mendocino County's future STIP funds indefinitely.

Naomi Wagner, Willits

Willits Weekly's 2nd Annual Christmas Party!



**Friday, December 19
from 5 to 7 pm
at Ardella's Downtown Diner
Cookie Tasting & Voting
Live Music & Merriment
Come celebrate with us!**

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

'Twas THE FRIDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS

An invitation to the community

'Twas the Friday before Christmas, at Ardella's Downtown Diner
An event was just starting, the evening couldn't be finer.
The walls were hung with festivity and flair,
In hopes the whole community soon would be there.

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

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

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

ER Energy, Sparetime Supply, Les Schwab and Emandal
Set up trays displaying their goodies for the tasting of all.
More rapid than eagles, the tasters they came,
And they sampled, and shouted, calling out their favorites by name!

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

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

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

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

From 5 to 7 pm on Friday, December 19 we will be,
At Ardella's Downtown Diner with T-shirts and back issues to see.
We encourage all to come with this cordial invite,
As we say Happy Holidays to all, and to all a great night!

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

Case-Brackett's classes in floriculture and agricultural earth science went to Bowlds.

Bowlds' classes in veterinary science and plant and soil science went to Case-Brackett.

When asked about the changes, Ritchley said: "I believe it will bring diversity to the program. It's going to allow students to experience other teachers. It's a program change. It's in the best interest of the students."

At a December 3 meeting of the district's board of trustees, Bowlds claimed she was being punished because the Willits High School farm has suffered from neglect and lack of water. In a four-page statement, Bowlds told the board that during construction project she was directing years ago, water pipes to the farm were broken and have not been repaired.

"I've been penalized for neglect of the farm," Bowlds said. "I've been penalized for failing to deal with the blackberries. I am unhappy with the whole situation. If I am stuck with this, I would prefer you give me ornamental horticulture, rather than floriculture."

Several students spoke in Bowlds' support, characterizing her as a fine and inspiring teacher.

Amy Forester, who described herself as a 1996 alumni of the Covelo Future Farmers of America program, told trustees Case-Brackett also was a fine and inspiring teacher.

Peers seek help with counseling class

At the November 5 board meeting, Willits High School junior Garrett Vincent warned trustees the high school's peer counseling class was failing.

"Our two counselors, Daniel Drickman and Kelly Case, have not been trained as peer counselors," Vincent said. "The teacher who is the head teacher of peer counseling, Kathy Wells, has no training in counseling at all, or in peer counseling. The fact she is leading our class is very strange to me.

"She has tried very hard, but due to the fact she has never been trained, it's hard to help us.

"I feel that without proper training, the peer counseling class will fail as a whole," Vincent said.

Vincent asked if the district could find money to provide training for Wells and/or the two school counselors.

Trustees stated they were very impressed at Vincent's willingness to step into the world of adults and address a board comprised of adult decision-makers in an adult manner. However, the board failed to address the peer counseling issue.

Willits Weekly later asked district Superintendent Patricia Johnson for her thoughts on the peer counseling issue.

"I was caught completely by surprise," Johnson replied. "It was the first time I've heard anything negative about the program this year."

On December 4, Willits Weekly asked WHS

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

Holly Madrigal, former supervisor and Ukiah businessman Jim Mayfield, former county Medical Officer Marvin Trotter, county Health and Human Services Agency Director Stacey Cryer, Deputy Executive Officer Kristi Furman, Willits City Manager Adrienne Moore, political activist Jim Houle, and children's advocate Camille Schraeder.

Ruth Valenzuela (staffer for soon-to-retire State Assemblyman Wes Chesbro and incoming State Assemblyman Jim Wood) offered congratulations from both Chesbro and Wood, while Heidi Dickerson presented a proclamation of thanks from U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman.

Pinches himself was near tears during the entire 15-minute tribute.

The board resolution acknowledging Pinches' service to the county reads, in part:

"Whereas John will long be remembered for the stylish cowboy shirt and jeans he wore throughout his tenure to each and every board meeting he has attended, forcing some to wonder just how he will manage in retirement, ranching in a pristine white shirt, and

"Whereas, John always shared his generosity of spirit with everyone, rarely meeting a person he didn't like, and

"Whereas John always kept a comb in his pocket, a testament to his optimistic outlook, and

"Whereas, John, who often reminded others that 'he came to build the county and not to tear it down,' accomplished his goal in a thousand different ways."

Willits Weekly will publish a more detailed retrospective on John Pinches in our December 18 issue.

Principal Ritchley how things were going in the peer counseling class. Ritchley said class members had drawn up a list of suggestions on how to improve the class. The list follows:

1. High school students should be able to "establish a relationship with a college class on interpersonal skills." The class would be taken for college credit.

2. The peer counseling class should re-establish relationships with a variety of community groups previously involved with peer counselors.

3. The class should include a consultant to bring in curriculum, community members, funding and other services to the peer counseling class. This person could also co-teach the class several days a week.

4. A counselor should be teaching this class. Would it be possible to have a counselor and a teacher working together to teach this class?

5. Seek more money for class to fund materials, co-teacher, or to add more components to the class.

6. Review the work of Daniel Goleman on emotional intelligence to demonstrate the value of a highly functioning program.

7. Invite graduates from peer counseling class to come to class to talk or ask them to write about their experiences or make a movie that would "establish ideas and expected results of the program."

8. Look into the Fort Bragg peer counseling program.

Ritchley was very impressed by the list and thought most of the ideas were feasible.

"I'm going to do everything I can to try to implement these recommendations," Ritchley said. "I won't get 100 percent, but I'm going to get 90 percent of them."

Note to the reader: Willits High School counselor Kelly Case is a different person than Willits High School ag teacher Kelly Case-Brackett.

district office until their next board meeting.

The board had seemed poised to approve Superintendent Patricia Johnson's request to move the district office into an array of portable buildings on the Blosser Lane Elementary School campus. But Trustee Christopher Neary was uncomfortable with that plan. He told Johnson that, as an attorney representing several commercial property owners in Willits, he knows of a number of properties that might serve the district well as a district office. He asked Johnson if she would be willing to listen to his ideas, and Johnson agreed to do so.

The board voted to table further discussion on the district office question until the next board meeting, at 4 pm on Wednesday, December 17.

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

to the sewer plant is not always measuring plant inflow accurately.

Rose recommended Willits install a Flo-Dar meter with accompanying equipment for a total estimated cost of \$25,000.

If implemented, the meter would remedy a situation currently part of Brooktrails lawsuit against the city. In its suit, the township claims the measurement of inflow into the sewer plant is not accurate, and therefore the data Willits has been using as a basis to calculate the costs Brooktrails has been paying the city is unreliable.

According to an October 2013 report by consulting civil engineers Brejle and Race, the Parshall flume metering device at the headworks to the plant may not be measuring accurately.

"There were significant differences between the flow rates displayed at the operator interface and the flow rates in the standard Parshall flume tables for the measured water depths," the report found. "The difference may be due to measurement errors and/or to the condition of the influent flow at the time. It is also possible the meter is recording flows inaccurately.

"Observations of the controller-measured flow rates as compared to the tabulated rates for portable flow depths support the possibility the meter may record lower flows than are associated with the water depths in the flume. If there are errors in the flume, they may be recent, or may be long-standing," the report stated.

"The Brejle and Race October 2013 analysis of the influent meter was based on testing conducted inside the meter vault and concluded that total flow was being understated by at least 19 percent because the Parshall flume meter failed to measure low-flow conditions [prevailing from May to October] and that it would fail to measure in high flows," Rose said in her letter to Moore.

Orth will comment on Willits' Municipal Service Review

Longtime Brooktrails board member and 20-year veteran of the county's Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Tony Orth sought and received approval from

his board to draft official comments from Brooktrails on the Municipal Services Review (MSR) now being conducted by LAFCO on Willits.

The MSRs are conducted periodically by LAFCO to ensure that all in-place on-the-ground services being provided by local agencies -- such as water, sewer and roads -- meet state and local standards.

Orth said Tuesday night that Willits has five sewer divisions that are not connected, "at least on paper."

Orth later explained the draft MSR submitted last month by Willits to LAFCO notes the city has five divisions within its wastewater services department: sewer administration, a sewer maintenance division, a sewer operations division, a sewer engineering division, and a septage receiving division.

Orth said he wants to know why Willits has so many divisions within its sewer operations department. The current arrangement, he noted, makes it difficult for Brooktrails to determine if Willits' billing to Brooktrails for the work the city is doing in connection with treating the township's sewage is accurate and justified.

Orth also said he will include comments on Willits' water system. He noted the city currently serves as many as 15 private areas outside Willits city limits: Della Avenue, Locust Street, Exley Lane, and Valley Oaks Trailer Park, among others.

Orth noted the draft MSR as submitted by the city doesn't give an accurate accounting of these additional service areas.

"These services have been provided for up to 30 years, with no annexation into the city," Orth said. "That's something the MSR will have to look at."

Brooktrails Director Ed Horrick agreed to work with Orth on drafting comments on the MSR. The comments will then go to the full Brooktrails board for approval before being submitted to LAFCO.

Willits City Manager Adrienne Moore was unavailable for comment at press time.

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The Rules: **LETTERS**

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

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

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Willits Farmers Market
 Willits City Park May thru October Thursdays 3:00 - 6:00 pm
 Little Lake Grange November thru April Thursdays 3:00 - 5:30 pm



At left, from top, photos from the 2013 Holiday Craft Fair: handcrafted mugs by Bonnie Belt; ironwork by Mary Anne Underhill of Underhill's Western Craft; Greg Lindsley of Earth & Fire Pottery talks to a fair shopper.



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Holiday Craft Fair

33 artists offer locally made wares



Visitors in search of perfect local gifts for family members and friends at the Holiday Craft Fair this year will have 33 very different artists to choose from, with work by regularly returning old favorites as well as brand-new participants.

Kate Maxwell
 Reporter
 kate@willitsweekly.com

Glasswork, jewelry, ceramics, textiles, metalwork, garden art, body products, hats, knives, leatherwork, photography, quilts, pickles and more will all be on display.

This year's fair will again be held for three days, which will give shoppers more time to choose just the right thing. Willits Weekly talked to three artists who will be showing work this year.

Attendees of previous fairs will recognize the ceramic work of Deni McKeag, a participant for the last "15 to 20 years," she said. McKeag is a Branscomb resident who's been working in the area since 1990. She is inspired in her art by her love of cooking, and creates high-fire pieces such as large cooking bowls, pie pans, pieces for canning, and other ceramics designed for the kitchen.

"It's such an old craft: man had to store their food in something, and that was pottery. I like to think I'm making something that could last 5,000 years after my death," she said. McKeag and her husband, Doug, will also be bringing other varieties of ceramic pieces like candleholders and things for the gift season.

"I love the hometown feel of the craft fair; everyone is really into buying locally and things made with integrity. I really love the people: Willits is a great community that has given such great support, and I have really great returning clientele," McKeag

said. "All the other people that show are my friends, and we never feel in competition, since we have such different styles."

Simone River of Simona Designs is a locally raised, Willits-based artist who will be returning to the show after a hiatus of several years. River makes sterling silver and 14 carat gold torch jewelry, incorporating precious and semi-precious gems into one-of-a-kind pieces with unique designs. "I make functional art - it's really strong and sturdy but elegant," she said. "I encourage people to wear it anytime. They can work in their garden with it, sleep in it, wear it everyday."

This year River will be bringing some new work for her return to the fair, including the incorporation of copper and gold fill. River will also be unveiling a new line of charms, allowing customers to select the perfect charms for themselves or as gifts: "come mix and match, think about their lost earrings that could be made into a charm, find their perfect piece."

Rivers will also be showing matching sets of jewelry and is available for custom work. Her jewelry can also be found at Cat's Meow on South Main Street and Graces in Ukiah.

New to the fair this year is Alice McAlister, retired from Baechtel Grove Middle School, and a resident of Willits for more than 40 years. McAlister just started making her fused glass pieces this February. "I'm new to the whole thing this year!" she says, explaining she first learned the technique by taking classes in Santa Rosa. She quickly decided to build a studio and bought a kiln in March to keep learning the craft in her house, in what

Read the rest of **Craft Fair** Over on Page 9



Above, from left: Caprice Becker of Spice of Life talks to Dick Graham about her spice blends. Hand-embellished potholders. Winter market shoppers checking out the wares.

At left, from top: Jacki Pealatore's table includes handcrafted wooden ornaments. Spanish black radishes from Lovin' Mama Farm. Christmas bulbs and succulents from Plant Friends Organic Nursery. Fabulous molded chocolates from Bolliver's Fine Foods & Confections. Bolts of cozy flannel fabric from a winter market vendor.



At the Market

Just because summer is over doesn't mean there isn't a reason to go to the Willits Farmers Market. Tucked inside the great hall of the Little Lake Grange, the winter market is thriving with lots of good things to buy and enjoy during the cooler months.

It's also a great place to do your holiday shopping! Many crafts, artisan goods and tasty treats are available for sale, including chocolates, bulbs and succulents, wooden ornaments and earrings, potholders, dolls, hand-knit gloves and hats, jars of spice blends, unique flavors of jams, and even vinegary fermented foods.

You can also come and enjoy a meal, or buy goods to bring home to cook. A few options for ready-to-eat hot meals are prepared on site at the Grange's commercial kitchen, and many vendors still have delicious winter veggies available too.

Heads of white and purple cauliflower, the fractal Romanesco broccoli, grass-fed hamburger and steaks, salad mixes, radishes, onions, peppers and much more are ready and waiting to be a part of your next dinner.

Come by the winter market at the Little Lake Grange on Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm. We're there every week, too, with the new edition of Willits Weekly. See you there!

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Above: Grangers Richard Jergenson and Ruthie King of the Grange Farm School (dressed as Flora) line up for potluck dinner.

Above right: Liam U'Ceirbhall of Grange Grains, Katie Jeane and Mike Burgess talk grange projects.

At right: Some of the agricultural resources for young or new farmers that were part of the Greenhorns exhibit.

Photos by the Greenhorns



Tour celebrates community spirit

Last Thursday, after a bustling winter farmers market, the Little Lake Grange #670 hosted a celebration of local community spirit as the kick-off event in a "Grange Futures" tour, a traveling multimedia history exhibit put together by the Greenhorns, a young farmers' organization.

Despite the cold and wintry weather, a large crowd from around the county gathered to share a bountiful local potluck and enjoy a panel presentation on current grange activities and a traditional grange theatrical performance exploring the important role granges play in local communities.

"If you want your community to do something, you have to change your community," said Little Lake Grange Master Michael Foley to the audience, connecting ongoing grange projects to the history of granges as centers of social activity, shared community resources, and political organizing since the national movement began in 1867.

Historically, granges across the country have served not only as essential community spaces on a local level, but as centers of cooperative activities and political organizing, playing a pivotal role in movements against corporate railroad monopolies, towards women's suffrage, and in supporting populist goals such as rural mail delivery and cooperative

banking. Grange membership peaked before the turn of the century, and as America's agrarian and rural populations have declined in recent decades, many grange halls are now in disrepair or abandoned.

In contrast, the Little Lake Grange and other California granges have remained active over the last century, supporting a range of community projects. "California is very unique in what's happening with young farmers and the resurgence of these granges. We need other states to join the movement," said event organizer and grange member Annie Waters.

The Greenhorns young farmers group selected Willits as their initial stop of their art and history tour traveling around the county, California, and the country over the next few months to celebrate the revival of interest in granges. "One of the mottos of the grange is 'to hasten the good time coming,'" said Greenhorns Director Severine Fleming, discussing the renewed potential of granges as venues for cultural connections, education, and centers of community building. "There's plenty of work to do in restoring these valuable commons."

Founded in 1938, the Little Lake Grange moved into its current location around 1964, and has served as a continuous center of local community activities.

The grange was recognized as a "Heritage Grange" in 2011 by the California State Grange due to its intergenerational membership, its support of community resources and education projects, its importance as a cultural center, and its continuation of traditional rituals.

Local panelists at last week's event outlined the various and innovative projects ongoing at the Little Lake Grange within the context of the grange movement's



goals and history, including Grange Grains, the Junior Grange program and the Grange Farm School. Grange Master Foley highlighted the development of the Willits grange's commercial kitchen as a key community resource, as well as the grange's potential for community connections and organizing, saying the grange helps participants to reach out and connect "with people who are unlike you - and that's a good thing."

The event also featured painted panels displaying the history of granges, an art and music exhibit from around the country, a table of farmers' resources, and an agrarian library as part of the Greenhorns tour.

As part of the event, representatives of the Little Lake Grange performed an updated version of the traditional winter grange ritual celebrating the changing season. Written and directed by Annie Waters, grange members representing Pomona (Jane Evans), Flora (Ruthie King) and Ceres (Rachel Britton) shared traditional wisdom and blessings marking the seasonal shift, and Maggie Graham and Patricia Norris led the group in several traditional songs.

"This is really a high-water mark," said Grange member Richard Jergenson, of last week's event. The grange gained new members and project participants, and there was discussion of new granges beginning in Round Valley and Redwood Valley.

Puzzle Page & More

Activities & fun for kids of all ages

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate



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

In The Stars

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, although you are full of excitement this week, rein in some of those feelings so you can focus on the tasks at hand. Use your energy to your advantage.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, motivation may not be strong this week, so begin with some mental tasks around the house and build up to bigger plans. Eventually you will find a groove.

GEMINI

May 22/June 21

Gemini, try to avoid focusing on just one issue for too long. Sometimes you simply must trust your instincts and forge ahead anyway. Let past experience guide you this week.

CANCER

June 22/July 22

Cancer, avoid the temptation to take on too many responsibilities this week. If you don't, you might not get much done. Think before you accept more work.

LEO

July 23/Aug 23

Financial matters are looming and a decision must be made. Leo, Don't be overcome with anxiety, as all you need to do is carefully examine your finances to come up with a solution.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Spontaneity beckons, Virgo, even though you are a careful planner who puts a lot of thought into your decisions. Overthinking is more hassle than it's worth this week.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Someone may catch you off guard this week, Libra. This person will bring a welcome surprise, so look forward to this unexpected encounter.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Back up your promises with decisive action, Scorpio. That's the only way to prove to others that your word means something and you are committed to honoring your commitments.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

There may be more to the big picture than you are seeing, Sagittarius. Gather the facts before you jump to any conclusions. You may just see things from a different perspective.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, you are riding high and looking to share your good fortune with others. Make the most of this chance to improve the lives of those around you.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

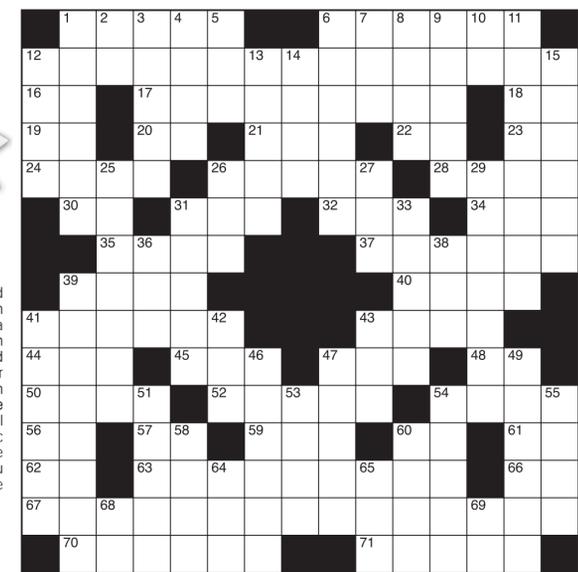
Aquarius, you have an idea about how to tackle a difficult obstacle, but someone crosses your path with a different agenda. Perhaps there's a way to work together.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, avoid open conflict without being a pushover this week. Find the middle ground and try to understand another's perspective.

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- Hindu stratification
- Least harm
- Medical confinement
- Silver
- In a sick state
- Belonging to me
- 1/2 an em
- "Makeover's" Pennington
- Take a seat
- 1/10 meter (abbr.)
- Atomic # 13
- Fallow deer genus
- Skin lesions
- Charlie Parker's sax
- 31st state
- Disparity
- Poking stroke
- Long time
- Wm. the Conqueror grave
- Hosts film festival
- Mend
- Gear teeth
- Of cadmium
- 1618 Reformed synod
- Fringe-toed lizard
- Where passengers ride
- 1/60 hour (abbr.)
- Initials of TV cartoon

CLUES DOWN

- Brandy region of France
- Equally
- Spittles
- Very small
- Ethiopia
- Filled with sediment
- An antiviral AIDS drug
- Saudi king to 2005
- Early word forms
- Yes in Spanish
- Ketchup veggies
- Used to have (Scottish)

- Old Greek storyteller
- Den
- Stockings
- Scottish road surface
- Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
- Bodily cavity
- Durations
- About gene
- "Footloose" actor Kevin
- Supply weaponry
- Neither
- Capital of Syria
- Shortcut
- Feline
- Have already done
- Rifle barrel cleaning tool
- High IQ group
- Libra constellation
- Perch genus
- Summer precipitation
- Ancient Roman boxing gloves
- Silver Skates' Brinker
- Cobblestone
- Policeman (French)
- Pizza, apple or chiffon
- Winglike structure
- 37th state
- Potato state

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Weekly Promotions for December

Christmas Bonus

December 22: 7:30-10:30 p.m. Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$100 Cash	December 23: 7:30-10:30 p.m. Hourly Hot Seat Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$150 Cash	December 24: 7:30-10:30 p.m. Hourly Hot Seat Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$200 Cash	December 25: 7:00-10:00 p.m. Hourly Hot Seat Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$250 Cash
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MONDAYS - Rooster & Owls

Earn 3X Points all day.
Morning Session: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$50 Cash at 9, 10, 11 a.m. and 12 p.m.
Evening Session: 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$50 Cash at 7, 8, 9 and 10 p.m.
May win once per promotion day!

TUESDAYS - Guy's Night

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

WEDNESDAYS - Ladies Night

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

THURSDAYS - Super Senior Day

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

FRIDAYS - Friday Fun

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

SATURDAYS - Saturday Night Paydays

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

SUNDAYS - Football Frenzy

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

December 31, 2014 — Come in and win your share of \$10,000! Drawings begin at 7:00 p.m., Grand Prize at Midnight for \$1,000 Cash!

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Starting in January, Studio Joy will be adding **R.I.P.P.E.D. with Judy Coughlin** on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. Want to take your fitness to the next level? R.I.P.P.E.D. is THE thing! Free demo classes at 6:30 Monday and Wednesday, Dec. 8 and 10.

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The rest of Changes

Discussions at the grange were organized by topic; participants included area farmers and activists from several counties, with Supervisor-elect Tom Woodhouse, Supervisor John McCowen, and County CEO Carmel Angelo also in attendance. Experts included Matthias St. John, executive director of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board; Cris Carrigan, director of enforcement for the State Water Resources Control Board; and legal advocates for federal drug rescheduling.

Groups discussed potential impacts to local cannabis cultivation and economies, with comparisons to Colorado and Washington state often invoked. A growing number of states have approved medical and recreational cannabis laws, including Alaska and Oregon, as well as Washington, D.C., leading to talk of national shifts and the urgency of local action.

"With Washington and Colorado eliminating medical from their regulatory scheme, 2015 is the only chance we have to protect our cottage industry from corporate takeover through legalization in 2016," reads the event's welcome letter.

The Small Farmers Association, an educational nonprofit born from Mendocino's 9.31 "zip-tie" ordinance, is focused on protecting small medical marijuana farmers and sustainable farming practices in the marketplace, with equitable licensing and tax laws. The group consists of many longtime local residents from the zip-tie program, who organized the event to connect members of the public with experts and each other in light of potential industry changes locally and nationally.

Many local attendees expressed fears future changes will make it impossible for small local cultivators to compete in the marketplace and will negatively impact local economies, although the current extent of the industry in the area is difficult to quantify. Some hoped the region's established reputation for cannabis cultivation, development of heirloom strains, and sustainable farming practices would protect local farmers in a changing national industry, but felt more local organizing was needed.

SFA's mission includes addressing these issues, as does the mission of another local group, the Mendocino Cannabis Policy Council, which is drafting a 2015 county-wide cannabis ordinance.

Of particular interest was the development of a "cannabis cultivation permit program" by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Board, which will regulate water draws and discharges on cultivation sites to prevent environmental damage, an increasing concern during the recent drought. Regional water board director St. John and state water board enforcement director Carrigan took ceaseless questions concerning the shape of the new program, and how it compares to regulations on other types of agriculture and water use.

"Why is this different than the tomatoes I'm growing?" asked one participant.

The agency is developing similar programs for vineyards and other ag sectors, and others are in place.

"We're here to inform, but also to see what you think we should be addressing," said St. John, emphasizing the program is in draft form and the agency is seeking input

from affected stakeholders, including producers and local law enforcement. "That's how we make it a permit that's workable," he said.

Those with sites in compliance will not pay fees to participate, but the program will also streamline fines for violations and environmental cleanup.

St. John expects the pilot program to be available for a 45-day public comment period by early spring, with hopes of board approval by July 2015.

"Demonizing the activity is not effective," Carrigan said of water enforcement efforts.

Seeking to address concerns about penalties and inspections, St. John explained: "It is a regulatory program, but we are asking you to treat us as partners... We're giving you some legal cover, as long as you are complying with the program and environmental laws."

October hearings concerning the federal rescheduling of marijuana were discussed by Lanette Davies, American Civil Liberties Union board member and 10-year Sacramento dispensary owner.

The rest of Bypass

The funds will be drawn from state monies awarded in two-year funding cycles.

Dow said despite the implications for other county transportation projects, the MCOG board was committed to adding \$9.7 million to support bypass completion, "however long it takes." The duration before funding would be available for projects like a Brooktrails second access road remained uncertain, and could extend beyond 2018. "We never know if there will actually be funding available" in a particular funding cycle, explained Dow, "it's about a 50-50 chance."

"We have a big backlog of projects we'd like to see, some partially funded, and this will impact the completion of those," said Dow of the MCOG decision. "Those decisions will now be put off many years down the road. It will impact the ability of Brooktrails to handle traffic and secure water sources."

The requested amount does not include the extensive wetland mitigation project required by the bypass, the largest in the agency's history. Caltrans' Phil Frisbie explained this money would come from a separate pool of funds and require an additional CTC budgetary request.

Dow said MCOG is also committed to funding the wetland mitigation project, and he is aware there will probably be a need "sooner rather than later" for a local share. "It's something that's never been tried before, and that's what you get for being first," he said of the wetland creation work. "Contractors get into something they're not familiar with, and it raises the price tag." Regarding MCOG's share, he expects to have a better sense of potential additional funds needed by mid-2015. "I don't think we're done with it, they will need our participation."

The funding amount requested by Caltrans was calculated in an economic risk analysis based on 50 percent of probable needs to complete construction. Two years into the first phase of the project, myriad planning and permitting difficulties caused cost overruns far greater than the project's initial 10 percent funding contingency.

According to Dow, this type of risk analysis is required on projects costing over \$100 million, due to the complexity of project costs. Despite Dow's request, he was unable to provide the MCOG board with more specific information requested for the staff briefing before the funding decision. However, Caltrans' District 1 Director Charlie Fielder was available for questions at the MCOG meeting before the vote. Frisbie said the analysis was confidential due to concerns over confidentiality of contractor bids, but last week he had "requested its release."

Dow said he informed MCOG board members at the conclusion of November's meeting that such a vote would be coming up. "I didn't have any facts or figures to tell them, but I knew it was coming."

"Essentially Caltrans has known for some time there would be cost overruns," he elaborated, but the agency wanted to ask "with all reasonable assuredness" for a more specific amount in a single request.

Caltrans' Frisbie explained the agency hopes the \$64.7 million will cover the construction to completion.

The MCOG meeting drew public comment expressing concern about cost and MCOG's ability to fund future local projects. "You can understand no one's happy about this," said Dow, "but anyone that's seen the news has seen there's some pretty good reasons why there are cost overruns" on the project.

The city has pulled in less money than it did last year to date, according to the report.

Projects have generated nearly \$19,000 for the city this year on 60 permits. Last year at this time, the city had recorded about \$66,000 in fees from 69 permits.

Permits were issued for two solar projects in town. A 4.8-kilowatt solar array valued at \$14,500 went in on Laurel Avenue, and a permit was given for a 6.5-kilowatt solar array on Maple Street, valued at \$15,000.

Last month's permits included work for such projects as new deck joists on a Coast Street deck, demolishing a dry shed on Commercial Street, replacement of a diesel tank on Baechtel Road, a propane dispensing station, and work for electrical and remodeling on Franklin Avenue.

Jeannine Iverson with Unique Boutique & More, Nancy Incarti Acupuncture and Chinese Herbs, Anna Gross with Anna's Vegan Foods and Sweets, Liam Uicearbhail with MacAmergin Press computer services, Elizabeth Carter Cosmetologist, and Ricardo Serrano with Professional Business Services printing, taxes and computer repair.

Out-of-town companies that signed up for business licenses included Green Clean Carpet Care from Lakeport, Paradise Mechanical from San Leandro, and O.C. Communications from Elk Grove.

The rest of Craft Fair

At left: Earrings in many colors by Happy Woman Jewelry displayed at the 2013 Holiday Craft Fair.

Below: A nativity scene in fused glass by Alice McAlister.

Below left: A necklace from Simona Designs.

At bottom, left: Volunteers sell raffle tickets for prizes donated by all participating artists and crafters at the fair. At bottom, right: ceramics designed for the kitchen by Deni's Pottery.

The rest of Craft Fair

The rest of Business

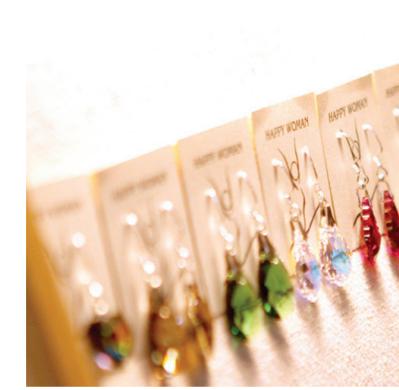
The rest of Business

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Furry Friends Hoping for a Home

Handsome Kringle

Kringle is a 4-month-old male kitten, one of the youngest we still have at the shelter. You can see he has very unique markings: his mustache is almost all grown in! He is a loveable guy that will purr the whole time he is in your arms. For the month of December, we are having our "Home for the Holidays" special where all our cats and kittens can go home for the low adoption fee of \$50. The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6 pm. We have many wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.mendoshelterpets.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.

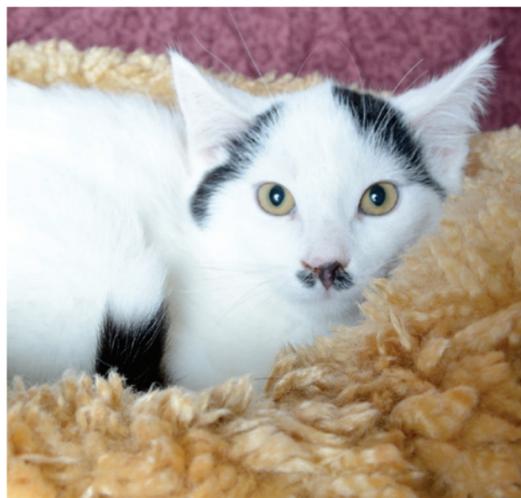


Photo by Sage Mountainfire

Amazing Athlete

of Willits High School

BASKETBALL |

Vanessa Camp, 16, Sophomore

Breakfast of Champions: Oatmeal, toast and orange juice

Position: Varsity point guard

Love for the Sport: I love the intensity.

Vanessa is a sophomore starting on the varsity basketball team. She is one of the most dynamic and explosive athletes in our league; luckily, she is on my roster. She will beat just about anyone up and down the court, and she is relentless in pursuit of the ball. Never slowing down! She is also only 5 feet tall, but rebounds with the taller girls. She's got hops! In our tournament, December 4-6, she played substantial minutes and had 16 steals, 6 assists, 12 rebounds and 15 points in three games

- Coach Jody Ward



Photo by Rachel Belvin

Rain Totals in Willits

Name	Location	Recent	So far this season
3rd Gate, south-facing	2,400 feet elevation	1.6 inches thru 4 pm, 12/10	26.9 inches thru 4:30 pm, 12/10
Lucky Monkey's Ranch	2 miles west of Willits where Skunk Train tracks cross Hwy 20	1.2 inches thru 6 pm, 12/10	
Willits Water Plant			14.52 inches thru 11 am, 12/10
Blackhawk Drive	2,300 feet elevation	1 inch, noon-5 pm, 12/10	
Willits	Little Lake Valley	1.5 inches thru 6 pm, 12/10	15.6 inches thru 4 pm, 12/10



OBITUARY | David Sundvold

David Sundvold

David Scott Sundvold passed away on November 29, 2014 at the age of 62. Born October 7, 1952 in Los Angeles, he was raised in Fullerton, and for the past 20 years had resided in Willits. Recently retired from the County of Mendocino Mental Health & Health & Human Services Department, where he worked for 13 years, he thoroughly enjoyed his position as an Outreach Worker helping others. You may remember him also from his computer store, where he built and repaired computers, still helping others. He loved walking his dogs throughout Brooktrails, music, and playing his guitars.

David is survived by his three children, Mariah, Melissa and Eric Sundvold, and five grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life Service was held on Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at the Anker-Lucier Mortuary Chapel.

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

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Christmas Calendar

December 12 through 18, 2014 - check next week to see what new sales are featured!

BOOT SALE
Dec. 12, 13 & 14
Justin Boots
40% OFF

J.D. REDHOUSE & COMPANY
A LOCALLY OWNED MERCANTILE
212 S. Main St. • Willits • Subject to stock on hand
707-459-1214

December 12

J.D. REDHOUSE & COMPANY
A LOCALLY OWNED MERCANTILE

BOOT SALE
Dec. 12, 13 & 14

Georgia Boots
40% OFF

212 S. Main St. • Willits • 707-459-1214

December 15

COAST HARDWARE
Celebrating the
12 Days of Christmas
with sales Every Day!

December 13th thru the 24th

The date of the day is the % you will receive off all holidays items (located in aisle 13).
(For example: Dec. 15th = 15% OFF)

101 East Barbara Lane
Willits • 459-2201

December 17

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

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

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

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

December 16

The rest of **Crab Sale** | From Page B1

Rotarians expressed their appreciation to many who helped this year's sale be such a success, including Sparetime Supply, which sent Rick Maddox down on the fork lift to help with set-up and clean-up, Dave Rupe, who allowed them to use the Sweetwater Station locale again, Pro-Flame and Redwood Coast Fuels for propane to run the crab pots, and Grocery Outlet for supplying plastic bags.

If you missed the sale, there's still time to get your crab fill at the upcoming Rotary Crab Feed, planned for January 17, 2015. Keep a watch on Willits Weekly's calendar for more info!



Left: Jake and Kaleb Whitehurst get ready for enjoying a crab dinner... and snack.

Above: Judges from last year's event included Willits City Mayor Holly Madrigal, Jolene Carrillo, Lee Bryant and Willits City Manager Adrienne Moore.

Right: Last year's contestants Kathy Albright and Lori Dorholt will play hostesses for the 2014 event, allowing Willits Weekly to hold this year's festivities at Ardella's Downtown Diner.

Keep WILLITS WEEKLY going strong by purchasing ADS & SUBSCRIPTIONS!
707-972-7047 or 707-459-2633

BOOT SALE!
Dec. 12, 13 & 14

Ariat Boots
40% OFF

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December 14

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

Hope to see you soon!
Happy Holidays!

December 18

Happy Holidays!
Bring Dry & Canned Food Donations Here
For Willits Daily Bread

Join Us Dec. 12 Holiday Party for existing patients!

Healing Central Chiropractic
Dr. Shawna Handschug and Dr. Israel Perry
CHIROPRACTORS
750-A Central Street, Willits 456-1030
Office Hrs: M,W,Th 10am-6:30pm, Tues 9am-5:30pm, Fri 9am-2pm

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19612 N. HWY. 101 • WILLITS, CA 95490



2nd Annual Willits Weekly Christmas Party

Friday, December 19 at
Ardella's Downtown Diner

The community is invited to attend Willits Weekly's second annual holiday party held on Friday, December 19 from 5 to 7 pm at Ardella's Downtown Diner. A night of fun is planned, with Christmas music and merriment as well as the main event: a cookie contest.

We hope to have many of last year's team of "celebrity" bakers return to make treats for the contest – and to challenge 2013 winners Tam Adams of Emandal, who won the Judge's Choice award for her Caramel Nut Bars, and Lisa Reed and her daughter Kylie Reed of the Les Schwab Tire Center team, who won the People's Choice Award for their Mocha Crinkles.

Other 2013 winners included People's Choice second-place winner, the Norwegian rosettes made by Lori Dorholt of Ardella's, and People's Choice third-place winner, Mom's Chocolate Thumbprint Cookies baked by Lynn Kennelly of the Chamber of Commerce.

Emandal's Adams won third place in the Judge's Choice contest, too, for her Blackberry Cayenne Thumbprints, with the Judge's Choice second-place award going to Chef Kyle and the Howard Hospital team, for their Mocha Mint Chocolate Cookies.

Contestants will again bake dozens of cookies, which will be on display for attendees and judges to sample, along with milk, coffee and hot apple cider. Winners will be published in Willits Weekly's first edition of 2015.

There will also be a non-contestant cookie swap table, so those who want to bring cookies and treats to exchange with other eventgoers can do so, and take home a bag of cookies at the end of the night. A soundtrack of holiday music – and a return performance by Devon Jones and Nancy New, who sang beautiful Christmas songs and carols last year – will keep the spirit of the evening festive.

Willits Weekly will also have back issues available, and T-shirts and gift subscriptions packaged for holiday gifts. Thanks to Lori Dorholt and Kathy Albright of Ardella's for letting Willits Weekly "borrow" their restaurant for this special event. Can't wait to see you all there!

Above: Lisa and Kylie Reed of Les Schwab and Tam Adams of Emandal hold their winning trophies from last year's contest.

Below: Willits Weekly's Jennifer Poole (far right) announces the winners at the 2013 event.

Bottom: Tam Adams of Emandal chats up a cookie taster at her booth.

SPECIAL OF THE WEEK!

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As a physical medicine and rehabilitation physician, Dr. Kim specializes in the comprehensive diagnosis and management of pain of the spine, nerves, tendons, joints and muscles.

Dr. Kim received her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley and her doctor of osteopathy from Touro University California, College of Osteopathic Medicine. She completed her residency at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago where she was chief resident of the physical medicine and rehabilitation program.

She brings vast experience helping patients reduce or eliminate pain so they can get back to a healthy, active life.

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Thursday, December 11

A Hot Winter's Night: 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Willits High School, 299 North Main Street. "Join our visual and performing artists as we celebrate the season with music, drama, dance, poetry, and a visual arts exhibit" featuring the WHS Jazz Band & Concert Band. Free. Soup fundraiser from 5 to 6 pm at the Wolverine Café. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for details.

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

Friday, December 12

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

28th Annual Willits Holiday Craft Fair: Friday from noon to 7 pm, Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. This event is sponsored by the Willits Center for the Arts, 111 East Commercial Street, as a service to craftspeople and the community, as well as a fundraiser for the center, which needs support to continue. Features jewelry, ceramics (both pottery and sculptural), metal work, photography, fabric arts and wearables, glass, herbal body products, and more, plus food and treats from the Willits Charter School, the "Kids Craft Fair" on Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm, and live music throughout the three-day event, as well as a fundraising raffle with arts & crafts prizes. See elsewhere on Calendar page for lists of vendors and musicians.

"Bucket Brigade" Blood Drive: Annual December blood drive hosted by the Little Lake Fire Department. The "Bucket Brigade" drive is organized by the Blood Center of the Pacific, to

28th Annual Willits Holiday Craft Fair

The 28th Annual Willits Holiday Craft Fair is set for three days again this year at the Community Center: Friday, December 12, from noon to 7 pm, Saturday, December 13, from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, December 14, from 10 am to 4 pm. This event is sponsored by the Willits Center for the Arts, 111 East Commercial Street, as a service to craftspeople and the community and is a fundraiser for the center, which needs funds and support to continue.

A wide variety of arts and crafts will be displayed for sale: jewelry, ceramics (both pottery and sculptural), metal work, photography, fabric arts and wearables, glass, and herbal body products. Many of our area's favorite artists/crafters will return, along with some excellent new artists and work.

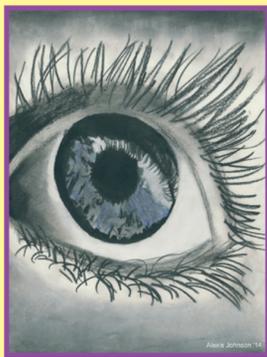
The fair will again offer food and treats from the kitchen of the Willits Charter School. The popular "Kids Craft Fair" is set for Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm, and there will be live music throughout the three-day event, as well as a fundraising raffle with arts & crafts prizes.

This Year's Vendors

Rachel Arama Yusem (Clothing, Knitted), Joanne Horn (Body Products), Lynn Davis (Glass & Metal Vases), Mary Ann Underhill (Leatherwork), David Rice (Pickles), Deni (Ceramics/Pottery), Alice McAlister (Fused Glass), Anne Vanderhorck (Dolls/Quilts), Karen Gridley/Wolfgang Ronnefeldt (Bags/Herbal Body Products), Laura Buckner (Jewelry), Gregg Lindsley (Ceramics/Pottery), Morgan Rex (Metalwork/Sculpture), Bonnie Belt (Ceramics/Pottery), Tess McGuire (Hats-Felt), Janet Heppler (Handwoven Ware), Jan Stephens, (Clothing-Hand Printed), Kathy Green (Clothing-Tie Dye), Helena Thornton (Children's Handmade Clothing), Erwin Ludwig (Knives & Holders), Ann Magline (Prints, Scarves, Garden Art), Simona Designs (Jewelry), Knox Gillespie (Ceramics/Pottery), Alfredo Vionnet (Wood Cutting Boards), Barbara Stanger (Metal Garden Art), Felicia Renaud (Glass Luminaires), William Cull (Jewelry), Roq Horowitz (Ceramics/Pottery), Susie Harper (Lampwork Beads), Summitside Photography (Photography), and Willits Charter School (Food).

This Year's Musicians

Friday: Mac Smith (noon); David Partch (2 pm); John Wagenet/Anita Blau (5 pm), and Emandal Choir (6 pm). Saturday: Falco (10 am); Mac Smith (noon); Nancy New and Rowdy Choir (2 pm), and David Partch (3 pm). Sunday: Falco (10 am), Keith Rutledge (1 pm), George Husaruk (2 pm), and Janice Winters/Nancy Smith (3 pm).



What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

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

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

Saturday, December 13

The 28th Annual Willits Holiday Craft Fair: 10 am to 5 pm; see Friday, December 12 listing for details.



A Hot Winter's Night December 11 at Willits High School

Everyone is invited to attend Willits High School's 11th annual "A Hot Winter's Night," happening Thursday, December 11, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at school.

Join our visual and performing artists as we celebrate the season with music, drama, dance, poetry, and a visual arts exhibit. The WHS Jazz Band & Concert Band will dazzle us with their performances, and so will the Baechtel Grove junior high school student musicians.

The drama class will give a special sneak preview of their upcoming show, "Arsenic & Old Lace." We will be enchanted by this year's dancers & poets, and we'll have a chance to "sing our hearts out" with Mrs. Jennifer Barrett.

The leadership class is hosting a delicious soup dinner fundraiser from 5 to 6 pm in the Wolverine Café. You will also have the opportunity to enjoy free, scrumptious sweet treats. All this festivity will be enhanced by family, friends and community!

The event is planned and produced by our very own WHS visual & performing artists, under the guidance of Carolyn Bakewell in Visual Arts, Jared Sherrill in Music, Jill Walton in Poetry, Evan Morgan in Drama, Mike Colvig in Leadership, and Jessie Rees in Culinary Craft.

Join us for a small-town celebration of our youth: their creativity, imagination and joyful spirits!

"A Hot Winter's Night" is from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Willits High School,

299 North Main Street. Bring your family and friends. This event is free for all!

— submitted by Carolyn Bakewell, WHS

memberships for full-time students; Tech Trek, a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) summer camp for seventh graders; and our four scholarship funds. "Please join us and learn more about this organization whose mission is to enhance the education and learning of women and girls." Call 459-4444 for directions or information regarding AAUW's holiday mail scholarship fundraiser virtual tea party.

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

Sunday, December 14

Harrah Senior Center Pancake Breakfast: 8 to 11 am at the center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Pancakes, eggs, and your choice of ham, bacon, or sausage. Adults \$7, Members \$6, and kids \$5. Info: 459-6826.

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

The 28th Annual Willits Holiday Craft Fair: 10 am to 4 pm; see Friday, December 12 listing for details.

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

Monday, December 15

Willits Dances of Universal Peace: aka Sufi dancing, 7 to 9 pm at The Muse. Every third Monday of the month, 30 East San Francisco Avenue. Sacred circle dances and chants drawn from cross cultural traditions. Live music. "This month we invoke the Light of Creation in chanting together the Lord's Prayer in its original language of Aramaic, the language of the Middle East at the time of the Christ. In its translation, we discover the cosmic, enlightened, powerful and universal message he gave to us." Info: 459-9085.

WHS Boys Basketball Christmas Wreath Fundraiser

Fresh Holiday Wreaths for \$25. Call 707-489-0326 to pre-order, or they can be purchased at the WHS Gym on Saturday, December 13, from 9 am to 7 pm.

Harrah Senior Center

Christmas Store through December 14

Lots of Christmas items for a very low price at the Senior Center's Christmas Store, 1501 Baechtel Road. Hours: Monday through Saturday, 9 am to noon. Sunday, December 7, 10 am to 2 pm, and Sunday, December 14, 8:30 am to noon. Info: 459-6826 or www.willits seniors.com

Christmas Bike Program needs boy's bikes

They've got adult and girl's bikes covered, but the Willits Community Christmas program still needs eight boy's BMX bikes. Boys BMX bikes, in good shape or not, can be dropped off at Wowski, 330 East Commercial Street. Wowski is open noon to 6 pm, Monday through Saturday, and sometimes Sundays. Bikes will be rehabilitated, or used for parts, and given away as Christmas presents through the Rotary Club's Christmas program.



Tuesday, December 16

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad movies: "Horrible Bosses 2" and "Penguins." For showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

Friday, December 19

Willits Weekly's Annual Christmas Cookie Party: 5 to 7 pm, at Ardella's Downtown Diner, 77 South Main Street. Come join us for an evening of community, Christmas music (thanks to Nancy New and Devon Jones), and our annual cookie contest. Last year's big winners, Tam Adams of Emandal, who won the Judge's Choice award for her Caramel Nut Bars, and Lisa Reed and her daughter Kylie Reed of the Les Schwab Tire Center team, who won the People's Choice Award for their Mocha Crinkles, will be back, as will a field of challengers. Judges include Sheriff Tom Allman, Willits City Manager Adrienne Moore, and Misty from Willits Power. Bring your own cookies to exchange with other holiday bakers!

Community Outdoor Christmas Caroling: 7 pm at Grace Community Church, 25 Hazel Street. Students of Grace Christian Academy will be presenting a Christmas program preceding the carols at 6 pm, followed by refreshment. "Come and gather around the fire as we celebrate Christmas together: All are welcome to attend."

This year, Mendocino County was recognized at the Miss California Pageant to have awarded the biggest scholarship in the entire state of California!

Sunday, December 21

An Old Fashioned Christmas: You're invited to celebrate with Caroling, Worship and Skits" at Agape Bible Church, 390 South Lenore Avenue. Free. 6 pm.

20th Annual Winter Solstice Spiral Dance: 6 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 292 School Street. "Welcome the Sun's return with our traditional drumming, candle lighting and songs, followed by the Spiral Dance! The spark of Yule turns our hearts to gratitude in the cold & dark. Let us celebrate our interconnectedness and relationship to all beings, the cycles and seasons. You are invited to wear a mask or costume that reminds you of a favorite wild animal or plant." A benefit for the new Grange windows \$5 to \$10 at the door, children welcome and free.

The Twelve Strays of Christmas Special

The Ukiah Shelter offers this holiday special: Through December 23, the first 12 dogs who are adopted can go home for the low adoption fee of \$50. The Fine Paw Print: Only dogs who are already spayed and neutered qualify for this special event. If you live in Mendocino County, an additional fee of \$25 for a dog license must be paid. Lastly the dog must go home the day of adoption. The Ukiah Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road and is open Tuesday through Saturday. Info: www.mendoshelterpets.com or 467-6453.

Geiger's Holiday Open House

Come by on Wednesday, December 17, from 3 to 7 pm for Geiger's Long Valley Market's Holiday Open House. 44951 Highway 101, Laytonville. "Enjoy samples, prizes and sales store wide." Info: 984-6911.

Community Christmas Program

The 26th annual Willits Community Christmas Program is in full swing: Trees decorated with cards listing the Christmas needs and wishes of local kids and their families are up at businesses around town.

"We want to encourage everyone to grab a tag, buy one or all of the items listed, and return the gifts to us to wrap and deliver!" said coordinator Sandy Turner. "Please don't wait! We really want to stress that it is OK to not complete the whole tag. Just do one item, do half, whatever. It all helps us in the long run."

Businesses hosting trees this year include: J.D. Redhouse, Mazahar, Main Street Music & Video, Coast Hardware, Safeway, Yokums Body Shop, Curves, Howard Memorial Hospital, Tri Counties Bank (formerly North Valley Bank), Willits Pet Center, Healing Center Chiropractic, Savings Bank of Mendocino County, Buttercups Children's Boutique, and Willits Grocery Outlet.

COLUMN | At the Movies



The Penguins of Madagascar 3

Daniel Essman Columnist

First, before I say anything about this film, let us get something straight: I am a reviewer ... not a critic. This is because making movies is hard. No one sets out to make a bad movie, and making negative noises about some filmmaker's efforts is easy. So, I pretty much won't review movies I don't like and/or don't want to see. Further, I work as the "movie guy" at Main Street Music and Video, and I've inadvertently seen movies which are so cheesy, sleazy, stupid and gross that executing (at least) their producers seems fair and just, but ... and here I need to get a grip on myself ... Other People Love Them! So, whatcha gonna do?

Now onward to the penguins. **The Story:** Animated penguins are secret agents, and they have to defeat the bad octopus and... well... noise and silliness follows.

Now My Review: Since I haven't seen it, nor did I want to, I suggested to my friend James and his daughter Tuli to watch it for me. James reported that his 3-year-old sat through the entire movie. I asked if she had laughed. No, said James, but she was interested. Then I asked James what it was about. At that point he said he was busy.

Parents: Children seem to like the penguin movies. The first two chapters of the series are at Main Street Video. They're popular rentals.

Coming Up: Ridley Scott's "Exodus" starring Christian Bale as Moses. It should be visually amazing because Scott's a master of a filmmaker. He directed "Alien," "Legend," "Blade Runner," "Gladiator," "Thelma and Louise," and "Black Hawk Down."

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

2014 Miss Mendocino Kassy Aldaco of Willits

Photo by Maureen Moore



Miss Mendocino County Scholarship Program

"We are still accepting contestants for Miss Mendocino County 2015!! Sign up today, and tell your sisters, friends, and daughters about this opportunity to gain scholarships, interview skills, and more! There is no cost to participate and wardrobe is available for contestants to use."

From the website's "About Us" page: The Miss Mendocino County Scholarship Organization is an official local preliminary to the Miss California/Miss America Organizations. The Miss America Organization is one of the nation's leading achievement programs and the world's largest provider of scholarship assistance for young women. Last year, the Miss America Organization and its state and local organizations made available more than \$49 million in cash and scholarship assistance.

This year, Mendocino County was recognized at the Miss California Pageant to have awarded the biggest scholarship in the entire state of California!

The Miss Mendocino County Scholarship Organization exists:

- To provide personal and professional opportunities for young women to promote their voices in culture, politics and the community
- To provide a forum for today's young women to express their viewpoints, talents and accomplishments to audiences
- To provide young women with a vehicle to further their personal and professional goals and instill a spirit of community service through a variety of unique community-based programs
- To provide scholarship for young women to make their pursuit of a higher education possible

Visit <http://www.missmendocinocounty.org/> for more info and eligibility requirements, and check out "Miss Mendocino County Scholarship Program" on Facebook.

Community Christmas Chorale

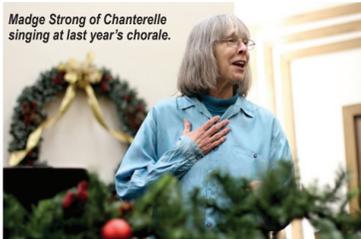
An uplifting evening of music and song

The 27th Annual Willits Community Christmas Chorale will be held Sunday, December 14 at 6 pm at the Willits LDS Church on Margie Drive.

The Willits Community Christmas Chorale was started 27 years ago by beloved community leader Jerry Colwell in the hopes of gathering people from all walks of life together, regardless of their faith or denomination, for a celebration of the Christmas/Holiday Season. His vision lives on each and every year, as the chorale brings the community together for an uplifting evening of music and song.

Jerry believed that one of the most important things in being a part of a community was being able to give back to that community. He saw this gathering as an opportunity for those attending to give back to their community as well.

The Willits Kids Christmas Tree program will have tags on trees in the church for community members to help children in need this Christmas. Those attending are also invited to bring a can of food for the Willits Community



Kim Bancroft to read at Willits Library

The Friends of the Willits Library invites you to attend a reading by local editor and author Kim Bancroft, who will discuss her latest book, "The Heyday of Malcolm Margolin," Friday, December 12 at 7 pm at the Willits Branch Library.

In an age of big box stores and media conglomerates, how can an independent publishing house survive -- and even thrive? Bancroft takes us into Heyday, a small press that for 40 years has spotlighted California's best stories. Drawing from the words of founder Malcolm Margolin, this compelling portrait recounts the making of Heyday, from its roots in the do-it-yourself/change-the-world clime of 1970s Berkeley to its present-

day status as the "cultural linchpin for the state" (Northern California Book Bookellers Association). A chorus of friends, including Maxine Hong Kingston, Robert Hass, and Kevin Starr, enriches our understanding of a vibrant literary community and its one-of-a-kind leader. Funny and provocative, "The Heyday of Malcolm Margolin" reveals the workings of a courageously unconventional enterprise run on beauty, passion, friendship and joy.

Longtime teacher turned editor and writer Kim Bancroft earned a B.A. in English from Stanford, an M.A. in English and a teaching credential from San Francisco State University, and a doctorate in education

ONGOING EVENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Services Food Bank.

Little did Jerry know when he started the chorale 27 years ago, how popular this annual event would become. But just a few years in, it became obvious that the people of Willits loved the idea of a free family event celebrating the season. The LDS Church was the only building at that time large enough to hold the number of people attending.

There is no charge for admittance, and this year's program is adding up to be one of the largest in several years.

There will be performances by: Developing Virtue Girls Chinese Orchestra, The Willits Brass, Room to Bloom Preschool, Ed Rinehart, Chanterelle, St. Francis Church, the LDS Choir, Richard Bragdon, and several soloists, as well as the always entertaining Emandal Chorus. There will also be a special "international" group presenting "Silent Night" in several languages.

There will be a sing-a-long of several favorite carols midway through the evening. It is always an amazing feeling to be singing carols along with 300 to 400 of your friends and neighbors.

There will be hot cider and cookies after the performances, and everyone is invited to stay and mingle with your friends and neighbors. For more information, call Roni at 459-0741.

— submitted by Roni McFadden for Christmas Chorale

from UC Berkeley. She has taught at various high schools and community colleges in the Bay Area, at the Universidad de Guanajuato in Mexico, and at Sacramento State. Kim has edited several books, including "Literary Industries: Chasing a Vanishing West," Hubert Howe Bancroft, an abridged edition; "Ariel: A Memoir" by Ariel Parkinson; "The Morning the Sun Went Down" by Darryl Wilson; and "Ruth's Journey: A Survivor's Memoir" by Ruth Glasberg Gold. She is the great-great-granddaughter of historian Hubert Howe Bancroft, for home UC Berkeley's Bancroft Library was named.

— submitted by Beth Rosen, for Friends of the Willits Library

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Fun, Funds & Santa

Three photo events yield over \$400 for community groups this holiday season

Whether it's a smiling face or the famous first-sight scream, photos with Santa are something to enjoy as a remembrance of a childhood moment for years to come.

This year, local photographer, or "photographress" as she is known, Maureen Moore, held three sessions for photos with Santa at locations around Willits with the proceeds to be split 50/50 with three local groups.

The first was held at J.D. Redhouse on Friday, December 5, and in contrast to last year when the event fell on the same day as the huge snowstorm, the rain still allowed for a good showing.

Running from 4:30 to 7:30 pm, attendees were able to sit with Santa, who pinched cheeks, read stories and handed out candy canes to smiling kids of all ages.

Many came in cute matching outfits, including candy cane tights and the now famous "ugly sweaters," and even some adult-sized "big kids" enjoyed sitting with Santa and smiling for the camera.

Parents of Willits Elementary Charter School kiddos, including Ashtan Bloomquist and Leah Carter, came in shifts to help out and keep things running smoothly.

With all the attendees, the event raised \$192.50 for Willits Elementary Charter School.

The second session was held at ER Energy Home and Hearth in the Safeway Shopping Center from noon to 3 pm on Sunday, December 9.

This event benefitted the Willits Junior Horsemen's Association and members of the club helped raise money alongside the shoot by selling wreaths and bake sale goods outside.



Homemade goodies including brownies, cookies, lemon bars and pies covered the tables of the bake sale, but by the end of the event, the group had sold out, earning them \$431. The Junior Horsemen have decided that \$250 of that will be donated to a local charity and the remaining funds will go to help fund their trips, annual events and more.

Junior parents, including Kelley Case, Alison Gregg, Sarah Mayfield, Carrie Andrade, Leslie Cooke, Kara Garman and Kathryn Baechtel, helped with the sale, and Marcy Barry assisted with checking people in and handling the money.

Members also enjoyed piling on for a huge group photo with Kevin "Santa" Reedy at one point, perching atop one another and grinning from underneath elf and Santa hats adorning their heads.

Another fun group included the dog group of the day: Bobbi Belvin and her two huge Irish Wolfhound / Great Danes, and of course daughter Rachel Belvin, her dog Trigger, and grandpa Jim, too.

The attendees at the Sunday event helped earn the Junior Horsemen an additional \$55.

The trio of shoots concluded with Tuesday's event from 5 to 7 pm at the Little Lake Fire Department station on the corner of Commercial and Humboldt Streets.

Kevin "Santa" Reedy was again the guest of honor, a most fitting title as he also is the Little Lake Firefighters Association President.

With ideal weather and the run of the station bays, the antique 1935 Chevy fire engine was moved in and a Christmas tree was positioned next to it. Leaving the bay doors open to the traffic on Commercial Street made the event a huge success, featuring photos of smiling kids with Santa on the fire truck.

Many other firefighters came to volunteer and partake in the merriment, too, including "dancing for the babies," handling the funds, being step-in photographers and, of course, a little general heckling of one another as they gleefully posed with Santa, making the event a great time for all who attended.

Some of the staff at the City of Willits came by for a photo, and the group shot of LFLD firefighters and Nancy Stipe was a huge hit. This last event raised \$167.50 for the department.

Above: Firefighters Louis Lucier, Adam Seminoff, Ben Scott, Mike Neely and Tim Caldwell hold the Little Lake Fire Department check.

Above right: Willits Junior Horsemen members pile on Santa at ER Energy.

Right: Bayleigh sits with Santa at the fire station.

Far right: Firefighters and Nancy pose with Santa on the engine.

Below: Juniors Kiera, Samantha and Sierra hold their check.



Top: WECS students pose with the check.
Above: Archer sits on Santa's lap at ER Energy.
Right, at top: J.D. Redhouse's Aybrie, Ashtan, Kaleb and Jake sit with Santa.
At right: Hunter smiles on Santa's lap from beneath his dapper cowboy hat at J.D. Redhouse.

Photos by Maureen Moore

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Below: Juniors Kiera, Samantha and Sierra hold their check.

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(PG) 1 hr 32 mins
Friday: 4:10, 6:15, 8:20pm
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Mon/Tues: 5:15 & 7:20pm

HORRIBLE BOSSES 2

(R) 1 hr 48 mins
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Left: The passports used during Small Business Saturday.

Right: Willits Chamber of Commerce's Lynn Kennelly draws Jennifer Poole's winning ticket from the box.

Below: Willits Weekly editor Jennifer Poole holds the prize basket she won in the Small Business Saturday drawing, with Santa at her side.



Get ready for the holidays with

Small Business Saturday plays Santa

I won! Yes, I won the drawing for the basket of gifts and gift certificates donated by local businesses for the Willits Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Saturday event on Thanksgiving weekend.

I picked up a "passport" and my first stamp at Radio Shack, where I bought a phone cord I'd been needing and a surprise purchase: a remote-control toy truck for the Toy Run Party the next day. I filled in the seven remaining spots on the passport after visiting Willits

Power Carhartt, Ace Copy, George's Geodes & Gems, Loose Caboose, Misty Made & Sew Much More, J.D. Redhouse, and Cat's Meow.

Something about getting that passport stamped eight times was very satisfying: I took care of some everyday purchases on my list, shopped at a couple of stores I hadn't been into much, and enjoyed spending a little money at some of my favorite places, too.

The chamber's Lynn Kennelly said 25 or 26 businesses participated in this first organized Small Business Saturday event in Willits. "We wanted to see how it went," Kennelly said. "I think we can grow this into something really big. In a small community it could work really well, if we can do it together. What's so wonderful about this is that it includes the entire community, from the south to the north end of town."

The prize basket was stuffed full of surprises, with many of the stores giving more than the suggested up to \$15 worth of goods. "Everybody was so kind as usual," Kennelly said. "It speaks well of the local businesses, stepping up to the plate."

The chamber is hoping to do a quarterly Small Business Saturday event: "It goes hand in hand with what we are doing with Local First," Kennelly said, "supporting our small businesses here, which support our community: It's a two-way street."

— Jennifer Poole



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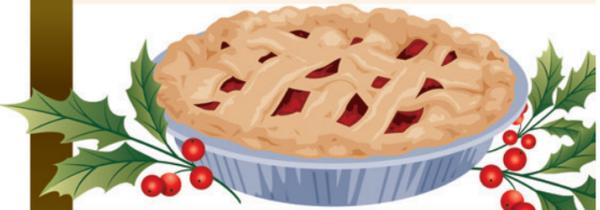
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