

Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

Online & Print

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Editor No. 33

By donation

Supes bring
PACE
program
closer to
reality

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Supervisors on Tuesday approved two resolutions that brought a Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program closer to reality in Mendocino County.

They first established a Community Facilities District congruent with the boundaries of the county to implement property tax collection for a clean energy program. The second was a resolution of intent to establish the district.

The board also set a public hearing on establishment of the CFD for January 21, 2014.

No new taxes are proposed to finance the energy improvements provided by the PACE program. However, the program will provide technology that produces energy, such as solar panels, and technology that conserves energy, such as double-paned windows and other items, to private property holders, who will repay the debt to the provider with payments added to the holder's property taxes.

According to county General Services Director Kristen McMenomey, Ygrene Energy, which will administer and implement the program in the county, has agreed to reimburse the county for time spent by county staff to research the program and to draw up a

Read the rest of
PACE

Over on Page 11

County goes forward with
right to industry

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Mendocino County supervisors on Tuesday overwhelmingly adopted a "right to industry" ordinance.

The ordinance states that as long as an industry is operating in an industrial zone, and complies with state and federal regulations and environmental laws governing that industry, the operations of that business or industry are not to be deemed a nuisance. Citizens bothered by any given slate of industrial processes or their byproducts – such as noise, odors, and light and air pollution – may still sue in court to redress

Read the rest of
Industry

Over on Page 9

Thursday, December 12, 2013



For the North County, an early **White Christmas**

Zack Cinek

Reporter
zack@willitsweekly.com

A Friday afternoon snowstorm dealt Willits residents something they are not used to: snow, ice and frozen snow everywhere.

In Brooktrails, road conditions were looking better Wednesday morning. Kent Standley of the Mendocino County Department of Transportation's road division said that, as of end of day Tuesday, crews had put sand on the majority of the nearly 60 miles of roads in Brooktrails.

Snow and ice remain on the shadier west side of Sherwood Road.

The Little Lake Fire Department responded to vehicle spinouts and similar accidents on Friday. Deputy Chief John Thomen said the department was busy with calls on Highway 162 (Covelo Road), Oil Well Hill, Ridgewood on Highway 101, and Highway 20.

"We've probably run to eight different places where we had pipes or sprinkler heads freeze," Thomen said.

Sprinklers, he explained, usually contain antifreeze, enough to get them through temperatures in the low 30s. But temperatures in the teens will still affect them.

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Thanks from the superintendent

To the Editor:
In the season of thankfulness and giving, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Willits Unified School District board, staff and Willits community for allowing me to serve as your superintendent.

The last six months have been personally rewarding as well as a learning opportunity. In that time, I have observed dedicated staff implement learning strategies to support students academically and personally; the hiring of a fiscal director; increased enrollment; support for our food program and technology funding; and participation in community forums focused on reconfiguration and Common Core.

Community involvement in school events such as Back to School Night, sports activities, academic conferences, Coffee with the Principal, college tours, Book Fair, even Scary Story Night, to name only a few, has been overwhelming. It is this support that connects our children with the school community and provides a strong partnership between family, community and school.

As the second half of the school year begins, it is these activities that will help to carry us through the challenges ahead. WUSD is still facing a struggling budget, challenging labor negotiations, and the difficulties that come with changing entrenched curriculum methodologies and fiscal systems.

I encourage the discussion and debate that these challenges will inspire, and I promise transparency and consistency in leadership as we move forward. I hold high expectations, for myself and all staff, to work daily to support student learning while providing a safe and healthy environment.

This dedication and professionalism has been exemplified by staff since my tenure began.

It is through difficult times that we will instill character, hard work and values in our youth for generations to come. Thank you for allowing me an opportunity to serve the Willits community.

Pat Johnson, WUSD
superintendent of schools

Let's argue about it

To the Editor:

I hope it's not too late to thank Randi Covin for her pre-Thanksgiving Day letter carving up the bypass protesters. Call me a glutton for punishment, but I truly relish Randi's rants: they're always the perfect complement to whatever baloney Caltrans is serving up!

We need to make a conscious decision to shop locally and in person! Do you appreciate a certain shop(s) in town for their interesting

Read the rest of
Letters
Over on Page 11

The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

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

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

Justin Stephens, webmaster
For advertising inquiries, please call 707-459-2633 or 707-972-7047
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Help out the Willits Community Christmas Program

Randi seems to swallow Caltrans' line whole, along with the hook and sinker. She invents mythical statements, attributes them to "environmentalists," and then proceed to attack her straw man or woman. Like Caltrans, she goes sideways with the issues.

It's not about protesters suing to stop Caltrans from taking fill from the MFP mill site. It's about Caltrans not complying with the law by not testing for toxics. Like an out-of-control guest who's tearing up the place, they needed to be restrained and someone had to do it.

Suzanne Picetti,
Blue Sky Gallery, Willits

Pawns in the game

To the Editor:

Randi Covin related the astonishment and hurt feelings of the construction and Caltrans workers she served lunch to, "about the hostility they have faced from bypass opponents this year." Maybe they don't know what their day-work will do to the last undisturbed alluvial valley in California and the economy of its citizens.

Personally, I have spoken to numerous Caltrans and construction workers as well as to CHP personnel, and the terms were always clear.

They are pawns in the game; so are we in this small California town.

It's understood. Ms. Covin's attempt to impute guilt fails.

Then again, there is the Chinese saying: "Hawks and dogs are not responsible for what they do; their master is." The employees of both the state agencies and the contractors institutionally gave up their say about the wisdom of what they do.

Their masters are the people, that is, unless subverted by invested economic interests, using Caltrans for the dirty work.

The tragedy here is that the most responsible and well-informed citizen concerns have been successfully beaten back or lied off by brute economic force.

From the very beginning of the monolithic entry of Caltrans into this valley, there were serious reservations. Not one citizen back in 1988 wanted a full-bore freeway implanted upon this lovely valley. But Big Daddy Caltrans said it was the only way. It wasn't.

Complicated engineering design arguments have nothing to do with facing such an out-sized project for a small alluvial valley.

Expertise is a long way from vision. Vision calls for knowledge and a comprehensive care for the area and its future life.

Ms Covin may worship the tread of Geoffrey Wright, lead engineer for Caltrans. But he doesn't know the first thing about the permanent effects ofwick-drains on a wetlands – because wick-drains have never been used on a wetlands with water at flood flowing around them.

In the North Valley, one can observe miles of stacked culverts that will deflect what would have been filtered, that will speed up the run of the overflow rain, and make as yet unpredictable changes in one of the most beautiful and peaceful valleys in existence. Farewell to the salmon headed right for the interchange.

merchandise and outstanding customer service? Then shop there in the next two weeks. Do you like driving through town and seeing it alive with cool stores instead of empty storefronts? Then support them. Don't take them for granted or they may not be there next year.

It's not about protesters suing to stop Caltrans from taking fill from the MFP mill site. It's about Caltrans not complying with the law by not testing for toxics. Like an out-of-control guest who's tearing up the place, they needed to be restrained and someone had to do it.

Suzanne Picetti,
Blue Sky Gallery, Willits

Amidst all the holiday festivities around town, one endeavor really stands out: the Willits Community Christmas Program.

Every year, Christmas trees decorated with tags listing toys, clothing and other gifts for needy children in our area are put up at local businesses and organizations around town.

Shoppers can select a tag and "fulfill" all of that kid's wish list or buy only one or two items: Monetary donations will help fill in the gaps on any tag.

"I don't want anyone to feel threatened by the fact that they can't do the whole card," said Sandy Turner, longtime organizer of the program. "You don't have to buy everything on a tag. We want to make it so everyone can help in their own way."

The most important thing right now is to get those gifts and clothing items turned in as soon as possible, so volunteers can get started sorting and wrapping the items. The "Santa's Workshop" wrapping center at Sparetime Supply's yard on San Francisco Street is just getting up and running: anyone who can help out can call Turner at 490-8872 or just drop by. Tag items can be dropped off there, too, as well as the main drop-off bins at Main Street Music and J.D. Redhouse.

Donations of any amount can be dropped off at Santa's Workshop or mailed (made out to "Rotary Christmas Fund") c/o Sandy Turner, 20960 East Tattersfield Road, Willits, CA 95490.

Trees with tags are located at Curves, BodyWorks Gym, Buttercup's, Willits Power Carhartt, J.D. Redhouse, Mazahar, Coast Hardware, Howard Hospital, Main Street Music, Healing Central, Willits Pet Care Center and the Unique Boutique.

Do yourself a favor – partake in the wonderful holiday spirit of giving beyond your own friends and family. Turner says she now has 165 families on her list. At least 350 kids on that list are hoping the generous Willits community will act as Santa Claus again this year.



One of the many trees found around town bearing tags with names and wishes of kids in need this holiday.

P.S.: Don't forget Willits Weekly's 1st annual Christmas Party, Cookie Contest and Cookie Swap, on Friday, December 20, from 4 to 7 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts. All are invited to drop by, taste some cookies, swap some cookies, enjoy music by Devon Jones and Nancy New, pick up back issues, or buy a subscription or a Willits Weekly T-shirt. Hope to see you there!

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Gift Bags
25% off all Services



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Stocking Stuffers • Ornaments • Gifts Galore
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Excludes stoves and Unique and Rinnai Products - Expires 12/31/13

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NEW Bokashi Kitchen Composter!

Bring this Ad through Friday, Dec. 20th and take
20% OFF Any Retail Order!

* 20% Off of Retail Orders placed at our DripWorks Store in Willits ONLY. Does not apply to online orders or phone orders. Cannot be combined. Not valid on previous purchases, special orders, drop-shipped items (including, but not limited to: Agribon row cover, pond liners, high tunnels, geotextile fabric, clothing and footwear) or wholesale orders. Offer ends at 4 pm PST Friday Dec. 20, 2013.

190 Sanhedrin Circle, Willits, CA - Mon-Fri 9-4 - 800.522.3747

Rotarian Tim King holds a crab, like those that will be sold at the fundraiser.

Photos by Maureen Moore

CRAB SALE

Rotary's annual event planned for this weekend

The annual Rotary Crab Sale is tentatively scheduled for this weekend, Friday, December 13 and Saturday, December 14, pending access to fresh crabs from the fish peddler.

The volunteers hope to be at the Sweetwater Station parking lot, 425 South Main Street, from 9 am to 6 pm on Friday and 9 am until they sell out on Saturday.

Rotarians have 2,500 pounds of crabs on order. Boiled crabs will be sold for \$10 each to help raise money for the Rotary's scholarship program. Last year, \$10,000 was awarded (as 10 \$1,000 checks) to lucky Willits High School and Willits Charter School recipients.

If crabs are unavailable this weekend, the group will gather at a future weekend at the La Bodega parking lot.

Watch Willits Weekly for more information, if the event is rescheduled.

December is the

Month of Giveaways

at Mane Effects Hair Design



Like our page on Facebook for a chance to win:
12 Free Haircuts
Gift Bags
25% off all Services

1573 South Main Street in Willits 707-459-1429

Gift Wrap for the Pups!

Bring in your presents from
November 30th till Christmas eve



carhartt.

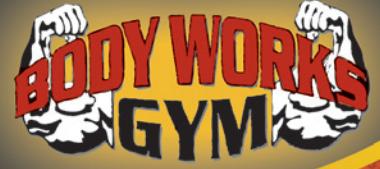
20% off

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

Mike & Mary's dog, Rascal, hopes to see you all there!

and let Willits Power wrap them for you!

Prices range: \$2 - \$4 PER gift
Boxes are available if needed in store!



Get ready for the New Year!

Holiday Special:
10 uses for \$10

Offer good until 12/31/13



First Annual Holiday Season Special
Dec. 1st to Dec. 31st

\$29.95 + Tax

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

**FREE Brake Inspection
FREE Tire Rotation
FREE 37-Point Inspection**

(Oil change not needed for free inspections.)

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

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

Specials not for commercial accounts.

Bill Carter - Owner

707-459-1344

101 N. Lenore Ave. • Willits



**Dinner For 2
\$19.95**

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

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

(707) 459-5702

Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

166 South Main Street Willits, CA 95490

Willits Weekly | December 12, 2013

Pg. 3

Puzzle Page

In the Stars...

ARIES

Mar 21 - Apr 20

Participate in something new and interesting this week, Aries. The perfect activity will present itself in the next few weeks, so be sure to keep your eyes open.

LEO

Jul 23 - Aug 23

Every day is a learning process, Leo. You will find that there are a number of new ideas swirling around in your head, and if you pin one down, you may be on to something.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 - Dec 21

Sagittarius, you are having so much fun lately that it almost seems like life is a game. Just don't get so caught up in the good times that you overlook your responsibilities.

TAURUS

Apr 21 - May 21

Taurus, delay any upcoming shopping excursions for the time being. Your coffers are getting a bit sparse, and you need to conserve the rest of your funds.

GEMINI

May 22 - Jun 21

Listen to advice this week, Gemini. Loved ones only want to help and provide support, so keep that in mind when those closest to you offer some guidance.

CANCER

Jun 22 - Jul 22

Cancer, your suspicions may be aroused by someone who has been paying more attention to you than normal. It could be something completely innocent, but right now you're not sure.

VIRO

Aug 24 - Sept 22

Your colleagues at work may be making things difficult, Virgo, but there is nothing you can do about it right now. Just work your hardest, and things will turn out for the best.

LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 23

Libra, prepare to juggle multiple responsibilities in the coming days. Be ready to multi-task and expect to be pulled in multiple directions.

SCORPIO

Oct 24 - Nov 22

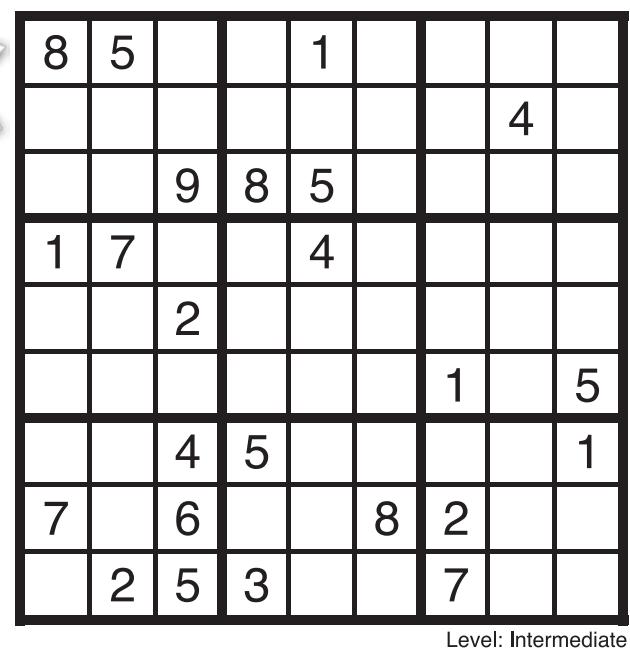
Scorpio, a small misunderstanding turns into a larger battle this week. But you have the power to put the flames out quickly by keeping a cool head.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20

Pisces, your head may be in the clouds, but it is quite comfortable up there. Just don't linger up there too long.

Sudoku



Level: Intermediate

How To Sudoku:

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



Ohi Grove in Brooktrails. Photo by Anthony Cody



Snowy trees and roadway. Photo by Nicole McLeod-Basler



Morning in Brooktrails. Photo by Maresa Kendrick



Snowy tree out at Hearst. Photo by Thea Cohen



Little Lake Ranch. Photo by Tracy LeGris

Furry Friends

Hoping for a home



Meet the very handsome Twister, a 2-year old neutered male! We believe him to be a Labrador Retriever/Airedale Terrier mix, and he previously lived at our shelter. As a teen he was rather a 'wild child,' but his charm and good looks got him a home quickly. He then lived on a ranch with another dog (a Border Collie), as well as many foster children with whom he was very loving and gentle with. His previous family told us that he was a wonderful pet and was also very smart. He knows numerous commands and he's very eager to learn more. Unfortunately, livestock are too tempting for some dogs, and he bothered the sheep one time too many – so he was brought back to us. He has since calmed down to be a fabulous dog. We think he will make a great family pet in a non-rural environment, and since he has been a part of a family, we expect he will be an easy addition to his new home.

Call Adoption Coordinator Katherine Houghtby at (707) 467-6453.

Photo by Rod Coots

Goodbye to a Friend

Sheri Cronin
Columnist

Today we said "goodbye" to our mare Beatrice – almost 10 years to the day from the day we picked her up in Roseville. She was about 16, pregnant lame and pretty much unbroken. What a deal, you might say, and you paid \$1,000 to get her out of Canada?

Well, yes, I did. Beatrice was one around 10,000 pregnant mares deemed no longer necessary by Wyeth, the pharmaceutical company that manufactures Premarin, a hormone replacement drug used by menopausal women. About 10 years ago the recommended dose of that drug was reduced by half, which resulted in the industry abandoning thousands of pregnant mares, most of whom went to slaughter. Equine rescue groups rallied to the occasion and attempted to place as many of these mares as they could – and

that's how Bea came to live with us.

From the beginning Bea was extremely apprehensive about people, especially men. Jessica, then 3 years old, could walk right up to her and pet her, but the rest of us were highly suspicious. She never really got over her mistrust of people; she got better, but never truly let her guard down. She loved baby horses though, and immediately "adopted" 6-month-old Joe and Pokie, who was only 3 months old. This is unusual behavior – most mares care only for their own young foals, but over time Bea adopted and mothered many creatures at our house, including two crippled pigmy goats.

Read the rest of
Goodbye
Over on Page 11

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It's time for the 2014 Phone book!
Deadline for ads is December 15
Send an email to: willitsphonebook@gmail.com and get your business included this year!
Ad copy for changes can be sent to WPBAdCopy@gmail.com

It's time for the 2014 Phone book!
Deadline for ads is December 15
Send an email to: willitsphonebook@gmail.com and get your business included this year!
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Above: the Chanterelle trio, featuring left to right: Helen Falandes, Madge Strong and Diane Smalley.

Musical Delight

Despite the snowy weather, many folks came out to the 26th annual Christmas Chorale at the Church of the Latter Day Saints to listen to the musical talents of local performers, who sang and played songs of the season.

Cookies and merriment followed the performance and eventgoers were able to

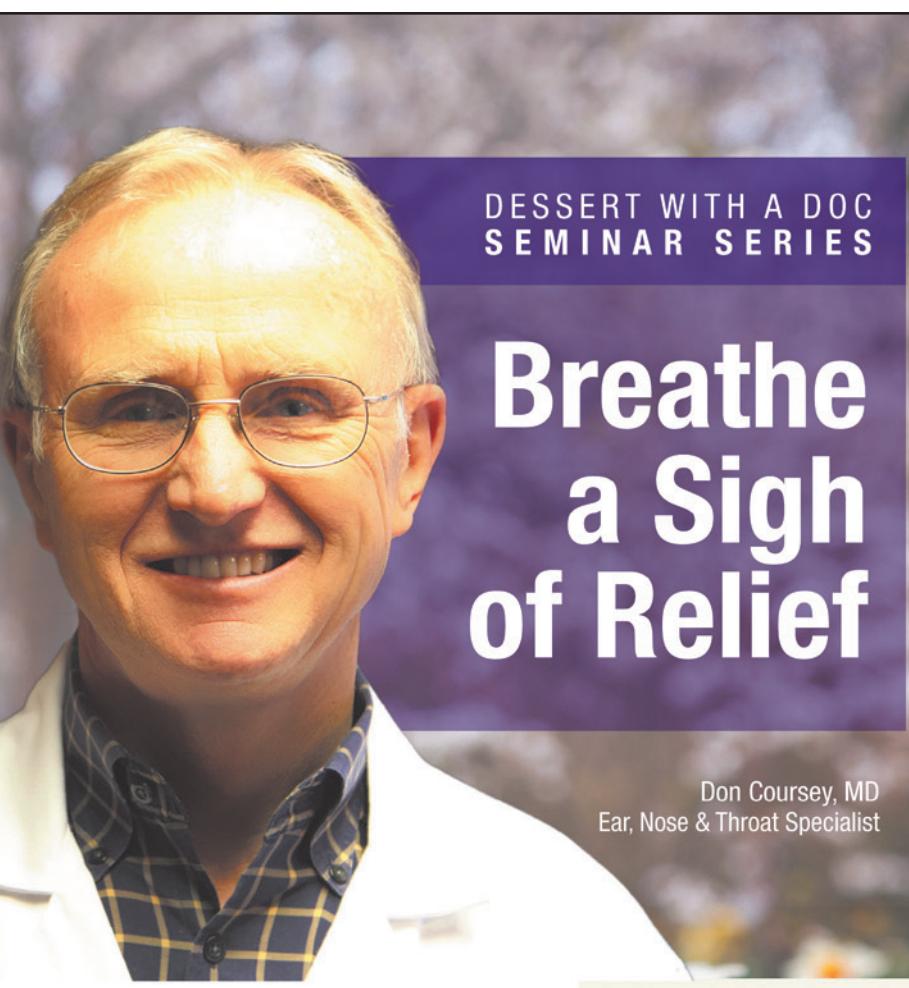
enjoy Nativity scenes and select tags from trees to help complete the needs of the Willits Community Christmas Program gift list. Bins were also out to collect canned goods for Willits Community Services and Food Bank.

Next year's event is already scheduled for December 14, 2014.



Above: Attendees listen to the music. Below left: Ed Reinhart, pianist, right after his performance. Below right: Performers wait in the "green hall" for their turn to sing.

Photos by Maureen Moore



DESSERT WITH A DOC SEMINAR SERIES

Breathe a Sigh of Relief

Don Coursey, MD
Ear, Nose & Throat Specialist

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

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

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Wishing all our customers a Safe and Happy “Ho Ho Holiday”

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of Willits
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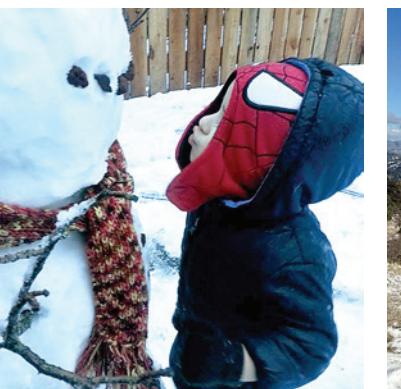
Monica and Hunter Doro



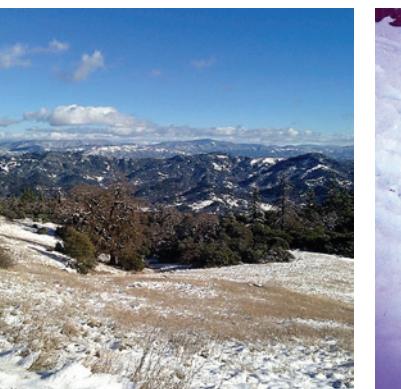
Brendan Pappadakis and Marley play. Photo by Colleen Pappadakis



The stream was a contrast of flowing and freezing water. Photo by Cheryl Jordan



Donavin kissing his snowman. Photo by Brittany Wilson



Pine Mountain. Photo by Sigrid Bielefeldt



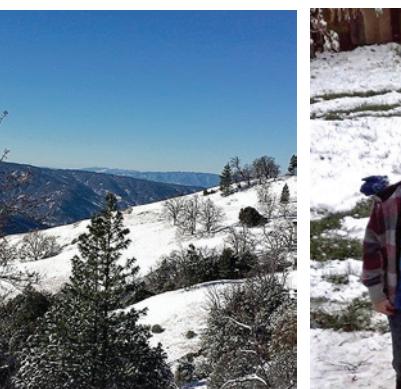
Connor in the snow. Photo by Nicole McLeod-Basier



Frosty Madrone. Photo by Cheryl Jordan



Frankie, Trent, Mariah and their snowman. Photo by Lauren Morris



Wintery Wonderland. Photo by April Lamprich



Kristina Wear's kids and their snowman. Photo by Kristina Wear



First Steps Daycare. Photo by Lauren Morris



Thursday,
December 12

Shanachie Pub: twice-monthly E.T. Jazz Jam, featuring Lincoln Andrews on upright and electric bass, Michael Cantwell on piano and keyboards, and Jesse Bessoni on drums. Jazz standards infused with funk, hip hop, world and free-form jamming. Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, December 13



A platter by Knox Gillespie

27th annual Holiday Crafts Fair: opens today from noon to 7 pm at the Willits Community Center. Open Saturday, December 14 from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, December 15 from 10 am to 4 pm. Fine arts and crafts for sale by nearly 30 artists

and artisans, with live music throughout the event, and delicious food and beverages provided by the Willits Charter School. A benefit for the Willits Center for the Arts. Info: 459-4792. See article on back page of Willits Weekly for more information.

A Ho Winter's Night!: Willits High School's 10th annual celebration, 6 to 8:30 pm at Willits High School, 299 North Main Street. Free. Music, drama, poetry and a visual arts exhibit by the high school's visual and performing artists, including WHS Jazz Band, Concert Band and Choir. Soup dinner fundraiser hosted by the Leadership class from 5 to 6 pm in the Wolverine Café. "Join us for a small-town celebration of our youth, their creativity and determination." See article on page 8 for more details.

Shanachie Pub: Mendocino Greenhouse & Garden Supply presents I-Taweh & The Reggae



Winter Solstice at Wowser

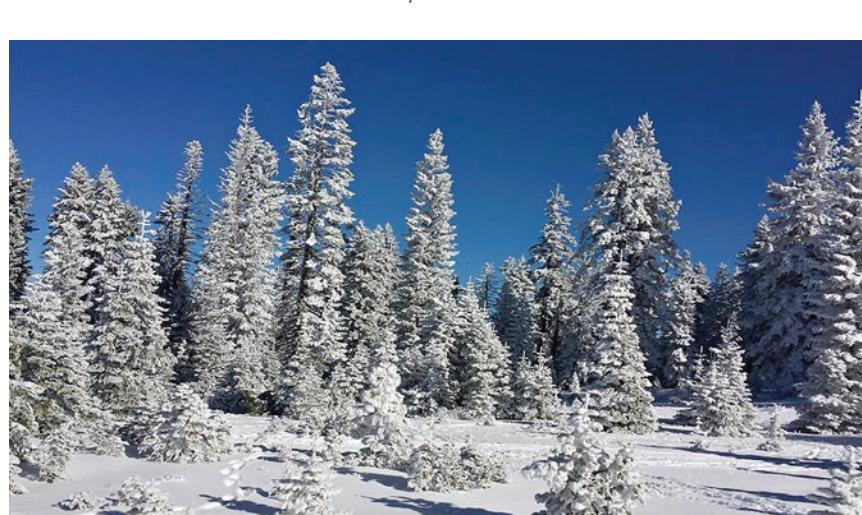
Wowser Winter Solstice Celebration: Wowser and Mendo Tribal Werkz present "Audio Corroboree, A Winter Solstice Celebration," Saturday, December 21. "A Night to Remember," debuting Mendo's new community arts/build space, at Wowser, 330 East Commercial Street.

Featuring heavy-hitter DJs An-Ten-Nae (acid crank from San Francisco), iNi (trip hop, dub step, drum & bass, & down-tempo, Sebastopol), Zack Darling (mashup-meets-bass-fusion, North Bay), and Lexonic (progressive trance, Bay Area).

Lights by AuroraScope and Manna Light; sound by Full Circle; deco by Psyesthesia and Full Circle, and aerials by Circus Mecca. 18-up to enter. 21 to drink @ the outdoor bar. 7 pm to midnight. \$20 at the door; no presales. A benefit for Wowser; free entry for Wowser members. Designated drivers get 5 free sodas. Visit: www.wowserllc.com; www.audiocorroboree.com



Connor's Elf on a Shelf mid-snow angel. Photo by Nicole McLeod-Basier



Snowy trees. Photo by April Lamprich



Maddax and Spencer Kendrick in Brooktrails. Photo by Maresa Kendrick

Mariposa Market
Closed Thanksgiving Day
Back open from 11 am - 7 pm on Friday
Organic Satsuma Mandarins
5-lb Gift Box - \$11.99
800 S. Main St., Willits
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NOYO THEATRE Willits, CA
Times for 12/13 - 12/19
THE HOBBIT: DESOLATION OF SMAUG (In 3D)
(PG13) 2hrs 41mins
Fri to Sun: 1:30, 5:00, 8:30pm
Mon to Thurs: 5:00 & 8:30pm
FROZEN
(PG) 1hr 48mins
Friday: 3:00, 5:30, 8:00pm
Sat/Sun: 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00pm
Mon to Thurs: 5:30 & 8:00pm
HUNGER GAMES CATCHING FIRE
(PG13) 2 hrs 26 mins
Fri to Sun: 2:15, 5:15, 8:15pm
Mon & Tues: 5:15 & 8:15pm
STARTS WED, 12/18: ANCHORMAN 2
(PG 13) 1 hr 59mins - Wed & Thurs: 5:15 & 7:50pm

Happy Holidays from Sparetime Supply!
SANTA RAT RESERVE NOTE
Subject to stock on hand
\$50
Enter to win at Sparetime Supply
S 12-26-13 C
Promoter: Treasurer of the North Pole
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Holiday Hours:
Monday - Saturday: 9 am - 6 pm
Sunday: 10 am - 4 pm
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Win 1 of 10 \$50 certificates
We will close at 2 pm on Tuesday, December 24th and re-open on Thursday, January 2nd
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208 E. San Francisco Ave. Willits, CA

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\$125 flat fee*
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1 dumpster = 4 truck loads!
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Willits Furniture's Annual Toy and Food Drive
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*See stores for details.

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Right: The Christmas windows at the Flower Lady of Willits.

Below: Goods' Shoppe has a festive window filled with toys and games for good girls and boys.

Photos by Jennifer Poole

A season of beauty

Christmas windows in downtown Willits

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
jennifer@willitsweekly.com

Strolling on the sidewalks of downtown Willits is like "Walking in a Winter Wonderland" this month.

The windows and storefronts of many downtown businesses have been transformed into wonderful and varied winter and Christmas scenes, with festive lighting creating a holiday atmosphere.

Art historian Gary Martin has been doing downtown windows in Willits for four years now, changing the window décor every month for the businesses he works with.

But Christmas is the biggest season of the year, when it comes to business windows.

"Christmas is a gift from the businesses to the community," Martin said. "A lot of money goes into the Christmas windows."

The first windows Martin did in Willits were for the Flower Lady. Owner Arcelia Duran says she gets comments all the time on how beautiful her window displays are, and she knows the windows draw in customers, not only locals, but also people passing through town.

"I'd just like to say

Read the rest of Windows
Over on Page 11



CHRISTMAS TRAIN

X-45

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

SKUNK TRAIN

Willits Depot
December 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23
707 964-6371 • www.SKUNKTRAIN.COM
CHILDREN (2-12): \$25 • ADULT: \$35



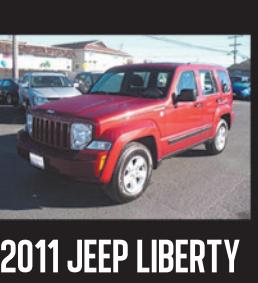
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IT'S 4 WHEEL DRIVE MONTH AT SPORT DODGE!!

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2012 GMC CANYON
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200 CHESTNUT STREET FORT BRAGG, CA 95497



The rest of
Windows | From Page 10

"thank you," to Gary," Duran said, "because I think he's been doing such a good job. I think everybody appreciates what he does, and I hope he will keep doing it for many years."

"Gary told me at the beginning," she said: "I want to bring light to downtown Willits."

Flower Lady has a Nativity scene in one window this year; the figurines are arranged on a bed of red silk poinsettias, with a swathe of dark green cloth behind, decorated with a big silver star and bright white lights.

The other window has a backdrop of birch trees on cloth, with a dense forest scene on the left, including a Christmas tree decorated with white metallic balls and many white Christmas lights. The other side features more greenery and white lights, along with striking bouquets in red and white.

McMenomey said she was convinced Ygrena had enough capital to cover those bank loans.

Their permit delay will last forever. The 2,000 acres will eventually be auctioned off to the highest bidder, a disaster for rural land.

And where is the law over the lawless? It isn't the Highway Patrol; they are paid servants.

Caltrans single-minded objective is the law now.

The freeway through the Willits valley has become a trophy in the relentless hunt of big

interest profit. The California Transportation Commission is made up of oil, tire, car, mall,

and road construction interests.

Did we kneel to folly on purpose? Certainly not. Everybody always has his excuses. Our representatives believed Caltrans, that there is no middle way, either a four-lane freeway or nothing. Of course that line is a lie. There are roads all over the state that are not freeways.

They work. The worst thing our leaders have done is believe what big pockets peddled to us as the truth.

As far as Ms. Covin's ignorant round-about objection, that it is a foolish dangerous idea, she should have no complaint really. Caltrans designed the round-about – before it adopted the strategy that the biggest tax-consuming project is the only possible one.

Ms. Covin doesn't seem to realize that big profit has no morality. It doesn't give a damn whether she and her demon-chasing tactics support its success or not.

McCown later confirmed Tuesday's vote on PACE does not mean the program is a done deal. Following the January 21 public hearing on the establishment of a Community Facilities District, the county must take another series of actions to start the program. One of those processes will be a validation process, during which McCown said "the county will essentially study itself" to determine the project is OK.

But McCown added he is confident the 3-2 majority on the board (supervisors McCown, Dan Hamburg and Dan Gjerde) that wants the PACE project to move forward will hold. "It's clear that Mendocino County will have a PACE program," McCown said.

Martin created a "snowstorm" in Jinx's window, with the help of seven volunteers who spent three hours, fueled by a glass or two of wine, stringing bits of cotton balls on lines. People get excited about seeing these creations come to life," Martin said.

Classic Christmas toys fill the windows at another client store of Martin's, the Goods' Shoppe. Teddy bears, dolls, books, a Jack-in-the-box and a nutcracker soldier are displayed, along with wrapped presents, greenery and jaunty red-and-white hats.

During the day she let Pokie and Joe, her other two "kids" sleep on her bed, just like a human mom might. Finally, the night came and, in near freezing conditions, she gave birth to a red colt: "Apple Crisp."

I was right there; I straightened out a front leg and made sure the amniotic sac wasn't obstructing his nostrils. I felt the same sense of excitement and awe I always feel when a foal is born ... and this one was ours.

As the minutes progressed, I became very concerned because Bea hadn't turned back to look at her foal or in any other way acknowledged his presence. That's very unusual, especially for a mare who has had many foals. She just refused to look around, totally ignoring her tiny, soaking wet, helpless foal. Finally, I picked him up, carried him around to her head and left the paddock. She seemed to just light up. She was so joyful ... she licked him and nickered to him and did all the things a mare should do.

Blue Sky Gallery owner Suzanne Picetti is also a fan: "Gary is one of the most creative people I know," she said, "but he's also an educated designer." Martin has a master's degree in art history and humanities curriculum.

"Every window he does, he starts with a concept and includes all the design elements to make a great window," Picetti said. "He's a delight to work with. He keeps me inspired, and it's a lot of fun."

Picetti, too, says people comment on her windows all the time. "People look at the windows," she said, sometimes people that wouldn't ordinarily stop to look, "and they make people want to come in." Blue Sky's "Christmas" window this year is a display of pottery pieces in subtle, desert colors, in round and upright shapes, with glassware, jewelry and a sculptural wood piece mixed in. Soft green and gold Christmas ornaments hang on ribbons, and white lights form an outline. "It's a beautiful window," Picetti said. "it's one of my favorite windows, the one right now."

Who caused the disputed delays, really? She says "the protestors." The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hasn't threatened the protestors with suspension of the wetlands permit to build. There must be another culprit in the works. The Environmental Impact Report mitigations, by the promise to which Caltrans got its approval, have been trashed.

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McMenomey said she was convinced Ygrena had enough capital to cover those bank loans.

Contract.

McMenomey said Ygrena has agreed to charge a \$100 fee from each applicant. Those funds will go to the county to defray county expenses in monitoring the program in the future.

Supervisors John Pinches and Carre Brown again stated their reasons for opposing the PACE program. Pinches asked what would happen if no one signed up for the program, and wondered if Ygrena had enough funds to repay the county the approximately \$3,000 it owes for staff time.

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Crafts Fair this weekend
Fine arts, crafts, food, music, and kids' fair at the Community Center

Willits artist Morgan Rex will be returning to the Holiday Crafts Fair for the second year this weekend. He will be featuring metal and glass works at the fair, including wind chimes and starburst suncatchers.

"My signature wind chime piece is an angel," Rex said. "I started doing that design 16 years ago. It's been my best-seller throughout the years." Rex's "cat tail" design – not plants, but cats with long tails – are popular wind chimes, also.

Rex's starbursts are made with stainless steel and, primarily, glass centers. Although he uses precious stones sometimes, "glass is the best choice," he said, because it lets the light through best. "If it doesn't let light through it, I'm not interested. I use everything from gazing bowls to marbles to crystal balls, to bowls I pick up at second-hand stores that make a perfect ball shape," he said.

Rex's pieces "last a lifetime and then some," he said. "That's one of the things I feel really blessed about this medium, that what I do is going to live lifetimes."

Visit: willitscenterforhearts.org/home/images/24.jpg and www.rexchimes.com/sunbursts.htm to see Rex's work.

The 27th annual Holiday Crafts Fair, at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street, will open Friday, December 13 (noon to 7 pm) and continue Saturday, December 14 (10 am to 6 pm) and Sunday, December 15 (10 am to 4 pm).

In addition to fine arts and crafts for sale, the fair features live music, a Kids' Crafts Fair, and delicious food and beverages provided by the Willits Charter School. A benefit for the Willits Center for the Arts. Info: 459-4792.

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