A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits Donations Accepted Edition No. 236 Thursday, December 14, 2017

Willits

Online & Print

Board committee looks at **Class K** ordinance

Mike A'Dair Reporter mike@willitsweekly.com

Dan Supervisors Hamburg and John McCowen, who comprise the board of supervisors' Public Health, Safety and Resources Standing Committee, tried to find workable compromises staff on Monday to recommendations that would revise and amend Mendocino County's 1981 Class K housing ordinance. committee The was stymied to some extent

stymied to some extent because several policy Read the rest of

Class K | Over on Page 15

Willits woman dies in Highway 20 crash

A Willits woman died Monday afternoon when her 2001 Toyota 4Runner left Highway 20 near Irmulco Road, overturned and struck several trees.

Nanette Williams was driving west at 1:50 pm when her SUV left the roadway for undetermined reasons, overturned several times, struck a group of trees and came to rest on its roof, state traffic



The holidays are almost here!

... and that can mean only one thing: It's also time for the annual Willits Weekly Cookie Party!

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

The public is welcome to come and sample cookies and vote for their favorite. Four esteemed judges: Little Lake Fire Department's Fire Chief Chris Wilkes, Brooktrails Fire Department's Chief Daryl Schoeppner, Brooktrails Fire Department's Deputy Chief Jon Noyer, and Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman will vote on the Judge's Choice winner (under the criteria of "which do you want to eat the whole plate of?"), and Willits City Mayor Gerry Gonzalez will be choosing this time for the same Caramel Nut Bars, which she also refers to as "crack bars." Adams was graduated to the judge's side of the contest after two consecutive wins, and helped name Lisa von Schlegell as the winner in 2015 for her "Aunt Polly's Munchins" entry. The 2016 winner was John Pilatti and his Sea Salt Caramel Shortbread.

This year's new trophy for Best Decorated features a green Bundt pan, surrounded by a sparkling green garland. The pan sits atop a pedestal and features a sparkling cookie cutter at its center. Items to create the new trophy were purchased from the Willits Senior Center's Christmas Store. Names of winners will be listed inside the shiny pan. Anyone interested in trying their hand at baking is very welcome! Entering the contest is free of charge; we ask bakers to create 5 to 6 dozen pieces (individual cookies can be cut into smaller pieces) for tasting. Bakers' set-up is around 4:30 pm. Official judges will taste and cast their votes at the beginning of the event, and People's Choice voting will finish at the end of the event.

Trustee Harris resigns from school board

lookina

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Joanne Moore Reporter joanne@willitsweekly.com

The Willits Unified School District Board of Trustees meeting on December 6 began with all five members in attendance. It ended with four.

Election of new officers was the board's first action item, with President Chris Neary nominating Trustee Alex Bowlds for the president's position. The board voted in favor of the nomination, 4 to 1, with Trustee Laurie Harris voting

Read the rest of Harris Over on Page 15

Redwood Empire Cleaners demolished

Mike A'Dair Reporter mike@willitsweekly.com

The building that formerly housed the old Redwood Empire Empire Cleaners, at 69 West Mendocino Street, was demolished on Monday and Tuesday of this week.

The demolition is the most recent step in ongoing cleanup and abatement of the property ordered by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board in 2009.

officers say.

Williams, 42, died at the scene.

CHP officers returned to the scene Tuesday to investigate the reason for the accident.

This report was based on a press release from the California Highway Patrol.

Covelo woman dies in Tuesday crash

A 64-year-old Covelo woman died and her 31-year-old passenger is recovering at Howard Memorial Hospital following a Tuesday accident on Highway 101.

State traffic officers report the woman, whose name is being withheld pending notification of her next of kin, was driving south on the highway in a 2001 Dodge pickup truck just before 12:30 pm when the truck failed to negotiate a turn near mile post 101 while traveling at about 65 mph.

The accident took place at the south end of a straight stretch of roadway as the highway's southbound lanes curved to the left, the California Highway Patrol said.

The pickup apparently crossed the solid-white edge line and rumble

Read the rest of Crash Over on Page 15

a winner this year for a new category: Best Decorated cookie. Each of the winning entries will earn their baker an inscription on the delightfully tacky, yet coveted, perpetual trophies.

The People's Choice trophy is a sparkling terra-cotta pot with a glistening whisk proudly perched atop. Previous winners include: Lisa Reed and Kylie Reed of the Les Schwab Tire Center team in 2013 for their Mocha Crinkles; Ashlynn Dudley and Emma Garman of the ER Energy team in 2014 for their Crispy Caramel Deliciousness entry; Kathryn Sterngold, who took home the award in 2015 for her Lemon Snowflake Cookies; and last year's winner was the Elf Pie entry by the current title-holder, the Healing Central Chiropractic crew – Shawna Handschug, Alaska, River and Izzy Perry.

The Judge's Choice trophy is a shiny cookie sheet, adorned with cookie cutters and a hand-calligraphed banner atop a wooden hinged easel. Previous winners include: Tam Adams of Emandal in 2013, who won for her Caramel Nut Bars; Adams won the award again in 2014,

Willits Weekly' Annual COOKIE Centes

2013 TAMARA ADAM'S

2014 TAMMER ADAMS Emerdel-A Farmon a Par Baker's forms are available via download at willitsweekly. com/WW-Cookie-Entry.docx or from the Facebook event page – just search on Facebook for "Willits Weekly Cookie Party."

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

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

– Maureen Moore

At top: Liz Flynn, left, and Shawna Handschug give Santa a smooch at last weekend's Photos with Santa fundraising event at J.D. Redhouse.

From far left: Willits Weekly's Cookie Party trophies include the Judge's Choice, People's Choice and the new award: Best Decorated. Trophies will be awarded at Friday's party.

Below, left: Garrett and Bonnie brought their dogs – who had a howling good time – to see Santa. Below, right: Mendocino County Care-A-Van's Julie, left, Bliss and Sarah smile with Santa.

See more photos with Santa and learn how much was raised during the weekend fundraiser over on page 6! Willits City Planner Dusty Duley was pleased when the old building came down. "Just having that building removed is a benefit to the city," he said. "It was no small task getting the funds together, and I'm sure the community appreciates that effort. As a city planner, what I am looking forward to is having that property

Read the rest of Cleaners Over on Page 15

Signature gathering for supes candidates starts December 14

Mike A'Dair Reporter mike@willitsweekly.com

The signature-gathering period for candidates for the 2018 board of supervisors elections, begins Thursday, December 14 and runs through February 7, 2018. The primary vote is set for June 5, 2018, and both the Third District and Fifth District seats will be open for new candidates.

According to the County of Mendocino Candidate

Read the rest of Signature Over on Page 15









'Twas two Fridays before Christmas

'Twas two Fridays before Christmas, and tradition it's become To gather for cookie tasting, and cast votes for the best one.

Scoops' walls were already 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 Main Street, there arose such a clatter, We sprang from the tables 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 plates, trays and tins Of many cookies and sweets, baked with hope for a win

Honor and bragging rights would soon be bestowed, For goodies that made everyone cry their best "Ho! Ho! Ho!"

Businesses, individuals and returning champions short and tall Set up tables displaying their goodies for the tasting of all.

More rapid than eagles, the tasters they came, And they sampled, and shouted, calling out their favorites by name!

"It's delicious, this fudge!" "Those cookies, oh my!" "The candy, divine! And the caramels, you must try!"

To Scoops Deli, the people they ran, "We must taste and cast our votes while vet we still can!"

Tallies were made, and the judges would name The best treats made by those who competed and came

Their photos in the paper the winners would see, With copies, we hope, of the winning recipes.

Merriment for all and friends, please do bring To enjoy chit chat and of course, to hear Nancy sing!

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 15 we will be, At Scoops Deli with T-shirts and many more good things to see. We encourage all to come with this cordial invite, As we say Happy Holidays to all, and to all a great

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Remember them

To the Editor:

Our little town is very small, and shrinking.

I make every effort to shop local, year-round, but especially during the Christmas season Big box stores, the convenience of shopping online, and the freeway bypass have made it very difficult for our small businesses to stay in business, but there's just something very special about opening a door, hearing a bell and the shop clerk saying things like "Hi, Gail!" "Let me know if I can help," or "Would you like that wrapped while you browse the store?"

I also enjoy craft sales made up of local artists with their one-of-a-kind beauties - even a handmade apron or heartshaped potholder is special when made by a friend or 2, 2018. a friend of a friend. The lobby area of the Willits Center for the Arts holds beautiful greeting cards. Imagine a photograph taken on the way to Emandal - surely that card sent halfway across the United States would hold a place of honor on someone's bookshelf.

And speaking of Emandal, Tam Adams' jams are available at both Mariposa Market and Cat's Meow. Now I ask you, where in the world could you find a jar of jam or jelly with a label that features artwork from a Willits artist?

Any number of stores offer gift certificates, which can include items other than merchandise, perhaps dinner out or a movie for a young couple with a new baby, or an older couple in desperate need of a "date night," or the wife of one of those brave firefighters who headed for Southern California ... a great way to celebrate their safe return. As I said, "Remember them...." And keep our town thriving.

Gail Richards, Willits

'A Winter Wonderland'

To the Editor:

"Holiday Lights a Winter Wonderland" is set for this weekend, December 15,16 and 17 from 5:30 to 8 pm each day. As the smoke clears, our whole community is healing from the challenges of this year. So why not come out for some community and family fun?

Add some sparkle to your holiday season and watch your children's faces light up for a magical holiday light display at the Commonwealth Garden orchard across from the new hospital. Enjoy some festive holiday snacks by the hospital's Roots Restaurant, and warm up with a cup of hot cocoa or hot apple cider as you take a stroll through the enchanted winter wonderland.

Kids are free (grown-ups, too, if you bring an unwrapped toy for the Willits Kids Christmas Program); suggested \$5 donation for adults. Proceeds benefit the Commonwealth Garden and Willits Center for the Arts.

Willits Area Cyclists will be building their bicycle wheel igloo, and Willits Furniture is bringing their light-covered horse and buggy. New groups like Mariposa Market and the Humane Society will make new light sculptures to delight the little ones. A big thank you to Ananda Johnson, Frank R. Howard Foundation and Adventist Health Howard Memorial for making this event possible. The forecast predicts cold, so bundle up and head on out to the see the lights.

elections

Five years ago, Carlin and I facilitated a meeting to discuss the qualities we wanted in our elected officials, to see who might be interested in running for office, and to work to elect the most gualified candidates. We want to do so once

We'd like to invite you to a meeting on Sunday, January 7, 2018, at 4 pm at the Hub, 630 South Main Street. Willits.

The meeting is for those who want to be engaged in the process as well as those who are considering running for either 3rd District supervisor, Willits City Council, or other elected office

The seating at the Hub is limited, and we'd appreciate your letting us know if you plan to attend by Tuesday, January

You can email us: Jed@MenAlive.com or CarlinDiamond@ gmail.com or phone us at 707-459-5505.

This is an exciting time to be part of this wonderful community, and we look forward to your presence on Sunday, January 7, 2018.

Jed & Carlin Diamond, Willits

Willits Farmers Market looking for vendors

To the Editor:

If you've been to the Willits Farmers Market lately, you probably noticed we were short on produce. Partly it's the time of year. When the number of daylight hours dips below 10 per day, most plants just stop growing or grow only very slowly. That's what happened to Green Uprising's salad greens. The mature ones are running out, the newly planted ones are hardly running at all.

For us here in Willits, these "Persephone Days" (named for the Greek goddess of vegetation who retreated to Hades every winter) start in mid-November and go to January 26. Things begin to turn around with the Winter Solstice on December 21, but very, very slowly. Plants pick up vigor and eventually grow furiously starting the last week or two of January.

In the meantime, pickings are slim in the winter garden unless you've planted a lot early. We didn't do that at Green Uprising for all sorts of mostly good reasons, but the result is a market table less and less full of produce that is sold out by 3:30 or 4 pm on market days.

Partly, the produce shortage is it's a lack of fruit and vegetable vendors. Some just burnt themselves out over the summer, despite the best of intentions to produce for the winter market. Joshua Sternberg, from the farm school at Ridgewood Ranch, decided to revamp his production style next year, so tore everything out early and planted cover crops in anticipation. Then, too, the number of produce vendors has been declining at the Willits Farmers Market for some time, for a variety of reasons.

Hence a call to action! Farmers Market is looking for folks with a surplus of fruit and vegetables willing to share them with neighbors at market. It could be you have more Meyer lemons than you know what to do with. Or lots of



Tag Time is Here Still time to fulfil a kid's wish list

There's still tags on Christmas trees at area businesses around town, distributed by the Willits Kids Christmas Program waiting to be claimed to fulfill a needy child's holiday Jennifer Poole dreams.

Editor & Reporter willitsweekly@gmail.com "I do this every year,'

said Melinda Clarke, who dropped off a toy Tuesday at Santa's HQ for the program the old Rexall building on Main Street. "It's so much fun!"

Tags list fun toys desired by kids, as well as clothing and other basics they hope to building for a little 1.5-yearsee on Christmas morning. Donors are encouraged to provide any or all of the At left, tags, listed items.

> Clarke had found "a really cool toy," she and squishy." said. "a slime maker machine. I was gonna find a kid who wants this toy, and I found an 8-year-old boy – Main Street Music had

Above: Volunteer "Pickles" poses with Melinda Clarke, who is donating toys to the program. Above, right: Tables ready for wrappers and numbers lined up for delivery routes at the old Rexall building.





At right, top.

Donation

buildina

located at for years - the motorcycle run and party at the corner of the Little Lake Grange that kicks off the toy Main Street and West Mendocino Lotus Baker also delivered her gifts Avenue. for her tag recipient, a 1.5-year-old boy, At right: A whose tag she found at Napa Auto Parks. hand-knitted The card requested cars, stacking toys and bear, made of hand-spun wool, will make its way also included a hand-spun, hand-knit bear, to a lucky because we wanted to give something soft recipient for the comina

Tags

501(c)3 non-profit, has put on the Toy Run

trucks. "We bought cars from Mazahar and

books from Buttercups," Baker said. "We

drive every year.









old boy. ready for the filling, still hang on the



- Maureen Moore

The Rules: LETTERS

night!

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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2018 elections meeting

To the Editor:

We can make our town a better place for everyone. Our community is going through a time of major transition, and 2018 will be a crucial year for engagement to bring about the positive change we want to see.

A number of elections are coming up that will impact our lives, and it's not too early to begin thinking about them. In June there will be the primary for the election of the 3rd District supervisor. As you know, Tom Woodhouse resigned his position, and his replacement, Georgeanne Croskey, is not running in 2018.

There will be two seats open for our Willits City Council election in November 2018 (Ron Orenstein and Larry Stranske's terms are up then). There are also school board

persimmons. Or walnuts. Or kale. Whatever you have would be welcome at market, particularly in these weeks before Christmas, but in the dark days of January as well. In fact, all year 'round.

How do you do it? Well, first of all it has to be said that the California Department of Food and Agriculture doesn't make it as easy as it could be (and is, in other states). Willits Farmers Market is a "certified" market. What does that mean? Not much that makes any difference to consumers. Supposed to be protection against vendors selling produce they've picked up wholesale elsewhere, that is, not from their own farm, the process is mostly paperwork, plus a small tax on sales.

But if you want to sell fruit and vegetables at market you have to be "certified" by the county ag commissioner. It's not hard, and it's not expensive. There's a bit of paperwork that your market manager (yours truly) can help you with. But it does entail a trip to Ukiah.

And there's a second hoop: you have to become a member of the Mendocino County Farmers Market Association,

Read the rest of Over on Page 13 Letters

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COYOTE VALLE CASINO



Crossword Puzzle & Sudoku

4						8		How To
			6					Sudoku:
	8			2	3			Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3
		2				7	1	boxes. To solve a Sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9
				7	9			must fill each row, column and box. Each number can
2			5					appear only once in each row, column and box. You
			9		1	3		can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the
								numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The
	3					9	5	more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve
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December 4 to December 10

By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

How To Sudoku:	The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 138 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.	1:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1700 block of South Main Street.				
Sudoku puzzles are matted as a 9x9 grid, oken down into nine 3x3	Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests	4:22 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1400 block South Main Street and issued a warning.				
xes. To solve a Sudoku, e numbers 1 through 9 ust fill each row, column	December 4 12:27 am: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of West Van	10:42 pm: Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 400 block of Grove Street.				
d box. Each number can pear only once in each	Lane.	December 8				
w, column and box. You n figure out the order which the numbers	1:55 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 800 block of South Main Street.	1:34 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of Margie Drive.				
I appear by using the meric clues already ovided in the boxes. The pre numbers you name,	12:18 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 700 block of South Main Street.	9:05 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of Madden Lane.				
e easier it gets to solve	December 5	1:21 pm: Officers initiated a burglary				
e puzzle!	3:42 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of South Main	investigation in the 300 block of South Main Street.				
N S I O N V O M Q I Q B	Street. 4:13 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 300 block of East Hill	4:37 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1300 block of South Main Street.				
I R R U L F R I G R E R Z Z L E P A L S Q V U O	Road. 7:57 pm: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 1400 block of South	8:24 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of North Main Street.				
Q B C T A N W U C E R M	Main Street.	December 9				
F F L E G Y W R R L O Z L E V S I T S L R I R U I C T S E O I N E D T E	10:29 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of South Main Street. December 6	1:22 am: HAMMOND, Blake Zachary (23) of Willits was contacted in the 400 block of East Commercial Street. He was arrested on felony charges of failure to				
E V G L L T F C D O E I U G T C H H T F P I S W A L L C O L O O I R V N	11:11 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.	appear. 8:41 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue.				
nroughout the puzzle.	6:06 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 1500 block of South Main Street.	3:40 pm: Officers responded to a report of a shooting in the area in the 200 block of Bonnie Lane.				
SUSTAINED TEMPERATURE TIMING VISIBILITY	9:35 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of McKinley Street.	6:43 pm: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 100 block of East Barbara Lane.				
WARNING WATCH WET	10:44 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1700 block of South Main Street.	7:31 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1500 block of South Main Street.				
WHITEOUT WIND	December 7 6:15 am: Officers responded to a report of a possible prowler in the 1200 block of	9:55 pm: Officers responded to a report of harassment in the 100 block of Alder Court.				
8 9	Blosser Lane.	December 10				
13 16	8:31 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1000 block of Poplar Drive.	7:47 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 2600 block of Mitomka Way.				
21 25	9:04 am: Officers initiated a vehicle theft investigation in the 100 block of East Commercial Street.	3:00 pm: Officers responded to a report of panhandling in the 700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.				
30	9:11 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue	3:17 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 1600 block of South Main Street and issued a citation				

Christmas Chorale

30th annual celebration of the holiday spirit through music at the LDS church

The 30th Annual Willits Community Christmas Councilwoman Madge Strong, sang a Hebrew Chorale, even though it was housed at the LDS church, was a non-denominational celebration of the holiday spirit as personified in the joyous they shall learn of war no more." voices of choruses and audience alike.

The capacity crowd – some of them having recently been through a test of faith and endurance with the Redwood fire - laughed, sang, and found themselves filled with the healing power of song. Mathew Caine

This is Roni Features Writer McFadden's fourth mathew@willitsweeklv.com year of organizing the

event. She inherited the responsibility when her son, the bishop of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints, asked her to become involved. The chorale was first organized 30 years ago by Jerry Caldwell, a community leader and member of the church, who was killed in an accident about 10 years ago. "The Christmas Chorale kind of fell off a bit

then because no one else knew how to produce it," McFadden said. "Jerry's daughter took over the leadership of the event, and it began to grow again."

The evening began with a welcome from McFadden who explained that this year there were no changes on the program "which is a miracle.' The opening invocation was offered by

Dennis Long, chaplain of Howard Hospital, He invited the "heavenly host" to sing along with the performers and thanked the Lord for "a peaceful place and a time to put away all our daily troubles, our problems, our work, and sit and enjoy and be in your grace and love." Next up was the incredibly cute and charming

presentation from Imagination Station Preschool singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and "I've Got Peace in My Fingers," which they signed in American Sign Language. The School of Developing Virtue Boys Chinese

Orchestra, who also played the opening music, set up in the front of the audience and played on their traditional instruments: bamboo flute, mouth organ, moon guitar, Chinese fiddle, and Chinese zither. The LDS choir sang lovely versions of

"What Child is This?" and "O Come, O Come Emmanuel. Clay Romero got everyone's attention

shouting "Merry Christmas!" as he took the stage to recite a poem, "Do You Know Balthazar?" He then sang a Christmas version of "Hallelujah" accompanied by almost everyone in the building in the familiar chorus.

A group new to the chorale, the Inland Valley Women's Chorus, under the direction and accompaniment on guitar of Willits City

song, "Lo Yisa Goi" which bespoke of the wish that "Nations shall not fight against nations and

Dawn McClelland soloed on a lilting version of "I Call Your Name."

The Willits Charter School Choir, under the direction of Erin Mendoza sang "A Festival Madrigal" and a Swahili song, "Kuimba!" which offered the message, "Come join us in our music, join us with music and love in your hearts."

Next it was time for the community sing-along, which was rousingly led by Michelle Snider and accompanied by Gloria Urich on the organ. Most of the audience participated, standing to sing the popular Christmas carols.

One of the highlights of the evening was the Room to Bloom Preschool who attempted to sing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." Some of the kids decided that hearing their voices on the microphone was more important than actually singing the song. It devolved into creative chaos, which resulted in Jake McFadden whisking his kids off the stage to the delight of the crowd.

Several more musicians and choirs followed: The LDS Women's Ensemble sang "My Gift, My Offering." Ed Reinhart played a deftly realized improvisational "Christmas Boogie." Erin Mendoza then soloed a hauntingly beautiful version of "O Holy Night." Next up was the St. Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church accompanied by Train Singer Greg Schindel, singing three songs of hope and peace. John Walczykowski, with his amazing, rich baritone,

sang "Somebody Talking 'Bout Jesus." The Emandal Chorale, which was formed 20 years ago for this event, filled the huge room with three songs, performed with their usual excellence of harmonies and intricate rhythms. They were joined in the last song, "Kalinka" (a Russian folk tune) by the Willits Charter School Choir.

Normally the program ends with the Emandal Chorale, but this year offered a surprise. From the back of the room, "Amazing Grace" was heard through the reedy drone of bagpipes, played expertly by Jasmine Marie Todd, much to the delight of the audience.

Closing remarks were given by Bishop Dale Abono, who invited the crowd to return on December 9 of 2018 to the next chorale. Train Singer Schindel gave the closing benediction, reminding us that "2017 has been a year with more than its share of tragedy, loss and heartbreak for all of us, because we are all connected and we are all one body in the sight

of God." He asked God to "please begin to mend our broken hearts with your constant love." And then there were cookies. Photos by Mathew



Above, left: Ed Reinhart waves to the crowd prior to playing "Christmas Boogie" on the piano. Above, right: Roni McFadden, organizer of the chorale, offers the welcoming remarks. Below: The capacity crowd at the 30th Annual Willits Community Christmas Chorale.





FRIDAY

30% Off

Above: The Willits **Charter School Chorus** accompanies the Emandal Chorale under the direction of Don Willis. At right: Erin Mendoza sings "O Holy Night." Far right: Two students from Room to Bloom Preschool vie for microphone time

THURSDAY



SATURDAY

20				21				20		25		50		
	1	31	32						33		34			
35	36									37				
38					39				40					
41				42		43		44				45	46	4
48			49		50		51					52		
53				54		55						56		
57			58		59				60	61	62			
	63	64						65						
		66						67					1	

CLUES ACROSS

5. Anwar ___, Egyptian

18. Supervises flying

20. Right-handed page

23. German municipality

28. Medical decision (abbr.)

22. NHL great Bobby

19. Having eight

25. Negotiate

27. Youngster

26. Keyboard key

30. Ribonucleic acid

31. One-time Levi's

35. Type of plywood

37. A way to unfreeze

38. Winter melon

41. An expression

42. Human gene

44. Touch lightly

of imagination

40. Dispute

33. Cold region

chairman Walter

10. Punjab province capital

1. Large jug

12. Evoke

14. Data

16. Exists

statesman

17. Comfort in a time 45. Computer giant 48. Garlands of sadness 50. Franz van ___, 18. Opponent German diplomat 21. Professionals might 52. Vineyard need one 53. Elk or moose 23. Captures geographical 55. Moved quickly data (abbr.) 56. Swiss river 24. Senior officer 57. Rhode Island 27. Sacred Islamic site 58. Fall into disrepair 29. Egyptian unit of capacity 63. Ancient Roman virtue 32. Comedienne Gasteyer 65. Removes 34. Performer ___ Lo Green 66. Slovenly women 35. Having only magnitude, 67. Comedian Rogen not direction 36. Cleft lip CLUES DOWN 39. Payroll company 40. Prohibit 1. Extremely high frequency 43. Stroke 2. Court 44. Does not acknowledge 3. Make a mistake 46. Hillsides 4. Change the appearance of 47. Austrian river 5. Long-haired dog 49. Passover feast 6. The Greatest of All Time and ceremony 7. Designer Christian 51. Golf score 8. Blemished 54. Hair-like structure 9. Atlanta-based rapper 59. Check 10. Deceivers 60. Extract metal from this 11. One who supports 61. Tell on disorder 62. Powdery residue 13. Colossal 15. A team's best pitcher 64. A part of the mind

11:42 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 200 block of North Main Street.	11:15 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of Creekside Drive.
LITTLE LAKE FIRE P	ROTECTION DISTRICT
December 6 to	December 12

12-11-2017

12-12-2017

• Traffic collision – Highway 20

• Traffic collision – Valley Road

• Traffic collision – Highway 162

Traffic collision – North Highway 101

South Main Street and issued a citation.

by LLFD Fire Chief Chris Wilkes

12-6-2017 Residential smoke detector activation

12-7-2017

Magnolia Avenue.

• Medical aid - "Echo" response Hazardous Condition

12-9-2017

Public service

Looking to find our Willits Weekly distribution boxes?

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





WEDNESDAY

Willits Weekly | December 14, 2017 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Pg. 5



Santa Photo Fundraisers

\$937.50 donated to local groups after weekend of photo shoots at J.D. Redhouse

the south side of the J.D. Redhouse building.

Sunday's event benefitted the Willits 4-H horse

group and the day's proceeds, which totaled

group which plans to use the money towards

new helmets. The 4-Hers also sold handmade

This is the sixth year local photographer

Maureen Moore has held Santa photo

fundraising events, and she noted her

for hosting the event, to all of the helpers who

who came out, waited in line, and willingly said

for additional funds.

several great groups each year.

Santa

horseshoe ornaments and cork horse figurines the occasion

the community, as well as help raise money for *crew posed*

Ashtan, Hanna and the crew of J.D. Redhouse and Archer

a whopping \$760, were split with the new

It was a packed (ware)house last weekend at around the corner, and down the sidewalk on J.D. Redhouse when folks from the community - and some just passing through - stopped in to have their photo taken with Santa Claus and raise money for local groups.

The event started on Friday, December 8, and that day's earnings, \$620, were split with the Mendocino County Care-A-Van. The group offers low-cost veterinary services to the public and works with the shelters to place animals in homes.

Saturday's event raised \$495, and proceeds were split with the Willits High School class of 2018. The senior class will use the funds to help pay for trips and class events over the coming months before graduation. Students from the Class of 2018 also held a bake sale for donations during the photo shoots and offered everything from cookies to pretzels and more for the delight of those waiting in line.

Sunday's event was certainly the busiest - the line wrapped out of the warehouse, "boogers!" while perched on Santa's lap.





Hot Cocoa Bar & Christmas cookies

羚 Bring a donation for the **Food Bank**



Above, fron

left: Roxie

the German

Shepherd waiting for

made his

with great-

grandma

Margie on

Santa's lap

Tinley was

dressed for

smiley photo

with Santa.

At right, top:

Some of the









Above: Willits 4-H horse group members, including, from left: Natalie, Mattea, little Natalie, Katie, and Danielle, pose with Santa. Below: Jake, Kaleb, Aybrie and Ashtan of J.D. Redhouse smile with Santa. At bottom. Iohnetta, Natalie and Jeremy stop by to pose with Santa Claus.

707.459.5193

Danne

stocking!

Georgia



New home? New number? New business?

Update your information with the Soroptimist International of Willits before the 2018 book prints! Get your number - residence or business or cell phone - into the local phone book! Members of the Soroptimist International of Willits are working on updating the Community Telephone Directory for 2018. Now is the time to let the club

or removals needed to

names, addresses or

You can also submit

changes to how you

by

willitsphonebook@gmail.

The Soroptimist phone

book is a handy and easy

way - the type is large

enough to read easily - for

you would like information

regarding advertising you

Businesses are

your information

regarding

emailing

also

phone numbers.

nformation

want

listed

com.

know about changes, additions SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF WILLITS OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF WILLITS locals to find you or your business. welcome to purchase advertisements that show up as display ads throughout the pages of the book. "Businesses that advertised COMMUNITY TELEPHONE DIRECTORY in the 2017 book should have received either an email or letter via U.S. mail regarding advertising costs and an "early bird discount," Patton said. "If can call 459-1606 or email the phone book committee at willitsphonebook@ gmail.com.

Willits Weekly also partners with the Soroptimists to not only help distribute 3,000 of the 4,000 copies of the book, but to offer advertisers a bundled rate if they choose to buy ads in the phone book and the newspaper, too. Bundled ads will run alongside Soroptimist-related content in Willits Weekly. Money collected for phone book ads goes to finance scholarships and other programs sponsored by the club.

For more information about changes and advertising, or on joining Soroptimist International of Willits, contact Patton at 459-1606 or email willitsphonebook@gmail.com. – Maureen Moore





Come for the train, surprise them with Santa!

Every child gets a special visit from Santa on this ride through a storybook about the giving spirit, friendship, and tradition.



Rides Dec 2 through Dec 23 SkunkTrain.com 707.964.6371





Pg.6 **Phone:** 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 **Email:** willitsweekly@gmail.com **Mail:** P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Willits Weekly | December 14, 2017 Willits Weekly | December 14, 2017 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Pg. 7

Thursday, December 14

"The Cannabis Hour": "Legendary Humboldt cultivator Kevin Jodrey" joins host Jane Futcher on the Cannabis Hour this week, offering do's and don'ts on: choosing the best strain for your farm (and your buyers);

coping with pests, mold and microbial contamination, and curing and storing. Thursday, December 14, 9 am, on KZYX Radio, 91.5-FM, Will take questions at 9:40 am: 895-2448.

Christmas Bird Jane Futcher Count in Willits: The

1st annual Willits area Christmas Bird Count takes place on Thursday, December 14. Note keepers and extra eyes needed. All those interested but not sure they have good enough bird ID skills to participate are welcome. At day's end, a potluck is held, and a bird total is compiled, then sent to the National Audubon Society and entered into the national database for bird population studies. Sign up for the Willits area count: Marisela de Santa Anna at 459-2681 or Mike Curry at 916-214-8623.

Cultivate Wellness Studio Open House: Share healthful gifts and services for your family and friends this holiday. Come for a complimentary cup of herbal tea, and learn about the wide array of consultations and products the studio offers. Thursday, December 14. from 3 to 6 pm. Cultivate Wellness Studio, Room #4, Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Info: Michelle J. Cummins at: 972-1601, or cultivateacupuncture.com, and Claudia Wenning, ND, MA, at: 354 3111, or claudiawenning.com.

Willits Farmers Market: Check out the market for locally produced Christmas gifts, including chocolates in gift boxes, gift subscriptions to Willits Weekly, handmade jams, jellies and savories in gift boxes, crafts, jewelry, balsamic vinegars, fancy teas and local honey and more. Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at

Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Veggies (come early for best selection), local meats and local grains, savory and sweet baked goods, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

'Santa's Cookie Problem': The BGMS Theatre Club, directed by Robert Ford Presents "Santa's Cookie Problem." Thursday, December 14. 6:30 pm. Baechtel Grove Middle School, 1150 Magnolia Street

Refreshments will be available.

Star Wars at the Noyo: Special opening night for "The Last Jedi. There will be multiple showings,

COLUMN | At the Movies

Columnist

really funny.



Friday, December 15

Little Lake Fire Department Fire

Chief Chris Wilkes, Brooktrails

Fire Department Chief Daryl

Schoeppner and Deputy

Chief Jon Noyer, and

Mendocino County Sheriff

Tom Allman. Willits Mayor

Gerry Gonzalez will

judge a special category:

2-7047.

"Best Decorated." Anyone

interested in signing up to

bake is welcome: download an

entry form from willitsweekly.com/

WW-Cookie-Entry.docx, or check out the

event page on Facebook under "Willits Weekly

Cookie Party." Info: willitsweekly@gmail.com or

Garden/Frank R. Howard Foundation.

are invited to perform: read poetry,

prose, play music and sing. Hosted by

Tristan Cockrell. Friday, December 15

Shanachie Pub: The Cult of Ours

band features music from many of

our locals, including Tom, Kyle, Jesse,

Donny, Simantha, Supergroovy, Page,

Simba and Sarah Rose, at this benefi

fundraiser for the Mendocino Disaster

Relief Fund to help victims of the

Redwood fire. Friday, December 15, 9 pm. No

cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info:

from 7 to 10 pm.

459-9194.

FFA will assist the local American Legion Post 174 Willits Weekly Cookie Party: 5 to 7 pm at Scoops with the Wreaths Across America Remembrance Frozen Yogurt and Deli, 110 North Main Street. Ceremony, followed by the placement of a Come sample cookies, vote for your favorite, wreath on each of our local veterans' graves. listen to live music with Nancy New, mingle with 9 am at the Willits Cemetery, Highway 20. Info: the community and celebrate the season. Free willitsfallenheroes@gmail.com, or call 841-7214. to taste, free to bake! Judges include

Winter Solstice Event at the Grange 291 Rehearsal: If interested in being a part of the presentation for the December 20 Winter Solstice

Event: children's dance, candle December 18 lighting, greeters, singers, poets all welcome, there will be a Shanachie Pub: Blue rehearsal from 11 am to noon Lotus plays rock and on Saturday, December 16, roll, blues, jazz, funk Little Lake Grange, 291 School and Americana. Visit:

Street Sit n Sew: Monthly drop-in sewing Info: 459-9194. group meets at the Willits Library. Free to all and open to the public. Bring your Tuesday, December 19

sewing machine, tools, and any project you would like to work on. Saturday, December 16. 1 to 5 pm. Willits Public Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: Rachel at 354-0605.

her Hometown Radio Holiday Lights-A Winter Wonderland: The Authors Read on KLLG 97.9: Frank R. Howard Foundation and Adventist Health Robin Rule will read from her Howard Memorial Hospital invite the community new book of young adult short to the Commonwealth Garden, at 90 Haehl stories "Trailer for Rent" on Creek Drive, for the 2nd Annual Holiday Lights Saturday, December 14, at 4 Celebration from 5:30 to 8 pm on three evenings, pm. KLLG 97.9 FM. December 15, 16, and 17. "Add sparkle to your

holiday season and watch your children's faces Local Author Talk at the light up" for the magical holiday lights display. Library: Jim Gibbons reads Bundle up, enjoy holiday snacks, and warm from, and speaks about his book up with hot cocoa or hot apple cider. "Flashbacks: A Memoir," about Parking will be available at the his adventures in 1970s Northern

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The Cult of Ours

hospital parking lot. Kids 12 & California from Sausalito to Willits. Saturday, under are free. Suggested December 16. 2 to 3 pm. Willits Library, 390 East donation \$5 for adults (free Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908. with an unwrapped toy for

Holiday Lights-A Winter Wonderland: the Willits Kids Christmas Christmas lights and fun from 5:30 to 8 pm at the Program). Proceeds to Commonwealth Garden at 90 Haehl Creek. See benefit Willits Center for the Friday, December 15 listing for more details. Arts and the Commonwealth Shanachie Pub: Crosby Tyler: "Back-porch

bluegrass with Delta blues in a one-man band." Youth Poetry Night: "Behind the Mic" open Visit: crosbytyler.com. Saturday, December 16. mic poetry reading at Brickhouse Coffee at the 9 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main corner of Main Street and Commercial Street. It's Street. Info: 459-9194. called "Youth Poetry Night" but people of all ages

Sunday, December 17

powers of movement and dance." Willits Environmental Center is sponsoring DJ Ryan Herr who leads participants "Movement through Resonance" at 10 pm, then "ecstatic dance" from 11 am to 1:30 pm. Price is December 21. 1 to 2:30 pm. \$15 per person. Children welcome at 11 am by Willits Public Library, 390 donation. Sunday, December 17. Willits Center for

Wreaths Across America" Day, the Willits 4-H and Commonwealth Garden at 90 Haehl Creek. See gifts, including chocolates in gift boxes, gift Friday, December 15 listing for more details.

> Dances of Universal Peace: The community is invited to chant the Lord's Prayer in its original language – Aramaic. Sunday, December 17. 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Room 4.

Little Lake Grange, School Street. Info: 459-9085 Monday,

No Tightwad Tuesday This Week: It's holiday

week at the Novo Theatre, 57 East Commercial

6696.

org

5908.

KLL

Street, so no Tightwad Tuesday this week.

For this week's movies and showtimes.

visit www.noyotheatre.com or call 459-

Discovery Day at the Library:

East Commercial Street. Info: **Blue Lotus** 459-5908. bluelotusband.com. Monday, December 18, 9 pm. Shanachie Pub: Dennis Chrisp will play solo No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. but may also include some of his friends from

> among our local talented musicians. Thursday, December 21. 8 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194. Friday,

December 22

Dennis Chrisp Discovery Day at the This "crafter-noon" is all about Library: Librarian Benjamin McBean will host picture frames. "Have fun with your "Stocking and Stories." Friday, December 22. family and make a lovely frame to 1 to 2:30 pm. Willits Public Library, 390 East take home." Tuesday, December Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908 19. 1 to 2:30 pm. Willits Public Library,

subscriptions to Willits Weekly, handmade jams,

jellies and savories in gift boxes, crafts, jewelry,

balsamic vinegars, fancy teas and local honey

and more. Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at Little

Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Veggies (come

welcome.

early for best selection), local

meats and local grains, savory

and sweet baked goods, live

music, the new edition of

Bridge Club: All levels

December 21. 4:30 to 7:30

pm. Willits Public Library, 390

Thursday,

Willits Weekly, and more.

390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-Shanachie Pub: Self Fulfilling Prophecies, this local band rocks elements of punk, folk, and rock. All original compositions. Visit: myspace.com/ selffulfillingprophecies. Friday, December 22. 9 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Winter Solstice Celebration at the Grange: Street. Info: 459-9194. Come on the Eve of the Winter Solstice on

Wednesday, December 20, 6 pm at the Little Lake Saturday, December 23 Grange, and let us celebrate the "return of de-

Shanachie Pub: Pre-Christmas Dance Party with light!" This year's theme is "Peace in our World, our DJ Joey D. Saturday, December 22. 9 pm. No cover. Shanachie Pub, 50 South Main Street. Info: 459-9194.



Celebrate Winter Solstice 2017 Wednesday, December 20th at the Little Lake Grange 291 School Street, Willits

> Bring in the Peace As the Light Returns .

Ongoing Events

Willits Farmers Market: Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Veggies, local meats and local grains, dinner, savory and sweet baked goods, gift items, jams and jellies, balsamic vinegars, local honey, artisan and fair trade chocolates, crafts, knitted goods and jewelry, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

Tools for Fire Victims at the Farmers Market: Every Thursday, the Farmers Market and the School of Adaptive Agriculture are collecting tools for those who lost their homes in the Redwood Complex Fire. Please bring donated tools to the Farmers Market on Thursday afternoons from 3 to 5:30 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. If tools are dull, Keith Rosen will sharpen them during the market. If unable to transport tools, contact Market Manager Michael Foley 216-5549 to arrange pick

"Small Works Show": The December show at the Willits Center for the Arts. features the work of 30 member artists, including painting, photography, jewelry, ceramics, blown glass, fiber art, metal work and more. The show runs through New Year's Eve. Gallery hours: 11 am to 5 pm. Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-1726.

"Boots and Tattoos Ladies Night Edition": Friday nights at Al's Redwood Room, 207 South Main Street. Drink specials. No cover charge. Info: 571-9288.

Willits International Folk Dancing: Every Thursday from 7

to 9 pm. Learn recreational cultural dances from around the world. Beginners welcome. No dance experience necessary. No partner needed. \$5 per class. Willits Charter School, 1431 South Main Street. Info: Megan Wolf, 530-647-6512 or megster1989@yahoo.com Twice-Monthly Parkinson's Discussion and Support Group: Meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 10:30 to 11:45 am. In the Conference Room at Willits Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

Info: 459-1941 Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Group: Meets every Tuesday at 6:30 pm, at the Muse, 31 East San Francisco

Avenue. Info: 456-9425 or honemann@yahoo.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 Willits Library Activities: Wednesdays: 11 to 11:30 am "Play Group," and 3:30 to 5:30 pm "Lego Day" (bring your imagination and start building); Thursdays: 11 to 11:30 am "Story Time"; Fridays: 5 to 6 pm "Youth Game Night" (ages 10 to 14). Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street. Info: 459-5908. Willits Seed Lending Library: Offering information on seed

saving and gardening. Seeds of flowers, herbs, and vegetables are free to seed library members, and seed donations are gladly accepted.

Al-Anon Meeting: Thursday nights from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Baechtel Creek Village Community Room (behind Rite-Aid) at the Evergreen Shopping Center. Saturdays at 10 am at St. Francis Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall, 66 East Commercial Street. "Al-Anon Family groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience strength and hope to solve their common problems. We believe that alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery." Drop-In Knitting Circle: Every Saturday of the month, from 2:30

to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "Bring your own projects or your yarn and needles; we have people who should be able to help solve problems and/or help you learn to knit or crochet. Sign-ups are not necessary everyone is welcome to drop in." Info: Lotus Baker at 456-9037, or lotusb3@earthlink.net

Soroptimists International of Willits: Women's service club aimed at the betterment of girls and women. Meets second and third Tuesdays of every month, noon to 1 pm, at Old Mission Pizza, 1708 South Main Street, in the back room. Women interested in community service are welcome; new members are encouraged to join at any time.

Life Changes: Discussion and support group with Linda Posner, Wednesdays from 10 to 11 am. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Volleyball Open Gym: Baechtel Grove Gym, 1150 Magnolia

Problem Thursday, December 14, 6:30 pm **Baechtel Grove Middle School** Performed by the BGMS Theatre Club Directed by Robert Ford

Santa's Cookie



Refreshments will be available



Time: 5:30 -9:00

Date: December 31, 2017 Door Opens at 5:00

\$20.00 Dollars Buy-In (Includes Meal and 1 Pack) Guarantee \$100.00 BLACK OUT



VARIETY SHOW WCS CULTURAL WCS ROCK BAND DANCE CLUB WILLITS CHARTER

CHORAL GROUPS AL PREVIEW OF ALICE IN



Eve! Christmas Eve Candlelight Service:

the "Reason for the

Season." The service

will feature local

musicians. Sunday,

St. John Lutheran Church invites the community to celebrate

Donations 6pm

Sunday, December 24 Merry

drums, songs, stories, candles, Spiral Dance!

include hors d'oeuvre, beverage and dessert.

at 26 Mill Creek Drive. For information: 459-2988

Christmas

Thursday,



and bring the whole family. Donations appreciated. Info: Diane Smalley at 456-9514, or dancesmallev@ willitsonline.com.

Wednesday, December 20

Ecstatic Dance at WCA: "Experience the healing Thursday, December 21 Discovery Day at the Library: "Get crafty and create your very own ornament."



Saturday, December 16 Veterans' Remembrance Ceremony: The Willits com

community is invited to help honor our local Holiday Lights-A Winter Wonderland: heroes. On Saturday, December 16, "National Christmas lights and fun from 5:30 to 8 pm at the

the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Info: Michelle Info: 459-5908. Cummins, 972-1601, or michellelephant@hotmail

Willits Farmers Market: Check out the market for locally produced Christmas

East Commercial Street.

A Cosmic Family

Band Benefit

Happening

Sunday, December 31

This New Year's Eve, Sunday,

December 31, A Cosmic Family

Band will be hosting a benefit

event for the Little Lake Fire

Department and Willits Food

Bank at the Willits Community

Center, 111 East Commercial

Street. Admission by donation,

and everyone is invited. Kicking

feature poets Robin Rule, Dan

Essman, Dan Roberts, W.J. Ray,

Linda Noel, and Mary Norbert

Korte. At 2 pm, music begins

with Sacred Songs and Body

Prayers with Lynn, The Farmers

5 pm, the Human Lightship

leads with Sound Healing and

Blessings for our Community

Potluck. Bring a dish to be a part

of this wonderful community

Market Band. and more. At CarlinDiamond@gmail.com.

December 24, / pm We will create prayer flags to fly St. John Lutheran above our town. Bring your Church, 26 Mill Creek positive thoughts to draw on a flag. Drive. Info: 459-2988.

Variety Show at Willits Charter School

Friday, January 12

Variety Show" on Friday, January 12 at 6 pm. The show features The WCS

Rock Band, WCS Cultural Dance Club, Willits Charter Choral Groups (The

Songbirds, Beginning Choral and Musical Theater Choral Ensemble), also

there will be a special preview of "Alice in Wonderland," and more. The doors

open at 5:45 pm. The tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Tickets

Community meeting

about next year's local elections

or Willits school board - and anyone who wants to be engaged in the process

- are invited to a community meeting on Sunday, January 7 at 4 pm at The

Hub, 640 South Main Street. Meeting facilitated by Jed and Carlin Diamond.

"We can make our town a better place for everyone. Our community is

going through a time of major transition, and 2018 will be a crucial year for

engagement to bring about the positive change we want to see. A number of

elections are coming up that will impact our lives, and it's not too early to begin

thinking about them." Because seating at the Hub is limited, organizers would

RSVPs by Tuesday, January 2 at 459-5505, or email: Jed@MenAlive.com, or

Sunday, December 24

December 16 and 17

Those considering running for Third District supervisor, Willits City Council,

Willits Charter School, 1431 Main Street, presents: "The Spice of Life

Street. Sundays 7 to 9 pm, and Tuesdays at 7:30 to 9:30 pm Some experience desired, but not required. \$5 per night; first night free. Info: Jeff at 354-1850.

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

Free Sheriff's Activity League programs: at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3 to 5 pm. Karate: Thursday, Little Dragonsages 3 to 6, 5:15 to 6 pm. Youth Karate-ages 6 to 11, 6 to 7 pm; Tweens to Adults-ages 11 and up, 7 to 8:30 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/ MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565

Shanachie Pub: Singer-songwriter Aaron Ford every first Thursday at 7 pm. No cover. Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday. 8 pm. "Local musicians ... take jazz standards and infuse them with funk, hip hop, world, and free form jamming. The outcome is unexplainable." Open Mic Night every Wednesday. Sign up for the lottery from 3 pm, when the Pub opens, to 7:30 pm. "An eclectic array of local musicians and even performers from around the world!" 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant, Info: 459-9194

Laytonville Farmers Market: Mondays, from 2:30 to 5:30 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville. Local fresh fruits and vegetables, artisan goat cheeses, ranch meats, eggs, handcrafted clothing, live music and much more.

Musical Benefit for Redwood

Valley Fire **Celebrate the Christmas Season** Survivors December 14

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at St. John Lutheran Church, Sunday, December 24 at 7 pm. The service will be featuring local musicians. "Join us Cosmic Pickle Productions to celebrate the Reason for the Season!" St. John Lutheran Church is located presents the California Honeydrops and the Real Sarahs, performing Thursday, December Winter Arts Faire at the Mateel The 41st Annual Winter Arts Faire takes place December 16 and 17 at the Mateel Community Center in Redway. This family event will feature nearly 50 artisan booths, musical entertainment & children's activities including a visit from Santa. Creative vendors, handcraft artisans, and non-profit organizations

📓 🚺 POVTH POETRY NIGHT FRIDAY DECEMBER 15TH the Brickhouse 7PM - FREE - All Ages speak your mind Hosted by Tristen Cockrall



It's almost time for Willits Weekly's annual Cookie Party! This year, we will be celebrating at Scoops Frozen Yogurt and Deli, 110 North Main Street, from 5 to 7 pm on Friday, December 15. The public is welcome to come and sample cookies and vote for their favorite. Judges for the "Judges Choice" award include Little Lake Fire Department Fire Chief Chris Wilkes, Brooktrails

Fire Department Chief Daryl Schoeppner and Deputy Chief Jon Noyer, and Mendocino County Sheriff Tom Allman. Willits Mayor Gerry Gonzalez will judge a special category: "Best Decorated Cookie." Each of the winning entries will earn their baker an inscription on the delightfully tacky, yet coveted, perpetual 14 at the Redwood Valley Grange, trophies. Anyone interested in trying their hand at baking is very welcome! 8650 East Road. Doors open 6 Entering the contest is free of charge. We ask bakers to create 5 to 6 dozen pm; music from 7 to 10 pm. "Let's pieces (individual cookies can be cut into smaller pieces) for tasting. Bakers' bring the community together set-up is around 4:30 pm. Official judges will taste and cast their votes at with music and food to benefit the beginning of the event, and People's Choice voting will finish at the end the survivors of the Redwood of the event. Baker's forms are available via download at willitsweekly.com/ Valley wildfire." Food by Zocalo WW-Cookie-Entry.docx or from the Facebook event page - just search on Collective. No host bar. Tickets Facebook for "Willits Weekly Cookie Party." We look forward to seeing you all Family Band, and more. It's at the door for those wishing to take advantage of the free admission offer for \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. there and celebrating our fifth holiday season with Willits Weekly! More info: going to be a "fun family event" this event and other event discounts. For information: 923-3368, or visit www. Tickets online at eventbrite or at 972-7047 or willitsweekly@gmail.com J.D. Redhouse

Maureen Moore



My Thoughts: This flick is like heartbreak on the funny pages. I laughed out loud and shed some tears for the adult secrets which compelled us all as youths to grow, and rebel, and search for ecstasy, and search for purpose. Saoirse Ronan as Christine will make you laugh; and if you're a mother to a teenage girl, she will

make you grit your teeth. "Lady Bird" is a brilliantly put together story of growing up in Sacramento, a unique location. And it's a story of loving your home and wanting to leave, of wanting something vague called "more." It's life at odds with itself.

Parents: The flick is rated "R" (for teen sex, most likely). It is not for children. Mature teens certainly. It celebrates "the courage to be yourself."

Note: 100% positive on Rotten Tomatoes.

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





Senior

gathering. Also, there will be catered food by Seiji Sakai; proceeds donated for the cause. Throughout the day there will be a Toy Swap for the kids, a Book Swap and a Clothing Swap, also there will be local vendors and crafters, plus a raffle, all to raise money for the benefit. Finally, after supper, evening music with Mystic Sol, Diane offer holiday shopping opportunities. Open 10 am to 6 pm both days, and free Patterson, Pick & Pull, Cosmic to Mateel members kids 12 and under. Mateel memberships will be available for everyone

mateel.org

Poetry

Potluci

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Amazing Grace Assembly of God Churcl 803 Coast Street P.O. Box 489, Willits

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Iorning Worship - 10:30 a.n Pastor, Bill Nobles Information: 456-9668 EVERYBODY IS WELCOME

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•Sound of Soul events • Membership Discourses Spiritual Discussions ECK Light & Sound Servi More information?

Call 707-456-9934 **Grace Community**

Church Celebrating Life In Christ 25 Hazel Street, Willits

dult Sunday School - 9:30 a. Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m Worship Service & Children's Church - 11 a.m Mid-week Bible Studies Potluck every 2ND Sunday Alan Klier, Lead Pastor 459-3106

St. Francis Episcopal Church 1 North Main Street, Willits

707-459-3066 Church Services/Commun 10:00 a.m. Sunday School - 10:00 a.m. ALL ARE WELCOME The Rev. Betsy Bruneau

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



A Christ centered, progressive churc ALL ARE WELCOME 286 School St. (at Pine) Rev. Rosemary Landry, paste Worship Celebration Sundays - 11:00 a.m. hildren's Sundav School - 11:15 a.1 459-2855 acebook: www.facebook.com

you want <u>to be included in</u> this column please call April Tweddell (707) 972-2475



OBITUARY **Scott Bowers**

Scott Bowers was a world-famous artist, and talented musician. More importantly, he was an honest, compassionate man who was always there to listen to your troubles, make you laugh with his quick wit, and share one of his stories. Born in San Francisco in 1947, he enjoyed the 60s. In his teenage years he was given a scholarship to one of the world's top art schools but when he couldn't afford the rent, he hit the road and played guitar and pedal

steel in country and rock bands all over California and Colorado, hung out with celebrities, and lived a life worth a movie.

After he was tired of the fast lane, he moved to Willits where he loved the railroading and logging history. In 1985 he started his business, RailRoadAvenue Models, which develops high-end model railroading accessories that are world-famous.

In August of 1989 he met Sonja, who was looking for some guitar lessons. They were together nearly every minute of every day for 28 years, including the day he died on November 29, 2017, after a well-fought battle with ALS. His last words were filled with love for everyone around him.

Scott's spirit lives on in his partner Sonja who never gave up, his son sweet with people and Josh who owes him his heart, and his son Ian who looks and acts so much gentle with children. like him. We miss him dearly. He loves to play

Memorial services are in the works, but anyone that wants to honor this and is energetic. His beautiful person is encouraged to play some loud rock 'n 'roll or country new owner should be familiar with the music, light up, and have a good time filled with love. breed, as he is a Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.

OBITUARY **Bob Kirkpatrick**

Bob Kirkpatrick of Willits was born in Fort Bragg on February 11 1929, and he grew up in Healdsburg - "the buckle of the prune belt." His confidence, creativity and communicability opened doors for him as he made his way from the U.S. Navy to Cal Berkeley and on to Stanford for his doctorate.

Bob was selected for his first school superintendency in Los Banos at age 32 - becoming the youngest superintendent of schools in California. There he established Title 9 and

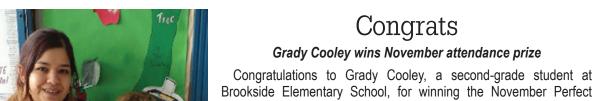
desegregation. Bob came to Willits in 1981 to lead the Willits Unified School District. In 1990, Bob was elected Mendocino County superintendent of schools.

After a storied career in administration, he had a second vocation as a Mendocino College professor teaching raku ceramics in

Ukiah for 13 years. spitfire. Alaska, thank Bob died at home on November you being a cuddly, 16, 2017. Bob's wife, Kathleen, mischievous, sweet, his children Rob (Ruth) and Kathy salty, smart and sassy (Paul), his brother Don and sister Betty, and his grandchildren Sean shining light in our and Mackenzie will miss him forever. lives; you complete our

A memorial potluck is scheduled for family, and we love you noon, Saturday, June 30, 2018 at the beyond measure. family residence.

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



Fish Out Of Water



Sweet Cali is a 2-year-old female mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 67 pounds. Cali is a wonderful and beautiful dog. She has lots of energy, and she's very joyful. She was shy of the camera, and a little bit distracted and quiet until the toys came out - and wow, she had a great time chasing tennis balls and flipping in the air. Cali has a soft, lovely coat with velvety ears. She's an affection-seeker and a tail-wagger! Cali is a happy and social dog who enjoys playing with all her new canine friends

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah. Adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm, and Wednesday from 10 am to 6:30 pm. To view photos and bios of some of the other wonderful adoptable animals here, please visit online at: www.mendoanimalshelter.com. More info about adoptions: 707-467-6453.



exercise regularly and training that will allow him to mature into his full potential as a wonderful canine companion. A mellow dog might be a good sidekick after a slow introduction, but definitely no cats allowed! His previous experience has made him afraid of loud noises – so this should be noted and allowed for as he acclimates to his new surroundings. He is very charismatic and cute as can be, so come meet him soon and see for yourself!

Young

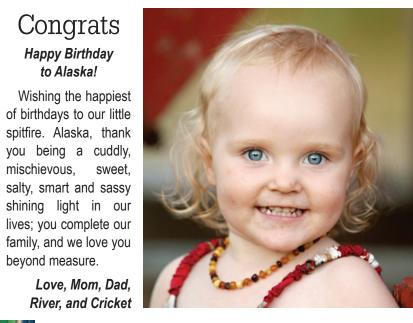
Triton

who

to Alaska!

dog

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



Congrats

Grady Cooley wins November attendance prize Congratulations to Grady Cooley, a second-grade student at







Handmade for the Holidays

Crafts Fair last weekend featured gifts by Northern California artists and artisans

of coordinator and ceramicist, Bonnie Belt, "like old home week because I don't get to see a lot of these people except at this show." If one wanted to experience a cross-section of the artistic community of Mendocino County - and beyond - you only needed to converse with these knowledgeable. creative and very approachable Northern California denizens.

The show, which benefits the Willits Center for the Arts, was very much a sum of its parts. The eclectic group of vendors each had their own areas of expertise and their own stories. It would be a shame to just look at the art without getting to know the artisans who created the

Mathew Caine goods. Features Writer mathew@willitsweekly.com Beginning upstairs at the Willits

Center for the Arts, a cross-section of the vendors might include Caryn Fisher of String Creek Crafts, creator of some very artistic (and functional) traditional brooms, mostly hand-style. Fisher is new to the art, having Ridenauer. "I took the class and just couldn't stop making brooms," she said. Fisher exemplifies the passion that engulfs create their visions, be it flat art, three-dimensional creations, or epicurean delights. Fisher is a stay-at-home mom who homeschools her young daughter.

The arts are not immune to prevailing conditions in the economy as the arts sustain many of the exhibitors. Such is the case of TEK Photography. Evan Kovasi, a photographer of great vision and technical ability, who creates stunning panoramas of nature. "The show has been slow for us this year due to the economy in Northern California, which is tied into the price of cannabis. People can't spend money on discretionary items like art," he said.

Several of the artists were able to combine their lifestyle with their artistic genres. The Garlic People, Colleen and Tom Ferrara, create decorative art that utilizes a guarter of their cultivated land for the production of vegetation for this

The annual party for craftspeople, artists, epicures and found from the land, Manzanita ash, local clay, iron coloring confectioners known as the Holiday Crafts Fair is, in the words and brown bottle glass. "There is creativity and risk at every stage," Rain said; "very rewarding when it works out."

Jennifer Zeek of Jennuwine Design creates stunning and colorful three-dimensional art from repurposed paper (watercolor paper, cardboard tubes, junk mail, or her kids' school papers, for example).

Across the street, at the Willits Community Center, various local schools could be found at the Kids Crafts Fair inside the Willits City Council chambers on Saturday, selling hand-made art objects to fund projects to enrich the lives of their students. The Willits Charter School students were working on funding their week-long Italian journey scheduled for June. The Waldorf School and Willits High School additionally offered

colorful creations. Sober Grad had a table as well. Entering the main hall, Bonnie Belt showed an array of

beautifully realized ceramics with her favorite themes of birds and trees, amongst others. Belt has produced the show for the last six years after she made the mistake of volunteering been introduced to it last August at a workshop from Bethany to help. She organizes the booths and vendors, while Ann Maglinte oversees the musical artists who perform at both locations. Belt is a very successful artist who shows primarily most of the artists for their chosen art. They are driven to at the Highlight Gallery in Mendocino as well as wholesaling and shipping throughout the country.

There were foodies in residence such as HDL Farm Gourmet Food Co. of Lake County, a French family who sells fine balsamic vinegar, olive oil, mustards and jams. The Pickle Man, resplendent in traditional garb, is more of a specialist. He pickles almost anything, including okra.

Artisans such as Anne Vanderhorck "make things with love. Each piece is like a surrogate grandchild," she said, in a comment typical of the love with which the artists create their products. One of Vanderhorck's Raggedy Ann type fabric dolls was won in the-end-of-show raffle by a very happy young girl, who'd been playing with the doll earlier. AfterGlow Naturals hand-crafted herbal products from Boonville, the creation of Joanne Horn, include essential oils, muscle rubs, facial creams, healing balms, and an assortment of body



Above: Gregg Lindsley Earth and Fire Pottery, displays his ceramic coffee mugs and mixing bowls.

At right: Jahdae, Isaiah and Makonnen from the Willits Charter School show their candles and wreaths.

Below: Doug Carmichael of Sherwood Forge with his rustic chandeliers, sconces and lamps

At bottom: Joanne Horn of AfterGlow Naturals creates balms, salves and aromatherapy scents.

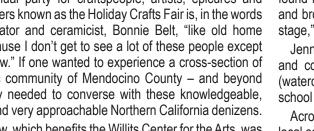
Photos by Mathew Cai



From far left: Painter Laura Corben, left, visits with Sienna Reno of Expansion Prints. Ann, Leah Joy, and Trinity Barrett serve food from the Willits Charter School. Michelle Oye creates one-of-akind pictures made of pressed flowers and other

Below, from left: Shoppers at the Willits Holiday Craft Fair peruse the many booths and talk with the artists. Bonnie Belt, a well-known ceramicist in Mendocino County, organizes the Willits Holiday Craft Fair. Jennuwine Design creates unique art and jewelry from paper.







Attendance Award. Grady's name was drawn from all the students with perfect attendance, including no tardies, during November. For their efforts he and his family won a \$50 gift certificate at The Goods Shoppe.

The Brookside PTO sponsors the monthly attendance award for perfect attendance and no tardies. December's Perfect Attendance Award will be a \$50 gift certificate to Busters Burgers.

The PTO is a key partner in Brookside's quest to improve attendance and reduce the number of tardy students to maximize student learning.

– Kathleen Crossman, principal, Brookside Elementary School

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LUNCH

At left: Second-grader Grady Cooley holds the \$50 gift certificate to The Goods Shoppe he won as Brookside School's Perfect Attendance Award winner for lovember, with Mimi Crook, treasurer of the Brookside PTO.

purpose. As is apparent from their business name, they create earthy art from garlic as well as hot peppers. They live off the grid in Trinity County on 248 acres of inaccessible land, use hydro and solar energy, and homeschool their two children. They donate much of the food they produce to the Lake County is a ceramist who apprenticed with a master "local" food bank (2.5 hours away from their home)

Jody Ciesielczyk of Heart of Shasta chocolates comes from until it was perfect. Sienna Reno of Expansion Prints from even farther away. Ciesielczyk has been making chocolates for eight years; she sells at craft shows, stores and online. The show was very good for her. On Sunday she was sold come from. out of several items.

Rain and Maya Ceramics are a family business with a small kiln at home. They produce their own glazes out of materials are some of the treasures of this part of the country.

oils with natural ingredients. Doug Carmichael of Sherwood Forge in Ferndale is a blacksmith who works with steel and copper to create mostly small artistic utile objects. Gregg Lindsley of Earth and Fire Pottery from Cobb Mountain in potter for seven years, throwing the same pot over and over Pine Mountain makes prints on T-shirts that hope to "raise environmental awareness honoring and respecting where we

Northern California is rife with creative people who are always willing to engage in conversation about their art. They









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'Holiday Lights: A Winter Wonderland'

The Frank R. Howard Foundation and Adventist Health Howard Memorial Hospital invite the community to the 2nd annual "Holiday Lights: A Winter Wonderland" celebration at the Commonwealth Garden in Haehl Creek. Add sparkle to your holiday season and watch your children's faces light up for the magical holiday lights display, including a bicycle wheel igloo built by Willits Area Cyclists, a lightcovered horse and buggy from Willits Furniture, and light sculptures by Mariposa Market and the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino County.

Bundle up, enjoy hot cocoa or hot apple cider and festival stroll through the winter wonderland, December 15 through Igloo," made by Willits Area Cyclists.

17, from 5:30 to 8 pm each evening. Suggestion donation \$5 or an unwrapped toy for the Willits Kids' Christmas Program; free for kids 12 and under. Parking available at the hospital parking lot. Proceeds will benefit the Willits Center for the Arts and the Commonwealth Garden/Frank R. Howard Foundation.





Above, from left: Seussville signs, at the 2016 Holiday Lights celebration, by the Savings Bank of Mendocino County, Willits branch. Santa in his flying machine holds a Christmas message to all. Jaxon and Barbara Leef, surrounded by holiday lights. Below, from left: snacks from Howard Hospital's Roots Restaurant as you Willits Furniture's beautiful "Horse and Carriage." Three log and limb reindeer, lit up with lights. Grady Fonsen inside the "Bicycle Wheel



American Legion remembers Pearl Harbor Day

Members of the American Legion Post 174, Willits, salute the flag at half-mast in Babcock Park on Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 2017, in remembrance in memorial services for military members - be of the more than 2,400 U.S. soldiers and American citizens who were killed in the Japanese surprise attack on the U.S. Navy base in Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941

Post Commander Roger Ham continues to express interest in connecting the public with the activities of the American Legion and encourages anyone who would qualify to join the Legion.

"Anyone who has been a part of the military from 1991 forward is eligible for membership," said Ham. "That includes people who served in Desert Storm, Iraq and Operation Freedom among others. Of course anyone who served in World War II, Vietnam, or Korea are eligible, too."

Interested persons are welcome to attend the Legion's meetings which are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm at the Veterans Hall, located on the east side of the intersection of Main Street and Sherwood Road.

The Legion is also proud to offer veteran information and resources for services: They assist that funerals or services at cemeteries, churches or funeral homes; they serve as the color guard and flag raisers at the Willits Frontier Days events including the CCPRA rodeos, truck pulls, horse

shows and other events; they have a booth at the Hometown Celebration and Fourth of July festivities with membership and resource information; and they also raise funds through raffles and more to be able to donate to local groups and organizations like Willits Community Services and Food Bank, Phoenix Hospice and the Howard Foundation. The Legion also assists the Women's Auxiliary with poppy sales.

To learn more about the Legion, stop by the monthly meeting, contact Ham directly at 456-9858, or check out their ad in the Soroptimist Community Telephone Directory, listed under "A," for more information.

– Maureen Moore



The rest of From Page 2 Letters

MCFARM, the organization that does the real work of setting up markets to make fresh produce, meat, eggs, and prepared foods available to you through much of the county. Also not expensive and not hard. For more information, see http://mcfarm.org

The market would welcome other vendors, as well. During this holiday season, we are as much a crafts market as a fresh foods market. We have plenty of prepared food-to-go or food to eat on the spot for our customers right now.

But there is room for cooks with unique products, like Michelle Costa's Mendo Ferments, or Denise Bartholomeo's flavored vinegars and olive oils. And there is room for crafts of all sorts. If you're making something you want to sell, see your market manager and run it by him. You'll also have to join MCFARM (and get a state seller's permit).

Finally, the market welcomes local authors - Jenny Watts was there last week with her new book "A Year in the Garden." as was Jo Schneider with a number of her historical novels. And we have had tables featuring advice from local gardeners, herbalists, counselors and others wanting to educate the public and let them know about opportunities in town.

Let your market manager know what you have in mind, and we can talk. I'm available at 707-216-5549 or foley.mw@ gmail.com.

Willits Farmers Market is open every Thursday, from 3 pm to 5:30 pm, November through April at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street.

Michael Foley, market manager, Willits

Tags From Page 3 The rest of

The Baker family donates books every year, "but this year we also wanted to buy for a kid," Baker said, "and it looked like fun to do a tag this year, to do a boy Christmas for a little guy."

The Little Lake Fire Department will be helping deliver Kids Christmas Program toys on Christmas Eve as usual this year, Fire Chief Chris Wilkes told fire board members at their meeting Tuesday night.

Santa's HQ is downtown, on the corner of West Mendocino Avenue and Main Street. If you see a motorcycle in the parking lot, Santa's elves are surely there. For more information, or if you can help with wrapping presents, call: 707-972-8782.

OBITUARY

Esther Hart

Esther Mayme Hart, 95, of Laytonville, California died November 26, 2017 in Laytonville. She was born July 31, 1922 to Mabel and Walter Micheels in Omaha, Nebraska. She married Jess Hart on July 27, 1940 in Reno. Nevada.

Esther was an artist for 40 years and domestic engineer for 77 years. She served the many communities she graced with everything from knitting sweaters for foster children to hosting celebrations of unparalleled elegance. She was active in Episcopal congregations in every one of the numerous communities in which she lived.

An adventurous soul, she began her life in Omaha, and

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Social Worker III Social Worker IV-A/B/C/D Social Worker Supervisor I Social Worker Supervisor II-A/B/C For a complete list of current job openings	Office for Rent 400 sq. ft., plus waiting room. Central heat and A/C, sink hookup, off street parking, centrally located. Utilities included. \$375/mo. 707-354-2473	RV/Trailer Space for Rent Space for RV's and Trailers \$425 per month, includes water & garbage. Close to Safeway in Willits. Call Rhonda (707) 367-6178. See at "http:// www.oaknvine.net/tp"		
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irst granddaughter into the world, Cecelia Konia Michelle Pooley in 1975.	garbage paid. W/D facility on hand. No pets, no smoking. \$825 per month. Armco: 459-9601.	SEWING AND ALTERATIONS Seamstress and Sewing Teacher		
In 1988 they moved back to Washington state to be closer o their family, including their second granddaughter, Amanda ee Hart, born in 1990. In 2002, Esther and Donnalee moved o the rural hills and valleys of Northern California where her reat-grandchildren were born, Caruna Gillespie, 2003 and	For Rent Executive office - 2 large offices, 1 small; kitchen, bath and reception. 1,240 square feet. An additional	Barbara Carlon Visit my webpage: Seamqueen.blog 707-367-6182, Willits		
Celina Gillespie, 2005. To the end of her days Esther was actively involved in every aspect of community and family life. She is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Jess	370 square feet could be added if needed. Call Margie, 459-6874 or Megan, 972-8776.	Water Water Water 45+ gpm. 1 bedroom cabin phone & electric, Secluded 12 acres.		

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followed the love of her life to California so they could be married before the war. While living in Bodega Bay, her first child, son Michael was born in 1944. After Esther and Jess moved back to Nebraska for a time, she gave birth to their second child, daughter Donnalee in 1948. Esther, Hess, Donnalee and Michael moved to Honolulu, then the U.S. territory of Hawaii, in 1956. From there they welcomed their

Moore. She is survived by all those loving family members listed above. Services were held at St. Francis of the Redwoods Episcopal Church in Willits on December 9, 2017. Memorial contributions can be made to St. Francis of the Redwoods, Willits, California.

Hart, her brother Lloyd Micheels, and her sister Dolores

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



Willits Weekly | December 14, 2017 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Pg. 13



he rest of Harris	From Page 1
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"no." Neary then nominated Trustee Bob Colvig for the position of clerk, and the board voted unanimously to approve.

Harris then took the floor, read a prepared statement of resignation, and left the meeting.

In her statement, Harris told the board it had been an honor for her to be a volunteer in the school district's classrooms for 15 years, adding she had disagreements with both the superintendent and the board. She did not respond to a request for comment on her decision or for a copy of her statement.

After leaving the meeting, Neary said he had "valued [Harris'] opinion" and thanked her for her service

A replacement to finish out Harris's term of office will be chosen using the same procedure recently followed to appoint Colvig after Georgeanne Croskey left the board to join the board of supervisors in May 2017. Applications for the position will be publicly solicited, and applicants will undergo questioning by trustees at a board meeting. Applicants' answers will be privately scored by each board member; the winner will be the candidate with the highest score.

The term of the newly selected board member will expire in December 2018, as will the terms of all other current members except for new Bowlds, whose term will expire in December 2020.

Commenting after the meeting, Willits Teachers Association President John Haschak expressed appreciation for Neary's efforts during contract negotiations with the teacher's union last year. "He made a great effort on behalf of transparency – taking on the county about their budget projections. I think that was a great thing as president."

The board also recognized and honored the passing of two longtime, well-loved former employees.

The loss of Bob Kirkpatrick, former Willits Unified and Mendocino County Office of Education superintendent, deeply touched the educational and larger local community. Neary, who was on the board that initially selected Kirkpatrick as superintendent decades ago, remembered how Kirkpatrick had managed to get extra money for the district early on and create three small necessary schools: Vineyard, Crazy Horse, and Sherwood schools. Sherwood School is still a vital member of the Willits family of schools. Vineyard and Crazy Horse closed due to declining enrollment in 2001 and 2000, respectively.

"What a loss to the community. He treated everyone with respect," said Haschak of Kirkpatrick.

Libby Cash, a longtime district bus driver, was also fondly remembered. "She worked for the district for about 23 years and was much loved in the community - driving many miles, taking many people many places," said Haschak.

On a brighter note, the board also heard a presentation from Willits High School students and teacher/advisor Carolyn Bakewell on the school newspaper, The Wolverine.

Going strong after quite a long hiatus, the paper is "published once each trimester, covers everything - sports, special events, academics, interest stories and is always open to ideas," said Bakewell. Students

The rest of From Page 1 Cleaners

made use of again.

Willits City Councilman Larry Stranske, who happened to pass by this reporter on the street during the Tuesday lunch hour, said he was happy to see the old building come down. "This is a great day." Stranske said.

Redwood Empire Cleaners was owned and operated by Rene Sanchez from 1949 until his death in 2004. Unfortunately, a side effect of Sanchez's operation was that the area beneath and around the building was heavily polluted with cleaning solvents, to the extent that water quality in water under the site and air quality above the site was badly compromised.

In 2008 and 2009, numerous chemical compounds were found on, beneath and near the site, including tetrachoroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE) benzene, 1,2 dichloroethane and carbon tetrachloride. Of those five chemical compounds,

the first, PCE, degrades into the second, fourth and fifth compound. All five chemical compounds are carcinogenic. Soil, air and water tests were taken at the site in 2008 and again in 2009. A soil gas test taken in 2008 found PCE at

1,200,000 parts per billion in the vicinity of the building and in the soil at 191 parts per million. Groundwater tests showed PCE at 3,000 parts per billion – the maximum contaminant

The rest of Signature From Page

Information Packet, the fili fee to run for the office county supervisor is \$61 However, a person seeki to become a candidate for th office may collect signatur in lieu of paying the fe The number of signature that must be turned in completely obviate the filin

fee is 972. According to Mendocir County Assistant Registry of Voters Katrina Bartolome any verified signatures prospective candidate turn

in will reduce the filing fee or she will have to pay, at rate of \$0.6297 per signatur A candidate who collects 10 signatures could submit those signatures and would pay filing fee of only \$548.03.

According to the Candida Packe Information Signatures accepted f payment of the filing fee will verified in the order they a submitted. Voters can sign l only one candidate per offic Duplicate signatures will

rejected. Once the signature are verified, the candida will be notified if there is deficiency. The deficien can be made up in addition signatures or cash, but mu be completed no later that

March 9, 2018."

level for PCE in groundwater is 5 parts per billion.

A soil gas test done in June 2009 showed a significant drop-off of PCE, down to 330,000 parts per billion.

A groundwater test in August 2009 also showed a significant drop-off of PCE, at 358 parts per billion, and another groundwater test in 2013, showed PCE levels at 113 parts per billion. In 2014, a test sample from one well showed 136 parts per billion and a sample from another well showed 132 parts per billion.

In 2015, a cleanup plan was approved and was subsequently modified. A July 2017 "public notice fact sheet" on the State Regional Water Quality Control Board's Geotracker website https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/esi/uploads/ geo report/7965074539/SL0604593246.pdf, describes the cleanup plan as it now stands.

The plan recommends "excavation and disposal of approximately 160 cubic yards of source area soil from beneath the former dry-cleaning machine" as well as "installation and operation of a soil vapor extraction treatment system" and treatment of groundwater PCE contamination by injecting chemicals to enhance its natural breakdown. 'The progress of the remediation will be monitored using: soil vapor, groundwater and indoor air monitoring."

The cleanup and abatement work is being done by West Environmental Services and Technology of San Rafael.

could legally exempt people seeking a Class

comply with regulations found in California's

A third question involved whether the

county could exempt Class K builders from

the requirement that builders who do not

want to build a perimeter foundation for their

structure must retain an engineer to design

and approve any other type of foundation

that is used instead. Committee members

wanted to know if it would be possible for the

county to insert simple engineering standards

into the language of the permit, so a Class

staying within the guidelines of state law.

K owner-builder could "do it himself" while

Finally, McCowen wanted to know what

kind of amnesty the county could offer

owners of older, unpermitted Class K houses.

If an owner who built an unpermitted Class K

house in 1990 seeks to get a permit now, he

wondered, would that person be required to

comply with the new, revised Class K code, or

could that person be allowed to comply with

Although McCowen seemed clear what

neither he nor Hamburg nor any of the staff

certain of the answer. The committee directed

Because Elliott's answers will likely have

an enormous bearing on Class K policy in

the future, McCowen requested the board of

legal opinion on those four questions.

the old Class K code?

Wildland-Urban Interface code

		0.
	The rest of Crash From Page 1	
1 ng of 2. ng ne es ve. es to	strip, as well as the asphalt shoulder of the roadway, and plunged down a foliage- covered hillside, colliding with a large tree. The passenger in the pickup, Edward R. Wilson of Concord, was able to free himself from the badly damaged cab of the truck. The driver, however, was trapped in thee wreckage and pronounced dead at the scene. Wilson was taken to Howard Memorial Hospital in Willits for treatment of moderate	injuries, officers said. The woman's body was taken to Anker-Lucier Mortuary. The cause of the crash remains under investigation. The CHP was assisted at the scene by personnel from the Little Lake Fire Protection District, Veri-Health Ambulance, and the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office. <i>This report was based on a press release</i> <i>from the California Highway Patrol.</i>
no ar	The rest of Class K From Page 1	
ei, ans ne a conse a te te con	decisions they were considering turned upon the question of whether those actions would be legal under California law. The subcommittee directed Mendocino County Counsel Katherine Elliott to research the proposals, and provide legal opinions to the full board of supervisors on several questions. The Class K ordinance articulates minimum safety and public health standards for owner-built residences in limited-density areas: the county's backwoods. According to Fifth District Supervisor Dan Hamburg, when the ordinance was adopted in 1981, Class K stood for "Cabin Code." It has not been amended since its adoption some 36 years	non-conforming, and you would not have to comply with the new rules. "But say you built your Class K home in 1995 but you didn't get a permit. Now, let's say, it's June 2018 and you want to get a permit. In that case, you would have to comply with the standards in place on the day you get your permit," McCowen said. Planning and Building Services Interim Director Nash Gonzalez drew a simple conclusion for Class K owners who don't have a permit. "If you don't have a permit, and you don't want to comply with the new regulations, then you'd better get your permit now."
cy al an	ago. County Planning Official Mike Oliphant came to the committee meeting with recommendations to change the Class K ordinance in five areas. Oliphant recommended all new single- family Class K residences have an automatic indoor sprinkler system. The size of a Class K	As the discussion developed, several questions arose which committee members thought could only be resolved by a legal opinion from the County Counsel's Office. McCowen wanted to know if the county could legally ignore the state's dictum in the California Housing Code that all new houses must have interior automatic fire sprinkler systems. He inquired if the county





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meet once a week at lunch to "decide what to cover, divide up the responsibilities, and we plug away at it." The Wolverine's editor is Daisy Barrett. On staff are Jocelyn Beebe, Alyssa Fraser, Teo Labus, Jada Smith and Hailey Frahm

"I enjoy being the editor of The Wolverine because I believe it is important for our community to be informed about the student activities and their opinions about the school," said Barrett. "I enjoy building new relationships with other students while we create a paper about our lives."

The Wolverine is published as an insert inside Willits Weekly three times during the school year.

In other business, the board also reinstated a lapsed past practice of assigning individual board members to specific schools to act as (in Neary's words) "points of contact" between the schools and the board. Bowlds was assigned to Willits High School and Sherwood School, Trustee Bob Colvig to Brookside Elementary, Trustee Cynthia Carni to Baechtel Grove Middle School, and Neary to Sanhedrin Alternative High School and Blosser Lane Elementary School.

After the meeting, Neary admitted to a "soft spot" in his heart for Blosser Lane school, noting when he first started with the district board in 1980: "Brookside school had 750 kids. It was the largest elementary school north of the Golden Gate Bridge. The electrical was so bad; you plug something in and it sparked."

Neary saw the need for a new school and, "seven or eight years later," Blosser Lane Elementary was completed with Neary and Kirkpatrick sharing much of the responsibility for the project. "It's a beautiful school," said Neary.

In other business, the board also approved required annual reports from the district's charter schools: La Vida Charter School, Willits Elementary Charter School, and Willits Charter School.

In remarks to the board, Haschak said the WTA is interested in forming committees to assist with curriculum program adoption. After the meeting, he added it was the union's feeling that math and science programs were being adopted without a lot of teacher input.

District calendars for the next two school years were also presented to the board. Superintendent Mark Westerburg said parents had been surveyed prior to the completion of the calendars, which are clerk-recorder-elections/elecposted on the district's Facebook page. tions

In 2018, Mendocino County offices up for election include assessor-clerk recorder, auditor-controller. district sheriff-coroner, attorney, superintendent of schools,

treasurer-tax collector, two superior court judges, and county supervisors for districts 3 and 5.

The Third District supervisor's seat is currently held by Willits resident Croskey, Georgeanne appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown on May 9. A few months after she was appointed, Croskey announced she would not seek reelection in 2018. Willits teacher and president of the Willits Teachers Association John Haschak is the only candidate who has announced a run for Third District supervisor thus far.

The seat of the Fifth District supervisor is currently held by former U.S. Congressman Dan Hamburg. Albion-Little River Volunteer Fire Department

Chief Ted Williams, who was at the forefront of the county's anti-hack-and-squirt Measure V ballot initiative, also has

thrown his hat in the ring for the Fifth District board seat. "I believe my experience, accomplishments and imagination can help find solutions to the many problems that

> currently confront our county," Williams said in a statement announcing his campaign. For more information about the 2018 elections, visit the

"Elections" page on the Mendocino County website at: www.mendocinocounty.org/ government/assessor-county-

house would be limited to no more than 2.000 square feet. All Class K residences would K permit for new structures from having to have to comply with regulations detailed in the Wildland-Urban Interface code - state regulations written in 1992 that spell out safety standards for houses built in or near areas subject to wildfires.

Oliphant also recommended that all Class K houses be required to have a perimeter foundation, and that the minimum parcel size where a Class K permit could be granted would be 5 acres.

Oliphant's recommendations drew 10 letters from the public, and about 20 people attended the committee meeting. Several of them spoke, and most of those argued Oliphant's recommendations were too expensive, and the cost of putting in the perimeter foundation and sprinkler system he was recommending would place the cost of building a Class K house out the budget range of typical Class K builders. County resident Robert Salisbury told committee members putting in an automatic

sprinkler system and a perimeter foundation could easily cost \$30,000 to \$40,000. Recent wildfires have reduced the county's the answer to that question was when he unrented housing stock to zero, other spoke with Willits Weekly, during the meeting speakers contended.

present at the meeting were absolutely Angela DeWitt of the Anderson Valley Housing Association said, "Finding affordable housing in Anderson Valley is more of an County Counsel Katherine Elliott to render a uphill battle every day.

Salisbury agreed with that point of view,

stating that if the committee endorsed the changes being proposed by Oliphant: "We could end up being a county of trailers and outlaws. I can't express it to you well enough: job. During discussion, it became clear the

changes to the Class K ordinance being considered will only apply to new construction, and new permits. McCowen clarified the distinction in a separate phone conversation with Willits Weekly.

supervisors vote on whether Elliott's opinions on those questions could be made public. with Class K, you have a great opportunity to County CEO Carmel Angelo and the members help people build affordable housing. It's your of the subcommittee agreed the board could vote on whether or not to make Elliott's answers public on December 19, that Elliott would have her answers to those questions ready to present to the board on January 9,

and the board could vote to give direction to staff on the final shape of the revised Class K ordinance (based on Elliott's answers) at the first board meeting in February. "If you built a Class K structure in 1985

Absent those answers, it is impossible to or in 2000 and you got a permit, and we state exactly what form the newly revised change the Class K ordinance now, you are OK. You would be considered as legal and Class K ordinance will take.

BLACK ΟΠ

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'Ho Ho Ho-Down'

Marjo Wilson and her character 'Cotton Dandee' entertain at Brickhouse Coffee

Covelo musician and visual artist Marjo Wilson drew a crowd of children, adults and families to Brickhouse Coffee on Saturday afternoon in Willits for her "Ho Ho Ho-Down." She introduced her fanciful, musical rabbit character, Cotton Dandee, whose job is to be the ice breaker that calms nervous children – or adults – beginning to learn the beat, melody and words to simple songs. The method of

Ree Slocum Features Writer ree@willitsweekly.com teaching is considered to be Cotton Dandee's. The phrases are

catchy and full of easy apping that go with the

hand gestures or clapping that go with the words and swinging beats. They encourage one to sing, clap, move and have fun – no matter your age.

Some of the Covelo moms expressed their delight in the abilities of their young children. They have learned all of the music on the CD, and some joined Wilson on the improvised front stage at Brickhouse Saturday.

"My daughter always asks to play Cotton Dandee when we're in the car," one parent mentioned. "I like to sing along, too!" she declared.

Wilson is best known for her "adult" music that's, according to her website, "Rooted in the Blues, the music swings from a little Latin, to a little Swampy, to a little Country, to a little Funky, to a lot of dance beat Rock." Wilson's main objective is to bring people together and encourage them to be actively involved with music. She's produced nearly a dozen CDs of her "adult" music with other artists, and she performs throughout the county and beyond.

And it was time to step out and do something different, so Wilson decided she wanted to expand her musical offerings. She decided to write some new songs and consulted with a pop musician in New York who counsels musicians. Through a series of skyping and lessons, the consultant mentioned that Wilson could do music for children and create a CD.

Wilson resisted the idea at first thinking she wasn't really a kid person. When she realized that her fan base has been – not exclusively – "people under 6 and over 60," another world opened up for her. "So I've kind of written [music] for the child and adult," she told me.

"I write what I feel. I try to message it so

people enjoy the music, sing along ... and dance. So moving the body and actively singing along and having a great time has always been a huge thing for me. It feels really good when you have a full circle of energy from the stage to the audience back to the stage. It just swings. The looping around of energy is awesome!"

Wilson decided to get on board with writing children's music, which led her to creating a fanciful, musical, rabbit troubadour, Cotton Dandee. "I didn't want to be in front. Cotton's the front man," she confided. She sees herself as his helper. His mission in life is to help children of all ages – and their moms and grandmas, dads and grandpas, too – find the joy in music and the fun in making music together.

Wilson was greatly influenced by growing up listening to her mother sing and joining in with her at an early age. "We read all the classics. My early brain got reading and singing nursery rhymes. It got hardwired with the beat and the rhyming," she said. Her early experiences with her mother also instilled in her an appreciation for musical simplicity and the fun of learning with others.

With her Cotton Dandee buddy, Wilson has a desire to help children and adults "reclaim their calm nervous system," as she coins it. She worked in a New York studio with musicians to record the 10 songs for the CD and brought the recording back to Covelo to mix. "I wanted a warmer and softer sound to make it nervous system friendly."

She then worked with Peter Temple from the coast who helped her "hone the sound so it was a balance between clarity and softness ... so it feels earthy." She's happy with the results. "It's not baby music. It doesn't talk down. It's from my 4-year-old heart to your 4-year-old heart," she explained. "The moms love it, and the kids love it."

The next Cotton Dandee Hoedown will be at Brickhouse, 3 South Main Street, Willits on February 10. Marjo Wilson's paintings can be seen on the Brickhouse walls. A hoedown is also being planned for Covelo.

Cotton Dandee's CD and book set would make a great holiday gift. Find it at The Book Juggler, 182 South Main Street.

You can also visit www.cottondandee.com to purchase the set and for more information.





At top: The audience is finding the joy in music and the fun in making music together with Marjo Wilson and her "band." Andy Wright of Willits Community Television, right, smiles as he videos the event. Above, from left: Gigi performs a solo at the "Ho Ho Ho-Down" Saturday at Brickhouse Coffee. One of the dozens of shaker instruments that Marie Collins – Cotton Dandy Granny – makes for the hoedowns. They're a fun way to help people learn the rhythms and beats. Cotton Dandee's sing-along music pack with CD "for car and kitchen," along with an introductory book. Wilson plans to expand the sets to include books for each song on the CD. Below: Marjo Wilson teaches Cotton Dandee songs with her band at Brickhouse Coffee.





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