

Merry Christmas! Happy Holidays! And a Happy New Year!

This December 17, 2015 edition will be the last Willits Weekly of 2015. We – as usual – will be taking Christmas week off, to give all our hard-working contributors a little time off. And this year, Willits Weekly will also be skipping publication on New Year's week, to give us some much-needed planning time for the big year we have coming up in 2016. So, our next issue will be coming out on January 7, 2015.

Willits Weekly will be covering breaking news – as needed – on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/WillitsWeekly. (Those of you who haven't signed up for Facebook should know that you don't have to have a Facebook account to read our public Facebook page: You can read it just like any other website.)

We will be wrapping up 2015 with our 3rd Annual Willits Weekly Christmas Party, set for 5 to 7 pm this Friday, December 18 at Ardella's Downtown Diner

(thanks to Kathy and Lori, for letting Willits Weekly "borrow" Ardella's again for the second year).

Everyone is invited to this free event: Come taste and vote for your favorite cookies, listen to Nancy New and Devon Jones sing Christmas carols and seasonal songs, bring cookies for the cookie swap table, toast your neighbors with hot apple cider, coffee and milk, and enjoy the last Friday evening downtown before Christmas.

Thanks to all our wonderful readers, advertisers, subscribers and contributors, and see you all next year!

YOU'RE INVITED!

Willits Weekly's 3rd Annual Christmas Party!



**Friday, December 18
from 5 to 7 pm**
at Ardella's Downtown Diner
**Cookie Tasting & Voting
Live Music & Merriment**
Come celebrate with us!

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

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Thank you

To the Editor:

I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart to all who helped make this year's Community Christmas Chorale a huge success. It was even better than last year.

Thanks to all of the performers who sang or played so beautifully! Thanks to all of the Relief Society women who baked over a thousand cookies! Thanks to Madelyn Bragdon who took charge of the hot cider!

But most of all, thanks to all of you in the community who attended this amazing event. In these troubled times it is so refreshing to see 400 people come together with nothing but joy and love! You helped make it a memorable evening!

I hope to see you all again next year on December 11, 2016!

Roni McFadden, Willits

Cosmic Pickle

To the Editor:

Who is this outfit called Cosmic Pickle Productions?! They seem to be everywhere.

I was eating a gyro at Niko's and was startled by the horrible sound of a chicken crying out for dear life. I was told that it was Cosmic Pickle.

I went to the farmers market and asked a youngster who painted her face so horribly cute? Again, the Cosmic Pickle was the answer.

I went to a great dance at the grange a few weeks ago. Who put on this horribly wonderful event? Yep, the producer was Cosmic Pickle.

Now, since I love to dance on New Year's Eve, I'm going to dance my Latin thing at the grange. Who's putting it on? Horrible! The Cosmic Pickle! Who is this chicken-clucking astrological cucumber invading our sedate quaint town?

Not that I'm complaining....

Lanny Cotler (pickle expert from Brooklyn), Willits

Conclusions

To the Editor:

I was shocked and saddened to read that my friend Kevin Moynahan had been arrested and that there are allegations of sexual abuse with a female. There weren't a lot of details about the charges, but they are clearly serious. Whenever I hear or read about sexual abuse, I get a visceral reaction,

even before I hear the details or find out if the allegations are true or not.

I have children and grandchildren, and like most parents and grandparents I'm concerned for their well-being and often worry about something happening to them. I find I have a reaction to even potential abuse and find myself wondering, how could someone do something so hurtful to another person?

I have to remind myself not to jump to conclusions. I don't even know what the charges are yet. I have no idea what happened or if anything happened. I have to wait until I learn more before making any judgments.

Jed Diamond, Willits

I am crying with them

To the Editor:

More than anything else I would like the people of Little Lake Valley as well as people all over the world, especially in the United States, to understand that the local indigenous people are not just protesting the destruction of artifacts or the eradication of several ancient village sites and burial grounds of their ancestors. They are crying over the loss of their way of life and the loss of a complete culture of relationships enjoyed for many decades between themselves and this Earth.

They are heart-broken over the annihilation of their belief systems and the loss of the knowledge of their ancestors who were taken from them when thousands of forebears were killed or removed to boarding schools.

This isn't just about Caltrans building a bypass through ecologically important and sensitive wetlands, causing an imbalance to an ecosystem developed over eons of time.

It's not just about getting around the traffic in a small town so logging or delivery trucks and tourists can get to their destinations faster.

This is about depleting what oil reserves we have left by encouraging more usage of petroleum products and discouraging a shift into mass transportation or other methods of getting from one place to another.

This is about complete disregard for the beauty of what has stood here and how it will have to become something else. This valley will never be the same. The natural world here will be forever changed in ways we cannot even yet imagine.

We have been herded, like the indigenous people were herded into Round Valley, into believing progress, going faster, driving independently, seeing the world through a windshield, is a better way.

Sit quietly and hear, if you can, the sobbing of the trees who have lost several thousands of their family members, the silence of the air because the birds have less places to land. See the number of dead bushes who could not find nourishment because the water table dropped faster than their roots could find it. Billions of gallons of water were used in the construction of the bypass and will not be replaced with one winter of El Nino. In fact, the water may only run off into gullies and streams.

This summer you could breathe the dust created by it being disturbed and rearranged. If your eyes were stinging, it was from the fine debris loosened into the air by heavy machinery. Water in town, even filtered, has a

bite. We have been warned not to drink it out of the tap, and I concur. It is unpalatable even when I filter it again. A daily shower of water feels like tiny pangs of pain.

What effects we will see to our town and valley and the entire ecosystem of this area are not known. Few have been able to guess at the overall changes this bypass will bring. Proportionately few in the world are aware of our individual and collective impact on our Earth. Many do not want to slow down, get the earphones out of their ears, to remove the iPhone from in front of their faces.

Recently, the Dalai Lama suggested we each take daily responsibility to care for our environment in response to global warming. I pray it is not too late to heed his words. The truth of the matter is that we will never know unless we each make a choice to live more respectfully and thoughtfully to preserve what sustains us from our Earth during every waking moment, every day.

All the changes which have been made to the Earth have impacted the flourishing of our world, globally, nationally and locally. It is truly possible we have crippled our area, are depleting our natural resources, and will want to cry, just like those who weep for their lost villages. In the end, I believe, we may be able to do nothing but join them with their tears.

Earlene Gleisner, Willits

Climate skepticism

To The Editor:

I am not an expert on climate change, but have always been a sceptic when reading mainstream media's climate change "propaganda."

A book I would recommend on climate change is: "Landscapes & Cycles: An Environmentalist's Journey to Climate Skepticism," by Jim Steel.

Steel writes about the enormous and often decades- or even centuries-long climate trends that directly affect our local weather, such as the very complex interaction of the El Nino-La Nina oscillation and global zones of high pressure.

An example: El Nino moves in 30-year cycles as it affects Antarctica with warm Pacific ocean currents coming under certain areas of ice causing warming and melting. This is not a warming trend caused by carbon emissions.

This issue is very complex, and it is so sad to see it being politicized and hijacked in Paris over the issue of carbon emissions. Carbon emissions are not innocent from a pollution perspective and need to be reduced. But the planet is not on a warming trend.

Jim Steel, a professor at San Francisco State University for more than 25 years, is one I would consider an expert on climate change, and his book should be required reading by the so-called experts meeting in Paris as well as high school and college students.

Our local environmental landscape changes, such as Caltrans' destruction of wetlands, may seem minor on a global scale, but collectively they each in their own small way contribute to climate change and habitat change. More thought should have been given to the route chosen and the long-range environmental impact. By the way, I have always supported a Willits bypass.

Bob Wilkinson, Willits

At right: River smiles for the camera in the Engine House. Luminarias line the sidewalk. Roots of Motive Power's Chris Baldo, at left, stands with Bobbie Yokum, Kylie Yokum and Jeff Yokum.

Below: The gathered crowd in front of the Mendocino County Museum listens to the Emandal Chorale after the tree lighting.

At bottom, left: Willits Chamber of Commerce President Lisa Epstein, Roots of Motive Power's Chris Baldo, and Mendocino County Museum's Alison Glassey at the mixer.

At bottom, right: The Emandal Chorale performs for the gathered crowd.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Mixer & Tree Lighting

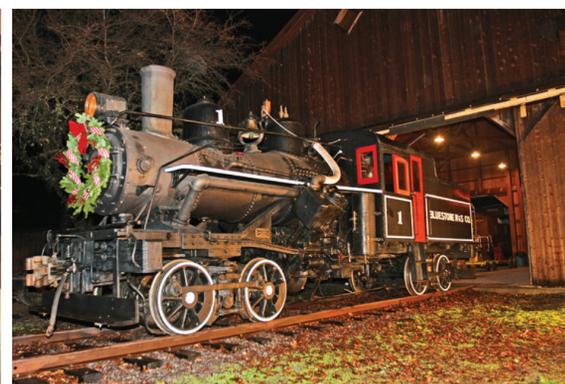
"This is the best turnout for the Christmas tree lighting I've ever seen," said Willits Mayor Bruce Burton, as the crowd of maybe 90 people (not counting the Emandal singers) waited for the holiday lights to shine. "This is a great new venue."

The City of Willits Christmas tree lighting has taken place in Babcock Park and in City Park. "We cut a tree for that one," Burton said, but this year's illuminated Christmas tree is one of the live, 50-foot redwoods growing in front of Roots of Motive Power's Engine House and to the right of the Mendocino County Museum building on Commercial Street.

Read the rest of **Mixer** | Over on Page B2

Below, left: Roots of Motive Power's Carol Jones and Troy James have some candy-cane fun at the front table in the Engine House. Event-goers were offered candy canes and copies of "Highline," the Roots of Motive Power newsletter.

Below: The Bluestone Mining and Smelting Heisler #1 was decorated for the occasion.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS.



'Tis the season to give and enjoy all that life has to offer – family, friends, love and peace. While you enjoy all of the festivities, don't forget to think about your health. So this year, try to add some heart-healthy foods to your shopping list, work in some time to exercise and take care of yourself.

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The Rules: LETTERS

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

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

Willits Weekly

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Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Homemade 'cannon' explodes in Laytonville

An 18-year-old Laytonville man is under investigation following an early morning explosion near the Odd Fellow's Hall of Tolen Avenue.

The November 21 explosion, believed to be caused when a small, homemade cannon blew up, was heard up to three miles away, according to sheriff's Capt. Greg Van Patten.

"The Odd Fellow's Hall houses several apartments," Van Patten said. The explosion occurred near those apartments, and shrapnel from the blast struck the building.

While sheriff's deputies were en route to the 12:19 am call, he said: "They were advised a burn victim had arrived at the Frank Howard Memorial Hospital emergency room."

After processing the scene for evidence, deputies spoke with the young man, who was being treated for "lacerations to his torso, possibly from metal fragments, and a serious injury to his hand."

At the Odd Fellow's Hall, deputies discovered shards of metal and a small wheel, similar to a tricycle wheel, part of a device witnesses described as a "small cannon."

One witness said the 18-year-old had leaned down and appeared to light a fuse, Van Patten said. "A moment later the device exploded, spreading metal fragments and frame parts in a wide circle."

Sheriff's officers are continuing their investigation into the incident to determine "the nature and type of the destructive device," he noted.

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

Willits man held for arson

A Willits man suspected of trying to burn down a Sherwood Hill Drive home the night of November 24 has been arrested on suspicion of arson.

By the time sheriff's deputies arrived at the residence at around 9:30 pm, fire personnel were already on scene and "a large pile of burnt garbage and other unrecognizable debris" had been discovered outside the residence just below a bedroom window, said sheriff's Capt. Greg Van Patten.

Neighbors in the 100 block of Sherwood Hill Drive told deputies they had used a portable fire extinguisher to put out the flames after they saw the debris pile on fire, and beginning to burn the side of the residence, Van Patten said.

While they were putting out the flames, 45-year-old Gerald Simpson, who lives at the location, reportedly walked up to them with burning embers in his beard and hair.

The neighbors said they had used the fire extinguisher on Simpson to put out the burning embers.

Van Patten said Simpson had left the area before emergency personnel arrived.

Deputies said the 73-year-old owner of the home "had been inside the residence with her son and granddaughter at the time of the fire," Van Patten said.

Van Patten said the woman and her granddaughter "could smell something burning about the same time Simpson exited his bedroom inside the residence," and "she could hear the neighbors screaming about the presence of the fire."

Entering Simpson's bedroom, deputies said they noticed "several fresh burn marks on a dresser located below the window" where the pile of garbage and debris had been stacked.

Deputies located Simpson the next morning and arrested him on suspicion of arson.

He was booked into Mendocino County Jail; bail was set at \$30,000.

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

Pg. 4 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com

Laytonville youth busted for pot

A 17-year-old Laytonville youth was arrested December 7 after a California Department of Fish and Wildlife game warden discovered almost seven pounds of bud marijuana in a duffel bag in his pickup truck.

Timothy James Bennett was taken into custody shortly after 8 pm after the game warden observed Bennett's truck parked sideways on Sherwood Road near mile post marker 12, completely blocking the roadway, according to sheriff's Capt. Greg Van Patten.

"As the warden spoke to Bennett, [he] detected the odor of marijuana coming from inside the truck," Van Patten said. When he searched the pickup, the warden found the duffel bag containing the marijuana.

The warden then called a Mendocino County sheriff's deputy to assist in the investigation.

"Bennett was determined to be on felony probation for an unrelated offense, and possession of marijuana was a violation of his probationary terms," Van Patten said.

Bennett was arrested on suspicion of possessing marijuana for sale, transporting marijuana, and violating his probation, and booked into county jail, where he is being held without bail.

A female passenger in the pickup was released.

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

Willits woman held in cell phone theft

A 42-year-old Willits woman and her 21-year-old companion were arrested December 2 after they allegedly attacked a woman in the 1800 block of North State Street and stole her cell phone.

The alleged attack took place at 2 pm the day before when Maria Gonzalez of Ukiah and Alison Marie Sanchez of Willits drove up to a 24-year-old Ukiah woman walking along North State Street, and pinned her to the ground before taking her cell phone, according to sheriff's Capt. Greg Van Patten. The three women had had "a previous encounter," he said.

Acting on an anonymous tip, sheriff's deputies arrested Gonzalez and Sanchez at about 7 pm December 2 in the 1300 block of North State Street on suspicion of robbery and conspiracy to commit a crime.

Both were booked into Mendocino County Jail. Bail was set at \$150,000 each, Van Patten said.

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

City sets up sandbag station

The City of Willits has set up a voluntary sandbag station at City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street.

"The self-serve station for city residents who want to be prepared for continuing winter storms and possible flooding is located in the parking lot east of the Willits Police Department," says City Clerk Cathy Sanders.

There will be a limit of 15 sandbags per household.

"Residents are reminded to keep an eye on the weather and remember that sand bags are easier to fill and move when they're dry," Sanders says. Residents are encouraged to take measures to prepare for seasonal flooding, as well as power outages.

For more information, call Willits City Hall at 459-4601. For information regarding power outages, call Pacific Gas & Electric at 800-743-5002. For emergencies, dial 9-1-1.

Citizens also may call Caltrans at 1-800-427-7623 for state highway road conditions, or listen to local radio for weather alerts.



Above: Bags awaiting toys line the inside of the old Rexall building.

Left: Rick "Santa" Maddox poses with one of the many bikes restored for the program this year.

Below: One of many trees located around town that still have tags in need of filling. This tree is at the LDS Church at the south end of Willits.

Photos by Maureen Moore

The rest of Tags | From Page 1

Rexall building, and that's causing the group some anxiety as they await the return of the tags and the presents.

Turner urges anyone who has already selected a tag to please bring it back with the unwrapped gifts as soon as possible. Come Monday, December 21, the crew will head out to shop to fill the outstanding tags.

There are still some tags available to be selected on trees: A last-minute addition of more than a dozen families to the program has created another wave of new tags earlier this week.

Getting toys and clothes back in time is crucial because of the amount of processing each item receives. Toys are brought in, checked against tags, sizes confirmed, signed off on the list, individually wrapped, sorted and bagged for distribution. Getting everything back in a timely manner makes it possible for this process to work properly.

Turner said anybody who's selected a tag but finds they don't have the budget or the time to fulfill the requests shouldn't worry, but should feel free to return the tag to the Rexall building or place it back on a tree for someone else to pick up. Also, buying only one item on a tag is fine, as the big, final shopping trip can help take care of any gaps in the lists.

And of course, cash donations in any amount help hugely with those last-minute shopping needs. The Community Christmas Program is an official non-profit, thanks to its sponsorship by the Willits Rotary Club, and all donations can be used as tax write-offs. Anyone wishing to help wrap gifts is welcome to come in and donate their time, too.

For more information call Turner at 490-8872 or stop by the old Rexall building.



Above, left: Tylor Yador follows a waving Kevin "Santa" Reedy to the truck for more toys.

Above: Santa receives bags off the truck from firefighter "elf" Jeff Belford during the 2014 event.

At left: Jeff Belford and Ben Scott hand Santa toys from the truck.

Below: Elves Kacey Lynn Tyler and Sharlene Caldwell lent a hand during last year's Christmas Eve distribution.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Re-Evolution

Organic clothing, fiber housewares and bedding on West Mendocino

With a diverse array of interesting and holistic products, Re-Evolution is more than just another Willits clothing store. When Melissa and Brett Sweda-Stevens opened their doors for business two months ago, they did so with the intention of filling a niche. For instance, all their fiber housewares and clothing products are made from 100 percent organic materials, are fair-trade, and are sweatshop-free.

"The skin is our largest organ," said Melissa Sweda-Stevens. "It's just as important as food, what we cloth ourselves with and sleep in."

With her six years of experience working at a natural fibers store in San Luis Obispo, Melissa had made all the right connections to open her own store in Willits. "I wanted to bring that here so people didn't have to go online to order organic clothing and bedding," she said.

The store's name reflects a re-imagining of the evolutionary process towards conscious living, Melissa explained.

Towards that goal, Re-Evolution features a unique device for interested patrons to experience. It's called a Chakra Crystal Light rack. "It's a seven-bulb light rack that hangs over the top of you," said Melissa. You lie face-up on a massage table, and "the light shines through a spectrum chrome filter, which filters out everything except for the color that resonates with your chakras."

According to Tree of Life Technologies, "Light Racks deliver the energetic signatures and vibrational patterns of gems and minerals to the chakras, glands, and water of the body in magnetism, light, and water resonance resulting in relaxation and rejuvenation at its highest levels, expanded consciousness, and a renewed and revitalized body, mind, and spirit."

Re-Evolution is offering a free session to all first-timers to the store. The light rack is located in a separate room, which features all the pleasant, aesthetic hallmarks of a massage room.

Re-Evolution is also supportive of local artists, and is officially requesting pieces to fill its art gallery room. Currently, you can see and purchase the work



At top, from left: Ceiba holding up a shirt. An organic hemp and cotton T-shirt. Organic bedding, clothing and bags.

Above, left: Melissa Sweda-Stevens holding daughter Ceiba.

Above: The main room at Re-Evolution.

At left: Re-Evolution's Chakra Crystal Light room.

Photos by Damian Sebouhian

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Read the rest of Re-Evolution Over on Page B2

Willits Weekly | December 17, 2015 Phone: 707-459-2633, 707-972-7047 Email: willitsweekly@gmail.com Mail: P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490 Pg. 5



Readings by Suzanne Wagner: Willits Weekly columnist Suzanne Wagner will give readings in Willits on Thursday, December 17, from 12 to 6 pm, at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street, as part of the 2015 Psychic Fair. Readings will be 1/2 hour each. \$20 donation suggested. Reserve your time in advance by calling Mazahar at 459-3034 or stopping by in person.

Willits Winter Farmers Market: 3 to 5:50 pm at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Music today by Dorian May, piano jazz. Last chance to shop for Christmas gifts or holiday meals at the last Willits Farmers Market of the year (market on holiday December 24 and December 31): exquisite boxed chocolates, pies and baked goods by Bolliver's Fine Foods and Confections; bulk organic rice or wheat from Grange Grains; Willits-grown natural beef from John Ford Ranch; natural pork sausage, eggs and meats from Inland Ranch; Willits-grown lamb from K-Lamb; luscious soaps and lotions in gift packs or not from Arabella Soap Company; hand-cut wooden tree ornaments, puzzles and more from Picaro Gordo; organic produce and jarred specialties

Winter Farmers Market



from Green Uprising Farm; eggs, baked goods, and jams, jellies and relishes from Fairall's Farm, Willits Weekly gift subscriptions or T-shirts, and more.

Friday, December 18

Frankie J at Caminiti's: "Back by Popular Demand" at Caminiti's Brooktrails Lodge, pianist Frankie J. performs Easy Listening Music & Songs from his upcoming CD. 24675 Birch Street (across from the Fire Station). Fridays in December, 5:30 to 9 pm; New Year's Eve, 5:30 to 9:30 pm.

Willits Weekly Cookie Party: come to Ardella's Downtown Diner from 5 to 7 pm to taste cookies, listen to carols and singing by Devon Jones and Nancy New and share in the merriment of the season! Interested in being a baker and trying your hand for the prize winning recipe? It's not too late! Send an email to willitsweekly@gmail.com or call 972-7047 to be included. There's no charge to enter or attend, but the winners will enjoy bragging rights for the rest of the year, and some silly trophies, too!

Saturday, December 19

Watch the Democratic Debate: Watch the 3rd debate between Democratic Party candidates for President

What's Happening Around Town

at the Willits Public Library Conference Room, 390 East Commercial Street/ Saturday, December 19 at 4 pm. Tea and cookies provided. Everyone is invited; especially teens and young adults. Sponsored by 4PEEC (the Poly-Paradigm Political Participation Encouragement Club).



Shanachie Pub: Mimi Cezanne & Sweet Nite, Folk Rock. 9 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, December 20

"RE-GENESIS": a special one-woman spoken-word presentation by Felicity Artemis, in honor of the Winter Solstice on Sunday, December 20. 4 pm at the Willits Environmental Center, 630 South Main Street. Times so those attending the annual Winter Spiral Dance at the Willits Grange, can attend this, too.

Winter Solstice Spiral Dance 2015: 21st annual celebration of the Winter Solstice, starts at 6 pm the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. "Welcome the Sun's return with our traditional storytelling, drumming & dancing, candle lighting and songs, followed by the Spiral Dance! The spark of Yule turns our hearts to gratitude in the cold &

dark. Let us celebrate our interconnectedness and relationship to all beings, the cycles and seasons." A benefit for the Grange. \$5 to \$10 at the door, children welcome and free. You are invited to wear a mask or costume that reminds you of a favorite wild animal or plant.

Monday, December 21

Care-A-Van in Laytonville: the Spay and Neuter Care-A-Van will be at the feed store in Laytonville on Monday, December 21 from 10 am to 2 pm. This program, provided by Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency/Animal Care Services, provides vaccines, microchipping and spay and neuter services for cats and dogs. Vaccines and microchipping are on a drop-in basis from 10 am until 2 pm. There are limited spay and neuter appointments. For questions or a spay and neuter appointment call 707-888-7698.



Dances of Universal Peace: 7 to 9 pm in Room 4, The Grange. "At this darkest time of the year, we invoke the Light of Creation in chanting together the Lord's prayer in its original language of Aramaic. In translation, we discover the cosmic, enlightened, powerful and true message of the spirit of Christ. Each line of the prayer is taught & translated, then chanted, accompanied by live music."

Tuesday, December 22

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: No Tightwad movies this holiday week. For movie schedule and showtimes: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

Wednesday, December 23

Senior Center Christmas Bake Sale: 8:30 am until gone, Wednesday, December 23 at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. "Let us help you with your holiday baking. Buy delicious homemade goodies and help support your local senior center!"



Thursday, December 24

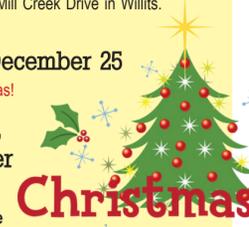
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: St. John Lutheran Church will have its annual Christmas Eve Candlelight service on Thursday, December 24, at 7 pm. This service celebrating the birth of the Christ Child will feature local musicians. All are welcome! The church is located at 24 Mill Creek Drive in Willits. 459-2988.

Friday, December 25

Merry Christmas!

Saturday, December 26

Shanachie Pub: Mitchell Holman & Nick Raspanti, Folk Rock. 9 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.



Christmas Day

Willits Weekly on vacation

The next edition of Willits Weekly will be published January 7, 2016. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers!

Ongoing Events

Willits Winter Farmers Market: from 3 to 5:30 pm every Thursday (except December 24 and December 31, when the market will be on vacation) at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Fall and winter produce, local meats and local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

"Mortals": Willits Center for the Arts' December show features original mixed-media artwork by Malakai Schindel. 71 East Commercial Street. Runs through December 27. Gallery hours: Thursday through Friday from 4 to 7 pm; Saturday and Sundays from 12 to 3 pm. Visit http://willitscenterforthearts.org.

The Emandal Choral: ongoing rehearsals on Wednesdays, 5 to 6:30 pm, for the Choral's 21st season, at the Little Lake Grange great hall, 291 School Street. No auditions: Open to all who love to sing.

Inner Resources Institute: three free programs at the new Inner Resource Institute, 1500 Hearst Road (at Hearst and Valley roads in the old Grace Baptist Church building). • Morning Meditation: Every morning at 6 am. • Kirtan: Every Thursday at 7:30 pm. Devotional singing and chanting led by Chinmayan. • Sunday Morning Service: 10:30 am. Satsang and fellowship consisting of a short talk on practical spirituality; meditation; Kirtan and worship; and a prayer service in which we pray for individual, family and humanity's needs. Info: 707-357-4676 or innerresourcesinstitute@yahoo.com.

Vintage Toy Display: Inspired by the theme, "Let's Pretend," Mendocino County Museum presents an exhibit of vintage toys, including dolls dating back to 1903, vintage Barbies and accessories from 1968, as well as a fully furnished Victorian-style doll house. Paper gingerbread men will be available to decorate. 400 East Commercial Street. Exhibit displayed through January. Museum hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am to 4:30 pm. \$5 adults; \$1 ages 6-18; children 5 & under are free. Free first Wednesday of each month. Visit www.MendocinoMuseum.org

The Mentoring Program: Free classes for girls in grades 6 through 10 in the Willits school system. Friday afternoons from 4 to 5 pm. Class subjects rotate: Herbs, Crafts, Yoga & Movement, Life Skills, and Cooking and Home Arts. Room 4 in the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, the Cultivate Wellness Studio. Call Michelle Cummins for info: 972-1601.

Tuesday Wii Bowling: Every Tuesday at the Harrah Senior Center Dining Room, 1501 Baechtel Road. 1:30 to 2:30 pm. Info: 459-6826.

Thursday Night Bingo: Potluck dinner and bingo every Thursday at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. 6 to 8 pm; \$5 buy-in; 50 cents per card. Info: 459-6826.

Willits Frontier Twirlers Square Dance Club: Monday night workshops at the Willits Center for the Arts, upstairs in the great room. Newer dancers from 7 to 8 pm; plus dancing from 8 to 9 pm. Lawrence Johnstone, caller. Guests always welcome! Info: Jenny Watts. 459-9526.

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: Due to popular demand, the Willits Library is holding the drop-in knitting circle every Saturday of the month, from 3 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "Bring your projects to share and show off! We will have expert knitters on board who can solve any problems and teach everyone to knit! Bring your own projects - we'll supply the coffee! Sign-ups are not necessary - everyone is welcome to drop in."

Willits Library Public Events: "Pajama Story Time" for families, Tuesdays at 7 pm. "Stories for Crawlers and Walkers," Thursdays at 11 am. Technology group for help with hand-held devices, Fridays at 1 pm. Youth Game Night, ages 10-14, Fridays from 5 to 7:30 pm. Drop-in Knitting Circle, Saturdays from 3 to 4:30 pm. 390 East Commercial Street. More info: 459-5908.

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: at Baechtel Grove gym; Sundays and Tuesdays at 7 pm. Some experience desired not required. \$5 per night; first night free. Info: Jeff at 354-1850.

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

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

Free Sheriff's Activity League programs: at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 pm; Karate: Kids aged 5 to 10 from 6 to 7 pm, Tweens, Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

Shanachie Pub: World Music Mondays: Sign ups start at 7:30 pm sharp. Music starts at 8 pm. Jazz Night every second and fourth Thursday, 8 pm. No cover. "Local musicians... take jazz standards and infuse them with funk, hip hop, world, and free form jamming. The outcome is unexplainable." Open Mic every Wednesday, 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7 pm. Movie Night every Tuesday, 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Karaoke Night at Al's Redwood Room: Every Wednesday night, starting at 9 pm. 207 South Main Street. Info: 459-2444.

Laytonville Winter Farmers Market: Mondays, November to May, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willits Avenue, Laytonville.

New Year's Eve Events



Lantz Lazwell & the Vibe Tribe

Shanachie Pub: New Year's Eve Bash features live music by Lantz Lazwell & The Vibe Tribe, food from Nikos Gyro Shop, chocolate from Starchild Chocolates, and champagne, all included in ticket price of \$35 per person. Advance tickets (limited to 70) available starting next week at Main Street Music & Video and Shanachie Pub. Lantz Lazwell and the Vibe Tribe "fuses elements of live and electronic music, Fusion Belly dance (Jayna Manoushe-Belly Dance Superstars), and circus arts." "Lantz Lazwell & the Vibe Tribe service the deep, melodic desires that drives us to dance while providing a complete auditory/visual experience to dazzle the senses." Visit www.lantzlazwellmusic.com.

Brazilian Carnival New Year's Eve at the Little Lake Grange: "Pass the word: This New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31, come celebrate Brazilian Carnival dancing to the joyful rhythms of Samba. Get there early, because opening for Samba are Joe Craven, Pura Vida and Mystic Sol. Doors open at 6:30 pm for dinner, music starts at 8 pm. Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Festive food will be offered by the Zocalo Collective, and admission for children under 12 is just \$2 at the door. Get your tickets early because it will sell out! Tickets available @ JD Redhouse, DIG Music, Ukiah Natural Foods Co-op and Eventbrite On-line Ticketing. Happy Holidays! See you there."



New Year's Eve at the Grange Menu: Chef Mama Jay and The Zocalo Collective will be serving no-host dinner using only the best, local, fresh, and organic ingredients. This New Year's Eve menu is inspired by Samba, carnival, and the tastes of South America. Choice of main dish: Slow Smoked Local Pork, with black beans and cilantro; Local BBQ Beef, with chimichurri sauce; a chunky vinaigrette made with cilantro, parsley, garlic, peppers and onions; Ceviche de Moqueca, local red snapper "cooked" with lime juice, mixed with coconut milk, red bell peppers, avocado & cilantro; or Grilled Lamb Skewers, with parsley, cilantro, lemon zest and yogurt sauce. Choice of Sides: Spanish Rice; Free Trade Plantains; Salpicao, crispy potato salad with carrots, olives, parsley and housemade aioli; or Pão de Queijo, Brazilian cheese rolls, gluten-free. Dessert: Tiramisu, with fresh local whipped cream, organic coffee & chocolate. Bom Proveito!

Nikos Gyro Shop will be open New Year's Eve from 11 am until 2 am New Year's Day, to help out downtown revelers with eating options!

New Years Eve Zone at Digger's: Joey D. Productions presents DJ Selecta Konnex "spinning in the New Year with dance tunes to get you grooving till next year." Dancehall, Dubstep, Hip Hop, Reggae, Trance, Latin. Positive Music / Positive Vibes. 244 South Main Street. 11-10 pm to closing time. No cover.

Brooktrails Lodge: Pianist Frankie J. performs Easy Listening Music & Songs from his upcoming CD, 5:30 to 9 pm. From 9 pm to 2 am, Camp Question Mark's New Year's Eve, featuring Eprom, Great Dane, Huglife, Nico Luminoso, Trevor Kelley, Case Manhattan and more. 21+ over. Public event. 24675 Birch Street (across from the Fire Station).

Felicity Artemis: spoken-word artist

An interview by Rosamond Crowder

Felicity Artemis is a spoken-word artist who blends radical truth-telling politics and spiritual reverence for the Earth into her art form. Her work expresses both outrage at the systems in place that are devastating the planet, as well as an avowed belief in the human spirit. As a daughter of Jewish Holocaust survivors, Artemis has spent her life on a mission to "crack the code" on the human condition, and find artistic ways to accelerate the global consciousness revolution. I had the fortune to interview her recently about her work.

Q: When did you begin performing spoken-word? A: I had been teaching "Earth-Based Spirituality" for over 20 years in California, which included facilitating large-scale seasonal rituals and developing my own form of "ritual theater." In 2001 I moved to Hawaii and attended my first poetry slam, which is essentially a contest where the first-prize winner gets \$100, which I really needed at the time, so I really wanted to win.

Poems were limited to only three minutes, and were to be performed rather than read, and be interactive with the audience. I brought my three-minute poem about the cultural obsession with fashion and the slave labor that produces it. I contended with 20 other poets, and ... won first prize! From then on, the three-minute slam poem became my thing.

Q: What's the difference between "spoken-word" and regular poetry?

A: What I love about spoken-word or "slam-style" poetry is that you have only three minutes to say what you came to say. This time limit usually makes for a very witty and rich manifesto. People usually bring their "A-game" - their best stuff - to a poetry slam, and an evening of potent, often edgy poetic messages can elevate, educate and activate those gathered, and often reveal new dimensions of revolutionary thought.

Q: How did your current one-woman-show, "RE-GENESIS," come about?

A: I'd been putting out my radical ideas through spoken-word in Hawaii for about five years, and when I moved to Portland, Oregon in 2007, I began performing one-woman shows, stringing together my three-minute poems into a cohesive message about ways we may bring about social change. I performed my shows in bookstores, cafes and a couple times at Oregon State University, sponsored by Veterans For Peace.

I came to Willits about six years ago, and as the California drought worsened, I watched the situation all over the world, in terms of the climate crisis, brutal injustice

against black people, indigenous people and the Earth, the propagation of warring mentality, all escalating into a terrifying momentum of planetary dysfunction. About three years ago, I began creating my presentation of "RE-GENESIS," which is essentially a poetic prayer calling for the coalescence of all social and environmental justice movements, through cultivating a universal ethos of empathy.

Q: When you refer to your work as radical, what do you mean, and what can your audience expect?

A: Well, let me put it this way, all my life I've made it my work to identify the roots of human suffering and oppression, and my thesis remains that the blueprint is blatantly encoded in all fundamentalist religions based on a "supreme being" who is outside and better than the world. My poetry speaks to this, in all its nuances, and effectively dismantles dysfunctional mythology in favor of a life-affirming, indigenous-inspired human story that respects all of humanity and cherishes life on Earth. I call us to envision a universal reverence for life itself, as the foundation of all spiritual learning and all human endeavors.

I guarantee that the audience can expect to laugh, cry and be thoroughly entertained, uplifted and inspired to engage more fully in the collective voice of radical change.

Q: When is your next performance?

A: I will be performing a special presentation of "RE-GENESIS," in honor of the Winter Solstice on Sunday, December 20, at 4 pm at the Willits Environmental Center. The performance is scheduled for the same day as the annual Winter Spiral Dance at the Willits Grange, but it's timed so anyone can attend both if they choose.



Felicity Artemis

Willits Home Brew Club

January 8, 2016

The first meeting of the new year of the Willits Home Brew Club will be Friday, January 8, 2016 at 7 pm at Willits KOA. (The club usually meets the first Friday of the month) at the Willits KOA. "We gladly welcome any interested persons to come and check us out. We have a monthly program, a lending library, and some lending equipment." Visit http://willitshomebrew.weebly.com for meeting dates and more information.

Senior Center Lunch

Week of December 21 through December 25

Monday: Beef Stew Tuesday: Roast Pork Wednesday: Chicken Enchilada Thursday: Ham/Cherry Sauce Friday: (Center Closed) Merry Christmas!

Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. 55 and older: \$5.50 per meal; under 55 \$7 per meal. Includes soup, entrée, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink. 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.



love the coopers



THE NIGHT BEFORE



COLLUMN | At the Movies



Daniel Essman

'Love the Coopers'

The Story: In this comedy, a more-or-less picture-perfect upper-middle-class family have some emotional issues to confront. None of these issues involve anything more than bad sibling feelings and self-doubt.

My Thoughts: The family dog is the voice-over narrator. The movie is slick, and there are lots of major actors. I'm a sucker for cheap emotionality and was entertained. This is a movie that succeeds at being nice. Only one fart joke.

They all get over it....

My Thoughts: The family dog is the voice-over narrator. The movie is slick, and there are lots of major actors. I'm a sucker for cheap emotionality and was entertained. This is a movie that succeeds at being nice. Only one fart joke.

'The Night Before'

The Story: Three friends, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Seth Rogen and Anthony Mackie, get together every Christmas Eve to drink, drug, karaoke and generally carouse. This Eve will be their last bash together. Drugs, sex, romance and reunions (including small significant parts for Michael Shannon, James Franco, Mindy Kaling, Lizzy Caplan and Miley Cyrus) ... all on the twisted road to becoming mature men

My Thoughts: It's moderately funny, moderately clever ... and a touch of strange.

Parents: Neither movie is particularly useful or entertaining for children, certainly not "The Night Before."

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



OUR CANNED FOOD DRIVE IS GOING ON NOW THRU DEC. 31



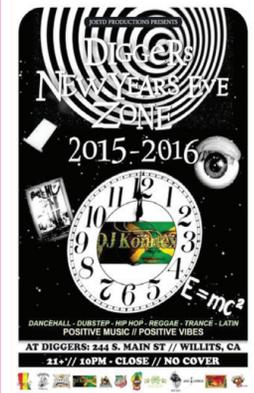
898 PIANT ROAD, UKIAH • Open Tuesday thru Saturday

New Year's Day Free Yoga Celebration

Free all day on January 1, 2016, 45-minute "New Year's Day Resolution" yoga and movement classes, back to back, at Our Yoga Center, 1726 South Main Street in the Evergreen Shopping Center. "Let's begin 2016 together with active and peaceful engagement of our bodies, our minds, and our community. Come celebrate Our Yoga Center's 4th year anniversary!" Info: 707-841-6100 or www.ouryogacenter.com

January 1st, 2016 Schedule: 9 am Emmy Good - Gentle Hatha Yoga

10 am Jeff Brunner - Iyengar Yoga (Detox) 11 am Eryn Brunner - Hatha Yoga 12 pm Sandy Metzler - Movement 1 pm Jeff Brunner - Rope Yoga (Small Studio) 1 pm Lauren Kitover - Hot Vinyasa Yoga (Large Studio) 2 pm Joel Maurer - Hot Vinyasa 3 pm Eryn Brunner - Hot Vinyasa 4 pm Eryn Brunner - Contemporary Dance 5 pm Jeff Brunner - Restorative Yoga



DIGGER'S NEW YEAR'S EVE ZONE



OUR YOGA CENTER



Counterclockwise from top right: Sheryl Gard and the Room to Bloom singers. Shane Tyler "Ty" McFadden. Soloist Michael Lu from the Developing Virtue Secondary School Boys Chinese Orchestra. Singers of the LDS Choir. Patti Walczkowski directs the LDS Choir. Jim Church, trombone player for Willits Brass, gets caught by the Willits Weekly paparazzi. Justin Mosher with trumpet, center, the newest member of Willits Brass. Sheryl Gard plays the French horn.

Photos by Maureen Moore

Willits Community Christmas Chorale

15 performers sing and play to 400 attendees at 28th annual event

The hall of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Willits was filled with holiday spirit on Sunday, December 13, as several hundred attendees came to listen to carols, performances and festive music at the annual Willits Community Christmas Chorale.

Maureen Moore
Graphics & Photographs
maureen@willitsweekly.com

The 28th annual event started out with the Developing Virtue Secondary School Boys Chinese Orchestra playing

prelude music as guests came to find their seats. Roni McFadden welcomed the guests followed by 7-year-old Jonas Swearingin who gave an opening prayer to the room.

The performances started with Sheryl Gard of Room to Bloom Preschool and several of her students. The youngsters sang "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town."

Read the rest of **Chorale** | Over on Page B9



Shanachie Pub
A Groovin' New Year's Eve Party
Lantz Lazwell and the Vibe Tribe
A one-of-a-kind experience: Rock 'n' soul world-beat inspired grooves, fused with belly dance and circus arts!
\$35 admission includes food by Niko's Gyro Shop, champagne at midnight, party favors, and dessert from Starchild Chocolate!
Limited to 70 tickets; available at Main St. Music & Video and Shanachie Pub. Call 459-9194.

Wishing all our customers a Safe and Happy "Ho Ho Holiday"
Tires LES SCHWAB
of Willits
1565 S. Main Street 707-459-5938

Age Well, BABY BOOMERS
If you know what a beehive and a ducktail have in common, it's probably time for a colonoscopy.
Come see us. We specialize in young-at-heart adult medicine.
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45 Hazel Street, Willits (707) 456-9600 www.mchcinc.org

Mariposa Market
ORGANIC & NATURAL FOODS
ESTABLISHED 1979
CELEBRATE YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON WITH OUR GREAT SELECTION OF TURKEYS AND HAMS, HOLIDAY CHOCOLATES AND DELICIOUS ORGANIC CITRUS.
Join us after Christmas for our weekend Gift Dept. Sale ALL ITEMS 25% OFF!
Happy Holidays And Have A Healthy, Prosperous New Year From All Of Us At Mariposa Market.
COME SHOP WITH US AT 500 S. MAIN STREET 707-459-9630

The rest of Raise | From Page 1

salaries, effective the first full pay period following adoption of the resolution.

Included in the approved package was the following:

- A one-time payment in the amount of \$1,000 payable in December 2016, subject to taxes.
- A 2.5 percent salary increase effective the first full pay period following January 1, 2018.
- Health care premium contributions: effective July 1, 2016, the City of Willits will fund the annual deductible as well as the monthly premium toward a health savings account for these employees and their dependents.

The council also discussed and approved a lien on a property at 620 South Coast Street for the recovery of back code enforcement costs and administrative fines. The property owner was behind on monthly payments on \$1,200 of past-due fines that were a condition of an agreement whereby \$25,000 in back fines were forgiven. The property was also, for the second time, out of compliance with trash pickup service and home and property maintenance.

The lien was approved by council on a 4-0 vote.

The council discussed and approved 4-0 a construction contract with Flexi-Liner Corporation to line the city's 3-million-gallon water tank at a cost of \$210,710.

The city had two options on the table regarding the tank: The first was to clean, spot repair and install a liner in the tank. The second was to drain, sandblast, spot weld, and recoat the entire tank at a cost of over a million dollars.

The Division of Drinking Water has approved the first option of lining the tank, and the city approved the contract with Flexi-Liner with a down payment of \$42,870 for materials.

The council also discussed and approved a refinancing deal for the city's outstanding 1993 Sewer Revenue Bond. According to the agenda report, prepared by the city Finance Director Susie Holmes: "On November 23, 1993, the city issued its Sewer Revenue Bond of 1993 in the original principal amount of \$4,710,000, which is presently outstanding in the approximate aggregate principal amount of \$3,225,000."

The city has subsequently been able to secure a proposal from TPB Investments, Inc., a subsidiary of Western Alliance bank, to provide a loan in the approximate amount of \$3,400,000 in order to refinance the remainder of the 1993 bond at a fluctuating interest rate not to exceed 3.94 percent. The original interest rate was 5.215 percent, and "the city's staff believes that this is an opportune time to refund the 1993 Bond and capture the interest savings for the wastewater system." Projected savings are estimated at \$426,000.

Building inspection activity report

Willits construction valuations have more than doubled this year, compared to 2014, reaching almost \$4.5 million in November, compared to about \$2 million last year.

The following building permits were granted for the month of November 2015:

- Two permits for a private garages and carports with a valuation of \$145,543.
- One permit for reroofing with a valuation of \$3,000.
- Four permits for heating and air conditioning with a valuation of \$2,000.
- Two permits for electrical, mechanical and plumbing construction with a valuation of \$2,500.
- One permit for non-residential addition and alteration with a valuation of \$420,000.

The total number of City of Willits permits issued for the month of November was seven, with a total valuation of \$573,043.

The totals to date this fiscal year: Construction valuation: \$4,466,993; fees collected: \$48,058.76; total number of permits issued: 71.

The totals to the same date last year: Construction valuation: \$2,011,110; fees collected: \$18,957.23; total number of permits issued: 60.

New business licenses for November 2015

- Quantum Level Consulting, owned by Claudia Wenning on School Street; naturopath and certified nutritional consultant.
- Lucerne Roofing & Supply Inc., owned by John Hagan in Lakeport; roofing contractor.
- Mendo Mountain, owned by Bess Bair of Shell Lane; handmade art sales.

Willits Weekly | December 17, 2015

Floodplain map meeting set for January 19

The City of Willits will host a public outreach meeting from 5 to 7 pm on Saturday, January 19, 2016, in city council chambers at City Hall, 111 East Commercial Street.

Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) representatives will be present to answer questions about the city's revised Floodplain Insurance Rate Maps and explain the map adoption process, according to city Code Enforcement Officer and Floodplain Administrator John Sherman.

New year, new assignments for county judges

Mendocino County Superior Court judges will play musical chairs beginning January 1, following Presiding Judge-elect John Behnke's announcement of judicial assignments for 2016.

Judicial assignments are reviewed every two years, and new assignments made as appropriate, according to Court Executive Officer Christopher Ruhl.

"In an attempt to increase efficiency and limit unnecessary court appearances, the court will eliminate the use of a criminal master calendar department" beginning next year, Ruhl said.

"Departments A and B will handle their own felony arraignments and operate, insofar as possible, as vertical calendar departments." Assistant Presiding Judge-elect Ann Moorman will continue to preside over felony cases in Department A, while former Presiding Judge David Nelson will move to Department B to preside over felony matters.

Nelson will also serve as a member of the appellate panel.

Judge Cindee Mayfield will return to Department C to handle family law matters and will also preside over the Appellate Division and Family Dependency Drug Court.

Judge Jeanine Nadel will move to Department E to handle unlimited civil matters, probate, and conservatorships. Nadel will

The rest of Main Street | From Page 1

prosperity and social equity.

"By early January the city will have selected the consultant team they're going to go with," said Pernell. "By mid-January the city will have a contract with that firm."

LGC helped compose the sustainable transportation planning grant, good for the amount of \$170,670, awarded by Caltrans to the City of Willits earlier this year. The grant is meant for the enhancement plan itself, and does not include construction funding.

Caltrans will be setting the foundation for the Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan, and is set to begin construction on Main Street in fall 2017 as part of the agency's relinquishment agreement with the City of Willits once the Willits bypass is completed at the end of 2016.

According to the agreement, issued on January 25, 2012, "Caltrans will be responsible for pavement rehabilitation treatment, assessment of drainage facilities, sidewalks and curbs for ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance, updates to Commercial Street and Sherwood Road traffic signals, and repair of bridges (2) based on Area Bridge Maintenance Engineer inspection reports."

Prior to this work, Caltrans will coordinate with the city, the selected consultant team, the Willits Chamber of Commerce and others in determining the most appropriate way to match the relinquishment construction with the vision of the enhancement plan.

According to Pernell, Caltrans is already moving in that direction, "so long as it doesn't modify their timeline or modify their budget [of nearly \$3.5 million]."

Pernell said, "Those plans could include some traffic calming elements, preparation for decorative lighting, painted and striped bicycle lanes, sidewalks being up to standard, and some drainage designs that would be supportive of green streets concepts."

The deadline Caltrans has set for community input into its construction plans is September 1, 2016, and the agency will be involved in the charrette process to be held in the spring of next year.

"By including Caltrans as an important partner in the charrette process, they'll be involved in the plans as they're being developed and they'll be able to tell us what they think will work and what they think is not going to work," said Pernell.

A charrette is an intensive planning session where citizens, designers and others collaborate on a vision for development.

An explanation on how this process works in relationship to Willits is summed up in a newly created website (www.willitsmainstreetplan.com) designed to keep the public informed on the progress of the Main Street Enhancement project.

According to the website:

"A workshop series (charrette) will be held in spring 2016 to solicit public input and vet concepts with city staff, emergency responders, and Caltrans. The resulting Willits Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan will illustrate and describe the community's vision for Main Street. This planning process seeks to have as many of these improvements as possible included in the relinquishment construction project currently scheduled for fall 2017. The remaining improvements are an important part of the long-term vision for Main Street and will be included in the plan, along with recommendations for phased implementation and identification of potential funding sources."

While there are many options on the table, it is clear from the input of LGC, city officials and members of Main Street Merchants that "complete streets" and "green streets" elements should be incorporated.

A complete street is one designed for pedestrian, bicycle and automotive use in a balanced and safe manner.

"More and more of our communities are moving towards designing streets according to the complete streets model," said Pernell. "In fact, even Caltrans has a complete streets directive, and they are designing streets in that way."

Green streets designs take it a notch further by managing storm water with green infrastructure. "They utilize landscaping for filtration of storm water and storm water retention basins," Pernell explained. "It becomes an urban strategy for filtering rainwater and allowing it to infiltrate back into the aquifer."

Pernell credited the city of Fortuna as an example of a community implementing green street engineering. "Fortuna redesigned a parking lot at city hall to have pervious surfaces," she said. "There's no runoff [of rainwater]; it all sinks into the landscape basin, so it's recharging the aquifer. They're continuing these examples throughout their community."

While Caltrans relinquishment work does not include the area of Main Street south of the Highway 20 intersection, the Main Street Corridor Enhancement Plan to be adopted by the city involves the entire almost three-mile stretch of Main Street within the city limits. The idea is to create continuity between the south and north sides of town.

"The south end of Main Street is going to be on a longer-term timeline," Pernell said. While the section of Highway 101 south of the Highway 20 intersection will be retained by Caltrans, the north side, Pernell explained, "is going to become a local road, so it won't have the same highway design restrictions. The characters of those two sections are fundamentally different,

Sherman urges property owners who think their property might be affected to attend this meeting.

The preliminary Floodplain Insurance Rate Maps, along with other flood management-related information, are available for public review by going to www.cityofwillits.com.

For more information, contact Sherman at 459-7122, or jsherman@willitscity.com.

also preside over the Adult Drug Court and serve on the court's appellate panel.

Judge David Riemenschneider will move to Department F to preside over juvenile delinquency and dependency matters. Riemenschneider will also serve on the court's appellate panel.

Judge Richard J. Henderson will move to Department G, which will serve as a dedicated criminal trial department, Ruhl said.

Henderson will also preside over small claims, unlawful detainer, and walk-in traffic matters. Judge John Behnke will move to Department H, which will handle all misdemeanor pre-trial matters.

Judge Clay Brennan will continue to preside over civil, criminal, and family law matters in the court's Ten Mile Court Branch in Fort Bragg.

Behnke also announced the executive committee, which manages the court, will be comprised of himself, Moorman, and Nadel, Ruhl said.

The revised calendar plan is now available on the court's website: www.mendocino.courts.ca.gov.

This report was based on a press release from Mendocino County Superior Court.

but we're still going to be looking at how to create continuity."

Members of Main Street Merchants echoed the importance of developing a Main Street corridor with complete and green streets features.

Greta Kanne, owner of the Book Juggler and a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Main Street Enhancement project, said: "We're hoping to create a downtown that will work for all of us. We want to create a Main Street that looks nice and makes people want to stop."

Jeff Yokum, owner of Yokum's Body Shop and board member of the Willits Chamber of Commerce, talked about other ideas being brainstormed. "We've looked at roundabouts on each end of town, so we could slow traffic," he said. "A lot of people compare their vision to Cloverdale – what they did with the medium in the middle of the road, and the trees."

Regarding the reduction in traffic once the bypass is operational, Yokum said, "I think the car count is going to be less, so we can slow traffic down for safer biking and walking, creating more of a relaxed feel."

Evelyn Fisher, owner of Niko's Gyro Shop, looks forward to the changes to come. "There's a lot of pedestrians who almost get hit right here [in front of the store] on a regular basis, so if we can incorporate some traffic calming measures, it will be good."

Fisher added it would be nice for the plan to include the planting of fruit trees.

Tom Mann, owner of Brickhouse Coffee and one of the founders of Main Street Merchants, discussed how some people might be in denial about how much the city is going to be changing, and how they should take this opportunity to get involved.

"Something's going to happen on Main Street in two years. That's the deal. I just think it would be nice if the citizenry and the City of Willits give their input so we can have something we can live with for the next 50 years," Mann said. "Because once it gets done, we're not going to tear it up to do it all over again."

Overall, merchants expressed their optimism about the Main Street planning process.

"I'm hopeful and cautiously optimistic, and you can't deny it, it's coming," Kanne said. "If you want it to be something that works, then you have to step up and raise your voice and say what you want."

"This is a tremendous opportunity for the people of Willits to have an impact on what our community is going to look like for the next 50 years. It's time to come together and work."

NO EDITIONS:
December 24 or December 31
Willits Weekly will be back on newsstands January 7, 2016

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Above: Joey Kroh, Allie Smith and a giant teddy bear await departure from the Willits Depot. Above, right: Malakai Schindel plays the flute. At right: Allie Smith, Eric Mencis and Tyler Allen.

Below, from left: Aisha "Holly the Elf" Shoemaker is festive in red and white. Riders await departure. Train riders Nora, Mark and Luke Duarte pose with "Holly the Elf" at the depot.

All aboard the Christmas Train

There are still tickets available – though they are going fast! – for the Skunk Train's Magical Christmas Train excursions.

"Ride through a storybook about the giving spirit, friendship, and family traditions aboard our Magical Christmas Train!"

Riders can enjoy a special visit from Santa, listening to the musical talents of Greg and Malakai Schindel, interacting with playful elves – and of course cookies and hot cocoa.

Trains leave the Willits station at 3:30 pm and 5 pm on Thursday, December 17; 3:30 pm, 5 pm and 6 pm on

Read the rest of **Train** Over on Page B9



The rest of **Tourism** From Page 1

Chamber of Commerce. Marcus Magdaleno is chief financial officer of BRH Associates, an Anderson Valley-based marketing agency whose clients include the Boonville Hotel, the restaurant Table 128, and an ice cream shop called Paysanne. He is also a board member of the Mendocino County Lodging Association and Visit Mendocino, Inc.

Bernadette Byrne is the representative from the wine industry. She is owner-operator of Sip! located in Mendocino and in Hopland, and is currently the executive director of Mendocino Winegrowers, Inc.

Debra deGraw, former CEO of the Mendocino Coast Chamber of Commerce (2002-2015), was also Mendocino County's film commissioner for that same period of time. She is currently director of retail sales for North Coast Brewing Company in Fort Bragg.

Jennifer Seward is currently the CEO of the Redwood Empire Fair in Ukiah.

John Kuhry is a businessman and festival producer. He has had two decades of festival production experience, including producing the High Sierra Music Festival, the Santa Cruz Blues Festival and the Boonville Beer Festival. He is currently chairman of the Workforce Investment Board.

In addition to the six people named to the commission by supervisors, five additional members will be elected to the commission by members of the lodging industry.

The rest of **Money** From Page 1

In fact, when one considers supervisors already promised to give \$60,000 to the Ukiah winter shelter project and \$4,000 to Leadership Mendocino, the total funding given to the community, either through the community benefit fund or through the HSA stocking stuffer project, was \$361,067, given to 44 organizations.

Third District Supervisor Tom Woodhouse distributed money to nine community groups in his district.

Woodhouse decided to give \$4,200 to the Grange Farm School so the organization can upgrade and retrofit its barn; \$2,650 to the Round Valley Indian Health Center to assist that group with its Bike Wednesday youth and family program; \$5,850 to the Laytonville Healthy Start Family Resource Center to assist with core support; \$2,500 to the Good Farm Fund to extend EBT program benefits to local farmers markets, and as seed money for "micro" grants to local farmers; and \$5,000 to Tapestry Family Services to provide mental health intervention services to children and families in Laytonville.

Woodhouse's list also included \$5,000 to Willits Kids Club for equipment and furniture for the organization's three new classrooms; \$2,000 to the Ridgewood Ranch Trail Association, to be used to help construct a new covered riding arena; \$5,000 to the Harrah Senior Center to support the center's outreach program; and \$5,000 for food and support for the senior citizens of Round Valley.

The rest of **Pot** From Page 1

people are saying we aren't doing enough, we aren't moving fast enough.

"To them I say, we feel we have it together and we know what we are doing. We are not going to be driven by fear. We are on schedule. We are on time. We are not going to ram it through because we are being driven by fear."

At issue is the requirement by a trio of new state laws affecting the cultivation and distribution of medical marijuana that counties have medical marijuana programs in place by March 31, 2016.

Critics fear the county will not have a program in place by the deadline, and the state's more restrictive laws will take effect here. However, McCowen told the public Tuesday those thinking that are misinformed.

"We expect to have a revised local ordinance coming back to the board [for approval] in March," McCowen said. "We do have a local ordinance in place now, so we are not at risk that our program is going to be superseded by the state.

"Our plan is to write and implement a pilot program for medical marijuana," McCowen continued. "Exactly what that will look like has yet to be decided. But this board will have every opportunity to decide that."

A number of people with a stake in the marijuana industry addressed the board, urging supervisors to simply re-adopt its old 9.31 ordinance.

Mendocino County Undersheriff Randy Johnson told the board he and his staff (which in the past has done the inspections, registering and enforcement connected with the old 9.31 program) were fine with the board of supervisors' timeline.

"We'll be fine with the deadline," Johnson said. "Planting is in April, roughly, so March would be fine. We think having a pilot program is a good idea. And I want to urge you, don't be feeling the pressure to have a program in place, quickly. There's a lot of hard work still to take care of."

A question has arisen within the warrens of Willits Weekly concerning the county's supposed "existing 9.31 program." This is because we thought the program went away in 2012, but we were wrong: The old 9.31 program is still on the books, with the exception of the 99-plant limit.

"The 9.31 program had a lot of moving parts," Sheriff Tom Allman said in a telephone interview. "There were the voluntary zip ties, the 6-foot fence, the certain distance between a marijuana grow and other buildings. There was the 25 plant per parcel limit. Those elements are still on the books. The part that went away was the 99-plant limit for people who signed up for inspections.

"I can say without any hesitation that the 9.31 program is going to be amended. But what those amendments are going to be, nobody knows yet," Allman said. "It's going to be another four weeks, at a minimum, before we know that."

Laytonville man sentenced in 'honey oil' fire

A 40-year-old Laytonville man, who burned down the \$400,000 North Road home he was renting when his garage-based honey oil extraction lab exploded last April, was sentenced to 44 months in state prison December 5 by superior court Judge John Behrke.

Maurice Alfredo Vionnet had earlier been convicted of manufacturing concentrated cannabis, child endangerment, and unlawfully setting fire to a structure – all felonies.

Vionnet's two daughters, ages 7 and 12, were sleeping in a bedroom above the garage when a butane tank exploded. The girls, and Vionnet's wife, all escaped the blaze uninjured.

The Laytonville Volunteer Fire

The rest of **WCS** From Page 1

Avenue, Willits, CA 95490, or dropped by during office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from noon to 5 pm. "All contributions are very much appreciated," Marill said.

WCS has been serving the greater Willits and North County communities since 1981. For more than 32 years, Marill said, WCS has provided a safety-net of human services that help cushion the effects of short and long term unemployment, poverty and crisis by providing temporary assistance programs and services to people in need. For more information, call 459-3333 or email willitscs@gmail.com.

Programs and Services WCS provides include:

- Willits Food Bank, a twice-a-month, supplemental groceries program serving the low-income residents of the greater Willits community.
- Emergency Food, a once-every-90-days program targeted primarily for people who do not qualify for the food bank program or people in special crisis situations.
- Emergency Shelter, provides

The rest of **Budget** From Page 1

less paperwork and less duplication of work, since the main work of drafting a budget would only be done once, not twice.

Flora's proposal won support from supervisors Dan Gjerde and Dan Hamburg. Supervisors Carre Brown and John McCowen expressed opposition, while Woodhouse did not express support or opposition.

Woodhouse did try to express what he was after. "I don't want to see more power points. I want more discussion on real questions. Like say, on this or that department, you'll tell us: 'Here's where we're stuck – do we go this way? Or that way?' That's

The rest of **MCERA** From Page 1

of the Audit and Budget Committee and MCERA critic John Sakowicz as a new trustee.

The main topic of the MCERA meeting was the review and approval of the annual actuarial reports. Actuary Andy Yeung of Segal Consulting presented the information to trustees and a number of interested community members.

The valuation report assesses whether plan assets and contributions are sufficient to pay promised retirement benefits. According to Yeung's report, the numbers have not moved much from the prior year.

The unfunded actuarial accrued liability of the plan increased slightly from \$179.6 million to \$182.2 million, whereas the funding percentage increased from 69.3 percent to 70.2 percent.

The actuaries recommended an increase in the rate paid by employees from 9.83 percent of payroll to 9.86 percent. The recommended rate to be paid by employers decreased from 32.99 percent of payroll to 32.55 percent.

Some 1,793 retired and former county employees are no longer contributing to the plan, but are currently receiving retirement benefits, or are entitled to benefits when they retire. Another 1,107 current county employees are contributing to the plan and earning benefits which will be paid when they retire.

Yeung acknowledged that the employer contribution rate is three times as high as would normally be expected because the actual experience of the plan has been very different from actuarial calculations in the past.

He pointed out retirement benefits are prefunded. Contributions made by employees and the county during the time the employees work for the county are meant to pay for the retirement benefits for such employees.

Unlike the Social Security model, current county employees do not pay for the retirement benefits of former employees. Yeung explained there are only two sources of income for the plan, contributions and investment returns. If investment returns are lower than expected by the actuaries, additional contributions have to make up the shortfall.

Department called law enforcement after they discovered a number of empty butane cans and other BHO manufacturing materials while fighting the fire.

While Vionnet's public defender argued he only had two prior misdemeanor convictions and had learned his lesson, Deputy District Attorney Daniel Madow argued the dangers posed to the defendant's family, firefighters, and neighbors were too great a risk, and Vionnet deserved a prison sentence.

Behrke agreed, noting Vionnet was also before the court for sentencing after he punched a sheriff's deputy while being released from custody in

the honey oil case, and for "bath salts" found in his pocket during his arrest.

After leaving the courtroom, DA David Eyster emphasized "alcohol and BHO labs are not protected activities under Proposition 215," and are a "significant danger lurking in our ... communities."

Eyster warned prosecutors will continue to seek state prison sentences for those "who don't heed the warning and instead continue their illegal manufacturing activities."

This report was based partially on information posted on the Mendocino County District Attorney's Facebook page.

• Other Services, includes personal items, special nutritional items, limited faxing or telephone services, or special project or shipment benefits.

This week's donors to the 2015 WCS Winter Fund Drive

Tamara Adams, Mya Barber, Trayce & W.C. Beards, David & Linda Beebe, Bonita Belt & Steven Drake, Rose Bird, William and Florence Bowler, Linda & Bob Comings-McDonald, Evelyn Dennis, Jed & Carlin Diamond, Jason Erick & Carla Longchamp, John & Gerry Figg-Hoblyn, Cathy Glycer, Victor Hanson, In Memory of Lillie Gunn, Roz & Rick Lina, Little Lake Health Center, March Foundation, Lynne & Keith Matheny, Barbara Mitchell, Moore Water Drilling, Maria Norris, 101 Trailer & RV, Richard Padula, P. Parker, Alleen Recio, Robbin & Tamia Rempel, Sally Rulison & Keith Monroe, Leonor Saijo, Dennis & Rowayne Schrage, Pamela & Robert Shilling, Susan Short & Bill White, Sheryl Smith, Ed & Starla Warburton, Dave & Jenny Watts, Barbara Willens, Diane Woertink, Mary Ziady & Richard Christopher.

The kind of input I want. That would be interesting."

McCowen said the change proposed by Flora seemed insignificant. He addressed the idea that the small adjustments currently made to the budget in September – which under Flora's proposal would be made in the future in December – were not that big of a deal.

"What you're proposing is, instead of a 'true-up' in September, we get a 'true-up' at the first-quarter review," McCowen said. "I don't really think this represents a better solution to the problem."

County CEO Carmel Angelo felt

more dialogue was needed and proposed continuing the discussion to the first meeting in January, when the board calendar will be adopted and committees named.

Angelo proposed bringing two budget calendars to that meeting, one with the two-phased budget process, and one with the one-phased process. Under her proposal, supervisors would be able to decide which way they wanted to go at that time.

The board voted unanimously to accept Flora's budget report and to encourage Angelo to bring two budget-process calendars to the January 5, 2016, board meeting.

NEW YEAR'S EVE CASH EXTRAVAGANZA

\$15,000 GIVEAWAY ON DECEMBER 31st!

Ticket Entries

Entries for this promotion can be earned on:
Wednesday December 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2015 – 15 pts/entry
Saturday December 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2015 – 15 pts/entry
Thursday December 31, 2015 – 20 pts/entry

On December 31 2015, drawing will take place at approximately;

5P (one winner)	8P (one winner)
6P (one winner)	9P (two winners)
7P (one winner)	10P (two winners)

Each winner will choose an envelope. After 10pm each winner will open their envelope to determine their prizes.

SLOT TOURNAMENT • DEC. 31st!

Early Session (Starts at 3pm)
 Registration starts at 1pm – Tournament Starts at 3P
 30 Points redeemed (points must be earned on the particular Thursday)

Limited space available	
3 Minute Tournament	
1st Place	\$400 Cash
2nd Place	\$300 Cash
3rd Place	\$200 Cash
4th through 6th Place	\$75 Free Play (each)

Evening Session (Starts at 8pm)
 Registration starts at 6pm – Tournament starts at 8P
 70 Points total redeemed (points must be earned on the particular Thursday)

Limited space available	
3 Minute Tournament	
1st Place	\$700 Cash
2nd Place	\$500 Cash
3rd Place	\$300 Cash
4th through 6th Place	\$100 Free Play (each)

PRIZES:

\$3,000 Cash	One Winner
\$2,000 Cash	One Winner
\$1,500 Cash	One Winner
\$1,000 Cash	One Winner
\$750 Cash	Two Winners
\$500 Cash	Two Winners



Hot Seats!

Round 1: 6pm to 8pm – 3 Random Winners/Hour (6 Total)
 Each winner to receive \$100 Cash
 Round 2: 10pm to 12am – 3 Random Winners/Hour (6 Total)
 Each winner to receive \$125 Cash

late night BINGO!

Point "Buy-In" starts at 11:30P (25 Points) Bingo Games will be held at approximately 12:30am, 1:15am & 1:45am.
 12:30am Winner \$300 Cash
 1:15am Winner \$400 Cash
 1:45am Winner \$500 Cash

Management reserves all rights to cancel or alter any promotion with little or no notice.



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Winter Weather

Impressive storm hits Willits last Thursday

Willits had a bout of wild weather this last week, with some serious thunder last Thursday, December 10, lots of rain, and some big hail, too, with some hailstones more than a 1/2 inch across. There was so much hail up in Brooktrails Thursday afternoon, it almost looked like snow had fallen.

Lucky Monkeys Ranch, two miles west of Willits, reports 3.4 inches of rain fell on December 10, with another 2 inches on December 13. That makes a total of 8.35 inches of rain at that location in December. The Mendocino College North County Center's weather station, on Commercial Street, reports a total of 8 inches of rain so far this month, with 11.45 inches since August 1 (yes, we did have a little rain this year in August, and in September, too).

With more rain in the forecast, it looks like total rain for fall 2015 in the Willits area might be a bit higher than average.

- Jennifer Poole



Photo by Elizabeth Hart



At top: Jade Luna and Danny Luckman built a sugar cube pyramid.

Above: Deegan Norton and Owen Nielsen stack sugar cubes to show how much sugar is in a can of peaches.

Warm hearts and sugar cubes

WECS students learn about giving – and math – during canned food drive

Becky Button
Contributing Writer

Students at Willits Elementary Charter School recently held a canned food drive to support the Willits Food Bank and donated 550 cans to a good cause. Along with experiencing the warm feelings you get from supporting your community and giving to those in need, students also learned useful life skills like how to read a nutrition label to determine if a food is healthy choice or not.

"During our canned food drive in November each year, I plan a lot of math exercises around the cans the students donate," said Christine Felton, second-grade teacher at WECS. "We make graphs, and tally up all the donations as they come in."

Read the rest of **Sugar** |
Over on Page B2

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<p>12</p> <p>20% OFF KAMIK & MUCK BOOTS</p> <p>Saturday</p>	<p>13</p> <p>25% OFF PET TREATS & TOYS</p> <p>Sunday</p>	<p>14</p> <p>30% OFF ALL CANDLES</p> <p>Monday</p>	<p>15</p> <p>30% OFF ALL JEWELRY</p> <p>Tuesday</p>
<p>16</p> <p>30% OFF HATS, GLOVES & SCARVES</p> <p>Wednesday</p>	<p>17</p> <p>30% OFF ALL KIDS TOYS & GAMES</p> <p>Thursday</p>	<p>18</p> <p>40% OFF ALL CLOTHING</p> <p>Friday</p>	<p>19</p> <p>40% OFF ALL FOOTWEAR</p> <p>Saturday</p>
<p>20</p> <p>30% OFF PURSES & WALLETS</p> <p>Sunday</p>	<p>21</p> <p>30% OFF LODGE COOK WEAR</p> <p>Monday</p>	<p>22</p> <p>30% OFF FLASHLIGHTS LIGHTERS & KNIVES</p> <p>Tuesday</p>	<p>23</p> <p>30% OFF WIND CHIMES & BIRDHOUSES</p> <p>Wednesday</p>

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Santa Photo Fundraisers

\$625 raised and donated to four local groups

Over the last two weekends, Santa made four special appearances in Willits, allowing the community holiday photo ops and a chance to raise money for local groups. Each event was held as a 50/50 fundraiser, and when all was tallied, local photographer Maureen Moore was able to donate \$625 this year. The Willits Junior Horsemen received \$267.50; Willits Elementary Charter School received \$165; Rascal's Rescue received \$40; and the Little Lake Fire Department received \$152.50. Thanks to J.D. Redhouse, Willits Power and Hardware, and Little Lake Fire Department for hosting and to all of the Santas, including Kevin Reedy and Rocky Stansberry, and of course thanks to all who came out to support the causes. Download your photo here: <http://photographress.zenfolio.com/pixwithsanta>.



Danielle Barry and Samantha Arms of the Willits Junior Horsemen with their check.



Misty Gonzalez and Rascal of Rascal's Rescue with their check.



December 18

December 19

December 20



40% off All Clothing

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A LOCALLY OWNED MERCANTILE
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40% off Footwear

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December 21

December 22

December 23



30% off Lodge Cookwear

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30% off Flashlights, Lighters & Knives

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December 24



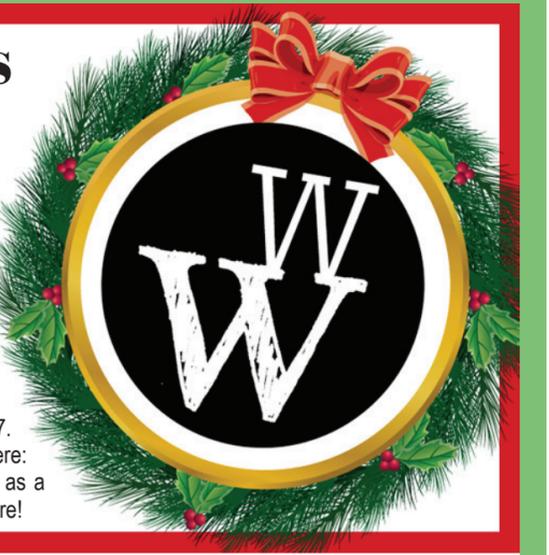
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Willits Weekly's Cookie Party

5 to 7 pm on Friday, December 18

It's time for Willits Weekly's annual Cookie Party! We invite the community to come to Ardella's Downtown Diner on Friday, December 18 from 5 to 7 pm to taste cookies, swap recipes, listen to Christmas carols sung by Nancy New and Devon Jones, and celebrate the holiday with us! IF YOU'D LIKE TO ENTER THE COOKIE CONTEST: Send an email to willitsweekly@gmail.com or call 972-7047. You can also download the baker's entry form here: www.willitsweekly.com/WW-Cookie-Entry.docx. Enter as a business, or as an individual! We hope to see you there!



This year classes participated in a "Sugar Stacking" lesson that allowed students to see the actual number of sugar cubes in each can of food. Students learned how to find the number of servings in a can and to use math skills like addition and multiplication to determine the total grams of sugar. Then, students used division to convert those grams into sugar cubes, and they built towers and pyramids to create a clear picture of the sugar content in each can.

The World Health Organization recommends adults limit their sugar intake to 25 grams per day, or six teaspoons. The students at WECS quickly realized that many of their cans had far more than six sugar cubes, with cranberry sauce and peaches in syrup ranking as the worst offenders.

Students were cautioned to avoid "sneaky sugars" and to opt for fresh fruit, or canned fruit in juice, instead of fruit packed in syrup that contains excess sugar.

"The sugar cube activity was their favorite so far," said Felton. "We generally don't allow sugar at school, so they loved getting to stack the cubes. It's a sneaky way of teaching them math skills, label-reading, and making good food choices all at once!"

A parent of a third-grader echoed Felton's thoughts: "I love that my son is reading the labels on our food, and he can tell me how many sugar cubes are in each serving. It really helps him make better choices about what he eats when he visualizes a pyramid of sugar cubes stacked next to a tube of Go-Gurt."

The Willits Food Bank reported that WECS students donated 667.5 pounds of canned food this year. Multiply that by the total number of good wishes, hearts warmed, and bellies filled, and you will get a result even sweeter than a stack of sugar cubes!



Above: Willits Junior Horsemen Danielle Barry, standing, and Samantha Arms wrap presents last weekend for the Community Christmas Program. Below, left: Part of the donation made by Willits Frontier Days. Below, right: Items purchased for the program by the Willits Junior Horsemen.



A Helping Hand for Santa

Members of the Willits Junior Horsemen and Willits Frontier Days groups donated toys and wrapping hours to the Willits Rotary Club's Community Christmas Program again this year to help ensure everyone has a festive holiday. Money used by the Junior Horsemen to buy the presents was raised during a recent bake sale and totaled \$400. Willits Frontier Days proudly allocates a donation in their budget every year to help fund the program.



Doll Raffle Winner

The Stylist owner Nicole Suttles, at left, and raffle winner Lana Vlastelica hold the beautiful Roxanne

Photo by Jennifer Poole

Lana Vlastelica of Willits is the winner of "Roxanne," a beautiful contemporary doll dressed in luxurious historic costume, thanks to a raffle organized by a group working on "opening Ruthie's Doll Museum & Tea House" in Willits next year.

Nicole Suttles of The Stylist Hair Salon had displayed Roxanne and sold raffle tickets in her salon, and the winning ticket was drawn on December 10.

Vlastelica says she is thinking about donating Roxanne back to the Doll Museum, but says she will be happy to have the festively dressed doll around for the Christmas season.

"Lana says she never wins anything," laughed Suttles. "Well, she won something quite spectacular this time, and she supported a great cause." The raffle raised \$350 towards medical bills for 88-year-old Bea Wurzberger, a Santa Rosa dollmaker and doll collector.

For more information about the doll museum project, call Cat Lober at 510-472-4948.

- Jennifer Poole

Furry Friends Hoping for a Home Shy Hershey

Hershey is a 3-year-old female boxer mix who currently weighs 45 pounds. Hershey is as sweet as her name! And adorable! Just look at those sweet eyes and droopy cheeks! She is a bit shy here at the shelter, but we are certain that once she knows she is home, loved and safe, she will blossom into her best self.

Hershey needs a patient and loving guardian who will devote lots of time and energy to ensuring that she feels safe and confident. Hershey would be fine with another friendly dog or kids.

Don't miss out on our "Twelve Strays of Christmas" Special, where all our spayed and neutered dogs can be adopted for \$50 or \$75 for Mendocino County residents (which includes the required dog license). This special started December 12, and ends December 23.

The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6 pm. We have many wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.mendoshelterpets.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.

Photo by Sage Mountainfire

Winner's WONDERLAND
NOW-DECEMBER 31

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of Marcia Tichenor who will be showing until the end of the year. Future slots remain open.

For anyone who remembers and misses the beautiful paintings of Sheri Howe (who moved to North Carolina a few years ago), Re-Evolution is selling her work.

"We're friends with Sheri Howe, and we've kept in touch with her," said Melissa. "We're offering her art work, postcards, prints and any of the paintings that people have seen."

A brand-new batch of Howe's artwork will be arriving in the near future. (You can check "Sheri Howe Gallery" on Facebook for more info.)

Another local artist whose work can be found on the shelves of Re-Evolution is Erik Kristiansen, who specializes in blown glass.

"I'm just trying to fill in the pieces with what I thought was missing in town," Melissa said, regarding the emergence of Re-Evolution. "For me being organic and fair trade is very important. Those are the kinds of products I buy, and I feel like [a lot of] people around here have a similar mindset."

Re-Evolution, located at 15 West Mendocino Avenue, is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 11 am to 6 pm. To contact Re-Evolution, call 707-234-0607.

At right: Goods at Re-Evolution. Far right: A painting by Sheri Howe.

At right, below: Window of Re-Evolution. Far right, below: Chakra Crystal Light room with artwork by Sheri Howe.

Photos by Damian Sebouhian



Above, left: Attendees applaud as the Christmas tree lights come on.

Above: Willits City Mayor Bruce Burton addresses the gathered crowd.

At left: Two giggly girls, Shyanne Barney, left, and Cadence Zanolta smile for a quick photo on one of the pieces of equipment in the engine house.

Photos by Maureen Moore

The crowd counted down from "10" to "1," and the pretty white lights draped gracefully around the tree switched on with a lovely glow - thanks to the City of Willits public works department crew.

Roots volunteer Bobbie Yokum and helpers also put out luminarias along the sidewalk, which added to the holiday spirit.

About 25 members of the Emandal Choir started out the musical program with "Alleluia," a classical round with words by Maureen Robson. After the tree was lit, the choir sang "This Little Light of Mine, I'm Gonna Let It Shine," arranged by the Mwangaza Children's Choir of Uganda, and finished up with a few rounds of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Both the museum and the Engine Room were open into the evening for a Willits Chamber of Commerce mixer. Roots ran their model train, put up three beautiful Christmas trees decorated with train ornaments, and had the Murray Corliss steam engine operating in the middle of the room, with the Northwestern Pacific Railroad caboose #13 and the Mining and Smelting Heister #1 steam locomotive also on display. The museum offered hot cider and hot chocolate and cookies, and the "Vintage Toy Display" in the long hall of the museum, which has dolls, toys and games, and will run through January.

- Jennifer Poole



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(PG) 1 hr 32 mins

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At top, from left: Alex Titus proudly displays a necklace she made.

Students from Sherwood School show off their display of wreaths.

Jenna Wells shows off her handmade Snoopy snow globe.

Above, left: Girl Scouts Haley and Berenice say they are both currently working towards their detective and technology badges.

Above, right: The goodies on the Sober Grad table were irresistible.

Below: Alana from the Community Learning Center takes money from a happy patron.

Photos by Alice Ledford

Doris Wier from Embrace Conflicts
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Photos by Jenny Senter

Above, left: Singers entertain the shoppers and merchants. Above, right: Colorful felt hats. Left: Simone River multi-tasks with her baby and a customer. Left, below: A happy customer with a metal bird sculpture.

Holiday Craft Fair

Business was brisk Friday at the 29th annual Holiday Craft Fair, as shoppers browsed the wares of local artisans at the Willits Community Center.

"We were really busy on Friday and Saturday," said artist Ann Maglente, who helps coordinate the Craft Fair, a fundraiser for the Willits Center for the Arts. "Sunday was a little slower, but it was still really nice. It turned out to be a very good fair, and profitable for a lot of people."

WCA and fair volunteer Nancy Reed agreed: "The vendors all said this was a better year than last year. People seemed to be spending more money this year... Maybe the economy is better."

The raffle fundraiser was also very successful, raising \$1,300 for the Arts Center. "We did better this year than we've ever done," Maglente said. Thirty-five raffle tickets

Read the rest of **Craft** Over on Page B9

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

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COLUMNS | Relationship Ins and Outs

Childhood pain and anger

Dear Doris:
When suppressed childhood pain and anger expresses reflexively, how can I avoid affecting my partner who is very sensitive? A.

Dear A.:
From your question I can see that you are a sensitive person and that you have your partner's best interests in mind. You have good awareness around difficult, old feelings such as anger and pain from your childhood. I can tell you are eager to learn how to express yourself differently, which makes you a wonderful partner.

There are a couple things that come to my mind. First, make sure that your partner knows that she or he should not always take your anger personally, that often your anger stems from your childhood experiences. You may not have control over it yet, but you are hoping to learn to deal with these old emotions differently now.

Also tell your partner, as you mentioned in your question, you are aware of his or her sensitivity and that your anger is hurtful. Re-emphasize how much you wish to communicate differently.

Second, upon mutual agreement, you and your partner might want to experiment with the idea of him or her signaling you in some way when he or she feels your anger coming out, helping you to stop it quicker. This way your partner has an active role in assisting you to stop this old behavior before your anger can spill over.

It will feel more like the two of you are teaming up and standing united to protect each other and your relationship. Stopping the old behavior is always the first step for change. Explore other actions that might help you communicate differently and try them out. From my own experience, I know that we can help each other heal old wounds.

Third, I recommend that you explore your emotional pain from your childhood. Were you shamed and blamed? Did you feel neglected? Did you experience any form of physical violence? What do you wish would have happened differently in your childhood? Anger is so often a cover-up of emotional pain, fear and suffering.

During your childhood, your anger no doubt felt protective and helped you to survive and feel less helpless. Today, your misplaced anger is obviously not serving you in your partnership. Being in touch with your vulnerability and allowing yourself to explore old feelings in more detail will help dissipate your anger as a reflexive reaction.

Some people prefer to explore vulnerable feelings from their childhood by themselves, through journaling or talking about it with friends they trust and/or their partners. Others have better success by seeing a professional.

Imagine what a difference it would make if you could share your emotional pain or suffering with your partner rather than aiming anger at him or her. Imagine how differently your partner might receive you and what might be possible for the two of you from this more vulnerable place.

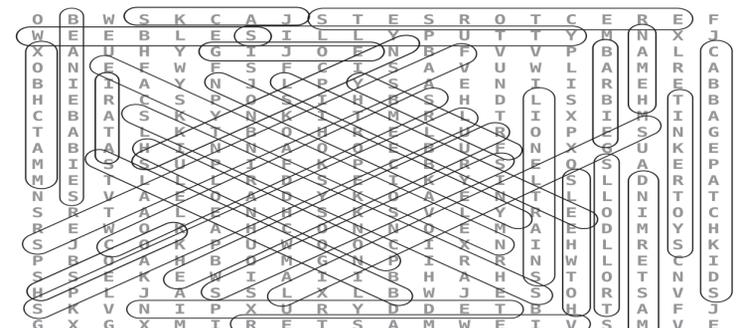
Warmly, Doris
If you have any relationship questions, please send them to doriswier@embracconflicts.com or to WVW directly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490. She will answer them anonymously on the third Thursday of the month.

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- Drive in the tracks of the car in front of you. This allows the vehicle ahead to displace any standing water that's on the road.
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The rest of **Chorale** | From Page 8

The Developing Virtue Boys Chinese Orchestra Quartet, including Zhidao Leeroybruce on the Chinese dulcimer, Marco He on Flute, Marvin Wang on Chinese mid-range moon guitar, and Nathan Loafman on Chinese zither, followed with "Country Time Fun with Pony Ride," and soloist Michael Lu performed "Shearing the Sheep" on the Chinese dulcimer.

Jules Gregory was accompanied by Gloria Ulrich as she sang "Away in the Manger," and Willits Brass followed Gregory with "Adeste Fideles," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," and "Jolly Old St. Nicholas." Willits Brass also featured new band member Justin Mosher, who played trumpet alongside Dan Church on baritone, Jim Church on trombone, Sheryl Gard on French horn and Tom Allman on tuba.

The LDS Choir, directed by Patti Walczykowski and accompanied by Victor Saengkeo, performed "Candlelight Carol," "Shine for Me Again Star of Bethlehem," and "Joy to the World."

Gloria Ulrich, accompanied by Sister Burton, performed "When Mary Sang Her Lullaby," and they were followed by the Willits United Methodist Folk Ensemble, directed by Dick Hobson, who sang "Let's Make a Baby King" and "Peace in the Valley."

The community sing-a-long was next, directed by Michelle Snider, and accompanied by Gloria Ulrich on the organ. They led "Hark the Harold Angels Sing," "The First Noel," and "Oh Come All Ye Faithful."

John Walczykowski performed "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" and was followed by Ed Reinhart with "Christmas Boogie."

Diane Smalley, Helen Falandes and Madge Strong of the trio Chanterelle performed "Ma Navu" and "The Christians and the Pagans (Finding Common Ground)," and were followed by Gloria Ulrich, Patti Walczykowski and Michelle Snider who, along with accompanist Victor Saengkeo, performed "Love Knows No Borders."

The St. Francis of the Redwoods Episcopal Church Choir was next and performed "Amor Amor," "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," and "Peace Like a River." Don Willis directed the Emmandal Choir for their performances of "Alleluia," "This Little Light of Mine" and "Peace Carol." The International Ensemble finished the singing portion of the evening with "Silent Night," and then closing remarks were given by Bishop Corey McFadden. A benediction by Dennis Long, chaplain of Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital concluded the evening.

The rest of **Wreaths** | From Page 6

and the group up."

The ceremony started at 9 am, coordinating with the 12 noon start time at Arlington Cemetery back east. After the color guard posted the colors and the National Anthem was played, 4-H Club member Keely Ahders, in full uniform, began the proceedings.

"We are here today to say 'thank you' [to the war veterans], and we are honored to know you," Keely said, reading from a document prepared by the Wreaths Across America foundation.

Willits veterans from the Marines, Navy, Army, Coast Guard, and the Merchant Marines were chosen and, together with 4-H club members, took turns in placing a wreath on a tripod stand, each stand representing a military branch.

"Today we show a united front of national unity all across the United States of America, as we remember the fallen, honor those who serve, and teach our children the value of freedom," said Keely, before calling the first pair up to place a wreath: Mike Ferguson from the U.S. Army and Josh Wear from Boy Scout Troop 212.

After the wreaths were set in place representing the respective military branches, one last wreath was placed in honor of the 93,129 United States servicemen from all branches who were either prisoners of war or missing in action.

Bugler Bob Ireland finished the proceedings with the traditional taps, and participants spread out into the cemetery to lay a wreath on each of the military headstones.



Willits Weekly | December 17, 2015



The rest of **Craft** | From Page 5

were drawn Sunday afternoon, with each winner getting to choose a prize donated by the fair vendors.

The fair spilled over into the Willits City Council chambers this year. Everything looked festive, with greenery donated by Deni's Pottery, a Christmas tree on loan from Sparetime, and a delicious lunch offered by the Willits Charter School. "A good time was had by all," Reed said.

— Jennifer Poole



The rest of **Kids Craft** | From Page 4

Students from Sherwood School were selling wreaths to raise money for the end-of-year field trip. The older students are planning on visiting a science institute at the Marin Headlands, and the younger students would also like to take a hands-on science trip, but the destination has not been chosen yet. A portion of the funds will also be used to host local artist Ann Maglente for some instructional art classes.

The Baechtel Grove Workability Program had a booth of bath salts, lanyards, cards and other seasonal decorations. The workability program is a Mendocino County grant that provides career development to middle school and high school children with learning differences. Resource

The rest of **Train** | From Page 10

Friday December 18; 10:30 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2:30 pm, 3:30 pm, 5 pm and 6 pm on Saturday December 19; and 10:30 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2:30 pm, 3:30 pm and 6 pm on Sunday December 20.

On Monday, December 21, trains leave at 10:30 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2:30 pm, 3:30 pm and 6 pm; Tuesday December 22 will have trains at 10:30 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2:30 pm, 3:30 pm and 6 pm and the final day for trains is Wednesday, December 23 and will run at 10:30 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2:30 pm, 3:30 pm

Willits Weekly | December 17, 2015

Above, from left: Tom Allman, Mendocino County sheriff and Willits Brass tuba player, plays at the Chorale.

Roni McFadden welcomes the attendees to the 28th annual event.

Kamryn Wilkes smiles while singing with the Room to Bloom group.

Left: The Developing Virtue Secondary School Boys Chinese Orchestra Quartet.

Below, from left: Eilan Bartholomew smiles from the audience.

One of the flute players in the Developing Virtue Secondary School Boys Chinese Orchestra.

Attendees applaud the performers at the Willits Community Christmas Chorale.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Above, left: Bonnie Belt takes a breather. Above: AfterGlow Naturals' Joann Horn is passionate about her products.

Below, left: Shawna Martin, secretary at Sherwood School, was on hand to sell wreaths. Below: Anne Vanderhark works on projects between customers.

Photos by Jenny Senter



specialist and teacher Betty Meinecke helped the students with the booth, and she spoke of the many important lessons students learn from this process, including teamwork and math skills.

Siblings Enzo and Sofia Vaccaro took the initiative to raise money for themselves at the Kids Craft Fair. Reminiscent of the days when children would have lemonade stands on the corner, the Vaccaros just hoped to earn a little pocket money. When asked what they would spend it on, Enzo replied: "Maybe going to the movies."

It is refreshing to see children developing a positive work ethic and striving to reach goals. Judging from the crowds at the fair, it seemed like everyone's hard work really paid off.

and 6 pm. The Skunk Trail will also be running Willits to Northspur trips on Christmas weekend, Saturday, December 26, Sunday, December 27, and Monday, December 28, departing at 9:45 am each day.

Some of the above trains are already sold out, and as tickets continue to sell, the best way to see what rides are still available is to check www.SkunkTrain.com/christmas.html for updated availability.

— Maureen Moore

Willits Weekly | December 17, 2015

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