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Donations Accepted Edition No. 86 **Wednesday, December 31, 2014**

Zack Cinek
Reporter
zack@willitsweekly.com

Read the rest of
LAFCo |
Over on Page 10



Mike A'Dair
Reporter
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Read the rest of
Blosser |
Over on Page 10



Kate Maxwell
Reporter
kate@willitsweekly.com

Read the rest of
Bridge |
Over on Page 9



Is it winter? Is it spring? Depending on the time of day you're wondering that, your guess might change. The long-awaited frost finally made its first appearance on roofs, windows and foliage on Christmas Day, and several frosty mornings have followed, finally making it feel like winter. The birds, however, seem to have their own ideas, flittering about, sunning themselves in the afternoon light, and chirping merrily as if spring had already sprung!

Photos by Maureen Moore



Kate Maxwell
Reporter
kate@willitsweekly.com

Read the rest of
HHSA |
Over on Page 10

- Other Services, includes personal items, special



Read the rest of **WCS** | Over on Page 10

Read the rest of
Accidents |
Over on Page 10

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

Saving lives

To the Editor:

The environmental group Keep The Code has threatened to file a lawsuit against the City of Willits, saying they must do a CEQA environmental study prior to REACH Air Ambulance Service's proposed move to the Willits airport. Looking into it, one has to wonder what this group's intentions really are.

We should all be conscious of the effect we have on the environment when planning our future, but not at the expense and the safety of citizens especially when, it appears, the plan for REACH to do business at the Willits airport does not require a CEQA study as per CEQA guidelines. [CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act.] Why should anyone spend even a dime for a study that isn't necessary?

From an economic standpoint, we need to encourage and not discourage viable businesses to come to Willits.

Initially there were a number of citizens with concerns about safety and noise. It's important to be a good neighbor and to be respectful of others' concerns. REACH and the City of Willits met with Brooktrails residents and have alleviated the concerns of all but a handful of people. As for the spotted owl, if they are nesting there they must like aircraft noise, as planes and helicopters have been flying in and out of the Willits airport since the 1960s.

REACH has state-of-the-art equipment that allows them to operate very quietly, and they plan to use a traffic pattern that will have the least amount of impact on Brooktrails. REACH is a professional organization, and one can bet that the threat of a lawsuit isn't what prompted them to take measures to quiet their helicopter and to search out traffic patterns to alleviate concerns. They would have dealt with these issues regardless, because that is how they operate.

REACH has never had to do a CEQA report for any of the other 10 California airports

they operate from. That they now have the threat of a frivolous lawsuit to make them do so is ridiculous and even a little embarrassing.

REACH operating from the Willits airport will breathe some life into an otherwise underutilized airport. Being a Federal Aviation Administration-funded airport, the federal government spends a lot of taxpayers' dollars on the airport to keep it viable and operating safely. It seems taxpayers would be happy to see a portion of their tax dollars going to provide a home for the critical service that REACH provides.

The question still begs, and it's been beaten to death, if noise from an airport is a concern, then why buy a house near an airport? If Keep The Code wants to file a lawsuit, then they should sue the federal government whose airport rules of operation the city must adhere to for the city to run the airport. In the meantime, there are more important things to worry about, starting with saving lives....

Pete Swanton, Willits

An outstanding production

To the Editor:

Last month the Willits Community Theatre performed a play I wrote called "The Angel of Chatham Square." I am writing this letter to not only thank them for their outstanding production, but to urge anyone who has not taken in a show at this gem of a theater to do so in the new year.

As their guest on the final weekend, I was truly touched and delighted by the amazing quality of the entire production – the wonderful acting, set design, tech and, particularly, the superior directing of Christina Dill. They absolutely honored my script and story, and there shall always be a little bit of Willits forever etched in the heart of "The Angel of Chatham Square."

Audie Foote, Healdsburg

Bittersweet

To the Editor:

The 2014 saga of the Willits bypass has ended on a bittersweet note.

Bitter, because MCOG has had to put up another \$9.4 million of county transportation dollars to make sure that the bypass gets finished. That means no second access for Brooktrails, no anything else for many years. We as a county have mortgaged our transportation future for an expensive present based on a fading past.

Sweet, because Caltrans has withdrawn its plan to push a new roadway through the Richardson Grove redwoods. Whether it's the cost overruns, the protests, the misleading statistics, or the insensitivity to local concerns, it's very likely that the bright media light shone on the Willits bypass has saved Richardson Grove. We must savor the victory, even as we mourn the loss of our pristine valley.

Don Willis, Willits

Covered California changes

To the Editor:

As of December 31, 2014, between 40,000 and 70,000 people in California who were receiving subsidized health care coverage under Covered California plans will be dropped from their plans as a result of a reduction in their incomes identified during Covered California's renewal process.

Their lower incomes mean they now appear to be Medi-Cal eligible, and the cases must be worked by counties to be brought into the Medi-Cal program. Covered California and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) are the lead agencies in notifying consumers of any plan changes.

Covered California and DHCS will be sending notices to the affected population. The timing of the notices is such that

individuals may be receiving notices just days before the effective dates (December 31, 2014 for Covered California plans and January 1, 2015, the start date for Medi-Cal coverage).

Some consumers will be confused by the change and some may experience a coverage gap. This will create questions from consumers and thereby will increase workload for local county eligibility workers. Mendocino County HHSA is anticipating a list of people transitioning in coverage from Covered California to Medi-Cal, based on a reduction in their household income. Most individuals will automatically enroll in temporary Medi-Cal to bridge this transition.

County staff will contact families to initiate their transition to the correct ongoing Medi-Cal coverage. There are a few cases in which the family/individual may have started their transition prior to January 1, 2015, but not completed the process. For these few individuals, their coverage will not be active on January 1, 2015. Once their application is completed, authorized benefits will begin retroactively to the month of application. Staff will be checking the lists provided by the state to assist in ensuring that individuals do not get left out of the transition.

Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency will be providing an update on February 3, 2015 to the board of supervisors on the Partnership Health Plan and Medi-Cal expansion in our county. The update will include a short presentation by PHP staff and will focus on projects and data specific to our county and will also include an update on the Medi-Cal backlog issue, as well as a discussion of increasing advocacy on the state level to take initiative on expanding health care coverage choices available in California, especially in rural communities, and to provide support to counties.

Stacey Cryer, director,
Mendocino County Health &
Human Services Agency



Top, left: Mary Ann Underhill stands with her Western leather goods.

Above: Nancy New and the Rowdy Choir.

Below, top row: Wolfgang Ronnefeldt of Mendocino Medicinals.

Below, middle row: Susie Harper with her lampwork beads; jars of pears sold by David Rice, the Pickle Man.

Below, bottom row: Bold bracelets and hand-crafted animal ornaments were among the decorative arts displayed at the fair.

Photos by Maureen Moore



At left: Austin and Phoebe Ballard pose with a cutting board they won in the Craft Fair raffle. Photo by Jennifer Poole

Getting Crafty

Annual Willits Holiday Craft Fair provided gifts and merriment for holiday shoppers

"We had a good year this year," said Bonnie Bell, Willits Holiday Craft Fair coordinator. "We had a good turnout, and everybody seemed to do well and was happy. The fair looked really well, too."

The Willits Community Center was festively decorated with 24 large conifer swags around the top of the walls: put together again this year by potter (and longtime fair vendor) Deni McKeag. Eight other artist/vendors decorated the greenery with bows and ornaments.

Musicians played throughout the event, and students, parents and staff from the Willits Charter School raised more than \$2,000 at the food counter. "The food made by our Culinary Arts program – including lasagna, quiche, tamales, chili, soups and salads – was a big hit," said school director Jennifer Lockwood, as was the espresso machine manned by students: "Coffee was our biggest seller!"

Lockwood wanted to thank all the school families who donated goods and their time, and everybody who visited the WCS booth. "We hope we were able to make everyone's shopping experience even more pleasant with our yummy food," she said.

Including the charter school, 30 different vendors sold arts and crafts at this year's 28th annual fair, including inexpensive Christmas decorations, pretty potholder sets, fancy wood chopping blocks, kitchen and decorative pottery, photographs, pickles, fine jewelry, Western crafts, and more.

One first-time vendor was Tess McGuire from Lake County, with colorful felted wool hats adorned with rosettes. "It's been really good here," McGuire said. "I'm really pleased." Reds and purples were her most popular colors this year, she said. "Last year I couldn't keep enough teal in stock, but this year it's burgundy. It looks good on a lot of people."

Willits fabric artisan Ann Maglinte had a good holiday fair, too. "I made 15 dolls for the Laytonville and Willits fairs this year, and I have only four left," she said on Sunday afternoon. "I've sold so many potholders and a bunch of table runners, too. It's a very good year."

The "First Drawn, First Choice" raffle is a big part of the Holiday Craft Fair every year. Each participating vendor is asked to donate one hand-crafted item as a raffle prize. As raffle tickets are drawn, winners who are present get to hasten to the prize table and choose whichever item they want. This year's raffle raised more than \$1,100, Belt said. "We were overwhelmed by the generosity of the community," said volunteer Nancy Reed, while supervising the raffle ticket table. "Some people bought an enormous number of tickets."

– Jennifer Poole



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

Willits Weekly is a locally owned independent newspaper, founded in 2013, covering the greater Willits area.

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11. Mariposa Market



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Willits Weekly

EST. 2013

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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Activities & fun for kids of all ages

**PUZZLE
ANSWERS
ON
PAGE 9**

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BREAKFAST	ENJOY	HEART
CARBOHYDRATE	FIBER	HOT
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CINNAMON	FLAPJACK	INGREDIENT
COOKED	GRAIN	LUNCH
COOKIES	GRINDING	MEALS
DELICIOUS	GRUEL	MICROWAVE
DIGESTION	HAGGIS	OATCAKES
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1. Carpenter sharks
10. Billy clubs
12. Cassava
13. Keeness of vision
15. Confidence game
16. Run playfully
18. Article
19. Dept. of Housing
and Urban Dev.
20. 2001 Spielberg film
21. Covered with frosting
24. Own (Scottish)
27. Model stance
30. Italian greeting
31. Oh, God!
33. Radioactivity unit
34. Feeling of personal worth
35. Befitting a ruler
37. Waterproof raincoat
39. Root mean square (abbr.)
41. Napoleonic island
42. Whale ship captain
44. Put in advance
47. Sensory receptor
48. Porzana carolina
49. 13th state

50. Graz city river	22. Tidal bore
52. Promotional material	23. Condemns to ruin
53. Gather into a book	24. Of she
56. Reduce in amount	25. 'The African Queen'
59. Slow and apathetic	screenwriter James
60. Not liquids or gasses	26. Former US gold coin
62. Caused to continue	worth 10 dollars
64. Owner	28. So African Music Awards

1. Kitchen basin	36. Household god (Roman)
2. Currency exchange fee	38. Gemstone weight units
3. BBC Doctor	40. Half pro
4. Supervises interstate commerce	43. Past tense of bid
5. Iceland (abbr.)	44. Communist China
6. Cache	45. Public mob violence
7. Diaphragm spasm	46. Dutch bulbs
8. So. Am. country	51. Networks (Spanish)
9. Low fat milk	54. Floor cleaner
10. Not-a-Number	55. Train for something (informal)
11. Engine additive	56. Low female voice
12. Home of Ball State	57. Coffin stand
14. To bear young (sheep or goats)	58. Sum
15. Beijing Automotive Group	60. Pig genus
17. Oil drilling apparatus	61. W. hemisphere assoc.
	63. Atomic #52

Photos by Danya Davis, Rachel Belvin and Maureen Moore

Willits Weekly Contest Winners and Christmas Party Recap

Just a few ingredients – including almonds, butter, sugar, flour and chocolate – are turned into what Adams and the Emandal gang refer to as “Crack Bars”: “since it’s

The current Willits Weekly edition, plus the new Willits Soroptimist International Community Phone Book were available to grab at the party, and gift subscriptions and "I <3 Willits Weekly" T-shirts were available for last-minute

Read the rest of **Cookies** | Over on Page 11



Photos by Danya Davis, Rachel Belvin and Maureen Moore



Below, left: The vote station and tip jar. Below, right: the cookie swap table was also a hit, with just a few lingering cookies to be caught on camera.



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A black and white portrait of Marc Komer, a man with glasses and a mustache, smiling. He is wearing a dark shirt and a light-colored jacket. The photo is set within a rectangular frame.

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**Wishing Everyone a
Happy and Healthy
2015**

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Wednesday, December 31

New Year's Eve at Adam's Restaurant: The Basics, with Jon Mather on piano and Bear Kamoroff on bass, will be playing for diners at Adam's Restaurant, 50 South Main Street, starting at 5 pm.

"Garb Me!": an ongoing pattern draping evening every Wednesday from 6 to 8 pm at Wowser, 330 East Commercial Street. "A&S will be draping patterns for folks who don't have theirs draped and cutting out fabric for those who have their patterns already made. If you do not have your pattern made, bring a big ol' bed sheet, sharpie markers, and fabric scissors. If you have your bodice patterned but not your sleeves, please bring the same stuff the pattern draping people are bringing, and we'll drape your sleeves too! If you have your pattern made, bring 5 or 6 yards of your chosen fabric (in linen or wool, please), prewashed and ironed if it's all wrinkly, your draped-pattern, pins of plenitude and fabric scissors." Info: 459-9697 for more information or drop by Wowser.

Shanachie Pub: New Year's Open Mic Party. "Sign ups start at 7 pm. Party hats and favors will be provided, and champagne will be available for purchase from Michael Servin to Krista!! Come celebrate a great year with us at the Pub and welcome in 2015!" 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Thursday, January 1

Free New Year's Day Yoga All Day: Our Yoga Center presents its annual "New Year's Day Yoga Celebration," with free 45-minute "New Year's Day Resolution" yoga & movement classes, back to back. "Come celebrate OYC's 3rd year anniversary!" 9 am: Emmy Good - Gentle Hatha

Yoga; 10 am: Jeff Brunner - Hatha Yoga (Detox); 11 am: Sandy Metzler - Movement; 12 pm: Eryn Brunner - Hatha Yoga; 1 pm: Joel Maurer- Hot Yoga; 1 pm: Jeff Brunner- Rope Yoga (Small Studio); 2 pm: Eryn Brunner - Hot Vinyasa Yoga; 3 pm: Eryn Brunner - Contemporary Dance; 4 pm: Jeff Brunner - Restorative Yoga. Our Yoga Center located at 1726 South Main Street. Info: 707-841-6100 or www.ouryogacenter.com.

Saturday, January 3

Willits Center for the Arts January Show Opening Reception: The Willits Center for the Arts presents a show of vibrant watercolors and oils of the Willits and Clearlake areas by the late Robert Nixon, Sr. to run through the month of January. Opening reception is Saturday, January 3 from 7 to 9 pm at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours: Thursday and Friday from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturday and Sunday, noon to 3 pm. "Robert Nixon, Sr. was a prolific artist, adept in both watercolors and oils. His paintings of Clearlake and Willits are fine examples of plain air art.... When an artist passes on, their one wish might be that their art be shared and distributed amongst family and friends, to be seen and enjoyed." All proceeds from gallery sales of these paintings - in varying sizes - will be donated to the Willits Center for the Arts by Robert Nixon's daughter-in-law Betty Nixon.

Shanachie Pub: Toby Avery & Friends. "Original and classic country by one of the highlights of Shanachie's Open Mic nights." 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, January 4

Bingo at the Senior Center: monthly Bingo at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Snack bar opens at 11 am; games begin at 11:30 am; Bingo buy-in \$10. Info: 459-6826.

What's Happening Around Town

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

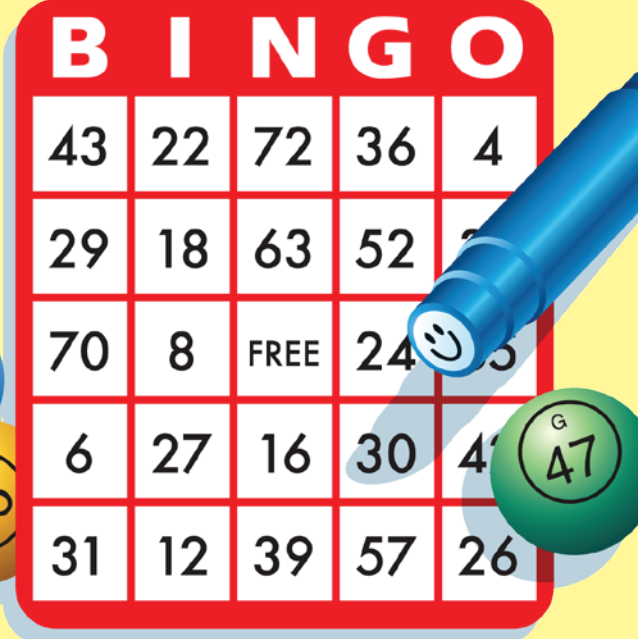
Tuesday, January 6

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

Wednesday, January 7

"Garb Me!": an ongoing pattern draping evening every Wednesday from 6 to 8 pm at Wowser; see Wednesday, December 31 listing for details.

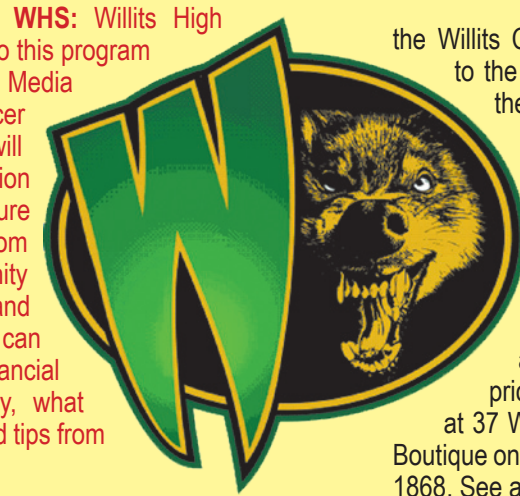
Free garden planning workshop: Laytonville's Long Valley Garden Club invites the public to this free event with Gina Covina, longtime local gardener, who will speak on garden planning for seed saving. She will also cover other topics such as soil improvement strategies, succession planting, and creating micro-climates. Noon to 2 pm, starting with a potluck at 375 Harwood Road, Laytonville. Donations accepted. Info: 984-6587.



Financial Aid Night at WHS: Willits High School invites the public to this program at 6 pm in the WHS Media Center. A financial aid officer from Mendocino College will be presenting information on how to fund your future education. Everything from trade schools, community college, beauty schools and four-year universities can be funded through financial aid. Learn how to apply, what information is required and tips from an expert in the field!

Friday, January 9

San Francisco Giants World Championship Trophy Tour: Northern California tour to communities with Jr. Giants organizations. Set for 5 to 7 pm at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. Featuring the 2014, 2012 and 2010 trophies. 1 photo per person or 1 photo per group (not both): professional photos to purchase onsite or online, or (depending on how many people come) an opportunity to take a personal photo; also an opportunity to support the Willits Jr. Giants program. Info: http://sanfrancisco.giants.mlb.com/sf/fan_forum/trophy_tour.jsp. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for details.



the Willits Community Theatre invites the public to come to the WCT Playhouse to "Sneak Preview" the 2015 theater season at a free open house. 7 pm. "Join the Willits Community Theatre board and staff for this free event. Enjoy wine and cheese. Admire, appreciate and enjoy our newly re-upholstered seats. (Thank you, everyone!) Hear directors talk about their exciting 2015 plays! Bring your check book - season tickets to all five main stage productions will be available for sale at a limited-time-only bargain price!" The Willits Community Theatre is located at 37 West Van Lane, just one block west of Mazahar Boutique on Main Street. Info: wct@willitsonline.com or 459-1868. See article elsewhere in Calendar for details.

Shanachie Pub: Dusty Green Bones, with Psychedelic/Jam-Grass/Rock. 8:30 pm. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, January 11

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

Free Vegetarian Cooking Class: the first of a third annual



Left: Alicia Logan and her daughter Tinley with the Giants trophies when they were being displayed in Willits in 2013.

series of free classes sponsored by the Willits Seventh-day Adventist Church. 1 to 3 pm every other Sunday at 145 Haehl Creek Drive. Today's class: Whole Food Diet & Health Impact. Info: 841-0377. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for details.

Guitar Masters at WCT: National award-winning guitar masters Peter Janson, Steve Davison and Larry Pattis perform Celtic tunes, American roots, Delta blues, instrumental gems, folk songs, solos and duets as part of a national tour at the Willits Community Theater. 2 pm. Advance tickets are \$15 and available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone for credit card orders, leave a message at the WCT office. 459-0895. Tickets will also be available at the door. See article elsewhere on Calendar page for details.

JANUARY 1st, 2015

OUR YOGA CENTER

NEW YEAR'S DAY YOGA CELEBRATION!

45 minute "New Year's Day Resolution" yoga & movement classes, back to back. Let's begin 2015 together with active and peaceful engagement of our bodies, our minds, and our community. Come celebrate OYC's 3rd year anniversary!

9am Emmy Good - Gentle Hatha Yoga
10am Jeff Brunner - Hatha Yoga (Detox)
11am Sandy Metzler - Movement
12pm Eryn Brunner - Hatha Yoga
1pm Joel Maurer- Hot Yoga
1pm Jeff Brunner- Rope Yoga (Small Studio)
2pm Eryn Brunner - Hot Vinyasa Yoga
3pm Eryn Brunner - Contemporary Dance
4pm Jeff Brunner - Restorative Yoga

Our Yoga Center (707) 841-6100 www.ouryogacenter.com 1726 S. Main St. Willits CA.

GRID Alternatives Volunteer Orientation

Monday, January 12

COLUMN | At the Movies



"The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies"

Daniel Essman
Columnist

The Story: Smaug the dragon has left Mount Erebor. There's dragon fire everywhere, and five armies are approaching the Lonely Mountain. Thorin Oakenshield has the "Dragon Sickness," and Bilbo has hidden the Arkenstone. Meanwhile, Gandalf is in chains, a prisoner of the Necromancer. At this point, if you don't know what all this signifies, god help you, or even better: go to Main Street Video and rent the first two parts of the saga.

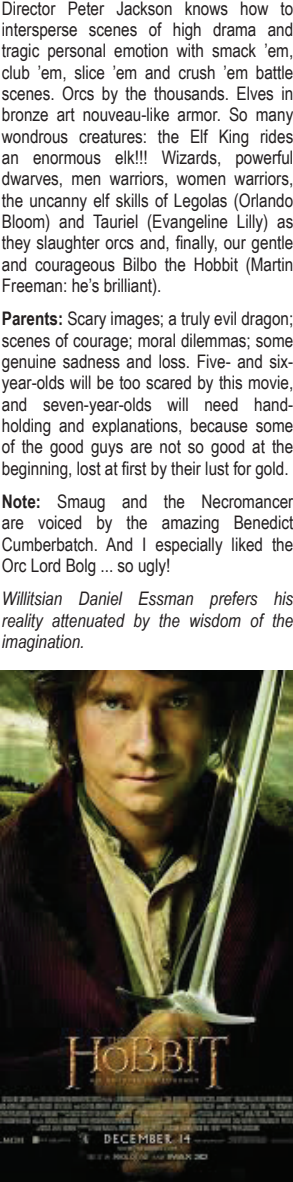
This movie is the best of "The Hobbit" series, and it's a knock-out. Not to gush, but I loved it... loved it... loved it!!!

Director Peter Jackson knows how to intersperse scenes of high drama and tragic personal emotion with smack 'em, club 'em, slice 'em and crush 'em battle scenes. Orcs by the thousands. Elves in bronze art nouveau-like armor. So many wondrous creatures: the Elf King rides an enormous drake! Wizards, powerful dwarves, men warriors, women warriors, the uncanny elf skills of Legolas (Orlando Bloom) and Tauriel (Evangeline Lilly) as they slaughter orcs and, finally, our gentle and courageous Bilbo the Hobbit (Martin Freeman) he's brilliant!

Parents: Scary images; a truly evil dragon; scenes of courage; moral dilemmas; some genuine sadness and loss. Five- and six-year-olds will be too scared by this movie, and seven-year-olds will need hand-holding and explanations, because some of the good guys are not so good at the beginning, lost at first by their lust for gold.

Note: Smaug and the Necromancer are voiced by the amazing Benedict Cumberbatch. And I especially liked the Orc Lord Bolg... so ugly!

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



GRID Alternatives Volunteer Orientation

Monday, January 12

"Want solar job training? Gain hands-on experience installing solar PV while volunteering with GRID Alternatives to install solar PV for low-income families in your community! To learn more, attend our Volunteer Orientation on Monday, January 12 from 5 to 7 pm at the Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street." Visit www.gridalternatives.org for more info.

3rd Annual Whole Foods Cooking Class

The Willits Seventh-day Adventist Church sponsors this free series of vegetarian cooking and health classes. "Learn about the benefits of whole foods on your health and how to prepare healthy, appetizing meals. Cooking demonstrations, recipes, magazines and cookbooks available. 1 to 3 pm every other Sunday, starting January 11 and continuing through March 22; at 145 Haehl Creek Drive (next to the new hospital construction site). Info: 841-0377.

January 11: Whole Food Diet & Health Impact. January 25: Diabetes. February 8: Heart & Cardiovascular Health. February 22: Cancer & Bone Health. March 8: Inflammation & Gluten-Free Diet.

3rd Annual

Whole Foods Cooking Class

Come join us for **FREE** vegetarian cooking and health classes! Learn about the benefits of whole foods on your health and how to prepare healthy, appetizing meals. There will be cooking demonstrations, recipes, magazines, and cookbooks available. Come for a healthier you!

1:00PM - 3:00PM every other Sunday beginning January 11 & continuing through March 22.

145 Haehl Creek Dr. Willits, CA 95490 (Next to new hospital construction)

January 11 Whole Food Diet & Health Impact

January 25 Diabetes

February 8 Heart & Cardiovascular Health

February 22 Cancer & Bone Health

March 8 Inflammation & Gluten-Free Diet

Sponsored by the Willits Seventh-day Adventist Church

Call 707-841-0377 for more info.

Blosser Lane PTO Raffle

Blosser Lane PTO is raffling off a two-night stay (a \$1,500 value) in Casa Estrella, a beautiful 2,700-square-foot, 4-bedroom, 3-bath vacation rental in Sonoma County, with a big beautiful backyard, a heated pool, hot tub and BBQ. The house is in a quiet neighborhood five miles north from the Sonoma Plaza and only one mile from the nearest of several wine tasting rooms. Tickets are \$20. Check out www.vrbo.com/574475 for more details. All proceeds go to the Blosser Lane PTO to help fund field trips, school supplies, assemblies and free book giveaways. For tickets, due January 16, call Windi Kvasnicka at 707-354-0755.

San Francisco Giants World Championship Trophy Tour

The Willits stop of the SF Giants Trophy Tour is set for 5 to 7 pm, Friday, January 9, at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. This, the third public trophy tour held in the past four years, features the 2014, 2012 and 2010 trophies: the focus is to share the trophies with Giants fans in Junior Giants communities throughout Northern California. Fans will have the chance to have their photo taken with the trophies and to support their local Junior Giants. One photo per person: "If you come in a group, you can take a group photo or individual photo, but not both. Depending on volumes of fans and line control, personal camera use for photos with the trophies will be determined onsite. Fans will also have the opportunity to have a professional photo taken with the trophies and can purchase those prints onsite and online."

Arrive early to ensure a photo, as the line will be cut off, if needed, to allow the trophies to leave at the designated end time: Fans are accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis.

"We saw in 2012 how powerful it was for us to create a trophy tour which not only allowed us to connect with our fans, but also with the more than 22,000 kids who participate in our Junior Giants baseball program. It's an honor to have the opportunity to do so again," said Larry Baer, Giants president and chief executive officer.

More details: http://sanfrancisco.giants.mlb.com/sf/fan_forum/trophy_tour.jsp

Sneak Preview of WCT's 2015 season

Saturday, January 10

Willits Community Theatre will hold a Sneak Preview Event for its upcoming 2015 season on Saturday, January 10 at 7 pm. The free event is open to the public and will include an opportunity for guests to meet and talk with members of the WCT board of directors, theater staff and directors about the exciting lineup of plays and concerts; to enjoy wine and cheese, and to try out the theater's new seats. As a special offer, season tickets will be available at a one-time-only discount price. Kevin Klay, newly hired managing director for WCT, will also be on hand to talk about his vision for the theater and the new season.

Klay says of the five main stage productions scheduled for 2015, the emphasis is on traditional comedy and engaging satire. The season opener on January 30 is "Arsenic and Old Lace," an American comedy classic, followed by "Lips Together, Teeth Apart" in April, a dark comedy by the great American playwright, Terrence McNally, and then "Kill Me, Deadlly," a noir comedy mystery in June.

WCT will offer "Always ... Patsy Cline," a unique musical tribute to Patsy Cline in August, and then in October, the season concludes at Halloween with a "Fright Night," that includes Edgar Allen Poe tales brought to the stage. Numerous guest concert appearances by touring musicians will also highlight the season, with returning favorites including Celtic harpist Patrick Ball on January 18.

In his new position with WCT, Klay says he will be managing day-to-day operations and also continuing in his acting roles. He says, "I've always wanted to be heavily involved with theater and now I'm living the dream."

Klay has acted in two previous productions, and will have his first major role as Mortimer Brewster in "Arsenic and Old Lace," a comedic satire about Brewster's two elderly aunts who wage a campaign against loneliness for old bachelors by inviting them into their home, only to do away with their misery permanently with tainted elderberry wine. The play has been made into a movie and has been a beloved



Kevin Klay, the new managing director for Willits Community Theatre.

classic of American theater for seven decades.

The line-up of five main stage productions is already receiving praise from the community, says outgoing board president Kyle Sickler: "We're starting out really strong with a great favorite in 'Arsenic and Old Lace,' a play that makes you smile and cringe." Sickler says patrons will also find a real treat in April, with "Lips Together, Teeth Apart," where playwright McNally's talent will be brought to life by local directing favorite, Bill Barksdale. Sickler says "Kill Me, Deadlly" in June will be offered as a period spoof on old Humphrey Bogart mysteries.

At the center of the season, Sickler points to "Always ... Patsy Cline," an extremely popular smash hit, with local Willits singer Necole Suttles and a live band bringing to life 27 of the legendary country and western star's fond favorites. Then, to frighten even the strongest for the Halloween season, a "Fright Night" series of short plays will be directed by Jason Edgington.

"Now's the time to hop on board with WCT," says Klay. Information on all the productions, concerts, and the full schedule for the 2015 season, along with discount tickets, will be available at the Sneak Preview Event.

— Steve Hellman, for WCT

What's Happening at the Harrah Senior Center

All events are held at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Info: 459-6826.

Sunday Bingo Sunday, January 4
Snack bar opens at 11 am, games begin at 11:30 am, bingo buy in \$10

Pancake Breakfast Sunday, January 11, 8 to 11 am
Pancakes, eggs, and your choice of sausage, ham, or bacon
Adults \$7, Members \$6, Kids \$5

Ice Cream Social Monday, January 12
This month's entertainment is The Just for Fun Choir, "Name that Tune," pie, ice cream, coffee & prizes
Members \$1; non-members \$1.50

Lunch Menu

Week of January 5 through 9

Monday: Fried Chicken

Tuesday: Beef Tacos

Wednesday: Salisbury Steak

Thursday: Chicken, Bacon Ranch Pizza

Friday: Pork Chops

Harrah Senior Center serves lunch five days per week from 11:45 am to 1 pm. \$5 and older: \$5.50 per meal; under 55 \$7 per meal.

Includes soup, entrée, vegetable, bread, dessert, and drink.

Guitar masters play at WCT

Guitar masters Peter Janson, Steve Davison and Larry Pattis will perform at the Willits Community Theater on Sunday, January 11 at 2 pm, as part of a national tour. In this special one-day event, the trio will perform Celtic tunes, American roots, Delta blues, instrumental gems, folk songs, solos and duets.

All three guitarists are award-winning performers, and each has played in venues across the United States and Canada, including the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage in Washington D.C. and the legendary Freight and Salvage in Berkeley. Their playing reveals a great devotion to the acoustic music tradition.

Janson says of the rare combination of the three touring together, "Our tours are so special because we share this wonderful devotion to the heart and soul of acoustic guitar music." Their music is tied to history and tradition, Janson says, and in each concert, they bring forth the highest levels of emotive qualities of the music while also making the performance fresh and authentic.

Rare indeed is the chance to catch this master trio in concert where they bring passion and effortless performance to a journey through different forms of the national treasures in music.

Advance tickets are \$15 and available in person at Mazahar, 38 South Main Street; online at brownpapertickets.com; or by phone for credit card orders, leave a message at the WCT office, 459-0895. Tickets will also be available at the door.

— Steve Hellman, for WCT

Below: Peter Janson, Steve Davison and Larry Pattis.



Ongoing Events in and around Willits

Willits Winter Farmers Market: from 3 to 5:30 pm every Thursday at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, with produce, local meats and fish, local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, and more.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

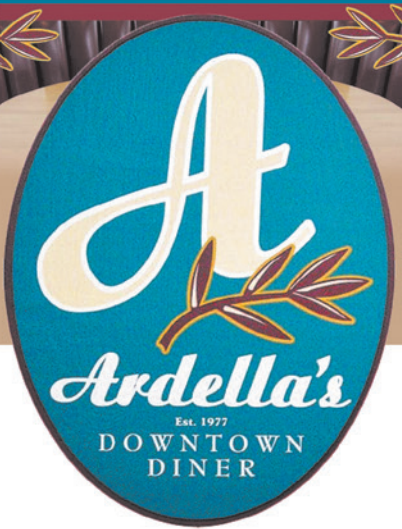
Free Sheriff's Activity League programs: at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 pm; Karate: Kids aged 5 to 11 from 6 to 7 pm, Tweens, Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague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

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


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

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

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



THANK YOU,
Lori & Kathy
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from the bottom
of our Willits Weekly
filled hearts!



Our second annual
Cookie Party was a
huge success and
the diner was the
perfect venue!

Thank you for all
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www.noyotheatre.com
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Coming Friday, Jan. 9th
Taken 3



Top, left: The "sleighs" carrying the gifts include firetrucks from Little Lake Fire Department and a big semi-truck from Sparetime Supply. Right: LLFD Deputy Chief John Thomen waves from the truck.

Above: Kevin "Santa" Reedy, Kacey Lynn "Elf" Tyler, firefighter Michael Wilder and LLFD Fire Chief Carl Magann.

Left: A little successful Elf! Santa high-five after a completed delivery.

Left, below: Sparetime Supply's Mike Griggs, Jr. waves from the head "sleigh."

Santa for a Cause

Willits Community Christmas program a success, delivering gifts to 445 kids on Christmas Eve

Though sprinkles turned into sporadic downpours in the morning hours of Christmas Eve, volunteers, drivers and Santas were not deterred from delivering gifts to 445 kids from 187 families in the Willits Community Christmas program this year.

Starting out a little extra early – leaving the Santa Workshop Headquarters behind Sparetime Supply's Warehouse around 8:45 am – gave them a jump on things.

There were seven delivery routes this year, and each group headed out with drivers, elves and Santas to help distribute.

Some of this year's volunteers included Little Lake Fire Department, Brooktrails Fire Department, Sparetime Supply staffers, Jolene Carrillo, Rick Maddox, WPD Chief Gerry Gonzalez, Mike Tobin, Bear Kamoroff, Arnie Mello and John Cross.

Laura Deffendal and her husband, Jim, also went out on a route, and program coordinator Sandy Turner wanted to thank her daughter Laura, especially, for "being right by my side for those last two weeks."

Turner also expressed her appreciation to her regulars who

Read the rest of **Santa Cause** | Over on Page 9

At left, above: Santa receives bags off the truck from firefighter "elves" Jeff Belford and Ben Scott.

Below, left: Elves Kacey Lynn Tyler and Sharlene Caldwell.

Below, right: LLFD Fire Chief Carl Magann looks festive in his Santa hat, as he accompanies the gift-giving brigade on Christmas Eve.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Willits Weekly CLASSIFIEDS

Algebra, Geometry SAT & ACT Test Prep
Mac Smith 459-MATH

Computer Help
Need help with your computer? I will come to your home or business. PC and Macintosh. Repairs and configuration \$35/hr. Tutoring \$15/hr. Call Liam 459-2470 or email macamerjin@yahoo.com.

For Rent
Commercial/office space on Main Street. Near Mariposa Market. 475 square feet, plus common areas. \$450/month plus utilities. Call 459-2643 or 459-4110.

Help Wanted
Temporary Part Time Position Hiring Now. Pay DOE. Submit resume at Willits Pulse Fitness Office, 865 South Main Street, or email to WillitsFitness@gmail.com.

Rummage Sale
Every Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm at 1st Baptist Church, 145 Wood Street. Rain or shine. We accept rummage donations, and have an ever-changing selection of goods!

SEWING AND ALTERATIONS
Seamstress and Sewing Teacher
Barbara Carlton
Visit my webpage: Zibergirl.com
707-367-6182, Willits

Volunteers Wanted
The Willits Senior Center has many areas where your expertise and talents are needed. Front Desk, Thrift Store, Dining Room, Sunday Bingo, Sunday Breakfast, Special Dinners, Landscaping, Garden, Firewood. Come join our Team, Call Mariya at 707-459-6826.

Volunteers Wanted
The Willits Senior Center has many areas where your expertise and talents are needed. Front Desk, Thrift Store, Dining Room, Sunday Bingo, Sunday Breakfast, Special Dinners, Landscaping, Garden, Firewood. Come join our Team, Call Mariya at 707-459-6826.

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Send me your questions! **?? ?**

Willits Weekly relationship columnist Doris Wier will answer your burning questions about relationships – with romantic partners, family, friends or co-workers – in Willits Weekly every third Thursday of the month.

Mail your questions to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, attn: Doris or email to doriswier@embraceconflicts.com
Anonymous and Confidential!

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

The project will essentially create an ADA-compliant walkway and pedestrian path on the bridge (at milepost 25.41), located a half-mile from Highway 101, right by Laytonville High School. The bridge will clear-span Ten Mile Creek and provide local pedestrians, bicyclists and horseback riders safe passage over the bridge.

"It's a dangerous situation right now without that piece," said Pinches, referring to the current footpath. "It's an extreme safety issue."

Pinches emphasized it was a well-used path that "connects to the schools."

The current bridge, constructed in 1952, is 3 feet wide, made of wood and steel, with a 2010 Sufficiency Rating of 58.6, considered "functionally obsolete."

The current walk path will be replaced with a "prefabricated weathering steel-style pedestrian bridge" with steel trusses, 54-inch-high handrails, and a concrete surface approximately 120 feet long and 8 feet wide. The existing path will remain operational during construction, and traffic will continue on the vehicular bridge, with minor delays and periodic complete closures anticipated as the new bridge is installed on new abutments. Construction is expected to begin June 2015.

Phil Dow, executive director of the Mendocino Council of Governments, the county's regional transportation planning agency, said the project "was very important for MCOG," because it would "interconnect an array of projects with different funds," including monies drawn

to support pedestrian and bicycling paths.

The project is estimated to cost "some \$600,000," and is federally funded through State Transportation Improvement Program Transportation Enhancement funds. The county's Local Road Fund would be used if the cost of the project exceeded the STIP allocation.

County Department of Transportation Director Howard Dashiell presented the project to supervisors, saying the initial plan had completed its review by the state, and the county had received no public comment during the November open period.

The project was found to have a significant environmental impact, but will include a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting component that reduces impacts in compliance with California CEQA Act requirements.

Eight trees will be removed, but new ones replanted. Along with other vegetation protections, the project includes mitigation plantings, components for fish and wildlife protection, potential sediment control, and removal of invasive plants. The old walk path will be removed at project completion.

Supervisor John McCowen said he believed Pinches deserved recognition for the work he had put into ensuring the project's approval.

"I'm really glad to see on my last day that this project is moving forward; it's really important," said Pinches.

The rest of **Santa Cause** |
From Page 8

help wrap, organize and handle the incoming toys, box pick-ups and tree tag placements.

"I want to really thank Rick, Ethel and Rosie, too, and of course to Mike Griggs, Jr. who owns the building where we coordinate the program," explained Turner.

Turner also expressed her deep appreciation for Mike Griggs, Sr. and the rest of the Sparetime family for their support and help with the program each year, lending trucks, storage, workers and other assistance allowing the Christmas program to continue operating.

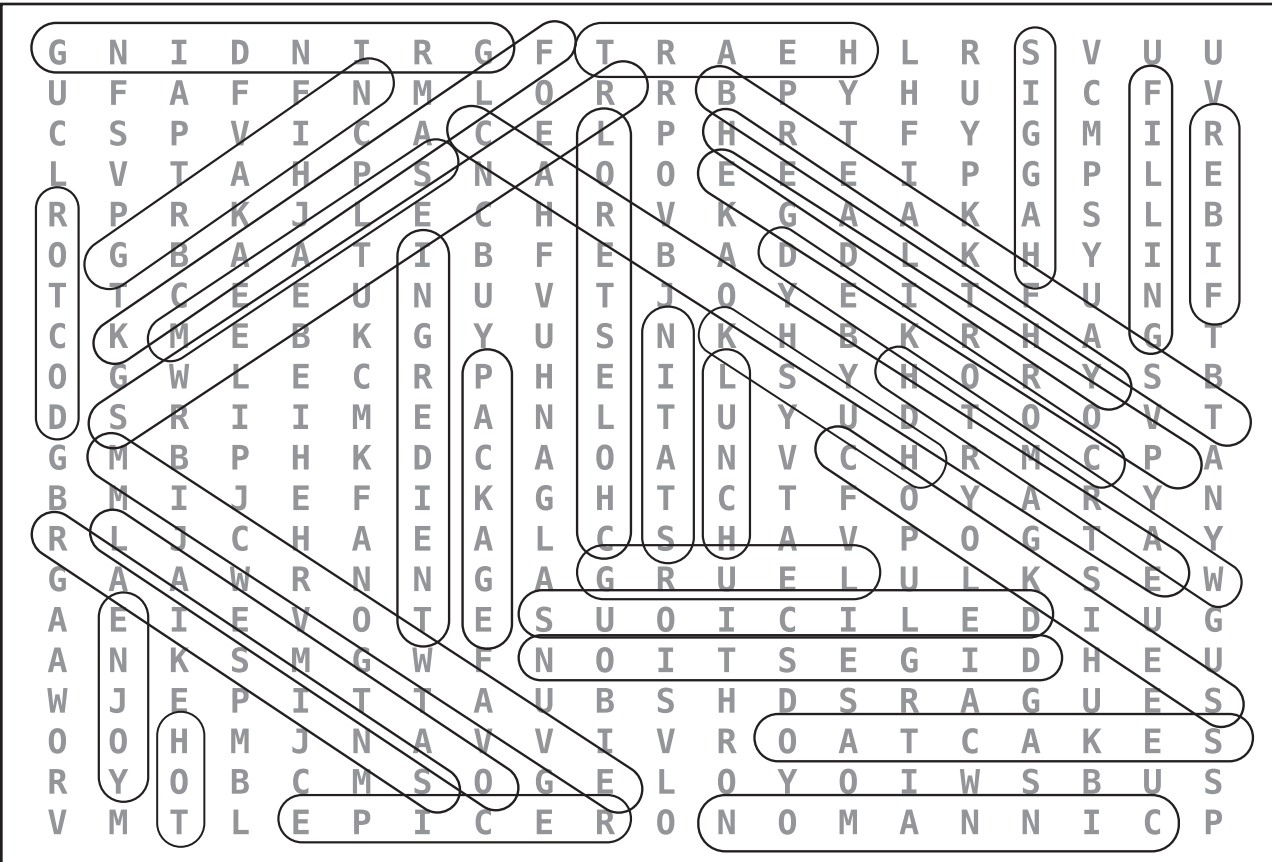
Also helping out this year was the Wowser group who "stepped up to help take over the bike restoration project," explained Turner.

Of the 50 some bikes delivered this year, only 20 were brand-new, so the Wowser team had the lion's share of the work to help ensure all the kids would receive their bikes in good working order.

This year had a small snafu, which Turner and the crew are still investigating the details of, but the generous financial donations of the Willits community allowed for a last-minute shopping trip to fill the wishes of three kids whose bags were unfilled after allocating all the received goods.

"That's why that money is so important," explained Turner. "It allows us to go out and buy the things we need for those kids. All are treated equally, and we ensure that every one of them gets their needed clothing, coats, shoes and other warm winter items."

"I want to thank the community from the bottom of my heart for once again making this program possible and a great success."



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“editorial comments” made by LAFCo and adding its viewpoint, in addition to information related to wastewater inflow and infiltration statements.

For example, the city has reworked a statement about the city’s ranking among California cities:

Language describing Willits’ rank as the 428th largest city in California out of 482 cities total was shortened to no longer include the words, “or perhaps more properly stated, the 54th smallest city in California.”

At the request of the city’s LAFCo representative, Councilwoman Holly Madrigal, a public comment period on the document has been extended to LAFCo’s next meeting on January 5.

In the draft, some heavier rewriting and elimination of LAFCo’s words occurred in paragraphs regarding the ongoing sewer plant dispute between the city and Brooktrails.

Stricken from the current draft of the document was a LAFCo statement that the city may consider a new piece of government to handle its wastewater system, like a joint powers arrangement between Willits and Brooktrails.

The document identifies the city’s sphere of influence, and changes have been brought forth to include acreage in the city’s own watershed, and to add the Boy Scout’s Lake Winawa, with 1,600 acre feet of water storage capacity, to the city’s sphere.

LAFCo funding comes from member cities and other special districts in the county. Budget documents for the organization state that incorporated cities each paid \$45,000 last year.

LAFCo meets at 9 am the first Monday of each month in the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors’ chambers, 501 Low Gap Road in Ukiah.

Visit www.mendolafo.org for agendas and more information.

nutritional items, limited faxing or telephone services, or special project or shipment benefits.

Willits Community Services is also looking for volunteers for the annual “Point-in-Time” count of Mendocino County’s homeless people, set for Thursday, January 22 between 5 and 10:30 am.

The Point-in-Time Count helps in planning services for the homeless, and is required to maintain federal HUD funding. Anyone can volunteer, and volunteers will work in teams. “There is a job for everyone,” WCS director Marill said. To ask questions or to sign up for the Willits and North County counts, contact WCS at 459-3333 or willitscs@gmail.com.

Donors so far to the 2014 WCS Winter Fund Drive	
Ace Copy & Shipping	Greg & Mary Kanne
Rosalie Anchordoguy &	Agnes Marie Karlin
Henry Shebitz	Peter Koch
Bruce Andich, M.D.	Linda Kostanecki
Anonymous	Paul Krause
Kathleen & Mark Archer	Cid Construction
Herbert & Judith Armstrong	Marie Lacelle
Robert and Margrete Arnold	Geraldine Lassner &
James and Leigh Austin	Kathie Havice
Patricia & John Bonnoitt	Margaret Lingenfelter
William and Florence Bowler	Sylvia Manor
Eric & Josephine Bradley	March Foundation
Patsy Broske	Lynne & Keith Matheny
Robert and Rebecca Brown	Laura & Michael McAlister
Jonathan Byer &	Robert McFarling &
Catherine Livingston	Camille Stuart
Barbara and Alex Carlon	Mendocino County Chapter
Morgaine Colston	07-01 of Thrivent Financial
Linda & Bob Comings-	Barbara Mitchell
McDonald	Riley & Jody Moore
Joan Craighead	Moore Water Drilling
John Cross &	Jean & Michael Morawski
Diana Cavendish	North Coast Energy Services
Betty & Len Cudney	Sandra S. Onderdonk
Anita Jane Decker	One-O-One (101)
Larry & Marisela Desmond	Trailer & R.V.
East Hill Veterinary Clinic	Olga & Noel O'Neill
Esther Faber	Opal Miner Insurance Agency
Steven Fahron &	P.E.O. Sisterhood Chapter XO
Patricia Norris	Padula Ranches
Robert and Patricia Falge	Charlie Palmer
John & Gerry Figg-Hoblyn	Mary Pappadakis
Douglas Fine &	Harvey & Jackie Pelner-
Amanda Gorski	Frankle
Mary Fisher	Pine Cone Motel - Om Shiva
Robert Fry	Susan & Blair Proctor
Allen and Marna Garcia	R. Horse Ranch
Bill & Frances Gardner	Marcia Rautenstrauch
Cathy Glyer	Marlena River
Robin Goldner, LCSW	Al & Beth Rosen
Bill & Emmy Good	Sally Rulison & Keith Monroe
Richard & Margaret Graham	J. Rebecca Sandridge
Peter & Deborah Greig	J. Francis & William Schatz
Bruce Haanstra & Carol	Tom & Shirley Schott
Aleshire	Dennis & Rowayne Schrage
Marge Handley	Karen & Edwin Scott
Barron & Mary Lee Hanks	Shiloh Gateway of Worship
Mary Lee Hanks	Larry & Kathleen Shipley
Betty Hansen	Susan Short & Bill White
Henry Hanson	Phil & Kathy Shuster
Wendy Hildebrand	Eloise Simmons
Goldie Hilkey	Sheryl Smith
John & Lena Hofmaister	St. Francis in the Redwoods
Karen Holden	Ann Stebbens
Howard Memorial Hospital	Scott Terry & Kacy Knudsen
Staff	Marilyn Townsend
David & Geri Hulse-Stephens	April Tweddell
Iota Zeta Sorority	Tom Walz
Richard Jeske	Dave & Jenny Watts
Lynn Dee Johnson	Doris Wier
Lowell & Wilma Justus	Theodore & Carolyn Wilcox
Robin & Leland Kane	Ruth Alice Young

40,” a row of five portable buildings located at the southern boundary of the campus.

Trustee Saprina Rodriguez asked Johnson what the move would cost, but Johnson said she didn’t know. Putting in a roadway from Blosser Lane to the portables would be tricky, Johnson said, and she didn’t know what that component of the move would cost.

A study costing between \$8,000 and \$10,000 could answer that question, and then Johnson could tell the board what the entire move would cost.

The board voted 4-1 to approve the study. Trustee Chris Neary voted against spending the money.

During discussion, several district employees spoke against the planned move. Tami Jorgensen expressed concern because of the high volume of traffic at that point on Blosser Lane. She also wondered if putting in a gravel driveway would comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

District bus driver Deny Laurent said the area where the portables are located is liable to flood, and added that a drainage system also would have to be installed at the site.

Yvonne Winter reminded the board the portables are located on a high-use neighborhood walkway leading from Locust Street through the campus to Blosser Lane.

Johnson did not seem phased, telling the board the study would address the drainage and ADA compliance issues.

Johnson believes the district’s administrative division badly needs a dedicated permanent space. It is currently located in three classrooms at Blosser Lane Elementary School. Johnson has said the district office’s use sometimes conflicts with the needs of the school, and that if the school’s enrollment grows, those classrooms could be needed.

Johnson had previously recommended the district build a new building on the vacant parcel of land just west of Locust Street, near the Willits Kids Club, but that idea was dismissed as being too expensive.

Johnson was cool to other proposals to rent or lease office space in Willits. She has argued leasing a building would just be throwing money away, and urged the district to spend the money on a solution that would already belong to the district. She maintains using the five portable buildings, which are standing a good distance off from the main part of the campus and already have electricity, water, sewer, fire and burglar alarms, and a fiber optic internet connection, is the best solution for the needs of the district office.

day-a-week schedule for HHSA.

The four-day schedule was initially implemented in February 2009 during a state and county budget crisis. Staff had agreed to a schedule of four 10-hour days and a 10 percent pay cut via mandatory time off. The October letter from the nonprofit Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) requested a formal resolution to expand hours, and specifically pointed to a need for Monday through Friday public hours for Child Protective Services and Public Health offices.

Currently, HHSA offices are closed on Fridays, but certain types of emergency and other services remain available, including social worker visits, after-hours contacts and response plans. Contracted service organizations, such as Redwood Children’s Services and Tapestry Family Services, are also open on Fridays.

CASA suggested staggered county staffing as an option to minimize labor hours in its letter.

In the CASA letter, board Chairman Norman de Vall argued “the public is inadequately being served by the continued closures,” and the initial furlough hours put in place during economic cutbacks have ceased.

Keeping the four-day schedule will put “Mendocino County children and families at further risk by not providing normal work week access,” he noted, requesting a response by December 1.

Supervisors first discussed the issue during a November 4 meeting; the December 16 agenda included 10 minutes to approve a letter in response to CASA’s request. Supervisors debated as to whether the issue fell within their purview as policy, or was an operational issue best left to the agencies. Supervisors also considered how long to hear public comment, whether to delay discussion until newly elected Supervisor Tom Woodhouse and absent Supervisor Dan Gjerde

Ex-felon arrested on weapons charges

Sheriff’s deputies arrested a 52-year-old Willits man last Tuesday night following a routine traffic stop in the 21000 block of Meadowbrook Drive.

Deputies took Thomas Gallups into custody just after 10 pm on December 23 after smelling a “strong odor of burnt marijuana” in the vehicle and discovering an open container of alcohol in the possession of a passenger, according to sheriff’s Capt. Greg Van Patten.

During a search of the vehicle, deputies found a small amount of marijuana and a concealed and loaded Smith and Wesson 357-caliber revolver. “Numerous other 357-caliber rounds also were located inside the vehicle,” Van Patten noted.

Gallups, an ex-felon, is prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition.

Gallups was placed under arrest on suspicion of being an ex-felon in possession of a firearm, possession of a concealed firearm, possession of a loaded firearm, and being a felon in possession of ammunition.

He was booked into Mendocino County Jail in lieu of \$25,000 bail.

Marshall hearing set in Chesser murder

A preliminary hearing will be held Thursday, February 5, to determine if there is enough evidence to bring 44-year-old Terrell James Marshall to trial for the alleged rape and murder of lifelong Willits resident Kayla Chesser.

The registered sex offender has been charged with a list of crimes that potentially carry a death sentence, but the Mendocino County District Attorney’s Office has not yet disclosed whether or not it will seek the death penalty in the case. However, DA spokesman Mike Geniella has said, “It is a possibility.”

Marshall has pleaded not guilty to charges of murder, rape and sodomy, as well as special allegations that he committed the rape and sodomy in conjunction with a murder, according to court records.

The Vacaville man was convicted in 2000 of sexual penetration with a foreign object by force or fear in Santa Clara County. He also has been arrested for less-serious offenses, including drunken driving, being under the influence of a controlled substance, and assault.

If found guilty of Chesser’s murder, Marshall could face either the death penalty or life in prison without the possibility of parole.

If the District Attorney’s Office seeks the death penalty, it would mark the first time since a mid-1990s Fort Bragg multiple-murder case that involved the Hell’s Angels. Marshall’s preliminary hearing is set for 9:30 am.

– Dan McKee, contributing reporter

Willits man killed when struck by pickup

A 46-year-old Willits man died last Friday night after being struck by a car near Blue Lake, state traffic officers report.

The California Highway Patrol says the unidentified man was crossing the highway east of Irvine Avenue December 26, when he was struck by a westbound 2004 Ford Ranger driven by a 37-year-old Ukiah man.

The driver told officers he was rounding a turn when he saw the victim directly ahead of his pickup truck. He braked and tried to swerve, but was unable to stop in time.

The victim struck the truck’s bumper and hood before being thrown onto the north shoulder of Highway 20. He was pronounced dead at the scene by emergency medical personnel.

The pickup’s driver and his 39-year-old female passenger escaped injury.

Alcohol was not a factor in the accident, state traffic officers say, and the driver was not arrested.

Investigation into the collision continues.

The victim’s name was withheld pending notification of next of kin.

were present, and more information available, or whether to approve the letter already drafted in response to CASA.

Outgoing board Chairman John Pinches then opened the floor for public comment. Speaking first, de Vall stated he felt the draft did not address CASA’s concerns, and offered supervisors a supplemental packet of research making CASA’s case, requesting discussion on the issue be further considered in 2015.

De Vall was accompanied by various staff and board members from the children’s advocacy nonprofit, including Sheryn Hildebrand, CASA executive director, who added their testimony in support of the schedule changes.

“The real challenge is to understand the ripple effect that closing on Friday has on our childcare systems,” Hildebrand said, emphasizing staff felt emergency services alone were inadequate as clients required more consistent support involving court and school programs.

Numerous HHSA employees commented as private citizens, expressing their belief that the current schedule enables employees to get second jobs and commute less, in order to compensate for the 2009 wage cuts, as well as providing important weekend time between high-stress shifts.

Those supporting the closures said the issue with services was one of adequate staffing, wages, and retention, and simply staggering the schedule would only overburden staff each day and confuse clients. “On Mondays we’re so swamped with calls catching up from the weekend,” that to reduce staffing would only “shortchange the kids,” said one employee.

Many expressed the need for “creative” solutions.

“We would be making a critical

mistake,” said HHSA Director Stacey Cryer, echoing staff concerns and questioning why employee pay could not be restored.

“You’re going to tear apart this agency,” she warned.

Cryer also stated her disappointment that CASA had never contacted HHSA with its concerns.

In light of an upcoming timed item honoring county employees, supervisors ended discussion by holding a vote on a motion by Supervisor Dan Hamburg and seconded by Supervisor Carre Brown to send the letter, and to continue discussion after HHSA and CASA had met to address the issues.

“There are times we really need to support a staff decision make five years ago,” said Hamburg. Brown wanted more time to consider whether “the children are being served.”

Supervisor John McCowen voted no, arguing the schedule of a county agency was not just an operational issue but gets “into policy when we are talking about being open to the public.”

At the Mental Health Advisory Board meeting held in Ukiah the day following the supervisors’ meeting, members discussed the need to weigh in on the discussion and the scheduling impact for county mental health clients, and planned further discussion for the upcoming January meeting.

Chairman John Wetzler said Cryer had told him the subject was not appropriate for the MHAB (which only has advisory powers), but he felt the issue was important to mental health clients, and MHAB bylaws do not circumscribe what topics to consider. “It is our business,” he said.

Hamburg, board of supervisors’ representative to the MHAB, said he felt the impact on county employees was of significant concern, a “touchy” one for many, and not one supervisors should consider.



Above, left: The T-shirt table. Willits Weekly T-shirts are still available for \$20 each! Above, right: Judges Tom Allman and Adrienne Moore sample the goods, while sequestered in Headquarters Salon.

At right: Three of Emandal’s five entries: Apricot Thumbprints, Mint Chocolate Chip Cookies, and Lemon Bars.

Below: Guests mingle inside Ardella’s Downtown Diner during the event.

Photos by Danya Davis, Rachel Belvin and Maureen Moore



shoppers. The cookie swap table was also a favorite, with to-go baggies for those wishing to trade their own goodies for other bakers’ sweets.

Willits Weekly would like to thank all of our bakers, listed below, as well as all of the attendees and judges. Thank you to Leah Carter and Jessica Logan Koehler of Headquarters Salon, Danya Davis for all of her help coordinating the voting and checking in the bakers, Rachel Belvin and her father, Richard Roper, for all their help decorating, coordinating and schlepping, and of course Lori Dorholt and Kathy Albright of Ardella’s Downtown Diner for the use of the space for the event and their ongoing encouragement and support.

We look forward to seeing you all at our 3rd annual Cookie Party next year!

2014 Bakers:

Flowers by Annette, Peanut Butter
Flowers by Annette, Cream Puffs
Lisa Reed, Mocha Crinkle
Lisa Reed, Christmas Snickerdoodle
Fernanda Ramos Diaz, Black Forest

Emily Leishman, Cinnamon Hot Chocolate
Mariposa Market, Chocolate Sea Salt
Tracy Crippen, Pecan Bars
ER Energy, Mary Fonsen,
Double Chocolate Peppermint Crunch
ER Energy, Emma Garman and
Ashlynn Dudley,
Crispy Caramel Deliciousness
Healing Central Chiropractic,
“sELFie” Peanut Butter
J.D. Redhouse, Divinity
J.D. Redhouse, Red Velvet Fudge
J.D. Redhouse,
Peanut Butter Chocolate Fudge
Emandal, Apricot Thumbprints
Emandal, Mint Chocolate Chip
Emandal, Lemon Bars
Emandal, Pistachio Biscotti
Emandal, Caramel Nut Bars
Jade, Reindeer Scat
Lisa Ganet, Sugar Cookies

COLUMN | Intuitive Patterns

Predictions for 2015

I want to start this year with a more inclusive reflection of the numerological and astrological aspects that I think are going to be of great importance as we move into this amazing year of 2015.

Numerologically, if you add the numbers of the year together you get the number 8. The number “8” is associated with Leo and the eighth month of the year, August. This gives warmth to the energy for 2015 and also an adolescent enthusiasm that opens to infinite possibilities, as well as the return of faith and belief in oneself to accomplish the tasks at hand.

The number “8” can indicate a pattern of increased wealth and abundance. It can also indicate the emotions of grief and loss are flowing because of circumstances or the grieving process related to the process of letting things go that have outgrown their usefulness. You will find that many new opportunities will present in an “8” year, though it may be the second half of the year before you can actually recognize them.

This year favors financial moves and shifts related to work and career. All options that expand your ability to make money are heightened. You are being asked to rise up to a new wave of prosperity. The energy of the “8” is strengthened in the summer and as we get closer to the eighth month of August. This gives you an opportunity to gain a new sense of independence and to feel much more resourceful and efficient.

Saturn having gone into Sagittarius on December 23, 2014 helps this along. Saturn invokes a craving for the qualities of the sign it touches: with Sagittarius, it craves knowledge,



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Photos by Danya Davis, Rachel Belvin and Maureen Moore



Studio Joy

THE place for
Zumba Fitness
in Willits

Happy New Year, Willits! Let us help you reach your fitness goals in 2015!

NEW STUDENTS:

Never been to our studio? First class is free!

New Student special: 5 classes for \$35 (reg. \$47.50). *Limit 1 per person.*

Returning Student special: Monthly passes on sale! \$75 unlimited classes within the month! (\$67.50 students and seniors).

- Discounts for teens, students and seniors
- Wellness Program participant with employees of Mendocino County, Howard Hospital and Mariposa Market
- Children under 13 are always welcome and always FREE

Studio Joy offers Zumba, Zumba Toning, Zumba Gold and now R.I.P.P.E.D. to the Willits community.

Tuesday and Thursday night Zumba is now at 5:30, followed by R.I.P.P.E.D. at 6:30

For our full schedule, our teachers and pricing, see our webpage: www.studiojoywillits.com or call: 707-841-7499. And like us on Facebook: Studio Joy, Willits



R.I.P.P.E.D. with Judy Coughlin

begins Tuesdays and Thursdays January 6th at 6:30 p.m. You are welcome to use your Studio Joy cards and passes. Drop in \$10.

1262 Blosser Lane • Willits, CA

707-841-7499

wisdom, and the qualities of life that generate meaning. The deeper question is to find the authenticity as well as the meaning, and that is where Saturn gives groundedness and depth to Sagittarius.

Saturn likes to go slow, and as the God of Time it can appear at times as if the forward motion has stalled. But Saturn takes time to make things have resilience and the ability to last a long time. Saturn wants to control, and the negative side of this in Sagittarius is that you might want to control others with your beliefs and ideals. But don’t fall to the dark side of this force.

With Saturn’s demand of structure and commitment, you will not be able to do the more negative expressions of Sagittarius, such as excessiveness and irresponsibility. Saturn’s stern countenance will make you pay a big price for not being on top of things. Saturn teaches that fleeting moments of happiness at the expense of others or the bigger plan will not be tolerated.

Saturn will teach you to let go of the lost causes in your life. It will shine a clear light on the patterns that have outgrown their usefulness. The Sagittarius part of that equation is aiming to increase your understanding and awareness about your choices and how you have contributed to the dysfunction that is happening.

It is time to get real. It is time to think in some new ways. Expect this to be messy at first, but Saturn will force you to clean up all the crap you have been making in your life. By doing that you will gain a new confidence, you will create a new space to fill with something wonderful, and you will let go of things that have no basis in reality.

Saturn in Sagittarius demands that you find practical applications for your personal philosophies. Just remember to not get too Saturnian and become rigid in your thinking. There is a complete understanding that will unfold over 2.5 years that freedom is not about escaping responsibility – it is what you enjoy only after tending to your responsibilities.

Sagittarius is traditionally outspoken, but with Saturn there you may take more time to brainstorm with others before you form opinions. Sharing becomes a lovely theme to formulate these next levels of truth and help you feel confident in your directions and choices.

Since Sagittarius is about learning and knowledge, you might feel like you want to go back to school or learn some new things. Saturn loves credentials after all. But you might also re-evaluate what you are learning and decide if it is actually viable or not really what you want to do.

In addition we will have the last square between Uranus in Aries and Pluto in Capricorn. (Can I hear the communal sigh of relief?) Yes, this will help the energy flow and emotional disposition of many of us. It also finally marks an ending to this Grand Cardinal Cross that we have been bearing since the downturn of 2008. I believe that the heaviness will begin to lift in the summer and the economy will also begin to recover. Hopefully by the end of the year we will all feel better and as if we have more money in our pocket. I think it will take until or through 2016 to feel fully recovered, but I am eternally optimistic.

I am excited to see how this all unfolds. January feels lovely, powerful, and expansive in many aspects, though you might feel that February has a bigger impact. So enjoy January. Feel into the positive shifts happening. Let the intensity and fear of 2014 go, and let us move into the warmth and positive flow of 2015. We are finally on our way, and things are going to move in the ways that you have hoped. It might be more the end of the year of 2015 when you solidly see and feel the full impact of everything you have been doing finally manifesting in a way that makes more sense, but all and all we are finally at the turn that everyone has been hoping for.

Suzanne Wagner is a professional psychic who teaches the intuitive arts throughout the United States. She is the author of "Integral Tarot" and "Integral Numerology," which can be found on Amazon.com. To learn more, visit www.suzwagner.com or call Suzanne at 707 354-1019.

Brooktrails Fire Department Top 10 Responders

Chief Daryl Schoepner is proud to announce the Brooktrails Fire Department's Top 10 Responders for 2014.

They are:

1. Captain Robert McKenzie
2. Firefighter Albert Hinkle
3. Battalion Chief Robert Nowlin
4. Firefighter John Turner
5. Firefighter Eli Owen
6. Firefighter Joshua Marcantonio
7. Engineer David Edgar
8. Engineer Steven Carter
9. Firefighter John Engler
10. Firefighter Martin Duran

"We would like to thank all of our firefighters for their time and the commitment they give to our department and community!"



Many of the Brooktrails firefighters, including all of the 2014 Top 10 Responders.

COLUMN | Cocktails
with Candice



Cheers to the New Year!

Candice Kelley
Columnist

I hope that everyone's holidays were amazing. My favorite is yet to come: New Year's Eve! What is this holiday without bubbly? My favorite from Mendocino County comes from Philo. It is from **Roederer Estate**; I prefer their brut.

Call me a realist, but I am always worried about the day after a big party. There is no better cure than the hair of the dog that bit you when it comes to hangovers. Especially, since a hangover is really a symptom of withdrawal. So, I would like to share the basics of a **bloody mary** with you.

Fill your glass with ice, and pepper the ice. Add a shot of vodka (adjusting to your tastes, of course). Add some hot sauce, horseradish, Worcester sauce and celery salt. Some people embellish by adding ingredients like olive juice, but the ones I mentioned are key.

Then you top with tomato juice or something similar. I like to use Clamato. If you are feeling fancy, freshly juiced tomatoes are amazing.

Now for your garnishes: celery stalks are classic but feel free to make this your own. I have seen okra, shrimp, bacon, green beans and even burger sliders used as garnishes. You can even create your own specialty bloody. I made a basil-infused vodka and used a garlic hot sauce with fresh mozzarella balls for garnish: creating a caprese salad in a glass!

Enjoy your beverages responsibly, designate a driver, and have a safe and happy New Year.

Candice Kelley has been bartending since 2006 and started her mobile bartending business, Service With Style in 2013. She is available for parties large and small around Mendocino and Sonoma counties. For info call 707-354-4894 or visit www.servicewithstyle.net.



'Dress Like a Who Day' at Blosser Lane School

Blosser Lane Elementary School students, parents and staff enjoyed "Dress Like a Who Day" on Friday, December 19, the last day of the 2014 school year. Blosser Principal Robert Chavez, center, joined in the fun tribute to favorite children's author Dr. Seuss.

Photo by Kathleen Lewis

Amazing Athlete

of Willits High School

BASKETBALL |

Kelsey Butler, 16, Junior



Breakfast of Champions: Eggos

Position: Guard

Love for the Sport: I love the intensity and speed of the game.

Kelsey is a junior on the Varsity Girls Basketball team. Kelsey is one of the hardest-working and most competitive athletes I've ever coached. Kelsey is always seeking to improve upon her basketball skills. All of Kelsey's efforts that began during the summer really showed in our victory Thursday night, December 18 over Healdsburg, when she came up huge with 15 points and 7 steals! Not to mention 13 points in our Tuesday night, December 16 game in Upper Lake! Kelsey really turned it up that week!

— Coach Jody Ward

Gorgeous Allen

Allen is a gorgeous dog. He is a 1-year-old neutered male Doberman Pinscher. He came in quite thin, but with the loving care of his foster "parents," in just a few months he has gotten a shiny coat and a great body! Allen was a family dog in his previous home where he did well with the other dogs and small children in the home. He also got along with the family cat.

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.

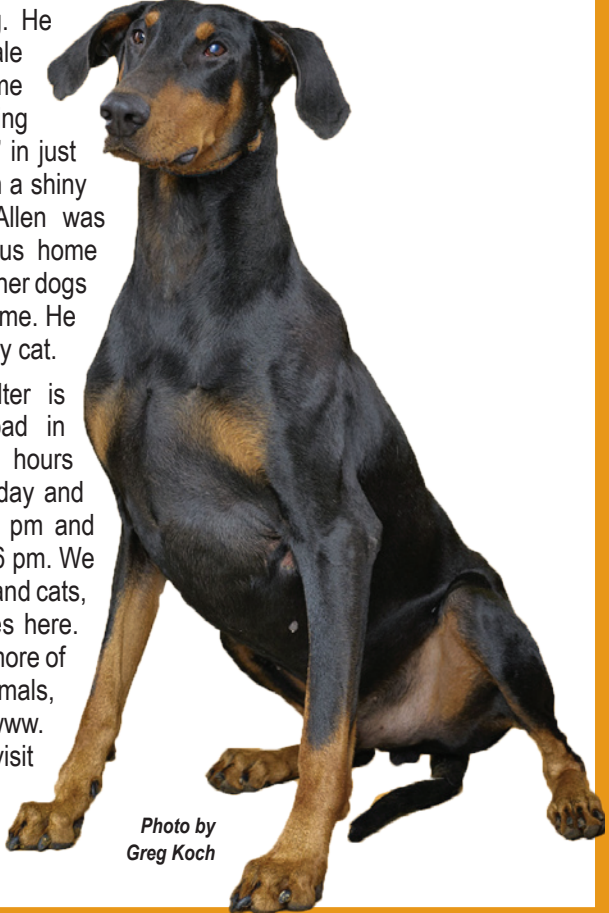


Photo by Greg Koch

Weekly Promotions for January



MONDAYS - Rooster & Owls
Earn 3X Points all day.
Morning Session: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$50 Cash at 9, 10, 11 a.m. and 12 p.m.
Evening Session: 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Hourly Hot Seat Drawings for \$50 Cash at 7, 8, 9 and 10 p.m.
May win once per promotion day!
For both Morning and Evening sessions: Play 50 coin-in (150 sessions), receive \$5 Freeplay and a \$2.00 Food Coupon

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

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

THURSDAYS - Super Senior Day
The Senior Freeplay will be preloaded to the Players Club Card from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.: Hot Seat Drawings each hour. Winners receive \$40 Cash.
Half off lunch coupon for those participating.
Specials posted at Creekside Café. 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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

SATURDAYS - Winter Wonderland Cash
4:00-10:00 p.m.
Hourly Hot Seat Drawings. Have a chance to win up to \$150 Cash.

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

100 Kawi Place in Willits 459-7330 Management reserves all rights.

RESTAURANT OWNERS:

We don't want you to miss out on this amazing new Willits Weekly project:

Cuisine on the Go!



Real Size Sample: 1/8 page! \$75

Is this what your collection of menus looks like? Too many businesses and families have a mishmash collection of scraps of paper, out-of-date menus, and info for no-longer-in-business restaurants ... but, fear not. Willits Weekly is here to help! For the first time, we will publish a standalone booklet in our January 29, 2015 edition, showcasing sample menus, accurate addresses and phone numbers, and updated hours of eateries in Willits and surrounding areas to help make your decision about what to order for lunch or dinner a convenient one, whatever you're in the mood for! Contact Tatiana today at tatiana@willitsweekly.com to get included in this great new project. Ad deadline is January 5, 2015!

Cuisine ON THE GO

Willits Weekly's handy booklet featuring sample menus and information on restaurants in and around Willits
Call in your order! Pick up to-go! Find a new place to eat! Make reservations!
Let customers know your ADDRESS! HOURS! PHONE NUMBER!
Showcase your full menu, or just the top sellers!

\$300 per full page — 8" x 10"
\$175 per half page (VERT) — 3.75" x 10"
\$175 per half page (HORZ) — 8" x 5"
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AD DEADLINE: January 5, 2015

Booklet will be inserted into the January 29, 2015 edition of Willits Weekly and will be posted online at: www.WillitsWeekly.com

Contact: Tatiana at 367-2115 • tatiana@willitsweekly.com



TACO.....\$1.39
SOFT SHELL TACO.....\$1.39
BURRITO.....\$1.39
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TACO BURRITO.....\$5.75

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— CHICKEN BACON BROS
Mild BBQ sauce with chunks of chicken, topped with mozzarella.
— MEATLOVER
Pepperoni, sausage, and mushrooms.
— THE...
Pepperoni, sausage, and mushrooms.
Juicy...
— M...
A thin Italian pizza with special red sauce, sprinkled with fresh sweetened mozzarella cheese and large slices of...
389 M...
ED AVENUE • ANY TOWN
555-0000

Real Size Sample: 1/4 page! \$125

"I don't know, what do *you* want to eat!?"



ENTREES
Baked Ziti w/Roasted Vegetables.....\$22
Brown Rice T... Casserole.....\$25
Caramelized Shells.....\$22
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Real Size Sample: 1/2 page! \$175

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Sherwood School's **'Giving Back' Field Trip**

Students at Sherwood Elementary School visited the Northbrook Healthcare Center before Christmas to sing for the residents. "For the past three years," said Sherwood's Shawna Martin, "we have been focusing on giving back to the community. Visiting Northbrook is one of our proudest moments."

This year, students were also rewarded by being taken out to breakfast. "We took our entire school to Gribaldo's Cafe, where we were graciously greeted by Marisol and her very patient staff," Martin said. "The buffet was fully stocked with many yummy items. We filled the restaurant with elves, reindeer, and Santa's. Owners Rogelio and Melanie gave each student a free hot chocolate."

"Thank you to Gribaldo's for such a heartwarming experience," Martin said. "We are so grateful for our community. Thank you to Kathy, the Northbrook staff and residents, too! Happy New Year to all!"



Photo by Marcy Barry

Equestrian to Equestrian

Willits Junior Horsemen donate to TRAIL program

The benefits of fundraising for horse fun are going beyond the bank accounts of the Willits Junior Horsemen this year: the group decided to make a \$250 donation to the Ridgewood Ranch TRAIL Program (Teaching Riding as an Access to Independence and Learning) to help them continue their program for the coming year.

TRAIL is a therapeutic riding program dedicated to providing horseback therapy to improve the lives of those who are challenged physically, developmentally, socially and emotionally. The program is located at the historic Ridgewood Ranch south of Willits of Highway 101.

Junior Horsemen members pose with TRAIL's Diane Cannon, left, and TRAIL's program director Erin Livingston, right. For more information about the program, visit ridgewoodtrail@gmail.com.



Photo by Rod Coots

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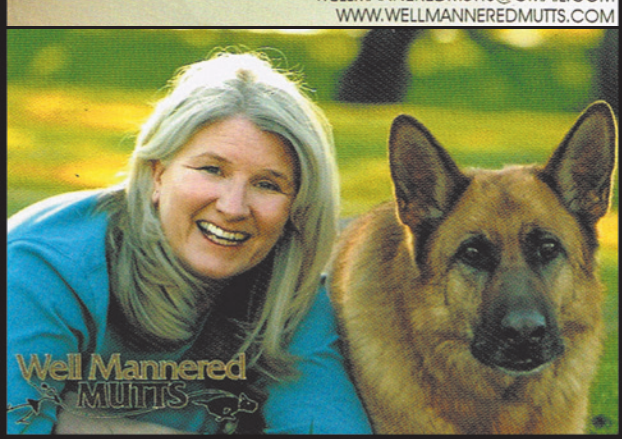


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Curious Sarah

Sarah, a very curious and aware dog, is ready to take flight! But she is temporarily stuck hanging out at the shelter waiting for a family to come and adopt her. She's always looking out the window, checking out what's happening around her, and poking in every corner in the play yard. She's also very smart and very sweet, and she has a pretty mellow nature despite her young age of about a year old. She gets along great with everyone she meets, dog or human, and we think she will do well in any kind of home where she is loved and included. Since she is a bit of an amateur detective, we think she'd love a home with a big yard to investigate.

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.