Willits Weekly | Edition 100 | December 12, 2024





WILLITS WEEKLY'S SELECTED PROPERTY FEATURE

Dear Santa, I want to live in Willits

MLS: 324079513

Offered for sale at: \$1,500,000

This gorgeous home sits amongst the trees overlooking its gorgeous landscape with breath taking views of Mount San Hedrin off the front porch and Mount Konocti from the back porch. Here is your very own secluded private ranch with 40 beautiful acres, giant fenced in garden area, private well, a mix of conifer trees, grass land and oak trees. The beautiful 2,600-square-foot, 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom home is fully updated, main floor level master bedroom and bathroom, over sized 3-car garage with enough room above it for the potential of turning into an extra unit. Combine all that with a full house back up generator makes this property a dream. This unique, one-of-a-kind ranch is a short drive from downtown Willits for all your essential needs. The craftsmanship and cleanliness of the home is absolutely stunning. Right in the heart of Mendocino county enjoying all the seasons in luxury and the seclusion the ranch provides makes this a perfect retreat for anyone. Address withheld per request. Contact agent for showing and more info.





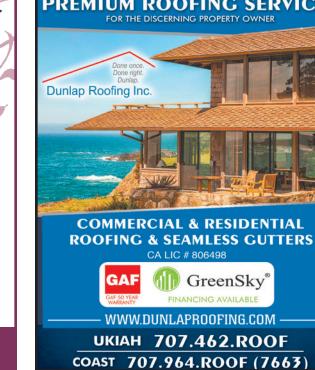


Kerniny's Pies 299 E COMMERCIAL ST., WILLITS, CA











Agent of:

W Real Estate (Lic# 01795950)







1200 East Hill Road Willits, CA 95490 Tel: 707-459-5236

web: www.easthillvet.com Fax: 707-459-9048





(707) 459-2201 · OPEN DAILY 9 AM-6 PM

707-367-5498

OPEN EVERY DAY!

Monday-Friday 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

299 East Commercial Street Willits, CA

who didn't always follow standard procedures. When he remodeled our bathroom, for example, he installed a bathtub that drained down the hillside instead of into the



Richard Selzer

sewer or septic, and he didn't install a P trap (that bendy pipe under sinks and tubs where water gets trapped – and if you're lucky, where valuable jewelry ends up when it goes down the drain).

After my dad's remodel, if you were the first one to bathe in the morning, you had to rinse a few bugs down the drain before washing up. It wasn't until years later, when I learned a bit about construction, that I understood

that a missing P trap is an invitation to all sorts of little critters. Unfortunately, even at home in your home.

Whether you're dealing with rodents or bugs, unwelcome critters are no fun. Here are some tips on how to safeguard

First, you need to know how they're getting in. Since you probably don't spend a lot of time on your roof, you may not know whether your vent pipe is covered. Vent pipes allow gases to escape from toilets, sinks, and any appliances connected to the sewer or septic – and if left uncovered, it can also allow rodents and bugs to enter.

Although the vent pipe should lead to P traps full of water, rats can swim for three days straight and cockroaches can hold their breath for 40 minutes, so a little P trap isn't much of a deterrent. Clearly, step one is to install a stack pipe cover with mesh that's fine enough to prevent cockroaches.

Step two is to identify and block other modes of entry. Mice and rats can get into openings as small as a dime. and cockroaches can get into even smaller holes. As sewer laterals age, they begin to deteriorate. This gives critters access to your plumbing fixtures. Although it is rare, it is not unheard of for rats to travel up into a toilet or tub. It is far more common, however, for this to

When I was a kid, my father was a do-it-yourself man be a route used by cockroaches. By installing a multi-flap that only allows one-way flow away from the bathroom and other plumbing, you can make it harder for pests to enter.

> Once you've blocked any passage inside the pipes, consider the pathways along the outside of the pipes. Pipes have to go through floors, walls, ceilings and foundations to transport water in and out. It's rare for the holes cut for those penetrations to be perfectly sized to the pipe. Ideally. after pipes are laid, the contractor fills gaps with rodentproof foam and seals all penetrations completely.

Sometimes, rodents can take up residence in your crawl space, garage, attic, or even in the walls, where they chew on insulation and wiring and leave their waste to fester.

Years ago, after moving to a new house, we stored our dog food in our garage. A week later, we were at war with the biggest raccoons I'd ever seen. These were big, healthy, well-fed raccoons the size of small dogs.

Generally, raccoons can be shooed away, but don't with P traps firmly in place, some critters make themselves underestimate the ferocity of a raccoon when it's cornered. They will use their sharp teeth, sharp claws, and a neversay-die attitude to defend themselves (and their newly discovered food source). I shot one of these raccoons with a paintball gun from three feet away, and the raccoon just looked back at me as if to say, "Is that all you've got?"

> If you want to keep your pet food in the garage, put it in a metal container with a locking mechanism. Otherwise, raccoons will make quick work of lifting the lid and taking what they please. Their dexterity is nothing short of

If you are dealing with a pest infestation of any kind, do delay in calling an exterminator. As a rule, pest infestations only get worse with time.

> If you have questions about real estate or property management, contact me at rselzer@selzerrealty.com. If you have ideas for this column, let me know. (If I use your suggestion in a column, I'll send you a \$25 gift card to Loose Caboose!) If you'd like to read previous articles, visit www. selzerrealty.com and click on "How's the Market?"

Richard Selzer is a real estate broker who has been in the business for more than 45 years. The opinions expressed here are his and do not necessarily represent his affiliated organizations.



COLUMN | Numbers by Nick

Financial planning for the long term

Nicholas Casagrande

Life is always evolving. Change brings uncertainty. We are surrounded by big and small things for which we must plan - whether it be a child leaving our nest, a job change, a new president, new taxes, new rules and regulations, aging ... the list goes on and all these events impact your investments.

As we approach a new vear. I want to address the stock market - specifically,

the volatility of the stock market. When the it is a GREAT time to review, restate and stock market is "good," consumer confidence embrace your financial goals and plans. I am is strong; this confidence influences the always available to work with you and be a entire economy, which is the sale of goods sound of reason.

When the stock market is down, it is unnerving, but normal, and a feature of longterm investing. When the market dips, often one thinks, should I be doing something? You may think the markets are too erratic and you should stay away. I disagree.

The markets have a long history of recovering from downturns. A good financial plan incorporates downturns through diversification, long-term planning, and regular review. If you engage regularly, you will always know where your monies are and how they are doing.

absorbed and overcome by the "markets" - World Wars, presidential elections, social upheaval, mortgage crises . the list goes on.

When a new year begins,

regularly, with your financial plan.

Nicholas Casagrande is an accountant and a financial advisor. His firm, NC Financial Group, is a wealth-management firm, serving individual clients as well as smallto-medium-sized businesses. Client work includes personal and corporate taxes, investment planning, insurance, and real

Major world events are

Financial planning is about the long term. I can help you articulate clear goals for your investments, incorporating your family, your job, your important financial commitments and

May this article motivate you to engage

Nick

Bill Barksdale

Above: Longtime Willits City Council

Columnist Bill Barksdale

member Madge Strong stands along Main

Street during a recent get together with

Madge Strong – finding common ground

Recently I had coffee and lunch at Brickhouse Coffee, here in Willits, with retiring longtime city council member Madge Strong. I've been an admirer of Madge for a long time. She's the kind of person that it takes to make

> society work. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines "society" as: "companionship or association with one's fellows ... an organized group working together ... a voluntary association of individuals for common ends." I think the phrase "working together" is

> The phrase "common ground" comes to mind. We each have our own thoughts and feelings about what makes a home, a community. Every person is an individual with our own upbringing and story, our own beliefs learned, our own "wants" and needs but finding common ground, places where we can agree – that's the starting place, the strong core that is crucial for cooperation, compromise, and building a strong, just I asked Madge what attracted her to Willits. Her background is that she was raised

in Fresno, attended University of California Berkeley and lived in the East Bay and San Francisco for 20 years. She studied land-use planning and economic planning, so a heavy work load is something that she learned to deal with along the way. She spent seven years working with the California Coastal Commission, a state agency

charged with protecting the 1,100 miles of our state's magnificent coastal area. She was also involved with the SANE / FREEZE group. The goal of this group, now known as Peace Action, was to find solutions for the nuclear arms dysfunction between the U.S. and the Soviet Union (now Russia). She also worked with the Sierra Club but became disillusioned about their direction.

She became concerned about her daughter growing up in the large urban environment of San Francisco and relocated to Fort Bragg where she wanted to buy a house, but got married and relocated again to Willits. She said she loves Willits and Mendocino County for its rich cultural environment, including the art, music and theater

"It's a very stimulating community," she said with enthusiasm. Although her marriage ended "as friends," her dedication to Willits has remained affectionately resolute.

I asked Madge about the challenges of working on the Willits City Council for so long. "It took time to learn to work with all the people on the council, but it's evolved into respect and working together. There's an emotional wear and tear about making some decisions. It takes a lot of analyzing and thought. The city staff is good, so they help a lot." Just as an observation from me, Bill, the council receives only a very small stipend to help with travel and other expenses involved. It's purely an act has, yet again, helped create for your reading of dedication and love of our city.

Regarding Willits City Manager Brian Bender, she said, "Brian is a good manager and administrator. He has some rough edges. He's not warm and fuzzy." She seems to have respect for him as a manager.

Regarding her concerns about issues the council is dealing with, she mentioned that the relationship between the Willits Frontier Days Board and the City of Willits has some things to work out. "They don't seem to be communicating well. It's to everyone's benefit to work it out," Madge commented.

We discussed briefly the relationship between Brooktrails and the City of Willits. It's had its ups and downs

over the years. They share a sewer system for instance. My Bill-opinion is that these two entities really are one people Read the rest of that really combine to make up the greater Willits community.

Journal

Over on page RE4



Our Amazing April

Willits Weekly's Real Estate section super maven, April Tweddell, has achieved something special this December: This edition is the 100th Real Estate Section!

April is in charge of selling all the ads for each monthly section which comes out on the second Thursday of the month. She does an amazing iob keeping in touch with all the clients, updating ad content, and helping distribute the sections.

Please join us in celebrating this 100th edition of Willits Weekly's Real Estate section that April

Thank you, April! These sections wouldn't happen without you! You're amazing, and we're so lucky to have you helping each and every

- Maureen and Jennifer

-bedroom, 2-bath home sits or early 2.5 acres and offers a

septic systems, large shop

th 200 amp service coming m PG&E, RR zoning allows f icultural activities or other

ete this beautifully built 700 sq ft house to create yo

am home. Large 2 story

hop, A very large spring offers bundant water for the entire property. Numerous building

PRESENTED AT: \$475,000

Advertise in Willits Weekly's monthly real estate section! Call April at 707-972-2475 for ad info, pricing and sizes!





100 SOUTH STREET, WILLITS, CA



- Built in 2004 • 1 Bed / 1.5 Bath + Loft • 1,176± Sq. Ft.
- Large finished basement Water filtration system
- Separate driveways and each home has its own address.



Specializing in Mendocino County Real Estate www.LivInMendo.com • livinmendo@gmail.com



Peter Smith 707.570.6138 DRE#01205926

Peter@sasin.com

More than **50** years of experience in real estate, property management, and home restoration!

Marcos Diaz 707.480.7930 DRE#02139769 ¡Se habla español!

INTERNATIONAL REALTY







GET YOUR OFFICE, AGENTS AND LISTINGS INCLUDED IN OUR NEXT EDITION

Ads Commitmen^a and ad copy deadline is the first Friday of the month

3,500 - 4,000 copies each week

Ads go online and in-print for

3.25" wide x 2" tall 5" wide x 5" tall color display ad: color display ad: \$35/month \$130/month with 3-month minimum commitment

\$140

on one-run basis

\$40 on one-run basis

3.25" wide x 4" tall color display ad:

\$60/month with 3-month minimum commitment \$75

on one-run basis

5" wide x 10.5" tall color display ad:

with 3-month minimum commitment \$300 on one-run basis

\$275/month

OPEN HOUSE SPECIAL: 5" wide x 3" tall color display ad: \$80 on one-run basis

Call for ad space: **April Tweddell** 707-972-2475

Runs on the second Thursday of the month.



Recently remodeled 3-bed, 2 bath home with new flooring

wood stove with built-in shelves as well as a Trane central heating unit. A brance w roof is set to be insta his month, ensuring peace of PRESENTED AT: \$325,000 corner lot. 2 bed, 2 baths p n office or third bed

new appliances, cabinets and corian countertops. Wood floors throughout. Detached studio, large storage shed, an PRESENTED AT: \$495,000 Spacious 3 bed, 2 bath hor with an upstairs office/gues room. New tile flooring throughout, plus numerou upgrades. Plus, a completely remodeled 2 bed, 1 bath AE

with new tile and laminate

new appliances and cabinets.

PRESENTED AT: \$550,000





SINCE 1983

D ... 111 ...



707-272-7782

Carey Pinson

707-513-8687





(707) 459-5389





Contact one of our experienced agents to find homes for sale in Willits or Mendocino County. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US AT CBMENDOREALTY.COM

The rest of **Journal**

From page RE3

I once lived in an area that received Brooktrails services and attended many board meetings. Legal-garbage often seems to get in the way of simply finding common ground and working things out reasonably. Too much has been spent on disagreements – wasted money in my opinion, which could have been put to better use for taxpayers. But back to Madge.

Madge said thoughtfully: "Willits is a place surrounded by nature. It's a small community. It's a living, breathing organism, not necessarily financially prosperous. It's culturally diverse. We have to treat each other as human beings. We have to find places of common ground because it's a small community. We live together. The country has gotten kind of unmanageable. I choose to do what I can for our small community."

To expand a little on Madge's remarks, I want to say that our nation and, really, the nations of the world, are going through challenging times. Social media, political parties, foreign government interference, corporate and personal greed, and domination-overreach are encouraging much anxiety, tension, depression, even panic. We live in a beautiful place. As individuals, and together, we can choose to make our community a better place. We can volunteer to help each other out, we can prepare for emergencies, as the recent earthquake reminded us. Nobody gets everything they "want." But there are things we can agree on. We can choose to listen and to be kind. Back to Madge.

One organization Madge is involved with is a local organization called WELL, or Willits Economic Localization. WELL states that its vision is "an enduring local economy that provides health and security for our community." Madge says that WELL focuses on local issues. Volunteers help each other with issues that need attention and work to create community wellness. WELL focuses on helping local businesses to survive, encourages emergency preparedness, and works to encourage pragmatic steps to help make our community better.

Former Willits resident Jason Bradford founded WELL. He thought that Willits could be a model for a kind of lifeboat, moving toward that step-by-step. "He was a visionary," Madge said, then added, "One goal is to make little in-roads to make it through rough times. Being a community that knows its neighbors, making connections."

Land-use planning is a kind of template, a vision of the future; people make it happen – or not. "We have land within the city to develop with in-fill (like building

housing on vacant lots), accessory dwelling units, which are second-dwelling units on single-family lots where feasible. We have improved water and sewer capacity. We need to take great care of what we have," she said.

The California Conservation Corps is moving its headquarters to Willits, Madge mentioned. The CCC is a state agency falling under the California Resources Agency and signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown in 1976. There is some pay for its "members" who do the work. Its focus is primarily on young people 18 to 25 years of age (29 for veterans).

Per Wikipedia: "The duties of operation falling to the CCC include trail maintenance, riparian zone restoration, tree planting and exotic plant species removal, construction, and emergency flood and wildfire response. Other organizations pay the CCC to do the work. Corpsmembers are offered the chance to complete their high school diploma through independent CCC schools and are trained in cooking, office work, and chainsaw and vehicle maintenance. The CCC also encourages corpsmembers to seek higher education or vocational training by offering scholarships."

As we finished our coffee, Madge concluded her remarks by saying, "This is a rich, rich community."

I have great admiration for Madge and others who give so much to the greater Willits community. The City Council has several new members. I hope they will take great care, give great mutual respect, and seriously look for "common ground" as they work together to help guide this special place.

We know that the "dominate" model doesn't serve the people. Personally, I'm exhausted by those that feel they must dominate. They have little to offer in the way of good governance. We've seen way too much of that. Leave your ego at the door. Nobody has all the answers. Disagreements? Of course there will be disagreements. Find the kernel of agreement, then work it out from there.

Government is not a business. Business is about filling or creating an imagined need, and making a profit. That's a misinterpretation of government. Government is about paying attention to the needs of the governed, and providing good management, finding the common ground, then working out a good solution from there.

Bill Barksdale has served on the County of Mendocino Tax Assessment Appeals Board, the Board of Realtors, its Legal Affairs Committee and Multiple Listing Service, and a number of other boards and nonprofits. DRE# 01106662, 707-489-2232



Have fun decorating these holiday home scenes with your favorite colors!





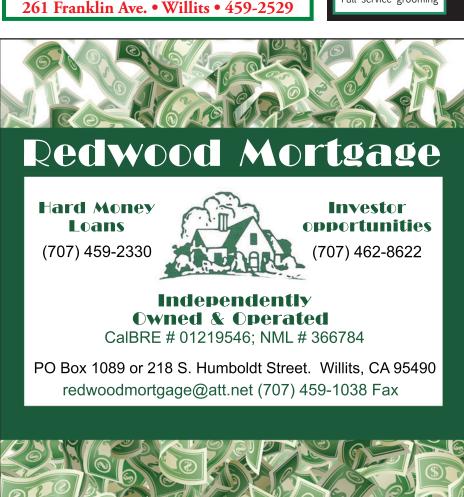


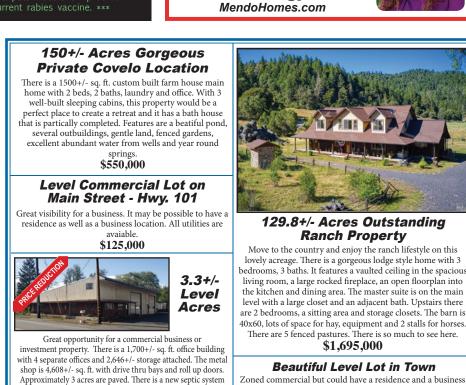


Karena Jolley
License #01482063

707-354-2999

mendorealestate@gmail.com





and city water. Used previously for years as a truck shop business. Many more details call for information.

\$660,000

with approval from the City of Willits. Convenient location, pretty spot. \$79,500